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Looking Back at London 2012





SPORTS
PHILATELISTS
INTERNATIONAL

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On the cover: London's Tower Bridge decked out with the Olympic rings for the 2012 London Olympic Games. At bottom, Royal Mail's gold medalist pane of stamps for men's tennis champion, Andy Murray.

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Sports Philatelists International is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to the study and collecting of postage stamps and related collateral material dealing with sports (including Olympics) and recreation and to the promotion of international understanding and goodwill through mutual interest in philately and sports. Its activities are planned and carried on entirely by the unpaid, volunteer services of its members.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestroni

SPI at NY2016

SPI will be holding its next convention in conjunction with the giant world stamp show, **NY2016** at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York City from 28 May through 4 June. We hope that as many of our members as possible will attend both the show and our society activities. SPI has booked a booth to be manned by our members, so please volunteer some of your time. Think of it as a golden opportunity to take a break and rest your feet!

Norm Jacobs and I are spearheading the scheduling of our society activities, but we need YOUR input. Do you have a suggestion for a speaker or a presentation topic? Do you know any sports figures in or around the NYC area who you might be able to invite to speak and/or do a signing? Or perhaps you'd like to give a talk? Would you be interested in attending an informal SPI dinner? We're open to any and all suggestions to make this a memorable event for everyone! Norm and I can be reached through our email addresses below.

2015 World Olympic Collectors Fair

It has just been announced that Lake Placid, New York will play host to the XXI World Olympic Collectors Fair to be celebrated 10-13 September 2015. Lake Placid was, of course, the site of both the 1932 and 1980 Olympic Winter Games. Hopefully we will have a philatelic component.

Index to Volume 52

The index to Volume 52 of the ***Journal of Sports Philately*** (September 2013 through August 2014) is now available on the SPI website. The index is free to the public and available as a PDF

file by navigating to the JSP Archives page:
http://www.sportstamps.org/jsp_archives.html

The International Filabasket Society

It's difficult enough for sport and Olympic philatelic societies to retain members, much less grow; it's even harder for specialist societies! To help, I'd like to give the International Filabasket Society (I.F.I.S.) a plug because I think they do an outstanding job catering to their philatelic niche. If you collect basketball then you should be a member of their organization which publishes an outstanding full-color English-language journal, *Filabasket Review*. For more information, please contact Luciano Calenda, PO Box 17037 - Grottarossa, 00189 Rome, Italy; or lcalenda@yahoo.it

Corrections

The International Society of Portuguese Philately (ISPP) recently republished Manfred Bergman's 4-part article "Portugal's 1928 Olympic Stamps." One of their members, Mr. Gomez, spotted an error (**JSP**, Spring 2014, page 18). As Mr. Gomez wrote:

"The cancellation in Figure 17 was made by the 'CORRO E TELo,' (Correio e Telegrafo - Post and Telegram) at the 'CAES DOS SOLDADOS,' the railway station. (The current spelling is 'Cais'.) Most probably on a postal document."

Season's Greetings!

I can't believe that another year has come and gone. So in the spirit of the season, our SPI Family would like to wish you and your family a joyous and peaceful holidays and a prosperous New Year!

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**Communication No. 1
from AICO/IAOC to Member Associations**

Date: September 22, 2014

Subject: **First 123 Days of Operation**

Fellow Olympic Collectors:

It has been just over 123 days since representatives of your collector organizations gathered in Lausanne, Switzerland on 22 May 2014 to constitute the new organization known as AICO and to elect its first Executive Board. In the intervening period, we have been hard at work tending to the many tasks involved in setting up AICO.

Briefly, we have:

1. Signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the International Olympic Committee on 23 May 2014. The document promulgates the understanding and principles governing the status of AICO, and recognizes the special relationship between the IOC and AICO;
2. Gathered and filed the AICO FACT DOCUMENT. This is a short history of the development of AICO beginning with the results of the meetings of the Working Group, through the preparation of the formal documents, and culminating with the creation of AICO at the General Assembly. We anticipate in the future using the AICO FACT DOCUMENT in registering AICO with the Chamber of Commerce of the Vaud Region (Lausanne).
3. Begun the process of establishing a permanent address, bank account and post office box address in Lausanne. As AICO is established in Switzerland with its headquarters in Lausanne, it makes the most sense to locate our mailing address and bank account in Lausanne (or at least in Switzerland). This is not an easy process from a distance. As we discovered, one may not open a bank account or post office box without proof of a permanent local address which is made difficult by the fact that all five members of the Executive Board reside outside of Switzerland. After seeking legal advice, we are reviewing various options in overcoming this hurdle, which may include hiring a part-time employee for administrative purposes located in the Lausanne area. Once a bank account has been opened, we will be sending out invoices to the member associations for their 2014 dues;
4. Completed and submitted our application granting AICO status as a "RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION" by the IOC. This recognition carries with it many important benefits for AICO. Once approved, as we fully anticipate happening, AICO will appear in the IOC's official directory of recognized organizations. This will make AICO eligible to apply for financial grants from the IOC. An added benefit: recognition authorizes us to include a special graphic device on our publicity materials acknowledging this status. The process of approval by the IOC may take about 6 months;
5. Created work plans and budgets based on short term and long term AICO priorities. The first budget is for the remainder of fiscal year 2014, while the other covers fiscal year 2015. These have been submitted to the IOC along with a request for temporary funding;
6. Investigated and selected a design firm in the USA to create both a logo for AICO and our new website. A domain name has been registered: **aicolympic.org**. There's nothing to see as yet, but we hope to have a functioning site up and running by the end of this year, or shortly thereafter.

An important part of the website will be a profile of each AICO member organization. We ask that an officer or director of your organization complete the online questionnaire. A link to the questionnaire will be sent in separate email. We ask that the questionnaire be completed by 31 October 2014. Any questions may be directed to Vice-President Mark Maestroni, our website co-ordinator.

The Executive Board continues reaching out to prospective new member organizations which have recently included collectors groups from Hungary and Russia.

Please do not hesitate contacting us with your questions, comments and suggestions at any time.

With best Olympic regards,
The Executive Board



Figure 1. Cover mailed from the Olympic Village (prior to the opening of the Games) with regular "Romford" postmark.



Figure 2. Checking a sheet of the Gold medal stamps at one of the six printing plants.

Looking Back at London 2012

Part 4A: 2012 – The Games, the Paralympics & Gold Medals

by Bob Wilcock

Collectors faced a real challenge during the Games. It was possible to obtain the Olympic definitives and Gold medal stamps at major post offices, but apart from the facility at Olympex, mentioned in Part 3, the only way the public, including ticket-holders, could obtain a special postmark was by handing in stamped addressed covers or postcards at post office counters. There was no Olympic postmark for ordinary mail. Even ticket-holders were unlucky: there were absolutely no mail facilities in the Olympic Park or any of the venues.

The only facilities that were provided were in the Athletes Village and in the Main Press Centre, accessible to only accredited individuals. However, as a consequence of the appointment of UPS as Official Logistics and Express Delivery Supplier of the London 2012 Games, and of the fact that Royal Mail were only a licensed supplier of stamps and philatelic products, the facilities were severely limited. Just as food suppliers other than McDonald's could use only generic "fish and chips" signs, Royal Mail could only open unbranded "Postal Services" facilities.

"Postal Services" was a complete misnomer since Royal Mail were barred from providing most services. Thus there was no packet or parcels service, no registered or tracked mail requiring special handling and a receipt; for those, customers

were directed to UPS.

The lack of security arrangements for mail meant that any mail accepted at the counter, and any covers sent in to the offices for cancelling were taken by the counter clerks to a regular office to be put in the mail stream, usually Romford (Figure 1), but sometimes the main London sorting office at Mount Pleasant or Trafalgar Square Post Office.

There was no general mail box at the Main Press Centre. There was one in the Athletes Village. Mail was collected daily, but taken to Romford Mail Centre and received a standard Romford postmark. The two Postal Services offices basically supplied the Olympic stamps, souvenir sheets and booklets, first day covers for the miniature sheets issued on 27 July (see Part 3), the Paralympic sheet issued on 29 August, and the Olympic and Paralympic Gold Medal Winner stamps (Figure 2) as they came out (discussed in more detail below). There were special post boxes inside each office for covers and cards to be posted, to be taken to London Special Handstamp Centre for the respective First Day or commemorative cancels.

The Olympic Village Postal Services Office

This was only accessible to competitors and accredited officials, and was open from 16 July to 15 August. It was given an identification number of 24407. The significance of this number to collectors is that it appears on postage labels printed at the



Figure 3. Olympic Village postal markings.

counter, known as “Horizon” labels. These are large gold rectangular self-adhesive labels with an image of the Queen’s head, and details of the postal service and postage paid, as well as the issuing office code. Although the postal clerks had Horizon machines they denied having the labels and no example dated during the Olympic period has been seen apart from one dated 14 August.

The office had an oval cachet with “Olympic Village” along the bottom. This was applied in either violet or black to any items purchased, other than stamps, at customer request.

There were also two circular date stamps (Figure 3) “OLYMPIC VILLAGE Post Office” with move-

able date, dies “B” and “C” (the staff could not find “A” and did not know if it had been supplied). These were applied by favor to first day covers and other postal items, as cachets, before they were put in the box for handstamping. The staff were specifically instructed not to cancel stamps with these date stamps, but were eventually persuaded to do so for envelopes with “mixed franking” – computer-generated SmartStamps with adhesive stamps for example – where regulations require the adhesive to be cancelled at the counter. Such covers are very few in number, but favor cancels are relatively common.

Olympic Personalized “Smilers” Stamps

In the Olympic Village office (but not the Press Centre) athletes and others could create their own personalized stamps (called “Smilers” by Royal Mail). First Class stamps came in A4 sheets of 20 (two panes of 10). Overseas rate stamps were printed in A5 panes of 10 (A4 split by a serrated edge down the middle). The sheets had alternate Olympic and Paralympic stamps (Figures 4a & b). These could be posted in the special box for the commemorative handstamp (primarily intended for the Gold Medal Winner stamps) or in the ordinary post-box. However the latter received the ugly routine Romford cancel, no doubt much to the disappointment of many athletes (Figure 4c).

Figure 4a. The 1st Class Olympic personalized Smilers stamp printed in a sheet containing two panes of 10 stamps.





Figure 4b (above). The worldwide Smilers stamp in a single pane of 10.

The Main Press Centre

The Main Press Centre postal office was situated in the Olympic Park at the furthest extreme from the Athletes Village, and was only accessible to accredited press and other officials. The only access was by taxi (there was no parking) or by shuttle bus from the high security press entrance to the Olympic Park, a 20-minute journey each way.

The office had the identification 243007 and was open from 12 July to 15 August, and again from 22 August to 10 September for the Paralympics. There was a single circular date stamp, “MAIN PRESS CENTRE B” (again die A was not used) used during both the Olympic and Paralympic periods, supplemented during the Paralympics with “PARALYMPIC VILLAGE B”. This is not known to have been used in the Paralympic Village office itself (Figure 5).

There was also an oval cachet, only applied in violet-blue. During the Olympic period it had “OLYMPIC GAMES” at the foot; during the Paralympic Games it read “PARALYMPIC GAMES.”

Gold Horizon labels are not known dated during the Olympic period, only during the Paralympic

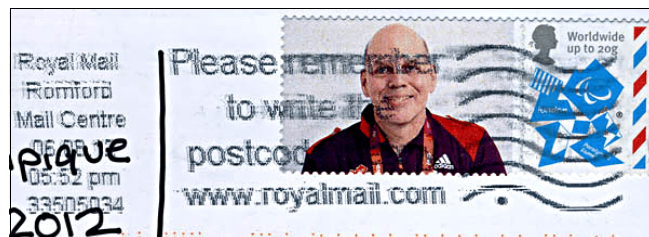


Figure 4c (below). What happened when Olympic mail was posted from the regular post box at the Athletes Village.



Figure 5. The Main Press Centre cancels and cachets. (see text).

period. They have an added significance because their location number on covers bearing the “PARALYMPIC VILLAGE B” datestamp provides proof of the use of the datestamp in the Press Centre rather than the Village (Figure 6).

The Paralympic Village Postal Services Office

The Village office reopened on 22 August and closed on 12 September. There were two counter date stamps, “PARALYMPIC VILLAGE A” and “PARALYMPIC VILLAGE C,” and an oval cachet applied in black or violet-blue (Figure 7).

Horizon postal labels were used, very occasionally, with the location code 244007 (Figure 8).

British Olympic Gold Medal Winner stamps

Royal Mail followed the initiative of Australia Post in Sydney 2000, with overnight printing of stamps to honor British Gold Medal winners, but with an important innovation: the stamps bear an image of the medalists taken during the event or at the medal ceremony.



Figure 6. Gold "Horizon" postage label with "E20" postcode indicator for Olympic Park addresses, office number 243007 for the Main Press Centre, cancelled with PARALYMPIC VILLAGE B handstamp, and with MPC cachet. The SmartStamp label was valid until 10 September, the date of the British Athletes Parade in London.



An enormous effort went into achieving this. A4 sheets of self-adhesive stamp sheets were lithograph-printed with a common background design, arranged on four miniature sheets of six stamps on pre-serrated backing paper. By 10 p.m. each day photo images were chosen for the day's Gold Medalists, and digital images adding the medalists names, event and date were sent to six chosen printers to be laser printed onto the prepared paper stock. The sheets were then distributed to some 500 post offices by no later than noon the next day, and mostly by 9 a.m.

when the offices opened. This proceeded almost without a hitch, for all 29 Gold Medalists, although one of the six printers ran into problems and failed to print some issues. Printer details were on the selva (Figure 9).

