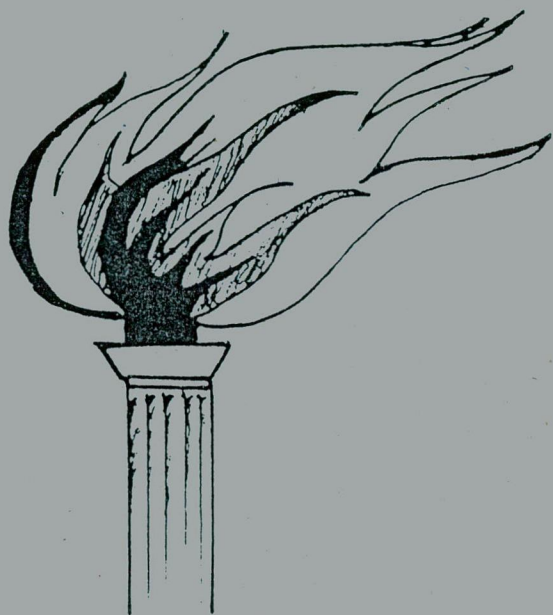


# TORCH BEARER



SOCIETY of OLYMPIC COLLECTORS

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P.R.O. Andy Potter, 75 Morley Avenue, Wood Green, London N22 6NG, Great Britain.

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, Bob Wilcock.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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 £1.25 each, or £5.00 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 75 pence per issue ( £3.00 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.

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# TORCH BEARER

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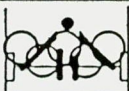


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# FRONT PAGE

Firstly, congratulations are due to Bob Farley for the magnificent job that he has done in digesting all the information turned out by the Organising Committee of the 1992 Olympic Winter Games in Albertville and producing it in such easy-to-read form. I understand that the booklet that members have received with this issue of TORCH BEARER is the first in a series, and by the time the last one appears, the booklets should build up into a comprehensive report of these Games.

In the last issue, I drew members attention to a letter written to the Secretary of the Germany and Colonies Philatelic Society. Some of you noticed that this item was missing from the magazine! Apologies for this. Last minute news had to take precedence. It is definitely included this time so please read it and take note.

Many of you will know that the 97th Session of the IOC will be taking place in Birmingham from 13 - 17 June 1991. As early as April 1989 your Society offered to organise a small stamp exhibition in Birmingham at the time of the Session. This offer was only taken up at the end of January of this year. Even at that late date your Committee agreed to organise an exhibition, and letters were sent to prospective exhibitors. Unfortunately, the limited amount of help that was needed from the Birmingham Session Organising Committee was not forthcoming, and at the end of February, the decision was reluctantly taken not to proceed. The British Post Office had agreed to produce a special handstamp for the period of the Session, and at the time of writing, this handstamp would still be produced. The important date for stamp collectors is 15 June, the date when the announcement will be made of which of the six candidate cities for the 1998 Olympic Winter Games will be awarded the Games.

THEMATICA 1991 is taking place on Saturday and Sunday 29 and 30 June at the Victory Services Club near Marble Arch. Members who have not visited the event in the past, should make an effort to do so. There are many dealers, who all have stocks for the thematic collector, as well as interesting displays and a competition for visitors. Members who have never tried their hand at exhibiting could find this an ideal opportunity "to have a go". The only qualification necessary to enter is that the exhibitor has NOT been awarded any kind of medal at a national exhibition. There are no rules, except that the exhibit should consist of sixteen average size album leaves. The winner is the exhibit that is judged the most interesting by the visitors to THEMATICA. Time is short, but entry forms are still available from Brian Sole, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher, Surrey, KT10 0QG.  
(Tel. 0372 467652)

While not being short of material for inclusion in TORCH BEARER, I have received few new and original articles recently. If any of you have time, why not share your collection with other members by penning a few words. Remember that information that may be history to you, could well be news to someone else!

\*\*\*\*\*

# MEMBER'S FORUM

Laurentz Jonker writes from the Netherlands with a few corrections to the article written by Karl-Heinz Koller on the 1928 Olympic Games in Amsterdam. (TORCH BEARER Vol.7 Iss.4 p.196). Laurentz says that it should be borne in mind that the original article was written in 1978, and quite a number of new facts have come to light since that time. The hockey and football contests started on 17 April, the Thursday before Easter, and not on 20 May as stated. There was a replay in the final football match. The first final was on 10 May, when there was a 1-1 draw between Argentina and Uruguay. The second final was held on 13 May, when Uruguay were the winners by 2-1.

The slogan machine cancellation was used from 1 April until 7 June, and not 5 June as stated. The N3 pentagonal cancel has only the month of July indicated by an Arabic "7". In May, June and August the figure of the month was shown in Roman numerals "V", "VI" and "VIII". All three cancellations, N1, N2 and N3 exist in both black and violet. From 28 July until 12 August the cancelled registration label was used with "Amsterdam Stadion" in violet. On 28 July blank labels were used with the inscription written in with ink or pencil.

\*\*\*\*\*

John Murray writes about the sports philatelic exhibition "SPORTPHILEX 90" held in Beijing, China, at the time of the Asian Games from 21 September until 3 October. The executive committee in conjunction with the President of the International Olympic committee agreed to stage an international stamp exhibition. The organising committee decided that the theme of the exhibition should be sport and that there should be a competitive section as well as a Court of Honour consisting of invited entries. The exhibits in the Court of Honour were as follows:

- |                       |                                   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| J.A.Samaranch (IOC)   | Philatelic Sports Collection      |
| J.B.R.Murray (GB)     | 100 Years of Football 1863-1963   |
| G.Nuyken (Germany)    | The Olympic Torch                 |
| G.Dolianitis (Greece) | Olympic Games Issues 1896-1906    |
| C.Tassoni (Italy)     | Pentelia                          |
| I.Libric (Yugoslavia) | The Torch Through Yugoslavia 1984 |
| Z.Xinmin (China)      | The Song of Olympia.              |

At the conclusion of the exhibition, each of the exhibitors in the Court of Honour was presented with a superb gold medal, and John Murray also received a special prize in the form of a magnificent silk embroidered aquarium scene mounted on a carved stand.

\*\*\*\*\*

Franceska Rapkin asks whether any member has for sale or exchange a registered cover with the special registration label DRESDEN 1 AUSSTELLUNG and the handstamp of the Reichsgartenschau only. This cancellation was used during the Dresden horticultural show and the philatelic exhibition held in conjunction with the 1936

Olympic Games in Berlin. It is usually found used in combination with the special cancellation for the philatelic exhibition. If anyone has a registered cover with this cancellation for sale or exchange, please write to your Editor.



Franceska also asks whether any member knows anything about the illustrated card. It was recently acquired from a dealer who knew nothing about it at all. Printed in black on buff coloured card, the inscription reads ADOLF HITLER GEBURTSTAGSSPENDE/VON DEN DEUTSCHEN BEAMTINNEN IM OLYMPIAJAHR 1936.

The reverse of the card has a line dividing the message and address and the inscription at the top of the message section "SAMMLUNG GENEHMIGT VOM REICHS-SCHATZMEISTER SCHWARZ/MIT SCHREIBEN VOM 4.3.1936-K.4 L/STR/El III.36-. At the left foot of the card is printed PREIS 50Pf. The designer, printed on the picture side is Fritz Beyer, or is this the printer?

\*\*\*\*\*

Congratulations to Alan Sabey, who entered the competition of the Great Britain Philatelic Society with an exhibit of the 1948 Olympic Games and was awarded to R.A.G.Lee Challenge Cup for his efforts. His exhibit included the presentation card, specimen overprints and the flaws on both the GB stamps and those overprinted for use in the Persian Gulf.

\*\*\*\*\*

Melvin Hodgson, one of our American members writes that he has found the address for the Organising Committee for the 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Aosta, Italy. It is Dr Giorgio Boglione, Comitato di Candidatura dei Giochi Olimpici Invernali 1998, Regione Autonoma Valle d'Aosta, Piazza Narbonne 3, 11100 Aosta, Italy. Melvin also writes that the postcode given for the Ostersund, Sweden address in the March issue of TORCH BEARER should be amended to read S-831 01. He says the best way to get a letter to a bid committee is to write direct to the national Olympic Committee, whose address is found in the Olympic Movement Directory, published annually by the IOC at SF15.

# NEWS

Paavo Nurmi, the legendary Finnish athlete, who won nine Olympic gold medals in the 1920's, promoted and consistently used anabolic steroids according to a controversial report published recently in a Swedish newspaper. The allegations concerning Nurmi, who died in 1973, surfaced after a Swedish journalist came across an advertisement in a Swedish sports magazine in 1931.

The text read "Champion Olympic winner and record holder's opinion about Rejuven". In the advertisement Nurmi said "I have used Rejuven and have been amazed by its splendid stimulating effect on the organism. I believe especially that sportsmen during a long and strenuous training season, have great benefit from Rejuven, which is unique in the way it strengthens and preserves the vitality. From my own experience I warmly recommend Rejuven". Rejuven is said to contain anabolic steroids, according to the Association of the Swedish Pharmaceutical Industry. It was marketed by a German company, but abolished in Sweden in 1934.

The disclosure that perhaps the most legendary name in track history promoted and used steroids is likely to cause quite a shock. Between 1920 and 1928 Nurmi won nine gold and three silver medals at the Olympic Games and also set twenty two world records. Although the first recorded Olympic drugs case occurred in St Louis in 1904, when the marathon runner, Thomas Hicks used strychnine, a stimulant for the central nervous system, drugs in sport are very much a post-war phenomena.

Nurmi's ability to run over an astonishing variety of distances, from 1500 metres to the marathon, inspired awe in all who saw him. His last public appearance was in 1952 when he carried the Olympic torch into the stadium in Helsinki at the start of the Fifteenth Olympiad. The main question is, did Nurmi, in those less sophisticated times, knowingly take a substance he believed would be beneficial to his performance. Dr Arne Ljungvist, the Chairman of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) Medical Commission, said that he had not heard of the drug Rejuven.

\*\*\*\*\*

For the first time in twenty three years, the IOC is officially to visit South Africa. A delegation from the IOC's Anti-Apartheid Commission will hold meetings in April at the highest possible level with political and sports authorities from all racial parties regarding an imminent return to international sport by South Africa. Changes are taking place within the country that a return in time for the 1992 Olympic Games is possible. The findings of the Commission will be reported at the IOC Session in Birmingham in June. The decision to send a delegation arose out of the Commission's meeting in Harare last November with interested South African organisations, both white and black, and on the recommendation of the Association of African National Olympic Committees. The IOC President has always maintained that the South African problem must be resolved by Africa. There has not been an IOC visit to South Africa since that led by Lord

Killanin in 1967, five years before he succeeded Avery Brundage as the IOC President. South Africa was expelled from the Olympic Movement in 1970, though more than a dozen South African sports still retain non-active membership of international federations.

\*\*\*\*\*

One of the matters that will be discussed during the IOC Session in Birmingham is whether Ben Johnson should be allowed to participate at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona. There are those, including Juan Antonio Samaranch, who argue that the IOC must be consistent with the policy of the IAAF, which operates a two year ban. This is also the view of the immediate past President of the IOC Medical Commission, who believes that competitors deserve a second chance. This begs the question that cheats of Johnson's financial level need get away with it only once and be made for life. Others, such as Kevin Gosper, Vice President of the IOC, would demand a minimum of a four year ban to include the Games following an offence. When one considers that legal and medical practitioners who break their professional code are struck off for life, a four year ban, even for athletes whose professional life is unlikely to last for longer than ten years, is not unreasonable. Many athletes, including Ed Moses and Kip Keino, would prefer a life ban for drugs offenders.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Session in Birmingham will also need to address itself to the way that the votes are cast in future for Olympic candidates. The changes debated will be introduced by 1993, when the host for the Summer Games of 2000 will be decided. It is being suggested that members would not be informed of the ballot figures, round by round, other than the bottom candidate to be eliminated, and that ballot papers would be named, so that following the disclosure of the result, it will be known who voted for whom. By not revealing voting figures round by round, members would be unable to indulge in tactical switching, and would have to stay with their first choice candidate from start to finish, or until eliminated. It is already clear that competition to hold the 2000 Games will again be fierce. So far Peking, Berlin, Sydney and Milan have voiced the intention to bid, and there are possible bids still to come from Paris, Istanbul and Brasilia, as well as London or Manchester. Candidates for the 1998 Olympic Winter Games, which will be decided in Birmingham, are Aosta in Italy, Jaca in Spain, Nagano in Japan, Ostersund in Sweden, Salt Lake City in the United States and Sochi in Russia.

\*\*\*\*\*

Czech member, Jaroslav Petrasek, is a part of the organising committee of OLYMPSPORT '91, an international philatelic exhibition to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Olympsport Philatelic Society of Czechoslovakia and the 1992 Olympic Games in Albertville and Barcelona. It is a joint venture between the Union of Czechoslovakian Philatelists, the Society of Olympic and Sports Philately in Czechoslovakia (Olympsport), the Czechoslovak Olympic Committee and the Cesky Brod City Council. OLYMPSPORT will take place between 21 and 28 September 1991 in the City Museum of Cesky Brod.

The exhibition will be divided into the following classes:

Court of Honour  
Postal Administrations and Museums  
Olympic and Sports Organisations  
National Competitive Class (with invited exhibits from other countries).  
International Competitive Class for literature and sports philately.

