

TORCH BEARER



SOCIETY of OLYMPIC COLLECTORS

YOUR COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Mrs Francesca Rapkin, Eaglewood, Oxhey Lane,
Hatch End, Middx HA5 4AL Great Britain.

SECRETARY: Mrs E. Miller, 258 Torrisholme Road,
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TREASURER: Colin Faers, 8 Farm Lane, West Lulworth,
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LIBRARIAN: Kenneth Cook, 31 Thorn Lane, Rainham, Essex
RM13 9SJ, Great Britain.

PACKET MANAGER: Bob Wilcock, 24 Hamilton Crescent, Brentwood,
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P.R.O. John Osborne, 236 Bexley Lane, Sidcup, Kent
DA14 4JH, Great Britain.

BACK ISSUES AND DISTRIBUTION: John Miller, 258 Torrisholme Road, Lancaster
LA1 2TU, Great Britain.

EDITOR: Mrs Francesca Rapkin, Eaglewood, Oxhey Lane,
Hatch End, Middx HA5 4AL, Great Britain.

BACK ISSUES:

At present, back issues of TORCH BEARER are still available to Volume 1, Issue 1, (March 1984), though there are now very few complete sets of Volume 1. When these run out, they will not be reprinted. It is Society policy to ensure that new members will be able to purchase back issues for a four year period, but we do not guarantee stocks for longer than this.

Back issues cost £1.00 each, or £4.00 for a year's issues, including postage by surface mail. If ordering single copies, please indicate which volume you require.

Cheques should be made payable to the SOCIETY OF OLYMPIC COLLECTORS and should be sent with the order to John Miller at the above address.

If you wish to receive back issues by airmail, please add 60 pence per issue (£2.40 per volume.)

LIBRARY.

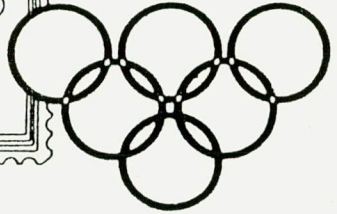
Photocopies of articles are available through the Librarian at 10 pence per sheet. Please enclose money with the order. Books may be borrowed, but postage must be paid IN BOTH DIRECTIONS. The Librarian's address is listed above.

Heiko Volk
Olympia-Philatelie

POSTBOX 3447
ERBACHER STR. 49
D-6120 MICHELSTADT/ODW.
WEST GERMANY



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FRONT PAGE

THIS COULD BE YOUR LAST COPY OF TORCH BEARER!!!

If you have not yet paid your 1989 subscription, this will be the last issue you receive of your favourite magazine. Please fill in the renewal form enclosed with this issue and send it to the Treasurer TODAY. If you have already paid your subscription, please ignore the above plea.

You may discover that this issue of TORCH BEARER appears thinner than past issues. This is true, but the reading content has been increased quite considerably. I am now the proud owner of a word processor, which should make my life very much easier. It does mean, however, that I have had to alter the spacing of the lines and hence I have been able to get more words on each page. I hope you will find the magazine as easy to read as in the past, and just as interesting.

Elsewhere in the magazine mention is made of Bob Wilcock's three interesting articles in the British Post Office's "Philatelic Bulletin". We have bought sufficient copies for all our members of the November issue, (the one containing his article on the 1948 London Games) and these will be sent to you as a free gift with the May issue. Also in the May issue will be a leading article by Douglas Muir, the Philatelic Curator of the National Postal Museum, about the Post Office's preparation for the 1948 British Olympic issue. The article contains much hitherto unrevealed information about these interesting stamps, and we are privileged to be allowed to publish this information before anyone else.

I owe you all an apology! Notification of the AGM should have been sent to you with the November issue, along with a request to let me have any items for inclusion on the Agenda. Because notification of the AGM is only going out with this issue, I will accept any items that you may wish to include, (so long as they are proper business for an AGM) until 1 March. You may telephone me if you wish on 01 428 4375. I promise that for 1990, notices will be sent out at the proper time!

While on the subject of 1990. Many of you will be aware that an International stamp exhibition is taking place at Alexandra Palace in London from 3 - 13 May. Would you like me to arrange a meeting for Society members during the exhibition? The most convenient time would probably be either the second Saturday or Sunday, 12 or 13 May. Rooms for meetings will be at a premium, especially over the weekend. If members would like a meeting to be organised, please let me know as soon as possible. I will only try to book a room if there is sufficient response. If any member would like to be kept informed about the exhibition, Bulletin 1 is now in circulation and can be obtained direct from the organisers: STAMP WORLD LONDON '90, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT Great Britain.

Finally, thank you to all those members who sent good wishes for the Festive Season. I really do appreciate receiving your cards, but it is not possible for me to reply to you all individually.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF OLYMPIC COLLECTORS.

Held on Sunday 6 March 1987 at 2.00pm in Floral Room 'A' in the New Horticultural Hall at Spring Stampex.

PRESENT: Mrs Francesca Rapkin (Chairman)
Mr Colin Faers (Treasurer)
Mr John Crowther (Auction Manager)
Mr Kenneth Cook (Librarian)
Mr Bob Wilcock (Packet Manager)
Mr John Miller (Printer and Distributor)
Mr John Osborne (PRO)
Ten members of the Society.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from the Secretary, Mr Kenneth Ballam, and four other members.

CHAIRMAN: Mrs Francesca Rapkin welcomed members and said that she was pleased to see such a good attendance at our first AGM. She thanked the members of the Committee for all their hard work during the initial stages of the formation of the Society. Our Secretary, Ken Ballam, had sent his apologies, and the Minutes of the meeting were taken by John Crowther.

FINANCE: Colin Faers presented an up to date Income and Expenditure Account which showed that the Society was now on a satisfactory financial basis. The adoption of the Treasurer's accounts was proposed by Len Beaven and seconded by Dick Frost and carried unanimously.

PACKET SECRETARY'S REPORT: Bob Wilcock in presenting his report confirmed that the Society was taking 10% commission on sales and there was an additional charge of 2.5% to cover insurance costs. He was circulating ten packets per annum, roughly one month apart. Certain members were retaining the packets for three or four weeks, and unless they moved them more quickly, they would be taken off the circuit. Material was excellent, and there were really some bargain prices. Bob asked members to advise him of holiday dates. One packet had been lost and there had been a recovery from the insurance company and the premium had been increased slightly. The report was carried unanimously on the proposition of Jack Murray, seconded by Alan Sabey.

AUCTION MANAGER'S REPORT: John Crowther in presenting the report said the auction was in a very healthy state. More people were selling material, including such items as books, programmes, postcards and the like, which sold well, with the exception of cigarette cards. There had been very few returned lots, possibly only five or six since the early days. He had opened accounts for certain overseas members to enable them to off-set purchases against sales of their material, and this seemed to be working well. There had been certain problems with Customs on material being imported for

sale, but these had usually been resolved. John asked members for better descriptions of lots sent for sale, but if there was an obvious mis-description, he would edit this himself. He intended keeping the auction on a quarterly basis and restrict lots to between 250 and 300 for each auction. A member suggested that unsold lots could be placed at the end of the following list. The adoption of the report was proposed by Colin Shields, seconded by Len Beaven and carried unanimously.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT: Ken Cook advised that he had spent £94.76 on library material, and he was concentrating mainly on catalogues and handbooks, including items he was acquiring through the British Olympic Association. He confirmed that he was about to publish a listing. Certain members were failing to return books and he proposed that members who did not take care of books should be black-listed. Ken requested members to let the Society have any books or catalogues which were surplus to requirements. He also would appreciate a list of people who own Olympic Reports and who might possibly agree to prepare photostats for circulation. He also advised that copies of the "Olympic Review", obtained from the IOC were now in circulation. Ken said that he was considering writing to Harry Hayes who is disposing of continental libraries of philatelic interest. He was also building a collection of sports articles and cuttings, together with Candidates material. The adoption of the report, proposed by Pam Lewis, seconded by Len Beaven, was carried unanimously.

EDITOR'S REPORT: Francesca Rapkin reported that the new format of **TORCH BEARER** was necessary because of the number of articles which had been submitted. This means that the magazine would carry approximately 50% more than previous issues. A request was made for more articles of a philatelic nature. Binders for **TORCH BEARER** were now available each of which held two volumes. The title and logo are printed on the spine and cost £7.50 each. Dick Frost had produced an Index covering Volumes 1-4 of **TORCH BEARER**, and he confirmed that he was prepared to continue the task on behalf of members. There was a request from members for Francesca Rapkin to write a series of articles on the 1936 Games. The adoption of the report was proposed by Jack Murray, seconded by Alan Sabey, and carried unanimously.

P.R.O.: John Osborne confirmed that the Society had received a great deal of publicity and he proposed to concentrate on British, rather than overseas, collectors. "Stamps" magazine had given us good publicity and there had been mentions in many UK journals, including a mention in "The Times". John was seeking mentions through the Free Press with syndications through news agencies and sports magazines. John confirmed that he was working on a budget that had been agreed with the Committee.

PRINTER AND DISTRIBUTOR: John Miller confirmed that a new printer had been purchased and a levy was being raised on all

printing for the Society to help with the cost involved. This had been agreed by the Committee. There would be reprints of TORCH BEARER for a four year period, and then would not be reprinted when stocks ran out. In respect of distribution, John would appreciate comments from members as to any mistakes that have occurred.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: In connection with the questionnaire which had been distributed to members, comments had, in the main, been favourable,, but reference was made that stamps were not covered in depth. Certain members would like to see more articles on vignettes and postcards. Bob Wilcock confirmed that the 1908 postcard book was two thirds finished. He hoped that the book should be ready for the Olympic Exhibition at the National Postal Museum, and in this connection there would be a series of articles on British philately at the Olympic Games in the "Philatelic Bulletin."

The Chairman requested that if members were giving displays they should advise her well in advance so that publicity could be given in TORCH BEARER.

It was requested that the membership application form should indicate whether the applicant had any other sporting or philatelic involvement.

A request from a member for a complete address list of members of the Society was rejected for reasons of security. Members should use MEMBERS' FORUM to contact each other.

It was confirmed that membership to the Federation Internationale de Philatelie Olympique (FIPO) was free.

The meeting closed at 4.00pm.

1988 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY 5 MARCH AT 3.30pm IN FLORAL ROOM "A" AT THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL HALL.

OFFICER'S REPORTS.

CHAIRMAN:

Firstly, I would like to thank the members of your Committee for all their efforts on your behalf during the past year. It is a sad fact of life that there are very few volunteers in our, or for that matter, any other, hobby, and those who do volunteer seem to get lumbered with too many tasks. I know that this is true of many of the SOC Committee and my task as both Chairman and Editor is considerably lightened by knowing that I have such a dedicated team to help me.

I am pleased to be able to report that the Society continues to grow at a steady pace, though it would have been nice to have had more new members in Olympic Year than we did. All members can

help in the success of the Society by mentioning the Society and its benefits to friends who are Olympic collectors, and encouraging them to join. If you feel that there are ways in which the Society can be improved, or feel that there are things that we are doing wrong, please let me know. THIS IS YOUR SOCIETY and your contribution matters.

TREASURER:

It is not possible to give a full report of our finances at this time (November 1988) since 1989 membership fees are only just starting to trickle in and all outstanding expenses need to be paid before the year-end. However, the finances of the Society continue on a sound footing, and a full financial report will be presented to the members at the AGM.

SECRETARY:

I am pleased to report that the Society has over 250 members in 29 countries. With 45% of the members resident outside the United Kingdom and living in such diverse places as Swaziland and Hong Kong, we can now truly justify our claim to being an international society. I receive letters every day with enquiries for membership from all over the globe. Please use the Society to buy and sell material, and as a contact with other members. The Editor will always publish details of your requirements in Members' Forum. We are always keen to receive your comments, queries and ideas, though if your query needs a reply, a stamped addressed envelope or international reply coupon would be appreciated. News of the Olympics in your part of the world are always welcome. Should you see the Society mentioned in any publication, especially those overseas, a photocopy giving the name of the publication and the date when it appeared, would be welcome. My best wishes for a successful year ahead.

Regrettably, due to pressure at work and other commitments, I find myself unable to continue as Secretary of the Society, and will be resigning at the end of 1988. I am very happy to be able to announce that Mrs Betty Miller, the wife of our hard working Printer and Distributor, has agreed to take over the post as Secretary. You will find her address on the inside front cover in place of mine. I am sure that you will continue to give her the support that you have given me in the last two years.

AUCTION MANAGER:

Over 66% of the lots during the period covering Auctions 15 to 18 (November 1987 to August 1988) were sold and an average of forty members have submitted bids in each sale. It is not always easy to include unsold lots in future lists due to the amount of new material waiting its turn. If vendors would prefer to have unsold lots returned to them, rather than wait their turn for re-entry into the Auction would they please advise me. Similarly, if they would like me to reduce reserves on unsold lots, perhaps they could indicate this fact when submitting the items in the first instance.

