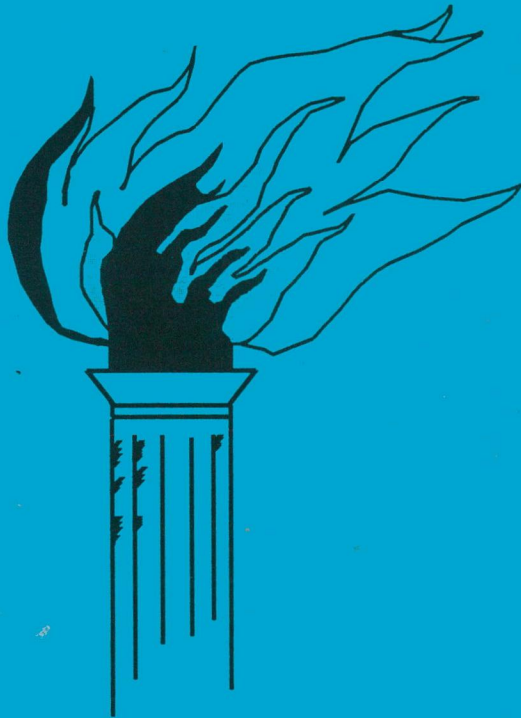


TORCH BEARER



SOCIETY of OLYMPIC COLLECTORS

YOUR COMMITTEE

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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.

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VOLUME 12

AUGUST 1995

ISSUE 3

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FRONT PAGE

This issue contains far more information about the Society and attendance at events than usual, so I am going to sacrifice part of the Front Page, and avoid repetition with information contained within articles.

Please note the new addresses inside the front cover, your Committee seems to have been continuously changing or moving during my spell as editor (I had assumed that at least the inside cover would remain fairly constant). I trust that we can all join in welcoming Alan in his position as P R O, he already seems to be trying to coerce Committee members into writing for philatelic magazines as a publicity measure during the Olympic Year of 1996 – a sensible strategy for a membership drive..

As a number of you will already be aware, I took a transfer with my employer in April, hence the new address, I have spent four months travelling between homes, which has totally disrupted my filing "system". I never seem to be in the same place as the material I am meant to be working on! This should resolve in September.

There were other complications, mainly that different offices use different software, and printers – you nearly ended up with a handwritten Torch Bearer, and it is only thanks to our printer and the distribution that you are not receiving this issue a month late.

In common with most other specialist journals, we are attracting articles on new or recent material. I know that many of you really want items on the earlier Games, but it appears that everyone "wants", but nobody will "provide". I am sure that many of you have information that others would welcome the chance to share – how about it!

Monsieur Jean–Claude Sizler

It is with great personal sadness that I report the death on June 12, 1995 of Jean–Claude, at the age of 49.

The news came as a great shock as David Buxton and I, and our families had spent the previous weekend in Paris at postcard fairs with Jean–Claude and Marlene *sa compagne*.

I first met Jean–Claude through his postcard publishing activities as the name behind *l'association Escargophiles*. A strong bond of friendship, was formed between our families, and the subsequent introduction of fellow SOC members to Jean–Claude and the contemporary postcard artists who were involved with *Escargophiles*, played an important role in the Society visit to Paris for the IOC Centennial Congress as previously reported in Torch Bearer.

Whilst Jean–Claude was not a philatelist, he was a collector of modern postcards on almost every theme, he corresponded and exchanged worldwide – his integral garage is to modern postcards, what the Louvre is to art, a real treasure house.

To Marlene, Pascal his son, and all his relatives we offer our condolences.

R.F.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, 1995

The Annual General Meeting was held on July 1st, 1995 as announced. Minutes of the meeting will be published in the May 1996 issue of Torch Bearer, however the Chairman's Report is reproduced below for the benefit of all members as it contains such an important announcement and to enable as much notification and consideration as possible.

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

I don't know if it is a sign of age, but the Annual General /meeting seems to come around faster each year, rather like Christmas ! I no longer remember whether it was the Annual General Meeting last year, or at the Committee meeting directly afterwards that I announced that I would be standing down as your Chairman in 1996. If I did not make an official announcement last year, then I do so today. By 1996 I will have occupied the hot seat for twelve years, and in my opinion, that is far too long ! It is time to bring in new blood. You know what they say about a new broom !

The strength and dedication of the members of your Committee have meant that my task as Chairman has been considerably eased during my term of office, never more so than during the last twelve months when for personal reasons it has sometimes been difficult to dedicate the amount of time to the task that I would have liked.

Now that the Summer and Winter Games have been seperated, every other year will be a year of Olympic interest. With an Olympic Fair planned in Lausanne in the intervening years, each year will have something of sporting and Olympic interest. Next year we will be staging our own Olympic exhibition as a part of Spring Stampex, and I would urge you all to make every effort to visit the show which, apart from the philatelic exhibits, will have artifacts on display from both the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, the British Olympic Association and the British Library. A veritable feast for the Olympic enthusiast. Your Committee also has a number of surprises in store, and I am sure that it will be a memorable exhibition.

I would like to welcome Alan Sabey to the Committee. Alan will be a familiar name to many members, for he provided the Auction News in Torch Bearer for many years. Alan has taken over as our PRO in place of Andy Potter, who has had to resign due to his business commitments. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Andy for his efforts on our behalf. Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the Committee, both past and present, for the help and support that they have given me during my time as your Chairman. Without their dedication and enthusiasm, my task would have been considerably harder.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS – NEWS FOR MEMBERS



For those interested in telephone cards, the illustration shows a very thematic issue from Andorra.

The card commemorates the XXth anniversary of the recognition of the Andorra Olympic Committee by the International Olympic Committee.

1994 as the centennial of the I.O.C. will undoubtedly act as the catalyst for many such national commemorations.

 Kenny Cook, our librarian, was intrigued by an illustration of this meter mark in a recent edition of Phil-A-Sport No. 14 (the journal of our Italian sister society), can any of our members offer any further information? It seems quite extraordinary that such a superbly illustrated meter should remain "unknown" for nearly forty years.



F.I.P.O Update –

At the 1st World Olympic Collectors Fair in Lausanne, a meeting was held of representatives from the majority of member societies of F.I.P.O. The meeting was used as a forum to present the future role of F.I.P.O, which can be summarised as follows:

- To act as an umbrella organisation, drawing details of collector members of the member societies worldwide, to enable the publication of a "Handbook of Olympic Philatelists" worldwide, updated as necessary.
- To establish minimum standards within member societies, those being:
 - Patronage of their national philatelic body;
 - Patronage of their national Olympic Committee.
 - Regular production of their own journal, ideally with some "second language" articles, in the spirit of international cooperation.
 - The exchange of information, and cooperation between the member societies.

These objectives were considered and discussed at length by your committee. in January.

The handbook presents constitutional difficulties and conflict for the Society of Olympic Collectors, our policy regarding membership details was put in place at the formation of the Society, and specifically prevents the circulation of membership details, and addresses. This policy remains in place, and the Committee does not consider that any change would be beneficial to the membership. The solution available, would seem to be circulation of a form to the members, which individuals could complete by their choice. The anonymity of members who chose not to return, would be respected.

The existence of Torch Bearer obviously meets with the majority of the other objectives, principal shortfall being the publication of occasional foreign language articles (*in their native language*), although we regularly draw on our foreign membership for articles.

The exchange of information / journals has been in place with established societies for a number of years, and was illustrated by the inclusion of the listing of new postmarks on the Olympic theme published in the May issue, by the kind permission of I.M.O.S.

F.I.P.O. was able to provide addresses of twenty eight member societies including the S.O.C., discussions / correspondence with the British Olympic Association, has resulted in them offering support in the form of postage costs for the distribution of Torch Bearer to all of the other societies. The May issue was therefore distributed.

Considering the timescale involved, the response with exchange copies from societies worldwide has been good, and it is hoped that we will in future be able to add all society publications to the library. These will help to form an important reference for the Olympic philatelist, as many contain news of events, issues and postmarks in their own country.

To maximise the benefit from these journals, they need to be reviewed so that members are made aware of their content.

Volunteers are sought to undertake the task of providing regular reviews for Torch Bearer, particularly of foreign language publications. The requirement being to provide a general idea of the journals content, highlight news items, and summarise feature articles.

We are currently seeking reviewers for all journals, but particularly those published in: German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, and Eastern European languages.

If you feel able to commit some of your leisure time, exercise your linguistic skills, and assist the Society, please get in touch with any member of the committee.

The issue frequency of journals varies, most being between two and six issues per year, so that the overall demand on time is not great – so, how about it? A real chance to play an active role in your society.

LIBRARY NEWS – RECENT ADDITIONS

Ken Cook

The following items have been added to the library, and are now available to members .

British Olympians – a Hundred Years of Gold Medallists.

By Ian Buchanan. 191 pages.

Brief biographies of the majority of British Gold Medallists, particularly useful for those seeking details of the lesser known members of teams. Well illustrated, a helpful source for those attempting to identify competitors in untitled photographs or postcards from the Games.

Handbook of Thematic Philately

By W E J Van Den Bold. 215 pages.

For those intending to exhibit in the thematic class, for the first time, this really is essential reading. The author relates to current regulations and marking regimes, and manages to convey a wealth of knowledge in an almost technical manner, but manages to maintain an enjoyable and readable text. This really is a book that demands a position on the bookshelf for regular reference.

Olympic Review – March 1995, and May 1995.

Torch, the magazine of the Atlanta Olympic Committee.

Vol. V No. 1 Jan – Feb. 1995

Vol. V No. 2 Mar – Apr. 1995

Vol. V No. 3 May – Jun. 1995

Podium, the magazine of the Argentinian Sport Philately Group.

No. 1 December 1994.

No. 2 February 1995.

No. 3 April 1995.

No. 4 June 1995.

Phila – Sport, the journal of U.I.F.O.S., the Italian Olympic and Sports Group.

No. 13, No. 14.

Journal of Sports Philately, the journal of Sports Philatelists International.

Vol. 33 No. 4 Mar – Apr. 1995

Vol. 33 No. 5 May – Jun. 1995

Vol. 33 No. 6 Jul – Aug. 1995

OLYMPIC MAGAZINE, regular publication of the Olympic Museum, Lausanne.

No. 4 November 1994.