Applications for participation must be sent to the Organising Committee as soon as possible. A meeting between the members of Olymposport and IMOS will take place on 28 September at the Hotel Slavoj, which is also the venue of the awards banquet on the same evening. For details write to Ing. Jaroslav Petrusek, Chairman, OLYMPSPORT, P.P.Box 13, Cesky Brod, CS 282 23, Czechoslovakia.

\*\*\*\*\*

At a recent fixed price sale by Glass Slipper, PO Box 62, York YO1 1YL, Great Britain, several Olympic vignettes were included. A Swedish language vignette from 1912 cost £9.00 in unmounted mint condition and the official 1928 vignette from Amsterdam was priced at only £4.00 in similar condition. Among the more unusual items were Hungarian vignettes for the 1920 Games in Antwerp and the 1924 Games in Paris, as well as Mexican and Norwegian vignettes for the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

\*\*\*\*\*

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# IN MEMORIAM

## HARRY BEINART.

Harry Beinart was perhaps the overseas member best-known to British members. Sadly, he passed away at the age of 82 on 31 January 1991. Members who attended our Society's meeting during Stamp World London 90 will surely not forget Harry's fascinating reminiscences about Olympic Games that he had attended. He was well able to do so, for from 1948 until 1984, he only missed being there on two occasions, in 1952 and 1980. However, many of us knew Harry for considerably longer, certainly since the first Olympilex held in Lausanne in 1985.

For most of us, Harry was a stamp collector first and foremost, and his collection deservedly has won many international awards. However, his interest in sport went far beyond the stamp album. In his native South Africa, he was known as one of the leading athletics writers of his generation, and was considered to be among the finest sports writers in the world because of his accurate and well-balanced reports. Although he had curtailed his activities in recent years because of ill-health, he attended his last track meeting the night before he passed away, and his final column appeared in the February issue of a leading South African sports magazine.

Harry was born in Libau in the Baltic state of Latvia and he emigrated to South Africa in 1927. In 1931 he started reporting on South African athletics in the German magazine *Der Leichtathlet*. For over forty years he was the regular athletics correspondent of "Der Burger" an Afrikaner newspaper. Although Harry participated in sports, he was best-known as an athletics official, statistician and correspondent. Harry is survived by his widow, Naomi (also a member of this Society), to whom we send our sincere condolences.

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## RON PICKERING.

Ron Pickering, member Number 100, who passed away on 13 February 1991 was one of British television's best-known sporting personalities. He was born in Hackney in 1930 and was educated at Stratford Grammar School. After two years national service in the Kings Own Regiment, where he was a useful, if not outstanding field event athlete, he took a course at Carnegie College of Physical Education, and subsequently gained a masters degree in education at Leicester University. He taught for seven years at his old school and in Wanstead before being appointed by the Amateur Athletic Association as the national coach of Wales and South West England. He was the British team coach at the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo. Since 1968, when he first covered the Olympic Games for the BBC, he has been present at all subsequent Olympiads.

Ron Pickering was a great champion for the underdog. He identified with the under-privileged and particularly with black

competitors. It was largely due to his help and coaching that Lynn Davies, the long jumper, reached his full potential and was able to take the gold medal title in Tokyo in 1964. He was also closely identified with the battle against the abuse of drugs in sport. He was also an ardent campaigner against sporting links with South Africa, so long as apartheid remained in force. In spite of his international reputation, he remained deeply involved with athletics at grass roots level. He was the president of Haringey Athletics Club for seventeen years and helped to turn it into one of the best clubs in the country.

He was appointed OBE for his services to sport in 1986. He is survived by his wife, Jean Desforges, herself a former European long jumper and British Olympic captain, and by a daughter Kim and son, Shaun, to whom we send our sincere condolences.

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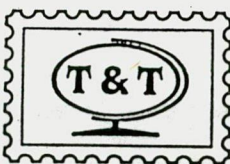
CLARENCE SYKES.

News has also been received of the death at the end of 1990 of Clarence Sykes of Cambridge. The Society extends condolences to the members of his family.

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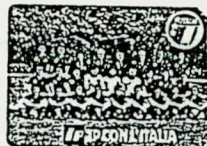
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# ALBERTVILLE 1992

Bob Wilcock.

## CLUB COUBERTIN.

The French newspaper, FIGARO, described the members of the Club Coubertin as "privileged partners of a private club". Sponsorship is now a vital ingredient in Olympic finances, and for us Olympic collectors there is an interesting philatelic and postal history element.

At the top is the "TOP Programme", the most exclusive club of worldwide Olympic sponsors, who have paid very handsomely in cash and kind for the privilege of being associated with Olympic excellence. They are associated with both the Summer and the Winter Games in Albertville and Barcelona. From a collector's point of view, the most significant member is the United States Postal Service, and TORCH BEARER will be covering their role in other articles.

CLUB COUBERTIN is exclusively French, and exclusively related to the Albertville Games. Beneath them come licensed manufacturers and then the official suppliers (including, for example, Editions Andre of Grenoble, the official postcard licensees, and about whose products Bob Farley is writing separately).

## TRAIN CLUB COUBERTIN.

SNCF, French National Railways, are a member of Club Coubertin, and earlier this year they provided the TRAIN CLUB COUBERTIN

DÉPART  
14 Décembre  
1991

ARRIVÉE  
8 Février  
1992

PARCOURS  
DE LA FLAMME  
OLYMPIQUE

LA POSTE ORGANISATEUR OFFICIEL DU PARCOURS DE LA FLAMME OLYMPIQUE

for COJO and the resorts to publicise the Games and for the twelve Club Coubertin members to publicise their Olympic connections. It was more than 500 metres in length (1650 feet) and is said to be the longest display train ever put together.

The opening ceremony of the Train Club Coubertin took place on Wednesday 23 January 1991 at 1800 hours in the Gare de Lyon in Paris and was performed by the COJO Presidents, Jean-Claude Killy and Michel Barnier, with the presidents of the twelve club members in attendance. The first few carriages were devoted to the sights, sounds and scenery of the Olympic Games, with, for example, a graphic audio visual bob-run and a chairlift to sweep visitors over the Olympic venues.

The second half of the train was devoted to the Club members. All had leaflets and brochures for the collector. AGF, whose meters have been mentioned in previous articles, provided a badge, as did Renault (whose meter we hope to illustrate in the next issue of TORCH BEARER), France Telecom, Alcatel, Credit Lyonnaise (bank and ticket agent), and Bis. Candia-Yoplait offered an attractive pocket calendar (and there is also a Yoplait Olympic phonecard available from France Telecom). There was a vignette from the mineral water company Evian. The final members of the Club Coubertin are IBM France, and Thomson, each covering different computing applications, and of course, LA POSTE, the French Post Office.



LA POSTE offered visitors an attractive self-adhesive vignette publicising the fact that they are organising the torch run, and with each purchase of the Ffr. 2.50 Olympic logo stamp they offered a free postcard which visitors could place in a special posting box to receive a special handstamp. The train visited twenty three towns between 23 January and 18 February. Paris had

separate handstamps for each of the three days that the train was there, and there were separate handstamps in a common style for each of the other towns and cities. The train stopped for one day in each, except Albertville, where it remained for two days, 7 and 8 February, exactly one year before the opening of the Games. The handstamp used there showed both dates. There are, therefore, twenty five handstamps, which were also available by mail order, either from each of the towns or from the Philatelic Bureau in Paris.

As the illustrations, show, the common style is similar to that used for the first day postmarks, and while consistency has its value, personally, I think it becomes too much, and I hope that LA POSTE will be more adventurous for the torch run itself and for the handstamps that will be available during the Games.

The route of the train was as follows: Paris 23-25 January, Orleans (Loiret) Saturday 26th, Tours (Indre-et-Loire) Sunday 27th, Rennes (Ille-et-Vilaine) Monday 28th, Nantes (Loire Atlantique) Tuesday 29th, Caen (Calvados) Wednesday 30th, Bordeaux (Gironde) Thursday 31st, Limoges (Haute Vienne) Friday 1 February, Toulouse (Haute Garonne) Saturday 2nd, Montpellier (Herault) Sunday 3rd, Marseilles (Bouches-du-Rhone) Monday 4th.


A technical stop was made in Nice on Tuesday 5 February, then Nice (Alpes Maritime) Wednesday 6th, Albertville (Savoie) Thursday and Friday 7th and 8th, Grenoble (Isere) Saturday 9th, Chambéry (Savoie) Sunday 10th, Clermont-Ferrand (Puy-de-Dome) Monday 11th, Lyon-Perrache (Rhone) Tuesday 12th, Dijon (Cote d'Or) Wednesday 13th, Strasbourg (Bas Rhin) Thursday 14th, Reims (Marne) Friday 15th, Nancy (Meurthe-et-Moselle) Saturday 16th, Lille (Nord) Sunday 17th, and finally, Amiens (Somme) on Monday 18th February.

#### OLYMPIC BOOKLETS.

Friday 8 February, exactly one year before the start of the Games, saw the release of the first Olympic booklet for 1991, and I am grateful to LE MONDE DES PHILATELISTES for detailed information and the illustration of the uncut booklet covers. This shows the bold marker lines on the bottom booklet of the column that I mentioned in the previous article, and also the positional markers that move diagonally to the left as you go up the column on the front covers, and diagonally to the right on the back covers, as well as vertical markers which have a different position on each booklet on the fold line and at the opening.

Some two million booklets were printed, of which 490,000 were distributed in the Rhone-Alps area (which includes Albertville), which is estimated to be one month's supply. Paris was allocated 250,000, a fortnight's supply. The balance was distributed all over France, with a limited supply to the Philatelic Bureau.

The stamps are the Ffr. 2.30 Marianne of the Bicentenary definitive issue found in previous Olympic booklets, and the text on the front cover is similar to that previously used, but with one important small difference: the text previously was "XVIe JEUX OLYMPIQUES D'HIVER". The revised text includes an additional "S" after the Roman numerals, "XVI es. The Academie

LA POSTE   
10 TIMBRES à 2,30 = 23 F

XVI<sup>es</sup> JEUX OLYMPIQUES D'HIVER  
COMMENCEZ VOTRE  
COLLECTION PHILATÉLIQUE OFFICIELLE

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XVI<sup>es</sup> JEUX OLYMPIQUES D'HIVER  
COMMENCEZ VOTRE  
COLLECTION PHILATÉLIQUE OFFICIELLE

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Les Jeux Olympiques  
d'Hiver de 1992  
Albertville en France

9-2

Minitel 3415 CODE COJO



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d'Hiver de 1992  
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Albertville en France

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Minitel 3415 CODE COJO

Francaise are the official guardians of the French language, and they advised La Poste that since Olympic Games is a plural noun, the number should have the plural "s" to be correct. (Were it the Sixteenth Olympiad, ie. a single noun, it would not need the plural "s".) The change was duly made, and it remains to be seen now whether the 1990 booklets will be reprinted with the addition of that tiny extra "s".

The special booklet, numbered 9-2, is not on yellow card as has normally been used for French booklets, but on white card of a decidedly thinner gauge. On the back cover is the Albertville logo to the left, and the mascot to the right, both in red. All the text is in blue, and the handwriting on the back reads "Les Jeux Olympiques / c'est dans un An / Reservez vos places", which translates as "The Olympic Games / it's (sic) in a Year / reserve your tickets". The singular in the second line is apparently correct French, which only goes to show how strange the rules are! Underneath is printed "Minitel 3615 CODE COJO". Minitel is the most advanced computerised telephone system in the world, pioneered by the French. Keying in "3615" on the special phone gives access to the system. Keying in "COJO" then brings up a ticket order form on the screen, and information enabling the public to reserve seats there and then. For those who seek Olympic meters, Minitel is also a very useful way of finding out the addresses of Olympic sponsors.

#### St.PIERRE ET MIQUELON.

St Pierre et Miquelon is a French outpost on the coast of Canada, and in a legal sense is actually a part of France. La Poste provides the postal service, and currently French definitives are specially overprinted for the territory. In October 1990 a booklet was issued with Olympic text as illustrated. Collectors may be unsure of the booklet's status - it is issued by the host country's postal authorities, and although the stamps are overprinted they are valid for use throughout France. The status is perhaps similar to that of the overprints on the 1924 Paris Olympic Games' stamps, or the overprints on the stamps of the 1948 Games in London. There are likely to be more booklets for St Pierre et Miquelon with Olympic covers, and we shall report details in TORCH BEARER in due course.

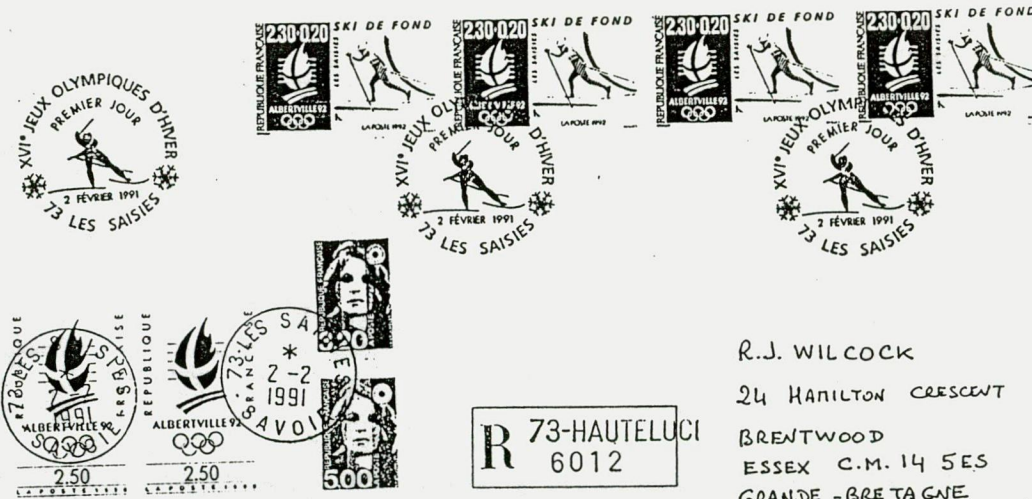
#### OLYMPIC SPORTS STAMPS.



