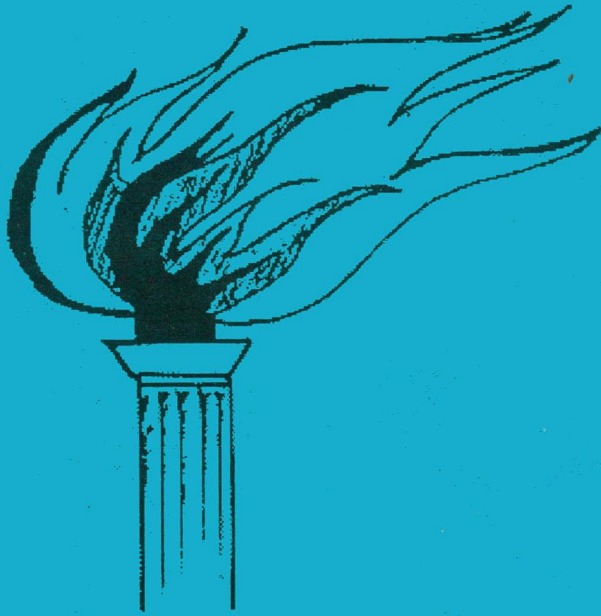


TORCH BEARER



SOCIETY of OLYMPIC COLLECTORS

SOCIETY OF OLYMPIC COLLECTORS

PRESIDENT : Mrs Francesca Rapkin

YOUR COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN AND EDITOR:	Bob Farley, 3 Wain Green, Long Meadow, Worcester, WR4 0HP. Great Britain.
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P.R.O.:	Position vacant.
BACK ISSUES AND DISTRIBUTION:	John Miller, 258 Torrisholme Road, Lancaster LA1 2TU. Great Britain.
COMMITTEE:	Bob Wilcock.

BACK ISSUES: At present, most issues of TORCH BEARER are still available to Volume 1, Issue 1 (March 1984), although some are now exhausted.

As stocks of each issue 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 £2.00 each, or £8.00 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 be 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 payment 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.

VOLUME 15

MAY 1998

ISSUE 2

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MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY OF OLYMPIC COLLECTORS

Membership starts on election, of which applicants will be notified, and will last for one calendar year. All back issues of the magazine for the current year will be sent to members joining during the year.

Junior members are those aged under 18 years in the year of joining, subscription rates are half of the adult rate until the 18th birthday.

All applications should be made to the Secretary.

Subscription rates for 1998 are:

U.K., £8.00; Europe, £10.00 (DM30, \$US20),

Outside Europe, £15.00 (DM 40, \$US28).

Acceptable forms of payment: \$US cheques drawn in USA; Sterling, \$US or DM currency notes; Sterling cheques.

FRONT PAGE

A number of changes to the Committee of the Society have taken place in the past year. Betty (Elizabeth) Miller, our long serving (suffering?) Secretary was ready to throw in the towel, and was intending to resign at the 1998 AGM. This decision was partially due to the difficulty of travelling from Lancaster to committee meetings not easy to achieve by public transport, and almost necessitating an overnight stay in London. A proposal to split the secretarial role between 'Minutes Secretary' and Secretary, has been adopted to overcome the problem in the immediate future, and it has to be said that 'teething' problems were encountered with the first attempt of this system (mainly due to my own unavailability to approve draft minutes, causing unacceptable delays in circulation!). The system adopted, with Bob Wilcock acting as Minutes Secretary should prove workable however, and deserves a fair trial.

John Miller, (Betty's husband), who has distributed Torch Bearer so efficiently, will continue to do so, but feels that he should resign his committee position - basically for the reasons above, but also because the benefit to Betty of not having to travel to every committee meeting would be negated.

John's contribution to recent issues of Torch Bearer will be known to you all through his detailed articles on sponsorship, and as Editor, I have been very dependent and grateful for his contributions. We should all appreciate the effort that John puts into circulating Torch Bearer (assisted by Betty), and be thankful that he intends to continue in this role.

A number of Society members (almost all committee members or wives!), were 'invited' to visit the annual congress of IMOS - our sister society in Germany, through our contacts with the Olympic and Sports Philatelic Club of Berlin, as they were the hosts of this years congress.

Travelling by Road, rail (channel tunnel), and air, a party of ten arrived in Berlin, for a combination of sight-seeing, socialising, exchanging philatelic wares, and the formal session of the congress - the equivalent of our AGM.

The **eighty** or so members of IMOS present, enjoyed a superbly organised weekend, with their partners, for whom many non-philatelic events were staged.

The organisation by the Berlin Club members was superb, even overcoming last minute route changes on organised tours as a result of some over-enthusiastic May Day celebrations. Their order for fine weather was obviously directed to the correct 'authority'.

I think we all had the same unspoken view - What response would we receive in the SOC if we attempted an event on a similar scale?

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

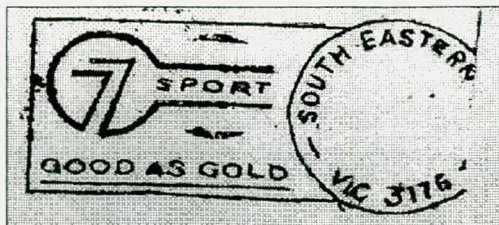
Further to the report last issue on the release of the "Living Legends" set by Australia Post, **Tom D'Arcy**, forwarded the following related information:

Channel 7 will televise the Sydney Games in Australia as they televised the Nagano Games. Channel 7 purchased a slogan postmark from Australia Post for use during the period early February 1998 to mid March 1998. The impression shows the Channel 7 logo and the words **7 SPORTS GOOD AS GOLD**. According to Channel 7, the slogan postmark is to complement the issue of the stamps and not Nagano. I understand that each person has some tie with Channel 7.

The slogan was used at the following Mail Centres:

New South Wales	Eastern Suburbs MC	2004
	Northern Suburbs MC	2058
	South West Suburbs MC	2169
	Southern Suburbs MC	2215
	Hunter MC	2310
	Canberra MC	2610
	North Western Suburbs MC	2781
Victoria	Melbourne City MC	3000
	Northern MC	3072
	Southern MC	3169
	South Eastern MC	3179
	Geelong MC	3221
Queensland	Northgate MC	4013
	Underwood MC	4119
South Australia	Adelaide MC	5000
Western Australia	Perth MC	6000
Tasmania	Hobart MC	7000

It was also intended that Eastern MC 3110 should be fitted with the slogan but the hardware was fitted with the post code of Werribee (Victoria) in error.

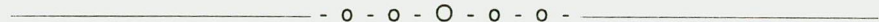




John Crowther recently came into possession of the illustrated *U S Olympic Committee / London - 1948 - St. Moritz* fund raising vignettes, with a **BARCELONA / 1992** overprint.

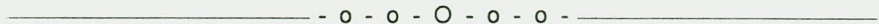
Can any of our members shed any light on the source of the overprint?

Were the vignettes used yet again as fund raisers, or do they simply signify an abundance of stock somewhere in the U S A ?



Swiss Postal Stationery Cards

The cards mentioned in **Recent Postal Stationery**, Volume 15, page 15, bear the postal imprint illustrated in the article. The inscription on the 'stamp' design reads 1896 / 1996, and celebrates the Olympic Year. The original stamp issue was made to commemorate the Olympic Summer Games, Atlanta - not the IOC Centenary as stated.



Remember that the Auction Manager would be pleased to receive your surplus material for future sales.

Why not take the opportunity to make use of these long summer evenings and finally have the clear out of duplicates that you keep avoiding ?

MEMBERS FORUM

A good response to the queries raised last issue:

Mystery skater:

Manfred Winternheimer kindly solicited the following reply from **Dr. Iris Ruhl**:- 'The skater shown on the Rumanian souvenir sheet does indeed represent **Katarina Witt** although the design does not contain sufficient detail to make this clear. The costume shown is that used for the short programme in 1988 (see also Nicaragua Michel 3010), but the colour of the actual costume was mid-blue.

This costume was worn at the European Championships, the World Championships and the Olympic Winter Games.

I can vouch for this information from my attendance at the World Championships in Budapest.'

Mystery Signatory:

Sherwin Podolsky clarifies the signature of **Sol Feinberg**; 'Reference the enquiry by A W Swanston about an autograph on a 1932 Lake Placid FDC.

His interpretation is amusing, however the following illustration clarifies the meaning of the autograph, and shows a genuine example.

The Lake Placid post office was overwhelmed with requests for autographs on FDC's. As a result other postal employees relieved Sol Feinberg of some of the work by autographing on his behalf. I believe that I have a cover or covers with autographs that are not authentic.

The illustration is taken from a photocopy, however, I believe it is correct and true. An "Ora Medal" for Sol Feinberg is wishful thinking'.

United States Post Office

CLASS

Lake Placid, N. Y. Jan. 25th 1932.

State of New York,
County of Essex, ss

Sol Feinberg being duly sworn deposes and says that he is the Postmaster at Lake Placid, N. Y. and that the envelopes addressed to M. H. Rak Peckham, Chief Clerk R. M. S. Albany, N. Y. bearing the notation in the left hand lower corner " This is the first letter that went through the Cancellation Machine on January 25th 1932 at 11. A. M. is the first letter that went through the machine. Same will be identified by an Olympic Stamp on the flap uncancelled with plate No. 20615.

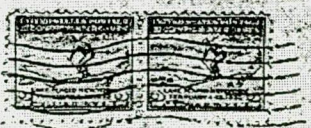
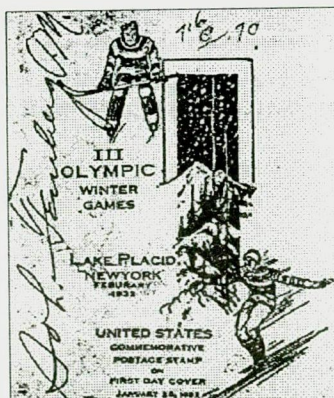
Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 25th day of January 1932.

Sol Feinberg

Notary Public.



Matthew D. J. [unclear]



PERSONAL
Mr. M. H. Peckham,
Chief Clerk R. M. S.
Albany, N. Y.

This is the first letter that went through the cancellation machine on January 25th 1932. See letter file

THE ROLL OF DISTINGUISHED PHILATELISTS

The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists was established in 1921 and an invitation to sign the Roll is regarded as the world's pre-eminent philatelic honour. Over 300 philatelists from 40 different countries have achieved this distinction since its inception. Including the newly elected this year, there are at the present time 69 signatories from 23 different countries including 17 from Great Britain.

A recent meeting of the Board of Election to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, decided unanimously to invite the following to sign the Roll at the next Philatelic Congress of Great Britain to be held in Scarborough, North Yorkshire from 4th. June to 7th. 1998.

Jean Francois Brun	France
Dr. Teddy Dahinden	Switzerland
Francisco Lemos da Silveira	Portugal
Franceska Rapkin	Great Britain

For the benefit of those members who have not had the pleasure of meeting our President, Franceska in person, the following 'c.v.' of her philatelic achievements is taken from the official Press Release.

The enthusiasm for stamp collectin expressed and demonstrated by **Franceska Rapkin** is well known in GREAT BRITAIN and internationally. To date very few foreigners can have been invited to lecture on the subject in Xiamen China!

Franceska is essentially a Thematic collector but her first venture into organised philately was in 1975 when she was Secretary for the Annual Convention of the German and Colonies Philatelic Society. Her ability was recognised and in the same year she became Secretary for the Melville and Youth Committee of the erstwhile British Philatelic Federation. From 1982 until 1991 she was on the Council of this Federation and in 1989 was awarded the Congress Medal for her continuing efforts.

