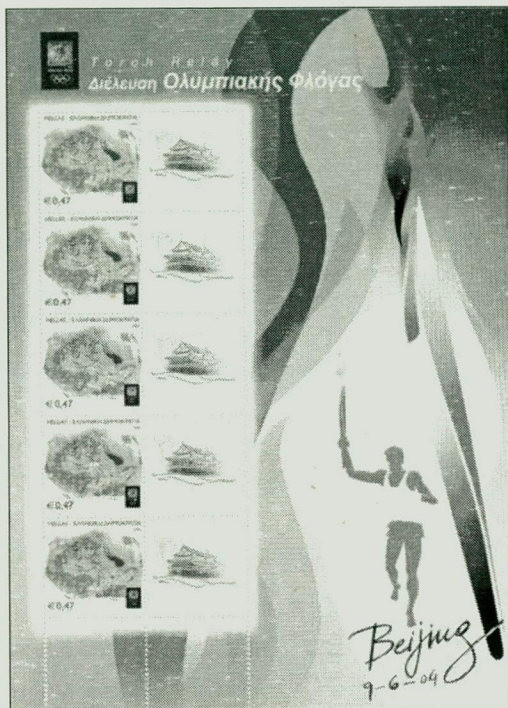




# TORCH BEARER



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ELTA sheetlet for  
the Torch Relay in  
Beijing issued  
13.08.04



SOCIETY of OLYMPIC  
COLLECTORS



1896

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# SOCIETY of OLYMPIC COLLECTORS

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



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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 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.

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**MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY OF OLYMPIC COLLECTORS**

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

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

All applications should be made to the Secretary.

Subscription rates for 2005 are:

U.K. £12.00; Europe, £14.00 (€ 20).

Outside Europe, £19.00 (€ 30, \$US 35, \$AU45)

Acceptable forms of payment: **\$US, \$AU, €, currency notes; Sterling cheques; PayPal in sterling.**

Advance subscription for any number of years is accepted at 'fixed' rates above.

## FRONT PAGE

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The Olympic Games in Athens are over, and they were a superb experience. Greek hospitality was at its best, and the weather was so kind. The opportunity to relax (a few times!) with friends and colleagues in wonderful surroundings, and the chance to travel through much of Greece with our American 'professional' Olympic volunteer Jean-Pierre Caravan all helped to create a 'once in a lifetime' experience.

For collectors Athens 2004 will prove a real challenge as much of this issue will show. I do not think that any of us present realised that there would be stamps issued with only 400 printed sheets of some examples - completeness of Athens stamp issues will not be a realistic option.

It will be interesting to see if the true rarity of some of these items ever gains recognition with philatelic judges, or will they be tainted because they are 'modern'.

There is still much to report on Athens, so this issue has concentrated on either 'basics' or 'newsworthy' content - more will follow.

The Society gained some new members in Athens, and renewed some lapsed members.

### **International Packet**

The first packet has now completed its circuit, and achieved a high level of sales. International (non GB) members have reacted very well to the packet, and offered some very complimentary comments, welcoming the ability to purchase at fixed price with clear illustrations, and eagerly await the next circuit (now in progress).

Please take the opportunity to register for the packet on the subscription renewal form - both vendors and purchasers are very welcome. Contact Brian Hammond if you require more details.

### **Subscriptions for 2005**

Our four-yearly review of subscriptions took place recently, and there were a number of factors to consider - postal charges, exchange rates and provision for future improvements in the quality of Torch Bearer were discussed.

As with all good decisions, a compromise was reached amongst the Committee. Rates have been increased by £2 per annum, and the policy of fixing rates for four years is being maintained. However, because of the fluctuations in exchange rates and the high exchange costs for foreign cheques, it has been decided that the US\$, AU\$ and € equivalent rates will be reviewed annually to reflect exchange and postal rates.

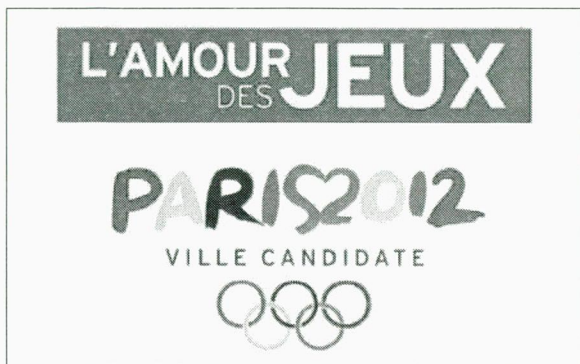
Acceptable methods of payment have also been 'streamlined', to avoid exchange costs, we now accept payment in currency notes, sterling cheques or PayPal in sterling - this will mean that the Society obtains full benefit of the subscriptions.

**Please note - February issue will no longer be mailed with a final reminder, late renewal will mean removal from the February mailing list!**

## NEWS FROM MEMBERS

### Paris 2012

"Whether it was good luck or good judgement, our French member René Christin holidayed in La Rochelle this summer. They will be the sailing venue if Paris are successful in the race for 2012. René found various leaflets and forms to send in support, and also a self-adhesive vignette, which is illustrated, together with a 'standard' Paris 2012 vignette.



As well as the Paris 2012 web-site at [www.parisjo2012.fr](http://www.parisjo2012.fr) there is also La Rochelle's own Olympic site: [www.larochellejo2012.fr](http://www.larochellejo2012.fr) There is also a site for sponsors of the Paris bid: [www.entreprises-paris2012.fr](http://www.entreprises-paris2012.fr) (still under development at the time of writing)"

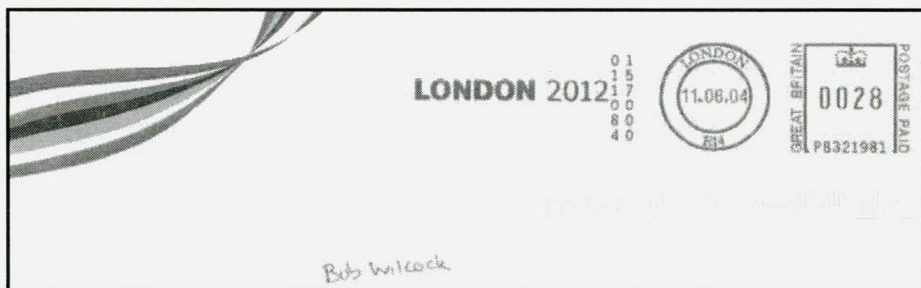
**Support Your Society - submit your surplus material to the Auction Manager or Packet Manager**

**You know that it will reach collectors with similar interests**

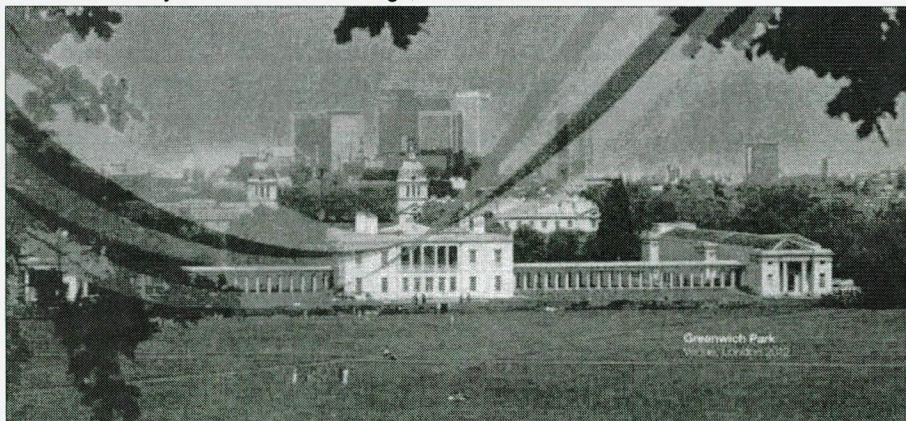
## LEAP FOR LONDON 2012

Bob Wilcock

SOC are building a very good relationship with London 2012, and naturally doing all we can to support and publicise the British bid. In the August Torch Bearer we illustrated the five attractive postcards issued by London 2012, and SOC's 'Leap for London 2012' SmartStamp. You should all have received a postcard with either the August Torch Bearer, or with the current issue. The envelope bearing this Torch Bearer should have had affixed one of the 5 vignettes issued, in white with black text and coloured logo, or in red, orange, blue or green, with white text. Those who attended our very successful weekend at Much Wenlock will have received, as well as postcards, a pin and a car sticker. As well as the pin, there is a small round badge. Other collectables and advertising items will no doubt be appearing, and SOC will keep members informed through Torch Bearer. SOC would encourage members worldwide to register support at [www.london2012.org](http://www.london2012.org) and to consider purchasing official merchandise at [www.london2012shop.co.uk/site/index.php](http://www.london2012shop.co.uk/site/index.php). On sale at the time of writing there are clothing, bags, accessories (attractive mugs and a key ring), and a pin with the original logo, before London officially became a candidate, and excluding the Olympic Rings. The current pin may be available to purchase by the time you read this.



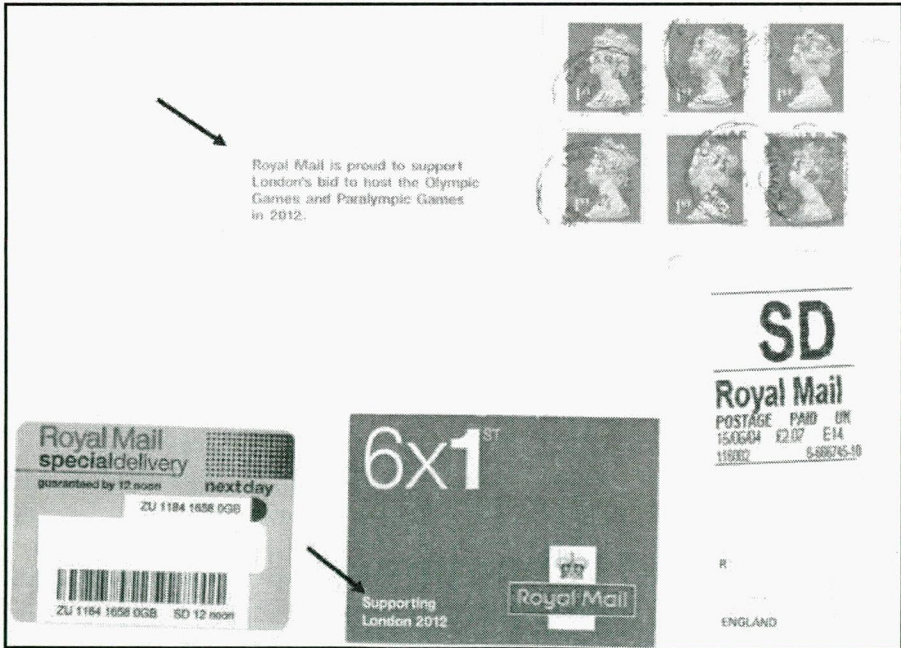
The illustration of the franking meter mark shows that the original logo is still being used; we shall illustrate any new meter with the rings, in Torch Bearer in due course.



