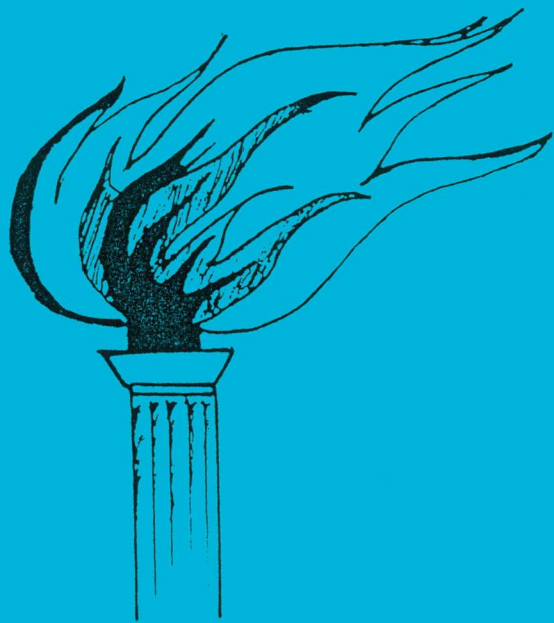


TORCH BEARER



SOCIETY of OLYMPIC COLLECTORS

YOUR COMMITTEE

- CHAIRMAN AND EDITOR: Mrs Franceska Rapkin, Eaglewood, Oxhey Lane, Hatch End, Middx HA5 4AL Great Britain.
- VICE CHAIRMAN: Robert Farley, 14 Lime Walk, Acton, Nr Sudbury Suffolk CO10 OUL, Great Britain.
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- AUCTION MANAGER: John Crowther, 3 Hill Drive, Handforth, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 3AP, Great Britain.
- LIBRARIAN: Ken Cook, 31 Thorn Lane, Rainham, Essex RM13 9SJ, Great Britain.
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- BACK ISSUES AND DISTRIBUTION: John Miller, 258 Torrisholme Road, Lancaster LA1 2TU, Great Britain.
- ADVERTISING: David Buxton, 88 Bucknell Road, Bicester, Oxon OX6 8DR, Great Britain.
- COMMITTEE: Bob Wilcock.

BACK ISSUES: At present, back issues of TORCH BEARER are still available to Volume 1, Issue 1, (March 1984), though there are now very few complete sets of Volume 1. When these run out, they will not be reprinted. It is Society policy to ensure that new members will be able to purchase back issues for a four year period, but we do not guarantee stocks for longer than this. Back issues cost £1.25 each, or £5.00 for a year's issues, including postage by surface mail. If ordering single copies, please indicate which volume you require. Cheques should be made payable to the SOCIETY OF OLYMPIC COLLECTORS and sent with the order to John Miller at the above address. If you wish to receive back issues by airmail, please add 75 pence per issue (£3.00 per volume.)

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

COPY DATES: 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.



SINCE WE HAVE THE MOST VARIED STOCK RELATING TO OLYMPIC AND SPORTS ISSUES, WE CAN DELIVER ALMOST EVERYTHING FROM 1896 UP TO DATE, THIS INCLUDES MANY OF THE IMPERFORATE ISSUES. OUR PRICES ARE VERY COMPETITIVE. WE DO NOT HAVE LISTS OR FDC'S AVAILABLE, BUT WE WILL GLADLY SEND YOU APPROVALS OR SERVICE YOUR WANT LIST

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FRONT PAGE

Unfortunately, THEMATICA this year falls too late for a report of the exhibition and our Annual General Meeting to be included in this issue of TORCH BEARER. However, if THEMATICA runs true to form, those who attend will have an enjoyable time and will find something of interest for their collection. It is also likely to be a hot and sunny day! More news of the event in November.

My request for a new Editor to relieve me of the post after ten years has not left my postman staggering under the weight of applications! In fact, I received absolutely no response whatsoever. Is it that no-one feels capable of donning the Editor's cap (I assure you it is not particularly difficult), or is it that there is so little interest in the continuing well-being of the Society, that no-one cares sufficiently whether or not we have a magazine? Think about it; I won't keep going on forever, and I know that I am not indispensable. In the meantime, at least keep me supplied with articles. With the exception of the few stalwarts, very little new information is coming in.

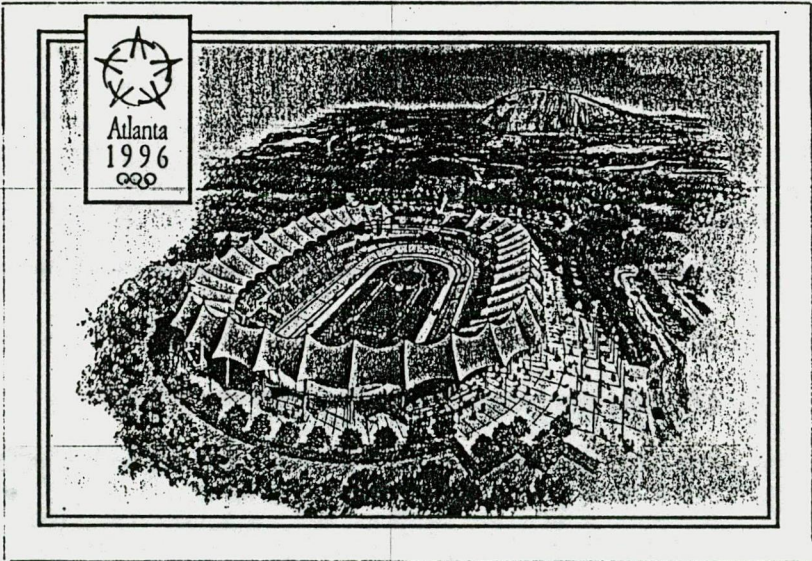
The poster exhibition that I told you about in my last editorial has been cancelled through lack of entries. What is it about this hobby that leaves a few people to carry the workload and come up with new ideas, while the rest are drowning in lethargy? I would really like to know. Is it a general malaise or indigenous to the British? Does it apply to all hobbies or only philately? Your answers - if they are forthcoming - will appear in the next issue.

You may have read in the philatelic press that the British Philatelic Federation ceased to exist since the beginning of the year. Several suggestions have been put forward for the formation of a new national organisation to look after the interest of the average collector. At present, however, the Committee of this Society sees no point in belonging to an association that is able to be of little, if any benefit to a specialist society. Our affiliation, of course, with the British Thematic Association, of which we are founder members, remains unaltered. If any members has any contrary views about our affiliation to the new national body, when it is formed, please let a member of your Committee know, or write to the Editor.

I have had a fairly busy year, as those of you living in the provinces may know. February found me giving talks on my Olympic collection in Newcastle, Durham and Stockton, while April found me at the other end of the country, in Devon, for a series of talks in Exmouth, Teignmouth and to the West of England Thematic Society. In between, I gave a talk to the New York Collectors Club, which was very exciting. It's a quiet time now, but things are sure to pick up again in the autumn. I know that at the end of October my Olympic collection will be shown at Cirencester's Silver Jubilee exhibition at the end of October, and next March I will be in the Sheffield area for a couple of days. It all helps to keep boredom at bay! What does "boredom" mean?

MEMBER'S FORUM

Our Librarian, Ken Cook asks if any of our members can shed any light on the illustrated postcard that he has received. The inscription of the dividing line that separates the message from the address reads FARRIS COLOR VISIONS INC., ATLANTA, GEORGIA. At the base is the inscription FCV-96-2.



STONE MOUNTAIN PARK
 Stone Mountain, Georgia
 Stone Mountain Park, competition site for Archery, Canoeing, Cycling, Rowing, and Tennis during the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia, July 20 - August 4, 1996.

Photo © Norm Drevs - ACOG

TERRELL
 0891029

TA GEORGIA

Member Jonathan Rosenthal, 22 Alwoodley Lane, Leeds LS17 7PX would like to make contact with other members who have the same collecting interests. Jonathan is not interested in the philatelic aspects of the Society, but is a keen bibliophile and ephemera collector of Track and Field athletics. He has an extensive collection of books and other material, the earliest item dating from 1813. This collection also included reports, programmes and official publications. Anyone who shares Jonathan's interests should contact him direct at the above address.

New Australian member, Dr Helen Cockburn, 34 Newton Street, North Epping NSW 2121, Australia, is interested in Women's Stamps, and wonders if any other members are also interested in sportswomen on stamps. She would like to have as much information about the following athletes. Can anyone help. Helen would like to know the birth and death dates, education, training and any other achievements of the following:

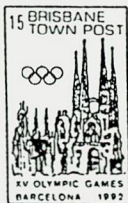
1. Dagmar Lurz, German skater 1980 Olympics
2. Anne Packer, British runner 1964 Olympics
3. Mikako Kotani and Miyako Tanako, medallists synchronised swimming at 1988 Games
4. Marjo Matikainen, a medallist for cross country skiing.

These are only a few of the many sportswomen biographies Helen needs. It seems that fame is fleeting in the sports world. Even their countries of origin have no knowledge of past winners. She has even had difficulties getting the biographies for Australian competitors.

(ED> Perhaps there is an article there for a future issue of TORCH BEARER?)

Romanian member, Ioan Nemascek, Smirdan Street 3, 2200 Brasov, Romania, is looking for Cinderella items relating to the 1908 Games in London. If anyone is able to help him, he is able to offer stamps in exchange. Please write to Ioan direct.

Ivan Mircev, one of our Australian members sends the following information to share with fellow collectors:



Illustrated is a Cinderella label issued to commemorate the XXV Olympic Summer Games in Barcelona in 1992. The date of issue was 8 July 1992. The denomination of 15 cents is the Brisbane Town Post rate for postcards. The design shows the Holy Family (Sagrada Familia) Cathedral in Barcelona. 875 stamps were printed by KDPN Auckland Print.

The Brisbane Town Post carrier service has been operating since 1991, the basic aim being to deliver letters to the nearest Australia Post mailbox. The Cinderella stamp was issued and designed by T. Bolotrikoff of World Cinderella News. Any members of the Society who would be interested in a copy of this item should write to Ivan at PO Box 431, Nerang, Queensland 4211, Australia.

Your Editor is always looking for original articles for inclusion in TORCH BEARER. Remember that well-known facts for you, may well be new information for other members. SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE, by penning a few lines about a favourite item or an interesting experience. It doesn't need to be a long article.

DEAR FRANCESKA

TORCH BEARER arrived a couple of days ago, and I have enjoyed it very much, as always. This time however there is a bit of incorrect information in the article "COLLECT OLYMPIC ARCHITECTURE" on pages 33-34. There have been two anecdotes circulating for over fifty years and they are:

1.] The height of the stadium tower, 72 metres had been planned to honour Matti Jarvinen's Gold Medal throw of 72.71 metres in Los Angeles in 1932. 2.] The height of 72 metres was planned because of Matti Jarvinen's world record throw of 72.93 metres in 1930.

In truth, he deserved the honour. The merits mentioned are not his only ones. He improved his world record no less than ten times, first in Viipuri in 1930 to 71.57 metres, and the last time in Helsinki on 18 June 1936 to 77.23 metres. In addition, he was, among other things, twice European champion in Turin 1934 and Paris 1938. Until today there has only been one other javelin thrower in sports history who equalled these achievements, and that is Janis Lusia of Lithuania.



But back to the actual matter! the question about the truthfulness of the anecdotes was once put to the architect Toivo Jantti. His reply was that the height and thickness of the tower was related to the whole composition of the stadium and that symbolic and allegoric factors were not taken into consideration in the construction of the tower. Nevertheless, there remain at least two common factors between Matti

Jarvinen and the tower: the best throws of Matti Jarvinen as well as the stadium tower were born in the 1930's and both of them have been honoured by a stamp of Finland. I also refer to the text of my article in TORCH BEARER in Volume 3, June 1986, page 81.

