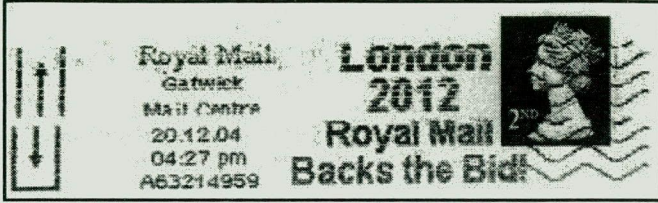




TORCH BEARER



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- 2000
- 2004**
- 2008
- 2012**



SOCIETY of OLYMPIC COLLECTORS

SOCIETY of OLYMPIC COLLECTORS

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



YOUR COMMITTEE

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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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Remember the Society auction when disposing of your duplicate material. - The Auction Manager would be pleased to receive your lots.

Take the opportunity to reach fellow Olympic collectors

FRONT PAGE

Welcome to 2005, another New Year.

Whilst we do not have a celebration of the Olympic Games during 2005, it will be a very important year for London as the host city for the 2012 Olympic Games is due to be selected in July.

This could also make 2005 an important year for the Society of Olympic Collectors - a positive outcome for London will certainly increase awareness of 'Olympic' collectables, and will probably offer us an opportunity for recruitment of new members.

As you will see in this issue, our relationship with the London 2012 Bid Committee remains strong, and whilst the Society has not directly funded any promotion of London 2012, a number of our members and Committee have offered time and enthusiasm wherever possible.

The Society International Circulating Packet is still at an early stage, but sales for the current packet were so high during the first half of the circuit that the packet had to be 'topped up' with additional material before continuing on its way. Brian Hammond would like to hear from any potential vendors or purchasers.

The success of our SmartStamp souvenirs during 2004 (particularly with non-members), was certainly under-estimated when setting the quantities to produce for initial designs. Bob Wilcock has managed to provide articles to a broad spectrum of the philatelic press, and each article published brings orders.

You will notice that we have placed the remainders of some early issues in the Society Auction. This was decided as a means of firstly offering to members only (a condition of bidding), secondly to allow the market level to be set by potential purchasers, and thirdly to avoid distribution of the few remaining copies on a 'first come first served basis'.

All of your committee trust that you will have a successful 2005.

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, \$US 30).

Outside Europe, £19.00 (€ 30, \$US 35, \$AU 45)

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

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Athens 2004

AIR MAIL

PAC A

POST

POSTAGE PRE-PAID AUSTRALIA

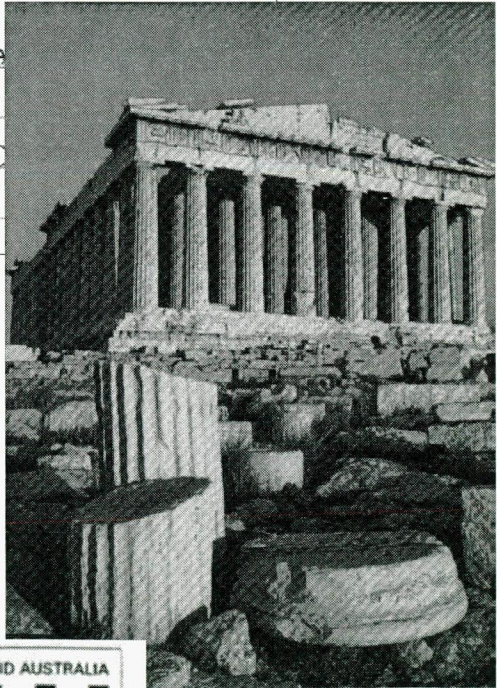
FOR POSTING IN AUSTRALIA AND DELIVERY WORLDWIDE



*Thank you for your incredible support -
it's always great to receive letters and it gives us
great encouragement to know that we have you
cheering us on.*

*We really appreciated you taking the time to write
to us.*

*Thank you for your support
Australian Olympic Team*



Noel Almeida provided these examples of postcards used by the Australian Olympic Team.

*Thank you for your incredible support -
it's always great to receive letters and it gives us
great encouragement to know that we have you
cheering us on.
We really appreciate you taking the time to write
to us.*

Thank you for your

support

Australian Olympic

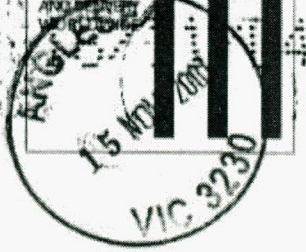
Team

POST

Part of the team Athens 2004

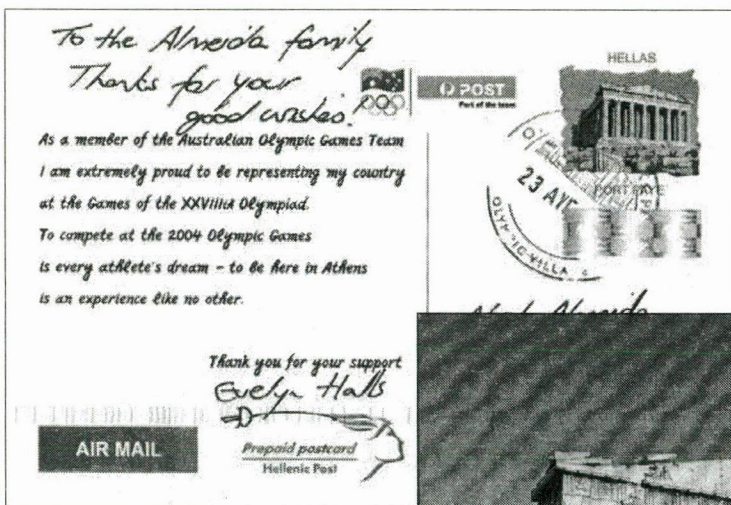
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FOR POSTING IN AUSTRALIA AND DELIVERY WORLDWIDE



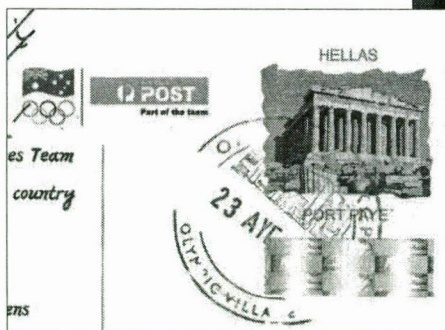
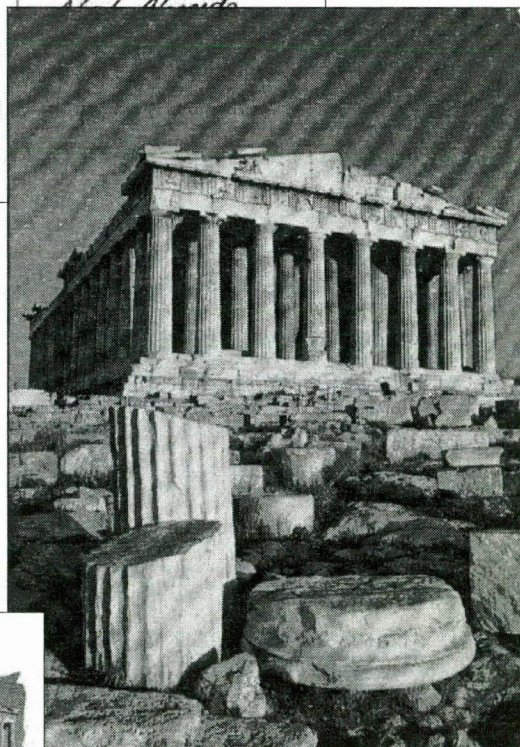
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FOR POSTING
IN AUSTRALIA
AND DELIVERY
WORLDWIDE

Note that the cancellation is also using an Olympic slogan.



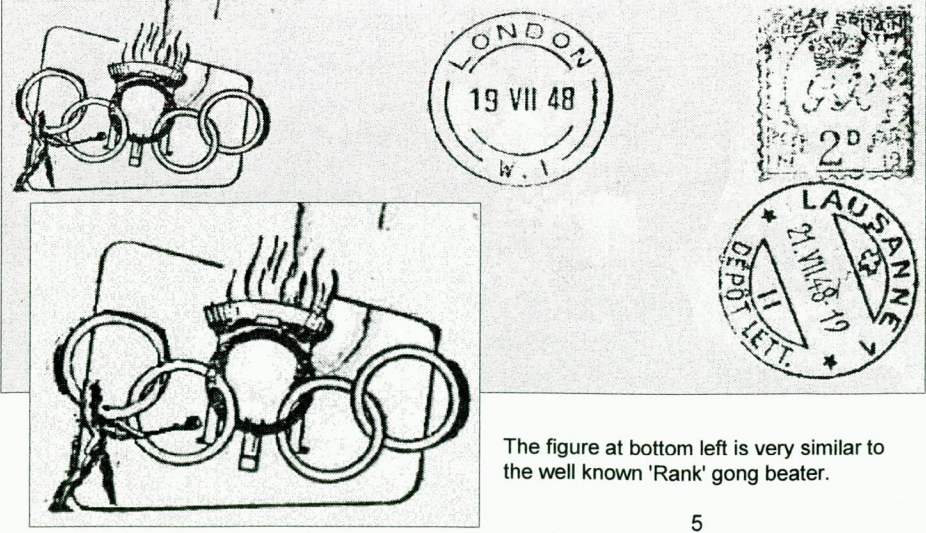
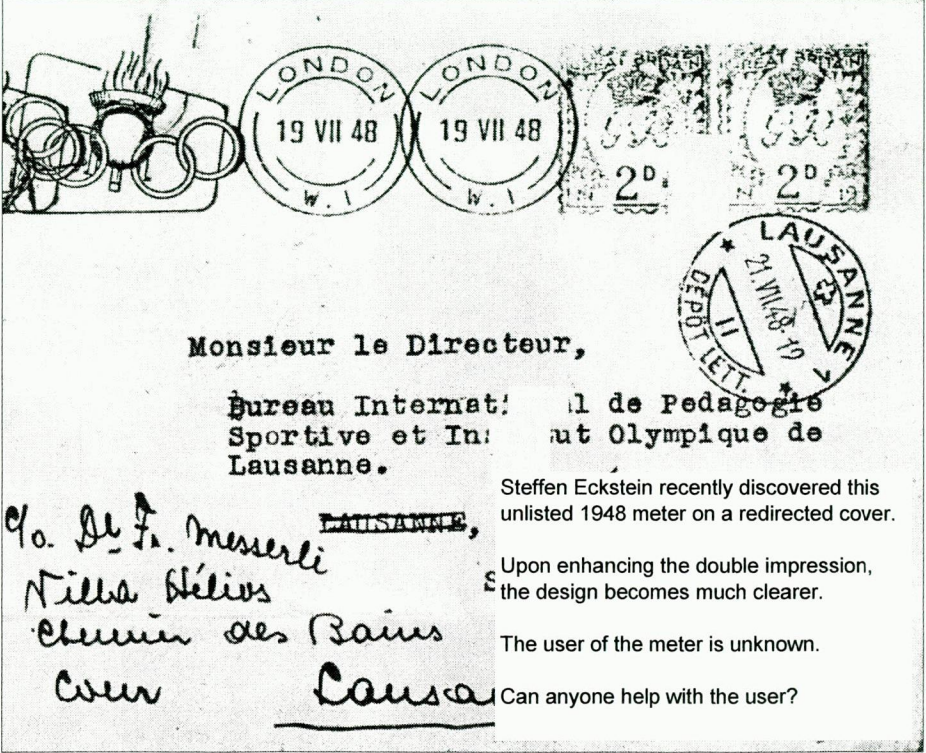
This card appears to show collaboration between ELTA and Australia Post to provide a reply card for Australian athletes to acknowledge the receipt of fan mail.

