



TORCH BEARER



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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.

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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

"The International Olympic Committee has the honour of announcing that the Games of the 30th Olympiad in 2012 are awarded ... to the City of London!"

A sentence that change the landscape of East London, and undoubtedly raise the profile of our collecting theme in Great Britain.

In this issue you will find a continuation of our reports of material relating to the candidature of Paris, Moscow and London, together with details of the material that relates to the 117th. IOC Session in Singapore that led to the historic announcement above.

Unfortunately, you will also find details of one of the many fabricated items that will invariably flood onto the collector market. Please remember that such fabrications will only be produced if there is a market for them - please act responsibly and avoid completely spurious material.

This message is further reinforced by an article on the Deutsches Stadion cancellation - the authenticity of the material is not being questioned, purely the description, rarity and value attached to it. In both negotiation and purchasing, superior knowledge will always provide an advantage (regardless of whether you are buyer or seller).

Our hobby should not be viewed as an investment opportunity alone, purchases should be made considering a number of criteria, and if there is the opportunity to gain pleasure from our activities over a period of time without incurring losses on ultimate disposal / sale, the financial position should be considered a bonus - in short, become a knowledgeable, expert collector, not an amateur investor. You are far more likely to avoid financial losses if you achieve the knowledgeable position!

The award of the 2012 Olympic Games will obviously have an impact on our Society, and the Committee will be considering the way forward when we meet later in the year. You will be kept informed of any projects or plans through Torch Bearer.

Until the Organising Committee for the London 2012 Olympic Games is fully established and operational there will be a transition period when contact and progress is unlikely to yield any results, so we will all have to wait until early in 2006 to see what the future may hold.

One way in which all members can play a part on behalf of the Society, will be by trying to convert those members of the public who are suddenly showing enthusiasm for the London 2012 Olympic Games into Society members. This could be our opportunity to grow to the point where a regular colour journal could become a sustainable objective.

Of course, we were all brought back to earth with the horrendous news of initially disruption, and then the carnage and deaths caused by events the day following the award. How different things appeared in less than 24 hours!

THE "DEUTSCHES STADION" CANCELLATION

Manfred Bergman

"Blind men walk with canes, but not all men walking with canes are blind".

The German stadium built in 1912-1913 also had a specific site for a post office. This post office was operative for the first time in the afternoon of the inaugural day of the stadium - on the 8th. of June 1913. The special cancellation applied that day is extremely rare.



It is not my intention to explain its rarity, as this is the subject of another paper. My intention is to warn the collector about the horrendous and outrageous prices asked for this cancellation used on other dates, in particular on dates when no Olympic-connected events took place.

Let me briefly explain:

1. The special post office was not operative on every day - it was a temporary office used on many events that took place in the Olympic (German) stadium, on Sundays.

2. Many events that took place in the stadium were linked to the forthcoming (scheduled) Berlin 1916 Games. These were pre-Olympic competitions, with or without foreign participants, qualifying competitions - for the selection of participating athletes and national championships that counted as qualifying for the Olympic Games. At some of these events the special post office was operative (on Sundays) and, mail with the "GRUNEWALD - DEUTSCHES STADION", is certainly part of an Olympic collection.

- Here is the warning:** The post office was also open and used for mail when some non-Olympic events took place in the stadium. The mail received the "GRUNEWALD - DEUTSCHES STADION" cancellation, but the item had no relation whatsoever with Olympics. Being the case, the card or cover, though featuring the special cancellation, has no connection with the Olympic Games and should not figure in an Olympic collection. These items should not be described as Olympic items by auctioneers, dealers or collectors.
- 3.

Why this warning?

1. Normally, a small warning would be sufficient for the collector to be careful and just avoid acquiring such an item.
2. Unfortunately, it is not sufficient. In recent months two items were offered (see below) at outrageous prices. Collectors not being aware of the "trickery" may consider them as rare Olympic items and there is a risk of them being purchased as such. Later, such a collector will be very, very disappointed when told that the items are not Olympic ones and will result in a deduction of points if shown as such at exhibitions (or even disqualification).

How can one check?

1. One way to check is to consult the DOK, DEUTSCHE OLYMPIADE KALENDER, Volume 1, edited by AGON Sportverlag. Every Olympic event that took place in the stadium is mentioned and described. If the date of the cancellation corresponds to an Olympic event, it will be mentioned in the DOK and you may consider buying it as an Olympic item, but if the date does not correspond to an Olympic-linked event - just forget and tell the seller that you will think about the item (or the seller, for that matter).

The best way to check is with the "STADION

2. KALENDER" (für das Deutsche Reich) issued by the DRAfOS once or twice per month in 1913 and 1914 (Fig. 1).



Figure 1

The prices:

1. The prices asked today for a "STADION" cancellation (of 8.6.1913) vary from €4,500 to €6,500. This is already a very high price as we have already traced more than 30 of these cancellations, and more are still to be discovered. A price of €2,000 - 2,700 would be reasonable. However, it is a free market and if a collector is ready to pay those prices, he/she is welcome.
2. The price for a "STADION" Olympic-linked event ought to fetch between €1,300 and €1,700.
3. When it comes to the "STADION" cancellation used at a non-Olympic event, the Olympic collector should just ignore it. A sports collector may certainly be interested but, the price to be paid should not be more than €300 - 500.

What was recently offered?

(I shall not mention the sellers since they can ask whatever they want;) it is up to us as collectors to refuse or question the price - but we can certainly contest the description.

1. An illustrated postcard of the "STADION" with a "STADION" cancellation and a "CHARLOTTENBURG 2" transit cancellation (the two cancellations occur frequently). The date: 7.9.1913. On this date, as one can see from the STADION KALENDER, no Olympic-linked event took place at the stadium.

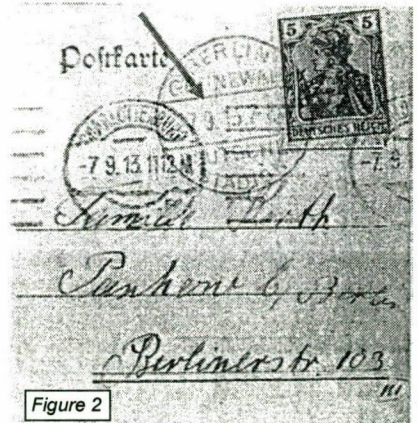


Figure 2

Stadion-Kalender

für das Deutsche Reich

Hilfliches Organ des Deutschen Reichsausschusses für Olympische Spiele
Berlin NW. 7, Schadowstrasse 8

Vertrieb: Amt Zentrum 3741 • Telegramm-Adresse: Kalendersport, Berlin

I. Jahr. Freitag, den 8. August 1913. No. 8.

Veranstaltungen im Deutschen Stadion.

Figure 2A

1913

- August 10. Garde-Füsilier-Regiment. Regiments-Sportfest.
- 28. Deutscher Radfahrer-Bund. Vorläufe zu den Rad-Weltmeisterschaften.
- September . . . 24. Deutscher Radfahrer-Bund. Rad-Weltmeisterschaften.
- 7. Hauptausschuss für Leibesübungen und Jugendpflege. Jugendspielfest.

2. The second offer, compared to the first, may be defined as more "reasonable". An illustrated post-card mailed from the "STADION" on the 19th. November, 1913, was offered at a starting price of €2,200. Well, it was not an Olympic-linked event. The text on the card proves it.

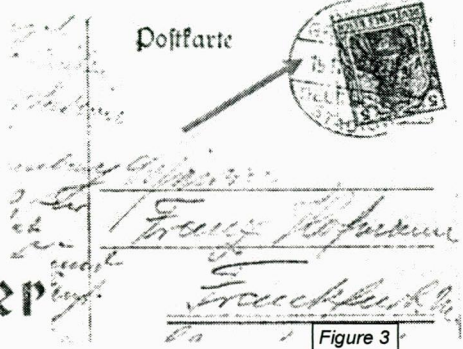


Figure 3

Again, good luck to the buyer. (Fig. 3). The event that took place on that day was a football match between Berlin and Hamburg (Fig. 3A).

Stadion-Kalender

für das Deutsche Reich

Hilfliches Organ des Deutschen Reichsausschusses für Olympische Spiele
Berlin NW. 7, Schadowstrasse 8

Vertrieb: Amt Zentrum 4751 • Telegramm-Adresse: Kalendersport, Berlin

I. Jahr. Freitag, den 14. November 1913. Nr. 11.

Figure 3A

Veranstaltungen im Deutschen Stadion.

1913

- November . . . 19. Verband Brandenburgischer Ballspiel-Vereine. Fussball-Wettspiel Berlin-Hamburg.

1914

- Februar 22. Deutscher Fussball-Bund. Kronprinzen-Pokal.

I sincerely hope that Olympic collectors will do more historical research before spending, irrationally, large amounts of money on items which are not Olympic at all, only praised / promoted as such by (I hesitate to use the correct adjective) sellers/ auctioneers.

"The Deutsches Stadion was intended for the Olympic Games but not all sports events at the Deutsches Stadion were Olympic".

NB. Both sellers know me very well. I suppose that my warning will not be taken graciously (at least not by one of them) and our "diplomatic" relations will suffer from it.

BOOK REVIEW - Chasing Gold

Chasing Gold – Centenary of the British Olympic Association by Nick Yapp

Published by the BOA; created and printed by Getty Images Publishing Projects

£24.99 plus £4.50 postage (special price to SOC members £19.99 plus postage – see Vol. 22, Issue 2, page 83 for order form).

This is an attractive book, 176 A4 pages with black and white or colour photos on virtually every page, covering the Olympic Games from 1896 to 2004. While the book concentrates on British achievement, some of the finest or most dramatic photographs are included for many of the Games together with a fascinating selection of background photos – like that of spectators in the trees on Wormwood Scrubs to get a better view of the 1908 marathon.

This is a coffee table book, and is not a wordy history of the BOA, nor a comprehensive record of British Olympic achievements over the past century. However it is accompanied by a CD-ROM setting out, in database format, details of all British Competitors, medallists and finalists. The disc is self-installing in Windows XP and offers easy and flexible searching. It also includes additional photographs from those in the book. Potentially an extremely useful reference disc, the very first searches I tried threw up errors and inconsistencies in the information for swimming and water polo for 1908: Paul Radmilovic is shown as a member of the 4 x 200 metres relay but is not credited with his gold medal, and several names are given for members of the water polo team that are not in the Official Report, nor in Mallon & Buchanan, and there are no sources or explanations given. This is very disappointing. The biographical information is also limited to date and place of birth although there are some photographs of more recent competitors in action. (Ian Buchanan's 'British Olympians' published in 1991 gives much more detail). Overall this is still a very useful disc, but it needs development and I hope the BOA will find the time and resources to turn a good database into an excellent one.

This is a worthy publication to have in any Olympic library, and it excels in its aim of publishing superb photographs of the Games. It is not however essential reading.

Bob Wilcock

117th Session of the IOC, Singapore, July 2005

Extracts from an e-mail sent by Cheong Fook Weng:

"London did a memorable & superb job in winning the bid to host the 2012 Olympics. I took leave from work on 5th & 6th July to prepare postcards and first day covers. I was there at the IOC venue, the Raffles City Convention Centre, amongst the huge crowd that had gathered there in front of a huge screen when the result was announced. The London bid was most impressive - the theme, presentation, and the unforgettable speech by Sebastian Coe. Before the actual announcement, the French supporters were very vocal & they shouted & cheered "Paris" in unison with their flags. The general feeling at that time was that Paris would be selected. There were a lot of British fans too but a bit quiet, silently hoping that London will beat the odds against the favourite Paris. Only one British fan shouted at the top of his voice "London" to drown the Parisian fans. It was hilarious whenever he shouted. When the announcement came, the whole London fans erupted with joy, including myself as I had wanted London to win. Truly a wonderful moment.