- Ossi Virtanen, Finland-

Your Editor recently received the following letter from a collector living in Malta:

Although your name is well-known in philatelic circles, I should not have approached you, had I not been advised to do so by Mr David Rennie of Thames Stamp Auctions, 35 Wheathill Road, Anerley, London SE20 7XQ. He advised me that you are in the Society of Olympic Collectors, and it is in this context that I seek your help and advice.

Some months ago I put in a bid on a lot described as a set of proofs produced for the Twenty First Olympic Games held in 1976 in Montreal. It was alleged that the country for whom the proofs was produced was Egypt. I got the lot, but on arrival here it

seemed most unlikely that it had anything to do with Egypt, so I wrote to the auctioneer seeking some evidence to support his claim. Nothing happened and I then heard that he had gone out of business.

The basic colours of the set are as follows: 5mls shades of green, 10mls shades of magenta, 15 mls shades of yellow, 20mls shades of orange, 25mls shades of blue and 30mls shades of red. There are also traces of black and white. Unusually, I see no indication of the printer or designer and there is no trace of a watermark. The stamps do not appear to be gummed, though modern gums do not always have a shiny appearance. The perforation is 11 x 11, which is the only thing that links them with the Egyptian National Postal Printing House. Could these be from Syria, or are they merely worthless jokes, in which case, I've been had!

If anyone knows anything about these proofs, labels or fantasies, please let your Editor know so that we can all share the information.

- Colin Boston, Malta -



5MLS MONTREAL 1976

XXI OLYMPIAD



5MLS MONTREAL 1976

XXI OLYMPIAD



5MLS MONTREAL 1976

XXI OLYMPIAD



5MLS MONTREAL 1976

XXI OLYMPIAD



10MLS MONTREAL 1976

XXI OLYMPIAD



10MLS MONTREAL 1976

XXI OLYMPIAD



10MLS MONTREAL 1976

XXI OLYMPIAD



10MLS MONTREAL 1976

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15MLS



XXI OLYMPIAD

MONTREAL 1976

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15MLS



XXI OLYMPIAD

MONTREAL 1976

20MLS



XXI OLYMPIAD

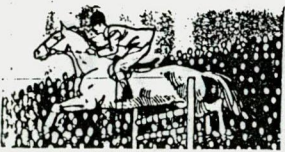
MONTREAL 1976

20MLS



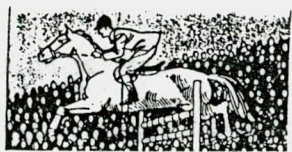
XXI OLYMPIAD

MONTREAL 1976



XXI OLYMPIAD

25MLS MONTREAL 1976



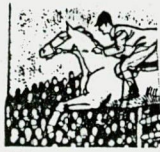
XXI OLYMPIAD

25MLS MONTREAL 1976



XXI OLYMPIAD

25MLS MONTREAL 1976



MO

30MLS



XXI OLYMPIAD

MONTREAL 1976

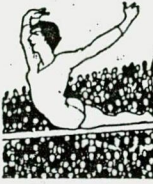
30MLS



XXI OLYMPIAD

MONTREAL 1976

30MLS



XXI OLYMPIAD

MONTREAL 1976

30MLS



XXI OLYMPIAD

MONTREAL 1976

Apart from being a souvenir for having paid the SOC subscription on time, can you please explain the purpose of the plasticised cards that are being sent out with each issue of TORCH BEARER? Could you please explain which Games A3, A4 and B1 represent. The first two are obvious, but I am sure there are other members who do not know what they represent. Personally, I cannot see much point in them unless they are intended to represent a particular Olympic Games.

- Alan Sabey, London -

I appreciate your editorial expertise and input into TORCH BEARER. Humbly I submit a few suggestions that may be of some use in your compilation resources. As a retired engineer - mechanical drawing - not writing, is my limited craft, so forgive my literary ability. Also, as my Olympic collection is exclusively stamps, my knowledge of the array of Olympic items is zero.

After recommendations from Australian collectors, Australia Post has standardised First Day Cover sizes - a commendable and acceptable innovation. Would it be appropriate for a consortium of the world's sports and Olympic collectors to partition the world's postal agencies to establish a standard sized FDC that all countries must conform to. FDC albums would then have uniform pages etc. Could countries be asked to quit the issue of imperforate stamps, again by overtures being made to the postal agencies.

While on the subject of standardisation, perhaps I am on a subject that has been around for decades BUT, filing and mounting odd sized stamps, miniature sheets, souvenir sheets and other strips etc, is, to put it politely, a nuisance. Would uniformity make a collection drab, uninteresting and like wallpaper? Would it restrict innovation and artistic presentation. Would collectors like to write in and express their views about standardisation? [ED. Any letters received on this subject will be printed - I promise]

As a point of interest and information, TELECARDS do not belong to the philatelic world! During the international thematic exhibition GENOVA '92, the leading philatelic organisations arranged a Round Table conference with the UPU and the Italian Post Office, and after a short debate, it was carried unanimously that Telecards are not to be included in philatelic collections, and they do not belong to the philatelic world.

Do members know that for the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, Australia minted a special \$1.00 coin which was never circulated? A girl javelin thrower was on the obverse side, the only time a woman, apart from the Queen and the Princess of Wales has appeared on an Australian coin.

Finally, Australia Post has just issued two Barcelona Olympic stamps overprinted SPECIMEN.

- Bob Horman, Australia-

MANCHESTER 2000

BY JOHN CROWTHER

On 24 April 1991 the British Olympic Association met at the Charing Cross Hotel in the Strand, London and chose Manchester to become Great Britain's Candidate City to host the 2000 Olympic Summer Games. A limited number of covers exist posted on that day from the Charing Cross Hotel, and the British Olympic Association Headquarters in Wandsworth Plain, London. (Figures 1 & 2)

FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.



A few special covers were posted from the Manchester Bid Office using the Manchester Theatres meter, (Figure 3), as used on their mail at that time.

FIG. 3



A number of registered covers were also sent on 24th April 1991 (Figures 4 & 5)

FIG. 6.



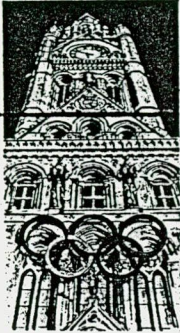
The Manchester Bid Office moved to more spacious premises, provided by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Industry, early in 1992 and used a slogan meter in machine '8 NE 33520' (Figure 6). A Business Reply envelope was in use for a limited

period for a special Olympic Project during 1992. This carried the Manchester 2000 Logo in black.(Figure 7)

R Manchester 'F'
395341



FIG. 4



R Manchester 'F'
395342



FIG. 5.



DRIVING THE DREAM.
MANCHESTER OLYMPIC BID

Mr J.S.Crowther,
3 Hill Drive,
Handforth,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire SK9 3AP.

BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE
Licence No MR 8993



The Olympic Suite
Churchgate House
56 Oxford Street
MANCHESTER
M1 8DJ



FIG. 7.

Manchester City Council are using a special meter on their mail in machine PBC 07137, similar to the Manchester Bid Office meter but in a smaller format (Figure 8). A Post Paid impression is also used from time-to-time when the machine is being used for other purposes.(Figure 9). Bolton Metro Borough Council are also using a meter supporting Manchester's Bid in two of their machines, PBV 2391 and 2569.(Figure 10)



FIG. 8



FIG. 9.

BOLTON
METRO
SUPPORTS

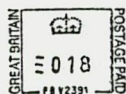


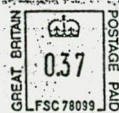
FIG. 10.

FIG. 10.



A Frama postage label with Printed Matter text above the Manchester Slogan and Rings, self-adhesive, was in use by Glass Slipper in York for a limited period. This also exists printed direct on to envelopes. (Figure 11)

FIG. 11.



As far as known, no other bodies are using a meter or postmark indicating their support for the Bid. Although SEMA Group of Wilmslow, who provide the systems for the Bid Office, will be using one in the near future. They are currently using a meter indicating their involvement with the Systems and Services at the XXV Olympiad in Barcelona.

VIGNETTES.

1. The Manchester Bid Office is using an oval label, 40x30mm - "The British Olympic Bid / Flame and Rings / Manchester 2000" (Figure 12)

FIG. 12.



FIG. 13.



READING MATTERS

THE WINTERNHEIMER CATALOGUE: 1988 VOLUME 1

CANCELLATIONS, METERS AND REGISTRATION LABELS

BOB WILCOCK

Olympic postal history collectors will know that Manfred Winternheimer produced his first catalogue for the 1964 Olympics (Innsbruck and Tokyo). Each Olympiad the catalogues have become larger and more comprehensive - 1980 needed two volumes, 1984 three volumes, with for the first, time a full listing of all stamps for the Olympiad, and text in German, French and English.

The first of the three volumes for 1988 - Cancellations, Meters and Registration Labels - was published in late 1992, and improvements over previous volumes continue. Manfred acknowledges the support of I.O.C. President and Olympic philatelist, Juan Antonio Samaranch, and the assistance of Manfred Bergman and Maurizio Tecardi of the I.O.C. and F.I.P.O., but even more the numerous collectors around the world who send in material and information. It is this that adds enormously to the quality and comprehensiveness of the catalogue, and makes it indispensable to every Olympic collector - you really cannot afford to be without it if you collect postal history in addition to Olympic stamps.

The catalogue is divided into three sections, Calgary, Seoul, and an innovation in this catalogue, sundry Olympic cancellations of the period 1985-1988.

The Calgary section starts with the host country, Canada, and the section on handstamps describes and lists the six date styles that TORCH BEARER readers will be familiar with, thanks to Bob Farley's articles, but many of the Canadian matters have not been reported before, and the listings from around the world, (first participating countries, then non-participating), include an impressive range of material; only the first day postmarks are likely to be familiar.

The Seoul section goes a long way towards unravelling the Korean script, and with a little study you will soon be able to identify the differences between similar cancels used in different places. It will be an invaluable aid to sorting out cancels in your own collection, and identifying those you need to look for.

The third section includes cancels used at I.O.C. Sessions and Congresses, exhibitions, and various Olympic events and celebrations. For example, there are cancellations relating to de Coubertin, as well as to past Games, and to candidates for future Games in 1992, 1994 and 1996.

The catalogue is written on 350 A-5 loose-leaf pages in a smart, two-ring binder, and is fully illustrated throughout. It may be obtained direct from:

Manfred Winternheimer, Rosenstrasse 34,
D-6501 Schwabenheim, Germany,
and the price is 47 Deutschmarks.

Up to 11 September, U.K. members only may order the catalogue through Bob Wilcock, and pay in sterling to avoid exchange costs. The price is £20 (cheques payable to R.J.Wilcock). Orders will be forwarded to Manfred all together, for delivery direct from Germany in early October. All overseas members (and those who can't wait!) should please order from Manfred direct, as should U.K. members wanting to order after 11 September.

Earlier catalogues (see list below) are still available (with updated supplements) and may be ordered direct from Manfred Winternheimer. Again, up to 11 September, U.K. members may order via Bob Wilcock for delivery in October.

