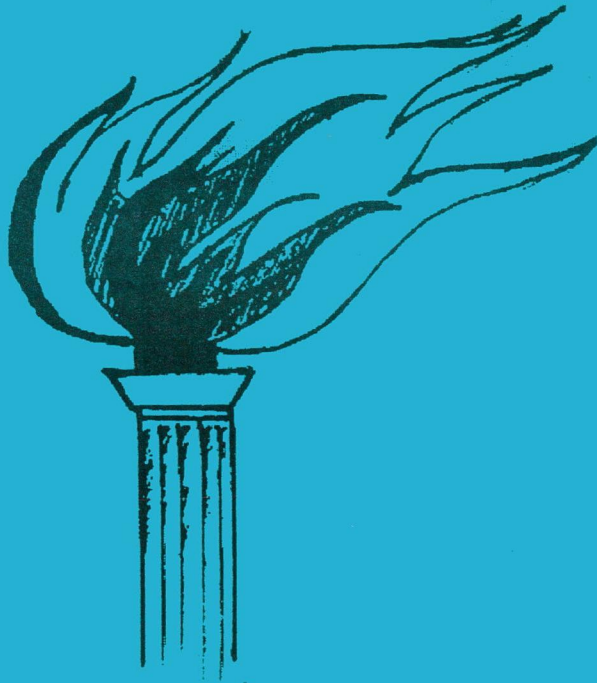


TORCH BEARER



SOCIETY of OLYMPIC COLLECTORS

SOCIETY OF OLYMPIC COLLECTORS

The representative of F.I.P.O. in Great Britain

PRESIDENT : Mrs Franceska Rapkin

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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.

CONTENTS

Front Page	2
News/Views From Members - Australia '99	3 5
News of our members - Colm Murphy	6
United States Olympic Games Issues	9
The Final Hurdle	16
Sydney 2000 - The Ink Group Postcards	20
Invitation to An Exhibition	26
Rapkin and Rutherford to be Honoured	27
A New Berlin 1936 Item ?	28
Buyer Beware! - Canadian Phonecards	31
Spanish Olympic Academy	34
Munich 72, Hockey - Who Am I ?	36
Sydney 2000 Covers	37
Olympic Issues - Commercial Usage	38
Ad's	46
Review of Magazines with Olympic Interest	47
Additions to the Society Library	48

As the winter draws to a close, remember the Society auction as a means of disposing of all that duplicated material you have sorted during the darker months!

As you look forward to lounging in the garden, compose an article for Torch Bearer.

FRONT PAGE

Another New Year, and another volume. No celebration of the Olympic Games during the year, but the Collectors Fair at the end of May, and important times for the Olympic Movement.

The award of the 2006 Olympic Winter Games during 1999, has been rather overshadowed by the larger debate surrounding the selection of host cities, and the alleged corruption involved in previous awards. I am sure that we have all had the opportunity to study press reports, and that most will have formed an opinion. It gladdens me that Torch Bearer is a humble collector's journal, and need not concentrate on political matters - although, it is important that we all ensure our awareness of events as they develop, you can never be sure of their future relevance to our hobby.

Two items have been raised by members since our last issue:

First, a request that we publish details of members e-mail addresses, and second some thoughts on ways in which we can all promote the Society to potential new members.

Both of these issues have been discussed by the committee, and we have decided to take some action in each case.

E-mail addresses are not requested on our current enrollment form, and as such they are not generally available (or known). The Society policy of maintaining confidentiality does not really conflict with publishing e-mail details because the location of the terminal involved is not disclosed. We have therefore decided that we will publish the details of a members e-mail address, but only on their request.

An area of Torch Bearer will be set aside to publish any new e-mail addresses in future, and the November issue will summarize all those published through the year.

To assist in promotion of the Society, a new hand-out, in the form of a single folded A4 sheet is under preparation. This will be available to interested members and at any table manned by the Society as an initial source of introduction / information for prospective members.

This issue of Torch Bearer will again reach you later than the cover date. In this instance, it is the result of a decision to avoid two closely spaced issues. We (I) should be back to our intended publication date by the May issue.

Exceptional workload, and some personal circumstances had to take precedence during the latter part of 1998. I hope that you will understand that those of us who volunteer services have to place our livelihood and families first on occasion.

NEWS / VIEWS FROM MEMBERS

Tom D'Arcy, who is becoming a very much appreciated regular from Australia, has provided a number of new items as well as an answer.

First the answer:

Bob Wilcock included an item from Ford in the review of Australian Olympic meters in the last issue.

Tom writes - " 1st February 1999. Today I spoke to Cameron Hook in charge of marketing for Ford at Campbellfield. He assured me that the meter cancel for Ford was a once only and was for the Australian Olympic Games Team at Atlanta. Ford still sponsors the Team - as against SOCOG which is sponsored by Holden (General Motors)".

Now for some new items:

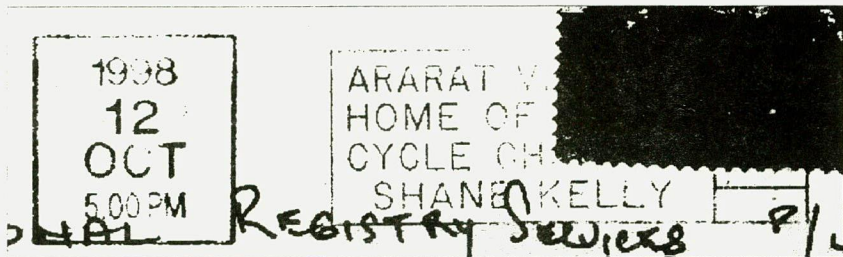
An Olympic handstamp will be used at Australia '99, the International Philatelic Exhibition on 'Olympic Day' 22nd March, 1999.

On the same day, at 10.30 an A\$1.20 stamp will be issued which shows the 1956 7½d. Olympic Torch stamp.



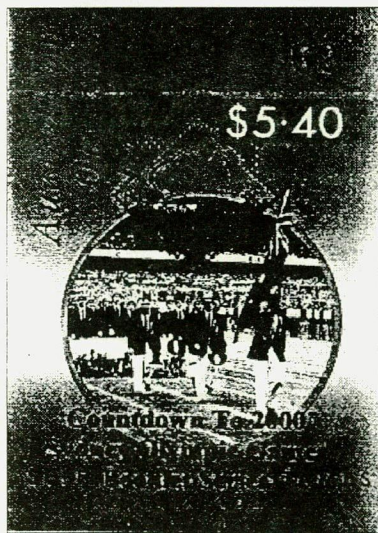
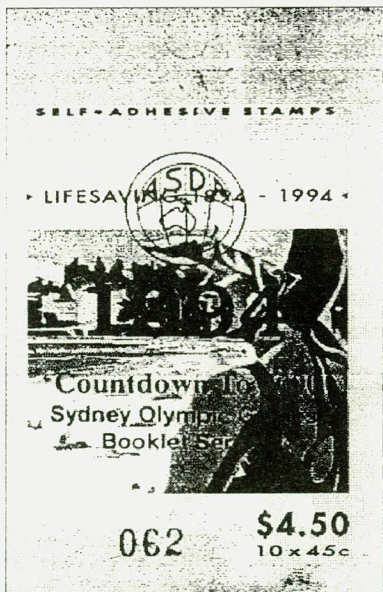
A number of Australian 'Olympic legends' will be attending on Olympic Day.

*I have also heard by e-mail from Robyn King of Australia Post that a further 'Olympic' event will take place at Australia '99 at 11.30 on the 22nd March - **"An announcement on Olymphilex"** - watch this space!*



The illustrated slogan postmark 'ARARAT VIC 3377 / HOME OF WORLD / CYCLE CHAMPION / SHANE KELLY' has seen recent use. Shane Kelly was the red hot favourite for the 1km Time Trial at Atlanta, as well as World Champion at the time. Unfortunately his foot slipped from a pedal.

Six stamp booklet folders have so far been overprinted "Countdown to 2000" Sydney Olympic Games. They are overprinted by APTA (previously ASDA), and there are two further booklets planned (one per year). Two of the booklets are illustrated below.



The booklets overprinted so far are:

- 1993 Railways;
- 1995 50th Anniversary of Peace;
- 1997 Classic Cars;

- 1994 Lifesaving Centenary;
- 1996 Australian Football;
- 1998 Olympic Legends.

A supplement was published by the Sydney Sun Herald, 10th January 1999, titled "613 days to go". One article was written by Penny Baker who is SOCOG's General Manager, marketing, consumer products.

66 manufacturers have been approved, offering some 3500 products. There are 24 Partners, 13 Supporters and 13 Providers. Tied in with Ansett Airlines are Air New Zealand, Lufthansa*, Malaysia Airlines*, South African Airways, Thai Airlines and United Airlines. All except those marked * are licensed to use the SOCOG logo.

Use of marques is very complex. Some companies can use the logo on anything. Some can use the logo on their letterhead and merchandise, but not on envelopes. Some companies only allow the use of the logo internally. AMP send out millions of envelopes with the logo, BHP uses the logo on newspaper advertisements.

Further information from Tom has been held for the May issue.



John Larmer forwarded the illustrated cover celebrating the **50th Anniversary of St Moritz**. Illustrations on the cover commemorate Canadian success at the Games in St Moritz - Barbara Ann Scott, figure skating; Suzanne Morrow and Wally Distelmeyer, pairs skating; the RCAF Flyers, ice hockey team.

The cancel reads: '1948-1998 / OLYMPIC GAMES - ST. MORITZ - JEUX OLYMPIQUES / CANADA POST . POSTES CANADA . OTTAWA ON' and is illustrated with a maple leaf.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

Only one response so far to the suggestion that we publish 'occasional features' on our members, in an effort to get to know each other - are we a Society with a very modest membership? Some of you out there must have something to be proud about! Why not share it through Torch Bearer?

The success of our member Colm Murphy at the First World Throwers Championships

The First World Throwers Championships were held during August 1998 in Tata, Hungary. Tata is the Hungarian Olympic Training Camp and the facilities there are first class. Several teams from various European Countries were using the facilities in final preparation for the European Track and Field Championships which were to be held at the Nep Stadium in Budapest.

No less than thirty five countries from around the world were represented at the World Throwers Championships; the largest teams came from South Africa, Germany, Poland, Russia, Switzerland, Austria, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Hungary. There were smaller teams from Australia, New Zealand and Canada. The South Africans were led by their top two hammer throwers who were expected to be amongst the medals at the 1998 Commonwealth Games.



Ireland was represented by Colm Murphy. This was Colm's second appearance at a Throwers Championship - he picked up two golds last year at the European Championships; in the Greek Discus and in the heavy hammer event. Colm is a regular on the athletics scene, competing for GEC Avionics of Rochester in England and for Eagle Track Club (Cork) in Ireland; indeed he was no sooner back from Hungary than competing at the Kent County Veteran Championships at Deangate where he won the M40 shot and discus. Colm currently resides in Kent, but is well known in athletic circles in Ireland, particularly in Cork where he was an officer on the County Board for a number of years. Colm was accompanied on his trip to Tata by his wife Catherine who also contested a number of events.