Table 1 gives details of each stamp, including Royal Mail's first day cancel number. This cancel was in a common design showing Britain's Union Flag, and there were separate dies for every day of the Games except 27 and 28 July.



Figures 7 & 8. At the Paralympic Village post office: 2 counter date stamps and cachets (above) and cover with Horizon label with location code 244007 (right).



Table 1: Olympic Gold Medalist Stamps

Number	Medalist	Sport	Medal Date	Stamp Date	Cancel #
GMW01	<i>Helen Glover & Heather Stanning</i>	<i>Rowing</i>	<i>01-Aug</i>	<i>02-Aug</i>	<i>12657</i>
GMW02	<i>Bradley Wiggins</i>	<i>Track Cycling</i>	<i>01-Aug</i>	<i>02-Aug</i>	<i>12657</i>
GMW03	<i>Tim Baillie & Etienne Stott</i>	<i>Canoe Slalom</i>	<i>02-Aug</i>	<i>03-Aug</i>	<i>12658</i>
GMW04	<i>Peter Wilson</i>	<i>Shooting</i>	<i>02-Aug</i>	<i>03-Aug</i>	<i>12658</i>
GMW05	<i>Philip Hindes, Chris Hoy, Jason Kenny</i>	<i>Track Cycling</i>	<i>02-Aug</i>	<i>03-Aug</i>	<i>12658</i>
GMW06	<i>Katherine Grainger & Anna Watkins</i>	<i>Rowing</i>	<i>03-Aug</i>	<i>04-Aug</i>	<i>12659</i>
GMW07	<i>Stephen Burke, Ed Clancy, Peter Kennaugh, Geraint Thomas</i>	<i>Cycling</i>	<i>03-Aug</i>	<i>04-Aug</i>	<i>12659</i>
GMW08	<i>Victoria Pendleton</i>	<i>Cycling</i>	<i>03-Aug</i>	<i>04-Aug</i>	<i>12659</i>
GMW09	<i>Alex Gregory, Tom James, Pete Reed, Andrew Triggs Hodge</i>	<i>Rowing</i>	<i>04-Aug</i>	<i>05-Aug</i>	<i>12660</i>
GMW10	<i>Katherine Copeland & Sophie Hosking</i>	<i>Rowing</i>	<i>04-Aug</i>	<i>05-Aug</i>	<i>12660</i>
GMW11	<i>Danni King, Joanna Rowsell & Laura Trott</i>	<i>Cycling</i>	<i>04-Aug</i>	<i>05-Aug</i>	<i>12660</i>
GMW12	<i>Jesica Ennis</i>	<i>Athletics-Heptathlon</i>	<i>04-Aug</i>	<i>05-Aug</i>	<i>12660</i>
GMW13	<i>Glen Rutherford</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>04-Aug</i>	<i>05-Aug</i>	<i>12660</i>
GMW14	<i>Mo Farah</i>	<i>Track</i>	<i>04-Aug</i>	<i>05-Aug</i>	<i>12660</i>
GMW15	<i>Ben Ainslie</i>	<i>Sailing</i>	<i>05-Aug</i>	<i>06-Aug</i>	<i>12661</i>
GMW16	<i>Andy Murray</i>	<i>Tennis</i>	<i>05-Aug</i>	<i>06-Aug</i>	<i>12661</i>
GMW17	<i>Scott Brash, Peter Charles, Ben Maher, Nick Skelton</i>	<i>Equestrian</i>	<i>06-Aug</i>	<i>07-Aug</i>	<i>12662</i>
GMW18	<i>Jason Kenny</i>	<i>Cycling</i>	<i>06-Aug</i>	<i>07-Aug</i>	<i>12662</i>
GMW19	<i>Alistair Brownlee</i>	<i>Triathlon</i>	<i>07-Aug</i>	<i>08-Aug</i>	<i>12663</i>
GMW20	<i>Laura Bechtolsheimer, Charlotte Dujardin, Carl Hester</i>	<i>Equestrian</i>	<i>07-Aug</i>	<i>08-Aug</i>	<i>12663</i>
GMW21	<i>Laura Trott</i>	<i>Cycling</i>	<i>07-Aug</i>	<i>08-Aug</i>	<i>12663</i>
GMW22	<i>Chris Hoy</i>	<i>Cycling</i>	<i>07-Aug</i>	<i>08-Aug</i>	<i>12663</i>
GMW23	<i>Charlotte Dujardin</i>	<i>Equestrian</i>	<i>09-Aug</i>	<i>10-Aug</i>	<i>12665</i>
GMW24	<i>Nicola Adams</i>	<i>Boxing</i>	<i>09-Aug</i>	<i>10-Aug</i>	<i>12665</i>
GMW25	<i>Jade Jones</i>	<i>Taekwondo</i>	<i>09-Aug</i>	<i>10-Aug</i>	<i>12665</i>
GMW26	<i>Ed McKeever</i>	<i>Canoe</i>	<i>11-Aug</i>	<i>12-Aug</i>	<i>12667</i>
GMW27	<i>Mo Farah</i>	<i>Track</i>	<i>11-Aug</i>	<i>12-Aug</i>	<i>12667</i>
GMW28	<i>Luke Campbell</i>	<i>Boxing</i>	<i>11-Aug</i>	<i>12-Aug</i>	<i>12667</i>
GMW29	<i>Anthony Joshua</i>	<i>Boxing</i>	<i>12-Aug</i>	<i>13-Aug</i>	<i>12668</i>



Figure 9. Miniature sheet from the lower position on the sheet with detachable tab identifying the stamp and the issue date, plus the printer location.

British medals were not won every day, but since the cancel did not say "First Day of Issue," it could in theory be used every day on any stamps. Collectors should beware of Olympic and Paralympic maximum cards with the cancel dated 29 July. These are forged cancels offered by a Spanish dealer (very attractive cards; it's a shame he forged the cancels!).

Royal Mail conducted a number of trials, two examples of which are widely available to collectors. The various printers produced trial sheets of the laser printing only, on thin card, ungummed and imperforate. These were distributed to post offices to give an indication to staff of the stamps to be issued (Figure 10).

A fully finished proof was also prepared and distributed to the press and trade (Figure 11). This is known as the "Nelson" print, from the printer's name in the selvage. Used examples are known, but the stamp will not be catalogued because it was never on sale to the public.

The Flag postmark

There are two clearly distinct varieties of the Flag postmark. Those postmarks applied to first day covers by the Philatelic Bureau are 29 mm tall and ink-jet (spray) printed. Covers and cards posted from the Athletes Village and the Press Centre, and mailed in by the public were cancelled in London



Figure 10. Trial print on card from Attleborough printer, laser printing only.



Figure 11 (above). An example of the fully finished proof known as the "Nelson" print.

Figure 12 (below). The Flag cancel in both 23mm and 29mm sizes. As a footnote, the cancel was in use on 10 September, and available to mark Andy's victory in the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York.

Figure 13. The Flag postmark used on the Water Polo "Smiler" stamp on 9 August – the day of the Women's Final.



and other Special Handstamp Centres with a 23 mm cancel prepared from a foil. Figure 12 shows the clear difference.

Figure 13 reproduces the cancel being used to mark the women's water-polo final on 9 August, on a "Smiler" showing the temporary Water Polo Arena. The gold medal went to the U.S.A. team, and there was no British gold in any event on 8 August meaning there was no medal winner's stamp issued 9 August. This particular cancel therefore only exists in the 23 mm handstamp format.





*Opening Day at the 1906 Intercalated Olympic Games.
The kings of Great Britain and Greece enter the stadium.*

by Manfred Bergman

9 APRIL 1906: OPENING DAY OF THE INTERCALATED OLYMPIC GAME



1950

1968

1987

2014

Genuine or False?

Pray, do not consider the above pictures as a “personality cult”; they represent the years when I asked myself (and my colleagues) for clarification on the authenticity of the 1906 Olympic commemorative postmarks – alas without a definitive answer.

A. THE SPECIAL STADIUM POST OFFICE

108 years have gone by since the opening day of the 1906 Intercalated Olympic Games, and still no consensus had been reached about the postal activities at the Stadium Post Office that day. Bizarre, is it not? It has turned into a major philatelic challenge and it is (anew) my intention to solve, as far as possible, the disputed facts related to this issue.

The special post office was operational on the occasion of the Opening Ceremony. Many collectors have doubted this since no bona fide traveled mail has been uncovered. However, lots of (mainly) postcards, covers and single stamps have surfaced over the years tied by the STADION cancellation – dated 9 April 1906.

THE FIRST SPECIAL OLYMPIC POST OFFICES



1906 INTERCALATED OLYMPIC GAMES

(PART 2)

The analysis by collectors, made too subjectively, has resulted in a stalemate. Let us try and cut that Gordian Knot.

Two main types of STADION cancels are known (Figures 1A & B). They are shown above for informational purposes only; no opinion is made, at this time, as to their authenticity. What we want to focus on here is the main difference between the two types: the distance between the letters “O” and “N” in “STADION.” Type i shows a regular distance (similar to that between the other letters), while Type ii shows a large gap between the two letters.



Figure 1A.
Type i: ΣΤΑΔΙΟΝ
(ON = 1.2 mm.)
(Ex-L.J.)



Figure 1B.
Type ii: ΣΤΑΔΙΟ N
(O N = 2.2mm.)

1. Type i has been used on traveled mail on all other days of the Games, so there is no doubt as to its authenticity. What has been found from 9 April?

1.1 Type i on traveled mail. This item (Figure 2) is an illustrated postcard (IPC) sent by a child to his grandmother (Florence, Italy) telling her about the Games to *begin that day*. The rate is correct, so the reasoning behind the postage due is questionable and under investigation. Still, it is a bona fide document from 9 April.

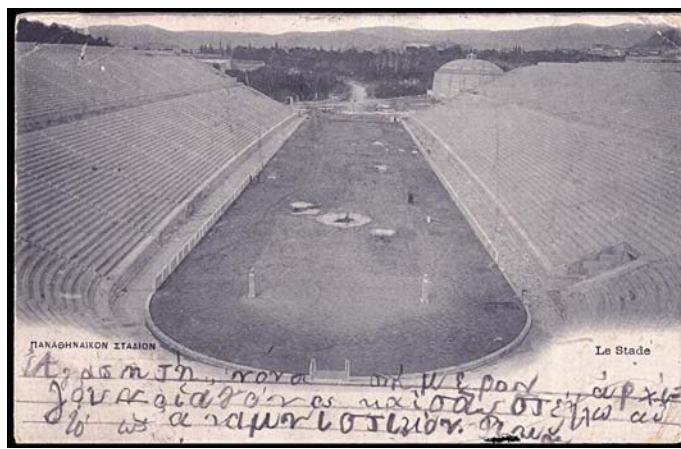


Figure 2. Back and front of an IPC from Athens to Florence, Italy with Type i STADION postmark on the opening day of the 1906 Intercalated Olympic Games. The postcard traveled through the mails. The reason for postage due remains a mystery.

1.2 Type i on single stamps or fragments. One finds all denominations (Figure 3) cancelled by Type i. The lower denominations might have been on mail, but no evidence exists to support that theory. The high denominations' postmarks are, without doubt, favor-cancelled, since the only bona fide mail with high denominations are exclusively on the Dubois correspondence.¹



Figure 3. Type i STADION postmarks dated 9 April on a variety of 1906 Olympic stamps. The postmarks on the higher denominations are favor-cancelled.

True, the end of the STADION postmark on the 50 lepta stamp (lower left in Figure 3) is missing, but it is certain that it is of Type i.



At this point, I must introduce a new element, ignored until now: the position of the word ΟΛΥΜΠΙΑΚΟΙ in relation to ΑΘΗΝΑΙ. In the Type i postmark (drawing at left) the "O" is centered under

the "A" while in the Type ii cancel, one can see that there is a noticeable shift to the right of the letter "O" in relation to the "A." Figure 4 shows each type.



Figure 4. Type i (left) and Type ii (above) postmarks show the position of the "O" in relation to the "A."

1.3 Type i favor-cancelled, a common practice in Greece. This favor-cancelled card (Figure 5) also exists with ZAPPEION and AKROPOLIS cancels, but with different dates. The franking did not correlate with any postal rate from that period, and



Figure 5. Favor-cancelled Type I STADION postmark.

the address was added later. The card was signed by O. Vlastos. The address: Messieurs Georgiadis et Seketis, Athènes.

The postcard in Figure 6 is also favor-cancelled, bearing an example from the Olympic set. The card could not have been cancelled on April 9, as it certainly was not placed on sale until a few days later. Consequently, the cancellation was back-dated. A naïve collector proudly showed this in his exhibit as a “First day STADION cancellation.”



Figure 6. This postcard could not have been sold until well after the opening day of the 1906 Games, thus this Type I STADION postmark must be a favor cancel.

A third favor-cancelled philatelic document (Figure 7) is signed, making it perhaps the most dangerous of all! It was made by an overly cooperative clerk at the Stadion Post Office (we know, he had all the time in the world), for a “philatelist” who later added an address to give the impression that it was, while over-franked, nevertheless delivered by the post. Had it truly traveled through the mails, transit and/or arrival cachets would be present, but there are none. As far as I am concerned, this item is highly overvalued and ought not to be considered as a genuine, postally delivered document.