1. 1964 Innsbruck and Tokyo 7.50 DM
Cancellations, Meters, Postal Stationery (ü3.50 to 11.Sept)
& Registration Labels (77 pp.)
2. 1968-1972 Grenoble, Mexico, Sapporo, 27 DM (ü12)
Munich (260 pp.)
3. 1976 Innsbruck and Montreal (335 pp.) 30 DM (ü13)
4. 1980 Lake Placid and Moscow 25 DM (ü11)
Cancels, Meters and Registration markers
(195 pp.)
5. 1980 Lake Placid and Moscow 30 DM (ü13)
Postal Stationery (265 pp.)
6. 1984 Sarajevo & Los Angeles 42 DM (ü18)
Cancels, Meters and Registration markers
(320 pp.)
7. 1984 Sarajevo & Los Angeles 38 DM (ü16.50)
Postal Stationery & Olympic Airmail
(300 pp.)
8. 1984 Sarajevo & Los Angeles 38 DM (ü16.50)

Stamps (242 pp.)
& Registration Labels (70pp)

The Winternheimer catalogues are held in the Society's Library. However, they are there for reference, and cannot be sent out on loan. Any member who requires information from them will be sent the photocopied relevant pages. The charge for this service is 10 pence per page, plus postage and packing. Please DO NOT ask Ken Cook to undertake research on your behalf. All other books may be borrowed. Get the full library list from Ken, whose address you will find at the front of the magazine.

NEW CARD ISSUES

COMPILED BY DAVID BUXTON

1. U.S. OLYMPIC CARDS "HALL OF FAME"

A set of 90 cards produced by Impel Marketing Inc.
(approx. size 9cm x 6.5cm)

This series of American Summer and Winter Olympic competitors is based on the Hall of Fame inaugurated by the U.S. Olympic Committee in 1983 and are photographs of the individuals and teams in mainly action poses. On the reverse of each trade card is a passport type photo with personal details, potted history of their success and the Olympic medals they won. Price about £12 per set, although there were a few in a recent S.O.C. auction at about £5. (It pays to look at our Auction catalogue!)

U.S. OLYMPIC CARDS
HALL OF FAME USA



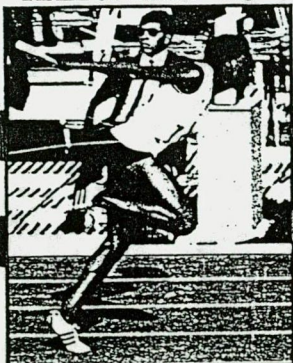
DEBBIE MEYER
Swimming

U.S. OLYMPIC CARDS
HALL OF FAME USA



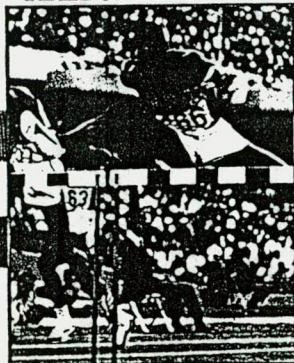
BILL TOOMEY
Athletics

U.S. OLYMPIC CARDS
HALL OF FAME USA



WYOMIA TYUS
Athletics

U.S. OLYMPIC CARDS
HALL OF FAME USA



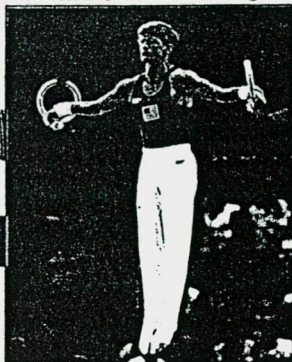
WILLIE DAVENPORT
Athletics

U.S. OLYMPIC CARDS
HALL OF FAME



MARY LOU RETTON
Gymnastics

U.S. OLYMPIC CARDS
HALL OF FAME



PETER VIDMAR
Gymnastics

U.S. OLYMPIC CARDS
HALL OF FAME



BART CONNER
Gymnastics

U.S. OLYMPIC CARDS
HALL OF FAME



GREG LOUGANIS
Diving

U.S. OLYMPIC CARDS
HALL OF FAME



LEE EVANS
Athletics

U.S. OLYMPIC CARDS
HALL OF FAME



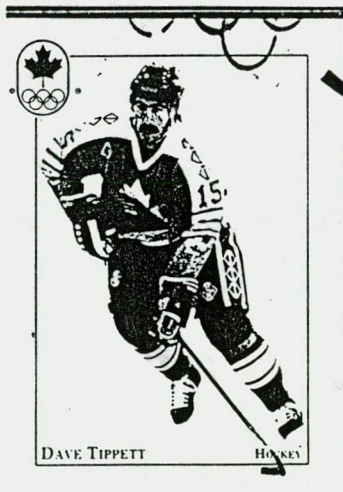
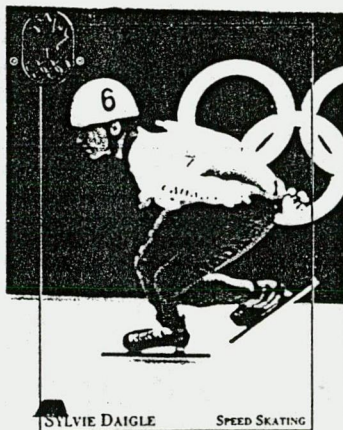
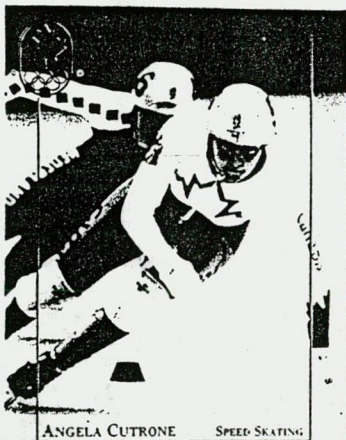
BOB BEAMON
Athletics

2. CANADIAN OLYMPIC MEDAL WINNERS

A boxed set of 49 cards produced by Maxx
(approx. size 9cm x 6.5cm)

A very attractive set of Canadian medal winners of the
Albertville 1992 Winter Olympics. Action photographs on
one side, and on the reverse side a passport type photo with
personal details, potted history of their success and the
Olympic medals they won.

Price about £13 per set.



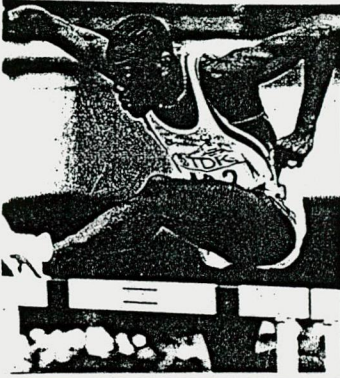
3. ATHLETICS

A set of 150 cards produced by Maxx
(approx. size 9cm x 6,5cm)

A set of the top British Athletic Stars of 1992.
Action photographs with potted history of their success.
These cards have also been designed to be used as a game,
with each card given a points number on the back.
Price £14.50 per set.

These cards, which are of interest to many collectors, are ideal for attracting the younger generation into collecting Olympic items. Other sets include Motor Racing, Motor Cycles, Boxing, Ice Hockey, Baseball, English and Scottish Footballers, Rugby League, and American Football. Cards can be obtained from:

Mr. I Hooton, 4, Kingfisher Close, Balderton, Newark, Notts.



TONY JARRETT



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BERLIN

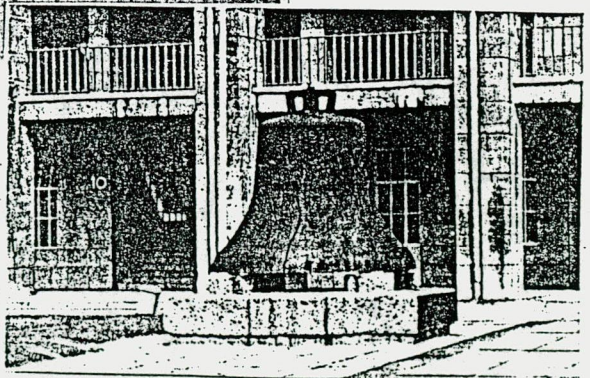
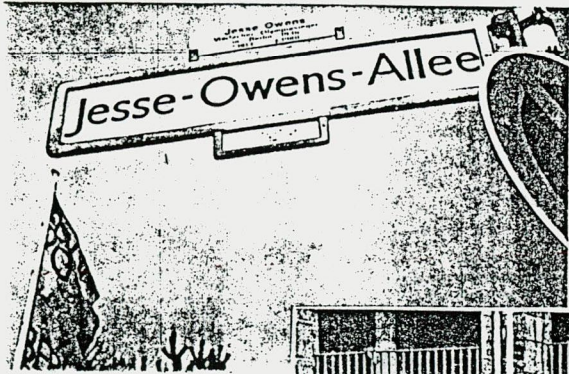
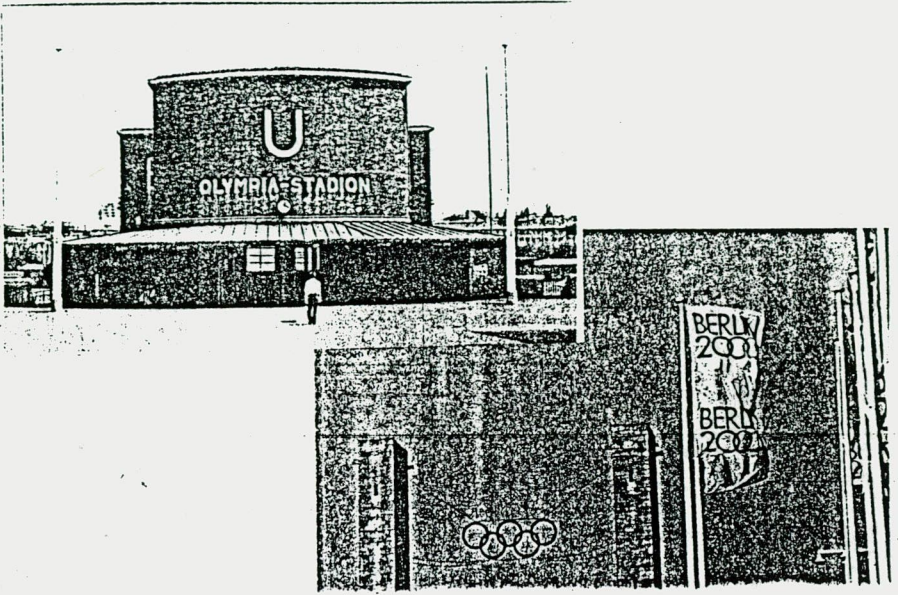
ALAN D. SABEY

A look forward, a step back. An account of a visit to Berlin at the time when the city had submitted her bid to host the Olympic Games in 2000. Berlin has always been a city which fascinates me. No doubt it was the mystery of the unknown on the eastern side of the Wall which divided the city from 1962 to 1990. After the Wall was removed and restrictions were lifted, I decided that when the opportunity arose, I would try and get there. So, it was at the end of 1992 that I booked a British Airways City-Break holiday in Berlin from the 16 to 22 April 1993. These dates are important to Olympic collectors; details will be described later.

The first thing I noticed when I arrived at Tegel Airport was the corridor of banners announcing the bid for 2000. I then had to get a 109 bus from the airport to Zoologischer Garten station and then two stops on the U-Bahn (Underground line) to Turmstrasse station which was adjacent to my hotel. As we travelled along in the bus, I noticed the bid advertised on trucks, lorries and the usual means of advertising. Although I had been provided with a couple of tickets (to and from the airport to the hotel) I purchased a seven-day Travelcard which gave me unlimited travel on the S-Bahn and U-Bahn trains as well as the buses. This would prove to be a great saving as individual fares were expensive.

The first thing I did on the Saturday was to travel to Moritzplatz station and follow the line of the Berlin wall. Although the Wall has virtually disappeared, some sections have been kept for posterity, though they no longer serve their "raison d'etre".

