



TORCH BEARER



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- 2008
- 2012**



SOCIETY of OLYMPIC
COLLECTORS

SOCIETY of OLYMPIC COLLECTORS

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



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*** Please note new email address for John Crowther ***

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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MAY 2005

ISSUE 2

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MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY OF OLYMPIC COLLECTORS

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

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

All applications should be made to the Secretary.

Subscription rates for 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**.

FRONT PAGE

It is with sadness, that we received belated news of the death of one of our earliest members, Dr. V. Hale.

Victor had been ill for a period, and it is unfortunate that we only became aware of his death early in 2004 as a result of parts of his collection appearing at auction. Victor had a range of philatelic interests, and his Olympic collection included material from a number of areas considered by many to be marginal such as vignettes, and 'back of the book' issues - items black listed by philatelic bodies. Victor participated in Society displays and exhibitions, and regularly managed to be the first to dealers tables at fairs.

As this issue was about to go to print, news was received of the death of Norman Wood, President of the Wenlock Olympian Society on 30th. April, 2005.

Norman made a major contribution to Sport and Education both locally and in the wider national arena, and whilst not a member of the Society of Olympic Collectors, he encouraged our participation and liason with the Wenlock Olympian Society.

The International Packet is proving popular with purchasers, but Brian Hammond would welcome contributions from vendors, covers, postcards and stamps all seem to be finding buyers - please consider scanning or copying your surplus material and submitting to Brian.

July will see the selection of the host city for the 2012 Olympic Games, and Torch Bearer has tried to record the material relating to the candidates. Information relating to the final short-listed five candidates seems to be readily available for London and Paris (although this may be the influence of reliable sources), whereas material relating to Madrid, New York and Moscow is proving elusive. If you have any material relating to these candidates, please supply details for publication.

The use of online auction sites to search for material continues to grow in popularity, however as usage expands, invariably fraudulent practices increase.

A number of fabricated items have appeared recently, typically covers with cachets produced by the vendor masquerading as postmarks. A number of Salt Lake City and Athens items continue to be offered (many by Australian vendors). These are relatively easy to identify, but as they are offered before definitive information is in the public domain, collectors attempting to secure material 'at the earliest opportunity' run the risk of purchasing these 'fabricated souvenirs'. Representations have been made to a number of Philatelic Trade Associations, but there is no evidence of any penalties or sanctions being applied to those known to be involved.

A number of reports have appeared in the national press relating to cases of fraud on internet auction sites, usually involving instances where the material offered, won and paid for never existed. If you are unfortunate enough to be a victim of such scams, there is little redress if only relatively small amounts are involved, so the maxim 'buyer beware' should always be respected.

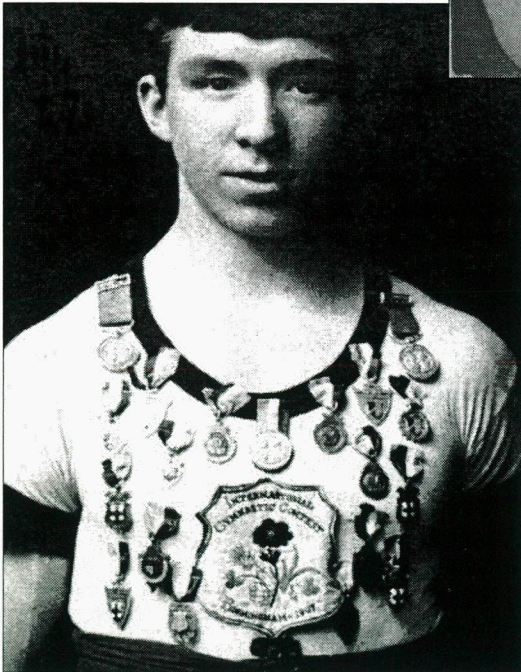
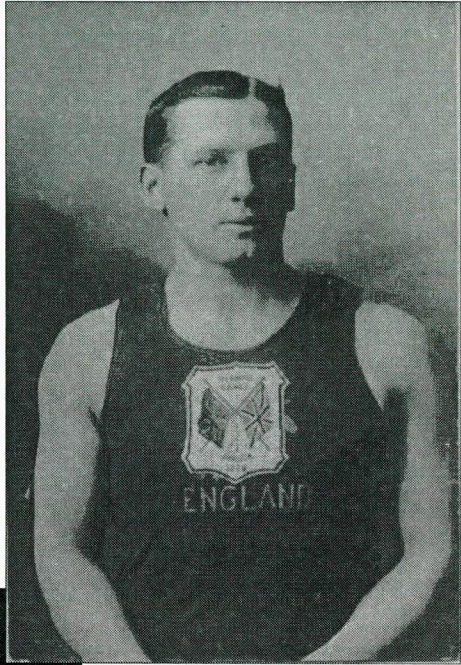
See Pages 64 and 83 for opportunities to add to your collection and bookshelf!

LONDON 1908 COMPETITORS ?

Bob Wilcock

Can anyone identify the sportsmen on these postcards?

The card on the right was described "possibly a member of the British Gold Medal winning water polo team". There is a postcard of the 1912 British water polo team, and one member strongly resembles the gentleman on this card, but can anyone name him? The postcard was published by a photographer in Hyde, Cheshire.



The photo on the left is an enlargement from a full length portrait postcard. The large badge reads "International Gymnastic Contest, Birmingham 1907". I have not been able to find any information about the contest, not even on Google. Can any reader help? And did the gymnast go on to compete in the 1908 Olympics? The card was published by J.J. Webster, Bradford, Yorkshire.

LONDON 2012 - THE COUNTDOWN

Bob Wilcock

Visit of the IOC Evaluation Commission 16-19 February 2005

The SmartStamp cover was produced, as previewed in the last issue of Torch Bearer (p. 20), and is available to purchase (see the back of the auction list – SS9).



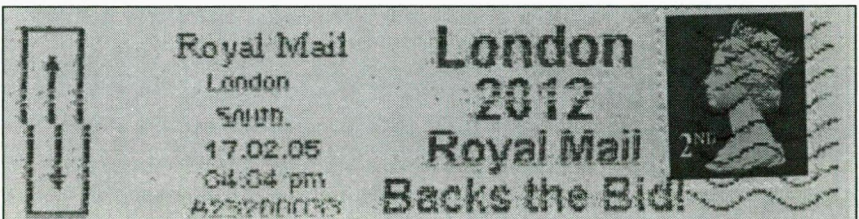
The vast majority of the covers were 2nd Class, mailed on 16 February from Canary Wharf with a 7p stamp cancelled by a counter handstamp. However other indicia were also used, and some mailings were made on other dates (up to early March). For the record, details are as follows:

English	2nd. Canary Wharf	86
	2nd Trafalgar Square	18
	2nd	19
	<i>Total 2nd :</i>	123
	1st	13
	Airmail	21
	Surface*	2
	Special Delivery	0
	Standard Parcels*	3
Welsh	2nd*	3
	1st	9
	Airmail	0
	Surface	8
	Special Delivery	7
	Standard Parcels	6
Grand Total :		195

* The English Surface and Standard Parcels were done in error, as were the Welsh 2nd (failure to change the language in the SmartStamp software) and are not being released.

It was intended to mark all 4 days of the visit. This proved possible, with the London South slogan (17 February), Welsh Surface SmartStamp (18 February), and Trafalgar Square counter handstamp on 2nd Class SmartStamp, also Watford slogan (19 February). A very small number of covers were also cancelled with the Buckingham Palace pictorial cancel for 18 February, the date of the royal banquet. It was also planned to have covers postmarked with the 18 February slogan from Greenford and Windsor, but covers came back with a non-Olympic inkjet postmark. So there are not many 18 February.

Advance orders mean that a number of the variants are sold out, but those currently still available are listed on the back of the auction form; early ordering is recommended.



100 days To Go

Late in the afternoon of Easter Sunday, 27 March, SOC received an advance copy of a press release, embargoed until midnight, revealing a specially commissioned photo to mark the start of the 100 day countdown until 6 July and the crucial IOC decision.



To mark this milestone, three British gymnasts took part in a specially commissioned photoshoot. Three top gymnasts showed their enthusiasm for bringing the Games to London by athletically shaping their bodies to form the number "100" to mark the countdown of the final crucial stage. The Gymnasts are:

Elizabeth Line, Aged 19, Club - Pinewood, Best Apparatus - Beam and AA, Represented England (Commonwealth Games 2002) Team GB (World Championships 2002) Team GB (Athens 2004)

Ross Brewer, Aged 26, Club Raans, Best Apparatus - Pommel Horse and Parallel Bars, Represented England (Commonwealth Games 1998 & 2002, Gold Medallist) British all-round champion 2003 & 2004

Clair Wright, Aged 25, Club - Edgbarrow, Best Apparatus - Trampoline, Represented Team GB (World Cup 2002) British Individual Champion 2001, '02 & '03

With just hours to go before the midnight deadline for printing SmartStamps with the 100 day date, 28 March, 40 1st Class and 10 airmail labels were printed and applied to covers with a simple cachet and an explanatory insert. SS9 had the 'River Thames Ribbon' in colour. This SS10 is the first full colour photographic SmartStamp. London 2012 gave retrospective approval on the Tuesday, and were delighted with it! After supplying those who have regularly ordered SmartStamps a few remain – see the order form on the back of the auction catalogue.

99 Days To Go

SOC have been told by London 2012 that a further run of postcards is being printed, this time including the image of Leslie Law leaping over Buckingham Palace. There is no further news at the time of writing, but they may well have appeared by the time this appears in print.

Meanwhile the British High Commission in Singapore have produced a postcard in the Leslie Law design, and an enterprising local mailed a few copies on 29 March:



Buckingham Palace – the world's most famous address!

- Working home of HM Queen Elizabeth II
- Built 1702 – around 600 rooms & 42 acres of gardens with its own lake!
- Don't miss the spectacular Changing of the Guard (daily at 11am April-early July)
- 50,000 visitors each year
- Part of the London 2012 Road Cycling and Triathlon Routes

London, where else?
 Over:
 200 theatres
 230 museums
 606 cinemas
 250 art galleries and...5 symphony orchestras!

**AIR MAIL
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 TWIN PERLING
 81200 JOHOR BAHRU
 MALAYSIA

**British High Commission
 SINGAPORE
 www.britain.org.sg**

**LONDON
 2012
 CANDIDATE CITY**

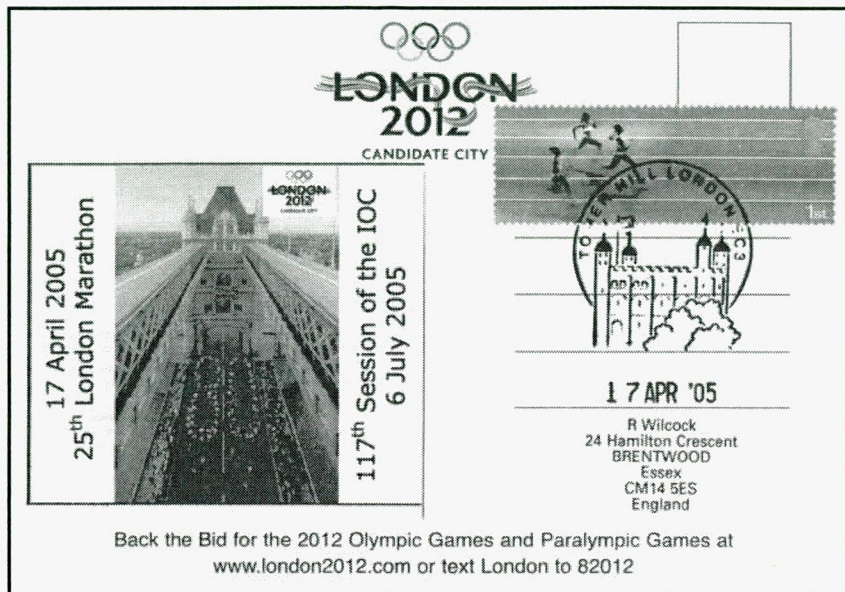
Back London's Bid for the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games at
www.london2012.com

London 2012 bus



80 Days To Go – the 25th London Marathon

SOC's policy is to minimise the number of SmartStamps, and when London 2012 revealed an '80 Days To Go' image to coincide with the London Marathon, it was hastily decided not to proceed with another SmartStamp, the vertical image not being particularly easy to use. Instead an ink-jet label incorporating the design was produced. This was applied to London 2012 postcards (mostly of the hurdler leaping over Tower Bridge), and the cards were cancelled with the pictorial handstamp for the Tower.

