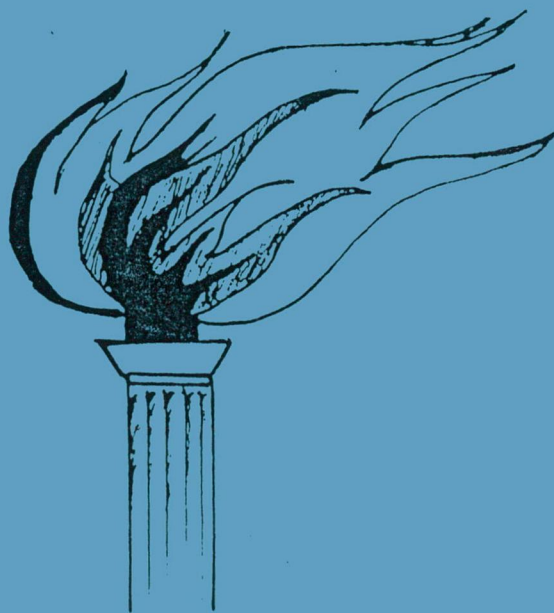


# TORCH BEARER



SOC

SOCIETY of OLYMPIC COLLECTORS



# TORCH BEARER

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VOLUME 9

MAY 1992

ISSUE 2

## CONTENTS:

Front Page	55
Members' Forum	56
News	57
Auction News	66
Reading Matters	67
Melbourne 1956	68
Stamps and Sport	72
Line of Descent	74
Pedestrianisation of Olympic Way	79
In Brief	80
Melbourne 1996	81
Olympic Debut of Russian Mail	82
Berlin 1936	83
Royal Mail Sponsorship	85
Olympic Errors	88
Sport and Philately	96

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



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\*\*\*\*\*

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

# FRONT PAGE

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On behalf of the Society, I would like to offer heartiest congratulations to members Bob Farley, our Vice Chairman, and Brenda Wacey, who married an hour before leaving for a honeymoon in Albertville. I would love to believe that the Society had played Cupid, but regret to tell you that it was the other way around! Bob was instrumental in Brenda joining the Society! I am sure that we all wish them many happy years together.

Both Bob Farley and Bob Wilcock deserve our sincere thanks for the magnificent job that they have done in compiling all the information on the Olympic Winter Games in Albertville, and there is more to come. I understand that with the latest issue of the Albertville booklet that was sent out with the February issue of TORCH BEARER, we were ahead of the French with the latest news! Both Bobs acknowledge the help that they have received, but without their dedication, the booklets would never have appeared. A big THANK YOU from all of us.

Thanks are also due to Robert Kensit who has served on this Committee since 1986. Robert is a physical training teacher and, at present is finding that his work leaves him insufficient time to play an active part on the Committee. Thank you Robert for your efforts on our behalf in the past six years. I hope that he will consider coming back on to the Committee when time permits.

At the end of May, your Chairman will be in the United States, where our sister Society SPI, will be holding the Annual Convention as a part of the World Columbus Exhibition in Chicago. I have been asked to give a talk as a part of the proceedings. Full details about the Convention will appear in the next issue of TORCH BEARER. SPI is a much older organisation than ourselves, having celebrated their quarter century last year. Under the Presidency of Mark Maestroni, their magazine has vastly improved and is full of useful and interesting articles, especially in those areas dealing with the scene in the United States. SPI is broader based than SOC, in as much as it covers all sports as well as Olympic Games. I believe that all serious Olympic and sports collectors owe it to themselves to belong to both organisations if they want to obtain the most from their hobby. Membership details are available from Margaret A Jones, 3715 Ashford Dunwoody Road NE, Atlanta GA 30319, USA.

If you have not already done so, please make a note in your diary NOW. Our next AGM and members meeting will take place on Saturday 27 June at 2.00pm in the Allanby Room of the Victory Services Club, Marble Arch. The business part of the proceeding will be kept to the minimum, leaving plenty of time for displays, exchanges and chat. Bring along some of your favourite sheets to show to other members. THEMATICA is being held in the Carisbrooke and El Alemein Halls at the Club. Our Society has taken a stand where you can meet members of the Committee, have a chat, and look at some Olympic material. The exhibition is open on Saturday and Sunday 27 and 28 June. There will be plenty of dealers with thematic stock, as well as society tables and displays at what has become Britain's premier thematic weekend. Don't miss it!

# MEMBER'S FORUM

New Zealand member, Robert Cyca, 20 Melrose Avenue, Rotorua would like to exchange Olympic philatelic material, labels, cancellations and stamps from those countries whose postal authorities are official Olympic sponsors. Any SOC members who are interested should write direct to Robert enclosing an International Reply Coupon for return postage. He can supply New Zealand Olympic material in exchange.

\*\*\*\*\*

Member Mike Pagomenos has strong views about recent Olympic events. He writes: 'The ceremonial start to the 1992 Winter Olympics on 8 February was both spectacular and sad. The theme for the opening day show was "The Olympic Circus Comes to Town". It is sad that the words 'Olympic' and 'Circus' are combined... very sad, but not far wrong. The torch bearer, Platini, carried the once-sacred flame of Olympia through the stadium. At the altar, a young boy was given the torch. The boy lit up a ball of flammable material. The ball of fire leapt up the rope like a frightened mouse to take the flame to its commanding position. The ball of flame could not get there fast enough and a radio-controlled device did the job.....and to think that the flame had come all the way from Olympia! I hope that the torch bearers didn't get any blisters on their feet. At least they didn't barbeque any doves in Albertville like at the last Summer Olympic Games in Seoul. (ED. How do other members feel about the amount of showmanship attached to modern Olympic Games. Here is a chance to air your own views.)

\*\*\*\*\*

Romanian member, Ioan Nemecek is looking for the vignettes that were issued by the British Olympic Committee in 1908. There are six different colours in the same design, which bears the legend "FRANCO-BRITISH EXHIBITION" in English and French. If anyone can be of help, please write to Ioan direct at 2200 Brasov, Str. Smirdan No 3, Romania.

\*\*\*\*\*

Alan Sabey writes to say that the members of the Association of the Friends of the National Postal Museum will be staging a display of all aspects of British philately at Autumn Stampex (13-18 October 1992 at the Royal Horticultural Halls in London) Alan will be displaying "The 1948 Olympic Summer Games in London" along with the British Empire Exhibition.


\*\*\*\*\*

Israeli member, Dr Alex Marton, PO Box 2155, Jerusalem 91021, collects Olympic stamps and blocks. He would be interested in buying or exchanging with other members. If any member is interested, please write to him direct.



\*\*\*\*\*

# NEWS

Croatian member, Ivan Libric, designed the postmark commemorating Dr Franco Bucar, who was born in Zagreb on 25 November 1866 and who died there on 26 December 1946. Bucar was the founder of the Olympic Movement in Croatia, a founder member of the Yugoslav Olympic Committee and its first president. He was a member of the International Olympic Committee from 1920 until 1946. Dr Bucar was also a keen philatelist and was a founder member of the Croatian Philatelic Society in 1896.



**Dr FRANJO BUČAR**  
( 25.11.1866. - 26.12.1946. )  
PIONIR OLIMPIZMA U HRVATSKOJ  
OSNIVAČ I PREDSEDNIK J.O.O. 1919 - 1927  
OSNIVAČ HRVATSKOG FILATELISTIČKOG  
DRUŠTVA, ZAGREB, 1896


---

**Dipl. ecc. IVAN LIBRIĆ**  
**- 41090 ZAGREB**  
**J. PUPACIĆA 4**

---

OLYMPHIL 7/91

HRVATSKI ŠPORTSKI SAVEZ

\*\*\*\*\*



Two postmarks with an Olympic theme were used in Norway in February. In Lillehammer, the Lillehammer logo was used in conjunction with the Olympic rings on 21 February. From 21 - 23 February a cancellation was used in Trondheim showing Arnfinn Berghamm, who was the gold medallist in ski jumping at the Olympic Winter Games in 1952 in Oslo.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ukraine, who will compete as a part of a unified Soviet team in Albertville at the Winter Olympic Games, have asked the International Olympic Committee to allow them to participate independently in the 1992 Summer Games in Barcelona. The Ukrainian parliament have sent an official request asking that their National Olympic Committee be recognised as a full member on the international body. The appeal cited the fact that fifteen countries, including Great Britain, have recognised Ukraine following the former Soviet republic's vote for independence.

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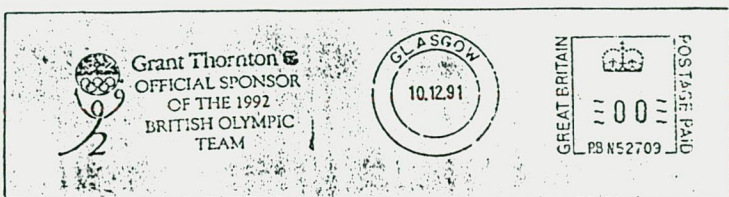


Two members have sent details about New Zealand Post's official sponsorship for the Olympic Games, Glenn Estus from the United States, and in greater detail Robert Cyca of New Zealand. The postal authorities of a number of countries have entered into an agreement with the United States Postal Service to act as Olympic sponsors, which could be an exciting niche for the Olympic collector. The special cancellations incorporating the logo of New Zealand Post and the Olympic rings have been used in Christchurch, Waikato Mail Centre and another Mail Centre whose name is illegible from the postmark. Stickers have also been produced which echo the theme.

\*\*\*\*\*

Information has come to light from Scottish member Jack Murray that the British firm of accountants, GRANT THORNTON, have been accepted as sponsors of the British Olympic team for the Games. They are using a red meter cancellation from all mail emanating from their offices, and it is the company's intention to continue using the slogan until the close of the Games. GRANT THORNTON

have also produced a very neat two page leaflet outlining details of their sponsorship. They have also produced a small quantity of of small self-adhesive circular vignettes incorporating the same design as the slogan cancellation. Further details and some examples are available from Jack Murray, c/o Glasgow 5, 200 Regent Street, Glasgow 2.



\*\*\*\*\*

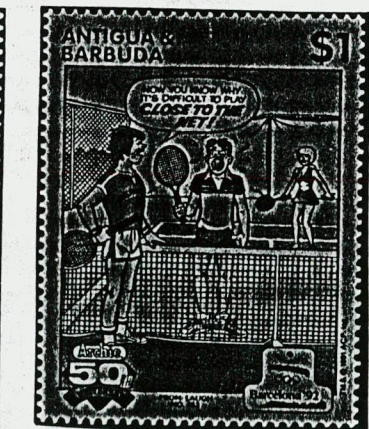
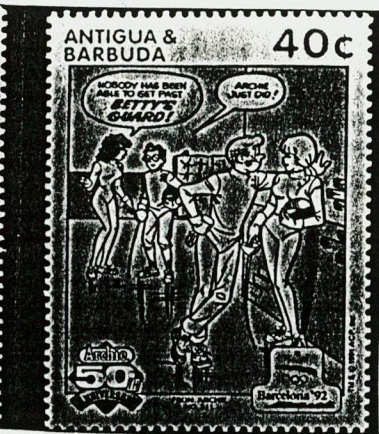
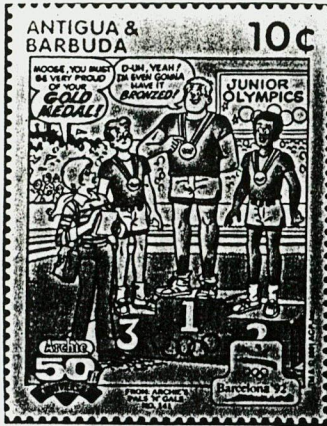


Daniel Keren writes from the United States that the illustrated pictorial postmark incorporating an Olympic torch and the USPS logo of the bald eagle was used in twenty five towns in New Hampshire in the following places in January and February. Manchester 03103, January 2; Salem 03079 January 3; Derry 03083, January 6; Londonderry 03053, January 7; Hudson 03051, January 8; Nashua 03060, January 9; Milford 03461, January 10; Claremont 03743, January 13; Keene 03431, January 14; Peterborough 03458, January 15; Concord 03301, January 16; Lebanon 03766, January 17; Plymouth 03264, January 22, Campton 03223, January 23; Laconia 03246, January 24; Littleton 03561, January 27; Berlin 03570, January 28; North Conway 03860, January 29; Exeter 03833, January 30; Hampton 03842, January 31. TOUCH THE TORCH Stations will also be offering pictorial cancellations at the following New Hampshire cities in February: Rochester 03867, February 3; Somersworth 03878, February 4; Dover 03820, February 5; Durham 03824, February 6; and Portsmouth 03801, February 7.