Olimpismo, the journal of the Spanish Olympic Union.

No. 2 1995

Olympihlex '96, Atlanta Exhibition of Olympic Collectables – Bulletin.

Olympiafila '95, Philatelic Exhibition – Exhibition Catalogue.

Atlanta 1996, ticket request brochure.

Association Francaise des Collectionneurs Olympiques et Sportifs, journal of the French Olympic and Sport Philatelic Group.

December 1994.

MEMBERS FORUM

Franceska Rapkin has provided the following response to Robert Cyca (Vol 12, page 53)

"The boxed cachet which is shown on this cover reads **Einschreiben unzulässig** which translates as **Registration inadmissible**. Generally, registered letters were carried on airships, at the general registration rate of 30 pfennig for a letter with an undeclared value (this went up in stages according to value on insured letters). However for some reason, registered mail was not accepted for this flight. I do not know how, where or when this was announced. If anyone knows the answer, perhaps it could be published in Members' Forum. Mail that was indicated as being registered, either by a handwritten note as on the illustrated cover, or by a label, had the cachet applied over it. Additionally, the cachet reads **Bahnpostamt 19 Frankfurt (Main)**. This was the post office that dealt with all the mail for the Olympic Flight that emanated from within Germany. Mail that came from abroad was collected in Friedrichshafen (the home port of the Zeppelin company) and then forwarded to Frankfurt.

The letter rate for Zeppelin mail was 1 Reichmark, or 50 pfennig for a postcard, so this card is overfranked by 70 pfennig. (50pf and 75pf. Zeppelin stamps, 3pf, 4pf, 6pf and 12pf Olympic stamps = 150pf.).

Intended postal charge was, 50pf postage, and 30pf registration = 80pf.

Bob Wilcock asks if any of our members has a copy of either the 1932 Lake Placid, or 1932 Los Angeles stamps **pre-cancelled**, and correctly used on cover? If anyone can help, Bob would appreciate a photocopy. It is planned to include the photocopy, with acknowledgement, in an article currently being written for Torch Bearer.

Naomi Beinart, is able to add further information to her article (Volume 12, page --).

The slogan postmarks were in use from June 21st – August 1st, 1992 in both english and afrikaans.

There was a third tablet size, which has been seen from Durban, but which was announced for use in only Kimberley. (Illustrated on page 57).

The tablet, in english, illustrated on page 57, (top right corner) was intended for use in only Cape Town and Johannesburg.

The tablet illustrated from Bloemfontein was intended for use throughout the country, but has only been seen from the offices mentioned on page 56.

Naomi adds that despite searches through commercial mail, she has not yet seen an example of the Kimberley strike.

SPONSORS OF THE 1996 OLYMPIC GAMES

John Miller

The object of this article is to begin a record of the sponsors of the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta who operate within the United Kingdom; whether they are a National Division of an International Corporation declaring Worldwide Sponsorship through the TOP Programme, or a National Company declaring sponsorship of the British Olympic Team.

Once again, as in 1992, the information, publicity and promotions of these sponsorships tends to be erratic and regionalised. The lack of retailer cooperation and stock turnover are often the main obstacles, but there is also a general reluctance amongst sales staff to offer information about corporate sponsorship, particularly if they cannot see signs of a sale. Members will no doubt be able to make additions to the information that follows, such additions will be welcome.

The Atlanta Games were still eighteen months away at the time of writing in February 1995, however one sponsor was already advertising their status on their official stationery and some of their products. Others followed in the next few months. Those known at the end of June 1995 are included in the following list.

(i) INTERNATIONAL

{a} U. P. S. (United Parcel Services).

In late April advertising on Granada ITV declared the status of U. P. S. as members of the TOP Programme using the text "Worldwide Olympic Sponsors" in two lines with the Olympic rings above, printed in gold on the dark brown background of the delivery vehicle. This was repeated at the end of the advertisement.

(ii) NATIONAL

{a} Royal Mail

In February the British Olympic Association logo with the text "Official Sponsor to the British Olympic Team" appeared in the bottom left corner of the official stationery used by the Letters Business of the Post Office, printed in black.



The Letters Business of The Post Office
Official Sponsor to the British Olympic Team

There were also rumours that the issue of a philatelic item was being considered, possibly a commemorative stamp or a booklet cover similar to that issued in 1992.

{b} British Sugar Company.

The Silver Spoon (retail division) of this Company declared their sponsorship of the British Olympic Team on the wrappers of their Castor sugar; Icing sugar and Granulated sugar products.

WIN A TRIP TO THE OLYMPICS IN ATLANTA


See the Olympics for free - win a trip for two to the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, or win one of five Hitachi portable colour televisions. Two proofs of purchase required, see reverse for details. Closing date: 14.7.95

silver spoon

OFFICIAL SPONSORS OF THE BRITISH OLYMPIC TEAM

OFFICIAL SPONSORS AND SUPPLIERS FOR ATLANTA 1996

KWIK SAVE
BRITAIN'S No.1 FOOD DISCOUNTER



By early June some outlets had replaced all of the competition promotions with a new, non-olympic promotion, and the packaging had reverted to the original pack with the medallion printed in blue and red. These special promotions have not been seen on the other Silver Spoon products.

On the 6th July the first pieces of the next stage in the sponsorship were on sale. A series of six recipes, recommended by Sharon Davies, were printed on the 1 kilo bags of Silver Spoon sugar. Labelled "Quick and Healthy Family Recipes" they were displayed on the reverse of the bag together with the British Olympic Association logo in full colour.

- Numbers 1 - 4 have been seen so far:
- No. 1, "Strawberry Yogurt Smoothie";
 - No. 2, "Plum and Apple Crispie";
 - No. 3, "Spicy Mini Sausages";
 - No. 4, "Cheats Summer Brulee".

The packet states that these recipes will also be found on Caster Sugar Packs.

British Sugar (Industrial Division) and Trident Feeds (Animal Feed Division) are also involved in the sponsorship, but no details of promotions have yet been received.

silver spoon

There are Six delicious Sharron Davies recipes to collect. Look out for the others on the back of Silver Spoon Granulated Sugar and Caster Sugar packs.

"As a fit and active young mother with a busy lifestyle, I like my recipes to be healthy, tasty and quick to make, so the whole family can enjoy them."

Sharron Davies

Recipe No. 1

STRAWBERRY YOGURT SMOOTHIE


2 ice cubes, lightly crushed
200ml (7fl oz) semi-skimmed milk
1 small banana, peeled
150g (5oz) natural Greek yogurt
175g (6oz) fresh strawberries, hulled
30ml (2 level tbsp) Silver Spoon Granulated Sugar

Place all the ingredients in a food processor or blender; blend for about 1-2min.

Serve in tall glasses.

Serves 4
132 cals

For a free Silver Spoon recipe booklet, please write to the Silver Spoon Creative Kitchen at the address on the side of this pack.



{c} Tie Rack Ltd.

The national press reported that Tie Rack had been awarded a contract for the design and supply of ties and scarves for the British Olympic Team, and that a number of products will be commercially available using the selected design.

{d} Barclays Bank Plc.

The Bank is promoting a "Draw / Competition among account holders. The details are given on customer's statements, and they are only eligible if they have used their credit card in Europe during April and May of 1995. An "all expenses paid" trip to Atlanta is the prize.

Sponsorship material related to the individual collecting field can be one of the most difficult areas when seeking background information. Torch Bearer can provide the forum for members worldwide to help other members by providing details of sponsors to their National Team or Olympic Association. John has made the point that many items or promotions are regional, so please pass on any information you may have – it will almost certainly contain some new facts

Regardless of your own collecting field, reliable information about sponsors can act as a clue to the existence of items that may be of interest, even if only by providing potential company or corporation names with whom contact should be made. {Ed.}

2nd Olympic Collectors World Fair
the Olympic Museum, Lausanne, Switzerland.
6th – 8th October, 1995.

**A number of Society members have arranged to visit the
2nd Olympic Collectors Fair – We look forward to meeting
with members worldwide, for some interesting chats and
perhaps a coffee or two.**

Please note the Society will not be taking a table this year, so you will need to stay alert to find those you wish to meet.

The organisers, have increased table rents by 100%, in the marquee, and also prohibited sales from that area. The Society simply cannot justify the expense as the prospect of attracting 15 new members to simply recover the outlay is unrealistic.

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SPANISH OLYMPIC SILVER MEDALS

Bob Wilcock

Following the spectacular sheetlet issued last year for the Centenary of the I.O.C. and Spain's Olympic Gold Medals (Torch Bearer, Volume 12, page 18), a similar sheet was issued on 2 June 1995 commemorating Spain's Olympic Silver Medals.

On this occasion there are 14 stamps of 30 pesetas with a central panel of 6 labels listing the medals:


Athletics:	Moscow 1980	50 km walk	J. Llopart
	Barcelona 1992	Decathlon	A. Penalva Asensio
Basketball	Los Angeles 1984	Team names listed	
Boxing	Barcelona 1992	Featherweight	F. Reyes Lopez
Soccer	Antwerp 1920	Team names listed	
Rhythmic Gymnastics	Barcelona 1992		C. Pascual Gracia
Equestrian – Team Event (Nations Cup)	London 1948	Team names listed	
Hockey (mens)	Moscow 1980	Team names listed	
Canoeing	Montreal 1976	Kayak fours – 1000 metres	
	Moscow 1980	Kayak pairs – 500 metres	
Polo	Antwerp 1920	Team names listed	
Rowing	Los Angeles 1984	Coxless pairs	
Tennis	Seoul 1988	Men's Doubles	E. Sanchez Vicario S. Casal
	Barcelona 1992	Men's Singles	J. Arrese Castane
		Women's Doubles	C. Martinez Bernat Arantha Sanchez Vicario
Shooting	Paris 1900		S. Pidal
	<i>The event is not shown on the pane, and the name is not in Wallechinsky!</i>		
	Helsinki 1952	Free Pistol	A. Leon
Sailing	Montreal 1976	470 Class	
	Barcelona 1992	Europe Class	N. Via Dufresne Perena
Water Polo	Barcelona 1992	Men's Team	