In her own special field her collection of Olympic Games 1936 received a Gold Medal at ISRAPIL '85 and again at OLYMPHILEX '88. She was Chairman of the British Thematic Association from 1984 until 1995 when she became its President. She has written extensively to encourage young and thematic collectors and very many Societies at home and overseas have enjoyed her displays and informative discourse. She is an accredited International Judge and as such has acted at seven FIP International Exhibitions including OLYMPHILEX '96 where she was Secretary to the Jury.

A Council Member of the Royal Philatelic Society London she maintains her interest in classical German stamps with a fine collection of the "SHIELD" issues and remains a long standing Committee Member of the German and Colonies Society.

Of course, the most significant part of her impressive c.v. is missing! The S.O.C. exists largely as a result of Franceska's initiative, and her service as Chairman, Editor, and President have ensured our well being.

I am sure that all members will join the Committee in congratulating Franceska on the formal recognition of her efforts conveyed by this award.

SOCIETY NEWS

SWINPEX '98

Swinpex '98 will take place on Saturday, June 13th 1998 from 10am until 5pm. The venue is St. Josephs Lower School, Queens Drive, Swindon. This is located close to 'the Magic Roundabout' off the A4259 (from the M4 Junction 15, take the A419 to reach the A4259).

The Society of Olympic Collectors has a room available from 10am until 12.45pm, a number of Committee members will be in attendance, with material to display and discuss with any members that show up.

Many societies are attending the event, dealers are aware of the interests of the various societies that have booked rooms - so it is likely that they will arrive with stock to suit. Why not join us for a chat (and a coffee).

THEMATICA '98 - SOC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM will take place on Saturday 27th June at the Victory Services Club (adjoining Thematica).

Fifty percent of the Committee are due to offer themselves for re-election this year, however as the Committee is currently depleted, this will only actually require one member to stand for re-election - with up to three positions vacant - *{see Front Page}*- should we find any volunteers out there!

The Committee Member standing for re-election will be **Bob Farley**.

We have advertised for a **Public Relations Officer** in previous issues of Torch Bearer, and this role needs to be filled **as a matter of urgency**.

EXCHANGE PACKET

For a number of reasons, at a committee meeting held on the 28th February, it was decided to suspend the operation of the packet for the time being.

All material submitted, and accounts for sales are being reconciled before contacting vendors to establish their preference - placing of the material in future auctions, return, or awaiting possible reinstatement of the packet.

As a result of the suspension, the Packet Manager position on the Committee is no longer relevant, but a committee position is available should a nomination (or volunteer) be presented.

The Moscow Olympiade-80 and the United States Boycott

Edward B. Epstein

This article first appeared in *Collectors Club Philatelist* - November - December 1997.

On July 19, 1980, eighty-one nations took part in the parade of athletes in Moscow's Lenin Stadium during the opening ceremonies of the XXII Olympic games. Conspicuously absent were the representatives of more than fifty-four national Olympic Committees. Sixteen delegations marched under the Olympic flag to call attention to the Moscow Olympic boycott.

In May 1975 the Organizing Committee Olympiade-80 was created under the chairmanship of I. Novikov, Deputy Premier. This body was an extension of the Soviet Olympic and the 1974 Moscow-80 Preparatory Committees, whose presentations to the International Olympic Committee were instrumental in the October 23, 1974, XXII Olympiad Moscow site award during the IOC's Vienna session.

An early example of the stationery used by the Moscow Organizing Committee, cancelled at Moscow 1650 Nov. 24, 1976, (Fig. 1) was addressed to Stephanie Sides, United States Olympic Committee, Park Ave, New York, N.Y. 10016, which, according to U.S.O.C. Director of Communications C. Robert Paul, Jr.,

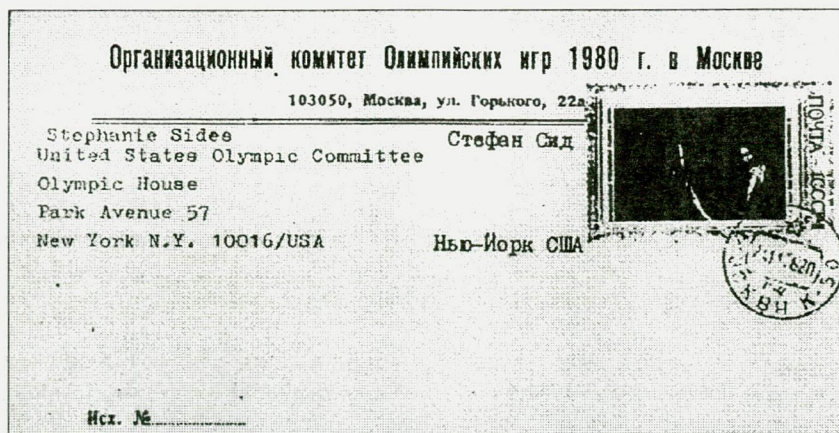


Figure 1.

was a fictitious name used by the U.S.O.C. for inquiry purposes. By December 26, 1977, the Organizing Committee was using an imprint and meter incorporating Vladimir Arsenyev's emblem of Olympiade-80, the skyline of Moscow resting on the five Olympic rings, on its correspondence (Fig. 2).

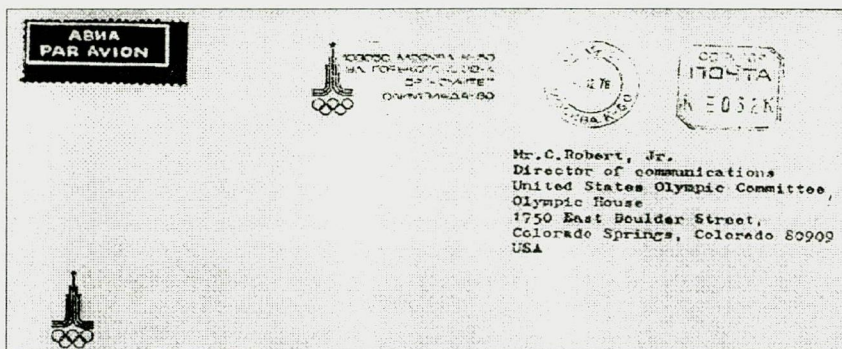


Figure 2.

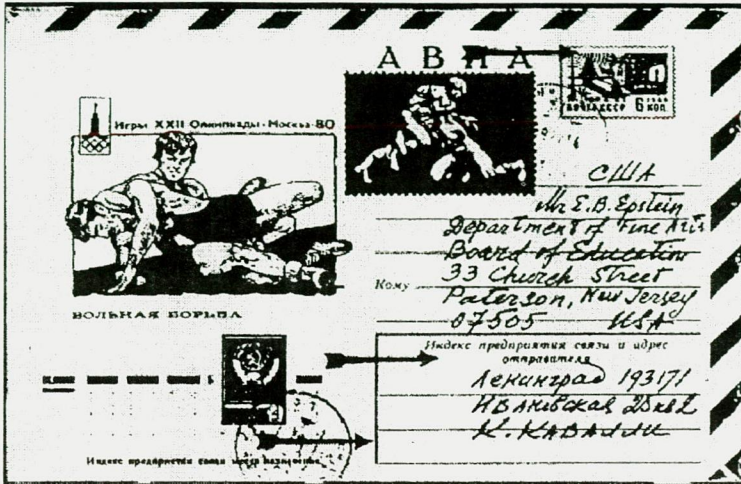
The same Olympiade-80 symbol graced the stationery of the Paramount International Management Corporation, who were selected by V/O Mezhdunarodnaya, the Soviet international distributing publishing conglomerate and the Organizing Committee for the 1980 Olympic games, to administer the 1980 Russian Olympic stamp program. Franked with a Philadelphia, Pa. bulk rate U.S. Postage Paid, Permit Number 1715 machine cancel, the stationery enclosed informative newsletters pertinent to the Russian 1980 Moscow Olympic commemorative postage stamps, stamped envelopes and postal cards.

Volume II of the 1977 fall bulletin provided the following technical details for the Olympic stamp sports series, "Each of these stamps has been designed by G. Komlev from the renditions of artist N. Litvinov. The artist has researched every aspect of each subject, carefully checked every detail with experts in physiology, anatomy and sports. He has modeled each figure in clay to ensure the preciseness of posture, musculature and form. Only then has he rendered his art on canvas. The art is transferred from this canvas to the miniature art required for the production of stamps by designer G. Komlev."

In addition to the sports sets, the USSR Ministry of Communication issued 4k and air mail 6k sports-cacheted stamped envelopes, designed by I. Phillipov and / or G. Komlev, to accompany the sports issues.

It should be noted that two types of many of these stamped envelopes exist. As an example, the imprinted 6k air mail stamp on type I of the free-wrestling stamped envelope mailed to this author from Leningrad Sept. 4, 1977, (Fig. 3), differs from

Figure 3



handstamped stationery (Fig. 4). Whereas the orange vertical line on the former 1977 envelope enclosed the area for the sender's name and address, the black vertical and horizontal lines on the latter example separate the postal zone section from the remainder of the stationery. The position and placement of wording in the text above the lines intended for the sender's name and address has been shifted to the left on the 1980 registered envelope. Type II also provides six address lines while type I only has five address lines.



Figure 4.

As Figure 4 illustrates, many collectors during the Olympic games tied the Olympic stamp matching the sport illustrated on the envelope with the appropriate pictorial sport temporary Olympic venue post office handstamp, of which twenty-four types are known to exist.

Two vehicles for propagandizing the forthcoming games were the publications *Olympic Panorama* and *Olympiade-80*, which were printed in five languages. Here illustrated (Fig. 5) is an *Olympiade-80* "T.P." (tax percue or postage paid) typewritten photocopy-labeled wrapper which enclosed a monthly issue of *Olympiade-80*. In addition to reporting on-site preparations (which were also publicized by the emission of eight N. Gorkin-designed postal cards imprinted with 4k stamps illustrating the Olympic Village and the various sport stadiums), Olympic history, Soviet city data and tourist information, the publication was used to propagandize good will toward further interest in the Soviet Union. Typical of this aim was Suren Arutyunyan's 1977 *Olympiade-80* article "Komsomol: The Word and the Deed", which declared "*The fact that Moscow has been entitled to stage the 1980 Olympic Games is the result of the purposeful, consistent and peaceful policy pursued by the Soviet Union, a bulwark of peace, democracy and social progress . . .*"

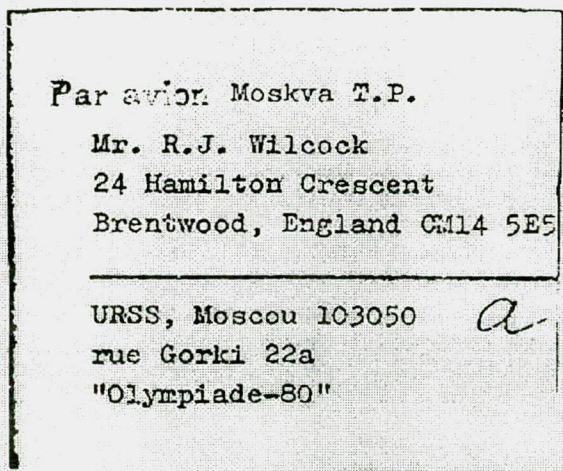


Figure 5.

While Russia was increasing its troop strength in Afghanistan, it released on Dec 25, 1979, its traditional New Year's stamp, which was affixed to a flown Leningrad First Day cover (Fig. 6). Illustrating Viktor Chizhikov's creative bear cub "Misha", the lovable creature was selected by the *Olympiade-80* committee as its mascot for the Moscow games from the choice of 40,000 viewers of the television program "Animal World," and was characterized by "Sputnik" in 1978 as "*the embodiment of kindness and strength, hospitality and sportsmanship, nerve and calm . . .*"

Figure 6.