The fencer Evelyn Halls has added a manuscript message to personalise this example.

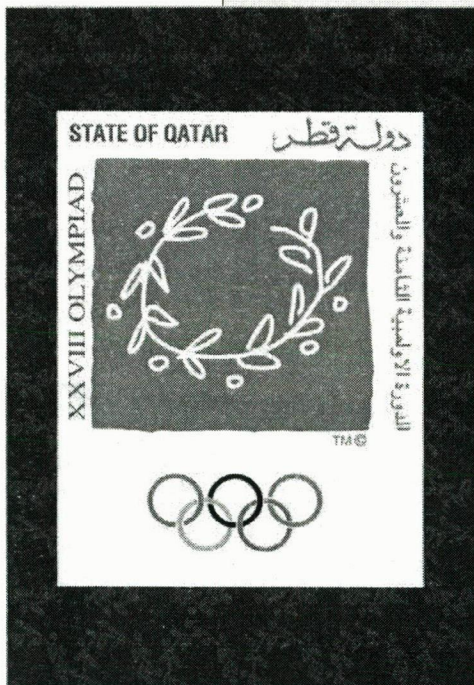


As a member of the Australian Olympic Games Team
I am extremely proud to be representing my country
at the Games of the XXVIIIth Olympiad.
To compete at the 2004 Olympic Games
is every athlete's dream - to be here in Athens
is an experience like no other.

Thank you for your



Athens 2004



An airmail postal stationery card was issued by Qatar to commemorate the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.

It was reported that the issue quantity was 1,000 examples.

David Buxton was pleasantly surprised to find the five postcards illustrated during a visit to the River and Rowing Museum at Henley.

The medal winning Great Britain Rowing crews are all represented.



The Great Britain Gold Medal Coxless Four at the Athens Olympic Games 2004. L-R. Matthew Pinsett, Ed Coode, James Cracknell, Steve Williams

ATHENS 2004

The Great Britain Silver Medal Women's Quadruple Scull at the Athens Olympic Games 2004.

L-R. Rebecca Romero, Frances Houghton, Debbie Flood, Alison Mowbray

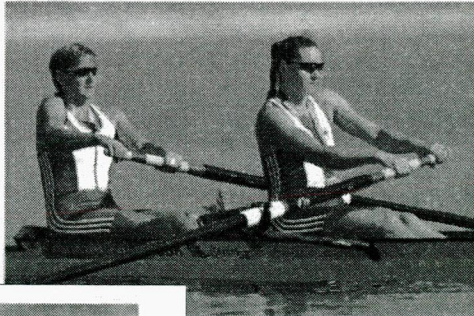


The Great Britain Bronze Medal Women's Double Scull at the Athens Olympic Games 2004.

L-R. Sarah Winkless, Elise Laverick

The Great Britain Women's Silver Medal Coxless Pair at the Athens Olympic Games 2004.

L-R. Katherine Grainger, Cath Bishop



The Great Britain Gold Medal Coxless Four at the Athens Olympic Games 2004.

L-R. Steve Williams, James Cracknell, Ed Coode, Matthew Pinsett

Paris 2012

René Christin, provide the following La Rochelle (Paris) 2012 postcard;

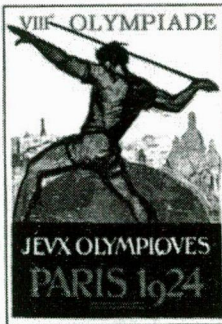
Soutenez la candidature Paris - La Rochelle 2012 !

Paris est candidate à l'organisation des Jeux Olympiques et paralympiques de 2012 avec La Rochelle pour les épreuves de voile.
Le 6 juillet 2005, le Comité International Olympique élira la ville organisatrice des XXX^e Olympiades de 2012.



Paris
1924

- and this postal stationery envelope to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of Paris 1924.

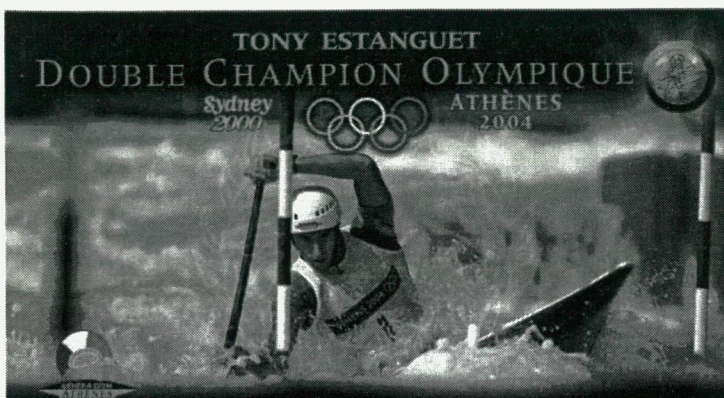


1924 - 2004
80^e Anniversaire
des Jeux Olympiques
à Colombes



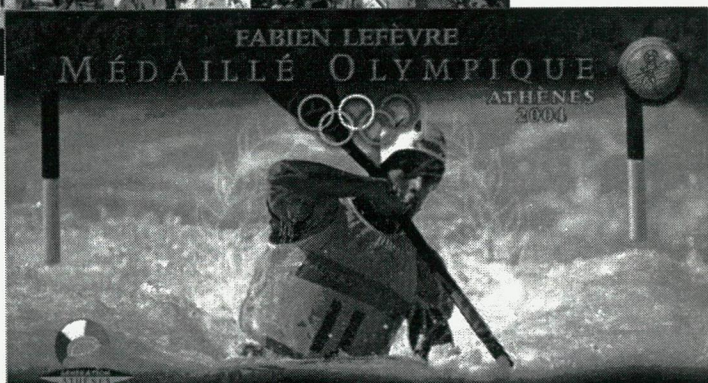
CHRISTIN René
150 rue de la Roche du que

7 3 8 0 0 ARBIN



Above: Tony Estanguet

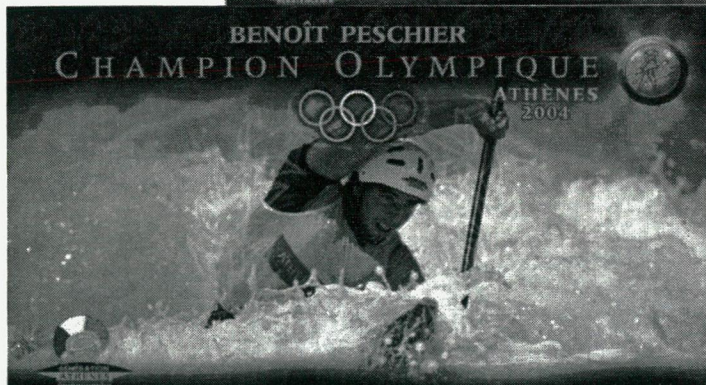
2000 / 2004
Olympic
Champion.



René Christin,
also provided
these superb
postcards
celebrating the
French
Olympic
Medallists in
Canoe / Kayak.

Cards are 210
x 150mm.

Above: Fabien
Lefèvre.
2004 Olympic
Medallist.



Left: Benoît
Peschier
2004 Olympic
Champion.

1908 Marathon Route and AAA Olympic Trials - Update

Bob Wilcock

In the February 2004 Torch Bearer (p.23) I wrote about the postcard ""The Great Stadium – Olympic Games 1908 Taken from Balloon". Following correspondence with member Martin Leath, it is clear that my original attribution of the date of the photo was incorrect. It has also become clear that there are three different photographs used on the various postcards.

I wrote about the marathon in the August Torch Bearer. A chance opportunity to visit the National Archives (formerly the Public Record Office) at Kew has also enabled more light to be cast on the marathon route and distance, including a map and description of the original shorter route; the picture is not quite complete, but we are getting there.

But first the postcards. I deduced from the fact that it was raining that the photo was taken on 14 May, during the sports events for the Official opening of the Franco-British Exhibition. Martin drew attention to the fact that the centre of the field was set out for the 110 metres hurdles, and that the steeplechase hurdles are set on the track. There were only two occasions when these events were held in the Stadium, prior to the Games themselves, Saturday 30 May, the Amateur Athletic Association All British Olympic Trials, and Saturday 4 July, the AAAs Championships. These events were not on the programme for the Exhibition opening Ceremony. Since we have a card postmarked 1 July, the conclusion now must be that the photos were taken on 30 May during the AAAs Olympic Trials. Newspapers examined to date do not include the balloon photo with their reports of the Trials, but research continues in the hope of finding conclusive proof.



Martin also pointed out that the differences between the various cards were not just printing differences, but there were also different photographs, and close examination suggests three photographs were used.

Firstly there is "Wakefield No. 112". This is the card with Olympic text, and there are at least three variants, real photo, black and white litho, and litho with a raised border. (It may exist with non-Olympic text, but all copies in my collection are 'Olympic'). The differentiating features most apparent are ringed on the photo:

- There are officials on the cycle track at the left
- There are no water-polo goal nets visible in the pool (and I can confirm that there was a water-polo match on 30 May)
- There is a middling number of spectators on the far terraces
- The long-jump pit is clear
- There is a 'solid' group of people to the right, on the edge of the cycle track.



The second photo is on litho cards (black and white or coloured) published by Millar and Lang (from a Wakefield photo). It was probably taken a little earlier. There are no officials on the cycling track, no water-polo goals, and fewer crowds in the far stands, but the key difference is that the workmen's clutter has been airbrushed out of the foreground.

Remember the Society auction when disposing of your duplicate material. -

The Auction Manager would be pleased to receive your lots.

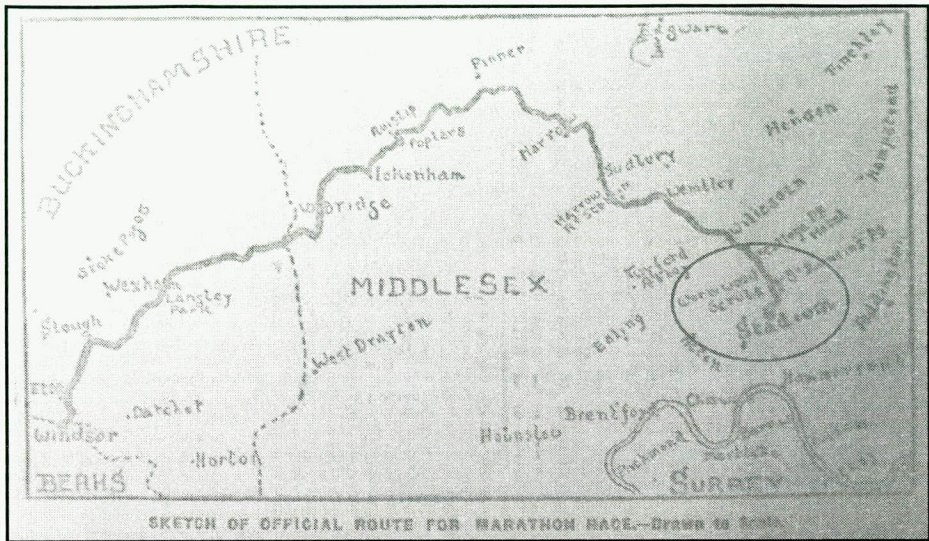
Take the opportunity to reach fellow Olympic collectors



The foreground clutter is clearly visible on the third photo, used on real-photo cards published by Wakefield themselves, and by Rotary, number 6791 V, and this is probably the later photo, because the water-polo goals are now in place, and the crowd is a little bigger.

