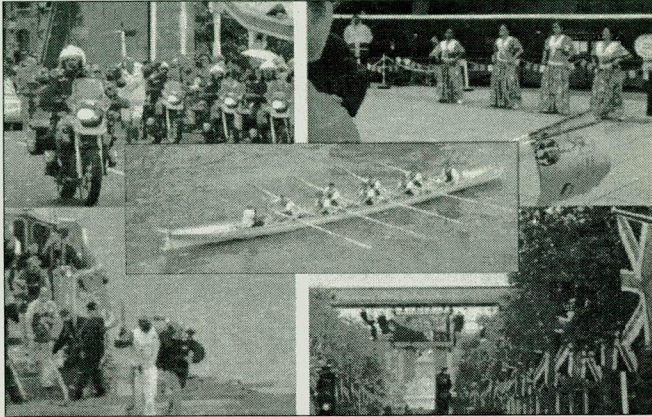




TORCH BEARER



- 1924
- 1928
- 1932
- 1936
- 1940
- 1944
- 1948
- 1952
- 1956
- 1960
- 1964
- 1968
- 1972
- 1976
- 1980
- 1984
- 1988
- 1992
- 1994
- 1998
- 2002
- 2006
- 2010



London Torch Relay PC4



- 1896
- 1900
- 1904
- 1908
- 1912
- 1916
- 1920
- 1924
- 1928
- 1932
- 1936
- 1940
- 1944
- 1948
- 1952
- 1956
- 1960
- 1964
- 1968
- 1972
- 1976
- 1980
- 1984
- 1988
- 1992
- 1996
- 2000
- 2004
- 2008
- 2012



Leaping for London
SmartStamp SS4



SOCIETY of OLYMPIC COLLECTORS

SOCIETY of OLYMPIC COLLECTORS

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



YOUR COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN AND EDITOR :	Bob Farley, 3 Wain Green, Long Meadow, Worcester, WR4 0HP, Great Britain. rfarleysoc@aol.com
VICE CHAIRMAN :	Bob Wilcock, 24 Hamilton Crescent, Brentwood, Essex, CM14 5 ES, Great Britain. bob@towlard.freeseve.co.uk
SECRETARY :	Miss Paula Burger, 19 Hanbury Path, Sheerwater, Woking, Surrey, GU21 5RB Great Britain.
TREASURER AND ADVERTISING :	David Buxton, 88 Bucknell Road, Bicester, Oxon, OX26 2DR, Great Britain. david.buxton@bnc.ox.ac.uk
AUCTION MANAGER :	John Crowther, 3 Hill Drive, Handforth, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 3AP, Great Britain. j-jscrowther@supanet.com
LIBRARIAN :	Ken Cook, 31 Thorn Lane, Rainham, Essex, RM13 9SJ, Great Britain. kenny@rainham3.freeseve.co.uk
P. R. O. and PACKET and PACKET MANAGER	Brian Hammond, 6 Lanark Road, Ipswich, IP4 3EH brian.hammond57@ntlworld.com
BACK ISSUES AND DISTRIBUTION:	Ken Cook, 31 Thorn Lane, Rainham, Essex, RM13 9SJ, Great Britain.
WEB MANAGER	Mike Pagnamenos

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 sent with your order to David Buxton 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	97
S.O.C. 2004 Souvenirs	98
London Torch Relay	
SOC 20th Anniversary, Much Wenlock	
London 2012	
1908 Olympic Marathon	103
The VIII th Olympiad - Paris 1924	113

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 2004 are:

U.K. £10.00; Europe, £12.00 (€ 20, \$US 25).

Outside Europe, £17.00 (€ 25, \$US 35)

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

FRONT PAGE

Athens is almost upon us, and as a result of the recent S.O.C. activities and departure for Greece, this Torch Bearer has been prepared rather earlier to ensure August distribution.

The shortest index we have ever had should not hide the quality of the two major articles - both of which contain original reasearch and will I am sure add to all our members knowledge.

A full report and review of the Torch Relay will appear in November - including the trials and tribulations involved in preparing our own souvenirs for London.

Here's looking forward to a very special celebration of the Olympic Games in Athens.

At the time of going to press, the sad news has reached us that **Tom D'Arcy** passed away recently. Tom has been an active supporter of the Society for many years, offering news and research on Melbourne and Sydney.

Tom attended our meeting during the Sydney Games, and has hosted a number of visits by members from Great Britain. He will be sadly missed.

SOCIETY SOUVENIRS 2004

The Society of Olympic Collectors had the opportunity to commemorate two significant events in 2004.

The Global Torch Relay for the Athens 2004 Olympic Games visited London on the 26th. June. The S.O.C. celebrated it's 20th. Anniversary at Much Wenlock during the 118th. Wenlock Olympian Games on the 10-11th. July.

Potential souvenir items were listed in May Torch Bearer, but a number of further opportunities were taken to produce the items listed / illustrated.

All members who placed advanced indications of their requirements will be given preference when confirming their actual order.

The price list and order form for all of the souvenirs illustrated appears on page 12 of the Auction List. All items have been produced in limited quantities, and with the exception of the advance orders, all orders will be serviced in the order received (date of postmark or date of email).

London Torch Relay, 26th. June, 2004

Illustration HS1/P'1

Detail from plain cover with Frank Bruno / Kriss Akabusi 'Smiler' stamp and Wimbledon 1908 / Athens 2004 handstamp 26.06.04

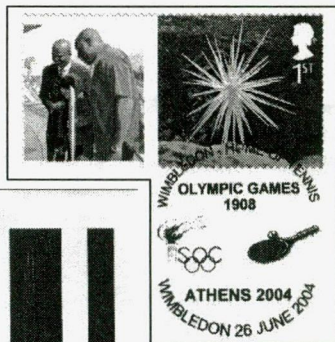


Illustration SS1a

Detail from plain cover with Global Torch Relay SmartStamp updated to 1st class and Wimbledon Park SW19 counter cancel 26.06.04
Note: Quality of counter handstamp varies

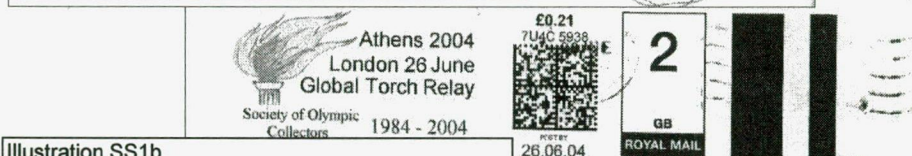


Illustration SS1b

Detail from plain cover with Global Torch Relay SmartStamp updated to 1st class and Brixton Hill SW2 counter cancel 26.06.04
Note: Quality of counter handstamp varies





Illustration SS1c
 Detail from commercial postcard with Global Torch Relay SmartStamp updated to 1st class and Greenwich SE10 counter cancel 26.06.04
 Note: Quality of counter handstamp varies

Post by Hastings 01424 439420



Illustration SS1d
 Detail from plain cover with Global Torch Relay SmartStamp updated to 1st class and Canary Wharf counter cancel 26.06.04
 Note: Quality of counter handstamp varies



Illustration SS2
 Detail from plain cover with Andrew Lindsay SmartStamp updated to 1st class and Trafalgar Square WC2 counter cancel 26.06.04
 Note: Quality of counter handstamp varies



A very limited number (generally less than 5) of items also exist using commercial postcards, tourist handstamps of Landmarks on the route etc...

A number of these will appear in the circulating packet in the future.

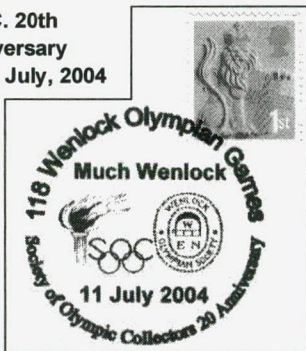
Illustration HS2/P'2
 Detail from Andrew Lindsay postcard with Andrew Lindsay 'Smiler' stamp and Buckingham Palace SW tourist handstamp 26.06.04

Illustration PC1
 Andrew Lindsay postcard.
 Photographed at SOC/AFCOS
 meeting, Henley.

Andrew Lindsay M.B.E.
 Olympic Gold Medal Winner,
 Rowing Eight, Sydney 2000

(Torch Bearer 2004).

S.O.C. 20th
 Anniversary
 10-11 July, 2004



Andrew Lindsay M.B.E.
Olympic Gold Medal Winner,
Rowing Eight, Sydney 2000

Illustration HS3 (above)
 Special handstamp:
 SOC/WOS / 118 Wenlock Olympian Games /
 Society of Olympic Collectors 20 Anniversary /
 Much Wenlock / 11 July 2004

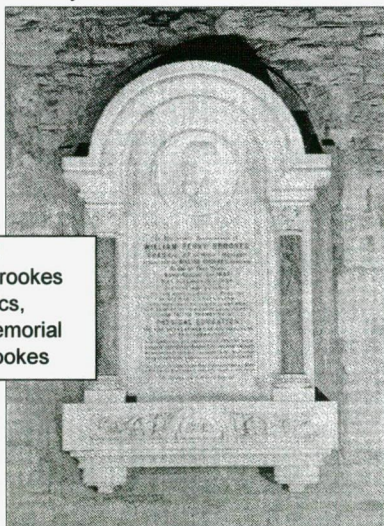


Illustration PC2
 Postcard: Dr. Brookes
 and the Olympics,
 showing the memorial
 tablet to Dr. Brookes

Dr. Brookes and the Olympics

Penny Brookes, as he was and is generally known, succeeded his father as medical practitioner in Much Wenlock, and became leader in many local philanthropic activities and widely known as a botanist.

He had a particular interest in physical education, and he founded the Wenlock Olympian Society, which had its first games meeting in 1850. In 1850 the contests were thrown open to all England and included adult and juvenile races, archery, javelin throwing, tilting in the ring, and rifle shooting.

In the same year the ancient Olympian Games were revived in Athens, and the largest prize was one from England called the Wenlock Cross. A National Olympian Association was formed in 1887 with Dr. Brookes at its head. For the Association's sports festival at Shrewsbury in 1877 the King of Greece gave a silver cup as first prize for the Pentathlon; this contest had been introduced in Wenlock in 1858 and consisted of high jump, long jump, climbing a 50ft rope, putting a 36lb shot, and a half-mile flat race. It was Dr. Brookes who suggested the formation of the Central Athletic Association, forerunner of the A.A.A. which governs all athletic meetings today; and he campaigned for many years to secure government grants for Physical Education and Gymnastics in schools. The Board of Education eventually agreed to this in 1895, the year of his death.

An article in the Greek newspaper "Clio" in June 1891 said that "Dr. Brookes, the enthusiastic Philhellene, is endeavouring to organise an International Olympic Festival to be held in Athens, from which much good will arise, and we have no doubt that the Greek Government will give every facility for its realization". But the first International Olympic Games of modern times were not held till 1896, a few months after Penny Brookes's death. So the honour of being the founder went to his friend from student days and fellow enthusiast for physical education, the French Baron de Coubertin.

Illustration SS3 (shown on cover below)
 'SOC 1984-2004 / William Penny Brookes, SmartStamp 10.07.04 (Text as Town Sign).

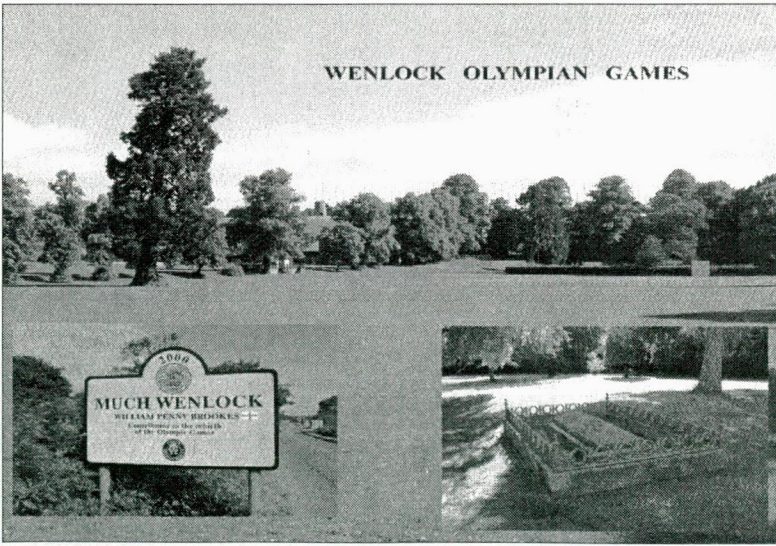
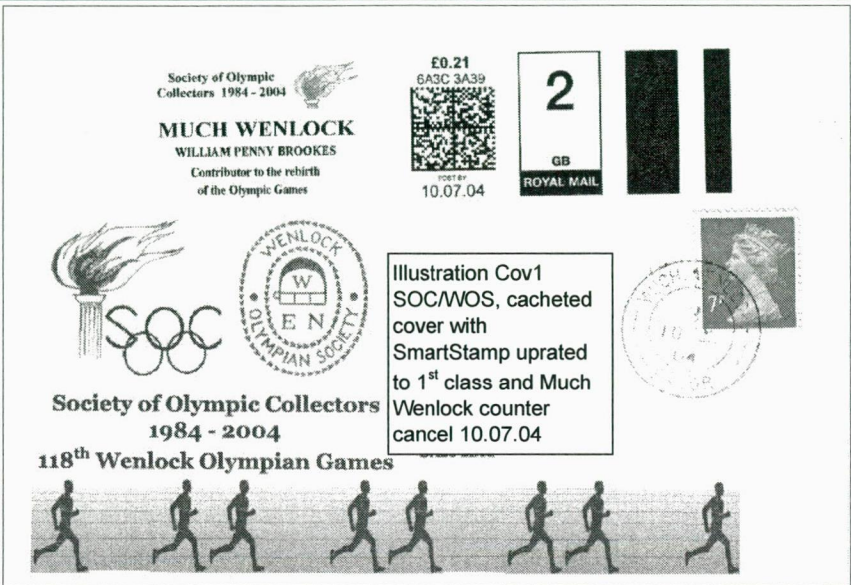


Illustration PC3
 Postcard: S.O.C. 20th Anniversary - Wenlock Olympian Games. The Sports Field, and inset: Commemorative Town Name Plate; The grave of Dr. Brookes.