The Throwers Championships comprise a number of throwing events held over five days; as well as the better known throwing events such as javelin, hammer, discus and shot there are other lesser known events, many of which are thrown at the Highland Games in Scotland. The 56lbs weight for height and distance being an example. The 35lbs heavy hammer is frequently thrown at athletic meetings in England and elsewhere in the World, in particular as an indoor event. Other events on the programme include putting the 35lbs weight, sling throw - a 10lbs weight attached to a two foot length of leather and thrown discus style, and various putting and throwing weights from 7lbs through to 42lbs. In addition there is the Greek Discus - a 5kg discus thrown from a stand. Many of these events are former Olympic events and feature on the National Championship programmes of countries in Central Europe - Germany, Austria, Switzerland and of Eastern Europe - Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Russia so the strongest contenders usually come from these countries.

The Championships were divided into age categories - ranging from senior men through the many veteran age categories - both for men and women. Colm competes in the M40 category for athletes in the 40/44 age group.

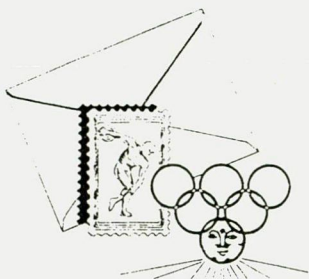
In all there were some five hundred athletes contesting the various events with no less than three of the track facilities being used during the competition. Temperatures were excessive but did not discourage the athletes from ensuring that many good distances were recorded.

After placing fourth in two events - the Greek Discus and the Heavy Hammer, Colm was pleased to place third in the Sling Ball. His effort of 49.86m was just a metre short of the winner Terseus Liebenberg of South Africa.

There was then better fortune for Colm, a silver in the Shotorama (a series of standing shot putts at various weights with the best mark with each weight being totaled for a final tally). Colm was runner up to the local, popular winner, Hungarian Tibor Fehely. The shot weights ranged from 12lbs, 14lbs, 16lbs, 25lbs and 35lbs. The 35lbs weight throw followed, and Colm ensured victory against the strong opposition of the Hungarians with a hefty heave of 8.07 metres. The world best is some five feet (1.50m) further and Colm has this in his sights - to be broken within the next two years. The 35lbs weight throw is from a run up with the athlete releasing the weight from the shoulder, whilst remaining behind the board marking the release point.

Colm's final tally was an individual set of Gold, Silver and Bronze medals. Colm will again be flying the flag at the Europeans at Tata in August '99.

Colm notes "Hungary prevented some work on my Stampex entry 'Of Whales and Dolphins - The Irish at the Olympic Games' which was awarded a silver/bronze".



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UNITED STATES OLYMPIC GAMES ISSUES

The following **Specialised Checklist of Olympic Games Issues** together with checklists for issues relating to each celebration of the Olympic Summer or Winter Games is available at the website of **The Stamp of an Olympian** <http://www.webpres.com/stamps/info>, our member Stephen Tosti who trades as The Stamp of an Olympian has given permission for publication of this listing.

Scott Catalogue #	Gibbons Catalogue #	Issue Date	Event	Format
716	716	25.01.32	III Olympic Winter Games	Single stamp
716	716			Plate Block of six
716 var				"Snowball" variety
716	716			FDC - Lake Placid, NY
716	716	26.01.32		FDC - Washington, D.C.
716P				Die Proof - Large Die, India
716P				Die Proof - Large Die, White Wove
716P				Die Proof - Small Die, White or Yellowish Wove
718	718	15.06.32	X Olympic Games	Single stamp
718	718			Plate Block of four
718	718			FDC - Los Angeles, CA
718	718			FDC - Washington, D.C.
		1996		Souvenir Card 149 - Issued at Olympiex '96
718a-E1				Essay - Drawing on Thick Artist Card, Red
719a-E1				Essay - Drawing on Thick Artist Card, Blue
718P				Die Proof - Large Die, India
718P				Die Proof - Large Die, White Wove
718P				Die Proof - Small Die, White or Yellowish Wove
718TC				Trial Colour Proof - Carmine
719	719	15.06.32	X Olympic Games	Single stamp
719	719			Plate Block of four
719	719			FDC - Los Angeles, CA
719	719			FDC - Washington, D.C.
719P				Die Proof - Large Die, India
719P				Die Proof - Large Die, White Wove
719P				Die Proof - Small Die, White or Yellowish Wove

Scott Catalogue #	Gibbons Catalogue #	Issue Date	Event	Format
718-9	718-9	15.06.32	X Olympic Games	FDC - Los Angeles, CA
718-9	718-9			FDC - Washington, D.C.
				Souvenir Card 89 - Philatelic Show '83
1146	1145	18.02.60	VIII Olympic Winter Games	Single stamp
1146	1145			Plate Block of four
1146	1145			FDC - Olympic Valley, CA
				Souvenir Page 20
1460-2, C85	1464-66 A1467	17.08.72	XI Olympic Winter Games XX Olympic Games	Single stamps
ditto	ditto			Plate Blocks of ten
ditto	ditto			Souvenir Page 310
ditto	ditto			Souvenir Card 21 - Olympia Philatelie Munchen '72
ditto	ditto			FDC - Washington, DC
1460	1464var			"Broken Red Ring" variety
1461a	1465var			Tagging Omitted
1695-98	1672-75	16.07.76	XII Olympic Winter Games	Single stamps
1695-98	1675a		XXI Olympic Games	Plate Blocks of twelve
1695-98	1675a			Se-tenant Block of four
1695-98	1675a			Souvenir Page 419
1695-98	1675a			FDC - Lake Placid, NY
1698b				Imperforate Block of four
1790	1764	05.09.79	XXII Olympic Games	Single stamp
1790	1764			Plate Block of twelve
1790	1764			Zip Block of four
1790	1764			Souvenir Page 472
1790	1764			FDC - Olympia, WA
UX80		17.09.79	XXII Olympic Games	Postal Cards
UX80				FDC - Eugene, OR
1791-4	1765-68	28.09.79	XXII Olympic Games	Single stamps
1794a	1768a			Plate Block of twelve
1794a	1768a			Zip Block of four
1794a	1768a			Block of four
1794a	1768a			Souvenir Page 473
1794a	1768a			FDC - Los Angeles, CA
1794b				Imperforate Block of four
116CP		1979		Commemorative Panel of #1794a
C97	1769	01.11.79	XXII Olympic Games	Single stamp
C97	1769			Plate Block of twelve
C97	1769			Zip Block of four
C97	1769			Souvenir Page 474
C97	1769			FDC - Colorado Springs, CO

Scott Catalogue #	Gibbons Catalogue #	Issue Date	Event	Format
121CP		1979		Commemorative Panel of #1790, C97
UXC18		01.12.79	XXII Olympic Games	Postal Card, 21c rate
UXC18				FDC - Fort Worth, TX
UC52		05.12.79	XXII Olympic Games	Letter Sheet
UC52				FDC - Bay Shore, NY
U596		10.12.79	XXII Olympic Games	Stamped Envelope
U596				FDC - East Rutherford, NJ
U596a				Red & Green omitted, Untagged
U596b				Black omitted, Untagged
U596c				Black & Green omitted, Untagged
U596d				Red omitted, Untagged
UX82		15.01.80	XIII Olympic Winter Games	Postal Card, International use
UX82				FDC - Atlanta, GA
1795-8	1778-81	01.02.80	XIII Olympic Winter Games	Single stamps
1798b	1781a			Plate Blocks of twelve
1798b	1781a			Zip Block of four
1798b	1781a			Copyright Block of four
1798b	1781a			Plate Block of 20, 6#, Zip & Copyright
122CP	1781a			Commemorative Panel of # 1798b
1798b	1781a			Block of four
1795a-8a	1778-81			Single stamps
1798c	1781a			Plate Block of twelve, 6 #
1798c	1781a			Plate Block of 20, 6#, Zip & Copyright
1798c	1781a			Souvenir Page 475
1798c	1781a			FDC - Lake Placid, NY
1798c	1781a			Block of four
C101-04		17.06.83	XXIII Olympic Games	Single stamps
C101-04				Block of four
C101-04				Plate Block of four
C101-04				Zip Block of four
C101-04				Souvenir Page 621
C101-04				FDC - San Antonio, TX
194CP				Commemorative Panel of # C104a
C104b				Imperforate Block of four
C105-08		08.04.83	XXIII Olympic Games	Single stamps
C108a				Souvenir Page 622
C105-08				FDC - Los Angeles, CA
C108b				Block of four
C108b				Plate Block of four
C108b				Zip Block of four
195CP				Commemorative Panel of #C108b

Scott Catalogue #	Gibbons Catalogue #	Issue Date	Event	Format
C105a-8a		08.04.83	XXIII Olympic Games	Single stamps
C106, + Switz 746				Souvenir Card 102, Issued at Olympheilex '85
C108c				Block of four
C108c				Plate Block of four
C108d				Imperforate Block of four
C109-12		04.11.83	XXIII Olympic Games	Single stamps
C112a				Block of four
C112a				Plate Block of four
C112a				Zip Block of four
C112a				Souvenir Page 623
C112a				FDC - Colorado Springs, CO
196CP				Commemorative Panel of C112a
2048-51		28.07.83	XXIII Olympic Games	Single stamps
2051a				Plate Block of four
2051a				Zip Block of four
2051a				Block of four
2051a				Souvenir Page 620
2051a				FDC - South Bend, IN
193CP				Commemorative Panel of 2051a
UX100		03.08.83	XXIII Olympic Games	Postal Card, 13c rate
UX100				FDC - Long Beach, CA
UX100a				Black, Yellow & Red omitted
UC57		14.10.83	XXIII Olympic Games	Letter Sheet
UC57				FDC - Los Angeles, CA
UC57var				Die Cutting reversed
UXC21		29.12.83	XXIII Olympic Games	Postal Card, 28c rate
UXC21				FDC - Milwaukee, WI
2067-70		06.01.84	XIV Olympic Winter Games	Single stamps
2070a				Plate Block of four
2070a				Zip Block of four
2070a				Block of four
2070a				Souvenir Page 633
2070a				FDC - Lake Placid, NY
206CP				Commemorative Panel Of 2070a
UX102		30.04.84	XXIII Olympic Games	Postal Card, 13c rate
UX102				FDC - Los Angeles, CA
UX102a				Black & Yellow Inverted
2082-5		04.05.84	XXIII Olympic Games	Single stamps
2085a				Plate Block of four
2085a				Zip Block of four
2085a				Block of four

Scott Catalogue #	Gibbons Catalogue #	Issue Date	Event	Format
2085a		04.05.84		Souvenir Page 643
2085a				FDC - Los Angeles, CA
215CP				Commemorative Panel of 2085a
2369		10.01.88	XV Olympic Winter Games	Single stamp
2369				Plate Block of four
2369				Zip Block of four
2369				Souvenir Page 822
2369				FDC - Anchorage, AK
309CP				Commemorative Panel of 2369
2380		19.08.88	XXIV Olympic Games	Single stamp
2380				Plate Block of four
2380				Zip Block of four
2380				Souvenir Page 833
2380				FDC - Anchorage, AK
317CP				Commemorative Panel of 2380
2496-00		06.07.90		Single stamps
2500a				Plate block of ten
2500a				Zip, Inscription Block of ten
2500a				Souvenir Page 919
2500a				Strip of five
2500a				FDC - Minneapolis, MN
352CP				Commemorative Panel of 2500a
2528		21.04.91		Single stamp
2528				FDC - Atlanta, GA
2528a				Booklet Pane of ten
2528				Souvenir Page 938
2528b				Booklet Pane of ten, Horizontal Imperforate between.
BK186				Booklet of ten, Black & Multicoloured
BK186A				Booklet of ten, Red & Multicoloured
2539		29.09.91	USPS Eagle and Olympic	Single stamp
2539			Rings (Official Sponsor of	Plate Block of four
2539			the 1992 U.S. Olympic	Pane of twenty
2539			Team)	Souvenir Page 951
2539				FDC - Orlando, FL
2540		07.07.91		Single stamp
2540				Plate Block of four
2540				Pane of twenty
2540				Souvenir Page 952
2540				FDC - San Diego, CA
2540b				Vertical Pair, Imperforate horizontally