Returning now to the marathon, there is just one folder in the National Archives relating to the race, MEPO 2/1156. On 29 February 1908 Robert Mitchell, Director of The Polytechnic, Regent Street, wrote to the Chief Commissioner of the Police, Scotland Yard, seeking permission to hold the Trial Marathon on public roads, from Windsor to Wembley Park, and enclosing two cuttings from *The Sporting Life*. (It is a nightmare trawling through the microfilm copies of newspapers in the British Newspaper Library at Colindale, so it was a welcome opportunity to see, and photograph, cuttings of articles that may never otherwise have come to light.)

The first article is dated 8 November 1907 and includes a scale map and description of the proposed route. The introduction reads: "So much interest has been taken in the marathon race route that we publish today a point-to-point map of the course that will be followed. it has not been definitely settled where the race shall start, but the Council of the Olympic Association are endeavouring to obtain permission for it to be in the grounds of Windsor Castle. This would be regarded as a gracious concession by his Majesty, but should the necessary permission not be granted the start will be from either Queen Victoria's or Prince Victor's statue. When this point is definitely settled the course will be accurately measured, but approximately it is 25½ miles, a half mile less than the [1906] Athens course."



The second article is dated 20 February 1908, and includes the following: "here it may be stated that a deviation from the course originally mapped out for the Marathon Race is quite certain, and the competitors will turn right on reaching the Clock Tower at Harlesdon, into Station-road and cross the railway bridge outside Willesdon Junction proceeding to Old Oak-lane, and passing under the G.V.R. the route will then be continued across the fields to Ducane-road, which is directly in the rear of the Stadium, and thus the runners will be brought to the proper side of the grounds, so as to reach the track by passing immediately beneath the Royal Box, to finish by covering one lap of one-third of a mile."

This is interesting, and again gives reason to question earlier conclusions: as early as February 1908 it was intended that the finish will be before the Royal Box!

The article goes on "So recently as last Friday [14 February] Mr. J.M. Andrew, the energetic secretary of the Polytechnic H., measured with a pedometer, at the request of the A.A.A., the course suggested by the powers that be, and as altered by them from that originally suggested. If the start of the race takes place from the Queen Victoria statue, immediately outside the gates leading up to Windsor Castle, the distance is 26 miles to the edge of the track at the Stadium. If however the start be made from the Terrace of the historic castle, for which it is hoped that the King will graciously give permission, it is computed that this would mean an additional 700 yards to be covered, exclusive of the lap with which it is intended that the race shall conclude at Shepherd's Bush. Exactly, therefore, where the starting point may be is even now by no means certain, but if it be at the Queen Victoria statue, that may be considered to answer all requirements. In any case, if the present intentions are realised, the race will be well over the 26 miles which was the distance of the last marathon [in Athens]."

This shows that as early as February 1908, and probably before, it was intended that the marathon start on the Castle Terrace, and confirms the previous conclusion that although the starting point was different from the Trial Marathon, the two starts were the same distance from the finish. Incidentally, a report in the Daily Mail of 7 July 1908 indicated that Lord Desborough, President of the British Olympic Council received confirmation only the previous day that the King had consented to the start on the Terrace.

The story does not end there: the course was changed again! The plan on p. 110 of August's Torch Bearer confirms that the runners did not enter the Stadium beneath the Royal Box, but opposite it. A special entrance to the stadium was needed, and to have used the entrance (in Wood Lane) actually used would have involved running round the outside of the Stadium; any other entrance would have involved running through the Exhibition grounds. However if the February newspaper report is accurate, some 700 yards needed removing from the course, to compensate for the 700 yards added by the Terrace start, so that the distance to the edge of the track was still 26 miles. This was achieved by changing the entrance to the Stadium to one almost opposite the Royal Box. To achieve the intended finish before the Royal Box, and let most of the crowd see the runners, the planned full lap (586 yards) was dropped, and some two-thirds of a lap (385 yards) run, but the wrong way round the track. The plan in August Torch Bearer showed this, and the Stadium Programme for the day reads "The direction of running will be left hand inside, except in the case of the Marathon Race."

ANTWERP 1920 - THE FIRST STONE!

POSE 1^{RE} PIERRE STADE OLYMPIADES 1920
ANVERS 4 - 1 - 19



Fortunately the above postcard was not particularly well described when offered recently. The view shows assembled dignitaries at the stone laying ceremony of the Antwerp Stadium. Baron Pierre de Coubertin is standing just right of centre.

2012 - LONDON STEALS A MARCH!

Bob Wilcock

On 16 December 2004 a press release was posted on the London 2012 web-site (<http://www.london2012.org/en/news/archive/2004/december/2004-12-16-17-35.htm>) to the effect that 20 December would be "2012 Day". It sounded a bit trite but there was an important announcement that the Bid Committee "have pledged to give every child born on 2012 Day (20 December 2004) a role in the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games should London's bid be successful. Each of the 1,800 or so children born on 20/12 will be given the chance to take part in one of the official ceremonies or cultural events scheduled to take place in 2012."

What is fascinating is that London had latched onto the fact that 20 December is written "20-12" (and as most will know that is how the year is pronounced for the bid). Paris missed it, as did Madrid and Moscow. New York were amusingly wrong-footed. The date is of course written 12-20 in the USA, but London's announcement prompted a hasty response: a news item dated "12/17/04" announced:

Whereas: The City of New York is in the midst of an exciting race with the cities of London, Madrid, Moscow and Paris for the honor of hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games....

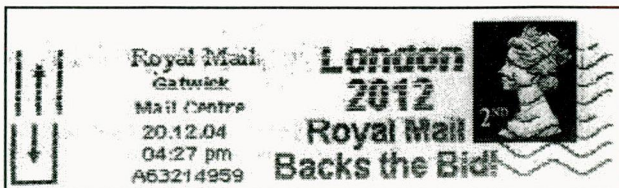
Whereas: New York wishes to celebrate its Olympic bid at every opportunity, and recognizes that December 20 is one such opportunity for its competitors. This date, 12 20, is commonly written on the other side of the Atlantic as 20 12.

Whereas: Any combination of 12 and 20 is cause for great excitement and celebration.

Now therefore, I, Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York, in recognition of this important date, do hereby proclaim that Monday, December 20, 2004 in the city of New York shall be written as "20-12".

For collectors, 2012 2004 has a real significance: the day was chosen for the launch of a slogan postmark advertising campaign. The slogan was introduced at London South Mail Centre, and it was estimated that some 40 million items would receive the slogan on the first day alone! (Sadly the launch was not announced on the London 2012 web-site until the early evening, so the author could not make it 40,000,001!).

The campaign is intended to run until 5 July, and at the time of writing the slogan is known to be in use at London South, Greenford and Windsor, Gatwick, and Watford.



There was also a vignette handed out in London on the day. The slogan follows the book of stamps with cover and label issued earlier in 2004. As far as is known, only Paris has so far produced something philatelic to mark the bids (see the end of the article), but watch for developments in Torch Bearer!

London 2012 postcards

The Bid Committee commissioned five clever and attractive designs showing athletes doing a "Leap for London" over well-known London landmarks. The designs feature in literature, in advertising, on posters and on postcards, the cards being illustrated in Torch Bearer at Vol. 21 Issue 3, p. 102. SOC obtained a supply and one of the five was distributed with every Torch Bearer.

These were the first printing, and four editions of the cards are known:

1.- The original 5 "Leap for London" cards (Tower Bridge, London Eye, Nelson's Column, Gherkin & Thames Barrier) with just a footer on the reverse:

"Back the Bid for the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games at www.london2012.org"

2.- 4 of the designs have been issued by Boomerang Media Cards who supply free advertising cards for racks in pubs and restaurants etc. These are all upright, with enlarged text, have the London 2012 Mission Statement on the reverse, & the footer refers to london2012.com. The London 2012 logo is in black, and the Olympic Rings are omitted. The Thames Barrier card is not included, no doubt because the design does not easily convert to vertical.



3.- The original cards have been reprinted with the London 2012 mission statement and "or text London to 82012" added to the footer. These cards were supplied to SOC by London 2012 for distribution at the SOC table at the Basildon Philatelic exhibition, and they were given away with all purchases.

4. There is a printing with the front text changed to "Back the Bid". Only one design has been found (in the card rack of a restaurant in central London), with the Thames Barrier image. It has the latest back, with mission statement and reference to text.

Postcard back with "Mission Statement"



London will:
 Welcome the world to a city which offers something for everyone.
 Make the right of people to live in London a reality for all who live in London.
 Deliver only well-regulated growth with local and national support.
 Create a world-class environment for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
 Celebrate the biggest sporting festival on earth in world-famous places.
 Showcase, introduce and create world-class museums and galleries.
 Create a world-class network of transport and infrastructure.
 Deliver a world-class quality and efficiency.
 Provide a world-class standard of living for all.
 A world-class team that will make London the most successful Olympic and Paralympic Games.

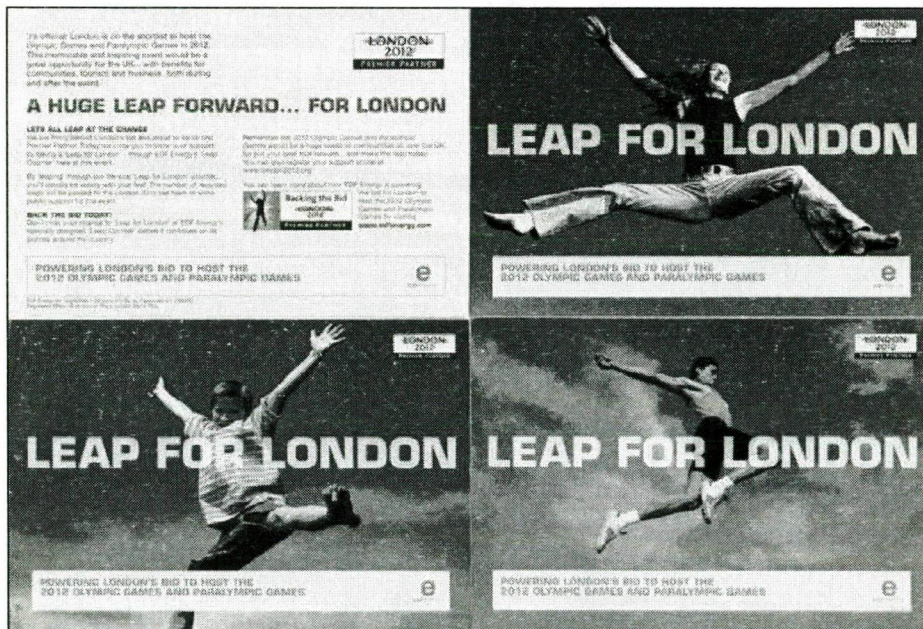
Back the Bid for the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games at www.london2012.com or text London to 82012

The SOC table at Basildon (Kenny Cook, Bob Wilcock, John Crowther, & Bob Farley)



EDF Energy Advertising Cards

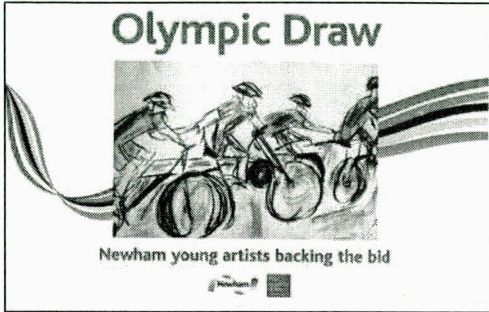
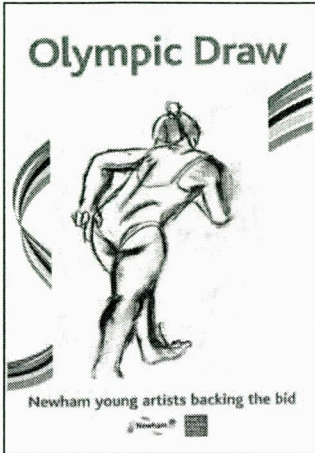
EDF Energy are one of the London 2012 partners (and their French parent group are sponsoring the Paris Bid – hedging their bets?!) They have been touring Britain with a “Leap For London” counter. At London’s River Thames Festival in August, and presumably elsewhere, everyone who jumped received a free EDF postcard-sized advertising card. Three designs were found on that occasion. Does any reader know of more? At the time of writing EDF Energy have not posted on their web-site (<http://london2012.edfenergy.com/pages/LatestNews.jsp#LeapCalendar>) their programme of events to attend for 2005 (it will have been circulated via SOC e-mail news when available).