S.O.C. 20th. Anniversary, 10-11th. July, 2004 - "Leaping for London" 2012

"LEAPING for LONDON"

Society of Olympic Collectors



LONDON 2012
CANDIDATE CITY

£0.21
4A3L 2A28



POST BY
10.07.04

2

GB
ROYAL MAIL

Illustration SS4
'Leaping for London',
SmartStamp (date
will be as receipt of
order)

"LEAPING for LONDON"

Society of Olympic Collectors



LONDON 2012
CANDIDATE CITY

£0.21
4A3L 2A28



POST BY
10.07.04

2

GB
ROYAL MAIL

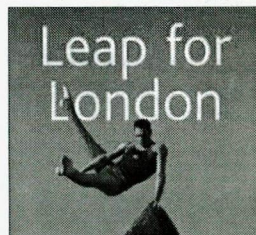
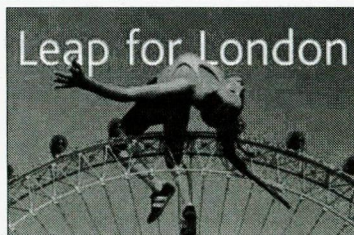
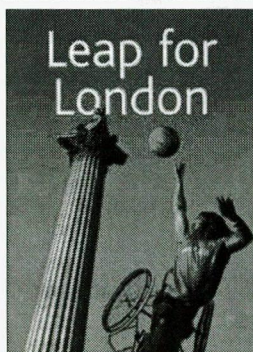
"LEAPING for LONDON"



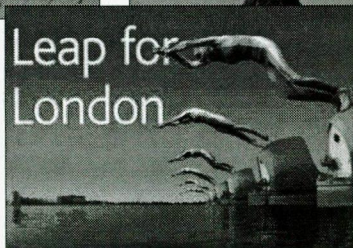
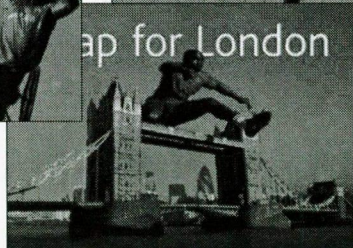

LONDON 2012
CANDIDATE CITY



Illustration Cov2
'Leaping for London', cacheted cover with
SmartStamp uprated to 1st class and
Much Wenlock counter cancel 10.07.04



London 2012
bid postcards



THE MARATHON 1908 - THAT INFAMOUS DISTANCE

Bob Wilcock

26 miles 385 yards – that is the standard marathon distance. It was the distance run in the 1908 marathon, and in 1924 became the standard distance for marathon races. But why 26 miles 385 yards, or 42,195 metres? It is a question that has fascinated me for a long time. There are two common explanations.

The first is that the start was altered, and this is the explanation proffered in Mallon and Buchanan's book on 1908¹ published in 2000: "at the request of Princess Mary, the race began under the windows of the nursery by the East Terrace at Windsor Castle so that the young princes could have a good view of the runners." This view is adopted by the British Olympic Association on their web site (www.olympics.org.uk): "Quite by accident, the standard marathon distance was established in 1908. The original course was 25 miles long, which was more or less the standard distance at the time. But the starting line was moved from its original location to Windsor Castle, in order to give the royal family a better view, and the resulting distance of 26 miles, 385 yards has been the standard ever since."

The second explanation is that the finish was altered so that the race would end in front of the Royal Box of Queen Alexandra. This is the explanation offered by, amongst others, Wallechinsky in his "Complete Book of the Summer Olympics"².

There is a third, much less common explanation, which I first came across in an article by Pat Butcher in the Times of 22 April 1989, namely that a detour was added to counter the "threat of a professional marathon on the same course prior to the Olympics".

So what is the truth? What is fact and what is myth? Different books and articles repeat one or other of these explanations, but to solve the riddle we have to go back to original 1908 sources.

The obvious place to start is the 1908 Official Report, available on line at <http://www.olympics.org.uk>. Sadly, this is silent on the matter, though taken with other evidence it does help us to piece together the story.

One clue is a photograph in the Report showing the Princess of Wales (Princess Mary, later Queen Mary) before the start of the race. The Royal children are clearly not in the nursery, but out on the terrace. This suggests we can dismiss the first story, but can we? Yes and no! In the photograph the Princess (on the left) is talking to Lord Desborough, and the runners at the right of the picture are George Buff of the Netherlands (No. 17) and François Celis of Belgium (No. 18), neither of whom finished. The royal grandchildren include the future Edward VIII and George VI.

The Official Report names the Chief Clerk of the Course as Mr J. M. Andrew and mentions the assistance of members of Polytechnic Harriers. Jack Andrew is a key figure in our story. He was Honorary Secretary of the Polytechnic Harriers, and is familiar to us all as the man with the megaphone in the famous photographs of the finish. He was responsible for setting the course, and our next hope for finding the truth about the distance would be the records of the Polytechnic Harriers.

These are held in the University of Westminster Archives, but sadly the records for 1908 have not survived. The Archives do hold the Polytechnic Magazine for 1908 however, and what turns out to be a key document, the programme for the Trial Marathon held on Saturday, 25 April 1908.



ATHLETICS. —THE MARATHON RACE.
H.R.H. THE PRINCESS OF WALES AT THE START AT WINDSOR.

The Polytechnic Magazine records that the British Olympic Council (the BOA Sub-committee responsible for the organisation of the Games) arranged with the Amateur Athletic Association and the Polytechnic Harriers to prepare a marathon course of about 40 kilometres. This was done in time for the Trial Marathon which was arranged to facilitate the selection of the British representatives in the Olympic marathon.

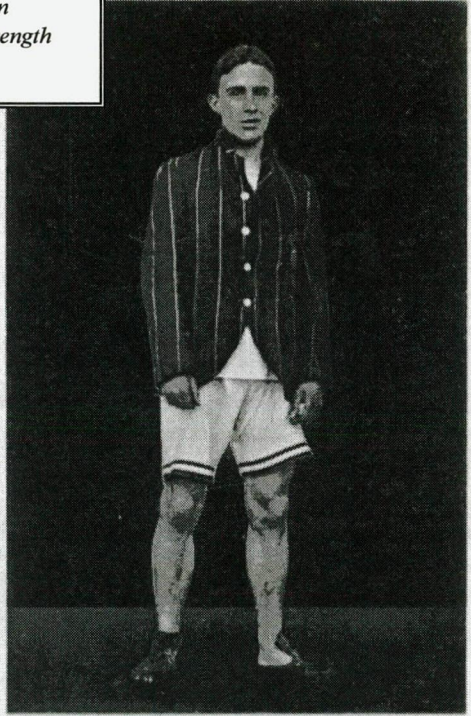
Jack Andrew "was struck with the idea of associating Windsor Castle with the event..." and duly laid out a course linking the Castle with the Franco-British Exhibition Stadium. It was not possible for the Trial Marathon to complete the course because the stadium was still under construction (it was not fully finished for the Exhibition Opening Ceremony events on 14 May), so the race finished after something over 22 miles, at Wembley Park Trotting Track.

The course is set out on the next page, taken from the Trial Marathon Programme. We need to focus on the start and the finish. The start is shown as "Windsor Great Park, near the High Street Gate, 700 yards from Queen Victoria's Statue" (my emphasis). The finish is shown as at 26 1/3 miles or 42.3795 kilometres.

The programme states that "the course for [the Olympic marathon] will be from Windsor Castle to the stadium, a lap of the running track being completed at the finish [my emphasis]. It is hoped that the King will graciously consent to the start being made from the terrace of the historic Castle, in which event the distance will be about 26 miles to the edge of the stadium track. The marathon race of 40 kilometres will be run on a course marked out on public roads by the A.A.A. and will finish on the running track in the stadium where the last 1/3 mile will be run (1 lap = 536 metres)"....

*A. Duncan of Salford Harriers,
winner of the Trial Marathon
(postcard from Health & Strength
Olympic Series)*

Health & Strength" Series.

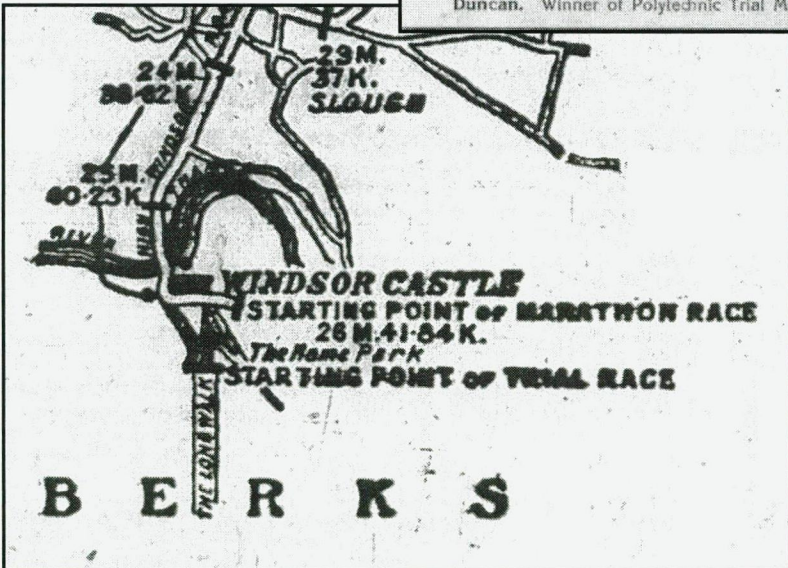


Duncan. Winner of Polytechnic Trial Marathon.

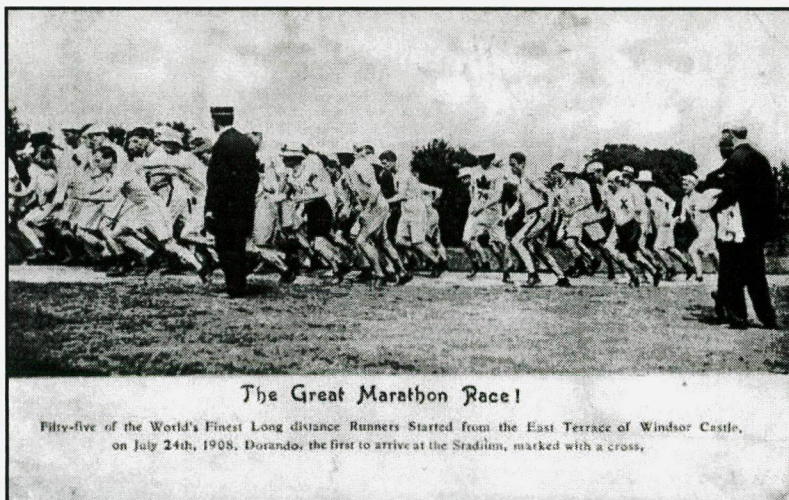
Be that as it may, it made no difference to the length of the marathon. The Official Report records the start as: "Windsor Castle, East Terrace, 700 yards from Queen Victoria's Statue." In other words, Queen Victoria's statue was Jack Andrew's reference point.

So, yes, the start was moved from Windsor Great Park to the East Terrace, but there is no evidence that it was at Princess Mary's request, and in any event, be the start in Windsor Great Park or on the Terrace the race would be the same distance.

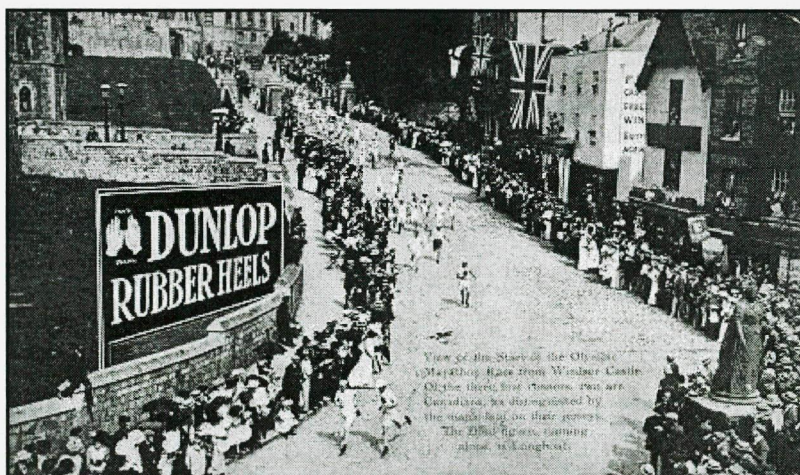
The two starting points are shown clearly on the Daily Telegraph map of the marathon route published on 24 July 1908:



As well as helping cast light on the marathon distance, a search of 1908 newspapers in the British Newspaper Library at Colindale, and the Daily Graphic in particular, has brought to light additional information on some of the postcards of the marathon:



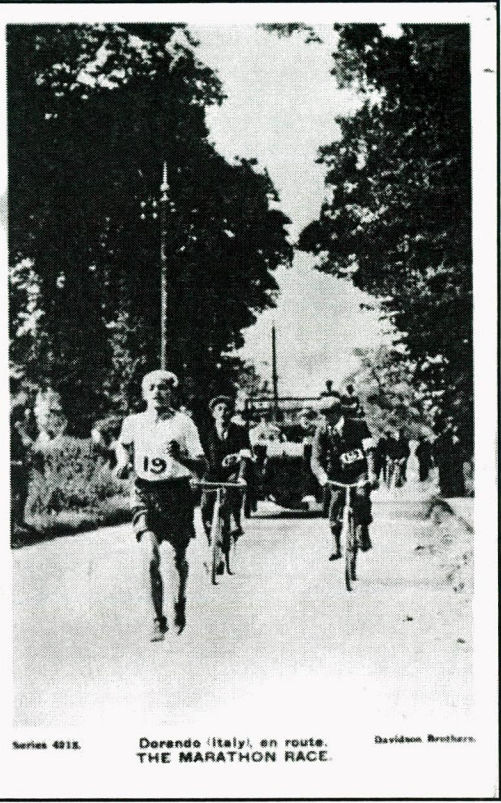
The Princess of Wales pressed an electric button as a signal to Lord Desborough, President of the British Olympic Council (and IOC member), who fired the starting gun. The gentleman in the centre of the postcard is the Crown Prince of Sweden who “gave word to [the runners] to go”⁴. The runners started in four rows. Dorando was in the fourth row, Hayes in the third.



In this photo, the Queen Victoria statue is bottom left, looking away from the runners, but towards the High Street through which the runners ran in the Trial Marathon. Queen Victoria is also looking away from the Dunlop advert that was not there in reality, but was superimposed on the postcard by Dunlop of Canada, a rather naughty early example of unauthorised use of the Olympics for advertising.

The photo of Dorando, accompanied by his cycle attendants appeared in the Daily Graphic report, and was taken at Wembley, about 21 miles from the start of the race. Dorando was lying second behind Hefferon of South Africa at this stage.

In the Royal Box, awaiting the finish was Queen Alexandra. Thanks to the Daily Graphic it can be confirmed that on the postcard the Queen is in the centre of the photo, standing. With the Queen in the Royal Box were Princess Victoria [daughter of Prince Christian and niece of King Edward VII], the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Princess Patricia, the Crown Prince and Princess of Sweden, Countess de Grey, Lord Farquhar, Lord Roteberry, the Duke of Sparta, amongst others⁵. (Can any reader place any of these on the photo?)



Series 4215. Dorando (Italy), en route. THE MARATHON RACE. Davidson Brothers.



Series 4211. H. M. The Queen awaiting arrival of the Winner. THE MARATHON RACE. Davidson Brothers.