Scott Catalogue #	Gibbons Catalogue #	Issue Date	Event	Format
2541		16.06.91		Single stamp
2541				Plate Block of four
2541				Pane of twenty
2541				Two-eyed Eagle
2541				Souvenir Page 953
2541				FDC - Sacramento, CA
2542		31.08.91		Single stamp
2542				Plate Block of four
2542				Pane of twenty
2542				Souvenir Page 954
2542				FDC - Hunt Valley, MD
2542a				Red omitted
2553-7		12.07.91	XXV Olympic Games	Single stamps
2557a				Plate block of ten
2557a				Zip Block of ten
2557a				Souvenir Page 961
2557a				Strip of five
2557a				FDC - Los Angeles, CA
368CP				Commemorative Panel of 2557a
2611-15		11.01.92	XVI Olympic Winter Games	Single stamps
2615a				Plate block of ten
2615a				Zip, Copyright Block of fifteen
2615a				Souvenir Page 997
2615a				Strip of five
2615a				FDC - Orlando, FL
378CP				Commemorative Panel of 2615a
2619		03.04.92		Single stamp
2619				Plate Block of four
2619				Zip Block of four
2619				Souvenir Page 1001
2619				FDC - Atlanta, GA
382CP				Commemorative Panel of 2619
2637-41		11.06.92	XXV Olympic Games	Single stamps
2641a				Plate block of ten
2641a				Zip, Copyright Block of fifteen
2641a				Souvenir Page 1013
2641a				Strip of five
2641a				FDC - Baltimore, MD
391CP				Commemorative Panel of 2641a
2807-11		06.01.94		Single stamps
2811a				Horizontal Plate Block of ten, 2 sets of four + Pair and Inscriptions

Scott Catalogue #	Gibbons Catalogue #	Issue Date	Event	Format
2811a		06.01.94		Horizontal Plate Block of ten, 2 sets of four + Pair
2811a				Pane of twenty
2811a				Strip of five
2811a				Souvenir Page 1058
2811a				FDC - Salt Lake City, UT
431CP				Commemorative Panel of # 2807-2811
3068		02.05.96	XXVI Olympic Games	Pane of twenty
3068				Sheet of 120 (Six Panes)
3068				Souvenir Page 1204
3068				FDC - Washington, DC
487CP				Commemorative Panel of 3068
3068u				Imperforate Pane of twenty
3068v				Back Inscriptions omitted on a, f, k, p, Incorrect Back Inscriptions on others
UX242 - UX281		02.05.96	XXVI Olympic Games	Postal Cards
ditto				FDC - Washington, DC
UX246a				Inverted Impression of Entire Address Side, Men's Cycling on Reverse
UX261a				Booklet of twenty Postal Cards
3087		19.07.96	XXVI Olympic Games	Single Stamp
3087				Plate Block of four
3087				Pane of twenty
3087				Souvenir Page 1212
3087				FDC - Atlanta, GA
496CP				Commemorative Panel of 3087
BK252		1996	XXVI Olympic Games	15 x 3087 - Makeshift Vending Machine Booklet
3183g		1998	The Decade of the 1910's	Jim Thorpe wins Decathlon at Stockholm Olympic Games
3183g				FDC - Washington, DC
3185j		10.09.98	The Decade of the 1930's	Jesse Owens at Berlin Olympic Games
3185j				FDC - Cleveland, OH

THE FINAL HURDLE

A tribute to two Champion Hurdlers, by David Buxton who witnessed their Olympic success.

1997 was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the XX Olympic Games held in Munich. It was also the year that both of the men's hurdle champions at Munich died.



John Akii-Bua, Olympiasieger



John Akii-Bua the 1972 Olympic 400m hurdles champion, was born in Uganda in 1949 and claimed to be one of 43 children (29 of whom were still alive in 1972), his father having 8 wives. Three of his younger brothers were 6 feet 2 inches high jumpers and two 12 year old brothers had triple jumped 44 feet. John Akii-Bua first came to the attention as a world class hurdler when he came 4th over 400m hurdles in the 1970 Commonwealth Games and he ran the world's fastest time over 400m hurdles in 1971. He was also Ugandan decathlon champion in 1971 scoring 6933 points.

His training routine consisted of cross-country running wearing a weighted vest, which he continued to wear on the track for interval running over 1000m. He reduced his best time to 48.8 seconds, one week before the 1972 Games started and in the first semi-final defeated both the American and pre-race favourite, Ralph Mann and the defending champion and world record holder, David Hemery of Great Britain.

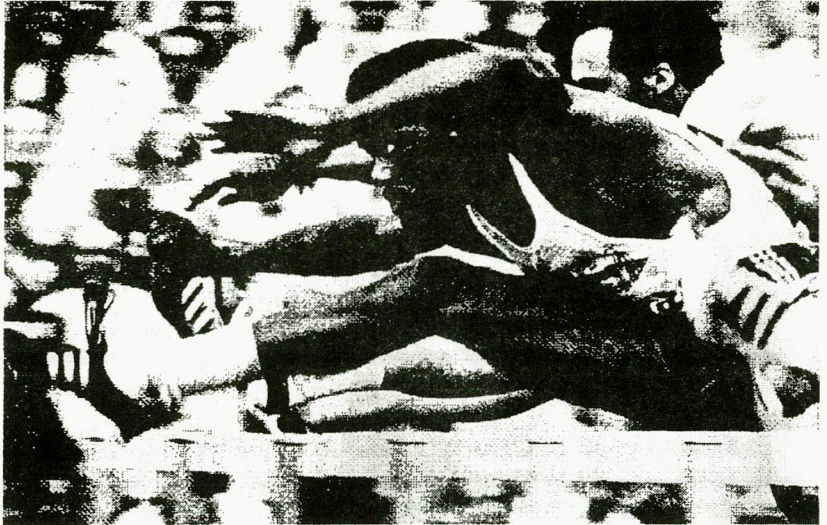
The line up for the final had John Akii-Bua drawn in the inside lane, which is a disadvantage for a right leg leader. At the sixth hurdle he changed down from 13 strides to 14 between each hurdle, something which previous hurdlers had been unable to do, and from the last hurdle of the second bend he pulled away from David Hemery who, as he had done in Mexico four years earlier, had started very quickly. John Akii Bua won by 6 metres in a new world record of 47.82 seconds, and continued running over the next two flights of hurdles! Ralph Mann overtook David Hemery in the last stride to take the



John Akii-Bua was the leading 400m hurdler in 1973, did not compete in the 1974 Commonwealth Games because he lacked the motivation, and the African boycott of 1976 prevented him from defending his title just as he was back in form. John Akii-Bua did run at the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow but he was eliminated in the semi-finals.



John Akii-Bua became a police instructor, but fled Uganda in 1979 after the overthrow of Idi Amin, and was recognised in a jail in Kenya and released after one months imprisonment. He then returned to Uganda.

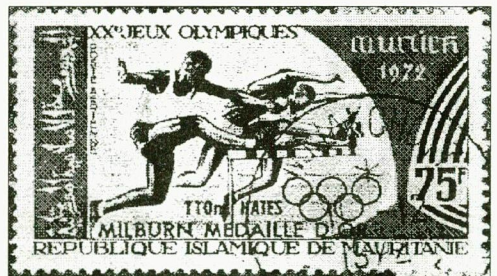


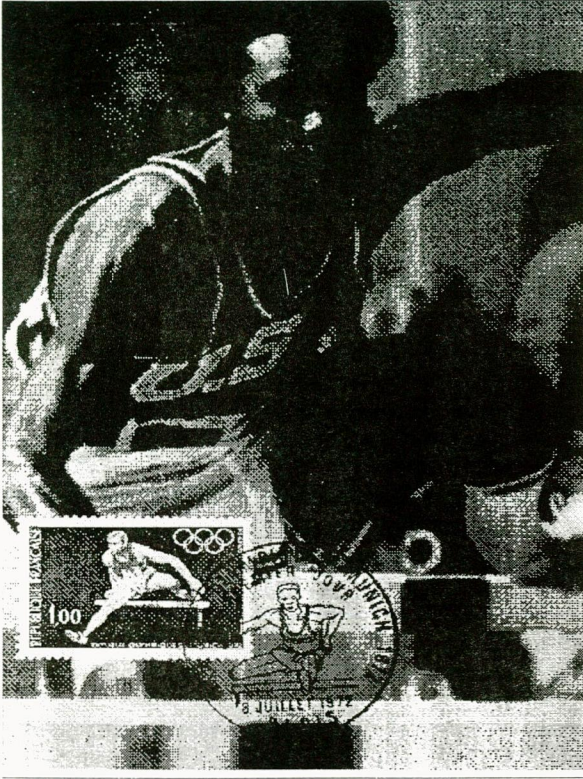
Rod Milburn USA

Rod Milburn was born in the United States of America in 1950 and had a relatively short amateur career in which he set 5 world records at the 110m hurdles and the 120 yard hurdles and recorded 28 consecutive wins in 1971. Rod Milburn only just qualified for the Olympics by coming third in the U.S.A. trials having hit two hurdles.

In the 1972 Olympic final, Rod Milburn was the first to rise over the first hurdle, and led by two metres by the sixth hurdle, finally winning by a margin of one metre from Frenchman Guy Drut (1976 Champion). The winning time of 13.24 seconds equalled the world record. The defending champion Willie Davenport of U.S.A. came in fourth behind team mate Thomas Hill.

In 1975 Rod Milburn turned professional joining the I.T.A. circuit and was undefeated for thirty one races. When the I.T.A. folded in 1976, Rod Milburn applied to be registered as an amateur and was reinstated in 1980. He missed the Olympic Trials in 1980 which were held before the American boycott.





The two hurdlers and their achievements have been commemorated on a number of stamp issues including the following :

John Akii-Bua

- Ajman (Mi 1582) 1972
- Ghana 2.05.95
- Haiti 29.12.72
- Kenya 5.7.76
- Mauritania 16.10.72
- Uganda 5.7.76
- Uganda 10.10.84
- Uganda 11.8.94

Rod Milburn

- Burkina Faso 15.3.73
- Chad 22.12.72
- Haiti 29.12.72
- Mauritania 16.10.72
- Umm al Qiwain Mi 710

SYDNEY 2000 - THE INK GROUP POSTCARDS

The list published in Volume 15, issue 3, gave details of postcards published during the candidature of Sydney, and the period immediately after the award - before an official licenced publisher of postcards was appointed.

Thanks to Tom D'Arcy one of our Australian members, a list of the official postcards (including a number of greetings cards) can now be published

Tom has included a very simple key to identify the different styles of cards:

- f* Folded card.
- b* Birthday card.
- g* Greeting card.
- s* Unusual shaped card or envelope.