The sight of the horrid concrete Wall and the vast tracts of barren ground with no trees (though now the grass is starting to grow), was an eye-opener and brought home to me how awesome it must have been to the people of Berlin. This sight is particularly noticeable near the Brandenburg Gate where the vast expanse of barren land, which was the death strip beside the Wall, is at its widest. It was during this tour that I came across the former Air Ministry building erected during Hitler's dictatorship. It struck me as a very cold and severe building which typified the intentions of those who built it. I had read a number of guide books before I left home and learned that Hitler had intended to rebuild the city for his 1000 year Reich, and when I compared that building with the beautiful buildings in the Unter den Linden, I no doubt shared the opinion of many others, that it was a good job that he could not proceed with his plans. The Checkpoint Charlie Museum is particularly interesting as many of the devices are shown along with photographs to show how people endeavored to cross to the West. Further round the walk near the remains of Anhalter station is another large plot of land with two tall grassy mounds. One of these has a path up to it to a platform with signs to tell the visitor what used to stand where. This, fifty years ago, must have been the most sinister place in Berlin for it was where the Headquarters of the S.S and the Gestapo stood. Just below the viewing platform is a small museum built over some of the cells



of the Gestapo building. The whole area including the museum has been named the Typography of Terrors which is self-explanatory without further details from me.

The next day, Sunday, I decided to have a much more pleasant day and in the morning visited Charlottenburg Palace and gardens, also the Egyptian Museum which is opposite. This museum contains galleries of Egyptian relics and the highlight is on the first floor where the famous bust of Queen Nefertiti can be seen. Fortunately there were not a lot of visitors at the time and I was able to take photographs without being jostled. In the afternoon I visited the Pergamon Museum on Museum Island on the eastern end of the city. This museum is spectacular to say the least and a "must" for all visitors to Berlin. This contains the Pergamon Altar from Pergamon in Turkey as well as the Gate to the Roman Market at Miletus and the Ishtar Gate and Processional Way from Babylon constructed in blue tiles. The Altar contains statues of Zeus (to whom the ancient Olympic Games were dedicated), Athena and others.

The walk along and around Unter den Linden the next day gave me some idea of how pre-war Berlin looked with beautiful Baroque buildings and palaces dating from the eighteenth century. Particularly beautiful is the Platz der Akademie. This has been reconstructed in the last few years and contains a French Cathedral, a German Cathedral and the Theatre (originally built by Schinkel who left his mark all across the city) which is now a Concert Hall. A visit to the Television Tower gave me a panoramic view over Berlin from the viewing gallery in the sphere 680 feet up as the day was quite bright and the air was clear. One flight of stairs up is the Revolving Restaurant where one can sit and have a meal or just a beer and see that end of the city pass before one's eyes, in a revolution taking forty five minutes. In the rooms at the base was a display of models of the proposed Olympic sites in 2000.

The following day was devoted to Potsdam, with the Palace of Sans Souci and the Park containing the famous Chinese Teahouse. Wednesday the 21 April was the day I had chosen to travel out to see the Olympic Stadium constructed for the 1936 Olympic Games. A ten minute walk along tree and shrub lined paths from the station took me to the Main Entrance, where the Olympic Rings dating from 1936 could be seen, along with flags marking Berlin's bid to host the Games in 2000. Unfortunately, the Stadium had not been open to the public all the time that I was in Berlin, because, as I learned from the official at the Glockenturm, (Bell Tower), the members of the International Olympic Committee had been in Berlin at the same time as I was there, to consider the city's bid.

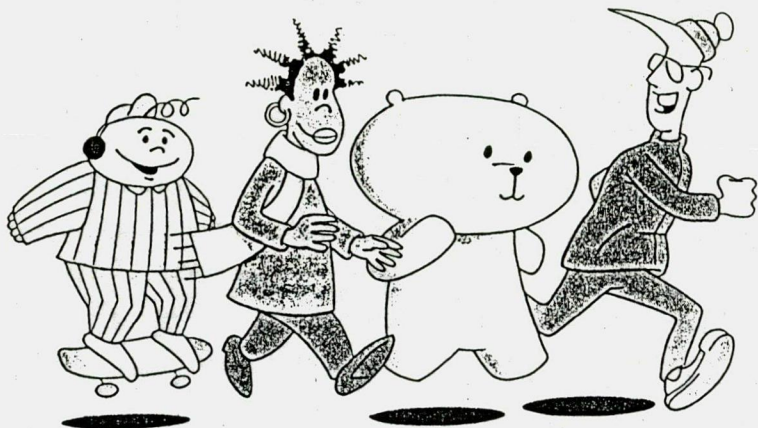
I walked round the south side and found that the square outside the South Entrance was named "Coubertinplatz" in honour of the reviver of the Games. The road heading along the south side of the Stadium is named "Jesse-Owens-Allee" to commemorate the black athlete who won four gold medals and disproved the Nazi theory of Aryan supremacy - that anyone who was not Aryan was considered to be inferior. Each of the road name signs has a small panel below the main plate which at one time would have contained Olympic Rings. The only one which still had some vestige of them is the Jesse-Owens-Allee plate. An additional

plate above the road name contains details of Pierre de Coubertin and of Jesse Owens. (A profile of Jesse Owens appeared in TORCH BEARER, Vol. 9, p. 119).

Inside the gates at the south Entrance is the original Olympic Bell, dating from 1936, whose tolling can be heard in Leni Riefenstahl's moving film, "Olympia". (The story of the original bell can be found in TORCH BEARER, Vol. 6, pages 100 and 121). The vertical crack can be seen from the gates which is just as well, because the gates were not open, and no-one was being allowed in. A new bell was placed in the reconstructed tower after the war. The walk up the fifty seven steps of the metal stairway takes the visitor above the bell and up to the principal viewing gallery. It was a fine, clear day when I went and in the distance in one direction I could see the Television Tower in East Berlin, and in another direction, the Teufelsberg, or "Devil's Mountain", which is an artificial hill created by the dumping of rubble from ruined buildings of Berlin after the War. Manfred Uhlitz's article (Vol.6, p.121), is a very accurate account of the tower and what can be seen from it. A pamphlet in English, written by him, can be purchased at the Bell Tower.

I explained the reason for my visit to the Reichssportfeld, and about my membership of our Society of Olympic Collectors, and the official, who spoke very good English, said he would see what he could do to get me admitted, while I was up the Tower. When I came back down, he told me that he had made several telephone calls on my behalf, but the authorities were not letting anyone inside the Stadium while the IOC were in town, in case of any trouble. I thanked him for his kindness in taking so much trouble, purchased some postcards, and left. Cards on sale at the Glockenturm have either the Bell, or the Main entrance as a motif. However, the official did give me the address of the Olympic Bid Office, which is Berlin 2000 Olympia GMBH, Breite Strasse 35, D-1020 Berlin; this is located near the Palast der Republik, the now unused orange glass building which was the seat of the East German Parliament. On unification, it was discovered that the building contained asbestos, and its future is uncertain.

At the Olympic Office, I explained that I speak very little German, and asked if there was anyone with a command of English. I was introduced to Frank Halfar, to whom I explained my interest in discovering anything about the German bid, and any other aspect of Olympic history. He invited me to follow him upstairs, and took me to a large rack of brochures about the 2000 bid. There were in fact about two dozen publications, including periodical brochures, and getting several of each for various English members of our Society made my Olympic carrier bag weigh quite a bit. I was also given some stickers, a note-pad and a white pen with a yellow clasp, which reads "Olympia 2000 in Berlin. Ich bin dafür!" Yellow seems to be the chosen colour, as a lot of the information is on yellow paper. In TORCH BEARER, Vol. 9, p. 7, there are details of some of the publicity items and it is interesting to see that in the brochure for the Paralympics 2000, the Teddy Bear's face is looking to the left, (it is to the right on the other brochures), and he has one red eye. On sale were a whole number of different articles, ranging from pencil cases and children's wallets to rucksacks, along with pins - one with the Teddy Bear's face, and the other a horizontal



shape with "Berlin 2000" in two lines, on which the three noughts were coloured black, red and yellow.

The carrier bag seemed to get heavier as I walked to Unter den Linden to get the 100 bus back to the Zoologischer Garten station. The 100 bus route is a new one this year, and takes passengers from the zoo to Alexanderplatz, passing all the famous sights - the Siegessäule or Victory Column, the Reichstag building, through the centre arch of the Brandenburg Gate, up the Unter den Linden, passing the famous Palaces and other important buildings, towards the Television Tower near Alexanderplatz.

On my last day, I visited the West Berlin Postal Museum, but was disappointed to see that only post-war stamps were on display. I had hoped that I would see artwork and other items connected with the 1936 Olympic issue. I then did some last minute shopping, and paid a visit to the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church. This is the famous ruin kept as it was with its broken tower - (locals call it the broken tooth). I knew that a Cross of Nails from Coventry Cathedral, bombed in 1940, had been presented to the Berlin Church.

In the afternoon I left for the airport, struggling with an even heavier suitcase, and was astounded to find that it was six kilograms heavier than it had been when I arrived! This was caused by all the brochures that I was bringing home. At the Berliner Bank exchange office at Tegel Airport, I found that Commemorative medallions had been struck for the Olympic Bid, selling at 21 DM and 60 DM for Bronze, 75 DM and 215 DM for silver, and 1450 DM and 4250 DM for the gold.

My conclusion about my first ever visit to Berlin is, that it is a city of contrasts, with the beauty of the eighteenth century buildings contrasting with the starkness of the land which used to be the death strip, and the severity of the style of the Olympic Stadium and of the Air Ministry building, along with the miles of box-like, architecturally uninteresting blocks of flats. However, I intend to return at some future date and see more of the museums, and hopefully get into the Olympic Stadium!

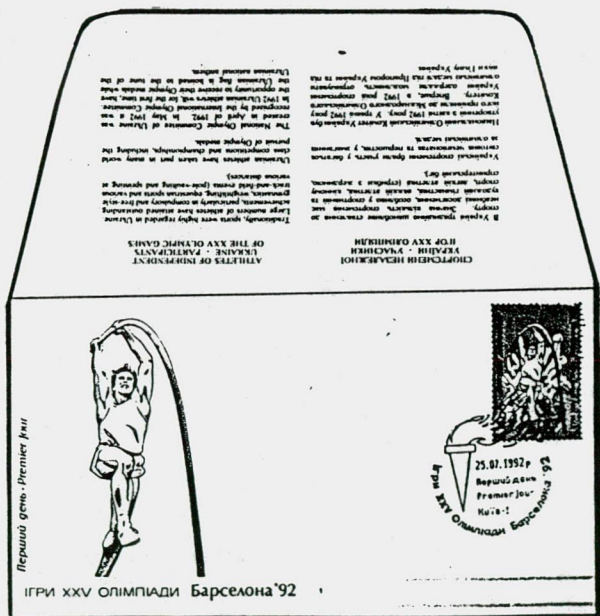
WIDENING OLYMPIC GEOGRAPHY

(UKRAINE, MOLDOVA)

VSEVOLOD FURMAN

The Olympic year that has passed caused many troubles for collectors: the philatelic geography of the Olympic postal emissions was widened. The new IOC members did not miss the opportunity to declare themselves in a loud voice. Among them were Ukraine and Moldova.

At the beginning of 1992 there were talks in Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, about the necessity to issue a commemorative postage stamp for the twenty fifth Olympic Games. It was Larisa Koren, a graphic artist, who was offered the design of this stamp. She told me that the concept of the stamp came to her quickly, she was working with eagerness and she decided to base it on the figure of the well-known pole-vaulter, S. Bubka.