The documents in Figures 5 through 7 are, what I like to call, “malevolent philatelic documents” in that their purpose was to deceive collectors into believing they were postally genuine (i.e., having been transported by the post).



Figure 7. Another favor-cancelled cover, this time bearing a full set of the 1906 stamps, and signed.⁵

There do exist, as well, “innocent philatelic documents” made by willing postal clerks for philatelists without any intention to cheat or claim that they were postally genuine items. The much-praised document shown in Figure 8 is one of these innocent items. The original owner just wished to have the entire set cancelled by an Olympic postmark. Unfortunately, the subsequent owner(s) tried to enhance its value. It might even have been created on 9 April, but this has no effect on its value.



Figure 8. An example of a favor-cancelled item intended as a philatelic souvenir rather than to deceive collectors.

2. The trouble-maker within the special postmarks is clearly the Type ii 9 April cancellation.

Looking back, there was not much interest in the 1906 Greek special Olympic postmarks prior to 1964. Olympic collectors focused their interests mainly on stamps, covers and their thematic relationships. Interest in postmarks began to spread when the 1924 Paris Olympic Games cancels were promoted in France and Belgium. Just over a decade later, the mass of 1936 Berlin Olympic Games postmarks flooded the market. The appeal of Olympic postmarks grew with the entrance of the Belgian (1920 Antwerp Olympic Games) and Dutch (1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games) collectors.

Fascination with Greek Olympic postmarks exploded in 1964, following the “Verso Tokyo” world exhibition in Rimini, Italy.² Italian, German, English and Greek dealers began promoting the suddenly surfacing material – at overvalued prices. Dormant forgeries (dating before WW I) and new ones appeared on the market. Type ii STADION postmarks became a favorite target for attacks based on their genuineness. If I remember correctly, it was Maurizio Tecardi who first cast doubt on their authenticity. The philatelic community remains divided on this subject. It’s time to put an end to this discord.

What is suspicious about Type ii?

(1) The inexplicable difference in frequency of the two Types. To date, 99% of the material disclosed is of Type ii and, above all, not authenticated.

(2) Type ii has only been found on 9 April (and 19).

(3) On single stamps, Type ii is mostly found on high denominations (1-5 drachma values), which have never been used for franking, with the exception of those found on the Dubois letters (on April 16 – discussed in a future installment of this series).

Maurizio’s suspicions were awakened by the Lavenir publication (1916), showing a wide gap between the “O” and “N” and lack of authenticated mail (dated 9 April) with Type ii postmark. Furthermore, he questioned why no mail with a distant “N” was found from other days of the Games?

The Type i versus Type ii postmark dispute, which started in the 1960s, still persists. The majority of collectors (and some experts) sustain that the Type ii postmark is a forgery. Still, a minority, including auctioneers for whom Olympic collectors are easy prey, and expert collectors – led by Michalis Tsironis (the foremost expert of the 1906 issue) – claim Type ii to be genuine.

Without further ado, I present Tsironis’ point of view and the majority’s arguments (Table 1). Pray, do read them slowly and carefully as they form the crux of the discussion on the 1906 postmarks.

Table 1. The Type ii Postmarks

Genuine - Circumstantial Evidence <i>Defense</i> ⁴	Forgeries <i>Arguments Against</i>
1. The ΣΤΑΔΙΟ N postmark was used only on “crucial days” of major importance: Opening Ceremony (9 April), the day the Marathon race was run (18 April), and Closing Ceremony (19 April). The importance was determined based on 1896 (sic!) experience.	<p>1.1. Assuming this was true, then we should find many pieces of ΣΤΑΔΙΟ N mail from 18 and 19 April. This is not the case.</p> <p>1.2. The stadium was also full on other days with many competitions (13, 15-17 April), so why was the Type ii ΣΤΑΔΙΟ N postmark not used on those days?</p> <p>1.3. If 9 April was a “crucial day” why have we found only scant bona fide STADION mail: only impossible (“time-machine,” see below) postcards tied by ΣΤΑΔΙΟ N postmark?</p> <p>1.4. Why has all the mail with the ΣΤΑΔΙΟ N postmark proven to be forgeries (see examples below)?</p> <p>1.5. We are certain about the bona fide Euclides³ mail. If the ΣΤΑΔΙΟ N postmark were genuine, one certainly would have found Euclides mail tied by the ΣΤΑΔΙΟ N postmark.</p>

<p>2. There are two ZAPPEION postmarks, so why could we not have two STADION postmarks?</p>	<p>2.1. The two ZAPPEION postmarks were a necessity, serving both a constantly active Organizing Committee as well as several foreign delegations (Olympic Village precursor).</p> <p>2.2. Why, then only one AKROPOLIS postmark?</p> <p>2.3. Both ZAPPEION postmarks have been proven genuine as verified by truly traveled mail, while this is not the case with ΣΤΑΔΙΟ N mail!</p>
<p>3 True, no bona fide covers tied by a Type ii ΣΤΑΔΙΟ N postmark dated from 10-17 April have been found. But this is also true of the Type i ΣΤΑΔΙΟ N cancellation.</p>	<p>3.1. Type i covers (ΣΤΑΔΙΟ N) have been found. Some are philatelic, others overfranked, but they nevertheless traveled through the mails to their destinations with proof of arrival. (see Tsironis page 276).</p> <p>3.2. Moreover, bona fide postcards are as good testimony as covers.</p>
<p>4. No Royal decree or notice limits the number of the various special postmarks.</p>	<p>4. That is a good argument, but not an explanation. It could very well be that a second STADION postmark existed, but one must prove it. Lack of a decree is not proof.</p>
<p>5. A forgery of the Type ii ΣΤΑΔΙΟ N postmark is known. The differences with the "genuine" Type ii ΣΤΑΔΙΟ N postmark are detailed. (see Endnote 6)</p>	<p>5.1. This postmark is not different from the known Type ii ΣΤΑΔΙΟ N postmark. Overlapping both ΣΤΑΔΙΟ N postmarks proves they are identical.</p> <p>5.2. Even using high magnification to look at both postmarks, the cited differences are not visible. Look at most catalogues and you will see that they have the same small, partially missing letter and the odd-shaped Ω.</p> <p>5.3. Even if we accepted that this was a fake, it does not mean that the original is genuine. A fake of a fake is still a fake!</p>
<p>6. Further evidence in favor of the ΣΤΑΔΙΟ N cancel being genuine:</p> <p>a. Postal windows had more than one cancel device.</p> <p>b. The diameter of the Type i and ii cancels are the same, as are the characters. But even if there was a difference, it does not mean that one is a forgery.</p> <p>c. In fact, the two ZAPPEION postmarks have a different diameter.</p> <p>d. The multitude of ΣΤΑΔΙΟ N postmarks in existence must indicate their validity.</p> <p>e. If the ΣΤΑΔΙΟ N postmark were a fake, why make another fake?</p>	<p>6.a. That was not a rule; the AKROPOLIS postal window is a good example.</p> <p>b. While that is a valid statement, it only means that the forger was a good engraver.</p> <p>c. So what? That is not evidence proving the existence of two STADION postmarks.</p> <p>d. On the contrary. A multitude is more likely evidence of their non-genuineness (especially the high denominations). If genuine, then letters and postcards must exist that are proven to be truly traveled. Who, in his right mind, would remove a 2-, 3- or 5-drachma stamp from a traveled cover? If this were the case, one would think that philatelists did not exist in Greece at that time! Furthermore, the high denominations would have been on mail to foreign destinations. Even if these foreign recipients had no philatelic interest (why, though, would they keep the stamps in the first place?), at least some of these stamps would have remained in foreign countries – but we find them only in Greece!</p> <p>e. This is 'shooting at yourself'. If the Type ii ΣΤΑΔΙΟ N is a fake, and as we have seen successful in selling itself, it would awaken the desire of other forgers. But, as mentioned, it was not a false ΣΤΑΔΙΟ N postmark, it was the ΣΤΑΔΙΟ N postmark itself that is fake.</p>

I do apologize for having presented the arguments and counter-arguments at some length, but as this is a 100-year-old problem, did it not deserve the attention? Still, arguments are only expressions of opinion, they are not concrete evidence. Let us seek that.

2.1. TYPE ii ΣΤΑΔΙΟ N material on identified mail – or – what do Isaac Asimov, Rod Taylor and the following illustrated postcards have in common! ANSWER: they all used a time travel machine (shown at right)!



(My apologies for the poor quality of the following illustrations as they were taken from auction catalogues. I show them in reduced size.)

2.1.1. The postcard in Figure 9 depicts the high jump competition (won by C. Leahy – GBR) that took place on 17-18 April. How could it be posted on 9 April? The sender must have used a time machine to obtain that postmark date. The postal rate is correct and the card is addressed. (Auction 1968)

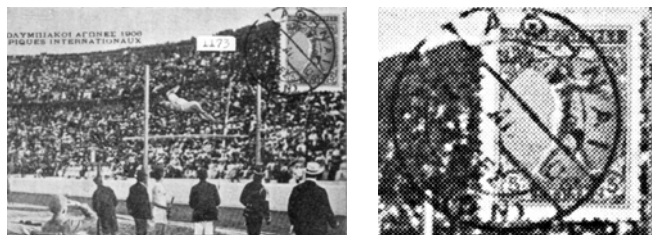


Figure 9. Postcard (with enlargement at right) showing an event on 17-18 April, but postmarked with the Type ii ΣΤΑΔΙΟ N postmark on 9 April!

2.1.2. A philatelic card (no shame in that) addressed to Vienna, Austria is shown in Figure 10. The overzealous “creator,” wishing to give the impression that the card had traveled through the mails, added a typewritten address. That was his downfall as the typewriter and its keyboard were of a much later vintage – see enlargement. (Auction 2001)

2.1.3. The postcard in Figure 11 showing the Opening Ceremony on 9 April (auctioned off in Germany in 1972 for 1200 DM) provoked a 5-year war between the seller (D.W.) and the buyer. In the end, D.W. conceded that the postcard could not have been produced, sold and posted on the same day. In 1977, O. Vlastos confirmed the forgery.



Figure 11. Opening Ceremony postcard and Type ii ΣΤΑΔΙΟ N postmark on 9 April eventually certified as a forgery.

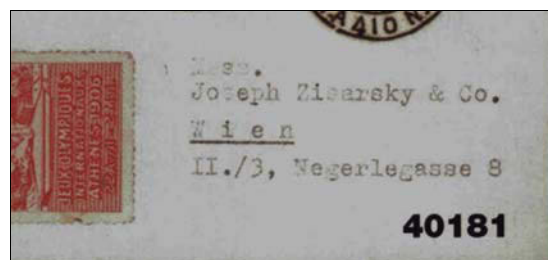


Figure 10. A philatelic card with a nice set of the lower 1906 Olympic stamps and postmarked with the Type ii ΣΤΑΔΙΟ N cancel on 9 April. Unfortunately, someone decided to add a typewritten address (enlargement above) from a non-contemporary typewriter to make it appear to be a traveled cover.

2.1.4 The rowing event shown on this postcard (Figure 12) took place on 15 April, so how could it have been posted on 9 April? Is this the stuff of science fiction – or were forgers at work? Not only was the address added irregularly, but it is franked with only 1 lepton in postage.



Figure 12.

2.1.5. This postcard (Figure 13) depicts the gymnastics demonstration on 19 April – Closing Ceremony. Could it be cancelled on 9 April? The “creator” just applied a 1-lepton stamp to give it a postal impression. The item was sold to a naïve collector.



Figure 13.

There are more postcards of this kind. They prove that time travel, which still eludes modern technology, was invented by philately – specifically at the 1906 stadium post office!

B. DOUBLE DIRECT EVIDENCE (THE FINAL NAIL IN THE COFFIN?)

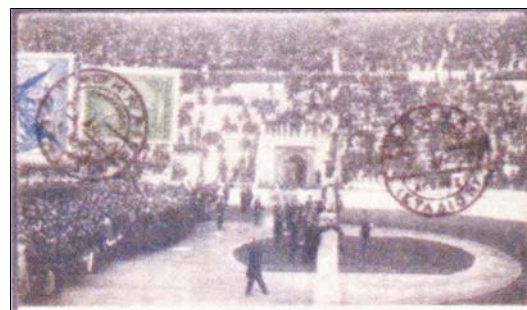
The IPC shown in Figure 14 will, I sincerely hope, close the discussion about the 9 April Type ii “STADIO N” postmark. Alas, it opens a new discussion about the ZAPPEION postmarks. Let us suppose

(by elimination) that the IPC is genuine. Here are the stages of its birth:

1. The photograph on the IPC (Figure 14) depicts the opening ceremony of the Games. (Official Report)
2. The photographer immediately runs to his company to develop the picture.
3. It is sent for printing – on a Sunday?!
4. It is sold to the writer of the card (Again, on a Sunday? And where did he buy it?).
5. Since the stamp is cancelled at the STADION post office, the writer must first race to the ZAPPEION post office for a postmark (red arrow).
6. He then runs to the STADION post office, to affix the stamp and post it – cancelled with STADION Type ii postmark. All of this within 2-3 hours. Is that possible? Not even today.



Figure 14. Opening Ceremony postcard that could not possibly have been printed, sold and postmarked the same day.