At about twenty minutes past five that hot Friday afternoon Queen and crowd heard the rocket that was fired to indicate that the first runner was approaching the stadium. It was known that Hefferon and Dorando were leading – who would it be? No one appeared. Some ambulance men ran across the cycle track with a stretcher. There was a tense and nervous silence. Then “in a moment or two the diminutive figure in a wet, white vest and crimson drawers came into view. A deafening roar greeted him⁶.”



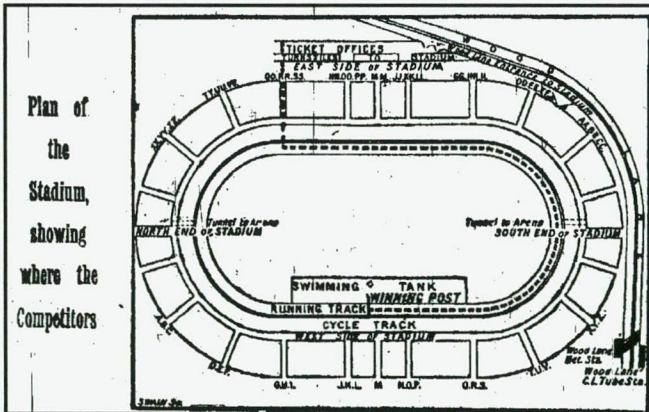
DORANDO'S ARRIVAL AT THE STADIUM.

Franco-British Exhibition.

The well known postcard of Dorando's arrival at the stadium shows him being directed left, but the Official Report states “Dorando was almost unconscious when he reached the cinder path, and turned to his right instead of his left. The slope from the archway was apparently the final stroke. He collapsed upon the track.”

Why did he turn right? It is an interesting question, and brings us to the story of the finishing point. The Trial Marathon programme gave the total race distance as 26½ miles (42.3795 km) “a lap of the running track being completed at the finish”, but the marathon programme itself stated “The Marathon race of 42 kilometres will be run on a course marked out on public roads by the Amateur Athletic association, and will finish on the running track in the Stadium where part of 1 lap will be run.”⁷

A full lap meant that runners would pass before all the 90,000 crowd, but the tunnel entrance was on the far side of the stadium from the Royal Box, and it was decided to move the finish.



Plan of the Stadium, showing where the Competitors

will Enter to Complete the Forty Kilometres on the Track.

This story is correct therefore. What we don't know is whether the change was made on Royal initiative; no evidence has been found. However, there is more to it than that, the race wasn't just shortened slightly, it was altered so that the runners went the wrong way round the track. Runners race anti-clockwise, and simply to have moved the finish meant that the vast majority of the spectators would get but a distant view. Changing it so that the runners would finish clockwise meant that they would pass before the majority of spectators. This "inverse" route is clearly shown in the plan published in the Daily Telegraph⁸. So Dorando was perhaps expecting to turn right; he didn't turn the wrong way as such, it was the track that was the wrong way!



Dorando found strength to cross the finish line. It is sometimes said that one of those assisting at the end was Arthur Conan Doyle of Sherlock Holmes fame. There is no truth in this. The official with the megaphone on Dorando's right is none other than Jack Andrew, and the figure on his left is Dr. Bulger, the medical officer for the race.

John Hayes of the USA finished some 32 seconds after Dorando, protested at the assistance given, and was duly awarded the race. The following day, 25 July, he was presented with his trophy, and was carried triumphantly around the stadium by his team-mates. At the front left of the table was Lewis Tewanima (9th), and behind him Joseph Forshaw (3rd).



So the race was shortened from 26 $\frac{1}{3}$ miles (42.3795 km) to 26 miles 385 yards (42,195 metres). But that still begs the question. Why was the distance in excess of 42 kilometres in the first place? The original brief was for a course of about 40 kilometres, and this distance is mentioned on the Daily Telegraph plan. Incidentally, the Official Report shows 26 miles 385 yards to be 42.263 km. and this is repeated in some of the newspapers. It seems to be but a simple conversion error.

Now contemporaneous evidence has been found to solve the final part of the riddle – why 42 km+? However, Winter's history of the Polytechnic Marathon⁹ (1969) gives the following explanation ".... The race was to be run over a distance of approximately 24½ miles [40 km is 24.85 miles], but Jack Andrew once told me that, after having settled upon his route, he learned that the London 'Evening News' was going to promote a professional race over the same route, and, in consequence he changed his finish and altered the distance to the now famous figure of 26 miles 385 yards."

Other records having been lost, this is the closest we are likely to get to the full explanation. None of the explanations tell the whole story, you need to take them all together. And I have to say I am a little baffled why Jack Andrew thought that extending the route would prevent the professionals from using it, and indeed, the Evening News reported on 9 October, the day before the race under the headline "Our Marathon Race Poor times were made in the Olympic marathon – fine race though it was and the failure of the English runners was humiliating to the great crowd that watched it. Believing that we have in this country many runners who can beat the performances of July 24, the Evening News offers substantial prizes as an inducement to our best men to show what they really can do. The race is over exactly the same distance as the Olympic Marathon, 26 miles 385 yards. There will be a longer run in the stadium – where the finish is to be a lap and a half – and a corresponding number of yards has been taken off the start." So the extended Olympic distance was deliberately chosen (and the race was won by a Frenchman, Henri Siret). The first modern Olympic marathon at Athens in 1896 was 40 km. In 1900 and 1904 it was that distance or a little over. In 1912 in Stockholm it was 40.2 km, but in Antwerp in 1920 it was the longest of all, 42.75 km. By 1924 and Paris, the London 1908 distance had been adopted as standard. How it came to be adopted is perhaps another story!

¹ The 1908 Olympic Games, Results for All Competitors in All Events with Commentary by Bill Mallon & Ian Buchanan: Macfarland & Co Inc, 2000

² The Complete Book of the Olympics by David Wallechinsky, 2000 Edition: Aurum Press Ltd

³ From the Legend to the Living by A.E.H. Winter: Rugeley: Benhill Press Ltd 1969

⁴ Daily Graphic 25 July 1908

⁵ Daily Telegraph 25 July 1908

⁶ Daily Telegraph 25 July 1908

⁷ Official Report

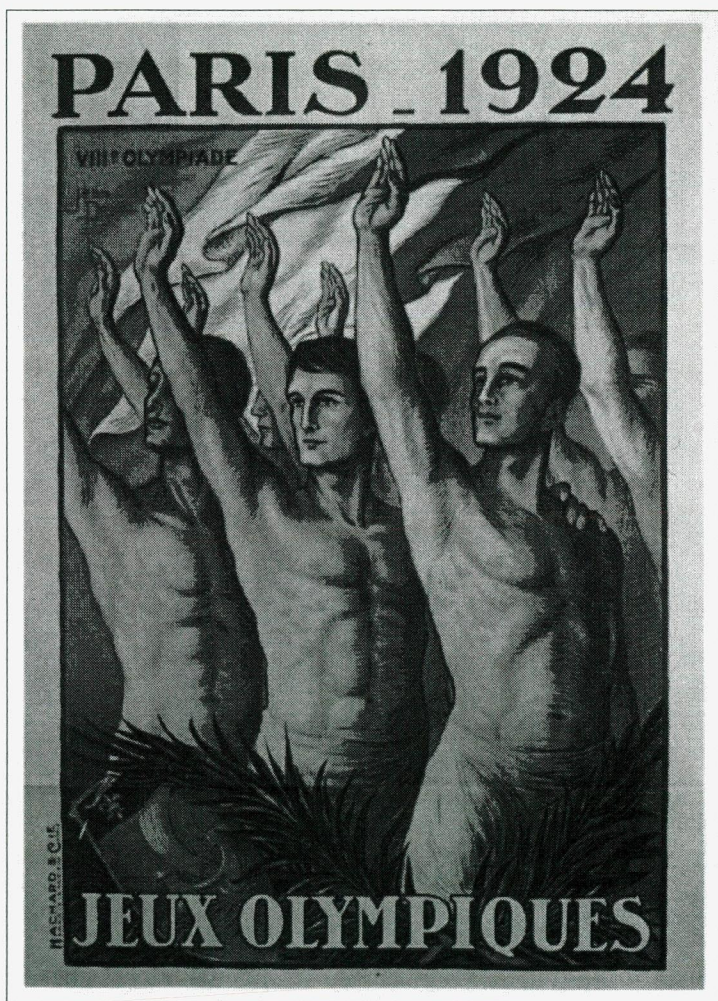
⁸ Daily Telegraph 24 July 1908

⁹ From the Legend to the Living by A.E.H. Winter: Rugeley: Benhill Press Ltd 1969, p. 11

THE VIIIth OLYMPIAD - PARIS 1924

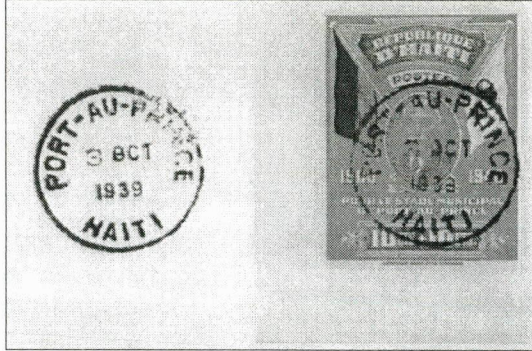
Vic Manikian

This presentation examines the historical events, the important athletic achievements and the philately of the Olympic Games of Paris in 1924. To start with the article presents the actual events at different locations, the results of the events and the individuals who characterise these games of the VIIIth Olympiad. In the Olympic Philately segment all different aspects of design, printing, proofs, postal cards, overprints and postmarks are presented. In this manner the reviewer of this study will have the benefit of obtaining a complete picture of this athletic world event.



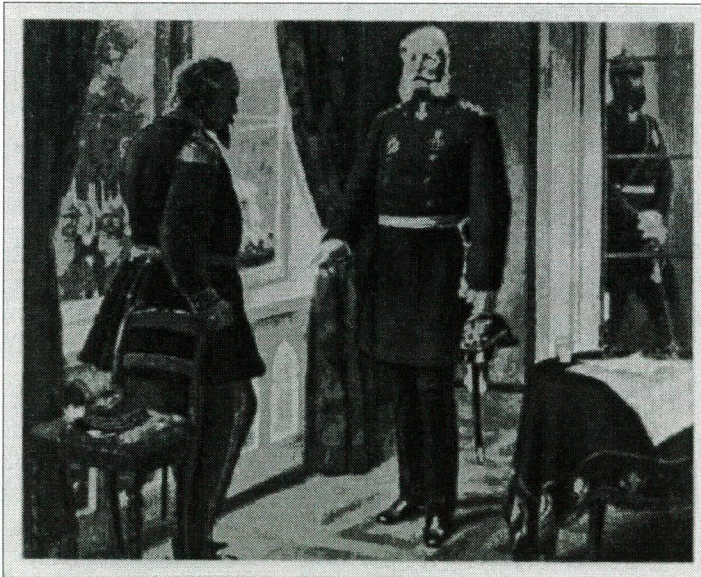
Historical Events

During the 1880's German archeologists excavated the ruins of Olympia, the fabulous arena in which the ancient Greeks once held their Olympic competitions. The treasures of the past had a profound effect on modern times and in particular the Baron Pierre de Coubertin of France, who was excited by the concept of worldwide athletic championships.



The three stamps of Haiti issued in 1939 were the first to commemorate the founder of the modern games.

Coubertin was seriously concerned about the physical fitness of French youth. Unlike the British, German and American institutions in the 19th century French school authorities did not include athletic programs on their agendas. Time spent playing sports was considered a diversion away from academic studies.



Napoleon III surrenders to Wilhelm I of Prussia on 2nd September 1870.

Coubertin believed that this lack of respect for physical fitness was largely responsible for the French defeat in the Franco-Prussian War and the battle of Sedan. A recent and painful memory, the war ended in 1870 with tragedy for the French, who were overrun by German conquerors.

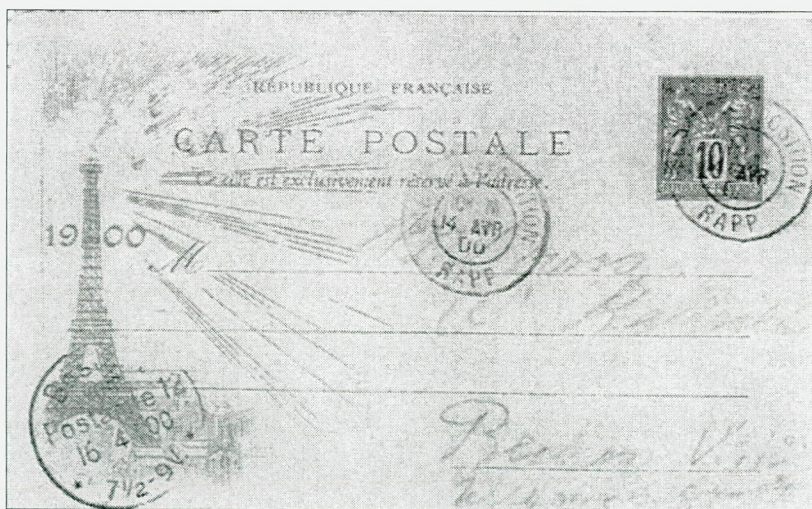
Paris the "Olympic City" has often played a fundamental role in the history of the modern Olympic Games. In 1892 at the university of Sorbonne, as part of a conference, Pierre de Coubertin announced that the Olympic Games, missing for fifteen centuries would reappear modernised with a character that would represent all parts of the world.

This proposal was realised at a congress held in the same Sorbonne University in 1894. With representatives from fifteen nations attending Coubertin was successful in communicating his enthusiasm, and on 23 June 1894 the delegates approved unanimously the re-establishment of the Games and the creation of an International Olympic committee (I.O.C.)



For the first modern Games, Coubertin proposed the city of Paris as host in the year 1900. The first president of the I.O.C., Vikelas of Greece, succeeded in securing sufficient votes for an alternative proposal to hold the Games of the first modern Olympiad in Athens, Greece in 1896.

Through the efforts of Coubertin, the city of Paris was selected to host the Games of the IInd Olympiad as part of the Universal Exposition of Paris, with its inauguration date of 14th April 1900. Coubertin was deeply disappointed at the arrangements, but understood that this was the only chance to realise the Games for 1,331 competitors. Coubertin's proposal that the Games be focused in a reconstructed stadium complex was overturned by the Exposition Commissioner. The competitions were eventually spread throughout the sections of the vast exposition.



115 Postal card, cancelled on 14 April, 1900 - Inauguration day.

The 500 meter oval grass field where the track and field competitions were held. The field was uneven and the trees surrounding the field were not removed for the Games.



After the disappointment of the 1900 Games, Coubertin wished to offer the city of Paris another chance. At the 1921 Congress in Lausanne he was successful in obtaining approval to assign the Games of 1924 to the French Capital, and to Amsterdam the Games of the IX Olympiad.