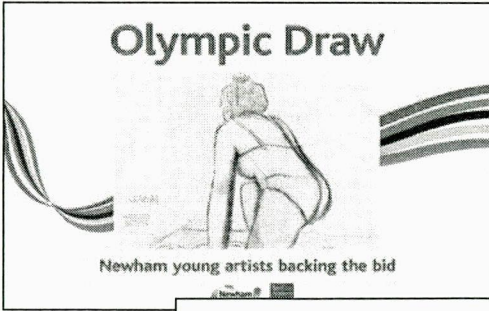
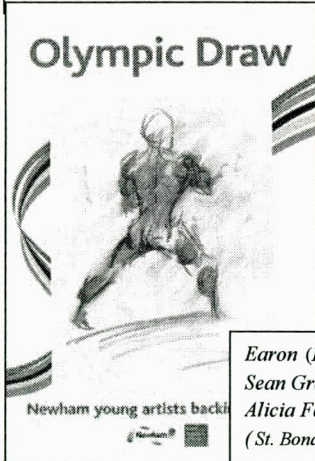
Newham “Olympic Draw”

In support of the bid the London Borough of Newham has been working with the Royal Academy of Arts in a programme that uses the theme of the Olympics to develop drawing skills and techniques with secondary school children. The programme was launched by Olympic javelin thrower Tessa Sanderson. Paralympic basketball bronze medal winner and local resident Ade Adepitan, and Olympic fencer Linda Strachan have also been involved.

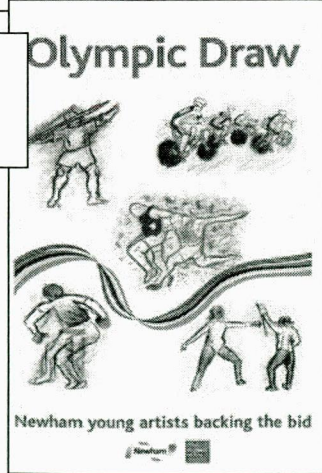
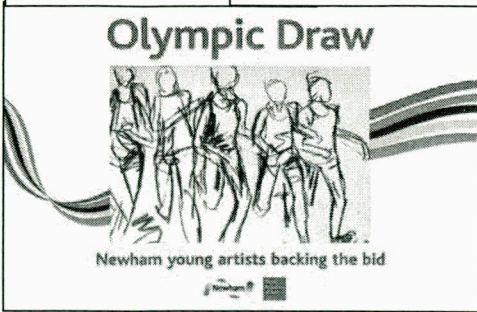
The best works have been selected as posters and as postcards.



Above: Lubna Jamalain, Langdon School
Left: 'On' of Kingsford School



Earon (Kingsford Sch).
Sean Greaves (Rokeby)
Alicia Fernandes
(St. Bonaventura's Sch.)



Composite design: Cyclists: Abdul Rob – (Langdon School); Javelin Thrower: Belash Baidya; Discus Thrower: Helen Tran- (Lister Community Sch); Runners: Mona Hassan; Fencers: Leah Pecorari – (Sarah Bonnell School)

The text on the reverse of the cards:

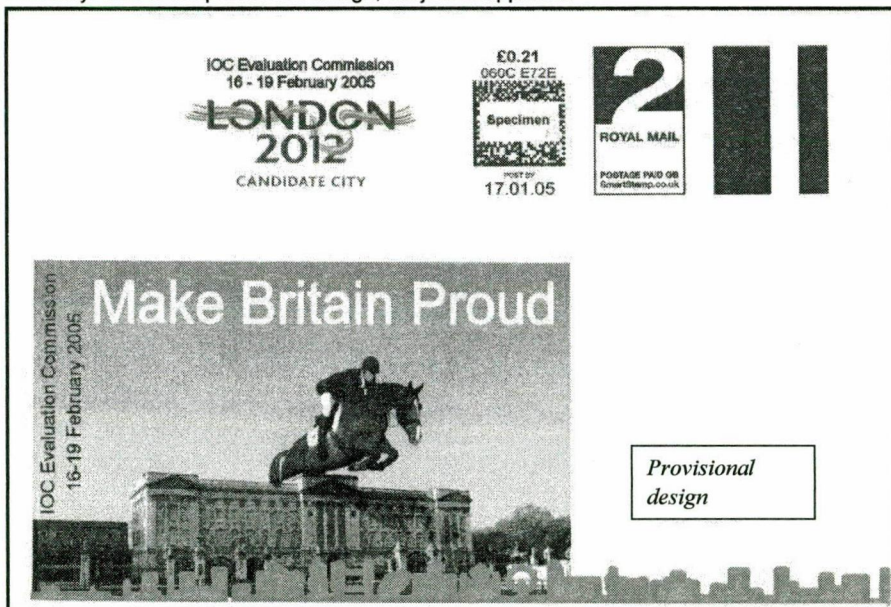
Newham Schools Olympic Draw. In support of London's bid for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Newham Council has been working with the Royal Academy of Arts outreach team to develop drawing skills and techniques among secondary school children using the Olympic theme. Many of the drawings are exhibited on the web site www.olympics.newham.gov.uk/drawing. Take a look for yourself to see how they capture the excitement of Olympic competition. Back the bid at www.london2012.org or text LONDON to 82012

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***** SOC have a limited number of the third edition of the London 2012 cards, and some sets of the Newham "Olympic Draw" cards, and some individual cards. These are being sent free with every order for SmartStamps and other SOC souvenirs, while stocks last – see the order form on the Auction List. *****

As we go to press London 2012 have introduced a new 'Leap for London' design showing Athens gold medallist Leslie Law jumping over the Buckingham Palace on his horse Prairie Monarch. It may well appear as a postcard.

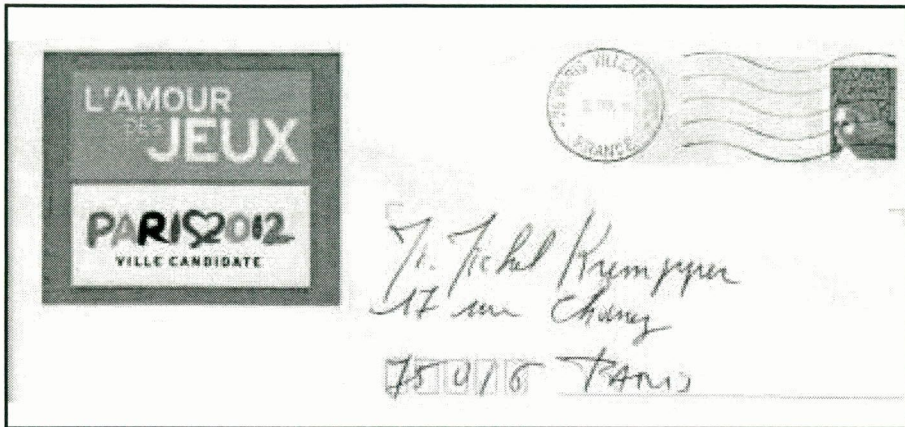
Meanwhile, SOC are hoping to use it as the cachet for the **SmartStamp** to be issued on 16 February. This is the provisional design, subject to approval.



The SmartStamp is listed as SS9, and may be ordered using the form on the back of the auction list. It is planned to post covers at Canary Wharf Post Office beneath the London 2012 offices. Airmail copies will also be available (without Canary Wharf handstamp) for the same price (please add any order in manuscript). Any spare reference copies with other indicia are likely to be placed in the circulating packet.

Paris 2012

Also as we go to press, a postal stationery envelope has emerged showing the Paris 2012 logo and slogan:



Did you know? New Zealand - Atlanta 1996 Medal Winners



The 1996 issue from New Zealand to celebrate their Olympic Medallists is an attractive circular design, and the stamp was well received by philatelists - at 40c. The face value was selected to ensure genuine postal use.

However, did you know that when the stamp is collected with selvedge as a 'square' design, there are six distinct positions as determined by the 'fern' design on the selvedge?

The stamp forms a very attractive multiple when collected this way.

The printed sheet also includes a vertical gutter, so a larger multiple of twelve stamps (2 x the illustrated block separated by the vertical gutter) offers a number of additional unique positional combinations.

THE SmartStamp REVOLUTION – SOC 2004 SOUVENIRS

Bob Wilcock



The last three issues of Torch Bearer have shown the evolution of SmartStamp use by SOC throughout 2004 (pages 64, 98, and 159), and mentioned the interest not just from SOC members and Olympic collectors, but also collectors of British postal history, and those with an interest in postal mechanisation. Committee are pleased and proud that SOC are leading in this innovation, (and bringing London 2012 along with us!), and this article summarises the issues of 2004 and sets out SOC policy.

Royal Mail introduced the SmartStamp service on 14 January 2004, after a trial from the previous autumn with selected business customers. From that date, anyone with a home computer and an internet connection could register to print 'SmartStamps' at home or in the office. In an Olympic year, with no British Olympic stamps, Committee saw this as a golden opportunity to commemorate British Olympic events, notably the Torch Relay in London, and the London 2012 Bid, but also SOC's own 20th Anniversary.

A licence was obtained, and Committee set a clear policy that there would be sufficient numbers printed for likely demand, and in particular, no artificial scarcity that would give SOC, and SmartStamps a bad name. A minimum of 50 of each have been prepared, up to more than 200. We have to admit though that we have been caught off-guard, firstly from the fact that SOC's SmartStamps are the only commemorative SmartStamps to appear, with considerable interest from postal historians. This has swelled SOC's coffers, but depleted stocks of some items.

Secondly, we did not anticipate a design change in September 2004. This increased the historical value of the SmartStamps issued before that date (and hence the demand). We also realised that no examples existed other than with 2nd Class indicia.