The stamp denomination was to be equal to one rouble, and it was planned to print it in Canada. In Spring, the commission on issuance of postage stamps of Ukraine considered it to be expedient to issue one stamp more - with an image of a gymnast from calisthenics. This work was entrusted to the artist Alexander Ivahnenko. Later on, on receiving the original drawing, the Canadian Banknote Company advised that this motif should be issued in two colour versions. Thus, the first three



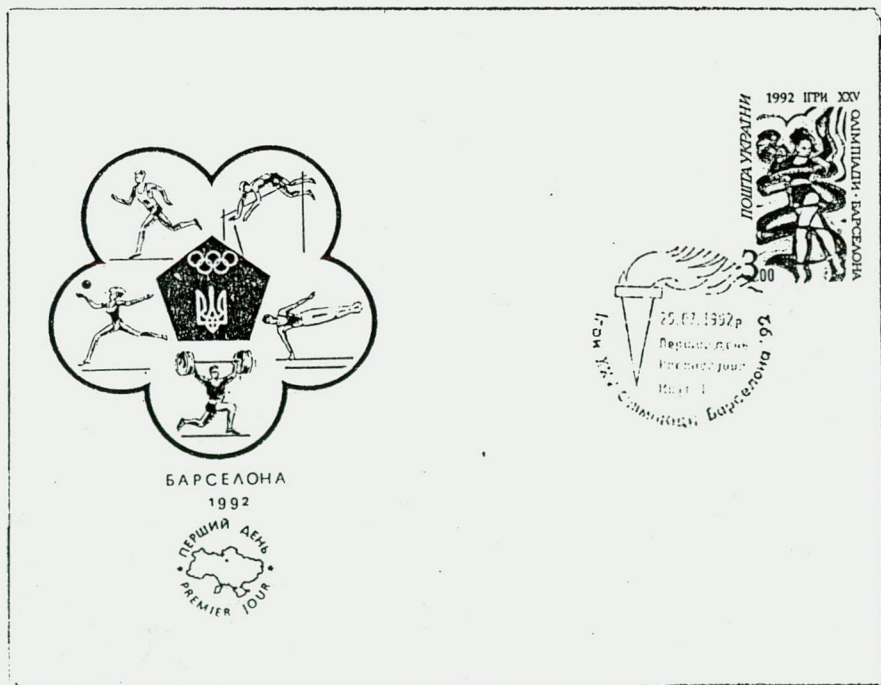
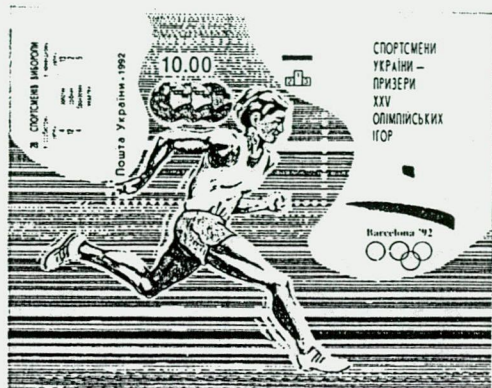
Olympic stamps of the Ukraine were released. Their denominations were three, four and five roubles. The stamps appeared on general sale on the opening day of the Barcelona Games, 25 July 1992. The official first day cover was made by the publishing house "Desna", in Tchernigov. Its quantity was 20,000. The cover bears an image of a stylised camomile, with an outline of five semicircles symbolising Olympic rings. Inside each ring there is a figure of an athlete from the traditionally strong disciplines for the Ukrainians: running, pole-vaulting, gymnastics, weightlifting, and calisthenics. A pentagon with a small emblem of Ukraine, (an ancient trident), is in the centre of this composition. Beneath there is an inscription in cyrillic: "BARCELONA/1992". Underneath is a logo of the First Day Cover of the Ukrainian Postal Service - an outline map of the Republic and a generalised text in Ukrainian and French. All graphic and print works are done in yellow and blue, the national colours of Ukraine. The first day cancellation was rather simple - a symbolised torch, the date, and the generalised text.

In addition to the official FDC, the Canadian Banknote Company issued covers (one for each motif), as well as the Moscow Commercial enterprise "Start" - (two versions with S.Bubka's portrait and text: "Sergei Bubka/Champion of the 1988 Olympic Games").

The quantity of the Moscow covers is limited: on ordinary paper with Zip-code gauge, ruled for address writing - 5,000 pcs; on dense art paper, unruled and without gauge - 3,000 pcs.

Such a persistence in attracting attention to S.Bubka was predetermined by a strong confidence in his victory at the Olympic Games in Barcelona. Still, as it is known, the reality refuted this prediction.

Now let us consider the philatelic peculiarities of the stamps. They were printed in panes of fifty, 5x10. There is a text on the margins of the sheets: "UKRAINE POST/Designer: Alexander Ivahnenko; Printer: Canadian Bank Note Co." This text is in



English in two corners and in Ukrainian in the other two corners. In spite of the high quality of printing, there is still a variety of the stamp with a value of 3 roubles. The paint was off-set on some sheets, therefore one can clearly see a white stripe on the ribbon in the gymnast's hands. One can also find 3-rouble stamps with printing faults resulting from bursting of paint microbubbles, (ie. with "spots" in different parts of the image. I have five stamps in my collection which have typical defects: a blot near the right hand of the gymnast; a spot near the fingers of her left hand, under the right elbow, on the stomach, and on the left forearm !



TYPE I



TYPE II

The varieties of 4-r. and 5-r. stamps are not to be found. Maybe other collectors have them - it would be interesting to know about that.

In Barcelona, eighty Ukrainian athletes took part, in the united team of the C.I.S. They had success: 17 Gold, 15 Silver and 9 Bronze medals - such were their awards in team and individual competitions.

Sport and rhythmic gymnasts distinguished themselves especially: 8 Gold, 6 Silver and 4 Bronze awards; also the fencers - 2 Gold, 1 Silver and 1 Bronze medals. Here I can proudly mention that the gymnast Tatyana Gutsu, who lives in Odessa, had a success in Barcelona - 2 Gold, 1 silver and 1 Bronze medals. She had been introduced into the individual competition at the last moment, instead of another gymnast ... and there was no mistake. A fifteen-year-old schoolgirl became an absolute champion.

The Ukrainian Postal Service devoted a commemorative block of stamps (released on 14 December 1992), to the good results of the Ukrainian athletes in Barcelona. On that day the Kiev

Central Post-office clerks sold 2,000 blocks , but further realisation was stopped up to the middle of January, 1993. The fact is that this block was printed in Hungary, and according to the contractual conditions the Hungarians had the right to be the first to distribute this production.

A simple design with multiple horizontal stripes and lines activating it by their colours, width and syncopated nature, symbolises a breakthrough of the Ukranian athletes to contemporary Olympic heights. A girl-athlete's figure matches well the emblem of the twenty-fifth Olympic Games and the image of the Olympic medals - a schematic podium for awarding under the blue/yellow national flag of Ukraine. On the lefthand side of the stamp there is text in the Ukranian language on a white background:

28 athletes were awarded

(in individual competition)		(in team competition)
4	gold	13
12	silver	2
4	bronze	5
	medals	

The upper righthand corner of the block (above the emblem of the Games) bears the following, in bold print:

"ATHLETES OF UKRAINE - PRIZE -HOLDERS OF THE XXV OLYMPIC GAMES"

There is an FDC, but unfortunately the author does not yet have it at his disposal.

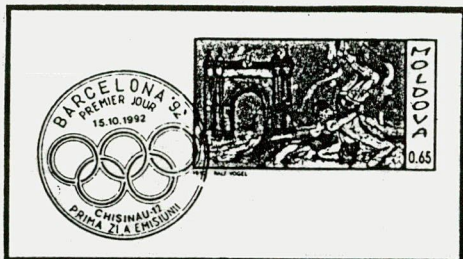


The Postal Service of Moldova advertised their Olympic athletes too. On 15 October 1992, a series of five stamps and a small sheet were on sale at the post-office counters of Kishinev.

Designer Ralf Vogel represented some of the culminations of the athletes' performances, and some of the sights of the Catalanian capital:

- 0.35r - High-jumping (the Fosbury-flop), and Sagrada Familia;
- 0.65r - Wrestling, and the Triumphal Arch;
- 1.00r - Archery, and the Columbus Monument;
- 2.50r - Swimming, and the National Art Museum;

The First Day Cancellation was done at Post-office no.12. The Postal Service of Moldova printed a special handstamp for the prize-holders of the Olympic Games. On 31 October 1992, two stamps were issued with surcharges commemorating Yury Bashkatov, who won a silver medal in the 400m swimming relay as a member of the united team, and Natalya Valeyeva, who had won two bronze medals in the individual and team competitions in archery. The surcharges are done in silver and bronze respectively; in



addition to the athletes' names and surnames, there is a symbolic Olympic medal on the stamp.

The greatest philatelic honour was rendered to the Olympic champion in weight-lifting, (welterweight), Tudor Casapu. A twenty-eight year old Moldovian from Kishinev repeated the Cuban Pablo

Lara's result with a total of 357.5kg in two movements; his weight was up to 75kg., but ... this was 250gr less than his contender's. As it is known, the Regulations allowed him to become the champion.

PROFILE

VLADIMIR KUTS

Vladimir Kuts was born in Aleksino in the Ukraine in 1927 and he died in Moscow on 16 August 1975. He first came to the sporting public's attention in August 1954, when he ran the 5,000 metres in a world record time of 13 minutes 56.6 seconds, in the European Championships in Bern, Switzerland. This record was broken two months later by Christopher Chataway at an athletic meeting at White City, when he clipped five seconds off Kuts' time. Ten days later, at an athletic meeting in Prague, Kuts again broke the world record by beating Emile Zatopek in a time of 13 minutes 51.2 seconds. At the XVth Olympic Games in Melbourne, Kuts achieved his greatest performances, winning both the 5,000 metre and the 10,000 metre events. With a new world record time of 13 minutes 35 seconds, he established a time that stood for seven years at a Rome meeting on 13 October 1957.

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SARAJEVO

BOB WILCOCK

The war in Bosnia is an enormous tragedy in every sense. Just a small part that strikes a chord with us is the destruction of the 1984 Winter Olympic facilities, but it is the human suffering that we feel for most. The I.O.C. has sent lorries of relief aid to Sarajevo, and in Albertville some of the accommodation constructed for the 1992 Games has been used to house refugees, women and children from Bosnia.

Since the Sarajevo Olympics I have been corresponding with a collector in the city, Petar Bosnic. He has sent me much superb material for my collection, and I in return have sent him British and Commonwealth stamps.

We have never met, but I have got to know something of his family and his life from his cheerful, interesting letters. He is, I would guess, about fifty, has been a collector since childhood, and he worked in a bank that was the official bank for the Sarajevo Olympics. His last letter, written just a few days before war broke out, was optimistic - but deep down he knew that war was imminent.

My reply was returned as undeliverable, and I have often wondered since then, until, out of the blue this April, a letter arrived with the familiar blue Sarajevo registration label: Petar was alive, still living in his old flat, but separated from his family. It brought a lump to my throat to read it; happiness, relief, sadness mixed. Petar asked for fifty Deutschmarks, (just 20), to help restore gas to his flat, to be sent via his cousin in Zagreb.

I know from the cousin that the money has arrived safely in Zagreb, and was being taken by Catholic relief agency volunteers into Sarajevo. He expects contact with Petar over amateur radio, but as I write I do not yet know if the money has reached him.

I shall be sending more, and am also placing a number of lots of Sarajevo 1984 material in this month's S.O.C. auction. Most of the lots were sent to me by Petar in the past, and all the proceeds will be going either to him direct, (once I know that money is reaching him), or to a relief organisation to be used as general aid for victims of the war.

My thanks on behalf of Petar to the bidders, and I shall be keeping you informed of developments in the next Torch Bearer.