19 JANUARY 1991: Les Menuires-Slalom; Ffr. 2.30+0.20. As all the stamps in the series, this stamp was designed by Charles Bridoux and engraved by Pierre Bequet, recess printed in sheets of fifty stamps, with the surcharge for the benefit of the Red Cross. The first day postmark was available from a temporary post office, open all day, in the "Les Bruyeres Activity Centre" in Les Menuires. Another special posting

box was available at the resort post office, but only from 08.00 until noon. General sale of the stamps was from Monday 21 January

2 FEBRUARY 1991: Les Saisies-Cross Country Skiing: Ffr 2.30+0.20. The first day ceremony was held in a temporary post office in the meeting room of the "Maison des Saisies", with special posting boxes also at Les Saisies sub-post office and at the post office in Hauteluce, the village just a little further down the mountain road from the resort. This was only operational during normal Saturday post office opening hours, from 0900 until noon. Because Les Saisies is only a seasonal sub-post office, letters registered from the temporary post office had to use the Hauteluce registration labels.



R.J. WILCOCK  
 24 HAMILTON CRESCENT  
 BRENTWOOD  
 ESSEX C.M. 14 5ES  
 GRANDE - BRE TAGNE



9 FEBRUARY 1991: Meribel - Ice Hockey: Ffr 2.30+0.20. The temporary post office for the first day was in the tourist office in the entertainment centre at Meribel Les Allues, which again was open from 09.00 until 18.00, while the resort post office was open only in the morning.

2 MARCH: La Plagne - Luge: Ffr 2.30+0.20. First day cover details

are not available at the time of writing, and will be given in the next issue of TORCH BEARER, as will details of the stamp issued in April for Pralognan, curling.

The programme resumes in December when stamps will be issued showing artistic skiing in Tignes, downhill skiing at Val d'Isere and the torch run.

\*\*\*\*\*

# LILLEHAMMER 1994

Petter Ronningen, who was born the eldest of five children on a poor Norwegian country farm, is the managing director of the Lillehammer Olympic Organising Committee. The Winter Olympic Games of 1994 will be a test case for the IOC. Can a provincial town of 20,000 people be entrusted with the care of a sports event that after Seoul, Barcelona and Atlanta will be the fourth most costly in history. The television rights alone, amounting to some 300 million, is equal to those of Calgary and Seoul.

Ronningen appears not to be concerned that the budget has leapt from its projected 140 million in 1985 to 640 million. He maintains that the success of these Games will lie in the fact that everyone in the Lillehammer area is working very hard for their success. He says that the Games are lifting a part of Norway that was being bypassed by the oil boom that is helping to develop the west and south of the country. However, without government backing, the whole venture would not be possible, and the Norwegian government clearly feels that it is on to a winner in job creation, in social and structural development and in national prestige. The Norwegian parliament has guaranteed all the budget, almost two-thirds, that will not come from the Games income from television, ticket sales etc. The key problem for Lillehammer is accommodation and transport; how to get 20,000 people daily from Oslo to stadia 140 miles away in Lillehammer, in addition to the 16,000 who can be accommodated locally.

\*\*\*\*\*

## WANTS LISTS INVITED FOR OLYMPICS AND SPORT!

(plus any other philatelic items)

I HAVE GOOD STOCKS OF MINT EUROPE (EAST AND WEST)

(but can supply anything against specific Wants Lists.)

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**THE STAMP CENTRE**

# WHERE IN 1998?

JACA (SPAIN) Compiled by Bob Wilcock

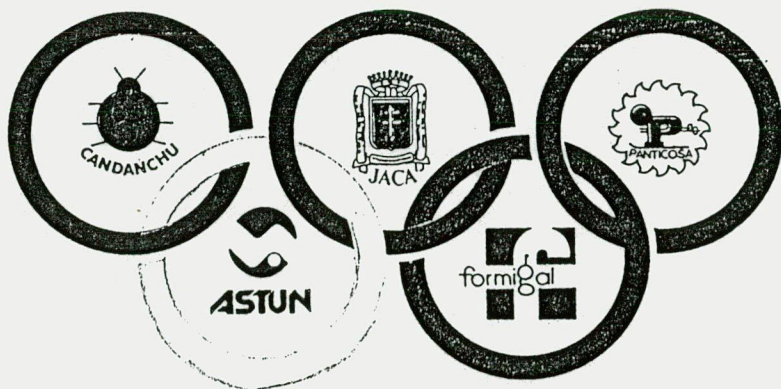
Jaca (Haca) is running its campaign to host the 1998 Olympic Winter Games under the slogan "AT LONG LAST, THE PYRENEES". The Games have been held in Western Europe's other mountain ranges, but the Pyrenees have been neglected, although the French do have a high altitude and winter sports Olympic training facility at Font Romeu on the northern side of the mountains.

Like Albertville, Jaca itself is not a winter resort, and is better known at present for its international university summer school. It stands on the northern edge of the plains of Aragon (from whence came Henry VIII's Catherine), at the gateway to the mountain valley of the River Aragon. This valley leads to the mountain resorts of Astun and Candanchu, some twenty miles from Jaca itself, and where the main alpine events will be held. Jaca will stage the skating, speed skating and hockey, and it is proposed to build the bob and luge track there, as well as the ski jumps. Nordic combined events would take place between the resorts of Formigal and Panticosa above the neighbouring valley of the River Tena.

For the collector there is a vignette issued by the Candidature Committee showing the official logo, designed by an agency in Zaragoza, showing two bold strokes in the Spanish colours of red and yellow above the Olympic rings in gold. They have issued two other vignettes, with only the strokes and without the Olympic rings, one depicting a downhill skier and the other a cross country skier.

## Unofficial Vignettes:

1. JACA 98 - TODD MARCHA (Everything is going for it) in black and white and various fluorescent colours.
2. Freeform ice hockey player JACA OLIMPICA/HOCKEY - HIELO.
3. Olympic rings in colour, with JACA 98 superimposed in black (190 x 100 mm).



4. Olympic rings with arms of Jaca and emblems from Candanchu, Panticosa, Astun and Formigal (170 x 90 mm).
5. The names of the resorts above pointed oval Olympic rings (reflecting the Barcelona candidature logo), with the text  
 JACA OLIMPICA  
 CANDIDATOS A LOS XVIII JUEGOS OLIMPICOS DE INVIERNO  
 OBJETIVO COMUN DE TODOS.

ASTUN — FORMIGAL — CANDANCHU — CERLER — PANTICOSA



**CANDIDATOS A LOS XVIII JUEGOS OLIMPICOS DE INVIERNO  
 OBJETIVO COMUN DE TODOS**

The pointed oval rings are an early unofficial suggestion for the Jaca logo, and also appear on the only Olympic picture postcard on sale in the town, showing views of Astun, Candanchu, Formigal and Panticosa, with the Jaca ice rink in the centre. There is also a postcard of the Olympic-standard ski jump in Astun, with the text on the reverse saying "TRAMPOLIN OLIMPICA", but I understand that it is proposed to build new jumps, should the Jaca bid be successful.

EXPO FILATELICA NACIONAL



De BARCELONA '92 a



012093



**JACA'98**  
*Finalmente, Los Pirineos*



Candidatura para los Juegos Olímpicos de Invierno de 1998

For the philatelist there is a commemorative postmark and an overprinted postal stationery envelope. Spain's national philatelic exhibition, EXFILNA 90, was held in Zaragoza, the principal city of Aragon, from 25 May until 2 June 1990. On 29 May the exhibition handstamp supported Jaca's candidature and featured the logo. It can be found in black and in blue grey. A small number (I believe 200) of the EXFILNA 87 postal stationery envelopes were overprinted for sale at the exhibition, with the logo in colour and the text "DE BARCELONA '92 A JACA '98".

Whether Jaca will be awarded the Games remains to be seen. However, the authorities there have certainly seen the publicity value of being a candidate. They have been chosen to host the 1995 Student Winter Games. Will that be sufficient reward, or will it be merely be a stepping stone?

#### OSTERSUND (SWEDEN) Compiled by Sidney Amery

Fifteen years ago, there were too few candidates who came forward and offered to host the Olympic Games, either Winter or Summer. However, ever since Los Angeles proved that it was possible to organise the Games without using tax payers money, and what is more, to make a profit, host cities have been falling over themselves to offer their services. The people of lakeside Ostersund, the county town of Jamtland province, which is as large as Switzerland, are making the Olympic Movement possibly the best offer in modern winter sporting history: an Olympic Games in 1998 at which the spectators will be able to WALK to every discipline, except alpine, in ten to fifteen minutes from the town centre. It is almost as though the town, with its population of 60,000 and centrally situated Olympic Village, were designed for the job.

Five IOC members, from the Soviet Union, the United States, Venezuela, South Korea and Bulgaria have been there recently, one of Europe's last remaining wildernesses of clean air, to see for themselves. They have recognised that they are seeing an almost perfect concept, and the only problem for these five members and their ninety-odd colleagues, is that in Birmingham they will have to choose between Ostersund and what are said to be equally eligible bids from Salt Lake City and Nagano in Japan. To which continent do they turn?

It is an intolerable dilemma, and the IOC must quickly determine a rotational system for the future that will avoid candidates from the same continent vying with each other where only one has a chance of success. Ostersund is making its fifth bid to host the Winter Games. Last time they were defeated by Lillehammer by a narrow margin. It is perhaps fitting that the Games should again be in Europe. At the Calgary Games in 1988, 70% of the competitors were European and they won 74% of the medals. Sweden lies sixth, behind the Soviet Union. Norway, the US, (East) Germany and Finland in the winter medal tables, yet the only Scandinavian host before Lillehammer was Oslo in 1952.

Ostersund has an airport that can accommodate jumbo charters and offers the genuine proximity of the venues that Lillehammer promised, but cannot now deliver. It has staged world champion-ships in all disciplines, can accommodate 70,000 spectators

within a 90 minutes car ride and will have a new ski-jump amphitheatre that will seat 40,000. Are is an alpine centre with supporting facilities, medical, accommodation, lifts for 5,000 people per hour and the train stops a mere five minutes walk from the slalom and downhill finishes.

Bo Victor, the Chairman of the Osteraund Olympic Bid maintains that their concept is unchanged since the last bid, but improved. He says that the Swedes are offering a hundred years' experience of organising major events and unparalleled proximity to venues for competitors and spectators alike.

#### SALT LAKE CITY. Compiled by Caroline Neidel

Salt Lake City was founded in 1847 by persecuted Mormon pioneers in a desert valley so salt-caked by geological evolution that it was treeless. Those early Mormons dragged handcarts through mountain passes from Missouri to found their city. Salt Lake City has been regarded as one of God's and man's miracles, since the first summer of its existence, when crickets threatening to eat the settlers' crops that were vital for winter survival were devoured by seagulls flying thousands of miles inland.

If the Games were to be awarded yet again to the North American continent, the sixth time in twenty years (Montreal 1976, Lake Placid 1980, Los Angeles 1984, Calgary 1988 and Atlanta 1996), after the global condemnation of the decision to award the Games to Atlanta, rather than to Athens, it would be understandable if there were an outcry. Yet it would be difficult to argue logically that Salt Lake City is less than ideal. Here is a candidate that has everything. The ski slopes of Deer Park, where elk roam above Park City, site of the slalom events, has over 56 miles of superb quality ski runs. Mountain Dale is unique. The Nordic course, on virgin land free of development because it provides the city's water supply, is visible over its entire length, making it ideal for spectators. The only urban development will be an additional 1,400 accommodation units within the university, which will form the village. Salt Lake City also has 13,000 hotel rooms, half of them within walking distance of the modern hockey and figure skating stadia and media centre. The city is offering free accommodation in the village and transportation from overseas.

Salt Lake City bid against Sapporo for the 1972 Ganes and lost; it lost again when a replacement had to be found for Denver in 1976 when Innsbruck acted as host. More recently, Salt Lake City has been outmanoeuvred by Anchorage as the US choice, because most of the members of the US Olympic Committee had never visited the site. It now has US backing to the extent that Salt Lake City will probably replace Lake Placid in upstate New York and Colorado as the two American Olympic winter training sites.

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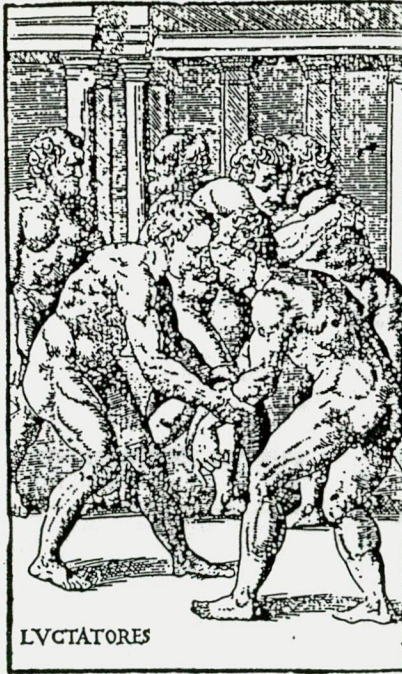
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# AUCTION NEWS

Alan Sabey.