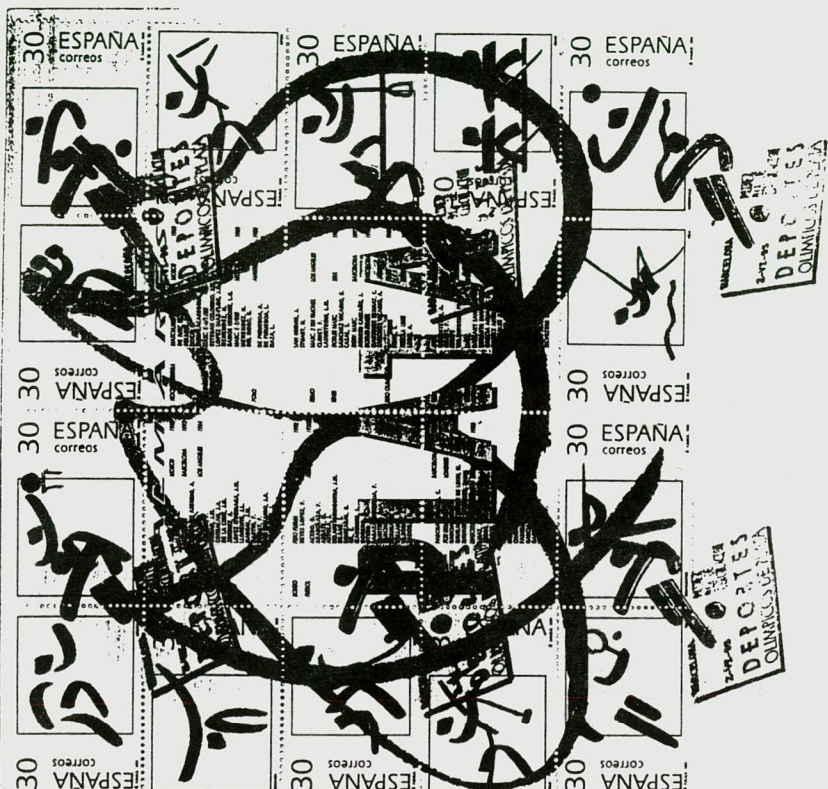
The first day handstamp incorporates the soccer pictogram from Barcelona '92.

DEPORTES

Olimpicos de PLATA

PRIMER DIA DE CIRCULACION

 Correos y Telégrafos S.F.C. - A.896 - 1995



THE S.O.C. AROUND AND ABOUT

The S. O. C. at MIDPEX 1995.

The first ever MIDPEX was held on Saturday June 10th at the Midland Sports Centre for the Disabled near Coventry. The S.O.C. decided that they would support the event by having a Society Table. A number of members attended and had a very enjoyable day. The idea of an annual event in the Midlands had first been discussed last year and although we were one of twenty specialist Societies that had supported the idea, the date proved to be difficult to arrange.

Our member Dick Frost set up a marvellous display of some of his material as a backdrop to our table on which we had a number of society items for sale as well as a selection of unsold auction lots, which soon changed hands! Dick had been particularly busy as he was treasurer of the organising MIDPEX committee and he was on duty with The Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain stand.

The venue was an excellent centre with two sport halls housing all the dealer stands around the outside wall and all the Society stands in the middle. It seemed that all the major Midland Philatelic dealers were in attendance as well as many leading National dealers. There were forty-nine Specialist Societies represented.

An official reception was held in a third hall and John Crowther our Auction Manager represented the S.O.C. The reception was opened by the Lord Mayor of Coventry and addressed by Michael Elliott, chairman of the Association of British Philatelic Societies. Alan Huggins of the British Philatelic Trust was another speaker who commented that the way forward for the philatelic hobby was through specialist societies such as ours.

In addition to Dick Frost and John Crowther, other S.O.C. members in attendance included Kenny Cook, John and Betty Miller, David Buxton, Bob Wilcock, Victor Hale and Alan Sabey. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to speak with fellow enthusiasts and we all took home some new additions to our collections.

The S. O. C. at THEMATICA.

The Committee made the annual pilgrimage to Carisbrooke Hall, near Marble Arch on the 1 July, in anticipation of the Annual General Meeting, and as usual outnumbered the membership by about eight to one! Every year we seem to have a number of members visiting the Society Table, who mysteriously vanish at the time of the meeting.

After due consideration, we can only conclude that, either the dealers are far more interesting (maybe there are some special offers that coincide with the AGM each year), or perhaps the Society is fulfilling the members wishes and there are no comments to offer, or could it be that there is a rumour that we bite!

Those in attendance, certainly heard the most important Chairman's Report since the founding of the Society (see page 99).

All members attending seemed to find items of interest with the dealers. The dealer attendance is becoming more international, with Belgian and French dealers taking advantage of the Channel Tunnel. It was also pleasing to see a few foreign collectors who were visiting just for THEMATICA.

{By the way we certainly don't bite!}

SPRING STAMPEX 1996, THE SOC EXHIBIT

As mentioned in the Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting, the Society will be staging an exhibition at Spring Stampex during February 1996.

Organisation and coordination of the exhibits is underway, with a number of members being invited to provide displays for specific Games. 1996 being the centennial of the Summer Olympic Games, the exhibition will concentrate on the Summer Games, except where the Winter Games form an integral part of the celebrations within the same country during the same year.

Although exhibits have been invited, and many members of the Committee have undertaken to provide frames, the opportunity still exists for members to offer material – either individual items, or displays. It should be stressed that the exhibition is not restricted to philatelic items, showcases and cabinets will be available to display three dimensional collectables, all material will be credited to the owners, unless anonymity is requested. Please contact any member of the Committee if you feel that you have anything of interest to the attending public. You can be assured that committee members will be prepared to forego their allocation of frame space if alternative material is made available.

To simplify preparations, each Olympiad has been allocated to a committee member, to coordinate, with the exception of those listed as "Invited display", where a member has been invited to provide the required frames of philatelic material, other material is still however required, and contact should be directed to any committee member.

Year	Coordinator
1896	John Crowther
1900	
1904	
1906	
1908	
1912	Kenny Cook / Bob Wilcock
1916	Invited display
1920	John Crowther
1924	Invited display
1928	Invited display
1932	K Cook / R Wilcock
1936	Franceska Rapkin
1940	Kenny Cook
1944	John Crowther
1948	Alan Sabey

1952	Bob Farley
1956	Invited display
1960	Bob Farley
1964	John Miller
1968	Invited display
1972	David Buxton / Bob Farley
1976	Invited display
1980	Bob Wilcock
1984	Bob Wilcock
1988	David Buxton
1992	Invited display
1994	Bob Farley
(I.O.C.)	
1996	John Crowther

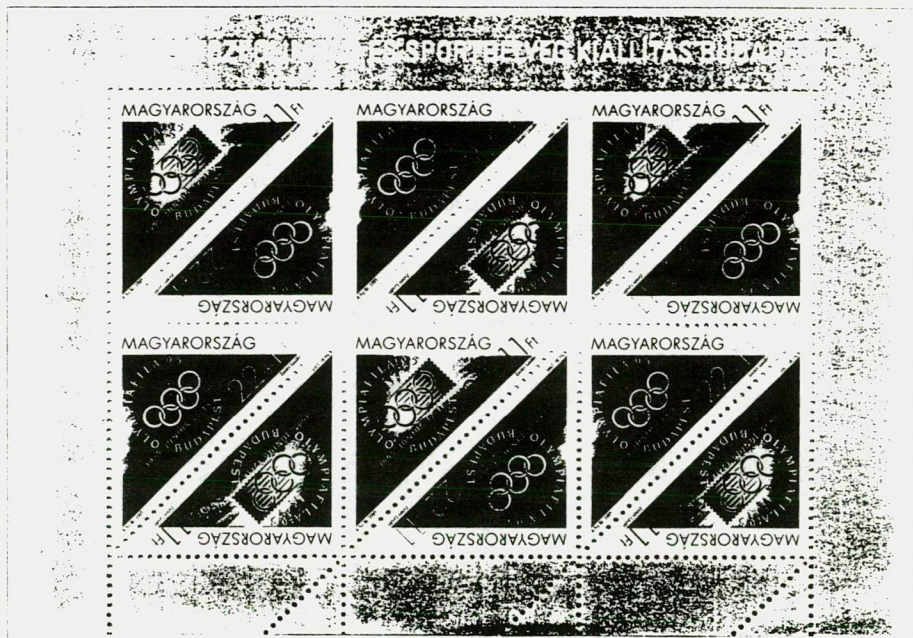
Unfortunately, due to customs regulations, and difficulties with temporary import of exhibits, it will not be possible to accept displays from countries outside the European Economic Community on this occasion as this is not an "International Exhibition".

OLYMPIAFILA '95 – BUDAPEST

Bob Farley

Olympiafila '95 was staged from the 12 – 18 June 1995, under the patronage of the I. O. C., The Hungarian Ministry of Communications, The Hungarian Olympic Committee and the City of Budapest, with the support of The National Office of Gymnastics and Sports, and the Hungarian Post Office.

The exhibition was held to coincide with the 104th Session of the International Olympic Committee, and the Centenary of the Hungarian Olympic Committee.



Sheetlet of twelve stamps (six se-tenant pairs) issued on 12th June to commemorate Olympiafila '95.

Exhibits were displayed at the City Hall, and the Central Office of the Hungarian Stamp Collectors Association.

International entries were almost exclusively from Europe, with a predominance of entries from the former Eastern Block. This offered an opportunity to view many individual items that have not been seen at International Exhibitions in the past.

The standard of International entries appeared very high, and a number of entrants had completely rewritten their displays when compared with recent showings. We certainly did not have time to thoroughly view all of those exhibits that held particular interest, so I will refrain from specific references in the interest of maintaining balance. I feel sure however that the appearance of such exhibits will do much to inspire our Hungarian colleagues in the future – a number were taking notes and studying individual exhibits in great detail.

The National entries (within which, I include the neighbouring states), contained many noteworthy individual items, but really lacked the cohesion or overall content to be compared against worldwide standards.

The impression that I gained, was one of enthusiasm, dedication to the hobby, and a wish to learn. This was hampered by the previous restrictions on exchange or correspondence outside their political block.

Olympiafila may prove to be an important turning point for sports philately in Hungary, and the adjoining states. If the enthusiasm of collectors is complemented by research, (with sources now readily available), and a broadening of the material available, they will soon be regulars on the International stage.