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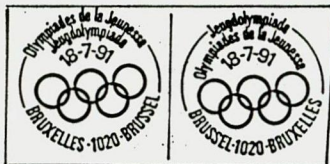
Illustrated are the eight stamps and two miniature sheets released by Antigua and Barbuda on 19 August 1991 to commemorate the Olympic Summer Games in Barcelona and the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Archie Comics. (Archie Andrews was Peter Brough's, (a ventriloquist) dummy. He was extremely popular on a





radio programme called Educating Archie during the late 1940's and 1950's.) Illustrations supplied by US member, Daniel Keren.

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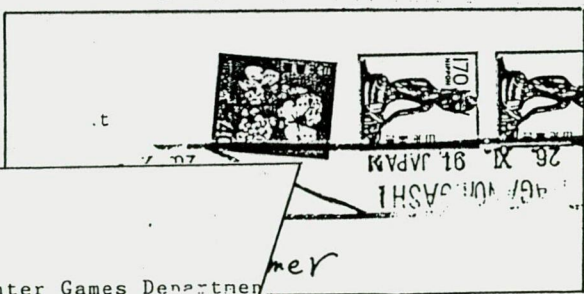
Youth Olympic Games were held in Bruxelles in July 1991, during which time two slogan cancellations were used which incorporated the Olympic rings and had the inscription in French or Flemish.

\*\*\*\*\*

More sponsors have been appointed by the British Olympic Association, apart from Mars and Grant Thornton who have been previously mentioned. Glaxo Pharmaceuticals attended a recent British Olympic training camp at Bisham Abbey to hand over medical kits and track suits to the BOA Medical Services Director. Salisbury Plc have been appointed as the official supplier of luggage to the 1992 British Olympic team. Under the terms of their agreement they will supply top quality suitcases and other travel luggage items to team members. SEAT, the motor car company will be supplying all the official cars for the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona. They launched their new car, the Toledo, at the Earls Court Motor Fair in October. SEAT are also sponsors of the British Olympic team. You too can become an official BOA individual Sponsor by purchasing one of the 1992 British Olympic pins at a cost of £5.00. These attractive lapel pins carry the distinctive BOA Union flag and five rings symbol. Pins can be purchased by sending a cheque for this amount to Sarah Sharland, Appeals Department, British Olympic Association, 1 Wandsworth Plain, London SW18 1EH.

\*\*\*\*\*

Canadian member, John Larmer sent illustrations of the stationery being used at present in Lillehammer and Nagano. The Norwegian company is a stamp subscription service, presently responding only in Norwegian. However, later they expect to publish an English brochure. The Japanese vignette is printed in full colour with the Olympic rings printed in gold.



Olympic Winter Games Department  
Nagano City Hall  
1613 Midori-cho Nagano City  
380 Japan

ON



OLYMPISK SAMLERSERVICE A.S  
Postboks 53, 1415 Oppegård

PAR AVI

SAMLERSERVICE A.S

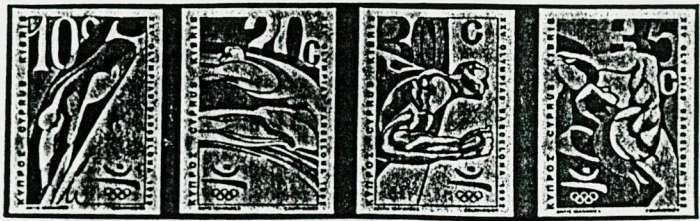
John Larmer  
155 First Avenue  
Sudbury, Ontario



Lillehammer  
1994

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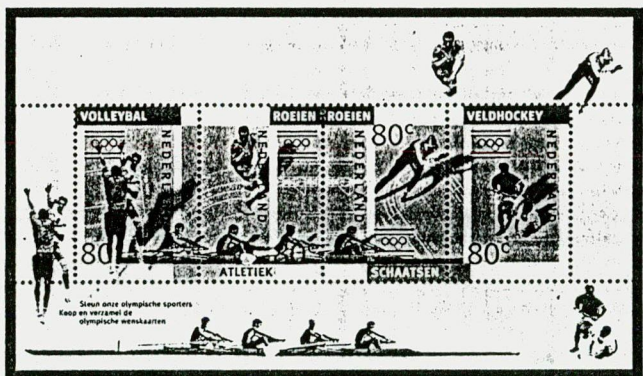
Olympic fever is once again reaching a crescendo now that we are well into Olympic year. Your Editor is daily inundated with leaflets from postal administrations around the world giving the latest information about their Olympic issues. The latest to arrive are four stamps from Cyprus, 10, 20, 30 and 35 cents, showing swimming, long jump, running and discus. They were designed by Antis Ioannides which were released on 3 April 1992.



Liechtenstein issued three stamps for the Barcelona Olympic Games on 2 March. They were designed by H.J. Anderegg and show Women's relay, cycling and judo.



The Netherlands post office issued a miniature sheet on 4 February to commemorate both the Olympic Winter Games in Albertville and the Summer Games. The sheet, designed by Erik Spiekermann of Berlin shows volleyball; athletics, rowing, ice skating and field hockey. The design crosses from one stamp into another, and in the margins of the sheet.



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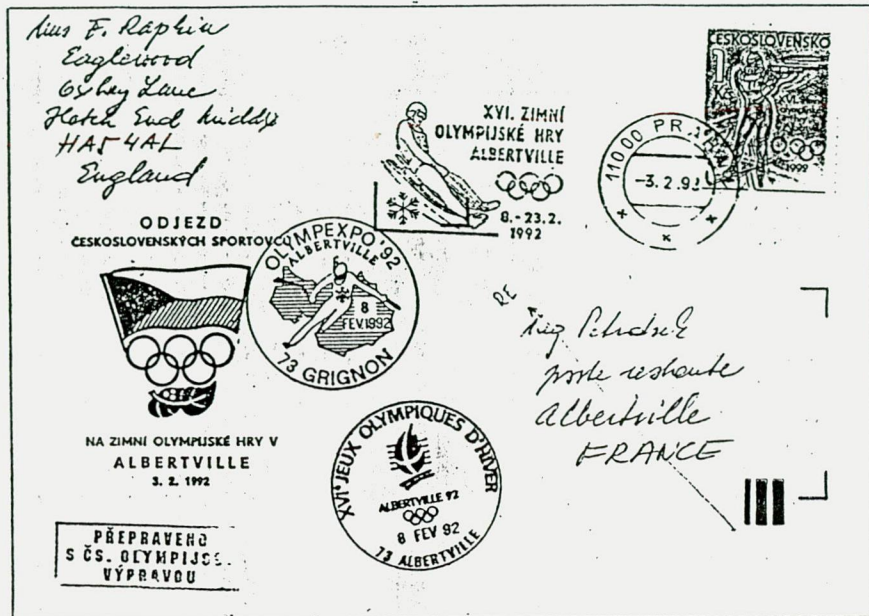
As in the past, the International Olympic Committee at their headquarters at the Chateau de Vidy in Lausanne are using an appropriate slogan in their meter cancellation. At the beginning of 1992 the slogan showed both the Barcelona and Albertville logos in an oblong frames. It will be interesting to see whether only the Albertville logo was used during the Winter Games, and whether that logo is dropped after the end of February. In the past, each Olympic host has had the stage for itself for a part of Olympic Year.

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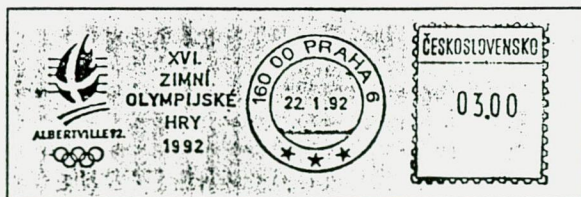
As a part of the Olympic Arts Festival attached to the Olympic Winter Games, a stamp exhibition, OLYMPEXPO, was held at Grignon near Albertville from 8 - 23 February. A postcard showing a skier against a background of the outline of the Savoie region was issued, which echoed the same design as the special handstamp that was used at the exhibition. (See illustration on the following page.)

\*\*\*\*\*

Czech member, Jaroslav Petrasek sent information about a balloon flight to commemorate the start of the Olympic Winter Games. Held on 22 January 1992, it was also the date of the General Assembly of the Czech Olympic Committee. 2,000 pieces of mail were carried on the balloon which were cancelled with a red meter cancellation that incorporated the Albertville logo as a part of the design.



Czechoslovakia also used a very nice slogan cancellation to commemorate the Olympic Winter Games in Albertville which shows a man on a toboggan. In addition to the slogan cancel on both the front and the back of the cover, it has a first day of the Games handstamp from Albertville, as well as the handstamp from OLYMPEXPO, the Olympic philatelic exhibition.



\*\*\*\*\*

# AUCTION NEWS

Alan Sabey.

IMPERIAL AUCTIONS, LEEDS.  
23 November 1991

Lot No:		Est:	R'sd
545	Olympics 1920-84. Group of covers, postal stationery and ppc's with better slogan postmarks from Belgium, Austria and Finland. Good lot, 54 items.	£90	£105
546	Belgium 1924 10c on ppc cancelled by "The Olympiade Antwerpen Augustus-Septemb 1920" bilingual slogan cancel (1 picture postcard)	£25	N/S
547	1960 South Kasai surcharge on Belgian Congo. Unm. mint. Scarce. 2 stamps.	£20	N/S

SOLENT PHILATELIC AUCTIONS.  
30 November 1991

253	Olympic Games 1984. IOC Official first day cover collection. Limited Edition. New issue cost £400+.	£75	N/S
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CINDERELLA STAMP CLUB  
7 December 1991

1164	1912 Stockholm Games, labels in Swedish, (AS. actually Czech), and German plus enlargement of label in English.	£18	£22
1223	1932 Los Angeles - Olympic (sic) Games labels in complete sheet of 32 from sixteen countries. Sheet printed in Germany by L & B.	£6	£3.25

\*\*\*\*\*

SUPPORT YOUR SOCIETY!

Why not use the Society Auction or Packet Service for disposing of your unwanted material? Remember that your duplicates could well be on someone else's Wants List. Addresses of the Auction and Packet Managers will be found on the inside front cover.