Specimens of all 10 available Series 1 indicia (2nd, 1st, airmail, surface mail, and special delivery, English and Welsh) have been prepared. One set is for the record, but others are available (see the order form on the back of the Auction List).

In the light of this experience Committee decided that for the Olympic Parade and Medal Ceremony SmartStamp of 18 October, examples would be prepared of each of the nine available Series 2.0 indicia (there should have been 12, Standard Parcels having been added, but 3 would not print because of a software fault). The vast majority of the covers have the basic 2nd Class indicator in English, upgraded to 1st Class with a 7p. stamp, and posted at Trafalgar Square Post Office where the Parade finished. A reasonable quantity were produced with Welsh indicia, recognising that many Olympians and Paralympians are Welsh (including Tanni Grey-Thompson), but just a couple of the expensive Standard Parcels and Special Delivery. These are primarily reference copies and an 'insurance' copy in case of loss or damage. We have suffered very little, so these are being sold for Society funds.

We reverted to our basic policy for SmartStamp 7 issued on 15 November to mark the submission of the London 2012 Bid Book, modified to add airmail to 2nd Class in response to a specific request from an overseas member. Airmail examples are available for all (see the order form).

It is likely that 2005 issues will be 2nd Class (with stamp to upgrade to 1st Class to enable a suitable handstamp to be applied where appropriate, for example at Canary Wharf for London 2012) plus airmail (without the supplementary stamp). The 16 February SmartStamp to mark the visit of the IOC 2012 Evaluation Commission to London will also be produced with reference copies of the Welsh Surface Mail, Standard Parcels, and Special Delivery indicia that became available in December 2004. 'Insurance' copies may be available to purchase.

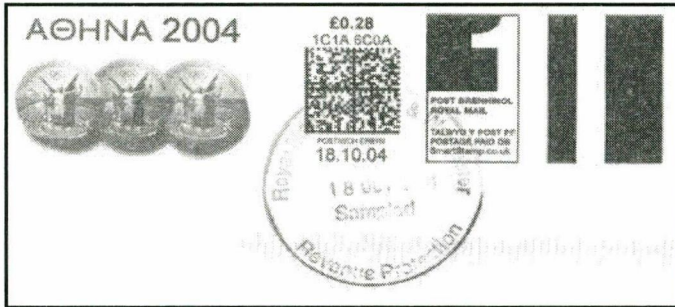
The actual process has been full of interest. SmartStamps always bear the date of the day following printing. To avoid a rush, some covers were printed just after midnight. Fascinatingly they emerged with the date 30.12.99!



This error was corrected with the 2.0 software.

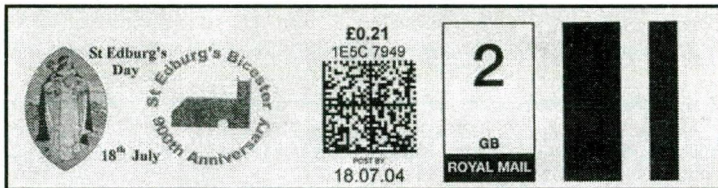
SmartStamps do not show a place name – they can be mailed anywhere – and are not intended to be postmarked (the postmark would interfere with the security pattern). To enable a place to be indicated, for commemorative purposes an adhesive has been added where practicable, to upgrade to 1st Class. In accordance with Post office Regulations these should be cancelled at a post office counter. This means the Committee members had to be at the appropriate post offices for the respective events – quite a logistical challenge! Sadly the quality of the handstamps does not always match the effort put in.

The quality of the counter handstamps for the Parade issue is excellent, but we secured a bonus on covers just put in the mail – a good number of them were cancelled with a cachet in red “Royal Mail Hereford and Worcester / Revenue Protection / Sampled / 18 OCT 2004”

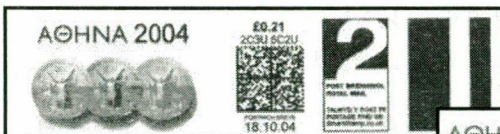


This is a bonus for SOC thanks to the keen interest of postal historians, but some copies have been reserved for members (see the order form).

For the record, SOC have also facilitated the issue of two non-Olympic SmartStamps, for the 900th Anniversary of St. Edburg’s Church Bicester, and for the National Philatelic Exhibition at Basildon in November (at which Torch Bearer won a Silver Medal). Copies of the latter are available, and are on the order form.



The basic Olympic SmartStamps are illustrated at the start of the article, all 2nd Class indicia. For the record we also illustrate all the actual variations:



SS6 Welsh 2nd Class

SS6 English 1st Class





SS6 English Special Delivery



SS6 Welsh 1st Class



SS6 English Standard Parcels



SS6 Airmail

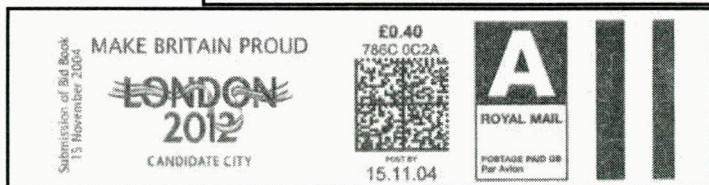


SS6 Welsh Airmail



SS6 English Surface Mail

SS7
English
Airmail



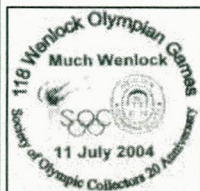
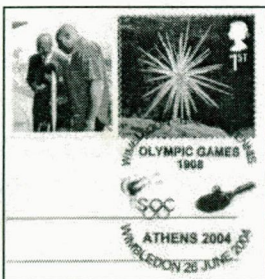
All seven basic designs are still available, with some variations. Most are on the general order form, but SS2 (Andrew Lindsay) and SS4 (Leaping For London) are down to the last few copies. To be fair to all members, these last copies are listed in the auction. Take advantage of this opportunity to complete your collection!

Special Handstamps

Also on the order form are covers and cards with special handstamps. There are four available, the fourth not being previously offered in Torch Bearer: this is a handstamp to commemorate Britain's Olympic Gold Medals. It was not sponsored by SOC and was

available for 2 dates, 13 and 29 August 2004. We are only able to offer 29 August, on the Torch Relay postcard

illustrated on the front of Volume 21 Issue 3.



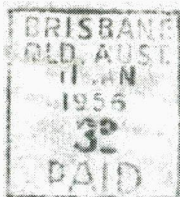
For details of SmartStamp SS9 to mark the visit of the IOC Evaluation Commission please see page 20

MELBOURNE '56 OLYMPIC SLOGANS – Part IV - BRISBANE

Tom D'Arcy and Bob Wilcock

Since this article was first prepared we have had the sad news that Tom has passed away, a victim of cancer. Tom's passing is a great loss to his family, but also a loss to Olympic philately. Over the years Tom has forwarded a wealth of information for publication in Torch Bearer. I have not had the good fortune to meet him personally, but have been in regular correspondence with him over the last few years as we have worked together to piece together the story of the Melbourne '56 slogan postmarks. Without Tom's assiduous efforts the project would never have got beyond the starting post. Tom tracked down the only detailed published work we have found, on the Perth slogans, and we were able to work with the author, Brian Whittaker, to update and extend the original article. Tom came up with most of the detailed information for Adelaide, all I had to do was edit it into an article. Likewise Brisbane, which I am pleased to publish below. In a flurry of activity at the end of 2003 and start of 2004 Tom collated everything for the other cities except Melbourne itself. Sydney was a particular challenge. Tom's efforts will be reflected in further articles to appear in Torch Bearer, concluding in 2006, the 50th Anniversary of those Melbourne Games. They will be Tom's legacy to Olympic philately.

Bob Wilcock



*Dater BP2 with
Olympic die
BN4*

Brisbane was allocated 6 dies. However one of them became damaged and was partially re cut or repaired. The repaired die is completely unlike any other of all the Olympic dies, and gives the appearance of being a seventh die. Full details are set out in the listing below.

We have not managed to find details of the postal arrangements in the 1950s, but have found a description of the arrangements in 1975. Most if not all of the cancelling machines had been replaced, but the broad pattern of activity is consistent with what the cancels tell us for 1954 56.

Brisbane GPO had one small hand-fed cancelling machine which was used with two daters. The Brisbane 8 die was used to cancel letters with city addresses which had been posted at the GPO. A 'PAID' die was used (with red ink) for bulk mailings. Other mail from the GPO was sorted and taken on a regular shuttle service to the Mail Exchange where it was cancelled.

The bulk of the mail arriving at the Mail Exchange was from pillar boxes and was cancelled separately. Covers seen suggest there were two machines, only one of which will have been used generally, the second machine being brought into use when there was a high volume of mail.

The uncancelled mail from the GPO will have been cancelled on one of a number of small hand-fed machines. Frequently only one machine would be in use, with the die being changed and the appropriate die inserted as each bag was opened. One die was used for mail to country and suburban addresses posted at the GPO, another for interstate mail, and a third for aerogrammes and overseas letters posted at the GPO.

Bulk mail was also cancelled using hand-fed machines. Only one die will have been in use unless bulk sendings were particularly heavy.

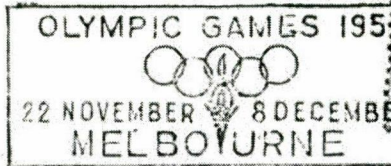
Thus of the six Olympic dies, one will have been allocated to the GPO machine (Brisbane 8 / PAID), and five retained in the Mail Exchange. One will have been used for pillar box mail, with a second on stand-by, another for mail from the GPO, with dater being changed, and one in a 'PAID' machine, again with the occasional stand by. In other words, it seems that the Mail Exchange will have had just two or perhaps three dies in certain use throughout a period, with two or three in reserve. This is consistent with usage shown in the table, listing all examples known to the authors. In any period we have examples of just one or two Olympic dies in use at the Mail Exchange.

The GPO was allocated a die for the first period of use, beginning on 1 December 1954. This was die BN3. It was clearly sent back to the Mail Exchange because it was in use there in February 1955, and subsequently, returning to the GPO for a few days at the end of February 1956. The table suggests that an Olympic die was not always sent over to the GPO when the slogan was in use at the Mail Exchange: after December 1954 we have not seen GPO use until September 1955. One die was in use in the GPO at the end of December 1955 (BN4), but another (BN5) in early January 1956. We have GPO examples in February and August. Their absence at other times may alternatively reflect their scarcity, the volume of GPO mail being so small.

The Daters

We look first at the various date stamp dies that can be found with the Olympic slogan. D.S. Wallen OBE in his book *Australian Postmarks and Slogans* includes an illustrated listing of Brisbane daters. We include Wallen numbers where we can, but some of the daters we have seen are not listed in Wallen, and for others identification is uncertain in part because some of Wallen's illustrations are partially hand-drawn from incomplete strikes. Our numbers have been allocated in no particular order.

B1 **B1**, with the text BRISBANE / QLD. AUSTRALIA, has only been seen on the first day of use of the Olympic slogan, 1 December 1954. The two copies found have the same time, 8 –PM, but (as illustrated below) one copy has Olympic die BN2 and the other die BN5. One guess is that there was a problem with one of the Olympic dies, perhaps it was slack in the machine, so they took it out and put another in. Alternatively the dater die may have been the problem so they put it in a different machine. Perhaps that did not solve the problem so the dater was withdrawn. At present we can only speculate. [Not listed in Wallen]



A puzzle:
8-PM 1 DEC
1954: dater B1
with BN2 and
with BN5



B2 [Wallen B14a]

Compare this with B9 below. 'BRISBANE' here is more widely spaced, and B9 has a gap in 'QLD. AUST'. B2 has not been seen with an Olympic die before August 1956, although variant B2a has been seen a year earlier.