Of course the above chronology is fictitious. The photographer would have turned in his film for processing the evening of 9 April (at the earliest), and certainly the postcard would not have been available for sale to the general public for at least few days after that. In trying to be clever, the creator destroyed the credibility of his own work using this IPC.

A century is long enough for arguing, theories, hypotheses and oral declarations. It is time to take a definite stance, one way or another.

In summary, based upon the preceding evidence in which material is either lacking or completely non-existent, I believe that the Type ii STADION cancellation dated April 9 is a forgery. I trust that, having read the above analysis, all Olympic collectors will share my opinion.

They say that “never” does not exist in philately. With some exceptions this is true. What I have not admitted to until now is that I am a “turncoat,” having changed my mind. I originally believed in the genuineness of Type ii postmarks, based upon the circumstantial evidence given, but have since been convinced otherwise by the direct, material evidence.

Still – and respecting the “never” idiom – I am ready to reopen the discussion if bona fide material is presented. Only such material, and no words, should change my mind. I solemnly challenge the supporters of the legitimacy of Type ii STADION postmarks to find and present material proving their position. 🏹

ENDNOTES

1. Dubois was a Belgian philatelist with a collection specializing in Mediterranean countries of that time.

From the 1906 Olympics there is a series of letters addressed to him, which will be shown on in a later installment of this series.

2. The Italians organized three world Olympic and sports philately exhibitions. Verso Tokyo took place in 1964 in Rimini, Italy. These were indeed the first world exhibitions. Samaranch showed in 1964.

3. Ms. Euclides (the family still resides in Kifisia) was a fervent postcard writer. Most of the authentic postcards found, sent all over the world, are part of the “Euclides” correspondence.

4. The circumstantial evidence is given in detail in Publication 16 (Part 1): “1906 The Olympic Issue” by Michalis E. Tsironis (pp. 260-280).

5. Figure 7 is from correspondence with M. Tsironis.

6. The postmark on the postcard in Figure 15, according to Tsironis (p. 268), is a counterfeit of Stadion Type ii. In fact, it is a real Type ii postmark. Tsironis observed that one diameter (measured from top to bottom) is smaller. This may happen to all postmarks, depending on the amount of ink, the pressure applied, the angle of stamping and the support. Compare accepted postmarks to see the variation.

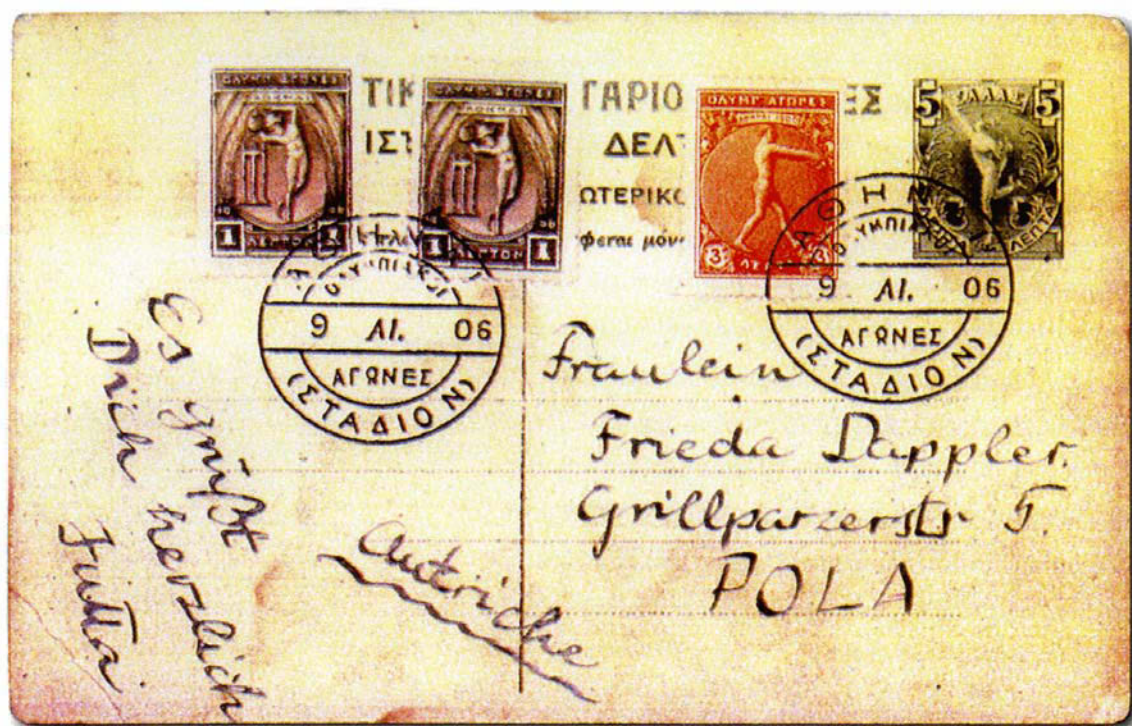
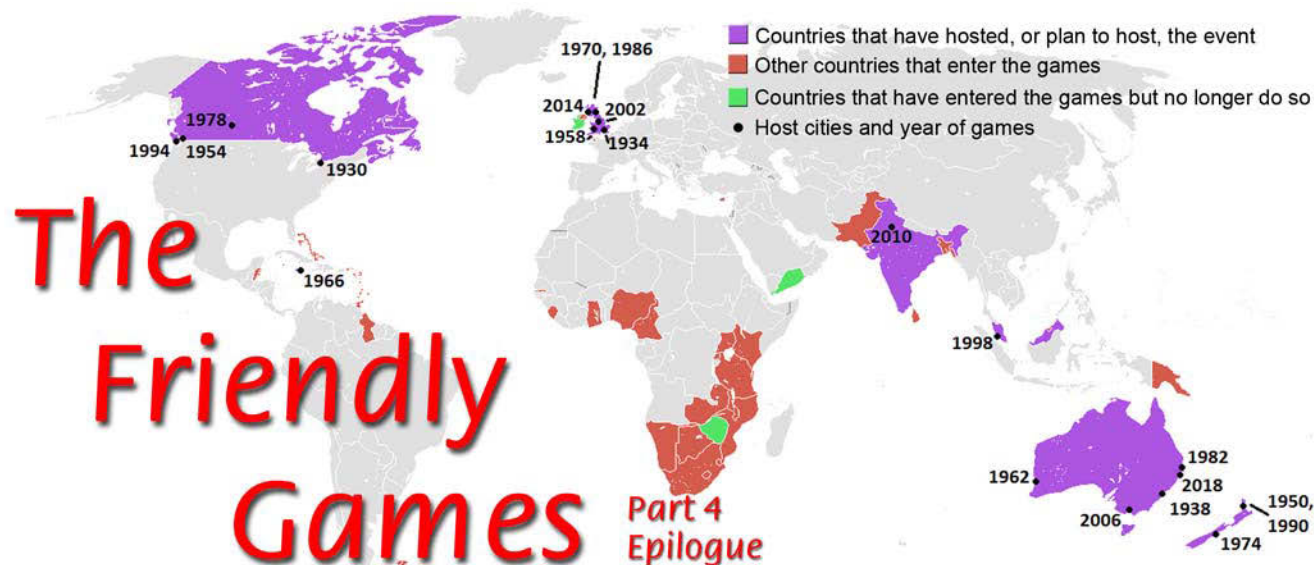


Figure 15. A true example of the Type ii postmark on a postcard.



by William Silvester

Epilogue XX Commonwealth Games – Glasgow

The XX Commonwealth Games was heralded by the 190,000-kilometer Queen's Baton Relay traveling through 71 nations and territories over seven months. The relay got underway at Buckingham Palace on 9 October 2013, flew to India to begin the around-the-Commonwealth tour on October 11, and arrived back in Glasgow with its message from the Queen in time for the opening ceremonies in July.

This event was commemorated by a special cover issued by Sri Lanka (Figure 1). The stamps used were personalized stamps printed specially for this cover and not available in any other form.

The XX Commonwealth Games officially opened on 23 July and ran until 3 August 2014. During that time a total of 18 sports and 261 medal events were contested. There were 71 participating nations with almost 5,000 competing athletes, making it one of the largest Commonwealth Games staged to date.

Also included were 22 para-sport events in five different sports. These games saw the addition of the triathlon mixed relay event, further shooting medal opportunities for women, and the new discipline of women's boxing.

England led the medal count with 174 split almost evenly between gold, silver and bronze. Australia and Canada followed with 137 and 82 medals, respectively.

On 17 July, six days before the Opening Ceremony, Royal Mail issued six new special stamps to celebrate the largest sporting and cultural festival that Glasgow and Scotland had ever hosted (Figure 2). Designed by Howard Brown, each of the six stamps featured artwork, created by Dutch illustrator, Nanette Hoogslag, using imagery from award-winning sports photographer Andy Hooper.



Figure 1. Personalized stamps and special postmark commemorating the passage of the Queen's Baton Relay through Sri Lanka.



Figure 2. Royal Mail issued a set of six stamps for the Glasgow games. The denominations are: National 2nd Class (53p), National 1st Class (62p), Europe - 20g (97p), World - 20g (£1.28), Europe - 60g (£1.47), and World - 60g (£2.15).



Figure 3. Booklet containing two of the 1st Class swimming stamps, plus four of the Queen Elizabeth II Machin-design 1st Class definitives. Retail £3.72.

The lithographed stamps were printed by International Security Printers and featured the sports of judo, swimming, the Marathon, squash, netball and para-sport track cycling. In addition, Royal Mail made available stamp cards (Figure 7) and a stamp booklet along with a presentation pack, traditional First Day Cover, and coin covers.

The six stamp cards are postcard-sized reproductions of the stamps. The booklet (Figure 3) features self-adhesive versions of four first-class red Queen Elizabeth II “Machin” definitives plus two of the first-class Swimming stamps from the set.

Three versions of a coin cover designed by Frontmedia Studio were offered, each with a 50p Commonwealth Games coin in a different metal:

Cupro-Nickel (Figure 4), Silver Proof, or Gold Proof.

A selection of hand cancels (Figure 5) were also available as well as sprayed-on cancels (Figure 6).

In the presentation pack, writer Jim Davies provided a brief history of the Commonwealth Games, and revealed details of the sports to be contested at Glasgow 2014 along with the venues where the action was set to take place.

Davies also wrote the filler card for the first day cover (Figure 8) produced by Talents House which featured an Edinburgh hand-stamp dominated by the letters “XX.” An alternative first day cancel from Glasgow included three key statistics about these games.

In addition to the Royal Mail offerings, three other Commonwealth countries issued stamps to mark the Games. Cayman Islands issued its first Commonwealth Games stamps with a set of seven depicting the seven sports in which the islanders participated (Figure 9).

Figure 4. One of the three special coin covers (below) with special insert. The cover included the full set of six stamps with the first day postmark on 17 July 2014.





Figure 5. A selection of postmarks on the first day of the Royal Mail stamps, 17 July 2014. The two “official” FD cancels – one each from Edinburgh and Glasgow – are at upper left.



Figure 7. Judo stamp postcard, one of set of six.



Figure 6. Two sprayed-on ink-jet machine cancels.



Figure 8. Official FDC (left) created by Tallents House for Royal Mail featuring all six stamps and the Glasgow first day postmark.



Figure 9. FD cover with stamps featuring the 7 sports in which Cayman Islanders competed.

Tonga issued a sheetlet of five different stamps, again with the borders filled with Commonwealth flags, and commemorating 40 years in the Games. The top left stamp is a label with no denomination or country name. The others show the five events in which Tongans participated: boxing, athletics, rugby sevens, judo and weightlifting (Figure 10).

Samoa issued four stamps in sheetlets of five with a label commemorating 40 years of Samoan participation in the Games. The \$1, \$2, \$3 and \$4 stamps honored, respectively, weightlifting (Figure 11), swimming, rugby sevens and boxing. Objects representative of each sport were rendered in Samoan decorative motifs. The selvedge on the left and right sides of the sheetlets contain the flags of the Commonwealth nations. Samoan athletes returned home with a bronze medal and two silver medals.

The XXI Commonwealth Games are scheduled for Australia's Gold Coast in 2018. 🇳🇵

Parts 1, 2, and 3 of this article appeared in the Winter 2013, and Spring and Summer 2014 issues of JSP. The author is interested in corresponding and sharing information on the philately of the Commonwealth Games and may be contacted via e-mail at wgsilvester@shaw.ca.