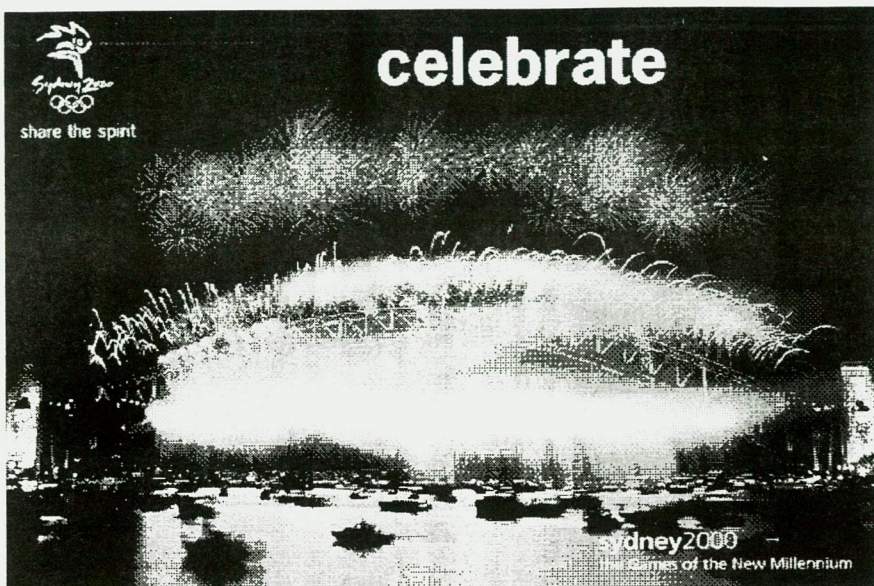
The cards are grouped into a number of series, and with the exception of the first issue they are numbered in the following way: 3/15 ie, third series, card fifteen.

It should be noted that some product numbers are not used. It is believed that these were allocated to prepared designs that failed to gain SOCOG approval.

The individual series issued so far are:

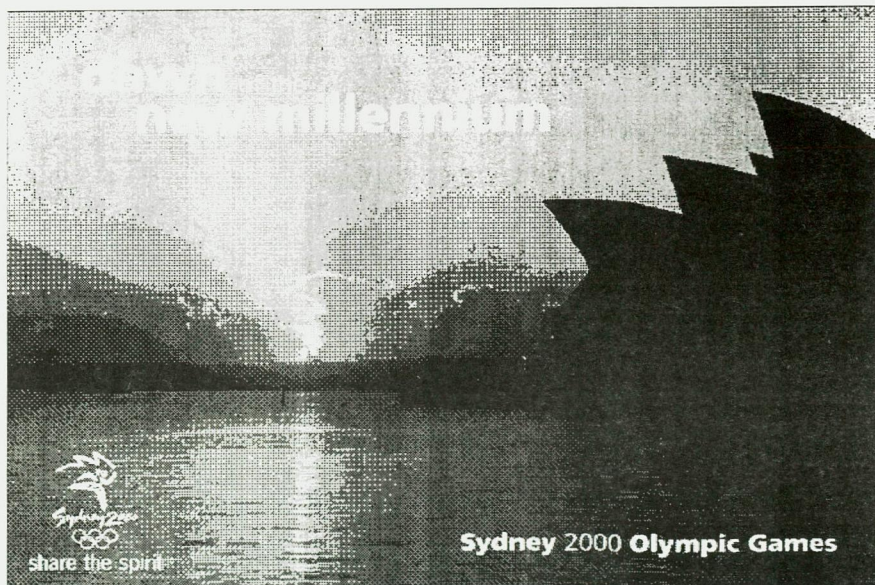
- No number. Original series of 16 cards.
- 1/ 13 Mascot cards (marked 1/1 etc.)
- 2/ 5 Logo cards (marked 2/1 etc.)
- 3/ 23 Sports cards (marked 3/1 etc.)
- 4/ 15 In Training cards (marked 4/1 etc.)
- 5/ 18 'Share the spirit' cards (marked 5/1 etc.)
- C1 6 Children's Art cards, Series 1.
- C2 6 Children's Art cards, Series 2.

Product number	Card number	Style	Description
6 032 001			Track
6 032 002			Swimming
6 032 004			Cycling
6 032 005			Equestrian
6 032 006			Group Mascot
6 032 007			"Syd"
6 032 008			"Ollie"
6 032 009			"Millie"
6 032 011			Olympic Rings Painting



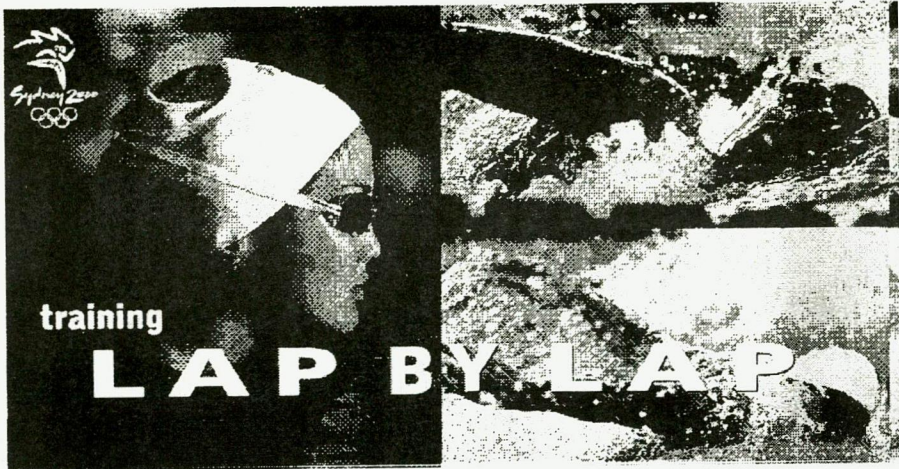
Above: Ref: INK002005.3 6 032 085

Below: Ref: INK002005.3 6 032 087



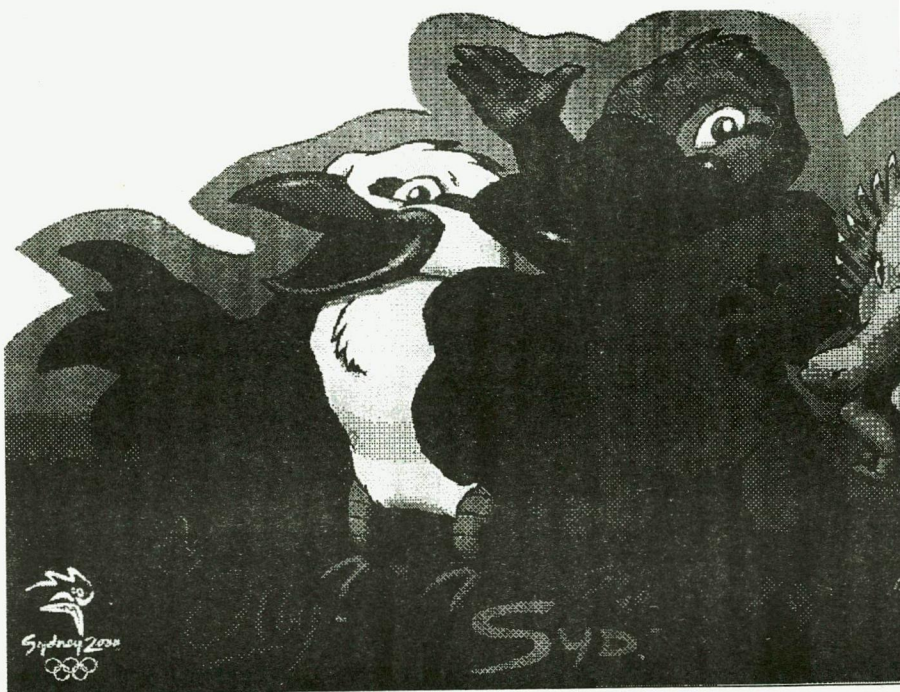
Product number	Card number	Style	Description
6 032 012			Diver
6 032 013			Logo - Large Head A
6 032 014			Logo - Large Head B
6 032 016			Logo - Large Logo A
6 032 017			Logo - Large Head C
6 032 018			Logo - Large Logo B
6 032 019			Logo - Large Logo Tint
6 032 020	3/15	<i>f g</i>	'go for it'
6 032 021	3/16	<i>g s</i>	Australia vs the world
6 032 022	3/23	<i>f g</i>	no limits - gymnast
6 032 024	4/1	<i>f g</i>	in training - kangaroo
6 032 025	4/14	<i>f g</i>	in training - frog
6 032 026	5/15	<i>f</i>	share the spirit - Opera House
6 032 027	5/16	<i>f</i>	share the spirit - The Olgas
6 032 028	5/18	<i>f g</i>	share the spirit - Sydney Harbour Bridge
6 032 029	1/2	<i>f g</i>	"Syd"
6 032 030	1/3	<i>f g</i>	"Millie"
6 032 031	1/4	<i>f g</i>	"Olly"
6 032 032	1/10	<i>b f</i>	"Syd"
6 032 033	1/11	<i>b f</i>	"Millie"
6 032 034	1/12	<i>f g</i>	"Olly"
6 032 035	2/1	<i>s</i>	Logo
6 032 036	3/1	<i>s</i>	take your marks
6 032 037	3/2	<i>s</i>	Australia vs anyone
6 032 038	3/3		Diver
6 032 039	3/4		take your mark
6 032 040	3/5		no limits - Finish of 100m, Atlanta
6 032 041	3/6		share the passion
6 032 042	3/7		take aim
6 032 043	3/8	<i>s</i>	Gymnastics
6 032 044	3/9	<i>s</i>	training = Lap by Lap
6 032 045	3/10	<i>s</i>	training has started
6 032 047	3/11		inspire achieve dream
6 032 048	3/12		love game set match
6 032 049	3/13		share the spirit - gymnast
6 032 050	3/14	<i>s</i>	the pain and the Glory
6 032 051	3/17		train strive speed precision
6 032 052	3/18		commit teamwork strive succeed
6 032 053	3/19		blade feather train crew
6 032 054	3/20		en garde parry thrust lunge
6 032 060	3/21	<i>s</i>	hit run home safe
6 032 061	3/22	<i>s</i>	equestrian
6 032 062	4/2		in training - diver

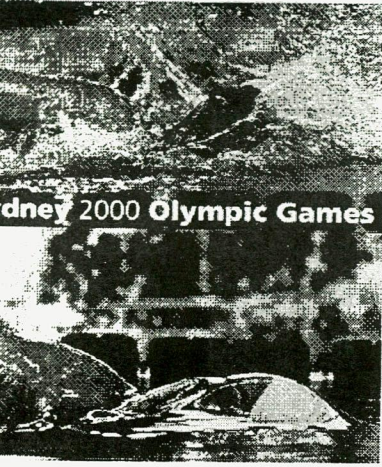
Product number	Card number	Style	Description
6 032 063	4/3		in training - children
6 032 064	4/4		in training - stockman
6 032 065	4/5		in training - kangaroos
6 032 066	4/6		in training - Ayers Rock
6 032 067	4/7		in training - Turtle
6 032 068	4/8		in training - Platypus
6 032 069	4/9		in training - Echidna
6 032 070	4/10		in training - Kookaburra
6 032 071	4/11		in training - Synchronised swimming
6 032 072	4/12		in training - Boxing
6 032 074	4/13		in training - Crocodile
6 032 075	5/1	s	the Olympic Spirit
6 032 076	5/2	s	share the spirit
6 032 077	5/3	s	share the spirit - beach
6 032 078	5/4	s	share the spirit - stream
6 032 079	5/5	s	share the spirit - red rock formation
6 032 080	5/6	s	share the spirit - rock formation
6 032 081	5/7	s	share the spirit - Sydney at dusk
6 032 082	5/8	s	share the spirit - Sydney at sun rise
6 032 083	5/9	s	share the spirit - celebrate (Fireworks above the Opera House)
6 032 084	5/10		share the spirit - celebrate (Fireworks and the Harbour and the Opera House)
6 032 085	5/11		share the spirit - celebrate (Harbour Bridge and Fireworks)
6 032 086	5/12		share the spirit - (Opera House and Bridge at Sunset)
6 032 087	5/13		share the spirit - (Opera House at Sunrise)
6 032 088	5/14		share the spirit - hello buenos dias konichiwa howdy etc.
6 032 089	5/17	s	share the spirit - cattle droving
6 032 090	1/1	s	Olly & Syd & Millie
6 032 091	1/5	s	3 Mascots
6 032 092	1/6	s	3 Mascots - basketball, high jump & gymnastics
6 032 093	1/7		Olly - Greeting from OZ!
6 032 094	1/8		Syd - Hi from Syd
6 032 095	1/9		Millie - Hello from Down Under
6 032 096	1/13		3 Mascots - Ayers Rock
6 032 097	2/2	s	9 logos
6 032 098	2/3		logo - blue background
6 032 099	2/4		logo - white background
6 032 100	2/5		Olympic flame
6 032 105	4/15	s	in training - dolphin