The meter is shown on London 2012's attractive DL envelope, and we also illustrate their compliments slip with a view of Greenwich Park on the reverse.



Royal Mail have so far offered modest support and issued a booklet of 6 first class stamps in gold with a label on the inside front cover. This just has black text, and is frankly uninspiring, but it is understood that there were copyright problems at the time that prevented something more dramatic. Illustrated is a 'First Day Cover' posted from the Canary Wharf post office immediately beneath London 2012's headquarters. 15 June 2004 was the official release date, but the booklets were not treated as a special issue, and were released to post offices to satisfy regular orders. Many post office counter staff did not realise they had London 2012 booklets, and pre-release is known from a number of places.



London is also being bedecked with flags. There are some smallish flags in various colours, including the name of the particular borough where they are being flown. The Queen looks out on double-sided large flags in the Mall, and MPs look out on single-sided flags in Parliament Square.



London 2012 are also sponsoring various events leading up to July 2005. On 22 August they were among the sponsors of 'Fast Forward', a multi-cultural event in Trafalgar Square, and had a booth in the Square giving out stickers, postcards and publicity bulletins. They also sponsored the Tour of Britain cycling race which reached its climax in London on 5 September. Watch out for them at sports and other events, not just in London, but throughout the country.



## SOC SmartStamps2

The Society SmartStamps for the Torch Relay and Much Wenlock proved popular with members, and following an article by Bob Wilcock in the Philatelic Bulletin, even more popular with other collectors.

It seems that the Society is either the first or at least very early in using the new technology for commemorative purposes. Our use of SmartStamps for a single date for a specific event has certainly created interest.

In September, Royal Mail issued the software for SmartStamp2 (and will cease any support for the original software on October 31st.).

The main difference with version 2, is the appearance of the paid indicia, although a number of additional features have been added.

It is unusual that a number of events seem to fall into place and complement each other, but the introduction of SmartStamp, and the revision to version 2 fitted perfectly with British Olympic success in Athens, and the ongoing candidature of London to host the 2012 Games.

Two further covers have been produced to commemorate the events held to honour British Olympians and Paralympians at the Athens Games.



ΑΘΗΝΑ 2004



**Olympic and Paralympic  
Parade and Royal Reception  
October 18, 2004  
Medal Presentation by  
HRH Princess Anne**



SOC SmartStamp (SS6) on illustrated cover to commemorate the Olympic and Paralympic Parade, and Medal Presentation by HRH Princess Anne on October 18, with additional Trafalgar Square handstamp on uprated cover.

A further issue- SS7 is planned for 2004 to record the final date for submission of bid documents by candidates to host the 2012 Olympic Games.

With the permission of the London 2012 Bid Committee, we are able to use their logo and 'Make Britain Proud' slogan.

Submission of Bid Book  
15 November 2004

MAKE BRITAIN PROUD



CANDIDATE CITY

Bob Wilcock has prepared a 16 page display of SmartStamps for use on the Society table at Basildon on November 20/21. For the benefit of the majority of members who are unable to attend this will be published in Torch Bearer in a suitable format during 2005.

Covers with SmartStamps SS5, SS6 and SS7 are available at £1.50 plus postage on a first come, first served, basis. Orders can still be placed for the earlier SmartStamp covers, but supplies are very limited.

Orders should either be forwarded to the Treasurer, with remittance, or may be placed by email to Bob Wilcock with remittance via PayPal in £ Sterling, by following the link on the Society website. Addresses inside front cover.

Postage:	1-5 items	6+ items
Great Britain	£0.40	£0.60
Europe	£0.60	£0.90
Rest of World	£1.20	£2.00

## Stamps Salute the 2004 Olympic Summer Games, Athens

Vic Manikian

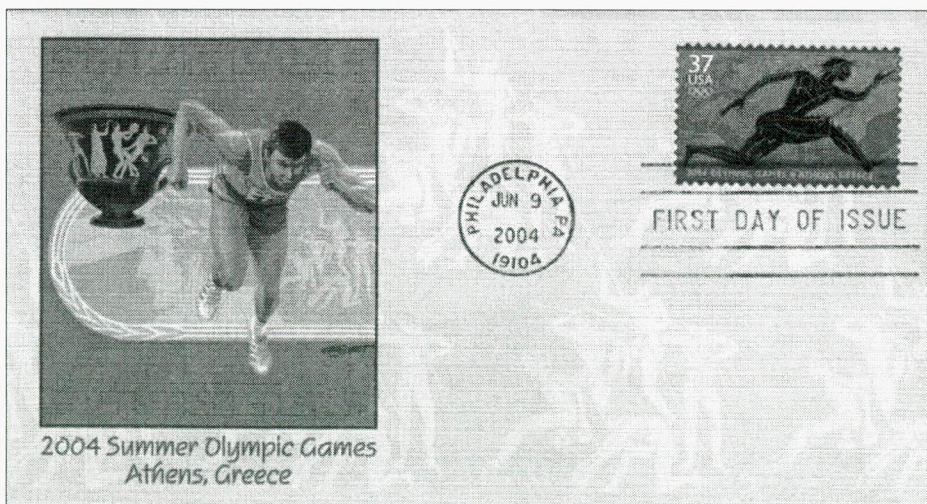


### United States Postal Service:

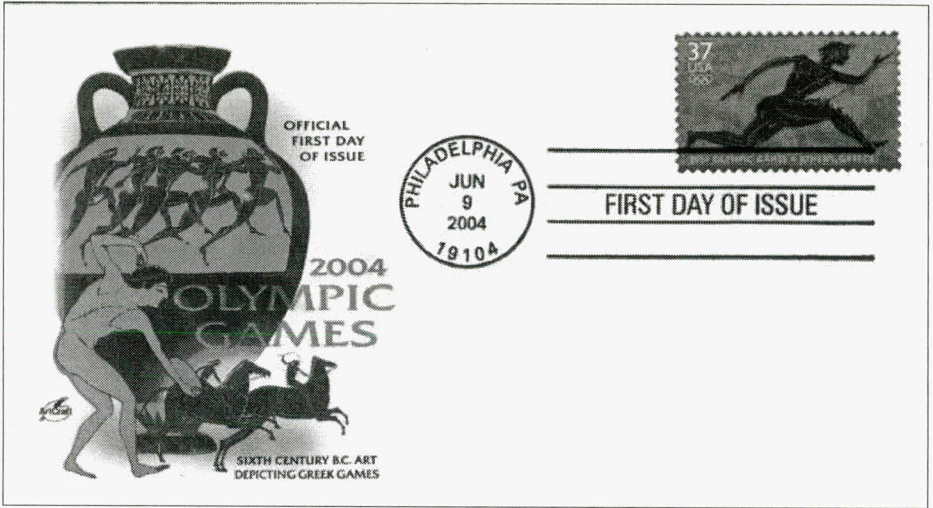
The United States issued its 37¢. 2004 Olympic Summer Games stamp on June 8, with an orange-and-black design that features 'a stylised depiction of a Greek runner reminiscent of the artwork on ancient Greek black-figure vases', according to the USPS press release.

### Cacheted First Day of Issue Covers

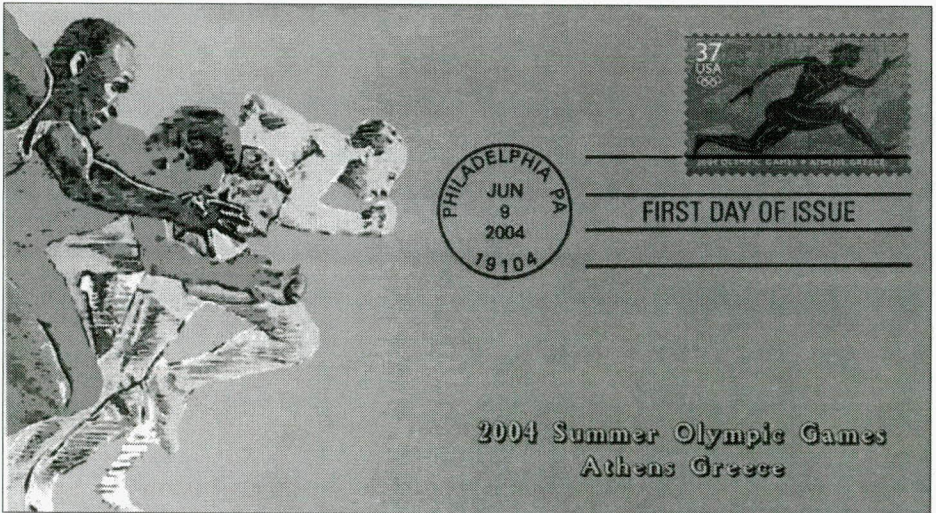
Cachets were produced by all the major commercial producers. Some very limited editions were also produced for the collector market - a number of different designs are illustrated:



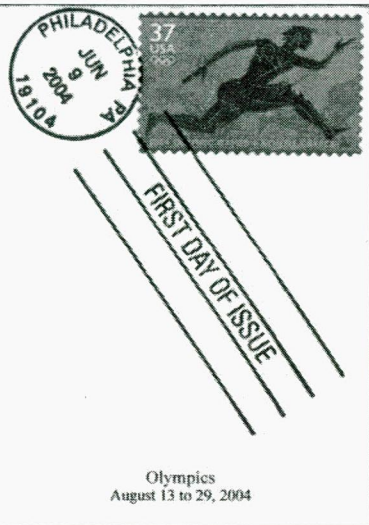
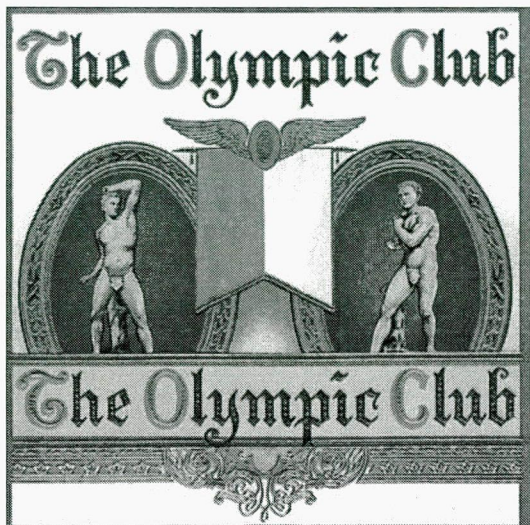
Fleetwood Cachets