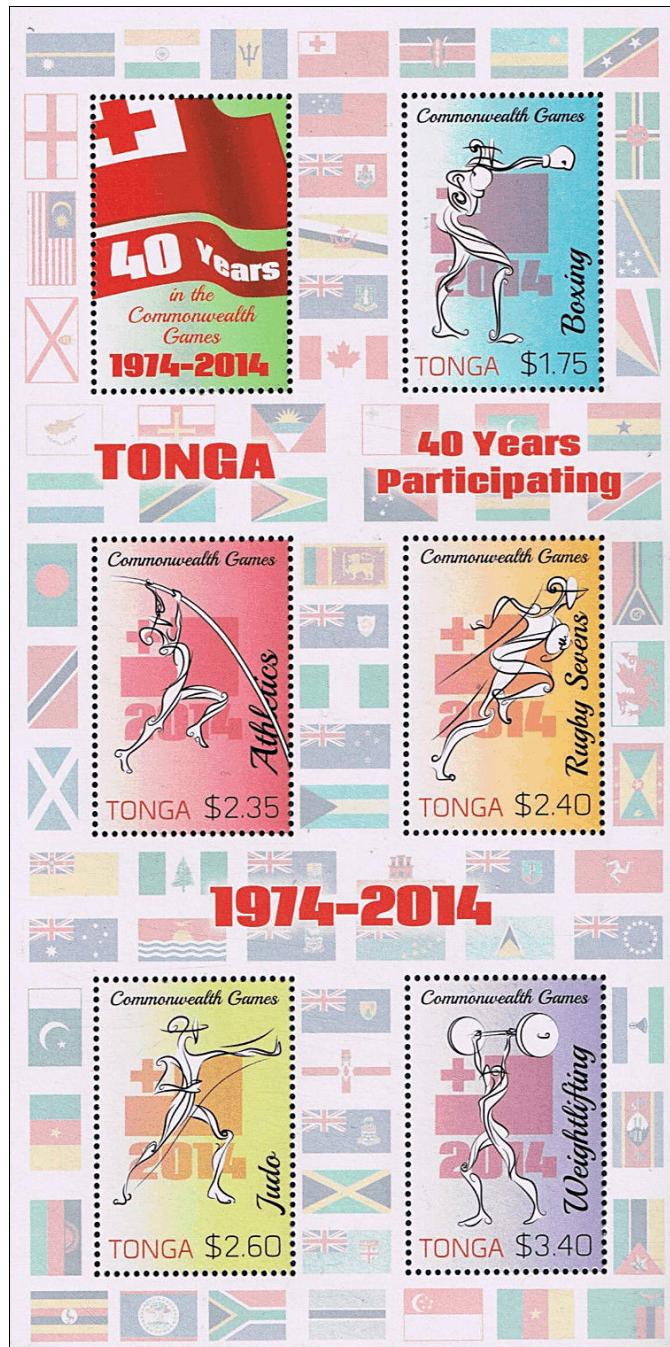


Figure 10 (above). Tonga sheetlet of five stamps plus a label noting the country's 40 years of participation in the Commonwealth Games.



Figure 11 (left). The weightlifting stamp was one of five sports honored by Samoa. Each sheetlet included five stamps plus a label. The selvedge featured the flags of the participating nations.

COLLECTORS SHOWCASE

1914, a first and a last major championship for two legendary golfers

by Patricia Loehr

As 1914 began, the sport of golf was benefitting from an increase in interest from sports writers and the general public following Francis Ouimet's historic and famous win in the 1913 U.S. Open Championship at Brookline Country Club in Massachusetts. Walter Hagen from Rochester, New York tied for fourth place while Harry Vardon from Grouville on the Channel Island of Jersey, England was part of a three-golfer play-off with Ouimet to decide the champion. During their competitive years when they were playing their best golf there was no so-called Grand Slam of four major tournaments. Tournaments known as "Grand slam" and "major" came into use in the 1930s. After Vardon and Hagen stopped competing, their record of championship wins would be totaled as eleven for Hagen and seven for Vardon.

Each golfer was one of a great triumvirate – Vardon with John Henry Taylor and James Braid and Hagen with Bobby Jones and Gene Sarazen. Beginning in the late 1800s and throughout the twentieth century such threesomes of golfers tended to dominate the sport. Before choosing professional golf, each enjoyed another favorite sport: baseball for Hagen and cricket for Vardon.

Having already won three British Open Championships, Vardon traveled to the United States in 1900 for an exhibition tour of matches. During that tour he won his only non-British championship, the U.S. Open, played at the Chicago Golf Club in Illinois. It was during another golfing tour of the United States in 1913 when he tied as runner-up to Francis Ouimet. Vardon would play in his third and final U.S. Open Championship in 1920 and again tie for second.

Vardon may have been disappointed with his second place finish in the 1913 U.S. Open, however he would win his sixth and final British Open Championship the following year at Prestwick Golf Club. In 2002 Jersey issued a set



Vardon and his legendary swing.

of five stamps for the 100th anniversary of La Moye Golf Club. Harry Vardon who attended the opening is featured on the violet 29 p stamp. He is wearing his favorite type of golf clothing and his image presents his golf swing, a style which other golfers came to imitate. He would have been holding his golf club with the index finger from the dominant hand gripping the club overlapping the little finger of the other hand. It became known as the Vardon grip.

Like Vardon, Walter Hagen would follow up his success from the 1913 U.S. Open. In 1914 he would again enter, and this time win, the U.S. Open Championship at Midlothian Country Club in Chicago. Thus began his long and distinguished life of golf. Walter Hagen would go on to win another U.S. Open Championship in 1919. Following that victory he decided to become a professional tournament golfer. That was a bold decision at the time as most professional golfers were employed at golf clubs and amateur golfers such as Bobby Jones dominated tournament golf. Just as Vardon traveled to the United States in 1900 and won its championship, Hagen is the first native son from the United States to win the (British) Open Championship, doing so in 1922. As Vardon was a six-time winner of the Open Championship, Hagen was destined to become a five-time winner of the United States Professional Golfers' Association Championship (1921, 1924-1927). He followed his 1922 British Open victory by winning again in 1924, 1928, and 1929.

There are six known design-different slogan meter stamps from the 1930s for Hagen's line of golf balls (four meters) and golf clubs (two meters).

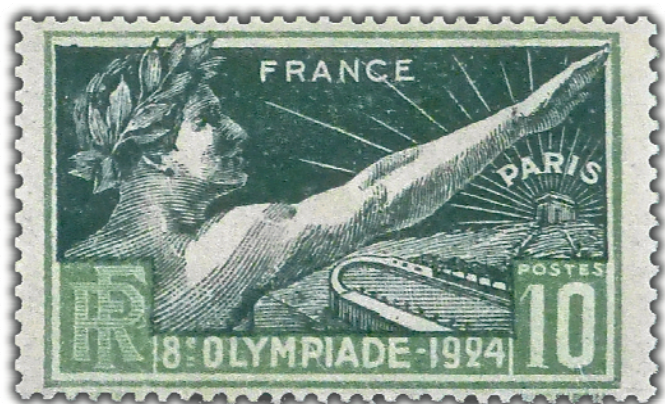
While Vardon in 1914 was approaching the end of his illustrious contributions to the sport, Walter Hagen was at the beginning of his.

Harry Vardon died in 1937. In that year the European PGA established the Harry Vardon Trophy which is awarded each year to the player who leads their Order of Merit. Also in 1937 the USPGA established a Vardon Trophy. After leaving competitive tournament

golf Harry Vardon designed golf courses. In 1933 he wrote his autobiography, *My Golfing Life*. Walter Hagen wrote an autobiography in 1956 titled *The Walter Hagen Story*. 🍷



One of two slogan meters for Walter Hagen golf clubs.



PARIS 1924: BACK TO THE FUTURE, PART 1

by Robert Kebric

With recent Olympic behemoth playgrounds falling into decay, new International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach is said to be bringing the problem of runaway Games' costs to the table for answers at his December meeting in Monaco.

The legacy of Olympic venues hasn't always been a problem, with the 1924 Paris Olympic Games stadia being a case in point. Parisians today continue to maintain and use three of the major facilities from nine decades ago – one, in fact, the Vincennes Velodrome, was also used in the 1900 Games. Time, of course, eventually passes by everything, but as for the last few Olympics, it has not even stopped long to glance. At least at Paris, these facilities have so far stood the test of time.

Today's Olympics are longer in days, more expensive, more commercial, have more participants and events, and face a variety of other prob-

lems. They replaced the World's Fairs that were their breeding ground (i.e., Paris 1900, St. Louis 1904, and London 1908) and have taken on the quality of Mega-Fairs, themselves – arguably now the “Greatest Show on Earth.”

Within the context of their day, however, earlier Games also faced problems. As an example, the 1924 Paris Games that we are highlighting became the center for one of the most embarrassing displays of non-sportsman-like conduct in Olympic history when riots at the Rugby final ended that sport until revived for Rio in 2016.

Thus far, the Games have found ways to rise above what might have been crippling and even fatal obstacles to survive and prosper, the most pivotal transformation being the phoenix-like emergence from the disasters of Montreal and Moscow at Los Angeles, where the current “Commercial Olympics” were born. Now, that era is coming to a close with no solution yet in sight.

It is not our intent, however, to make relative comparisons over the past century of Olympic Games. Our concern is the surviving and still employed Paris 1924 Olympic facilities, whose continued use is a testimonial in itself. A “Now and

Figure 1 (below). Views of the Stade Olympique de Colombes (looking south) – an early postcard (left) and present-day aerial photograph (right).





Figure 2. The Tribune d'Honneur, the main grandstand located on the west side of the stadium (then and now).

Then” visual comparison for each of the three aforementioned Paris venues using original postal material and other memorabilia from 1924 and modern photos of their appearance today, should provide both an interesting and an educational experience for readers, especially those who were previously unaware that such a vicarious visit is still possible.

STADE OLYMPIQUE DE COLOMBES

The “look” of these 1924 Paris Olympics, in particular, is even more illustrative considering the hype they received during the Summer 2012 Olympics in London, much of whose fabric was designed around them including the 1981 Academy Award winning picture, *Chariots of Fire*, and its stirring soundtrack. The colorful film highlighted Harold Abrahams (Figure 6), a British Jew of Lithuanian origin, and a Scottish Christian, Eric Liddell, both of whom overcame personal and religious obstacles to win the gold at Paris in 1924. It was an irresistible



story and a perfect fit for LOCOG organizers.² In fact, Colombes Stadium in Paris (Figure 1) received so much attention that Simon Calder produced a wonderful video for *The Independent* (July 2012) when he visited it.³ Today the Stade Olympique Yves-du-Manoir is home to Rugby Club Racing Métro 9. Google Earth also provides recently updated (2013) and very useful air views, as well as a virtual tour around the stadium.

The Stadium has been downsized significantly from the 60,000 it held for the 1924 Paris Games, but it certainly has fared better than recent counterparts. After hosting the 1924 Olympics, Colombes played host to the 1938 World Cup Final and remained France’s largest stadium until 1972, when neglect set in.

By 1992 most of the dilapidated stadium was torn down save for a renovated version of the main grandstand portrayed in *Chariots of Fire* (it was actually The Oval at Bebington, Merseyside near Liverpool that was used for filming).

Figure 3. The Restaurant (northwest side of the Stadium) with its distinctive roof remains a reminder of the Games.





Figure 4. Opening Day of the 1924 Olympic Games with the athletes in their parade uniforms arrayed facing the Tribune d'Honneur. The original Tribune du Marathon is at upper right.

The once impressive 10,000 seat (now plastic) Tribune d'Honneur still stands looking much like it did in 1924 (Figure 2). A new, smaller grandstand has also been erected (2009) where the "Tribune du Marathon" once stood, and large sections of the original concrete seats at the oval ends of the stadium for less-expensive Olympic ticket holders are still in place. Even though the complete oval is not entirely intact, it is not difficult to judge the original extent of the stadium's original circumference. An aerial view (Figure 1) is the best way to see the old configuration.

One building from the days of the 1924 Olympics, which the 1924 Official Report identifies as the "Restaurant," still stands outside the Stadium. The structure is closed off and in a state of disrepair, but it was important enough to deserve a postcard in 1924 (Figure 3). Its tall chimney and unusually-shaped roof can still be seen from inside the Stadium today, just as they were during the 1924 Olympics.

We are fortunate to have an observation of the 1924 Paris Olympics Opening Ceremonies by one of the participants. He was a member of the British Team, Henry Stallard. His description is repeated here with an original panorama postcard (Figure 4) of those Opening Ceremonies and the Parade of Athletes:

The arena is oval in shape, the green grass in the centre contrasting vividly with the red track and white concrete stands, with their blue and gold-coloured iron framework... At 3 pm the Stadium was packed and ready to witness the march-past of the athletes. The day was perfect – a blazing sun in an azure sky. An overture was sung by choirs of male voices. Then followed a deathly silence,

broken a few minutes later by the sound of massed bands, the Marathon Gate was opened, and to the crashing of cymbals and the rolling of drums the South African team entered the Stadium, heading the parade. Those of us who had the good fortune to watch this spectacle will never again see anything to equal it in its splendor. Not even the most phlegmatic of us could fail to be thrilled at the sight of the wiriest and lithest bodies of the athletes of forty-five nations, clad each in their respective national uniforms, and marching with heads erect behind their flag bearers. (Quoted by Mark Ryan, "Running with Fire: The True Story of 'Chariots of Fire' Hero Harold Abrahams," 121ff., from the St. Bartholomew's Hospital Journal.)

As for the facilities on the grounds outside the main stadium, there is nothing left of the smaller swimming pool (Stade nautique) at the northern, or flag, end of the stadium, where there is now a parking lot. What the Official Report calls the Stade



Figure 5. The Olympic Village – the first of its kind at an Olympic Games – was only about a 1/2-mile east of the Stadium.