There has been some delay in the dispatch of material to successful bidders, particularly during the postal strike in the UK, and I can only offer my apologies in this connection. There

have been very few lots returned for reasons of misdescription or condition, and from the comments received, members seem generally content with the quality of the material included in the auction lists.

On a personal level, could I make a plea to vendors that they always include an accurate description, including the catalogue numbers, with material sent for sale, together with a reserve figure against each lot. From experience, reasonable reserves attract good bidding. Certain of the lots, particularly literature, are quite heavy and not always suitable for dispatch overseas due to the high costs of postage. It is my intention in future to send such items by surface mail, or printed matter rate, unless particularly requested otherwise by the bidder. If members have any constructive ideas relating to the auction, please do not hesitate to let me know. I am always open to suggestions, but please remember, I am not a contortionist! Happy Hunting.

PACKET MANAGER:

1988 has seen a healthy growth of the Packet. There are now thirty five members on the list, so I have split it into two circuits. I hope to get a packet out on each circuit in alternative months, so members should receive half a dozen packets in 1989 at intervals of about two months. This should bring to an end the awkward bunching that happened from time to time in 1988.

I have received a tremendous amount of material in 1988 from members in Britain and abroad. Each packet is a mixture of material from several contributors, and I do not send out all of one vendor's material together, because this would result in much lower sales. Because of the quantity of material sent to me in 1988, and delays caused by the British Post Office strike in September, it has been up to twelve months before I could make the FIRST payment to vendors. Further payments have since followed at intervals of one to two months. Now that there are two shorter circuits, I hope to get the minimum interval down to six months. By the time this report appears in February, I hope to have put all the material sent to me in 1988 into circulation, and throughout 1989 I shall be looking for a steady influx of good quality, reasonably priced material, stamps and postal history - it sells. Some contributors regularly sell over 75% of their material - so do sort out your duplicates, and keep booklets coming to me. If you need empty booklets, send me 50 pence for 3 or £1.00 for eight booklets, post paid.

LIBRARIAN.

Very few books of any significance have been purchased or donated this year. If members feel that there are books of particular interest that should be in the Society's Library, please let me know - there is a fund available for the purchase of literature. Members are still borrowing books on a regular basis, and the library service is running smoothly, in the main. Members should be as specific as possible when asking for information. I regret that the promised Library Listing has not been forthcoming in the last twelve months. However, the new index is now almost complete and should be sent to members with

the next issue of TORCH BEARER. I am still looking for articles related to the Olympic Games and to specific sports. If any member has articles of particular interest, please let me have photocopies so that the information in them can be shared.

EDITOR.

Once again, I would like to thank those members who sent me articles and items of information for inclusion in the magazine. Particular thanks are due to Bob Farley for his detailed and comprehensive reports on Calgary (our information has been streets ahead of our sister societies in this area), to Bob Wilcock for his information on Barcelona and Calgary and to Robert Budge of Australia and Shlomo Vurgan of Israel, who both regularly keep me informed of Olympic activities and news in their parts of the world. The magazine relies heavily on the contributions of members. Although I am not adverse to reprinting articles printed in other journals, particularly those in foreign languages, it is nice to feel that we are publishing, in the main, new and original material. I am hoping that the new word processor will make my life very much easier in future. However, I feel that, after five years, I would be very happy to take a break as Editor of the journal. If someone feels that they would like to take over from me at the end of 1989, I would be very happy to hear from them.

I regret that there have been very few articles, as requested, relating to 1936. 1988 has been a particularly busy year for me, but I will try to put pen to paper (metaphorically speaking) and scribble something early in the new year. Please keep sending me your articles and snippets of information. Remember that what may be history and out of date information to you, may well be news for other members. Please NEVER assume that you are unable to contribute something constructive. Some of the most illuminating facts have come from the pen of a beginner.

PRINTER AND DISTRIBUTOR:

The new printer continues to work well, and with care and regular servicing, there is no reason why it should not continue to do so for a considerable time. There have been no real problems with the distribution of the magazine, which continues to be mailed out on time. Could members who request back issues please note that cheques should be made payable to "The Society of Olympic Collectors", and not to me. There are now very few complete sets of Volume 1 of TORCH BEARER left in stock. As you will know from the 1987 AGM report, these will not be reprinted. If any member still requires this volume, don't wait too long before ordering it.

MEMBER'S FORUM

Mike Goss, or BIG MIKE, as many Olympic pin and memorabilia collectors call him, has been collecting Olympics since 1980 when he attended the Winter Games in Lake Placid. Since then, he has collected nearly 2,000 pins, along with numbers of stamps, ticket stubs, photos etc.etc. He visited Los Angeles during the Olympic Games in 1984 and spent nine days in Calgary during the 1988 Winter Games. BIG MIKE says he gets most of his pins by writing to different country's NOC's and various corporate sponsors. He also gets a number of pins by trading or swapping. He insists that this is what makes the hobby so special. "Trading pins allows me to meet people from all over the world and in all walks of life." He says that the last eight years have been exciting for him and his family (wife and eight year old daughter). In fact, they both help and are also collectors. BIG MIKE wishes to hear from members anywhere in the world. Write to him at 217 Martin Street, Syracuse NY 13208 USA.

R.A.Huurman. Gooiergracht 145,1251 VE Laren NH, Netherlands, is looking for the following to buy or exchange: OFFICIAL BADGES for participants, officials and the press. 1896, 1900, 1904, 1920, 1928 Winter, 1960 Winter, 1972 Winter, 1980 Winter and Summer, 1984 Summer. DAILY PROGRAMMES for the public, 1896 to 1904 and 1924 Chamonix. OFFICIAL COMPLETE RESULTS, all years from 1896 to 1956 including 1906. OFFICIAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS 1896 to 1960, Winter and Summer, where applicable, and 1960 Rome.

ENTRANCE TICKETS FOR THE PUBLIC 1896 to 1908, 1920, 1924 Winter, 1928 Winter and 1948 Winter. He is also looking for the autographs of Olympic champions in individual events, especially Spiridon Louis, Ray Ewry, Chas Thunberg and Sonia Henie. Anyone able to help should write to Pim at the above address.

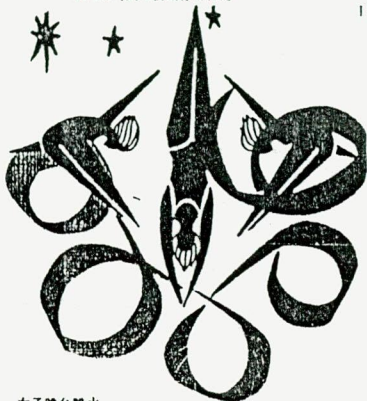
John Glassford, P.O.Box 21192, Kitwe, Zambia is looking for the following items for his collection. (Gibbons numbers quoted throughout.) USSR, miniature sheet numbers 4607, 4689, 4754, 4825, 4875 and 4978. JAPAN, miniature sheet numbers 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979 and 986. MEXICO 1172-1182. FINLAND 1952 Olympic booklet. USA 1984, 20 cents block of four featuring Gymnastics, Jumping, Wrestling and Slalom. If anyone can help, they should write to John in the first instance at the above address. See what you can do, since it is not easy for John to buy stamps in Zambia.

Vic Manikian, 3317 Wentworth, Anchorage AK 99508, USA collects the host Olympic countries from 1896 to 1956, specially 1908 and 1948. He would like to purchase or exchange covers and postcards that were postmarked during the 1908 Games, in particular those with the Ballymaclinton cancellation. He is also looking for the rare HLP variation that appeared on the 6d value of the 1948 British issue in position 118, 119 and 120. Vic already has the HLP erased version of the 6d on a complete sheet, but finds this awkward to exhibit, and does not want to break up the sheet. Write to Vic at the above address if you can help.

Mark Maestroni, 2824 Curie Place, San Diego CA 92122 USA would be interested to hear from anyone who has either exhibited 1960 Squaw Valley material or who has items from those Games to

either trade or sell, especially the various US meters, machine cancellations and handstamps on cover. Mark also writes that by sheer coincidence he happened upon three of the sixteen cards.

中国在第23届奥运会获金质奖章纪念
IN COMMEMORATION OF GOLD MEDALS WON BY CHINA
AT THE 23rd OLYMPIC GAMES



女子跳台跳水
Women's Platform Diving

中国人民邮政明信片
Postcard
The People's Republic of China



1984 1984

mentioned by Shlomo Vurgan in Members' Forum in the May 1988 issue of TORCH BEARER. The three 1984 Chinese Olympic postal cards are all postmarked with a circular handstamp identifying the post office as BEIJING on the lower half of the ring in western characters and in the upper half in Chinese characters. The number "2" appears inside the inner circle directly above BEIJING and may refer either to a die number or the post office

number. All three cards are unaddressed, so the assumption is that they were produced for philatelic purposes. Because Beijing appears in western characters, these may have been produced at a central philatelic department. These three cards prove that the first day of issue does, in fact, correspond with the list of release dates on the sixteenth card. What confuses Mark is why Shlomo Vurgan should question this list in the first place. Two points came to mind. First, this was the People's Republic of China's first Summer Olympic Games, and therefore of historical importance to their country. Secondly, there is a lag of three days between the day each medal was won and the release date; more than enough time for the Chinese to publish and issue the cards. In fact, Mark wouldn't be surprised if the artwork was all prepared in advance of the Games, with the appropriate information printed almost immediately after the victory. Mark has double checked the victory dates and compared them with the release dates of the remaining thirteen cards. All confirm the three day lag between the two dates. The one exception is the final "Gold Medals" card with the data on the reverse. It was issued four days after the closing ceremonies on 12 August 1984. It is possible that this extra day was needed to put together the complete list, including the pricing information, on the reverse of the card.

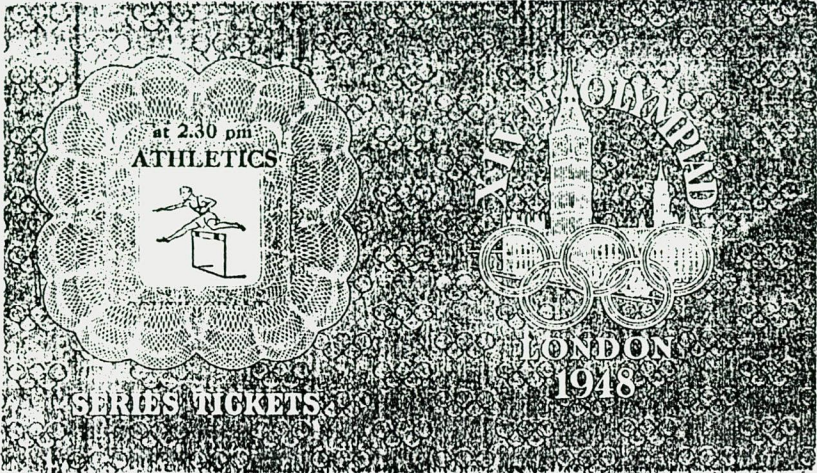
Romuald Litewka, ul. Zwyciestwa 102 M.6, PL 75-011 Koszalin, Poland, is a member of the American Topical Association. He collects field hockey and is looking for the 1986 maximum card and the special cover for the centenary of the Hockey Association, the cancellation is dated 18 January 1986 from ?Willesden? stadium. He is also looking for the special cover, showing a hockey stick from the "Sport With Stamps" national stamp exhibition in 1966. (Information as received.)

Bob Wilcock has a research problem concerning the 1908 Marathon. Some sources say that it was the start of the marathon that was moved, some say that it was the finish. Bob would love to be able to establish which is right, once and for all. There is nothing in the Official Report on this point, and he has not been able to find anything in the London Times for that day. Can any member help please? Do you have a contemporary 1908 reference relating to the marathon? Remember, later references are likely to be repeating hearsay, so may or may not be right. Bob and Ken Cook need the information for their book on these Games and anyone who can solve the problem will have their help acknowledged. The postcard book was almost completed by the end of 1987, but unfortunately, preparations for Stampex meant that work had to be suspended. Bob and Ken now hope that work on it will resume early this year.

The following members of the Society were awarded medals at PRAGA '88 in Prague: Michael Trironist, Large Vermeil (in the Postal History Class), Morris Rosen, Large Silver, Vsevolod Furman, Silver & Jaroslav Petrasek, who exhibited Hors Concours.

The following members of the Society were awarded medals at Olympilex '88 in Seoul. Congratulations to them all. Ivan Libric, Jugoslavia, Silver Bronze; John Murray, Great Britain, Silver; Jaroslav Petrasek, Czechoslovakia, Silver; Joan Bleakley, USA Large Silver; James Bowman, USA, Vermeil; Morris Rosen, Large

Vermeil and Special Prize; Dieter Germann, Federal Republic of German, Large Vermeil and Special Prize; Franceska Rapkin, Gold and Special Prize.