B2a and B2b exclude a time, and show different arrangements of date and year.



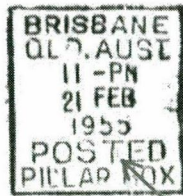
B3 [W B4b]



B4 [W B13a]



B5 [W B4a]



B6 [W B4c?]



B7 [W ?]



B8 [W B5a]



B9 [W B14x?]



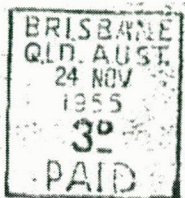
B10 [W B10b]



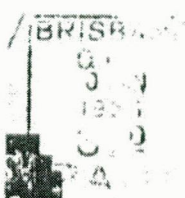
BP1



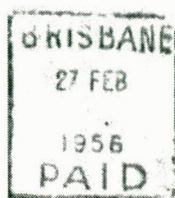
BP2



BP3



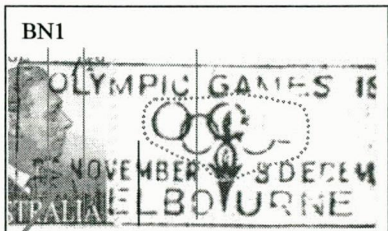
BP4



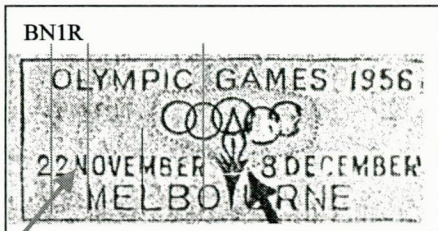
The Olympic Dies

The Brisbane Olympic dies fall into two easily distinguished groups. In the first group, dies BN1, BN2 and BN3, the R of NOVEMBER ends above the O of MELBOURNE.

BN1



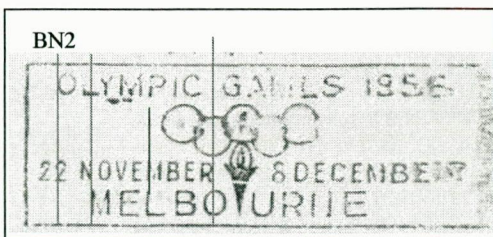
BN1R



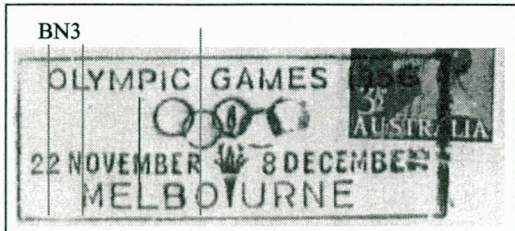
BN1 is the most interesting. Right from the beginning the N of NOVEMBER had a weak first upright so that impressions look like a backward-sloping V. This is an easy way of picking out BN1 from other examples in this first group. By 20 May 1955 the right hand Olympic rings had become damaged. After a long gap it was used in January 1956, and it seems that at that time the decision was made to have it repaired. The approximate area of repair is shown by the dotted lines: the top of the Torch and the flame were replaced, along with a complete new set of Olympic Rings, in a very obvious flattened formation. The letters AME of GAMES were either touched up or possibly replaced also. However, nothing was done to that dodgy N, and this helps to confirm that BN1R is a recut BN1 and not a new die.

BN2 is distinguished by the 22, the first numeral being smaller than the second, and both numbers being shifted to the left compared with BN1 and BN3. The vertical lines indicate some other differences, but there are more when you look closely.

BN2



BN3



BN3 has 'wings' to the head of the Torch, the I of OLYMPIC is low, the M of MELBOURNE has short central stalks, and the upright of the L is beneath the downstroke of the M of NOVEMBER

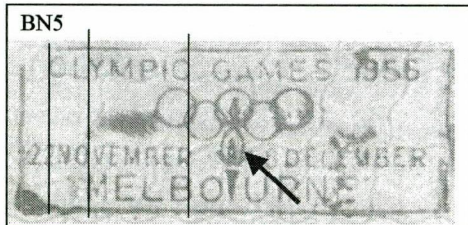
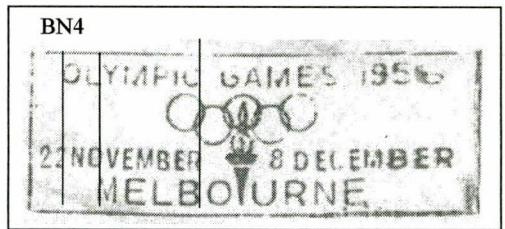


BN1, 9 January 1956, shortly before it was repaired (dater B3)

Dies **BN4**, **BN5** and **BN6** form a second group where the **R** of **NOVEMBER** ends above the **B** of **MELBOURNE**.

The lines set out alignments as for the first group, but the easiest way to differentiate this group is by the Torch:

BN4: has a thick Torch top. Also, the first numeral is taller in **22**, and **8**. is set high.



BN5: has 'wings' to the Torch. The numerals are even, and the **M** in **NOVEMBER** is slim

BN6: has a thin, wingless Torch head, and a narrow Torch stem. The numerals **22** are low in relation to **NOVEMBER**

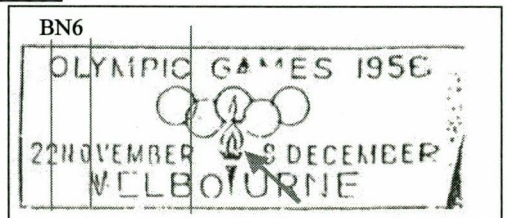


Table 1: Basic Combinations known:

This table should be regarded as provisional. Some of the attributions are from poor copies, and more combinations may well emerge when more examples are seen.

Dater			Olympic Die						Dates seen		
			BN1	BN1R	BN2	BN3	BN4	BN5	BN6	Earliest	Latest
B1	Round	BQAA			✓			✓		01/12/54	only
B2	Round	BQA	✓	✓			✓	✓		25/06/56	27/11/56
B2a	Round	BQA				✓				18/08/55	ONLY
B2b	Round	BQA						✓		28/12/55	30/12/55
B3	Square	PPB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	02/12/54	04/04/56
B4	Round	BQA	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	02/12/54	26/09/54
B5	Square	PPB	✓		✓	✓		✓		21/02/55	24/2/56 then 23/11/1956
B6	Square	PPB				✓			✓	16/05/55	27/06/55
B7	Square	PPB				✓		✓		09/07/56	27/11/56
B8	Square	8PCB			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	02/12/54	30/08/56
B9	Round	BQ_A			✓	✓				09/1/56	30/6/56
B10	Square	AIR	✓			✓				26/02/55	27/08/56
BP1		BQ/P				✓			✓	03/12/54	29/06/55
BP2		BQA/P				✓	✓			24/11/55	11/01/56
BP3		BQ/P				✓				10/01/56	ONLY
BP4		B/P				✓	✓			27/06/55	28/08/56

Table 2 - a more detailed summary: (also e. & o.e.)

Period of Use				Dater used with Olympic Die							
Year	Official dates	Actual	Time	BN1	BN1R	BN2	BN3	BN4	BN5	BN6	
1954	1-4 December	1 Dec	8:00 PM			B1		B1			
		2 Dec	11:30 AM			B4	B8			B3	
			2:30 PM				B4				B3
			5:30 PM				B4				B3
		3 Dec	8:00 PM				B4				B3
		8:00 PM								B3	
		11:00 PM								B3	
		PAID									
		4 Dec	2:00 PM				BP1			B3	
1955	2-8 January or 9-16 January	5 Jan	8:00 PM	B3							
		6 Jan									
		7 Jan									
		8 Jan	9:00 PM							B4	
1955	20-26 February	21 Feb	11:00 PM			B5					
		22 Feb	8:00 PM			B5					
		23 Feb									
		24 Feb	8:00 pm				B4				
		24 Feb	11:00 pm			B5					
		25 Feb	8:00 pm			B5					
		26 Feb	9:00 pm	B10							

Table 2 (cont.)

Year	Period of Use			Dater used with Olympic Die						
	Official dates	Actual	Time	BN1	BN1R	BN2	BN3	BN4	BN5	BN6
1955	3-9 April	4 Apr 8 Apr	11:00 PM PAID	B5						BP1
1955	15-21 May	16 May 18 May 20 May 20 May 20 May 22 May	12:30 PM 8:00 PM 12:30 PM 4:15 PM 11:00 PM 11:00 PM	B5 B5 B5 B5			B4			B6
1955	26 June - 2 July	27 Jun 27 Jun 27 Jun 27 Jun 28 Jun 29 Jun 29 Jun 30 Jun 1 Jul 1 Jul 1 Jul 2 Jul 3 Jul	4:15 PM 5:30 PM 8:00 PM 11:00 PM PAID 4:15 PM PAID 11:30 AM 11:00 PM 12:30 PM 5:00 PM 6:00 PM 2:00 PM 11:00 PM	B3			B6 B6 B6 BP1 B5 B5 B10 B10 B5 B5		B4 B4 B4	
1955	21-27 August	18 Aug 18 Aug	--- 8:00 PM				B2a			B4
1955	24-30 September	26 Sep 26 Sep 27 Sep 27 Sep 28 Sep 29 Sep 30 Sep 30 Sep	9:30 AM 8:00 PM 12:30 PM 6:00 PM 3:30 PM 5:30 PM	B4 B4			B4 B10	B3 B3 B3		B8
1955	20-26 November	23 Nov 23 Nov 23 Nov 23 Nov 24 Nov 24 Nov 24 Nov 24 Nov 25 Nov 25 Nov 26 Nov	12:30 PM 4:45 PM 8:00 PM 11:00 PM 4:45 PM 4:45 PM 8:00 PM PAID PAID 11:00 PM 2:00 PM			B3 B3 B3 B3 B3 B3 B3 BP2 BP2 B3 B3				

Table 2 (cont.)

Period of Use				Dater used with Olympic Die							
Year	Official dates	Actual	Time	BN1	BN1R	BN2	BN3	BN4	BN5	BN6	
1955	20-26 November (continued)	27 Nov	11:00 PM			B3					
		28 Nov	6:00 PM				B10				
		28 Nov	8:00 PM				B3				
		28 Nov	11:00 PM				B3				
		29 Nov	8:00 PM				B3				
		29 Nov	11:00 PM				B3				
1955	None	28 Dec	---						B2b		
		29 Dec	4:45 PM					B8			
		29 Dec	8:00 PM					B8			
		30 Dec	11:00 PM						B2b		
		30 Dec	4:45 PM					B8			
		31 Dec	4:45 PM					B8			
1956	None It is speculation, but was die BN1 causing problems in this period? Was it taken out and replaced by BN3, given attention, and then put back? Did they finally give up after 13 January and have the die repaired?	4 Jan	3:15 PM						B8		
		5 Jan									
		6 Jan	2:30 PM							B8	
		8 Jan									
		9 Jan	4:45 PM	B3		B9					
		9 Jan	8:00 PM	B3							
		9 Jan	11:00 PM	B3				B3			
		10 Jan	PAID					BP3			
		10 Jan	4:15 PM							B8	
		10 Jan	8:00 PM					B3			
		10 Jan	11:00 PM					B3			
		11 Jan	PAID						BP2		
		11 Jan	9:30 AM	B3							
		11 Jan	4:45 PM	B3							
		11 Jan	8:00 PM					B3			
		12 Jan	8:00 PM	B3							
		12 Jan	11:00 PM	B3							
13 Jan	9:30 AM					B3					
13 Jan	11:30 AM										
13 Jan	5:30 PM					B9					
13 Jan	8:00 PM	B3				B9					
1956	21-27 February	24 Feb	11:30 AM				B9				
		24 Feb	2:30 PM			B3					
		24 Feb	8:00 PM			B3				B5	
		25 Feb	2:00 PM			B3					
		26 Feb									
		27 Feb	---						BP4		
		27 Feb	2:30 PM			B3					
		27 Feb	4:45 PM			B3					
		27 Feb	5:30 PM			B3					
28 Feb	12:30 PM			B3							

Table 2 (cont.)