For the visitor and the exhibitor, organisation of the exhibition was good, and the hosts proved themselves, both friendly and extremely courteous. I am afraid that I have a preference for rural areas, but I can honestly say that Budapest ranks very highly on the list of cities that I would wish to visit again, *and for a longer stay!*

The only negative point to raise, concerns the splitting of the exhibition into two venues, the halls were a brisk twenty minute walk apart, and I suspect that many visitors will have remained at the City Hall, missing some excellent displays. If it was unavoidable to use both halls, a shuttle service between them, even at a charge would have been sensible.

All exhibitors that took part at Olympiafila, regardless of awards received or comments made on their individual efforts, should really take pride in the fact that they have made a contribution to the international development of sports philately, and opened new communication links which will ultimately prove of mutual benefit.

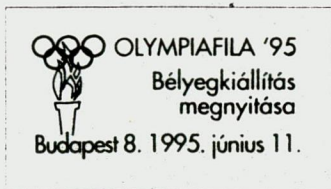
The following souvenirs were available to visitors. Many combine commemoration of Olympiafila with the other events. Three postal facilities had direct involvement with the exhibition, temporary offices were sited at both exhibition venues operating under a Budapest 8 identification code.

Budapest 4 Post Office faces the City Hall, and is literally on the other side of the street, the majority of cancellations were also available at the philatelic counter (as the opening hours were longer than the exhibition, this offered local workers the opportunity to obtain cancellations after 18.00 hours).

Cancellations that bear an identification code were therefore prepared with both Budapest 4 and Budapest 8 settings.



*'OLYMPIAFILA '95'
cancellation of
12th June.*



*Cancellation for the opening
of OLYMPIAFILA '95 on
11th June 1995 by
President J. A. Samaranch.*

Magyar Posta



V. NEMZETKÖZI
OLIMPIAI ÉS
SPORTBÉLYEG
KIALLÍTÁS

5th INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC AND
SPORTS STAMPS
EXHIBITION

Front cover of a folded booklet produced to commemorate the exhibition.

The booklet contains a strip of six (three se-tenant pairs) of the Olympiafila '95 stamp attached by the sheet margin.

Back cover of the folded booklet, with illustrations and details of the stamp issue to commemorate the centenary of the Hungarian Olympic Committee.

„100 ÉVES A MOB”

“100 YEARS OLD IS THE HOC”

A tennemérem alkalmából a Magyar Posta Rt. három című, bélyegsorozatát jelent meg 500 ezer példányban.

On the occasion of the centenary the Hungarian Post Office Co. Ltd. issues a three-dimensional series of stamps with ca 500 thousand copies.



A bélyegző tervezője:
Svindt Ferenc
grafikasművész

Designer of the series of stamps:
Graphic artist
Ferenc Svindt

ÁRA: 198 Ft

005961



Cancellation of 12th June to commemorate the centenary of the Hungarian Olympic Committee.



12th June. collectors meeting.



13th June. Olympiafila '95 Day of Youth.



14th June. Stamp design competition.



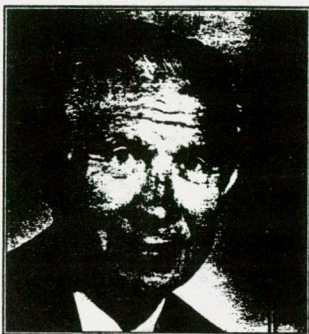
OLYMPIAFILA '95
A MOB NAPJA
Budapest 8.
1995. VI. 15.

15th June. Day of the I. O. C.

FELADÓ: _____

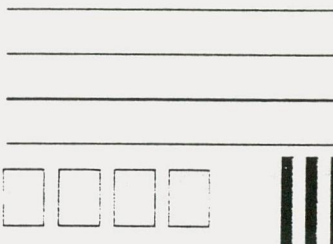
LEVELEZŐLAP

A NOB. 104. ülésére



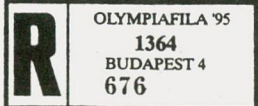
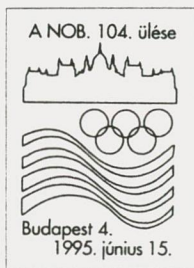
Juan Antonio SAMARANCH
a NOB elnöke
President of the I.O.C.

ÁLLAMI NYOMDA RT. ÁRA: 17 Ft

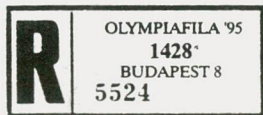


Postal stationery card for internal rate issued 15th June to commemorate the 104th Session of the International Olympic Committee.

Cancellation for the 104th Session of the I. O. C., for use at Budapest 4, and Budapest 8; 15th June (and 18th).

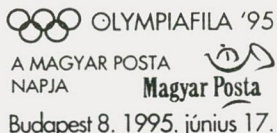


OLYMPIAFILA
Registration labels from the exhibition, and the Post Office.



16th June. International meeting of collectors.

17th June. Day of Hungarian Post.





Non-postal souvenir sheet on sale at the exhibition, commemorating; Olympiabila '95; Centenary of the Hungarian Olympic Committee; 104th Session of the I. O. C.

From the 12th – 16th June, the following four cancellations were in use to promote the candidates to host the 2002 Olympic Winter Games.

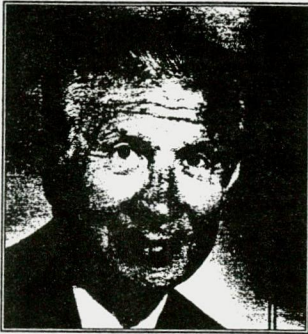


Four cancellations were prepared to celebrate the selected host of the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, the intention being that only one design would be brought into use after the outcome of voting was known. This caused two problems;

- the selection was not due to be made until after 18.00 hours local time, therefore the exhibition, and the temporary postal facilities operating under the Budapest 8 identification would be closed. The cancel would actually be used on the 17th June, not the 16th as advertised.
- the cancels were all issued pending the result of the vote, accidental use was almost bound to occur. I suspect this to be the case with all three losing candidates, and the illustrated strike of the Ostersund cancel supports this view.

FELADÓ: _____

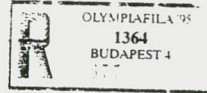
A NOB. 104. ülésére



Juan Antonio SAMARANCH
a NOB elnöke
President of the I.O.C.



Budapest 4. 1995. 06. 16.



ALLAMI NYOMDA RT. - ÁRA: 17 Ft

R. K. Farley
3 Wain Green
Long Meadow
Worcester WR4 0HP
Great Britain



Registered usage of the Budapest 4 (Post Office) cancel, prior to 20.00 hrs.



*Salt Lake City
Accidental use of the
Budapest 8 cancel,
prior to the selection on
16th June.*

*Ostersund
Accidental use of the
Budapest 8 cancel
prior to the selection
on 16th June.*



FELADÓ: _____

A NOB. 104. ülésére



Juan Antonio SAMARANCH
a NOB elnöke
President of the IOC



.AP

104th IOC Session
104th Session du CIO
Budapest, 1995

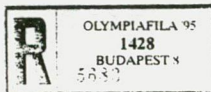


Budapest 8. 1995. 06. 17 ENGLAND

M^{me} Francesca RAPKIN



Eaglewood
Oxley Lane
Hatch End Middx HA5 4AL



Registered usage of the Budapest 8 (exhibition) cancel, dated 17th June.

Whilst cancellations were in use at the three locations mentioned between the 12th – 18th June, a further temporary office was announced for the 14th, 15th, and 18th June at the Budapest Convention Centre.

Cancellations from the Post Office may be identified by the Budapest 4 identification, or for cancels without identification number, they are generally struck in dense black ink.

Cancellations from the City Hall temporary postal facility can be identified by the Budapest 8 identification, and they are generally struck in violet.

Cancellations from the temporary postal facility at the Headquarters of the National Association of Hungarian Stamp Collectors can be identified by the Budapest 8 identification, and they are generally struck in black – tending to grey, impressions are clearer than from the post office.

Unfortunately we had to depart early on Saturday 17th, so we were unable to visit either the exhibition or post office, however the exhibition catalogue listed the planned events for the day as; "– Series numbering on the spot and selling of the black print of OLYMPIAFILIA '95 miniature sheet of postage stamps." Another souvenir!

TORCH BEARER was exhibited in the literature class at Olympiaphila '95, and was awarded a certificate equivalent to a Silver Medal.

OKLEVÉL

OLYMPIAFILA '95

V. NEMZETKÖZI OLIMPIAI ÉS SPORTBÉLYEGKIÁLLÍTÁS
5th INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC AND SPORT STAMPS
EXHIBITION

Farley Robert as Editor for Society of
Olympic Collectors

"Fáklyavívő" az Olimpiai Bélyeggyűjtők Társaságának folyóirata
"Torch Bearer", Journal of the Society of Olympic

Ezüst érem / Silver medal

l. Boly
A BÍRÁLO BIZOTTSÁG ELNÖKE



Stefan L. L. L.
A RENDEZŐ BIZOTTSÁG ELNÖKE

MAGYAR BÉLYEGGYŰJTŐK ORSZÁGOS SZÖVETSÉGE

2002 CANDIDATES – THE RESPONSE

Following my appeal in the last issue, I am grateful to Rhodri Thomas for the majority of the information contained in this listing. It would appear that Rhodri was very successful in his correspondence with Bid Committees. Some items were found in Sion on our way to Budapest, but we were assured that most items had already been distributed, or taken to Budapest.

Budapest was actually very disappointing, the candidature groups were hardly evident, and souvenirs of the bid cities extremely rare, almost restricted to bid delegation vehicles – in total contrast to the scenes in Birmingham when Nagano emerged as host for 1998. We even had difficulty establishing the result of the vote!

Graz



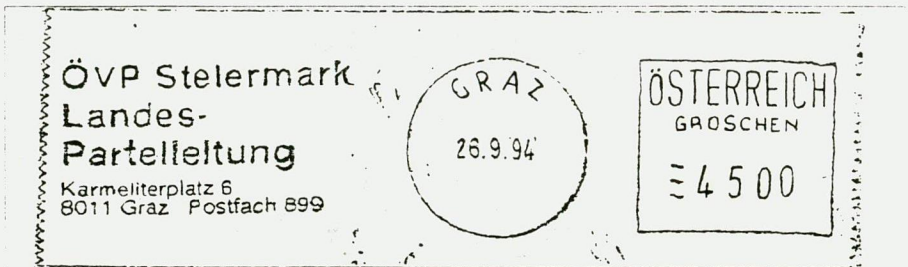
Self adhesive sticker 76 x 92 mm.