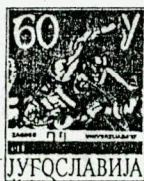
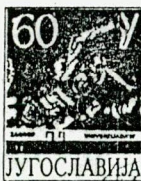
Alan Sabey writes to say that he has recently purchased a "wallet" of tickets for the athletic events at the 1948 London Olympic Games. He did not know that such ticket wallets still existed. It is printed in blue with the same background design as the actual tickets and there is a window to reveal the diagram of the event. The wallet that Alan bought has four tickets with their counterfoils stapled inside it.



Melvin Hodgson, 9515 Salisbury Drive, El Paso Texas 79924-6229 has recently purchased a postcard about which he would like further information. The card is published by COFTON COLLECTIONS, Birmingham B31 2JR, Great Britain. It states on the correspondence side the following: "Valdale commemorate the 24th Olympic Games, held in Seoul September 17th - 2nd October 1988, with this limited edition postcard (1500)." Was this the only card that they produced and was it a limited edition of only 1500 cards? If it was a limited edition of only 1500 cards, what is the going rate for this card in England? If any member can help Melvin, please send a copy of the information to the Editor, I am sure that other members would also be interested in the details of this card.

 Glen Estus writes to say that the CANADIANA STUDY UNIT, Box 3262, Station A, London, Ontario, Canada N6A 4K3 are sponsoring their second annual Society fund raising auction in March and any members of our Society who would like to participate should write to their President, John Peebles, at the above address, enclosing 50 cents to cover postage, to ask for their catalogue. Please mention the Society when writing. There are a large number of lots, especially covers and cancellations that have Olympic themes. There are also many lots of stamps, cinderella items, autographed covers etc.

 Your Editor is in possession of a photocopy of the illustrated cancellation from Zagreb, dated 23 June 1988. Unfortunately, she can no longer remember who sent it to her, since there is no accompanying text. HELP!!!!!!



2

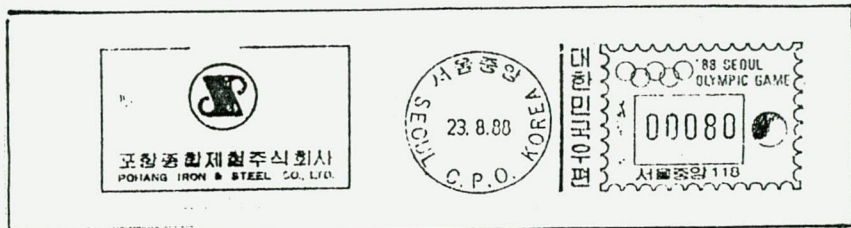
NEWS

A slogan postmark was in use in Talence (near Bordeaux) from 19 May until 15 July 1988, advertising an athletics meeting at which the selection of the French competitors for the Decathlon took place. (General athletics selection took place in August.)



A French handstamp from Courtry included a portrait of Guy Drut, who took the gold medal in Montreal in the 110 metres hurdles.

 An Olympic meter cancellation was used in Seoul by the Pohang Iron and Steel Company which erroneously referred to the "Olympic Game", without the final S.



 Posters of the 1936 Olympic Games, known as the "Nazi Olympics", which formed a part of the Coca Cola promotion at Pizzaland restaurants, had to be withdrawn after Mr Greville Janner, a leading Jewish member of the British parliament, complained that they were in bad taste. The scarlet and black posters, which featured an Olympic athlete, were one of four offered to customers buying Coke during the month long promotion. Mr Janner was appalled at the posters, which he called tasteless in the extreme. He complained to the president for Coca Cola in northern Europe, Mr Ralph Cooper, and to Mr Ian Woodhead, the managing director of Pizzaland restaurants. Both agreed to withdraw the offending poster, though there was nothing offensive in the poster itself, apart from the fact that it mentioned Berlin 1936. Both stated that Coca Cola would not deliberately have done anything to cause offense to the Jewish people, and apologised that this had been the case.

Illustrated is a copy of a placard advertising an offer of Coca Cola postcards in Great Britain. The cards were no doubt available in the United States and elsewhere, and it would be interesting to know the terms of offers in other countries. There

are four sets to be collected. THE HISTORY OF THE OLYMPICS. No.1. Text and picture of Zeus and frieze. No.2. Text and five medals showing ancient sports. No.3. Text and heads of Coreobus of Elis, Choinis, Milon of Croton and Leonides of Rhodes. OLYMPIC HEROES. No.1. James Connolly (1896). No.2. Paavo Nurmi (1924-28). No.3. Jesse Owens (1936) OLYMPIC SPIRIT. No.1. Hurdler, runner and medal winner. No.2. Swimmer, diver and kayak. No.3. Boxers, wrestlers and weightlifter. OLYMPIC FUN. No.1. Pole vaulter, track etc. No.2. Long jump, tennis, etc. No.3. Boxing, wrestling, etc.



FREE OLYMPIC POSTCARDS

SIMPLY ASK FOR A LARGE *Coca-Cola* TO RECEIVE A SET OF 3 SPECIALLY DESIGNED POSTCARDS - INSTANTLY!

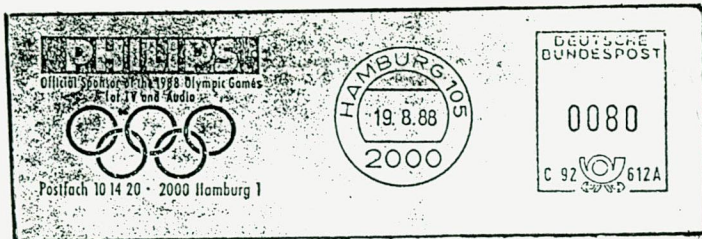
4 SETS TO COLLECT!

Postcard offer available at: Happy Eater Restaurants, Trusthouse Forte Airport Services, Welcome Break Motorway Services (Julle's Pantry, The Granary, The Coffee Shop and The Shop) plus at Hyde Park - The Serpentine and The Dell, while stocks last.



'Coca-Cola' and 'Coke' are the registered trade marks of The Coca-Cola Company.

 Two German companies who were official sponsors of the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul were Philips and Panasonic, both responsible for audio-visual equipment. Illustrated are the meter cancellations used from their Hamburg offices.



 Touche Ross & Co., the London partnership of Touche Ross International, one of the world's leading firms of chartered accountants, contributed several thousand pounds to the Royal Yachting Association's appeal for the British yachting team to go to Seoul, to become the "Golden Sponsor" of the team. Using artwork originally provided by the RYA, the indoor studio of Touche Ross prepared self-adhesive vignettes in sheets of 30. (6 x 5.) The design is a dark blue rectangle with two sails in turquoise, one in gold and one in red. The border text in white within the rectangle reads: "RYA ROYAL YACHTING ASSOCIATION OLYMPIC APPEAL", and beneath in gold lettering, "TOUCHE ROSS, GOLD SPONSORS". The vignettes were issued throughout the firm for a period of about two months before, during and after the Games, and it was suggested to secretaries that they should be attached to all letters, compliments slips and envelopes being sent out. Touche Ross did not confuse their use on envelopes with any franking message. They were very widely used and a second printing was necessary with the total printing being 150,000. When Britain's yachting team won the gold medal in the Star Class, a specially printed compliments slip was issued, with the vignette

Touche Ross & Co
 Hill House
 1 Little New Street
 London EC4A 3TR
 Telephone: National 01 353 8011
 International +44 1 353 8011
 Telex: 884739 TRLNDN G
 Telecopier (Gp. 3): 01 583 8517

Touche Ross International

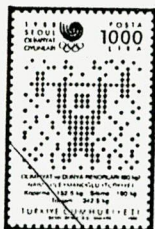
*Congratulations to
 Michael McIntyre and
 Bryn Vaile on winning
 a Gold Medal for the
 Star Class in the
 Olympic yachting.*



Touche Ross :
 Gold Sponsors

design in full colour and a congratulatory text. The initial print run was 10,000. A block of four of the vignettes, plus the compliments slip, may be obtained from Bob Wilcock in return for an SAE. Those members who receive the packet will find free copies in the packet, and contributors from all countries will be receiving copies with payment from packet sales. US members may obtain copies by sending SASE to Bob Du Bois, 838 Temple Road, Pottsdwn PA 19464.

 Turkey issued a stamp and a special handstamp on 5 October 1988 to honour Naim Suleymanoglu, who won an Olympic gold medal in Seoul in wrestling. The new stamp becomes the fifth value in a set issued to commemorate the Olympic Games. The stamp was designed by Mahmut Soyer and printed by Basin Ofset.



 The Seoul Olympics may have ended, but the stamps continue, and some of these have been issued with very little thought, resulting in such obvious mistakes as to make them worthy of inclusion in a book of schoolboy howlers. Seoul was misspelt "SOUEL" on the Tuvalu issues. Nigeria issued a set with coloured discs instead of coloured rings, and the Maldives depicted such non-Olympic sports as steeple-chasing as one of the events.

-Information supplied by B.Alan-

 West Germany produced giant replicas of the 1988 Olympic stamps, which were on display during OLYMPHILEX in Seoul. The giant sports promotion was jointly sponsored by the German Post Office, the Seoul Olympic Organising Committee, the German Olympic Committee, the German Sports Assistance Foundation and Channel 1, West German Television. Proceeds went towards the German Youth Sports programme. The giant stamps were autographed by athletes in Seoul, and later auctioned. A special certificate was prepared which had one of the sports stamps cancelled with a handstamp dated 3 September in Hamburg.

 Illustrated is a cover, sent to the Seoul Olympic Village from Prague and franked with the meter cancellation of the Czechoslovak Olympic Committee. It was returned to the sender

Centenary of the modern Olympics, revived in Athens in 1896. Former film star, Melina Mercouri, now the Greek Minister of Culture, is also said to be actively involved in promoting the idea of Olympic Games in Athens in 1996.

Following the close of the Olympic Games, the 8th Seoul Paralympics were held from 15 to 24 October. "Challenge and Overcoming", "Peace and Friendship" and "Participation and Equality" were the mottoes of these Games, which were a great sports festival of amity and unity for the handicapped of the world, as well as a moving moment of physical and mental handicaps being overcome by human will.

Athletic activities, moreover, are of special significance to the handicapped since they help not only to prevent further reduction of function of the affected part, but also to recover the function of the surviving part.



The Korean Ministry of Communications issued two postage stamps to commemorate the Paralympic Games in Seoul. They were designed by Chun, Hee-han and printed in photogravure at the Korean Security Printing and Minting Corporation on white, unwatermarked paper. The stamps were printed in sheets of twenty and are perforated 13.

IOC BAN ON SOUTH AFRICA. The International Olympic Committee has banned South Africans as spectators at the Olympic Games in Seoul in September. South Africans were banned as participants at Olympic Games from 1964. The South African Amateur Athletic Union president, Charles Nieuwoudt, said the IOC had written to the Union informing them of the ban. Nieuwoudt said the ban could spread to other international athletics events and to other sports.

The above paragraph appeared in newspapers worldwide at the beginning of August. It would appear that the decision by the IOC as stated above, is not correct, and should have been reported as follows:

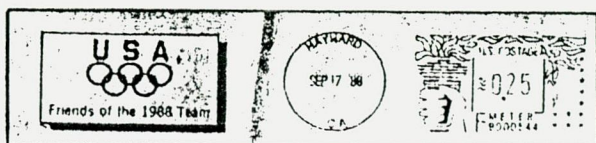
The message telexed personally to the President of the South African Olympic Council, (nothing to do with the SA Athletics Union) was in reply to his enquiry regarding attendance at the IOC meeting with a view to re-opening negotiations for a South African readmission to the Olympic fold, and read: "Neither YOU nor any of your DELEGATES will be allowed in Seoul, even as spectators."

Instead of the press checking up on the story or where it had come from, they just printed it in three South African weekend papers, and from there it spread throughout the world.

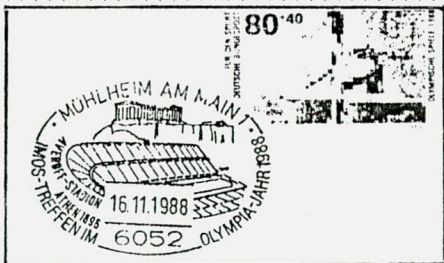
British Olympic Association President, HRH The Princess Royal attended her first IOC meeting in Seoul as the new British IOC member in place of Lord Luke. A dinner, attended by the Princess was given on 12 July 1988 at the Cafe Royal in honour of Lord

Luke, at which the Princess presented the departing IOC member with a decanter on behalf of the BOA. IOC Administrator, M. Raymond Gafner also attended the dinner and made a second presentaion to Lord Luke on behalf of the IOC.