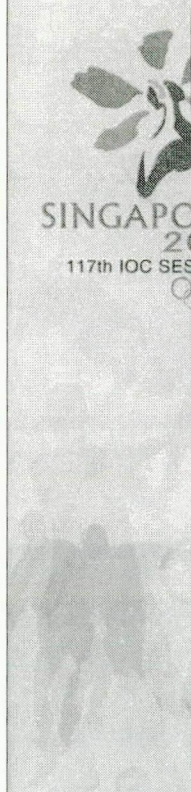
I arrived at the venue post office with a number of items prepared for mailing, including a small number of the candidature postcards issued by the British High Commission in Singapore. When I was having these postcards cancelled at the venue, many people (locals, tourists & British supporters) approached me to part with them. The interest in these postcards was overwhelming, especially after London won the bid. I had not expected them to be so sought-after! "

Stamps and Postmarks

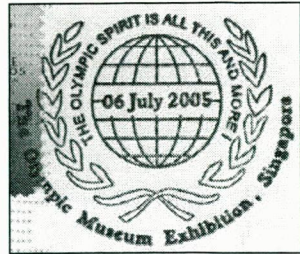
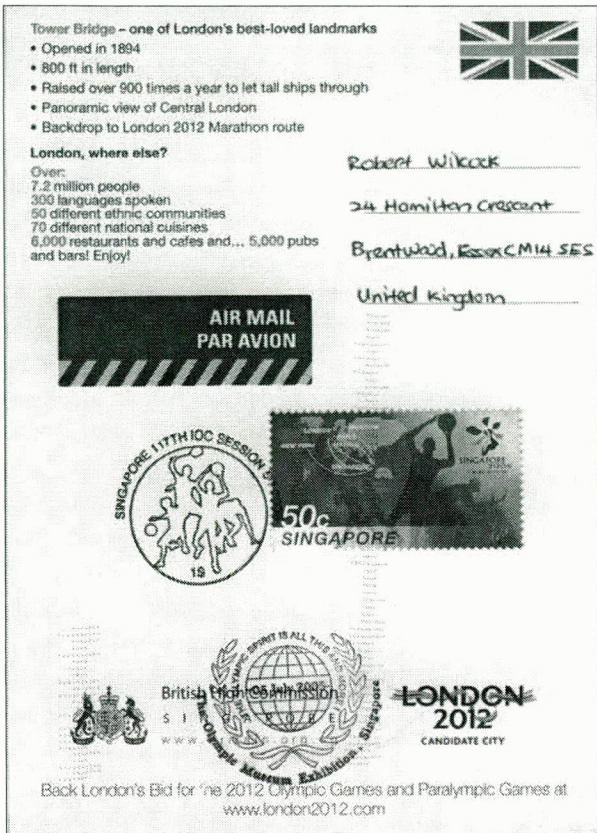
Singapore post issued a set of 4 stamps designed by Tze Ngan and printed in offset litho on unwatermarked paper, perf. 13. The basic issue is in sheets of 10 of each value but there are also two sheetlets of personalized stamps. These comprise 6 stamps, one each of the 1st Local and 50c values, and two each of the 60c and \$1 values. The first sheet has the IOC Session logo on the tabs, the second with "London 2012" on the tabs, printed on 6 July and released late on that day. The print run is reported as 10,000. The four stamps are also available in a Presentation Pack.



The stamps and first day postmark. There are several numbered dies of the postmark: seen are die 1S (black ink) and die 62 (dark grey ink)



The personalised sheets: above - IOC Session tab, right - London 2012 tab (with candidate cachets applied).



As well as the first day postmark there was also a postmark from The Olympic Museum Exhibition "Stamps and Olympics, An Intimate Relationship" sponsored by the Singapore Sports Council and held in the Singapore Philatelic Museum from 18 May to 18 August 2005. IOC/FIPO cachets were also available, struck in various colours (purple for London), one for each of the five candidate cities and one for the Selection of the host city at the 117th IOC Session. (These were also available at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne during the Collectors Fair in May).

London Host City Handstamp

SOC special handstamp for the Royal Mail London 2012 Host City issue of 5th August, 2005.

The SOC have sponsored a special handstamp as illustrated. The design has been finalised after satisfying Royal Mail that there was no infringement of intellectual property.

The stamp issue (illustrated on the front cover) was an addition to the 2005 programme, and notice for handstamps has not been possible resulting in an extension to the period for acceptance of covers mailed in to the centres for cancellation. At the time of writing, the extension is until 1st September, but as handstamp information has not yet been circulated it may be extended even further.



Slovak 2004 Olympic Medal Winners Booklet



Issued 5 November 2004, 6 self-adhesive stamps/miniature sheets in a long strip that folds into a booklet.

14sk Jozef Krnáč Silver, judo 60-66kg

8sk Jozef Gönci Bronze, shooting

10m air rifle

20sk Elena Kaliská Gold, K1 slalom

14sk Michal Martikán Silver C1 slalom

20sk Pavol & Peter Hochschornerovci Gold C2 slalom

8sk R & M Riszdorferovci, E Vlček, J Bača Bronze K4 1000m



British Olympic Association Centenary

It is perhaps appropriate that London was awarded the 2012 Games in this BOA's Centenary year. The actual centenary date was 24 May and two souvenirs are available:



1. The BOA's own meter on cover, with the 24 May date (21p value tablet)
2. SOC SmartStamp SS12 depicting the Centenary logo in colour on an envelope with the same logo. Though we say it ourselves, it is a most attractive envelope.

The envelopes are available as a pair for £2.50 plus postage (see the SmartStamp order form)



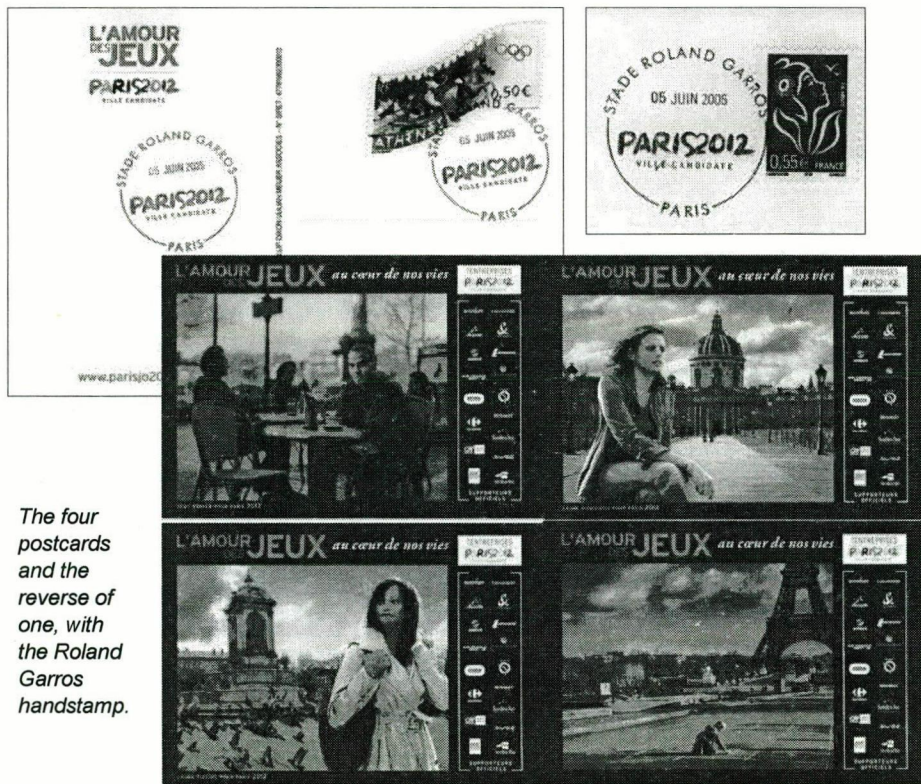
On Saturday 21 May the largest collection of British Olympians gathered together at the Royal Festive Hall to mark the Centenary of the British Olympic Association and to support the London 2012 Olympic Bid. Every living British Olympian was invited to attend the party and over 500 Olympians came together. At the end of the day, the Olympians gathered together for a group photo in Jubilee Gardens, in the shape of the number 100. (BOA photo).

PARIS 2012

Bob Wilcock

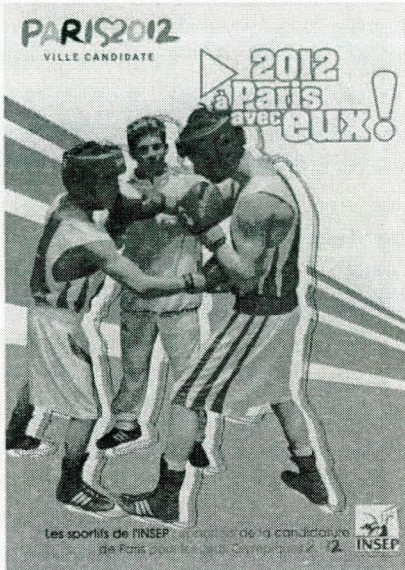
I must confess, I expected Paris to win, but I was not surprised that London secured the Games: they knew what Paris failed to learn in three attempts, that Olympic success requires effort, it requires the will to win and to beat the opposition. London also had and has the right philosophy: Paris sold Paris, London sold the Games. Paris certainly deserve congratulations for their superb Olympic weekend on the Champs- Elysées in June, but this was a bright spot in an otherwise lack-lustre campaign. The Paris web-site was not as bad as New York's, which was too high-tech for its own good, but was dull and uninformative compared with the London site which was lively, and conformed to the standards for access by the handicapped. The bitterness in the Paris press on 7 July was astonishing, and very, very sad.

For collectors, London 2012 and SOC had SmartStamps, and had an article on them published in Timbres magazine which hit the Paris news-stands a week before the vote (with a delightful caption in Franglais "Grande-Bretagne: ces timbres high tech qui font du lobbying"!). The London posters and postcards were lively and imaginative; the four Paris cards are sombre black and white, and they sell Paris and the sponsors, not the Games. They are of course still worth collecting if you can find them!



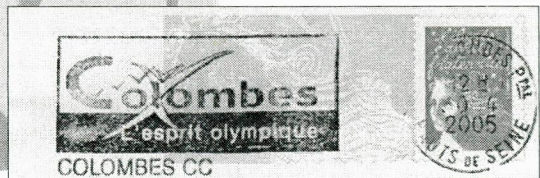
The four postcards and the reverse of one, with the Roland Garros handstamp.

In the last Torch Bearer (Vol. 22 Issue 2 p.61) we showed the booklet, and the slogan for the Roland Garros tennis with the Paris 2012 logo.



The handstamp for the tennis tournament also included the tennis logo. There were also three postcards from INSEP, the French Institute for Sport featuring boxing, gymnastics and judo medallists from Athens, and another postcard from Saint-Denis adjacent to the Stade de France, the proposed Olympic stadium (the card features a swimmer – the aquatic centre would also have been in the northern cluster).

Had Paris won, the old Olympic stadium at Colombes, used for the 1924 Olympics would have been rebuilt, and used as the venue for baseball and softball. Although not mentioning Paris 2012 directly, a slogan postmark has been in use "Colombes / L'esprit olympique" (Colombes / the Olympic spirit).



As well as the meter from Rouen, mentioned in the last Torch Bearer (p.61) there is a meter from Versailles, and from the sponsor Vedior Bis. There are also various window stickers and vignettes, including some issued by Paris 2012 with their monthly newsletter. Various sponsors have advertised their links to the bid on their stationery. The latest issue of the AFCOS Journal (No.36) has three full-colour A4 pages with collectables superbly illustrated and described by René Christin. For details and to obtain a copy, write to M. Jean-Pierre Picquot, 172 boulevard Berthier, 75017 Paris. The AFCOS web-site is also very informative on the Paris bid: www.afcos.org. The site also has details of AFCOS souvenirs for earlier Olympics and other sporting events.

London 1908 Water Polo – George Wilkinson

Bob Wilcock

In the last Torch Bearer (Vol. 22, Issue 2 p. 51) I sought identification of two sportsmen on postcards. Martin Leath has come up with near certain confirmation that the possible water polo player is George Wilkinson who was indeed a member of the British water polo team.

Martin has a photograph of the 1908 team. The player standing on the right is the only one with "ENGLAND" on his vest, and there is a tab sticking out from the side of the badge, just as in the photo of our individual competitor.