\*\*\*\*\*

# READING MATTERS

Two books have recently come to hand which should be in the library of every Olympic collector. Unfortunately both are written in a foreign language. The first, entitled "Olympiatuli Joka Sammu Sodan Tuuliin" by Helge Nygren, is a very comprehensive history of the aborted Olympic Games which should have been held in Helsinki Finland from the 20th July to 4th August 1940. Although profusely illustrated, the book also contains a very detailed and comprehensive text, so it would be important to have a grasp of Finnish.

The other book entitled "Sport in Berlin" is issued by the Sports Museum in Berlin. No author is mentioned but it is printed by Dirk Nishen. Again, it is a profusely illustrated book that deals in depth with Berlin's sporting history. Not unnaturally a great deal of emphasis is laid on the 1936 Olympic Games. It also contains useful background information to Germany's past towards hosting the 1936 Olympic Games and gives useful information about Germany's involvement in earlier Olympiads.

Anybody interested can obtain the Finnish book through Suomen Urheilumuseosaatio in Helsinki Finland. The German book is available from Verlag Dirk Nishen Am Tempelhofer Berg 6 W/1000 Berlin 61 Germany. The price of the two books is not known.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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.)

I ATTEND ALL MAJOR STAMP SHOWS IN THIS COUNTRY,

WHERE MY FULL STOCK IS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING.

**BARRY OLIVER**

*STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY  
OF THE WORLD*



404, YORKTOWN ROAD,  
COLLEGE TOWN,  
CAMBERLEY,  
SURREY

0276 - 32587 or  
04837 - 70580 (24 hr)

**THE STAMP CENTRE**

# MELBOURNE 1956

Compiled by Robert Budge.

For seventeen glorious days in the summer of 1956, Australia was the focal point of the sporting world when 4,500 athletes from sixty eight countries vied for Olympic medals in Melbourne, although this was the smallest number of competitors since the Los Angeles Games in 1932. It was the first time that a country outside Europe or the United States had been chosen to host the Games, and Australians poured out their traditional hospitality. They wanted to prove how right the President of the International Olympic Committee, Avery Brundage, and his colleagues had been to select Australia for this oldest and most famous of international sporting contests. In competition too, Australian athletes fared better than they had ever done before, finishing third behind Russia and the United States, with thirteen gold, eight silver and fourteen bronze medals - still Australia's best Olympic performance.

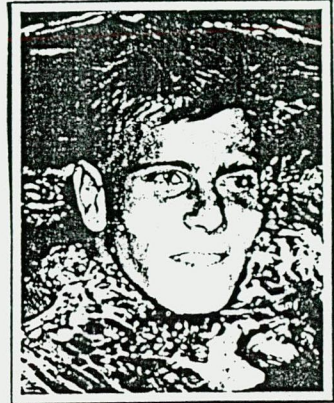
Australians were among the founder members of the Olympic Games, and participated in the first modern Olympic Games held in Athens in 1896. In those Games, 22 year old Australian runner Edwin H. Flack brought home gold medals in the 800 metres and 1500 metres events. In spite of Australia's early participation, it was to be fifty years before she was invited to stage the Games.

From the outset, there were many who doubted the country's ability to do so, and for a time it seemed as though they were right. Preparations were slow, some said non-existent, and in April 1955, Avery Brundage, who arrived for a personal visit warned, "I can tell you that more than ever they [the critics] would think a mistake had been made..... We would be very embarrassed if we took the Games away from Melbourne. I would like to leave Melbourne knowing that the job will be done. I say it can be done. But even at this late stage three or four cities would take the Games".

Melbourne took the hint and speeded up arrangements, but more problems, this time political, threatened to mar the Games. Russian tanks rolled into Hungary to suppress an uprising. They did so in a manner which horrified the world. While one hundred and thirteen Hungarian athletes bound for Australia made their way half way around the world, singly or in pairs, the Netherlands announced its team's withdrawal in protest at the Russian aggression, and so did Spain. Others who refused to attend were Egypt, still smarting over the Suez crisis, Communist China, because of Taiwan's presence, and Iraq and the Lebanon, who objected to Australia's 'attitude' to the Middle East situation.

On Thursday 22 November 1956, the Duke of Edinburgh, watched by a crowd of 103,000 and viewed by millions more on television, performed the opening ceremony with these words: "I declare open the Olympic Games of Melbourne celebrating the Sixteenth Olympiad of the modern era". Four thousand pigeons fluttered into the air, a twenty one gun salute fired, and Australian miler, Ron Clarke

carried the Olympic flame into the arena at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. This had been brought by air from Greece to Cairns, and then by athletes overland to the Victorian capital.



Australia soon proved her dominance in world swimming by winning every medal in the men's and women's 100 metres freestyle events. For 19 year old Dawn Fraser, the Games were a highlight of her controversial international career. Only a few months earlier, at the Australian championships in Sydney, Dawn had shattered the world record for the 110 yards freestyle which had been held for twenty years by the Dutch girl, Willy Ouden. Two nights later she had beaten her main rival, Australian Lorraine Crapp, and established new world records for both the 200 metres and 220 yards freestyle. The Olympics turned into a titanic tussle between Dawn and Lorraine. In the first heat of the first round, Lorraine swam the 100 metres in one minute 3 seconds, lowering the Olympic record by over two seconds. In the fifth heat, Dawn lowered the record yet again. In the final, Dawn and Lorraine pulled away from the field after only 25 metres. Dawn turned first, but with twenty five metres to go, Lorraine had caught up. Streaking through the water, they finished, neither knowing who had won. They were so far ahead that they could turn around and watch another Australian, Faith Leech, finish third! All three, together with Sandra Morgan, won another gold when they won the 4 x 100 metres relay in the time of four minutes 17.1 seconds.

The Australian men's 100 metres freestyle swimming team also proved itself unbeatable. Jon Henricks' gold medal race, which he won in a time of 55.4 seconds, was his fifty sixth consecutive victory in three years. Close behind him in the Games came John Devitt and Gary Chapman. Seventeen year old vegetarian Murray Rose, nicknamed 'Seaweed Steak' won gold medals in the 200 metres freestyle in a time of four minutes 27.3 seconds and in the 1500 metres freestyle (17.58.9). Earlier, he had teamed up with Henricks, Devitt and Kevin O'Halloran to win a gold for Australia in the 4 x 200 metres relay, when they beat the United States with a time of eight minutes 23.6 seconds.

While the world applauded the brilliant Australian swimming stars, on the track 18 year old Betty Cuthbert sprinted to win two gold medals. In the 100 metres sprint, she broke the Olympic record in the first heat with a time of 11.4 seconds. In the final she led all the way, breaking the tape almost two metres ahead of Germany's Christa Stubnick and fellow Australian Marlene Matthews. Dubbed the 'Golden Girl of the Olympics', Betty recalled her triumph in her autobiography. The 200 metres was almost an exact rerun of the first, for the first three places in both sprints went to exactly the same runners. Betty's gold medal time of 23.4 seconds was a mere 0.3 seconds faster than that of Christa Stubnick, while Marlene Matthews clocked 23.8 seconds to win the bronze.

Shirley Strickland set an Olympic record of 10.7 seconds when she beat East Germany's Gisela Kohler in the 80 metres hurdles. Bronze went to Australia's Norma Thrower. The Australian 4 x 100 metres relay team of Shirley Strickland, Norma Croker, Fleur Mellor and Betty Cuthbert set a world record of 44.9 seconds in the opening heat, and then went on to convincingly beat Great Britain for the gold medal.

Australia's thirteenth gold medal was won by the cyclists Ian Browne and Anthony Marchant, when they beat the Czechoslovak team of Ladislav Foucek and Vaclav Machek in the 2,000 metres tandem race.

Of the visiting athletes, no one attracted more attention, and admiration, than Vladimir Kuts, known in the Olympic Village as Vladimir the Great. And no wonder. To many who watched him in action at the Games, he was the greatest distance athlete of all time. Born in Ukraine in 1927, Kuts joined the Soviet Navy after the Second World War, where he became interested in competitive running. Only two months before the Melbourne Games, Kuts broke the world 10,000 metres record by a massive 12 seconds in Moscow. His main rival for the Olympic gold medal was Britain's Gordon Pirie, who earlier in the year had beaten the Russian. The 10,000 metres race was run on the first day of the Games. Kuts raced ahead of the twenty six strong field from the start, completing the first lap in a lightning 61.5 seconds. Pirie trailed close behind, hoping that he could outpace the Russian in the final sprint. By the tenth lap, the two were more than forty metres ahead of the pack, and drawing away rapidly. So rapid was the pace that they passed the 5,000 metres mark in fourteen minutes 7 seconds - almost exactly equal to the Olympic record for that distance, and there were still another 5,000 metres to go. By lap fourteen, after another amazing sprint as Kuts tried to shake off the persistent Pirie, the pair lapped

the stragglers in the race. Now Kuts slowed, moved to the outside, and did everything to make Pirie pass, but the Briton refused. Then, at the end of the twentieth lap, Kuts stopped so suddenly, that Pirie had no option but to lead. For half a lap, Kuts trailed his determined adversary, obviously studying his style and technique. Then with a sudden burst of speed that surprised everyone, he dashed back into the lead, and remained there for the rest of the race. So fast was the pace that he now set, that Pirie started to lag behind with four laps to go, eventually finishing eighth. Kuts broke the tape in a time of 28 minutes 45.6 seconds, followed by the Hungarian Jozsef Kovacs and Australian Alan Lawrence.

Five days later, Kuts again dashed to the front from the start of the 5,000 metres race, remaining there throughout to the finish, almost eighty metres ahead of Pirie and another Briton, Derek Ibbotson. Kuts set an Olympic record with his time of thirteen minutes 39.6 seconds.

The only bitter note at these Games was the feud between the Russians and the Hungarians, following the Soviet invasion of Hungary. This turned into a bloody brawl during the water polo match between the two countries on 6 December. The referee halted the contest before its completion, Hungary leading 4-0 at the time, was credited with the victory. Police had to be called in as spectators threatened to attack the Soviet team. The Hungarians finally won the gold medal, while the Russians took the bronze.

By the end of the Games, however, the Russians had topped the tally of gold medals with thirty seven, followed by the United States with thirty two. When the Olympics ended on Saturday, 8 December, forty six Hungarian athletes chose to remain in Australia, the first ever mass defection of athletes. Former Australian Prime Minister, Robert Menzies said, "In the course of my own life I have seen many magnificent sights. I have seen nothing more stirring than the opening and closing days at the main stadium. One of the innovations at these Games, and one which is now a part of Olympic tradition, was the suggestion by a Chinese Australian boy that the athletes should enter the stadium for the closing ceremony as a group, rather than by country, thus demonstrating the friendship of Olympic competition".

Many among the thousands of competitors, officials and spectators wept openly as the Olympic flame flared up one last time before going out. As they made their way home to the four corners of the world, these men and women took with them an even greater knowledge and appreciation of the small nation in the southern hemisphere. That perhaps was the greatest triumph of the Melbourne Games; it introduced Australia to the rest of the world, and the world to Australia.

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# STAMPS AND SPORT

TOM KING

We owe the rebirth of the Olympic Games to the vision and single mindedness of one man, the late Baron Pierre De Coubertin, a prominent French Sportsman and educationalist.

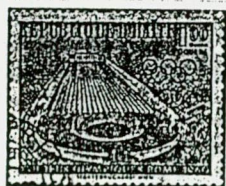
His theory was that international peace could best be fostered by the meeting together, in friendly sporting rivalry, of all the best amateur athletes from every country at regular intervals, thus resuscitating the Ancient Greek ideals of chivalry and nobility of purpose.