## CAMBRIDGSHIRE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS.

3 November 1990.

Lot 165, a selection of thirty four Olympic covers from many countries had an estimate of £15.00 and fetched £16.00.

Lot 609, a mint 1924 Olympic Games set from France had an estimate of £9.00, but made £7.50.

## DUNCAN MURCHIE AUCTIONS.

10 November 1990.

Lot 550 was a GB 1948 Olympic Games 3d - cylinder block of six with Crown flaw and hooked 3 of 3d, estimated £10.00, realised £7.00.

Lot 551, a similar lot with a retouched Crown flaw and hooked 3 of 3d, estimate £15.00, realised £12.00.

## PHILLIPS.

15 November 1990.

Lot 151, Olympic Games 1960 -Afghanistan to Yemen, unmounted mint collection in hingeless album, apparently complete except for Panama and Paraguay imperfs. Estimate £80 - £100, realised £80.00.

## CLUB 92 BELGIUM.

16 November 1990. (Estimates are given in Belgian francs and the Sterling equivalent. Prices realised are not known).

Lot 1778, Stockholm slogan for the 1912 Games dated 12 May 1912, BF 1500 (£25).

Lot 1780, cancellation for the 1920 games of Antwerp, Verviers slogan of 12 December 1920, BF 500 (£8).

Lot 1781 1920, cancellation OLYMPIADE ANVERS AOUT/SEPTEMBRE, estimate BF 300 (£5).

Lot 1782, 1920 cover from Liege to Stavelot BF 950 (£16).

Lot 1784, 1932 Games, cover of 5.8.32 from Atlantic City to Belgium, estimate BF 200 (£3).

Lot 1785. Eleventh Olympiad, slogan cancellation for the 1936 Olympic yachting events in Kiel, from Munich dated 4 August 1936, estimate BF 250 (£4).

Lot 1786, Olympic flight cover from Frankfurt to Berlin, dated 1 August 1936, estimate BF 1000, (£17).

Lot 1788, 2 May 1939 Muonio slogan cancellation for the 1940 Games, estimate BF 1800, (£30).

Lot 1789, similar to above, dated 3 April 1940 from Knaag, estimate BF 800 (£13).

Lot 1791, London Games, cover from Liverpool to Brussels dated 14 September 1948 with GB 3d value (no. 242), estimate BF 300 (£5).

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# PLEASE DON'T

In the August 1990 issue of GERMANIA, the magazine of the Germany and Colonies Philatelic Society, a letter appeared under the above heading. Its contents are of sufficient importance to warrant reprinting in TORCH BEARER, and we are grateful to the GCPS for granting us permission to do so.

" Dear Mr Smart,

Thank you for your letter inviting me to give a display of German Inflation.

With regret I must decline. Just a month or two after you first spoke to me about this, my house was burgled and my entire stamp collection was taken. Some 25 albums and 6 stockbooks containing five specialised collections disappeared - the fruits of twenty five years collecting. Nothing else was taken, just my philatelic collection, so it does look as though this was a planned philatelic robbery.

Since then I have heard nothing, not a peep from the police nor any kind of lead from the stamp world or trade. It has been a great blow to me, as I am sure you can appreciate, and of course I have had to cancel all my speaking and display arrangements."

Horror stories like this are regrettably becoming more frequent, and quite apart from the trauma occasioned by the break-in, the loss of valuable material and the effect on one's lifestyle, the loss of something with associations extending over a major part of one's life can be devastating."

The moral is clear. Be careful! Don't discuss your material too publicly, especially in terms of value or cost. Don't parade your membership of specialist societies to draw attention to yourself. Do remember that your carelessness could be someone else's security problem.

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

One way to avoid undesirables learning about your philatelic interests is to avoid advertising the fact on envelopes. Please avoid mentioning the Society when writing to Committee members.

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## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING THE LIBRARY.

The Library list sent to all members with the November issue of TORCH BEARER gave details for the use of the Library. Due to an oversight, it was not mentioned that library books CANNOT be sent to overseas members. However, overseas members may obtain photocopies, and if large amounts are required, it may be possible to arrange special terms. The Librarian, Ken Cook, will be able to advise you if you drop him a line.

# THE ANCIENT GAMES AT OLYMPIA

Didier Laporte.

(These articles first appeared in Le Monde des Philatelistes in October, November and December 1988, and are reprinted with permission.)

The production of stamps connected more or less directly with the ancient Games at Olympia is quite important, since there are already more than two hundred such stamps, of which eighty have been produced by the Greek post office alone, and to which must be added four miniature sheets. The main sets are as follows:

1896	Greece, twelve stamps
1906	Greece, fourteen stamps
1960	West Germany and Greece, fifteen stamps
1964	Gabon, Greece, Upper Volta and Mauritania, nineteen stamps
1971/72	Greece and Chad, nine stamps
1976	Greece, six stamps
1980	Paraguay seven stamps
1984	Greece, Niue (Pacific) and Surinam, twenty three stamps.

## GREECE AND LIBERIA.

As it should be, the majority of these stamps have been issued on the occasion of the various modern Olympiads, with the exception of the Greek set issued in 1906 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the modern Olympic Games and at the time of the Intercalated Games in Athens. As for Chad, they preferred to issue a set in 1971 to commemorate the seventy fifth anniversary of the modern Olympic Games, rather than to wait until 1972 and commemorate the Munich Games. It will be noted that until 1960 no set appeared to illustrate the ancient Games, and with the exception of the Greek stamps of 1896 and 1906, the production was on a very small scale since the fashion for thematic sets was not then a reality. May we draw attention to the Greek issue of 1939 for the First Balkan Games and to that of Liberia in 1956 for the Melbourne Games.

It is not easy to find one's way in the midst of this profusion of issues, dominated by pictures of athletes of whom nearly forty are discus throwers based on the famous statue by Myron. These stamps of Olympic issues do not all, by any means, refer to the competitions at Olympia, whereas some designs which have been issued for other purposes have a place in a collection tracing the history of Ancient Olympia. We therefore intend to set out the chief characteristics of the ancient Games at Olympia.

## OLYMPIA - A PANHELLENIC SANCTUARY.

Two stamps from the island of Grenada (in the West Indies), will serve to provide the setting, thanks to the text between the pair, namely "The first recorded Olympic Games took place on the

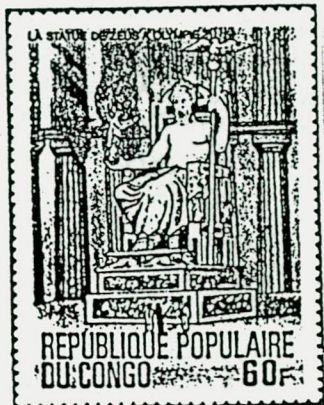
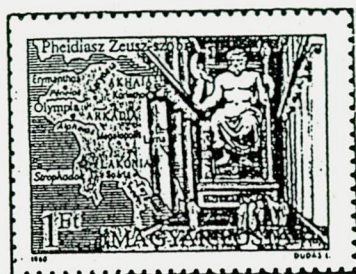
plains of Olympia in 776BC. Every four years athletes, poets, warriors, scholars, dramatists, kings, princes, charioteers and historians would attend the games." What these lines make evident is the festive nature of this event, which had the great merit of bringing together every four years the whole Greek people, who thus became aware of belonging to the linguistic, religious and cultural community, beyond the political fragmentation into numerous independent city-states which were often in conflict with each other.



Without argument, Olympia was by its brilliance the first panhellenic sanctuary in the ancient Greek world. The lists of the victors show its development - to begin with, only the immediate surrounding of Olympia were involved, then the athletes would come from the whole of the Peloponnese, and subsequently from the Balkan areas of Greece. Finally, Asiatic Greece (western Turkey) and the entire Greek colonial world were sending competitors to Olympia.

The year 776BC mentioned in the text was the year which saw the victory, the first ever recorded, of a certain Koroibos in running, when the games had been established according to the tradition of King Iphitos of the city of Elis, the neighbour of Olympia, on the recommendations of the Oracle of Delphi. Another sign of their major role in Greek civilisation is that from then on the era of the Olympiads always served, from the fifth century, as the reference point for all dating (just like our starting point at the birth of Christ) covering a space of nearly twelve hundred years, until it was abolished by the emperor Theodosius I in 393AD as a celebration tainted by paganism.

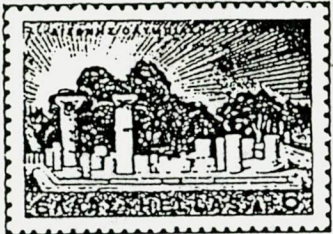
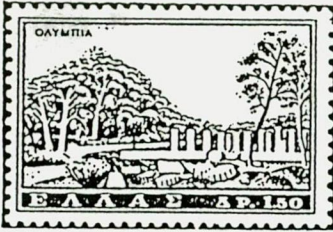
If in our day and age, the Olympic Games have all the appearance of a secular demonstration, we must never lose sight of the fact that in antiquity they formed an integral part of the cult of Zeus, in whose honour the festivals at Olympia were celebrated. In its set The Olympic Games in Ancient Times issued in 1984, Surinam deliberately reproduced a bronze head of the King of the Gods, with a bilingual inscription in Greek and Dutch (as is the case with all the stamps in the set): "Olympian Zeus, this same sovereign lord who in 430 rose twelve metres high at the back of the new temple which the best architects had erected at the centre of the Altis, the sanctuary of Olympia".



#### THE SEVEN WONDERS.

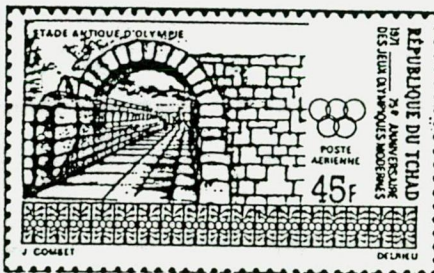
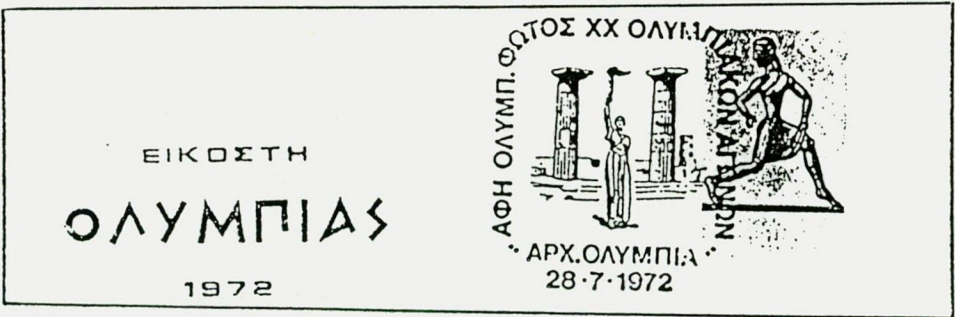
This statue of gold and ivory, the work of the master Phidias, was counted later among the Seven Wonders of the World and appears as such on three stamps from Mali in 1971, the Congo in 1978 and Hungary in 1980. There the god is holding in his right hand a winged Victory holding out a crown, like the one that was handed over to the victors in the near-by contests. Zeus and the eagle, the bird of the kings, were used for a long time as the designs on the coins of the city of Elis, on whose territory Olympia was situated and which subsequently was responsible for the sanctuary. The Greek set of ancient coins issued in 1959 and 1963, shows the obverse and reverse of a 4th Century silver coin with, on the left, a description "(Coin of) Olympia". This is incorrect since, as Olympia was not a city, she was unable to strike coins. What we have here, as the inscription which surrounds the eagle bears witness, is a coin of Elis.

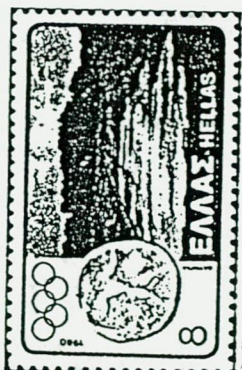
Olympia was thus only a huge sacred enclosure, rectangular in shape, a collection of temples and altars consecrated to various divinities, the whole consisting of buildings and monuments in all forms, which came to real life only at the occasion of the festival and which, other than during this period, showed no signs of life except for the presence of the few priests, the arrival of pilgrims who were coming to consult the oracle of Zeus, or of the athletes who were getting ready for competitions.