The postcard was published in Hyde, Cheshire, and reference to British Olympians by Ian Buchanan, published in 1991 shows that just one member of the team came from Hyde, George Wilkinson. Charles Smith, the 1908 captain and goalkeeper, seated, with the ball was a Lancastrian and member of the England team, but does not have "ENGLAND" on his vest.

Standing next to George Wilkinson is Paul Radmilovic who won a second Gold in 1908 as a member of the 4 x 200m relay swimming team (and golds in 1912 and 1920 for water polo). Martin identifies the other standing player as George Cornet. In addition to Charles Smith the seated players are Charles Forsyth, George Nevinson and Thomas Thould, but Martin is not able to say which is which.

George Wilkinson secured his first water polo gold at Paris in 1900 as one of the Osborne Swimming Club from Manchester, representing Great Britain. He moved to Hyde Seal Swimming Club in 1902. In 1908 the British team secured a bye in the first round and a walkover in the semi-final, so only played the one game, the final on 22 July. They beat Belgium by 9 goals to two, Wilkinson opening the scoring, and going on to score 4 goals in all. Wilkinson won his third gold in 1912 when he was captain, and he was reserve for the 1920 and 1924 Olympic teams. He won 24 caps for England, being captain on 4 occasions. He became a publican and was landlord of the Wheatsheaf Hotel in Hyde for many years. He died in Hyde in 1946 at the age of 67.

The other postcard shown in the last issue was of a gymnast. Martin came up with a suggested identity, but of a person somewhat older than the gymnast on the 1907 postcard. Other readers' suggestions would be most welcome.

2005 Collectors' Fair, Olympic Museum, Lausanne

SOC had a table at the fair from 14-16 May, manned by four committee members (Bob Farley, Bob Wilcock, David Buxton and John Crowther) and alongside the table of member Michael Berry. It was nice to meet a new member, Mr. Richard(?) Groseley, and members from France, Italy, Germany, and the USA, to chat, socialise and exchange material.



SOC did very well selling SmartStamps and other souvenirs, and quietly supporting the London 2012 bid, although former IOC President, Juan Antonio Samaranch was more interested in much earlier material when he visited the stand.



There was no SOC souvenir, and no special postmark this year, although a souvenir cover was available, to be postmarked with the Olympic Museum handstamp. Various supplementary cachets could be added, including cachets for the 2012 candidates.

As always it was a very enjoyable fair, and we hope to see even more members at the next one.

London 2012

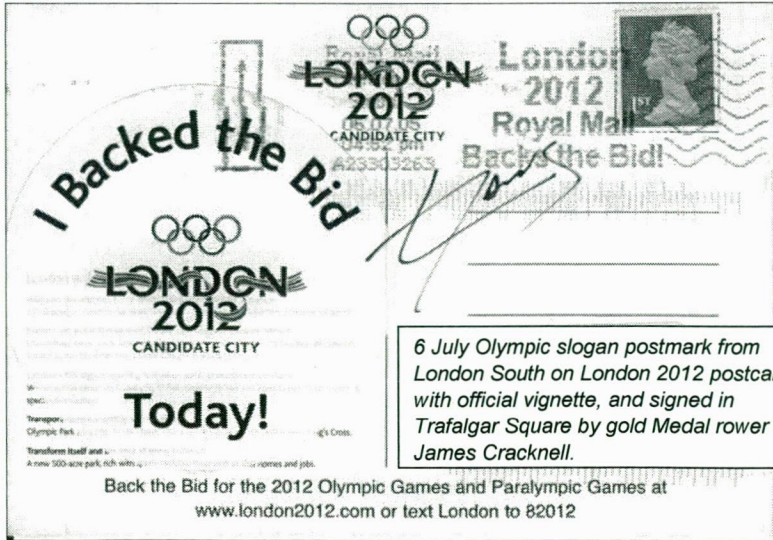
Bob Wilcock

6 July, first stop Stratford. Outside the station the crowd by the Countdown Clock were already being entertained by musicians from Newham's multi-cultural community. Inside, by the 'Newham Draw' display, tables were being set for a 'Thank You' reception and there were a couple of brochures available to pick up. It was quiet but you could feel a nice sense of anticipation. On then to Trafalgar Square where a fair-sized crowd was watching rehearsals for the lunchtime entertainment. Into the Post Office to post the Second Class covers with additional stamp to make first class for cancelling at the counter: if London were to come second to Paris, SOC at least had the perfect souvenir – except that the counter clerk showed a certain lack of effort in cancelling them! (Now they show that London was 2nd favourite but leapt up to First!)



Then we found a good spot in the now crowded square, to enjoy the entertainment, including of course the video accompanied by Heather Small's 'Proud'. As 12:46 approached the giant screens switched to Singapore. We knew it was just London and Paris, and there was a nervous impatience as the Singapore girl sang her song, not helped by the fact that the camera lingered on the crowd outside the *Mairie* in Paris.

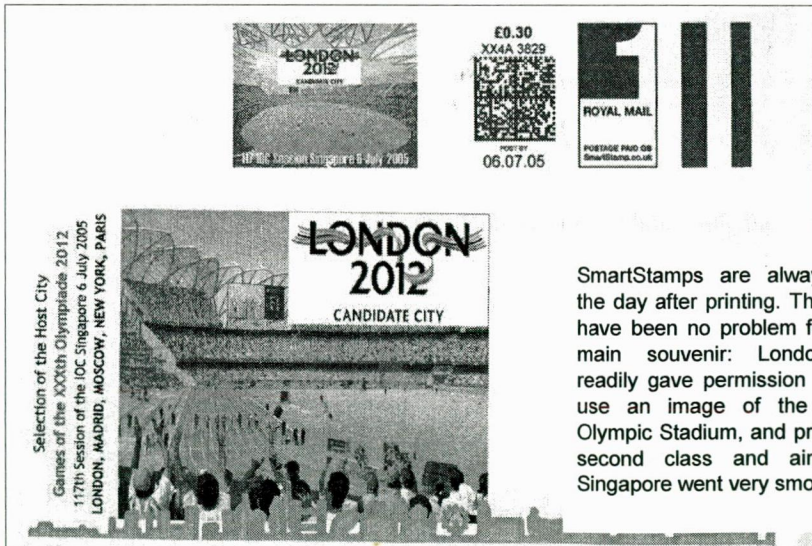
Finally at 12:49 Jacques Rogge came to the announcement: "The International Olympic Committee has the honour of announcing that the Games of the 30th Olympiad in 2012 are awarded ... to the City of London!" Trafalgar Square erupted, ticker-tape rained down, what a moment! Heather Small sang again the London 2012 anthem "Proud". Another huge cheer as the Red Arrows flew over, and as the excitement started to die down, what to do but to move to the steps of the National Gallery to prepare cards and covers for the Olympic slogan postmark. A short bus ride to Nine Elms and a manager confirmed that they had not received instructions to change the "Royal Mail Backs the Bid" slogan. Millions of items must have been posted there that day because the reserve machine was also in use and that did not have the Olympic slogan.



The Ink-Jet Slogan Postmarks

Due to have been withdrawn on 6 July, the Olympic slogans remained in use until 12 July at 3 of the 4 mail centres, London South, Greenford & Windsor, Watford, and until at least 20 July at Gatwick. The quality from Greenford is usually abysmal, and for at least part of the time on 6 July the jets for the top half of the die were blocked completely, so half impressions exist. Good copies do turn up occasionally!

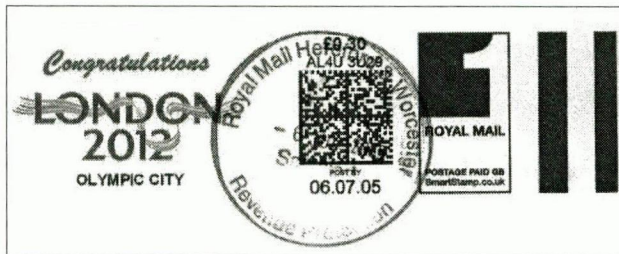
SmartStamps



SmartStamps are always dated the day after printing. This should have been no problem for SOC's main souvenir: London 2012 readily gave permission for us to use an image of the planned Olympic Stadium, and printing the second class and airmails to Singapore went very smoothly.

But then when the first class had been printed the account needed recharging and the Royal Mail computer was down! It came back on by 23:10 so the print run was completed. For the record, the second class and airmails to Singapore were printed on one machine and on labels, and the first class and airmails to Paris were printed on another machine and directly onto the envelopes. The cachets on the envelope are slightly different. The registered airmails to Singapore are on C5 envelopes. Just the three indicia were used, 2nd Class (103 copies), 1st Class (118) and Airmail (46 in total). Two 2nd Class were mis-sorted to Singapore and have neat wavy-line backstamps.

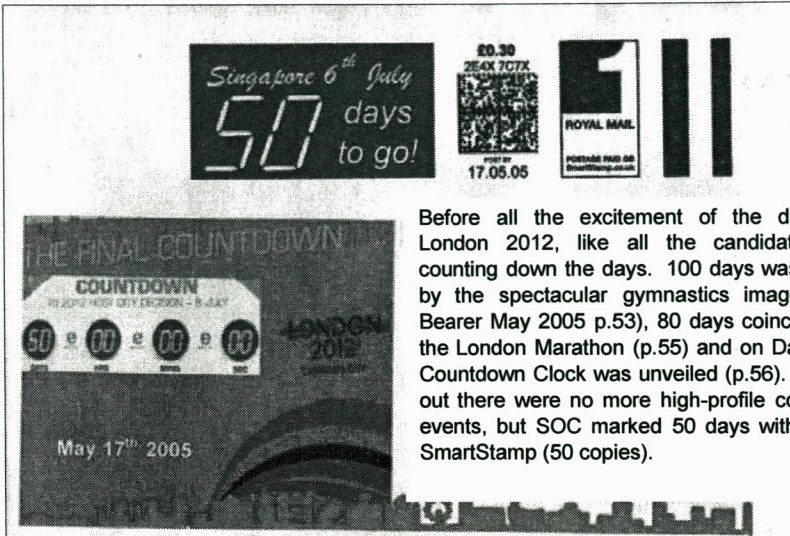
Congratulations!



On 5 July a gamble had to be taken – would it be Paris or London (or one of the others)? It was decided to hedge our bets – 10 covers were printed with SmartStamps congratulating London, and 10 for Paris which used a design showing the logo as photographed on the Town Hall. They legitimately are dated 6 July, the last one coming off the printer on the stroke of midnight on 5 July! All received a large red 'Revenue Protection' cachet dated 6 July. The Paris SmartStamp covers were posted, but given that Paris lost, the covers are not being released. They are mentioned here purely for the record. However as soon as the result was announced, some 60 'Congratulations London' were printed, and dashed to the Worcester Mail Centre. With SmartStamp dated 7 July, they all received a small red 'Revenue Protection' cachet dated 6 July as proof of posting on that day.



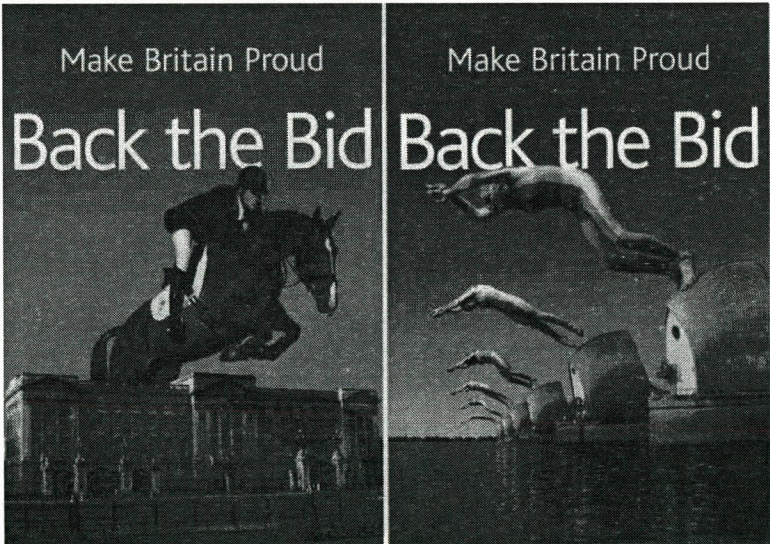
50 Days To Go!