Charles Palmer was replaced in October as the Chairman of the British Olympic Association by Sir Arthur Gold. Mr Palmer will be sadly missed; although sometimes abrasive, he is a man of immense ability and an innovative leader. He is the most experienced Briton in international sporting politics, and speaks five languages fluently. It was largely his drive and persistence that bought the BOA their own premises in London, and also set up the Olympic medical centre at Northwick Park. Under his chairmanship the BOA reserves have risen to over £3 million through their various fund-raising activities. Sir Arthur Gold at 71 is Charles Palmer's senior by 13 years. Although Sir Arthur's integrity and restraint make him a respected figure, it is unlikely that he will introduce and push through the wide-ranging and exciting measures necessary for the 1990's.



For the first time ever, United States businesses, both large and small, were able to play an active part in supporting the American Olympic team. Friden Alcatel, the producers of meter cancellers, introduced their "teammates" programmes, which encouraged companies to buy their US Olympic Team slogan for their business mail. It is not known how many companies joined the scheme. Perhaps US members of the Society can keep us informed.



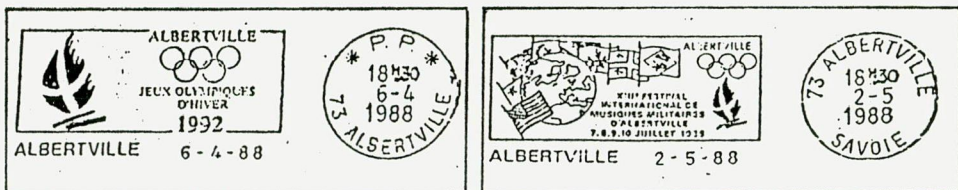
Germany used a special handstamp, showing the Olympic Stadium, Athens with the Parthenon in the background during the annual meeting of our German sister Society, IMOS, in Muhlheim on Main. A postcard, which was used as a maximum card, showing a different view of the stadium was also available.

The July, October and November 1988 issues of the British Post Office's "Philatelic Bulletin" contained three very interesting articles by our Packet Manager, Bob Wilcock. In the first, he writes about the Winter Olympic Games and British participation in them; in the second article the 1908 Games are covered in detail, and in the third, the London Games of 1948 come under the microscope. Members of the Society will receive a copy of the November issue as a free gift with their May 1989 issue of TORCH BEARER.

ALBERTVILLE 1992

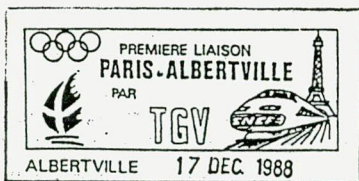
Bob Wilcock.

In TORCH BEARER Volume 4, Issue 4 (November 1987), mention was made of Albertville's permanent Olympic slogan postmark, which was introduced on 6 July 1987. From time to time it has also been used for bulk mail with the 'P.P.' (Port Paye) cds.



At other times it is withdrawn and replaced by temporary slogans. On 2 May 1988, it was replaced by a slogan for the XIII International Military Music Festival, held from 7-10 July 1988. The festival had nothing to do with the Olympics, but the postmark included the Olympic logo. The slogan should have been introduced on 11 April, but it was held up because of problems with its manufacture. It was withdrawn on 11 July.

On Saturday 3 December 1988, the French high speed train (TGV) service was extended to Albertville. A new temporary postmark was introduced, again including the Olympic logo. There is a broad Olympic connection, in that the awarding of the Games to Albertville ensured that the planned extension of the TGV service took place. The illustration is taken from the press release, and an ordinary one line date stamp has been used to indicate the date. The actual date style is as in the other illustrations.



The TGV slogan was withdrawn on 14 December 1988.



Finally, COJO have introduced a modified logo as illustrated.

BARCELONA 1992

Bob Wilcock.

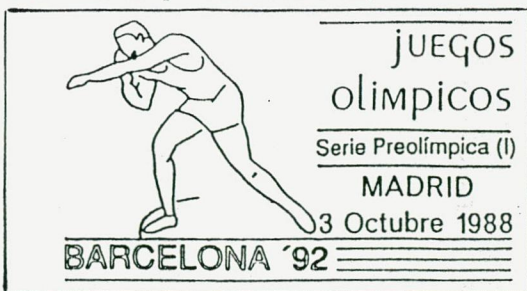
When the Olympic flame was extinguished in Seoul, Olympic fervour was transferred to Barcelona. Arriving from the Far East, the Olympic flame will now burn for four years in Barcelona's City Hall.

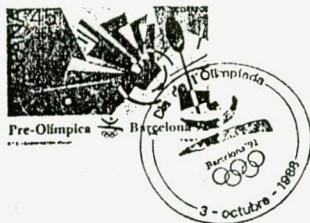
Pre-Olympic Stamps, First Issue, released 3 October 1988. The preliminary announcement had indicated that there would be two stamps to usher in the new Olympiad, one showing the new logo, the other the new mascot. The actual issue turned out to be four stamps. Josep Maria Trias' new logo is there, but not the controversial and unpopular Cobi. If Cobi is too avant-garde for the Spanish Post Office, however, the other three stamps in the set are somewhat startling works of modern art by Peret, and I, for one, was thankful for the titles at the foot of each stamp to enable me to recognise the sports!



The stamps are: 8 pesetas logo, (unlimited printing.) 20+5 ptas. athletics (2,200,000) 45+5 pesetas badminton (2,200,000) and 50+5 pesetas basketball (2,200,000). The stamps are perforated 13.75 in sheets of 30, and the surcharge is presumably for the benefit of COOB '92, but the press release does not make this clear.

There were first day machine postmarks from Madrid and from Barcelona, depicting a shot put, and a first day handstamp from the post office near the Olympic office in Barcelona, depicting the new logo and marking the first day of the new Olympiad.





R BARCELONA
Nº 00059



ROBER JAMES WILCOCK
24, HAMILTON CRESCENT
BRENTWOOD ESSEX C.
ENGLAND

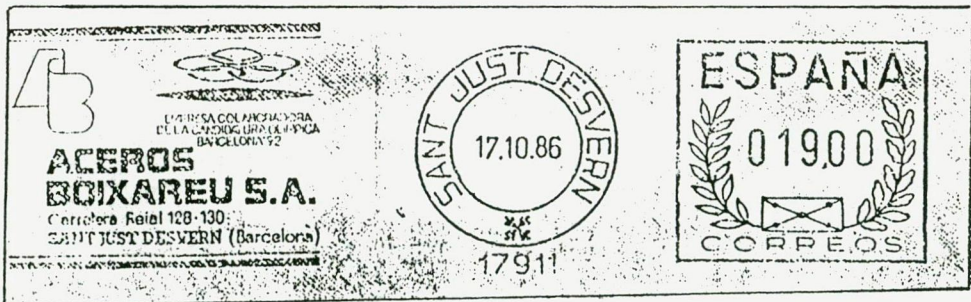
3 d' octubre de 1988,
1a. Emissió de sellos
pre-olímpics Barcelona '92

3 de octubre de 1988,
1.ª Emissió de sellos
preolímpicos Barcelona '92

Le 3 Octobre de 1988,
1e émission de timbres
pré-olympiques Barcelona '92

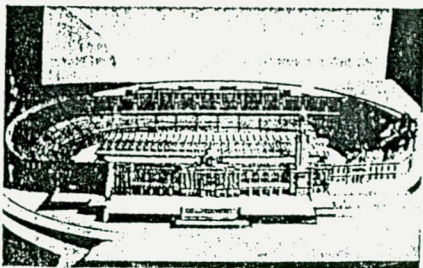
3rd October 1988,
1st Issue of pre-olympics
stamps Barcelona '92

Olympic meter. Another meter cancellation has recently come to light, from the steel producers Aceros Boixareu SA of Sant Just Desvern near Barcelona. The text indicates that they were sponsors of the candidature. Interestingly, the example illustrated is date 17 October 1986, nomination day.



Olympic Perfin. 1,000 of the new 8 pesetas value had a perfin applied, with official permission, BARNA / 92. They were sold at the exhibition for the Tenth Catalan Youth Philatelic Week, "Sants '88" from 21 to 30 October 1988. The exhibition handstamp depicts a juvenile torch bearer.





Collectie Congres-81 de Santis



PRIMERA PERFORACIÓ PRE-OLÍMPICA

The Spanish Post Office have announced that the 1989 issues have been planned. (2.2. million printed of each and each with a premium of 5 pesetas).

7 March, Handball, local letter rate. Boxing, national postcard rate. Cycling, national letter rate. Equestrian, European letter rate.

3 October. Fencing, European letter rate. Soccer, international letter rate. Gymnastics, express letter rate. There will also be a stamp at the international letter rate issued on 1 September for the Athletics World Cup, to be held in the remodelled Olympic Stadium in Barcelona. This will be the first event held there after the completion of the current rebuilding programme.

All the stamps, including the 3 October 1988 issue may be ordered from Direccion General de Correos y Telegrafos, Servicio Filatelico, 28070 Madrid, Spain. Payment may be made by International Money Order or by Girotransfer to Account No. CCP 4. 077.709. There is a handling charge of 3%, and please allow THREE MONTHS for your order to arrive!

My thanks to member Manuel Alcala Gamez for the above information, and apologies for mis-spelling his name in the last issue of TORCH BEARER.

BARCELONA OLYMPIC POSTCARDS.

Two series of Olympic postcards are known so far, an unofficial series of standard size cards, and an official series in larger size bearing the Olympic logo of the Candidature Committee. Both series are likely to disappear from the shops; the unofficial series for reasons of copyright, and the official series to be replaced by cards bearing the Games logo, instead of the candidature logo. Mention must also be made of the card published by the Municipality of Barcelona in 1982 at the time of the football World Cup in Spain, to help launch Barcelona's candidature campaign (TORCH BEARER volume 2, Issue 4, December 1985)

The official series are 147mm x 105mm and have been on sale principally in the Ramblas, Barcelona's main tourist shopping street, but also throughout the city and in the tourist resorts along the Costa Brava. There is no indication on the back of the publisher, the earliest printings having just a plain back with a number in the corner. Later printings have lines for the address. Details are as follows:

J.O.D. 101. Night view of Barcelona with a green tint. The

letters BARCELONA appear between rays of light emanating from Montjuic. Blue frame, wider at foot, with Olympic Rings and 1992.

- J.O. 102. Eight rectangular views of Barcelona, with a central panel in white with two torches, badge of Barcelona and text BARCELONA / 1992 / OLIMPICA.
- J.O. 103. Five views of non-interlocking rings. Turquoise background and blue frame with text at foot Barcelona Olimpica 1992
- J.O. 104. Three small rectangular photos - top left, discus thrower, top centre, Barcelona marathon, left side, Olympic flame at Lake Placid. Main photo, night view of Montjuic and fountains. Grey background. Text top right, Barcelona / 1992 Bottom left Olympic rings. (Illustrated in November 1988 issue of TORCH BEARER.)
- J.O. 105. Framed view of Ramblas flower stalls. Grey background, side left and bottom, nine small rectangular sporting photos, text at top Barcelona Olimpica 1992, torch in right border.
- J.O. 106. Upright framed photo of Gaudi's Sagrada Familia church. Grey background; at top text Juegos Olimpicos and three small sporting photos; text at foot Barcelona 1992.
- J.O. 107. Framed photo of the port on grey background. Top left, three sporting photos, text at top Barcelona Olimpica; at the left side, Olympic rings sideways and 1992.
- J.O. 108. Five views in non-interlocking rings (same views as J.O.103) blue background with two torches; black frame with text at the foot Barcelona.

This last card is clearly numbered in the Olympic series, but would not appear to breach the Olympic copyright, and may therefore stay on sale. Higher numbers were not on sale in August 1988, but may appear now that Barcelona's four year Olympic programme is underway. (1989 is to be named Year of Culture and Sport.) Details of official cards to follow.

Barcelona's opening shot in the four year OLIMPIADA CULTUREL programme leading up to their own Olympiad, turned out to be something of an anti-climax. Monserrat Caballe, Barcelona's beloved diva, and Freddie Mercury, better known as the lead singer of the pop group Queen than as an opera singer, co-starred in an open air concert before a glittering crowd headed by King Juan Carlos. Other artists appearing were Jose Carreras, Dionne Warwick, Suzanne Vega, Spandau Ballet, Rudolph Nureyev and Jerry Lee Lewis. Freddie Mercury's voice was out of action, and he and Caballe had to make do with miming to a record, which was a shame, for their duet was considered to be the high spot of the evening staged in celebration of the city's receipt of the Olympic flag from Seoul.

The evening ended in the small hours with a magnificent fireworks display, which could be enjoyed by everyone in the city.