He first mooted this idea in 1892 at a meeting in Paris, and subsequently visited Britain where he obtained support from many high authorities. Among those was William Penny Brookes the founder of the Much Wenlock Olympic Games. As a result of his efforts, a Congress was convened in Paris in 1894, at which definite proposals for the new Olympic Games were discussed and approved by Delegates from most of the countries of Europe and America.

The original Olympics having been held in Greece, it was only natural that Greece should be chosen as the first country to hold the new series; and Athens, where the remains of the old Stadium had recently been excavated, was selected as the venue for the first Games in 1896. The new stadium for these Games was constructed on the site of an old one, thanks to a magnificent gift of money from a wealthy Greek, George Averoff, living in Alexandria. This stadium can be seen on the one gourde value issued by Haiti for her Olympic set of 1960, and the entrance appears on the 8 Dr. stamp issued by Greece in 1934.

As is only appropriate, the founder of the modern Olympic Games has been honoured on several stamps. Good portraits of Baron De Coubertin appear on the 30 franc issued by France in 1956 to commemorate the Melbourne Games of that year, the picture also showing an athlete taking the Olympic oath, and on the 1939 issue of Haiti, were the 10 plus 10 cent 60 plus 40 cent and 1.25 g all show him supported by the flags of Haiti and the Olympics, to mark the construction of a new sports stadium at Port au Prince.

Haiti again remembered the Baron for their set in the 1960 Olympics Games, an inset portrait appearing on the 50 Cents, which shows a parade of women athletes in the Olympic Stadium, and on the 50 Cent air mail of the same set where his portrait is flanked by the Olympic flame.



San Marino is another country that has featured the Baron; two likenesses of him appear on the 2 Lire and 120 Lire of the set issued in 1959 as a pre-Olympic opener. More recently there have been two more stamps with portraits of the Baron. East Germany had one on the 20 Pfennig issued in 1963 for the centenary of his birth; and Paraguay, on the second Olympic issue of 1963, had his picture on all five of the ordinary mail values.

Somewhat naturally, the success of the revived Olympic Games led to similar types of international and national games being organised by other countries, and so we have some of the founders of these also depicted on stamps. For example Czechoslovakia, honours Miroslav Tyrš, who with a compatriot, Jindřich Fugner, founded a sporting movement known as Sokols, back in the last century in 1862. They are therefore considerably older than the modern Olympic Games themselves. His portrait appears on the set issued by Czechoslovakia in 1933 for the 9th Sokol Congress, and that of Fugner is shown on the three stamps issued in 1938 for the 10th Congress.

Another founder of a sporting movement was another Frenchman, Lagrange, who organised the world student games, now held in many countries and most recently held in Sheffield in 1991; his portrait appears alongside a view of the stadium on the 18 franc issued by France in 1957.

Gymnastics must not be forgotten either; Finland celebrated the centenary of the birth of Ivar Wilksman, known as the father of gymnastics with a special stamp in 1954. East Germany paid tribute to Friedrich Ludwig Jahn in 1952, to mark the centenary of his death. He was a famous teacher of gymnastics in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Sweden honoured one of the most famous of all the pioneer physical culture exponents in the person of Professor P H Ling, who invented the Swedish method of physical training known as the Lingadem, by issuing two stamps on the occasion of the second Lingiad in 1949.

Before we leave the pioneers of modern sport, we must mention the eminent members of the modern Olympic Games committee, known as the IOC, the International Olympic Committee, who appeared on the pre-Olympic issue of San Marino in 1959. These, apart from De Coubertin mentioned already, include Mario Bonacossa of Italy on the 3 Lire value and Avery Brundage of the United States on the 5 Lire, whom you may have seen on television awarding the medals at the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome.

Brundage was a prominent American sportsman for many years, being President of the United States Olympic Committee from 1929 to 1953, and President of the Amateur Athletics Union of America from 1928 to 1937. He was President of the International Olympic Committee from 1952 to 1972. In the same set we have the 30 Lire devoted to M. Montu of Rumania and on the 60 Lire J S Edstrom of Sweden a member of the Olympic Committee as far back as 1932, from the time that Count De Baillet-La-Tour (shown on the 80 Lire) was President of the Olympic Committee. Edstrom himself subsequently became a President of the IOC in the immediate post-Second World War period.

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# LINE OF DESCENT

WALTER MAXWELL

This winter, armed with the state of the art technology and clothed in the latest fashions, skiers will be launching themselves down mountains all over Europe. Inspired by the dare-devil image of professional downhill racing, skiing now qualifies as one of the world's most glamorous sports. However, at the beginning of the century, when Henry Lunn, the Lunn of travel agents Lunn Poly, was organising his first package tours, Alpine skiing was regarded with much derision - an activity fit only for that eccentric race, the British.

Exactly when and where skiing originated is shrouded in the mists of time. Ranging from Lapland to China, there are as many claims on its "invention" as there are to the "discovery" of America. As a way of getting around on soft snow, shuffling along with planks of wood attached to your feet can prove surprisingly efficient and it is probable that the principle was arrived at in a number of places quite independently.

In the early 19th century, the concept of skiing for pleasure was almost unknown outside Scandinavia. In Norway, however, ski competitions were already taking place on a cross country circuit with a small jump. Skiers were judged on both speed and style. Not that there was much style on display, as the competitors battled with their single, long poles to maintain upright on the downhill sections.

When Sondre Norheim gave the ski its now familiar twisted shape and added a heel strap of rope, some degree of control was gained on the descent. Using these innovations, Norheim could execute two styles of turn, the "Telemark", named after the district of his birth, and the "Christiania", the former name of Oslo. In addition to these developments Norheim established the principle of modern ski jumping, a sport which quickly became a national obsession. By the end of the century, jumping had been separated from cross-country skiing and, in Norway, the annual Holmenkollen championships had become a national event, regarded in much the same way as Wimbledon or the Derby.

Important as these developments were, Norheim's bindings gave no lateral support. It was difficult to turn the skis on sloping ground and virtually impossible on steep terrain. In 1890, there were no books on ski technique and the written instruction that existed tended towards the absurd. The Austrian Ski Association advised: "On the descent, the ski-runner leans back on his stick and shuts his eyes. Then he darts downward, straight as an arrow, and continues until he can no longer breathe. He then throws himself sideways on the snow and waits to regain his breath, and then once again hurls himself downward until he once more loses his breath and throws himself on the snow." Perhaps an example of the blind leading the breathless!

Inspired by Fridtjof Nansen's epic crossing of Greenland on skis in 1888, the Austrian Mathias Zdarsky decided to take up the

sport and bought himself some equipment. Alas, after buying the skis, he discovered that they were virtually useless in the mountainous terrain around his home at Lilienfeld.

After many experiments, Zdarsky succeeded in making a binding with a metal toe piece which prevented the foot from slipping sideways on the ski but allowed the heel to be lifted freely. With this adaptation he conquered the steepest inclines and executed the first stem turn - a technique with which every present day skier will be familiar.

Zdarsky's prowess as a skier was only matched by his ability as a teacher. Demanding strict discipline, he would regularly conduct classes of 200 - a daunting prospect for those of us who have waited in line to demonstrate our rudimentary skills in ski school. His book on Alpine ski technique, published in 1896 became a classic and was reprinted each year for 29 years.

An ecumenical conference in Brindelwald, Switzerland, in 1893 provided the unlikely impetus for the development of winter sports package holidays. The organiser, Henry Lunn, then a Methodist minister, charged the participants £10.50 each for the return fare from London and two weeks in the best hotel. Having made a handsome profit he realised there was a future in arranging travel for the other people and, in the winter of 1898-9, took his first winter sports tour to Chamonix in France.

The well-to-do British were now firmly established as winter visitors to the Alps. To relieve the boredom they took to tobogganing, curling and skating, but few knew much about skiing. Neither, it seems, did most instructors! Skiers were generally limited to riding straight downhill, braking heavily with their poles, as turning was out of the question. Observers found this a fairly pointless activity but a source of great hilarity each time someone fell.

By this time, the British middle classes had come to regard the Lunn label on their luggage as something of a social handicap. To overcome this, Lunn created the "Public Schools Winter Sports Club". It was within this exclusive little club that Alpine ski racing has its roots. In 1903, a challenge cup for a combination of skiing, skating and tobogganing was established and, by 1911, the events had become separate championships, Bizarrely, the skiing prize was named the Roberts of Kandahar after a Field Marshal who had never been anywhere near the Alps! The name was also adopted by the breakaway ski club formed in the same year and remains a source of mystery to this day.

The following year, the club set up in Murren, Switzerland, after Henry Lunn persuaded the railway to continue running trains up to this tiny village from Lauterbrunnen throughout the winter. The Kandahar Club quickly found a rival. Across the valley in Wengen they had a similar rack railway system which could take skiers up to the north face of the Eiger. From this point they could enjoy the open meadows above the village without having to face the tiring prospect of climbing back uphill on foot. Thus, the Downhill Only Club was born.

Inevitably a race between the two clubs had to take place. The Wengen clan were somewhat taken aback when they saw the Kandahar

team arriving adorned with their official club emblem. In response, the Downhill Only members appeared after lunch wearing pieces of card bearing the letters D.H.O. It did not, however, do them much good as they were soundly beaten by their neighbours.

As Henry Lunn pioneered skiing holidays, so his son Arnold was responsible for putting Alpine ski racing on the map. Disillusioned with style competitions, in 1922, he set a course around poles at Murren and named it the "Slalom". However, achieving acceptance of the idea was, metaphorically, an uphill struggle. Throughout the 1920's it met with great resistance, particularly from the Norwegians, who felt their combination of jumping and cross country was the true test of courage and skill.

The first British Championships took place at Wengen in 1921. The downhill had just 15 entries, who all started at once. As a consequence, there were more than a few collisions. Outside Britain, the downhill was generally regarded as a feeble event and was first included in the Austrian Championships as an unofficial race for women only. It is ironic that the men's downhill is now regarded as the blue ribbon skiing event.

After much campaigning, both downhill and slalom attained World Championship status in 1931. In contrast to the politics and precision timing that surrounds the current World Championships, proceedings at Murren in 1931 were decidedly relaxed. After the official events were completed, the organisers decided to hold an extra downhill race which was to finish outside Lauterbrunnen railway station.

Having claimed both downhill and slalom titles on previous days, Britain's Esme McKinnon was about to complete the course when she was confronted by a funeral procession emerging from the station. Respectfully, she stepped aside to let it pass before finishing. The judges generously deducted the waiting time and declared her the winner.

In ski racing, the days of the enthusiastic amateur have disappeared in the relentless quest for speed. We now live in an age where wearing a ski made of unapproved material can lead to disqualification and a race can be won or lost on the precise formulation of the wax.

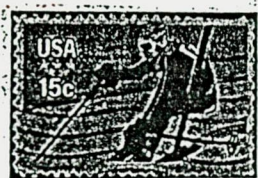
The massive upsurge in the popularity of the sport over the last two decades has been matched by the commercial investment in the technology of skiing. Modern skis, boots and bindings now offer unprecedented protection, comfort and freedom of movement. Add to this the comparatively recent innovations of monoskiing, ski-bobbing and ski-ballet and you have a sport which would be almost unrecognisable to the skiers of the 1920s and 1930s.

The one essential element that has not changed is the pleasure of effortlessly carving a turn through a fresh crust of snow on a sunlit mountain. A pleasure that is as real today as it must have been for Zdarsky at the end of the last century.