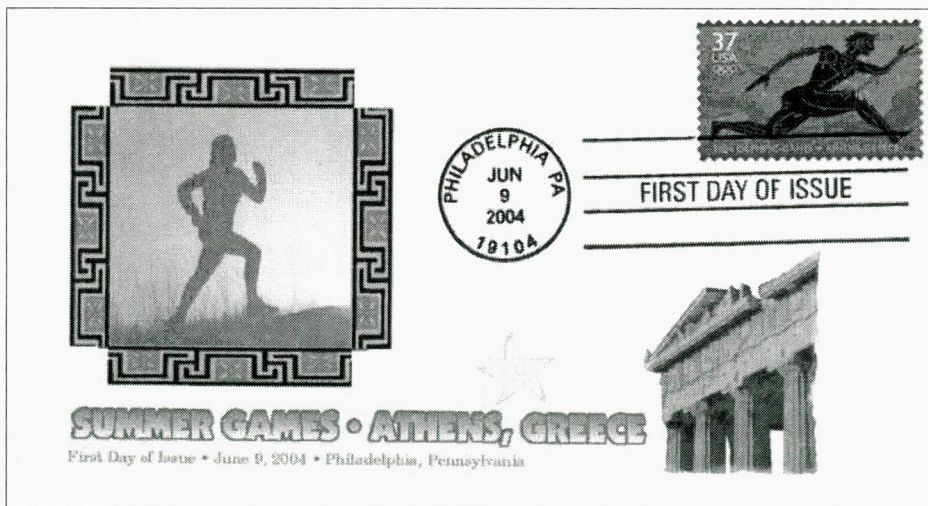
**Artcraft Cachets**



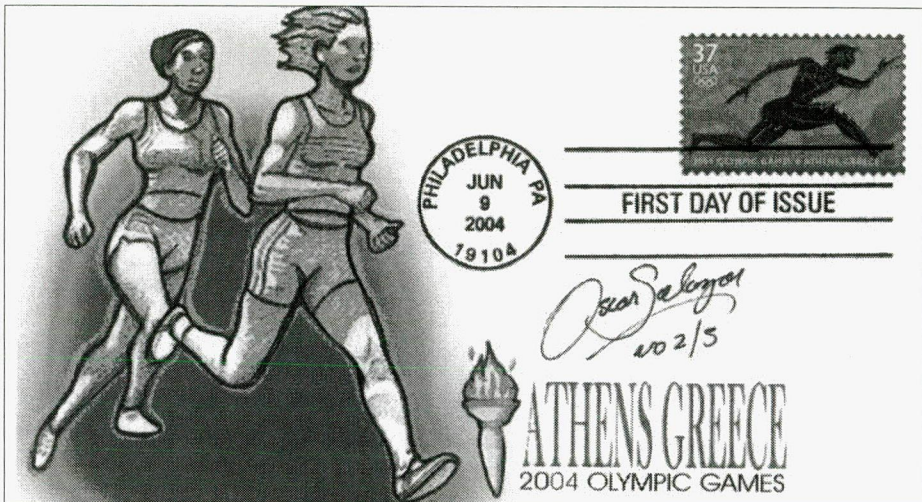
**Heritage Cachets**



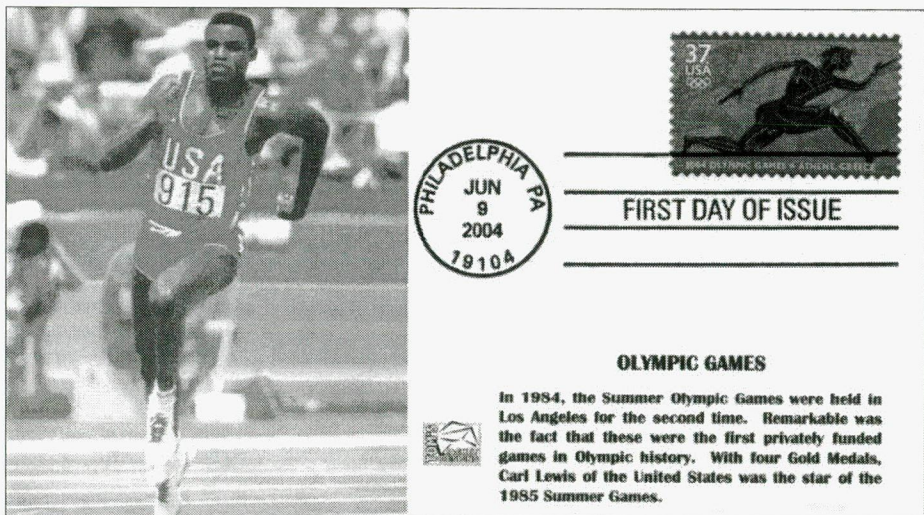
S & T Cachets; No 42/45



F P M G Cachets

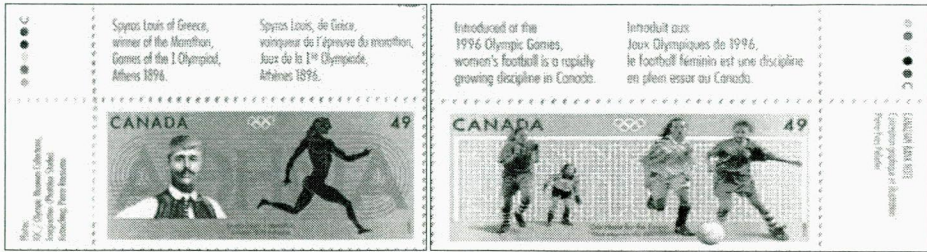


21st Century Cachet / Salazar Printed No 2/5



Tom's Cachet Designs

## Canada Post:



On July 28, Canada Post issued two se-tenant 49¢. Stamps saluting the Summer Olympic Games.

The 49¢. Olympic Marathon stamp is described by Canada Post as depicting 'a silhouette of an ancient Greek runner against a palette of colours used in the era' ('earth' colours). The left of the stamp design includes a 'photograph' of Spyros Louis, the Greek athlete who won the first modern Olympic marathon in 1896.

The 49¢. Olympic Soccer stamp shows four young girls playing soccer in front of a goal. 'Our Hope for the Future' is inscribed in English and French at the bottom-centre of the stamp. The green tones of the background colours symbolise the soccer field.

e	a			b	e
c	1 Marathon	2 Soccer	1	2	d
d	1	2	1	2	c
c	1	2	1	2	d
d	1	2	1	2	c
e		b	a	bar code	e

The stamps were printed in sheets of 16, with a variety of selvedge markings as the above layout (Text generally in English and French).

a = Spyros Louis of Greece, Winner of the Marathon, Games of the I Olympiad, Athens 1896.

b = Introduced at the 1996 Olympic Games, women's football is a rapidly growing discipline in Canada.

c = Photo credits. d = Printer and design credits. e = 'Traffic lights' - registration marks.



First Day Cover - 2004.07.28 Montréal QC as enlarged inset.

On the back of the cover is a photograph of Canadian athlete William Sherring, the winner of the marathon race at the 1906 Intercalated Games in Athens.

### New Zealand Post:



New Zealand added a new twist to its stamps commemorating the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens.

Two different images of New Zealand Olympic champions appear on each stamp in the Olympic series by use of 'lenticular' printing.

Lenticular printing uses a lens material on the back of which the images are printed. By changing the viewing angle, the different images are seen giving a 'replay' effect.

Events depicted on the stamps are:

45c. John Walker, Montreal 1976, 1500m run.

90c. Yvette Williams, Helsinki 1952, long jump.

\$1.50 Ian Ferguson and Paul MacDonald, Seoull 1988, K2 500 metre.

\$2.00 Peter Snell, Rome 1960, 800m run.

This (or a similar) printing process has been used for the Olympic 'issues' of a number of the Arab States in the early 1970's, however the New Zealand issue has utilised advances in technology to reduce the thickness of the image area. The stamps have also been produced in a practical way to allow cancellation.

The lenticular design is limited to the area of the image, which is bonded to another layer onto which the value, text etc. is printed, allowing cancellation and overcoming the problem of trying to deface the plastic textured surface of the lens material.

**Presentation Pack.**

A presentation pack (folder) containing a mint set and First Day cover is available, with a very attractive header card.



**First Day Cover.**

The cachet of the First Day Cover lists all gold medals won by New Zealand at the Olympic Games.



First Day Cancel - Wanganui, as enlarged inset.

**Isle of Man:**



**25 pence :**

Johnny (Tarzan) Weissmuller (USA) and Andrew 'Boy' Charlton (Australia) - Swimming Champions.

Weissmuller - 1924 Paris Games.

100 metres freestyle (gold);  
400 metres freestyle (gold);  
4 x 200 metres freestyle relay (gold);  
Water polo (bronze).

Weissmuller - 1928 Amsterdam Games.

100 metres freestyle (gold);  
4 x 200 metres freestyle relay (gold).

Charlton - 1924 Paris Games.

400 metres freestyle (bronze);  
4 x 200 metres freestyle relay (silver).

Charlton - 1928 Amsterdam Games.  
400 metres freestyle (silver).

**91 pence :** Four gold medal rowing heroes of Great Britain in the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. The photograph used for the stamp with Steve Redgrave, Matthew Pinsent, James Cracknell and Tim Foster gasping for breath only seconds after crossing the finishing line. Their win brought Steve his fifth gold medal in rowing events in five successive Olympics, a record for any endurance athlete. Steve Redgrave has of course received a knighthood following his Sydney performance.

On July 1, Isle of Man issued the following 'Olympic Legends' stamps, commemorating the 2004 Athens Summer Olympic Games.

**28 pence :** Jesse Owens (USA).

1936 Berlin Games.  
100 metres sprint (gold);  
200 metres sprint (gold);  
Long jump (gold);  
4 x 100 metres relay (gold).

**43 pence :** John Mark, English International

400 metre runner from the Achilles Club. The Achilles Club comprises athletes from Oxford and Cambridge Universities. John Mark was the Torch Bearer during the 1948 London Olympic Games.

**55 pence :** Francina 'Fanny' Blankers-Koen

(Netherland), 30 year old champion and mother of two. 1948 London Games.  
100 metres sprint (gold);  
80 metres hurdles (gold);  
200 metres sprint (gold);  
4 x 100 metres relay (gold).

## ATHENS 2004 - DOMESTIC TORCH RELAY, Part B

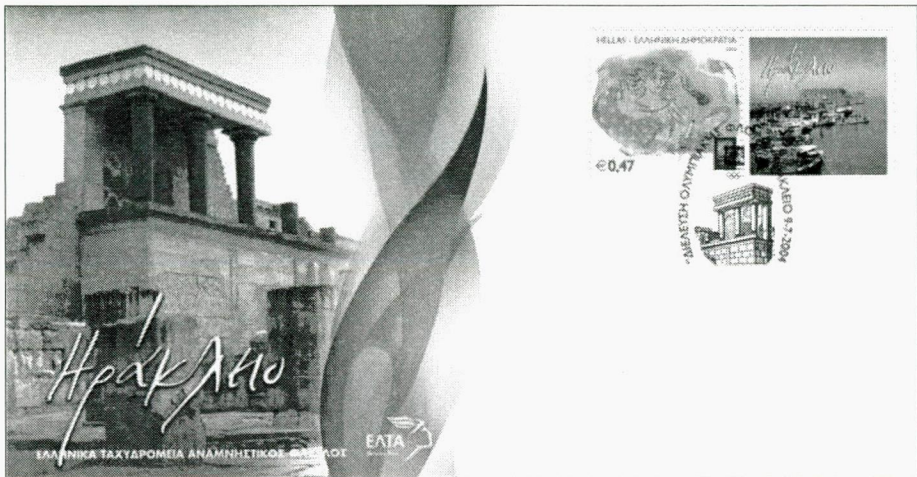
The Olympic Torch returned to Greece and started 'Part B' of the domestic relay on July 9. Thirty five overnight stops and Torch Ceremonies were commemorated by handstamps before the arrival of the flame at the Opening Ceremony.