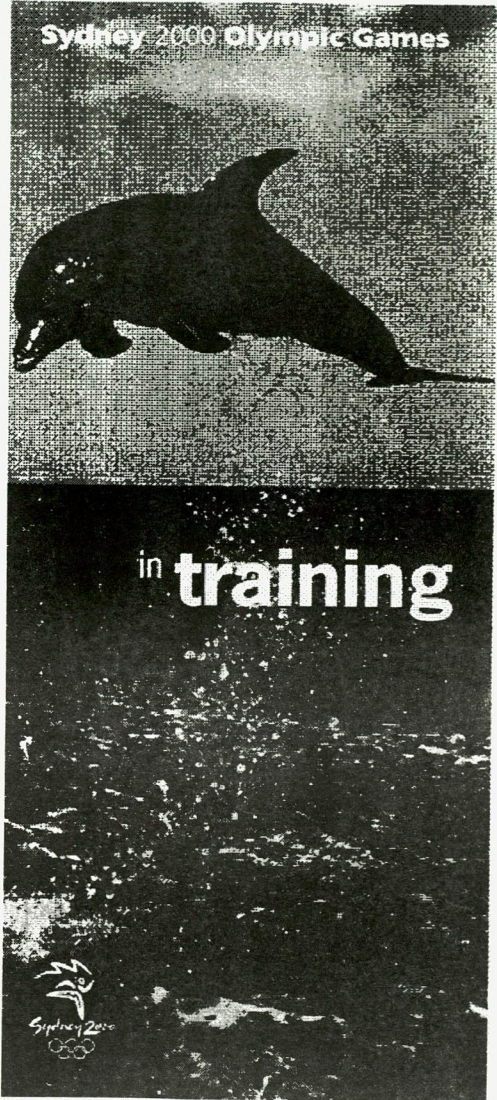
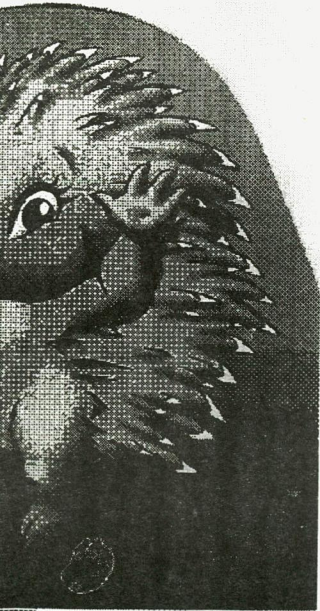
Above: INK002003.3 Card 9 / Series 3

Below: INK002006.2 Card 1 / Series 1





Right: INK002002.3 Card 15 / Series 4



Product number	Card number	Style	Description
6 032 108		s	Envelope for Children's Art Series 1
6 032 109	C1/1		Children's Art
6 032 110	C1/4		Children's Art
6 032 111	C1/2		Children's Art
6 032 112	C1/5		Children's Art
6 032 113	C1/3		Children's Art
6 032 114	C1/6		Children's Art
6 032 115		s	Paper Band for Children's Art Series 1 & 2
6 032 116	C2/2		Children's Art
6 032 117	C2/1		Children's Art
6 032 118	C2/3		Children's Art
6 032 119	C2/4		Children's Art
6 032 120	C2/5		Children's Art
6 032 121	C2/6		Children's Art

INVITATION TO AN EXHIBITION

OLYMPSPORT '99

International Exhibition of Philatelic Literature with Olympic and Sports Themes organized in honour of the 100th anniversary of the Czech Olympic Committee.

The Union of Czech philatelists, Czech Olympic Committee and Czech Association of Olympic Philately - OLYMPSPORT will host and organize this International Exhibition of Philatelic Literature with Olympic and Sport Theme at the:

**Museum of Czech Police, Ke Karlovu 453/1, 120 00, Prague 2.
17th - 22nd May, 1999.**

OLYMPSPORT would like to welcome Sports and Olympic philatelists from around the world.
An A5 format catalogue of the Exhibition OLYMPSPORT '99 will be available.

The Literature Class of OLYMPSPORT '99 will be divided into the following categories:
Magazines - Catalogues - Articles (3 pages A4 minimum) - Auction lists

For further details, please contact:

OLYMPSPORT, P.O. Box 13, CZ 282 23, Český Brod, Czech Republic
fax: 00 420 2 2319577 e-mail: VOSSPSS@TELECOM.CZ

With best regards, sincerely yours,
Ing Jaroslav Petrásek
OLYMPSPORT President

RAPKIN AND RUTHERFORD TO BE HONORED

Franceska Rapkin of Great Britain and Betty Rutherford of Marion, Iowa have been selected as the 1999 Distinguished Topical Philatelists. Their awards will be presented at the ATA Awards Banquet by the selection committee Chairman, Jerry Husak on Saturday evening 31 July 1999, during the 50th Anniversary convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Mrs Franceska Rapkin, a resident in Feldon, England has been a stamp collector since the late 1950's. She was elected as the first Chairman of the British Thematic Association when it was established in 1984, and served in that position until 1995 when she became the Association's first President.

Mrs Rapkin's thematic collecting interests are the 1936 Olympic Games, which has won several major international thematic awards, Beethoven and Princess Diana. She founded the Society of Olympic Collectors in 1984 and served as their Chairman until 1996, and as Editor of their magazine, TORCH BEARER until 1993. She is now the Society's President. A national thematic jury member since 1978, she has served on international juries since 1989. She has also been a member of the International Philatelic Federation (FIP) Thematic Bureau since 1992 and currently serves as a Council member of the Royal Philatelic Society London. In 1998 she was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

Betty Rutherford, who has attended over twenty ATA annual conventions, has served the ATA Biology Unit as secretary since 1981 and as Secretary Treasurer since 1995. Among her thematic exhibits are "Beethoven", "First Ladies Cookbook" and "Whales and Whaling" Mrs Rutherford led the Ben Franklin Stamp Club for four years while at school, served as President of the Cedar Rapids Stamp Club for six years and as an Executive Secretary of the Federation of Iowa Stamp Clubs from 1980 until 1986. She qualified as a judge for the Trans-Mississippi Philatelic Society (TMPS) in 1985 and went on to serve as the Director of the TMPS from 1987 until 1996.

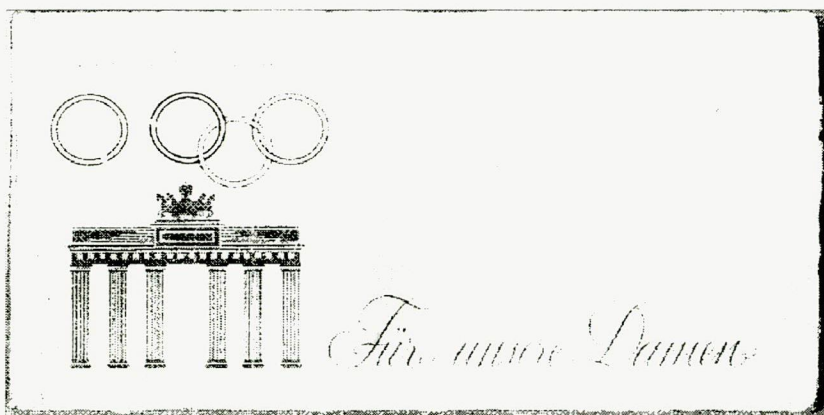
The Distinguished Topical Philatelist award was established by the American Topical Association in 1952 and recipients are selected from nominees submitted by ATA members. In addition to Jerry Husak, the selection committee consists of Elaine R Boughner, George Griffenhagen, Allan Hauck, Donald W Smith and Ruth Y Wetmore.

A NEW BERLIN 1936 ITEM ?

From information provided by Michael Berry.

The relative popularity of the 1936 Olympiad with collectors is responsible for the fact that we rarely have the opportunity to report a new find for the Berlin Games.

The importance of the Berlin Olympic Games was recognised by the organisers, and the preparation and planning went far beyond that required to stage a sporting festival. The very existence of so much philatelic material with temporary post offices and individually identified handstamps are a testament to the meticulous planning that went into ensuring the success of every aspect of the Games.



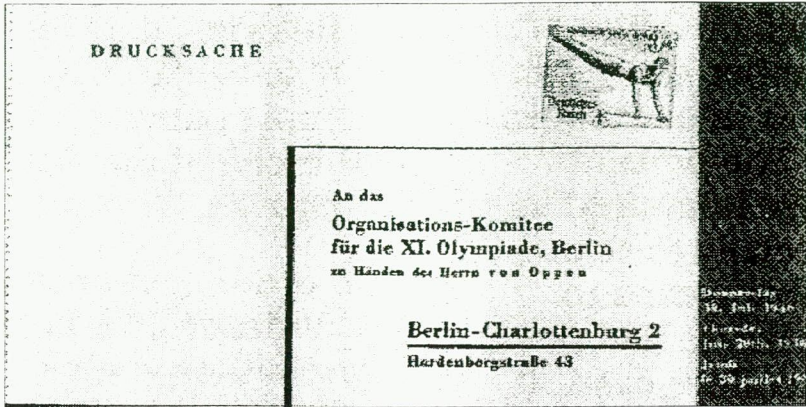
As part of the 'master plan' a special committee under Frau Margarete Frick, including the wives of the highest ranking officials was established to ensure a full and entertaining cultural programme for the ladies of visiting officials and V.I.P's.

A programme of events was arranged from July 30 to August 15. The special booklet '*For our Ladies*' illustrated above has now been rediscovered.

The booklet gives a detailed programme of the events available to entertain the ladies each day, and contains eighteen postcards addressed to the Organising Committee, for the attention of Herr von Oppen, Hardenbergstrasse 43, Berlin-Charlottenburg 2.

The booklet was designed in the manner that the recipient should remove the postcards relating to events that they wished to attend, and forward them by mail as their reservation request. Each postcard is franked with a 3+2 Pfennig Olympic stamp - the postcard rate, which suggests that return was expected from within

The invitation / reservation postcards have a wide red margin on the right with the date of the event.



The eighteen reply cards are interspersed with seven pages printed in blue, these are without any reply card because invitations were sent direct to specific selected guests.