SUPPORT YOUR SOCIETY!!!!!!!

If you have spare material use the Society's auction or packet to dispose of your unwanted items. This way you help yourself and the Society, and the items that you no longer require may be on another member's Wants List!

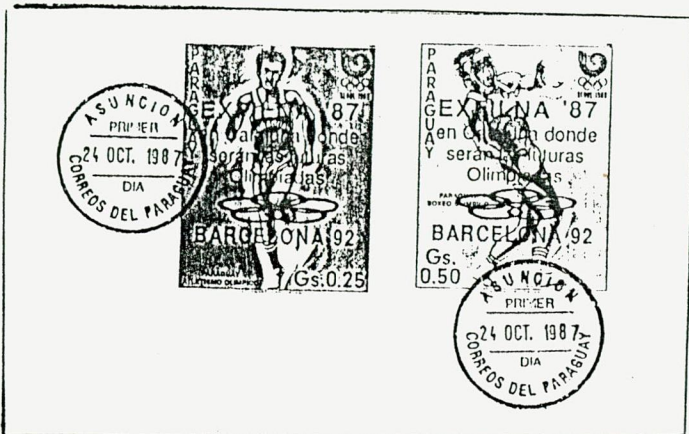
BARCELONA '92, OTHER COUNTRIES CLIMB ON THE BANDWAGON.

Shlomo Vurgan.

In **TORCH BEARER** Volume 5 Issue 4, November 1988, Bob Wilcock produced a comprehensive article which laid the foundations for the research needed to develop the philatelic aspects of the Barcelona Games of 1992.

Following his article, I would like to draw attention to the emissions that have been issued by foreign countries. I have already shown the Andorra FDC which was issued on 27 July 1987 (Volume 5, Issue 1, page 19). The issues from St. Tome and Principe which were released on 30 October 1987 were also illustrated in **TORCH BEARER** Volume 5, Issue 2, page 78.

We now have two stamps from Paraguay which celebrate the coming Games in Barcelona. The two stamps were taken from the Paraguay Seoul Olympic Games issue (the runner and the boxer) and were overprinted with a suitable slogan. The release date for the two stamps was timed to coincide with the opening of EXFILNA '87 on 24 October 1987.



The overprint reads "EXFILNA '87 / En Catalana donde / seran las Futuras / Olimpiadas / BARCELONA 92". Above BARCELONA are the Olympic rings in the format used by the Barcelona Candidature Committee. Translated, the overprint reads, "EXFILNA '87 / in Catalonia where / the future Olympics [will take place] / BARCELONA 92".

GOT FIVE MINUTES? Why not drop the Editor a line with your little snippets of information? Remember, what may be of little interest to you, could fill in the piece of the jigsaw for someone else. Your Editor is always happy to accept articles, however long or short. If they have previously appeared in another magazine, please include the name and address of the publisher, so that permission to reprint can be requested.

FINLANDIA '88

Ossi Virtanen.

The following lines are some thoughts about the Olympic exhibits that were on show at FINLANDIA 88, which was held in Helsinki in June 1988. The comments about the exhibits and Olympic philately in general, are entirely my own, and not necessarily those of other members.

Altogether, there were one hundred and twenty six entries in the thematic class, and of these, only five were Olympic collections, not very many. However, there are other factors which need to be taken into consideration. One is that almost every year there is at least one exhibition somewhere that caters for this particular theme. To this must be added the fact that there are relatively few collections that have received the necessary standard nationally to be able to exhibit competitively internationally. There is a limit to the amount of time, energy and expense that most collectors are prepared to expend in any one year. There are also different reasons why a collector will not participate in this or that exhibition. In 1986 in Rome one of the top Olympic collectors told me that he would be exhibiting in Prague, rather than in Helsinki, because the jury member for his country at FINLANDIA did not have the trust of thematic exhibitors in his country. Others perhaps did not exhibit in Helsinki for they felt that the city was too distant, in spite of the fact that there are very good connections to both East and West.

The collections shown in Helsinki were as follows:

Ladislav Karel, Switzerland, Olympic Games 1896-1952, gold medal,
Dieter Germann, W.Germany, Olympic Games 1936, large vermeil,
Fritz Karpinski, W.Germany, Olympic Summer Games 1936, L.vermeil,
James Bowman, USA, 1936 Olympic Games, vermeil,
Eino Narhi, Finland, Olympic Games 1896-1952, silver.
In the Jury Class, Heinrich Mannhart, Switzerland, The History of the Origin of the Olympic Games in Antiquity.

Most of the collections shown were well-known and there were no great surprises in the medals awarded, which compared favourably with those received at previous exhibitions, in spite of the fact that FINLANDIA saw the introduction of the new F.I.P. rules.

Perhaps other collectors also feel as I do, that the best, and perhaps only, way to present Olympic material is by documenting one or several Games with the philatelic material. Franco Pelligrini of Italy, with his collection, "The Spirit of Olympia" is a prime example of what can be achieved, but only very few collectors have any real chance of reaching that level. The question has been asked whether Olympic collections are at present being displayed in the right group or class. Is the thematic class really the right one for them, or should they be placed in a class separate to other thematic exhibits? There are certain facts that justify this way of thinking, not least that there are now special Olympic and sport exhibitions every two years. This year, being Olympic Year, there were two such exhibitions, one in Calgary, the other in Seoul.

Finally, I would like to throw this whole question open to the readers of TORCH BEARER. It should be interesting to hear your opinions and arguments about this way of thinking. This year there were five international exhibitions where Olympic collections could be shown; the two Olympihilex', FINLANDIA, PRAGA and PHILACEPT. How long will it be before there is an exhibition without any Olympic entries?

IN BRIEF

The outstanding athlete of the 1900 Paris Games was Alvin Kraenzlein. He was the world's best in the high hurdles, low hurdles and long jump. The remarkable American all-rounder was a small man with a very distinctive style of dress; cloth cap, tight fitting suits, Eton collars, silk cravats and the finest of gloves! Kraenzlein won the 60 metres in 7 seconds, a very fast time considering the uneven grass track at the Bois de Boulogne. He won two more gold medals in the 110 metres hurdles, in 15.2 seconds and the 200 metres hurdles in 25.4 seconds. He won his fourth gold medal in the running long jump with a leap of 23.6.8, less than a centimetre ahead of fellow American Myer Prinstein. All four of Kraenzlein's performances were recognised as Olympic records.

The traditional strong man's event in the Olympic Games is the shot put. In the 1904 St. Louis Games, Ralph Rose, who stood 6'6" and weighed 17 stones, won the title without undue technical refinement. He simply used his enormous strength to propel the 16lb shot a staggering 48 feet 7 inches, setting a new Olympic record. However, the great Ralph Rose met his match in the 56lb throwing event, when Emile Desmarteau, an ex policeman from Montreal, heaved the half hundredweight 34'4" to win the gold medal for this event. Emile had been forced to resign from the police force because they would not give him the time to hitch hike to St. Louis in his bid for the gold medal. However, on his return, he was immediately reinstated into the force. Unfortunately, he died a short while after his tremendous feat. The 56lb event appeared only once more in the Olympic programme. It was dropped for good in 1920.

In 490BC, the Greeks won a battle over the Persians near the village of Marathon, where a mound can still be seen to commemorate the fallen. A messenger ran 24 miles to convey the news to the citizens of Athens. On arrival, he had only enough breath to gasp out, "Rejoice, for we conquer" before dropping dead. Because of the importance of this legend in Greek history, the marathon race was introduced into the modern Olympic programme, and appropriately enough, the event was won by a Greek in 1896. He was Spiridon Louis, a post office worker and shepherd from Amarussi, who spent the night before the race praying for victory. The Greek government presented him with a farm, and other rewards included free shaves, clothes and chocolates for life!

HAITIAN ISSUE OF 1939

F. Burton Sellars.

Perhaps the five ring Olympic symbol first appeared on an Olympic commemorative issue in 1944, but five years before the symbol was shown on the 1944 Olympic Games commemorative issue of Switzerland, it was pictured in full colour on three semi-postals of Haiti.

These Haitian stamps were issued in 1939 and have a number of interesting features, aside from the usage of the Olympic symbol. They were largely issued through the efforts of Andre Chevallier, one of the promoters of sport in Haiti, who proposed to the Haitian government that special stamps be issued and that a part of the proceeds of their sale be used to build a municipal sports stadium in Port au Prince, Haiti's capital. After much discussion, the proposal was approved on 14 - 15 March 1939, and the order for the stamps was placed with the American Bank Note Company in New York.

The issue comprised one stamp for regular postage with a value of 10 centimes and a surtax of a like amount, and two stamps for airmail postage, one with a value of 60 centimes with a surtax of 40 centimes, and the other with a value of 1 Gourde 25 centimes and a surtax of 60 centimes. The entire set thus had a face value of 3 Gourdes 5 centimes, or only 61 cents of U.S. money at that time. There were seventy five thousand copies printed of each airmail value, and two hundred thousand copies of the regular postage value.

A portrait of Pierre de Fredi, Baron de Coubertin, flanked by the Haitian and Olympic flags is the central design of the three stamps, all of which were engraved, printed on unwatermarked paper and perforated 12. The five ring Olympic symbol appears on the Olympic flag in the five colours, red, blue, green, yellow and black. The basic stamp colours are rose-carmine for the regular postage value and violet and black for the two airmail values. The stamps are extremely well executed and make a very colourful set.

Baron Pierre de Coubertin was a Frenchman, born in Paris in 1863, who developed an intense interest in scholastic athletics. Through his efforts, the Olympic Games, which had been banned as pagan festivals in 394 AD by Emperor Theodosius of Rome, were revived in 1896 in Athens, Greece. De Coubertin, who was the heart and soul of these early Olympic Games, served as the President of the International Olympic Committee for thirty one years, until his retirement in 1925. On his retirement, he was elected Honorary President for Life, a title that passed with him when he died at the age of seventy four on 2 September 1937 in Geneva, Switzerland. Although for legal reasons his remains could not be buried beneath the Olympic Stadium in Athens as he wished, his heart, encased in a simple green stone, is enshrined beneath a memorial tablet in that stadium. (I believe that the author has confused the stadium at Athens with that at ancient Olympia, where de Coubertin's heart is actually buried. ED.)

The stamps were delivered to Haiti in September 1939 and first placed on sale on 3 October 1939. They were to be on sale, and valid for postage until 31 December 1940. Although fairly good numbers of the stamps were sold on the first day of issue their sale languished because of World War II, which erupted at that time, and a general lack of interest and publicity regarding their issuance and purpose. At the expiration of their sale and validity period, only 8,680 copies of the regular postage value and 6,897 and 6,296 copies of the two airmail postage values had been sold. The balance of the stamps were burned on 15 February 1941 in accordance with the law which had originally authorised their issuance.

It takes only a brief excursion into arithmetic to determine that the Municipal Stadium project received little benefit from the sale of these stamps. As a matter of actual fact, the project showed a loss of a little over \$300 for the venture, since the arrangements originally made required the stadium fund to pay the cost of the stamps, which totalled almost \$1,800, and the surtax from the stamp sales totalled a little less than \$1,500.

Although this stamp issue was a financial failure for the stadium project, it can certainly be classed as a philatelic success. It was Haiti's first, and for obvious reasons, for almost ten years, Haiti's only semi-postal issue. Because of the very limited number issued it has become very valuable property. Long neglected and badly under priced by the catalogues, the value of this set has risen greatly in the last few years. It is now much sought after by sports and Olympic topical collectors, to say nothing of semi-postal and Haitian specialists. The stamps are popular auction items with a ready market, but are seldom seen in used condition, and rarely on cover.

(The above article first appeared in the WESTERN STAMP COLLECTOR, Volume 21, Issue 49, on 22 January 1957, and is reproduced here with the permission of the author.)

THEMATICA '89.

THEMATICA '89 is taking place on Saturday 24 June 1989 at the Carisbrook Hall, Marble Arch from 10.00am to 5.00pm. Our Society will have a table and most, if not all, of the Committee members will be present. As in the two previous years, there will be many dealers with good thematic material. During the day there will be displays and lectures, and if previous THEMATICA's are anything to go by, it should be a fun day out.

There will be a special competition, and a cup will be awarded to the winner. Each exhibit must consist of sixteen standard size sheets. There will be no set rules, the only criterion being that the exhibit must be visually interesting. To encourage collectors who have never exhibited before, exhibits will only be accepted from collectors who have never entered a national or international competition. If anyone would like further details, please write to Francesca Rapkin, Eaglewood, Oxhey Lane, Hatch End, Middx HA5 4AL. Regrettably, because of possible difficulties with Customs, the competition is only open to members living in Great Britain.

OLYMPIC EXHIBITION AT THE N.P.M.

Douglas Muir. (Philatelic Curator, National Postal Museum.)