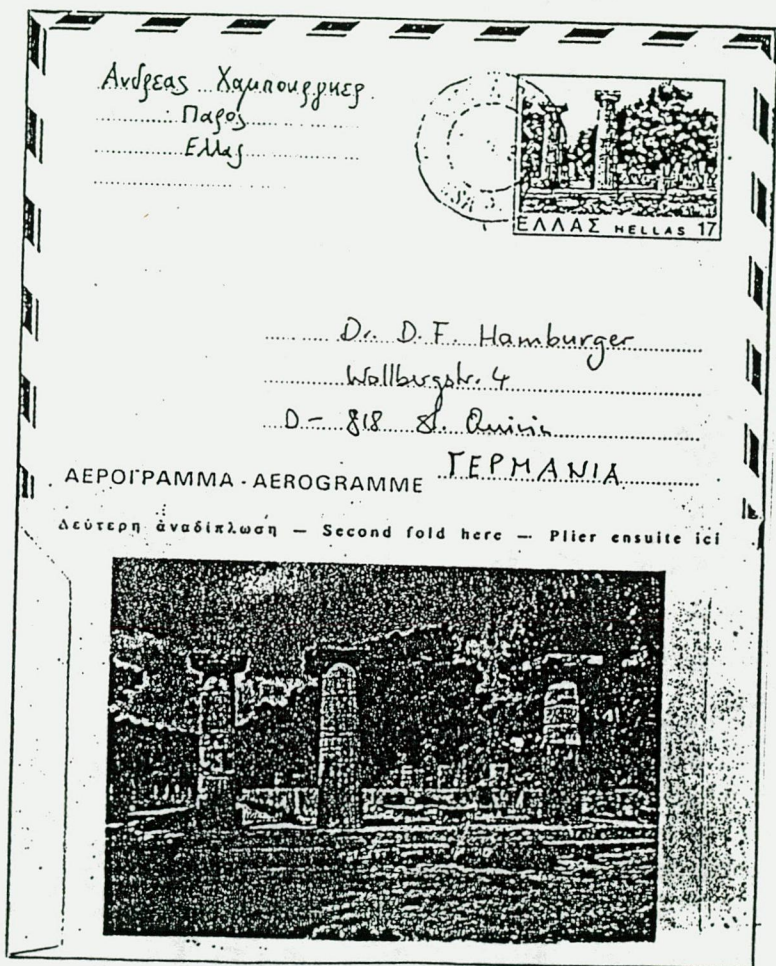
The archaeological site, nowadays very much in ruins as is shown by the stamp of the Greek tourist series of 1961, allows us to catch a glimpse of the remains of the Temple of Hera in the midst of very Mediterranean vegetation. This Doric temple, one of the most ancient, dating as it does from the 7th and 6th centuries BC, is to be found on Greek stamps (1954 airmail for the 5th Anniversary of NATO and 1967 for the International Olympic Academy), as well as on a Greek aerogramme. Today it has acquired an extra fame because it serves as the prestigious setting for the ceremony of lighting the torch which the Greek athlete will pass on, so that it will arrive, from relay to relay, at the town organising the Games. A priestess

brandishing a torch in front of the Temple of Hera appears on a Greek handstamp of 28 July 1972 with the following inscription "Lighting the Olympic Flame / XX Olympic Games / Ancient Olympia" (The aerogramme showing the ruins of the Temple of Hera is illustrated on the next page.)





To the east of the sanctuary a passage, which was not vaulted over until a later date led the judges and official guests, but not the public, to the stadium, where most of the contests took place. Chad in 1971 and Surinam in 1984 illustrated this passage, called the Krypte (that which is hidden or covered), in two different versions - Surinam chose the record from a photograph, while Chad redesigned the spot, adding a paved area which doubtless never existed. The stadium track was rectangular, as is seen on a stamp of a set issued by Greece for the Moscow Games in 1980 - the only stamp in the set which has a connection with our subject. It is also seen on a recent stamp from Surinam.



It was bounded to the west, the same as to the east - the two stamps have obviously drawn their inspiration from the same photograph, with the east in the background - by an edging of white limestone eighteen inches broad marking the starting and finishing points. These edgings are clearly visible on the stamp from Surinam. The distance between these two edgings was one hundred and twenty five paces (606 feet 9 inches), or one stade, because the word designated a measure of length before it was applied to a place.

Of the Temple of Zeus, which was completed about 460BC, with dimensions we suspect were imposing, there remains unfortunately only very few traces on the site, but one must go to the museum of the modern village of Olympia, which will give first of all a reproduction of it in the form of a model. It was this latter which served as the starting point for a Greek stamp of 1968 and another stamp from Surinam which concentrated on the rear view of the Temple of Zeus.

Among the buildings portrayed on the Greek stamp we can associate those in the lower right hand corner with the Bouleuterion, or Olympic Senate, the seat of the administration of the Games, the long building which faces the Temple of Zeus is the Echo Portico, where the victors were proclaimed; the succession of small erections which closes off the quadrilateral on the left,



2750 JAHRE SEIT DEN ANTIKEN OLYMPISCHEN SPIELEN



BESICHTIGT DIE STÄDTE DER ANTIKEN OLYMPISCHEN SPIELE



represents the Treasuries, little buildings in the form of temples to lesser gods containing the offerings for the victory which they had kindly favoured. In front of them, a temple of modest proportions is the Metroon, dedicated to the Great Mother, the most ancient divinity of this site.

A set of postal stationery, stamped to order, which was recently produced in Berlin, uses the Olympia model as a subject but with a more whimsical aspect - the stadium seems to have disappeared, and what appears to be a theatre has been added at the foot of Mount Kronos, very much reality in itself, and named thus in honour of the father of Zeus, Chronos. It is possible, however, to make out two new buildings - outside the sacred enclosure, on the left a quadrilateral marks the site of the Palaestra, where the athletes trained before the start of the contests; in the interior of the enclosure, a larger temple than the Metroon must be that of Hera.

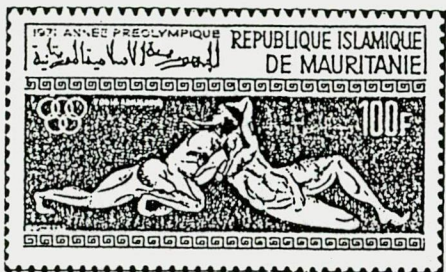
The great hall of the museum at Olympia displays the two pediments of the Temple of Zeus, together with carved marble panels from the frieze (two of these panels appear on Greek stamps in the set depicting the labours of Herakles issued in 1971, the Cretan Bull and the Golden Apples of the Hesperides.)

Philately has kept only the western pediment on which the god Apollo, in the centre of the composition, was attempting, by a calming gesture, to put an end to the battle between the Lapiths and the Centaurs. First of all it was a Greek stamp of 1964 which portrayed the god full length, then another Greek stamp in 1968 (8th Congress of the International Olympic Academy), isolated the head of Apollo in profile. Much earlier Switzerland had chosen the bust of the god, full face, to celebrate in 1944 - which was two years in advance - the fiftieth anniversary of the revival of the Games.\* The sculptured head which appears on the stamp from Senegal, issued in 1975 to commemorate ARPHILA (The international stamp exhibition held in Paris), is none other than that of Apollo of Olympia.



\* (It is a moot point whether or not 1894 or 1896 is the birth of the modern Olympic Games. There are two schools of thought. Those who believe that the birth was the foundation of the Olympic Movement in 1894, and those who believe the date of the first Games which mark the start. ED)

If the Labours of Herakles adorned the carved panels of the Temple of Zeus, that was because the hero had his place in the mythical origin of the Games. The poet Pindar links their beginnings with the funerary games near the tomb of Pelops (by derivation the Peloponnese is the "Island of Pelops"), but he attributed their regular institution to Herakles who, after his victory over King Augeas of Elis (the cleansing of the Augean Stables from the twelve labours), is supposed to have founded them in honour of his father, Zeus. The hero with the proverbial strength was quite naturally fitted to become thereafter the protector of the stadia and gymnasias. Mauritania was right to choose the scene of the struggle between Herakles and the giant Antaeus, the son of Earth, to mark the pre-Olympic year in 1971. This design, to which Greece had already turned in 1906, is borrowed from a wine bowl of Euphronios with red figures (about 510BC) which is in the Louvre. The central scene is reproduced on a Greek stamp of 1970 (the Twelve Labours set).



The prestige of the contests at Olympia reached its peak towards the end of the archaic period (6th Century). At that time they bore the character of a religious ceremony, embodied in the proclamation of the Sacred Truce. Heraldry were sent out to proclaim it in the four corners of the Greek world and they would order the immediate halt to warfare. Fines and curses struck all those who violated the clauses of this Truce. History bears witness that the scrupulous observance of this temporary armistice was very real, which cannot fail to surprise us when we know that the cities were in almost daily conflict with their neighbours.



#### THE SACRED TRUCE.



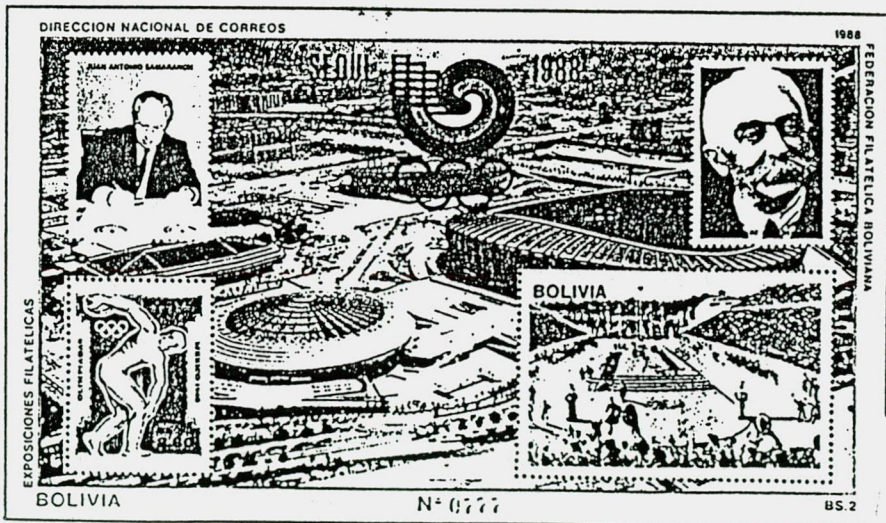
The safety of the pilgrims - the journey to Olympia bore a certain resemblance to a pilgrimage to St. James of Compostella - who were taking part in the festivities was guaranteed by an inscription on a bronze disc kept safe in the Temple of Hera. Any malevolent action against these travellers was considered a sacrilege. The period covered thus by the Truce took in not only the days of the actual Festival,



but also the amount of time necessary to get there from the most distant parts of the Hellenic world and to return home again. It is this disc which a member of the Olympic Senate is holding on the first stamp of the Greek set for the Games in Rome in 1960.

Finally, the religious concept was marked through various sacrifices and thanksgivings which occurred throughout the ceremony. At the time of Pindar, the festival lasted for seven days. The first and seventh days were devoted to sacrifices and various

formalities. The contests filled the five intervening days, interrupted by fresh sacrifices, and this necessitated the presence of a number of priests. Taking Zeus as their witness, the athletes, as well as their fathers, their masters and the judges, took an oath to respect in all details the rules of the contests and not to employ any fraud in order to gain the so-greatly coveted victory.



-To be Continued-

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# COLLECTING ONE OLYMPIAD

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Franceska Rapkin.

Until relatively recently, it was customary for someone forming a thematic collection of the Olympic Games to start with the beginning of the modern Games in 1896. The collection usually finished at a date when interest or finances ran out. These collections frequently stop before the Games of the 1930's, when politics began to play an increasingly dominant role, - or in the 1950's, after which the postal authorities of some of the less scrupulous nations decided that Olympic Games stamps were a useful additional source of revenue.

For many collectors, a collection of a single Olympiad can have several attractions. Firstly, if the current Games are chosen, the collector of limited means has the opportunity of purchasing most of his material at face value, but will still be able to build up a detailed and comprehensive collection. This is, of course, particularly true now, when so many more countries issue stamps to celebrate their involvement with the Olympic Movement. This does not mean that it is necessary to collect every stamp that is issued. Rather, it gives the collector the freedom to select only those stamps that help him to develop the story along the lines that he has decided for himself.

It would probably be as well to determine the limits of the collection at the outset, and I would strongly advise excluding all stamps from nations that are not members of the International Olympic Committee, or those who do not participate in the Games. As already mentioned, many nations regard the issuing of stamps as a useful source of revenue, and to them; the Olympic Games appear to be an ideal opportunity to fleece the collector. Thus we see stamps depicting snow sports from countries that have no snow and disciplines for which there are no national athletes. For the thematic collector, whether of Olympic Games or any other subject, "completeness" in relation to stamps issued, is a myth. In thematics, more than any other discipline, the collector is free to choose precisely which stamps he will, or will not, include in his collection. For him, "completeness" refers to subject matter, and not the number of stamps. If guidelines are laid down at the start, the collector does not feel obliged to buy stamps that are likely to cost quite a considerable amount and which may be difficult to sell at a later date. It does mean, however, that the collector cannot register with a new issues dealer for his material, since he cannot expect the dealer to differentiate between the desirable and the unwanted on behalf of his client. This is not a bad thing, since the collector must himself study the new issues lists and make his own selection.

Many of the Olympic Games that have been celebrated since the end of the Second World War lend themselves to development as a single theme, which is ideal for those whose main interest lies in the philately of a particular country. It would not be the first time that a collector of the stamps of a particular country started a small side-line collection of the Olympic Games and ended up with a major passion. Of the Games held before the

Second World War, only two lend themselves readily to treatment as a collection of a single Olympiad - those of 1924 in Paris, and those of 1936 held in Berlin. The first Olympic Winter Games were held in Chamonix in 1924 and can be included, though very little philatelic material is available. More exists for the 1936 Olympic Winter Games held in Garmisch Partenkirchen, but still insufficient to form a significant collection that can stand on its own. Since on both these occasions the Olympic Winter Games were held in the country of the host city for the Summer Games, it would be better to treat them as a curtain raiser for the main event, if they are included at all.

Although there is a wealth of philatelic material for the first Olympic Games in Athens in 1896, or the Intercalated Games of 1906 held in the same city, it is almost impossible to use this material to best advantage in a thematic collection of these early Games, and in my opinion, if finances allow and interest is sufficient, a traditional philatelic study is the best way to handle this material.