THE LAST LETTER SENT TO BOB BY PETAR, BEFORE THE WAR.

Sarajevo, April 1992

My dear Bob,

Thank you very much for your letter and stamps of 17th March. I like very much to receive letters from abroad in those days. My

family and I are good, we have passed all the troubles here, but we expect another wave of fighting around 6th April, when EC will issue the statement that Bosnia and Hercegovina becomes independent state. But we also hope and believe in peaceful people here in Bosnia and Hercegovina. UNPROFOR soldiers are here in Sarajevo, and we know that nobody has the courage to make any troubles here, in Sarajevo. But, God only knows.

I will send you some Olympic material from Croatia and Slovenia. I would like very much if you could send me your articles about "Albertville '92". When Bosnia and Hercegovina will be independent states, along with Macedonia, I will be very busy to send you all Olympic material from five new established states!


Greetings,

Petar.

NIGEL SHIPLEY
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THE 1916 GAMES

FROM FRY'S MAGAZINE 1914

"Now comes another menace from across the water. A menace unnoticed by our Press which is mainly concerned in decrying the achievements of our own man..... Germany is on the eve of a great sport craze, and will soon have to be reckoned with as one of the foremost sporting nations in the world."

Last month our notes under our editorial heading "The Progress of Sport", were mainly devoted to an attempt to show the relation between sport and patriotism, and to explaining a few points connected with the alleged deterioration of British Sport. We did our humble best to controvert the myth of Anglo-Saxon superiority in regard to sport, and we tried to show that while individual's records meant practically nothing, the physical education of the nation as a whole meant everything. We concluded our remarks with the sentence: "Whether we are to continue with this fiddling while our records are burning is another matter".

A number of correspondents have taken exception to our remarks (those who agreed with us have our blessing, and must be passed over), and one or two of them have taken us to task over the sentence just quoted, which has been variously described as "cryptic" and "vague". One reader goes so far as to "demand an explanation of this sentence", asserting that the Olympic Fund appeal, had it been successful would have settled the matter satisfactorily, in that it would have meant that Great Britain would have been in a position to have retrieved some of her lost prestige at the 1916 Olympiad.

We do not wish to lose a reader, so we will give the explanation "demanded", but in order to make our own position quite clear, we would like our readers to first understand the attitude we adopted towards the Olympic Games Appeal. We wrote in October last:-

"Personally, we do not think the money will be subscribed by the British public which is getting a little tired of financing funds to be applied for national purposes..... The principle underlying the whole scheme is bad. The appeal was made in an unbusinesslike way, and the arguments put forward to support it were feeble in the extreme."

In a coming issue of the Magazine we may have something to say regarding the practical value of the Olympic Games, and their benefit (or absence of it) to the nation as a whole. But at the present time we are more concerned in dealing with the preparations being made by Germany, a country whose fame has hitherto rested almost entirely in its commercial and military achievements.

Now comes another menace from across the water - a menace unnoticed by our Press, which is mainly concerned in decrying the achievements of our own country. The fact, however, remains.

Germany will soon have to be reckoned with among the foremost sporting nations of the world.

We have always taken it upon ourselves to assume that the Latin races are constitutionally unfitted for athletics, and that their temperament is against their competing successfully against the Anglo-Saxon race. Fifty years ago this statement had no need to be contradicted, and the idea is still generally prevalent.

Old ideas are like old servants; they are difficult to remove, not merely because we find it hard to convince ourselves that they are out of date, but because of the sentiment attaching to them.

At the last Olympiad at Stockholm little Finland seized the opportunity to find for its people "a place in the sun". Oppressed by Russia, and being practically compelled to speak the Russian language, Finland had no soul to call her own. Then came the Olympic Games, and the advent of such hitherto unknown men as Kolehmainen and Steuroos, Saaristo and Nicklander. What sacrifices the Finns made to obtain their 48 points and the fourth place at Stockholm will never be known, but the achievement was certainly an example to the world.

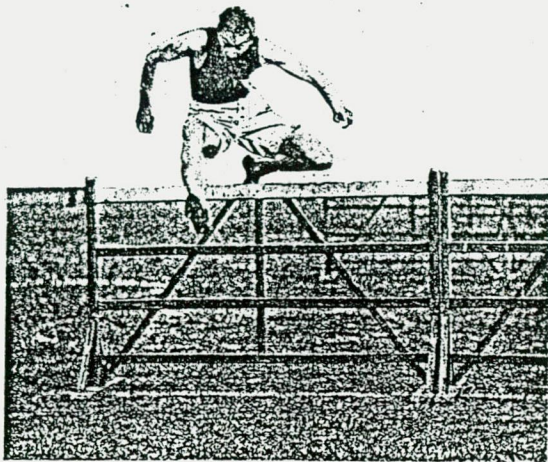
As a famous American writer aptly remarked: "The degree of skill shown by men, wearing upon their shirts the insignia of nations which, ten years ago, were not upon the map of athletic competition, was such as to engender a feeling that before another decade has passed, both the United States and the British Empire will have to revise the traditional estimate of foreign ability."

Now we come to the object of this article. We will attempt to show what one of the Latin countries is doing to remove this foreign estimate of traditional ability as applied to athletics, and the way the subject is being tackled.

Sport and patriotism may not go hand in hand in Great Britain, but this certainly obtains in Germany. With Berlin as the venue for the 1916 Olympic Games, it was only to be expected that Germany would lose few events through lack of enthusiasm or preparation. But an impartial statement, gained from an inside knowledge of what is happening on the other side of the North Sea, may surprise some of our readers, and it may give our angry correspondent all the "explanation" he needs.

Carl Diem, the Secretary-General of the 1916 Olympic Games, says that Germany is "on the eve of a great sport craze". This fact would appear to be true on the face of it, and, so far as we can discover, it has been brought about by the following combination of circumstances. It is, in the main, due to the recent Germany successes in swimming, rowing and lawn tennis, coupled with the approach of the first German Olympiad and with the opening, during the Kaiser's jubilee celebrations, of Professor March's Stadium in the Grunewald.

Alwin Kraenzlein, the German-American, who is training the German candidates for the Olympic Games, admits that this new Stadium (and Kraenzlein is an expert) far surpasses anything in



ALWIN KRAENZLEIN,
The Famous Athlete and Trainer.

America and elsewhere. Further, the German Imperial Committee for the Olympic Games is doing splendid propagandizing work; this work is tending to create and foster a new spirit in Germany, for it is convincing the sceptical German what splendid athletic material is being wasted owing to the lack of good judges who can discover it, and to the dearth of competent trainers who can turn it to account. This was, of course, the basis of the idea underlying the scheme of operations as set out by our own Olympic Council; the disaster that these objects met with on this side lay in the absurd manner in which our Olympic Council set about the task.

The German Olympic Committee is an entirely different proposition. It is under the patronage of the Crown Prince, and is well backed by the Imperial Government which, we understand proposes to grant a big subsidy. This attitude of the Imperial Government is something entirely new, and it is worth noting; we only wish such a state of affairs existed in this country. It is not, however, our duty to complain of a rival's progress, when we, ourselves, have the same opportunities for achieving such progress.

Until later years the Prussian official distrusted all physical exercise, except pure gymnastics; a little farther back he distrusted even gymnastics, and regarded the first gymnastic associations as revolutionary clubs. At the present moment the other extreme has been reached, for a Government official recently stated publicly that "sport is useful because it distracts the young mind from socialistic politics."

We understand that the German Minister of Education, Herr Grott von Solz, is now preparing a circular to the Universities, in which he calls for a more active participation in athletics and sport.

This new move is undoubtedly inspired by Kraenzlein, the trainer, whose ideas with regard to this subject are being fastened on

and exploited with avidity. If this circular has the desired effect on the Universities (and, having regard to the manner in which it is being sent out, there is no doubt that it will achieve a great deal), it will materially improve Germany's chances in the Olympic Games. At the present time athletics and games are adopted principally by the clerk and the junior salary-earning class, whose members have not the available time and money to pursue special training.

Be that as it may, German stock for the 1916 Olympiad is rising rapidly. Carl Diem, whose opinion is really worth a great deal, is of opinion that Germany will rise from the fifth to the third place. In 1912, at Stockholm, she only gained 47 points, being beaten by Finland with a total of 48 points, as well as by the three leading nations, America, Sweden and Great Britain.

From this it is apparent that the four nations who beat Germany in 1912 will have to look carefully to their laurels, and if Germany intends to beat us -- but we'll leave that question alone.

The German Imperial Government is encouraging sport in the army and the navy. It has even gone so far as to issue regulations on the subject. Thus, through the medium of conscription, Germany will be enabled to turn into civilian life thousands of young athletes and game players, who have had a training thrust upon them.

So far, the naval and military authorities have concentrated on Rugby Football with the result that the game has made tremendous progress. Thirteen years ago, when the Imperial Football Association was formed, there were only sixty clubs in the whole Empire. At present there are over 2,000 clubs with 170,000 members, and for this the State is mainly responsible. Lately, the commander of a Saxon army corps issued a regulation in which he stated that "football is the best physical training for recruits, because it admirably supplements their military drill."

Even a greater zeal for football exists in the Navy. The movement was started by the Kaiser's brother Prince Henry of Prussia, who gave a football challenge cup, which is held at present by the crew of the Dreadnought "Posen." Grand-Admiral Hoester, who is now chief of the navy league, has also done his best to encourage football in the fleet, in which object he has been ably supported by Grand-Admiral Tirpitz, the Minister of Marine.

The result is that, today, football is compulsory for ships' boys; in the battleship fleet, boys whose ages range between 15 and 18 are divided into five divisions, each numbering 170, who are sent ashore regularly to play football. An Admiralty report praises football for its good effect in increasing dexterity, intelligence and energy, and in teaching subordination, owing to the need for obeying the referee's decision." The strongest naval advocate of football is Admiral Pritwitz Gastron, who, when chief of the Baltic Station made nearly all his men go in for what he termed "football drill."

The foregoing facts give only a slight idea of the progress of sport in the German services, but they are, at the same time, sufficient to show that we shall soon have to look to our

laurels and guard them against attack from an unexpected quarter. South Africa and New Zealand have already showed us how rugby football should be played, but Germany - !!

This Government interest in sport is reflected in the highly official composition of the Imperial Olympic Committee. The President is the former Minister of Agriculture, Herr von Podbielski. He is, moreover, an active President and he is pledged to obtain the maximum of official support for his committee. The Vice-President of the Committee is the Conservative Reichstag member, Government Councillor van Oertzen. Among the other members are Count Sierstorpf and Baron von Vegninge-Ullner, both of whom are German representatives on the International Olympic Committee.

The German Olympic Committee is not merely devoting its time and labours to adequate representation at the coming Olympiad; it is doing a great and wonderful work in arresting an interest in athletics throughout the Empire. This committee has divided athletics into four departments, and has offered gold and silver medals for those who excel in each department. It has also committed itself to subsidising provincial athletic associations to the extent of \$15,000 for local training purposes, and it further hopes to raise sufficient money to support and train at Berlin the best men brought out by the elimination trials next spring.

It will thus be seen that the German Olympic Committee has got far ahead of Great Britain in making preparations for the 1916 Olympiad; we also believe that, as far as actual preparation is concerned, Germany is ahead of Sweden and America. Unlike the British Olympic Council, it began its operations in a practical manner. On this side we have had three distinct factions to deal with in the British Olympic Council; the Special Committee and the Appeal Committee, which latter, according to the yearly report of the B.O.C. just issued, was entirely disassociated from, and is practically repudiated by the two former bodies. We have done everything we could on this side of the water to obscure the issue; the B.O.C. was divided in itself, and while its members wrangled as to what was best in the interest of the country for the 1916 Olympiad, the public went its way, and the whole business was ignored by the State.

