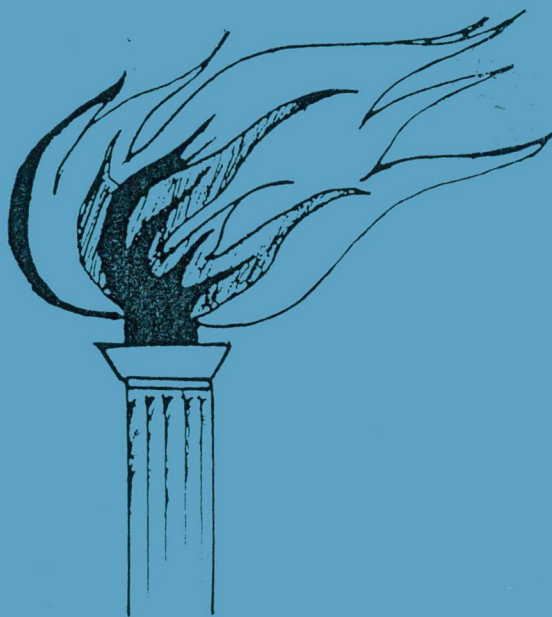


TORCH BEARER



SOC

SOCIETY of OLYMPIC COLLECTORS

YOUR COMMITTEE

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

SECRETARY: Mrs Elizabeth Miller, 258 Torrisholme Road,
Lancaster LA1 2TU, Great Britain.

TREASURER: Colin Faers, 8 Farm Lane, West Lulworth,
Dorset BH20 5SJ, Great Britain.

AUCTION MANAGER: John Crowther, 3 Hill Drive, Handforth,
Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 3AP, Great Britain.

LIBRARIAN: Kenneth Cook, 31 Thorn Lane, Rainham, Essex
RM13 9SJ, Great Britain.

PACKET MANAGER: Bob Wilcock, 24 Hamilton Crescent, Brentwood,
Essex CM14 5ES, Great Britain.

P.R.O. Vacant

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

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

COMMITTEE: Robert Farley, Robert Kensit.

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 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.

COPY DATES.

TORCH BEARER is published four times a year; in February, May, August and November. Articles or adverts for inclusion in a particular issue should be sent at least two months in advance.

TORCH BEARER

ISSN 0954-2183

VOLUME 6

AUGUST 1989

ISSUE 3

Front Page	99
Members' Forum	100
News	102
News From Seoul	107
Albertville 1992	111
Barcelona 1992	114
Athens 1996?	118
The Berlin Bell Tower	121
1936 Yachting in Kiel	125
1948 Marathon	131
Olympic Winners (Part 1)	134
Bulgaria '89	141
The First Modern Olympiad	142

o-o

Price to non-members: £1.75, inclusive of postage and packing.

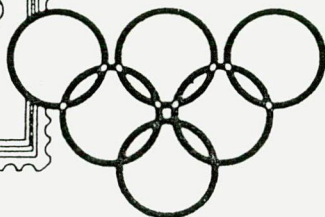


Heiko Volk Olympia-Philatelie

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



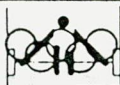
PHONE:
06061-4899



ISSUING PRICE-LISTS WITH SPECIAL
WE ARE THE TOP- AUCTION PART

SPECIALISTS

ALL OVER THE WORLD IN



OLYMPICS

IN OUR STOCK WE HAVE MORE THAN 30.000 DIFFERENT
ITEMS FROM THE OLYMPIC GAMES



1896 ATHENES UP TO
1988 SEOUL

STAMPS-BLOCS-SHEETS

FIRST-DAY-COVERS

POSTMARKS

POSTAL-STATIONARIES

AUTOGRAPHS

PICTURE-CARDS

VIEW-AND PHOTOCARDS

TICKETS

BOOKS AND PROGRAMMES

VIGNETTES

PHOTOS

OLYMPIC-STICKERS



FOOTBALL-WORLDCHAMPIONSHIP-MATERIAL
1934-1982

FRONT PAGE

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate our member Mark Maestrono on his election to the presidency of Sports Philatelists International, our sister Society in the United States. Although we have never met, Mark and I have been corresponding for quite a long while, and I am sure that SPI will flourish under his presidency. I am sure that we all wish him a happy and successful term of office.

Looking through past issues of TORCH BEARER, I notice that there are considerable gaps in the Olympic information that has appeared in print. For instance, we have had no articles about the Games in Antwerp in 1920, Rome in 1960, Tokyo 1964, Mexico 1968, or for that matter, any recent Games up to and including Montreal in 1976. I am sure that there are members who have information about these Games. Will you not please share your knowledge with others? It doesn't matter if you feel unable to put an article together, I am quite happy to do this for you, but I do need the facts, since I do not have the time to carry out the necessary research myself.

At the AGM, several members expressed interest in participating in an organised coach trip to Albertville and Barcelona for the Winter and Summer Games in 1992. It is still too early to make firm bookings, but would any members who are interested, please contact me, so that we can have some indication of the numbers involved.

If you look on the inside front cover, you will notice that we still have a vacancy on the Committee. We need a PRO and an Advertising Manager urgently. The positions can easily be combined, and are not particularly arduous, but do require a little time and imagination. If anyone feels that they can help, will you please let the Chairman know. The PRO's job entails keeping the philatelic press, both here and abroad, informed about the activities of the Society, and the Advertising Manager needs to find dealers who are prepared to advertise in TORCH BEARER, a useful source of income. Neither job should take, on average, more than an hour a week, probably less.

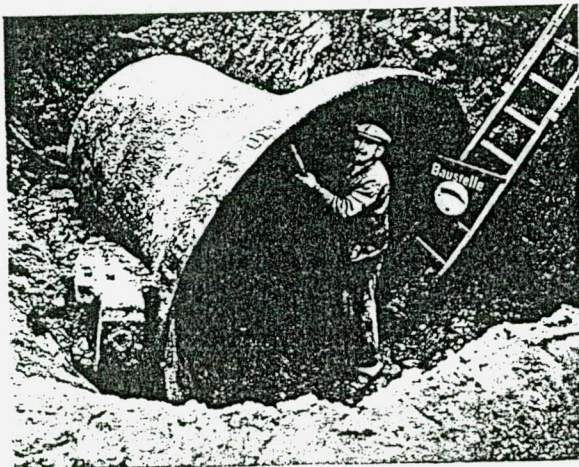
My thanks to those of you who wrote to congratulate me on receiving the Congress Medal. This medal is only given to one collector each year and is the greatest honour that can be bestowed on a British collector by the British Philatelic Federation. Naturally, I was delighted to be nominated and hope that I will continue to live up to the trust that has been placed in me.

Once again, I must thank our Australian member Robert Budge for that large quantities of information that he regularly sends me from Down Under. His contributions would alone fill the magazine, though it would become very one-sided, since most of his information relates to Olympism in Australasia. However, everything that I cannot use is sent to our Librarian for safe keeping, so if any member wants information about the Australian Olympic scene, write to Ken Cook.

MEMBER'S FORUM

You will all have received the index for Volume 5 of TORCH BEARER with the last issue of the magazine. Member Richard Frost has produced indices for all the earlier volumes, and if anyone would like copies they are available from our Distribution Manager, John Miller, 258 Torrisholme Road, Lancaster LA1 2TA. Please send an addressed A5 envelope with a 23 pence stamp, or an International Reply Coupon.

Alan Sabey is able to answer Roman Babut's question concerning the TORCHLIGHT TATTOO, WEMBLEY STADIUM cancellation. (Members' Forum, Volume 6, Issue 2) Alan writes that the Torchlight Tattoo was one of several special events in 1925 during the British Empire Exhibition, which was held at Wembley. The stadium was specially built for the first exhibition in 1924, and was the same as that used for the track and open air events of the 1948 Olympic Games. Together with Don Knight, Alan wrote a book, in 1984 entitled "THE LIONS OF WEMBLEY", and this contains all the advertising slogans for the exhibition and its special events. There is also a chapter on the 1948 Games. The book costs £10.95 plus postage and is obtainable from Don R. Knight, 2 Crescent Road, New Barnet, Herts, GB.



The above illustration has been sent by member Vic Manikian, of Anchorage, Alaska. It shows British troops unearthing the 1936 Olympic bell. According to the write-up, it was buried for safe keeping during the Second World War. However, the map marking its location was lost, and it was not found for quite a while.

Today, there is a new bell at the top of the Bell Tower at the Reichssportsfeld and the original bell is mounted on a plinth at the side of the stadium. The full story of the Olympic Bell, how and where it was lost and found, will be found elsewhere in this issue.

Member Isaac Hunter, P.O.Box 2141, Gardena, California 90247-0141, USA, is very eager to obtain some of the British Olympic team badges, as shown in the illustrations overleaf. He is particularly interested in obtaining the British olympic team badges from Berlin 1936 until Moscow 1980. His telephone number is 213 515 6938. Isaac is also interested in the WORLD SPORTS Official Reports for Helsinki 1952, Melbourne 1956, Rome 1960,, Tokyo 1964, Mexico 1968, Montreal 1976 and Moscow 1980. If anyone can help, contact Isaac direct.



Our hard-working Treasurer, Colin Faers, has recently been awarded the Poole and District Thematic Trophy, and his exhibit also came first in the Inter-Society District competition. Regrettably these were awarded for his Heinrich von Stephan collection, rather than the Olympic Games. Congratulations are in order nevertheless!

Member Anthony Bijkerk of the Netherlands answers Laurentz Jonker's question in his article in the May issue of TORCH BEARER. At the end of April 1989 during a meeting of the I.O.C. Executive Board in Barcelona, the former Secretary General of the Swedish Olympic Committee, Mr Wolf Kyberg, (who is also an Olympic historian) presented a study about the I.O.C., its members and its sessions to the Executive Board. In this study, which has been issued only to members of the Executive Board, and which will be sent later to all I.O.C. members, all sessions are mentioned, including the main matters under discussion and the decisions taken during the sessions. In this study, the dates of the 1897 Congress are given as 26 - 31 July at Le Havre.

NEWS

A district of Innsbruck in Austria is known as Olympisches Dorf, which has had a stamp club for the last ten years. To commemorate the event, a special handstamp was prepared for use on 18 March 1989. A useful item to include in a collection of the 1964 or 1976 Olympic Winter Games.



Czechoslovakia is using two Olympic cancellations in 1989, one a machine cancellation, the other a meter cancellation. The first will honour the 90th Anniversary of the founding of the Czech Olympic Committee, the other will commemorate the 120th Anniversary of the birth of Rössler-Drovsky, the founder of Czech sport, a founding member of the Czech Olympic Committee and a Czech member of the IOC. Both cancellations were designed by our member Jaroslav Petršsek. They will be used during the period that the President of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Antonio Samaranch, visits Czechoslovakia from 31 May until 1 June 1989. When the IOC President previously visited Czechoslovakia in November and December 1983, another handstamp was used to commemorate his visit. At that time, a mass run was organised in Prague, and OLYMPSPORT, our sister organisation in Czechoslovakia, held an exhibition to mark the occasion. Suitable medals were struck and presented to the exhibitors. The handstamp shows runners on an S curve with the following text: 50 VELKA KUNRATICKA 12.11.83 PRAHA 2.

Paris could improve its chances of winning the nomination to host the Games of 2000 by staging the Olympic Congress in 1994. The President of the IOC has said that he feels that the centenary of the First Olympic Congress, held in Paris in 1894, should be celebrated in that city. However, the Mayor of Paris, Jacques Chirac, has said that the city is unable to pay for the estimated \$10 million that the Congress would cost.

Official records show that forty six Eastern Bloc athletes defected during and after the Games in Melbourne in 1956. However, the actual figure may be nearer two hundred. Many of the athletes who defected came from Hungary, who did not want to return home after the Hungarian Uprising. Many of those who did defect, subsequently made their homes in Australia.

At a meeting held in Singapore in January, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) considered the proposal to carry out random tests in an attempt to stamp out drug abuse. Their Vice President and Chairman of the IAAF Medical Commission, Arne Lundquist, feels that the only way to get rid of the drug problem is to conduct tests outside competitions, anytime and anywhere. He feels that the tests should be frequent enough to make athletes run the risk of being caught. At present, some 40,000 drug tests are conducted annually by the world's twenty two testing centres, but that number could quadruple if the out-of-competition tests were introduced. The three day meeting, at which twenty three council members were present, also discussed the proposal to ban from international competition for two years, South African athletes who emigrated.

World soccer's governing body, FIFA, is proceeding with plans to limit the 1992 Olympic soccer tournament to players under 23 years old, despite increasing pressure from the IOC. The decision by the International Federation of Football Associations was taken last year and was an issue of debate at the IOC executive board meeting in Vienna in December 1988, when calls were made for an open competition without age limits. The intention of the ruling is to force all national federations to prepare more than one national team, so ensuring a gradual coming of age of young players. In Seoul, teams from Europe and South America, the traditional soccer powers, were not allowed to field World Cup veterans in an attempt to groom new players for the top.