Winter sports are very much in vogue these days, particularly with the recent close of the 16th Winter Games in Albertville and the 17th Olympic Winter Games due to be held in 1994 in

Lillehammer. This seems to be an appropriate time to deal with the entire topic of Winter Sports on Stamps. Naturally enough, there have been many hundreds of issues dealing with International Winter Games as well as with Olympic Games.

While the modern International Olympic Summer Games were started in Athens, Greece, in 1896, it wasn't until 1924 that the first full-scale Olympic Winter Games were held at Chamonix in France, with a few events also being staged in Norway. In 1920, a few winter events had been conducted in an indoor skating rink at Antwerp, Belgium. Antwerp had been the host to the 1920 Summer Games.



The 1928 Winter Olympic Games were held in St. Moritz, Switzerland, and then in 1932 they were held for the first time in the Western Hemisphere, at Lake Placid, New York, from the 4th - 13th of February. It was also in 1932 that stamps commemorating the Winter Olympics, began to be issued on a fairly regular basis.

For the 1932 Lake Placid Games, the United States issued a 2 cent rose carmine stamp that has to be closely examined to be appreciated. The central design shows a ski jumper in action against a background formed by a snow covered landscape and an overcast sky.

For the 1936 Games staged at Garmisch Partenkirchen in Bavaria, Germany released a set of three semi-postal stamps depicting ice skating, ski jumping and bobsledding.

The Winter Games of 1940 and 1944 were cancelled because of the Second World War, but since then they have been held every four years without a break - at St. Moritz in 1948, Oslo in Norway in 1952, Cortina d'Ampezzo in Italy in 1956, Squaw Valley in California in 1960, Innsbruck, Austria in 1964, Grenoble in France in 1968, Sapporo Japan in 1972, Innsbruck in 1976, Lake Placid for the second time in 1980, Sarajevo, Yugoslavia in 1984 and Calgary in 1988.

Switzerland issued four stamps for the 1948 St. Moritz Games, with the various designs featuring the Olympics emblem, snowflakes and an ice-hockey player and skier.

Norway contributed an excellent set of three large stamps for the 1952 Games in Oslo - on these stamps there is an ice skater, a ski jumper and a general winter scene.

For the 1956 Winter Games in Cortina, Italy came out with a regular issue set of four stamps depicting the Cortina Stadium, ski jumping, ice skating and ice racing. It was at the Winter Olympic Games at Cortina that Russia won its first Olympic medal and from this point onwards Russia and the rest of the Eastern block countries have poured out a plethora of Winter Olympic commemorative stamps.

For the 1960 Winter Games staged at Squaw Valley, California, the United States Post Office issued a single stamp, a 4 cent

value showing the intertwined Olympic rings and snowflakes. In 1972, as the country was getting far more liberal in its commemorative stamp issuing policy, the United States again issued a set of 4 stamps honouring both the Sapparo Winter Games and the Summer Olympic Games in Munich. The Winter Olympic Games set showed stylised versions of bobsledding and skiing.



In 1976, the United States repeated the same basic idea of 1972 by releasing a multicoloured set of four stamps which commemorated both the Olympic Games in Innsbruck in the Winter and the Montreal Summer Games. The two Winter Olympic stamps showed a skier and a skater. The following Games returned once again to the United States and Lake Placid and on this occasion

the United States Post Office came out with a se-tenant block of four depicting speed skating, downhill skiing, ski jumping and an ice hockey goalkeeper. Canada issued a single stamp marking the 1980 Games in Lake Placid, a 35 cent value featuring a downhill skier.

Anyone who gets involved in collecting Winter Olympic stamps will usually also find himself immersed in winter sports issues in general. Among the "classic" specimens in the latter category are two of the 10 cent values in Hungary's 1925 sports stamps; the 200 korona shows a downhill skier going down an icy slope, while the 300 korona depicts a skater swirling across the ice rink.

One of the best hockey action shots featured on a stamp comes on Canada's 5 cent ultramarine of 1956. The stamp was issued simply to publicise Canada's most popular sport.



Among the more unusual winter sports depicted on a stamp is Canada's 6 cent multicoloured Curling issue of 1969. The exact origin of Curling, the "Roaring Game" is not known, but it has been a favourite with winter sport in Scotland for more than three centuries. Today the game is also played in England, Ireland, Switzerland, Canada and in the Northern United States.

The Royal Montreal Curling Club organised in 1809, predates any other sporting organisation founded in North America. There are many different ways in which a collection can be devoted to Winter Sports either through developing either single Olympic Games or through a single sport, and great fun can be had by all.

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**SOCIETY OF OLYMPIC COLLECTORS PACKET SERVICE.**

If you live in the United Kingdom and would like to receive packets of Olympic material to view in your home, contact the Society's Packet Manager, Colin Faers, 8 Farm Lane, West Lulworth, Dorset BH20 5SJ. Packets are circulated as often as possible and good buying and selling members are always welcome.

# PEDESTRIANISATION OF OLYMPIC WAY

Alan Sabey.

The story of Olympic Way at Wembley in north London really begins just after the Second World War when the Games of the XIV Olympiad were awarded to London. Upon this decision being made known, Sir Arthur Elvin and the other Directors of Wembley Stadium Ltd were quick to offer the Empire Stadium, the Empire Pool and the other adjacent buildings to be used for the various events of the Olympic Games.

It was then realised that road access to the stadium was by side roadways. The great avenue, known as Kingsway and dating from the British Empire Exhibition of 1924 and 1925, was a garden walk of paths and flower beds leading from the North-West entrance building to the front of the stadium. Also crossing Kingsway was a colonnade linking the palaces of Engineering and Industry, broken in the middle of Kingsway by the Lloyds Bank building.

To create the special road leading to the front of the stadium in time for the opening of the Olympic Games, the North-West entrance and its two "arms" - the colonnade of shops, the Lloyds Bank building and its colonnade connecting the two palaces had to be demolished.

The work commenced in July 1947 and the development was known as the "Bridge Road Improvement (Olympic Way) Pedestrian Subway" and from a point roughly half way between the site of the north west entrance (which incidentally was built across the Wealdstone Brook) and the site of Lloyds Bank, a pedestrian subway leading directly to Wembley Park underground station was constructed. This contained the blue and white tiled mural showing the twin towers and the terrace of the stadium. Over the top of this was the roadway connecting the stadium to Bridge Road.

On 6 May 1948 at 3.00pm, the then Minister of Transport, the Right Honorable Alfred Barnes MP unveiled a plaque naming the new road Olympic Way to commemorate the holding of the Olympic Games at Wembley.

The Games of the XIV Olympiad were held between 29 July and 14 August 1948 with the stadium as the venue for the track and field events, the Empire Pool for the swimming and diving events, and with a "bridge" constructed across the pool, the venue for the boxing contests. Part of the now-demolished Palace of Engineering was used for the fencing contests.

The pedestrian subway was at one time used to convey spectators from the Cup Final back to the station, but it has not been used for a number of years now. In the late 1970's, the first stage of the pedestrianisation of Olympic Way was the construction of footways from the ends of the two palaces directly to the front of the stadium.

It has since been decided to fully pedestrianise Olympic Way in an effort to control the crowds. Now the subway and the overhead

roadway from Bridge Road at the start of Olympic Way has been demolished. Work on this began in November 1991 and will continue through the winter, so that all should be complete by the time the stadium is used for the Rumbellow Cup match in April 1992 and for the Football Association Cup Final in May of this year.

Entrance to the stadium for road traffic is now well served by a new road near the Conference Centre and Exhibition Halls, known as "Royal Route". 10 January saw the 70th Anniversary of the cutting of the first turf at Wembley Park and the construction of the famous stadium, about which a further article will be published.

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## IN BRIEF

A glass of water determined the destination of the gold medal in the 1912 marathon. Refreshment points had been set up along the marathon route, and on the homeward journey, just one mile from the stadium, Christian Gitsham of South Africa, stopped for a glass of water on the understanding, he claimed later, that his compatriot, Kenneth McArthur, who had been running shoulder to shoulder with him, would wait. McArthur had different ideas, he kept on going and took the gold medal from Gitsham by the narrowest of margins. His reply to Gitsham's claim that he would wait for him, was that the water did not interest him, only the champagne, which he later downed by the bottle. The 1912 marathon was marred by a sad note. The 21 year old Portuguese runner, Francisco Lazaro, collapsed from sunstroke and heart trouble towards the end of the race and was taken to hospital, where he died the following day. This was the first of only two athletes to die as a result of their participation in the Olympic Games.

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Allan Woodring of the United States qualified as a part of the US 200 metres track team only as a reserve. However, when George Massengale had to pull out because of an attack of rheumatism, Woodring was allowed to compete. In the final, Charles Paddock led from the start, but Woodring overtook him with 20 metres to go. He went on to beat Paddock into second place, and couldn't believe that he had won. Paddock had to convince him that he had not allowed Woodring to win, and had, in fact, given his all!

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### SUPPORT THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY!

Ken Cook has now prepared an up-to-date list of all the books, journals and leaflets at present contained in the Society's Library. Will members who borrow books, please read the instructions carefully and help both yourself and the Librarian.

# MELBOURNE 1996

ROBERT BUDGE

Australia Post was a sponsor of Australia's bid for the 1996 Summer Olympic Games and they issued a set of three postcards on the 22nd June 1990 the front of each postcard shows one of the venues that would have been used, if the bid had been successful. The three venues are Melbourne Cricket Ground, The Exhibition Buildings and the National Tennis Centre.

The first postcard shows the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) at night with the lights on. This was to be the venue for the opening and closing ceremonies, athletics and the soccer final. The second postcard shows the Exhibition Buildings and Gardens. These buildings were to have been the home of boxing, fencing, judo, wrestling and the fencing part of the modern pentathlon. The National Tennis Centre at Flinders Park, the picture is also taken at night. The following sports would have been held there, tennis, gymnastics and the finals of European handball.

The back of the postcards are just as interesting. The postage area on the top right hand corner has a globe and the Melbourne bid emblem, with "Postage Prepaid Australia" on the top and under the globe and emblem "For Posting in Australia and Delivery Worldwide". the bottom left hand corner shows a picture of Koala Bear and a different Koala is shown on each card. Next to the Koala is the information about the venue on the front of the card underneath are the words "Olympics for Melbourne, Australia 1996". On the leftside of the postcard above the Koala in a rectangular shape is the bid emblem, the Arts Centre Spire, and these are separated by the Australian flag over the Olympic rings "Olympics for Melbourne 1996".

( ) Australia Post



POSTAGE PRE-PAID AUSTRALIA



A.P.L. Austral. U.S.B. Wilkes ART Post. Labels

To mark D-day (decision day) of the Olympic Committee's decision on who would be awarded the 1996 Games, Australia Post used a special postmark which incorporated the Melbourne bid emblem and the Melbourne Arts Centre Spire. It was dated the 18th September 1990 and postmarked Melbourne Vic 3000.