ELTA catered for collectors by producing a commemorative cover for each overnight location. The covers are franked at €0.47 with a Torch Relay 'P' stamp that shows a view of the relevant town or city on the label. Covers were available as singles, or as a series of thirty five.



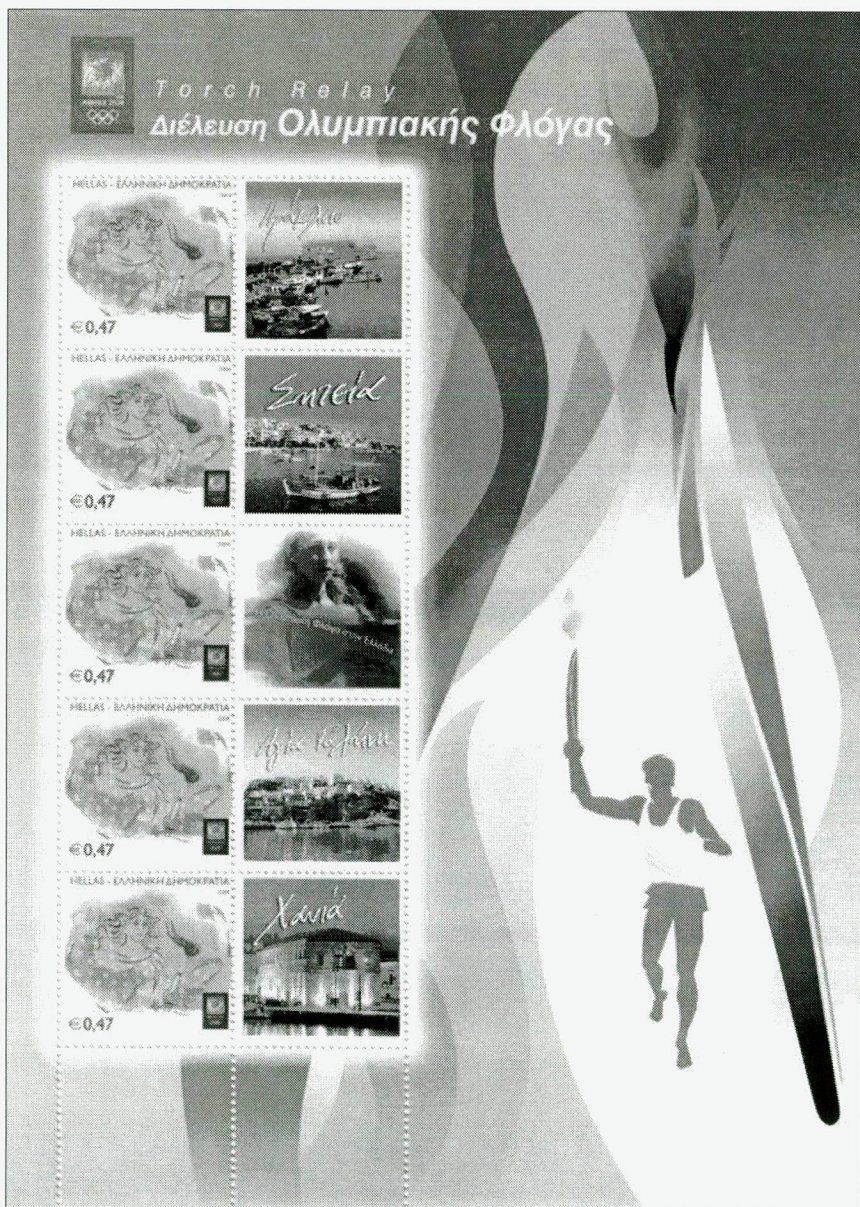
The 'P' Stamps were available to collectors in A5 sheetlets of 5 stamps + 5 labels.

Two different series of sheetlets were marketed:

A series of 35 different sheetlets, each containing 5 stamps plus 5 identical labels. The margin inscribed with the date that the torch passed the location illustrated on the label.

A series of 8 different sheetlets, each containing 5 stamps plus 5 different labels (The total of 40 labels is created by adding additional designs on a number of the sheetlets that do not relate directly to an individual overnight location).

The ELTA collection of items commemorating the Torch Relay was then completed by an unannounced sheetlet of 'P' stamps in the established format (see front cover), inscribed '9-6-04 Beijing', which was released on 13.08.04 - the only significance of which appears to be a link with the joint ELTA / Chinese Post, Athens - Beijing issue.



One of the 'multi-label' 'P' stamp sheetlets for the torch relay. Label number three is an additional design used to increase the total number of labels from 35 to 40.

## ATHENS 2004 - OFFICIAL POSTCARDS

As reported in previous issues of Torch Bearer, M. Toubis S.A. In the period since we last reported, two new series have been issued before and during the Olympic Games.

Both series incorporate an authenticity hologram on the reverse, and also have a printed retail price of €1.00 on the back.

The series were being added too during the Games, with images from the Opening Ceremony introduced over about four days. All of the cards listed were available on or before August 28.

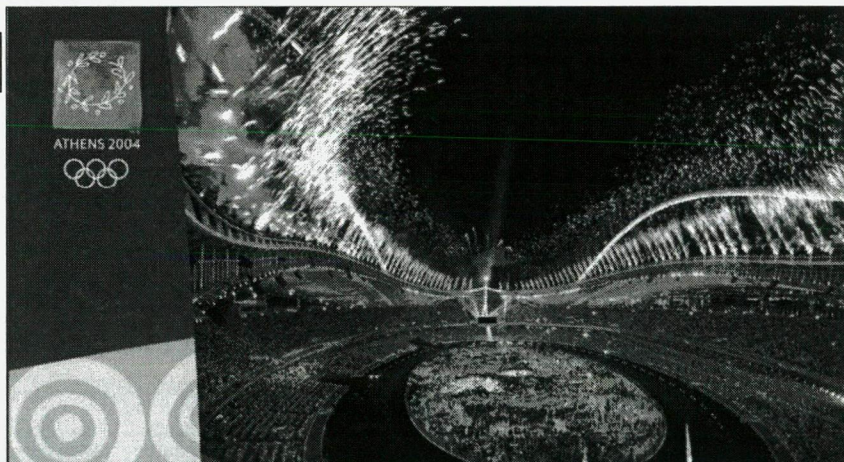
Series numbered **A2004\_3400x**

Format 188mm x 130mm.

Card No.	Design
34001	The statue of Athena and the Caryatids at Erechtheion.
34002	On the left, the statues of Socrates and Athena, in front of the Athens Academy, and on the right, the statue of Discobolus.
34003	The temple of Poseidon and the votive relief known as the "Autostephanomenos".
34004	Ancient Olympia, Greece.
34005	General view of the Panathinaico Stadium and a detail from its entrance.
34006	Ancient Olympia, Greece.
34007	The Marathon tomb and the "Epebe of Marathon" (Archaeological Museum of Athens).
34008	The Panathinaico Stadium and the Nike of Paeonius.
34009	On the left the statue of the Charioteer and on the right, a part of an Attic black-figure dinos (above) and a general view of the ancient stadium at Delphi (b'low).
340010	View of the Peace and Friendship Stadium at Neo Faliro.
340011	The lake and the tomb of Marathonas.
340012	Multi-view with 2004 calendar.
340013	Multi-view with 2004 calendar.
340014	General view of the cove of Glyfada.
340015	On the left a model of Jason's ship "Argo", in the port of Volos. On the right, a view of the Acropolis (above) and the temple of Hera at Olympia (below).
340016	The Panathinaico Stadium during the first modern Olympic Games in 1896, and the winner of the marathon Spyridon Louis.
340017	Summer in Greece.
340018	Mascots as tourist and 'statue'.
340019	Mascots on the winners podium.
340020	View at dusk towards the Parthenon..
340021	View from within the Parthenon.
340022	Artistic Gymnastics
340023	Sailing
340024	Wrestling
340025	Left: View of the Parthenon. Right: The lighting of the Olympic flame in Panathinaico stadium.

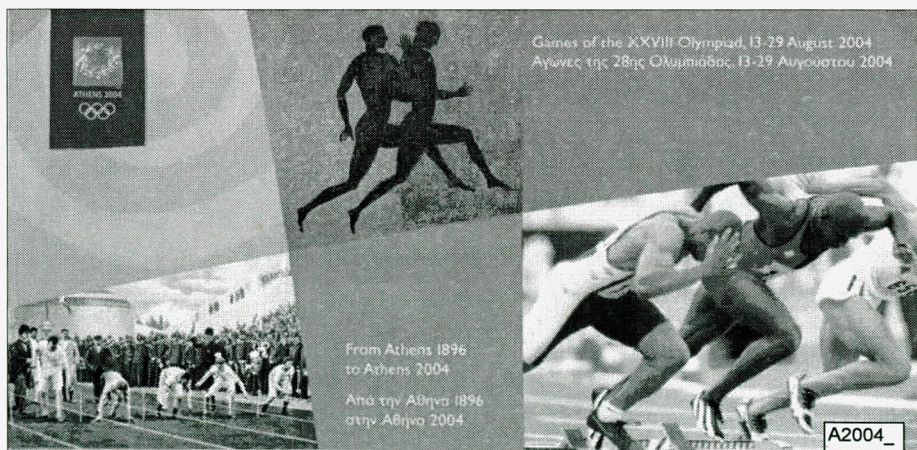
Card No.	Design
340026	Athens Olympic Sports Complex, Common Domain.
340027	On the left, the Opening Ceremony of the ATHENS 2004 Olympic Games, on the right, view of the Olympic Village (above) and Athens Olympic Sports Complex, Common Domain (below).
340028	The Opening Ceremony of the ATHENS 2004 Olympic Games.
340029	Views from the Opening Ceremony of the ATHENS 2004 Olympic Games.
340030	The Opening Ceremony.
340031	The Opening Ceremony.