A senior executive of the multinational Pacific Dunlop Group has been chosen to lead the organisation preparing Melbourne's bid to host the 1996 Olympic Games. Ian Dicker, 49, accepted the position as Chief Executive to the Melbourne Olympic committee after fifteen years as Managing Director of Ansell International. One of Australia's most significant historic buildings has become the headquarters of the Melbourne Olympic Committee. The old Treasury Building on Spring Street at the top end of Collins Street is a prime location in Melbourne. Flanked by the beautiful

Treasury Gardens and Victoria's Parliament House, the Old Treasury is close to the major sporting facilities and Melbourne's top hotels. The Old Treasury has been home to State government departments since it was built in 1862. The Governor of Victoria maintains a suite of offices on the ground floor. The building has been made available to the Melbourne Olympic Committee to use as its headquarters until September 1990, when the 1996 Olympic host city will be announced. Thirty staff will work full time on securing the Games for Melbourne, but if the bid were to go in favour of the Australian city, more staff and larger premises would be required.

Florence Griffith-Joyner, the world's top female sprinter, has decided to retire from athletics to pursue a career of writing and acting. The sprinter made the announcement after receiving the Jesse Owens Award in February. Flo-Jo, who won three gold and one silver medal in Seoul, said she would not completely abandon her interest in track and field, because she would coach her husband, hurdler Alan Joyner, the 1984 Triple Jump champion.

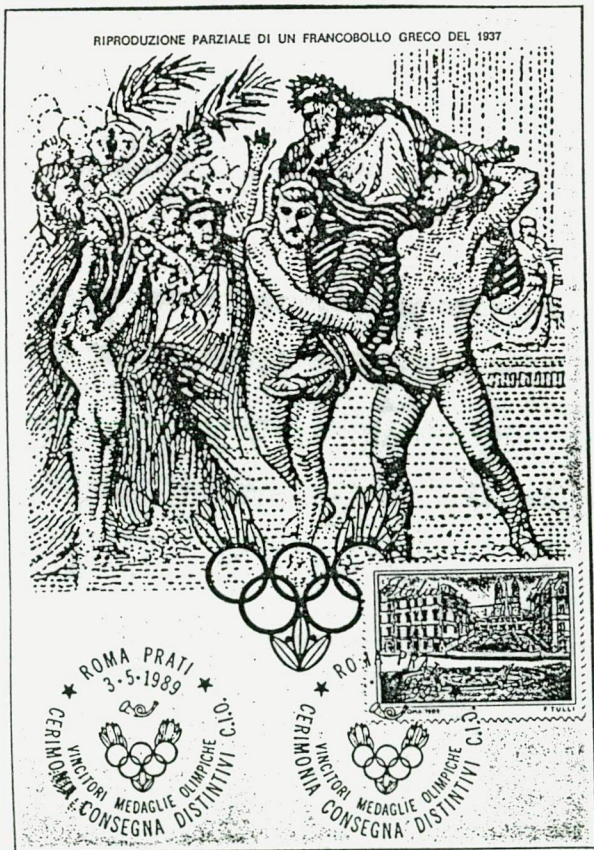
The IOC president visited Atlanta, the capital of Georgia, USA in February. He received a taste of hospitality from the longshot candidate to host the 1996 Olympic Games. Senor Samaranch spent a little over twenty four hours in the state capital, where he was wined and dined in regal style. On leaving, he told the President of the American Olympic Committee, Billy Payne, that he was very impressed with Atlanta, and said that other members of the IOC should be invited to visit the city.

Canada's judicial inquiry in March into drug abuse heard Charlie Francis, Ben Johnson's trainer, reveal that he had used steroids when he ran for Canada in the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich. He advised Johnson that the only way to win in international competition was by using steroids. Francis said that Johnson was fully knowledgeable about the benefits and effects of steroids. According to Francis, he prepared Johnson for the World Athletic Championships in Rome in 1987 and had administered steroid injections himself. He added that not only Johnson, but a growing number of Canadian athletes were also using steroids.

Ivan Libric writes that YUMOS, our sister organisation in Yugoslavia issued three postal stationery cards in 1988, one for the Olympic Winter Games in Calgary and two for the European Basketball Championships held in 1989. Additionally, two different postcards, dedicated to the European Football Championships were issued. Ivan sent two further cards, which are illustrated which were issued to commemorate the Seoul Basketball competition and the International Olympic Committee Day on 23 June 1988. Both cards were accompanied by a special handstamp. That for Olympic Day shows Pierre de Coubertin.



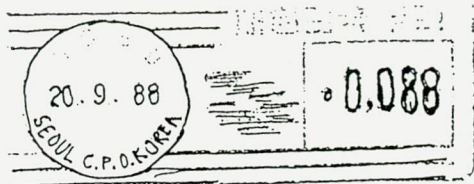
The graphics for this card were produced by Zlatko Jakus, who works mainly for the Swedish Postal Administration. The design, showing tennis, is one of twelve designs from the International Art Portfolio "Artists For Sport", that was issued under the patronage of the IOC President. The maximum card is the work of Austrian engraver, Werner Pfeiler, and shows basketball. The design also incorporates the logo for Seoul, the candidature logo for the Barcelona Games of 1992, which is also incorporated in the handstamp. Both cards were printed as a limited edition of two hundred examples. If members would like further details, they should write direct to Ivan Libric, J. Pupacica 4/IV, YU 41090 Zagreb-Sus, Yugoslavia.



Illustrated above is a card and a special cancellation authorised by the Italian Olympic Committee on 3 May 1989. Does any member know for what occasion this card and cancellation was issued? The inscription on both the handstamp and on the reverse of the card reads CERIMONIA DI CONSEGNA DEI DISTINTIVI AI VINCITORI DI MEDAGLIE OLIMPICHE.

NEWS FROM SEOUL

News of cancellations and handstamps that were used during the Olympic Games at the various venues and by sponsors and corporate bodies, continues to be sparse. Thanks are due to our member Chris Cohen who was able to provide the illustrated meter cancellations. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to establish by whom they were used. If any member has further information, please let your Editor know, so that we can all share the knowledge.



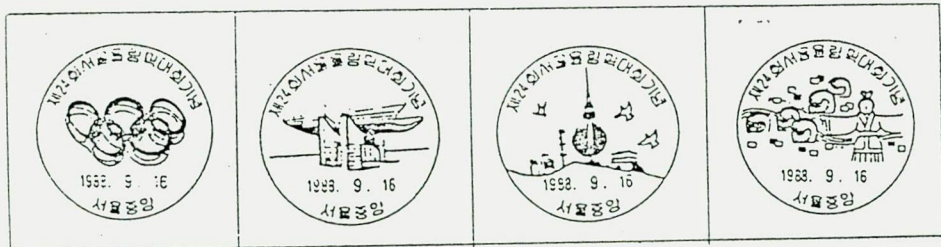
























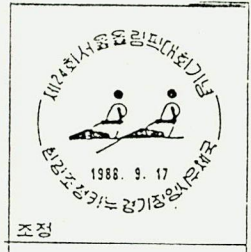
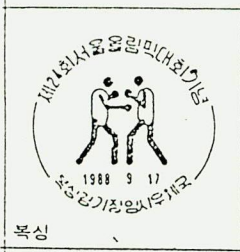
Four special cancellations were used in Greece to commemorate the lighting of the Olympic flame at ancient Olympia on 23 August 1988 and its subsequent passage through the country, before heading to Korea. The handstamps were used for one day only, at Olympia itself on 23 August, Patras on 24 August, Corinth, 25 August and later on 25 August in Athens.



Thanks to Korean Stamp Review, we are, at long last, able to illustrate the special handstamps that were used in Korea during the Olympic Games at the main Olympic Stadium and other Olympic sites. Unfortunately, the inscriptions on all the stamps are only in Korean. If anyone is able to match the handstamps with the venues, and the dates that the post offices were operational, it would be of great help to all our members.



 <p>1988 9 17 대한체육회</p> <p>柔道</p>	 <p>1988 9 17 대한체육회</p> <p>sumo</p>	 <p>1988 9 17 대한체육회</p> <p>羽毛球</p>	 <p>1988 9 17 대한체육회</p> <p>乒乓球</p>
 <p>1988 9 17 대한체육회</p> <p>摔跤</p>	 <p>1988 9 17 대한체육회</p> <p>태권도</p>	 <p>1988 9 17 대한체육회</p> <p>柔道</p>	 <p>1988 9 17 대한체육회</p> <p>태권도</p>
 <p>1988 9 17 대한체육회</p> <p>柔道</p>	 <p>1988 9 17 대한체육회</p> <p>柔道</p>	 <p>1988 9 17 대한체육회</p> <p>테니스</p>	 <p>1988 9 17 대한체육회</p> <p>柔道</p>
 <p>1988 9 17 대한체육회</p> <p>柔道</p>	 <p>1988 9 17 대한체육회</p> <p>柔道</p>	 <p>1988 9 17 대한체육회</p> <p>궁궁</p>	 <p>1988 9 17 대한체육회</p> <p>柔道</p>
 <p>1988 9 17 대한체육회</p> <p>柔道</p>	 <p>1988 9 17 대한체육회</p> <p>태권도</p>	 <p>1988 9 17 대한체육회</p> <p>柔道</p>	 <p>1988 9 17 대한체육회</p> <p>柔道</p>



The Organising Committee for the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul have announced that a profit of \$171 million has been made. All the indications are that there has been no post-Olympic hangover. The traffic, which was the major source of complaint, has once again snarled up Seoul streets, but has been tempered by long term improvements from the building of the Olympic highway and underground systems. Many new overseas contacts have been developed as a direct result of the Games, and tentative, though positive steps have been taken by North Korea on the question of reunification. Economic growth is expected to be 8 per cent in real terms this year and exports were up by over 20% in the last three months of 1988.

Although there are those who feel that an OLYMPHILEX exhibition should not be held every two years, for the country hosting it, there are advantages in the philatelic arena. Korea has never been known as a particularly active participant on the international scene, although they do appoint a commissioner to most international stamp exhibitions. At both INDIA '89 in New Delhi and BULGARIA '89 in Sofia, Korea was represented by Olympic exhibits in the thematic class, as well as in other classes. If these exhibits were not among the gold medal winners, no matter, everyone has to start somewhere. It is obvious however, that they looked closely at the winning exhibits at OLYMPHILEX '88 in Seoul and learnt from them. The Korean exhibits show a nice mix of philatelic material and a sound understanding as to how a thematic collection should be developed. It will be interesting to see whether the interest continues and the standard improves, once the momentum wears off.

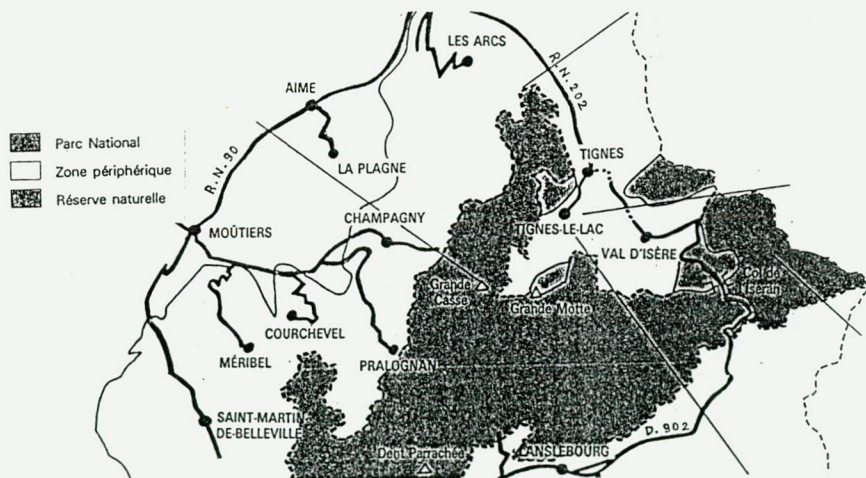
SUPPORT YOUR SOCIETY! Use the auction and the packet service to dispose of your unwanted material.

ALBERTVILLE 1992

Beaulieu Palace, Lausanne. 91st Session of the International Olympic Committee. On Friday 17 October 1986 at 1.30pm, HE Juan Antonio Samaranch, the President of the IOC, starts speaking: "I have the honour to inform you that the International Olympic Committee united for a full session in Lausanne has dedicated the organisation of the Winter Games to the city of Albertville...." With these words, the rejoicing started in the area of the Savoie, which has long been a favourite resort for winter sports.

Albertville, the new Olympic city was founded in 1836 by Charles-Albert. Situated at the junction of the big valleys of the Western Alps, it has always tried hard to give a warm welcome and to be a meeting point for the surrounding towns and villages. Albertville, with its 17,537 inhabitants, is going to organise the opening and the closing ceremonies as well as the speed and figure skating events. Many new amenities will be built to provide for Olympic needs. For this purpose, it was decided to erect on the site of the Sauvey stadium an Olympic park with 30,000 seats. These facilities will be left as a heritage once the Games are over.