Original pin, with heart logo.

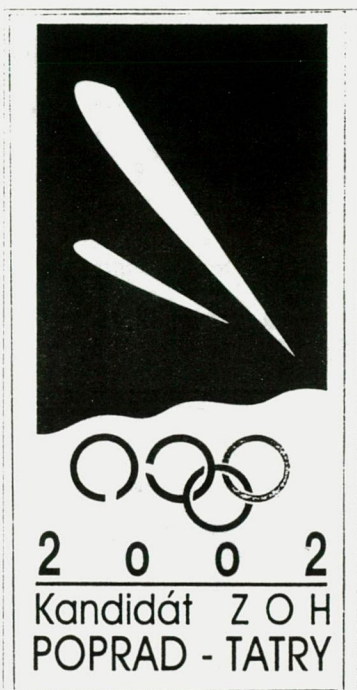


Redesigned pin with Olympic rings added.

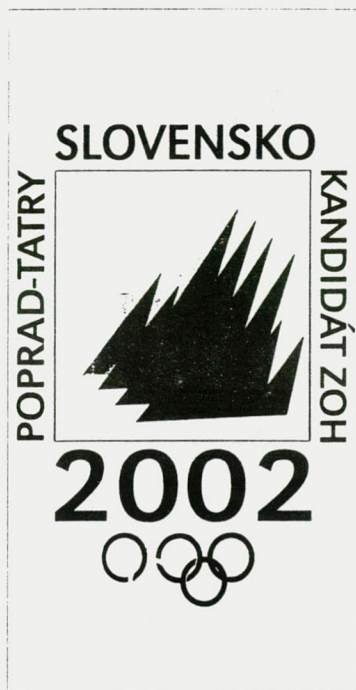


Meter used for mailing responses to enquiries about the bid.

Poprad – Tatry



Sticker 65 x 125mm.



Sticker 63 x 127mm.
(Also exists as 104 x 222mm.)



Sticker 65 x 47mm.

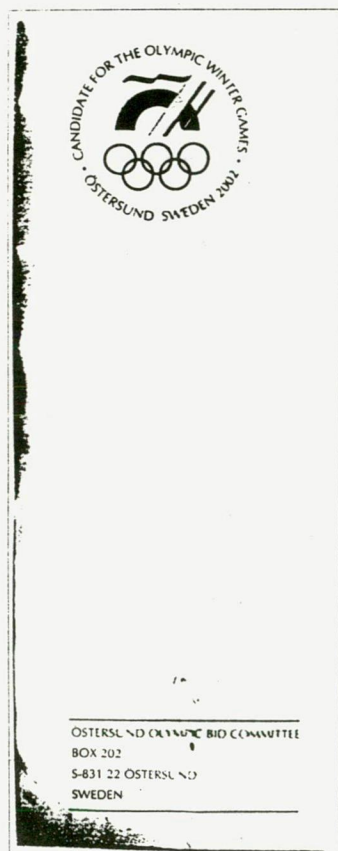


Pin
22 x 30mm.

The quantity of collectable souvenirs obviously varies from candidate to candidate, but it would appear that Salt Lake City, will prove quite difficult to represent in most collections. Can any of our American members add to the single pin in this listing?

Stickers were certainly produced for the 1998 candidature, and it would be very surprising if they do not also exist for the 2002 bid.

Ostersund



Meter used by the Bid Committee.

◀ *Logo and address panel from a C5 Bid Committee envelope.*



*Self adhesive sticker 50mm diameter
(also exists as 131mm diameter)*



*Pin
23mm diameter*

Tarvisio



*Pin
12 x 21mm.*

Salt Lake City

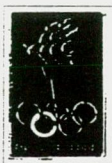


*Pin
25 x 28mm.*

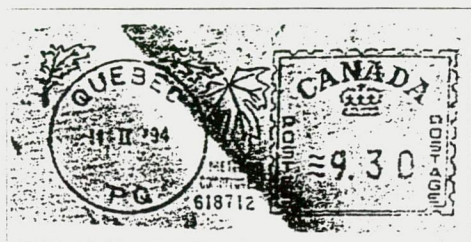
Quebec



Pin
12 x 19.5mm.



Pin
13 x 20mm.



Meter used on responses to enquiries.

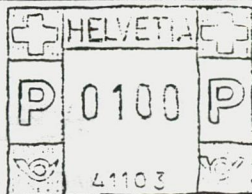


Badge (plastic with metal back) 45 x 71mm.

Sion



Meter used by the Bid Committee.



Meter used by ASCOM, an official sponsor.

Following page: An A4 card brochure, soliciting volunteers to assist at the time of the Games, the card is folded into three sections, one is a reply paid card.

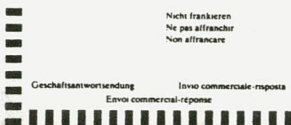
Volontaires
Freiwillige Helfer
Volontari

2002

JEUX OLYMPIQUES / OLYMPISCHE SPIELE / GIOCHI OLIMPICI 2002

Postfach 100

3000 Bern 15 - Weltpostverein



{Above} Reply paid card for those wishing to become 2002 volunteers.

BENVENUTI AL CLUB DEI VOLONTARI !

È sufficiente che compilate la cartolina di risposta qui allegata e che la infiliate nell'urna "PARTECIPIAMO AI GIOCHI" che troverete nel vostro ufficio postale oppure nella buca delle lettere più vicina (la cartolina di risposta è già affrancata).

La vostra iscrizione al CLUB DEI VOLONTARI testimonia la vostra volontà a sostenere la candidatura olimpica Svizzera/Sion 2002 senza che questo vi impegni in forma definitiva.

Verrete contattati almeno un anno prima dei Giochi olimpici per definire le modalità della vostra partecipazione e potere così vivere i Giochi Olimpici Svizzeri.

Inoltre, la vostra iscrizione vi dà diritto, oggi, a partecipare automaticamente alla grande ESTRAZIONE A SORTE DELLA POSTA: oltre 100 premi, tra i quali numerosi viaggi, saranno la ricompensa per i vincitori.



SION
VALAIS-WALLIS
2002



SWITZERLAND

LA POSTE

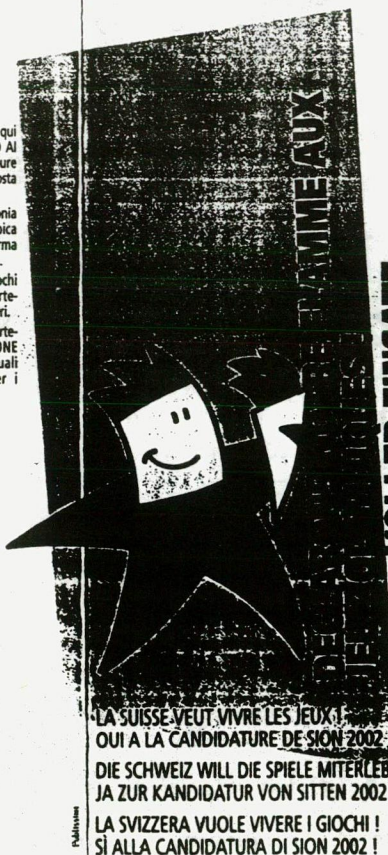
La Poste nous rapproche

DIE POST

Die Post verbindet

LA POSTA

La Poste. Per essere più vicini



LA SUISSE VEUT VIVRE LES JEUX !
OUI A LA CANDIDATURE DE SION 2002 !

DIE SCHWEIZ WILL DIE SPIELE MITERLEBEN !
JA ZUR KANDIDATUR VON SITTEN 2002 !

LA SVIZZERA VUOLE VIVERE I GIOCHI !
SÌ ALLA CANDIDATURA DI SION 2002 !

VOLLER EINSATZ
DICHARIAMO IL
NOSTRO ENTUSIASMO PER I GIOCHI OLIMPICI !
FUR DIE OLYMPISCHEN SPIELE !

SYMBOLISM OF THE FLAME – Responses, and additions

The article published in Volume 12, page 10 has caused considerable comment, and led to information about further matchbox labels. We perhaps underestimate the strength of label collecting – are there members out there prepared to send in enough information to maintain a regular column? The DuBois catalogue of Olympic labels was probably responsible for attracting the attention of vignette collectors by listing many matchbox labels.

Matchbox devotees do seem to have one thing in common, they nearly all seem to want to remain anonymous, I have still not been contacted by the author of the original article – the offer of a copy of label 28 is genuine!

Firstly we have a number of direct responses to the original article:

The "Redhead" matchbox covers set, including illustrations 13, 14 and 15 contains 21 different front designs. The corresponding matchbox label set mentioned in the text only includes 20 different labels. The matchbox labels were produced by W. A. Match Co. {W. A. = *Western Australia*} which was a subsidiary of Bryant and May that is no longer operating. There is a wall chart with spaces for the 20 labels, printed by Bryant and May, including much of the trivia that appears on the matchbox covers.

The wallchart was only available in the Melbourne area, and because it exists, many people were attracted to the idea of collecting the labels and sticking them onto the chart. This invariably means that many incomplete charts exist, and also that many labels have been secured to wallcharts with glue, so in this particular instance, the labels are much harder to obtain than the covers.

Illustration 10, which is mentioned as of possible Belgian or French origin, appears to be emanate from Sweden for the market in the former Belgian colony, the text stating "Registered mark – Olympiades Sweden / special made for Ruanda–Urandi"

Illustration 11, is actually the label from a pack of matchboxes, the individual labels each feature one of the cyclists, but no reference to the olympics.

As a general comment, where a larger label forms part of a "set", it is generally from the outer wrapper of a pack of boxes – often the pack contains a dozen boxes.

The series of 120 labels as illustrations 8 and 9 are indeed Hungarian.

Secondly, some interesting news, as a result of one of our members being prompted by the original article:

The Marketing Manager of Bryant and May (Australia) was also contacted regarding the 1984 Redheads series. Unfortunately the remaining staff cannot offer any explanation of the decision to issue a series of 29 covers, they believe that the number was pure chance. It was also acknowledged that the issue of commemorative labels in 1984 was unusual, previous issues generally relate to Australian events – 1956 Olympics, 1962 Perth Commonwealth Games and the 1982 Brisbane Commonwealth Games.