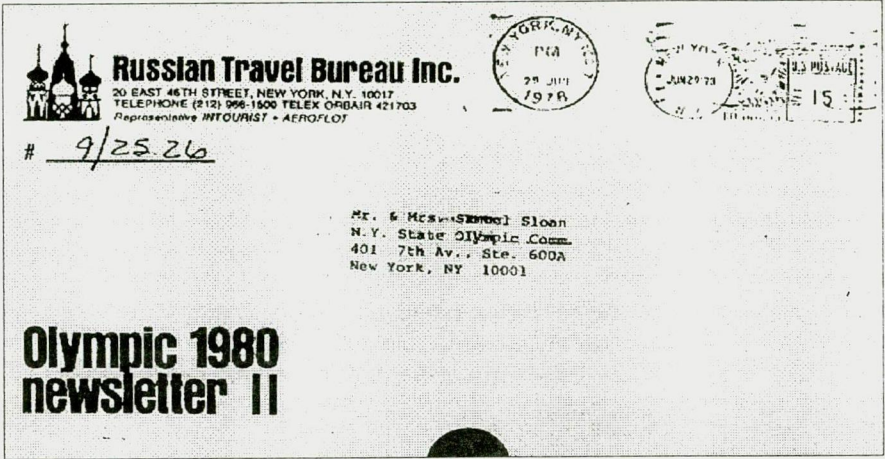
On Dec. 27, 1979, Afghanistan President Hafizullah Amin was overthrown, executed and replaced by Babrak Kamil in a coup engineered by the Soviet Union.

Following President Carter's January 4, 1980, address to the people that the Soviet's intervention "was an extremely serious threat to peace" and that the United States might withdraw from the 1980 Moscow Olympic games should the Soviet Union continue "its aggressive action," he sent a letter on January 20, 1980, to Robert Kane, President of the United States Olympic Committee, urging the Committee, "In cooperation with other national Olympic Committees, to advise the International Olympic Committee that if the Soviet troops do not fully withdraw from Afghanistan within the next month, Moscow will become an unsuitable site for a festival . . . meant to celebrate peace and good will."

Coincidentally with these recommendations, Carter urged more than 100 heads of state to support his proposal for moving the Olympics from Moscow. A few days later the U.S. House of Representatives adopted a resolution by a vote of 386 to 12 to boycott the Games if they were held in Moscow. On January 28, 1980, the senate Foreign Affairs Committee unanimously approved the same resolution, which the next day was voted on by the United States Senate and passed by an 88 to 4 margin.

Following the International Olympic Committee's rejection of the United States Olympic Committee's proposal to transfer, postpone or cancel the Games during

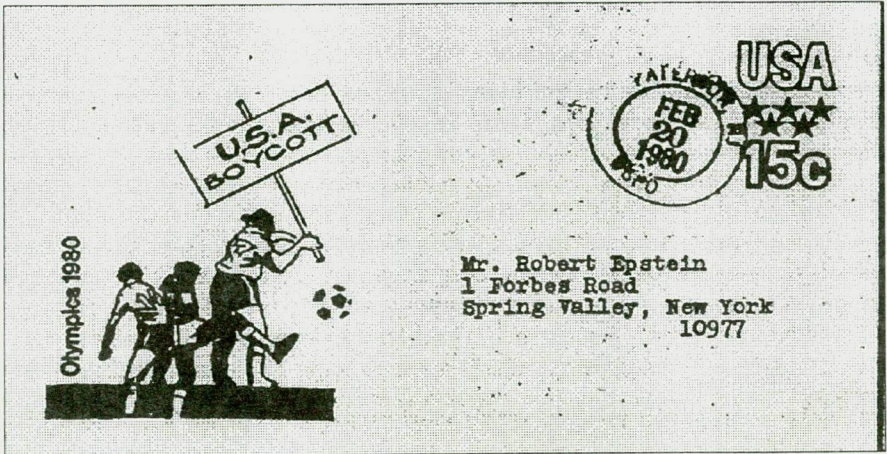
Figure 7.



the February 12, 1980, Lake Placid, N.Y. IOC meeting, and no troop removal action was taken by Russia by February 20, 1980, the possibility for a United States boycott of the Moscow Games increased.

An April 9, 1980, Lausanne slogan meter "XXII Olympiade / Lake Placid / Moscow" on International Olympic Committee stationery reaffirmed their decision to stand pat with respect to Moscow.

Figure 8.



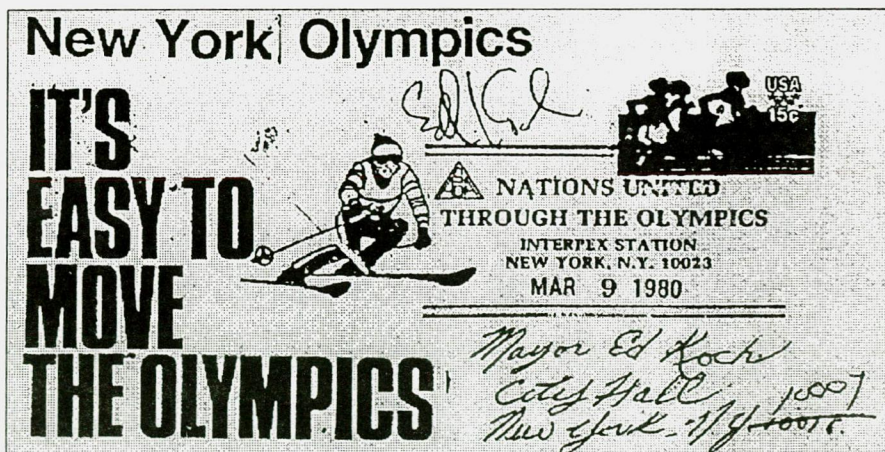
The anticipated U.S. boycott prompted a January 24, 1980, court decision against the only United States travel agency for the Moscow games: the Russian Travel Bureau (Fig. 7). The action, which was brought by New York State attorney Robert Abrams, compelled the agency to surrender \$8 million of fares and cash advances to customers who had booked reservations to the games.

Although their funds were returned, such sports enthusiasts would not only miss the experience of attending the Olympic Games but would have to forego the potential Russian cultural experiences, which were symbolized on the postal cards *"This you shall see in Moscow"* Theatres, Museums and Landmarks Russian, issued in 1978.

The hand-inked U.S. boycott figure which was added to Robert Cunningham's 6.75 inch size U.S. 1980 Olympic stamped envelope cancelled on President Carter's deadline date, February 20, 1980, (Fig. 8) was but one of the many philatelic items which would call attention to the boycott.

A proposal to transfer the XXII Moscow Olympic site to New York City was suggested. *"The New York Olympics / It's Easy to Move the Olympics"* cacheted cover, cancelled March 9, 1980, from New York's Interpex Station, was addressed to New York City's Mayor Edward I. Koch and autographed by him (Fig. 9).

Figure 9.



On March 11, 1980, United States Postmaster William Bolger issued a directive that was to make history in the annals of the Postal Service: the withdrawal from sale of the philatelic products related to the 1980 summer Olympic Games which had been previously issued from September 5, to December 10, 1979.

The right column of page 3 of the March 20, 1980, Postal Bulletin No. 21237 (Fig. 10) not only lists and describes the items but directs *"Postmasters {to} make sure that the above-listed items are removed from credits at all stamp windows,*

Rural Routes—Special Equipment Maintenance Allowance

The January 1980, national average rate for 1979-80 is \$1.131. The rate for 1979 is \$1.131.



Airmail equipment maintenance allowance shall be increased from 24.5¢ per mile to 25¢ per mile, or a major fraction of a cent, whichever is greater.

Auxiliary Rural Assistants (Des 78) and Auxiliary Rural Carriers (Des 77) shall be paid an equipment maintenance allowance (EMA) of 25¢ per mile or a minimum of \$3.10 per hour, whichever is greater, but not to exceed the amount provided by the special chart for the route stops and miles.

The EMA shall be paid on a per stop basis and a minimum of \$3.10 per hour. KMA is provided for the Auxiliary Carriers in the EMA at the rate of \$1.131 per mile. (PP 7-80). Office of Compensation, 3-20-80.

New Furniture

On February 27, 1980, the Office of Management and Budget imposed a new freeze on furniture purchases by Executive Branch departments and agencies. A previous moratorium by the General Services Administration was described in Postal Bulletin 21216 (10-25-79).

While legally neither of these orders now applies to the Postal

Supply Item Discontinued—Time Computer

To reduce overall costs of stocking slow moving items, supply item 0422, Time Computer, used in preparing Form 4569, Vehicle Use Plan, will be discontinued. The Office of Fleet Management suggests using a linear rule and a calculator as a time computer with Form 4569 when stocks are exhausted.

Exhausted stocks of Item 0422 are available at both area supply centers and requisitions will be filled as long as the supply lasts. Above charges will be reflected in the next element & supply



Accident Claims or processing lost claims as outlined in Handbook M-19 Accident Investigation Tort Cl.



161. as soon as it is received by the office. Analyze the claim file by accident report file and complete items that could not be completed prior to receiving the claim. Enter the lost claim file to the local accident investigator who will acknowledge receipt of the claim by letter to the claimant, re-view the claim and

Suspended Sales of 1980 Summer Olympic Items

All postmasters should have been notified by their management sectional center to remove from sale all stamps and philatelic products related to the 1980 Summer Olympics. The affected stamps and products:

Item No.	Description
475	15-Cent Summer Olympic Block of Four Stamps
474	10-Cent Decathlon Stamp
476	31-Cent High Jumper Airmail Stamp
224	22-Cent Circus Aerogramme
664	15-Cent No. 61/4 Soccer Plain Stamped Envelope
164	15-Cent No. 10 Soccer Plain Stamped Envelope
241	21-Cent Gymnast Airmail Postal Card
210	10-Cent Sprinter Postal Card
940	\$2.50 Olympic Mint Set
943	\$2.50 Olympic Sports Stamp Prints—Summer Set
946	\$2.00 Summer Olympics Poster

Lobby poster 423, Winter Olympics commemorative stamps, is no longer authorized for lobby display and should be removed immediately. The 24" x 36" full color poster features the block of four Winter Olympics Stamps, Olympics postal cards, the Olympics embossed stamped envelope and the Olympics aerogramme, and has the headline, The Post Office keeps going to the Olympics.

Postmasters make sure the above listed items are removed from stamp credits at all stamp windows, philatelic centers, and other retail outlets. These items will be returned to the main stock of each post office and held until further instructions are issued.

The sale of the 1979 Mint Set is not affected by this order. This item will continue to be sold at all locations. - Customer Services Dept., 3-20-80

Figure 10.

philatelic centers and other retail outlets. These items will be returned to the main stack of each post office and held until further instructions are issued." A number of the stamps from the 1980 Olympic issues are tied to the bulletin by Paterson, New Jersey, March 25, 1980, handstamps and signed by Robert M. Cunningham, the designer of the issues. An August 8, 1980, response on White House stationery to an enquiry this author addressed to the President of the United States discusses the circumstances of the 1980 suspension of philatelic products and the August 4, 1980 resumption of sales following the Moscow Olympic games (Fig. 11). The most interesting document related to the United States boycott is a letter from C. Robert Paul, Director of Communications, on United States Olympic Committee stationery (Fig. 12) affixed with an April 16, 1980, specimen meter

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 8, 1980

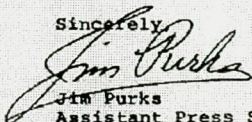
Dear Mr. Epstein:

Thank you for your letter regarding the postage stamps commemorating the 1980 Moscow Olympic games.

The withdrawal order was not the result of an executive order. The White House advised the State Department to withdraw the stamps from sale and this in turn was relayed to the Postal Service, which had asked for guidance. President Carter personally approved placing the stamps back up for sale.