"BRITISH PHILATELY AT THE OLYMPICS" was an exhibition at the National Postal Museum held in conjunction with the British Olympic Association and the Society of Olympic Collectors. It was opened on 18 October 1988 by the Rt. Hon. Christopher Chataway PC, (former world record holder in the 5,000 metres, British representative in the 1952 and 1956 Olympic Games and Minister of Posts and Telecommunications 1970-72) and which ran until 30 December. The exhibition consisted of artwork and essays for the 1948 GB stamps provided by the National Postal Museum, together with artefacts and medals from various Olympic Games on loan from the British Olympic Association and a display by members of the Society of Olympic Collectors.

The first eight frames showed material supplied by the National Postal Museum. This consisted of artwork and essays leading up to the issued stamps of various sports issues produced by the British Post Office. All the material had been newly researched and freshly mounted for this exhibition. Frames 2 to 5 showed the work done in preparation for the issue of stamps for the 1948 Games held in London. All the artwork prepared for this issue and all the essays extant were on show. Some of this material had not been seen by the public before. King George VI, like his father, was a keen philatelist and the essays that were submitted to him for his approval in February 1948 bear comments in his handwriting.

Frame 6 had artwork for a proposed skiing issue of 1975. This never came to pass as it was decided to issue a set of sailing stamps instead and these designs have not been shown before. In fact, they were not even shown to the Stamp Advisory Committee at the time. Frames 7 and 8 showed more unadopted designs for sports issues beginning with the stamps for the Empire and Commonwealth Games in 1958 up to some of the designs for the 1980 issue.

In the display cases in the centre of the exhibition were artefacts from the various Olympic Games on loan from the British Olympic Association. Display case A contained medals and badges from the Olympic Games held in London in 1908 and 1948. There was also a man's beret from the Great Britain team for the 1948 Games (the property of Mr Sandy Duncan) and the official report on these Games. In display case B were commemorative plates and gifts to the British Olympic Association on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary in 1980 and in display case C were various medals from the Games in Berlin (1936), Rome (1960), Munich (1972) and Moscow (1980) together with various commemorative items, such as pins.

Frames 9 to 16 contained the display by the Society of Olympic Collectors from the collections of Ken Cook and Bob Wilcock with additional items loaned by Bob Farley, Francesca Rapkin and Alan Sabey. The first three frames showed postcards illustrating the 1908 Olympics at the White City. These were followed by three frames on the 1948 London Olympics and finished up with two

frames on the period 1959 to 1988.

Frames 9 and 10 comprised postcards of the 1908 stadium and the Olympic events, supported by postmarks from the Franco-British Exhibition for the principal Olympic dates. The stadium was a part of the exhibition site, and the exhibition post office served the Olympics. A post office planned for the stadium was never opened. Frame 11 showed the postcards telling the story of the Olympic marathon from Windsor to the White City Stadium including the dramatic finish.

Frames 12 to 14 gave a comprehensive display of the stamps, postmarks and postal history of the 1948 Olympics at Wembley. The stamps were supported by presentation pack and cards, and varieties of the stamps and airletter. The ticket office postage meter and covers from the temporary and mobile post offices in the Olympic Village and at Olympic venues were also shown.

Frames 15 and 16 comprised virtually all the known British Olympic related postmarks and postal history of the last thirty years. The display commenced with the postmark and meter from Olympex in Brighton in 1959, one of the earliest Olympic philatelic exhibitions in the world and includes the rare British Post Office backstamp for the 1980 Lake Placid Dog Sled run, and "looks forward" to Birmingham's unsuccessful bid for the 1992 Games.

(Douglas Muir has written a very detailed article on the preparation of the 1948 British Olympic issue, which will appear in the next issue of TORCH BEARER.)

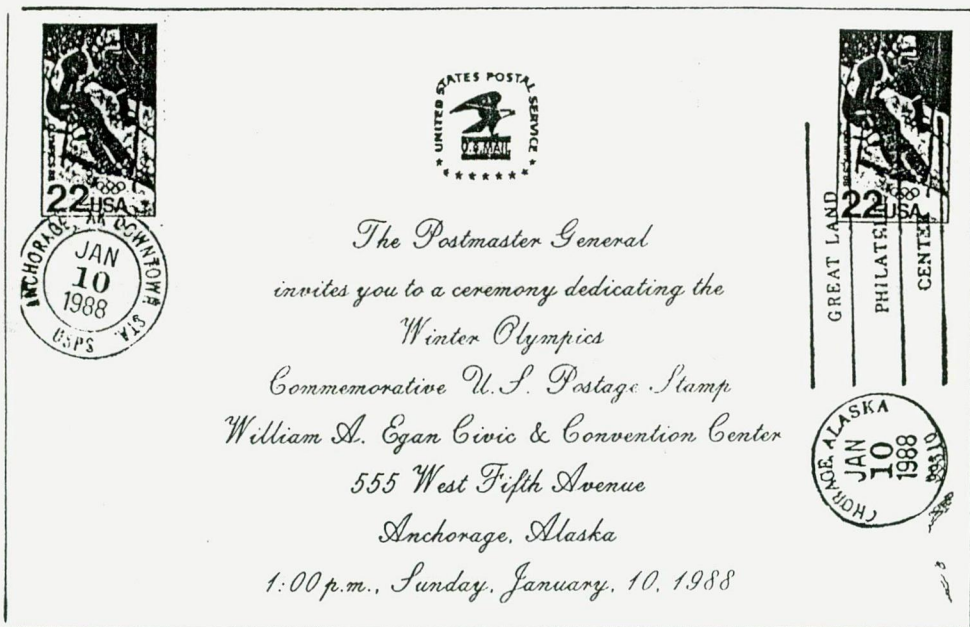


ANCHORAGE, OLYMPIC HOPEFUL

The United States 1988 Olympic Winter Games stamp was released on 10 January 1988. Those members who are aware of USPS procedure will know that the first day of issue ceremony is generally held in a town or city that is appropriate to the theme of the stamp. By choosing Anchorage as the venue for the release of the 1988 Winter Games stamp, the US Government was undoubtedly lending its support to the candidature of Anchorage as the host of the 1994 Winter Games.

We now know that Lillehammer will host the first of the new cycle of Olympic Winter Games, but undeterred Anchorage has already started its campaign to host the Games of 1998!

Our member, Vic Manikian, President of the Anchorage Philatelic Society, has sent examples of the the official invitation for the first day ceremony, at which he was present, and the first day



cover which had been specially prepared by the Anchorage Philatelic Society, and shows a skier similar to that in the stamp design.

Vic also sent a copy of the meter cancellation being used by the Candidature Committee. (Illustrated on the next page.) If one looks very carefully, it is just possible to see that the year under the Anchorage logo is given as 1992. Members may recall that Anchorage was already bidding to host those Winter Games, the last in the old series, which were given to

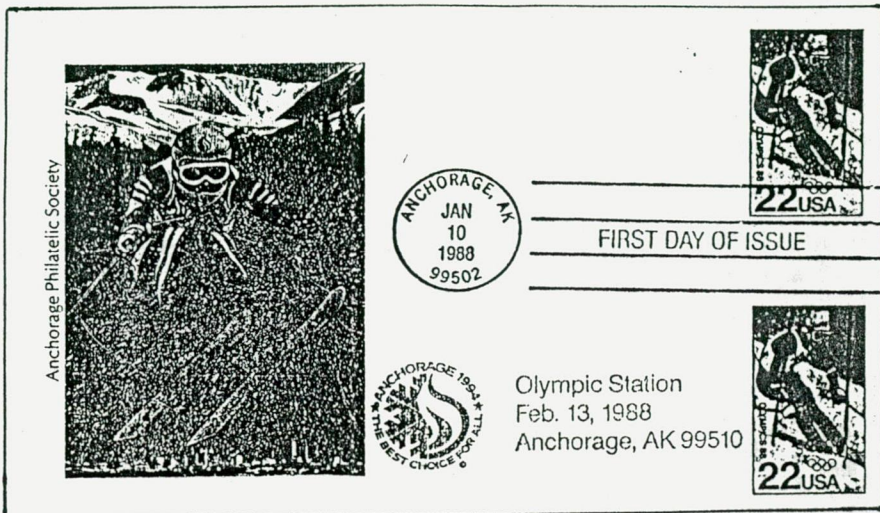
Albertville at the IOC Session in Lausanne in 1986.



PB METER
2700975

U.S. POSTAGE
.22

First Day Cover produced by the Anchorage Philatelic Society.



To ensure that the citizens of Anchorage were behind the bid to host the 1994 Olympic Winter Games, a ballot paper was prepared asking people to fill in "Yes" or "No", whether or not they were in agreement with the bid. It is understood that the people voted overwhelmingly in favour on 23 August 1988, the day of the ballot.

Apart from the invitation, guests at the dedication ceremony itself were presented with a programme that contained the stamp cancelled with the general day of issue cancellation (see above). The cover of the programme, unfortunately too dark for reproduction here, shows a ski jumper.

Please mention TORCH BEARER when replying to advertisers. It helps them, and it helps your Society!

CHAMONIX 1924

R. Frison-Roche.

(The following report first appeared in the December 1982 issue of OLYMPIC REVIEW, and is reproduced here with permission.)

Fifty years have passed since that cold, sunny afternoon in January 1924 when Chamonix celebrated the opening of the first Winter Olympic Games in the year of the VII Olympiad of the modern era.

Seventeen nations sent their finest athletes to compete in the little known sports of snow and ice.

The local organisation, which the representatives of the nations experienced in this specialised area of winter sports were pleased to call perfect, established Chamonix amongst the finest winter resorts.

These Olympic Games were also to establish great champions, but they barely escaped disaster and the public at large never knew of the incessant fight which the local organisers had to wage with the elements.

Everything had to be created and constructed in less than six months and it all very nearly disappeared in the thaw which occurred in the last week before the opening of the Games.

It was in 1921 that the International Olympic Committee, at its Congress in Lausanne, took the decision to incorporate winter sports into the Olympic Games. It is true to say, however, that this decision was not unanimous. For many years, the Scandinavians had organised "Nordic Games", and understandably, they saw this new departure as an intrusion in their domain of skiers, skaters and hockey players.

Finally, thanks to the diplomacy of Count Clary and the Marquis de Polignac, a compromise was reached, giving the patronage of the IOC "the organisation of the Winter Games at the time of the VIII Olympiad". A subtlety of style that triumphed over all susceptibilities.

Once the matter had been decided, the host nation had to be chosen. Naturally, the nation organising the Summer Games had priority, on condition that it was in a position to provide the necessary facilities for winter sports. For France, and Paris, 1924 was Olympic year.

And so France was chosen for the Winter Games and Mr Frantz Reichel was authorised by the COF to sign a contract with the municipality of Chamonix, headed by its dynamic Mayor, Jean Lavaivre. The bargaining went on for some time.

The problems of finance and facilities which Chamonix faced are not difficult to imagine, nonetheless, Chamonix was at that time the only French winter resort able to complete its facilities and offer accommodation (the town was rich in hotels at the

time) and experienced local organisers.

First and foremost, the IOC demanded construction of a skating rink, more than 20,000 square metres, able to contain two hockey rinks, two figure skating rinks and a 400 metres speed skating rink with an adjacent curling rink. The ice stadium had to be entirely built and handed over to the Olympic Committee by 1 November 1923.

At the same time, Chamonix engaged in the construction of a ski jump in the Norwegian style and, following the example of the Holmenkollen, it had to allow for jumps of sixty metres, the longest one could hope for at that time.

There was no problem in this quarter, and the jump was ready on time. It was on this same jump incidentally, modified only four times over the years, that the Czech, Raska, recently jumped 103 metres.

The IOC also demanded the very expensive construction of a bobsleigh run, a sport very much in vogue at the time, even in France, where its fate was confided to the hands of Mr de la Fregeoliere. This terrifying run with nineteen very tight bends was constructed entirely by masons in the middle of the forest of Perlerins, and its remains can still be seen today. For the ascent to the bobsleigh run the old Aiguille skilift was used with a provisional double pylon stop at Cascade de Dard.

If the jump and bob run gave the organisers little cause for worry, indeed a great deal of credit, this was not the case with the construction of the ice stadium. The old 500 square metres skating rink was on the right hand side of the River Arve. This was abandoned, and it was on the left bank, in the "Mouilles" which stretched between the Municipal Casino (now the beach) and the Grand Hotel (otherwise known as the Residence) that what was to be the biggest skating rink and the largest ice stadium in the world was to be built, a record held until then by Davos.

First of all, the River Arve had to be diverted the length of the future stadium; then the water had to be drained and the underground pipes installed, together with many water sprays for the future skating rink. This was carried out while the engineers and architects finalised plans for the work. The biggest job was filling in and planning the land over a useable space of 36,000 square metres.