With the exception of the giant slalom, the men's downhill skiing competitions will take place at Val D'Isere, on the slope known as "OK", the name being taken from two famous skiing champions, Oreiller and Killy. A refrosted slope will be built at La Plagne to accommodate the bobsleigh and luge competitions. Les Arcs will



be the site of a new Olympic sport, "Le Kilometre Lance". Les Arcs lies at a height of 3,000 metres & has an incline of 96 degrees, which is said to be ideal for the hundred year old sport.

The ice hockey tournament will take place at Meribel, which is situated in the middle of the three valleys that make up the

Olympic venues. A new ice stadium with seating for 5,000 will be built for this purpose. All the women's skiing competitions will also take place at Meribel. Les Menuires has been chosen as the site for the men's downhill special ski slalom. With its marvellous slopes, some of which are 2,150 metres long, it will prove an ideal site.

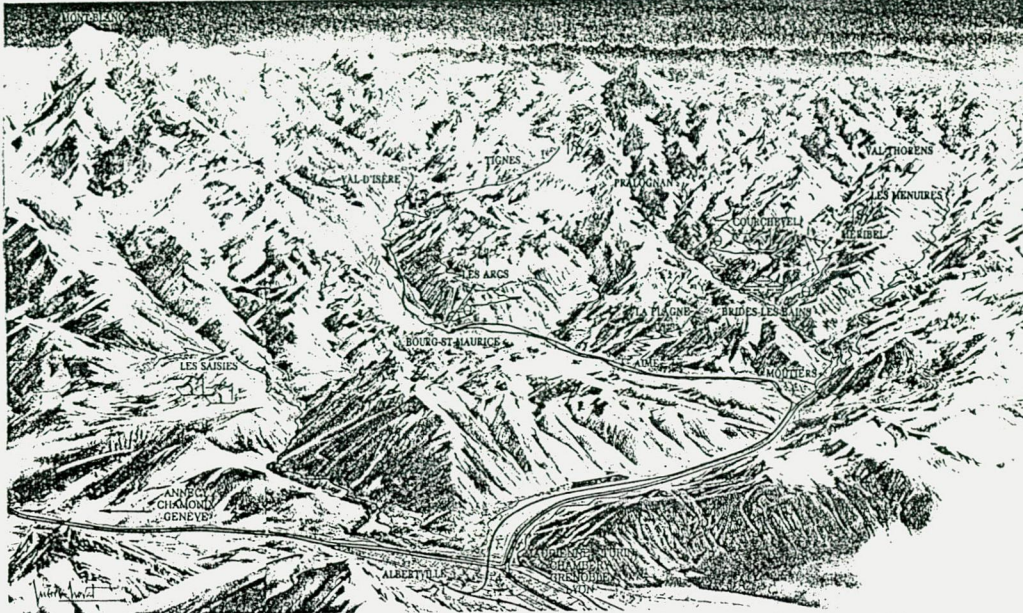
Pralognan, built on the edge of the National Park, will be the venue for curling, while Les Saisies will be the venue for the cross country skiing competitions for both men and women. The biathlon competitions will also take place here. It is intended that the start and finish of all the cross country events will take place not far from the Col de Saisies.

The Refuge is a small spa, with five hundred inhabitants living at an altitude of 600 metres. Every year it welcomes 11,000 people with weight problems. During the Olympic Games, Brides-les-Bains will be turned into an Olympic Village with its own hotels, restaurants and shops. It will become the elected area for all the competitors, providing chalets. A skilift will link the spa with the sportsmen's living area. A service of lifts will be built to link the Olympic Village to the numerous competitive sites at Courchevel, Meribel, La Plagne and Les Menuires. Known first as a resort for the summer season, Brides-les-Bains will be turned into a winter time resort. From weight problems to the Olympic figure, what a future for this little community!

Courchevel is situated in the middle of a large and sunny valley covered with forests in the heart of the Alps. It is divided into four resorts at 1300 metres, 1550m, 1650m and 1850m. Its high standard of hotels will provide accommodation for all the International Olympic Committee members and guests, the National Olympic Committees and all its participants. The ice hockey qualifying rounds, as well as the ski jumping and cross country skiing combined events will take place at Courchevel.

Moutiers is the main city of the Tarentaise, with a population of 6,000 inhabitants. This little place has become the turning point for all the resorts. It will cover a surface of 25,000 square metres. It will be here that the general services will be situated, such as reception, accreditation, interpretation, conference, catering, as well as facilities and special services for the media. News and pictures of the Games will be broadcast by satellites to all over the world. Free buses will run from Moutiers to Brides-les-Bains. It will take only three hours by train (TGV, the high speed train) to travel from Paris to the Olympic railway station.

Olympic Games necessitate a large and modern motorway and railway infrastructure. Savoie is now confronted with major traffic problems in the winter. February and March are the peak months regarding traffic with about 30,000 vehicles flowing into the region every day. Traffic reduces to 9,000 vehicles per



day during the other months of the year. The heavier traffic is causing big traffic jams on the R.N.90, the main highway between Chambéry and Bourg-Saint-Maurice. The Savoie department and the French government have combined to finance a series of measures which will resolve the traffic jams. The largest scheme deals with the electrification of the railway line to Bourg-Saint-Maurice and the extension of the high speed train line. The second road plan in Tarentaise, which is being called "PISTES" (Intervention and Emergency Project for Transport in Savoie) basically consists of the following measures:

The construction of a motorway between Albertville and Moutiers, which would break up traffic jams in this area.

The construction of a 2 x 2 lane road from Albertville to Moutiers which would end by the motorway, together with the building of a two kilometres long viaduct passing over and connecting the former road linking Notre-Dame-de-Briançon to Château-Feuillet.

Driving two tunnels in the Tarentaise valley, near Aigueblanche and l'Étroit de Siaix.

These impressive construction programmes will undoubtedly help to solve the traffic problems and facilitate access to the Tarentaise valley. It is hoped that everything will be finished and operational when the Olympic Winter Games start on Saturday 1 February 1992 at 2.00pm.

BARCELONA 1992

Mark Maestroni.

(This article first appeared in JPI, the magazine of Sports Philatelists International, and is reproduced with permission.)

BARCELONA, TWO MILLENNIA OF HISTORY.

Catalonia, in Spanish, Cataluna, in Catalan, Catalunya, is a most unusual province of Spain, in the sense that it combines both historically and culturally the best of its Spanish and French heritage. Catalan, the lingua franca of this autonomous area is a combination of both Castilian, the traditional Spanish dialect and French Provençal (Scott No. 2056). The geography of Catalonia's peninsula contributed much to the formation of Catalonia's distinct character. Isolated from the kingdoms of central Spain by the mountainous Ebro River area to the south (Scott No. 1932) and the Aragonian Plains to the west, it was only natural for Catalonia to identify strongly with the Mediterranean Sea. Quite understandably, this region developed into a strong maritime nation in the earliest times. So while central and southern Spain were heavily influenced by the Moors, Catalonians adapted their cultural heritage to influences from France, Italy and other Mediterranean cultures.

The importance of Barcelona with its enormous natural harbour, has made it the centre of manufacturing and industry in Spain. With it comes the honour, possibly dubious, as Spain's most populous city, second only to Madrid. However, the natural beauty of the city, framed by the hills of Montjuic and Tibidabo, building to the distant range of mountains, more than make up for its sprawling nature. It presents itself to the Mediterranean much as the city of Naples. Much to its credit, COOB '92, the Barcelona Olympic Organising Committee, is taking advantage of the natural topography and the importance of maritime activities in the siting of the various Olympic venues.

It would be reticent not to delve into the rich history of Barcelona, if only to give the reader a taste of this wonderfully diverse city. Earliest records cite the Carthaginian, Hamilcar Barca, as its founder in 230 BC, lending the name Barcino to the existing settlement, either Iberian or Phoenician. After eviction of the Carthaginians by the Romans, Barcino was established as the capital of the province of Layetana in the district of Hispania Tarraconensis. Visigoths and Moors came and went, but an independent Count of Barcelona was installed in the 9th Century, elevating Barcelona to the rank of city-state (Scott No. 1052). The impact of these various cultures is evident in the heterogeneous nature of the area's architecture: Roman, Moorish, Medieval, Romanesque and Gothic. Catalonia is probably better known for its more modern contributions to the fine arts; Gaudi's architecture (Scott No. 1874), avantgarde art by Dali and Picasso (2108-15) and the music of Pablo Casals (2018).

Less well known, but no less important, are Barcelona's contributions to learning. The Usatges, a code of privileges compiled by Ramon Berenguer I in the 11th Century, is generally believed to have been one of the earliest examples of a democratic constitution. Befitting its stature as a maritime state, the first code of European maritime law, the Barcelonian Consulado del Mar, was enacted in 1259. One cannot forget the reception awarded to Columbus by Isabella and Ferdinand upon his return to Barcelona in 1493 from his epic journey of discovery to the New World (Scott No. 1280).

BARCELONA, OLYMPIC CANDIDATE.

Although the Spanish Olympic Committee had not yet been formed, (Spain joined the Olympic Family in 1924), Barcelona started the road towards becoming host for the Olympic Games with its bid for the Games of 1924. The city's formal presentation was made to the International Olympic Committee on 17 August 1920 during the Games of the VIIth Olympiad being held in Antwerp. Other cities that asked to host the 1924 Games were Amsterdam, Rome, Los Angeles, Prague and Paris. While Barcelona fielded a strong proposal, the impending political changes in Spain conspired against it and the 1924 Games went to Paris.

Not to be so easily dismissed, Barcelona tried again. Its campaign to hold the 1936 Games was buoyed by two auspicious occurrences. Firstly, the upcoming 1929 International Exposition (Scott No. 345-57a) necessitated the building of some fine athletic stadia which could be used as Olympic facilities, and secondly, the 24th Session of the IOC, during which the 1936 host city would be decided, was to take place in Barcelona on 24 April 1931. As luck would have it, national elections held twelve days before the convening of the IOC Session resulted in the rejection of the monarchy, and the establishment of a Republican government. King Alfonso XIII and his family fled the country. While little violence accompanied the change in government, only nineteen out of sixty seven members of the International Olympic Committee chose to attend. Instead, the session was moved to Berlin, where that city won the right to host the Games of the 11th Olympiad. (ED. The 23rd Session of the IOC was held in Berlin in May 1930. The 24th Session was not moved to Berlin, as suggested above. In fact, the meetings did take place in Barcelona, as arranged, but, instead of the vote for the host city being taken during the session, the President of the IOC, Count Henri Baillet Latour decided that, to be fair to all the members of the IOC, the vote should be postal. All voting papers were sent to the IOC headquarters in Lausanne, and were opened on 13 May 1931. The voting was forty three members in favour of Berlin, sixteen for Barcelona and eight abstentions) It would be another thirty four years until Barcelona submitted another bid, this time for the 1972 Games. The host city for the XXth Olympiad was to be announced at the 65th Session of the IOC in Rome in April 1966. Unfortunately, two mistakes were made by the organisers. Firstly, the Spanish Olympic Committee tried something new: dual Olympic cities, in this case, Madrid and Barcelona. Until that time, the IOC had not looked favourably on two distinct Olympic cities, much less ones that were separated by a distance of some 300 miles. Secondly, according to the IOC rules, a petitioning city must send its first Magistrate or Mayor: Madrid's Mayor delegated this duty to a deputy. This

resulted in the rejection of the Madrid/Barcelona bid. However, the dual concept certainly did not help matters, and once again, the Germans had victory over Spain and the Games were awarded to Munich.

This latest, and as we now know, successful bid to host the Olympic Games started as far back as 1981, when the then Mayor of Barcelona announced the city's intention to campaign for the XXVth Olympiad. Numerous world sporting championships held in Barcelona between the third and fourth bidding attempts resulted in new sporting facilities. In December 1982, the Spanish Olympic Committee endorsed Barcelona as Spain's candidate city. While it is understood that the President of the International Olympic Committee must remain impartial, it did not hurt that Juan Antonio Samaranch was a 'hometown boy'. So it was with extensive and detailed plans in hand that Barcelona's Mayor, Pasqual Maragall, presented the formal bid to the IOC during their 91st Session in Lausanne, Switzerland. I am sure it was with great pride that President Samaranch on 17 October 1986 announced Barcelona as the host of the 1992 Olympic Games.

COOB '92.

The Barcelona '92 Organising Committee, known by its acronym COOB '92, was formed on 13 March 1987. This consortium is comprised of the Barcelona City Council, the Spanish Olympic Committee, the Spanish Government and the Autonomous Government of Catalonia. Only the Spanish Olympic Committee is absolved of any economic responsibility for the Games.

COOB '92 is chaired by the Mayor of Barcelona, Pasqual Maragall, and its chief executive officer is Josep Miquel Abad. The Master Plan, adopted in April 1988, is divided into three hundred and fifteen projects, which cover all aspects of the Games from Ceremonies to Security. The operating budget is projected to be \$667 million, with the majority of the revenue being generated from the sale of television rights (\$293.1 million) and concession of licenses (\$93.7 million).