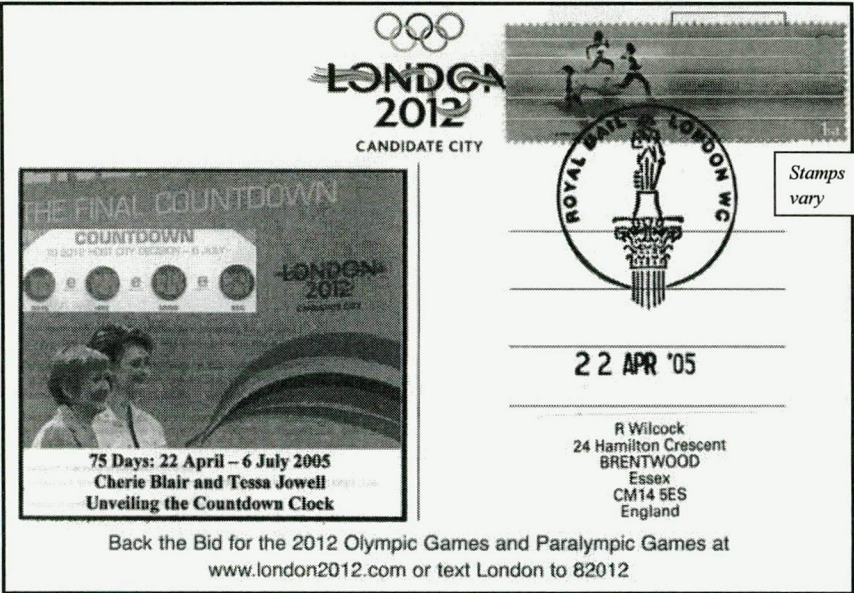


These were a success. It was decided also to prepare some covers with the same illustration, and post them to receive the 'Royal Mail Backs the Bid' slogan from London South. These were a disaster! Despite being posted in a box specifically linked to London South, they all came back with a Mount Pleasant wavy line cancel, and too faint to show the date even! With hindsight, given the strong publicity for the Marathon and Paula Radcliffe's success we perhaps should have gone for a SmartStamp – they are a relatively quick and inexpensive way of marking events. One is planned for the Centenary of the British Olympic Association on 23 May, another is being considered to mark this year's Wimbledon Tennis Championships (a potential London 2012 venue), and of course, 6 July itself – full details of these (and any 'instant' SmartStamps if London 2012 do something spectacular!) will be in the next Torch Bearer.

75 Days to Go – The Countdown Clock

On 22 April Cherie Blair, the Prime Minister's wife, and now London 2012 Ambassador, unveiled a Countdown Clock in Trafalgar Square. She was invited to unveil the Clock by Sebastian Coe, and was accompanied by Tessa Jowell, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Conservative Shadow Sports Spokesman Hugh Robertson, and Liberal Democrat Spokesman for London Sarah Teather. Also present were London 2012 Ambassador and 800m runner Jo Fenn, and 2012 Olympic medal hopeful Montell Douglas.

SOC were again not tempted to produce a SmartStamp – and there was no official image. Some London 2012 postcards (mostly of Nelson’s Column) were cancelled with the Trafalgar Square pictorial handstamp, and an ink-jet vignette applied.



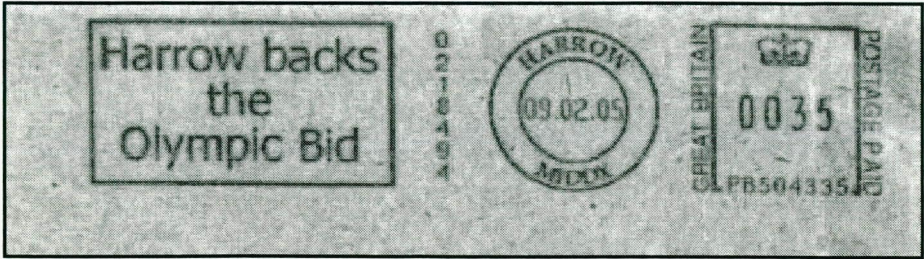
Severe delays on the Victoria Line prevented me from getting to the London South Mail Centre itself, but I did risk a couple of covers. Interestingly, despite being posted together, they arrived at separate cancellers. One has the date in larger characters than the other. However the narrow spread of the central wavy lines suggests that part of the difference may be that the machine alignment has slipped, as regularly happens with ink-jets. Notice also that the top half is shifted to the right; the 17 February example illustrated above shows the top shifted to the left.

I might add that covers posted at Greenford this time did receive the Olympic slogan, but of poor quality. I have not seen many cancels from Greenford, but nearly all are poor.



Postage Meters

All being well you will receive this Torch Bearer under cover of a London 2012 meter. Alan Sabey has reported another, in use at Harrow:



This London EC4 example was recently discovered by David Buxton:



Phone Cards

On or about 8 February the Post office launched two 'Back the Bid' phone cards.

These may be used from any UK phone, and in particular offer cheap international phone calls.



Nominally in £5 and £10 values, 125,000 cards offer 'Bronze' awards of 10% additional call time, 62,500 offer 'Silver' awards of 20% additional call time, and three cards offer 'Gold' awards of a five-star weekend in London for two.

EDF Energy - SUPPORTING LONDON 2012

Brian Hammond

In Torch Bearer Volume 22, Number 1 on page 18, Bob Wilcock gave some information on EDF advertising cards supporting the London 2012 Bid.

My attempts to find complete details of actual cards issued has not succeeded, but I have been able to compile the following extensive list of all cards known to me. Any further information that members could add would be very welcome.

Torch Bearer illustrated three cards size 148 x 105mm. My collection includes seven of these cards, but not the one (illustrated bottom right) showing a male jumper. This means that there are at least eight such cards but possibly more.

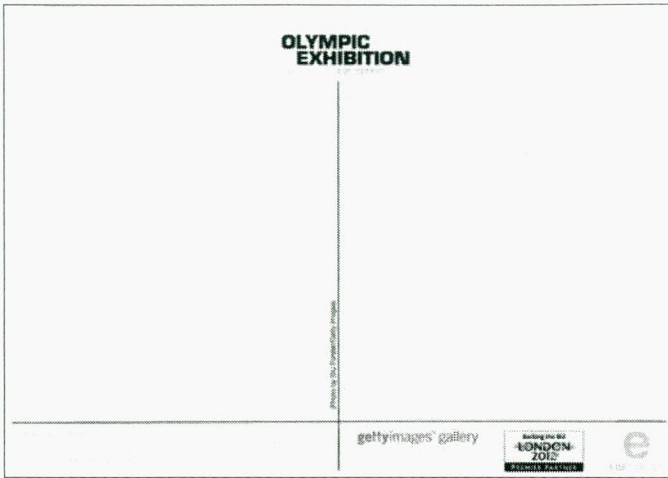
All eight of the known cards have the same wording on the front, but some backs are information cards as illustrated (type 1), others have a postcard back as illustrated (type 2).

In addition there is a set of twelve larger postcards with postcard back (type 3), size 210 x 148mm. These are based on events at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games and some are the same designs as the smaller Leap for London cards. Four of my smaller cards are the same design as the larger cards but there may be small cards for the remaining eight large designs - information would again be welcomed.

The set of larger cards was issued in connection with the Olympic Exhibition presented by EDF Energy at the Getty Images Gallery, London. Each includes on the back the London 2012 bid logo and details of the event illustrated.

Left: Back designated as Type 1.

Right: Back designated as Type 2.



Left:
Back designated
as Type 3.

Right: Postcard 148 x 105mm.
designated as number 5 - Leap for
London, Athletics - Kelly Holmes

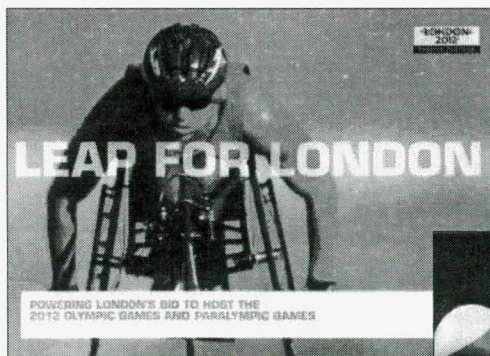


Left: Postcard 210
x 148mm.
designated as
number 9 -
Athletics - Kelly
Holmes

Table listing known cards produced by EDF Energy

Card	Size	Back	Design
01	148 x 105	type 1	Leap for London, boy jumping.
02	148 x 105	type 1	Leap for London, female jumping.
03	148 x 105	type 1	Leap for London, man jumping.
04	148 x 105	type 1	Leap for London, wheelchair athlete.
05	148 x 105	type 2	Leap for London, athletics, Kelly Holmes.
06	148 x 105	type 2	Leap for London, wheelchair, Tanni Grey Thompson.
07	148 x 105	type 2	Leap for London, cycling, GB men's team.
08	148 x 105	type 2	Leap for London, boxing, Amir Khan.
09	210 x 148	type 3	Athletics, Kelly Holmes.
10	210 x 148	type 3	Wheelchair Athletics, Tanni Grey Thompson.
11	210 x 148	type 3	Cycling, GB men's team.
12	210 x 148	type 3	Boxing, Amir Khan.
13	210 x 148	type 3	Gymnastics, Tiantian Wang.
14	210 x 148	type 3	Synchronised Swimming, Canada.
15	210 x 148	type 3	Fencing, USA v Russia.
16	210 x 148	type 3	Slalom Canoeing, Ondrej Raab.
17	210 x 148	type 3	Rowing, GB men's coxless four.
18	210 x 148	type 3	Athletics, decathlon.
19	210 x 148	type 3	Yachting, Switzerland.
20	210 x 148	type 3	Wheelchair Basketball, Ade Adepitan.

EDF also produced a small magnet in a folder with the London bid logo on the cover.



Left: Card 148 x 105mm. designated as number 4 - Leap for London, Wheelchair athlete.



Right: Card 148 x 105mm. designated as number 8 - Leap for London, boxing, Amir Khan.

PARIS 2012

Bob Wilcock

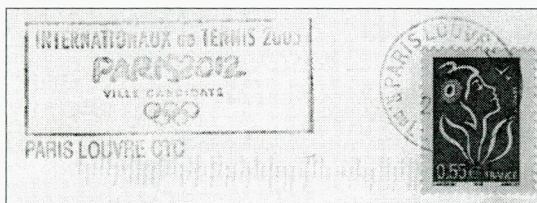
Apart from London, only Paris seems to be marking its candidature philatelically, so far.

Stamp Booklet



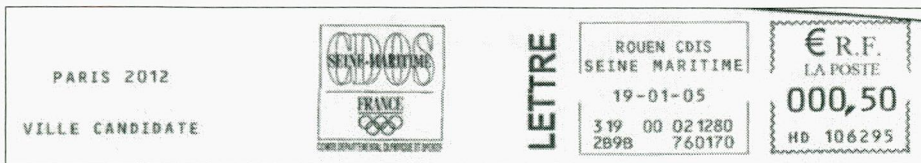
On 8 January 2005 the French post office introduced a new Marianne definitive stamp, including a booklet of 10 stamps, with the cover publicising the Paris bid. It follows the example set by the British Post Office in 2004.

Slogan Postmark



From early April, until 11 June, a slogan postmark from Paris Louvre post office advertises both the Paris International Tennis Championships, and the 2012 bid. The Roland Garros Stadium will be the 2012 tennis venue in the event that Paris wins the bid.

Postage Meter



The candidature Committee are not known to be using a meter, but one supporting the Paris bid has been introduced by the Departmental Olympic and Sporting Committee of Seine Maritime in Rouen. It is in blue, the preferred colour of French meters in recent years.

TOKYO 1964 - SPAIN, The Promotion of Wine on Esperanto Labels

John Miller

There are two designs of these labels which are printed in sheets of eight, four of each design. Both designs include the same text "1964 JAPANUJO Alvokas Vin" and the Olympic rings.