Period of Use				Dater used with Olympic Die						
Year	Official dates	Actual	Time	BN1	BN1R	BN2	BN3	BN4	BN5	BN6
1956	21-27 February (continued)	28 Feb 28 Feb	4:45 PM 5:30 PM		B3		B8			
1956	4-10 April	4 Apr 4 Apr 5 Apr	8:00 PM 11:00 PM 8:00 PM		B3	B3	B9			
1956	16-22 May	<i>Not seen</i>								
1956	26 June - 3 July	26 Jun 26 Jun 27 Jun 28 Jun 28 Jun 29 Jun 30 Jun	4:15 PM 5:30 PM 3:15 PM 4:15 PM 8:00 PM 11:00 PM 2:00 PM				B9 B9 B9 B9 B9 B9 B9			
1956	None	9 Jul 9 Jul 9 Jul 10 Jul 10 Jul 11 Jul 11 Jul 11 Jul 12 Jul 12 Jul 12 Jul 13 Jul 13 Jul 13 Jul 14 Jul 15 Jul	12:30 PM 2:30 PM 4:45 PM 8:00 PM 11:00 PM 2:30 PM 4:45 PM 8:00 PM 2:30 PM 8:00 PM 11:00 PM 12:30 PM 4:45 PM 8:00 PM 2:00 PM 11:00 PM				B7 B7 B7 B7 B7 B7 B7 B7 B7 B7 B7 B7 B7 B7 B7 B7			
1956	8-14 August	24 Aug 24 Aug 24 Aug 24 Aug 25 Aug 25 Aug 26 Aug 27 Aug 27 Aug 27 Aug 28 Aug 28 Aug 29 Aug 29 Aug	4:45 PM 5:30 PM 8:00 PM 11:00 PM 2:00 PM 9:00 PM 11:00 PM 5:00 PM 8:00 PM 11:00 PM PAID 5:30 PM 12:30 PM 2:30 PM			B2 B2 B2 B2 B2	B7 B7 B7 B7 B7 B7 B7 B7		BP4	B8 B8

Table 2 (cont.)

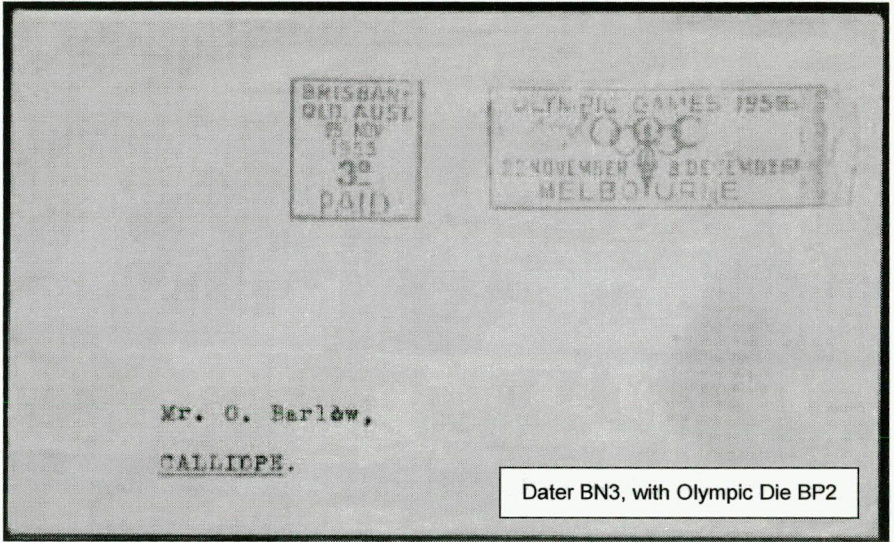
Period of Use				Dater used with Olympic Die						
Year	Official dates	Actual	Time	BN1	BN1R	BN2	BN3	BN4	BN5	BN6
1956	8-14 August (continued)	29 Aug	4:15 PM		B2					
		29 Aug	4:45 PM				B7			
		29 Aug	8:00 PM				B7			
		29 Aug	11:00 PM				B7			
		30 Aug	5:30 PM							B8
		31 Aug	11:00 PM				B7			
1956	21 September - 1 October	2 Sep	11:00 PM				B7			
		5 Sep	5:30 PM					B2		
		5 Sep	8:00 PM						B2	
1956	21-27 November	21 Nov	9:30 AM						B7	
		21 Nov	8:00 PM						B7	
		21 Nov	11:00 PM						B7	
		22 Nov	12:30 PM						B7	
		22 Nov	4:45 PM						B7	
		22 Nov	5:30 PM		B2					B7
		22 Nov	8:00 PM						B7	
		22 Nov	11:00 PM						B7	
		23 Nov	12:30 PM						B7	
		23 Nov	4:45 PM			B5			B7	
		23 Nov	8:00 PM						B7	
		24 Nov	2:00 PM						B7	
		25 Nov							B7	
		26 Nov	8:00 PM						B7	
		26 Nov	11:00 PM		B2				B7	
27 Nov	8:00 PM		B2							
27 Nov	11:00 PM						B7			

While, as the table shows, many examples have been examined, and we are particularly grateful to Noel Almeida for sight of his extensive collection, we are conscious that this is a far from complete listing. Please, please forward photocopies or scans of Melbourne '56 Olympic slogans in your collection, not just for Brisbane but for all the other cities so that we may produce a more accurate and more comprehensive listing.

Please send copies to Bob Wilcock, 24 Hamilton Crescent, Brentwood, Essex, CM14 5ES e-mail bob@toward.freeseerve.co.uk Thank you.

The updated listings will be published on the Torch Bearer CD-ROMs, and in a book planned for 2006, the 50th Anniversary of the Games.

Previous articles, a general introduction, on Perth and on Adelaide, appeared in Torch Bearer in February and May 2002 and in August 2003.



ATHENS 2004?

The illustrated postcard is from a series of 30+ cards published by MAGIC Editions, Greece. The same character is illustrated taking part in various sports with '2004' and 'Athens' references. The Olympic Flag or Rings appear on many of the designs. Although issued in Greece, all the 'bubble text' is in English. Whilst not official, the cards are obviously Olympic.



ATHENS 2004 - EXTRACTS FROM THE GLOBAL RELAY

A selection of the postmarks, both regular and commemorative, that represent the passage of the Olympic Torch on it's Global Relay:

Sydney, Australia
4 June, 2004 - note the Greek 'P' stamp with commemorative text.



OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY
„ROUND THE WORLD“
with OLYMPIC Airlines



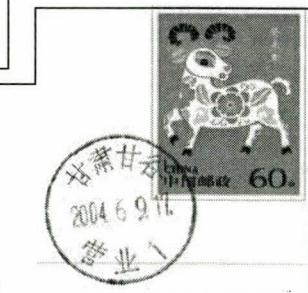
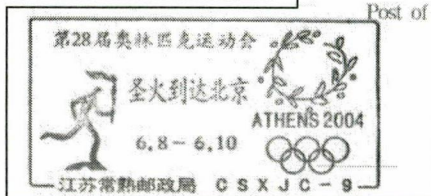
Tokyo, Japan
6 June, 2004 - note the commemorative stamp.

Beijing, China
8-10 June, 2004 in blue.





Beijing, China
8-10 June, 2004, three postmarks all struck in red.



Cape Town, South Africa
12 June, 2004, regular postmark.

Cairo, Egypt
11 June, 2004





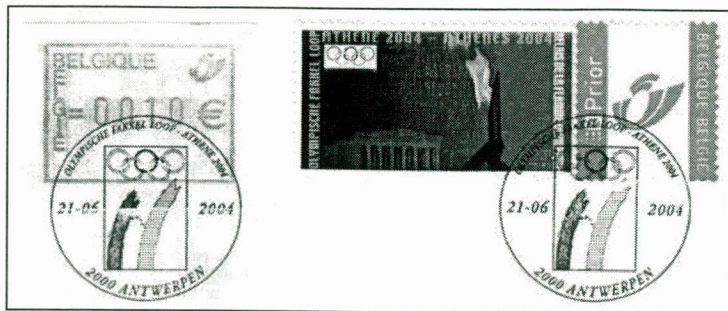
Los Angeles, U.S.A.
16 June, 2004

St. Louis, U.S.A.
17 June, 2004



Atlanta, U.S.A.
18 June, 2004

Antwerpen,
Belgium.
21 June, 2004

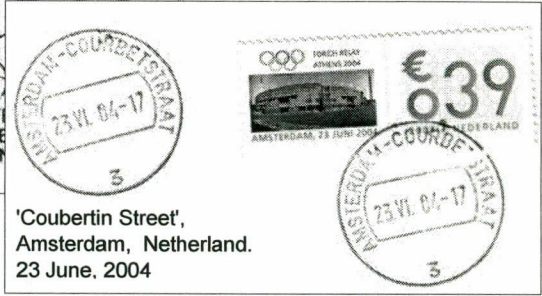


Brussel, Belgium.
22 June, 2004




 >EERSTEDAGVAN
 UITGIFTEDENHAAG
 23JUNI2004<

The Hague, Netherland.
23 June, 2004, Note the 'P' stamp.



'Coubertin Street',
Amsterdam, Netherland.
23 June, 2004



Lausanne, Switzerland,
24 June, 2004.

Commemorative cover
with FIPO cachets.

Paris, France
25 June, 2004

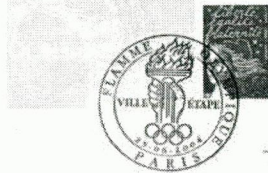
Right, - Special handstamp;

Below, - Private stationery envelope
issued by AFCOS;

Bottom, - Postal stationery envelope.