Two specific marketing areas deserve particular mention. First, the TOP-2 OLYMPIC PROGRAMME administered by the IOC, is now in full swing. This programme is designed for the company that wishes to be a world-wide sponsor, giving its product or service exclusivity in its category (eg. VISA was the official credit card and COCA-COLA was the official soft drink of both the 1988 Summer and Winter Games). Under this quadrennium's agreement, COOB '92 will receive 33.3% of the sponsorship money.

The second, and for the philatelic world, more important, area of marketing, is the authorisation of stamp issues. To quote the THIRD OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE BARCELONA '92 ORGANISING COMMITTEE TO THE 94TH SESSION OF THE IOC (Seoul 15 September 1988) "Authorisation is granted for an issue of stamps with a voluntary surcharge of 5 pesetas per stamp, the entire amount collected to be made over to COOB '92 after the deduction of expenses". The first issue of four values was released on 3 October 1988. The Spanish Post Office has announced two more issues for 1989, 7 March, (four values) and 3 October (three values).

OLYMPIC VENUE CONCEPT.

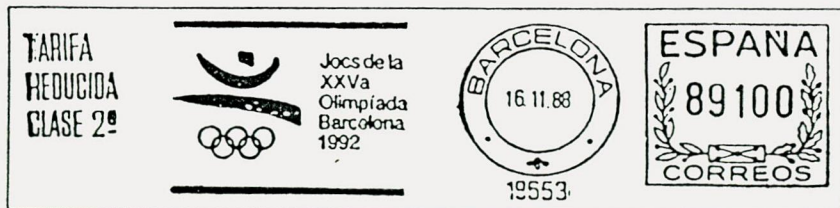
As previously mentioned, COOB '92 has been quite astute in capitalising on the concept of Barcelona as a maritime city. In keeping with the recent move by organising committees to reduce costs by using existing facilities, Barcelona is dividing its Olympic venues in four primary areas, Montjuic, Diagonal, Vall d'Hebron and Parc de Mar. Arranged in a circle, each is accessible by ring road and subway, the estimated time between venues being twenty minutes.

MONTJUIC (OLYMPIC RING) Situated on a hill overlooking the sea, this park-like setting is the primary Olympic venue, containing the Olympic Stadium, (renovation of the existing 1929 stadium), the Sant Jordi Hall (a new facility for gymnastics and volleyball), the Picornell Swimming Pools (swimming and diving) and the Sports University. A long mall connects all facilities.

DIAGONAL. To the west of Montjuic, the Diagonal is an existing sports park consisting primarily of the Barcelona Stadium (Football venue) and the Royal Polo Club (equestrian venue). The adjacent campus of the University of Barcelona will be the site for the International Federation Congresses, while nearby hotels will house much of the Olympic Family.

VALL d'HEBRON. North of the Diagonal, the Vall d' Hebron was planned as a sports complex for the adjacent working district of Barcelona. The central facility, the Municipal Velodrome, was built for the 1984 World Cycling Championships and was the first facility built with the 1992 Olympic Games in mind. Other sports facilities in Vall d'Hebron will be used for archery, tennis and pelota (one of the two demonstration sports).

PARC DE MAR. Adjacent to the harbour and about six kilometres from Montjuic, the Parc de Mar will be the most impressive of all the Olympic facilities built for the Games. Constructed on land reclaimed from heavy industry and the national railway, this area is being converted into the Olympic Village, the yacht basin and venues for badminton and table tennis. What is so extraordinary is that for the first time in Olympic history, the yachtsmen (and women) will definitely be a part of Olympic village life. A private beach will be provided for the athletes, only metres away from their residences.



PRESENT METER SLOGAN OF COOB '92

ATHENS 1996?

Illias Lanaounis.

(The following article first appeared in "Athens News" on 21 October.)

The Olympic Games have, in the last few years, increasingly drawn the attention of the Greek public. Almost ten years ago, the proposal of President Karamanlis to make Greece the permanent home of the Games revived Greek interest in the Olympic Movement in general. Later on, the question focused on the possibility of hosting the Golden Olympics in 1996 in Athens. It is likely that, in the coming years, this matter will occupy a place of high priority in the minds of the Greek people.

An understandable national pride makes us believe that, since the Games revived in our country after twenty six centuries, since every four years the Olympic flame is lit in the holy precinct of Olympia, since the International Olympic Movement honours the Greek flag by giving it the first place at the opening ceremony, it will not be possible to deny Greece the distinction of celebrating the centenary of the modern Olympic Games in this country. The political leadership and public opinion are almost unanimous on that point.

Yet voices to the contrary make themselves heard as well. Some do not find in the modern Olympic Games any trace of the ancient competitive ideal. Others express doubts about the feasibility of hosting the Games, but also the usefulness of the gigantic infrastructure required for the organisation of the Games of 1996.

Many a thinking Greek may find himself in a dilemma between the enthusiastic and unreserved backing of, and the categorical opposition to, the Games in Athens in 1996. This is the reason that led me to express in this article some thoughts in the hope that they will provide the incentive for broader discussions.

No doubt, we are somehow entitled to claim the honour of organising the Golden Olympics in this country. I wonder however; have we not also the obligation to contribute to the Olympic idea something more than the mere imitation of a huge sports event, such as is regularly staged every four years in this or that city? Could we not enrich the Olympic institution, born in this country of ours, by injecting a new active and creative element to restore the link between today's Olympics and that "ancient immortal spirit"? The considerations which follow are based on three fundamental facts.

First, it is beyond doubt, that today's Olympics are only faintly related either to the ancient Olympic spirit or to the spirit of de Coubertin and the other idealists who revived the Games. The commercialism of the Games is an undisputed fact. The huge investment required has to be paid for, whether in the form of television royalties, by advertising sportswear or by selling souvenirs. Professionalism is also an evident fact. The amateur athlete who competes merely for the love of sport has become a

rare phenomenon. He has been replaced by the record hunter who hopes to cash in on his performance. The Olympic motto "Higher, Farther, Faster" leads to the pursuit of the record, leads to doping, leads to transforming the sportsman into a well programmed machine, as rightly observed by Professor G. Koumantos in his remarkable article in ELEFTHERTPIA on 24 June 1988. Since the Olympic Games have been transformed into a "colossal circus", to use another observation of Professor Koumantos, they are very far from the olive branch crowning of the ancient Olympic victor, and still farther away from the ancient concept of "arete", which was an harmonious combination of body and spirit.

The second consideration which caused the present article is that we have forgotten that, according to Greek tradition, in any sort of games, whether in Olympia, on the Isthmus, in Nemea or in Delphi, the competition was not limited to racing, jumping, the pancration or the other events of track and ring. Competitions of the spirit were taking place in parallel. Musicians, poets, playwrights and flautists were competing for the favour of the public, and the public did not come only to admire the muscles of the athletes, but also the vigour of the creative and performing artists. It is only in this framework of man's integrated body and mind that the Greek "paideia" is conceivable, an unprecedented and unique vision of the human ideal.

Physical condition is an age-old tradition having deep roots in the Greek spirit, part of the cult of the Godhead inseparable from religious rituals. The comrades-in-arms of the dead Patrocos take leave of him in athletic games, according to Homer; but the cultural competitions seem to inspire and move the Greek in an equal measure. The rhapsodes compete on every occasion, musicians vie with each other, writers of tragedies strive for the prize. Aeschylus wins with "The Persians", Sophocles with "Triptolemos". However, in the course of the major panhellenic games, especially those at Olympia, we witness the synthesis of the competition of mind and body. This is the highest summit of Hellenism which takes moreover a political dimension, that of peace, or at least a temporary truce among all Greeks.

These thoughts came to reinforce a third element which I had in my mind for years. Long ago I was working on my collection of microsculptures which I called "The Shield of Achilles". It was inspired by Minoan and Mycenaean sealstones, and had the ambition to combine their incomparable representations with the description of the shield of Achilles, as told by Homer in the 18th Rhapsody of the Iliad. Among the thousands of sealstones that I had studied on that occasion, there were many bearing representations of sports events. Some show the lithe bodies of acrobats leaping over the horns of the bull, others represented the harmonious movements of the runners, others the virility of the wrestlers. I was asking myself; how was it that we were able to see this beauty today, after all these millenia? How has it survived until our times? This had been made possible only because some unknown, anonymous artist had the skill to engrave these bodies lovingly on to clay. I went even further to ask myself who, among all the fleet-footed athletes or the muscular wrestlers would be known to us today, were it not for some painter or sculptor who made them immortal on an Attic vase or

bronze statuette? Who among the Pythian or Olympic Games would be known to us by name today, were he not given eternal fame by Pindar. Art is, after all, that which gave the athletes of antiquity the reward of immortality.

With these considerations in mind, I wonder today; is it not the time for us Greeks to offer something new and important to the Olympic idea; at this the start of the second century since the revival by proposing the organisation of Cultural Olympics? It would indeed be an attractive proposition to organise every four years in Greece a cultural meeting of all the people of earth; inviting them to show what each has created in the visual arts, in music, on the stage and in dance. It would be a unique opportunity for the creative artists from throughout the world to meet every four years to show and compare their works; to let the currents of art communicate with each other. The ideal of mutual understanding among peoples is positively furthered by having young people meet and communicate on the track or in the swimming pool. How much more constructive it would be to bring together the artists of the chisel or of the sound or of the word in the place where the competition of noble minds was born!

I have no illusions about the difficulties or the problems involved before the idea materialises. I am less concerned about the technical arrangements. Such an event would not require the giant infrastructure needed for the Olympic Games and the cost involved would not be prohibitive. Much more difficult are the organisational problems. Who will participate, who will be judge, who will be awarded the prize of victory? However, an effort to that effect would not begin in a total vacuum, as was the case with de Coubertin a hundred years ago. There is much experience amassed from other international competitions. The link between the Olympic Games and cultural events is not new. The Greek Ministry of Culture is preparing cultural events for 1996; the French Academy des Beaux Arts has decided to organise an artistic presentation in Barcelona during the 1992 Games. We can therefore be certain that we can draw on useful experience and find ready assistance from cultural institutions inside and outside Greece.

In formulating these ideas, I do hope that as a first step there will be some public debate about this idea. A debate might show if there is wider interest for the organisation of the Cultural Olympics every four years in Greece. Should it be so, then in a second phase, a Greek group of people having the knowledge and the desire to help, could be convened to examine the matter closer and to elaborate on the idea, before we reach out beyond the borders of Greece.

Let us consider this proposal as a Greek attempt to give a new dimension to the Olympic Spirit in accordance with Greek tradition. The competition amongst athletes will continue on its way.

Let us now open a door for a competition among creative minds. This is the door which will lead us closer to "Olympia, the mother of the golden-crowned Aeon", in Pindar's words.

THE BERLIN BELL TOWER

Manfred Uhlitz.

Since the summer of 1979, Berliners and their guests have once again been able to take pleasure in the panorama, highly praised by the authorities, enjoyed from the platform at the top of the Bell Tower. The view stretches over the Olympic complex itself, to downtown Berlin, Spandau and the Havel valley, with Potsdam, Nauen and Henningsdorf in the distance. On a clear day, the hills of the Muggelberge can be seen in the east, and one has the impression of looking down on the radio tower. To the south, the gaze falls on the wide expanses of the Grunewald: this view alone constantly draws from non-Berliners the question "Is all that West Berlin"? Many people are of the opinion that from no other point is a better impression to be obtained of the beautiful location of Berlin, as a city of woods and lakes in the heart of the Brandenburg countryside.

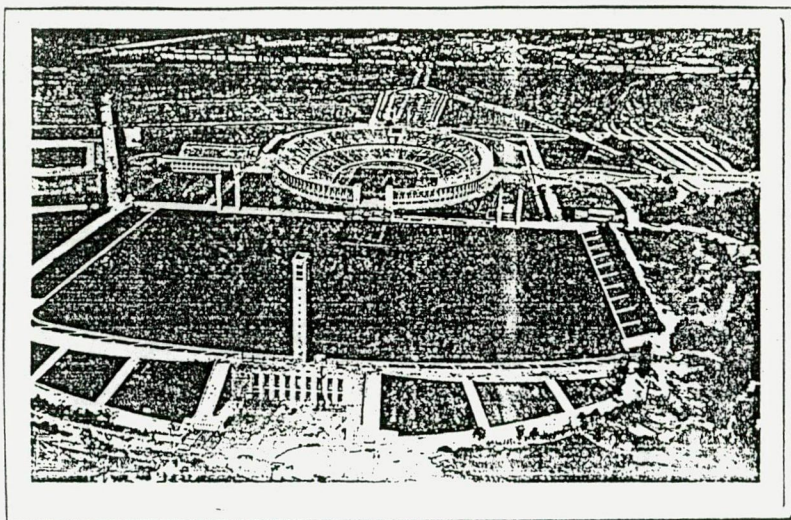


The Bell Tower is a part of the whole complex of the Reichssportfeld, which stretches over an area of 132 hectares (326 acres) and was laid out for the 11th Olympic Games of 1936 according to the plans of Professor Werner March, who was helped by his brother, Walter March. As the centre point of these grounds, unchallenged in clarity and blending supremely with the landscape, lies the Olympic Stadium, which replaced the Deutsches Stadion built in the middle of the Grunewald Racecourse in 1913 for the

cancelled Olympic Games of 1916 by Otto March, the father of Werner and Walter.