Another important decision taken in Lausanne was to authorise the unfolding of one week of winter sports under the patronage of the I.O.C. These trials were to take place in Chamonix France from 25 January to 5 February 1924.

Organisation of the 1924 Paris Games

The operation of the French Olympic committee did not run smoothly because of conflict between the president Count Clary and vice-president Jules Rimet evidenced by constant arguments over the lack of funds and equipment.

Financing, Facilities and Housing.

The French government and city of Paris had promised 30 million francs to support and finance the Games. Due to political and economic instability the funds were not all available. One solution came in from the Racing Club of France who made available their 60,000 seat stadium of Colombes for the Games. The stadium with its 500 meter running track was more of an oven than a pleasure arena during the Games. Competition was conducted during a punishing heat wave that sent temperatures soaring as high as 113 deg.F (41 deg. c).

Letter to Poland from the French Olympic Committee of 1924, dated 12 April, 1924, with correct franking of two 25 centimes Olympic, stamps and an Olympic label.



"Colombes" stadium illustrated cancel.



Envelope with the special postmark "COLOMBES/ STADE OLYMPIQUE" cancelled on the Opening Day of the Games, 5 July 1924. It also bears the single line postmark of "COLOMBES STADE OLYMPIQUE".

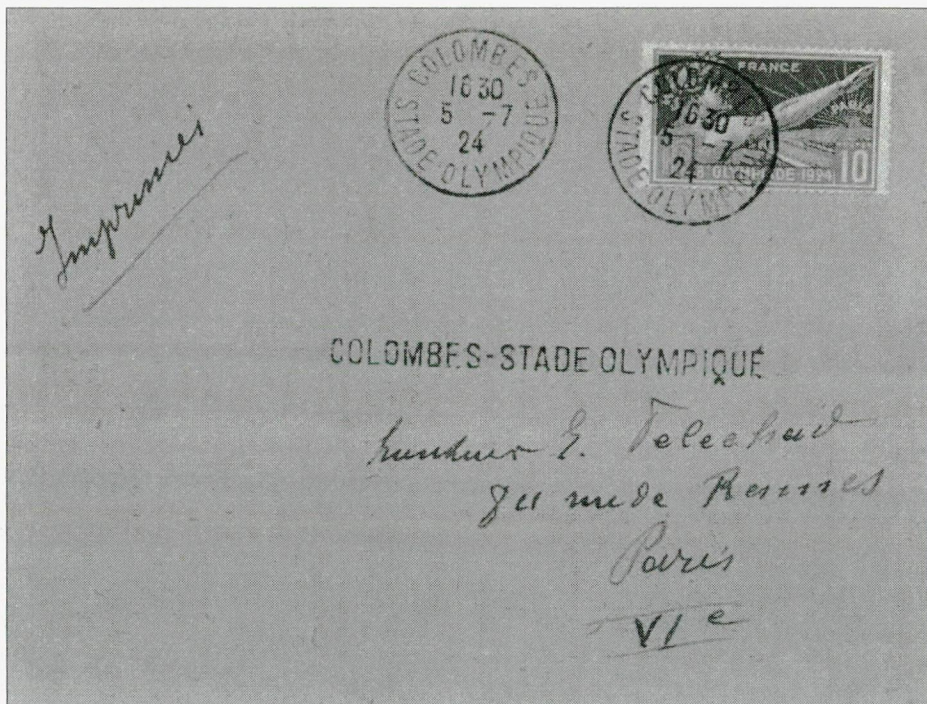


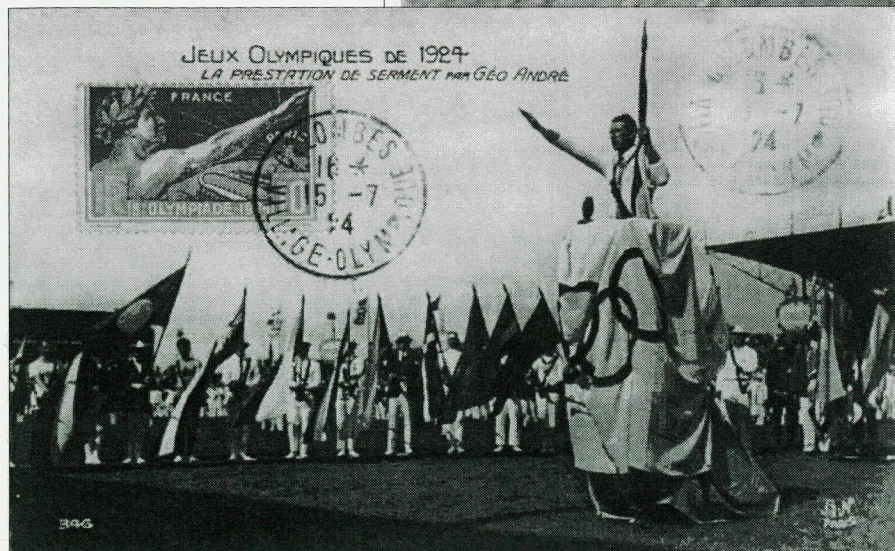
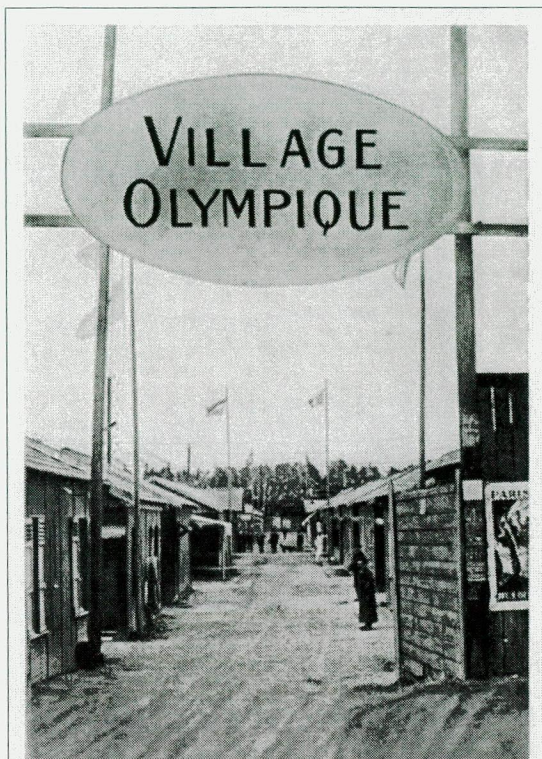
Illustration of the Olympic Oath being taken by French Olympian Geo Andre on the Opening Day of Games in Colombes Stadium.



The 1924 Paris Olympics were the first to provide collective housing for athletes. The simple huts surrounding Colombes stadium look to us now like a collection of tool sheds, but their simplicity and closeness encouraged international intermingling, a strong argument for the revival of the Olympics.

Commemorative circular postmark "Colombes / Village-Olympique", only in use at the temporary Olympic village post office.

The 5 July 1924 cancellation was on the Opening Day of the Games.

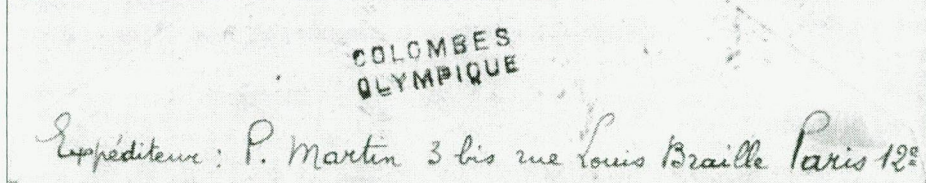


Special hand cancellations used at the temporary post office of Village Olympique. The post office operated from 04 and 15 May until 28 July. The office was equipped with many hand cancellers including linear "COLOMBES-VILLAGE OLYMPIQUE".
 COLOMBES - OLYMPIQUE and the Daguin machine.



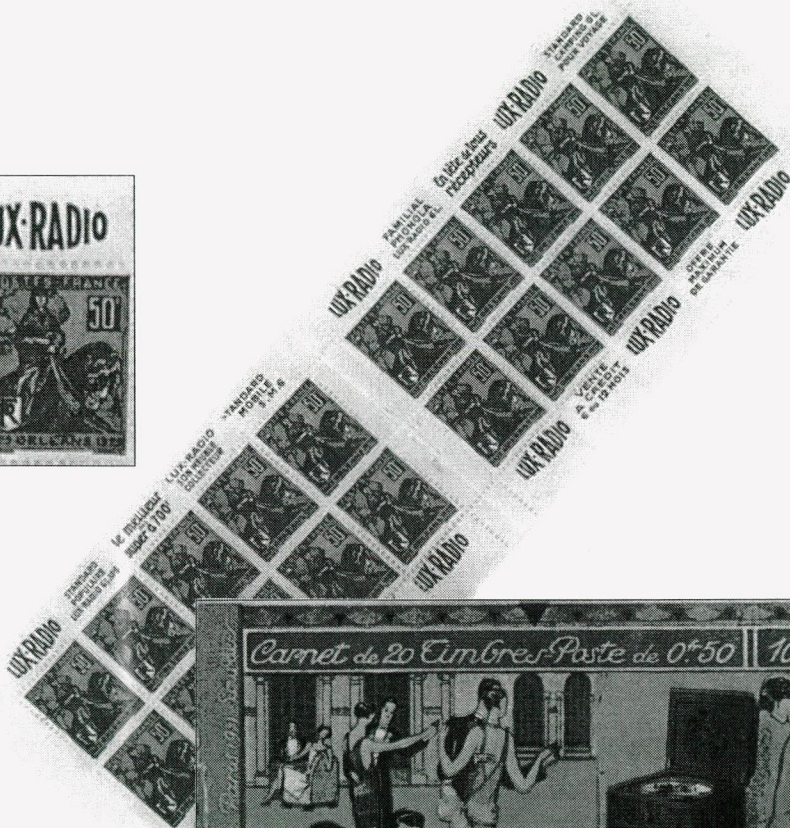
Front and reverse of registered envelope from the Olympic Village to Bordeaux.

Registered letter to Bordeaux with the special "Colombes Olympique No. 155 registration label cancelled with the special circular hand cancel of "Colombes Village Olympique", the boxed Daguin postmark and the line postmark of "Colombes / Village Olympique". The 25c stamp has perforation shifted up. There are only 2 registered covers in existence. This envelope is the most valuable philatelic specimen of the Paris Games of 1924.



Publicity.

For the first time radio transmission provided the results of each Olympic event and their winners to the World. A 1929 French booklet advertising "Lux-Radio" on its tabs, promotes use of radios during that period



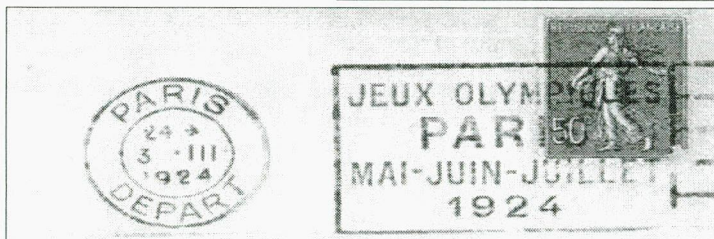
The main source of collecting money for the committee and publicity for the Games was the sale of vignettes (labels), but this was not sufficient for the financing of the Games. There were three vignette designs issued by the organising committee. Two of them shown right were printed in black with a border in one of four different colours: 1) green; 2) orange; 3) brown; 4) violet. The third vignette was a horizontal rectangle, imperforate with the text: "JEUX OLYMPIQUE/PARIS 1924"



Starting November 1923, another method of publicity was introduced by the postal ministry, through the use of Olympic Games publicity cancellations from 15 post offices in Paris and four other cities in the country.

Three type of machine cancellations were used

1. FLIER box type cancellation used in eight post offices in Paris and 4 other cities "LYON-GARE" is the rarest of the box type cancel and PARIS / DEPART is the most common.



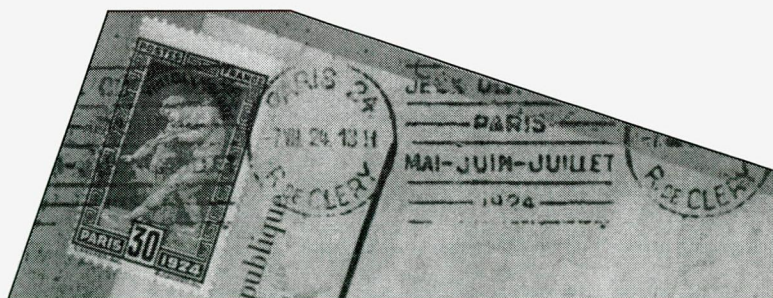
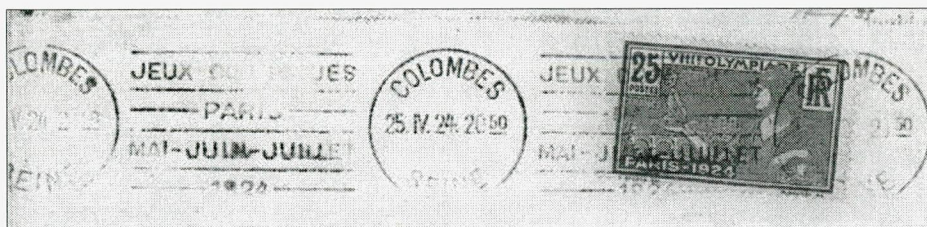
FLIER box type cancellations LYON-GARE and PARIS / DEPART

2. KRAG type continuous cancellations.

- (a) First generation of KRAG machine with 5 lines used in 4 offices in Paris:
Gare de L'Est, 1 Av. De la Republique, R. du Faubg St Denis, Av. D'Orleans.



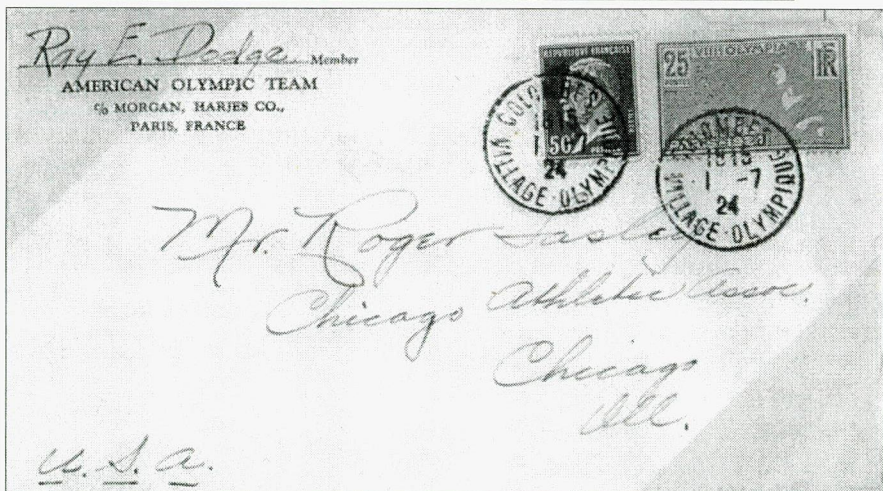
- (b) Second generation of KRAG machine with 6 lines used in two Paris Offices.