In the years before the Second World War, the Olympic Winter Games were very much a secondary event and relatively few countries issued separate stamps to mark the occasion. Since the 1960's however, the Winter Games have become an event very much in their own right, and have now become so important that they have been divorced from the Summer Games, and from 1994, will be held in non-Olympic years. For those collectors who prefer the spectacle of winter sports, either as a spectator or as a participant, it is of course, possible to form a collection of a single Winter Olympiad.

There are several different ways in which the thematic treatment of the Games of a single Olympiad can be developed. Since I probably know more about the Olympic Games of 1936 in Germany and the development of the Olympic Movement in that country, I will use Germany as my main example throughout. The first, and perhaps most obvious, way in which the collection can be developed is through the sporting events themselves. Cancellations of the relevant dates of the individual contests are collected, together with stamps showing athletes participating in the events. Events that took place in the Olympic Stadium would use a stadium cancellation with the appropriate date, and, if possible, also the appropriate time. Since 1960, this presents few difficulties since most of the sports venues have their own post offices with their own handstamps. Many also offer normal post office services at these offices, such as registration, cash on delivery and insured letters. These also frequently have their own specially inscribed labels, which will add variety and extra interest to the collection. Many of these services were available in Berlin during the 1936 Olympic Games, but at that time, this was still a novelty. Most nations are proud of their Olympic athletes, particularly of their medal winners, and some have been commemorated by the issue of a postage stamp or a special cancellation. Such items should be included in the section dealing with the relevant sport. It is as well to remember that it may be several years before an Olympic athlete is commemorated philatelically, and not always for his Olympic achievement. Mildred (Babe) Didrikson, an American born of Norwegian parents, won gold medals in the 80 metres hurdles and javelin and a silver medal in the high jump in Los Angeles in 1932, but was

commemorated by the United States in 1988 for her achievements in golf under her married name of Babe Zacharias. She was, however, commemorated on a stamp under her maiden name and for her Olympic achievements by the Dominican Republic in 1957. Werner Seelenbinder, who was placed fourth in the Greco-Roman wrestling event in the light heavyweight class in 1936, was shown on a stamp of the German Democratic Republic in 1963, one of a series devoted to those who died in the fight against fascism. There are plenty of other examples and it is up to each individual collector to search for them.

To give an example of the items that would be appropriate, let us consider the opening ceremony of the 1936 Olympic Games. They took place in the main Olympic Stadium at 4.00pm on 1 August. The first requirement therefore is a stadium cancellation of 1.8.36 at 16.00 hours. The Games were opened by the German Head of State, Reich Chancellor Adolf Hitler. He was in uniform at the time, so the most appropriate stamp would be that issued by Germany on 17 April 1941 to commemorate his 52nd birthday. The stamp issued on 14 April 1944 for his 55th birthday would be less appropriate. Although he is shown in uniform, the stamp has several other motifs in the design which are irrelevant to the Olympic theme. On the issue of 1941, there are so secondary subjects. Also present at the opening ceremony was the President of the International Olympic Committee, Count Henri Baillet Latour, shown on a stamp issued by San Marino in 1959. Finally, Richard Strauss was commissioned to write an Olympic hymn which was played during the opening celebrations. He is shown on a stamp issued in Berlin in September 1954 to commemorate the fifth anniversary of his death. More recently, a special cancellation was produced in April 1990 to commemorate the centenary of his birth. It is important to include the most recent items in the collection, as well as older ones. There are other events which are a part of the ritual of the opening ceremony, but the above will serve as an example of how one aspect of the Games can be developed philatelically.

Several of the athletes who participated in the Games of 1936 have been commemorated either on postage stamps, stationery cards or cancellations. The first to be so honoured were Cristl Cranz and Gustav (Guzzi) Lantschner, who were both participants in the combined downhill skiing event in Garmisch Partenkirchen. In 1936, directly after the close of the Olympic Winter Games, the Austrians held the International Skiing Federation World Championships. The Austrian Post Office issued four stamps on 20 February to commemorate the occasion. Guzzi Lantschner is shown on the 24 groschen value of the set and Cristl Cranz is shown on the 35 groschen. Articles in the philatelic press will sometimes make claims that this or that personality was the inspiration for a stamp design, but unless this is included as a part of the design, it is important to verify these facts for oneself, and not simply take them at face value. This way misinformation can be perpetuated. Newspapers and magazines of the period can be a useful source for this type of information. After a long search, I found the action photographs of Lantschner and Cranz in a German magazine of the period which were obviously used for the design of the Austrian stamps. Mention the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, and even people who have no interest in sport will recall the name of Jesse Owens. Not surprisingly, he has been commemorated on several occasions on postage stamps, most

recently in 1990 on one stamp of a series commemorating American Olympians. He was also shown on an earlier series issued by the Dominican Republic in 1957. Another stamp in this series shows Fanny Blankers-Koen of the Netherlands. Although she is better remembered for her victories at the 1948 Olympic Games in London, she was a part of the Dutch team in 1936, and therefore has a rightful place in a collection of the Berlin Games, even if she was not a medal winner.

To match a stamp to the athlete, and the athlete to a particular Olympiad is not always an easy task. In every event there are only three medallists and many also-rans. As with the case of Fanny Blanker-Koen, perhaps they reached maturity at a later stage; or perhaps like Erich Borchmayer, shown on the 1 franc value of the set issued by Monaco in 1948, they never became leaders in their sport in their own right. Borchmayer was a part of the German 100 metres relay team in Los Angeles, when they came second, and again in Berlin in 1936, when they came third. As an individual athlete, Borchmayer never achieved better than fifth place in Olympic competition.

To form a meaningful collection on any subject requires dedication, patience and an enquiring mind. Those collectors who believe that a stamp catalogue is the only literature that is required will not get very far. Of far more use are the official Olympic records, newspapers of the time and sports journals. A detailed handbook of the sporting events, and particularly where and when they were contested, is vital reading for any collection based on the sports and their participants. No stamp catalogue has this information. At best, a catalogue will illustrate one of each of the cancellations that were used. Generally, it will be no more than a design guide, and unless the athlete is named on the stamp, this information will not be included.

Some collectors are less interested in the sports than in the organisation that is required to stage the Games. In such a collection, the sporting events will naturally play their part, but the emphasis of the collection will be directed towards the administration and the mechanics that make the Games function. In more recent Olympiads, where sponsors have played a vital role in helping to finance the competitions, meter cancellations used by the various sponsoring organisations can help to tell the story. Thus mail bearing the logo of the television companies that transmit the events throughout the world, the companies that supply the film and the photographic equipment and those who supply the timing devices are all a part of the infrastructure required to organise the competitions. Added to these come the suppliers of sporting equipment, clothing, drinks and special foods, and providers of associated services.

As for the sporting events collection, the administrative collection will also rely on all types of philatelic material. In this instance however, it is probable that the collector will need to rely more heavily on postal documents than on postage stamps. Correspondence between the organising committee and the various international sporting federations are useful items to include, but it should be borne in mind that the sender and the addressee are not sufficient justification for the inclusion of a cover. It should also be philatelically relevant. By this I mean that the cancellation should also relate to the theme.

Two men who were perhaps most instrumental in bringing the Games to Germany in 1936 were Theodor Lewald and Carl Diem. The former was the President of the German Olympic Committee and one of the German delegates on the International Olympic Committee since 1924; the latter a highly respected sports pedagogue and Secretary General of the German Sports Federation. When the Olympic Games were awarded to Berlin in May 1931, it was almost a foregone conclusion that Lewald would be elected the President of the Olympic Organising Committee with Diem as its Secretary General. Although Diem was honoured philatelically by Germany in 1968 on the first set to be issued to commemorate the 1972 Munich Games, Lewald has never been shown on a postage stamp.

Today, most nations are philatelically conscious, and it is the rule, rather than the exception for a special cancellation, or even a stamp to be issued to commemorate the holding of an International Olympic Committee Session or Congress. An Olympic Congress was held in Berlin in May 1930, when Berlin was amongst the cities vying to host the Games of the Eleventh Olympiad. However, no decision was reached on that occasion, and the matter was deferred until the following Session held in Barcelona in April 1931. Here also, no decision was taken because, due to civil unrest in Spain, only nineteen members of the IOC attended the meeting. To give all members the opportunity to vote, the then President of the IOC, Count Henri Baillet Latour requested a postal vote, which was opened and counted at the IOC headquarters in Lausanne on 13 May 1931 and Berlin won the count by a large majority. No stamp or special cancellation exists for the 1931 IOC Session, or for the opening of the ballot papers in Lausanne. The only philatelic item that can be used to illustrate the awarding of the Games to Berlin is the handstamp used to commemorate the IOC Congress in Berlin in 1930. How much luckier the collector of the most recent Olympic Games, who frequently can use not only a Session cancellation, but also the special cancellations used by the hopeful cities to promote their candidature.

As soon as the Eleventh Olympiad was awarded to Berlin, the decision was taken that the organisation of the Olympic Games would be vested in the Reichsbund für Leibesübungen, the premier German sports federation. Luckily for posterity and the Olympic philatelist, the federation used a meter cancellation, and these used after 13 May 1931 can legitimately be used in the collection to represent the Olympic Organising Committee. Unfortunately, collectors during the 1930's rarely considered metered mail worth collecting, and much of this material found its way into the waste paper basket, rather than into the stamp album.

Werner March, the architect of the Berlin stadium has not yet been commemorated on either a postage stamp or on a special cancellation. His handiwork, however, has been illustrated philatelically. Although no stamp which was issued in 1936 for the Olympic Games showed the stadium, a part of it was reproduced on the two official postal stationery cards which commemorated the Games of Berlin. The stadium was first shown on a stamp of the definitive series of West Berlin in 1952. The stadium, or parts of it, has been used on several occasions on cancellations.

The Olympic stadium where the athletic events took place was only a part of the Olympic complex. Another minor arena, the Dietrich

Eckart Freilichtbuhne, where the gymnastics events took place by day and stage productions by night, was the only venue that was illustrated philatelically during 1936. A slogan cancellation showing the amphitheatre was used in Berlin in the build-up period to the Games. However, fourteen different Olympic cancellations were used in Berlin during the period of the Games and many of the special post offices that used them were directly connected with the various sporting venues. Thus it is possible to illustrate the riding events, swimming and diving contests and rowing and canoeing competitions with appropriate cancellations of where they were held.

Yet another approach would be the political implications of a particular Olympiad. In this case, it would probably be necessary to start the collection considerably before the Games in question, since earlier events may well have a bearing on the attitudes of some nations towards one another. Theodor Lewald, the President of the German Olympic Committee, and Germany's representative on the IOC, has already been mentioned. When discussing the political implications of these Games, it must now be stated that he was removed from the National Olympic Committee after the rise of Hitler because he had a Jewish grandmother. It was also the intention to remove him from the Presidency of the Organising Committee, but the other members of the IOC insisted so vehemently that he should remain, that political expediency gained the upper hand over racial ideology on this occasion.

Lewald's involvement with the German Olympic Movement however, dates back to before the First World War, when he was already a member of the National Olympic Committee. Both he and Diem were instrumental in securing the 1916 Games for Berlin, and, not unnaturally, were very disappointed that the outbreak of hostilities meant that the Games did not take place. After the war both men were dedicated to ensuring the Germany was once again admitted to the Olympic Family, and to again procuring the Games for Berlin. Any collection of the 1936 Games that angles the subject towards the political side, cannot begin with the awarding of the Games in 1930 or 1931. The collection must begin much earlier, with the 1916 Games, and follow through with the advent of Hitler.

The Games of Berlin were awarded to the Germany of the Weimar Republic. It is extremely doubtful if the members of the IOC would have voted to give them to Nazi Germany. Hitler saw the Games as an ideal opportunity to show the world the achievements of the Third Reich, and also to prove Aryan supremacy over other "lesser" races. How ironic that the hero of these Games should be a black American who ran like a gazelle. How doubly ironic that Berlin's love affair with Jesse Owens was not confined to the overseas visitors. The Germans themselves were captivated by him, and crowds followed him wherever he went. His friendship with his greatest rival, the German sprinter Luz Long, everyone's image of a true Aryan, lasted long after the Games were ended.

Tales of racial discrimination filtered out of Germany shortly after the Nazis came to power. By 1934, they were so persistent that a strong boycott movement was formed both in the United States and Great Britain. Henri Baillet Latour visited Hitler shortly before the start of the Winter Games in February 1936 and insisted that all anti-Jewish slogans be removed before the

Games. Earlier, Avery Brundage, then a member of the United States Olympic Committee, visited Germany and returned to the United States saying that he had found no evidence of anti-semitism. In the case of Avery Brundage, it must be borne in mind that he placed the continuance of the Olympic Games above all other considerations. It is possible that had another representative of the United States gone on a fact-finding tour of Germany, the American boycott movement might have gained momentum, rather than being quashed. However, although Jewish athletes were not disbarred from participating, sporting facilities for Jews were so restricted after 1934, and particularly after the introduction of the Nurnberg Laws in September 1935, that it was impossible for them to practice enough to be able to compete on a par with Aryan athletes.

The one exception was Helene Mayer, the German fencer who had won a gold medal in Amsterdam in 1928 and was placed fifth in Los Angeles in 1932. She settled in Los Angeles after the Tenth Olympiad and would probably not have participated in 1936 had she not received a personal invitation from Hitler. She was the one token Jew on the German Olympic team, and there only to prove to Baillet Latour and the other members of the IOC that Germany had not disbarred her Jewish athletes. One can only wonder why she agreed to participate in such a charade. Another political participant at these Games was the Korean winner of the Marathon, Kitei Son. At the time of the 1936 Games, Korea was under Japanese occupation, so instead of running for the Korean flag, he had to run for the flag of the hated Rising Sun.