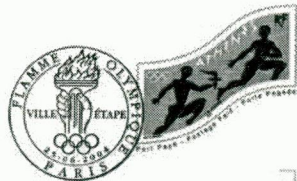


Photo PRESSE SPORTS
Edition AFCOS



Manfred Winterheimer
Postfach 1060

D-55270 Schwabenheim
Allemagne

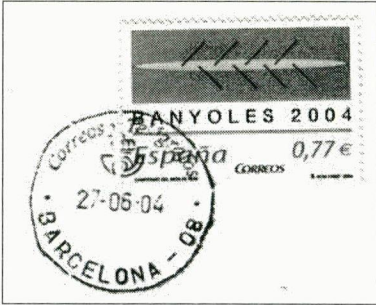


France : LETTRE
International : PRIORITAIRE



Manfred Winterheimer
Postfach 1060

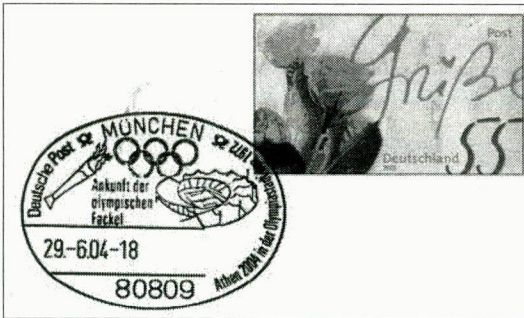
D-55270 Schwabenheim
Allemagne



Barcelona, Spain
27 June, 2004



Rome, Italy - 28 June, 2004



Above:
Munich, Germany - 29 June, 2004

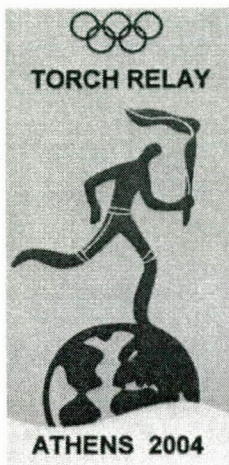
Right:
Berlin, Germany - 30 June, 2004



Below:
Stockholm, Sweden - 1 July, 2004



Helsinki, Finland
- 2 July, 2004



Nicosia 8-9 July



BY AIR MAIL
par avion

Cyprus - 8-9 July, 2004

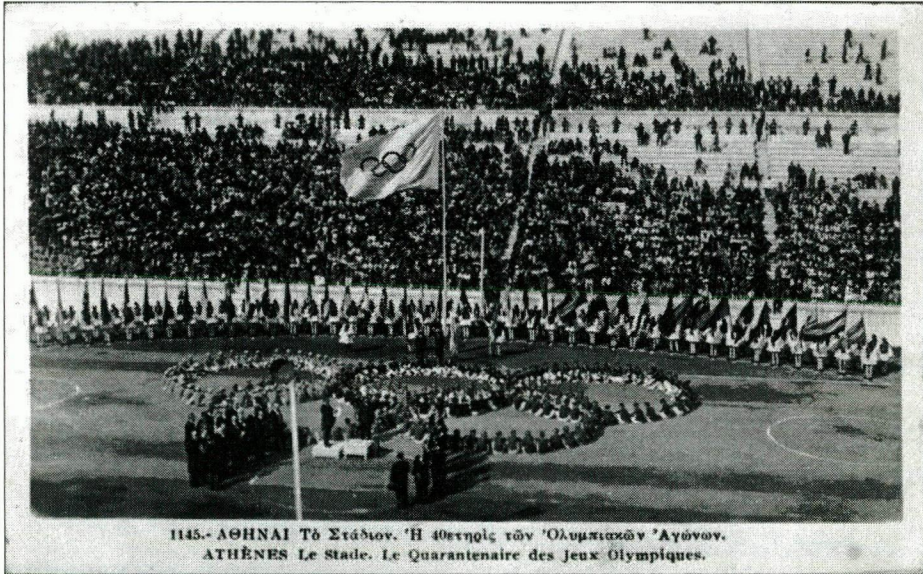
Note that the commemorative cancellation does not include any text indicating a place-name.

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Games 1896 - 2012**

ATHENS 1936 - 40th Anniversary of the Modern Games

Bob Farley



Postcard 1145: ATHENES Le Stade. Le Quarantenaire des Jeux Olympiques

In what seems the dim distant past, a postcard commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games was published in Torch Bearer. At that time, it was noted that a photographer appeared in the picture under the shroud of a plate camera. Since finding the original card, I have sought a card showing the view being taken by that photographer, and in mid 2004, I thought that I fulfilled that goal when I found the above card.

However, this view is from the wrong position (probably taken by the same photographer as the original card), so the search goes on.

Conversations with Greek colleagues during the 2004 Games lead me to believe that there are probably as many as ten or twelve such views of the 40th Anniversary celebrations in 1936 - Do we have any further postcards of this event in the collections of members?

Remember the Society auction when disposing of your duplicate material. - The Auction Manager would be pleased to receive your lots.

Take the opportunity to reach fellow Olympic collectors

2002 SALT LAKE CITY - HEBER VALLEY RAILROAD

Heber Valley Railroad performed two roles for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, firstly it carried the Olympic Torch, and secondly it transported spectators during the Games. Two images have now appeared on postcards.

Heber Valley Railroad

A triple header carries The Olympic Flame on February 7th, 2002 on the Heber Valley Railroad. Heber Valley Steam Locomotive #618, Nevada Northern Steam Locomotive #93 and Steam Locomotive #75. Heber Valley Railroad carried thousands of spectators to the Soldier Hollow Venue during the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.



Heber Valley Railroad's steam locomotive #618 is arriving at the Heber City depot during the 2002 Olympic Winter Games. The depot was dedicated in June 2001.



OLYMPHILEX 2004

As you will have read in the previous circular letter of 18th March (2004), the Organising Committee was only able to begin working at the end of March. The realisation of Olympihlex 2004 was only possible thanks to the work carried out by the General Commissioner Mr. Anthony Virvilis, and his few collaborators. No collaboration nor help were provided by ATHOC - the Organising Committee for the Olympic Games in Athens - and the Greek Philatelic Federation gave very little help. In addition to this, relations with ELTA, the Greek Post, were very difficult and managed to improve only upon the insistence of the IOC and FIPO. Support given by the FIP was not of the same standard as in the previous editions of the Olympihlex. In spite of all this, here are the "figures" of the Olympihlex 2004 in Athens:

245 participants in the various classes of the exhibition; 30 countries represented; over 1200 frames (each containing 16 sheets); 15 gold medals awarded (record for an Olympihlex) of which 2 large medals. The excellent participation in the "one frame" class (18 entries), in the "Open" class (12 entries) as well as in the literature class (33 entries) should be underlined. Collections in the "memorabilia" class were not very numerous but of great interest.

The International Jury was composed by: Eliseo Ruben Otero (Argentina), Michalis Tsironis (Greece), Bernard Jimenez (France), Juan Ramon Moreno (Spain), Manfred Bergman (Switzerland), Nancy Clark (USA), George Dolianitis (Greece), Jiao Xiao Guang (China), Maurizio Tecardi (Italy) and Neoklis Zafirakopoulos (Greece). With regard to this, I must stress that certain jury members had a limited knowledge in the sport and olympic subject and that others made a certain confusion in the judgement of the collections in the traditional and postal history classes.

Another negative point, that had a great influence on the success of Olympihlex 2004, was the total lack of propaganda, that had been promised both by ATHOC and the Greek Post. This absence of propaganda was even more significant, considering that the headquarters of the exhibition was 12km away from the centre of town, with no direct connection by public transportation.

However in spite of all these drawbacks, and from the quality point of view, Olympihlex 2004 was superior to the previous editions and the IOC and FIPO can only be satisfied by this.

FIPO ACTIVITY

To promote the creation of National Associations members of FIPO in additional countries, a few months ago contacts began with olympic sports philatelists from India and Norway.

In view of organising a new edition of Olympex, at the same time as the Olympic Winter Games in 2006, contacts are also developing with TOROC (Torino Organising Committee). In case of a positive solution, this edition will be totally new and of great interest.

As for the next edition of the World Olympic Collectors Fair, FIPO, and IOC are evaluating the possibility of organising it in Turin in the first half of 2005. Should TOROC not be interested, other solutions are being studied. (*See Circular 1/2005*)

ADDITIONS TO THE SOCIETY LIBRARY

Catalogue of Olympilex 2004 , Athens 12-22 August 2004		720g
Jeux Olympiques de Paris 1924. Catalogue of the Paris 1924 Olympic Postcards by the publisher A-N Paris In French and English, published by A.F.C.O.S.		1200g
Olympic Review		
No. 50	January - February - March, 2004	300g
No. 51	April - May - June, 2004	300g
No. 52	September (Athens Results), 2004	300g
No. 53	October - November - December, 2004	200g
Journal of Sports Philately		
Vol. 42 No 3	Spring, 2004	200g
Vol. 42 No 4	Summer, 2004	200g
Vol. 43 No 1	Fall, 2004	200g
Vol. 43 No 2	Winter, 2004	200g
Phila-Sport (Magazine of UIFOS The Italian Sports and Olympic Group)		
No 49	January - March, 2004	300g
No 50	April - June, 2004	300g
No 51	July - September, 2004	300g
No 52	October - December, 2004	300g
OLimpiafila (Magazine of the Hungarian Olympic and Sports Group, <i>In Hungarian with some English</i>).		
No 1	May, 2004	50g
Bulletin of the O.S.P.C. Berlin (<i>In German</i>).		
No 1/2004		60g
No 2/2004		60g
Themescene		
No 73	December, 2003	60g
No 74	March, 2004	60g
No 75	June, 2004	60g
No 76	September, 2004	60g
Podium (Journal of the Argentine Sports and Olympic Group) <i>in Spanish</i> .		
No 51	December, 2003	60g
No 52	February, 2004	60g
No 53	June, 2004	60g
No 54	August, 2004	60g
No 55	October, 2004	60g

Olympic Revolution.

The Olympic biography of Juan Antonio Samaranch
By David Miller (Donated by Mike Pagnamenos). 550g

1904 Olympic Games, St. Louis, Missouri. Official Medals & Badges

By Jim Greensfelder, Jim Lally, Bob Christianson & Max Storm 250g

CORRI CAVALLO CORRI

U.I.C.O.S. Handbook, Equestrian stamps and postmarks 320g

El Automovilismo en los productos postales Argentinos

Auto Racing on Argentine stamps, postmarks, etc..
By Jorge A. Casalia (Donated by Mr. Casalia). 280g

**Wertbriefe anlässlich der Olympischen Spiele 1936
Garmisch-Partenkirchen / Berlin / Kiel**

Insured Mail covers, *in German*, By Laurentz Jonker 50g

FIPO CIRCULAR 1/2005

Dated 3rd February 2005

FIPO ACTIVITY

The NORSK OLYMPISK OG SPORTSFILATELISTISK has recently been created in Norway. Its President at interim (the elections for the Executive Board are to be held in the month of April) is Mr. Fredrik C. Schreuder, Eiksveien, 83 - N. 1361 OSTERAAS (Norway). The request of affiliation to FIPO of the NOSF will be examined at the next meeting of the IOC Commission for Philately, numismatics and memorabilia scheduled on 9th March 2005.

Due to organisation reasons, it was not possible to reach an agreement with TOROC (Torino Organising Committee) with regard to the next World Olympic Collectors Fair. Consequently the next edition will be held from 13th to 15th May 2005 in Lausanne, at the Olympic Museum. All necessary information will be sent in the near future by the Museum to all those who participated in the previous edition of the World Olympic Collectors Fair. However any special information may be requested at:

Musee Olympique - World Olympic Collectors Fair, Villa Olympique, 1 Quai d'Ouchy - CH 1001 LAUSANNE / Switzerland.

As for the organisation of Olympex 2006, FIPO is still keeping contacts with TOROC.

The circular letter also requested updated information / contacts for the National Associations. There is also a request that the National Associations confirm that they are still active because it has been some time since the Associations of Portugal, Cuba, Switzerland, Romania, Malaysia, Ukraine, Luxembourg, Russia, Austria and Sudan have made contact.



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