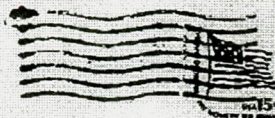
I hope this is helpful.

Sincerely,



Jim Furks
Assistant Press Secretary
Office of Media Liaison

THE WHITE HOUSE



Mr. Edward B. Epstein
Director
Sports Philatelists International
33 Church Street
Paterson, New Jersey 07505

Figure 11.

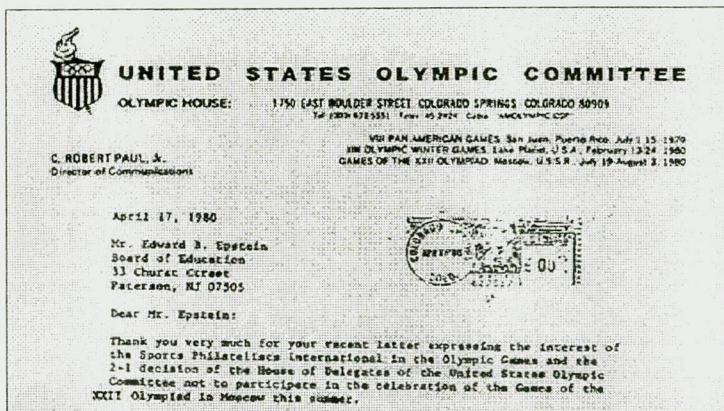
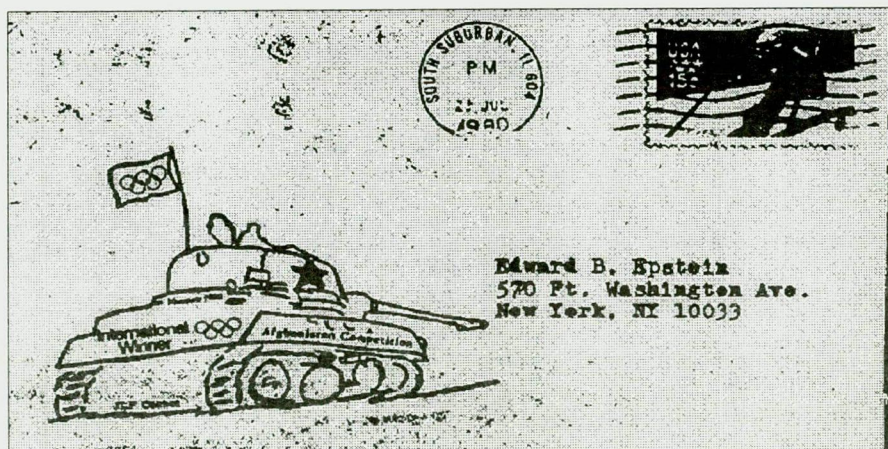


Figure 12

tape used by the Committee, which outlined the reasons why the USOC House of Delegates voted on April 12, 1980, by a 1,604 to 797 majority, not to participate in the Moscow Olympic games. The USOC letter stated that, "through a series of meetings with potential Olympians, representatives of the various sports governing bodies, and the nation's press, the leaders in the administration outlined the seriousness of the situation. . . it was the belief of the Administration that the only way we could get our message to the USSR government and the people of the USSR was to vote against participation in Moscow." Bob Paul further added that the Administration felt that "not only must the USSR be severely punished for this aggressive move into a non-aligned

Figure 13



nation, but also the Soviet people must be made aware of the feelings of the USA government. . ."

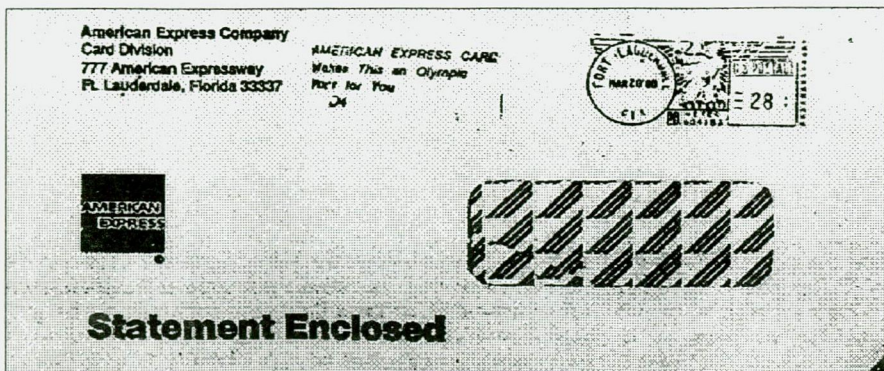
In retrospect, one might wonder what effect the US-led boycott had. It did not convince Soviet authorities to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan, and the Games went on as scheduled. In addition to preventing the United States athletes from participating in Olympic competition, which according to many, infringed on their rights as American citizens, their absence and those of the other nations who boycotted the Games lowered the competitive standards of international competition.

From the U.S. athletes' point of view, the tragedy of the boycott was best summed up by 1932 U.S. Olympic gymnastic rings gold medalist George J. Gullack, who stated, *"For the United States to boycott the Moscow games and spoil the aspirations of all those men and women who practiced for years to get there was a terrible mistake."* Olympian Fred Newhouse commented *"there are a lot of bitter athletes running around this country because they didn't get their chance in 1980."*

One example of this frustration and bitterness was evidenced by a 1980 series of satirical cacheted covers against the Moscow games created by John La Porta of Sports Philatelists International, which negated his SPI 1977 series urging support for participation of the U.S. Olympic team at Moscow in 1980 (Fig. 13).

The boycott financially impacted on many business firms, such as the American Express Company, whose slogan meter, "AMERICAN EXPRESS CARD Makes This an Olympic Year For You," used on their card-division mailings before and after President Carter's February 20, 1980, deadline date (Fig. 14) was particularly ironic. If there is one certainty that has been repeated time and again, it is that politics cannot be separated from sports. One has only to study the 1908 Marathon incident, 1936 Berlin Olympics, 1948 emergence of the German Democratic Republic, and the People's Republic of China, 1956 Hungarian uprising, 1968 South African controversy, and the 1972 Munich Israeli tragedy to realise the consequences brought about by nationalistic incursions.

Figure 14



Olympic Memorabilia show - Colorado Springs

Details of an invitation from the U.S.O.C.

Dear Collector,

The United States Olympic Committee is pleased to invite you to attend our first Olympic Memorabilia show at the Olympic Training Centre in Colorado Springs, Colorado.



The dates for the show are June 26-28, 1998. Well-known dealers will offer a wide array of memorabilia from the first Games in Athens 1896 to new collectible material from Salt Lake City 2002. Items to be exhibited include winner's and participation medals, torches, badges, pins, souvenirs, diplomas, official reports, programs, tickets, posters and uniforms. A number of dealers in Olympic coins and stamps will also be present.

There will be autograph-signing sessions by Olympic athletes, a public auction of interesting Olympic artifacts by Ingrid O'Neil, an exhibit of outstanding historic Olympic material, and tours of the Olympic Training Centre.

The show will be featured on the USOC internet website, and in nationwide memorabilia, stamp, and coin publications. It will be featured in the *Olympian*, the United States Olympic Committee's magazine, in local newspapers and on television.

We anticipate a large attendance at the show since 2,000 visitors per day visit the Olympic Training Centre in the summer months, and all guided tours of the facility will conclude at the entrance to the show.

Requests for Information:

Please fax, or telephone:

Cindy Slater,

Olympic Memorabilia & Coin Show

One Olympic Plaza

Colorado Springs, CO 80909

Telephone: 719-578-4622

Fax: 719-632-5352

A number of hotels in the vicinity are offering group rates for the show, and most also have a free shuttle service to and from the airport.

Special arrangements for air travel may also be available.

UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

Olympic Memorabilia and Coin Show

June 26, 27 and 28, 1998

United States Olympic Training Center

1750 E. Boulder Street

Colorado Springs, CO 80909

Thursday, June 25, 1998

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. - Reception at the American Numismatic Association Headquarters.

Friday, June 26, 1998

11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Ribbon cutting and show open to the public.

7:30 to 9:30 p.m. - Olympic Memorabilia Auction by Ingrid O'Neil.

Saturday, June 27, 1998

10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Show open to the public.

6:30 to 9:00 p.m. - Barbecue at the Olympic Training Center.

Sunday, June 28, 1998

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Show open to the public.

June 26th - 28th. Exhibit

The exhibit of the Olympic Summer Games Memorabilia 1896 to 1996 will be held in the President's Room at the Visitors' Center. This exhibit was the centerpiece of Atlanta's Cultural Olympiad Exhibit "100 Years Olympic Memorabilia."

U P S (United Parcel Services) in NAGANO

Thomas Lippert

Most collectors of modern Olympic philatelic material will certainly remember the involvement of the private courier service UPS in the Atlanta Olympic Games in 1996. Those collectors with a particular interest in actual Olympic postal history, will undoubtedly wish to know how things have developed.

Thanks to Bob and Brenda's inspiration {?} and encouragement I finally succeeded in finding accomodation in the Nagano area. Only one month earlier, in November, it seemed certain that I would not be able to visit the Nagano Olympic Winter Games in person. Things changed, and a brief visit became possible, and that is why it is now possible to offer some details from personal experience.

In the weeks before the Games, the organisers began to distribute maps of the Olympic city and the other Olympic sites. Similar maps (sponsored by UPS ?) had been distributed in Atlanta, but -*Viva la difference* - only a little difference perhaps to the general spectator, but for us collectors a major change. Post offices were marked in addition to the UPS shipping offices!

On the maps, UPS Shipping Offices were marked in the nerve centres of the Olympic infrastructure:

- In the Athletes Olympic Village;
- the International Broadcast Centre (IBC);
- the Main Press Centre (MPC);
- the Media Village, Yanagimachi;
- the Media Village Asahi;
- and the Kokusai 21 Hotel - IOC Hotel during the Games.

I was only able to visit the latter office in person. It was located in the basement of the hotel, somewhat out of view, but with space for storage behind the counter.

Internet subscribers have had access to information from UPS for some time, including pictures of their picturesque Olympic plane, and details of five pictorial envelopes featuring Olympic symbols and winter sports action views. Having discovered that the envelopes did not seem to be available in Germany, I had hoped to find copies in Nagano at the heart of the Games. I was to be disappointed, only one envelope was available {see figure 1} and despite enquiries, there were not any copies of the other designs 'behind or under the counter'.

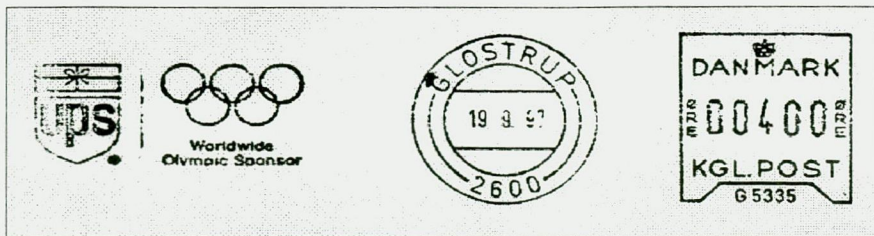
My indecision over mailing examples of all the designs or only selected examples was resolved by the available supply! Even more disappointing was the fact that the special envelopes were only available for the *worldwide express service* - excluding sending them to our accommodation 70 km away at a reasonable price. For use inside Japan, only very plain envelopes were available - plans had to be further reduced. I doubted whether collector colleagues and friends would like to receive such an important piece of modern Olympic postal history for the despatch fee of 2800 Yen {£14, US\$22.50} - the price for a document envelope to Europe, and I felt sure that they would not be impressed by the plain envelope used inside Japan, without any Olympic insignia!