The reply cards act as invitations for events such as visits to museums, opera performances, concerts, lectures, a visit to the Winter Help Organisation, and even a visit to a Labour Service Camp for Women.

The blue programmes are for very select events. Opening ceremonies followed by dinner in the White Hall of Berlin Castle, breakfast and a tea party, then the three most prestigious - garden parties hosted by the wives of senior party members.

The first of the garden parties was hosted by Frau. M. Frick, whose husband Wilhelm Frick, Minister of the Interior, was sentenced in Nuremburg and executed in 1946.

The second was hosted by Frau Emmy Goring, the wife of General Colonel Hermann Goring, at their villa.

The third was given by Magda Goebbels, the wife of the Minister for Propoganda, Dr Josef Goebbels.

This example of the 'For our Ladies' booklet is in pristine condition, as it was distributed with all cards / pages intact. Michael Berry took the opportunity to make enquiries about the booklet with a number of specialists during the IMOS Congress in Berlin during May 1998, and it was unknown to them.

It is perhaps surprising that such an item should remain to be discovered after sixty years, maybe it signifies a very high acceptance rate amongst the recipients at the time. As the forerunner of future cultural programmes, it seems that distribution was far more restricted, and production limited to genuine needs of the Organising Committee.

This possibly unique piece is to be offered in the next **Healey and Wise** auction of Olympic and Sports material (*see inside back cover for details*).

Of course, one other question comes to mind.

How was the booklet distributed, and is there a special outer cover waiting to be discovered ?

This booklet is also featured in an article 'Olympic Find' by Otto Hornung in the February 1999 issue of Stamp Magazine. Those wishing to obtain copies for the full colour illustrations should address requests to:

Stamp Magazine, Back Issues Department, PO Box 666, London E15 1DW.

BUYER BEWARE! - CANADIAN PHONE CARDS

John Larmer

A cautionary tale for collectors attracted to purported opportunities to support their Olympic teams through the purchase of 'unique' or 'limited edition', subscription, 'specially prepared' souvenir collections.

The subject telephone cards were advertised by **Valu-net**, on a brochure include with phone cards available from various outlets in Canada. The cards each illustrate members of the Canadian ice Hockey team for the Olympic Winter Games in Nagano.

The brochure offered subscription to three series of telephone cards:

'Player Series' *'Outstanding value! Celebrate Canada's best professional Hockey Players representing Team Canada in Olympic Competition. Includes 300 phone time units. Limited Edition of 25,000 sets.'* **\$199.00**

'Premium Series' *'A Winning Combination! Includes a commemorative CD-ROM written by re(n)owned hockey author and broadcaster, Brian McFarlane. Includes 360 phone time units. Limited Edition of 8,000 sets.'* **\$399.00**

'Signature Series' *'One-Of-A-Kind! Each card is hand-autographed by the Team Canada Player and includes a commemorative CD-ROM written by renowned hockey author and broadcaster, Brian McFarlane. This is a unique opportunity to collect a part of history. Includes 450 phone time units. Once in a lifetime collectible. Limited Edition of 999 sets.'* **\$999.00**

'Call today... 1-888-447-1998 or visit the web site for complete pictures and descriptions and to order at: www.vnhockey.com'

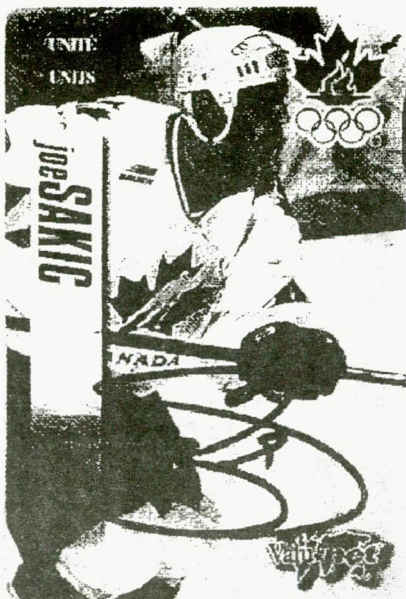
A Collector Album and an Interactive CD-ROM {as included above} were also offered.

All prices were subject to applicable taxes and shipping.

The 'Players' Series were available at Shoppers Drug Mart, or by mail order, whereas the other series were only available by mail order.

The telephone number given was apparently never in service, and if the web site is visited today, it only offers an e-mail facility to Valu-net (no pictures or information).

Simple arithmetic suggests that Valu-net could expect \$5 million turnover from only just over 50% sales!



All of the series sold poorly (possibly due to the team failing to obtain a medal in Nagano).

The Signature Series was supposed to contain 30 cards, 24 players and 6 scenic views of Nagano. As at February 1999, only 22 of the planned player cards have been delivered, the 'missing' two being Gretzky and Kariya. Japanese cards have been delivered in lieu of the scenic views.

The CD-ROM which is featured with the two higher value subscriptions has failed to materialise - purportedly due to 'flaws'.

There are reports of litigation with the NHL Players Association relating to unpaid licensing fees. It seems that Gretzky will not sign any of the Signature series until the licensings fees have been paid.

The poor collector / subscriber is left with a partial set of little or no value because the key card to the whole series is missing.

The substituted Japanese cards of 50 units, are also of a far lesser value than the intended issues, representing further devaluation of the series.

Without a doubt, the collector has been well and truly caught - **buyer beware!**

The backs of the cards give instructions on their use, and carry the marques of the Canadian Hockey Association, NHL Players Association and the Canadian Olympic Association. They are also marked as 'Officially licensed product of the NHLPA'.

It would certainly be interesting to see details of the benefits (if any) that were enjoyed by these three bodies.

From any Touch-Tone™ phone: / À partir de n'importe quel téléphone à clavier Touch-Tone™:

Phone Pique Number / Numéro de Carte
[Redacted]

1) Enter / Composez 1-888-488-4051
(Scratch Off / Grattez pour découvrir)

2) Follow instructions / Suivez les instructions.

Note: To call within Canada, the U.S.A., or the Caribbean: enter area code + phone number.
International calls from North America: enter 011 + country code + city code + phone number.
Pour téléphoner à l'intérieur du Canada, des États-Unis ou des Antilles, composez: indicatif régional + numéro demandé.
Pour effectuer un appel international de L'Amérique du Nord, composez: 011 + indicatif du pays + indicatif de zone + numéro demandé.

For assistance call: / Pour obtenir de l'aide composez: 1-888-488-4050

Press anytime November 30, 1998. / Échéance: 30 novembre 1998.
Network Services provided by Callfire wholesale communications. Services de réseau offerts par communications de Callfire en gros.
www.vnhockey.com

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© A.L.P.A. Produit officiel autorisé par l'NHLPA.

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The fronts of the cards have an indication of their nominal value (top left), on the retail cards this is expressed as 5 dollars, whereas on the premium series this is expressed as a number of units.

The substituted Japanese cards of 50 units, are also of a far lesser value than the intended issues, representing further devaluation of the series.

Without a doubt, the collector has been well and truly caught - **buyer beware!**

If any other members have either seen dubious advertising for such collections, or if you have been unfortunate enough to have been caught out by one of these 'unique investment opportunities', share it through Torch Bearer, you may be able to help other.

Two further thoughts, if you are tempted to subscribe to such a collection, make absolutely sure at the outset that you are aware of the total cost and also ensure that you have a clearly defined list of the entire content - this may be dependent on results, for example gold medals won, but you should obtain confirmation that all medallists will be included. Secondly, armed with the above details, make payment by a credit card if possible. Most credit card terms of use will offer protection if the seller fails to meet their obligations (subject to a minimum value of transaction). Sold as a set or series, the total price should apply.

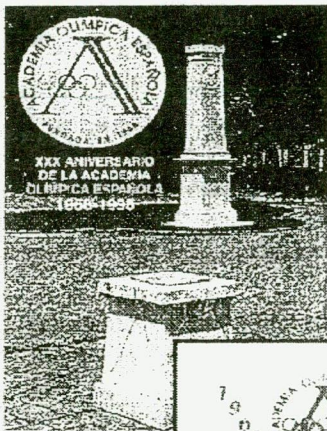
SPANISH OLYMPIC ACADEMY



On 16 June 1961 the International Olympic Academy was founded at Olympia. Some 7 years later, on 25 November 1968, the Spanish Olympic Academy was founded in Madrid.

To mark the anniversary, a 70 peseta stamp was issued on 9 December 1998, with first day postmarks from Madrid, and Barcelona (illustrated).

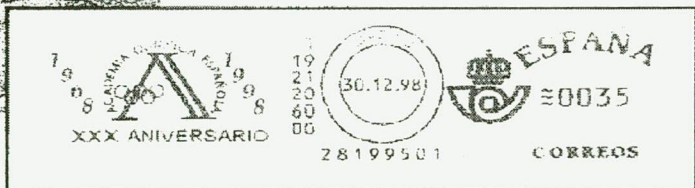
The Spanish Olympic Committee meter also recorded the anniversary. At the beginning of the year machine 18707 was in use, as on this souvenir cover issued by our sister society in Spain, UEFO. A new machine, 28199501 was introduced later in 1998.



Acuerdo de la Academia Olímpica y meter de la Academia Olímpica en Olimpia



Sr. Cecilio DURÁNTEZ CORRAL
 Presidente de la Academia Olímpica Española
 Calle Arcuque, 13
 28043 - MADRID





OLYMPIC COLLECTORS OF THE UNITED STATES

P R E S E N T S

The Olympic Pin, Memorabilia and Coin Show

August 27 - 28, 1999

Salt Palace

Salt Lake City, Utah

Public Auction of
Olympic Memorabilia

August 27 - 7:30 p.m.



For further information about the show contact

OCUS, Linda Luchetti

257 East 200 South, Suite 1000

Salt Lake City, Utah 84111-2066

Tel: 801-212-2909 Fax: 801-212-2929 Email: linda.luchetti@usoc.org

OLYMPIC COLLECTORS OF THE UNITED STATES

To: Linda Luchetti

Please send information for: Dealers Visitors Auction

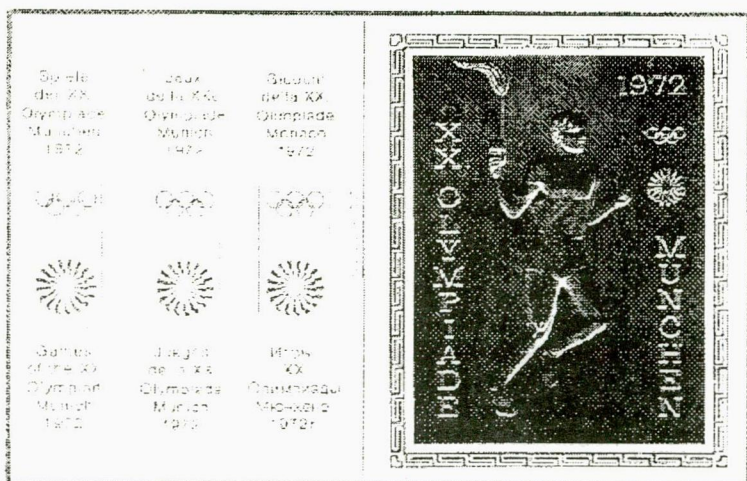
Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

MUNICH 1972, HOCKEY - WHO AM I?