ATHENS – 1896

REDHEADS

1896 OLYMPICS ATHENS



CONTENTS 47 SAFETY MATCHES
MADE IN AUSTRALIA. W.A. MATCH

34 nations had supported Baron Pierre de Coubertin's call for a renewal of the Olympic Games in Athens in 1896. Yet 21 of those countries did not send representatives.

Number of competitors: 311.
13 countries competed in 9 sports.
Australian medal tally: 2 gold.

■ Local hero Spyros Louis got more than a medal when he won the first Olympic Marathon. Among his gifts were free haircuts and shaves for life, 2000 lbs of chocolate, a barrel of sweet wine and numerous sheep and goats.

■ The final race in the swimming events was the 100 metres freestyle 'for sailors'. Twenty five entered, but only three competed... because the water was too cold.

■ Edwin Flack became Australia's first Olympic Gold medallist when he won the 1,500 metres. Unable to find an Australian flag, frantic Greek Olympic officials thought they had found the perfect solution. They raised the Austrian flag.

PARIS – 1900

REDHEADS

1900 OLYMPICS PARIS



CONTENTS 47 SAFETY MATCHES
MADE IN AUSTRALIA. W.A. MATCH

Paris was accorded the second Olympics at the wish of Baron de Coubertin who wanted to see the Games in his home country. They played a subordinate role, however, to the Paris Exhibition.

Number of competitors: 1,330.
22 countries competed in 17 sports.
Australian medal tally: 2 gold, 3 bronze.

■ Australian Freddy Lane won the 200 metres obstacle swimming event. It called for swimmers to clamber over and swim under row boats and barges placed at set intervals in the River Seine. It was never held again in Olympic competition. Lane's prize was a medal and a replica in bronze of a peasant girl which weighed 50 lbs.

■ Has anybody seen my hammer? A clump of trees at one end of the main arena caused many problems for the hammer throwers. It was nothing to find athletes climbing the trees to retrieve their hammers.

■ One of the more comical events in Paris was a 600 metre underwater event. The race was won appropriately by a Frenchman called de Vaudeville!

■ France won the rugby medal by beating Germany, the only other entrant in the competition. The score was 25-16 or 27-17 depending on which newspaper you read the next day.

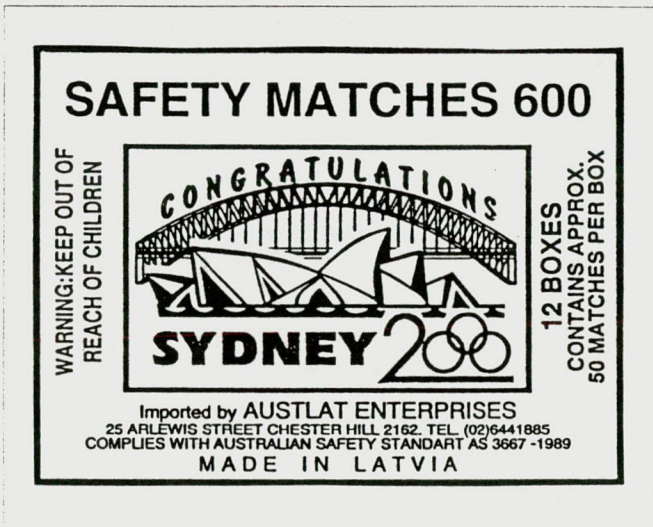
Bryant and May no longer produce matches in Australia as a combination of the anti-smoking campaign, and disposable lighters eroding the market. They still import matches, and the artwork for labels is still created in Australia. There are no plans to issue a series for the 1996 Centennial Games, but the present manager plans to do something for the 2000 Games in Sydney.



The illustrated labels appeared in Australia before February 1995.

There are actually three labels in the series:

- 275 x 133 mm Pack label, 1 gross of boxes.
- 87 x 69 mm Pack label, 1 dozen boxes.
- 53 x 35 mm matchbox label.



Cigarette lighters.

As suggested, in the original article, many disposable cigarette lighters are produced for the recent Games.

For Albertville, a series of such lighters showing Magique or the logo were commercially produced. For Barcelona similar lighters exist with the logo.

This Lillehammer lighter is more interesting as it was produced by a sponsor.

3rd EUROPEAN YOUTH OLYMPIC DAYS



The third celebration of **European Youth Olympic Days** were staged at the Recreation Ground, Bath, Avon, England from 9 – 14 July 1995.

Royal Mail commemorated the event with the above slogan cancellation, which includes the British Olympic Association logo. It is understood that the slogan was planned for use in two machines, C1 and C2, although the illustrated copy from the first day of use does not seem to use either numeral.

The event was also commemorated by the superb airletter reproduced on the following page. The airletter was released at philatelic counters on 4 July.

The European Youth Olympic Days is a ten-sport replica of the Olympic Games, for European athletes aged between 12 – 18 years, and enjoys the support of Olympic officials and competitors.

The Princess Royal (I. O. C. member) was due to attend the opening ceremony on Monday July 10, whilst the Olympic flame was to be lit by Olympic gold medallist, Linford Christie.

The five days of competition, in the disciplines of athletics, basketball, cycling, gymnastics, handball, hockey, judo, swimming, tennis and volleyball will see participation by over 2000 competitors.

The standard of competition is such that many of the athletes are expected to progress to the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta, so the postal items will have a part to play when telling the story of selection events.

The Olympic flame also provides a link between the European Youth Olympic Days and the Olympic movement. It is interesting that national press coverage of the sporting events was minimal, but all reports that were seen in advance of the Games, drew attention to the return of the Olympic flame for the first time since 1948.

Some provincial newspapers considered the passage of the flame through their region newsworthy. A clipping from John Miller, taken from "The Visitor, June 14", opens with 'Possibly the world's most identifiable sporting object will be passing through the City of Lancaster in July.' The short item goes on to inform that the Olympic flame would arrive in Bath after a 1000 mile journey around the United Kingdom.

TO OPEN SEE HERE

By air mail
Par avion

Aerogramme



SECOND FOLD HERE

Sender's name and address (please show postcode)

Postcode



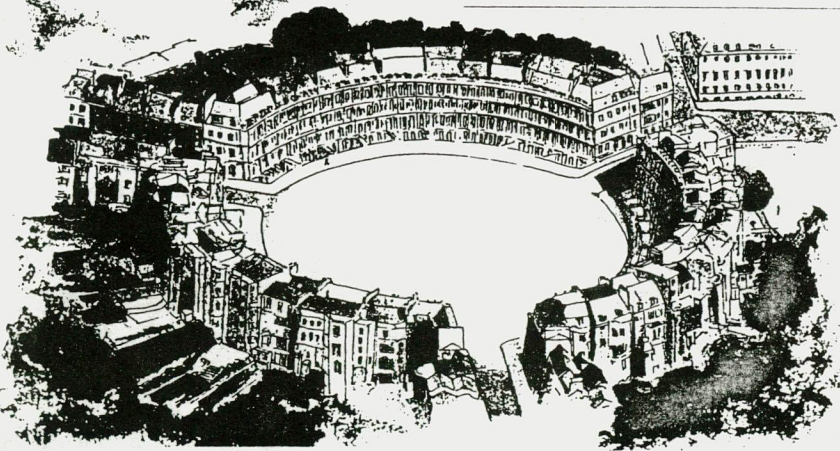
Royal Mail

International



An aerogramme should not contain any enclosure: if it does, it may be surcharged or sent by ordinary mail.

FIRST FOLD HERE





NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Susan Elliott
Telephone 404 224-1142 or
Margaret Dvle
Telephone 404 224-5122
Facsimile 404 224-1993

The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games
CULTURAL OLYMPIAD
250 Williams Street, Suite 6000
P.O. Box 1996
Atlanta, GA 30301-1996 USA
Telephone 404 224-1250

ACOG ISSUES FIRST OFFICIAL 1996 OLYMPIC GAMES POSTAGE METER MARK

(Atlanta, Georgia...May 18, 1995) The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) today issued the first of five official Centennial Olympic Games postage meter marks, which will appear on all outgoing mail between now and the Games. The first mark carries the Look of the Games graphic (leaves on a quilt-like background) and reads "Centennial Olympic Games-1996 Olympic Arts Festival." Subsequent marks will carry varied Games messages and be issued approximately every three months.

"We are pleased to continue a time-honored tradition of the Olympic Games," commented Nancy Zielinski Clark, General Chairman of OLYMPHILEX '96, the international Olympic and sport stamp show that will be held as part of the Olympic Collectibles Exhibition in the summer of 1996. "Since their initial use at the 1936 Winter Games in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, these meter marks have become valuable mementos of the Games and a favorite among Olympic collectors."

The first 1,000 official meter marks were run off this afternoon on blank ACOG envelopes carrying the date of issue and 32 cents postage. These "first day of use" envelopes will be sold for \$3.50 a piece. The complete set of all five first-day-of-use envelopes will be available after May 1, 1996 for \$15. For information, or to place an order, write to Debbie Shelton, Project Manager, OLYMPHILEX '96, ACOG, 250 Williams Street, Suite 6000, Atlanta, GA 30301-1996. Or, call the Cultural Olympiad hotline: (404)224-1835.

OLYMPHILEX '96 and the meter marks fall under the aegis of ACOG's Cultural Olympiad, a four-year, multidisciplinary arts, culture and entertainment program that culminates in the 1996 Olympic Arts Festival. Recent Cultural Olympiad programs have included "The Nobel Laureates of Literature: An Olympic Gathering," the largest gathering of Laureates of Literature in the 93-year history of the awards. For more information on the Cultural Olympiad, or to order an Olympic Arts Festival brochure, call (404)224-1835.

###



At last we are to have something more than a plain meter from the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, although it looks as though this has been prompted by commercial considerations rather than postal need or the more obvious use of the franking meter as a global form of relatively cheap advertising. Mail from ACOG is not automatically receiving the new meter, is this an attempt to create scarcity?