Before all the excitement of the day itself, London 2012, like all the candidates, was counting down the days. 100 days was marked by the spectacular gymnastics image (Torch Bearer May 2005 p.53), 80 days coincided with the London Marathon (p.55) and on Day 75 the Countdown Clock was unveiled (p.56). It turned out there were no more high-profile countdown events, but SOC marked 50 days with another SmartStamp (50 copies).

There is an order form for all the SOC SmartStamps, London 2012 and others, on the back page of this Torch Bearer. Place your order with Bob Wilcock *now* – some have already sold out. (The good news is that existing sales, to members, and at higher prices to non-members, will keep down the subscription and help to finance a 2012 handbook in full colour.)

Postcards



A final printing of postcards took place in May. As anticipated, the image of Leslie Law leaping over Buckingham Palace was added to the range, and this card is being distributed with this Torch Bearer. All the images are vertical, and the text on the face has been changed to "Make Britain Proud / Back the Bid". The following table summarises the known cards:

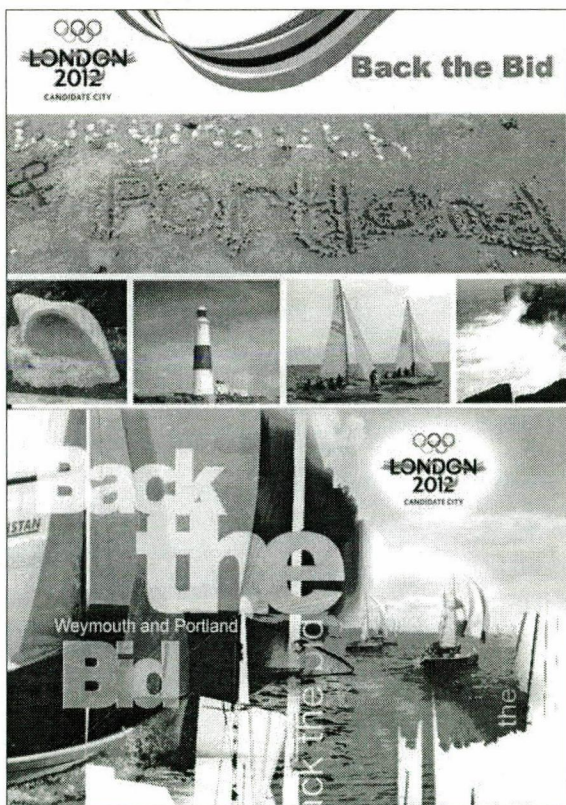
	Leap for London	Leap for London + Mission Statement	Boomerang Leap for London	Back The Bid	Proud
Tower Bridge	Horizontal	Horizontal	Vertical	---	Vertical
London Eye	Horizontal	Horizontal	Vertical	---	Vertical
Nelson's Column	Vertical	Vertical	Vertical	---	Vertical
Gherkin (Swiss Re)	Vertical	Vertical	Vertical	---	Vertical
Thames Barrier	Horizontal	Horizontal	---	Horizontal	Vertical
Buckingham Palace	---	---	---	---	Vertical

Singapore Postcards

In addition to the Buckingham Palace card shown in the last Torch Bearer (Vol.22 Issue 2, p.54) there is a card with the Tower Bridge image, and text about the bridge on the reverse. These were distributed by the British High Commission in Singapore into hotels and restaurants etc.

Weymouth Postcards

Thanks to our contact at London 2012 we were alerted to the issue of four superb A5 size cards by Weymouth and Portland Borough Council. We have obtained a small supply, and are pleased to distribute one card with Torch Bearer. The cards have been designed by students from Budworth Technology College, with images to represent Portland; Weymouth; Sailing; and the World Heritage Coastline, with a message on the reverse to highlight Weymouth and Portland's involvement within the London 2012 Bid as the yachting venue. For more information go to www.weymouth.gov.uk/democracy/spin/studentbackbid.asp?svid=26&svoid=241&svapid=3330



Vignettes



As well as the 5 basic vignettes and the "20/12 Day" vignette issued last December, there was a vignette given out by on-street canvassers "I Backed the Bid Today!" illustrated on the postcard at the start of this article. There was also a small one (25mm in diameter) issued by Weymouth Borough Council.

Phonecards

Without any announcement I was aware of the Post Office issued a third 'Back the Bid' phonecard, this time for £20, and with the Leslie Law / Buckingham Palace image. It may well be still available at a Post Office near you.



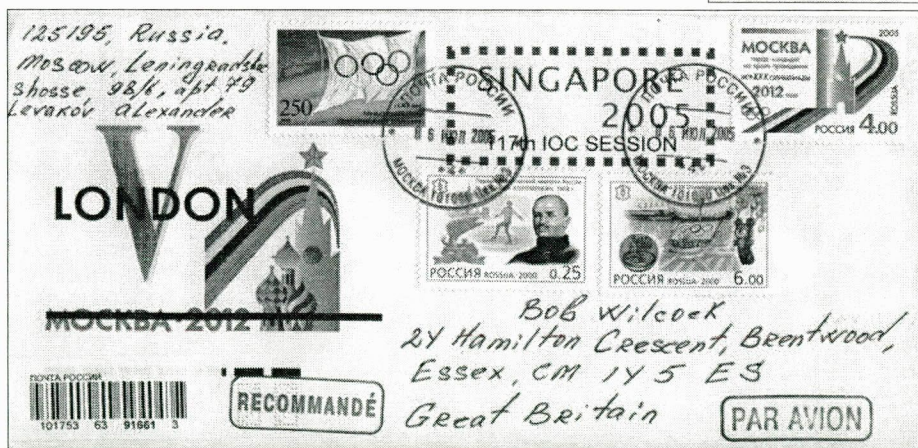
Official Merchandise

A full range of merchandise is available at www.themerchandisingshop.co.uk/2012/. Beware unofficial merchandise on eBay. The vendors are breaking the law and you may find yourself not receiving goods purchased if action is or has been taken against the vendor.

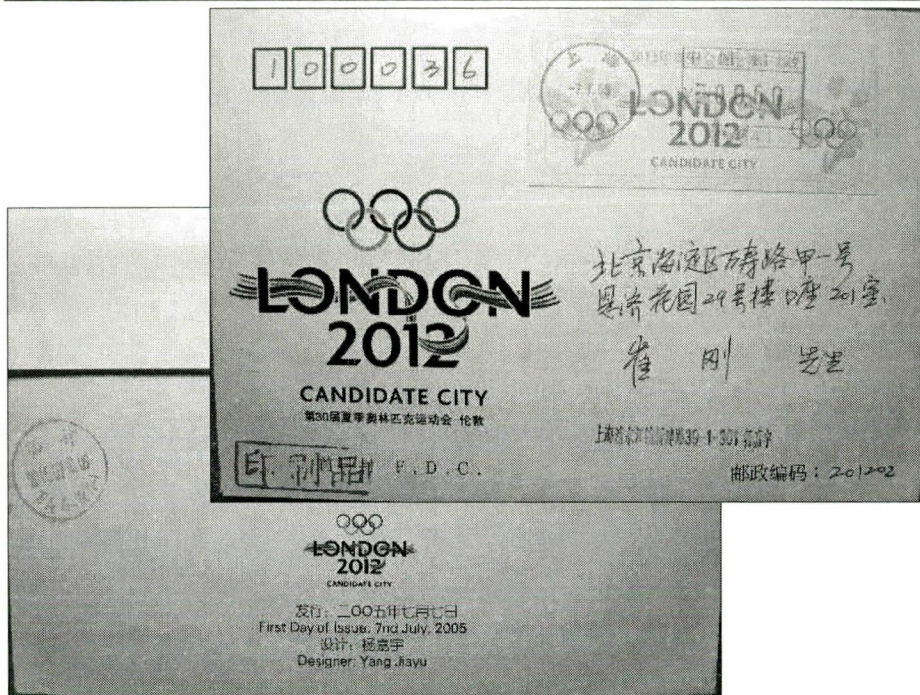
Moscow 2012

Bob Wilcock

Still no philatelic items are known from New York or Madrid, but Russia issued a stamp in support of Moscow's bid on 5 May 2005. SOC member Alexander Levakov sent a spectacular cover for 6 July. The cover also bears stamps depicting 1908 Olympic ice skater Nicolai Panin-Kolomenkin and the Lenin Stadium and Mischa commemorating the 1980 Games held in Moscow.



LONDON 2012 - CHINESE FABRICATIONS



The illustrated cover appeared on an internet auction shortly after London was selected as host city for the 2012 Olympic Games.

Described as 'rare', 'limited edition' etc.

From even minimal inspection it can be seen that the Olympic elements of the cover are limited to:

- Printing on the envelope (clear and blatant infringement of the Bid Committee rights).
- Printing of the London 2012 logo onto a backing paper which has been used to receive the postage meter impression, displaying similar infringement.

The cover appears to bear a transit mark, so it may have actually travelled (more likely there is a friend in the Post Office or the 'manufacturer has access to a hand cancel).

The first offering, at a starting bid of \$4.99, and postage of \$2,50 achieved more than three times that level, although subsequent listings do not appear to be so eagerly sought after (strange when there must have been interested under-bidders on the first offering).

The same vendor now offers a similar cover adorned with the IOC Session logo.

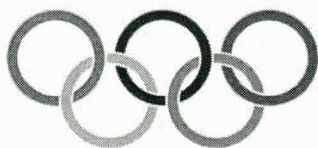
Please do not do anything to encourage such fabrications by attaching a value to them. There is already more than enough modern material for us to try and collect / document!!

Congratulations!



LONDON
2012

CANDIDATE CITY



LONDON
2012

HOST CITY

The World of Olympic Stamp Issues



Åland

Issue date 13/8/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

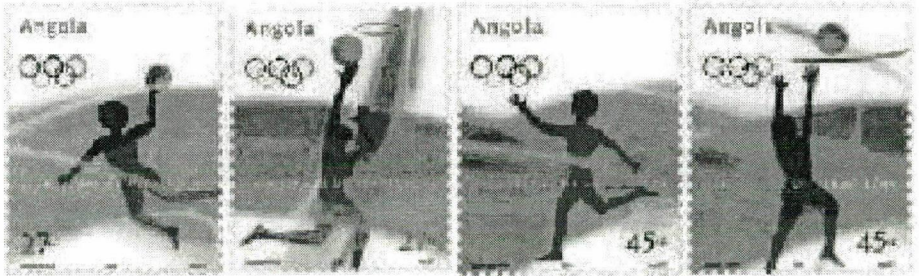
80c., Panhellenic Stadium, Athens.

Andorra (French)

Issue date 9/08/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

90c., Sprinter, swimmer.



Angola

Issue date 30/9/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

Kz27., Handball Kz27., Basketball Kz45., Running Kz45., Volleyball.