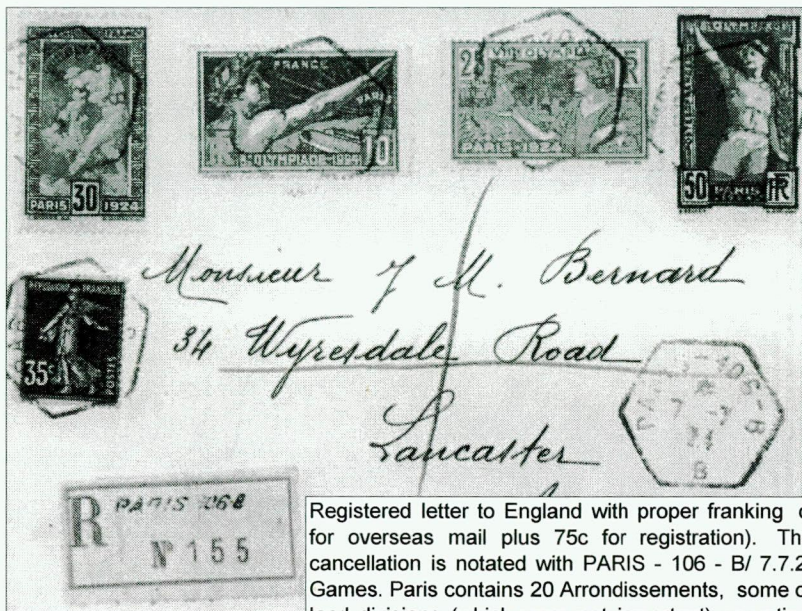
3. DAGUIN Box type cancellation invented by Mr. Daguin was used in Olympic Village and the Olympic Stadium and was often hand placed not adjacent to the date canceller.

The table on the following page provides known earliest and latest usage dates of FLIER and KRAG cancellations.

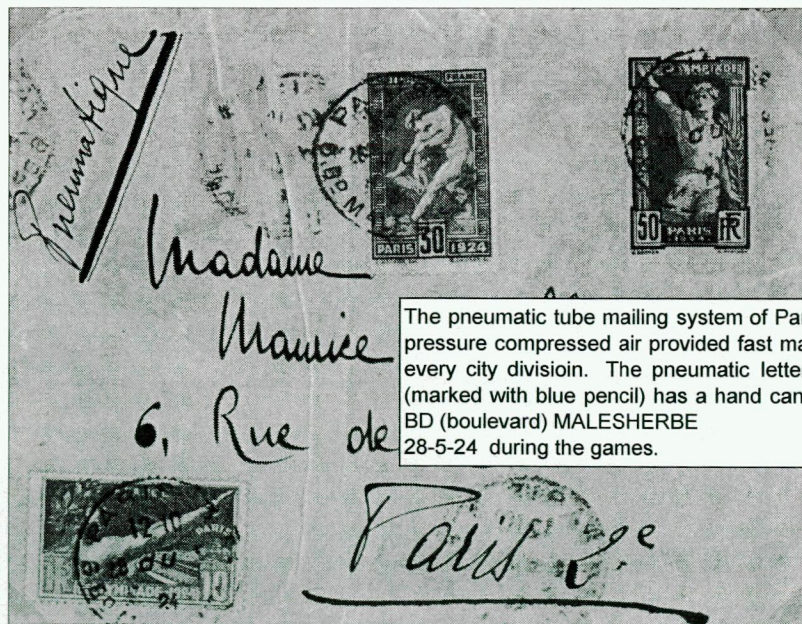
Post Office	Earliest	Latest
1) FLIER Box cancellation		
PARIS Depart	20/11/23	13/08/24
Gare Saint Lazare	20/02/24	12/08/24
X Quai de Valmy	12/01/24	08/08/24
XVI Place Chopin	19/01/24	18/08/24
XVII Rue Jouffroy	24/11/23	01/08/24
XVIII Rue de Clignancourt	28/02/24	07/08/24
47, rue La Boetie	19/11/23	06/08/24
117, rue des Halle	01/01/24	23/07/24
BORDEAUX	25/02/24	30/07/24
LE HAVRE	04/03/24	02/08/24
MARSEILLE	20/02/24	01/08/24
LYON	28/02/24	30/05/24
2a) Krag - 5 line cancel		
PARIS Gare de l'Est	31/10/23	27/08/24
1, avenue de la Republique	15/11/23	21/08/24
26, rue du Fbg St Denis	07/11/23	29/08/24
XIV Avenue d'Orleans	05/12/23	29/07/24
2b) Krag - 6 line cancel		
PARIS 24, rue de Clery	15/12/23	07/07/24
COLOMBES SEINE	25/02/24	15/06/24



Ray Dodge was a member of the American Olympic team in Paris. He finished 6th in the 800 meter race. The stationery of his letter was supplied by Morgan Harjes Co., an American business company in Paris (no longer in business) The envelope bears a circular handstamp which provides (a) complete printing of "OLYMPIQUE". (b) complete printing of "2" in year 24. (c) a hyphen between "Village" and Olympique". and (d) the 4" of "24" is located in line of the "L" in "OLYMPIQUE". The mail rate to overseas is correctly applied at 75c.

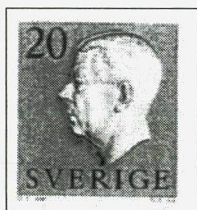


Registered letter to England with proper franking of 1f 50 (75c for overseas mail plus 75c for registration). The hexagonal cancellation is notated with PARIS - 106 - B/ 7.7.24 during the Games. Paris contains 20 Arrondissements, some of these Paris land divisions (which were not important) operating small post offices, used this cancel, rather than the FLIER and KRAG types.

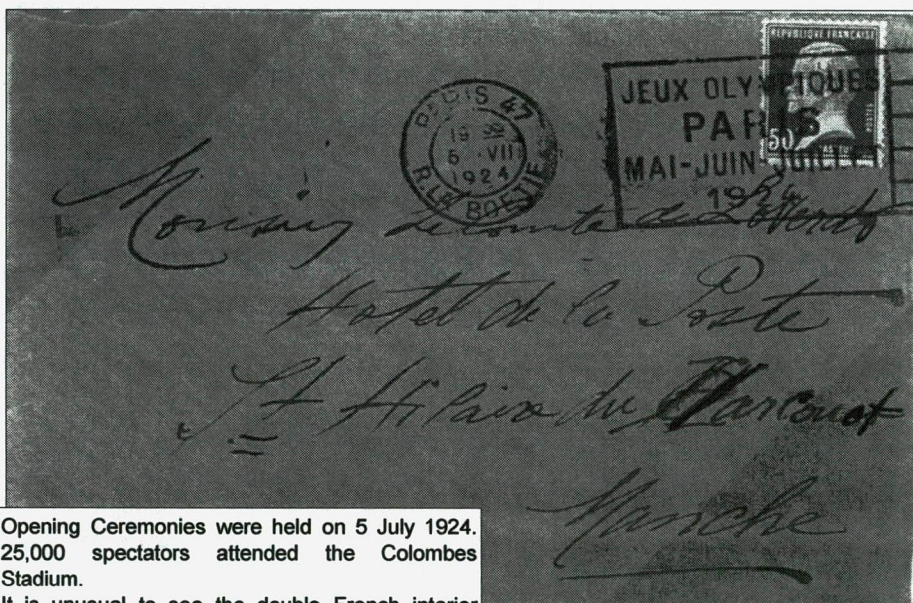


The pneumatic tube mailing system of Paris using high pressure compressed air provided fast mail services to every city division. The pneumatic letter to Paris 98 (marked with blue pencil) has a hand cancel of PARIS BD (boulevard) MALESHERBE 28-5-24 during the games.

Opening Day of the Games, Dates and Location of Competitions



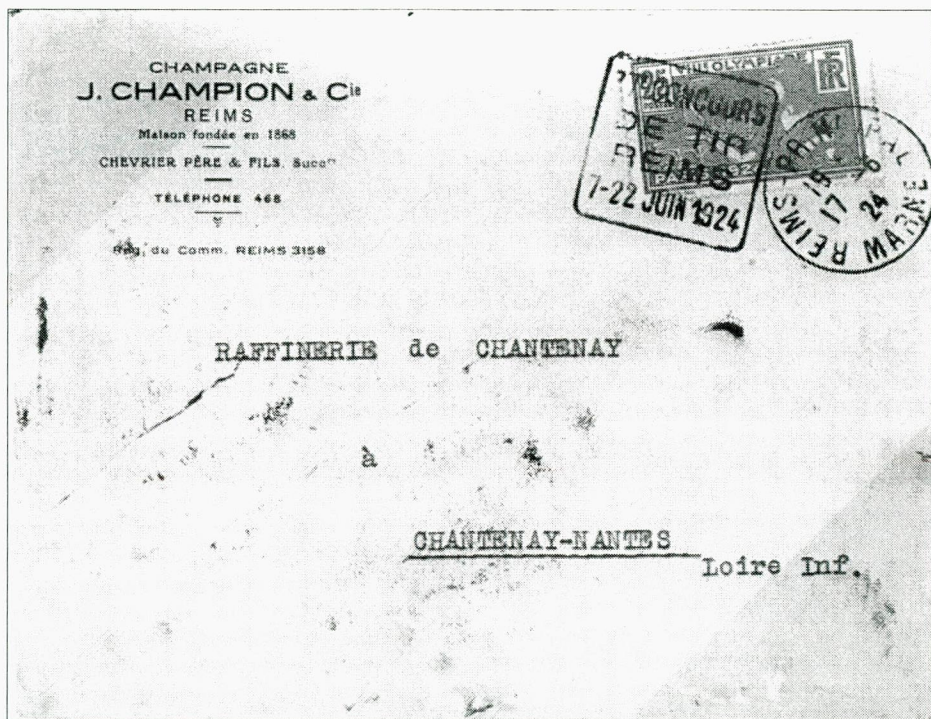
Attending the Opening day ceremonies with the French Republic President were the following dignitaries: Prince of Wales, future emperor of Ethiopia, future Kings of Belgium, Sweden, Romania and the Shah of Persia.



Opening Ceremonies were held on 5 July 1924. 25,000 spectators attended the Colombes Stadium. It is unusual to see the double French interior postal rate (50c) used on letters.

The program of the Games were divided into different periods. The tournament of the arts competitions started on 14 March and ended on 15 April with 189 competitors participating in the fields of Architecture, Literature, Music, Painting and Sculpture. With the total attendance of 201,000 spectators the football tournaments were the most popular. The competitions were held between 25 May and 9 June.

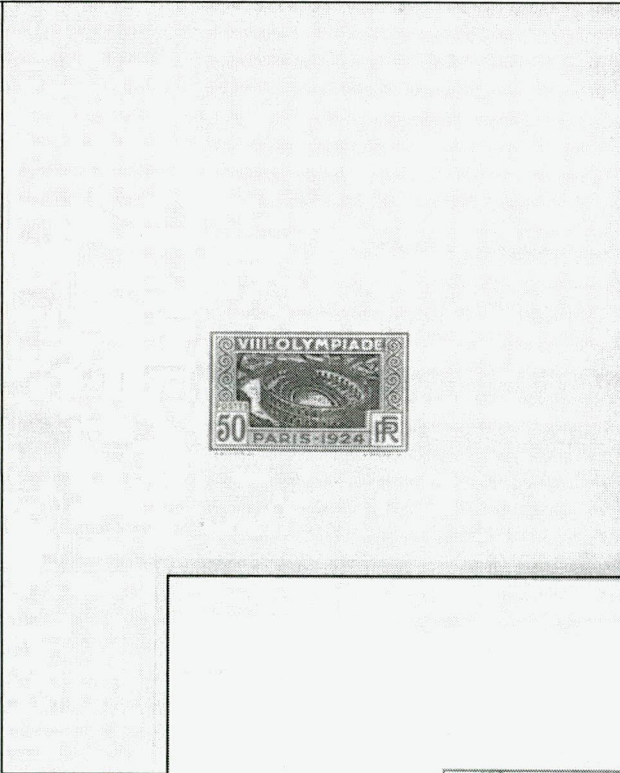
With the uncertain financial situation of the organising committee the allocation of the competition venues was difficult. The Colombes stadium was 10km from the center of Paris, the field of Versailles for the international shooting contest was 20km from Paris and Le Havre for the yachting runs was 203km from Paris.



Special Daguin rectangular cancel from Reims publicizing the target shooting competitions of 7 to 22 June 1924 for French participants. The city of Reims is famous for its champagne production, however the producers J. Champion and Co. advertising on this envelope are no longer in business.

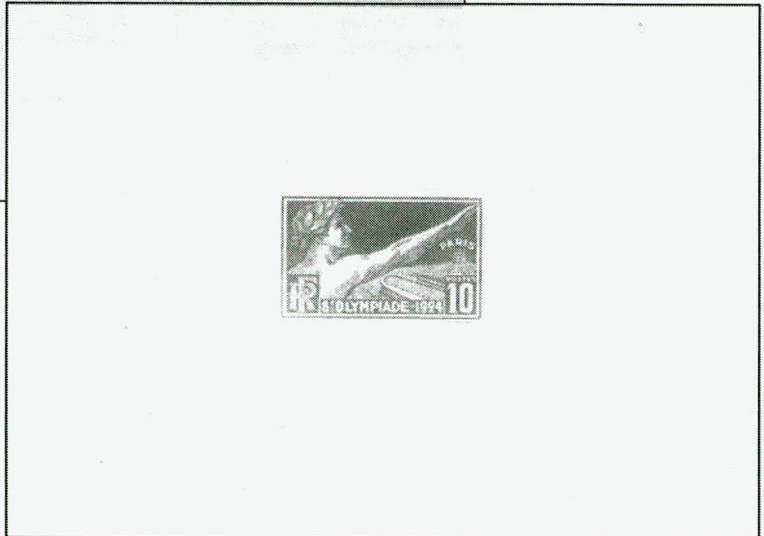
Developments

The statute adopted by the Chamber of Deputies on 28 December 1923 authorised the issuing of postage stamps of 10, 25, 30 and 50 centimes and a postal card of 30 centimes with a fixed validity period of up to 30 September 1924. E. Beker, the engraver, was entrusted with the burden of preparing the series.



Die proof of an unadopted essay for the 50c showing the ancient Roman arena at Nîmes, a city in southern France. Signed J-F. Brun.

Artist's essay of the 10c Olympic oath stamp in yellow green colour without the lettering of "FRANCE" The design illustrates a victorious athlete, crowned with olive leaves. His right hand raised in the Olympic salute; in the background the stadium and above it the word "PARIS" and rays of light. Signed J-F. Brun.



N° 6229

CHAMBRE DES DÉPUTÉS

DOUZIÈME LÉGISLATURE
SESSION DE 1923

Annexe au procès-verbal de la 2^e séance du 26 juin 1923.