Design 1 is illustrated with a torch (black), mount Fujiyama and a five-pointed star (green). The star is set within a white disc.



Design two replaces the torch with a runner breasting the tape.

The sheets are printed on two types of paper; white, thin (60 gm.) which is perforated (11.5 x 11.5 line) and cream, thick (100 gm.) which is imperforate. Both are unwatermarked. Three colours were used for the sky; yellow, Lilac and Blue, one colour on each sheet, making a total of six different sheets (two papers x three colours). The labels are laid out so that they can be broken into four horizontal or vertical setenant pairs.

Perforated sheet of eight labels.





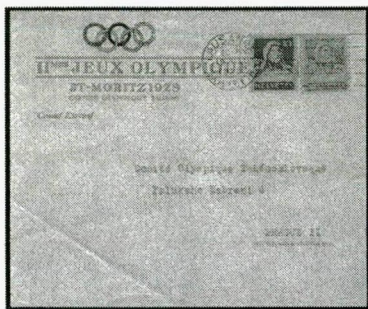
Imperforate sheet of eight labels, with printers imprint in selvedge.

The top row left-hand label (label 1) is design 1, label 2 is design 2, labels 3 and 4 are a repeat of designs 1 and 2.

The bottom row left-hand label (label 5) is design 2, label 6 is design 1, labels 7 and 8 are a repeat of designs 2 and 1.

All the labels have the designers name and location "E.MORENO-BARCELONA" in the bottom right corner. The printers imprint "4.s/w ??a???" in very small, difused print is in the selvedge of the imperforated sheets, 4mm. below label 6. On the perforated sheets this seems to have broken into two pieces and migrated around the star of label 6.

**Remember the Society Auction and International Packet
when disposing of your duplicate material.
The Auction and Packet Managers would be pleased to
receive your lots. - Addresses inside front cover.
Take the opportunity to reach fellow Olympic collectors**



Sports Philatelists International to Auction Podolsky Olympic Collections

Renowned Olympic philatelist and exhibitor Sherwin Podolsky will be disposing of certain areas of his extensive Olympic collection in upcoming auctions conducted by Sports Philatelists International. Beginning with the

August 15, 2005 Auction and continuing with its quarterly 2005 and 2006 auctions, SPI will be offering between 50-100 lots at a time in all price ranges spanning the period 1896 to 1984.

Podolsky, a long-time collector of Olympic and sports philately, is a charter member and past-President of SPI, and helped found FIPO, the International Federation of Olympic Philately. Specializing in the 1932 Los Angeles and Lake Placid Olympics, his "Postal History & Vignettes: 1932 Olympics" remains the seminal work on the philately of these Games. His collection, however, spans all Olympiads and has been exhibited extensively both nationally and internationally.

Material being offered in this first auction (#114 - closing August 15, 2005) covers the period of 1908 to the cancelled Games of 1940. Highlights include: 1924 French Pasteur 15c set of 8 sports views in original decorative envelope; 1924 French unadopted color essay of the 50c Olympic issue; and a 1928 St. Moritz Olympic Committee cover (top). Also included is a fine selection of the Hindenburg's 1936 Opening Day Olympic Flight (bottom) including the treaty mailing for the flight from Liechtenstein, Austria, and Switzerland.

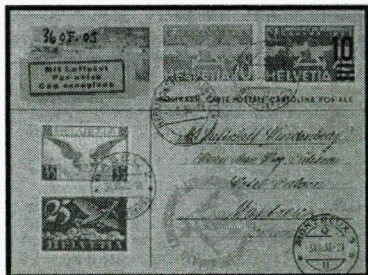
Bidding for this auction will open in June 2005 by mail and email. There is NO BUYER'S PREMIUM. Color images of most of the lots will be available on the SPI Web Site at www.sportstamps.org

To bid in the Auctions, you must be a member of SPI. Membership is just \$20/year for residents of the U.S. and Canada, and \$30 elsewhere. Memberships run from September 1 through August 31. Join now, and your membership includes access to the August 15, 2005 Auction (your subscription to the award-winning *Journal of Sports Philately* will begin in September).

SPI maintains an internet PayPal account making it easy to pay by credit card or bank transfer for all your auction purchases AND your membership dues.

Collections like this are rarely seen at auction. Do not miss this opportunity – join now! A prospectus and application are available online at www.sportstamps.org or by sending a written request to Margaret A. Jones, 5310 Lindenwood Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63109-1758, U.S.A.

For More Information Please Contact: Mark Maestroni
2824 Curie Place, San Diego, CA 92122, USA
email: markspi@prodigy.net



WINNERS OF BOTH OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALS AND THE VICTORIA CROSS

Early in 2004, the description of a postcard offered on ebay caught my attention whilst viewing the results of a search for Olympic postcards.

'FAVERSHAM WELCOMES CAP^T: Philip Neame R.E. V.C.' I was sufficiently interested to view the lot with the vendors description, which identified Philip Neame as 'the only holder of the Victoria Cross to win an Olympic gold medal'.

As there appeared to be a possible Olympic connection to develop later, and we have friends in Faversham, I took Part in the auction and secured the postcard.

I also started some basic reasearch to confirm the vendors statement, by using websites listing biographies of Victoria Cross holders and the website of Shepherd Neame (Brewers) who are still operating in Faversham.

All of the information gathered seemed to confirm the unique status of Philip Neame, and it transpired that the brewers still had a feeling of great pride for the great great grandfather of their chief executive as they were utilising an Olympic themed advertising campaign from August to December 2004.

Extracts from the website of Shepherd Neame:

OLYMPIC REMINDER OF NEAME'S UNIQUE ACHIEVEMENT

The triumphs and travails of British athletes at the Olympic Games are a reminder that it is precisely 80 years since Philip Neame became the only holder of a Victoria Cross to win an Olympic gold medal.

Lieutenant Philip Neame was nephew of Percy Beale Neame, a founding father of the Kent-based Shepherd Neame brewing dynasty and great great grandfather of present Shepherd Neame chief executive Jonathan Neame.

He earned his VC at Neuve Chapelle in France in December 1914 when, as a 26-year-old Royal Engineers lieutenant, in the face of heavy fire he engaged the Germans in a single-handed bombing attack, killing and wounding a number of them. He checked the enemy advance for three-quarters of an hour, and rescued all the wounded who could be moved.

The VC was the highest honour among a glittering array awarded to Lt Neame. In his subsequent military and diplomatic career, he went on to be awarded the KBE, CB, DSO, Chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur, and both the French and Belgian Croix de Guerre.

Ten years after winning his VC, he won a gold medal for shooting at the 1924 Paris Olympics as a member of the four-man team in the Running Deer (single shot) competition, where a moving target simulated the animal.

Britain won nine gold medals at the Paris Olympics, including Harold Abrahams in 100m and Eric Liddell in the 400m, both athletes memorably celebrated in the film 'Chariots of Fire'.

Philip Neame later fought as a general against Rommel in the desert during the Second World War. He was taken prisoner, but escaped from a POW camp in Italy in January 1944. From 1945 to 1953 Lt Gen Sir Philip Neame served as the Lieutenant Governor of Guernsey.

His youngest son, also called Philip, has continued the family tradition of military distinction and daring. As a former Paratroop officer, he fought at Goose Green in the Falklands conflict, and has also climbed Mount Everest.



Mirroring his father's enthusiasm for innovation, he then went on to found Integral Mobile Data, a company providing leading-edge software for access to databases by users of handheld computers.

SPITFIRE AD CAMPAIGN IS BACK WITH AN OLYMPIC TWIST

A new phase in the Spitfire Kentish Ale "Bottle of Britain" advertising campaign breaks this month, as Shepherd Neame takes aim at an even bigger share of the premium bitter market.

The new Press advertisement, which retains its humorous wartime theme but adds an Olympic twist, will run in national broadsheets, London's Evening Standard and trade press.

"Are you a pole vaulter?"

**"Nein...
I am German
and my name
is Fritz!"**

THE BOTTLE OF BRITAIN

www.shepherdneame.co.uk

The Olympic ad reads: Are you a Pole Vaulter? Nein...I am German and my name is Fritz!

It's the first ad in a £200,000 burst, which will run between August and the peak-selling Christmas period.

Says Shepherd Neame sales and marketing director Mark McJennett: "The Olympics give us a great opportunity to deliver a new campaign message, sustaining the quirky humour that has won us awards and great public awareness.

"Spitfire increased sales by 24.9% last year, and we are committed to maintaining the fastest growth in the premium ale market.

"With national distribution in both on-trade and take-home, Spitfire continues to provide a dynamic spur to the market for traditional British beer."



Above: The postcard which initiated my interest in Victoria Cross holders who were also Olympic champions. The caption reads :

'FAVERSHAM WELCOMES CAPT. Philip Neame R.E. , V.C. JULY. 17. 1915'

Albert George Hill

Late in 2004, yet another postcard appeared on ebay, with the description 'Olympic Gold Medal Winner and V.C. postcard'. I opened the full description, expecting to find a postcard of Philip Neame, and was very surprised by the postcard of Albert Hill that appeared.

Back to the websites to check... I was surprised to find that the within the same site, entries for Neame recounting his 'unique achievement', had other pages devoted to entries for Albert Hill, of which the following is an example:

Albert George Hill (1889-1969) was a British Athlete, winner of two Olympic gold medals at the 1920 Summer Olympics.

Born in Tooting (London), Hill started out as a long distance runner, winning the British AAA championships over 4 miles in 1910. Little more was heard from him in the next few years, until World War I interrupted most athletic contests in Britain in 1914.

During the war, Hill served as a Private in the 10th Battalion, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and later in the Royal Flying Corps as a signalman, stationed in France. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions at Delville Wood, part of the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

His citation read:

"On 20 July 1916 at Delville Wood, France when his battalion was under very heavy fire, private Hill dashed forward when the order to charge was given and bayoneted two of the enemy. Later, finding himself cut off and almost surrounded by some 20 of the enemy, he attacked them with bombs, killing and wounding many and scattering the rest. He then joined a sergeant of his company and helped him to find the way back to the lines, where he heard that his company commander and a scout were wounded. He helped to bring in the wounded officer, and finally captured and brought in two prisoners."

After the war, Hill returned as a middle-distance runner. Coached by Sam Mussabini (coach of 100 m Olympic Champions Reggie Walker and Harold Abrahams), he won the 880 yds and 1 mile at the 1919 AAA championships. He nearly wasn't selected for the Olympics the following year, the selectors considering the 31-year-old Hill too old. In the end, he was allowed to take part at the Olympics, which were held in Antwerp, Belgium. He made the final in the 800 m, which was a closely contested race. In the end, the 31-year-old Hill beat American Earl Eby for the gold, setting a national record as well.

Two days later, Hill completed the middle distance double by winning the 1500 m as well, thus completing a "double" not replicated by a British athlete until Kelly Holmes at the 2004 Olympics. Helped by his compatriot, Philip Baker (who would receive the Nobel Peace Prize in 1959), he won comfortably, with Baker in second. Hill also competed in the 3000 m team race event, in which the British team finished second, earning Hill's third Olympic medal.

After winning the 1921 1 mile AAA championships, Hill ended his running career, and became a coach himself. He emigrated to Canada shortly before World War II, and died there in 1969.



Albert Hill - Signed postcard - signed as "1 Mile Record Holder"..