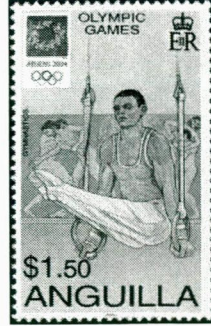


Armenia

Issue date 17/2/2005

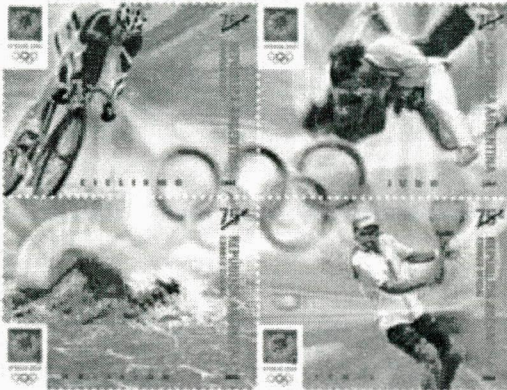
Olympic Games - Athens 2004

D 70, D 170, D 350



Anguilla

Issue date 20/9/2004
 Olympic Games - Athens 2004
 30c., Running.
 \$1.00, Sailing.
 \$1.50, Gymnastics (rings).
 \$1.90, Athens, De Coubertin, Vikelas



Argentina

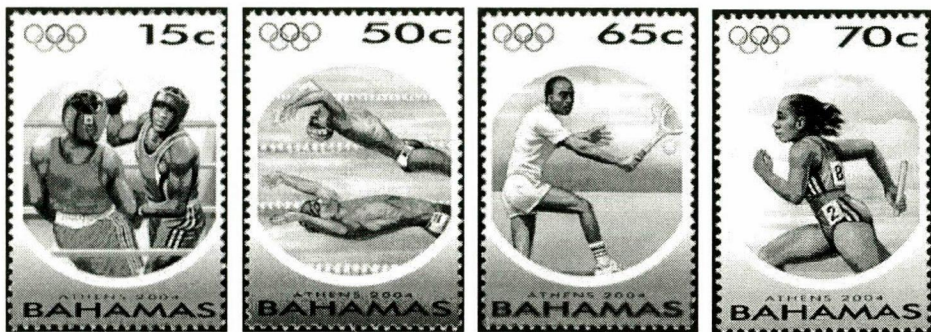
Issue date 7/08/2004
 Olympic Games - Athens 2004
 75c., Cycling.
 75c., Judo.
 75c., Swimming.
 75c., Tennis.

Printed as a se-tenant block of four.



Australia

Issue date 3/8/2004
 Olympic Games / Paralympic Games- Athens 2004
 50c., Swimming; \$1.65, Sprinting; \$1.65, Disabled cycling.



Bahamas Issue date 24/8/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

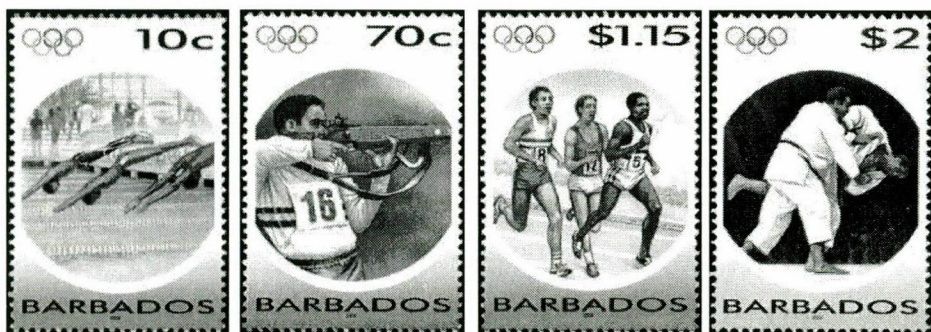
15c., Boxing; 50c., Swimming; 65c., Tennis; 70c., Relay runner.



Bahrain Issue date 13/8/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004 - Miniature Sheet

100f., Shooting; 150f., Sailing; 200f., Swimming; 250f., Running.



Barbados Issue date 16/8/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

10c., Swimming; 70c., Shooting; \$1.15, Running; \$2.00, Judo.



Belarus

Games of the XXVIII Olympiad

Issue date: 13 July 2004

Designer: Victor Starukhin

Perforation: 14 x 14.25, comb

Size: 40 x 28 mm.

Sheets of 18 stamps (3 x 6).

First Day postmark (left) in red.



320 BYR., Cycling



505 BYR., Hammer throwing



870 BYR., Tennis

Belarus

At the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad in Athens, Belarus sportsmen and women won 15 medals. 2 gold, 6 silver and 7 bronze.

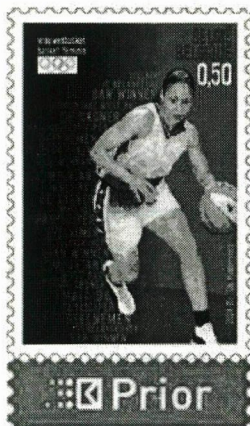
Issue date: 7 October 2004. Designer: Ivan Lukin. Perforation: 13.75 x 13.50, comb.

Sheet size: 103 x 73 mm. Quantity printed: 25,000. First Day postmark (above) in red.

500 BYR., Yuliya Nesterenko - women's 100m Olympic champion.

500 BYR., Igor Makarov - Olympic champion in judo.





Belgium

Issue date 12/07/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

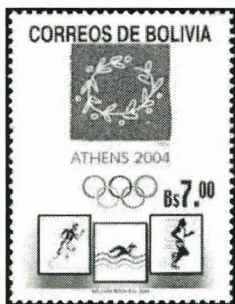
50c., Basketball.

55c., Cycling.

60c., Pole vault.

Miniature sheet

80c., Torch.



Bolivia

Issue date 8/11/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

B1.50, Logo, shooting, judo, gymnastics.

B7.00, Logo, running, swimming

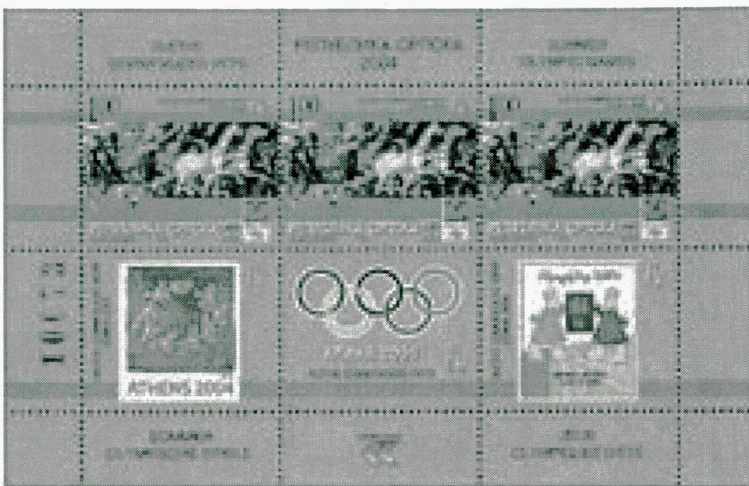


Bosnia - Herzegovina (Serbian) Issue date 12/07/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004 - Architectural monuments

50f., Discus. 50f., Hurdles. M1.00, Sprinters.

Printed as sheetlets of 8 stamps with 1 central label.



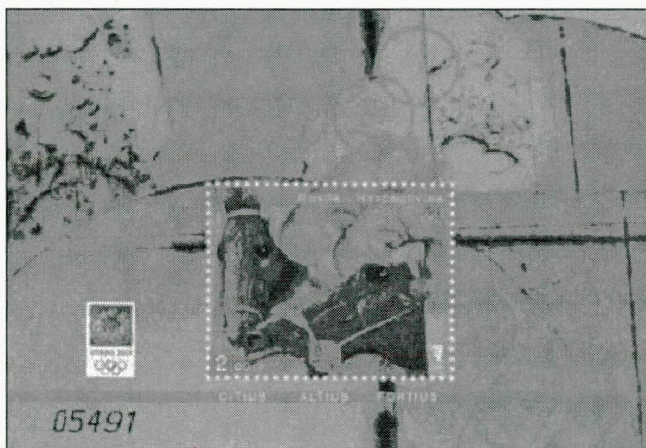
Bosnia - Herzegovina (Serbian) Issue date 12/07/2004

Miniature sheet - individually numbered.

Olympic Games - Athens 2004 - Olymphilex 2004

3 x M1.00, Runners and horses.

Sheet contains 3 stamps and 3 labels



Bosnia - Herzegovina

Issue date 5/07/2004

Miniature sheet -
individually numbered.

Olympic Games -
Athens 2004

2.00Km., Horses.

British Virgin Islands

Issue date 30/12/2004

FIFA Centenary / Olympic Games - Athens 2004

75c: Women's Football, \$1.00: Sprinter.





Bulgaria

Issue date 5/08/2004

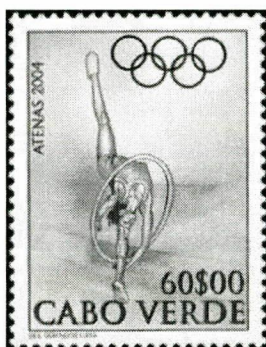
Olympic Games - Athens 2004

0.10 Leva: the route of the Berlin 1936 torch.

0.20 Leva: the route of the Munich 1972 torch.

0.45 Leva: the route of the Moscow 1980 torch.

0.80 Leva: the route of the Athens torch 2004.

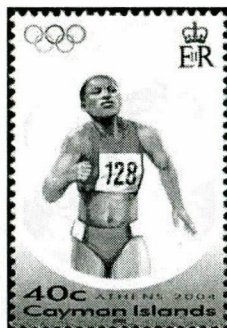


Cape Verde Islands

Issue date 13/8/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

10\$00, Judo; 60\$00, Rhythmic gymnastics; 100\$00, Boxing.

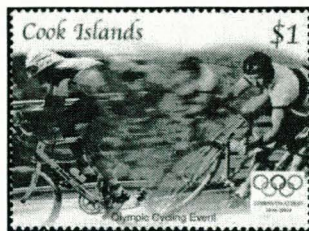


Cayman Islands

Issue date 23/08/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

15c., Swimming; 40c., Running; 60c., Long jump; 80c., Swimming.



Cook Islands

Issue date 29/09/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

The XXVIII Modern Olympic Games

When the traditions and spirit of the Olympic Games was resurrected at the end of the 19th century, the first modern Games were held in Athens in 1896, and 14 nations participated in forty-three events, the next Olympic Games to be held in Athens were in 2004, when approximately 200 nations participated at the Games.

The multicoloured designs of the stamps represent the spirit and traditions of the Games.

The 40c shows the multicoloured modern art poster representing the 1992 Barcelona Games. The 60c in contrast, shows traditional ancient Greek art depicting pancration, a combination form of boxing and wrestling. The \$1.00 depicts the popular modern sport of cycle racing, added to the modern Games. The \$2.00 shows the gold medal of the 1936 Berlin Games, when the tradition was introduced of carrying the lighted torch from the Olympiad to the opening ceremonies of the Games.



Cyprus - Turkish Issue date 1/8/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

TL300,000, Sailing, basketball;

TL300,000, Boxing, equestrian.

TL500,000, Weightlifting, gymnastics; TL500,000, Canoeing, tennis.

Each value printed as se-tenant pairs.



China-Taiwan

Issue date 22/10/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004 Medal Winners

NT\$ 5.00: NT\$ 5.00: NT\$ 9.00: NT\$ 12.00:

At the Athens 2004 Olympics, athletes from Taiwan secured two gold medals and a silver medal in Taekwondo, as well as a silver medal for the men's team in archery and a bronze medal for the women's team.

Designs feature the Taekwondo and archery events in which the ROC won medals, as well as the awards ceremony.

At the Athens 2004 Olympics, the female Taekwondo contestant Chen "Lioness' Roar" Shih-hsin won the first-ever Olympic gold for the ROC. The male Taekwondo contestant Chu "Shadowless Feet" Mu-yen won the nation's second Olympic gold, and his teammate Huang Chih-hsiung won a silver medal.

In archery, the ROC won a men's team silver and a women's team bronze. It was the ROC's best showing ever at the Olympics.



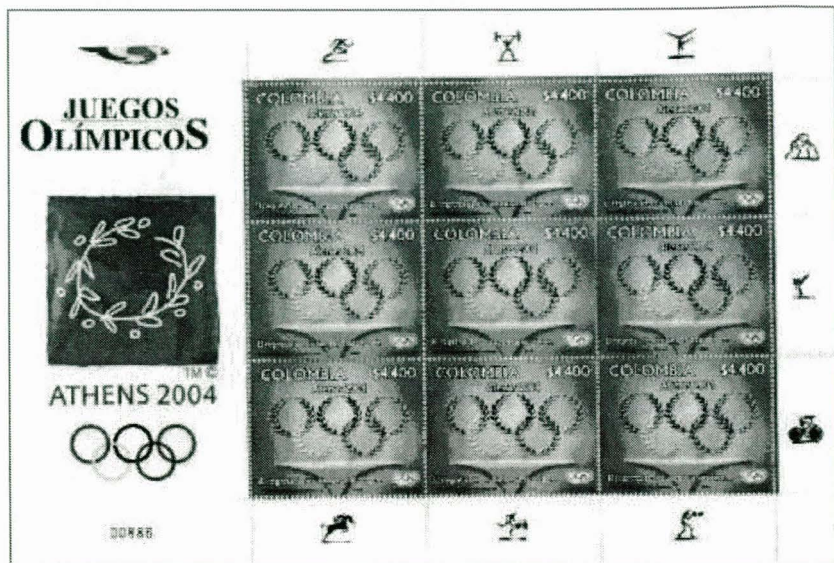
Costa Rica Issue date 1/07/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

120Col., Boxing, soccer, gymnastics. 120Col., Javelin, hurdles, cycling.