PROJET DE LOI

*relatif à l'émission de timbres-poste spéciaux à l'occasion
des jeux olympiques de 1924,*

(Renvoyé à la Commission des travaux publics et des moyens de communication,
sous réserve de l'avis de la Commission des finances)

PRÉSENTÉ

AU NOM DE M. ALEXANDRE MILLERAND,

Président de la République française,

PAR M. YVES LE TROCQUER,

Ministre des Travaux publics,

ET PAR M. CHARLES DE LASTEYRIE,

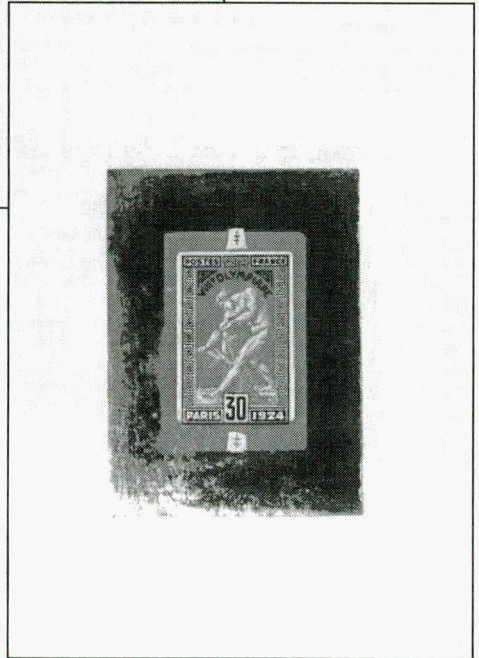
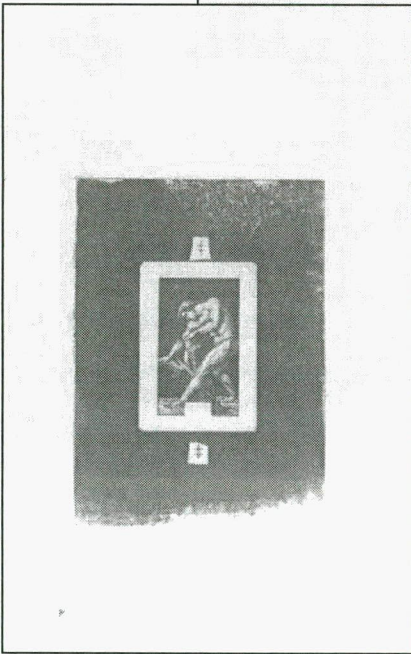
Ministre des Finances.

EXPOSÉ DES MOTIFS

Messieurs,

Ainsi que vous le savez, la France a obtenu, à la demande du Gouvernement, l'attribution des Jeux Olympiques de 1924, auxquels doivent participer quarante-cinq nations.

A cette occasion, l'Administration des Postes a été saisie par le Comité olympique français, d'une demande tendant à l'émission de timbres-poste



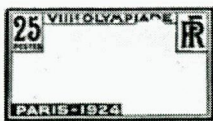
The 30c stamp was designed by Mr. Becker and engraved by Mr. Daussy from a Louvre museum statue of a Greek champion athlete with the name of Milon of Crotone (born in Crotona in the 6th century B.C.) The legend has it that this strong man tried to separate and split the trunk of a large tree. The top proof on cardboard contains the final select colours. The bottom left studio essay with ink block is in red. The bottom right essay of the stamp with ink block is in the selected colours. (all three signed J-F. Brun)

The Ancient Games - Victor - "Epreuve d'Artiste" olive green and light blue.
(Signed J-F. Brun)



c 16

Etat

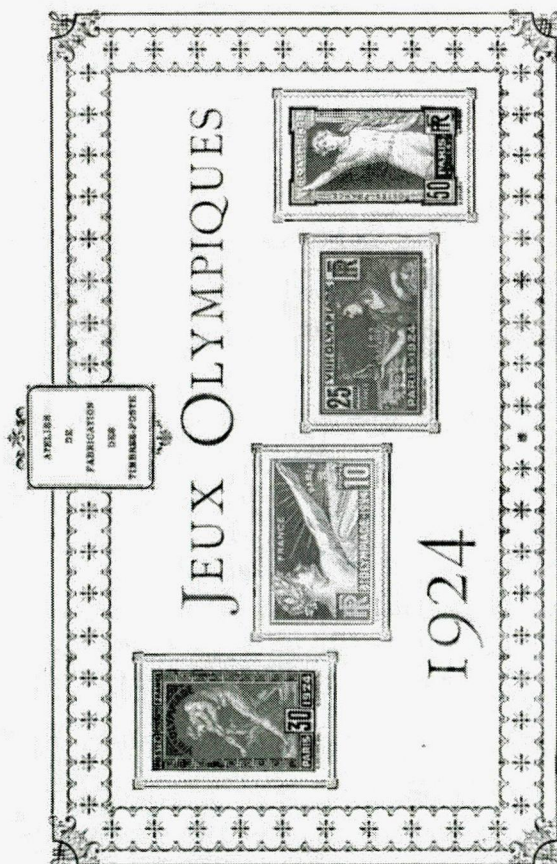


Marianne holding in the palm of her hand a statue of Nike, the Greek Goddess of victory. All stages of the trial proofs exist in the different values of this series.

(Signed R. Calves)



Special de luxe proof in limited printing of 150 copies, for distribution to IOC members and a small number of officials.



Paris 1924 - Printing Varieties and colour shifts



Vertical pair with dramatic misperforation and imperforated sides.



White line under "Paris" and white spot above a constant variety on position no. 70 stamp of each sheet.



Center Shifted down.



Center shifted right.



Perforation shifted up.



Center shifted up and left.



Colour of center image very pale.



Perforation shift left and perforation errors on right.



Muscular arm.



Ring on finger and broken "9" in 1924.



Center shifted up.



25 centimes carmine vertical pair from upper corner of sheet. Upper stamp accidentally imperforated on three sides and attached to normal perforated stamp (unique error). Signed Ph. Roumet

Ph. ROUMET

*Expert National
agr   par la Cour de Cassation*

17, rue Drouot, 75009 PARIS

T  l. : 47.70.00.56

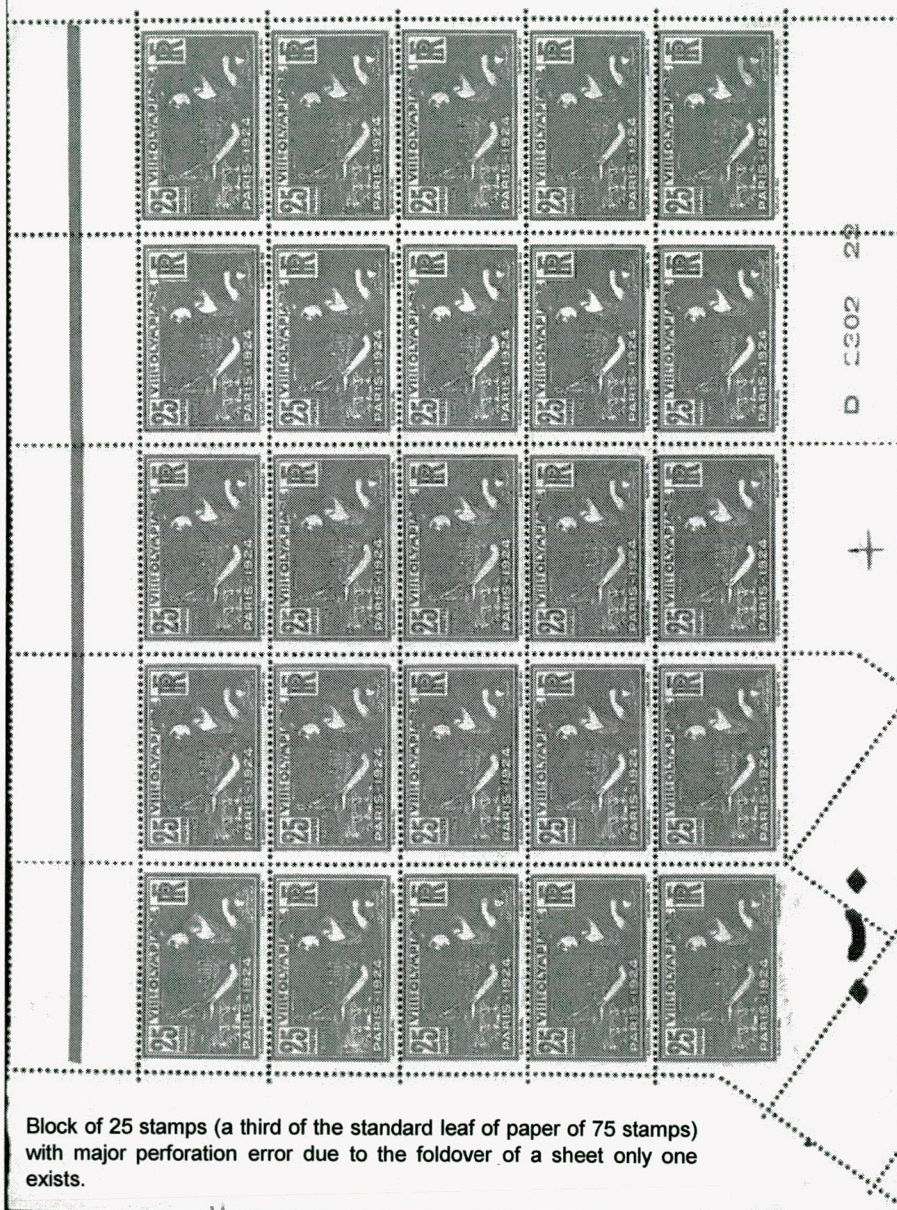
Paris, le 22 Janvier 1988

Je soussign   Philippe ROUMET

atteste avoir examin   les timbres de FRANCE 25c rouge carmin   (n   184 du cat. YVERT) en paire. Non dentel   accidentel tenant    un normal, grand coin de feuille, neuf avec gomme, rarissime, sans d  - photographi   et contre. au verso

Cette pi  ce est authentique.

Printed flat in typographic (relief-printed) press in two passes.
Block of Marianne Stamps



Block of 25 stamps (a third of the standard leaf of paper of 75 stamps)
with major perforation error due to the foldover of a sheet only one
exists.

As authorised by the Chamber of Deputies an Olympic postal card of 30 centimes was issued. The date of issue is not known. The postal card is the first issue of postal stationery for any of the Olympic Games. The 30 centimes postal card carries the image of "Milon of Crotone" corresponding to the image of the Olympic 30c stamp.



The top unused card is shown with the normal orange printing of Milon. The second unused card has printing variety of shifted orange colour. The third card mailed to U.S.A. was underfranked since the foreign mail rate was 45c. A tax "T" was levied due to underpayment. The required tax imposed was 30c or two times the deficient 15c.

Issue dates of the 1924 Paris Olympic stamps and postal rates.

Four postage stamps with values of 10, 25, 30, and 50 centimes.

The 10 and 25c date of issue was 1 April 1924.

The 30 and 50c date of issue was 23 May 1924.

The four stamps of the series were withdrawn from circulation on 30 September 1924, having no postal value beyond this date.

Postal Rates:

Postcards with less than five words within France (French Departments) and printed postcards within France 10 centimes;

Regular mail (per 20 grams of weight) within France 25 centimes;

Registered mail within France = 85 centimes (25c+60c);

Foreign mail for simple letters = 75 centimes;

Registered foreign mail = 1f 50c (75c + 75c);

Registered rate in addition to regular mail rate:

60c (within France) and 75c (for foreign mail)

Postcards for foreign mail (5 words or more) = 45 centimes;

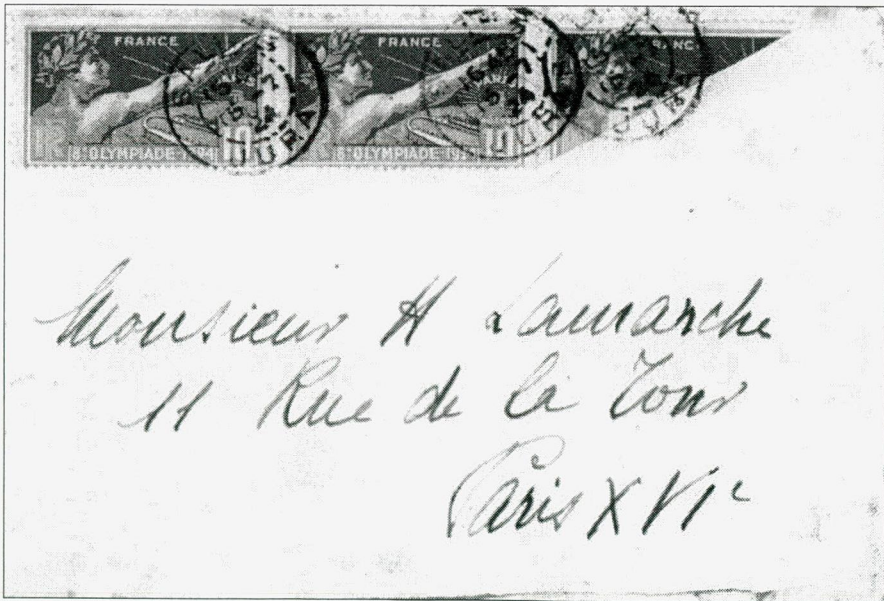
Taxes in addition to simple mail rate was 2 times the difference from the required rate, paid by the destination recipient, who had the right to refuse.

Postage rates (within France) started from 25th March 1924.

Postage rates (for foreign mail) started from 1 April 1924.

Total Olympic stamp usage for 10c and 25c was 183 days (1 April to 30 September)

Total Olympic stamp usage for 30c and 50c was 131 days (23 May to 30 September).



Usage of bisect to complete local postage rate of 25 centimes.