The Games of Berlin can be considered to be the first that were influenced by political events. They were by no means the last. Since 1968, when the Games were held in Mexico, politics of one kind or another have left their mark. In 1968 it was the Black Power Movement, who demonstrated in favour of equal rights for the American Negro. In Munich in 1972, eleven Israeli athletes were slaughtered by a Palestinian faction and 1976 in Montreal saw the first Olympic boycott, followed by an even more extensive boycott in Moscow in 1980. All these events can be illustrated within the pages of the stamp album with a little thought and imagination. It does, however, mean looking in the catalogue for more than just sporting stamps.

I have tried to fill in just a few pieces of the mosaic that make up the Olympic story. Like any mosaic, the colours and details change according to the angle from which they are viewed. Last but not least, the eye of the beholder plays no small part. Several collectors can concentrate on the same Olympiad and use the same philatelic material, yet use it to such different effect that the story becomes completely different. That is the charm of thematic philately.

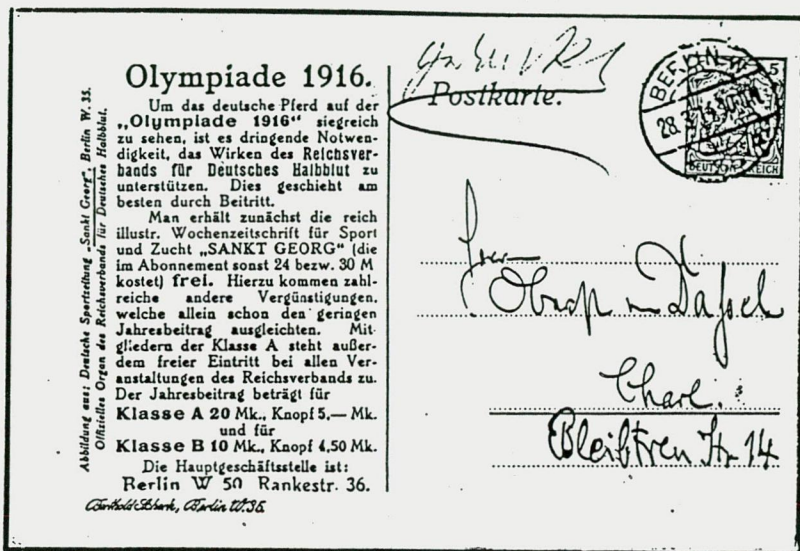
(The above paper was prepared for a seminar held during Olympilex '90 in Varna. Unfortunately, due to lack of time, it was not presented, but since it was distributed to all those present and will be translated for publication in various specialist journals, it was felt that SOC members might also like the opportunity of reading it,)

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# 1916 EQUESTRIAN CARDS

Laurentz Jonker.

Publicity cards were produced by the German Equestrian Sports Federation to raise funds for their team for the 1916 Olympic Games in Berlin. At present five different cards have been found, each representing four different areas of horse breeding, Hannover, Lippe, Ostpreussen (East Prussia), Posen and Wurtemberg. Each of the cards shows a different photograph of a well known horse on the message side, and a printed inscription on the address side. The photographs are taken from the German sports journal Sankt Georg (Saint George), which was the official magazine for the German Federation of Halfbreeds. I believe that the symbols to the right of the picture are the various brand marks that will be found on the horses from these studs. In each case, the name of the breeder, the name of the horse and its rider are given.



The message on the address side reads:

OLYMPIADE 1916.

In order to be able to see German horses victorious in the 1916 Olympiad, it is urgently necessary to support the work of the German Federation for Halfbreeds. This is best achieved through taking out a membership.

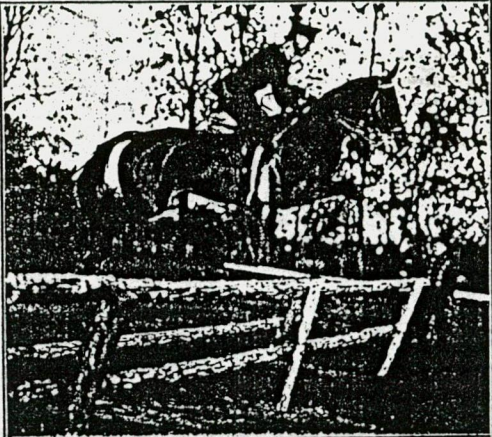
Firstly, one will receive the richly illustrated weekly journal for sport and breeding, SANKT GEORG, (for which the subscription alone is generally 30 Marks for 24 issues) FREE. To this must be added several other advantages, which themselves are worth more

than the annual subscription. Members in Class A, furthermore receive free entrance to all the meetings of the Federation. The yearly subscription is:


Class A. 20 Marks. Button 5.- marks

Class B. 10 Marks. Button 4.50 marks.

The administrative office is, Berlin W 50, Rankestr. 36.



Lippe

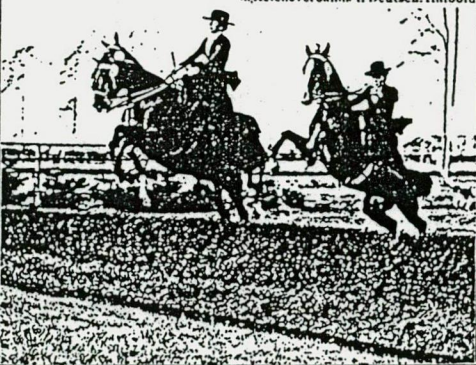


Fürstl.  
Lippe'sches Gestüt  
Lopshorn (Senne)

Erfolgreiches Springfart: Lippe'scher br. W. „Master III“ v. Pascha-Carola.  
Zuchtgestüt: Lopshorn. Besitzer und Reiter: Lt. v. Keudell (3. G.-Ul.).

**Ostpreussen.**

Ostpreussische Damensperle hinter den Hunden auf der Jugendprüfung des V. Turniers Deutscher Pferde 1912 d. Reichsverbandes f. Deutsch. Halbblut

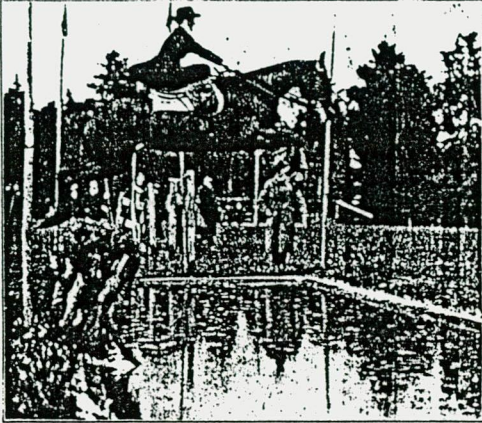


Hauptgestüt Tra- kenen r. h.)	Stutbuch (l. h.)	Kontrollbrände (l. h.) des Reg.-Bezirks Gum- binnen- Königs- berg
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Lieber Johannes!  
Mit herzlichen  
Grüßen zu  
Abend! Auf Wiedersehen  
Eloise Oscar

Links: Ostpr. br. W. „Krem“ v. Gastfreund-Lona, Bes. u. Reiterin: Frau A. Mehlis  
Rechts: Ostpr. F.-St. „Lydia“ v. Hollscher. Züchter: v. Heibnitz-Geiseln. Bes.: Rittm.-v. Heibnitz (12. Ul.). Reiterin: Frau v. Funcke.

Hubertus, (Posen) with Ernst Hubertus Deloch riding, was a part of the German bronze medal team in the team jumping event at the 1912 Games in Stockholm.

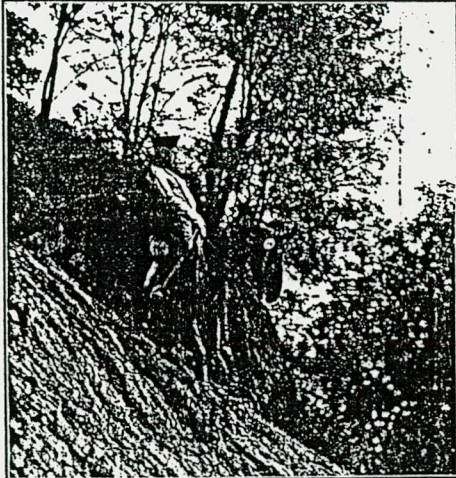


**Posen**





Kontroll-  
brand (H. I.)    Stutbuch-  
brand (L. h.)

Mehrfacher deutscher Sieger im Ausland: Posener R.-W. „Hubertus“ v. Sireber x x Züchter: Graf Lacki, Lipnitz. Bes.: Herren O. Koch u. P. Hell. (Frau Major Willmer siegte mit Hubertus in Luzern.)



**Württemberg**



Stutbuchbrand  
(links hinten)

Erfolgreiches Turnier- und Geländepferd: Württ. F.-S. „Meinle“ v. Donnersching - a. d. Hofdam. Züchter: Gestüt Offenhausen. Reiter: Hptm. Frhr. von Rhöneck (Feldart. 13)

Do members know of any other cards in this series, or when they were issued? The earliest date appears to be March 1914. If any member can add any information to this fascinating series, please let your Editor know.

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# THE DRESDEN POSTCARDS

John Webb.

(The above article first appeared in the May 1984 issue of the Newsletter of the Postcard Study Group of the Germany and Colonies Philatelic Society, and is reprinted with permission.)

To coincide with the 1936 Olympic Summer Games held in Berlin from 1 - 16 August 1936, an Olympic philatelic exhibition, simply known as Die Briefmarke, (The Postage Stamp) was held in the grounds of the Dresden National Garden Show. The importance of this exhibition was marked by the fact that the Olympic Games publicity miniature sheets on sale only at special post offices at the Olympic venues in Berlin and Kiel, were also available at this exhibition.



To publicise both the horticultural exhibition and the stamp exhibition together, a coloured souvenir postcard was produced comprising all the aspects involved - the three tulips for the horticultural exhibition, the posthorn for the philatelic exhibition, the coat of arms of Dresden, and finally, the dates of the event.

At the philatelic exhibition itself, a set of four coloured postcards could be bought depicting various scenes related to achievements in work, family life, aviation and music, using German stamps to provide the main illustrations.

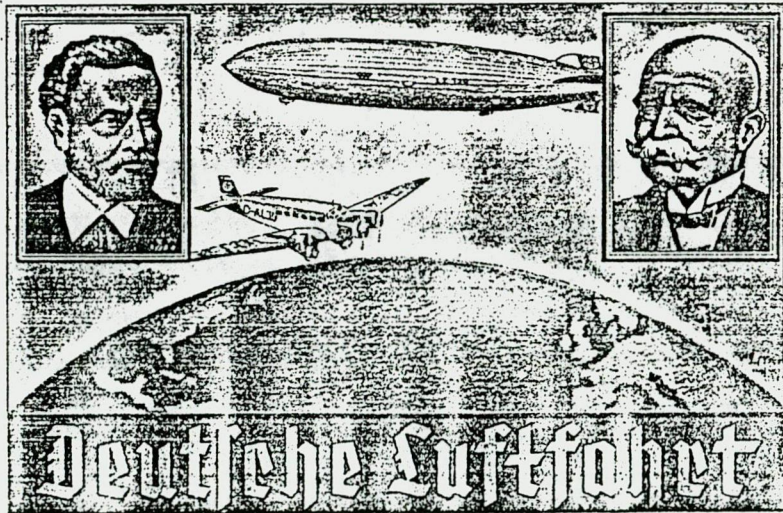
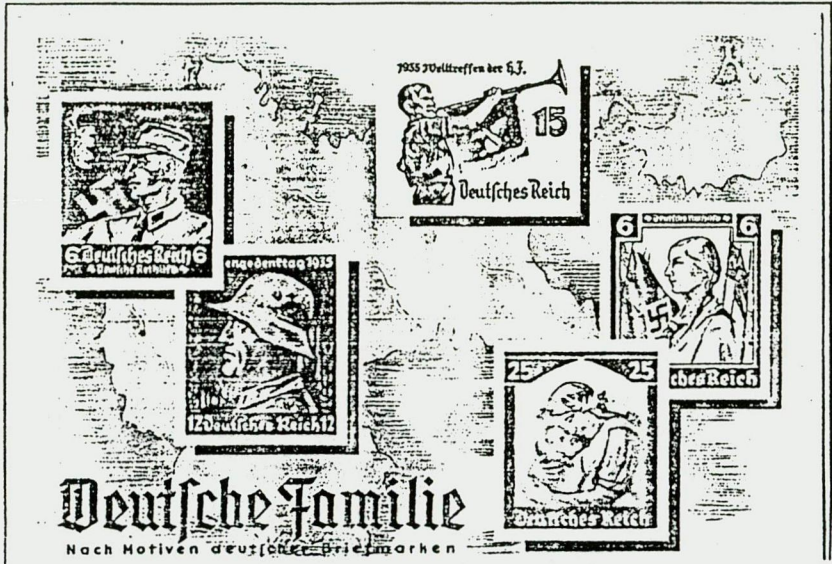
GERMAN WORK: a 3pf imprinted Hindenburg stamp, designed by G. Sperling, using the Miner, Farmer and Sculptor stamps of the 1934 Workers stamp set as the main theme.