120Col., Rhythmic gymnastics, gymnastics, fencing. 120Col., Taekwondo, archery.

Printed as se-tenant strip of 4 stamps.



Colombia - Miniature sheet

Issue date 5/08/2004 Olympic Games - Athens 2004

\$4.40, Wreaths as Olympic rings in front of flame.

Sheet contains 9 copies of the stamp with Athens 2004 logo in left margin.



Croatia

Issue date 13/8/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

3.50K., "Discobolus".

Printed in sheetlets of 9 stamps and 1 label (high jumper).

Ecuador

Issue date 3/08/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

USD 1.05, Athens 2004 logo, mascots.

USD 1.05, Female athlete, logo.

Printed as se-tenant pair.



Cyprus

Olympic Games - Athens 2004, Issue date: 10/6/2004



Cyprus

Willpower, Issue date: 03/03/2005 (value from a general commemorative set).

On 3 March Cyprus issued a stamp to commemorate Katherina Pelendritu's Paralympic Gold in Athens.

First day cancel is a Paralympic symbol.



Egypt

Issue date 13/8/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

30p., Athens 2004 logo.

150p., Athens 2004 logo.

Estonia

Issue date 15/07/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

K8.00, Stylised ancient torch bearer.



Fiji

Issue date 28/07/2004

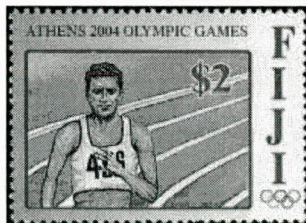
Olympic Games - Athens 2004

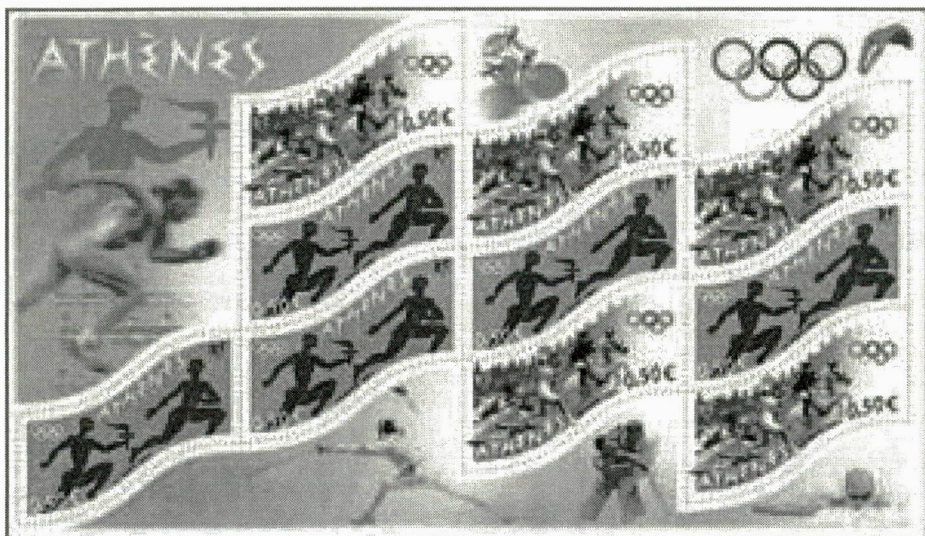
41c., Swimming.

58c., Judo.

\$1.41, Weightlifting.

\$2.00, Athletics.



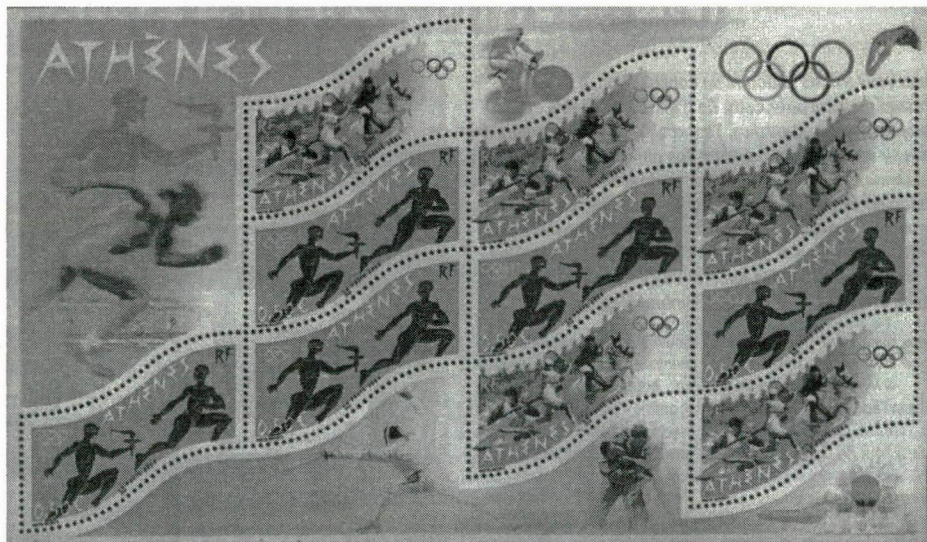


France Issue date 26/6/2004

Miniature sheet

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

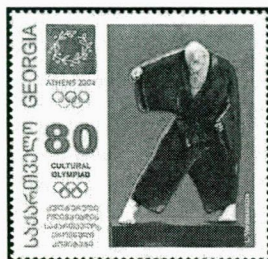
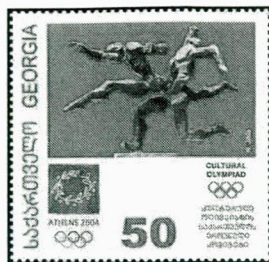
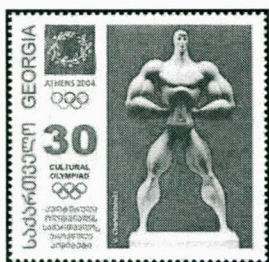
5 x 50c., Ancient relay runners; 5 x 50c., Canoeing, tennis, equestrian.



France Issue date 26/6/2004 **Error on Miniature sheet**

Missing value on all copies of the modern sports design.

5 x 50c., Ancient relay runners; 5 x ??c., Canoeing, tennis, equestrian.



Georgia

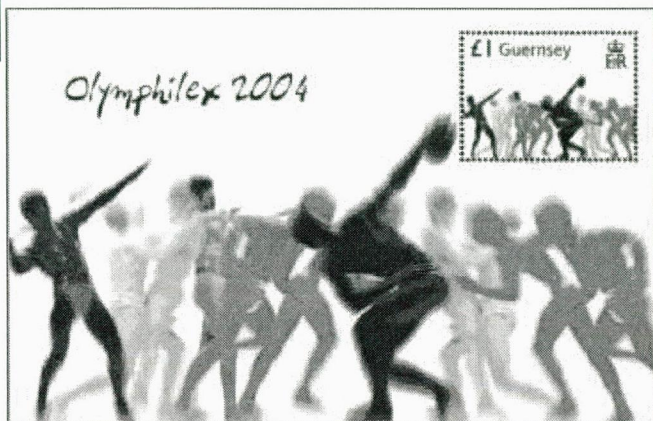
Issue date 5/11/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

20t., 30t., 50t., 80t. - Sports sculptures.

Guernsey

Miniature sheet
£1.00, Figures
representing various
sports.
Olympihlex 2004 in
margin.



Guernsey Issue date 29/07/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

32p., Discus; 36p., Javelin; 45p., Running; 65p., Wrestling.



Hong Kong

Miniature Sheet Issue date 7/10/2004

'Heartwarming Stamp' Sheet. 16 commemorative labels.

The Hong Kong Team won the Silver Medal in the Men's Table Tennis Doubles at the XXVIII Olympic Games, Athens, Greece. Mr. KO Lai-chak and Mr. LI Ching secured the first Olympic medal for Hong Kong SAR since re-unification with China. To commemorate the event, Hongkong Post issued the "Heartwarming Stamps" Mini-pane and Souvenir Cover.

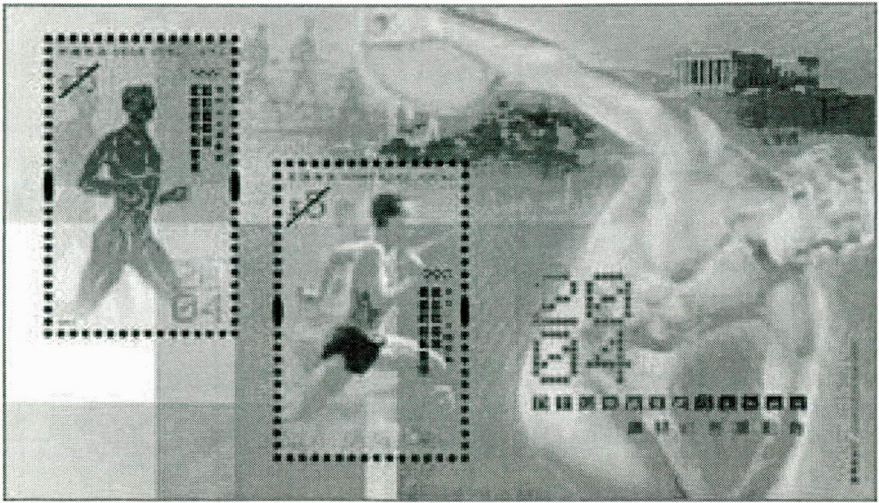
The Mini-pane Contains 16 "Heartwarming Stamps" with 'Celebration' design, and indication of local postage. Labels attached to each stamp depict photos of the Men's Table Tennis Doubles Silver Medallists at the 2004 Olympic Games, Mr. LI Ching and Mr. KO Lai-chak.



Hungary Issue date 13/07/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

F90, 'Canoeing'. F130, 'Ball game'. F150, 'Runners'.



Hong Kong Issue date 13/8/2004
 Olympic Games - Athens 2004
 Miniature Sheet: \$5, Ancient runner; \$5, Modern runner.

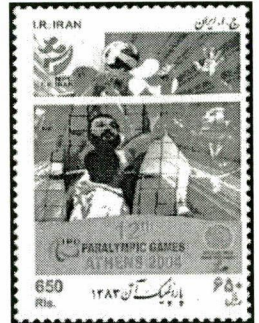


India Issue date 13/8/2004
 Olympic Games - Athens 2004
 R5.00, Wrestling;
 R5.00, Long jump;
 R15.00, Shooting;
 R15.00, Hockey.



Iran

Issue date 12/8/2004
 Olympic Games - Athens 2004
 R650, Taekwondo;
 R650, Weightlifting;
 R650, Wrestling;
 R650, Judo.
 Printed in se-tenant blocks of four, with non-denominated labels in the sheet.

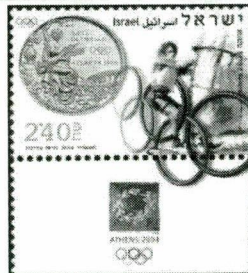


Iran

Issue date 17/9/2004
 12th Paralympics - Athens 2004
 R650, Volleyball.

Ireland

Issue date 22/07/2004
 Olympic Games - Athens 2004
 48c., Javelin.
 60c., Discobolus.