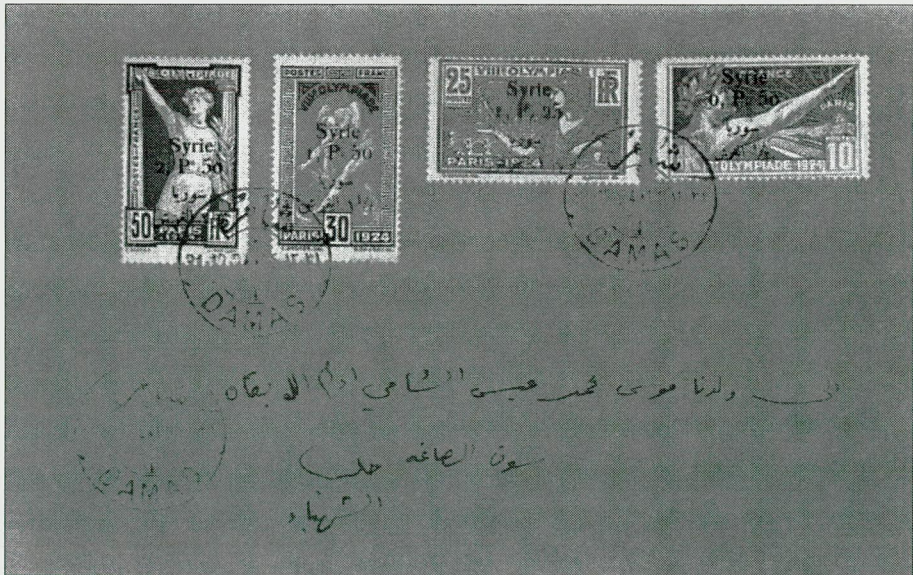
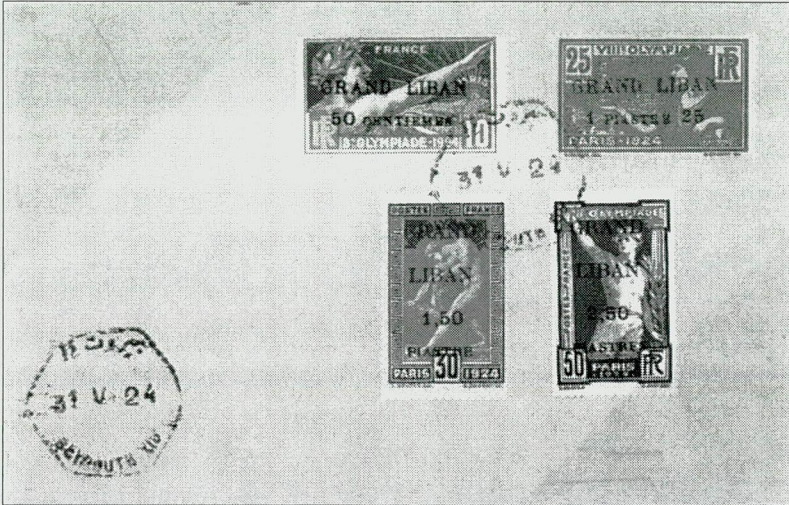
A set of eight postcards with Olympic sports illustrations on the reverse side were issued with 15c. Louis Pasteur imprinted stamp for domestic use. Both the face and reverse of the postal card is shown, including the packet cover of the eight postal cards. The postal card to Berlin has the correct total franking of 45 centimes.



"LIBAN" and "Syrie" overprints

The 1924 Olympic stamps were overprinted in French and Arabic for use in Lebanon (Liban overprints at the top cover from Beirut dated 31 May 1924) and for use in Syria (Syria overprints shown at the bottom cover from Damascus dated 31 December 1924). French and bilingual overprints exist for Lebanon and Syria.

Lebanon and Syria were mandated to France after World War I, however these nations were not among the 44 nations participating in the Paris 1924 Olympic Games.



"LIBAN" and "Syrie" Overprint Errors.

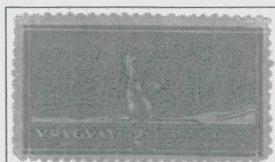
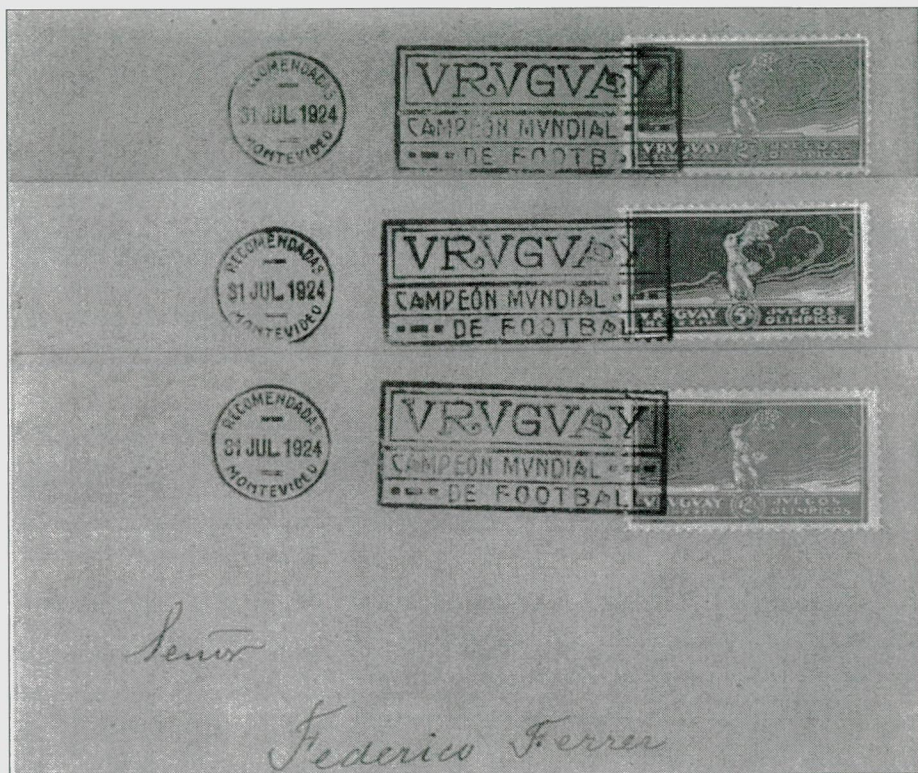
The inverted overprints error on the French Olympic issue in blocks of four of Lebanon and Syria are the only recorded copies. The surcharge were placed by the printer Vangirard of Paris, however some were overprinted by the fathers Capucins of Beirut.



Games in Progress - Events and Medal Winners

On 9 June 1924, Uruguay won their first gold medal in football beating the Swiss team 3 - 0.

To celebrate, Uruguay issued three stamps showing Nike the Greek Goddess of Victory.



The Uruguay football commemorative set on yellow paper - 500 sets issued.

Games in Progress

The Uruguay football victory set on yellow paper mounted on special card, was presented to the Olympic football players and sports officials. Only 500 sets were printed



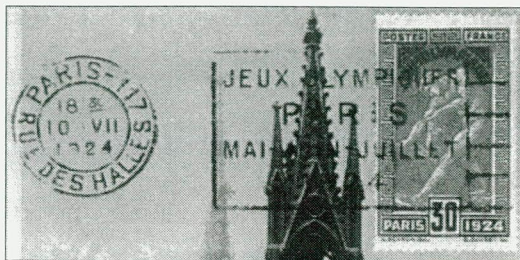
Games in Progress. Events and Medal Winners.



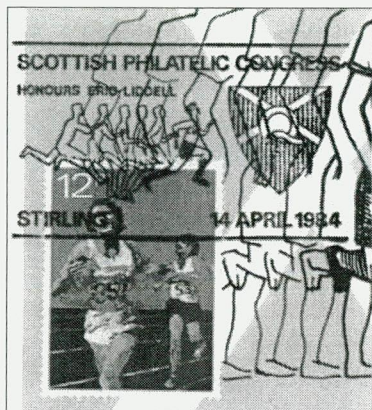
Colour proof



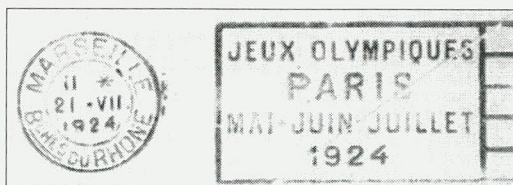
As issued



10 July, 1,500m. Run; 5,000m. Run.
Paavo Nurmi, (Finland).



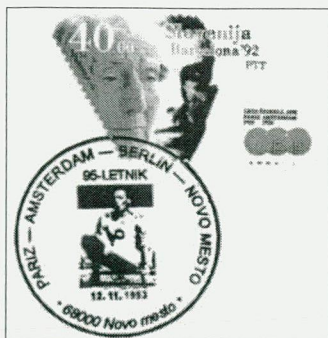
11 July, 400m. Run.
Eric Liddell, (Great Britain).



21 July.

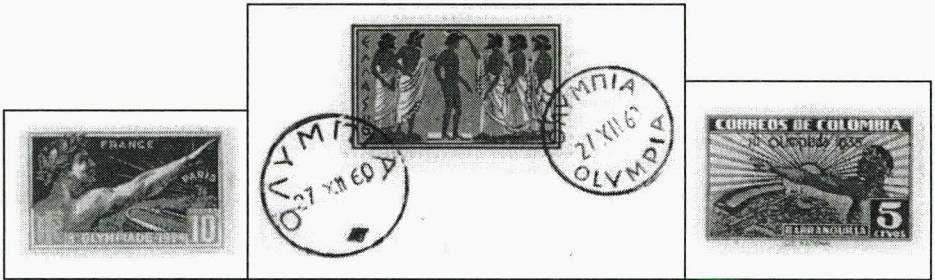
All Around Gymnastics.
Leon Stukelj. (Yugoslavia).

Tennis-Women.
Hazel Wightman, (U.S.A.).

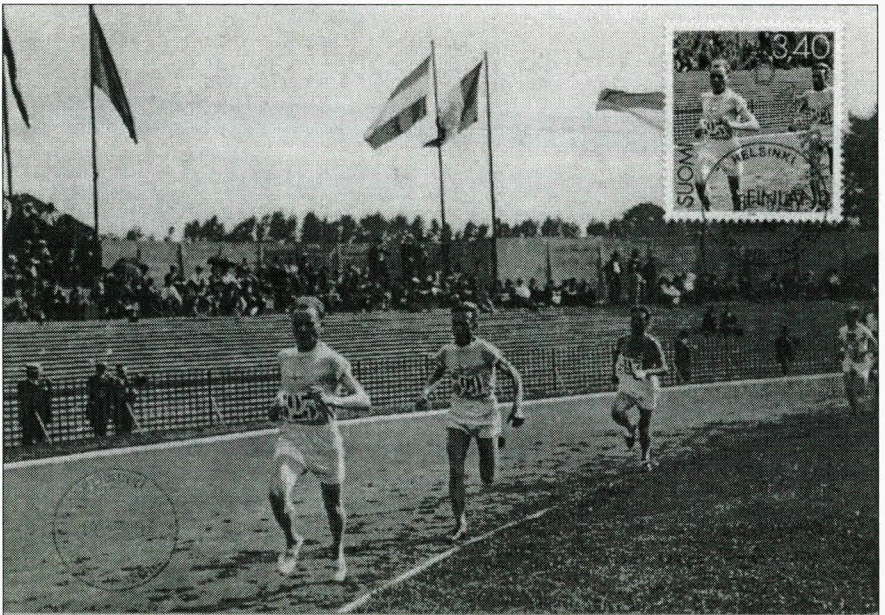


Important Events and Medal Winners.

The Olympics have provided many stories of interest, however, the Games are about sportsmen who have climbed onto the winners podium.



Paavo Nurmi



Nurmi and Ritola in the 1924 Paris Olympics

Nurmi set world records in a total of 16 individual events. He ran faster than existing world records at least 35 times, and he won 12 Olympic medals during the decade in which he dominated long-distance running. The noted triumphs, his running times and his array of records easily classified him as a kind of running machine powered by some kind of clockwork. He won 5 gold medals in the Paris Olympics.

Nurmi did not possess an attractive physique. He was short and barrel chested, a pale-haired man with pale, cold eyes. He had a small figure, light, with rather large feet. Not like the usual heavier muscle rippling runner. He thus provided a low bearing pressure (pounds per square inch) on the soft cinder track, not causing time delaying dents and his feet seemed to hardly touch the ground.

In Paris in the summer of 1924 there was not much reason to expect any remarkable running performances. The city had not experienced a more wilting July. The temperature went to 113 deg F. As for Nurmi's running events, it appeared that the Paris Olympic Organising Committee had stacked the deck against him, in an attempt to stop the Finn from dominating the Games by placing the 1,500 and the 5,000 meter finals just 55 minutes apart. A runner contending in both of them, let alone winning both was not expected - not until 10 July 1924

The 1,500 metre run came first. It was a shorter distance than he usually raced. But that did not alter his approach, which was to run each race evenly, which meant each lap in even time. To that end he always carried a stopwatch. His time at the 1,000 meters was 2:30.1. Nurmi then took the final lap in a relayed 82 seconds. He was saving fuel, running not to set records but to win. Still his time of 3:53.6 was an Olympic record. He then picked up his stop watch and went right into the locker room. Obviously refreshed he emerged 45 minutes later for the 5000. It seemed hardly possible that the body could recover in so short a time after an Olympic record run.

In the 5000 meter run Nurmi's countryman, Ritola and Wide of Sweden, who were in the race, ran together with Nurmi for the first half of the race. Then Nurmi took a look at his stopwatch and flashed ahead. When he finished he had another Olympic recorded in 14 minutes, 31.2 seconds.

In spite of the heat he added three more gold medals to his trove before he left Paris. They were for winning the individual cross country run, and for the team cross country and 3,000 - meter team race.

Peter John Weissmuller (Tarzan)

During 10 years of world-class amateur swimming competitions, Weissmuller was never beaten in races from 50 to 880 yards. Weissmuller set 24 world records. He won 33 individual national indoor and outdoor titles, and was a member of 10 national indoor and outdoor championship relay teams.

Olympic Career Highlights:

1924 Paris Olympic Games

100-meter freestyle (Gold medal)*

400-meter freestyle (Gold medal)*

400 x 200m freestyle relay (Gold medal)+

Water Polo (Bronze medal).

*Olympic record.

+World record.

1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games

100 meter freestyle (Gold medal)*

4 x 200m freestyle relay (Gold medal)+

On July 9 1922 Weissmuller made swimming history by becoming the first person to swim 100 meters in less than one minute. On February 17 1924 he lowered his time from 58.6 to 57.4 sec, establishing a world record that would last for ten years.

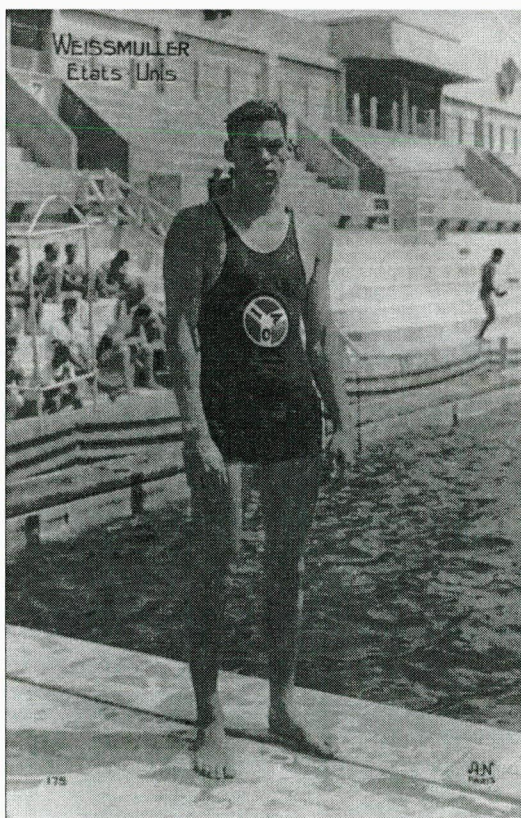
At the start of the 100 meter final at the Paris Olympics, Weissmuller found himself with 34 year old defending champion Duke Kahanamoku on one side of him and Duke's 19 year old brother, Sam on the other side. Weissmuller was worried that the two Hawaiians had planned to swim a team race against him, but as they stood above the water Duke turned to him and said "Johnny, good luck".