Personal Memories and Thoughts - London 1948, the Olympics, Athletics and Wembley

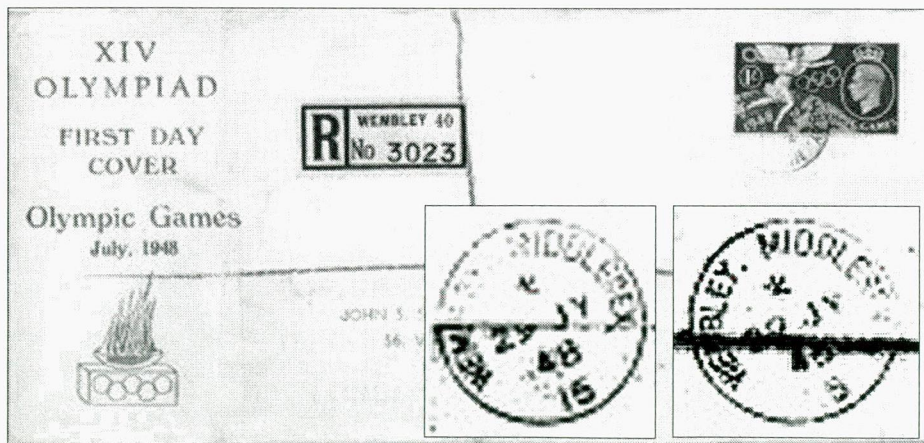
SOC member Alan Sabey and Sylvia Cheeseman both attended the same Grammar School, although at different times. The contact that led to this article was made through a School Reunion Group.

Sylvia Cheeseman competed in the women's 200 metres at the 1948 Olympic Games, and was eliminated in the semi-final.

Article by Sylvia Cheeseman, items for illustration provided by Alan Sabey.

For the last few months I have been interviewed many times on radio and television to recall my memories of the 1948 Olympic Games in which I took part, mainly to help with London's bid for the 2012 Olympic Games, which will be decided in July.

Unfortunately most of my memories of the '48 Games were not happy ones, so I have kept mainly to the Opening Ceremony, which we were all allowed to take part in. People nowadays, watching on TV, are used to seeing a joyous mass of athletes, thousands of them, prancing about in the centre of the stadium for the Closing Ceremony, but in those days, when it was constantly made clear to us that the officials were more important than the athletes, we were informed that only one athlete from each nation would be allowed to take part in the Closing Ceremony, which made it a very drab and quiet affair, and I have only seen photographs of it, with an empty centre to the stadium. It was a Chinese boy, years later, who wrote to the organizing committee with the suggestion that the athletes should come onto the stadium all mixed up regardless of nationality, to show a world unity in sport, a suggestion willingly taken up by the athletes and now a tradition.



Registered cover mailed from 'WEMBLEY 40', 29 July 1948 Opening Day.

Insets: backstamps counter handstamp '15' This Olympic Post Office was located at the Civic Hall.

The Opening Ceremony took place on a brilliantly hot sunny day, and with typical British over-organisation, we had to leave our hostels where we were staying at 11a.m. to be at the stadium before midday for a 3p.m. Opening Ceremony, which was therefore quite an exhausting experience for everyone whether they were competitors or not. I recall that during the long period when we were standing in the stadium the little boy scout who was holding the American sign, fainted, and one of the American athletes went forward and pulled him to his feet, only for the child to collapse again.

We had been standing outside for hours in terrific heat. We had all been given packed lunches, which sustained us but I recall that we had nothing to drink and it was quite a search to find anything. Someone passed around a wet sponge to wipe our faces with. The Americans also had packed lunches, and had left what they didn't eat in the boxes on shelves here and there and these were eagerly fallen upon by the Brits, for whom food rationing was still in force.

As host nation we were the last to march into the stadium, to a storm of excitement from the crowds. In the main stand were the whole Royal Family, including even the old Queen Mary, and the only absentee was our present Queen, then Princess Elizabeth, who explained to us why only a few weeks ago, when all the living British Olympic medallists from every Games were invited to Buckingham Palace to meet her, the Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Anne, who herself is an Olympian. The Queen told us that she was not allowed to attend those Games because she was expecting Prince Charles at the time.

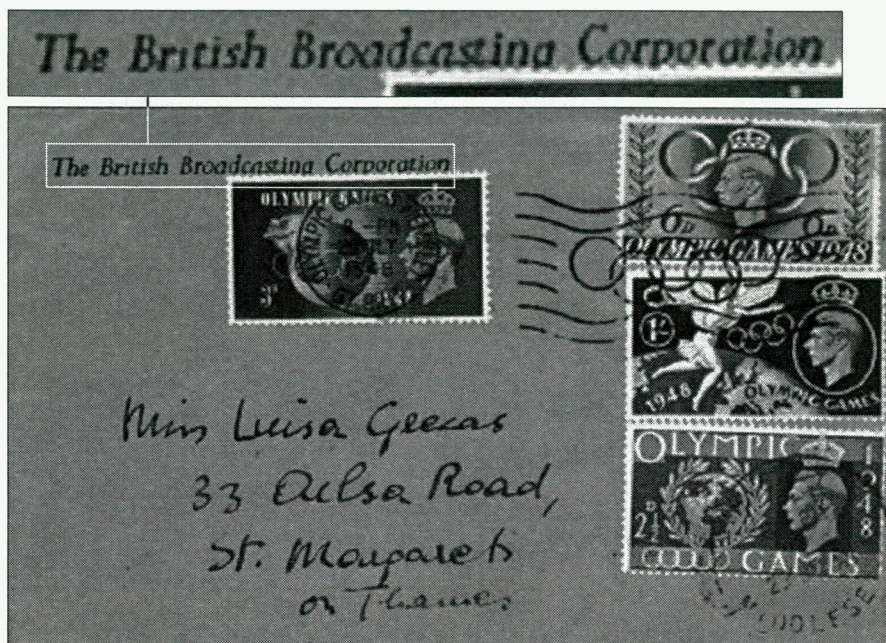
She missed a wonderful occasion, full of colour, excitement and Sir Malcolm Sargent was conducting his choir which was singing the Olympic Hymn and as we marched past he turned and gave me a beaming smile..

Many people think that the torch relay has always been part of the Opening Ceremony, but in fact it was first introduced by the Germans in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, the Games previous to the 1948 Games, and which had been made famous by the film made by Leni Riefenstahl, by far the best Olympic film ever made. In the Opening Ceremony it shows the arrival of the torch, borne by a tall, blonde pure Aryan young athlete, just as Hitler would have wished. So I thought it rather pathetic that we had to copy the Germans so exactly by giving the final lap of the torch relay to John Mark, a young medical student who had just failed to make the Olympic team but who also looked the part, being tall, blonde and blue eyed, and no doubt Hitler would have approved.

The athlete I would have chosen would have been Sydney Wooderson, till then our greatest ever middle distance runner and mile world record holder, and, indeed, he was considered, but as he said not long ago, (he is still alive) he did not "look the part". He was small, slight and bespectacled. Four years later, in Helsinki, the Finns got it right by selecting the great Paavo Nurmi to run the final leg, to the enormous approval of both Finns and other nations alike.

If I may digress at this point, and go back to those Berlin Games, Sydney Wooderson, our world record miler, three times beat Jack Lovelock of New Zealand during the weeks leading up to the Games, only to break his ankle just before the Games, in which Jack Lovelock won the 1500 metres.

Evidence of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) presence at the 1948 Olympic Games:
Top : BBC envelope, with 'corner card', used 29th. July, 1948;
Bottom: Postcard of the Palace of Arts, with Olympic and BBC signage.



Years later, when I was on my way to Oslo by ship with the British team for the European Championships in 1946, I remember Sydney saying that he did not think that the Olympic Games were all they were "cracked up to be" and I have so often reflected how right he was. Suffice to say that you could run any Olympics a few weeks later and in many events get a different set of champions.

After King George VI declared the Games open cannons were fired, and cages around the track were opened releasing hundreds of pigeons. After that we all marched off and that was the end of the ceremony. Not much hype in those days.

It was a year later, when I was running in a meeting in Edinburgh, that I sat up late listening enthralled to Don Paine, who was one of the leading organizers of those Games, and who regaled us with all the things that went wrong on that day. How the cannons got stuck in a traffic jam, and only just arrived in time to be fired off, and how the poor pigeons were put in their cages in that heatwave two days before the big day, with the result that when the cages were opened, many of them were dead. I thought it would have been better to deliver the cannons early and leave the pigeons till the last minute.



Further Registered cover mailed from 'WEMBLEY 40', 14 August 1948 - final day of the Games. Inset: backstamp counter handstamp '14'

In many ways things have improved in international athletics, which is the chief sport of the Olympics. For a start, television viewers are now experts, and can see, thanks to action replay in slow motion, exactly what has happened and where athletes have finished in a race, and therefore results have to be truthful and accurate. It is all electronic and errors by officials, deliberate or otherwise, cannot happen in these circumstances.

In those days there were no drugs, thank goodness, but the women did have a problem in that there were competitors in the women's events who were not women at all, but men. Such were the baggy shorts in those days that they could get away with it, despite stubble on their faces and baritone voices. I ran against many of them over the years... One of them pulled me out to break the British 200 metres record the year after those Games, at White City. The skimpy outfits the girls run in these days would make it impossible for them to compete. They did introduce sex testing at that time, but certain countries still broke the rules mainly from the Eastern European bloc.

However, as far as drugs are concerned, the battle is still on and the athletes always seem to be one jump ahead of the testers. Not long ago one of the 50 kilometre walkers who took part in the '46 European Championships with me and who has recently died, rang me to say that he was losing interest in athletics. He didn't have to explain why. It is the knowledge that drug taking is so rife that one can no longer be sure who is "clean" at the time of their Olympic success and who isn't. One former Olympic athlete who has made a lifelong study of the problem even says that he believes that no athlete lining up for an Olympic final these days has not at some period of his or her training taken drugs. It is a depressing thought.

My other reflection is this. The Olympic motto is "Citius, Altius, Fortius" - Fastest, Highest, Strongest, and therefore I feel that any Olympic event that qualifies for the award of medals should be measurable, in athletics by tape measure or stop watch, or by the weights lifted by the weightlifters, not by the frailties of human judgement. Only last week I read a letter in the Times with which I wholeheartedly concur. The writer said "I would agree that sport is a competitive activity that rewards a combination of physical ability and mental strength. But surely a sport must also be scored objectively. Anything that relies on personal judgements and aesthetic assessments for its results, however beautiful, strenuous or skilful, is an art form, not a sport".

We have all known results with which we have disagreed, which have shown the failings and bias of human judges. These events could still be included in the Olympic Games but only as exhibition events. Commemoration plaques could be awarded, but not Olympic medals.

My husband, also an Olympian, and I both attended the final banquet given at Wembley stadium before its demolition. We were given little paperweights containing a tiny portion of the Wembley turf. I can honestly say that my most exciting memory of Wembley was not the Olympics but the 1966 World Cup Final, at which I had a seat which was on a line with the goal mouth which showed me distinctly the famous "banana kick" where the ball crossed the goal mouth and swung out again but which was quite rightly counted as a goal. On that occasion Wembley Stadium was like a blazing cauldron boiling with excitement.

I am not sad that the old stadium is now gone, for I am certain that the new one will be even grander and will, I am sure, be the setting for many future triumphs.



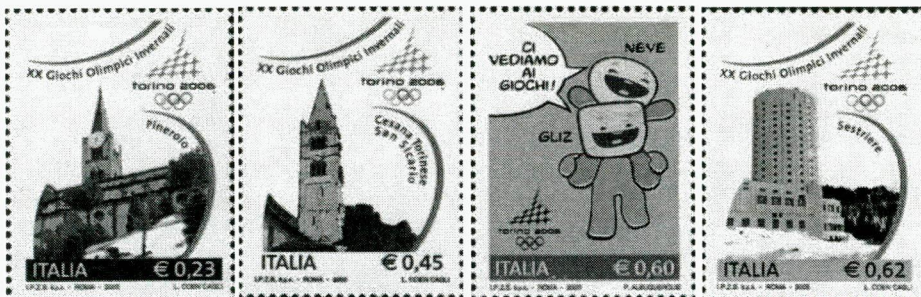
*Do we have any other members with memories to share?
Submissions would be welcomed. Ed.*

TORINO 2006 - 21-03-2005, Olympic Marathon?

Bob Farley

21st. March, 2005

Issue of a series of four stamps by Italia Poste



€ 0.23, Pinerolo;

€ 0.45, Cesana
Torinese;

€ 0.60, Mascots;

€ 0.62, Sestriere.



Associated philatelic products include:

- Set of four maximum cards (€3.96);
- Philatelic document (€1.03);
- Official First Day Cover;
- Set of individual 'encapsulated' stamps;
- Collectors folder containing encapsulated stamps, maximum cards and First Day Cover.