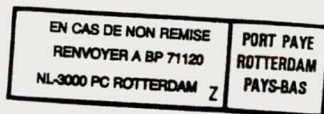
The "Quilt of leaves" design has already received some criticism, as it fails to incorporate any of the usual Olympic devices, however this seems rather unfair as the text 'Centennial Olympic Games / 1996 Olympic Arts Festival / Making History in Atlanta' is very positive.

My real objective with this article is to consider some of the items that will not be mass produced, with the collector in mind, and which will no doubt be consigned to that 'filing cabinet in the corner of the room, on the floor', by many of the recipients.

Those members who receive regular bulk mailings from auction houses overseas will have noticed, that during the last 2-3 years, more and more international mail, regardless of its origin, arrives with Dutch, Belgian, or even British franking. This is a direct result of some postal authorities treating bulk international mail as a commercial opportunity. For example, the inter country rate for mail within the European Economic Community, is generally at a similar rate to internal rate, it is now practical for an overseas mail user, to mail bulk sendings as one package to an EEC country, to be forwarded individually within the EEC at a cost that is significantly lower than direct mailing from the country of origin.



The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games
250 Williams Street, Suite 6000
P.O. Box 1996
Atlanta, Ga 30301-1996 USA



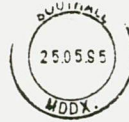
This illustration shows the postal franking on 'Torch' the Newsletter of ACOG, obviously forwarded in bulk to Rotterdam, where a post paid impression on an adhesive label has been affixed for onward transmission, the BP address given is presumably an accommodation address used by the Dutch Postal Service, although as the next cover will illustrate it could actually be a private commercial enterprise. Some interesting questions are raised - how widespread is the use of the 'Rotterdam connection' by ACOG? Which other countries are they used to service?

The next cover, from ACOG, has been forwarded by TNT Mailfast, International Mailing of Southall, Middlesex, the cost of bulk package transport to Southall (close to the cargo area of Heathrow airport), plus the cost of individual first class postage must

obviously offer a benefit against the cost of international airmail from the U.S.A.
(perhaps with the involvement of United Parcel Services – a TOP sponsor?)



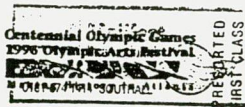
Atlanta Committee
 240 Williams Street
 PO Box 1996
 Atlanta GA 30301



10. Proceeds of the
 Society of Friends of the
 University of London College of
 Arts and Architecture, 1996
 10

The cover below, is also interesting, it appears that the franking has been carried out by ACOG, using the first commemorative meter at the 27.4 cent internal bulk mailing rate in error. The cover has then travelled to TNT, for onward transmission at first class inland rate within Great Britain. Another interesting question is raised – can it really be cheaper to bundle and transport mail to TNT, then add 25 pence postage, thereby sacrificing the 27.4c., rather than 'make up' the international rate with an additional meter strike? So far I have seen five covers from this Olympilex mailing, and they all have the double strikes, making it likely that the whole mailing was run at 27.4c. initially. A nice postal history item.

OLYMPHILEX '96



OLYMPHILEX '96
P.O. BOX 1996
LEXINGTON, GEORGIA 30648
U.S.A.



The cachets or 'corner cards' of official envelopes can also be of interest, as they provide information about the location of secondary offices, or even separate departments of the ACOG structure. They can also act as a prompt to look for additional franking meters. This cover with P.O. Box 1996, Lexington, address was used with commemorative stamps from Athens, Georgia.

Recent requests to Norman Jacobs, an SOC member living in Atlanta, have failed to identify any philatelic material relating to the candidature period of Atlanta. Norman did however forward a photocopy of this rather nice item, that does incorporate the candidature logo.

The cover has a Postally Paid Impression, and contained the illustrated invitation.



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Atlanta
1996


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last year's announcement in Tokyo
at Underground Atlanta

on
Wednesday, September 18, 1991
from

7:00 AM - 8:30 AM



Atlanta
1996


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one of the most exciting moments in Atlanta's history!

BARCELONA '92 – FREDDY MERCURY A Postmark to note !

Bob Wilcock

It was on 19 September 1987 that Freddie Mercury and Montserrat Caballe gave the first public performance of their dramatic song **Barcelona!**. This was on a Spanish television programme, and the first live performance, in Barcelona itself, was on 8 October 1988 as part of a musical show *La Nit* (Catalan for "The Night") by the Magic Fountains of Montjuic.



A photograph of the performance is reproduced on card No. 266 in the official postcard collection published by *Fotos Julian*.

The song became the unofficial song of the Games, and might have become the official song but for the untimely death of Freddie Mercury in 1991. The official song was Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Amigos Para Siempre* (Friends for Life), which was sung by Jose Carreras and Sarah Brightman during the Closing Ceremony.

Barcelona! was performed throughout the Games however. Every evening it formed the climax to a spectacular *son et lumiere* display of the Magic Fountains. Walking down from the stadium after an evening's athletics, watching the fountains dancing to the compelling refrain of **Barcelona!** was a most moving experience.

The scene is illustrated on a postcard published by *Fotografia A Campana* (No. B 06). To the left of the picture, the Olympic signs, with the logo, show that the photograph was taken during the Games.



The Freddie Mercury Stamp Album

Freddie Mercury died in 1991. He was a stamp collector and in 1993 the collection was acquired by the National Postal Museum, as part of a larger assortment of stamps amassed by his father, Bomi Bulsara, for £3220 at a Sotheby's auction. The proceeds went to the Mercury Phoenix Trust, an AIDS charity set up by the remaining members of Freddie's group *Queen*. In the first year more than 800 visitors have viewed the collection, some finding it a most moving occasion, leaving single red roses, or bursting into tears at the sight of the collection.

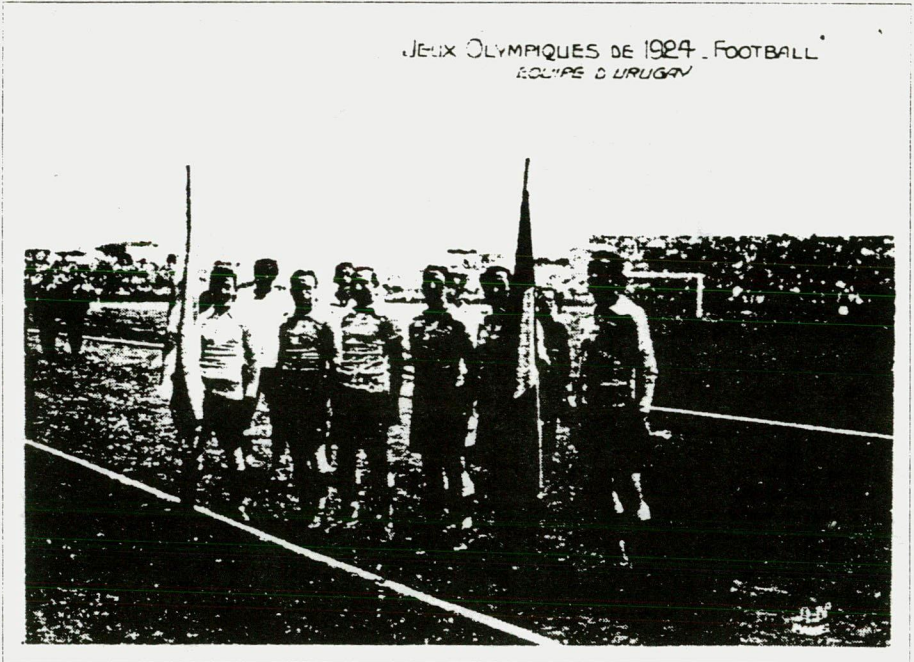
On 5 May 1995 the Museum published four postcards showing pages from the collection. Sadly, from an Olympic collector's point of view none of the cards shows an Olympic stamp. The handstamp used on 5 May showing the musical note 'f' likewise bears no Olympic reference. The Olympic link is there however, and the postmark will have a place in a Barcelona Olympic collection.



The 1924 Olympic Soccer Issues of Uruguay.

The following article was published in the Journal of Sports Philately July / August 1991, and is reproduced by permission of the author. The article compliments the Volume 11 features on the VIIIth Olympic Games, Paris.

Dale Lilljedahl



By closing your eyes, you can almost hear the roar as thousands of people pour into the streets of Montevideo in ecstatic joy. At crowded corners, men and women huddle in uneven circles chanting patriotic songs, while children run helter skelter adding their screams to the din. Bells are ringing, whistles are blowing, and the national colours fly from every window. Uruguay has just won its first Olympic gold medal. But this is not just any medal. You see, the national team captured the Olympic championship in the most popular sport in the land – soccer.

It all started in May 1924 when 23 national teams gathered in Paris, France to begin the Olympic soccer tournament. Perennial power Great Britain did not send a team since it was mired in a heated debate over amateurism with the International Football Federation, so the favourite's role fell to the other pre-tournament selection, Spain. However, the competition intensified when Italy upset the powerful Spanish team 1–0, in the first round, and the remaining teams suddenly realised they had a reasonable chance to win the gold.

On the way to the medal round, the Uruguay team breezed through its bracket as it pounded the Jugoslavians, 7–0, in the preliminary round, beat the United States team, 3–0, in the first round, and finally defeated a very good French team, 5–1. On June 5th, in the semifinal match against the team from Holland, they won the hearts of the predominantly French crowd with a 2–1 come-from-behind victory. Holland protested the game, but the ruling body disagreed and the results were upheld. Now Uruguay had only to defeat Switzerland in the finals to claim the crown.

On June 9th, 60,000 people packed into Colombes Stadium for the final game, with over 5,000 more standing outside to await the outcome. A Dutch referee was assigned to call the game, but the Uruguayan officials protested his objectivity, and he was replaced by a Frenchman. Once the play began, Switzerland spent most of the first half on their end of the field, but their stubborn defense did not let Uruguay score until the closing minutes. During the second half, the Uruguayan team's offense took control of the play, and posted a convincing 3–1 victory. After the game, the team was awarded their hard earned medals in front of the reviewing stand, and the celebrations began.



Like its citizens, the government of Uruguay wanted to celebrate this boost in national pride, so it decided to honour the team by printing a set of commemorative stamps {fig 1}. On June 10, 1924, just one day after the victory, Government Decree No. 1877 asked for stamp designs and quotations from the Government Printing Works, Barreiro et Coy, and Pena Brothers.¹ The firm of Munoz and Coy received the contract, and Uruguay soon issued a set of three stamps commemorating the Olympic victory. All three stamps depict the statue from the Louvre Museum in Paris known as the "Victory of Samothrace," differing only in colour and denomination as follows:

- I. 2c Red;
- II. 5c Lilac–Rose;
- III. 12c Bright blue.