A2004\_  
340028



A2004\_  
340016

Card No.	Design
35001	Multi-view and 2004 calendar.
35002	Multi-view and 2004 calendar.
35003	Cyclists passing in front of the Greek Parliament at Syntagma
35004	General view of the Acropolis.
35005	The temple of Poseidon at Sounio, with the enchanting view of the Aegean.
35006	<i>No examples found.</i>
35007	The Palaestra at Olympia and the statue of Hermes of Praxiteles.
35008	On the left, a view of the Parthenon in Athens, on the right, the Knossos Palace in Crete (above) and the White Tower in Thessaloniki (below).
35009	1896-2004: Views of the Panathinaico Stadium, yesterday and today. Above, the Nike of Paeonius.
350010	From Athens 1896 to Athens 2004.
350011	View of the temple of Poseidon.
350012	View of the cove of Vouliagmeni, where sailing events usually take place.
350013	View of the cove of Vouliagmeni.
350014	The famed statue of the "Jockey" (Archaeological Museum, Athens) opens the way to a modern athlete.
350015	The Prothereia, standing by the altar in front of the temple of Hera, gives the Olympic flame to a runner.
350016	Olympia: The Palaestra and the ceremony of the lighting of the Olympic flame, on the altar in front of the temple of Hera.
350017	The mascots cutting a tape.
350018	The mascots on the winners podium.
350019	Relief showing a youth demonstrating his skill with a ball. National Archaeological Museum, Athens.
350020	General view of the Acropolis.
350021	General view of the White Tower in Thessaloniki.



Card No.	Design
350022	Left: The ceremony of the lighting of the Olympic flame at Panathinaiko stadium. Right: General view of the Acropolis.
350023	On the left and top right, Athens Olympic Sports Complex, Common Domain, on the right, the Opening Ceremony of the ATHENS 2004 Olympic Games (below).
350024	The Opening Ceremony of the ATHENS 2004 Olympic Games.
350025	The Opening Ceremony.
350026	The Opening Ceremony.



A2004\_350019



A2004\_350024

## **ATHENS 2004 SPORTING DISCIPLINES POSTMARKS**

The Greek Post Office (ELTA) introduced 35 hand cancellations to celebrate the sporting disciplines of the 2004 Summer Olympic Games.

The first published listing of the cancels available to the general public appeared in the catalogue for Olympihilex 2004, a number of days after the earlier cancels were introduced.

The catalogue was available from the ELTA counter at Olympihilex, but only by request as it was treated as an 'under the counter' publication.

For each cancel, the intention was to allow use only on the days that competition took place, and in general, each handstamp had a copy of the imprint with the first intended date of use on the handle to ease identification. A small number had an imprint with an incorrect (earlier) date - these were accidentally put into use on the 13th August.

The accidental early use, for justifiable reasons is interesting, but of little significance because over the period of Olympihilex, there were a number of occasions when 'clients' had possession of the cancellations, and the dates were easily changed. A number of ridiculous examples such as 35 August and dates through to 2010 were seen.

The cancels were generally available at Olympihilex from 12 - 22 August, although the level of supervision of their use varied daily ranging from 'help yourself' to 'cancels can only be applied by ELTA staff'. This latter situation arose the day after one canceling device was 'misplaced' and later found in the main road.

ELTA had a single stand at Olympihilex, but this was segregated into a philatelic sales area and a Post Office' from 13 - 22 August.

After 22 August, the cancels were available from the Philatelic Centre in Athens, but it should be noted that this is not a Post Office, and could not offer postal services so that any items cancelled after the 22nd had to be carried to a post Office for either mailing or registration.

The dates given with each cancellation illustrated were the intended August dates of use.



ΤΟΞΟΒΟΛΙΑ

15 - 21



ΕΤΙΒΟΕ

18, 20 - 29



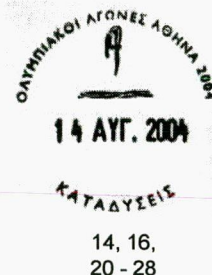
ΑΝΤΙΣΤΡΕΪΣΗ

14 - 21



ΜΠΕΙΖΜΠΟΛ

15 - 18,  
20 - 22,  
24 - 25





22 ΑΥΓ. 2004

ΚΟΡΦΛΑΣΙΑ

14 - 19,  
21 - 22



20 ΑΥΓ. 2004

ΥΕΤΙΟΠΛΟΙΑ

14 - 26,  
28



14 ΑΥΓ. 2004

ΣΚΟΠΟΒΟΛΗ

14 - 22



23 ΑΥΓ. 2004

ΓΙΟΥΔΩ

14 - 20,  
22 - 23



14 ΑΥΓ. 2004

ΚΟΛΥΜΒΗΣΗ

14 - 21



14 ΑΥΓ. 2004

ΣΥΓΧΡΟΝΙΣΜΕΝΗ ΚΟΛΥΜΒΗΣΗ

23 - 27



23 ΑΥΓ. 2004

ΕΠΙΤΡΑΠΕΖΙΑ ΑΝΤΙΣΦΑΙΡΙΣΗ

14 - 23



27 ΑΥΓ. 2004

ΤΑΕΚΒΟΝΤΟ

26 - 29



15 ΑΥΓ. 2004

ΑΝΤΙΣΦΑΙΡΙΣΗ

15 - 22



21 ΑΥΓ. 2004

ΦΡΑΝΚΛΙΝΟ

20 - 21



26 ΑΥΓ. 2004

ΤΡΙΑΘΛΟ

25 - 26



29 ΑΥΓ. 2004

ΠΕΤΟΣΦΑΙΡΙΣΗ

14 - 29



29 ΑΥΓ. 2004

ΥΔΑΤΟΣΦΑΙΡΙΣΗ

15 - 27,  
29



29 ΑΥΓ. 2004

ΠΛΗΗ

22 - 29



25 ΑΥΓ. 2004

ΑΡΣΗ ΒΑΡΩΝ

14 - 16,  
18 - 21,  
23 - 25

## ATHENS 2004 STATIONERY ENVELOPES

### 36 unexpected items.

A brochure and posters in some Post Offices announced that the Greek Post Office (ELTA) had issued a series of commemorative postal stationery items in commemoration of the 2004 Summer Olympic Games.

Initially one or two packs of the envelopes were found, but it was soon established that the complete series consisted of four packs, although very few locations seemed to hold stock of all the packs. For collectors of an individual sport these were disastrous, as it was necessary to purchase a pack of either six or twelve envelopes to obtain their favoured sport. Even worse, a number of packs were found to contain duplicates of one design in error with one design missing. If buying a pack or series it is advisable to check the contents if at all possible - a facility not offered by ELTA.

The envelopes fall into two groups; those valid for postage worldwide with no weight limit - Airmail; and those valid for domestic use, again with no weight limit.

These envelopes led to some confusion and heated debates with ELTA staff as collectors became aware of an unexpected regulation. Post paid indicia on postal stationery does not qualify as the minimum franking of 47c. to obtain a commemorative handstamp.

This was a difficult regulation to comprehend as the event cancellations appeared to be exempt (and all other cancellations depending on the Post Office visited or staff in attendance). As a result, many collectors were given the choice of adding 47c. postage, or restricting the offices from which cancellations were obtained on stationery.

One 'workable' solution, was to add postage to achieve registration (counting the pre-paid indicia as either 47c. or 65c.), canceling the additional franking with the special handstamp, and either leaving the indicia uncanceled, or canceling the indicia with the regular counter cancel.



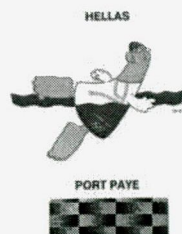
Pack	Service	Indicia design	Price
A - bar code 210114	Domestic	Canoe / kayak	€ 4,00
		Rhythmic gymnastics	
		Wrestling	
		Archery	
		Football	
		Equestrian	

B - bar code 210121	Domestic	Synchronised swimming	€ 7,50
		Sailing	
		Water polo	
		Beach volleyball	
		Tennis	
		Cycling	
		Basketball	
		Shooting	
		Weightlifting	
		Athletics	
		Gymnastics	
Taekwondo			

C - bar code 210138	International	Hockey	€ 5,50
		Triathlon	
		Rowing	
		Trampoline	
		Boxing	
		Mascots with Globe	

D - bar code 210145	International	Badminton	€ 10,50
		Baseball	
		Modern pentathlon	
		Judo	
		Table tennis	
		Volleyball	
		Softball	
		Handball	
		Fencing	
		Canoe slalom	
		Swimming	
		Diving	

### Sample indicia



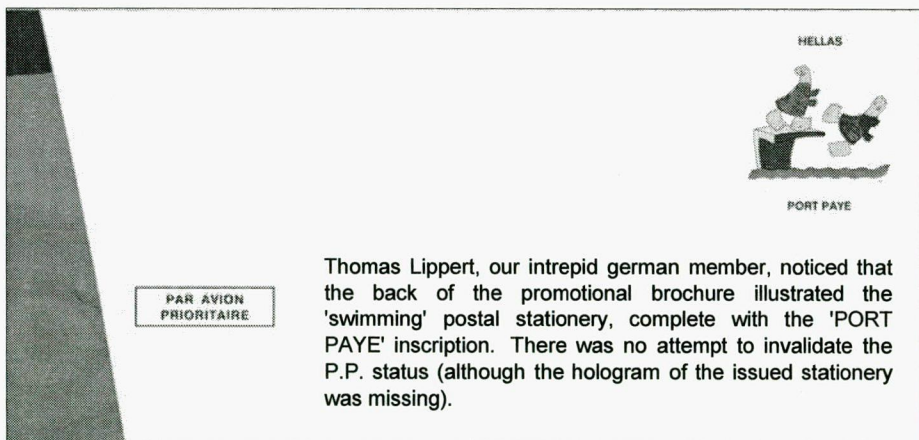
All of the envelopes are slightly larger than DL size measuring 230mm x 114mm, and are wrapped with a card showing the designs of indicia included in the pack. There is English text on the International packs "Provide "colour" to your personal mail. The envelopes feature the Olympic Mascots Phevos and Athena who add fun and "personality" to your mail."

**Special solutions exclusively by Hellenic Post.**



Rhythmic gymnastics domestic postal stationery mailed by registered post from the temporary post office at the Zappeion.

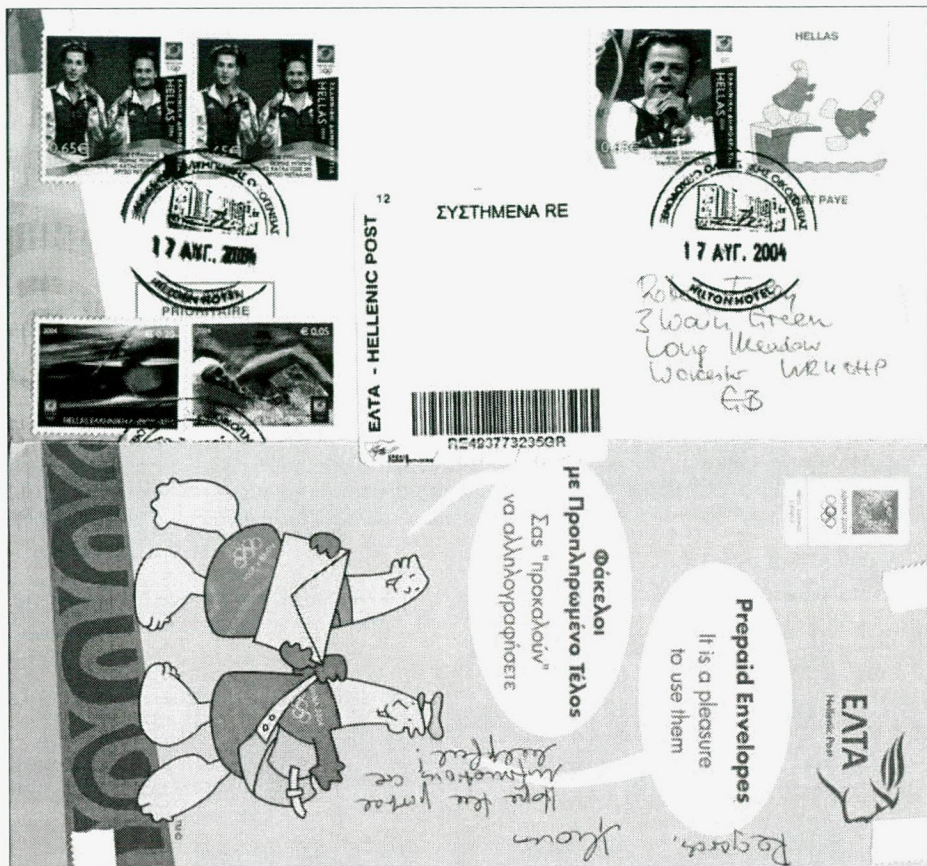
The inicia has contributed 47c. to the total franking of €2.85 to allow use of the special handstamp on its first day of use. Note that the post paid indicia is cancelled by a regular counter handstamp for Athens 52.