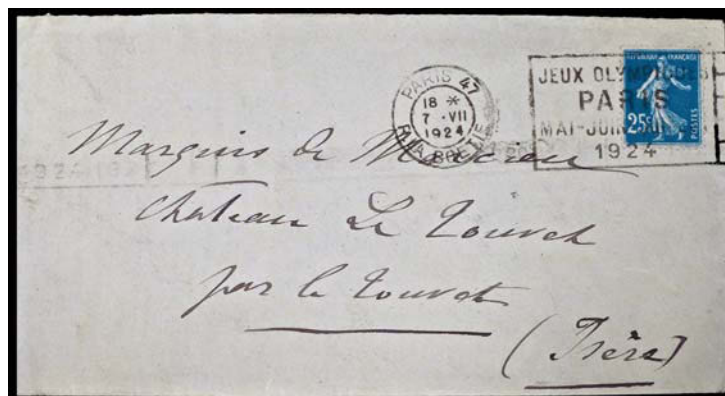
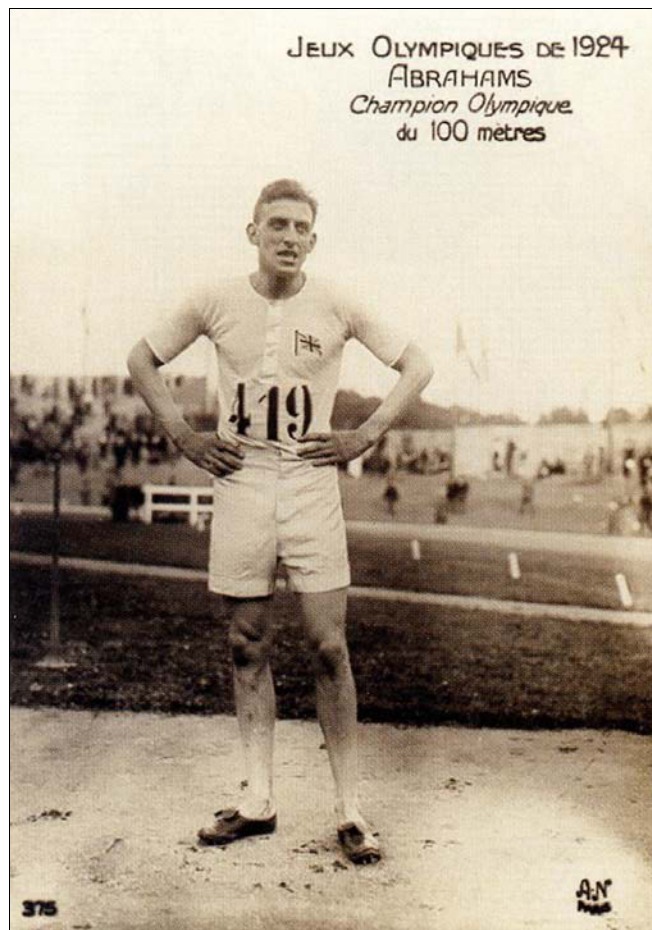


Figure 6. Harold Abrahams of Great Britain (of “Chariots of Fire” fame) won the gold medal in the 100-meter dash by beating Jackson Scholz of the USA by just two-tenths of a second, tying the Olympic record in the process. A postcard with a photo of Abrahams taken just after the race is at left while an Olympic machine slogan cancel on 7 July commemorates the finals of the event (above).

d’Escrime (Fencing) was next to it, but it also is gone. Perhaps it is just as well since *Chariots of Fire* had placed the hotel of Harold’s coach Sam Mussabini where the swimming pool would have been (he actually stayed several miles away at the Hotel Franklin on Rue Bouffault). At least in the film version, he would have had a first-hand view of some of the preliminary swimming!

The Olympic Village (Figure 5), the first official housing for Olympians that was on Boulevard Valmy, precisely where the Rue Alexis Bouvier (Vers la Gare Olympique) now ends, is also gone. A current version of the railway station, where thousands got off to see the Games in 1924, is still there and is where most fans and visitors coming from Paris alight to reach the stadium today after about a twenty minute walk (not pleasant when raining).

There is the Café du Stade across the street and a little down from the Stadium where Calder lunched during his visit for *The Independent* and viewed walls of photos from the 1924 Games. The building of this eatery, at least, is certainly old enough to have witnessed the Paris Olympics, but it certainly has nothing to do with the spot in *Chariots of Fire* where Abrahams (Figure 6) and

Sam Mussabini, supposedly celebrate his 100-meter gold medal into the wee hours of the morning. The real Harold later stated that there was no celebration after his victory.

The main swimming pool where the exploits of Johnny Weissmuller, later to be Hollywood’s greatest Tarzan and creator of the familiar Tarzan primordial “call,” and Hawaiian hero, Duke Kahanamoku, considered not only one of the greatest swimmers of his day but also the father of modern surfing, is still very much in operation. Though having experienced a modern renovation, including a retractable roof, its exterior, at least, is still recognizable when compared with 1924 Olympic photos. In the next issue, we will visit the Piscine de Tourelles, now called Piscine Georges Vallerey, a few miles southeast of Colombes Stadium. 🐼

Endnotes:

1. “What the Abandoned Venues From the Athens Olympics Look Like 10 Year Later,” Tony Manfred, www.businessinsider.com/abandoned-athens-olympics-venues-2014-8)
2. For the latest evaluation, see Robert B. Kebric, “London 2012, Chariots of Fire resurrected and Colombes Stadium today: hype, history and Olympic realities,” in *Sport in Society*, Volume 17, Number 5, June, 2014 [on-line version also available].
3. The video can be seen online at, “Travel Diaries” of July 10, 2012 under the title “Forgotten field of dreams: Visit the scene of Britain’s triumph at the 1924 Olympics in Paris.”



Figure 1. 1993 souvenir sheet from The Gambia showing a movie poster of the film.

"There's no crying in baseball!"

by Norman Rushefsky

The titled admonition is one of the more famous of movie quotes from the 1992 film *A League of Their Own* (Figure 1). The film is a 1992 American comedy-drama that tells a fictionalized account of the real-life All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL). Directed by Penny Marshall, the film stars Geena Davis, Tom Hanks, Madonna and Rosie O'Donnell. The movie features Tom Hanks as a gruff, no-nonsense manager who barked at his female players that there was "no crying" in the sport.

The AAGPBL (Figure 2) was established in 1943 by Philip K. Wrigley, the chewing gum mogul and owner of the Chicago Cubs Major-League Baseball team to keep baseball alive as American men went off to war. The star player, portrayed by Geena Davis, was partly based on Lavone "Pepper" Paire Davis (no relation) who was a catcher for the AAGPBL during World

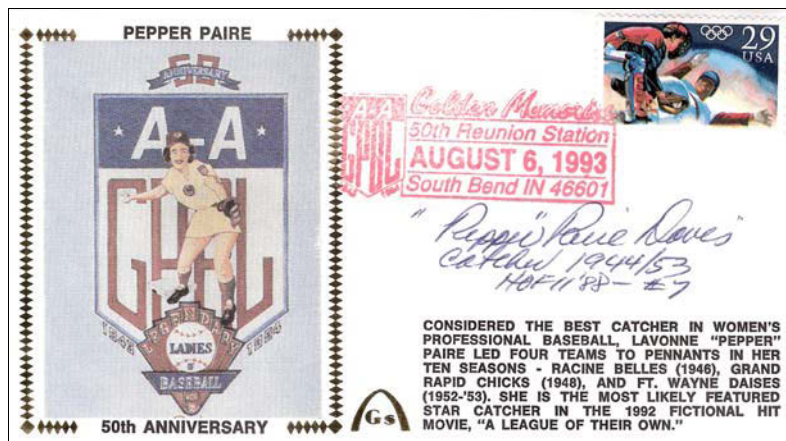


Figure 2. Cover and postmark from South Bend, Indiana celebrating the 50th reunion of the ladies of the AAGPBL. The cachet features "Pepper" Paire and is autographed by her.

War II. Mrs. Davis, known as "Pepper" Paire during her playing years, broke every one of her fingers at least once during her time as a star catcher for the AAGPBL. But never did she cry. "There's no crying in baseball," said Mrs. Davis when asked years later how she endured the pain while keeping her composure. Her line was later immortalized in the 1992 film.

In 1946 Paire played in 101 games for the league champion Racine Belles. Figure 3 shows a cover with a postmark from Racine, Wisconsin used in 2001 to honor the Racine Belles. "Pepper" Paire is included in a Women in Baseball permanent display, opened in 1988 at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York.

Despite the titled admonition, I imagine more than a few tears were shed when the world learned of Mrs. Davis passing at the age of 88 on February 2, 2012.

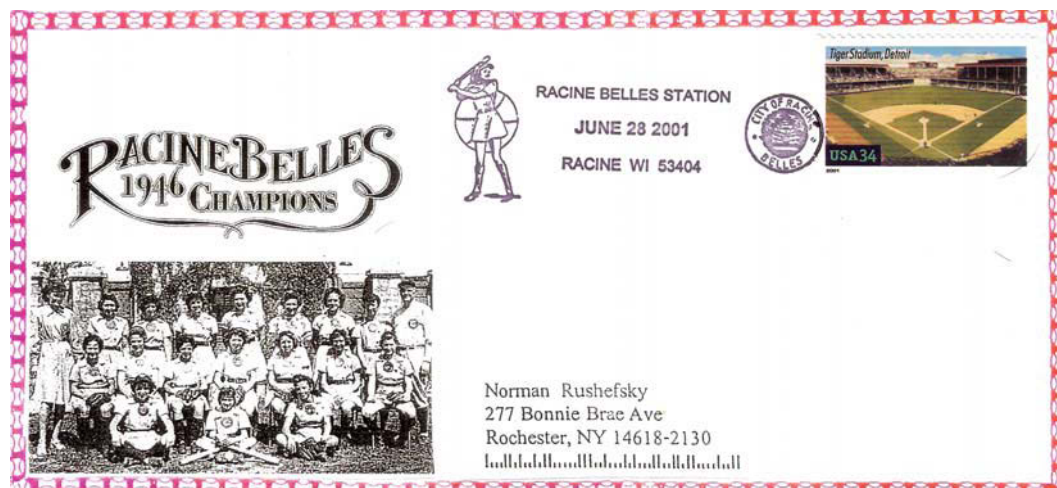
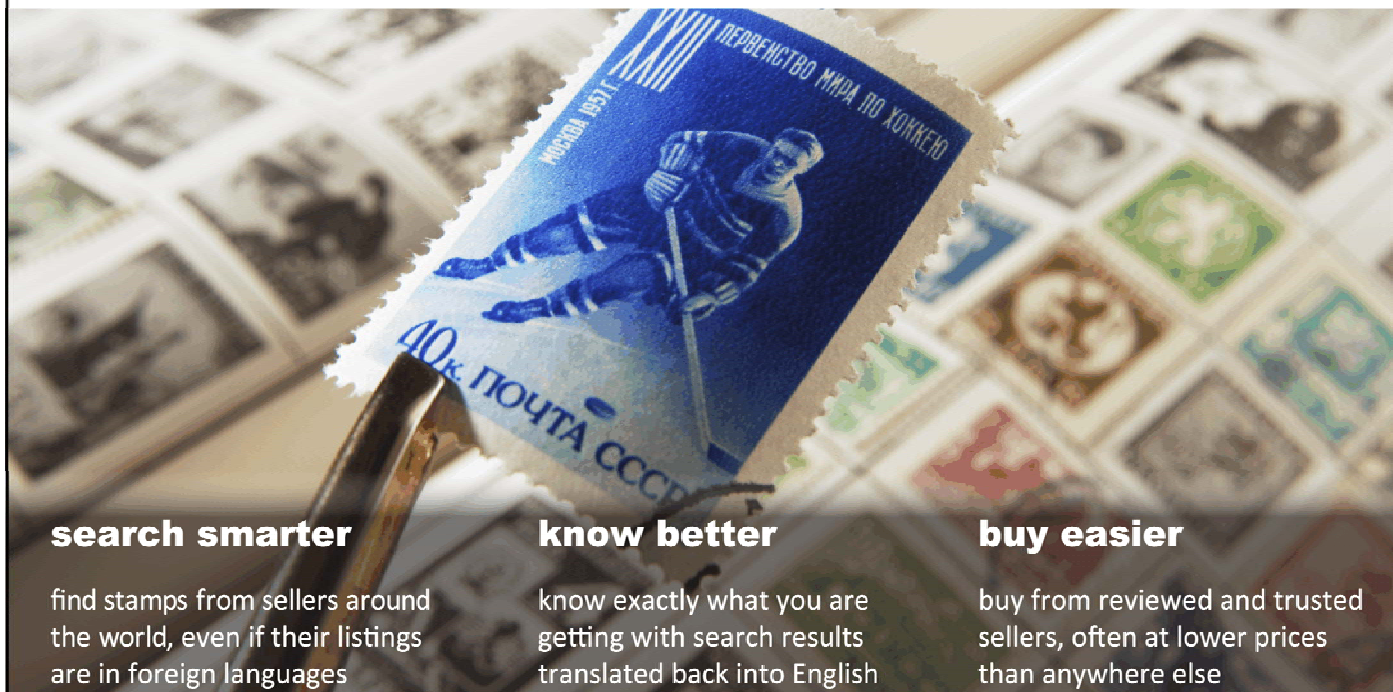


Figure 3. Cancel honoring the Racine Belles.