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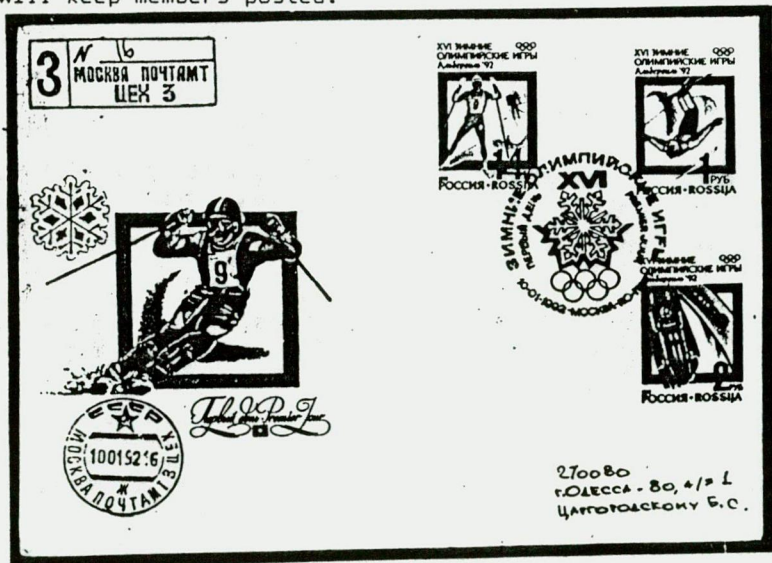
# OLYMPIC DEBUT OF RUSSIAN MAIL

Vsevolod Furman

The disintegration of the USSR did not cause distress to lovers of Olympic philately because the postage stamps to commemorate Albertville were issued as planned..... but by Russia. There are several explanations for this. First of all, Russia inherited the rights of most USSR activities in most instances. Secondly, Russia was at the birth of modern Olympism, and its National Olympic Committee was amongst the first to be recognised by the IOC. Thirdly, Russian sportsmen and women form the overwhelming majority in the united team of the EUN.

On 10 January 1992, the post office counters of the Russian Federation started selling three Olympic stamps: a 14 kopek stamp which showed skiing, 1 Rouble showing freestyle acrobatic skiing and a 2 Rouble showing bob sledding. The remarkable characteristic of these stamps, as well as on the first day cancellation, is the absence of the usual additions of stamps of the USSR, the inclusion of the word "POST" and the Hammer and Sickle - the symbol of the socialist state. Instead there is the presence of the Latin lettering of the Russian word ROSSIJA.

The designer of the Olympic miniature sheets is the artist Ju. Artsimenev. These stamps were also issued as miniature sheets. From the collectors point of view, these stamps were unavailable for most collectors in the former Soviet Union. Because of the break in the Union between the former republics, former USSR collectors could only purchase them through dealers for twice or three times the face value. Collectors are now concerned about possible Olympic material being issued by Moldavia and Lithuania. I will keep members posted.



# BERLIN 1936

FRANCESKA RAPKIN

All too often the researcher has an easier task finding information about early stamps and postal history than seeking information about comparatively modern material.

A friend recently asked me what I knew about coil stamps for the 1936 Olympic Games, and, of course, my immediate reaction was to say that they do not exist. But they do exist, and now I have four stamps in my collection to prove it.

The series of eight commemorative stamps with a premium for the benefit of the German Olympic Fund were issued on 9 May, though they are known to have been sold in error in Halle, Saal, on 5 May 1936. The stamps have a swastika watermark and are perforated 14 x 13.5. They were valid for postage until the 30th June 1937. Max Eschle of Munich designed the stamps and they were printed in recess by the State Printing Works in Berlin.

The four stamps which I have in my collection are undoubtedly genuine as they have green stamp sized coil ends. The values are correct for coil machines and are those values which are most commonly used - 6pf inland postcard, 12pf inland letter rate, and foreign postcard and letter rate of 15 and 25 pfennigs.

The stamps have been authenticated as genuine by a German expert and have been issued with a certificate to prove it. Eduard Peschl the German expert has no doubts that these stamps are genuine and has added that they should be classified as experimental coils. Unfortunately he gave no further details.

The Postal Museum in Berlin has claimed that it has no details of any postal directives of that time regarding coil stamps for the Olympic Games, but a collector friend does have the 6 Pf with four coil ends used on a cover with the ends correctly tied to the cover. He had previously thought that it was a fabrication.

The Kiel Postal Archives sent information that, during the yachting events for the 1936 Olympic Games, itinerant stamp salesmen were used at key locations to relieve the workload on the Post Office clerks. These sales people were mainly stationed outside the Post Offices and at various Olympic yachting venues. They carried a machine strapped around their neck, similar to that carried by old fashioned bus conductors wore to sell bus tickets. The turn of a handle produced a stamp through a narrow slot at the bottom of the machine.

Garmisch Partenkirchen and Berlin affirmed that they did use these itinerant stamp salesmen and it is my opinion, it is from here that the coil stamps originate.

These stamps would have been taken from the complete sheets and strung together, probably with narrow straps of green coil ends or with the margin themselves. If my theory is correct, someone,

somewhere must have a cover with the adjoining strips underneath the stamp or perhaps, even better, a joined pair.

What is certain is that these stamps did not originate from automatic vending machines. In 1936, the Hindenburg Medallion Definitive stamps were in use, and the machines were geared to the size of these stamps. It would have been extremely complicated and costly to convert these machines for use for the Olympic stamps for such a short period of time that they would have been in use.

Either these stamps were an experiment by the Postal Authorities that did not prove worthwhile (if this is the case, they should not have been released to the public), or, if my theory is correct, they were prepared by the local Postal Authorities for use by these itinerant stamp salesmen. This would explain why no mention is made of coil stamps in the Postal Directives of that period.

I should be pleased to hear from any collectors who may possess any of these stamps, either on cover, or mint or used, or those who have any further information to either prove or disprove my theory.



The illustration shows the two overseas values of the "coil" stamps and the reverse of the other two values. It can be seen that, in the one case, the coil end has been used to join stamp and coil, in the other, the stamp margin itself has been used to make to join.

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LACK INFORMATION?

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The Society has a comprehensive Library. Why not use it when writing up your collection to add to those interesting facts? Write to our Librarian, Ken Cook, at 31 Thorn Lane, Rainham Essex. He will be happy to advise you, but will NOT undertake to carry out research for you.

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# ROYAL MAIL SPONSORSHIP

The British Post Office Royal Mail, like their American counterpart the United States Postal Service, have become Olympic sponsors. The Princess Royal unveiled two special first class Royal Mail stamps on the 25th February 1992 to highlight Britain's bid for gold at the 1992 Olympic Games.

The stamps also mark Royal Mail's unique sponsorship deal which keeps financial support to both the Associations for the Able bodied and Disabled Olympic competitors - the British Olympic and Paralympic Associations.

Royal Mail stands alone among Olympic sponsors in its commitment to backing disabled as well as able bodied sport. The stamps went on sale on the 7th April and are part of a set of five called "Europa 92" which has a theme highlighting Spain - where the 1992 Games will be held.

At a launch ceremony in London, attended by the Princess Royal, Mr Ken Young, Deputy Chairman of the Post Office, said: "We are delighted to help with our sponsorship and pay tribute with our stamps to our athletes seeking Olympic glory in Spain. Our financial support is backed up by these special stamps which will carry their message all over the world. It is an honour that the Princess Royal, as President of the British Olympic Association, is able to join us to launch these stamps. Royal Mail has been independently assessed as the best postal service in a European survey and it is therefore appropriate that, with these stamps, we are linked to the best international sporting events. We want to help both our able bodied and disabled Olympic competitors become world beaters."

In the two Olympic stamps, the one stamp depicts the British Olympic Association logo, while another highlights the "flying torch" symbol of the British Paralympic Association. The other three stamps in the set mark the 500th anniversary of Columbus's landing in America; Operation Raleigh, which has changed its name to Raleigh International, is sponsored by Post Office businesses, including Royal Mail and Expo 92, the International Exhibition which is being held in Seville from April to October.

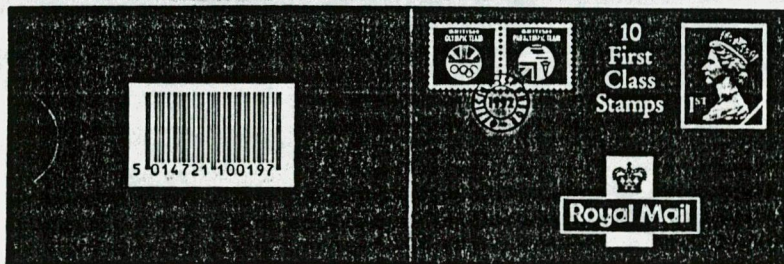


Royal Mail last honoured sport with a special stamp in 1991 which highlighted the World Student Games and the Rugby World Cup. The Royal Mail Olympic - Paralympics sponsorship deal compliments an existing scheme, the Royal Mail awards, which has been a driving force behind youth development in sport in Great Britain. To date, more than £200,000 has been awarded to clubs, community centres and youth organisations since the scheme was founded three years ago.

The two Olympic stamps were printed in lithography by the House of Questa. These stamps are almost square in format and printed in a sheet of 100 stamps. They are printed on unwatermarked, phosphor coated paper and the gum is PVA dextrin.

Special First Day Covers have been designed by Keith Bassford and were available from the British Philatelic Bureau. The presentation packs were also designed by Keith Bassford and the text was supplied by Tim Shackleton, the packs were also available from the British Philatelic Bureau and at most Post Offices from the 7th April 1992 and priced at £1.80 each.

However the British involvement with the Olympic Games on this occasion dates back to the beginning of the year when two stamp booklets of the window book type were released on the 21st January 1992 to cover first and second class postage. These booklets were produced by both Harrison's and Walsall and have on the front cover the logos of the British Olympic Association and the Paralympic Association. A further second class booklet was released on the 31st March 1992 this one was printed by the House of Questa.





# OLYMPIC ERRORS

Sidney Amery.

Ancient Olympia, hidden for centuries under mud and silt, and unearthed again by German archeologists in the middle of the nineteenth century, was for Baron Pierre de Coubertin a dream city that excited his imagination from his earliest youth. So fired was he by the dream of the ancient Olympic Games, that he determined to fire the enthusiasm of others to re-establish the games of old. "Germany has excavated what remained of ancient Olympia, why should not France restore the ancient glory" These words of his fell on fertile ground, and the "old glory" was rekindled with new life when the first Olympic Games of the modern era opened in a restored stadium in Athens in April 1896.

More than thirty years later, after de Coubertin had given up the Presidency of the International Olympic Committee in 1925, his words were more of a reproach, but also a warning. "My friends, I have not worked in order that you should make out of it something for a museum or a cinema, or that it should be taken over by commercial or political interests". Today there is no mistaking the commercial and political interests which surround the Games, not least of which are the proliferation of Olympic stamp issues which emerge every four years, and many of which have little or no connection with the countries that issue them. What would de Coubertin say today?

In the face of this flood of Olympic stamps, it is understandable if errors occur. However these issues came into being, through indolence, slovenliness or ignorance, they give emphatic proof as to how much commercial interests predominate in this field. Among postal administrations and agencies, the word has gone out that the overprinting of the Olympic Rings or the word OLYMPIA or OLYMPIC or OLYMPIAD is a sure recipe for a successful sellout of any left over or unsaleable stamps.

This article does not deal with the genuine errors that appear from time to time on all stamp issues, such as perforation or printing varieties and other errors that have occurred during the printing process, rather, it deals with the errors that have occurred through faulty inscriptions and faulty illustrations, all of which are avoidable with a little research.

The five Olympic rings have been the symbol of the Olympic Movement since 1914, when they were first unveiled at the Olympic Congress in Paris on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Congress of Sorbonne. Their design represents the Olympic spirit, their five entwined differently coloured rings symbolising the five continents linked together in harmony. Each of the colours used are to be found in all nations flags. They are used in a specific order, the rings, three at the top and two at the bottom, and entwined in a definite order.

The Olympic rings appear philatelically for the first time in 1928 on a stamp from Portugal, and here the postal authorities took the trouble to entwine the rings in their correct order.