07:30 am. - Arrived at Turin Central Post Office having misread the opening times on the 20th. Meaning that I arrived one hour before opening at 08:30!

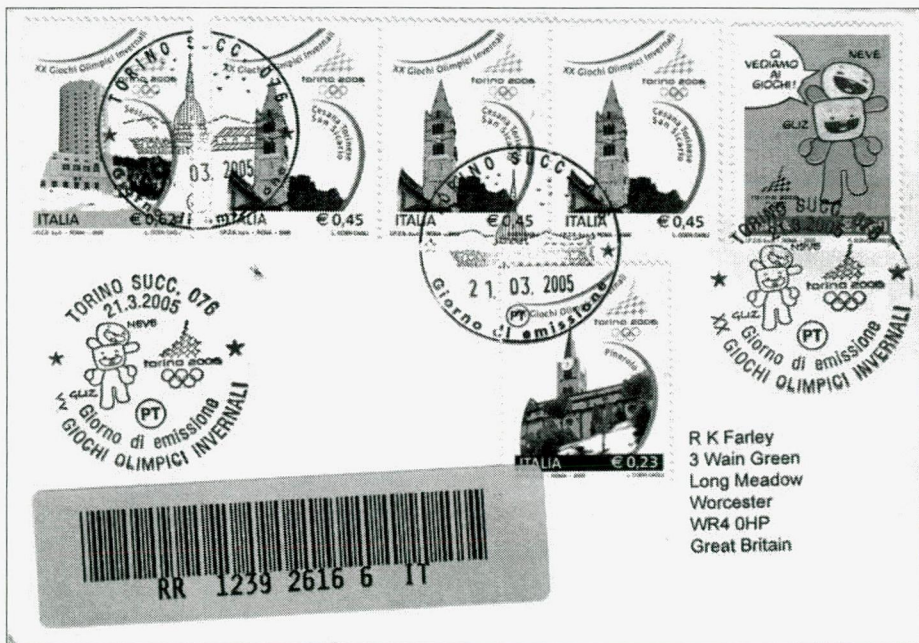
Coffee in a café at the Piazza San Paolo, and an hour watching construction works on the new underground parking area.

08:25 am. - Returned to the C.P.O., more promising this time as a queue was forming. Doors opened at 08:30 am. , everyone in the line headed to the philatelic counter. From my position of about fifth in line, all seemed well, but the first customer wanted a specific marginal position from each sheet, times ten, so service was rather delayed.

The delay provided the opportunity to enlist the assistance of fellow collectors in front and behind me by use of a mixture of French and English. The 'process' for registration was established through my new found colleagues and their discussions with the postal clerk who was custodian of the Torino special cancel.

Thanks to another of the collectors, the rate for registered mail within Europe was established as €2.80, and as I was contemplating how to achieve this rate, it was volunteered that 1 x €0.23, 3 x €0.45, 1 x €0.60, 1 x €0.62 would provide an exact franking with all 'Olympic' values.

With a supply of stamps and philatelic souvenirs purchased, I headed to the counter for handstamping, and whilst not doubting my collector colleagues, I handed over a filled envelope and asked for confirmation of the registered rate before committing myself by fixing the stamps. At this stage, I expected the envelope to be handed back for me to go away and fix stamps, fill in receipts etc.. Before I could react, a registration label was fixed and stamps were about to be applied - I quickly made the clerk aware that I already had the stamps, and would frank the envelope, however, as the registration label was already fixed, I could not have the envelope back and had to hand over the stamps for the clerk to apply. After a number of checks that the proposed franking did indeed equate to €2.80, (rather than the clerks preferred option of 4 x €0.60 'Mascots' with a definitive €0.40 added), the lady fixed the stamps and the envelope was cancelled with both the Torino Olympic handstamp and the Torino 'tourist' handstamp.



R K Farley
3 Wain Green
Long Meadow
Worcester
WR4 0HP
Great Britain

I found a space at a table to prepare further covers, returned again for registration and cancellations - the individual writing of receipts by the clerk into the registration book causing some delay in the line for cancellations.

A brisk five minute walk found me back at our hotel with five minutes to spare before the breakfast service closed at 10:00 am. (Just time for coffee!).

10:30 am. - We began the drive to Pinerolo, attempting to navigate the one-way streets from central Turin to the SS23. All went well, and with the exception of the distance markers which showed Pinerolo at 17, 19, and then 20km in succession despite following the direction indicated, we arrived in Pinerolo without incident at 11:30 am., noting that there was no evidence of the Olympic Winter Games except one sign on entering the commune and VISA / ELECTRON stickers on most shop doors.

We parked in a large (main?) Square, and asked the first pedestrian for directions to the P.O. We were lucky, only across one Piazza and to the street beyond.

Arriving at the directed location, there was no obvious sign of the P.O., so I asked again. We were directed about 20m, where the tell-tale letter boxes were hidden from view by being placed on the terrace of a set-back frontage.

After studying the locals, we mastered the air-lock style double doored entrance to be faced with a ticket machine to take a number for service.

From the Italian instructions, I could understand that it was necessary to press the button for the appropriate service required (three ticket sequences were in use, each directing to specific counters - business post, registered post, ordinary postal or banking). Taking a ticket for the registered service, doubts set in - was this for sending items or collecting incoming items to be signed for?



There appeared to be an information counter so it seemed prudent to ask. It was confirmed that I had the correct ticket, but that the special handstamp was at a different philatelic counter, for which a ticket was not required, so I took my covers for cancellation.

Covers were cancelled, and my number appeared at counter 11, covers were duly registered (again individual written receipts by the clerk). We left the P.O., mission accomplished at 12:30 pm.

A quick scan of shops on the way back to the car failed to reveal any postcards - the majority of shops appeared to close on Mondays anyway.

Quick coffee in a bar, back to the car to comply with our one-hour parking restriction. We set off for Sestriere.

Enroute for Sestriere, we parked opposite the ski jumps at Pragelato as a photo opportunity, only to find that the batteries in the camera were dead, so we drove on.

02:00 pm. - Arrived at Sestriere, and headed straight to the P.O. (I knew the location of this one from an earlier visit in 2003). Leaving Brenda at a postcard rack, I walked straight on to the P.O., and straight through the open door following a local, only to be told that they were closed and only opened until 01:00 pm. (I had followed an expected delivery man through the door).

I protested that I had covers to mail with the special cancel, and for registration. It seemed that all was under control as I was directed to the Syndicate d'Initiative (Tourism Office) where a special counter had been established because of the stamp issue. This was also the location for the special handstamp.

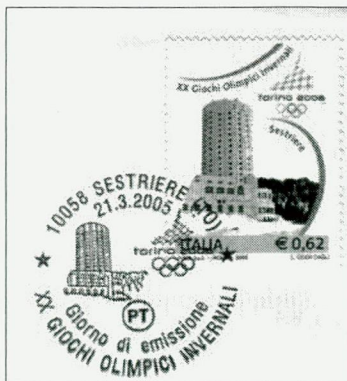
A brisk walk back to the Office of Tourism (we walked straight past the sign for the philatelic counter in our blinkered rush to the P.O.), and great surprise that the doors were open - on our previous visit we had waited most of the three hour lunch break for it to open.

On entering, with the exception of staff, we were the only people present. It was at this point that luck was on our side - I had not prepared any further registered covers, so when I was told that the special counter was a philatelic sales point only, with the special hanstamp and not able to carry out special services such as registration, I was not left with over-franked covers. More luck, the letter rate within Europe is € 0.62, the value of the 'Sestriere' stamp, so it was possible to despatch correctly franked covers with Sestriere stamp and cancellation.

A free postcard for Pinerolo 'Curling' was available, so copies were obtained.

In discussion with the English speaking staff, we were advised that Cesano also closed at 1:00 pm. The cancellation would be available for one month, but there was no point in visiting to mail registered items.

A quick foray for postcards on the way back to the car, a very quick coffee and we set off - being so close, it still seemed worth a visit to Cesana.





03:30 pm. - San Sicario (hamlet of Cesana), we diverted to the resort and walked through the generally closed shopping area to the newsagents where a number of tourist postcards were found with a reference to the 2006 Olympic Winter Games on their backs. The shopkeeper was very helpful confirming that there was not a Post Office in the resort - only a mail box. She further confirmed that the Post Office in Cesana was only open in the mornings, and closes at 01:00 pm.

04:00 pm. - Parked outside the Office of Tourism in Cesana, and walked in to see a large pile of superb Olympic postcards on the counter - these were for the gentleman being served, so all disappeared as he left. A quick survey of the area behind the desk revealed heaps of cards on the window sill. When asked for sets of the postcards, the assistant politely informed us that they were 'only available to residents', and that they had been 'specially prepared to celebrate the stamp issue that day'. It was however possible that a tobacconist in the village had a supply for sale to tourists.

The comment about 'to celebrate the stamp issue' prompted me to ask if the Post Office was open. "Yes, as a special event" was the reply.

Luck was again playing it's part. After asking for directions to the Post Office and the tobacconist, a map was produced and their locations marked. Here luck failed us. The tobacconists shop was only about 100m. from our location, and the Post Office a further 150m. - however, the footbridge over the river between us and those premises was being reconstructed, and had been demolished so a 1500m. diversion to cross the river was necessary on a main road with no intentional pedestrian facilities.

Undeterred, we set off for the Post Office.

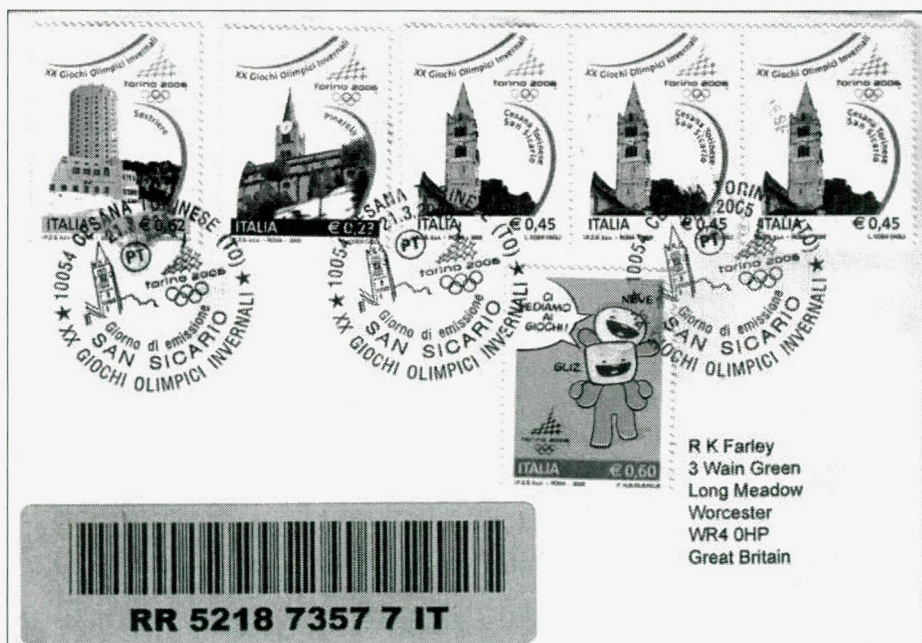
At the Post Office (no French or English spoken), it was quickly established that they were actually 'closed' except for the sale of or cancellation of that days stamp issue. All other stock and tills were locked away and could not be accessed. The opening was purely to allow residents to create their souvenirs using the issued stamps and the souvenir postcards.