THE GERMAN FAMILY. A 3pf imprinted Hindenburg stamp. Designer G. Sperling. As can be seen overleaf, the stamps used to show the ideal German family of the times are 1935 War Heroes Day, representing the Father, the 1935 Saar Restoration issue is used to depict the Mother and youngest daughter, 1934 postal stationery charity card for the Eldest son, the 1935 postal stationery BDM (Bund Deutscher Madchen) charity card depicting the Eldest daughter and 1935 Hitler Youth World Jamboree, representing the youngest son.

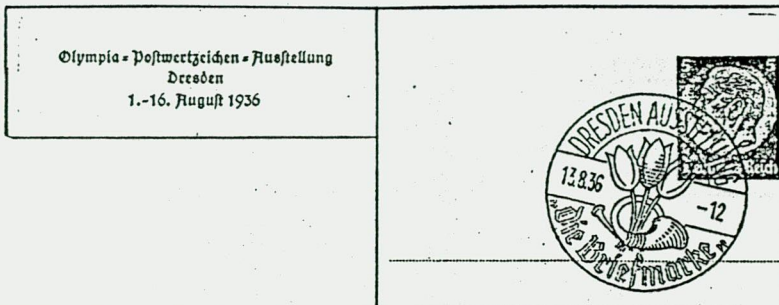
GERMAN AVIATION. A 1934 airmail imprinted stamp, designed by Rubfain. The portraits of Otto Lilienthal, the glider pioneer, and Count Zeppelin are taken from the top values of the 1934 airmail set. The LZ129 and the JU 52 show the latest modes of air transport of the day.

GERMAN MUSIC. The designs are taken from the 1935 Musicians issue honouring Schutz, Handel and Bach, a cameo of Wagner appears in the upper right of the card. Imprinted 4pf Hindenburg medallion stamp.



The set of cards bearing the imprinted stamps are on smooth and creamy type board, and I have two other cards with no imprinted stamps. Work and Music, printed on rougher material and both with courtesy Austrian Plebiscite cancellations. It is very likely that the Family and Aviation cards also exist with no imprinted stamps. All these cards have printed on the address side of the card in the top left hand corner the "Olympic Philatelic Exhibition" imprint, as illustrated overleaf.

Cards or other philatelic material postmarked at the exhibition could have one or more of the three types of cancellation available. One handstamp was used for both the horticultural and philatelic exhibitions, while the other handstamp was used only for the horticultural exhibition. The meter cancellation too, was used for both events. Of course, if you were at the garden show, and not interested in the stamps, you could always send a black and white souvenir postcard, just to let the neighbours know where you were.



In 1940, the four cards were reissued for the Leipzig Stamp Exhibition, with the original inscription crossed out and replaced by "Philatelic Exhibition of the K.D.F. South Leipzig Collectors Group, 10 March 1940, and a new 6pf imprinted stamp was used. These are on thick white, rough card and are probably from the original non-imprinted stamp stock, thought to be a private printing, with only the inscription changed, the Hindenburg stamps being retained.

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# THE MUSEUM AT OLYMPIA

Dr Herbert Kaeberrick

The history of the Museum of the Olympic Games is the story and life's work of George Papastefanou. This Greek found his way to the Olympic Movement through philately. Historically too, the modern Olympic Games have much to thank philatelists. After the efforts to revive the Olympic Games came to nought in 1859, 1870, 1875 and 1888, de Coubertin in 1894 also received a negative response from the Greek government on the grounds that no funds could be made available. However, Constantine, the Greek Crown Prince of those days, followed the suggestion of the Greek philatelist Saccorafos to print a set of stamps. The proceeds from their sale made a decisive contribution towards realising de Coubertin's idea.

Papastefanou, who was a dedicated stamp collector and a leading member of the International Association of Thematic Collectors, soon transferred his passion for collecting to the broad area of the Olympic Games, and bought what appeared to him to be valuable, using his entire fortune for that purpose. Then he visited Olympia himself and was fascinated by the scenery and the sacred site. It was then that he decided to erect a museum for his collection at that spot. He bought the old school house and fitted into it what space allowed - his stamps, pictures, photographs, documents, records, medals, coins, certificates and posters. On 3 September 1961, the Museum was opened, with the title of "The Philatelic Sports Museum of Ancient Olympia".

Naturally enough, archaeology is not represented there to any great extent, since the finds from the excavations are lodged in the great Museum of Antiquities. Only individual items such as small bronzes, or reproductions of jumping weights, or plaster casts of the carvings at the base of the statues of Olympic winners, which allow the visitor to understand the various types of ancient contests better. Also worthy of mention is a set of old Elisian coins from the 3rd and 4th centuries BC. Of value as a record is a report, of which only very few copies still exist today, on the excavations by Curtius, Adler and Dorpfeld from the Imperial Archaeological Institute of the German Empire. The torches carried by the runners from 1936 onwards are all there, on each occasion obtained from a runner who was allowed to retain the one that he had carried.

The photographs from the first Games onwards are not only of documentary value, but also show the development of sports photography. A wide selection of certificates and records are available, and their brightly coloured or gold and silver ornamentation from the turn of the century have survived, apparently undiminished to the present day.

The study group from the German Olympic Society in the autumn of 1961 were among the first visitors, and they are registered in the visitors book. The guided tour through the little museum was taken by Papastefanou himself, a mark of his feelings towards the country that he had once known as a prisoner of war during

the First World War. During his three long years of involuntary captivity in Gorlitz in Silesia, he not only learnt to speak German, but also developed an affection for Germany, which showed itself not least in the fact that he married a German woman.

Among the numerous items recalling the 1936 Games in Berlin, Papastefanou liked to linger with groups of German visitors in front of the photograph of Spiridon Louis, winner of the 1896 marathon, wearing his picturesque costume and handing over a branch from the sacred olive tree at Olympia. Papastefanou then told the following story - "As a guest of honour at these Games, Louis went back in memory to his own victory, and not unnaturally, autograph hunters also remembered the tales of his triumph. For the simple shepherd, all this attention would have been very unpleasant, since he did not know how to write. So he kept himself hidden away at the Olympic Village and he, Papastefanou, struggled for three days and nights to teach the 1896 marathon winner how to sign his name. When he had them finished, all looking more or less the same, the athletic contests were over. Thus, the museum now possesses the only original signatures, probably twenty or twenty five of them, of this Olympic victor who is still very much honoured in Greece, even today.

The amphora which Willi Daume handed over to the Olympic Academy on the occasion when the session was dedicated to Carl Diem, and which contains the titles of all Diems's publications as microcopies, was likewise also presented to the museum.

Contact with the German Olympic Society was also strengthened through regular visits for further study. The participants are listed again and again in the visitors book. From time to time they have taken home with them a small souvenir for their own album, mostly a card or a cover with some type of Olympic cancellation - George Papastefanou was a master at inventing new possibilities for postmarks! On one of these visits at Easter in 1963, Papastefanou was given the bronze medal of honour of the German Olympic Society.

The close relationship with the GOS also led to the suggestion that a representative of the society should join the committee which consisted of a Greek archaeologist, the Mayor of Olympia, the Governor of Pyrgos and a representative of the International Philatelic Federation, which would have the task of managing the museum after Papastefanou's death.

In 1963, the then King Paul of Greece and the young Crown Prince Constantine visited the museum. Papstefanou's work was recognised and he was honoured with a decoration. This visit was almost certainly responsible for the changes that occurred subsequently. When the Olympic flame was lit prior to the Winter Olympic Games in Innsbruck in 1964, at which Crown Prince Constantine, (himself an Olympic winner) took part as the Patron of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, Papastefanou made a gift of the museum to the Greek Olympic Committee, and it was assigned to the International Olympic Academy. Papastefanou, the one-time owner, became the founder, director and manager. The change in the type of management made itself visibly noticeable at once, in that an entrance charge was from then on levied, which is understandable in view of its upkeep. During the time of the founder, entrance

was free - a further proof of his unusual readiness to make sacrifices. With the takeover of the museum by the Olympic Committee, the plan to erect a new building was soon put into operation. It is simple and well suited to its purpose, on the one hand in accordance with modern concepts of a museum, but also incorporating all the technical necessities, such as central heating and air conditioning.

Light pours in from an inner courtyard laid out as a garden. The arrangement of the space shows essentially sections for each of the individual Games, which are separated by projecting glass cases and clearly indicated on the board showing the layout. The philatelic treasures, which undoubtedly form the greatest part of the value, are kept in strong metal sliding frames, modelled on those used at the British Museum in London. Sufficient space remains to accommodate future Games and for the steady flow of additions from all over the world from bequests from Olympic competitors or their families and from private collections and libraries. Among these is a rare book that has been presented by a London publisher which lists all the Olympic competitors who could be positively identified, from the ancient period, 775BC to 393AD. There is thus slowly coming into existence an evermore complete representation of the history of the modern Olympic games, and to a lesser extent, of the Ancient Games also.

The GOS study group which visited the museum in the autumn of 1972, were already able to find artifacts from the Games in Munich. At the request of the society a model of the layout of the stadia at Oberwiesefeld was made available to the museum by the Olympic Organising Committee.

This museum of the modern Games, which was opened to the public at the time of the 1972 meeting of the Olympic Academy, was not only a significant development, but a necessity. To be sure, there are in Lausanne archives of the IOC, even if they are not complete. However, the museum at Olympia has its own role to fulfil. Every year tourists and visitors from all over the world pour into this town in alarming numbers. They want to see the religious site of Olympia, but now, thanks to the excavations once partly funded by the GOS, they can also go into the stadium and into the Museum of Antiquities and find the unique creations of Greek classicism - the gable friezes of the Temple of Zeus, the pediments, the Nike, the Hermes of Praxiteles. In the new museum, the interested visitor can find the links between the modern and the ancient Games, and one becomes ever more conscious of the fact that de Coubertin was inspired to bring Olympia back to life, not least by the excavations of German archaeologists.

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#### SUPPORT YOUR SOCIETY!

If you enjoy receiving the packet, or enjoy receiving a cheque from the sale of material, why not sit down and prepare a booklet for our Packet Manager, Colin Faers, NOW! You will find his address on the inside of the front cover.

Colin needs more material if he is to have enough worthwhile packets in 1991. So do the Society and yourself a favour ACT NOW!

# AGM AT STAMPEX

It is a great shame that the members of the Society are outnumbered by the members of the Committee at our yearly gatherings at Stampex for the AGM. Only four members turned up on Sunday afternoon, and thereby enjoyed some most interesting displays in good company.

The formal part of the meeting lasted less than forty minutes. and although those present had the opportunity of questioning the officers of your Society, most opted not to do so and accepted the officer's reports as presented. Those present were particularly happy with Colin Faers, our Treasurer's report, who stated that our finances were in such good order that it would be unnecessary to raise subscriptions for quite a while. Funds are available for special projects, and as members know, additional publications are frequently received with the quarterly issue of TORCH BEARER. The booklets on the Olympic Winter Games in Albertville (the first is enclosed with this issue), should run into four or five parts by the time the Games are over, and will be a valuable record of the event.

The change-over from Bob Wilcock to Colin Faers as Packet Manager is almost complete. Bob was hoping to be able to present his final account at the AGM, but unfortunately, two packets had been held up in the post and will not complete their circuit until later in the Spring. In the meantime, Colin has sent out the first packets, and has more material ready to send out.

Our Auction Manager, John Crowther also reported a successful end to the year. He still has a lot of material in stock, and is hoping to organise a bumper auction later in the year to try to clear the backlog. The Library is now set up and working. members will have had the opportunity to browse through the Library list. If you feel that there are publications that should be included in an Olympic philatelic library, please let Ken Cook know.

The first speaker of the afternoon was Alan Sabey, who brought along his exhibit of the 1948 Olympic Games in London, which was awarded the trophy in a recent Great Britain Philatelic Society competition. Alan also brought along a complete sheet of the 2 d blue stamp, not often seen in its entirety. Alan has some very fine material in his collection, and his award was well deserved.

Our second speaker was our Auction Manager who, appropriately perhaps, showed some of his recent acquisitions. Apart from following a chronological order, there was no set sequence to the items on show, but there were some lovely pieces, and when John has had the time to write them up, they will make fine additions to his collection.

Colin Faers is a deep one! I have known him for many years through our mutual membership of the Germany and Colonies Philatelic Society. I was always under the impression that Colin's Olympic collecting interest lay only in 1936 and 1972. Can you imagine my surprise therefore when he suddenly produced this album full of other Olympic Games? All material that he has

accumulated over the years when out on the search for material for his main collection. He showed some very nice postcards from early Games, including the card from 1912 which was discussed at length in TORCH BEARER last year.

Finally, our Distribution Manager and Printer, John Miller, showed some of the effects that can be achieved with a modern colour photocopier. He produced some lovely reproductions of earlier Olympic advertising posters, some of which would make a most handsome frontispiece to a collection or display.

No stamp club meeting is complete without a swap session, and our AGM was no exception. Ken Cook and Bob Farley, in particular, seem to come to these events armed with a large rucksack full of goodies! After the displays, the contents of these bags were disgorged to reveal cards and covers, stamps and booklets. Some were recent acquisitions and not for sale, others were there for swapping and selling and lively trading took place. What a shame that there were so few people there to participate. Make sure that you don't miss out next year!

One of the items that was discussed at the meeting was this Society's participation at THEMATICA. After last year's, International exhibition in May, we decided not to participate at another event in June. This year, we are again taking a Society table. So, make a note in your diary NOW.....THEMATICA.....29-30 June 1991. Carisbrooke Hall, Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, Marble Arch, London W2. There will be lots of dealers to visit, exhibits to look at and a competition to be won.

# THEMATICA 91

# THEMATICA

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