Thomas Lippert, our intrepid german member, noticed that the back of the promotional brochure illustrated the 'swimming' postal stationery, complete with the 'PORT PAYE' inscription. There was no attempt to invalidate the P.P. status (although the hologram of the issued stationery was missing).

It was certainly possible to obtain cancellations on the back of this brochure, and for a few days they were being accepted as postage - the heavy demand for the brochures, ultimately arose suspicions, and the more popular Post Offices were alert to the use of this unintentional 'free gift' from ELTA, refusing to accept it as valid postage.

The ultimate Athens 2004 cover?



This registered 'cover' has certainly benefited from subsequent events:

The PORT PAYE imprint of the promotional brochure for postal stationery has been accepted as contributing 65c towards the total franking of €2.85.

The Hilton Hotel special cancellation is dated August 17, 2004 and acts as a first day cancellation for the first two Greek Medal Winners stamps.

The franking includes the withdrawn Sampanis stamp.

A clear case of managing to be in the right place at the right time (and managing to do the right thing).

## ATHENS 2004 - COMMEMORATIVE HANDSTAMPS

There was much debate amongst collectors at Olympilex about the potential use of further handstamps. A number could be predicted with some certainty, for example the Olympic Village, IBC and MPC. Attempts to obtain information from ELTA staff never produced any definite answers except to confirm the event cancellations, and some indication of the Olympilex cancels.

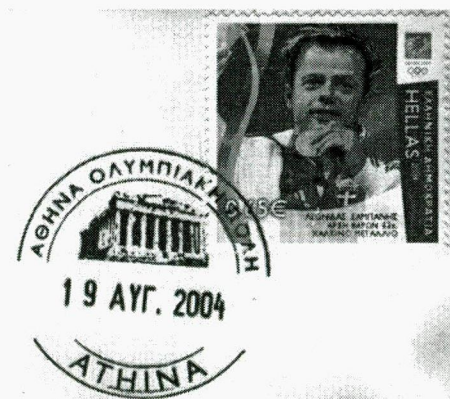
The following cancellations were 'discovered' by a number of us over the early days of the Olympic period. Special thanks must go to Thomas Lippert, Manfred Winternheimer and Klaus Fink in particular, but many other members of FIPO groups from around the world also shared their discoveries.

The Philatelic Centre were approached during the final week of the Games to try and get verification that we had identified all commemorative handstamps in use, but it became apparent that their knowledge was limited.

### Olympic 'Cities' - Cities at which events were programmed.

Commemorative handstamps featuring local architectural landmarks. The handstamps were variable date, self inking 'trodat' type. Intended dates of use were August 13 - 29, although it is known that Thessaloniki used their cancel as a first day cancel for the Medal Winner issue on August 31.

It is also known that Volos considered the cancel to be available for use with the date of August 13 only, until clarification was sought on August 17, after which the date was changed daily.



Athens cancellation used at Syntagma Post Office, Olympic Sales counter.



Patras cancellation used at Patras Main Post Office, Philatelic Sales counter. Strange that this was not introduced earlier to acknowledge the preliminary football matches.



Volos cancellation used at Volos Main Post Office, Philatelic Sales desk.



Thessaloniki cancellation used at Thessaloniki Main Post Office, Philatelic Sales counter.

Ancient Olympia cancellation used at Olympia Post Office, with additional copies used at booths on August 18.

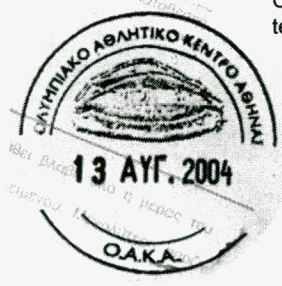


Booths were positioned at the Ancient Stadium, The Olympic Academy and the communal area opposite to the ticket control entrance.

A further cancellation used at Iraklion (Crete) is not available for illustration.

**Olympic Venues** - Temporary Postal facilities within venues - accessible to ticket holders.

O.A.K.A - Main Stadium Complex, available at two temporary postal facilities.



Hellenico Sports Complex, available from a single temporary postal facility.



**Olympic Venues** - Temporary Postal facilities within venues - accredited access.

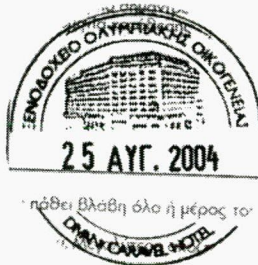
O.A.K.A., Main Stadium Complex, Sponsor Hospitality Centre, available from a single temporary postal facility.



**Olympic Facilities** - Temporary Postal facilities - accredited access.



Olympic Family, Hilton Hotel.



Olympic Family, Divani Caravel Hotel.



Athletes Olympic Village



International Broadcast Centre



Main Press Centre



Zappeion Press Centre



Piraeus Port Authority

Two temporary Postal Facilities were established to service the needs of spectators and sponsors with accommodation and facilities on the luxury liners moored in Piraeus.

Despite information that the cancellations varied, they were actually indistinguishable.

## Olympic Events



Left; Opening Ceremony cancellation dated August 13, available at Olymphilex.



Right; Closing Ceremony cancellation dated August 29, available from the Philatelic Centre, Athens on August 30.

## Olympihilex

A number of handstamps were used at Olympihilex. The design features a Victor's wreath with 'daily' text.



August 12



August 13



August 16



August 18



August 21

## Medal Winner

This cancel was intended for use with the Medal Winner stamp issues, but due to an oversight, was not ordered in time to be available for the early issues.

A cancel of the same design will be used to create philatelic souvenir covers announced by ELTA on October 12.



## GREEK OLYMPIC WINNERS STAMP ISSUES

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Advance notice from the Hellenic Post Office (ELTA), implied that stamps would be issued to honour Greek medal winners the day after their medals were presented.

As ELTA had employed the services of David Maiden (Instigator of the Sydney Gold Medal stamp programme), it was likely that a similar package of products would be available.

It was anticipated that digital printing would take place the day after the medal ceremonies, from which the images were obtained, and a further offset printing would be released three or four days later.

In Australia, we had the State fauna as a logo to represent the printing centres - in Greece, the city name was inscribed with a logo representing a well known architectural landmark.

Armed with this knowledge, the main problem to collectors appeared to be the distance between the cities at which stamps would be printed, the limited numbers proposed for the digital issue and in particular the inaccessibility of Crete for those on the mainland.

I personally adopted a 'have car will travel' approach to Athens, Patras and Volos, and had reliable local arrangements to secure supplies from Thessaloniki. From experience in Sydney, I felt that this was all probably excessive, as the philatelic bureau would supply all varieties after the event, so I would concentrate on registered first day of use.

On August 17, I found myself in Volos Post Office at 11:00am, together with one other customer (busy selecting a pin from the extensive range). The first two digital stamps were available, already separated into A5 sheetlets of ten stamps neatly placed in a generic folder to cater for all winners issues. Whilst I experienced a number of problems at Volos, all of which were eventually resolved amicably, the purchase of the medal winner stamps was simplicity itself - nothing like in Sydney.

Later in the day, back at Olymphilix, the purchase of the Athens issue was just as easy.

This was to prove the case in Athens, Patras and Volos throughout the Games. On subsequent visits to Volos and Patras, all of the digital stamps still on sale were available, in the case of Patras, this was the case on August 30.

The later withdrawal of the Sampanis stamp as a result of failed drug tests caused some changes in ELTA policy. Stamps were now issued the latter of the day after the medal ceremony or the day after passing drug testing. This certainly led to confusion about prospective issue dates.

After returning to Great Britain, feeling quite pleased with my collection of winners stamps, and certainly feeling that I had a representative selection of all available (with the exception of Iraklion, Crete), a new variable was thrown into the arena.

There were more than two printings for each stamp.

A local digital printing; a national digital printing and a national offset printing. These were all identifiable on sheetlets of ten stamps.

Ολυμπιακοί Αγώνες  
ΑΘΗΝΑ 2004



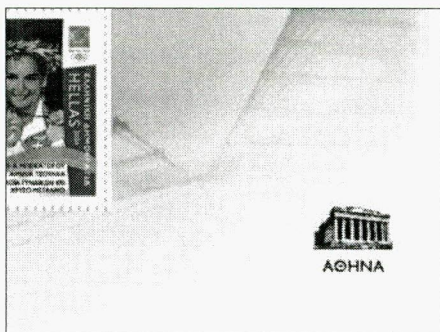
Έλατες  
Ολυμπιονίκες

ΝΙΚΟΣ ΣΥΡΑΝΙΔΗΣ  
ΘΩΜΑΣ ΜΠΙΜΗΣ  
3m ΣΥΓΧΡΟΝΙΣΜΕΝΟΣ  
ΚΑΤΑΔΥΣΕΙΣ  
Ανδρών  
Χρυσό Μετάλλιο  
XXVIII Ολυμπιακοί Αγώνες  
ΑΘΗΝΑ 2004



The winners stamps were sold in sheetlets of 10 stamps. They were printed in A4 format with the left and right sheetlets separated by a rouletted perforation. A4 sheets of two sheetlets were also freely available.

The logos / inscriptions identifying the local digital printings.



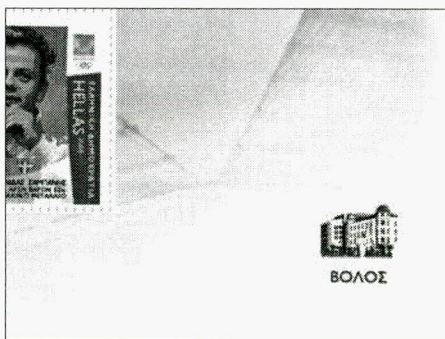
Athens printing.