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	Fiscal Year Ending August 31, 2014	Fiscal Year Ending August 31, 2013
<u>Income</u>		
Dues	3,284.71	3,737.03
Interest	16.94	27.22
Donations	250.00	300.00
Publications/Advertising/	690.00	1,230.00
Total	4,241.65	5,294.25
<u>Expenses</u>		
Printing	2,161.17	2,459.10
Postage	1,492.87	1,870.91
Other (supplies, etc)	718.96	633.30
Total	4,373.00	4,963.31
<u>Auction activity</u>		
Receipts	-	230.75
Disbursements	-	(201.06)
Total	0.00	29.69
Net Income (loss)	(131.35)	360.63
Beginning Fund Balance	18,393.78	18,033.15
Ending Fund Balance	18,262.43	18,393.78
Cash and Investments:		
Total Cash and Investments	18,262.43	18,393.78
Fund Balance	18,262.43	18,393.78

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REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS

by Mark Maestrone

Esprit: Sports et Olympisme: Jean-Pierre Picquot, 172 Bd. Berthier, 75017 Paris, France. [In French]

June 2014 (#72). France's National Museum of Sport recently reopened in a brand new facility in Nice. As reported by Marie Grasse, the museum boasts a collection of 45,000 objects and 250,000 documents recounting the history of sports. Also in this issue, René Christin presents an interesting philatelic history of "The Birth of the University Games, 1923-1929." Dominique Hardy provides a fascinating look at France's "Tax on Billiards" which began in 1871 as a way for the state to replenish its treasury after the disastrous war of 1870/71. The law was extended in the 1980s to include "automatic billiards" machines!

October 2014 (#73). Jean-Louis Emmenegger and Vincent Girardin contributed companion articles reviewing the philately and celebration of the 2nd Youth Olympic Games held in Nanjing, China this past August. René Christin continues with part 2 of his series on the University Games this time covering the period from 1945 to 1957. In Part 1 of "Survive with Honor," Roman Babut presents a patriotic – yet philatelic – look at the prisoners of war of WWII, Polish sport and Olympic victims, and of course the 1944 camp Olympics in Woldenberg and Gross Born.

Filabasket Review: Luciano Calenda, POB 17126 - Grottarossa, 00189 Rome, Italy. [Color, in English]

June/July 2014 (#43). The primary feature of this issue is the ninth, and penultimate, installment of "The complete overview of basketball Olympic stamps" covering the 2004 Athens and 2008 Beijing Games. New and recently unearthed additions to basketball philately are also reported. Finally, an overview of the XIX World Transplant Games, with an emphasis on the basketball issues, is provided.

IMOS Journal: Diethard Hensel, Dorfstr. 15, OT Koselitz, D-01609 Röderaue, Germany. [In German]

May 2014 (#162). IMOS's annual congress was this year conducted in Rohr in the state of Thüringen,

roughly situated in the center of Germany. The congress handbook, this year printed in full color, includes articles focused on local and regional Olympic and sports activities.

On a more universal level: Karl Lennartz takes readers on a ride through Olympic history, explaining how the various Olympic emblems – the laurel wreath, flag, and rings – developed and were used to solidify Olympic branding. Coinciding with their 90th anniversary, Manfred Bergman reviews the first illustrated Olympic postal stationery – the Pasteur cards of 1924. Not only is the background of these cards explored, but the author delves deeply into the many usages and the winners of events depicted on the cards.

Additional articles include: the first Olympic Winter Games in Chamonix in 1924 by Rüdiger Fritz; the Olympic alpinism prize, by Volker Kluge and Thomas Lippert; and the 1984 Sarajevo Games mascot, "Vučko, the little wolf - happy, sad, hopeful."

August 2014 (#163). In addition to catching up on the various stamp and postmark listings, the August journal features a lengthy look at the many German private post issues relating to football. A number of short articles feature more football, the Innsbruck 1964 Olympic Winter Games, updates on Sochi, and the 2014 Tour de France cycling race.

Olympia-und-Sport-Philatelist: OSPC, Auerbacher Ring 10, 12619 Berlin, Germany. [In German]

Volume 23, #1, 2014. Thomas Lippert reports on an aspect of the Sochi Olympic Winter Games that has not received nearly enough examination: the operation of the Russia Post branches throughout the Olympic region. A sport which rarely receives coverage in the philatelic press is that of table tennis. Klaus-Jürgen Alde takes a look at European table tennis legends on stamps. For football fans, Klaus also writes on the fall of FC Bayern Munich idol, Uli Hoeneß, who was found guilty of tax evasion. Wolfgang Marx continues with part 4 of his series on the German Democratic Republic's Olympic winners with a look at the Seoul 1988 Games.

Phila-Sport: *UICOS, c/o CONI Servizi, Piazza Lauro de Bosis 15, Foro Italico, 00135 Rome, ITALY [In Italian]*

December 2013 (#88). Giorgio Leccese continues with his series on football production material, primarily from Francophone African countries, but also from Monaco and Andorra, beginning in 1968. Alvaro Trucchi reviews philatelic and memorabilia generated by Italy's candidate cities for the Olympic Winter Games. These include Cortina in 1988 and 1992, and the Tarvisio 3-nation bid from 2002. Some interesting documents from Arsenal Stadium in London are discussed by Alessandro De Tucci. Also in this issue is the continuation of the catalog of IOC Session philately covering the period 1985 - 1993.

March 2014 (#89). Over the years, Italy has fielded some very successful teams at the Olympic Winter Games. Alvaro Trucchi takes on the task of reporting the philatelic commemoration of these snow and ice athletes. Giorgio Leccese's series on football production material continues spanning the period from 1973 to 1976. The catalog of IOC Session philately picks up in 1993 where the previous installment ended, and continues through the 1995 session in Budapest at which Salt Lake City was selected to host the 2002 Olympic Winter Games. Additional shorter articles in this issue include: memories of the Caprera Boating Club (rowing); the Toscana 2013 cycling race; and the sports of women's football, gymnastics, and motorcycling.

June 2014 (#90) was not received.

September 2014 (#91). Pasquale Polo starts us off with an interesting little story on the 1960 Olympic Torch Relay to Rome, one leg of which was aboard the three-masted Italian training ship, the Amerigo Vespucci, from Piraeus to Syracuse, Italy. In a companion piece, Gianni Galeotti visits the Techni-

cal Naval Museum in Spezia to view the original cauldron which housed the Olympic flame onboard the Amerigo Vespucci. In a guest appearance, Thomas Lippert, provides an English-language version of his article, "Sochi 2014: about the work of the post during the Olympic time" (originally printed in the OSPC journal – see above).

The 1978 World Cup philately from French-speaking African countries is explored by Giorgio Leccese in his continuing series on football production material. The final installment of the IOC Sessions catalog begins with the 2001 Singapore session through to the 2009 Session (and 13th IOC Congress) held in Copenhagen.

Torch Bearer: *Miss Paula Burger, 19 Hanbury Path, Sheerwater, Woking, Surrey GU21 5RB, U.K.*

May 2014 (Vol.31, #1). This issue of SOC's quarterly journal presents quite a smorgasbord of topics. Bob Wilcock reports on the birth of AICO, the new Olympic and sports collectors organization, and the 2014 Olympic Collectors Fair, both of which were held in May in Lausanne. While the 2014 Sochi Olympics are behind us, a few philatelic issues relating to those Games continue to dribble in, mostly commemorating medalists. On a more youthful level, there is an informative article on the 2nd Summer Youth Olympic Games held in Nanjing, China. As compared with the first YOG in Singapore in 2010, there is a notable dearth of stamps; only a single stamp was issued by the host country. A total of 30 postmarks were announced: the mascot, Nanjinglele, playing the various sports on one set, while a second set reproduced images of the venues. While the venue postmarks can be confirmed, the mascot postmarks have, to date, not been seen on cover or postcard. On the 20th anniversary of the 1994 Olympic Winter Games, Regnvald Hansen looks back at the Torch Relay postmarks from Morgedal, Norway, while Brian Hammond evokes "Memories of Lillehammer 1994."

Another Olympic anniversary was celebrated this year: it has been 50 years since the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games. Three articles look back at those Games. Masaoki Ichimura wrote on the Olympic Village and sports cancels, extracted and translated from a longer article in Japanese. Bob Farley and Mr. Ichimura team up for a look at the Olympic lottery conducted for Olympic tickets. Lastly, Mr. Farley analyzes the dramatic increase in the number of nations philatelically commemorating the Olympics by the time of the 1964 Games.



The Amerigo Vespucci transported the Olympic flame from Greece to Italy for the 1960 Rome Olympics.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Mark Maestrone

NEW MEMBERS

Arthur Friedlander, 3671 Hudson Manor Terrace 9B, Bronx, NY 10463-1139 USA. **General Sports.**

DECEASED

Portuguese philatelist, Manuel Ribeiro da Silva, passed away in November 2012. Manuel, a member of SPI since 1999, was passionate about basketball philately and a founding member of the International Filabasket Society. His collecting interests included the University Games (he was an officer of Portugal's University Sport Movement), and Olympic Games, particularly the torch relay and host country philately.

EXHIBITING RESULTS

THAILAND 2013 World Stamp Exhibition (2-14 August 2013, Bangkok, Thailand) and
BRASILIANA 2013 World Stamp Exhibition (19-25 November

2013, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil). SPI Life Member from Thailand, Phairot Jiraprasertkun, received a Gold medal at both exhibitions for his 8-frame thematic exhibit, "Olympic Games."

PHILAKOREA 2014 World Stamp Exhibition (7-12 August 2014, Seoul, South Korea). Norman Jacobs, Jr. was awarded a Vermeil for his 8-frame thematic exhibit "Tennis – From Game of Kings to King of Games."

SPM 2014 Stamp Show (24-28 September 2014, St. Pierre et Miquelon, France). Conrad Klinkner won a Large Silver medal for his 5-frame thematic exhibit, "Games of Xth Olympiad, Los Angeles, 1932."

Warsaw 2014 (21st National Philatelic Exhibition, 12-19 October). Andrew Urushima was invited to show his single frame exhibit (out of competition) "The 1944 Gross Born POW Olympics."



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NEW STAMP ISSUES

by John La Porta

Aland: May 31, 2014. Weightlifter Kenneth Sandvik. 1.10€. Photo of the weightlifter.

Albania: August 27, 2013. IAAF World Athletics Championships. 30L runner; 200L high jumper. Souvenir sheet contains one 250L stamp, pole vaulter. Printed in sheets 8.

November 6, 2013. 17th Mediterranean Games. Setenant pair 40 L diving, swimming, synchronized swimming; 150 L volleyball, weight lifting, cycling. Souvenir sheet with one 200 L stamp, rowing. Printed in sheets of 8.

Argentina: 125th Session IOC. Souvenir sheet of two 5p stamps, Runners, Pierre de Coubertin; Gymnast.

Armenia: December 2, 2013. Sochi Olympics. Souvenir sheet with two stamps, 350d cross-country skiing; 1100d alpine skiing.

Austria: May 29, 2014. 19th Anniversary Erzberg Motorcycle Rodeo. €0.62 Rider on motorcycle.

Azerbaijan: January 15, 2014. Sochi Olympics. Setenant block or strip of four, 20g skiing; 30g ice hockey; 50g speed skating; 60g pairs figure skating. Printed in a sheet of 8, two sets.

Bulgaria: October 25, 2013. Centenary of Botev Plovdiv Football Club. O.65 lv stamp, team lineup and club badge. Printed in sheets of 40 and sheetlet 3 stamps and one label.

January 31, 2014. Sochi Olympics. Miniature sheet 1.40 lv ski jumper.

February 21, 2014. Centenary of PFK Football Club. O.65 lv sheet stamp and sheetlet of 3 stamps and one label. Team line and club badge. Note: sheet stamp has imprint date '2013' and the sheetlet stamp has '2014'.

Canada: June 19, 2014. Canadian Football League. P stamp, self-adhesive coil. Russ Jackson in Ottawa Rough Riders uniform, TD Place Stadium, Ottawa Redblacks emblem. Booklet pane of 10.

Croatia: February 7, 2014. Sochi Olympics. 3.10k downhill skiing. Printed in sheets of 9 + label.

June 12, 2014. World Cup Soccer. 7.60k emblem. Printed in sheets of 9 + label.

Czech Republic: February 5, 2014. Sochi Olympics. 25k snow boarder.

February 5, 2014. Sochi Paralympics. 13k downhill skiing.

Cyprus: February 17, 2014. FIFA Soccer World Cup Finals. 70k emblem, footballer kicking ball; 2tl emblem, footballer making overhead kick.

Egypt: April 26, 2013. African Under 20s Football Championship. £3 trophy, footballer with Egyptian flag.

France: July 17, 2014. FIFA World Cup Winners. €0.60 scene from soccer match. Sheets of 10.

Germany: April 3, 2014. Protection of Water Resources. 60c + 30c, sailboat in design.

Great Britain: July 17, 2014. Commonwealth Games. Six stamps, non-denominated 2nd judo; first class swimmers; 97p marathon runners; £1.28 squash; £1.47 women's bas-ketball; £2.15 para-track sport cycling. The booklet contains two of the 1st class swimming stamps and four 1st class Machin 1st class definitives showing Queen Elizabeth II. Also six postcards reproducing the stamps.

Greece: June 4, 2013. Tourism. 0.78€ three yachts during race. Printed in sheets of 10 with 20 labels for personalizing.

June 12, 2014. FIFA Finals. Sheetlet (2x4), 0.90€ cartoon mascot with ball; 1.30€ player kicking ball. Miniature sheet, 1.30€ same design as single stamp.

Guinea-Bissau: January 10, 2014. Joe DiMaggio and Marilyn Monroe. Sheetlet of five 700 FCFA stamps depicting Joe DiMaggio. Souvenir sheet with two 1600 FCFA stamps, showing DiMaggio. July 12, 2014.