The designs of the stadium were based on a thorough study of similar large sports grounds abroad, mainly in America (W. March, Kunst und Technik im Stadionbau, Zentralblatt der Bauverwaltung, 1933, 497ff). They had already been completed by 1933, but were altered again in the same year after the opposition of the exclusive Union Club had been successfully overcome. This made possible a more extensive design for the stadium and the whole grounds.

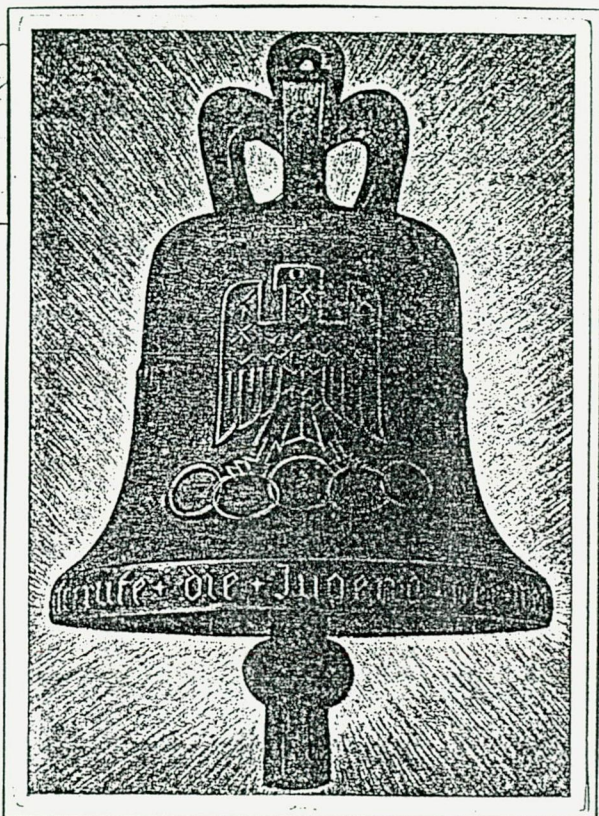
As the main feature of the total concept, the Bell Tower stands in the middle of the western perimeter of the Maifeld. This field was surrounded by a bank, rising gradually to a height of nineteen metres (62 feet) - the Olympic Stadium is only seventeen metres (55 feet) high - and equipped with seats for spectators. It completes the western end of the Olympic grounds and dominates them with a clear height of 77.17 metres (247 feet), which represents a height of 145 metres (465 feet) above sea level. It permits the visitor, long before he has entered the Olympic complex from the east, to appreciate the interrelationship of all the structures (Cf. W. March, Die Olympia Bauten auf dem Reichssportfeld in Berlin, Zentralblatt der Bauverwaltung, 1936)



The visitor reaches the platform on the top of the Bell Tower by an express lift (25 seconds), which brings him to where the bell is housed. Here hangs the new Olympic Bell, cast in the pattern of the old one, which was damaged. On its rim near the five Olympic rings it bears the inscription I SUMMON THE YOUTH OF THE WORLD - OLYMPIC GAMES 1936, and has on its cope the Brandenburg Gate and the eagle as symbols. It is only a short climb from the bell chamber to the platform which gives such a magnificent view over Berlin. It is from here that the visitor recognises just how the Bell Tower 'represents that item in the overall concept of the Reichssportfeld around which the major structures are oriented' (G.Krause). It is only from here that today the former Reichs Academy of Physical Education and the House of German Sport can be seen. These were built by Werner March between 1926 and 1929 and extended between 1934 and 1936, and are now the headquarters of the British Military Government in Berlin. Likewise, the tower provides a very clear view over the northern parts of the Grunewald between Glockenturmstrasse and the Charlottenburger Chaussee, now largely inaccessible because of shooting ranges, and over the Forest Theatre (formerly the Dietrich Eckart amphitheatre).

At the time of the Olympic Games, many of the floors of the tower housed the observation stand of the Games administrators, the police, the medical services and the radio and film reporters. The 75 metres (82 yards) long central portion of the Maifeld grandstand to the right and left of the tower was not raised up into an embankment, but built as a three storey structure. It was here that during the war the film archives of the Reich were stored, among other things. After the Russian troops had entered the city, these caught fire, possibly through the carelessness of a soldier, and the ensuing heat was conducted through the Bell Tower as through a chimney. Load bearing elements of the steel framework were so twisted by the heat that the stability of the tower was threatened. In 1947 it was blown

up by British engineers and then the rubble removed. The Olympic Bell fell and was cracked vertically by the blast. It was then buried beneath the square in front of the Bell Tower. After laborious searching using geiger counters, it was rediscovered and removed in December 1956. Soon after, it was placed on a plinth near the south gate of the Olympic Stadium. It is not known who wanted to test his prowess in shooting with an anti-tank gun by using it on the defenseless Olympic Bell, and thus caused the all too visible shot, but the bell must have been hanging, as it was holed through from inside to out. As a result of the damage, the old bell could not be rung any more.



In the years 1960 and 1962 the Bell Tower was reconstructed by Bauamt Nord der Sondervermogens und Bauverwaltung for the Federal Minister for government ownership according to the plans of Professor Werner March, the architect of the old tower. The work was carried out under the supervision of Heinz Boehm and cost DM 1.16 million. A concrete and steel frame, faced with shell limestone, was put up on the old foundations, and is supported on the ground floor on six reinforced concrete pillars, each one metre (39 inches) square. The cross section of the tower

decreases from 11.2 x 6.53 metres (37 x 21 feet) at the base to 9.46 x 6.53 metres (31 x 21 feet) at the top. Material used in the construction comprised 760 cubic metres (25,427 cu. ft.) of concrete, 130 metric tons of round steel, 5,000 plates of natural shell limestone. The weight of the tower is 2,500 metric tons. The weight of the steel bell, which has the note F sharp and was cast by the Bochum Association for cast steel, conforms to the structural specifications of the new building and is 4.5 tons as opposed to 9.6 tons of the old bell, which was cast by the same firm.

In the largest part of the middle floor of the structure built under the grandstand, is the so-called Langemarck Halle, which can also be visited. It is dedicated to the young Germans who lost their lives during the First World War, more particularly those of the voluntary regiments made up largely of school leavers and students. Inadequately trained and armed, they suffered devastating losses during the attack on Langemarck near Ypres in the Belgian province of West Flanders on 10 November 1914. There were formerly twelve pillars in the hall bearing seventy six flags of the regiments which took part in the battle, and also twelve shields on the block of the Bell Tower as it thrust through the hall; these bore the names of the divisions and units and were taken into safe keeping by the British before the tower was blown up. They now hang on the eastern side of the hall to the left and right of the doors leading to the Maifeld. The casket containing earth from the cemetery at Langemarck, which used to be in the middle of the hall, is no longer in existence. The narrow ends of the hall bear two quotations from Holderlin and Walter Flex. To the carved names of these poets, were added in the sixties their dates, 1770-1843 for Holderlin and 1887-1917 for Flex. The hall opens out to the west to a view of a landscape of the Mark (of Brandenburg): Some people are trying to revive a former idea of Werner March and set up a worthy memorial with a plaque commemorating the participants of the Olympic Games who fell in both world wars, or who lost their lives as a result of political persecution or air raids. Even placing sculptures in the hall of honour would not destroy its character at all.

At the foot of the tower is the Maifeld, which has an area of 112,000 square metres (almost 28 acres). During the Olympic Games, the dressage and polo events, as well as exhibitions by 20,000 Berlin school children, took place here. As its name indicates, the Maifeld was to be used especially for celebrations on 1 May, May Day. It has a capacity of 250,000, and the terracing can hold a further 60,000 spectators. Today, the annual Birthday Parade for the British sovereign is attended by thousands of Berliners. The Maifeld belongs to the grounds of the British protecting powers who organise various competitions, for instance, rugby, football and polo. The sculptures at the east of the Maifeld representing horses being led, are the work of Josef Wackerle. Since 1974 the Kolbe statue of the decathlon athlete, which was placed in the middle of the grandstand in front of the Langemarck Hall after the tower was rebuilt, has regained its original place in the present British Headquarters. The front of the massive centre of the Bell Tower, with the Langemarck Hall and the entrances to the tower and Maifeld and the lateral main stairs, is faced with sturdy stone from an area of the Lower Alps which gives the edifice its robust appearance.

1936 YACHTING IN KIEL

Franceska Rapkin.

Kiel, which is the capital of Schleswig Holstein, lies on both shores of the southern end of the Kiel Fjord, an inlet of the western Baltic Sea. It has a magnificent natural harbour with a comparatively uniform depth averaging ten metres. Its length is approximately eleven kilometres and its breadth varies from six hundred metres at the southern end to about three kilometres at the mouth.

The main event of the city's year is Kiel Week, which, in 1936, was held directly after the close of the Olympic yachting events.

After the opening ceremonies, and the lighting of the Olympic fire in the main stadium in Berlin on 1 August, a further chain of four hundred runners ran a torch relay to bring the fire to Kiel, where it arrived at 8.00pm on 3 August. The last runner carried the torch along the Hindenburgufer to the dais at the top of the steps leading to the Bellevue Hotel. There he handed it to another athlete, who took the flame along the Bellevue Bridge, from where it was taken by boat, manned by naval cadets, to an old Hanseatic ship anchored in front of the Olympiaheim.

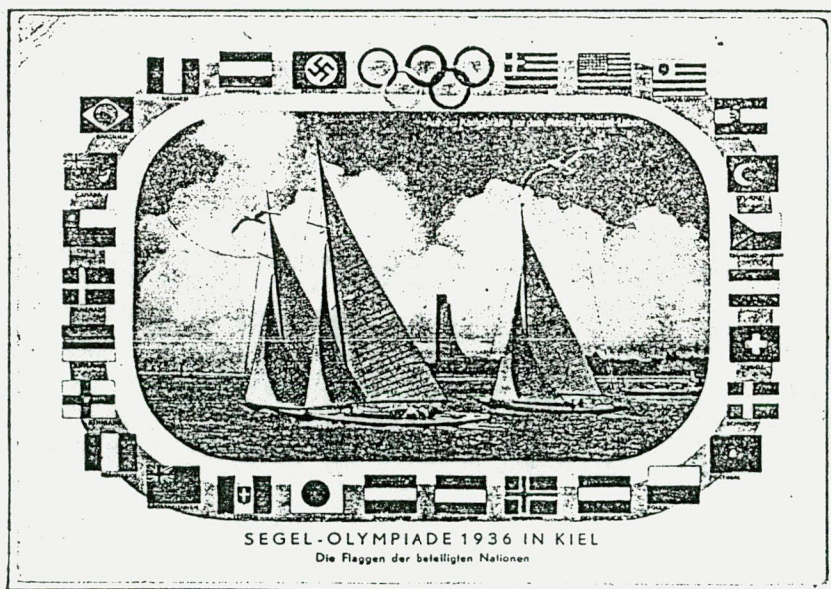


Card posted in Olympia on 20 July, sent to the Olympic Village and from there to Kiel.

The Olympiaheim was situated near the new Olympic Harbour and had been built in 1934 to 1935 by the city of Kiel as their contribution towards the Olympic Games. The Hotel Bellevue and the newly-built Olympiaheim were used to house the yachtsmen for the duration of the Olympic yachting events, and afterwards for those taking part in Kiel Week.

In a specially prepared receptacle at the top of the main mast of the old vessel, the Olympic fire burned for the duration of the yachting events. *As in Berlin, the yachtsmen from the participating nations marched in formation and, after raising the Olympic flag and singing the Olympic hymn, the yachting competitions were officially declared open. The old Hansa boat and the Bellevue Bridge were floodlit and the harbour was filled with small craft carrying torches and, in spite of a sudden downpour, the crowd of tens of thousands stayed until the end of the opening celebrations.

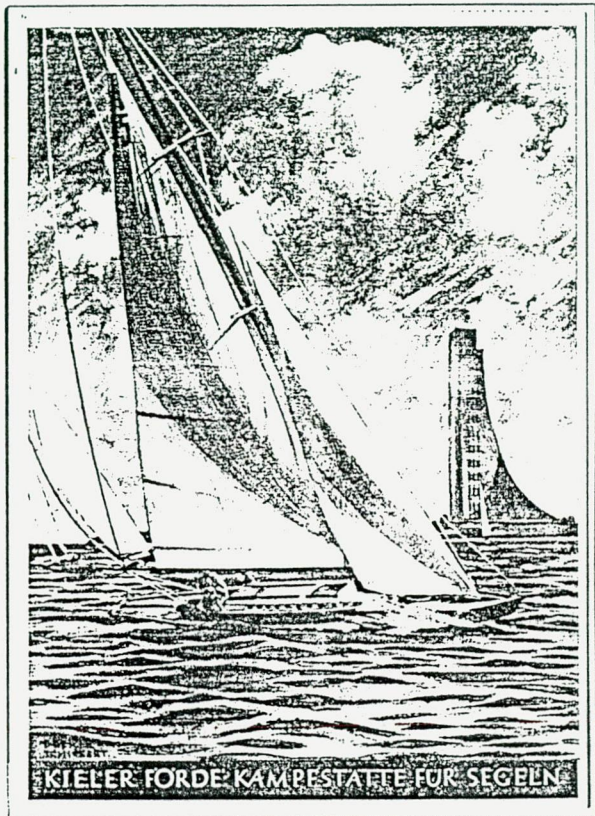
The inland courses of the races took place in the fjords between the Olympia and Dietrichsdorf harbours and up to Moeltenort and Friedrichsort. The sailing contests which took place on the outer courses were run between Falkenstein and Laboe and up to Boelk and the fire-ship Kiel.