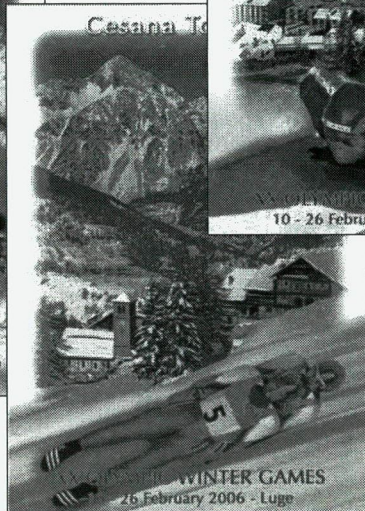
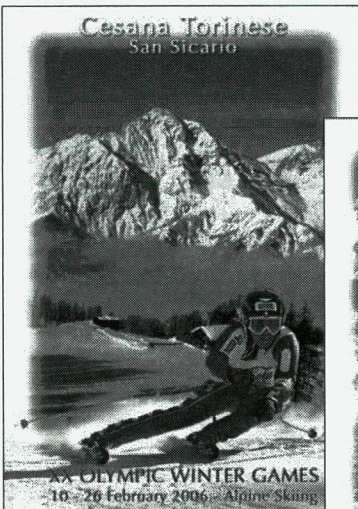
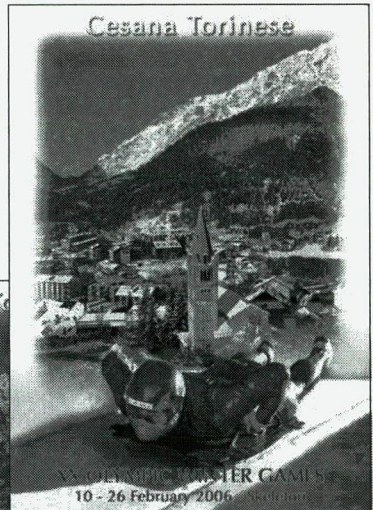
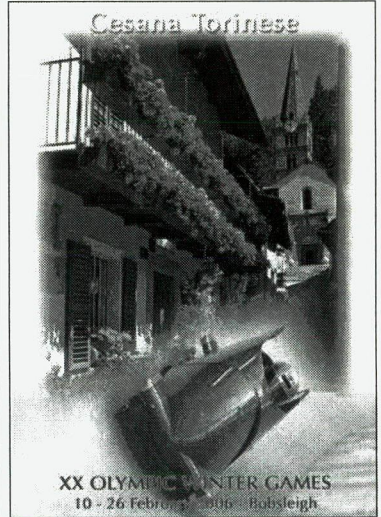
With the help of fellow customers, and a mixture of French and English, I was confident that I had reached agreement that my covers would be cancelled, and then registered the following day at start of business if I left them with the clerk. One envelope would be left unsealed for the receipts to be enclosed.

I moved aside to prepare covers, while Brenda headed for the tobacconist for postcards. At this point, it occurred to the clerk that I would need to add postage to achieve the € 2.80 rate as the set did not achieve this value. This seemed an obstacle to our agreement as she could not sell me any values outside the Olympic series (or cancel them with the special handstamp).

I quoted my earlier combination of Olympic values to achieve € 2.80, and after much use of a calculator and rechecking, the franking was acknowledged as correct, and it was queried if I worked for the Post Office!

Covers prepared, I lined up behind three residents now having cards cancelled (average seemed to be about twenty cards each, although some larger packages were evident).





My covers were duly cancelled, and at this point the clerk tried to confirm my wishes by showing me an AR Advice of Receipt card for fixing to the unsealed envelope. Fortunately, with the assistance of another resident, I managed to make clear that the covers should be registered, and the receipts enclosed in the unsealed envelope, and that there was not sufficient postage to allow for the AR service.

As confirmation that this was now understood, the clerk produced the registration book, and then in response to my 'thumbs up' she proceeded to write the receipts for the covers, added their registration labels and handed me the receipts after making sure via my newfound interpreter that I understood that these would not enter the delivery system until the following day.

05:10 pm. - With batteries for the camera, copies of the postcards and the receipts, we left Cesana.

We decided to take the SS23 back to Torino (not the Autostrada as originally planned) for a second attempt at photographing the ski jumps.

05:40 pm. - Photographs taken, a brief stop at the Pragelato Office of Tourism produced two Olympic postcards.

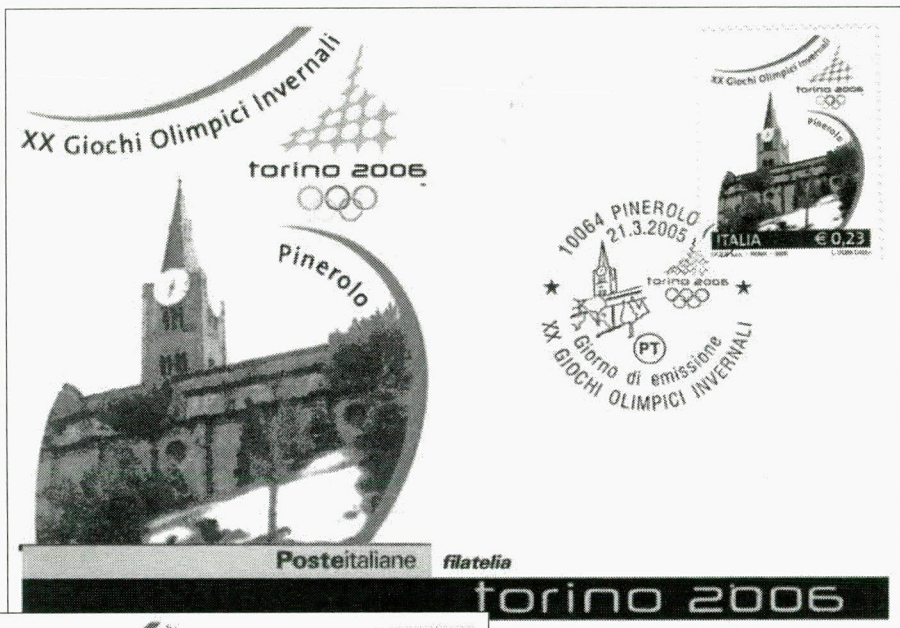
07:30 pm. - Back at our hotel for a short rest before dinner.

Who says that the marathon is a summer event!

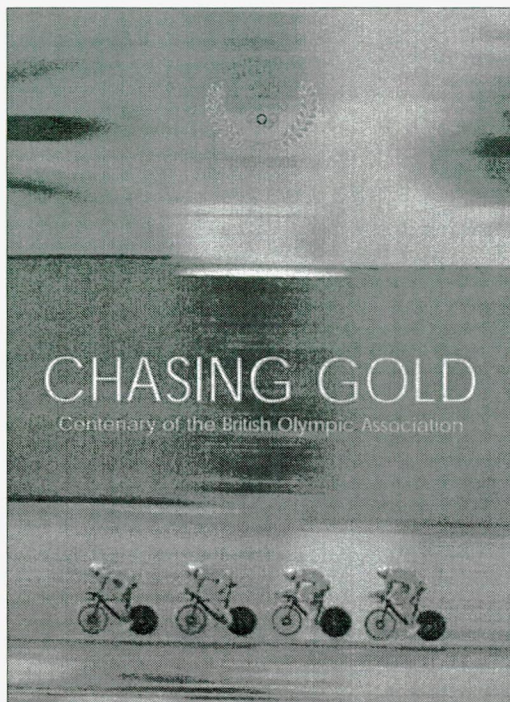


Saluti da Pragelato
dalla Campionessa Olimpica.





The series of four maximum cards released 21.03.2005.



Chasing Gold
Centenary of the British Olympic Association
Nick Yapp

A lavishly illustrated celebration of British achievement in the Olympic Games, from 1896 to the present, to mark the centenary of the British Olympic Association – with an accompanying CD-Rom that combines full statistical details of all British finalists with another 200 illustrations.

Format 285 x 215 mm
 Text 176pp
 Illustrations 200
 Price 20,000 words
 Publication May 2005
 Price £24.99

cityimages

Published to celebrate the centenary of the British Olympic Association, *Chasing Gold* presents a unique collection of breathtaking contemporary and archival photographs, charting the achievements of the men and women who brought Olympic glory to Britain. With the book comes the *Chasing Gold* CD-Rom - with full statistical details of all British Olympians in every Olympic event at every Olympic Games since 1896, and a host of further pictures.

Special offer price to S.O.C. Members
Chasing Gold is available at **£19.99** per copy, Plus postage. A discount of 20%.

Orders **must** mention the
Society of Olympic Collectors

P&P (per copy) UK £4.50; Europe £5.00; World £10.00

Orders to: Ann Blake, British Olympic Association,
 1 Wandsworth Plain, London SW18 1EH.
 Tel: 020 8871 2677 x235 email: chasinggold@boa.org.uk

Payment Details

Please find enclosed a cheque for the sum of £ _____
 in respect of _____ copies inclusive of postage and package
 Please make cheques payable to the British Olympic Association.
 Vat Reg. Number 240434694

I would like to pay by credit card (Visa or Mastercard only)

Card Number _____

Name on Card _____

Issue Date _____ Expiry Date _____

Address of card holder (if different from above) _____

Signature of card holder _____ Date _____

Name: _____

Company: Society of Olympic Collectors

Address: _____

Telephone / Fax: _____

Email: _____

Number of copies @ £19.99

Total cost of books: £ _____

Total P&P: £ _____

Total: £ _____

TURIN 2006 - Update

Bob Farley

On our recent visit to Torino, we set aside one day for a sight-seeing walking tour of the centre of the city, obviously with the secondary objective of seeking collectable souvenirs (mainly postcards).

Our tour on March 22nd. Had a disappointing start when we visited the 'Atrium' which consists of two futuristic exhibition buildings - one for city tourism, the other for the 2006 Olympic Winter Games, which also acts as one of the Olympic Store locations.

The building could be best described as an exhibition of exhibition space - large areas devoted to a single A4 brochure for each of the venue resorts, a cafeteria, a few very sparse exhibits, and the sales area. As the assistant commented "no postcards, no posters, no mascots".

I have never seen an Olympic host city less than one year before staging the Games so lacking in the 'Olympic spirit', with the exception of the Atrium (once inside), and banners above Via Roma, you could just as easily think that the 2006 Olympic Winter Games were taking place on another planet.

The largely unfounded criticism of Athens at a similar time certainly needs to be redirected at Turin.

Whilst Athens always had a restoration / renovation and building plan culminating in the Olympic Games, Turin appears to a long term renovation plan extending well beyond 2006 which will suffer some delay and inconvenience if work is halted to accommodate the Olympic Winter Games.

Things did improve, the city offers some superb architecture (not all of which is obscured by hoardings during renovation).

A visit to the Post Office (near the Atrium), to buy stamps for postcards, offered the opportunity to join long queues, so we 'went native' and headed for a nearby tobacconist shop. It transpired that this was a wise decision, inside the shop there was a rack of postcards that included a set of ten designs based on the VISA ELECTRON 'Torino 2006 cards, and further foraging through the rack produced a few other designs. The language barrier obstructed any further progress, but we left very happy.

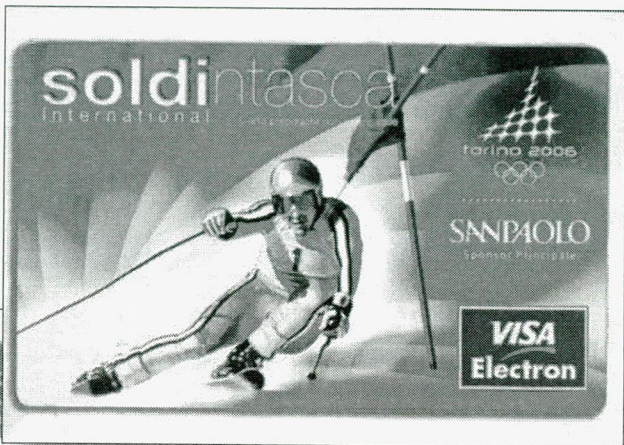
After approximately five hours of walking around the city, and a coffeee break, we had no further finds despite checking postcard raks and the interiors of most tobacconists.

During our coffee break, admiring our 'finds', we noticed that the postcards were actually anonymous limited editions of either 300 or 500 examples, so I decided to revisit the source and try to gain more information (also hoping that the rack may have been replenished).

On our second visit, we managed to establish that we had purchased all of the copies that the shop had in stock.