The contract with the builders was signed and work commenced on 31 May 1923, that is, exactly five months before the date fixed by the Olympic Committee for the handing over of the stadium. Let us take our hats off to those brave chaps who took on the challenge!

Even in this day and age, with the massive resources of modern technology at our disposal, such a project would seem impossible. However, under the impetus of the municipality of the time, the work went ahead at record speed. The important cutting work was carried out in the Bouchet wood, beside the municipal Casino, and this excavation was later to form the lake and the beach. To do this, the workers had only a steam-powered digger, which

worked very badly and was constantly breaking down. The rubble was then trundled away in little carts. All this involved enormous manual labour.

It rapidly became obvious that the stadium would never be ready in time as the autumn approached and the winter freeze would soon set in. And so the work intensified, twenty four hours a day, digging, dragging away the rubble, with a furious unremitting effort which drew admiration from the specialists and virulent criticism from those who had not, as yet, grasped the importance of the Games for the future of Chamonix and who feared the project was a bottomless pit where money was concerned, which would eventually engulf the town. Despite all these efforts the stadium was not handed over to the IOC until December, that is, one month late, and the ice making team, under the direction of Benoit Couttet, with his assistant Jean Claret, set to work immediately it snowed. A heavy frost set in and everything went well. Benoit Couttet had installed about thirty men in the basement of the building which served both as a cloakroom and a grandstand.

Naturally, the sprinkling work was done at night time with hoses, and it needed the delicate touch and technique of Benoit Couttet to create ice as smooth and hard as the best Swiss and Scandinavian rinks.

At the same time, the work on the ski jump and bob run was completed, and taking advantage of the fresh snow, the tracers began to mark out future runs for the cross country skiing. The snow fell regularly in light layers; it posed no problems, and at each snowfall, the ice was cut away and tipped into the bed of the River Arve. Then came the black period!

It was the end of December 1923. As Christmas approached, Chamonix was full of winter holiday makers and jingling sleighs sped about the snow covered streets. The first catastrophe befell Chamonix overnight. In twenty four hours 1 metre 10 cms (44 inches) of snow fell on the valley. The highest precipitation recorded in the memory of man. At that time, I lived at Praz de Chamonix and I remember it as if it were yesterday, that astonishing morning when we awoke to find ourselves buried under the snow, unable to believe our eyes!

My colleague, Auguste Cachat, also the secretary of the winter sports committee, and I had to be in the office by 8:00am. We put on our skis and made tracks. Changing every fifty metres, it took two hours to cover the two and a half kilometres. There was consternation in Chamonix.

Although the weather turned fine again, the snow covered everything. We were only one month from the beginning of the Games, and the immense stadium had to be cleared of the snow! We recruited workers everywhere. Soon six hundred men were working day and night with shovels to excavate the snow down to the surface of the ice.

The snow was carried away on hand-drawn sleds. As it solidified, it offered more and more resistance. Work went on like this through the New Year's celebrations and into the first three weeks of January! Everyone gained new hope, and the stadium and

its skating rink were ready eight days before the opening of the Games. Alas, we rejoiced too soon. As often happens after a long period of good weather, the sky changed and a thaw set in. In those days when skating rinks were formed naturally and open to the sky, a thaw was dreaded by winter resorts. To make matters worse, it began to rain heavily.

The effect of the rain on the enormous mass of snow that covered the mountain was disastrous. An avalanche blocked the ministerial train at Planet, and another cut the line at Servoz. As for the skating rink, it was transformed into a lake - a sight of unequalled desolation. All night we waited for the barometer and the thermometer, watching for the smallest sign that the thaw was ending. Already there was talk of cancelling the events when, just in time, the freeze set in again.

The skaters were all present, waiting for days for the chance to train. There was no question of remaking the immense rink in one day. The curling rink, hastily reconstructed, was handed over, and on this area of 2,000 square metres, I watched the staggering spectacle of figure skaters, speed skaters and hockey players turning tirelessly around and around as they trained as best they could, while Benoit Couttet and his men worked to put the finishing touches to the big stadium where from hour to hour the ice became thicker, harder and smoother.

Chamonix and the French Olympic Committee heaved a sigh of relief - the Olympic Games could take place after all.

The opening ceremony took place as planned in an atmosphere of general euphoria after a demoralising week. The flags of the seventeen nations fluttered in the stadium breeze. The parade formed in the front of the Town Hall; at its head, behind the municipal band, came the delegations from the society and constitutional bodies of Chamonix, followed by the official authorities, then the athletes and officials of the seventeen nations represented. Mr Lavaivre, Mayor of Chamonix, welcomed all the guests to Chamonix and the joyful cortege set off.

The officials and local delegations entered the stadium by the Rue Joseph-Vallot and the Hasslet footbridge over the Arve in front of the Hotel Beaulieu and reached the official stand. The athletes went up to the Hotel de la Mer de Glace (now the hospital) and entered the stadium by the gate facing the Municipal Casino. Once inside, they lined up in orderly fashion before the grandstand, where Mr Gaston Vidal, the Secretary of State, awaited them. Once Count Clary had greeted the athletes and the authorities and thanked the local organisers, Mr Gaston Vidal proclaimed the opening of the Games according to the solemn protocol.

The first flag bearers formed a semi-circle around Adjutant Camille Mandrillon who took the Olympic Oath on behalf of the athletes. Then began the parade of the athletes. Nation followed nation in alphabetical order, headed by Austria, represented only by skaters, since at that time Alpine skiing was virtually unknown. Next came the Belgian ice hockey players, followed by Canada, Estonia, the United States, Finland, France, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. The majority of the

competitors were skaters.

Ice hockey was the premier sport at these first Winter Games. It had already been established at Antwerp. In skiing, a sparkling performance was expected from the Scandinavians. With the passing of time the recollection of this parade remains engraved in my memory, down to the smallest detail. I recall the slight figure of a twelve year old girl skipping along in a pleated skirt and a club blazer that was too big for her at the side of a blonde giant in the Norwegian team. It was Sonja Henie. From this modest beginning began a dazzling career as a skater. Placed eighth at Chamonix, four years later at St. Moritz, she came first and kept her title for the next eight years.

The weather remained fine. The cold was sharp and the snow excellent. All the events went ahead with perfect regularity.

France, as the host country, was represented in most events despite its feeble strength in these sports. In the speed skating they were represented by de Wilde, Gegout, Albert Hassler and Leon Quaglia. The latter had obtained the world record in Davos. The 500 metres was won by the American Jewtraw in 44 seconds, the 1500 metres by the astonishing Finnish skater Thunberg, the 10,000 metres by his fellow countryman Skutnabb, while Leon Quaglia finished seventh, 19 seconds behind the winner. He was classed sixth place overall in the four combined events and received a diploma.

The women's figure skating event was won by the Austrian, Herma Planck-Szabo, and the French couple Brunet-Joly brought us the bronze medal in the pairs figure skating. The individual masculine title was carried off by the Swede, Grafstrom.

At the same time the skiing events went ahead in the valley on perfectly traced runs amid a setting of snow covered mountains. The most important event was the 50 kilometres race. The course began at the stadium, then went up as far as Charamillon, and then came down again to Montquarts Bridge, before returning to the stadium. It was a formidable one and brought the first gold medal to the ski king, the Norwegian Thorleif Haug, who accomplished the course in a record time of 3 hours 44 minutes 32 seconds. The event had thirty three entrants, amongst whom were the Frenchmen Pouteil-Noble (15th), Perrin (16th) and Bluffet (17th).

The Finns, who were the world title holders, and ran, as I remember, with very long sticks with handles made of reindeer antlers, were crushed by the Norwegian coalition. In the 18 kilometres, won by the same Thorleif Haug, there were also three entrants from Chamonix, Denis Couttet, Martial Payot and Gilbert Ravanel, with Vandelle and Simond from the Jura region. Ravanel came 20th out of forty one entrants.

On the day of the ski jumps, the first grand competition organised in France attracted almost 15,000 spectators to the site at Mont. Training was also carried out at the Grepon site and it was there that I saw Prince Olaf, who was later to become the King of Norway, jumping with his friends. The ski competition itself had been something of a disappointment to the spectators. The jumping platform had been built for the 60 metres jumps, but

following the decision by the jury, the run-up was not fully utilised, as the officials, impressed by the slope of the landing run, the longest in Europe at that time, voluntarily shortened the run-up. The winner was the Norwegian, Thulin Thams who, with two 49 metres leaps, carried away the competition. The longest jump in the event was 50 metres. France was represented by Kelber Balmat, who came 10th in the combined jump. 15th in the long jump, with 36 metres and 39 metres. Martial Payot, Gilbert Ravanel and Vandelle also represented France.

As everything had gone so well, the jury authorised attempts at longer distances, and it was thus that the Norwegian Thullin Thams established the world record with a jump of 58.50 metres. This may seem nothing to us today, but caused a frenzy among the crowd then, as even at Holmenkollen, no-one had jumped that far.

The biggest event of the Games, the Military Patrol, was entered by Switzerland, Finland, France, Poland and Italy. To everyone's surprise, this event, over which the Finns had reigned supreme until then, was won by Switzerland, which beat Finland, with France finishing third with a very well knit team commanded by Adjutant Mandrillon and comprising soldiers Maurice Mandrillon, George Berthet and Vandelle.

The ice hockey tournament was, however, the kingpin in the Olympic competition. Incidentally, the modern-day barriers which enclose the playing field were not known at the time and the surface of the playing area was marked out by a rectangle formed by 20 centimetres wide beams placed on the ice. Subsequently, as the puck was forever being sent out, thus provoking incessant interruptions in the game, beams were replaced by the barriers which we know today, thus changing in an instant the speed and tactic of the game.

There were nine nations entered for the hockey tournament, and the finalists were Canada and the United States. As had been expected, the tournament was won by Canada, which beat the United States in an Homeric match, while Great Britain took the third place, Sweden fourth and France and Yugoslavia tied for fifth place. An honourable result for France, and one that we would very much like to repeat! Our ice hockey team was an enthusiastic mixed bunch, from the veteran Parisian Del Valle, 41 years of age, to 20 year olds Albert Hassler, Charles Lavaivre and Gerard Simond. The captain was the Parisian de Rauch and the other players were Andre Charlet, C. Charpentier, Chaudron, Raoul Couvert, Del Valle, Hassler, Charles Lavaivre, the little Monnard, known as Bobby, the big Leon Quaglia, Calixte, Phillippe Payot and Gerard Simond.

The youthfulness of these hockey players allows us the pleasure of seeing many of them here today, and we would like to offer them, as we do the skiers of this fine period, our warmest wishes for a long life, in which they have accomplished so much.

Let us recall the curling matches, where Great Britain triumphed over Sweden and France, and come to the bobsleigh event on the run at Pelerins. With its nineteen bends, vertically banked and frozen water sprays, it was a formidable, and even murderous course. The competition was won by Switzerland, with Great Britain second, Belgium third and France in fourth place with

the bob of H.Aldebert, G.Andre, A.Berg and J.D'Aulan.

On 5 February, the event came to an end amid the general euphoria engendered by the wonderful weather and the cold. The closing ceremony was marked by a solemn speech by Baron Pierre de Coubertin. From now on, the Winter Games were a part of the Olympic Family. Even the Scandinavians, who had been hostile to their introduction at first, sportingly accepted that winter games had never before provoked such enthusiasm and brought Nordic skiing to a wider audience.

Chamonix's success was complete, although the town paid dearly in terms of sacrifice and anxiety in making the preparations. Henceforth Chamonix would be classed as a number one winter sports resort, exciting the emulation which would be transformed, four years later, into the even greater success at the Games of St. Moritz.

Before they broke up, the members of the International Olympic Committee awarded the Olympic Mountaineering Prize to Colonel Strutt, leader of the first English expedition to Everest. I do not know whether this prize, which was a traditional feature of the early Games, was still awarded subsequently. If not, what a pity! It was an award for unselfish effort and for the discovery of the mountains of the globe. An effort in line with the rules of the Olympic Games. All this may seem old hat nowadays, since one after another the 148,000 metres of the globe have been conquered!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR.

Roger Frison-Roche was the Secretary of the Chamonix Winter Sports Committee in 1924. The speech printed above on the preparation, organisation and staging of the events of the first Olympic Winter Games from 24 January to 5 February 1924 in Chamonix was given on the 50th anniversary of these first Winter Games and the centenary of the Club Alpin Francais.

POSTSCRIPT.

The final results in the ski jumping were not decided until fifty years after the event took place. In 1924 it appeared that the great Thorleif Haug had finished third, thus winning two medals at one time: a bronze in the ski jump and a gold in the Nordic combined, to go with the two gold medals he had already won in the 50 kilometres and 15 kilometres races. However, in 1974 Toralf Stromstad, who earned a silver medal in the 1924 Nordic combined, discovered an error in the computation of the scores. Haug, who had been dead for forty years, was demoted to fourth place, while Norwegian born Anders Haugen, was moved up to third place. Haugen, the only American ever to be placed in the top four in the ski jumping was awarded his medal at a special ceremony in Oslo. He was 83 years old.