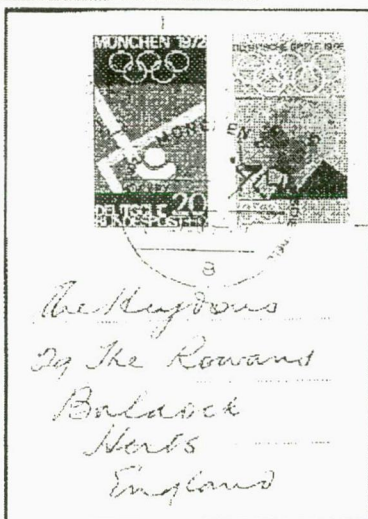
I recently acquired this embossed gold postcard, sent from the Munich Games. The message fascinates me.

Arrived OK. Plane 45 mins late leaving [London Airport]. Sat next to Katy Boyle & in front of the Countess of Harwood. So travelled with aristocracy & then met Sir Jack Longland Deputy to Bannister on Sports Council. Also met a bloke from Penarth as soon as we got into City. Lovely shops & things. Hope all went well Sat. Love Pat.

So can anyone identify Pat for me? The addressees, the Haydens, might give a clue, and is there another clue in the hockey postmark cancelling a hockey stamp?

By all means reply to me direct, or write to the Editor. If we make a definite or probable identification we shall publish the information in Torch Bearer.

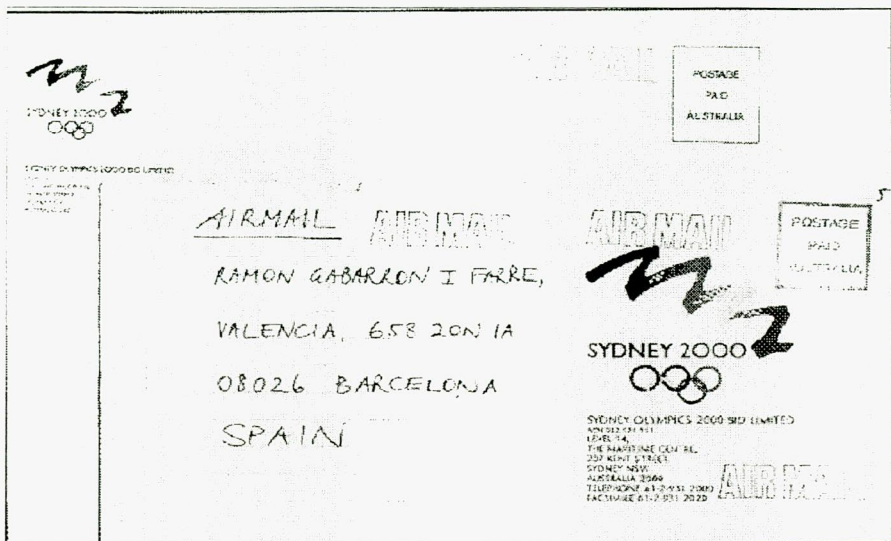
Bob Wilcock



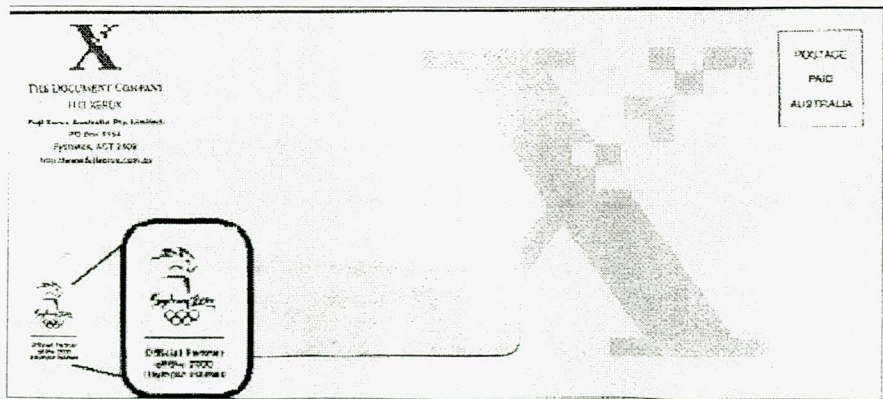
SYDNEY 2000 COVERS

Bob Wilcock

There are still plenty of 'finds' to be made in the field of commercial covers from the Sydney Bid Committee. Illustrated are two such covers, one with logo and pre-printed 'Australia Post Paid', the other with 'Post Paid' indicia applied with a rubber handstamp in violet.



The official logo for the Sydney Games has also started to appear, as on this Post Paid envelope from Official Partner - Fuji Xerox.



OLYMPIC ISSUES - COMMERCIAL USAGE

Olympic philately now offers over 100 years of collecting opportunities, stamp issues are available from 1896, commemorative postmarks from 1906 (or 1912 depending on the collector's views about the 1906 Games), commemorative postal stationery from 1924, miniature sheets and booklets since 1936.

The majority of basic issues of these items are relatively well documented, and the period from 1896 - 1956 is regularly exhibited around the world.

From 1960 a dramatic increase in thematic stamp issues has taken place, most notably because of the individual issues of the Trucial States between 1964 and 1972. Whilst the philatelic community has 'taken a view' on the Trucial States over-production of issues by effectively barring them from use in competitive exhibition classes, the same cannot be said for the issues of the African States that gained independence through the 1960's.

The scene was set for Philatelic Agencies to seek opportunities to exploit potential income from collectors - and was seized throughout the 1970's in the name of many African States, and Caribbean Islands.

The disolution of the former Eastern Bloc with the creation of further stamp issuing authorities has provided another catalyst to the flood of issues.

Whilst each of the preceding events have contributed to an increase in stamp issues (particularly thematic designs), they appear to be regarded with varying levels of distaste by the philatelic establishment.

The Trucial States situation is unique in having managed to achieve almost universal condemnation - although, it is worth pondering for a while, if these issues are not 'postage stamps' what are they? There is certainly a strong argument that they are vignettes or labels - which are today equally collectable. It is also worth considering that the majority were prepared with printed cancellations for use as 'cancelled to order' issues in cheap packets - without any attempt to charge the collector an exhorbitant face value for Bureau cancelled to order 'standing orders'. Mint examples of these 'labels' are in many cases genuinely scarce.

The African States, having achieved independence, undoubtedly recognised the potential of philatelic income. The fact that these issues seem to retain a degree of respectability is no doubt due to the fact that printing and production continued in Europe - France in particular. It could be argued that the issue of stamps for an Olympic Winter Games was a sign of continued ties with France as the 1968 host, but what of the 50th Anniversary of the Olympic Winter Games issues, or even those for Sapporo from countries where snow is virtually unknown?

Perhaps the strongest argument for acceptance of the issues from African States, is that the majority have sought recognition by the I.O.C., and they now form an important part of the Olympic Movement. However, their winter sports capability remains rather restricted.

The Caribbean production seems unjustifiable. Granted, a number of the issues reflect genuine enthusiasm for the Olympic Games, and commemorate great Olympic achievements (these issues are usually easy to identify, as they contain few stamps). In some ways, the over production stooped to lower levels than even the Trucial States - sets of stamps regularly containing a high value four hundred times the face value of the lowest value. Just consider how often a 20p (32c) stamp would be in common usage at the same time as an £80.00 (\$128.00) value! With the exception of uninhabited rocks these issues remain in the majority of catalogues, and new issues are listed.

The increase in issues from the former Eastern Bloc would however appear justifiable. The newly independent states seek membership of the Olympic Movement, they have a history of participation, and they play an ongoing part in each celebration of the Games. Generally the stamp issues are at postal rates.

The most important test of all that philatelic material should be able to pass, is the proof of commercial postal usage.

Commercial covers, with stamps either at, or contributing towards the correct postal rate are recognised as very desirable for the 1896 - 1928 period of Olympic philately. Whilst this is true for 1932, the fact that the issues were at basic postal rates prevents any great scarcity. From 1936 - 1956, the higher values are scarce correctly used on commercial mail.

From 1960 onwards, has anyone ever tried to establish the postal use of commemorative stamps? Most collectors are eagerly seeking 'unmounted mint' or philatelically inspired 'First Day covers', which are generally over franked. Even today, how many collectors would even consider that the postage they attach when preparing a First Day Cover is sufficient to pay for a premium service such as Recorded, Registered or Insured delivery? If you are paying the price, why not make the postal service provide what you are paying for? The resulting cover is far more 'authentic'.

So far, I have only set the scene, and whilst I am sure that most of the above points are valid, most could prove controversial, and I am sure that many collectors will have differing views. I acknowledge that for the thematic collector, it is often the existence of an appropriate design that takes precedence over consideration of the points listed. Postal **need** for an issue to be legitimate has often been mooted - but is this really as important as postal **use**?

The majority of the issues of the Trucial States can only be found on cover with difficulty. Such covers are often registered, and they are invariably addressed to either a financial institution (bank) or the philatelic press. The majority also seem to be addressed to either Germany or France. The franking value does however seem to be erratic, without any real clue to the correct postal rate. The covers addressed to the philatelic press probably contained press releases and examples of stamps for illustration, and whilst they have performed postal service they hardly prove general usage. The covers addressed to banks may also have a philatelic connection as many bank chambers are used by philatelic dealers in major European cities.



Many of the issues of the African States can be found on commercial covers, if time is devoted to the search. Paris is a particularly good hunting ground for such items as many trade links have been maintained with former colonies, and a vast amount of commercial mail seems to reach the market.

The study of such covers reveals a number of significant facts;

- The franking rate can be established as consistent, suggesting that the item is correctly franked;
- A good range of postmarks can be found, confirming widespread availability;
- Usage is often a considerable period after issue.

This final point leads to two further suppositions, firstly, sales in the issuing country may be considerably later than release on the philatelic market suggesting the domestic sales act to dispose of 'remainders'. Secondly, if commemorative issues enjoy such long sales periods, there can be little justification for closely spaced issue dates.

Covers do however confirm genuine domestic use, and also a need for the majority of values issued in fulfilling actual postal rates.



Mme Desmarthon Three commercial registered covers from Gabon:

45 ou Top: 260F Montreal high jump 26.4.77,

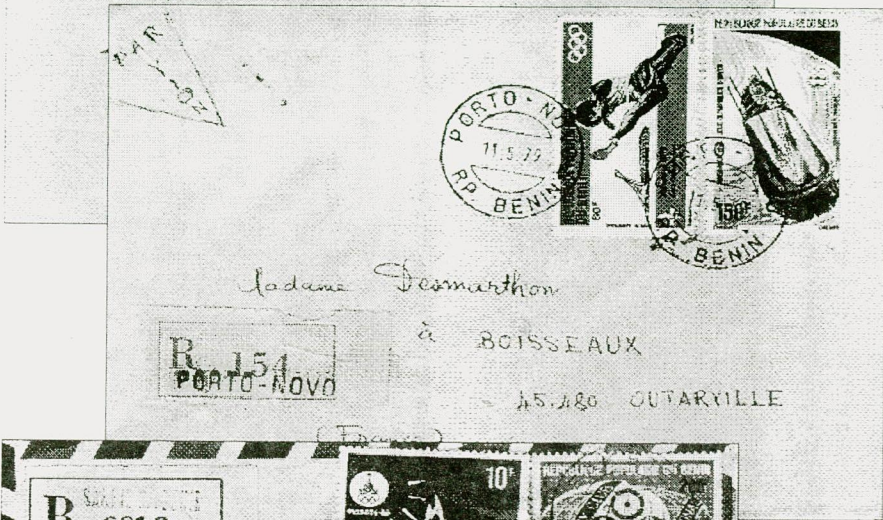
CCP. f Middle: 250F Innsbruck speed skating as part of 260F franking 19.8.77;

Bottom: 100F Montreal running as part of 380F franking 29.11.77 from LALALA !