Patras printing.



Thessaloniki printing.



Volos printing.

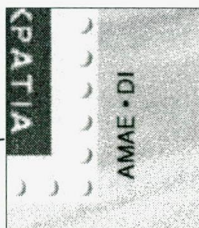
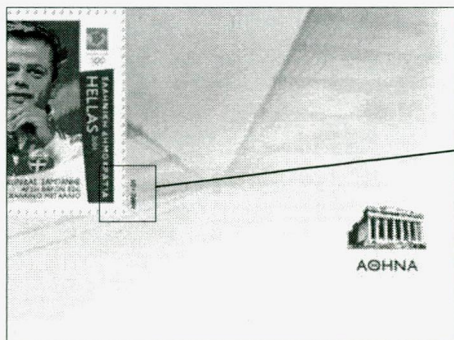
Iraklion printing is not illustrated, but uses the palace at Knossos as a logo.

Athens digital printing was carried out at Syntagma, Glyfada, Maroussi, Central Philatelic Office and Central Post Office of Piraeus. Sales were restricted to these offices or Temporary 'Olympic' Post Offices operating under their jurisdiction.

Regional digital printings took place at the Central Post Offices of Patras, Thessaloniki, Volos and Iraklion - sales were restricted to those offices.

The logos / inscriptions identifying the national digital printings.

This was the surprise, and ELTA's deviation from the policy adopted in Sydney. Further digital stamps were printed with the regional logos and distributed to other principal Post Offices in the regions. These printings are identified by the addition of an inscription adjacent to stamp position 10 of each A5 sheetlet, AMAE • DI



AMAE • DI inscription for the national digital printing.

A further twist to this tale is introduced by the fact that the printers of this national digital issue were either 'not informed' or overlooked that they were required to print a proportion with each of the regional logos, so for the stamps issued on August 17 only sheetlets inscribed as Athens occur with the AMAE • DI inscription.

This actually solved a puzzle identified during a trip to Ancient Olympia on August 18. Stamps on sale at Olympia in the morning were the issues of August 17, with Athens logo, not Patras as would have been expected in Western Greece. In the afternoon, the issue of August 18 was on sale, with the Patras logo. As all of the stamps sold at Olympia should be from the national digital printing, this would confirm that only Athens sheets were available for the August 17 stamps.

The national digital printing was generally available in all regional Post Offices, the following are known to have handled stock:

Thessaloniki logo - Serres, Katerini, Kilkis, Polygyros and Langada.

Volos logo - Larissa, Karditsa and Trikkala.

Patras logo - Pyrgos and Ancient Olympia.

Printing quantities of Greek Olympic Winners digital stamps. (current understanding)

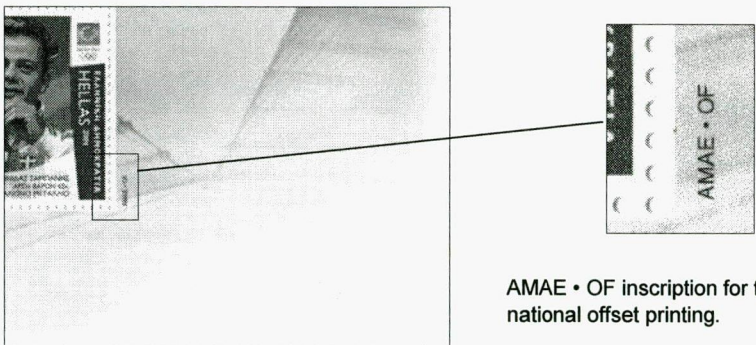
	Quantities of A5 sheetlets of 10		
	Local	Matsoukis AMAE • DI	
	(1) - (17)	(1) & (2)	(3) - (17)
Athens	5000	24500	19700
Thessaloniki	1000	0	2000
Volos	800	0	900
Patras	800	0	900
Iraklion	800	0	1000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8400</b>	<b>24500</b>	<b>32900</b>

Printing quantities appear to be very low considering the number of visitors to Athens during the Olympic Games, and certainly many of them were mailing quantities of postcards that would need a 65c. postage stamp.

The issue of the Medal Winners stamps at the 65c. international (worldwide) rate may appear to be targeted at these potential tourist sales, but there are a number of factors that need to be considered:

- Purchase of the Olympic Winners stamps was in sheetlets only, minimum quantity 10 stamps;
- In Athens, all of the major Post Offices restricted initial sales of the Winners sheetlets to 'Olympic' sales counters. To purchase the stamps, a customer had to endure the queues of dithering souvenir hunters selecting a pin from the vast selection produced (then the subsequent selections until they matched their choice with an item in stock!), only hardened collectors would regularly endure this process, when the option was take a number and a seat, and purchase your stamps for postcards in a few minutes.
- From ELTA's position, if you envisage that most sales will be to collectors, without having to provide any postal service for the revenue, (most 'used' stamps will be from sheetlets cancelled at the point of purchase), why set the price at €4.70 minimum sale when you can achieve €6.50 for no more effort or expense?
- If the intention was really to achieve sales to tourists, why is the text only in Greek?

Identifying of the national offset printing.



AMAE • OF inscription for the national offset printing.

Printing quantities of the offset printing are far higher, as they were prepared and distributed to all Post Offices for general sale.

During the Olympic Games, offset sheets were actually very difficult to find because there was not an official issue date, and all Post Offices that had stock of either digital printing were trying to sell their stock in rotation. Offset sheets were only offered against customer requests, or when digital supplies were exhausted.

For collectors of Olympic philatelic material, the Greek Medal Winner stamps will prove a challenge. Most collectors of the current Olympic Games already make decisions regarding the scope of their collection.

The majority of these would aspire to obtaining all official issues of the host nation postal service. What does this actually mean for those seeking a 'complete' collection of host nation issues for Athens 2004?

Ignoring the market price of the withdrawn Sampanis stamp, the collector has the following options based on face value:

Design different	Printing process	Regional Prints	Types of Regional Prints	Format	Face value
------------------	------------------	-----------------	--------------------------	--------	------------

Option 1:	17				single	€11.05
Option 2	17	2			single	€22.10
Option 3	17	2	5		sheetlets	€663.00
Option 4	17	2	5	2	sheetlets	€1163.50
Option 5	17	2	5	2	A4 sheets	€2327.00

**Option 1**, is the simplistic 'one of each face different'. As the minimum sales quantity is a sheetlet of 10, and the overall quantity printed needs to cater for collectors of Greece and the Olympic theme, it is unlikely that 'singles' will be available at face value (dealers will need to add Value Added Tax as a minimum requirement).

**Option 2**, relies on being able to identify digital and offset printings from single copies.

**Option 3**, needs to be collected in sheetlets to allow identification, or all singles from position 10 with margins.

**Option 4**, as option 3 to allow identification of the local and AMAE printings, only 800 such collections were ever possible.

**Option 5**, for the collector wishing to be complete - sheetlets could have a rouletted edge to either the right or left edge! Only 400 such collections were ever possible, and storage would be required for 179 A4 sheets.

The most important influence on the availability of these stamps will be the reaction of catalogue and printed one-country album publishers.

The degree of detail that they include in listings, and the pages that they include in the 2004 album supplements will create demand from the collectors of Greek stamps.

ELTA have in excess of 12,000 standing order clients regularly subscribing to new issues, so it is obvious that demand will be high. It will be interesting to observe the way that ELTA deals with these clients - will they offer digital and offset, 'singles or sheetlets?

Will they print to fulfill demand?

The issued designs of Greek Medal winners stamps.



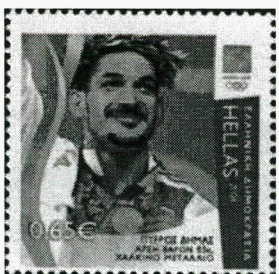
17.08.04  
Leonidas Sampanis  
Weightlifting, men's 62kg.  
**Disqualified 22.08.04**



17.08.04  
Binis & Siranidis  
Synchronised diving,  
3m. Springboard.



17.08.04  
Ilias Iliadis  
Judo, men's 81kg.



22.08.04  
Pyrros Dimas,  
Weightlifting,  
men's 85kg.



22.08.04  
Tsoulfa & Bekatorou,  
Sailing, women's 470.



23.08.04  
Anastasia Kelesidou,  
Discus, women's.



23.08.04  
Polimeros & Skiathitis,  
Men's lightweight double  
sculls.



23.08.04  
Dimosthenis Tampakios,  
Gymnastics, men's rings.



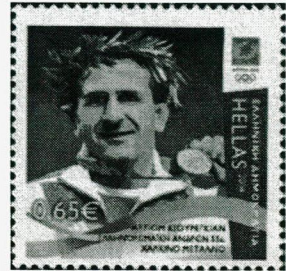
24.08.04  
Athanasia Tsoumeleka,  
Women's 20km. Walk.



24.08.04  
Hrysopiya Devetzi,  
women's triple jump.



26.08.04  
Kaki Maniatis,  
Sailing, mistral.



27.08.04  
Artiom Kiureghian,  
men's Greco-Roman 55kg.



27.08.04  
Fani Halkia,  
women's 400m. hurdles



28.08.04  
Women's Water polo.



28.08.04  
Mirela Manjani,  
Javelin, women's.



30.08.04  
Elisavet Mystakidou,  
Taekwondo,  
women's under 67kg.



31.08.04  
Alexandros Nikolaidis,  
Taekwondo,  
men's under 50kg.

Please note that many different versions of the Greek athletes names appear when translated into the Latin alphabet, and there is no 'correct' version.

The details here are taken from a number of internet and press sources.

## **The withdrawn Sampanis Greek Medal winners stamp.**

### **Chronology:**

Leonidas Sampanis, was awarded the bronze medal for men's weightlifting 62kg., on August 16.

A digital stamp to honour his achievement was issued on August 17, in accordance with the declared policy of ELTA, and an offset version was released on either August 20 or 21

News of the initial drug test failure was generally known on or by August 20. The failure of the second test was announced on August 22.

A number of postal outlets (including Olymphilex), that were operating on August 22 were advised to withdraw the stamp. A circular was issued by ELTA on August 23 (after midday), requiring audit, withdrawal and return of all unsold stocks.

### **Apparent sales periods:**

Digital versions of the stamps were therefore on sale for a maximum of seven days August 17 - 23.

The local printing of digital stamps was restricted to sales at five Athens offices (plus any temporary Olympic facilities that they may have serviced), and four regional Main Post Offices.

The AMAE-DI digital printing was only produced with an Athens imprint, and was available throughout Greece at larger Post Offices.

Offset versions of the stamps were on sale for a maximum period of four days.

The AMAE-OF offset printing was available nationally, offering the first opportunity to purchase the stamps in more rural areas, but few will have been sold at outlets with residual digital stock.

### **Non-philatelic sales:**

It has been reported in the Philatelic Press that the majority of these stamps will have been sold to non-collectors (tourists) for use on postcards etc., and they will therefore be lost to the philatelic market.