The express and tracking labels for the envelopes are of interest. Usually, on the top copy (sender's copy), the sender's UPS account number or a credit card number is entered to cover the shipping costs. There are not of course any stamps, and we are even denied postmarks.

Only the tracking numbers confirm the items as part of Olympic history, and perhaps the senders address - however, it is interesting that on the credit card receipt the place of origin {*point of despatch*} is mentioned. {fig 2}

Mark Maestrono received an envelope from the IBC with the same basic tracking numbers (W 819-081), but what makes his envelope especially interesting from the 'postal' point of view, is a small label fixed to the envelope at the ONTARIO AIR HUB - in effect, the UPS equivalent of a transit postmark!

For the 'traditional' philatelist, at least one example of the UPS Olympic involvement must be accepted. Karl Reiter, a specialist in meters, found the illustrated Danish UPS postal meter from the office in Glostrup. {fig 3}



Extracts from the UPS Internet site, help to understand the involvement of UPS with the Olympic movement. The philosophy of their sponsorship, the ways in which they anticipate commercial returns, and the details of commemorative envelopes are all valuable background information.

お 客 様 控
CUSTOMERS COPY

大切に保存して下さい。

加盟店名 MERCHANT
〒214 UPS 100704
03-3637-5441

カード会社 CARD COMPANY 売場
VISA 付 場
SALES
COUNT

元票番号 SUP. NO. 00002 係員
49663-027-33325

ご利用日 99年02月03日 13:00:4

会員番号 ACCT. NO. [REDACTED]

有効期限 EXP. DATE	93/05	口座番号 TRANS. AC	10030
取引内容 TRANS. CT	クレジット	支払区分 PAY CODE	イックワ
分割回数 ACQ. COUNT	110	金額 AMOUNT	¥26
本店区分 DOM. CODE		合計金額 TOTAL AM	¥26
承認番号 APP. CODE	0044875		

品名 型式/地 数

ご案内 NOTICE
ご利用のクレジットカードの
番号が不明です。お支払いの
ため、ご入金ください。

JAPAN (2)

Figure 2. Credit card receipt

Location of sending office mark

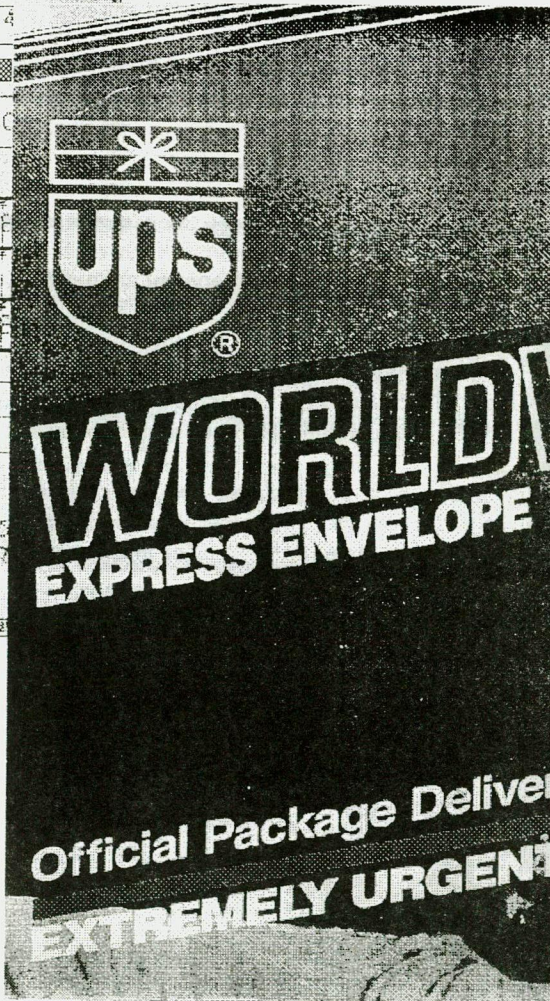


Figure 1.

Alpine Skier envelope



UPS Renews Global Olympic Sponsorship Through Year 2000

Atlanta (December 12, 1996)- UPS, the world's largest package delivery company, has signed to renew its global sponsorship of the Olympic Games. In its agreement with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for TOP IV (The Olympic Program), Ups retains the exclusive rights as international express and package delivery company for the 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan, and the 2000 Olympic Summer Games in Sydney, Australia.

"We want UPS to be one of the most recognised brands in the world, much like it is in the United States," said John Alden, UPS vice chairman. "The Olympics is the best vehicle for promoting the UPS brand on a global scale."

UPS leveraged its sponsorship of the 1996 Olympic Summer Games in a variety of ways. IT added the Olympic rings to more than 85,000 vehicles and nearly 400,000 uniforms worldwide, redesigned more than 100 million express envelopes featuring dramatic color photos of athletes in action.

As part of its "official package delivery" designation, UPS provided express service for more than 427,000 packages of Olympic Games tickets across the U.S., using high-level tracking technology to ensure accuracy.

UPS also conducted extensive advertising and promotional activities throughout the world with a particular focus in Europe, where the company has revenues of nearly \$2 billion.

The sponsorship of the Nagano and Sydney Olympic Games will support the company's aggressive growth plans for the Asia Pacific region. UPS recently won additional air routes through Kansai, Japan, as a result of the U.S.-Japan air cargo agreement. In March 1997, UPS's new central Asia air hub in Taiwan will be fully operational. The company signed an agreement in October with Nippon Air Cargo for a number of shared services, and continues to develop other joint venture agreements with carriers throughout Asia, most recently gaining operating rights to land UPS aircraft in the Philippines.

UPS international services and tracking technology again will be used by the IOC when invitations to participate in the 1998 Winter Games are despatched to more than 80 countries this winter. Further UPS systems will be deployed to manage ticket distribution on behalf of each participating country.

"Our association with the Olympics generated significant new business and revenues for UPS this past year and gave us many opportunities to motivate and unite our global workforce," said Alden. "But the true value of our partnership with the Olympic movement is to continue to build awareness of the UPS name throughout the world."

UPS Delivers a Blast of Cool Olympic Images on New Packaging

Atlanta (July 17, 1997) - With images depicting an invigorating blast of winter cool, UPS is delivering to customers it's new Olympic-themed packaging for the Nagano Olympic Winter Games - set to begin in just over 200 days. More than 80 million Olympic-themed express envelopes, with five dramatic images of winter athletes in action, will be available to UPS customers worldwide.

The images selected for the new Olympic packaging reflect UPS's global service, including a Portuguese four-man bobsleigh team, a Japanese downhill skier, a German speedskater, a Norwegian ski jumper, and Canadian and American hockey players. Envelopes used internationally will be printed in several languages.

"UPS's Olympic packaging is one of the most visible elements of our Olympic program," said Rosemary Windsor-Williams, vice president, UPS Olympic and Corporate Events Group. "It brings the excitement of the Olympic Games to our customers on a daily basis, either when they ship or receive express documents."

The new packaging, made from 100 percent recycled materials, is the second element of UPS's sponsor program to be unveiled for the Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan. In June, UPS re-launched its Athlete Training Assistance Program (ATAP) with Olympic bobsleigh contender and Washington, D.C. -area delivery driver Trevor Christie as its first participant.

UPS created ATAP to support employees from its own worldwide ranks who are Olympic hopefuls, as they juggle the rigorous demands of work and training. ATAP gives UPS employees flexible work schedules and time for training and competition. All worldwide employees of UPS who meet specified criteria are eligible to apply. . .

The Olympic Games - Where Cultures Clash in The Best Possible Way

In 1998, Peter Kolotorous hopes to go to the Nagano Olympic Games representing Greece in the four-man bobsleigh competition. In 1996, Peter Gabrielson went to the Atlanta Olympic Games representing Sweden in the Match and English rifle shooting events. Besides the same first name, the two don't have to go too far to find a whole lot in common - both are employees of UPS. Even with the global nature of the Olympic Games, their worlds are a whole lot smaller - in the best possible way. Two cultures, one company, one fun event.

Global? It's the buzzword of the 90's. Well, not here at UPS. We've been doing business round the globe for a while now and you know what? We've learned something. We've learned that all our people matter to us - equally.

So, it's not just the U.S. Figure Skating Championships we sponsor. It's also the U.S. Long Track Team, Chilean Ski Team, and the Canadian Speed Skating

Team. We're providing support to all our employees and the communities where we do business. So the next time you need to send a package to France, Japan, Argentina, Egypt, or just across town. . . think of UPS not as a global company. . . but as a local company with global connections.

UPS Delivers Olympic Goods to Nagano

We know how daunting it can be to get everything you need to the Olympic Games in time. And, for that matter, back home again. So whether you've got a care package for your favorite athlete, your team's equipment, or an important item you've accidentally left behind, UPS delivers.

UPS has some exciting deliveries going to the 1998 Olympic Winter Games, especially for the USOC. Seven huge ocean containers, measuring up to 40 feet, will be filled with Olympic goods and athletic supplies, and transported by UPS to Nagano, Japan. Here is a sample of what UPS will deliver for the USOC:

8,000 Olympic Pins, 600 Hats, 610 Duffel Bags, 1,258 Sweaters, 1,200 Turtlenecks, 2,670 T-shirts, Banners, Flags, Ski Pants, 1,276 Gloves, TV's, Computers, 496 Fleece Tops.

In addition, 6,000 to 7,000 lbs will be shipped by UPS plane for Nagano, Japan before the opening ceremonies. . . .

"On the playing fields men are no longer political or social friends or enemies, but only fellow players playing the same game."

Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the Modern Olympic Games.

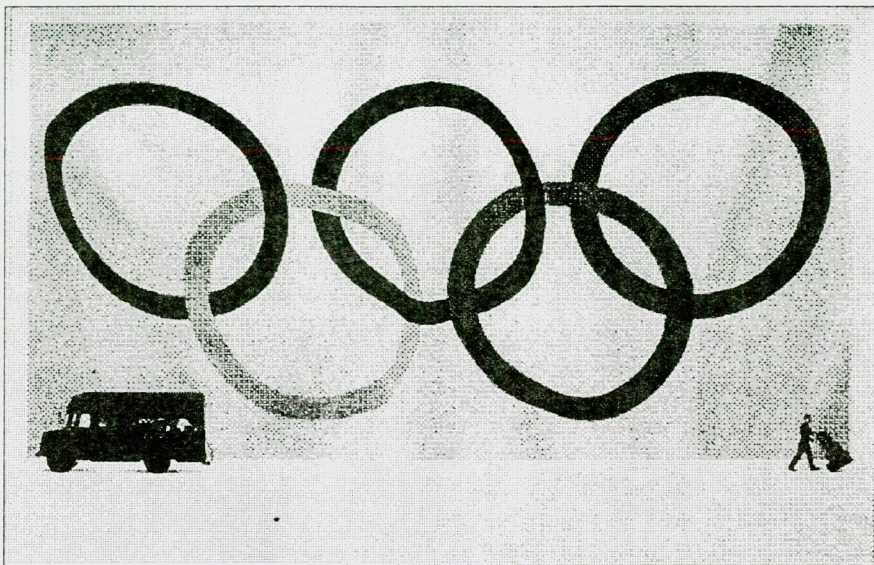
More than any other activity, sport promotes confidence and bolsters a child's self-image. Through participation in sport, children are given the opportunity to socialise and have fun while learning essential life skills such as perseverance, teamwork, and goal-setting.

At UPS, we believe that involvement in sport is essential to a child's overall well-being, and that sports participation has a positive impact on a child, however through no fault of the child, access to sport is often denied.