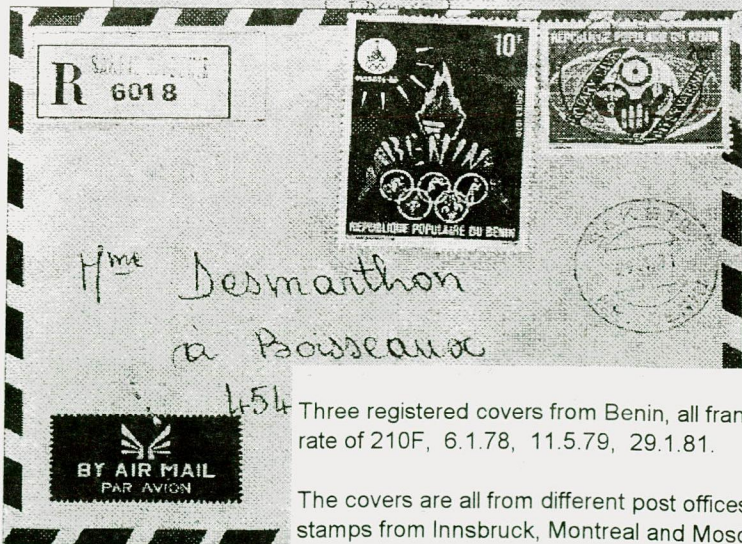
Madame Desmarthon



Madame Desmarthon

à BOISSEAUX

45.480 OUTARVILLE



*Mme Desmarthon
à Boisseaux*

1.54 Three registered covers from Benin, all franked at the rate of 210F, 6.178, 11.579, 29.181.

The covers are all from different post offices and include stamps from Innsbruck, Montreal and Moscow issues.

Covers from the Caribbean seem to fall into two categories. Those countries with legitimate issuing policies generate an amount of commercial mail which can occasionally reach the market. Those countries with dubious policies seem to be devoid of any mail users with the exception of their Philatelic Bureau - offering little chance to defend their issuing policy.

All of the preceding 'problem' issues have been debated by collectors and philatelic writers, some for over thirty years, and there has been much concern about the validity of such issues when exhibiting. Ultimately, the collector decides.

I know that we have a number of members in the Society of Olympic Collectors that spend their time searching for Trucial States issues, and I will hold my own hand up and declare an interest in these issues. My own interest stems from the fact that they are amongst the least well catalogued issues, and therefore offer an opportunity to make 'discoveries'. Each of us must choose their own path(s).

I would like to offer a further, possibly unexpected administration for consideration against the tests of postal need and postal use - **Great Britain!**

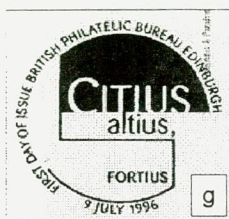
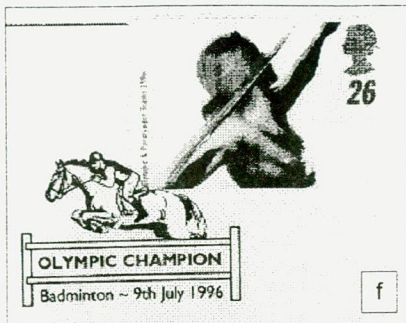
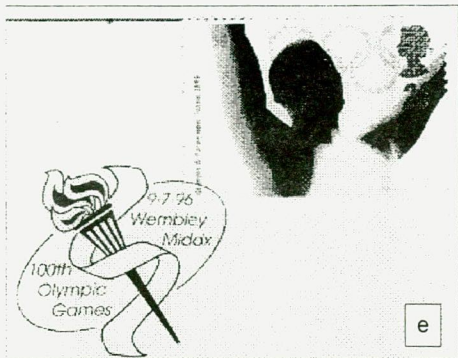
In 1996, Royal Mail provided more handstamps for the Olympic commemorative issue than their combined contributions before that date. The vast majority of these cancels were sponsored by philatelic enterprises, purely to enable the production of philatelic souvenirs.



A selection of special handstamps from Great Britain.

- a) Hemel Hempstead
- b) Speedwell (RNLI)
- c) London - a rather brief locator!
- d) Runwell, Wickford

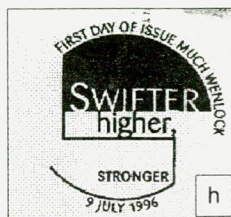




e) Wembley - *the sponsor of this handstamp should have checked their facts!*

f) Badninton

g & h) The Bureau handstamp Edinburgh, and the alternative handstamp for PO FDC, Much Wenlock.



Here is a list of 'did you know' facts about modern Royal Mail handstamps:

- The handstamp is **not** available at any post office (ie. an office offering a full range of postal services);
- The place name on a handstamp **does not** necessarily even have a post office;
- The handstamps are only available from Regional Handstamp Centres, by mail application, it follows that in the case of 'first day', they **cannot** be cancelled on that day;
- It is **not possible** to have premium service mail (recorded or registered) cancelled with a handstamp (as the office applying the cancel is not a full office, and mail cannot be handed over and receipted).

Can anyone offer any evidence of either postal use or need? The argument that the cover has actually travelled through the post can be easily dismissed. The fact is that the item would have arrived at it's final destination far faster if mailed direct and not via a Regional Handstamp Centre excludes any genuine attempt at postal communication.

The only possible conclusion being that such handstamps are provided for Commercial gain, not commercial use.

Can the inclusion of such handstamps be justified in a philatelic exhibit?

SMALL ADS

Selling part of my Olympic Literature;
such as - Bound Bulletins for London 1948,
Helsinki 1952 etc. Official daily newspapers,
Rules for competitors, Participant lists, Results,
Guides and Daily programmes.
I O C Message complete. Rules; Charter;
Directory; Museum; International Olympic
Academy, Olympisches Feuer for many years.

General books from 1896 onwards.

Please send and ask for my list,
R A Huurman, Gooiergracht 145,
1251 VE Laren, Holland.

WANTED

Cape Town 2004 bid 'Pick and Pay' meter,
also label.

- Will either buy or exchange -

Kenny Cook, 31 Thorn Lane, Rainham,
Essex RM13 9SJ Great Britain

Tom D'Arcy would like information
on the vignettes issued for the
Universal Exhibition, Paris 1900
(ALL vignettes)

{These could form the basis of a future
Torch Bearer article}

Responses to the Editor please

The Stamp Show 2000

Earls Court, London 22-28 May 2000

If you are looking forward to the next London International Philatelic Exhibition, and intend to spend time in the capital, have you considered offering your services as a volunteer? If you are interested, please contact our secretary Elizabeth Miller as soon as possible.

A plea for help has been received from Mr. N J Presland,
Montrose, Bailiffs Cross Road,
St. Andrew's, Guernsey GY6 8RT

Mr Presland collects material that was issued
on his birthday, and is asking for assistance
with the last two sports issues on his 'wants'
list.

**Congo Republic, 28.06.1990 - Olympic
Games Barcelona**

Note after Scott 865,
set of six in miniature sheets of one.

Paraguay, 28.06.1978 - Racing Cars
Scott 1823, 25g. miniature sheet
(only the miniature sheet is required).



REVIEW OF MAGAZINES WITH OLYMPIC INTEREST

Journal of Sports Philately

The journal of Sports Philatelists International, Volume 37 No. 2 features two Olympic related articles. The first concentrates on cancels from Lake Placid which continues to promote itself as an Olympic venue / village as many of the venues are still used as training facilities. In July 1998 the United States Postal Service announced a special pictorial cancel commemorating the annual parade of athletes on Independence Day. It transpired that because permission had not been obtained to use the word "Olympic" or the Olympic rings, an alternative cancel was eventually used. The article also researches the 1932 Olympic first day cancels and the various time slugs used, the most common being 10.30 am, and the least common being 10.00 am, 11.30 am, 7.00 pm and 7.30 pm.

The second article on the question of actual post offices in Athens during the 1896 Olympic Games has appeared in Torch Bearer.

Other articles deal with a listing of the philatelic items from La Poste for the 1998 Football World Cup, the 13th. World Basketball Championships in Athens, the 1998 World Youth Games in Moscow and regular updates on Sydney 2000.

Available from Margaret A. Jones, 5310 Linden wood Avenue, St Louis, MO 63109 USA

Journal of Olympic History

The International Society of Olympic Historians recently published Volume 7 No.1. Two articles take the 1896 Marathon race as their subject. The first looks at a number of eye witness accounts of the race, the second concentrates on Spiridon Louis's own account of his victory.

Other articles include the need to establish sporting archives, the political influence of the Olympic Flame, the Greek Discus events of 1906 and 1908 and Tom Kiely, who at the St. Louis Games was declared a World Champion of the All-Round event and not an Olympic Champion. Shorter articles introduce us to Janis Dikmanis the I.O.C. member from Latvia, marketing statistics of the Nagano Games, the 1928 Field Hockey tournament, and to bring us up to date - the internet.

Available from Ian Buchanan, Old Fighting Cocks, Burgh-next-Aylsham, Norfolk NR11 6TP Great Britain.

ADDITIONS TO THE SOCIETY LIBRARY

Journal of Sports Philately	Volume 36, No. 5 May - June 1998	60 gr
	Volume 36, No. 6 July - Aug 1998	60 gr
	Volume 37, No. 1 Sept - Oct 1998	60 gr
Magazine of Sports Philatelist International		
Themescene	No. 51 June 1998	60 gr
	No. 52 September 1998	60 gr
Winternheimer Catalogue, Winter Olympic Games, Calgary		500 gr
Winternheimer Catalogue, Summer Olympic Games, Seoul		800 gr
Podium	No. 22 June 1998	60 gr
	No. 23 August 1998	60 gr
Magazine of the Argentine Sports and Olympic Group	<i>{Spanish}</i>	
The Malaysian Sporting Philately	No. 8 December 1997	40 gr
	No. 9 June 1998	40 gr
Olympic Review	No. XXVI - 21 June - July 1998	300 gr
	No. XXVI - 22 August - September 1998	300 gr
Olymp-Sport Handbooks	No. 1 Basketball	30 gr
	No. 9 Sokol Movement	30 gr
	No. 10 Ice Hockey	30 gr
	No. 11 Tennis	30 gr
	No. 20 Football World Cup stamps	30 gr
	No. 28 Atlanta 1996	30 gr
	No. 30 Prague - Warsaw - Berlin Cycle Race	30 gr
Published by the Czech Sport and Olympic Group	<i>{Czech}</i>	
Phila - Sport	No. 26	180 gr
Magazine of U.I.F.O.S. the Italian Sports and Olympic Group	<i>{Italian}</i>	
Bulletin of OSPC Berlin	1998	70 gr
Magazine of the Olympic and Sports Philatelic Club, Berlin	<i>{German}</i>	
Olymp - Sport	Nos. 1 - 5 in one volume, 1968 - 1969	<i>{Czech}</i> 80 gr
Olimpiafila	No. 1	100 gr
	No. 3	100 gr
Magazine of the Hungarian Sport and Olympic Group	<i>{Hungarian with English summary}</i>	
A. B. P. S. News	Volume 5, No. 3 July 1998	70 gr

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