When the gun sounded, Weissmuller was off, flanked by the Kahanamoku brothers. Legs kicking, arms flashing, he pulled ahead at 75 meters and finished in a dazzling 59 seconds flat - the first time the one-minute barrier had been broken in the Olympics. Duke finished second, Sam third.

With a living to make, Weissmuller retired from amateur competition and became a pro. A \$500 a week job promoting swimsuits for BVD.

Between 1932 and 1948 MGM cast Weissmuller, who had a muscular voice and looked great in a loincloth, in movies as "me Tarzan", the vine-swinging hero of the jungle.

Eric Liddell and Horatio Fitch,
400 metre run.



In Paris, Great Britain dominated the shorter races, winning three of the four events against favoured Americans. Harold Abraham's, won the 100 metre dash, Eric Liddell the 400 metres and Douglas Lowe the 800 metres.

Eric Liddell was born in 1902 in China where his father was a missionary. He grew up in Scotland from the age of five. In 1920 he entered Edinburgh University to study science. He was a natural athlete. He played rugby but running was his natural sport. He dominated sprinting in university matches and won the 100, 220 and 440 yards, year after year. He was the most famous athlete in Scotland.

Among the things Liddell was famous for was his running style, very unorthodox and very much his own. He ran like a windmill with his arms free swinging in every direction and his knees high into the air. He wobbled and he threw his head far back running while gazing at the clouds. His phenomenal speed - unaided by the mechanics of running must have been inspired by his faith, for Liddell was profoundly inspired with the Christian beliefs of his father. People who knew him were not surprised when Liddell refused to run the 100 metre race at the 1924 Olympic Games, since the scheduled heats of the 100 metre dash were set for Sunday July 6 and the Scot's church forbade him to run on the Sabbath. He just said "I'm not running on a Sunday", in effect surrendering a much desired gold medal.

Horatio Fitch



Eric Liddell



The British athletic officials were quite upset with Liddell's decision. Eventually, however they accepted his decision and agreed that Liddell would run the 200 and 400 metres instead. During the finals in the 200 metres on Wednesday July 9 behind Scholz, and Paddock, Liddell finished third taking the bronze for his first race.

Now it was Liddell's turn to run his 400 meters, the connoisseur's race that requires the speed of a sprinter and the stamina of a middle distance runner. His main competitor was America's Horatio Fitch. Liddell won the race in 47.6 seconds, an Olympic record to take the gold medal.

Several years ago I wrote a letter to Horatio Fitch who came in second to Liddell in the 400 meter race. I received a copy of a very lengthy diary of Horatio Fitch on the Olympic Games of 1924. In the semi final Liddell won his heat in 48.2, while Fitch won his semi final heat with a world record of 47.8 seconds. Reading through his diary Fitch remembers winning the race with ease; as a matter of fact coasting through the finish line. My personal comment to Fitch was - you should not have run the semi final for a world record just two and half hours before the final. Like Nurmi's races you should have run just for the win and placement. Save the energy for the final.

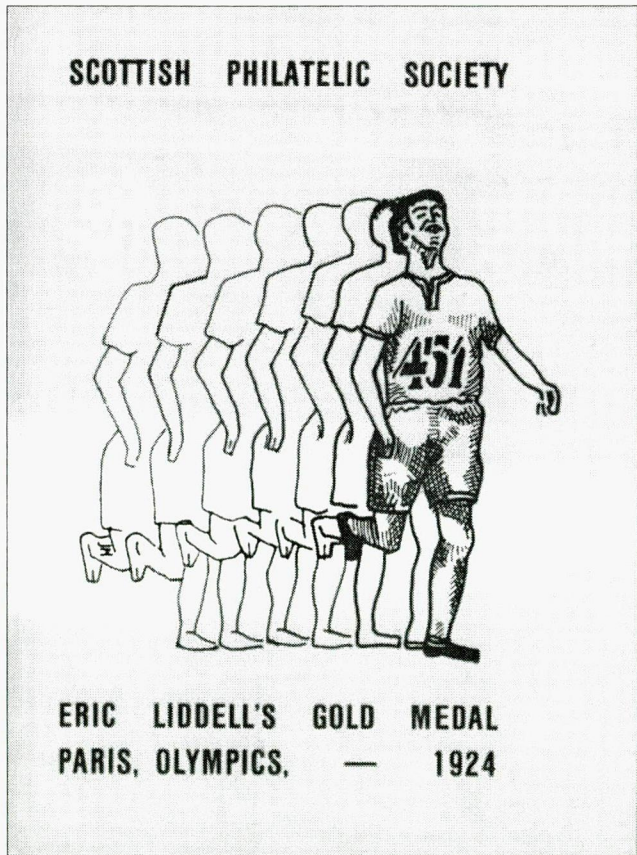
In the diary Fitch says "The final race was different. Liddell shot out of the starting holes to take an early lead. Around the turn he held the same pace. I couldn't believe a man could set such a pace and finish. But Liddell pushed himself like a man possessed, head tilted back with determination".

I remember what my coach had told me, when you are getting tired keep your arms driving high. I wasn't tired, but I couldn't go any faster. Every second, I expected the Scot to slow down, to tie-up. He had sprinted the entire race".

Liddell didn't weaken. Just as he broke the tape, I jumped for it in desperation. The gap was just too great., My reign as world champion had lasted a little more than two hours.

Liddell's winning time was 47.6 seconds, an Olympic record. Horatio Fitch came in second and Guy Butler of Great Britain third.

Liddell returned to Edinburgh a hero. He was carried shoulder high through the city streets. He spent his last year in Scotland studying divinity, and in 1925 he left as a missionary to China. In 1943 with other Europeans, he was imprisoned in a Japanese internment camp. He died of a brain tumor in 1945.



Souvenir vignette
Not valid for Postal Cancel



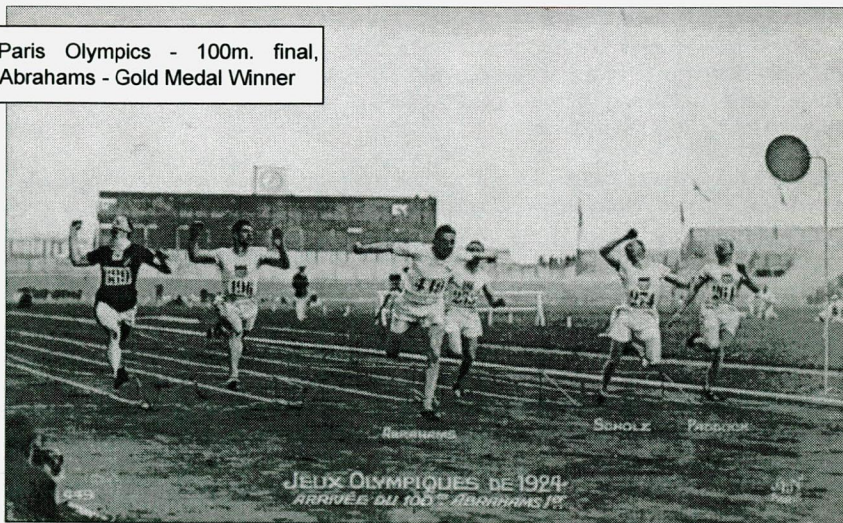
Harold Abrahams and Charley Paddock

Abraham's was born in 1899 in Bedford, the youngest of six children of a Lithuanian who had come to England to escape Eastern European poverty. In 1919 as his brothers and sisters had done Abraham entered Cambridge University to study law. In the English intercollegiate events he won just about every prize possible. He ran the 100 yards in 10 seconds and set a record for the British long jump 24 feet 2 1/2 inches and was a candidate for Britain's 1920 Olympic track team. He wasn't in the class of runners like Paddock or Scholz yet, and he lost in a quarter final heat. But Abraham's would make sure he shone at the 1924 Paris Games.

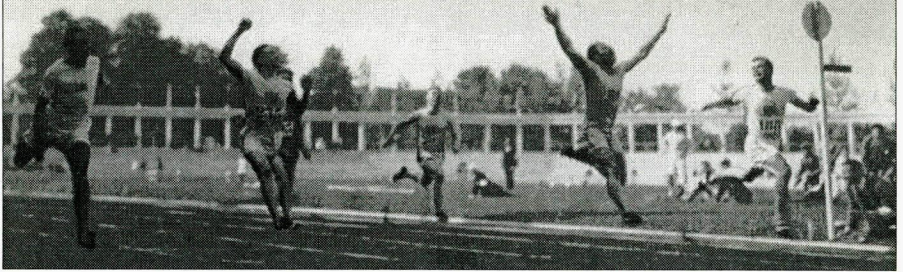
After Liddell refused to run the 100 meter race Abraham's was Britain's hope. He had been trained by Sam Mussabini who was an expert coach in running, but he would be running against Charley Paddock, the Olympic defending champion as well as Jackson Scholz who had been a finalist at Antwerp 1920.

On Monday 7 July with Liddell cheering him and Mussabini's famous advice "Only think of two things - the report of the pistol and the tape when you hear the one, just run like hell until you break the other" echoing in his ears, Abraham ran the race of his life. He burst out of the starting holes to hit the tape in 10.6 seconds, tying Paddock's Olympic record and beating Paddock himself. It was faster than Abrahams had ever run, or would ever run again. In 1925 on a long jump in a minor contest he tore every muscle and nerve in one leg. His athletic career was over. He would walk with a limp for the rest of his life. Abraham went on to great success as a radio commentator, lawyer, writer and as president of the British Athletic Association.

1924 Paris Olympics - 100m. final,
Harold Abrahams - Gold Medal Winner



1920 Antwerp Games - 100 m. final Paddock Gold Medal winner.



Charles William Paddock's Olympic career highlights include the following:

1920 Antwerp Olympic Games:
100 Meters (Gold Medal);
4 x 100 Meter relay (Gold Medal);

1924 Paris Olympic Games:
200 Meters (Silver Medal).

Between 1921 and 1928 Paddock held 8 official world track records in the standard yard system. Between the years 1921 and 1926 he held an additional 6 official world records in the metric system.

In elementary school and Pasadena High School; Paddock, in addition to sprinting tried the pursuit of long distance races. At the age of fifteen he weighed 170 pounds with big legs and a barrel chest. His father however was enough of a student of athletics to know that any ability his boy might have would be turned to best account in the sprints. Paddock Senior often distressed the coaches and the entire student body by the way in which he guarded his son's physical welfare. Time and again during Charlie's prep career, he could have won with apparent ease the 100, 220 and 440 relay for his school, but the parent sensed something that a boy under eighteen, however strong he may appear can be "burned out" and ruined not only for competition but even for life itself through over-work.

Cromwell, his coach at the University of Southern California, found in him an apt pupil, eager for advice. The coach realised that Charles had two faults which would take a long time to overcome, namely a bad start and a relatively short stride. With the 1920 Olympic Games only a few months away Cromwell was too clever to attempt changing the boys form.

In July 1920 in a special hundred metre match race Bob Ripley a New York sports writer describes the Brooklyn race as follows:

"There never was a more brilliant sprinting feat on the pages of sport than Paddock's 10.6 seconds for 100 metres (equaling the world record) over an uphill grass course at Ebbets' Field Brooklyn. Paddock's shoulders and chest are more powerful than famous old champions. His shoulders and arms are those of an oarsman."



Charles Paddock on S.S. France in April 1923 on the way to France for the University of Paris Games.

"Much of Paddock's phenomenal speed lies in his remarkable strength. He runs with shoulders arms and body as well as legs. The amount of power he generates in his splendid young body is tremendous. It hurls him over the ground like a bullet. Spectators watching Paddock in action instinctively tighten muscles and square jaws. they feel the tremendous strain with which Paddock is pounding his machinery.

In sprinting, as in other athletic events, success depends upon the ability to get the maximum return from every ounce of energy expended. To do this is an art requiring determined training. There are three points of which the sprinter must make a scientific study. These are: (1) The start; (2) Getting into the stride; (3) The finish.

In earlier days runners finished any way they could, the main point being to get there. As the sprint developed into more science, three forms of finishing the race came to be recognised.

(1) The lunge Finish: It consisted of throwing the arms far back and the chest out on the final stride.

(2) The Shrug Finish: This new finish known as the "Shrug" was accomplished by throwing the side of the body into the string with one arm held high and the other pulled back behind the body.

(3) The Jump Finish As shown on the photo of Paddock's 1920 Games 100 meter finish, developed and used by Paddock is a method of jumping for the string at the finish line. This method of finish has some draw backs rather than advantages.

Even though Paddock recognised it, the "jump finish" in the past has been referred to as "grand stand" play and "the freak finish" . It requires that the sprinter run high "bouncing" along. He must come down on the tape, gaining in speed and momentum as he makes his last leap, which, after all, is nothing more or less than an exaggerated final stride varying in length from ten to fourteen feet. The sprinter who runs low and tries to use the jump naturally goes up in the air and then comes down on the string, forming an arc as he leaps, losing time rather than gaining. Paddock has suffered by making this mistake including in his races.

After his amateur running days were over and World War II broke out, Paddock applied for and was granted a commission as a captain in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. On July 21 1943 a Grumman Goose plane crashed and killed Paddock and five other men aboard. The cause of the crash of the plane from Juneau to Sitka, Alaska was never determined. To honour him a 10,500 ton liberty ship was named S.S. Charles Paddock and launched at the Calship yards into the Wilmington Slip, Pasadena, California on December 26th 1943. The freighter was built in 24 days and no philatelic frankings were initiated.

The VIII Olympiad of Paris 1924 was a major athletic event.

This article and presentation is limited to the author's philatelic collection and to important athletic achievements.



Olympic Games Memorabilia

Auctions
Want List Service
Appraisal Service
Exhibit Service

Always buying and selling
Torches, Winners' and Participation Medals,
Pins, Badges, Diplomas, Posters, Official Reports,
Programs, Tickets, Souvenirs.
Three Auctions per Year - Catalogs available.

Ingrid O'Neil

Sports & Olympic Memorabilia

PO Box 872048

Vancouver WA 98687 USA

www.ioneil.com

Tel. 360.834.5202

Fax 360.834.2853

ingrid@ioneil.com



OLYMPIC COLLECTORS AUCTION

Philatelic • Numismatic • Phonocards • Postcards • Posters • Pins • Badges
Medals • Torches • Tickets • Programs • Official Reports • Bid Books

By Olympic Collectors for Olympic Collectors

No commission charges for buyers • Low commission charges for vendors

On the Internet at www.coubertin.com