January 10, 2014. Ayrton Senna. Sheetlet with five 650 FCFA stamp, various drawing of the driver. Souvenir sheet with two 1100 FCFA stamps showing the race car driver.

January 10, 2014. Tribute to Eusebio. Sheetlet with five 650 FCFA stamps depicting various soccer scenes. Souvenir sheet with two 1200 FCFA stamps, soccer players.

January 10, 2014. Soccer Brazil 2014. Sheetlet with five 650 FCFA stamps, soccer scenes. Souvenir sheet with two 1100 FCFA stamps, soccer players in action.

April 30, 2014. Soccer Brazil 2014. Sheetlet of four 750FCFA stamps showing country flags of Group A. Souvenir sheet with one 2000FCFA stamp depicting all four country flags of Group A. The same sheetlets and souvenir sheets were issued for Group B; Group C; Group D; Group E; Group F; Group G; Group H.

Guatemala: December 12, 2012. 75th Anniversary of the Max Tott Half-Marathon. 8.00 statue of runner.

Guinea: March 25, 2014. Soccer Brazil 2014. Sheetlet of four stamps, two 10,000 FG and two 15,000 FG stamps, statues of soccer players. Souvenir sheet with one 45,000 FG stamp, statue of soccer players.

Guinea-Bissau: January 10, 2014. Muhammad Ali. Sheetlet of five 700 FCFA stamps all featuring Ali. Souvenir sheet with one 3,000 FCFA stamps, Ali.

Hungary: April 2, 2013. European Judo Championships. 360ft, judo competitors.

July 4, 2013. World Fencing Championships. 300ft fencers in action. Printed in sheets of 35 and 35 half-format labels with composite design.

July 15, 2013. Centenary of Hungarian Ski Association. 500ft emblem, ski jumper, biathlete cross-country skier, downhill skier.

August 2, 2013. World Wrestling Championships. 360ft wrestlers.

Isle of Man: June 24, 2014. Tour de France. Set of six sheetlets, 2 stamps with two center labels. 40p Mark Cavendish; 42p Brian Robinson; 120p Sir Bradley Wiggins; 108p Eddy Merckx; 69p Miguel Indurain & 73p Jacques Anquetil; 1p Eugene Christophe & 119p Bernard Hinault. A set of postal stationery cards with the same values was also released.

Israel: April 8, 2014. Non-Olympic Sports. 3.00sh cable water skiing performing a wake boarding trick; 5.00sh wushu, woman with wushu sword; 5.70sh paragliding: paraglider over cliff coastline. Printed in sheets of 15 with 5 tabs.

Kyrgyzstan: February 22, 2014. Sochi Olympics. 12s speed skating; 21s cross-country skiing; 52s freestyle skiing; 74s bobsledding.

March 22, 2014. 30s jousting horseman.

Latvia: February 7, 2014. Sochi Olympics. €0.85 stamp, sledding.

May 27, 2014. Sochi Olympics. Medalists. €0.50 sheetlet of 4, Martins Dukurs, silver medal skeleton; €0.50 sheetlet of 4 Daumants Dreiskens, Oskars Metbards, Janis Strenga and Arvis Vilaste, silver medalists, four-man bobsled; €0.50 sheetlet of 4 Juris Sics and Andris Sics, bronze medal, luge doubles. €0.50 sheetlet of 4, Juris Sics, Marins Rubens, Eliza Truma, bronze medal medalists, luge mixed team relay.

Maldives: May 7, 2014. Joe DiMaggio Marriage. Sheetlet of four Rf 20 stamps featuring DiMaggio and Marilyn Monroe. Souvenir sheet with on Rf 60 stamp with Monroe and DiMaggio pictured.

Malta: June 12, 2014. Brazil World Cup Soccer. Souvenir sheet with two stamps, €0.59 emblem; €1.55 mascot.

Moldova: February 4, 2014. Sochi Olympics. 4.50 l, skiing, bobsledding, snowboarding; 5.40 l, ice hockey, figure skating, biathlon.

Monaco: May 30, 2014. Soccer Brazil 2014. €0.98 soccer players in action.

June 10, 2014. Monaco Ocean. Sheet of three 60c, €1.10, €1.65 skin divers with sharks.

Montenegro: Sochi Olympics. 95c downhill skiing. Printed in sheets of 8 + central label.

Mozambique: February 25, 2014. Sheetlet with four 184MT stamps, depicting DiMaggio with Marilyn Monroe. S/s with one 175MT value, with Monroe.

New Zealand: May 7, 2014. All Blacks (same as issues in 2010). Two stamps, 80c & \$2.50. Souvenir sheet with two of each stamp.

Niger: April 25, 2014. Sochi Olympics. Sheetlet with four 750f stamps, Ski jumping, Figure skating, hockey, snow boarding. Souvenir sheet with one 2500f stamp, speed skating.

Poland: February 7, 2014. Sochi Olympics. 1.75zl ski jumper; 5zl cross-country skier. Printed in sheetlet of four.

April 11, 2014. Sochi Olympics. Polish Gold Medalists. Miniature sheet of 3. 4.20zl Kamil Stoch, ski jumping; Justyna Kowalczyk, 10km cross-country skiing; Zbigniew Brodka, 1500km speed skating.

June 27, 2014. Renowned Polish Sports Coaches. Miniature sheet. All values 2.35zl. Kasimierz Gorski; Hubert Wagner; Felkis Stamm; Henryk Lasak.

Norfolk Island: December 13, 2013. Inaugural 2013 Trans-Tasman Hardcore Freestyle Motocross Challenge. 50c, \$1, \$1.50 Joe McNaughton; \$1.40 Callum Shaw.

March 7, 2014. IAAF World Indoor Athletics Championships. 5zl shot putter, runner, pole vaulter. Printed in sheetlet of four.

Russia: November 30, 2013. Sochi Olympics. 20r Fisht Stadium; 20r Laura complex; 20r Russian Hills complex; 20r Bolshoy Ice Dome; 20r Iceberg Palace; 20r Pack Ice Arena.

December 14, 2013. Winter Sports Champions & Personalities. Miniature sheet with five 15r stamps, Claudia S. Boyarsky, 1939-2009; Vsevolod Bobrov Mikhilovice, 1922-1979; Tatyana Averin 1950-2001; Pierre de Coubertin 1863-1937; Sir Ludwig Guttmann 1899-1980.

January 24, 2014. Sochi Olympics. Sheetlet of 15 - 25r stamps and one label. Imprint date 2014. Biathlon; two-man bobsled; Alpine skiing (downhill); curling; ski-jump and cross-country relay; cross-country skiing; ski jumping; luge (solo); skeleton; speed skating; snowboarding; figure skating (pairs); free-style skiing; ice hockey; short track speed skating. Prestige booklet with five panes each of 25r x 3. Note: all 15 values were previously issued in sheetlets of 8 during 2013 and 2014 with imprint appropriate to year of issue.

February 7, 2014. Sochi Olympics. Opening of the Winter Games. Miniature sheet with three stamps, 25r Sochi bronze medal; 50r Sochi silver medal; 75r Sochi gold medal.

March 7, 2014. Sochi Olympics. Opening of the XI Paralympic Winter Games. Miniature sheet with three stamps, 25r bronze medal; 50r silver medal; 75r gold medal.

2014. Sochi Olympics. Medals of the Sochi Olympics. 25r bronze medal; 50r silver medal; 75r gold medal. Overprinted with Cyrillic text in red in sheet margin.

St Thomas & Prince Island: March 25, 2014. Tribute to Eusebio. Sheetlet of four 25,000 Db stamps, depicting players from 1942-2014. Souvenir sheet with one 96,000 Db stamp soccer player.

March 25, 2014. Soccer Brazil 2014. Sheetlet of four 25,000 Db stamps, showing soccer players in action. Souvenir sheet with one 96,000 Db stamp, soccer player.

March 25, 2014. Ayrton Senna. Sheetlet of four 25,000 Db stamps picturing the race car driver. Souvenir sheet with one 96,000 Db stamp, Senna.

Samoa: August 28, 2013. Pacific Mini Games. Eight \$2.50 stamps in miniature sheet. Athletics; volleyball; rugby sevens; sailing; taekwondo; va'a canoeing; bodybuilding; volleyball.

San Marino: March 17, 2014. 30th Anniversary Special Olympics. €0.70 stamps, symbol of Special Olympics.

March 17, 2014. 35th World Convention of the Intl. Confederation of Sports Fishing. €0.85 fishing lures.

Serbia: August 30, 2013. 50th Ljubicevo Equestrian Games. Strip of four 22d stamps riders on horses.

February 7, 2014. Sochi Olympics. 22d figure skating; 46d ski jumping. Sheets of 8 with one central label.

December 4, 2012. European Women's Handball Championships. 10d women hitting ball. Obligatory on mail Dec. 4-16.

May 20, 2013. 2013 World Cadet Wrestling Championships. 10d wrestlers. Obligatory on mail May 20-26.

November 4, 2013. 2013 Women's World Handball Championships. 10d women hitting ball. Obligatory on mail Nov. 4-10.

March 10, 2014. 2014 European Men's Rowing Championships. 10d pairs rowing. Obligatory on mail Mar. 10-16. July 19, 2014

Slovakia: January 15, 2014. Sochi Olympics. €0.90 biathlon shooting.

January 15, 2014. Sochi Paralympics. €0.90 downhill skiing.

Solomon Islands: March 3, 2014. Golf. Sheetlet in circular format (stamps also) with four \$7.00 stamps, Vijay Singh; Tiger Woods; Matt Kuchar; Rory McIlroy. S/s (circular format) with one \$35.00 stamp, golf ball.

March 10, 2014. Moscow Athletics. Sheetlet of four \$7.00 stamps, Aleksandr Menkov (long jump), Aleksandr Ivanov (20km walk), Tatyana Lysenko (hammer throw), Elena Lashmanova (20km walk). S/s with \$35.00 stamp, Yelena Isinbayeva (pole vault).

March 10, 2014. Sebastian Vettel. Sheetlet of four \$7.00 values, Vettel and race car. Souvenir sheet with on \$35.00 stamp, Vettel.

South Africa: July 29, 2013. 19th World Transplant Games. Sheet of 10 5.70r stamps. Various athletes showing where transplants are on the human body.

Spain: May 16, 2014. Centenary Biscayne Soccer Federation. 76c soccer ball, emblem.

June 12, 2014. Soccer Brazil 2014. Sheet of two €1 stamps, emblem of 2014 World Cup; half of soccer ball showing Brazilian flag.

Sweden: March 14, 2014. World Ice Hockey Championships. Booklet of 10 Brev stamps; Henrik Lundqvist; Jorgen Jansson; Dorje Salming; Nicklas Lidstrom.

March 14, 2014. World Ice Hockey Championships. Sheetlet of 3x3 6kr stamps. Peter Foppa Forshergs goal in the 1994 Olympics.

March 27, 2014. Zlatan Ibrahimovic Soccer Player. Booklet stamps, strip of five Brev stamps all depicting the player in various soccer positions.

Switzerland: May 8, 2014. Special Olympics National Games. 100c basketball player.

May 8, 2014. Tourist Sites. One stamp sport, 100c diver, speedboat.

Tajikistan: July 26, 2012. London Olympics. Beijing Olympics sheet of 4 and 2 labels, overprinted in blue and bluish black. Note: varieties exist of this overprint.

Togo: February 10, 2014. Jersey Joe Walcott. Sheetlet with four 750F stamps, all depict Walcott boxing Ezzard Charles, Joe Louis, Rocky Marciano. Souvenir sheet with one 2500F stamp, Joe Louis.

February 10, 2014. Joe DiMaggio. Sheetlet with four 750F stamps, DiMaggio with Marilyn Monroe. Souvenir sheet with one 2500F stamp with Monroe.

Turkey: June 10, 2013. 17th Mediterranean Games. Sheet of 4 1.10 L stamps, shell, track & field athletes, boxer; boxer, weightlifter, yacht; yacht, archer, gymnast; volleyball player, cyclist.

December 23, 2013. Yasar Dogu. 50k photo of the wrestler, 1913-1961.

January 16, 2014. Centenary of Altay Sports Club. Set of four, 1.10 l basketball; 1.10 l soccer; 2.20 l swimming; 2.20 l handball.

February 7, 2014. Sochi Olympics. Set of four, 1.10 l ski jumping; 1.10 l pairs figure skating; 2.20 l alpine skiing; 2.20 l speed skating.

Ukraine: January 31, 2014. Sochi Olympics. 3.30h stamp, Ukrainian women's biathlon relay team. Printed in sheets of 16 with 4 labels.

United Arab Emirates: October 31, 2013. Abu Dhabi International Triathlon. 3d stamp depicting running, cycling, diving.

Uruguay: December 11, 2013. Rampla Juniors Soccer Team. 15p photo of three players.

Uzbekistan: January 31, 2014. Sochi Olympics. 1200s male figure skater.

Vanuatu: July 12, 2012. Kiwanis Charity Race Day. 35v; 50v; 150v; 250v; Kiwanis emblem and various race horses.

December 11, 2013. Underwater Postoffice. 350v depicts skin divers.

Wallis & Futuna Islands: July 3, 2013. Petelo Sanele Vakalima. 75fr value shows photo of Vakalima throwing a javelin.

September 8, 2013. 2013 Pacific Mini-Games. Booklet pane of 8 - 85fr stamps, Red lizard mascot playing various sports.



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