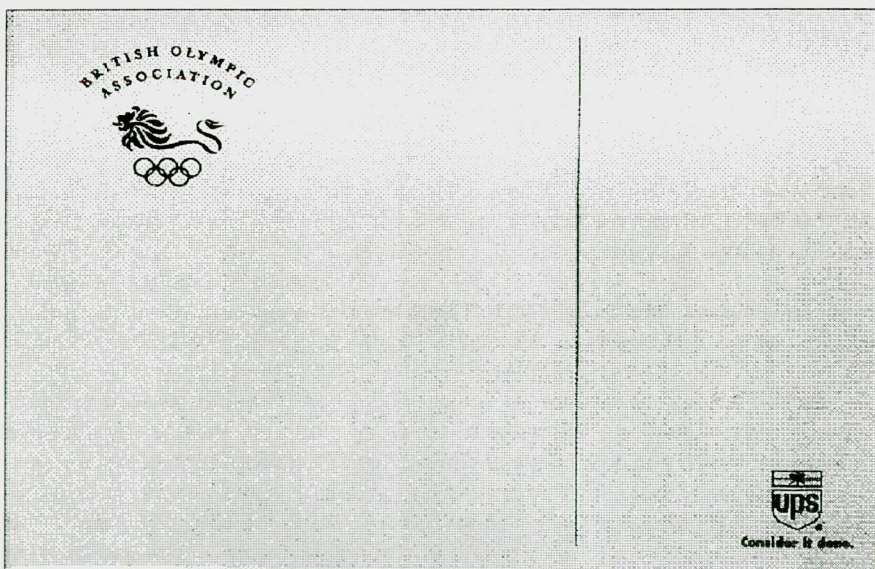
To level the playing field for disadvantaged children, we have created the UPS Olympic Sports Legacy program as an extension of our Worldwide Olympic Partnership. The program offers underprivileged children around the world the chance to experience the infinite benefits of sports participation.

Working in conjunction with children's charities in six markets worldwide - including Canada, France, Germany, Mexico, Taiwan and the United States - UPS will donate new sports equipment on behalf of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the local National Olympic Committee (NOC).

Distribution of the equipment will take place in January 1998, with a Celebration Event for the Olympic Winter Games.



A surprise A5 postcard brought back from within the Olympic facilities in Nagano. The back has both the BOA and UPS logos. Could this mean that similar cards exist for other National Olympic Associations?



CALGARY 1988 - A MODERN FORGERY ?

Bob Farley

February 1988 will always hold special memories for me as it was my first opportunity to attend an Olympic Winter Games. The material collected during my stay in Canada was to become the basis of a philatelic exhibit, the subject of numerous displays and talks to philatelic societies, and the inspiration (or at least the impetus) for my first articles in Torch Bearer.

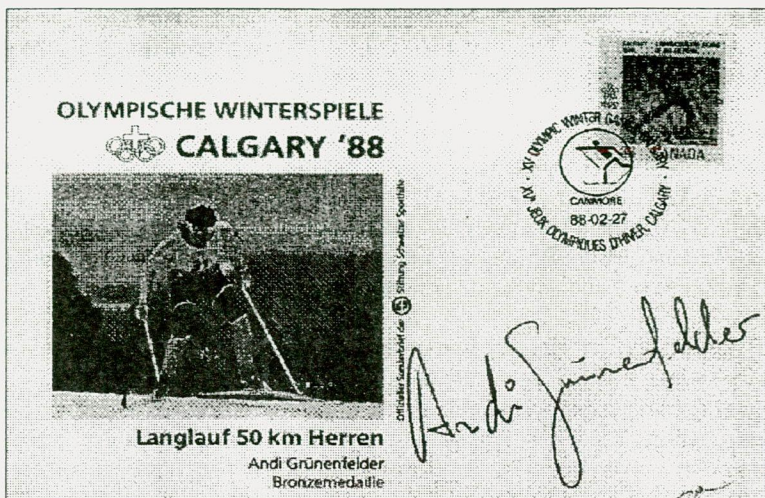
I later realised that a far more significant influence had been exerted on my collection. Previously, I had spent much time and effort in forming a 'complete' collection of stamp issues on the Olympic theme, eagerly seeking news of new issues in each month's batch of philatelic journals. After Calgary, collecting in this way had lost much of its former appeal - it had almost become too easy. New issues were regularly reported, and could be found with dealers (some 'dubious' issues were difficult if not impossible), the only real obstacle was cost. Events in Calgary had caused a major shift in both my collecting interests and also my outlook on the hobby.

I had crossed a frontier from stamp collecting to philately, and even later I realised that I had also shifted from being a thematic collector (a best fit description, as I had really been a collector of stamps with a common theme), to a new 'role' of postal historian. I had become interested in the postal service during the Games, the role of each office, the particular role of offices within the Olympic infrastructure - and of course the postal markings - but in far greater depth than I had ever previously considered.

I also recognised that many of the details that I had noticed and recorded at Calgary were a direct result of the meticulous recording and efforts of authors who were prepared to devote their time in providing fellow collectors with information. The identification of differing date styles on the Calgary handstamps on the second day of their use was not purely a result of my own alertness, it was because Manfred Winterheimer had so carefully recorded the cancellations at Montreal. I was not consciously looking for different styles of date at the time, but I now recognise that I should have been able to anticipate their appearance.

Recognition of my own debt to those who share their knowledge through publication prompted me to try and repay in kind, by sharing my personal knowledge of each of the Games that I have been fortunate enough to visit.

The preceding paragraphs may not appear relevant to the title of this article, but they set the scene for what follows, and in part explain why I feel almost guilty for not publishing this information earlier, as the main facts have been known to me for over ten years.



During 1988, Torch Bearer carried articles detailing the six different styles of date that had occurred on the Calgary 'event' handstamps, and these have been listed by Manfred Winterheimer.

My personal knowledge of these date styles is based on daily visits to many of the post offices where they were used, information solicited from visitors at 'Olympex '88' during the Games, and the assistance / cooperation of Jon van Staden - a Calgarian philatelist with whom I spent much of my time in Calgary.

The six date styles initially identified were:

88 . 11 . 19 Style a.
'Metric' Year, Month, Day

19 . 11 . 88 Style b.
'English' Day, Month, Year

88 11 19 Style c.
'Metric' with eleven as Roman .II.

19 11 88 Style d.
'English' with eleven as Roman .II.

88 2 19 Style e.
'Metric' with Arabic two.

19 2 88 Style f.
'English' with Arabic two.

In March 1988, I received a photocopy from Jon van Staden, of a large souvenir cover, franked with all of the stamps issued by Canada Post for the Xvth Olympic Winter Games. Each stamp was tied by one of the the relevent event handstamps, and a variety of dates were used. The cover appeared to carry the isignia of the German Sports Fund, and the Swiss Sports Federation. I reacted immediately and wrote to Canada Post, requesting copies of the cancellations used.

The reason for my immediate reaction was the use of a very different date style. As I had visited all of the post offices using the event cancellations (and ordered a set from Antigonish) - I was also intrigued about the source of these 'new' types.

The response from Canada Post came as a surprise. I had expected that they would refuse to provide back-dated cancels, but the very swift response stated that 'the cancels illustrated {my photocopy}, were not provided by Canada Post or any of it's authorised agents'. Subsequent discussions with Canada Post staff (who were in attendance at the Philatelic point in Calgary), during Philexfrance 1989 and London 1990 did not add any further information.

In 1991, I purchased a cover similar to the photocopy that I had held for three years, and a number of details became apparent:

- The German Sports Fund reference, was an added label, pasted over a further Swiss insignia;
- The cancels were in perfect vertical and horizontal alignment to each other, and each was vertical on it's own axis;
- The 'inking' of the cancels was consistent over the whole design and the date.

It becomes obvious that the cancels were applied as a single operation, and that they are actually 'struck' by a printing process.

The mystery however remained, if Canada Post had no knowledge of the cancels, where were they produced? By whom were they produced?

In 1994, a chance correspondence with Uberto Steffanutti, one of our members in Italy produced a photocopy of a cover with a single stamp cancelled with one example of a cancel with this rogue date style - purchased from a Swiss dealer.

At Spring Stampex, 1998, one German dealer produced a number of covers with either the Canmore or Nakiska cancels in the rogue date style, each cacheted with an Alpine or Nordic skiing scene, and autographed by a German or Swiss medallist.

I can only make assumptions, based on the above events, and I would be very grateful for any further information that readers can supply, conclusions are not yet and may never be possible.

- The original covers were produced for a 'subscription' collection of the 1988 Games.
- A link to Switzerland seems to appear every time the cancel is found.

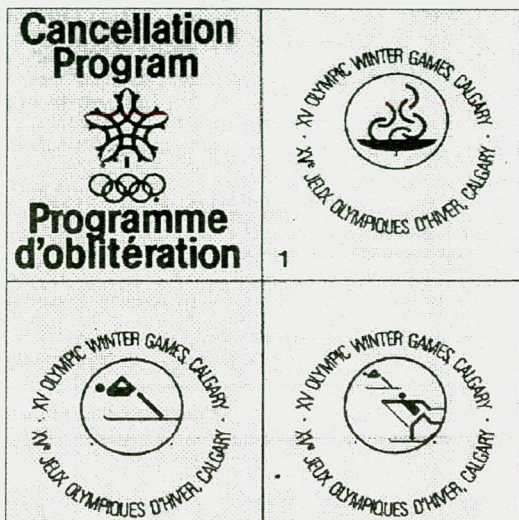
Finally, what does this new date style look like?

How was the style selected?

Why was it produced?

I think that these questions can all be answered.

When attempting to understand how the 'new' style of date and printed postmark were arrived at, two pieces of information seem to provide clues:



The Cancellation Program brochure released by Canada Post provided accurate, full size illustrations of the event hand-stamps.

In common with other literature released prior to the Xvth Olympic Games, the illustrations all appear without dates.

A typical 'First Day' cancel of the period, from Canada Post, with hyphenated date style. It should also be remembered that the Commemorative Stamp Bulletin for the final Olympic issue on 12th February, 1988 was circulated at the same time as the Cancellation Program. This shows the First Day cancel in the style 88-02-12.

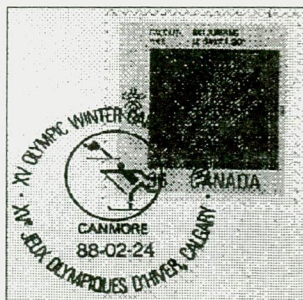


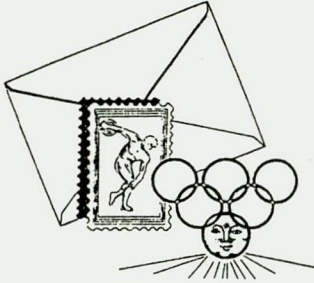
It seems logical that anyone attempting to reproduce the event cancels (without a genuine example to work from), would by use of the information available from the Canada Post brochures arrive at the date style: 88-02-19

The cancel from the covers mentioned display the date in this predictable style.

The reason for production would appear to be the obvious reason of commercial gain.

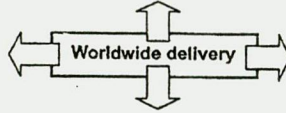
Now check your copies of other cancels from 'subscription' type collections - how often do they vary from examples known as genuine or illustrated in Winterheimer?





OLYMPIC-GAMES FOOTBALL (SOCCER) SPORTS

- classic till today -



stamps /blocs/souvenir-sheets/**/*/☉/✉ ♦ proofs ♦ epreuve
de luxe ♦ cards ♦ letters ♦ first day covers ♦ postmarks ♦
cancellations ♦ postal stationery ♦ books ♦ autographs ♦
tickets ♦ programs ♦ pins ♦ badges ♦ pressfotos ♦ coins ♦
medals and more special material

OUR STOCK HAS MORE THAN 50 000 ITEMS FROM
ATHENS OLYMPICS 1896 TO SYDNEY 2000

pricelists (8 a year with aprox. 100 pages / some illustrations)
auction catalogues (mail bidding) 4 a year (every lot is illustrated)

Please pay for postage / For interested clients from:

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(in cash DM 5.00 or £ 2,00 or US \$ 4.00)

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(in cash DM 10.00 or US \$ 7.00)

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e-mail: Heiko.Volk@t-online.de



REVIEW OF MAGAZINES WITH OLYMPIC INTEREST

David Buxton

Journal of Sports Philately

Magazine of Sports Philatelists International, Volume 36, Issue No. 4.