It is only after the Second World War that the errors in the rings and their linking appear. On 29 July 1948, to commemorate the opening of the first post war Olympic Games in London, Great Britain issued a set of four stamps to coincide with the opening ceremony at Wembley. Peru also issued a series of four stamps to commemorate the London Olympic Games. Both these issues have the Olympic rings strung together like a chain. On the 6d British stamp, although the rings are shown in their familiar three up, two down formation, they are linked together incorrectly.



The Olympic rings have appeared in all manner of fancy and improbable forms, and among the "chain gang" issues are those of Egypt, (Michel No. 352) Yemen Republic (Mi. 361-64), and Madagascar (Mi. 463). Malaya (Mi.53), Ecuador (Mi. 449-52), the Yemen Republic (Mi. 359-60 and 365-66) and Qatar (Mi. 37-41) arranged the rings in a circle like a necklace, while the United Arab Republic (Mi. 80-86) and Indonesia (Mi. 258-61) arranged them in an arch, as if they were an ornament around the central design. Malaysia (Mi. 54) and Egypt (Mi. 353) wove the rings into a wreath, while the Dominican Republic (Mi. 560-67), Egypt (Mi. 354), Guatemala (Mi. 844-48) and Jordan (Mi. 449-52) show the rings in a two up, three down format. They have appeared like dumplings, discs and flying saucers, and if one were to list every variation on the Olympic rings, a whole article could be devoted to this one subject.



Many countries cash in on their Olympic issues by issuing a second series after the Games to honour the winners. Although it would be preferable if they were to honour their own champions, when these are not available, other countries' champions are equally useful as revenue raisers! Many mishaps have happened with names, Games and designs. The first that springs to mind is a stamp issued by the Dominican Republic to honour the Japanese gold medallist in the 200 metres breast stroke in the 1956 Games in Melbourne, Mauru Furukawa. The illustration shows him doing anything other than the breast stroke. It could be the crawl, but

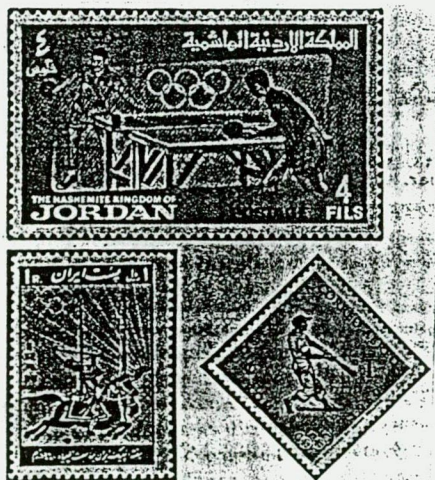
the legs are in the wrong position. Judging from the amount of

water splashing around, one could be forgiven for believing that Furukawa had fallen into the pool by accident! The remainders of this stamp later appeared overprinted for the 15th. Anniversary of UNESCO.

At the XIX Olympiad in Mexico, Paraguay issued a stamp to honour Ingrid Becker, who won the gold medal in the pentathlon. She is depicted holding a foil, not one of the disciplines of the pentathlon, since it is only one of the sports in the modern pentathlon, which is not competed for by women. Another woman who has been ill-served by philately is Elzbieta Krzesinska-Dunska, who won the gold medal in the long jump at the Melbourne Games in 1956. The long plait, for which she was well known, was shorn off in the stamp issued by Poland in her honour!

The Kingdom of Yemen issued a series showing the flags of the host nations, but did not like the fact that the Nazi flag flew over the stadium in Berlin in 1936. Instead, they showed the black-gold-red flag of modern Germany (Mi. 520) Since this did not correspond with the facts, a second stamp was issued to commemorate the 1936 Games, which showed the Olympic flag instead (Mi.521).

Olympic Winter Games have hardly fared better in the error awards. Honduras issued a series (Mi.698-99 and 705-6) which honoured the skiing sisters Christine and Marielle Goitschel. They won two gold and two silver medals at the Winter Games in Innsbruck in 1964. Their name has been mis-spelt Goitshel, without the 'C'. Congo-Brazzaville issued a stamp which shows Nordic skiing as one of the disciplines at the Munich Summer Games in 1972, and Panama awarded cross country medals to downhill skiers Zimmermann, Lacroix and Bartels in the 1964 Winter Games. In the same set, Panama awarded a gold, silver and bronze medal in women's 3,000 metres speed skating, when in reality, the gold was won by Lydia Skoblikova and Valentina Stenina and Pil-Hwa Han were joint silver medallists.



It is not uncommon to find Olympic stamps with sports that have never been a part of the Olympic programme. Table tennis has been given Olympic status on several occasions, and yet only became an Olympic sport in the Olympic Games in Seoul. Yemen Jordan and Nicaragua have been guilty of this error. Sharjah shows curling as an Olympic sport (Mi. 406), and although it has been a demonstration sport on several occasions, it has never gained official status. Costa Rica showed baseball (Mi. 578), Hungary showed skittles (Mi. 2041) and Sharjah showed a low skeleton racing sled, more like that used by children. According to the Yemen Republic (Mi. 336),



darts is also an Olympic discipline. Not quite so bad are Afghanistan and Iran, who showed polo as an Olympic sport. At least this was one of the sports until 1936 in Berlin, when it was discontinued. Golf was shown as an Olympic sport by Nicaragua, and again, this was one of the disciplines, but only in Paris in 1900 and St. Louis in 1904. Nor is that the end of the list! Alleged Olympic sports include motor racing, fishing, water skiing and bob-ski racing, whatever that is. According to Panama (Mi.1217), mountaineering is now also a part of the programme, as is

rugby football. The last named was an Olympic sport only in 1900, 1908, 1920 and 1924. Anyone who wishes to continue the search through the stamp catalogue for further anomalies, is sure of success, since new errors are being created all the time.

Even the numbering of the Olympic Games is not free from error. Every enthusiast knows that a four year period is called an Olympiad, and this numbering continues, whether or not the Olympic Games take place. Thus, the Games that would have taken place in 1916 were the Games of the Sixth Olympiad, and those that took place in Antwerp in 1920 after the end of hostilities were the Games of the Seventh Olympiad. The same thing happened in 1940 and 1948, so that when the Games resumed in 1948, the London Games were the Fourteenth Olympiad, even though the Berlin Games of 1936 were the Eleventh. Monserrat is one of the countries that appear to be incapable of getting their sums right. According to them, the Moscow Games were the Nineteenth, and the Los Angeles Games, the Twentieth.

Even respected countries are not free from error. The United States Olympic Winter Games stamp issued in 1932 to commemorate the Games of Lake Placid, shows a downhill skier, whereas this discipline was not introduced until the following Games in Garmisch Partenkirchen in 1936.



From the First Olympic Winter Games in Chamonix in 1924, the four man bob sled has been a part of the winter programme, yet in Squaw Valley in 1960, this discipline was omitted. This didn't stop Togo from issuing a stamp (Mi. 278) showing the four man bob. This was perhaps permissible from a nation that had no winter sports of its own. What

excuse for those nations that know about sports on snow and ice, yet manage to produce illustrations of sleds that bear no relation to the reality? The sleds shown on Monaco (Mi. 688) and



Austria (Mi. 1142) are guided by a large steering wheel. In reality, this method of steering the sled has not been used in over twenty years, since when the steering is done by a rope. Anderl Ostler was the last Olympian to guide his sled with a wheel at the Winter Games in 1952, even though rope steering had been introduced by that time.

The two-man bob sled shown by the Yemen Republic (Mi. 621) looks more like a fairground dodgem car than a sled. Michel No. 2726 of Hungary looks more like a converted bath tub, so it is hardly surprising that only three men can be fitted into it, an impossible number, since there are only competitions for two and four men bob sled races. Once again, Yemen, as well as Romania, have been guilty of showing non-existent sports by also showing the three man bob.



Ski jumpers also appear to present great difficulties to the designers. Why this should be is uncertain, because even a brief study of action photographs would help to avoid some of the contortions that have appeared in the past. Many skiers seem to fly down the mountain like a wounded albatross, or suffer from serious spinal distortions. The skis used are frequently too short, such as the illustration of Sharjah, and the Albanian's ski boots are fixed so tightly to his skis, that he is in danger of breaking both ankles on landing. Modern skis have introduced new techniques, and a correct stance before the Second World War would certainly not be acceptable today. Austria should have known better on Michel No. 1138, by 1964 skiers no longer went over the ski jump in that position.

The downhill skiers have scarcely fared better than the jumpers. The skier depicted by Togo (Mi. 276) looks most ungainly, which is hardly surprising since he appears to be wearing a cross between a diving suit and the outfit worn by astronauts. Ski sticks have appeared at right angles across the body, guaranteed to cause a nasty accident, and many designers seem ignorant of the use of an aerodynamic posture to help decrease the time taken to complete the course. For quite a considerable time, it has been compulsory for skiers to wear a crash helmet, a fact that appears to have been overlooked by quite a number of designers.



Speed skating is another sport that has suffered at the designers' hands. Ajman shows three speed skaters on the track at the same time. Impossible, since only two race at the same time. Some skaters have been depicted wearing heavy, ski-type boots, guaranteed to produce a slow speed!



There is no sport that has not been distorted by the whims of the stamp designer. The Liberian walker, (Mi. 554) has forgotten all about the correct arm movements, and looks more as if he is out for a Sunday afternoon stroll. The shot putter from Surinam would be disqualified before the shot even left his hand, since his back foot is outside the throwing circle. The discus throwers from Burundi (Mi. 126) and Ruanda Urundi (Mi. 179) are standing in the middle of the ring to throw the discus, hardly the thing for an experienced athlete! The javelin thrown by the competitor from Chad is far too short, while poor Mildred Didrickson, shown on the 1957 Dominican Republic issue probably didn't realise that she was entering the high jump, rather than the hurdles! Both Guinea (Mi. 521) and Congo (Mi. 169) depict their pole vaulters holding

the pole higher than the bar itself, and the pole vaulter from the Congo Republic would probably not have qualified for the event, since the pole is still considerable higher than the bar, and what is more, he appears to be in danger of landing on the Olympic flame!



In 1968 in Mexico, the American high jumper, Dick Fosbury astounded the world with his unorthodox way of jumping. He won the gold medal with a jump of 2.24 metres, and since that time, most of the world's high jumpers have adopted the "Fosbury Flop". It is insulting therefore for Ajman to issue a



stamp in his honour (Mi. 133) which shows anything but the Fosbury Flop. There are many stamps which show high jumpers, and in quite a number of instances, the athletes have chosen to aim for the gold medal with new, unique, and frequently quite impossible jumping techniques.