Card printed by M. Dieterle, showing the flags of the participating Nations.

Twenty seven nations participated in these seventh yachting events, which had only been included in the Olympic programme since the London Olympiad in 1908. There were several occasions when stormy weather and heavy seas threatened the cancellation of the yachting events, and there were also some emotional storms caused by some of the markings given by the judges. There were four different classes of yacht, each of which competed in seven races, with victory being awarded on the basis of a points system. On the heavy seas, it was sometimes difficult to see whether the ships had taken the correct course around the marker buoys. In the 6 Metre Class, the Germans and Italians in

particular, adamantly protested against the Swedes and Norwegians for fouls which they claimed the judges could not see. There were also howling disputes over the final markings in the 6 Metre Class, and finally, with the help of films taken from a balloon, Italy's seven-man team was awarded the gold medal. However, a sail-off was necessary to determine the second and third places, which were awarded to the Norwegian and German teams respectively.

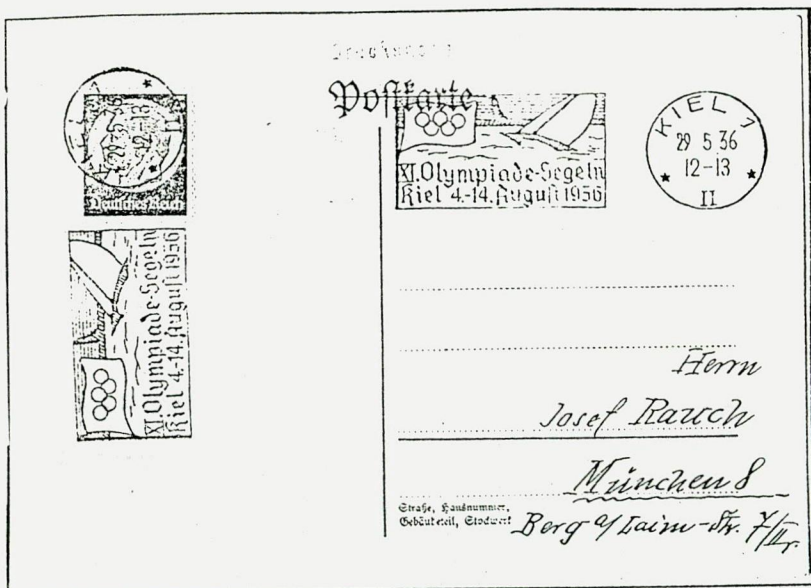


Number 5 in a series of cards designed by Dreher and Schickert for the German Olympic Committee.

The two contests for small boats were relatively free from controversy, and the winner in the Jolly Boat Class, on his performance over seven races, was Daniel Kagschelland of the Netherlands, with Werner Krogmann of Germany finishing in second place. In the Star Class, Germany came first, with the Swedes second and the Dutch team in third place. The final races were held on 14 August, and in the evening the extinguishing of the Olympic flame and the lowering of the five-ringed flag, declared that the 1936 Olympic sailing events were over.

PRE-OLYMPIC PUBLICITY.

In February 1936, it was decided that a slogan postmark, featuring the yachting events in Kiel, should be used in several major towns throughout Germany. At a meeting between the Kiel postal authorities and the Olympic Yachting Committee in March, it was decided to use as a motif one that had been designed by Friedrich Crusemann, (author of the manual on the German ship mails) who, at that time, was a member of the Olympic Yachting Committee. The design shows a sailing boat with an Olympic flag to the left, with the Laboe Marine Memorial in the background and the inscription "XI OLYMPIADE SEGELN, KIEL 4-14 AUGUST 1936"



Early use of the first canceller used in Kiel.

In order to to save some of the cost (21 Reichmarks each) of making the dies for each of the towns which were designated to use the special cancellation, it was decided to order only six dies, one of which would be retained by Kiel, and the remaining five would be used for approximately two weeks each in five towns, and then passed to other towns. In this way, twenty towns had the use of the cancel for the cost of only five dies. The first of these cancellers were delivered to Kiel in the middle of May and was used immediately at the head post office. The first date of use for the other five dies was 15 June. Additionally, it was used in two different cancellers in the main post office in Kiel from the middle of May until 14 August, the closing day of the Olympic yachting events. The Reichpost Ministry waived the fees normally payable for advertising slogan postmarks. According to official sources, the slogan postmarks were used on the following dates:

15-6 to 30-6 1936

in Aachen, Bremen, Bielefeld, Altona (Elbe) and Dusseldorf.

1-7 to 15-7 1936	in Koln, Stettin, Ludwigshafen (Rhein), Hannover and Duisburg.
16-7 to 31-7 1936	in Frankfurt (Main), Berlin (only until 24-7), Saarbrucken, Trier and Essen.
1-8 to 14-8 1936	in Munchen, Stuttgart, Karlsruhe, Lubeck and Dortmund.

However, both Ken Cook and I have cancellations that do not conform to the above dates. I have one from Altona (Elbe) dated 13.7.1936. Do other members have examples of dates other than those listed above?

Single ring circular date stamps were used as follows:

Aachen 1/+/V	Karlsruhe (Baden) 2/a
Aachen 5	Kiel 1/gg
Berlin C2/du	Kiel 1/II
Bielefeld 2(HBF)/s	Kiel 1/II/+/+
Bielefeld 2(HBF)/g	Lubeck 1/aa
Bremen 5/s	Stettin 1/a
Dortmund 1/b	Stettin 1/b
Dusseldorf 1/+/I	Stettin 1/c
Dusseldorf 1/+/z	Stettin 1/g
Duisburg 1/u	Stuttgart 9/a
Essen 1/+/I	Stuttgart 9/e
Frankfurt (Main) 1/b	Stuttgart 9/f
Hannover 1/x/x	Trier 1/a
Hannover 1/sn	Trier 2/a
Helgoland /b	

The single ring canceller used from Munich is larger than the others mentioned above and is additionally inscribed HAUPTSTADT DER BEWEGUNG, with a swastika in the lower segment. The canceller from Kiel 1/II/+/+ is known with the error KIFL.



Both Trory and Volk in their works make mention of a single ring canceller used in Helgoland, though this is not mentioned in the official post office report.

With a double ring circular date stamp, it was used in:

Altona (Elbe) 1/i	Frankfurt (Main) 1/ma
Koln 1/g	Ludwigshafen (Rhein) 1/a

The canceller used at Koln 1/g is always blue.

With a single ring roller canceller with six wavy lines it was used only at:

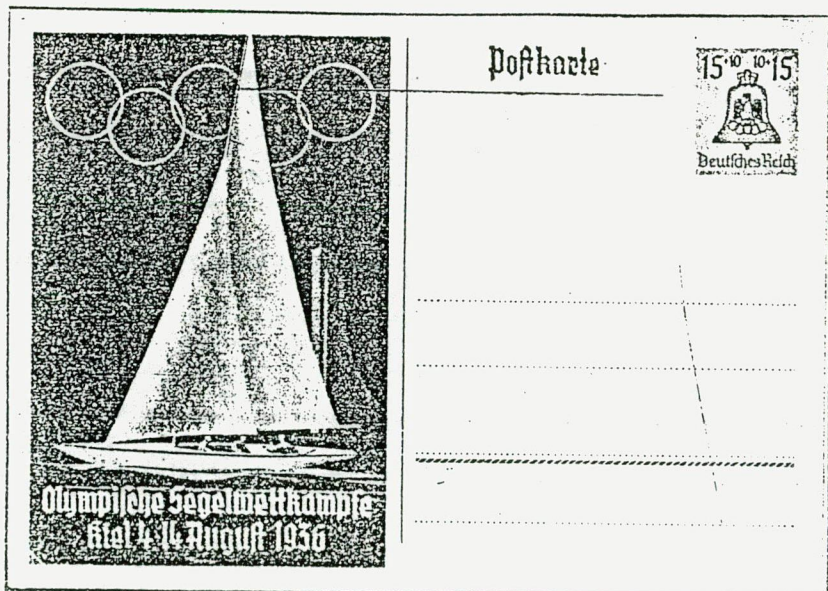
Kiel 1/gg

Saarbrücken 2/ae



The only vignette issued in Germany specifically for the yachting events in Kiel was intended for pre-Olympic publicity. It was printed by the R.D.P. on behalf of the harbour, traffic and exhibition offices in Kiel, and 50,000 copies were distributed to all Kiel post offices for free issue over the counter from 7 July 1936. These vignettes were not available through post offices in other parts of Germany. They are generally found on the reverse of an envelope, and used as a seal.

As for the Summer Games in Berlin, two postal stationery cards were released on 25 June which were available only from the special post offices in Kiel, Berlin & the philatelic exhibition in Dresden. They were designed by Professor O. Anton of Bremen and show the Marine Memorial at Laboe in the background.



1948 MARATHON

(This article first appeared in the LONDON MARATHON programme in May 1988, and is reprinted here with the permission of the Editor.)

The war was just over and post-war Britain was just beginning to put its future back together again. International relationships, some ripped apart during the war years, others frayed at the edges, began the process of being stitched back together again. A major part of that stitching operation was the return of the Olympic Games to London.

Intriguingly, as a signpost along the route of Marathon history, it marked the exact mid-point from the origins of the distance in 1908 to the London of today which triggered Britain's latest attempt at Olympic gold.

It is probably fair to say that all of our hopefuls with their sights set on Seoul would be happy to be as successful as the Briton who came out of the ranks of the average in that Marathon of 1948. Tom Richards, to put it simply, came closer than any Briton before, or since, to an Olympic Marathon gold. Not that he was favourite in the forecasts bandied about before the race. That honour belonged to Britain's Jack Holden who was destined to go on to be both Empire and European Marathon champion two years later at the opposite ends of the earth, New Zealand and Brussels.

Holden had been AAA champion two years in succession, and was in the middle of a winning streak which was to involve only two defeats in seventeen Marathons spread across five years. That August day in 1948, forty one starters lined up at Wembley Stadium at the climax of the first Olympics in twelve years. The course, mirroring the 1908 event's distance, had little else in common with it, this being an out-and-home course that wound its way into the country before weaving back into the stadium. In the dull and humid atmosphere it would be even tougher than the course suggested.

The early miles, as always, saw an instant pacemaker, Eusebio Guinez of the Argentine taking the lead with his fellow countryman Delfo Cabrera and Belgium's Gailly among those stretching to contain him.

From six miles on though, it was Gailly who took the race by the throat. In every Marathon field there is always one man who runs compelled by the conviction that this is his day. Twenty five year old Etienne Gailly, running for the first time in any event longer than twenty miles, spreadeagled the field with a sustained assault.

At six miles he was in the lead; at twelve miles he was 14 seconds ahead, with Lou of China in second place, Guinez now back in third and the two leading Britons, Holden and Richards in 10th and 14th positions.

At the fifteen mile point his lead had stretched to half a minute, but Gailly heading towards the distance he had never before encountered, would find that lead assailed both from the men behind him and the miles ahead of him. Hundreds of yards back changes were taking place. Lou had now eased back into sixth place, the two Argentinians were now clustering in the forward positions, Guinez was back in second and Cabrera up to fourth. Also looming prominently were the Swede Gustav Ostling and Yoon-Chil Choi of Korea. British success seemed to be slipping away with Holden still 10th and Richards hovering behind in 11th place. It seemed even further away minutes later when Holden dropped out of the race with badly blistered feet.

Holden later was at a loss to explain the blisters; he was wearing his normal shoes, was an experienced Marathoner, had already completed a Marathon at the pace that this one was being run, but perhaps the humidity of the day had contributed to it. Either way, the curse of every Marathon runner had felled Holden. Now things were really beginning to happen. Choi had moved into the lead around the 20-mile mark, having moved from third to first in a mere five kilometres, and was stretching his lead. Cabrera had moved into second and the gallant Gailly had fallen back to third with Guinez fourth. Further back, Richards was moving through the field too, up now to seventh and going strongly although nearly two minutes behind the leader.

Then Choi had gone. The effort of taking the lead had been cripplingly heavy in the heat and he retired. Cabrera was now in the lead and Richards was up to fifth.....In the stadium, with the runners only three miles away, the atmosphere was electric. For British fans it had not been a week of memorable success. In the 10,000 metres a Czech called Emil Zatopek had obliterated British hopes in Stan Cox and Jim Peters, and in the 5,000 metres, Zatopek and Belgium's Gaston Reiff had staged a whirlwind finish that had the crowd on its feet, but without a Briton in sight. Now, in the Marathon the national favourite was out. But still, there was a Briton there, and he was moving up. Now he was fifth.