The leading article researches Machine Cancels, Handcancels and Registration Labels from the 1920 Antwerp Olympic Games and pays particular attention to the various faults, errors and varieties. The article is well illustrated with examples from the ten different machine slogan cancels and concludes that there are about 400 pieces of registered mail sent from the Stadium post office. Other articles with an Olympic theme cover the 1972 Olympic men's Basketball Final, the end of the Ancient Olympics, material available for Sydney 2000, a follow up on the article on Dietrich Eckart and Leni Riefenstahl (1936 Berlin), and an update on 2002 Salt Lake City.

*Available from Margaret A. Jones, 5310 Lindenwood Avenue,
St. Louis, MO 63109, U.S.A.*

Phila-Sport

Magazine of the Union Italian Philatelic & Sport. Numbers 24 and 25.

Issue Number 24 covers the 106th Session of the I.O.C. held at Lausanne last September, when the 2004 Olympics were awarded to Athens, and the 1925 Olympic Congress. Other articles cover Volleyball, Cycling and Ice Skating Philatelic Artwork - all cover a far wider theme than just the Olympics.

Issue Number 25 has as its leading article the 1997 Sport Philatelic Show in Verona. Telephone cards from 1992 Albertville, Identifying Forged Stamps of 1896 Athens, World Short Track Speed Skating Championships, and the second part of Ice Skating Philatelic Artwork complete the line-up.

The magazines are well illustrated, with a middle pull out section devoted to Olympians on stamps, with most items illustrated - these pull-outs build into an A5 reference work. Most issues also contain complimentary artist drawn postcards.

*Available from Bruno Tassoni, Via dei Monti Tiburtini, 600,
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**Reviewers are always needed for magazines in the following languages:
French, German, Spanish - and of course David would willingly give any
volunteers their chance to review the English language magazines.**

NAGANO '98 - Czech Republic Postal Material

Jaroslav Petrasek

Members of the Czech Olympic team for Nagano 1998 did not set out for Japan with an exaggerated idea of their possible successes. The outcome of their performances were however very satisfying for both the Czech public and the team, particularly after the failure to gain any medal in Lillehammer. In Nagano, three medals were obtained, and amongst them was perhaps the medal regarded as the major prize by sports spectators, namely the gold medal from the ice hockey tournament. Long before the Olympic Winter Games opened in Nagano, this tournament had been dubbed the "Tournament of the Century" because of the inclusion for the first time of the Canadian - American NHL players. This allowed nations to field their strongest and most talented teams, but because of the multi-national nature of individual players taking part in the NHL, the advantage did not rest solely with the North American nations. A similar situation in Barcelona with the basketball competition had led to domination by the "Dream Team", leaving others to compete for 'the best of the rest'.

Many expected a similar situation at Nagano, expecting a North American victory, without fully considering the impact of foreign players in the NHL. The team of the Czech Republic, that had been overlooked by many, was able to include the best goaltender of recent years, Dominik Hasek, fellow superstar, Jaromir Jagr, a further ten professionals from the NHL, and further talent from the Czech national league. Under the supervision of the pair of respected coaches, Ivan Hlinka and J. Lener, this team *{pardon my national pride}*, 'wiped out' the American and Canadian challenge. The enthusiasm, aggressiveness and commitment of the team defeated in turn Finland, USA, Canada, and finally, the cherry on the cake (for long standing political reasons), Russia.

Only the passage of time will determine the full impact of this tournament and the success of the Czech team. Celebrations were held in the streets of many Czech towns following the results of the last three matches, and the homecoming of the gold medallists in Prague was the catalyst for further celebration. More than 150,000 enthusiastic citizens gathered at the Old Town Square, arriving in the early afternoon, and staying to after midnight. The team arrived to a greeting crowd at the airport, travelled to the residence of Wenceslas Havel, President of the Republic, and then finally to the tumultuous applause of the crowds at 'The Square'.

I could dwell on these events and celebrations, but let us consider the recent material available to philatelists to commemorate the Czech participation in Nagano (and previous Winter Olympiades).



Fig 1

First Day of Issue postmark

On 20 January 1998, a single stamp, value 7.- Kc, with associated First Day Cover and special commemorative postmark was issued. (Fig. 1)

Machine postmark

On the opening day of the Games, a machine postmark was used at the **Prague 6** post office. The illustration shows Katherine Neumann competing in a cross-country event at the Lillehammer Olympic Winter Games. (Fig. 2)



Fig 2

Meter cancellations

One year before the Games on 7 February 1997, OLYMPSPORT introduced a new die on their franking machine. The design shows Helen Sikolova, bronze medallist in the 5km cross-country at the Olympic Winter Games, Sapporo, and commemorates the 25th anniversary of her achievement and the countdown of one year to Nagano. (Fig. 3)

Fig 3



The same anniversary, but with an ice hockey theme was commemorated by the die introduced on 5 November 1997 into the franking machine of the Czech Olympic Committee. The design shows Francis Pospisil, captain of the ice hockey team who secured a bronze medal in Sapporo. (Fig. 4)

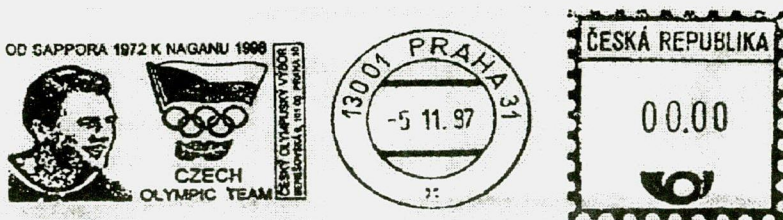
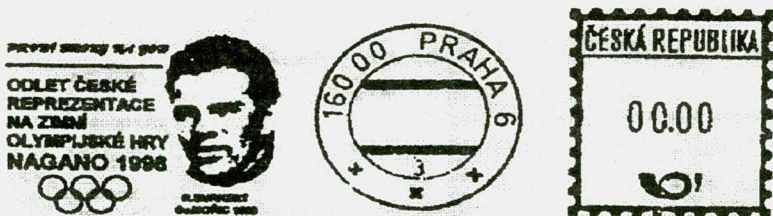


Fig 4

To celebrate the departure of the majority of the members of the Czech team on 30 January 1998, the post office at Prague 6 used a meter. The selected design commemorates the first Czech medal at a celebration of the Olympic Winter Games - the bronze medal of Rudolf Burkert for ski-jump at St. Moritz in 1928. (Fig. 5)

Fig 5



The first medal won by the Czech team at the Nagano Games was marked by a meter mark from Prague 6. This was prepared from the die of the machine postmark as the medal was secured by Catherine Neumann for 5 km cross-country. The meter entered use on 11 February 1998. (Fig 6)

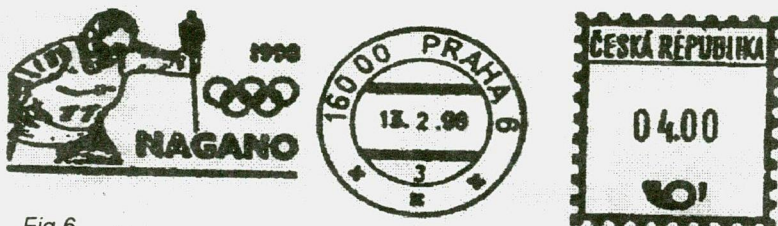


Fig 6

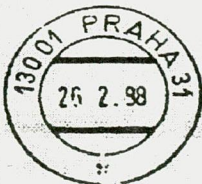
Following the victory in the ice hockey tournament, Prague 6 post office introduced a new die for their meter 'GOLD', with a stylized ice hockey player. The meter was used from 22 - 25 February 1998. (Fig 7)



Fig 7

From 25 February 1998, the Czech Olympic Committee has utilised a new die in their franking machine, illustrated with stylised Nagano medal and the text 'From success in Nagano on to Sydney! / gold / ice hockey / silver and bronze / Catherine Neumann'. (Fig 8)

Fig 8



OLYMPSPORT also introduced a new die to their franking machine on 25 February 1998. The illustration depicts Dominik Hasek, with the text 'Hasek's Ice Hockey Tournament of the Century'. (Fig 9)

Fig 9



The foregoing postmarks and meters provide the collector with the opportunity to illustrate the Czech involvement at the Nagano Olympic Winter Games. A further significant date can also be represented by a postal stationery card overprinted with the emblem of the Czech Olympic team, a number of these cards were carried as mail on the 30 January 1998 on the flight that transported the majority of the Czech team members from Prague.

Genuinely flown items received a rubber cachet in black. (Fig 10)



Fig 10

Czech Post have not ignored the ice hockey success, and the final piece of the Nagano story was issued on 1 April 1998. A miniature sheet, value 23.- Kc, showing a goaltender expressing his elation on winning the final. A special cancellation was also available.

The Society would like to produce a souvenir for the Olympic Summer Games, 2000 - Sydney. We have produced a number of post cards to commemorate Olympic events, from designs selected within the committee.

Ideas and suggestions are invited for the publication of a card during Autumn 1999.

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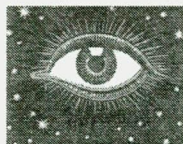


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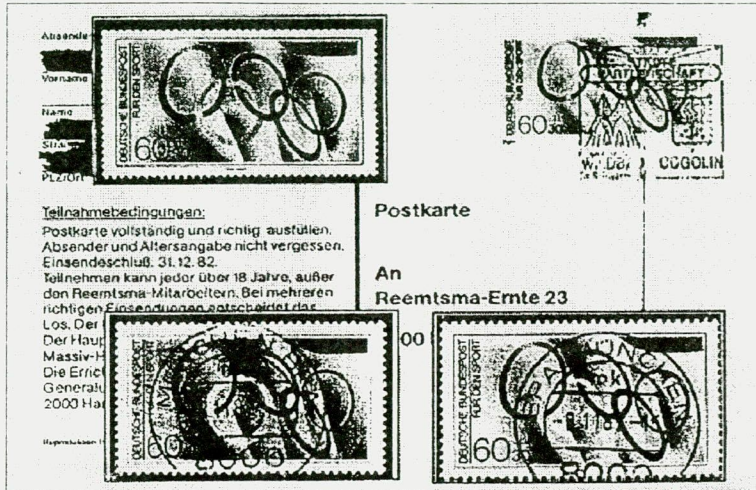
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The 'Gscheidle Error' - Moscow 1980.

Karl Heimann, Illustrations by Phil*Creativ-Archiv.

This article first appeared in *Philatelie und Postgeschichte* 176 / November 1997, as *Der 'Gscheidle-Irrtum'. Die wundersame Geschichte einer Marke, die es eigentlich nicht geben durfte.* [The 'Gscheidle Error'. The Wonderful Tale of a Stamp which really ought not to exist.]



The Origins It turned up for the first time barely fifteen years ago, this beloved stamp - also known with certain malicious irony as the 'Gscheidle Error' - the **'Fur den Sport'** stamp with face value of 60Pf + 40Pf, intended for issue in 1980 on the occasion of the Olympic Games in Moscow. Many Western countries, including Germany boycotted these Games because of the attack by the Soviet Union on Afghanistan. The stamp could not therefore be issued by the German Federal Post Office. It was withdrawn and destroyed. Unfortunately, this was not the fate of all the copies - a few did survive.