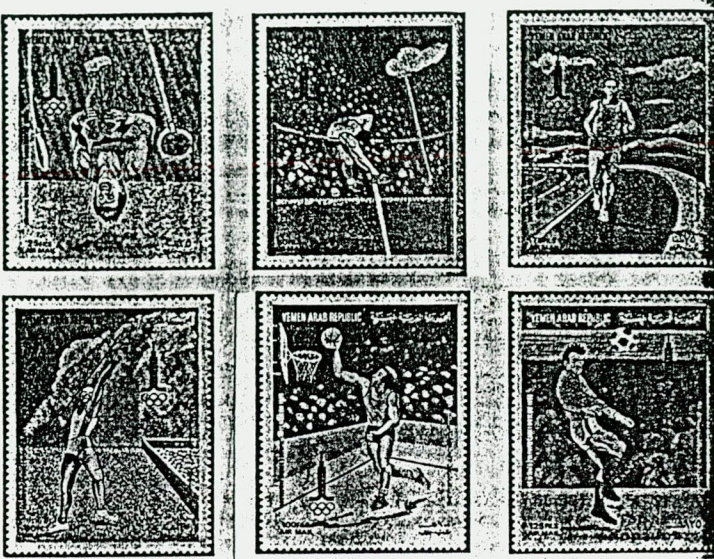
Stamps showing swimmers are also very popular, and here splashing around in the water seems to be an equally popular pastime. It is impossible to establish in which discipline the swimmer from Surinam is participating. The Bulgarian lady (Mi.1470) is unlikely to do too well, since her toes are not gripping the edge of the starting block, and so is unlikely to push off well. On the other hand, the swimmer from Mongolia (Mi. 194) is likely to end up in considerable pain. His take-off dive is too high, and angled so that he is likely to produce a belly flop! Dubai allows their gymnasts to do their exercises on weird looking apparatus (Mi. 129, 131 and 132) and the Mongolian boxers appear in the ring without any form of protection. The weight lifter from the Dominican Republic (Mi. 916) is unlikely to get his weights off the ground, and the Philippino footballer is unlikely to take possession of the ball. The ball is going under his leg, rather than making contact with his foot. Finland shows two footballers, obviously from the same team, since they are wearing the same colours, each fighting to get possession of the ball.



In the early days of the Olympic Games, there was an excuse for incorrect artwork. Photographs were few and far between, and action photographs practically non-existent. Many of the sports were unknown, or at best unfamiliar, in several parts of the world. This is not the case today. Apart from some obscure national sports, which are unlikely to be included in the Olympic programme, there is adequate documentation, and picture libraries are to be found in all the major cities of the world. Since hundreds of stamps are now issued for every Olympiad, it would be unrealistic to expect to find no design errors, but it would be nice if there could be fewer. Finally, perhaps the Yemen

Republic should take the prize for most errors. Their name has certainly been mentioned most frequently in the above article. However, if for no other reason, they deserve the prize for their 1980 issue in honour of the Olympic Games in Moscow. Here we see a gymnast performing his exercises in a green field, his apparatus seemingly unsupported, the pole vaulter is hanging over the bar like a wet rag, probably winded by his pole, which is far too short. The javelin thrower has taken up pike throwing, and

the runner prefers to run beside the track, rather than on it. It must be the basket ball player's lucky day, for the net has slipped to shoulder height, and only the footballer seems to have come away from the contest relatively unscathed.



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## PROGRAMME

10.30 a.m. Doors open  
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 5.30 p.m. Doors close

10.30 a.m. Doors open  
 2.30 p.m. Presentation of the  
 John Fosbery Trophy  
 & BTA Trophy  
 5.00 p.m. Exhibition closes.

Welcome to Thematica

# SPORT & PHILATELY

Harald Lindemann.

(This article first appeared in "100 JAHRE BRIEFMARKENSAMMLER-VEREIN 1889 BONN", published in May 1989 to commemorate the Centenary of the Bonn Philatelic Society, and is reprinted with the permission of the author.)

Sport, that is movement, tension of the muscles, training, joy and enthusiastic development of strength and fitness, not least in competition. Since time immemorial, sport has been handed down to future generations by many cultures, frequently with religious overtones. Perhaps some Stone Age rock paintings give indications of even earlier sports.

Philately is very much younger. Admittedly, already in ancient Mesopotamia, letters written on clay tablets existed. However, philatelists occupy themselves with the appearance of a regular, mostly Royal, far-reaching postal structure, such as existed since the Middle Ages. To this belong postal edicts, cancellations, schedules, and since approximately one hundred and fifty years, postage stamps. Miniature art in the form of postage stamps became the cornerstone of philately.

SPORT AND PHILATELY have much in common. They both offer enjoyment and pleasure, a pastime and a relaxation, as well as building bridges between people. Both have many million adherents, both have competitive organisations with rules and regulations, though both concepts are neither generally rigidly adhered to, or forcibly regulated. To give an example, a French sports stamp catalogue includes bison hunting (USA 1898) and angling as sports, an opinion that is certainly not shared by everyone.

Sports philately began in the seventh year of the existence of the Bonn Philatelic Society at the time of the first Olympic Games of the modern era in 1896 in Athens. On 15 July 1895, the request was made by the Greek Olympic Committee for the Crown Prince, the Chairman of the Olympic Organising Committee, to ask the Greek parliament to authorise the preparation of a special sports stamp issue. This idea was favourably reviewed by the press, and the possibility of the additional revenue for use by the Organising Committee was considered to be a worthy project. Parliament agreed in the following month and legally laid down that half of any proceeds would go to the Organising Committee.

And so, the postal authorities issued the first Olympic series. The designs of all twelve stamps have their roots in antiquity. Three types of sports were shown on two stamps each, boxing, discus and chariot racing. To this must be added the stamp showing the newly restored stadium, built on an ancient site, as well as the designs showing the ancient gods of Greece, Athena, patron goddess of Athens, Nike, goddess of Victory and Hermes, the messenger of the gods. The Acropolis with the Parthenon Temple forms the subject of the last design.

THE OLYMPIC IDEA GREW. In 1900 in Paris, women took part in the Olympic Games for the first time, in golf and tennis; in 1908 in London, winter sports made their first appearance, figure skating and ice hockey. Participation also grew, from three hundred participants from thirteen countries at the beginning, to two thousand five hundred participants from twenty eight countries in Stockholm in 1912. So far as postage stamps were issued, their designs relied on ancient themes until 1924. It almost happened that in 1916 in Berlin there would have been a breakthrough, with contemporary sports designs, and in part, modern sports being used, such as shot-put and high jump. However, the First World War interrupted this development.



The first sports stamps to be issued independently from the Olympic Games were issued by Hungary in 1925. The pleasure of these eight values was dampened because of the shameful decision to add a 100% compulsory surcharge on to the back of these stamps. Soon, one issue followed another; 1929 Canada for the sailing regatta, 1930 Cuba issued five stamps showing hurdling, and Switzerland three stamps showing land based sports. Bulgaria in 1931 for the Balkan Sports, Yugoslavia in 1932 for the European Rowing Championships and Austria in 1933 for the International Skiing Championships. Incidentally, in 1936, on the 35 groschen stamp, Austria showed a German sportswoman for the first time, the downhill champion, Christl Cranz. In around 1960, a considerable increase in the number of sports related issues began.

The first postmarks with a sporting theme were probably those of the Confederation of Marksmen and the Federation of German Gymnasts which were used before 1900. Three Olympic cancellations were used for the first time in 1906 at the time of the Intercalated Games in Athens. In 1908 a handstamp was used at the Olympic site at Shepherds Bush in London. In 1912 at the Olympic Games in Stockholm, the first slogan machine cancellation was used, the first sporting cancellation in two languages. In the following twenty years, roller cancellations and other postmarks followed from all parts of Europe; for instance, German sports competitions and swimming championships, Olympic qualifying competitions, Sokol meetings and World Student Games.

Somewhat later, meter cancellations with a sporting theme were used by federations, associations and business houses in many parts of Europe.

Particularly attractive are registration labels with a sporting connection. Did special registration labels already exist at the Olympic post office in 1912? The catalogue makes no mention of them. Occasionally, registration labels hand inscribed "STADION" are mentioned for Amsterdam in 1928. Uruguay honoured her football team, Olympic winners in 1924, with three stamps and a complementary registration label. In 1936, Berlin offered a true registration label service.

Other areas of sports philately can only be briefly mentioned here; insured letter labels, telegrams and postal stationery, including maximum cards. If an athlete wants to get a deeper insight into his sport through philately, he will soon discover that appropriate literature is hard to find. Practically no literature exists that is specialised to one particular sport and that also embraces philately. The one honourable exception is "VOLLEY E BOLLI, LA PALLAVOLO NELLA FILATELIA", produced in 1985 by Italian philatelists and the Volleyball Federation.

Therefore, there is plenty of room for research. Here are three Olympic examples.

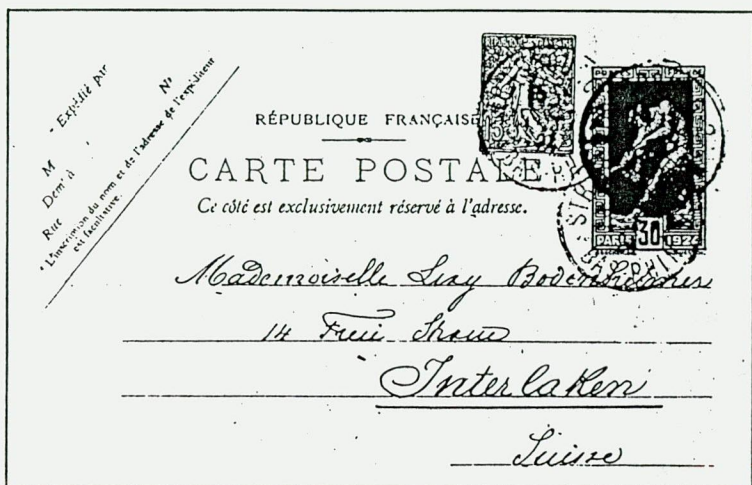


1. SPECIAL CANCELLATION ZAPPEION ATHENS, 1906.

This cancellation only became generally known in 1936 at the time of the first Olympic philatelic exhibition held in Dresden. For both the other special cancellations, "STADION" and "AKROPOLIS", most specialist literature gives 9 April (Julian calendar) as the first date of use. Is that correct?

One researcher at OLYMPHILEX '87 in Rome stated that, according to him, after years of study, he believes for a variety of reasons that, the first day of use of the STADION cancellation

was 12 April and not 9 April. What about the card illustrated here with the Zappeion cancellation which clearly gives an earlier date, in reversed order - month, then day - AIIP 2? Does this indicate that it is a forgery? The date slugs for day, month and year were moveable, and were frequently used at the Zappeion in the early days in an incorrect sequence, as well as upside down, as has been confirmed by several postal items. The function of the Zappeion must also be taken into consideration. It served as the centre for the organisers because of its close proximity to the stadium. Long before the Games opened on 9 April, work was carried out here, correspondence dealt with, even on Sunday 2 April. According to that, the card could be genuine. If so, when was the first day of use of the cancellation? Why should the month slug be moveable, although no March cancellations are known? Open questions.



## 2. POSTCARDS WITH IMPRINTED STAMPS, 1924.

Differences will soon be seen after a careful comparison of these cards. (for Games of Paris 1924) Apart from the three colours, green, brown and grey-green, there are four different lengths of the card - from 136-139mm, and also four different widths - from 87-90mm. A paper measuring gauge will also establish that there were four different thicknesses of card. The conclusion is that there should be  $3 \times 4 \times 4 \times 4 = 192$  different postcards, but that would be premature. First, I had to be certain that each paper type (colour and thickness) existed in each size. Numerous differences in the inscription and picture (Milos of Croton, ancient Olympic victor, from a statue in the Louvre), also had to be taken into consideration.

## 3. USA PRE-CANCELS 1932.

There are numerous officially authorised pre-cancels of all three values, 2, 3, and 5 cents of the Olympic stamps. For a deeper study of this specialised area, the Study Group for Pre-Cancels is a useful contact. Their members and other specialists have been able to establish from which districts pre-cancels



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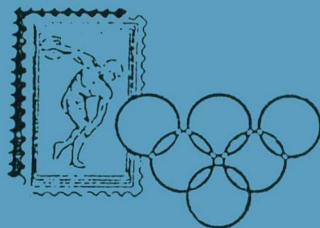
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