Technical Information.

Vignette Design.

What better way to celebrate an Olympic victory than with this famous statue which depicts the Greek goddess of victory, Nike! Considered one of the finest examples of Hellenistic art, she is thought to have been sculptured to commemorate a naval victory

over King Antioches of Syria about 190 B.C., although this is not certain. The statue captures Nike at the instant she lands on the prow of a ship, gown blowing in the wind. Her head and arms are missing, but her great wings give her an air of grace and strength. Lost for centuries, the statue was rediscovered in 1863 on the Greek island of Samothrace; the pedestal was uncovered twenty years later, in 1883. Today, she is prominently displayed in the landing of the Daru stairwell in the Louvre.

Printing Information.

Munoz and Coy printed the stamps by typography on white paper with a thick white gum. This printing process requires an engraved master die on which the design is raised above the non-inked surface area. Ink is applied to the raised surface, which is transferred as the die is pressed against the paper.

There were two distinct printings which can be identified by their difference in shades; the first printing contained a paler shade of the announced colours, while the second issue had far brighter shades.^{1, 4} The circulation is generally agreed to have been 35,000 sets;^{4, 5} however, in his book on Uruguayan stamps, Emanuel J. Lee quotes a figure of only 15,000 sets.¹ Mr. Lee gathered much of his information from government sources, and could have easily overlooked a second order of the stamps, if such an order was issued. Therefore, I propose that the initial order of stamps was for 15,000, and that a second order was subsequently placed for an additional 20,000 sets. This would account for the discrepancy in the number of sets printed as well as the two distinctly different colour shades.

Printing Format.

The issue was printed in small sheets of 20 (5 horizontal x 4 vertical) without blank fields, but surrounded by the usual selvedge. In the selvedge on the right hand side, a dark field the same colour as the vignette appears in which is written "Munoz y Cia – Montevideo" in white letters. The stamps were printed to the following specifications:

Watermark: none; Perforations: 11; Size: 21.5 mm x 39.5 mm.

Development.

Proofs and Essays.

There are no reported essays, die proofs, or trial colour proofs available to the general public. Emanuel Lee assumes that a block of four of the 12c denomination in a "very dull shade of blue unlike the two issued shades"¹ was a proof, but there is no confirmation of this item. Perhaps this "proof" was one of the striped examples noted later.

Presentation Proofs.

A special printing of all three stamps was distributed to the athletes, coaches, and trainers of the medal-winning team, as well as to certain government officials. The denominations and vignette colours remained the same as the issued stamps, but they were printed on yellow paper. To initiate this special printing, Government Decree No. 1902 was issued on July 21, 1924, stating: "As a matter of urgency, the printing on yellow paper of ten sheets of each value was ordered from Munoz & Coy, and it was furthermore specified that these sheets should rank as essays without value as postage stamps, the sole object of printing them being to present them to the victorious team."¹

These were, indeed, never sold to the public for use as postage, and since their design did not vary from the issued stamps, they should properly be classified as presentation proofs.



*Homenaje del Correo del
Uruguay a los "Campeones
Mundiales de Foot-ball"*

Montevideo, 31 de Julio de 1924.

The ultimate printing of this special issue is believed to have been 500 sets; no one seems to dispute that number. However, Decree No. 1902 only ordered ten sheets, which translates into a total number of 200 stamps of each denomination. Also, it only mentions presentation to the team, and does not include any distribution to government officials. Yet, such a distribution must have been originally planned, since 200 sets are obviously far more than needed to present to a football team which probably had no more than 20 players and coaches. Surely, popularity of the proofs forced an increase of the number from 200 to 500 as more and more government officials requested copies.

Some of the proofs were mounted on special presentation sheets which were given to high government officials in a very limited edition {fig 2}. The sheets have a grey olive branch border which starts at the lower left hand corner, continues up the left margin, and across the top, ending at the upper right corner. The proofs are arranged diagonally from upper left to lower right in ascending order of value. At the bottom right hand corner is the following four – line inscription in script lettering:

" Homenaje del Correo del / Uruguay a los 'Campeones / Mundiales de Football'. / Montevideo, 31 de Julio de 1924. "

Not all of the proofs were distributed singly, since examples are known in blocks of four^{11, 12} as well as full sheets¹³ in all three values. This is not too surprising; 500 is still a large number to distribute even amongst government officials. The proofs also exist in the following printing varieties:

- 1) Imperforate (all three values).
- 2) 5c block of four, vertically imperforate.⁶

Printing.

The first day of issue for the stamps was July 29, 1924.^{1, 3} However, they were only valid for a limited time. While Emanuel Lee notes the last day of validity as July 31, 1924,¹ Heiko Volk gives August 2nd as the final day.³ Since several covers with the August 2 date are known (and none later), it is logical to assume that this was the final day of validity. The final day of sale for the set is not known, but is most probably also August 2, 1924. The location of the first day of issue was Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay. Apparently, the vast majority of the stamps were posted on covers from that city. In fact, the only other place from which I have seen them cancelled is Duraznu, Uruguay.

The stamps exist in several imperforate varieties. The Federation International de Philatelie Olympique (FIPO) notes loose stamps imperforate on the right and left sides,⁵ but gives no specifics as to which values are affected. Following, is a list of varieties which have so far been reported:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 2c red <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Imperforate. ^{4, 5, 7} <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Imperforate pairs.⁵ b. Imperforate vertically between two stamps.⁷ | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) 5c lilac – rose <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Imperforate. ^{4, 5, 7} <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Imperforate pairs.⁵ b. Imperforate vertically.⁵ <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blocks of four.⁴ | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) 12c bright blue <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Imperforate. ^{2, 4, 5, 7} <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Imperforate pairs.⁵ 2. Block of eight with ink striping and top, left, and bottom selvage.¹³ b. Pronounced striping in the colour.⁹ |
|---|---|--|

Cancellations.

In addition to the stamps, a commemorative cancellation was created to honour the victorious football team. The cancel was used during the entire period of postal validity of the stamps, but only in the capital city of Montevideo. It was a Guller machine cancellation, ⁸ which has the post office identification in a single circle to the left, and a rectangular slogan box on the right. Inside the slogan box is the following inscription:

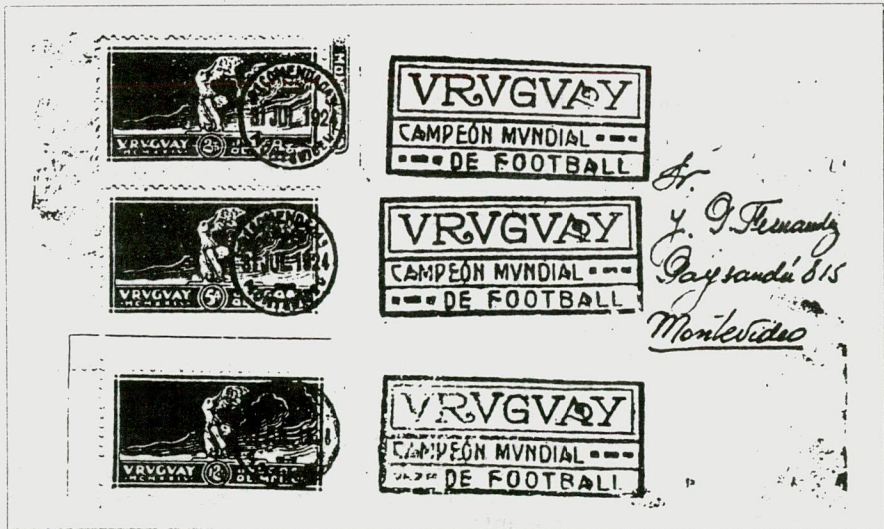
VRGVAY / CAMPEON MVNDIAL / DE FOOTBALL.

The cancellation has three different versions which differ only in the wording inside the post office identification circle:

1. **"RECOMENDADA / MONTEVIDEO"** (date only).
2. **"MONTEVIDEO - URUGUAY / E"** (date and time). ^{6, 13}
3. **"MONTEVIDEO / (letter)"** (date and time)
 - a. Letter "C" (for "Cartos" which means "Post Office") ⁸
 - b. Letter "I" (for internal use) ⁸

The Type 1 cancel is the most common {fig 3}, while the Type 3 is the rarest. All three types are used as departure cancellations. The "MONTEVIDEO / C" cancellation is known to have been used as an arrival cancellation, but it is extremely rare.

So far only the Type 1 and Type 2 cancellations have been observed as first day cancellations. Apparently few varieties of the cancellations were created by printing errors, but the "RECOMENDADA / MONTEVIDEO" cancellation does have a variety with the date "S1" in lieu of "31." ¹⁰



[Author's note: This article is merely a synopsis of my research to this point, and I hope it can be revised as new information comes to light, any new information would be appreciated.]

Endnotes / References.

- 1 "Postage stamps of Uruguay" by Emanuel J. Lee, printed by M. Harres, 1931, page 293.
- 2 Ibid, page 294.
- 3 "Die Olympischen Spiele im Blickpunkt der Philatelie und ihren Randgebieten" by Heiko Volk, 1976, page 68.
- 4 Ibid, page 69.
- 5 "Post, Philately, and Olympism, Volume one" by the Comite Internationale Olympique, 1984, page 151.
- 6 Ibid, page 152.
- 7 "A Philatelic History of the Olympic Games" by Ernest Trory, printed by Crabtree Press, Ltd., 1956, page 37.
- 8 Monograph No. 16 of the Sports Group of the Italian Thematic Association entitled, "Jeux Olympiques Paris 1924," page 39.
- 9 Ibid, page 40.
10. Author's collection.
11. David Feldman SA, auction on November 3-8, 1980.
12. David Feldman SA, auction on April 10-15, 1983.
13. Hapsburg, Feldman SA, auction on November 21, 1987.

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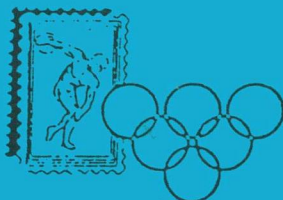
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