The drama accelerated with the pace. They were two and a half miles from the stadium now and Cabrera led Gailly by a mere five seconds. It seemed they had first and second tied up between them.....yet now Richards was in third place.

They were approaching the stadium now, through cheering crowds, thrilled by the sight of three men so tantalisingly close. Then through the entrance to the stadium and so onto the track. Gailly first, behind him Cabrera, the 29 year old fireman from the Argentine; and another ten seconds behind him Richards, the 38 year old Welsh nurse.

If disaster had struck Dorando Pietri on his final lap forty years before, it struck Etienne Gailly just as uncompromisingly if not so devastatingly in those last 400 yards. Gailly stayed on his feet, but it was clear that he was on the verge of utter exhaustion. As he reeled towards the finish, Cabrera was past him, then a tortuously few yards more and Richards was past as well.

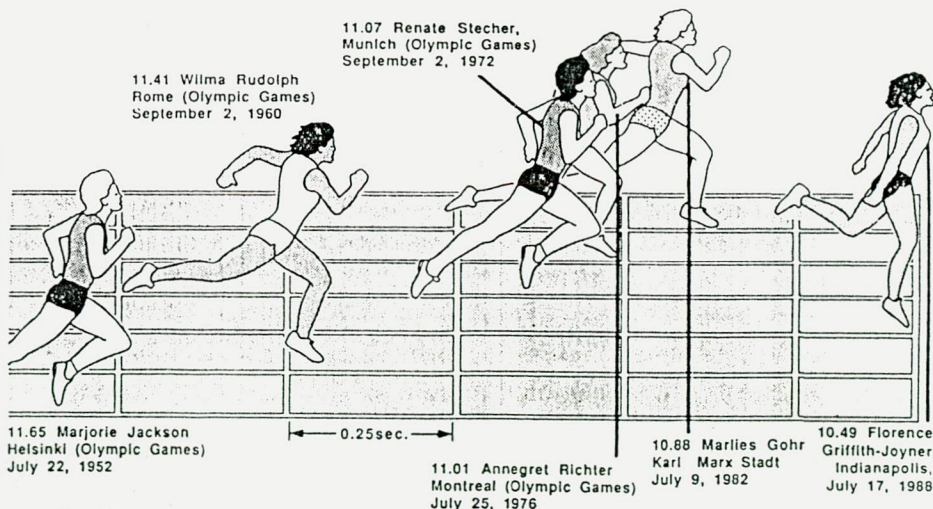
Three men on the track at the same time; one stumbling with exhaustion out of the inside lane; one clearly now strong enough to remain in front for the final furlong, and the other being lifted home to silver by an ecstatic appreciative crowd who had waited a long Olympic week for a gold medal.

At the tape it was Cabrera. Sixteen seconds behind him, Tom Richards had out-performed every other British Olympic Marathon runner this century. And third, achieving in exhaustion what had eluded Pietri forty years before, Gailly got the bronze medal.

Now it is another cycle of forty years since the capital thrilled to that Olympic battle of Gailly, Cabrera and Richards. An interesting time to ponder: can this latest London send a Briton to the Olympics who will outshine them all in history?

(ED. We now know that Britain failed to win any kind of medal in the Marathon in Seoul. Gelindo Bordin of Italy took the gold medal, Douglas Wakihuru of Kenya the silver and Ahmed Saleh of Djibouti the bronze. Charlie Spedding of Great Britain was placed sixth, and the other British contestant, Dave Long, came twenty first. In the Women's Marathon, an event that was only introduced in Los Angeles in 1984, Rosa Mota of Portugal won the gold medal, Lisa Marint of Australia won the silver and Kathrin Doerre of East Germany won the bronze medal. Britain had three participants, Angela Pain, Susan Tooby and Susan Crehan, who were placed 10th, 12th and 32nd respectively.)

The women's 100m since Helsinki



OLYMPIC WINNERS

Thematic collecting is no longer a case of gathering together all the stamps that are issued on a particular subject. To add interest and variety, a collection needs to include cancellations and postal stationery and other similar items.

In earlier issues of **TORCH BEARER**, Manfred Bergman suggested various ways in which the Olympic theme can be tackled that will make it different and unique to its owner. However, whichever approach is adopted, the Olympic Games are about sportsmen and sportswomen, and human nature being what it is, the athletes that are remembered in the record books are those who mounted the winner's rostrum.

The following article first appeared in the magazine of the Italian Thematic Association, CIFT, and is reproduced here with permission. It outlines some of the material available to illustrate the Olympic winners theme, other than those found on postage stamps.



ATHENS 1896, I OLYMPIAD.

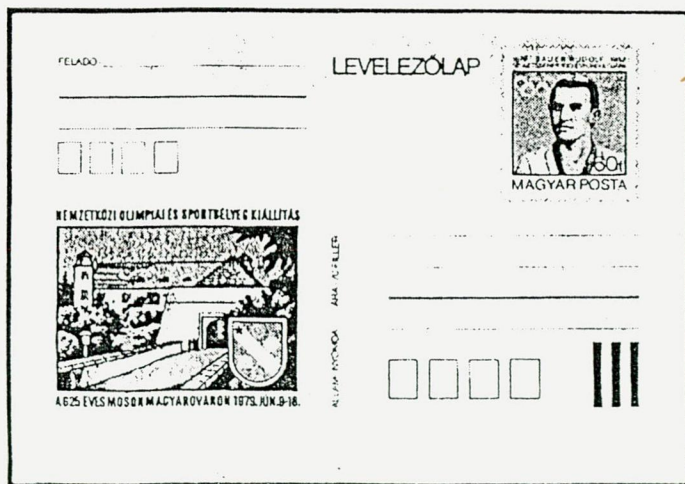
Alfred Hajos, (Hungary) triumphed in the swimming by winning two gold medals out of a possible three. He won the 100 metres and

1,500 metres freestyle. Hungary issued two cancellations and a miniature sheet to honour him. (See previous page)



PARIS 1900. II OLYMPIAD.

Rudolf Bauer, (Hungary) was the gold medal winner in the discus. He bettered the previous Olympic record by more than 6.89 metres, with a throw of 36.04 metres. The previous record, set by Garrett of the United States in 1896, was 29.15 metres. Hungary issued a postal stationery card in 1979.



ST. LOUIS 1904. III OLYMPIAD

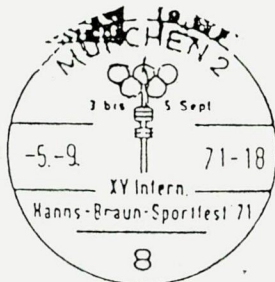
No philatelic souvenirs have been recorded.

LONDON 1908. IV OLYMPIAD

Octave Lapize, (France) was the bronze medal winner in the road cycling and a future winner of the Tour de France in 1910. He also won several other classic races, such as the Paris-Roubaix from 1909 to 1911 and the Paris-Brussels races in 1911 to 1913.

He died aged only thirty, during the First World War. A hand stamp was used by France in April 1973.

Hanns Braun, (Germany) was the bronze medal winner in the 800 metres track event, and a silver medal winner as a member of the German team in the relay race, which, for the first time, was run over a distance of one mile, made up of legs of 200 + 200 + 400 + 800 metres. After his death in 1918, sports festivals were set up in his honour, and Germany has issued special cancellations to commemorate them.



Alberto Braglia, (Italy) was the gold medal winner in the overall individual gymnastic combined exercises. A handstamp was used by Italy in November 1983 and a suitable slogan was included in the meter cancellation used by the Italian Olympic Committee during the same period. He died in 1954.

FEDERAZIONE GIMNASTICA
D'ITALIA
C.O.N.I.
1913 SE. FE. PA. 206 100 ANIVERSARIO
NASCITA' ALBERTO BRAGLIA 00194 ROMA
MODENA 26/11 NOVEMBRE 1983



STOCKHOLM 1912. V OLYMPIAD.

Hanns Braun reaffirmed his position as a champion by winning a silver medal in the 400 metres track event. Alberto Braglia also retained the gold medal in the gymnastics combined individual exercises, and won an additional gold medal in the team event.

Jim Thorpe (USA), a Red Indian called Wa-Tho-Chuk, was the real champion of these Games, by taking the gold medal in both the pentathlon and decathlon events, which unfortunately were soon taken away from him. His feats were stunning, especially in the high jump and in the 400 and 1,500 metres track events, and these were only surpassed in the 1956 Games in Melbourne. On his return

to the United States, he was accused of professionalism and forced to return the medals which he had won, which were then awarded to the silver medallists. The United States honoured Jim Thorpe by naming a township after him.



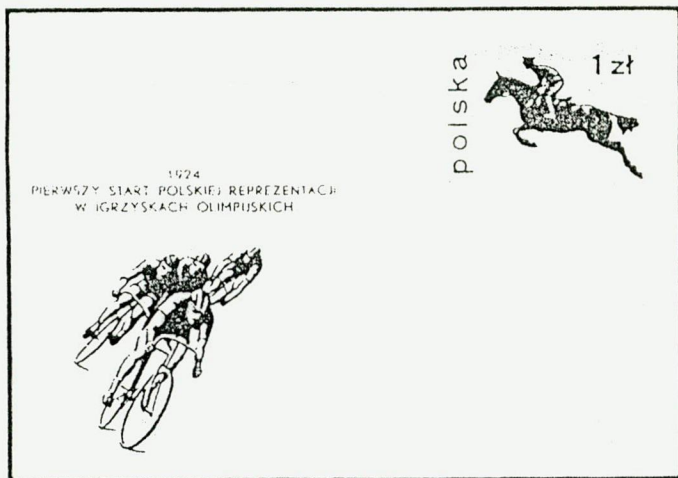
Pierre de Coubertin, (France) the instigator of the Modern Olympic Games, under the pseudonyms George Hohrod and M. Eschbah, won the gold medal in the Arts Competition, Literature section, which was first held in 1912. The competition continued until 1924, when it was discontinued until recent times. The competition also witnessed Italian victors in Berthelemy for Music and Pellegrini for Painting in 1912 and Nicholai won the Literature award in 1920. The last named have not been portrayed on a card or cancellations, but there are several handstamps showing de Coubertin from many countries.

PARIS 1924. VII OLYMPIAD.

In 1916, no Olympic Games were celebrated since they fell during the period of the First World War, and in 1920 at the Games of Antwerp, none of the competitors have so far been commemorated philatelically, other than on postage stamps. Uruguay won their first Olympic gold medal by beating Switzerland 3-0 in the football final, a success that they repeated in the next Olympic Games.



The Polish quartet came second behind the Italians in the 4,000 metres cycling pursuit, and Poland issued a postal stationery card to commemorate their silver medal.



AMSTERDAM 1928. IX OLYMPIAD.

Germany was readmitted to these Games, having been excluded since the end of the First World War, and they returned to win various disciplines, amongst those being the equestrian sports. Freiherr von Langen won the gold medal in the individual Grand Prix dressage and the Grand Prix in the team event. In swimming, Germany asserted herself in the water polo, guided by their champion, Erich Rademacher, who also won a silver medal in the 200 metres breast stroke. A private postal stationery envelope was produced which honoured his achievement and which commemorated the Third World Swimming Championships in Berlin.



III. Schwimm-
WM

20.-29. 8. 1978
in Berlin (West)

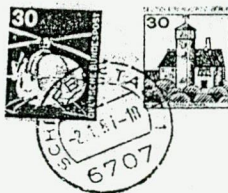
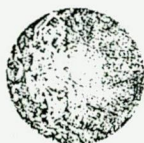


E. Rademacher
Goldmedaille
im Wasserball
Silbermedaille
Schwimmen
(200 m Brust)



1928 - 1978

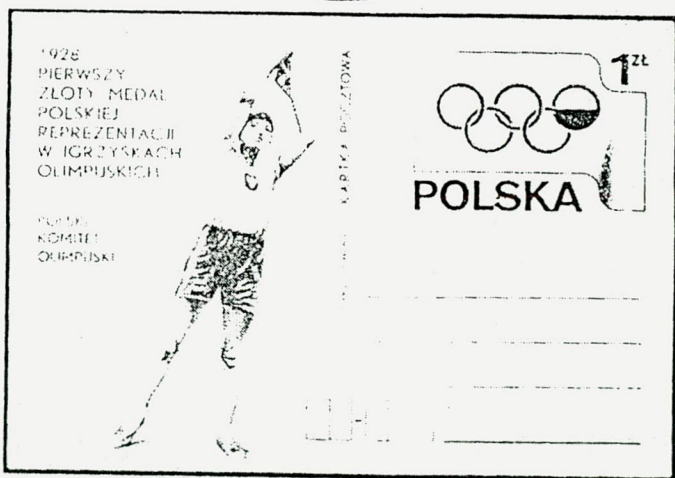
50 Jahre
Olympische
Spiele
Amsterdam



Herrn
Alvaro Trucchi
Via S. Nilo 16

I-00046 Grottaferrata
(Roma)
Italia

In the Women's Foil, the gold medal was awarded to Helene Mayer, who was to prove herself again in 1936. Erik Lundqvist (Sweden) was the winner in the Javelin, with an Olympic record of 66.60 metres, and another Swede, Johan Richthoff, was the gold medal winner in the free style heavy-weight wrestling. Konopacka, (Poland) won the gold medal in the women's discus, and has been commemorated on a Polish postal stationery card.