Israel Issue date 6/07/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004 - Architectural monuments
 NIS1.50, Judo, Barcelona medal. NIS2.40, Wind surfing, Atlanta medal.
 NIS6.90, Kayak, Sydney medal.
 Printed in sheets of 15 (5 x 3), 5 stamps in each sheet with tabs.



Jamaica Issue date 24/8/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

\$30, Hurdles; \$60, Running; \$70, Swimming; \$90, Badminton, shooting.



Japan

Issue date 6/08/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

Y80, Cauldron and entrance to
Olympia stadium.

Y80, Athens 2004 logo.
Printed as se-tenant pair.

Kazakhstan

Miniature sheet

Issue date 28/07/2004

Olympic Games -

Athens 2004

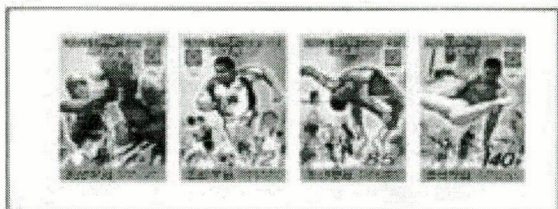
T70, Boxing.

T115, Shooting.





Kiribati Issue date 12/07/2004
 Olympic Games - Athens 2004
 25c., Runners. 50c., Taekwondo. 60c., Weightlifting. 75c., Sprinter.



Korea-North Miniature Sheet and Booklet
 Issue date 10/8/2004 Olympic Games - Athens 2004
 Miniature Sheet 2 x 4 stamps; 30,000 (perf), 2,000 (imperf)
 Booklet: 4 stamps; 1500 (perf), 500 (imperf)
 3 won: Boxing; 12won: Soccer; 85won: High jump; 140won: Gymnast.

Korea-North Miniature Sheet and Booklet

Issue date 20/12/2004

Winners at the Olympic Games - Athens 2004

Miniature Sheet 2 x 4 stamps; 2500 (perf), 600 (imperf)

Booklet: 4 stamps; 250 (perf), 150 (imperf)

The names of Olympic Winners overprinted on Olympic Games sheetlet issued 10 /8/2004.

3won: Boxer Mario Cesar Kindelan Mesa, Cuba

12won: Argentine soccer team

85won: High jumper Yelena Slesarenko, Russia

140won: Gymnast Teng Haibin, China

Korea-South

Issue date 13/08/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

190 won: The Acropolis and
the ancient Olympic Games



Latvia

Issue date 14/8/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

30s., Ancient wrestlers.

Lithuania

Issue date 31/7/2004

Olympic Games - Athens
2004

Lt2.00, Modern pentathlon,
riding.

Lt3.00, Rowing, double
scull.



Moldova

Issue date 28/12/2004 Olympic Games - Athens 2004

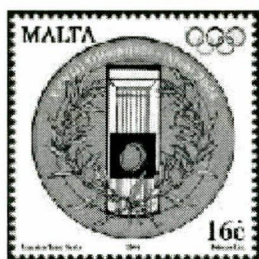
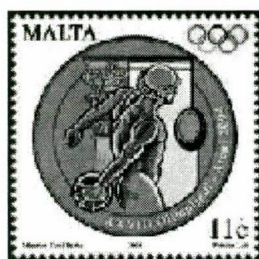
40b., Boxing. 4.40L., Weightlifting.



Macau Issue date 30/07/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

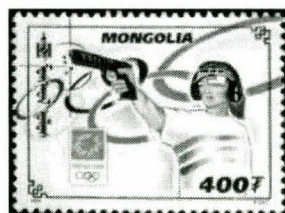
P1.00, Running. P1.50, Long jump. P2.00, Discus, P3.50, Javelin.



Malta Issue date 13/8/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

11c., Discus; 16c., Victors wreath; 76c., Javelin.



Mongolia

Issue date 13/8/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

T100, Judo;

T200, Wrestling;

T300, Boxing;

T400, Shooting.

Namibia

Issue date 3/08/2004

Olympic Games -

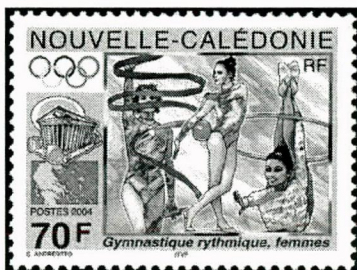
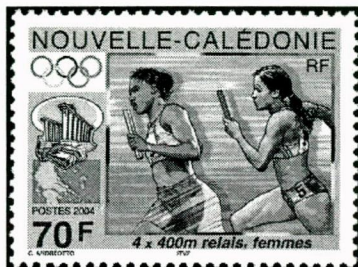
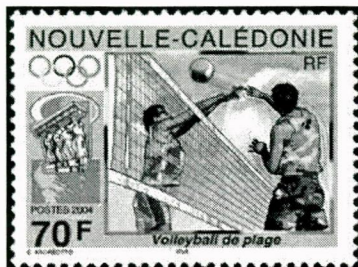
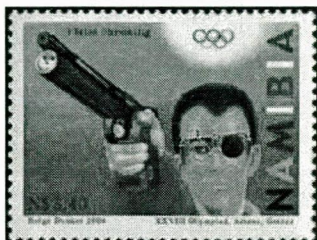
Athens 2004

Standard Mail, Wrestling.

N\$2.90, Boxing.

N\$3.40, Pistol shooting.

N\$3.70, Mountain bike.



New Caledonia

Issue date 6/08/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

70F., Beach volleyball.

70F., Relay race.

70F., Rhythmic gymnastics.



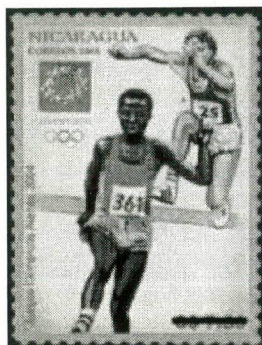
Nigeria

Issue date 18/08/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

N50, Running;

N120, Basketball.



Nicaragua

Issue date 13/08/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

7.50Cor., Steeplechase; 10.00Cor., Swimming; 12.00Cor., Shooting.

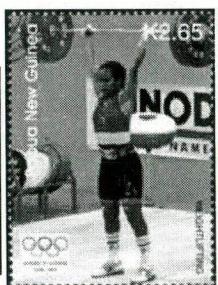


Pakistan

Issue date 13/8/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004 Se-tenant strip of 4 stamps

4 x Rs. 5.00, Running; Boxing; Hockey; Wrestling.



Papua and New Guinea

Issue date 11/8/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

70t., Swimming. K2.65, Weightlifting. K2.70, "Torch bearer". K4.60, "Athlete".



Philippines Issue date 13/8/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

P6, Shooting; P17, Taekwondo; P21, Swimming; P22, Archery.

Miniature Sheet, P22, Boxing.



Poland - Miniature sheet

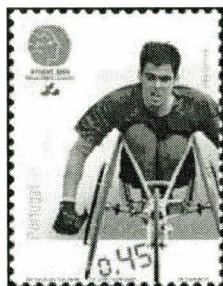
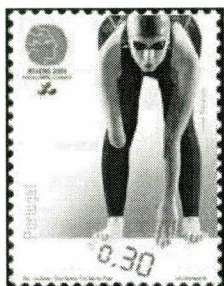
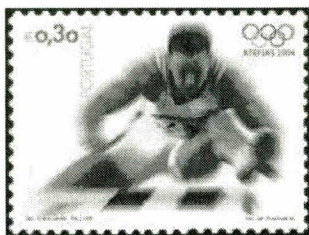
Issue date 2/8/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

Z1 1.25, Boxing; Z1 1.25, Long jump; Z1 1.25, Equestrian; Z1 1.25, Wrestling.

Remember the Society International Packet when disposing of your duplicate material. - The Packet Manager is accepting lots for the next circuit now.

Portugal
 Issue date 13/8/2004
 Olympic Games - Athens 2004
 €0.30, Hurdles;
 €0.45, High jump.



Portugal
 Issue date 2/9/2004
 Paralympic Games - Athens 2004
 30c., Swimming, 45c., Wheelchair race, 56c., Cycling, 72c., Sprinting.



Rumania Issue date 20/8/2004
 Olympic Games - Athens 2004
 7000L., Rowing; 12000L., Fencing; 21000L., Swimming; 31000L. + 9000L., Gymnastics.

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



Russia Issue date 20/07/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

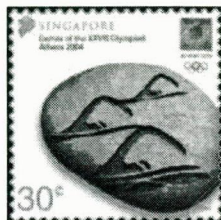
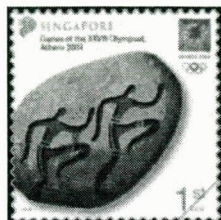
R3.00, Running. Vignette (no postal value). R8.00, Wrestling.

Printed as a se-tenant strip of 2 stamps and 1 label.

Russia Issue date: 5/5/2005

Moscow - Candidate city to host the Olympic Games 2012

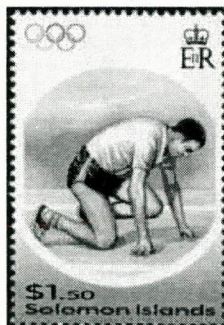
R 4.00, 'Ribbon' and stylised design.



Singapore Issue date 13/8/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

1st., Running; 30c., Swimming; \$1, Weightlifting; \$2, Sailing.



Solomon Islands Issue date 13/8/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

\$1.50, 'The start'; \$2.00, 'The race'; \$2.20, 'Breasting the tape';

\$10.00, Solomon Islands flag and Olympic Rings.



Slovakia

Issue date: 31/3/2005
 Paralympic Cycling - Radovan Kaufman
 22Sk., Cycling.

Adapted from an information release by Ján Riapoš.

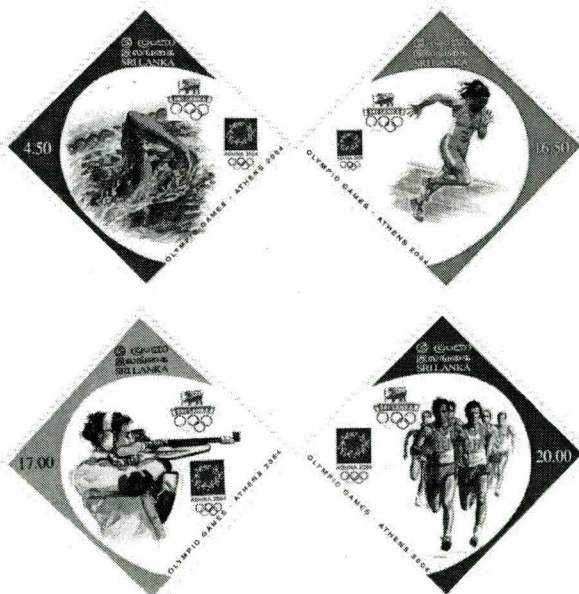
For the first time in the history of the Slovak Republic a stamp with a paralympic theme has been issued. Slovak paralympic athletes have for many years been successful at world events and they deserve such an honour.

They have taken part at six Paralympic Games since Slovakia became an independent country (3 summer and 3 winter games) and they have secured 60 medals, 10 of which were gold. Most successful sports have been Table Tennis, Skiing, Athletics and Cycling.

The stamp depicts deceased cyclist Radovan Kaufman during his winning performance in the 1 km sprint at the Paralympic Games Sydney 2000. A native of Partizánske, as a result of cancer, he suffered amputation on his right leg in 1994 and in 2002 he underwent amputation of his left scapula.

In addition to his gold medal from Sydney 2000 he triumphed during the World Championship in 1998 held in Colorado Springs where he achieved a World record. He also obtained Silver and Bronze medals from these championship in other disciplines, and from the European Championships in 1999. He passed away on June 19th 2003 at 25 years of age.

In his honour, the Slovak Paralympic Committee organized their third annual campaign in Slovakia called "On wheels against cancer". The point being to use non-powered vehicles over a substantial distance. Fund-raising profits will be assigned to purchase a 'Wave System'. The 'Wave System' is a medical device used for the prevention of cancer.



Sri Lanka

Issue date 6/08/2004
 Olympic Games - Athens 2004
 R 4.50, Swimming.
 R16.50, Running.
 R17.00, Shooting.
 R20.00, Distance running.