The existence of surviving copies has been attributed to Herr Gscheidle, who was at that time the Post Office Minister. According to statements circulated, at least one **'Specimen sheet'** had been passed to him. The Post Office were apparently able to retrieve all other copies of the stamp issued *'for inspection purposes'*, however it seems remarkable that they failed to do so in the case of their own most senior official, namely the Minister. The stamps laid unknown in the drawer of this gentleman's writing desk according to his own statement. This should appear as a

quite reasonable and understandable explanation, and the situation could possibly reoccur, as Ministers are known to be very busy people who do not always pay adequate attention to such trivia as constantly clearing out the drawers of their writing desks.

In 1982 changes took place, the Minister withdrew to private life, together with his writing desk (and therefore the stamps). Popular accounts suggest that his wife then took possession of the stamps. In fulfilling her role of thrifty housewife, and an addict of prize puzzles which were numerous at that time - and seemed to add a legal means of improving the stingy ministerial pension, she searched (from what one hears) her husband's writing desk. The ex-minister did not in fact use the writing desk to conceal the unspent portion of his pension (as is reported to have been the case ten years later in the case of his colleague Jansen from the Far North), however the search did reveal something of use. The unissued Olympic stamps 'smiled temptingly' at Mrs Gscheidle. In ignorance (??) of the fact that they were not really stamps at all, a number were hastily stuck onto competition entry cards.

To this day we do not know how many copies of the stamp survived in this way. I have however recorded the gradual appearance of twenty-two copies since 1983 from the one (??) sheet. I personally have photographic proof of twenty-one of these; one is supposed to have survived unused, but the available illustration may have come from a different source. The current 'finds' include:

- Ten loose stamps with postmarks;
- Five stamps on piece with additional franking (20Pf values from the 'Industry' or 'Buildings' sets - Michel 848 or 995);
- One postcard, and one letter, with the 20Pf of the 'Buildings' set as additional franking;
- One piece with three of these stamps plus a 50Pf 'Für die Jugend' (Michel 1041) and a 20Pf 'Buildings'.

All have these have been entered in my card index (see Table 1).

It has not been established how many stamps the Minister's wife used to submit prize puzzle entries, nor is it of prime importance. Nevertheless, is it not miraculous that so many stamps from only the one single sheet have surfaced, in good condition, and found their way to auction houses? Mrs Gscheidle must also have taken the stamps with her on her travels, or perhaps, given them to her son if the evidence of postmarks is to be believed.

Seven items (including the strip of three) were cancelled with the datestamp of the post office at Wildbach in the Black Forest, the cancel close to the family residence. This includes four single stamps with 21:12:83 - 12 date.

Another two show only partial strikes of the datestamp - the date cannot be determined.

Four were cancelled at the BPA Munchen "me" and "mk" on 6:11:82, 8:11:82, 5:12:82, and 24:1:83, here too another copy exists that shows only a partial cancel Two show the cancel "Munchen BPA mk" of 8:11:82 - 15, and 15:12:82 - 19.

One was cancelled in Mannheim 2 with the datestamp me 28:7:92 -18.

One was cancelled in Saarbrucken with the datestamp 1 m(?) 10:2:83 - 20.

The last example shows a barred cancellation.

The only known postcard has not been struck by the datestamp, therefore only the slogan appears.

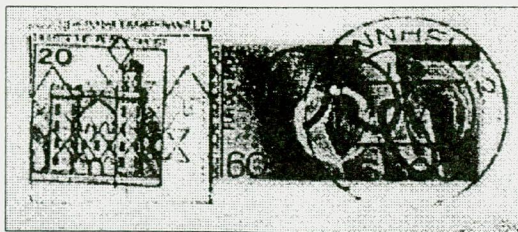
I do not have any illustration of the remaining used copy, and the final copy is mint.

Dealers have supposedly advertised for mint copies, but the degree of their success is unreported. Further mint copies have not turned up so far, but the 'bush telegraph' indicates the possibility of one sheet supposedly in the

vaults of a Swiss dealer, which will not come onto the market until thirty years have elapsed, so that the demands of the German Federal Post Office or its successor for the return of the stamps will no longer be enforceable. Time will reveal whether this is fact or rumour. In the meantime, the Post Office have given notice that they will enforce their property rights if mint stamps appear. It has been reported that the ex-Minister has settled with the Post Office for the face-value of the stamps, in order to clear up this 'distressing incident'.

The Finders After the prize puzzle cards franked with these stamps had fulfilled their purpose (there have not been any reports of winning entries from Mrs Gscheidle), they were consigned to the refuse reclamation process, known in the new Germany as recycling. At this stage a second miracle occurred; the finders

were, reportedly all either elderly pensioners or young students, attempting to supplement their income and improve their standard of living by preparing bundles of kiloware; or other members of these social groups who were the lucky buyers of such kiloware.



The details given by the auction company commissioned for the sale of the first copy to be offered on the market give a pensioner as the vendor: *"A fifty- four year old pensioner. . . has become richer by DM 40,000 because the wife of the former Minister of the Federal Post Office made a mistake. . . The pensioner, who gets the stamps from a local firm's business mail, which would otherwise be thrown away, discovered the valuable item because it 'did not fit into any of the sets in his collection' (!!!)".*

That was in 1983. Later, after the next discovery, information was released suggesting that the lucky finder was a student who found his 'treasure' by checking thoroughly the kiloware packet that he had bought. Exactly ten years later the press again reported. . "The dream of every kiloware buyer has come true for a Swede - he found the unissued 1980 Olympics stamp in such a packet". This time it was a Swedish firm offering a further copy of this gem of modern German philately. In the intervening period, other copies of this rarity turned up at a number of auctions, some found purchasers, and others were withdrawn. In both 1983 and 1984 four copies came to light; in 1985 there were only two (which were offered in five auctions). In both 1986 and 1987 there were two finds involving three auction houses in 1987. In 1988, 1991, 1992 and 1993 one new example surfaced each year. The 'crowning glory', and the last find considered by this article - was the fragment with three stamps. The auctioneer described it thus: "We received this sensational item from a seventy-five year old collector in Bad Honnef For more than thirteen years this piece lay in his collection, after he had personally cut it from a letter which had been sent by Gscheidle's sister to Bad Honnef, where there were family contacts since Gscheidle had his official residence for Bonn there". The philatelic press also reported that student friends of Gscheidle junior were amongst the lucky finders. Gscheidle junior is said to have addressed items to them with the stamps cancelled in Munich.

Since 1995 things have quietened down. I have not seen reports of any new items, but this means very little. A new kiloware packet, may reveal a copy at any time, or perhaps a pensioner will part with a treasure that he has been guarding for more than ten years - and of course a new anonymous source from some other group may reveal a further rarity. It is quite possible that more copies may appear - keep on the lookout!!!

"The moral of this tale?". Many collectors are wondering whether this whole affair has been above board, or whether irregularities have been taking place. Some collectors will no doubt reflect on the many 'chances' involved in the survival of so many letters despatched to a great variety of destinations, and the fact that they eventually arrived in the hands of 'the right {deserving?} people', leading to deep suspicion of the published reports. Twenty-two stamps "discovered" from the one single sheet (!), is that not a very high detection and survival rate?

I have even heard the suggestion that the whole affair has been an organised

swindle; that after suitable cancellations had been applied the stamps were immediately handed back to 'sender', and that he or she then fed them into the philatelic trade. For me, unless proof to the contrary emerges, these must remain unproven assertions, and it is in this form that I pass them on. Similarly, I cannot offer any proof that the finders really were pensioners or students, or that the stamps were found in kiloware. Whether any stamps remained in the possession of the Minister's family, and if so, how many, is not known - however there have not been any reports of any remaining stocks being returned to the Post Office from the Minister's residence after the affair became public.

It should also be clear to all collectors that we are not actually dealing with postage stamps. This is clear from the definitions of philatelic terms printed in *"Philatelie und Postgeschichte" 135/93* and the second edition *No. 170/97* of March 1997. Here it states after the term "postage stamp" has been clearly defined, ***"The Gscheidle stamp is not a postage stamp since it was never valid for the franking of letters"***. Elsewhere it also states that a specimen stamp is not a postage stamp, valid for franking. The regulations for certification of the Association of Philatelic Examiners (BPP) state in Section 4:1 ***"Objects for certification can only be postage stamps or other postal material. Other submissions must not be signed or attested, insofar as no exceptions are expressly listed in the certification regulations for certain areas"***.

The fact that almost every single Gscheidle item has been examined, signed or as the case may be provided with a certificate by an examiner belonging to the BPP, is evident from the auctioneers' descriptions of the lots. The BPP, when approached on the matter of the contradiction between the definition of a postage stamp and the certification regulations on the one hand, and the certification that has taken place on the other hand, answered: ***". . . on the subject of the 'Gscheidle Stamp' I would like to inform you that, in the opinion of the BPP committee, it is a question of an unissued specimen stamp which is also being verified for the future as forgeries of it do exist. The certification regulations do not forbid the certification of specimen stamps if these are to be recognised unambiguously as such"***. In my opinion this reply is a gross contradiction of the certification regulations, for nowhere have I found an exceptional clause for specimen stamps which would allow the verification.

In my opinion the BPP has acted inconsistently in this matter. In practice it means that only postage stamps are (or may be) certified on the one hand, but in fact the same applies to non-postage stamps.

We can therefore arrive at the following conclusion - non-postage stamps which can be recognised as such are certificated like genuine postage stamps for four

percent of their sale price, insofar as these non-postage have not been forged. Is everything clear? Fortunately this crazy game is of no interest for ninety-nine percent of all collectors. It is of importance for the examiner or examiners {*expertisers*}, the auctioneers, and those few people with funds to spare for a "non-postage stamp".

No.	Cond.	Postmark / Date	Date reported	Auction	Reserve DM	Sale DM
1	⊙				25,000	40,000
2	⊙	Wildbad / Schwz. 21.12.82-13	Oct-83	162 Mohrmann	25,000	20,000
3					25,000	74,000
4	⊙	?	End-83	Offer: Fischer	17,500	
5						
6	⊙	Wildbad / unclear	Jan-84	Schoffler Jakubek	20,000 25,000	18,000 ?
7					18,000	30,000
8	**		Mar-84	Michel Rnd.	-	-
9					16,000	19,500
10	⊙	As No. 2	May-85 Oct-85 Dec-85	Rapp Auction Jakubek 36 Felzmann	7,500 24,000 24,000	19500 -- ?
11					12,000	18,500
12	⊠	BPA Munchen me 3.12.82	1986 Oct-93	251 Kohler HBA	18,000 50,000	37,000 68,000
13						
14	⊙	Munchen BPA mk 6.11.82	Feb-86 Mar-87	250 Kohler HBA	15,000 32,000	20,000 ?
15						
16	△	Saarbroken 1	Mar-91	117 Mohrmann	10,000	22,000
17						
18		BPA Munchen mk 8.11.81	Mar-93	Postiljonen	15,000	42,000
19					30,000	26,000
20	△	Wildbad 2 15.6.82	Dec-95	106 Dr. Derichs	50,000	--

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	No. 94 4 Parts	180 gr
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Journal of Sports Philately Vol 36, No 2, Nov-Dec 1997 The journal of Sports Philatelists International.		50 gr
A.B.P.S. News Vol 4, No 4, October 1997		60 gr
Themescene No 49, December 1997		60 gr
Olympic Review XXVI-17, October-November 1997		300 gr
Phila-Sport No 23 The journal of UIFOS, The Italian Sports Philatelic Group. <i>{Published in Italian}</i> .		180 gr
Podium Journal of the Argentinian Sports and Olympic group No 17, August 1997. <i>{Published in Spanish}</i> . No 18, October 1997. <i>{ditto}</i> .		60 gr 60 gr
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