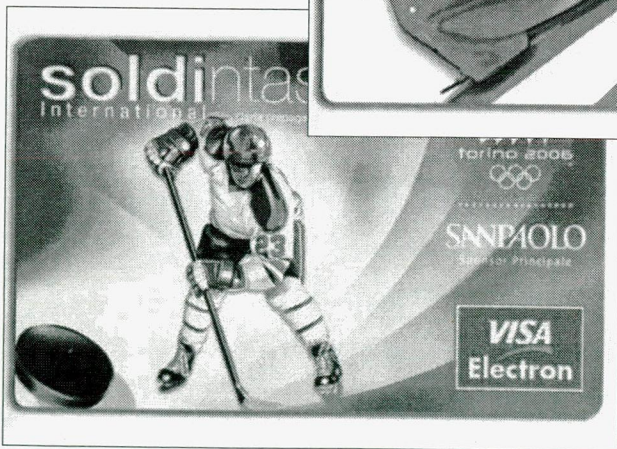
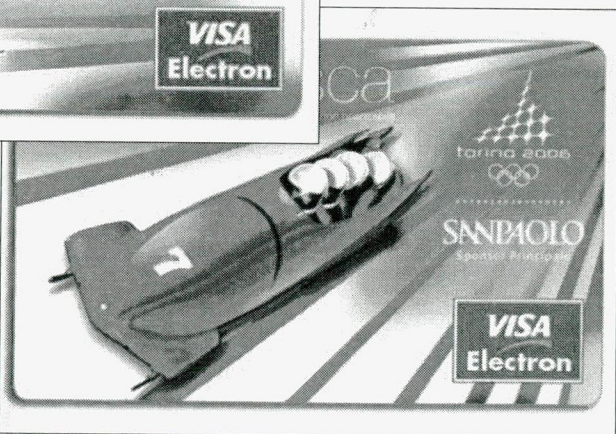
Our first 'finds', the series of postcards based on VISA - ELECTRON designs.

699



700

702



706

At this point the owner arrived, and as she spoke French, things were able to progress.

We have never encountered a more helpful lady - initially she agreed to obtain further copies and mail them to me, but when she telephoned the 'publisher' it was arranged that copies would be available early the following morning of all of the 'Olympic designs' available. A potentially very successful way to finish the day.

The following morning, postcards had arrived as promised. The series includes cards from the candidature period through to current issues. Apologies were offered that some designs had been exhausted, and arrangements made to obtain future issues.

The designs obtained include the following:

Carlolina Postal de Collezione {Anonymous}

Card No.	Quantity	Subject
291	---	Bobsleigh (candidature).
370	300	Bid logo.
476	300	Advertising hoarding.
530	500	La Voglia di Olimpiadi
572	500	10.02.2003 - Three years to go.
585	500	"Carillon"
610	500	Candidature logo, 'Mole'.
627	500	Stazione di Porta Nuova.
637	500	Il Sistema Olimpico.
642	500	'La Patinoir' in Piazza Castello.
644	500	Oval
645	500	Palaghiaccio
646	500	Palasport Olimpico
647	500	Torino Esposizioni
648	500	Palavela
650	500	Villaggio Olimpico
684	500	"Neve and Gliz"
685	500	"Neve and Gliz"
686	500	Winter Olympic Mascots 1976-2006
699	500	VISA ELECTRON, Slalom Gigante
700	500	VISA ELECTRON, Short Track
701	500	VISA ELECTRON, Snowboard
702	500	VISA ELECTRON, Bobsleigh
703	500	VISA ELECTRON, Slitting
704	500	VISA ELECTRON, Salto
705	500	VISA ELECTRON, Discesa Libera
706	500	VISA ELECTRON, Hockey
707	500	VISA ELECTRON, Biathlon
708	500	VISA ELECTRON, Pattinaggio di Figura

Post script:

By a remarkable coincidence, member Thomas Lippert visited Turin for six hours, one week after our visit, and found the same postcard rack (whilst trying to purchase an umbrella!).

The rack had been refilled, and card number 478 had appeared.

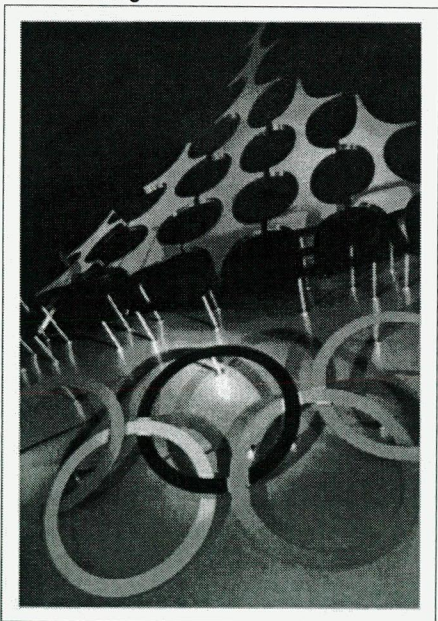
My thanks to Thomas for details and a copy of this card.



370 Bid logo.



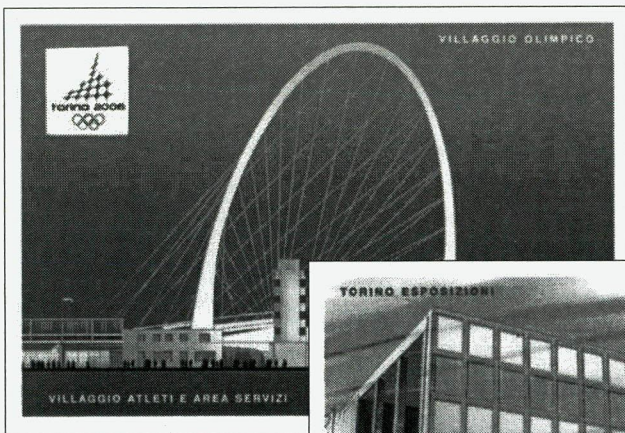
572 10.02.2003 - Three years to go.



585 "Carillon"

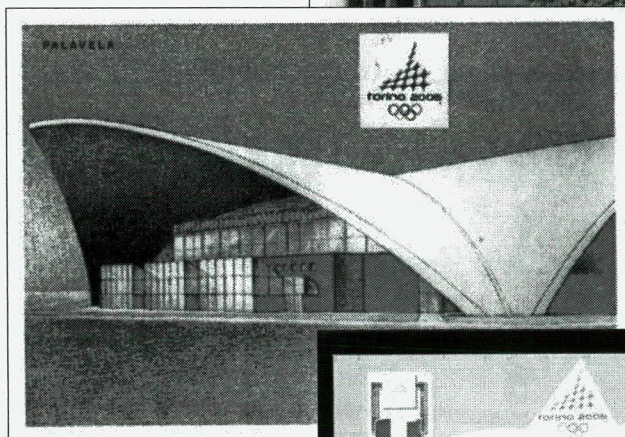
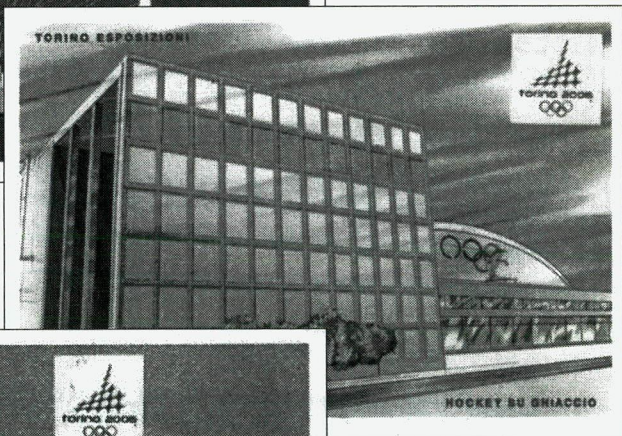


530 La Voglia di Olimpiadi



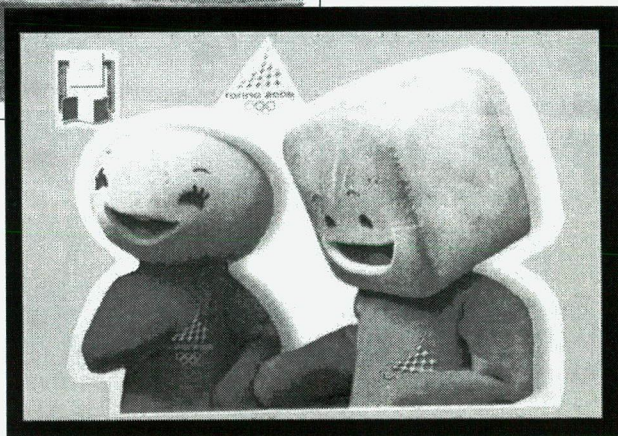
650
Villaggio Olimpico

647
Torino Esposizioni



648
Palavela

684
"Neve and Gliz"

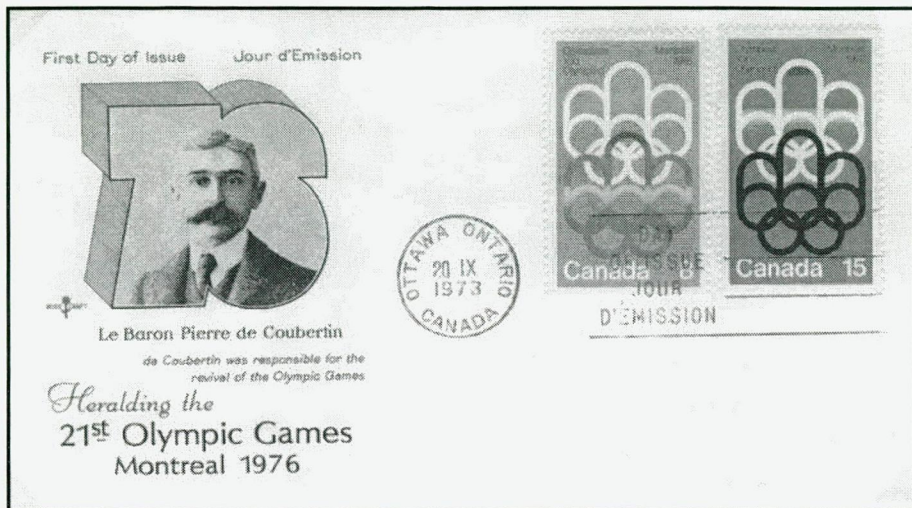


MONTREAL 1976

By Lisa O'Neill

Montreal has featured very little in the columns of Torch Bearer, surprisingly perhaps, since it is an easy Games to collect. If you are relatively new to Olympic collecting and are looking for a Games to specialise in, Montreal could be for you. This article, the first of an occasional series, will introduce the stamps and first day postmarks.

Series I – the Olympic Logo – 20 September 1973



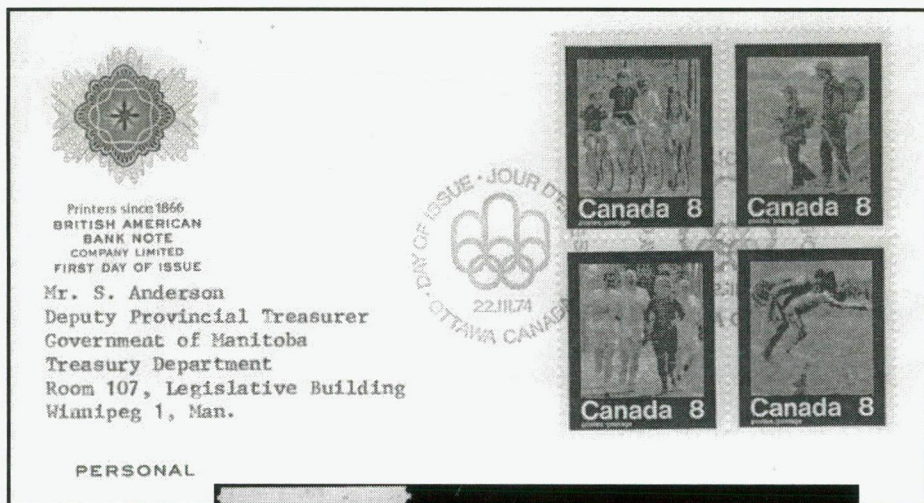
The first two stamps introduced the Montreal Olympic logo, five interlaced rings combined with a symbolic 'm'. The 'm' symbolises the winners' podium, and, of course, Montreal. The stamps were designed by Wallis and Matanovic and litho printed by Ashton Potter (p12 x 12 ½). Canada Post were not fully geared up at this time, and only a generic bi-lingual first day postmark is available, from Ottawa not Montreal.