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By sending your unwanted Olympic material to either the Auction Manager, John Crowther, or the Packet Manager, Bob Wilcock, you will help both yourself and the Society. Your unwanted material could be another member's prize purchase! Find the addresses of Committee members at the beginning of the magazine.

THE FIRST LONDON MARATHON

John Bryant.

(The following article first appeared in the programme for the 1988 London Marathon and is reproduced here with the permission of the author and publisher.)

The very first great spectacular London Marathon might very easily have been the last, according to a contemporary newspaper report on 24 July 1908.

It is a question whether public opinion will ever support another marathon race in Britain. Dorando's condition when he finished and the condition of many of the contestants in today's event may lead people to think it is worse than prize fighting or bullfighting.

Dorando, a confectioner from the island of Capri (ED. This is a common error. Dorando Pietri, in fact, came from the village of Carpi near Reggio.) and a self-trained marathon runner, had caused what was to be one of the greatest marathon sensations of all time by collapsing within yards of the finish of the 1908 Olympic Marathon.

This was the marathon that set the standard distance at the now familiar 26 miles 385 yards. The route planners had reckoned on a course from Windsor to London, and it was considered appropriate to start the race just outside the East Terrace at Windsor Castle, so that the Royal children could have a good view. The finish was to be at the Royal Box in the White City Stadium. This distance turned out to be 42,195 metres, the standard distance ever since, and a few hundred yards too long for Dorando.

Dorando's day had begun with a larger breakfast than usual. In an attempt to build up his strength for the marathon to come, he had a meal of beefsteak and coffee, which he was later to blame in part for his collapse. Dorando was given little hope by the sporting press, and it was a great sensation when he reached the stadium ahead of all his competitors in a state of exhaustion, staggering like a drunken man. Five times he fell down in the home stretch. He struggled to his feet each time and, aided by track officials, fought his way back towards the finishing tape.

An eye witness wrote: 'It was a spectacle the like of which no man living had ever seen, and none who saw it expect to see it ever repeated. The race itself with 58 of the best men winnowed from the runners of four continents competing; the arena where it was finished in the presence of an enormous cosmopolitan assemblage, with the Queen of England, the Royal representatives of several nations, and hosts of finely dressed men and women from the most fashionable circles of Europe, as well as several thousand Americans; and the dramatic and exciting denouement at the end combined to make it a historic day.' Officially, of course, the Olympic race was won by John Joseph Hayes, the Irish American Club runner, but the hero of the day, and the man whose name will always be remembered with that London Marathon of

eighty years ago, was the Italian Dorando Pietri.

The contemporary press reports are nothing if not colourful. The admiration and sympathy of every person in the stadium went out to the gallant Italian who, although he did not win, deserved to win, and did more within the limit of his powers than any other man who ran. The crisis in a battle on which the life of a nation hung could hardly have been more impressive than Dorando's entrance into the stadium.

Ten minutes before the megaphone announced "the runners are in sight", guns had proclaimed the arrival of the leaders at the nearest station of the course. An intense silence overhung the stadium while thousands awaited breathlessly the approach of the first man.

For ten minutes all eyes were focussed on the gate almost directly opposite the Royal stand, where the contestants were to enter. Finally, after what appeared to be an intolerable suspense, a runner staggered down the incline leading to the track. He was clothed in a white shirt and red, knee-length trousers. He stood for a moment as though dazed, and then turned to the left, although a red cord had been drawn about the track in the opposite direction for the runners to follow.

It was evident at once to everyone that the man was practically delirious. A squad of officials ran out and expostulated with him, but apparently he was afraid that they were trying to deceive him and fought to go to the left.

At length, he turned about and started on the right path along the track. Then followed an exhibition never to be forgotten by those who witnessed it. Dorando staggered along the cinder path like a man in a dream, his gait being neither a walk nor a run, but simply a flounder, with arms shaking and legs tottering. By devious ways he went on. People had lost thought of his nationality, and partisanship was forgotten. They rose in their seats and saw only the small man clad in red knickers tottering onward with his head so bent forward that his chin rested on his chest. They knew nothing of him as his name had not been mentioned among the probable winners, but they realised that his struggle must have been a terrific one to bring him thus right to the threshold of victory.

Over the 300 yards that Dorando had yet to cover, he fell a total of five times, and repeatedly after the doctors had poured stimulants down his throat he was dragged back to his feet. Finally, he was pushed across the line with one man at his back and another holding him by the arms. And while this extraordinary scene was being played out, the American Johnny Hayes had entered the stadium in a comparatively fresh state and was trotting towards the finish. He, in fact, finished less than a minute behind Dorando, but in the tumult and excitement of the moment he failed to get, even from his own countrymen, the reception that, as a winner, he might have expected.

Dorando was sufficiently recovered on the evening of the race to talk to the Press. He said: "I felt alright until I entered the stadium. When I heard the crowd cheering I knew I had nearly won." A thrill passed through me and I felt my strength going. I fell down and tried to struggle to the tape, but fell down

again. I never lost consciousness of what was going on, and if the doctor had not ordered the attendants to pick me up, I believe I could have finished unaided.'

Hayes, the actual winner, ran a very careful race. He started quite slowly and ran carefully for the first nineteen miles, at which point he pushed into third place behind the South African Hefferon. At Wormwood Scrubs, Dorando was three and a half minutes ahead of Hefferon, who was in turn two and a half minutes ahead of Hayes. But, by then, both the Italian and the South African were limping badly while Hayes was comparatively fresh. Eye witnesses said he still looked very strong. When the American reached the long level of the Scrubs, through which, incidentally, the runners made their way along cow paths, he could see the two leaders ahead of him. He could see them limping. He picked up the pace and, before he was through the Scrubs, had overtaken the South African and had made quite an inroad into Dorando's lead.

The second man home, Hefferon, was the oldest of the starters at 34, and he was generally reckoned to be running below his best distance, as he was something of a 40 and 50 mile specialist. First Briton across the line was 12th. W.T. Clarke, the former English champion, who had won the British trial over approximately 22 miles, retired after the 12th mile and took a car to the finish.

After the race, Hayes said: 'I took nothing to eat or drink on the journey. I think to do so is a great mistake. Before starting I partook of a light luncheon consisting of two ounces of beef, two slices of toast and a cup of tea. During the race, I merely bathed my face with Florida water and gargled my throat with brandy. I ran my own race throughout, covering in almost mechanical fashion the first five or six miles at a rate of six minutes per mile. After that I went as hard as I could to the finish. Ten miles from home I was ten minutes behind the leader and then I began to go through the field. I passed Hefferon on nearing the stadium, but saw nothing of Dorando until I entered the arena. I smoke and drink only in moderation.'

There was little doubt that the collapse of Dorando at the finish was quite the biggest sensation of the 1908 Games and, at an official banquet given to foreign representatives and the Council of the Olympiad by the Government in the Grafton Galleries the same night, it was announced by Lord Desborough, Chairman of the Olympic Council, that Queen Alexandra had expressed a desire to present a cup to Dorando as a mark of her appreciation for his splendid performance. This announcement was greeted with great cheers as was also Lord Desborough's high tribute to the Italian. The news seems to have been taken rather well by Dorando, who was reported that same night to be progressing favourably despite his collapse and hoping he would be able to attend the stadium the following day to receive the special cup from the Queen.

The official result was as follows:

- Dorando Pietri (Italy) 2:54:46.4 (disqualified)
- 1. John Hayes (USA) 2:55:18.4
- 2. Charles Hefferon (South Africa) 2:56:06.0
- 3. Joseph Forshaw (USA) 2:57:10.4

John Hayes returned to the United States quite a hero. He had been employed by Bloomingdales department store in New York, where he had done much of his training on a specially constructed cinder path on the roof of the store. On his return, he was promoted to manager of the sporting goods department.

In a rematch between Hayes and Dorando in the United States shortly after the Games, Dorando won a very close race by about 80 yards in 2:44:20.4. This was run indoors at Madison Square Gardens, and consisted of more than 260 laps.

Dorando went on to complete a prolific career as a professional marathon runner, winning many thousands of dollars, mainly in the United States. His exploits in the London Marathon were even the subject of a popular song by Irving Berlin.

To the end of his life, one of Dorando's most treasured possessions was the gold cup presented to him by Queen Alexandra at the prompting of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of Sherlock Holmes. The cup itself was a replica of the trophy awarded to the Olympic victor and the inscription read simply:

'To Pietri Dorando, In Remembrance of the Marathon Race from Windsor to the Stadium, July 24th 1908. From Queen Alexandra'

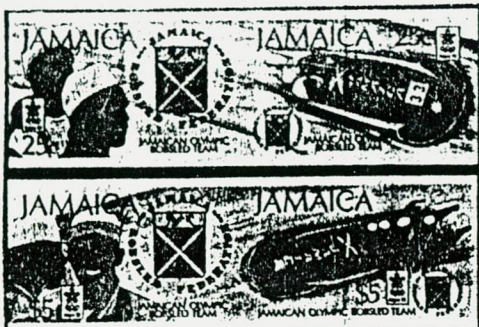


The SOCIETY OF OLYMPIC COLLECTORS Postcard No. 2, which shows the historic scene of Dorando being helped across the finish line, is still available from Bob Wilcock, 24 Hamilton Crescent, Brentwood, Essex CM14 5ES at 25 pence unused, or [1.25 with the special handstamp for Spring Stampex or the opening of the National Postal Museum's Olympic exhibition. Please specify.

NEW ISSUES

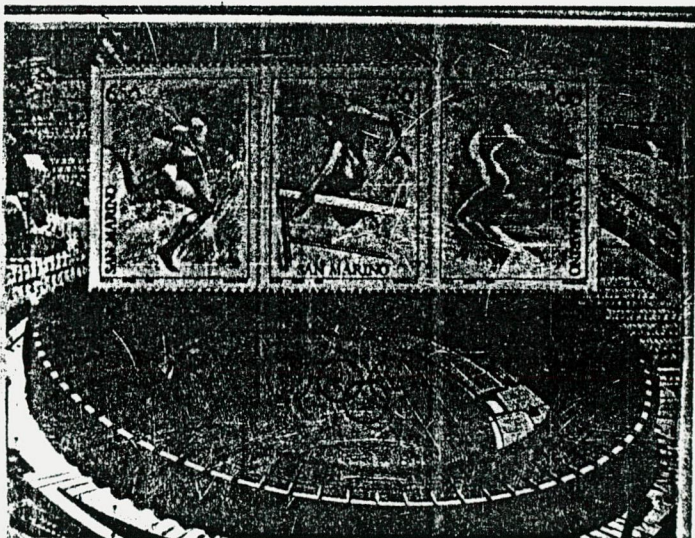
JAMAICA.

Issued September 1988 to commemorate the Jamaican Bobsled team. Two values, 2 x 25 cents and 2 x \$5 se-tenant pairs. Designed by Derek Miller. Lithographed by BTD International Security Printing Ltd. Watermark: Jamaican pineapple. The designs show A) the members of the Bobsled team, B) Two Man Bobsled, C) Members of the Bobsled Team and D) Four Man Bobsled. Each stamp has the Calgary '88 logo and the Jamaican Bobsled Federation logo.



(Illustrations supplied by CAPHCO)

SAN MARINO.



(Illustration supplied by the San Marino Postal Administration.)

Issued 19 September 1988. Three values in a souvenir sheet, 650 lira, 750 lira and 1,300 lira. 300,000 miniature sheets were released. Designs by Giacomo Porzano. Multicolour rotogravure by IPZS, Rome. Printed on white glazed paper without watermark. PVA gum. Perforated 13 x 13.75.

REPUBLICA DE HONDURAS, C.A.



REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS.

Issued 30 September 1988. Designed by Dagoberto Sanchez Lanza. Printed in Offset by the Centro Tecnico Tipolitografico Nacaional (CETTNA) on unwaterwarked paper without fluorecence. Three values L 0.85, L 1.00 and L 4.00, 302.000 printed of each value, with 25 stamps to the sheet.(Illustrations supplied by the Diraccion General de Correos, Tegucigalpa, DC, Honduras..

MACAU.

Issued 19 September 1988. Designed by Luis Duran. Four single stamps were issued with values of 40 avos, 60 avos, 1.00 ptc and 8 ptc. A fifth design (Taekwondo) was used in the miniature sheet. The stamps and miniature sheets were offset printed at Litografia Maia . The miniature sheet additionally has a field without value, showing the Seoul Games logo. (Illustrations supplied by Correios e Telecomunicacoes de Macau.)



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