South Africa Issue date 13/8/2004
 Olympic Games - Athens 2004 - NVI Standard Postage

Celebrating a World of Sports

South Africans are passionate about their sport and to celebrate this, the South African Post Office issued a set of 10 stamps on 13 August 2004.

Boxing: South Africa has won a number of world boxing titles. Vic Toweel, the first South African to win the World Championship, won the Bantamweight title in 1950. We have since seen Brian Mitchell, Dingaan Thobela, Jacob "Baby Jake" Matlala to name but a few winning titles in various boxing categories.

Athletics: South African Athletics made a return to the global arena during the World Junior Championships in 1992 in Korea. Despite a lack of experience, Mark Plaatjie, a former South African, won the marathon while Frith van der Merwe and Francois Fouche finished seventh and eighth respectively. South Africa participate in various international championships and has produced gold medals in javeline and high jump; and silver and bronze in various categories.

Rhythmic Gymnastics: also known as Rhythmic Sportive Gymnastics, is a sport that include dance and gymnastics with the use of balls, hoops, ribbons, ropes and clubs. Rhythmic Gymnastics originated in Scandinavia in the 19th century when two schools of thought collided resulting in this sport. It was first recognised by the International Gymnastic Sport Governing Body in 1962. The first World Championships were held in Budapest, Hungary, with European countries competing.

Gymnasts perform on a carpet to music either individually or in a group of five. In competitions they perform leaps, pivots, balances and other elements to demonstrate flexibility and coordination. There are approximately 1000 registered Rhythmic Gymnast Clubs in South Africa.

Swimming: South Africa was readmitted to the Commonwealth in 1994 and took part in the Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada. In 1995 South Africa competed in the All Africa Games for the first time and South African swimmers won a total of 26 gold, 22 Silver and 6 Bronze medals and broke 6 South African and African records. We have since seen Penny Heyns breaking the world record winning gold medals in various categories. During the Commonwealth Games of 2002, South African disabled swimmer Natalie du Toit made history when she qualified for the final of the 800 metres freestyle - the first time in history that an elite athlete with disability has qualified for the final of an able-bodied event.

Soccer: is the most widely played sport in South Africa. For many, South Africa became the proudest nation when "Bafana-Bafana" (a Zulu word that means "the boys") (the national soccer team) won the 1996 Africa Cup of Nations in. Although the loss of the Africa Cup of Nations in Mali 2002 was disappointing, the five goals in the 2002 World Cup; one win, one draw and 3-2 loss in the thriller against Spain did more than erase the disappointment. South Africa is currently ranked 39th out of 205 on FIFA's world rankings and has been appointed to host the 2010 Soccer World Cup.

Archery: The shooting of arrows with a bow is one of oldest arts being practiced today. Its importance in earlier times is certified by the many old family names such as Archer, Arrowsmith, Bowman, Bownocker, Boyer and Buts which have their origin in archery. In the beginning of the 15th century it was displaced as a weapon of war and the bow became a favourite sport. The people who play archery are known as Archers. Archery is probably the only sport where wheelchair bound athletes compete on equal terms with the able-bodied. The South African Olympic Archer, Kirsten Lewis represented South Africa at Atlanta in 1996 and Sydney in 2000.

Tennis is one of the few sports that is played around the world under the same rules. It is also an indoor and outdoor sport. Only two South Africans are in the International Hall of Fame, the men's double pair of Bob Hewitt and Frew McMillan. They won five majors and 60 titles, including three Wimbledon titles, from 1966 to 1981. Recent South African tennis stars include Wayne Ferreira and Amanda Coetzer.

Canoeing: was formalised as a sport around the Dusi canoe marathon that started in 1951, when the eight starter left Pietermaritzburg in frail single canvas and wood canoes. Six days later Ian Player was the only one of the eight to finish, and the first canoeing race was born in the country. The South African Canoe Federation was founded in November 1956, and administered the sport through its regional affiliates. Today the federation is named Canoeing South Africa, and has affiliated unions in five South African provinces There are around 5000 registered athletes taking part in marathon, wild water, sprint, slalom, canoe polo, freestyle, ski paddling and dragonboat racing.

Equestrian: The equestrian sport developed in the 19th century. In South Africa it started with the formation of the Transvaal Horse Showing Association. The South African National Equestrian Federation (SANEF) was developed in 1956.

It is estimated that 50 000 people ride sociably in South Africa. SANEF represents 4750 member who are mainly competitive riders. South Africa hosts the FEI World Cup Qualifier for Group IX nations (All African countries south of the Sahara). These are five separate shows spread throughout the year all over the country. Damney Alexander, a South African, won the 2003 World Cup Qualifier and rode the FEI International finals in Milan in April 2004.

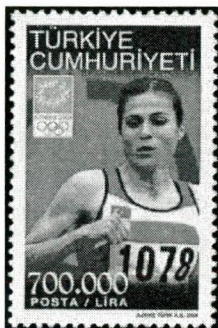
Cycling: The earliest two wheeled cycles with pedals appeared on the French and American roads in the 1860's. They were known as velocipedes or, to the people who rode them, "Bone-shakers". The next real innovation was the Highwheeler, generally known as the "Penny Farthing". The first cycling club in South Africa, the City Cycling Club is still in existence. In 1893 L.S Meintjies became South Africa's first World Cycling champion. In 1896 the following appeared in an article in the British monthly Magazine, "the Hub" "Johannesburg is considered to be the greatest cycling city... before Paris" The honour has returned to the "Mother City" where it all began: 40 000 cyclists now taking part annually in Cape Town's Pick-n-Pay Argus Cycle Tour: the world's largest timed cycling event.



Trinidad and Tobago Issue date 19/07/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

\$1.00, Running. \$2.50, Boxing. \$3.75, Judo. \$4.50, Swimming.



Turkey

Issue date 13/8/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

L600,000, Wrestling.

L700,000, Athletics.

L700,000, Weightlifting.

L800,000, Wrestling.



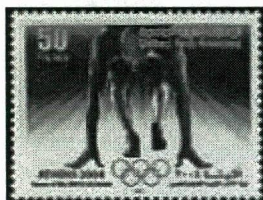


Tajikistan

Issue date 6/9/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

S0.30: Wrestling; S0.45: Running; S0.55: Basketball; S0.60: Shooting;
 S0.75: Equestrian; S0.80: Archery; S1.50: Football; S2.50: Art gymnastics

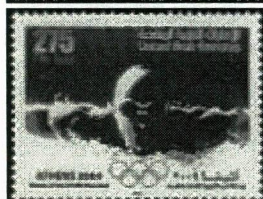


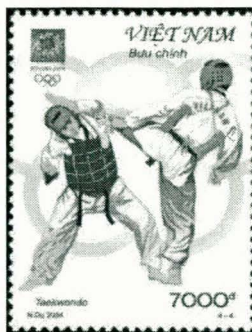
United Arab Emirates

Issue date 14/8/2004

Olympic Games - Athens 2004

50f., Sprinter at start;
 125f., Shooting;
 275f., Swimming;
 375f., Athens 2004 logo.





Vietnam
Issue date 1/8/2004



- Olympic Games - Athens 2004
 D800, Hurdles;
 D1000, Swimming;
 D6000, Shooting;
 D7000, Taekwondo.

'New Issue' Listings

The preceding listing of 2004 - 2005 Olympic related stamp issues has been compiled from a number of resources including:

- Philatelic magazines published in Great Britain, France, Germany and the United States of America;
- Internet resources of philatelic publishers, Postal Authorities, auction sites etc.;
- Information provided by SOC members.

Individual issues that have been reported in Torch Bearer have not been repeated.

It is hoped that the information will prove to be accurate, and of benefit to members. There is a small amount of residual information ready to be published in future issues of Torch Bearer in a similar format, but any information that members can provide about issues for the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, or future Games would be welcomed.

For publication, the minimum information required includes:

- Issuing Postal Authority;
- Date of issue;
- Values and designs of stamps in the issue.

If however, you can provide firm evidence of an issue, but cannot provide the above minimum information, please still notify the Editor by mail or email - it creates the 'starting point' from which efforts can be made to fully document an issue.

A plea that has appeared on a regular basis in Torch Bearer, is also repeated - If any member would like to undertake the task of maintaining a listing of new Olympic related stamp issues - please, please, do get in touch!

Society of Olympic Collectors – 2004-5 Souvenirs

Olympic Torch Relay London – 26th June 2004

SS1	Torch Relay SmartStamp	[SmartStamp Series 1 indicia]			
Ref No			Price (£)	Quantity	Value (£)
SS1a/b	2 nd + 7p - Wimbledon Park or Brixton handstamp (reduced price - SS fine but handstamp indistinct)		£1.20		
SS1d	2 nd + Canary Wharf handstamp		£1.50		
SS1c	2 nd + Greenwich h/s (tourist postcard) Cover with 'Smiler'		£1.50		
PC1+HS2/P2	Andrew Lindsay card with Smiler & Landmark h/s		£2.25		
PC1	Postcard – Andrew Lindsay (unused)		£0.60		
PC4	Postcard – London Torch Relay		£0.60		

Much Wenlock SOC 20th Anniversary 10-11 July 2004

SS3 SOC 1984-2004 / William Penny Brookes

SS3	COV 1 Cacheted cover with SmartStamp SS3		£1.80		
PC3+SS3	SOC Wenlock postcard with SmartStamp SS3		£1.80		
PC2+HS3	Penny Brookes p/c with SOC/WOS handstamp		£1.80		
PC3	SOC Wenlock postcard (unused)		£0.60		
PC3+HS3	SOC Wenlock p/c with SOC/WOS h'stamp		£1.80		

Olympic Medal Winners Athens 2004

Gold Medal Handstamp 29 August 2004

PC4	Handstamp on Torch Relay postcard		£1.80		
SS5	Olympic Gold Ball 12 October 2004 [SmartStamps - Series 2 indicia]				
SS5	Cacheted cover COV 3 with SmartStamp		£1.80		
SS6	Olympic and Paralympic Parade and Medal Ceremony 18 October 2004				
SS6a / COV 4	Cacheted cover with SmartStamp SS6 (2 nd) + 7p stamp postmarked Trafalgar Square		£1.50		
SS6b	On Gold Medals postcard (2 nd + 7p Traf. Sq.)		£1.50		
SS6g	Welsh 1 st + Revenue Protection on Cov4		£5.00		

London 2012 & BOA Centenary

SS7 London 2012 Bid Book 15 November 2004

SS7	Cov 5 2 nd Class + 7p Canary Wharf		£1.50		
SS7c	Cov 5 2 nd Class		£1.50		
SS9	IOC Evaluation Commission Visit – London 2012 Bid				
SS9a	Cov 7 (Palace) 2 nd Class + Canary Wharf h/s		£1.50		
SS10	100 Days To Go 28 March 2005 [full colour photo SmartStamp - only 50 done]				
SS10	Cov 8, English 1 st or Airmail (subject to stock)		£3.00		
SS11	50 days to go 17 May 2005				
SS11	Cov 9, English 1 st Class		£1.50		
SS12	Centenary of British Olympic Association – SmartStamp cover & BOA meter				
SS12 & M	BOA Centenary, SmartStamp (1 st) & meter (2 covers)		£2.50		
SS13	117 th Session IOC – London 2012 Stadium				
SS13a	2 nd Class + Trafalgar Sq – fair copies		£1.50		
SS13aa	2 nd Class + Trafalgar Sq – fine copies		£2.50		
SS13b	1 st Class		£2.50		
SS13ca	Airmail to Paris (+ Revenue Protection large size)		£4		
SS13cb	Airmail to Singapore		£5		
SS14	Congratulations London				
SS14aa	1 st Class – 7 July - (+ R P 6 July small size)		£4		
SS14ab	1 st Class – 7 July - (+ R P small size) plain cover		£3		
	Total for souvenirs				£

Postage	Great Britain	Europe	Rest of world		
1-5 items incl. disc	£0.50	£0.70	£1.00		
6+ items	£0.60	£1.50	£2.50		
				Add postage	£
				Total remittance	£

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