Series II – Keeping Fit – Summer Scenes – 22 March 1974

This block of four stamps depicts cycling, hiking, running or jogging and swimming. Designed by Hunter, Straker, Templeton Ltd. they feature latent images of the Montreal logo, a world first in stamps. Perf. 12, they were recess printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company Ltd. Canada Post introduced a specific first day postmark in the form of the Olympic logo, and supplied unaddressed first day covers. These are easy to find, but we illustrate a less common cover sent through the post by the printers. Similar covers exist for the other issues printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company Ltd.

Series III – The Olympic Logo – 17 April 1974

The third issue repeats the design of the first, but the stamps are smaller in size, and bear a surcharge for Games funds. They are once again litho printed but now perf. 12. The first day postmark is identical to that for Series II apart from the date.



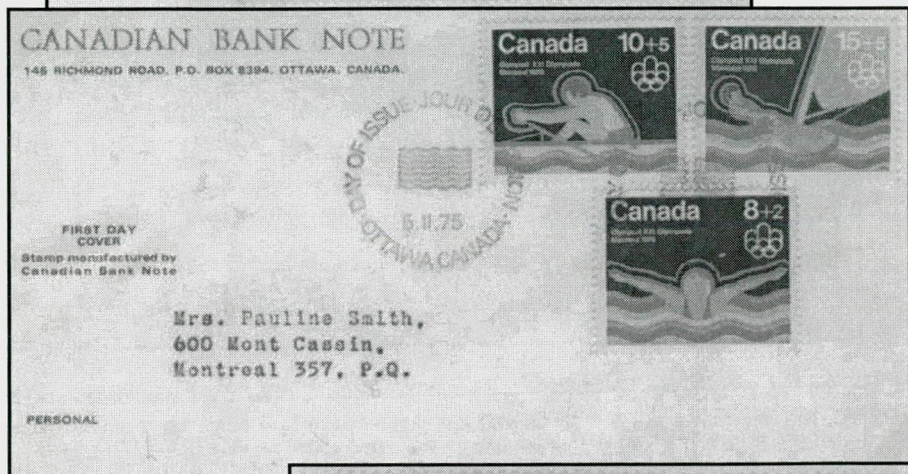
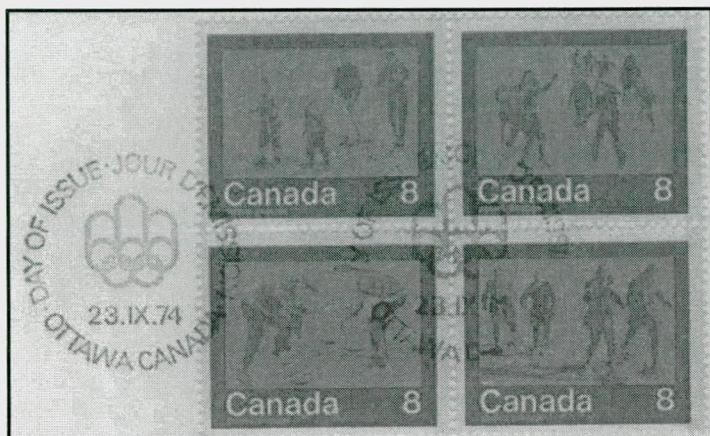
Series IV – Keeping Fit – Winter Scenes – 23 September 1974

Interestingly, while the summer scenes are in cool blue, the winter scenes are in a warming red, and show curling, skiing, skating and snowshoeing, physical pastimes typical of Canadians in winter. Designed once more by Hunter, Straker, Templeton Ltd. they also feature latent images of the Montreal logo. They were recess printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company Ltd, and this time are perf. 13 ½ x 13. The Ottawa first day postmark is again the Montreal logo.

Series V – Water Sports – 5 February 1975

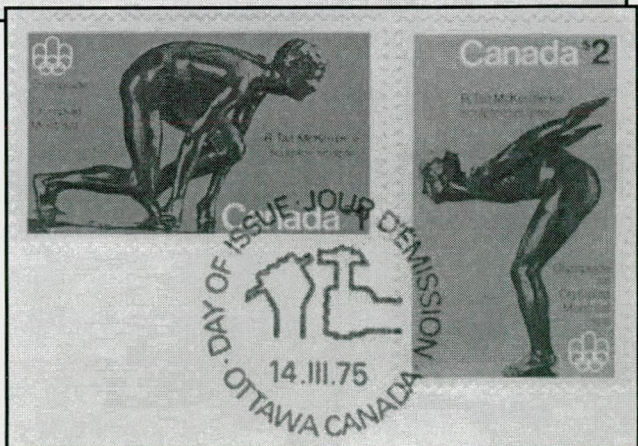
Canada's second issue of semi-postals in support of the 1976 Games depicts three of the water sports being held at Montreal and Kingston, swimming, rowing and sailing. The stamps were designed by Wallis and Matanovic and litho printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company Ltd. perf. 13.

The first day postmark now features a 'water' symbol, and is shown on another Canadian Bank Note postally travelled cover.



Series VI - McKenzie Sculptures - 14 March 1975

These were the first of two controversial stamp issues, controversial because of their very high face values and limited postal use. They depict two sculptures by Robert Tait McKenzie who won a bronze medal for art at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.



The \$1 value depicts "The Sprinter" and the \$2 value "The Plunger". Designed by A. Fleming the stamps were litho printed and embossed by Ashton Potter, perf. 12 ½ x 12 / 12 x 12 ½. The first day postmark from Ottawa depicts the sculptor's hands and tools.

Series VII – Track and Field – 11 June 1975



Reverting to more conventional values, these three stamps depict pole vault, the marathon and hurdling. The designer was Peter Swan and the stamps were litho printed by Ashton Potter, perf. 12 x 12 ½. The first day postmark depicts a running track.

Olympic Stamp Souvenir Collection

These seven sets were brought together in a neat small album with interesting background information. It was the first of two albums, and the stamps in the second album will be described in the next article.

Attractive though the albums are, they were not a commercial success and were 'remaindered' in 1977. They were quite widely available in London at the time, for well under face value of the stamps. A pair featured in the SOC auction recently, and they are well worth having in the collection.

GREEK OLYMPIC WINNERS STAMP ISSUES - UPDATE

There have been a number of further developments relating to the ELTA Medal Winners stamp issues since publication of the initial article in Torch Bearer Volume 21, page 188.

Official First Day Covers

A sealed pack of sixteen covers was placed on sale by ELTA in October / November 2004. The dates of cancellations, which will invariably be treated as the original dates of issue for local digital printings are listed below. These issue dates will not always correspond with covers produced by collectors at the time of issue because, with the exception of Athens most Post Offices were not open on Sundays, and in some cases they were not open on Saturdays. Monday dates up to two days later than the following list, with cancellations other than Athens may therefore be true 'First Day dates'.

Issue No.	Official FDC	Medal Winner	Sporting Discipline
1	N/A	Leonidas Sampanis	Weightlifting, men's 62kg.
2	17.08.04	Binis & Siranidis	Synchronised diving, 3m. Springboard.
3	18.08.04	Ilias Iliadis	Judo, men's 81kg.
4	22.08.04	Pyrros Dimas,	Weightlifting, men's 85kg.
5	22.08.04	Tsoufka & Bekatorou,	Sailing, women's 470.
6	23.08.04	Anastasia Kelesidou,	Discus, women's.
7	23.08.04	Polimeros & Skiathitis,	Men's lightweight double sculls.
8	23.08.04	Dimosthenis Tampakios,	Gymnastics, men's rings.
9	24.08.04	Athanasia Tsoumeleka,	Women's 20km. Walk.
10	24.08.04	Hrysopiya Devetzi,	Women's triple jump.
11	26.08.04	Kaklamanakis,	Sailing, mistral.
12	26.08.04	Artiom Kiouregkian,	Men's Greco-Roman 55kg.
13	26.08.04	Fani Halkia,	Women's 400m. hurdles
14	27.08.04	Women's Water polo.	Women's Water polo.
15	28.08.04	Mirela Manjani,	Javelin, women's
16	29.08.04	Elisavet Mystakidou,	Taekwondo, women's under 67kg.
17	30.08.04	Alexandros Nikolaidis,	Taekwondo, men's under 50kg.

Issue 1, Leonidas Sampanis, was not included in the official set of first day covers because production and sale was after the date that the stamp was withdrawn from sale.

Issue date of the stamp was 17.08.04.

Although not included in the official pack of first day covers, the Leonidas Sampanis issue can be found on cover with the special handstamp dated 17.08.2004.

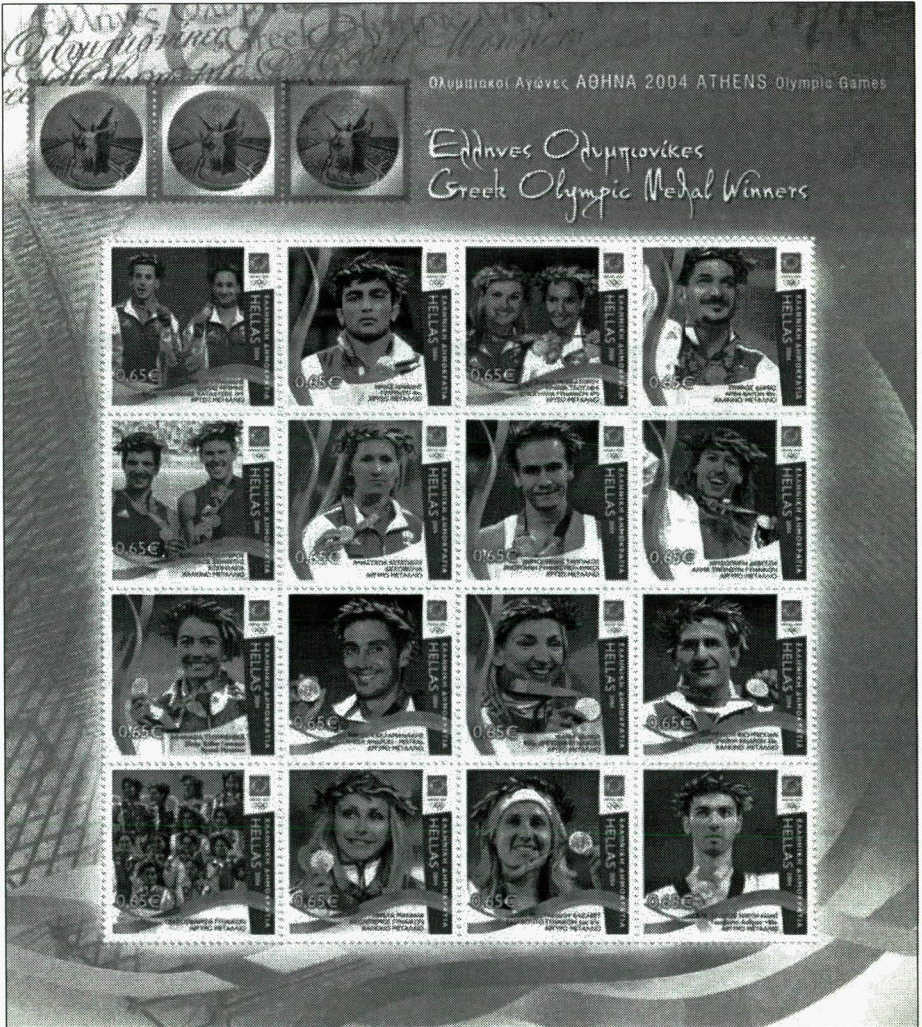
ELTA accepts philatelic items for cancellation with special handstamps for a period after the actual date of use.

The Leonidas Sampanis issue was withdrawn from sale, but remains valid for postal use. Requests with covers for cancellation franked with the issue were therefore accepted.

Composite Medal Winners Sheet

ELTA had announced their intention to issue a composite sheet containing a copy of all Medal Winner stamp designs issued.

The issued sheet obviously excluded the Leonidas Sampanis design.



'Proof' Medal Winners Sheetlet

ELTA had announced their intention to supply standing order customers with a sheetlet containing a proof design, used to trial the digital printing process.

The proof stamps are denominated as €0.00.

Sheetlets of ten proof stamps were made available to the philatelic market.



The design
of the proof
stamp shows
a Greek
20km walker,
from Moscow
1980



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