The sales practices for all the medal winners issues have been commented on earlier, and it is very unlikely that non-philatelic sales occurred in any quantity

The 'typical' sale of winners stamps consisted of one A5 sheetlet mint (with careful viewing of the gum to ensure no disturbance), and one A5 sheetlet carefully cancelled to order (after similar scrutiny of the gum).

With the exception of Olymphilex, there was little evidence of customers separating stamps for postal (or philatelic) use - in fact, I received looks of horror from locals when I removed stamps from the sheetlets for use at Patras and Olympia.

### **Potential sales:**

The second Greek Olympic Winners stamp honouring Binis and Siranidis was also issued on August 17, so the level of sales are likely to follow a similar pattern to that for the withdrawn stamp.

In Volos Main Post Office, copies of the locally printed digital stamp sheetlets were available on August 26, and it appeared that the stock levels (the sheets were in adjacent piles on one table), were similar for all issues that had been on sale for a few days, so it can be deduced that a print run of 800 sheetlets was adequate for eight days of sales (Volos was closed on Saturday and Sunday). It would also appear that most sales occur during the first four days, as stocks of the August 23 issues were at similar levels.

In Patras, there were a few sheets of the locally printed digital Binis and Siranidis stamp sheetlets available on August 30, so the print run of 800 sheetlets was adequate for twelve days of sales (Patras opening hours were extended to include Saturday mornings during the Olympic period).

A large number of the Sampanis AMAE-DI printing were sold at Olympia on August 18 to spectators visiting the shot put competition. Two temporary 'restricted' sales booths were in operation, one temporary sales booth in the public area and the Olympia Post Office all offered the Sampanis sheetlet throughout the day, and sales appeared brisk. Only two other medal winners stamps would have enjoyed similar exposure, the Binis and Siranidis issue, and the Ilias I Liadis issue although the latter was only available during the afternoon.

There would undoubtedly be a 'sales surge' between the notice to withdraw and the audit - I was certainly offered the opportunity to purchase a quantity of sheets just prior to withdrawal.

From the above, it appears unlikely that many copies of the locally printed digital stamps would have been returned to Athens.

Sales of the AMAE-DI digital printing are difficult to assess, most serious philatelists will have made arrangement to secure their copies in advance, so sales at outlets with known regular custom would have fulfilled their traditional obligations with regular clients, probably within the early days of the sales period. Assuming that distribution of the sheetlets was matched to usual sales patterns, there should have been little residual stock at the time of withdrawal.

Sales of the AMAE-OF offset printing were for a very short period. August 20 - 23, with the majority of outlets either closed on August 21-22, or still selling digital stock. Most copies of the Sampanis stamp currently appearing on the market appear to be the offset printing (where an indication is given), which suggest that there was either a large volume of 'first day' sales, a massive sales surge prior to withdrawal, or bulk advance orders were serviced with offset rather than digital sheetlets.

It is interesting that the current reports in the Philatelic Press stress the potential scarcity of this stamp, but fail to differentiate between the different printings when attempting to project a future value / scarcity.

### **Conclusions on stamp sales:**

From all the foregoing information, it seems that the the following conclusions can be drawn:

For local digital printings, the scarcity level of this stamp will be silmilar to all Medal Winners issues - as a result of the very low print quantity, and the majority of sales being achieved within the initial four days;

For AMAE-DI digital issues, this stamp will be the second most common that is able to be identified in full sheetlets because only this stamp and the Binis & Siranidis stamp were produced with a single regional imprint - Athens.

For AMAE-OFF offset issues, the scarcity level will be far higher than for the other Medal Winners issues, but the total quantities in circulation appear to be higher than for the combined digital printing.

Print run figures of 136,000 stamps have been quoted in the Philatelic Press, but this seems to be a misinterpretation of a Greek newspaper report that mentioned the intended print run of 36,000 A5 sheetlets, which has become 136,000 stamps (?). This would actually equate to 360,000 stamps, but only refers to the intended digital printing (as earlier table, plus requirements to service subscribers to ELTA new issues), the offset printing is in addition. Quantities actually printed and distributed to sales outlets were 329,000 stamps plus the offset print.

Total sales are unknown, but the speculative reports of sales of circa 40,000 are more likely to reflect the number of sheetlets sold than the number of stamps.

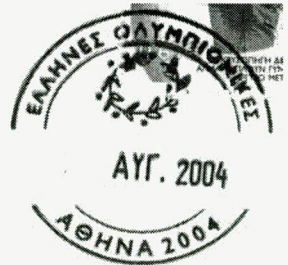
### **First Day usage:**

Whilst the supply of first day items would appear to be unaffected by the withdrawal - after all, first day was on August 17, and sales that day were not restricted, it is actually the area where demand exceeding supply will be most evident.

In reality, all Greek collectors who have personally prepared first day covers will have the same number of Sampanis covers as for any other Greek Medal Winner issue.

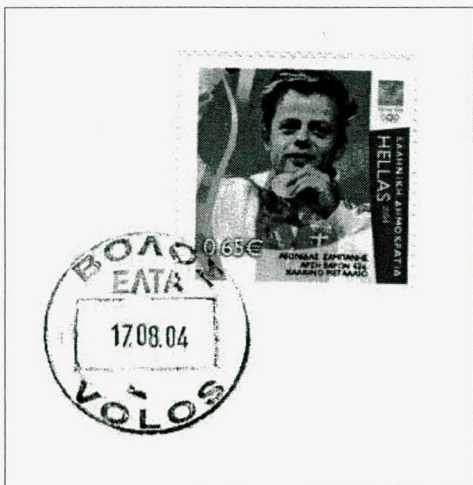
The real difference will result from the dealing community who rely on the ELTA 'standard products' and clients of the ELTA new issue service.

Philatelic 'First day covers' of the Greek Medal Winners Stamps were only announced by ELTA on October 12, and the complete series excluding Sampanis can be ordered with a special cancellation of the appropriate date, so the Sampanis issue will scarcer than all others by the number of ELTA covers produced, and missing from most collections. It is interesting that the stamps used on official First Day Covers will be from the offset printing, but cancelled on the date of issue of the digital printing.

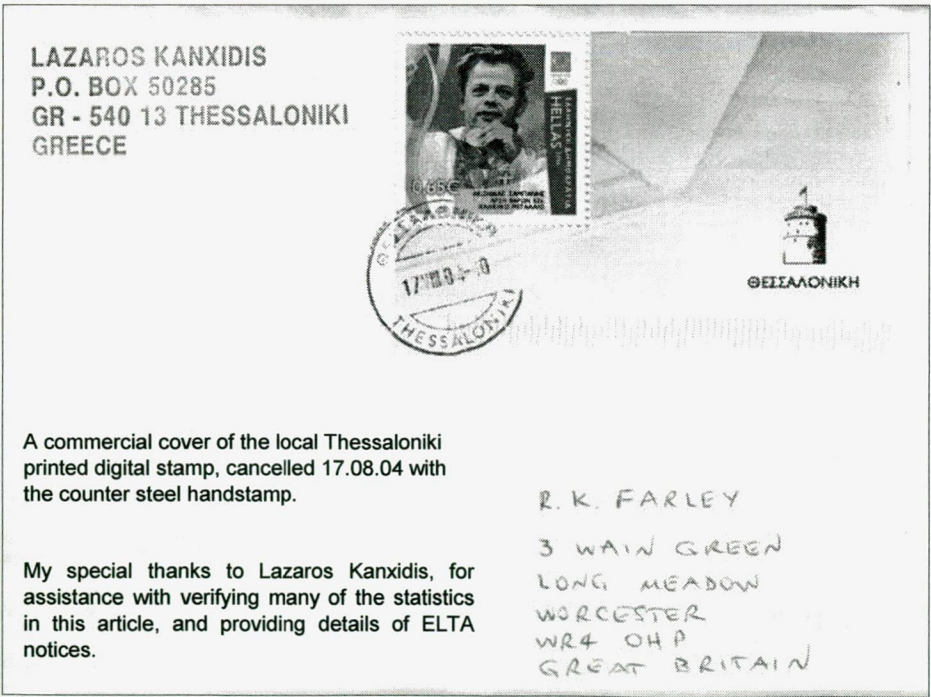


It should be noted that the changeable date cancel to be used on the ELTA covers was not available until August 21, so can only appear on a Sampanis stamp as a result of submitted covers being backdated.

The obvious commemorative event cancel weightlifting, was not scheduled for use on August 17. All special handstamps in Greece are available for use on mailed in orders for a period after the date of use, so the number of potential 'first day' covers is only limited by the number of stamps produced, and the willingness of their purchasers to risk mailing them in for cancellation.



A copy of the local Volos printed digital stamp, cancelled 17.08.04 with the counter steel handstamp.



A commercial cover of the local Thessaloniki printed digital stamp, cancelled 17.08.04 with the counter steel handstamp.

My special thanks to Lazaros Kanxididis, for assistance with verifying many of the statistics in this article, and providing details of ELTA notices.

**Society of Olympic Collectors -  
Souvenirs illustrated in Volume 21, pages 98-102**

<b>London Torch Relay - 26th. June 2004</b>			
Illustration		Price	Quantity Value
<b>Cover with SmartStamp</b>			
SS1a	Wimbledon Park	£1.50	
SS1b	Brixton Hill	£1.50	
SS1d	Canary Wharf	£1.50	
SS2a	Trafalgar Square	£1.50	
<b>Postcard with SmartStamp</b>			
SS1c	Greenwich - Tourist postcard	£1.80	
<b>Cover with 'Smiler'</b>			
HS1/P1	Olympic Games 1908 / Athens 2004 / Wimbledon	£2.00	
PC1+HS2/P2	<b>Postcard with 'Smiler' and 'Landmark' handstamp</b>	£2.25	
PC1	<b>Postcard - Andrew Lindsay</b>	£0.60	
PC4	<b>Postcard - London Torch Relay (see Front Cover)</b>	£0.60	

<b>Much Wenlock SOC 20th Anniversary 10 - 11th July 2004</b>			
<b>SOC 1984-2004 / William Penny Brookes</b>			
Cov1	Cacheted cover with SmartStamp	£1.80	
PC3+SS3	S.O.C. Wenlock postcard with SmartStamp	£1.80	Sold out
PC2+SS3	Penny Brookes postcard with SOC/WOS handstamp	£1.80	
PC3+SS3	S.O.C. Wenlock postcard (unused)	£0.60	
PC3+HS3	S.O.C. Wenlock postcard with SOC/WOS handstamp	£1.80	
<b>Leaping for London 2012</b>			
Cov2	Cacheted cover with SmartStamp SS4	£1.80	
Bid cards (5) * SS4 on one	Set of 5 London 2012 postcards including one card with SmartStamp (counts as 5 items for postage)	£1.80	Sold out

Total Souvenirs: £ .....

Postage:	1-5 items	6+ items	
Great Britain	£0.40	£0.60	
Europe	£0.60	£0.90	
Rest of world	£1.20	£2.00	Add Postage: £ .....

Total Remittance: £ .....

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