The first thing the German Olympic Committee did was to send Carl Diem, at the head of a commission, to the United States, to enquire into the causes of the Americans' success. Carl Diem, apart from being secretary-general of the 1916 Olympic Games, is the secretary of the German Athletic Association, and he has achieved wonderful results for athletics in Germany since the year 1908. The report presented by Carl Diem's commission is regarded in Germany as very encouraging, for it locates the causes of American success in factors which Germany can hope, with every reason, to imitate. Diem and his commission discovered that the fundamental causes of the American successes at Stockholm and elsewhere were not due to special training, but the universal participation of the youth of the new America in games and athletics.

Those of us who have some inside knowledge of the state of athletics in America at the present time know that Diem's

"discovery" is, in its broader outlines, correct. The commission contend that this fact has been the means of producing a national physique, which is far superior to Germany's. To this cause are also traced the splendid facilities provided for games in America, in the way of open spaces and playing grounds. Another reason given in the report is the participation of American women in games. The report asserts that this fact is partly responsible for the more athletic physique of the men than is possible in Germany, where lawn tennis is the only game played by women.

The American system, says Carl Diem, ensures that every youth has an opportunity to show his talent in some particular game, and by this means the whole of the athletic and games talent of the republic is brought out, and no good man escapes. He contrasts this with the fact that in Germany only a small minority of the youth of the country play games, and for this reason he contends that probably nine-tenths of the latent talent for a particular form of sport is never brought to light. The great point made by Diem is that Germany can easily copy American methods of training, but he asserts that it will be generations before she becomes a nation of athletes and games-players, from which can be chosen, without preparation, a sufficiency of men to compete against other nations in the Olympic Games.

Our opinion on the question of America being a nation of athletes and games-players differs from that of Carl Diem, but, for the moment, such a question is beside the point.

The chief practical result of the visit of the Diem commission to America is the engagement of Kraenzlein to train the Germans for the 1916 contests. Kraenzlein was chosen for his proved talent as an athlete, and for his brilliant record as a trainer; also for the fact that he is of German origin, and speaks the German language perfectly. Kraenzlein's record as an Olympic athlete has not yet been beaten. In 1909, in Paris, he carried off four events: the 110 metre hurdle race in 12 $\frac{2}{5}$ seconds; the 200 metre hurdle race in 25 $\frac{2}{5}$ seconds, and the running long jump with the then world's record of 7.025 metres. No one man has since carried off four events, and one of Kraenzlein's records still stands. Further, Kraenzlein's own record as a trainer for the 1912 Olympiad, and his association with the late Mike Murphy, commended him to the German commission, and his work during the few weeks he has been in Germany has convinced the Olympic Committee that their choice was a good one.

Kraenzlein himself takes a fairly optimistic view of Germany's prospects. He agrees that the German physique is far inferior to the American, but he is strongly of opinion that there is plenty of raw material in Germany that only needs bringing to light. He is loud in his praise of the army and navy as instruments of physical improvement, contending, at the same time, that Germany has no possible chance of gaining first place in the Olympiad until she starts athletics on a properly organised basis at her universities and public schools, and until the country goes in for sport on a large scale, by this means ensuring that every boy shall, at some time or other during his career, have an opportunity to show his prowess at some sport or game.



H. BRAUN,
The winner of the half-mile flat race.
He is an excellent example of the new
type of German athlete.

Kraenzlein has been touring the country, carefully examining the existing conditions; he was present at the unveiling of the Leipzig battle monument, and he witnessed the finish of the "Junior's Olympic Races." He has now taken up his residence permanently at the Grunewald Stadium and is already hard at work preparing for 1916.

Naturally his first task is to discover talent, and then handle it in the same effective way as Hjertberg did in Sweden in 1912. Kraenzlein's point of view is that Germany is not only deficient in discovered talent, but that she lacks the ability to discover it. He is therefore working hard in training "trainers." He has already started, and has in active operation a trainer's college. By this means he hopes to turn out competent men, who will go out into the provinces to continue and spread the ideas with which they will have become imbued. Incidentally this method is also being adopted in Sweden, Denmark and Norway.

Kraenzlein has already received applications from over 100 men, who are willing and anxious to go through a course at his trainer's college, so this speaks well for the ultimate success of his scheme.

Immediately under his control will be three under-trainers, chief of whom is that fine all-round athlete, Waitzer, of Munich, who formed one of the Diem commission that visited America. The work of coaching trainers will be continued all the winter, and this spring the work of selecting men to be trained for 1916 will be started.

In April "propaganda races" will be organised, and there will be contests in every German centre which has at least two athletic associations. The preliminary elimination contests will be held in May, and at the end of May the German cities will send the winners of these elimination contests to compete against each other. These contests will be continued in June, when the provinces will compete against each other. It is Kraenzlein's intention to attend these contests, and so choose the men he considers most promising, and these will finally be taken to Berlin, and receive a thorough training in preparation for the Olympiad.

There can be no possible doubt that a remarkable improvement is taking place in German athletics. This is shown partly in the falling off in record breaking. Until recent years the standard of achievement was very low, and as the craze of athletics spread the German records for jumping and running were broken several times in a season. Last year, for the first time, there

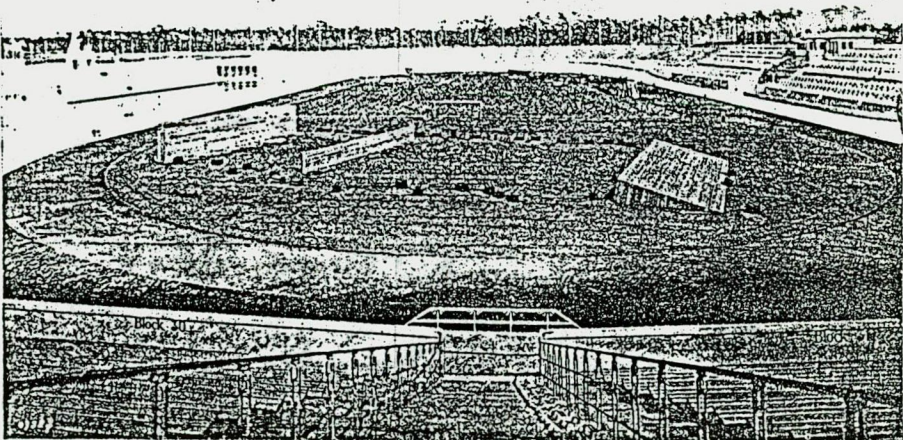
were very few records broken, and the cause of this was due to the relatively high standard that had been attained.

The one obstacle to progress continues to be the non-participation of the classes with the best natural physique, viz, the countrymen and the inhabitants of the smaller towns. Both of these types ignore athletics. The present craze is confined to the larger cities, where the general standard of physique is very low. And the question as to how this factor checks athletic development, as applied to the German nation is shown by the fact that nearly all the German records are held by young men who live in big towns, but were born and brought up in the country districts.

In the course of this article we have given a plain and unvarnished statement of what Germany is doing, and that she is doing splendid work will not be denied. Germany will achieve results, simply because she was tackled the subject in a businesslike way. Carl Diem, who is at the back of the whole scheme, has been moderate in his demands as regards financial support; he has not asked the German people to subscribe \$100,000. But he has recognised that everything can be accomplished by organisation. The German Olympic Committee is working as one man; there are no contending factions. Germany is showing us how to do things, and the time may come - it must come - when Germany will take her place beside Great Britain and the United States as one of the greatest sporting nations in the world.

"... whether we are to continue with this fiddling while these records are burning is another matter."

We can only express the hope that our correspondents are now satisfied regarding the "vagueness" of the above remark.



THE NEW STADIUM AT BERLIN.

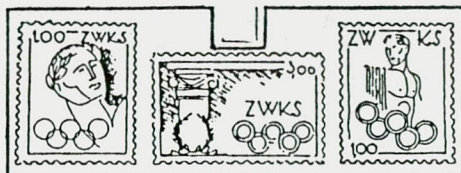
THE FORGOTTEN OLYMPIAD

BY CARLO GHIOZZI

(This article first appeared in Topical Time in January/February 1993, and is reproduced with the permission of the author.)

(Professor Ing. Carlo Ghiozzi, ATA member 40835, is founder and director of the Thematic Maximaphily International Club, and was among the first topical collectors in Italy to be awarded a large vermeil "Verso Tokyo '64-Rimini". His mailing address is: 12 Via della Fonderia, I-57127, Livorno, Italy)

Most of those who attended the XXV Olympic Games in Barcelona probably gave little thought to the fact that there were no official Olympic Games in 1940 and 1944 because of World War II. Fewer knew that there was an unofficial Olympiad held in 1944.



In 1944, many Polish athletes recalled the words of their compatriot, Jan Parandowski, who stated at the 1936 Berlin Olympiad, "there is an ideal we can call Commandment to which the 20th century mankind aspires and waits for - the Peace Commandment. In ancient times, the voice announcing the Olympic Games disarmed the fighting forces, stifled their feelings of hostility and discord. And notwithstanding such truce had been going for only few months, sometimes it spanned whole years."



Thousands of Polish soldiers were taken prisoner during World War II. The officers were confined to OFLAG (Officers Concentration Camps) like Woldenberg in Dobięgniew (called OBOZU II C) and Gross-Born in Sulnuovo (called OBOZU II D). According to the Geneva Convention, these Polish officers were allowed to organise their own social life and establish communications between their prison shelters. So they requested and obtained authorisation from the German authorities to:

1. Organise an international postal service to distribute mail among the various camp shelters.

2. Print and issue their own postage stamps for internal correspondence.
3. Collect money for such postal service using the profits to aid the widows and fatherless children of Poland.

The Woldenberg (OBOZU II C) post office operated from May 5, 1942 to January 25, 1945, while the Gross-Born (OBOZU II D) post office operated from December 3, 1943 to January 28, 1945. Within a few months after the Woldenberg post office opened, the Polish officers organised a "Sports Week" and all mail was postmarked with a special cancel.



As the war continued, a group of Polish officers at the Woldenberg camp decided to organise a mini-Olympiad to commemorate the 1944 Olympic year in the tradition of Pierre de Coubertin. An Olympic Committee was formed to organise the event and to prepare the athletes for such events as the 100m, 1,500m, and four 100m relay races, the 10km walk, the long jump, boxing, soccer, basketball, and volleyball. The Committee printed ten copies of a programme (now worth thousands of dollars) and three Olympic labels which were sold for 1 and 3 marks.

A non-postal cancellation was applied to the entrance tickets and the OFLAG post office printed a true philatelic item on August 13, 1944. The 10 pfennig imperforate stamp was designed by Edmond Czarnecki, printed in brick-red on small sheets (25mm x 39mm) of Swedish paper supplied by the Red Cross. Each sheet contained a single stamp, and a total of 17,580 stamps were printed. A commemorative postmark was designed by T.Ptonczack and carved on the rubber sole of a shoe by R.Wierczorkiewiez.