LOS ANGELES 1932. X OLYMPIAD

This was one of the most glorious years for Italian sport, twelve gold, twelve silver and thirteen bronze medals to enrich the Italian record books. Amongst these were Luigi Beccoli, gold medal winner in the 1,500 metres track event, and commemorated with a cancellation.



Janusza Kusocinski (Poland) won the gold medal in the 10,000 metres track event. This athlete died during the Second World War and Poland has issued several special cancellations showing him, and he was also featured on a miniature sheet issued by Poland to commemorate those who had perished during the war.

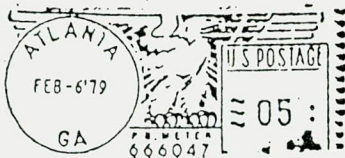
Jakob Brendel, (Germany) was the gold medal winner in the Greco-Roman bantam-weight wrestling. He was shown on a private postal stationery card issued in 1972 for the 18th Grosstauschtag. (Probably a philatelic bourse.)

BERLIN 1936. XI OLYMPIAD.

This Olympiad, which was meant to affirm the supremacy of the Aryan race so loved by Hitler, was spoiled (for Hitler) by a coloured champion.



Kids 10-15 14 ct/bk



Jesse Owens (USA) The 22 year old American athlete astonished everyone with his extraordinary pace and with the four gold medals that he won; in the 100 metres, 200 metres and as a part of the American team in the 4 x 100 metres relay, but above all, for the long jump, in which he established an Olympic record of 8.06 metres, surpassed only in 1960 by fellow American, Ralph Boston, with a jump of 8.12 metres.

Wladyslaw Karas (Poland) was the bronze medal winner in the small bore rifle shooting (prone position). He was another Pole who fell during the Second World War, and is among those who was commemorated on the Polish souvenir sheet to honour the fallen.



SALUTING JESSE OWENS

Helene Mayer (Germany) was the silver medal winner in the women's foil. She had emigrated to Los Angeles after the 1932 Olympic Games, but was called back to Germany, so that the Germans could 'prove' that Jews were a part of their team, and she was the only German Jew in the team for the Summer Games.



Helene Mayer
9 München 40



- To be Continued -

BULGARIA 89

There were fifteen Olympic or sports related exhibits at the international stamp exhibition held in Sofia, the Bulgarian capital, from 22 - 31 May, so those who felt that there might be a decline in Olympic philately need not have been concerned. Congratulations are due to our members, Morris Rosen, who was awarded a gold medal, Chris Northwood, a silver medal and Kazimierz Kusmin, a bronze medal, all from the United States. There were no British exhibitors in the thematic class at all. A special FIPO/Olympic cancellation was used on 31 May, the day the President of the International Olympic Committee visited the exhibition on his way to Prague. Our members Michael Tsironis and Morris Rosen gave an address, which will be fully covered in the next issue of TORCH BEARER. In the evening, the Bulgarian Olympic Committee gave a reception for the members of the Jury, Commissioners and invited guests.

THE FIRST MODERN OLYMPIAD

Caroline Neidel.

After the discovery of the poems by Pindar and the travelogues of Pausanius in the early nineteenth century, both of whom waxed lyrical about the ancient quadrennial games, Olympia lived again in the minds of men. Excavations by the German archeologist, Ernst Curtius, in the middle of the nineteenth century at the ancient site, further aroused interest in the Olympic Games of old. Another man who was intrigued by these games was Baron Pierre de Coubertin. He was a firm believer that a healthy body created a healthy mind, and that if athletes from all nations met in friendly rivalry on the sports field, the threat of war would be diminished.

In the fervent hope that a revival of the Olympic Games could unite the world, de Coubertin travelled throughout Europe, Great Britain and the United States in an effort to make his dream of world peace come true. Convincing modern nations to revive the Olympic Games was a task to which the baron was dedicated. He first received the support of a few influential friends, and then slowly infected others with the Olympic spirit. He addressed students and lecturers at universities, colleges and high schools, lectured to industrial leaders and philanthropists, and all who would listen.

In June 1894, a meeting was held in Paris, which became known as the Congress of Sorbonne. It was chaired by Pierre de Coubertin, and was attended by leading world figures, who were as enthusiastic as he was for the revival of the Olympic Games. When Demetrios Bikelas, the Greek delegate, suggested Greece as a suitable venue for the modern Olympic Games in 1896, the idea was well received, even though de Coubertin himself had favoured 1900 for the first Games.

On 23 June, the first act of the Congress of Sorbonne was to form the International Olympic Committee, of which de Coubertin became the first Secretary General, with Bikelas as the first President. De Coubertin had prepared a tentative programme of all the sports that were internationally practised, including track and field events, horsemanship, sailing, gymnastics, wrestling, swimming and fencing. One of the first tasks of the newly-formed Olympic Committee was to codify the rules for the various events that were planned.

Athens was chosen as the venue for the Olympic contests, as Olympia itself was difficult to reach over bad roads that were little better than cart tracks. The site chosen for the new Olympic stadium was on the ruins of the ancient Herodes Atticus stadium, which was built in the sixth century BC. Although wealthy, Pierre de Coubertin was not rich enough to rebuild the stadium from his own funds. Even though money was donated by many countries, the total was still far short of the amount needed. Help came from George Averoff, a prominent Greek industrialist living in Alexandria, who subscribed one million drachmae to the stadium fund. So the Games scheduled for April

had a stadium in which they could take place. Today, the 1896 stadium is known as the Averoff Stadium in honour of the man who gave so generously.

King George I of Greece agreed to be the official host, and teams of athletes were promised from Denmark, Great Britain, France, Germany, Hungary, Switzerland, the United States, and of course, Greece. On the morning of 6 April, the Olympic Games, suspended since 393AD, were again held on Greek soil. At 10.00am, the King led the procession into the stadium, followed by members of the Greek Royal family and his cabinet ministers. Behind the King and his retinue were the Greek diplomatic corps and foreign ambassadors and consuls. The athletes came last, each group carrying the flag of its nation. After the welcoming address by the King, the athletes took the solemn oath, much as they had in ancient times, to contend with honour and fair play. A sacred flame, brought by a fire kindled in the ancient prytaneion at Olympia, was lit in the altar of the new Herodes Atticus stadium, and the first modern Olympic Games were declared open.

The first contest of the first modern Olympiad was a jumping event called Hop, Step, Jump, which was won by a young American James B. Connolly. With great ceremony, a crown of wild olive, cut from a tree in the valley of Olympia, was placed on his head. He was the first man to feel the touch of an Olympic crown since 393 AD when the games had been banned by the Roman emperor Theodosius.

The planning committee for the 1896 Games added new contests, unheard of in ancient times, and one of these was the now-famous marathon. It was listed in the official programme as "Evidence of the Greek dedication to freedom as a nation, and the sacrifice of the individual to maintain that freedom". The race honoured Pheidippides, who ran from Marathon to Athens in 490 BC to announce the Athenian victory over the invading Persians. The distance for the marathon race until 1908 was the same as that covered by Pheidippides, 26 miles. This was the last event on the programme of the first modern Olympiad, and when word came that Spiridon Louis, a shepherd from Amarusi near Marathon, was well in the lead, the crowd in the stadium went wild. The two Greek princes ran to meet the victor and ran beside him to the finish line. When one considers the amount of training undertaken by modern marathon runners, it seems strange to realise that, far from putting in any training sessions, Louis only decided to put his name forward as a participant a few days before the event.

Greece issued a set of twelve stamps to commemorate the 1896 Games. With the exception of the 1 Drachma and 2 Drachmae values, which respectively showed the new Olympic stadium and the Acropolis Hill, the other ten values took their inspiration from ancient Greek artifacts. They were released on 6 April 1896, the first day of the Games. As the Greeks did not bring their calendar into line with the rest of Europe until 1917, the same time as the Russians, the first day cancellation reads 25 March. At first, it was intended to invalidate the stamps at the end of April, but this was extended to September 1896, and finally, after being extended for a second time, they were withdrawn on 30 March 1897.

The small format stamps, 1, 2, 5 and 10 lepta values, were printed in sheets of twenty five stamps (5 x 5) and six of these small sheets made up a complete printing sheet. The gutters between the horizontal rows were stamp sized and were printed with a coloured line approximately 4mm wide. The vertical gutters and margins were narrower, as were the horizontal margins at the top and bottom of the complete printing sheet, and these were left unprinted. The plate number was printed in the right corner of the bottom horizontal margin.

The 20 lepta to 10 Drachmae values were all of a larger format, either vertical or horizontal, and these were printed in sheets of ten stamps, two rows of five stamps. Six of these sheetlets made up a complete printing sheet of sixty stamps. As for the small size stamps, the gutters between the stamps were the same size as the stamps themselves, but unlike the low values, these did not have a coloured line. Neither did they have a plate number. All the values were typographed on uncoated paper without watermark, at the Imperial Printing Works in Paris.

Both postcards and letter cards with imprinted stamps were prepared by the printing works in Paris at the instruction of the Greek postal authorities. However, after the samples were prepared, the Greeks decided not to continue with this idea, since they had a sufficient number of postal stationery items in stock. Some of the proof printings were sent to the Greek postal authorities for their records, and the remainder stayed in the archives of the Paris printers.

No special handstamps were prepared for use during the Games, but stamps cancelled from 6-15 April 1896 (25 MAPT to 13 OEBP on the Greek date stamps) are particularly sought by Olympic collectors. A few commemorative cards and cachets were privately produced, but in the main, the stamps of the 1896 Games belong more to the area of classical Greek philately than they do in a thematic collection, although some of these stamps would need to be included in a general Olympic thematic collection, if it were to gain high marks in competition.

At the first historic meeting in Paris in 1894, Article 6 of the newly-written Olympic Charter stated that "Olympic Games shall be held for the first time in Athens in 1896, and for the second time in Paris in 1900, and thereafter, every four years in other cities throughout the world". In 1996, the Olympic Games will celebrate their centenary. The ancient Olympic Games lasted for a period of almost twelve centuries of recorded history, and for several centuries before records were kept. Somehow, I doubt that the modern Olympic era will last that long!

SUPPORT YOUR SOCIETY !!!

Use the magazine to contact other members, or for your personal announcements. Dispose of your unwanted material through the Auction or the Packet service. Use the Library to find those pieces of elusive information. Share your knowledge by writing an article for TORCH BEARER.

SOCIETY OF OLYMPIC COLLECTORS

SEOUL '88 ALBUMS and FOLDERS

Eric Elias has arranged a limited supply of albums, booklets and folders published by the Korean Post Office for the Seoul Olympics:

- 1: Album: 80 pages, hard bound in sleeve, containing all the stamps and miniature sheets unmounted mint in Showguard mounts, including the high value sheets; the only omission is the miniature sheet from December 1988 to mark the successful conclusion of the Games. It is a quality production and face value of the stamps is about £30.
The price is £40 plus £2 postage.
- 2:Booklet: "Cancellations used in each Competition venue of the Seoul Olympics"
72 pages, paperback, this is an excellent reference guide, with stamps and miniature sheets of the sports cancelled by hand in black. Face value of the stamps is over £6.
Price £9 plus 50p p. & p.
- 3:Folder: "First Day Cancellations of the Seoul Olympic Issues"
On glossy card, the folder includes all 32 stamps from the basic Olympic series, with the matching first day cancel.
Price £9 plus 50p. p. & p.

All three items together are £60 including postage. Please send your order with cheque payable to S.O.C. to Bob Wilcock, 24 Hamilton Crescent, Brentwood, Essex, CM14 5ES. Orders will be sent out late August or early September by Eric Elias.

THEMATICS 1900-1960



BIRDS

Mint and On Cover



SPORTS

including Olympic Games
Mainly On Cover



SCOUTS

Mint, F.D.C., Jamboree Cancels

AND MANY OTHER SUBJECTS

Please write to us with a note of your 'Theme' and special interests so we may quote for any item in stock.

THEMATIC POSTAL AUCTION

Our Thematic Auctions will be held twice a year.

Send £1.50 (£2.00 Europe, £2.50 outside Europe) for copies of the illustrated catalogues of the next two sales. Subjects will include: ANIMALS; BIRDS; FLOWERS; RED CROSS; TRANSPORT; MILITARY; OLYMPICS and SPORT; CHRISTMAS.

*Our Scout Postal Auctions are also held twice a year
(Subscription the same as above)*

HEALEY & WISE

P.O. BOX 7, TADWORTH, SURREY KT20 7QA.

Telephone: 0737 812455