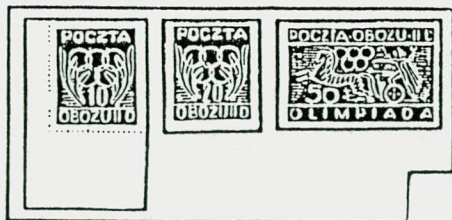
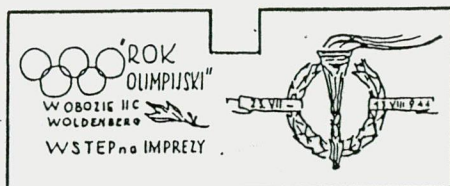
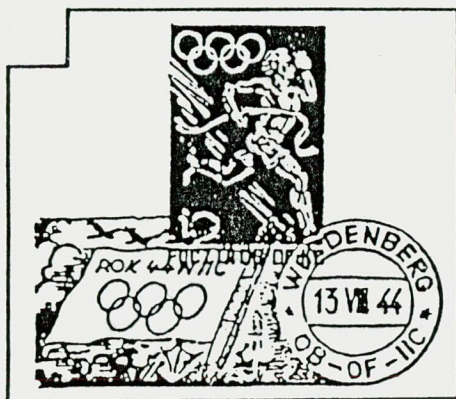
To commemorate the Sunday, 13 August 1944, opening day of the mini-Olympics, the Committee printed souvenir cards on heavy paper, using one of the five colours of the Olympic rings on each of the stamps.

After a few weeks, the Gross-Born OFLAG launched its own mini-Olympiad. The Polish officers had formed their own Olympic Committee and for the 30 July 1944 opening day of their mini-Olympiad they issued a set of three stamps (10, 20, and 50 pfennig) which were designed and carved by Wlodzimierz Zieleniewski. The total quantities printed were:

10 pfenning (brown-red) - 5,133;
 20 pfenning (brown and olive-brown) - 5,245;
 50 pfenning (dark green) - 4,702.

For the opening day, two types of postal cards were imprinted with the same 10 pfenning stamp. The stamp was printed in light red on cards of heavy grey paper (90mm x 60mm). The post office cancelled these postal cards throughout the Games with a rectangular handstamp.

During the final days of the mini-Olympiad (August 12 to 15), a philatelic exhibition was held which was commemorated with 1,115 souvenir sheets (100mm x 93mm) depicting all three stamps. A circular postmark was employed depicting a posthorn and the numerals 1,2,3, and, (very rare), representing the first, second, third and fourth day of use. Some of these philatelic items have been recently reproduced by the Polish Postal Administration on their postal cards to help us remember this forgotten Olympiad.



CARRYING THE TORCH

(From the Olympic Review 1940)

The war has had its effect on the Olympic events. Where weapons clash, the Olympic Festival gives way. Faced with the seriousness of the struggle for existence, the joy of Olympic celebrations steps into the shadows. Thus the rumblings of war took the life out of the fine hopes for celebrations in Tokyo, and likewise the Games in Garmisch-Partenkirchen were abandoned owing to the armed conflict in Europe. How it will turn out with the celebrations in Helsinki will be learned in the near future. At the moment when these lines are being written no decision has so far been taken. The task of these pages is to stir up the Olympic fire, so that it blazes up again brightly in peaceful times. Thus may two thoughts be saved for coming generations, each of which would have been a fine symbol of Olympic endeavors.

After the Olympic flame had once been carried to the site of the 1936 Games in Berlin, the thought of such a link refuses to die. Therein lies simply the symbol of dedication to a common ideal, such is the celebration of the Olympic Games, and that not only the participants in the Games but also the youth of all nations even at a distance see themselves involved.

That is how the two plans which we reproduce below are to be understood. The first concerns the celebration of the fifth Winter Olympic Games in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. There, greetings from the site of the first Winter Olympics, at Chamonix in 1924, were to be brought via the site of the second Winter Olympics, at St Moritz in 1928, to the Olympic Games site of 1936 and 1940 at Garmisch-Partenkirchen. The second plan, much wider-ranging, had the aim of carrying the flame from Olympia right to Tokyo, and this plan received a special consecration since one of the greatest men of our time, the great Asiatic explorer Sven Hedin who has celebrated his 75th birthday this year on 19th February, has been its enthusiastic supporter and has dedicated to it an essay which also merits a place in the history of the Olympic Games because of its author.

Carrying the message of Friendship from Chamonix to Garmisch-Partenkirchen - a draught scheme.

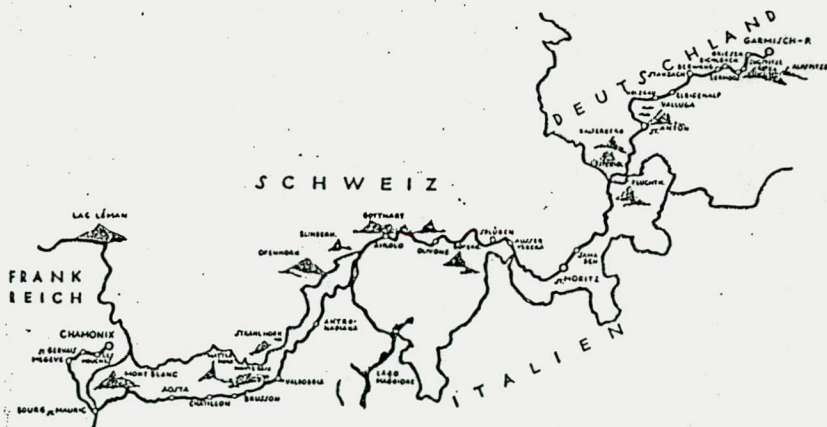
Daily running time, roughly six hours, spread over 14 1/2 days.

France:	17 runners or teams
	Horizontal distance 71.5km
	Difference in height 4236m
Italy:	46 runners or teams
	Horizontal distance 209 1/2km
	Difference in height 13538m
Switzerland:	34 runners or teams
	Horizontal distance 209 1/2km
	Difference in height 7618m

Germany: 27 runners or teams
 Horizontal distance 169 1/2km
 Difference in height 2526m

Total: 124 runners or teams
 Horizontal distance 600km
 Difference in height 27,918m

The messengers' path begins in Chamonix, at about 1000m above sea level. After roughly ten kilometers of level running the way starts to climb at Les Houches along the cable-way to the Col de Voza and Prazion, where the World Championships in downhill skiing took place in 1936. Then the way leads steeply downhill 1100m to St. Gervais, and after crossing the valley it is again along a stretch of cable-way on to the Mt. d'Arbois. There now follows a more gentle descent to Megeve, France's most important winter sports centre, lying 700m lower. Now the country becomes extremely varied, and the runners whose turn it is must be masters of going both up and downhill. The path leaves the world of hotels and cable-ways and now winds through the outliers of Mt. Blanc, at an average of about 2000m right round the massif as far as Bourg St. Maurice. The passes at Col de Very, Col du Joly, Col de la Fenetre and Col du Bonhomme, which are crossed on this stretch, are not always avalanche proof and must therefore be covered by runners familiar with the district.



From Bourg St. Maurice the path now follows the snow-covered roadway to the Little St. Bernard at a height of 2188m. At the top the Italian runners take over the message, and down they go in a rush on the far side to Pre St. Didier which, like Chamonix, lies at a height of 1000m but on the south side of Mt. Blanc in the Aosta valley. Now the long-distance runners come into their own once more, as the way now follows the Aosta valley for around 80km and indeed, always according to the snow conditions, at a greater or lesser height on the southern slopes of the rugged Alpine valley. Near Chatillon the path reaches its

lowest point at 549m. Now the path draws near once more to the Walliser Alps which come into sight again and again to the north, through the precipitous slopes of the Matterhorn, the Breithorn and Monte Rosa. To begin with the path keeps at a respectable distance from these giants, and by means of steep climbs of often 2000m and intervening rockstrewn descents it crosses several north-south running Alpine ridges between Chatillon, Brusson, Gressoney, Riva and Rima. Then the path bends round northwards again and near Macugnaga touches the southern flank of the Strahlhorn.

Now begins what is probably the wildest part of the path along the Swiss frontier over the steep Alpine passes, often with the danger of avalanches. The 4000m which accompany the party on their left form a fantastic contrast to the vineyard-covered valley floor which on the right-hand side come close to the high ranges near Domodossola. So the way leads across uninhabited Alpine ridges in a steady up and down, past the southern entrance of the Simplon Tunnel, up to the San Giacomo Pass, from where the Swiss downhill runners take the message onwards via the Bedretto valley to Airolo on the southern slope of the St. Gotthard Pass. There now follow fairly long climbs up through steep Alpine valleys to Cassacia, with an equally long rushing descent into the valley once more at Olivone. At this point the track now leaves the Tessin Canton and climbs over the Casinell Pass down to Zervreila and in a long sweep through St. Peter's valley to Vals; after a short but steep rise and a similar fall it leads down to Nufenen in the Rheinwald valley and onwards to Splugen. Once more the way leads along the valley, first in a level run to Ausserferrera, then slowly rising up through Innerferrera, Campsut and Cresta up to the Forcellina Pass at a height of 2670m. The extremely difficult descent on the east side of the pass finishes at the Siesersee near Maloja in the Upper Engadine. Now the track goes through the 1800m high Hochtal, always deep in snow, past Silvaplana, St. Moritz and Samaden, falling slowly along the River Inn as far as Lavin.

Here the path climbs up through a small, wild valley to the Silvretta and, at a height of roughly 3000m near Piz Buin, it reaches the German frontier and its highest point. On the far side the way goes down in rushing swoops along the Jämtal glacier to the Jämtal mountain hut and then on out of the valley to Galtur in the Paznaun valley. At this point a long distance runner must again take over the message. At first his way goes on the level out of the valley as far as Valzur, but then the track climbs steeply up to the Schafbuch ridge, the entry to the Fernwall mountain group; but no sooner is he at the top than the relay is taken over again by downhill runners who rush down the valley past Black Pateriol and the Konstanzer refuge to St. Anton. Over the St. Cristoph pass the track winds its way down to Stuben and then through Zurs into the Lech valley.

From now on it is more the task of the long distance runners. Beginning at Zurs the track follows the roadway, dropping gently, and takes a definite turn to the east at Warth; it is only at Namlos that it still rises a little. From Berwang the path falls again into the broad valleys of the Wettstein at Ehrwald and leads past the Zugspitze to Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

GREAT BRITAIN OLYMPIC EXHIBITION

JOHN CROWTHER

The Society are organizing an Exhibition at the Manchester Museum in support of Manchester's Bid for the 2000 Olympic Games. The Exhibition is entitled "Great Britain at the Modern Olympic Games" and will run from 13 September to 13 November 1993. The Exhibition will trace Great Britain's involvement with the Revival of the Olympic Games from the early Cotswold and Much Wenlock Games up to Manchester's Bid for the 1996 and 2000 Games.

The National Postal Museum are supplying material consisting of artwork and essays for the 1948 Games in London together with items relating to other sports related issues.

The British Olympic Association are loaning artifacts from various Olympic Games including medals and badges from the Games held in London in 1908 and 1948, together with an Olympic Torch from the latter year.

The greater part of the Exhibition will be provided by members of the S.O.C and will give comprehensive coverage of the 1908 Games, including British Olympic Committee vignettes, Franco-British Exhibition postmarks -(Dates of Finals), and postcards of the Stadium and the "Dorando" Marathon.

The 1948 Games at Wembley will be represented by the Presentation Pack and Card, and by varieties of the stamps and airletter. The Ticket Office postage meter and covers from the temporary and mobile post offices in the Olympic Village and at Olympic Venues will also be displayed.

The International Olympic Committee Session in Birmingham in 1991 will be well represented as will sponsorship of Great Britain's Teams by Royal Mail and other organisations.

Material from Manchester's Bid for the 1996 and 2000 Games will provide an appropriate conclusion to the Exhibition.

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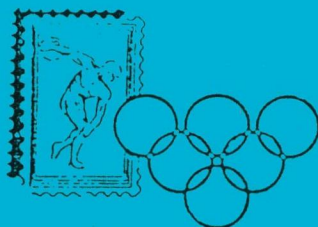
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