Introduction. The creation of a postage stamp involves many interesting stages, all of which produce collectible collateral material. These stages are best illustrated by the stamps of France and of the French

Community, where a number of specialties, much desired by collectors, are officially issued and distributed.

Preliminary planning. France has always assumed complete control of the production of its stamps. The French government maintains a staff of highly skilled artists, designers, and engrav-
 honors and recognition in their professions. When a new stamp (or set) is contemplated, notification is sent to the staff artists with the speoifications of the design type desired. In time these artists submit drawings to the Minister of Posts and one design is selected and punched with the official seal of the government.

Engraving. The approved drawings are then reduced to the exact size of the future stamp(s) and printed by photography on a special soft steel imported from England. The engraver then takes over, using binocular magnification and the hardened steel tools of h1s profession.

Artists' stage proofs. As the artist-engraver works, he may test his progress by occasionally pulling (printing) a few proofs. This is completely voluntary; artists' stage proofs are not pulled in every case and thus are decidediy rare.

Artists' proofs. Prior to January, 1959, the engraver then prepared his artists' proofs, one to two dozen in number, on a hand press and delivered them to the director of the department. Since that date, however, the artist has delivered the die itself to the director of the workshop and exactly eighteen artists' proofs are prepared for the Minister of Posts. Each of the proofs bears the embossed circular seal reading "Control". The artist receives eight of these proofs; this is almost all the supply for the philatelic world. No more than eighteen proofs can be made lest the beauty and detail of the softsteel die be impaired. The die is now hardened chemically for permanent protection.

Artists' proofs are made in from three to six colors; black and sepia predominate, With red and blue less frequently used. Bi-color and multi-color proofs are seldom made and can be classed as rare. The proofs are usually $5 \times 6 \frac{1}{2}$ inches in size and are printed on very thick white or cream paper. The color is different than will be that of the final product. The proof may include the artist's signature. The postal value is sometimes eliminated in these proofs.

Color trial proofs (die proofs). Next a series of color trial proofs is prepared to select the most appropriate color(s) for the new stamps. These proofs are also very scarce. Since the die has been hardened and can be injured less readily now, up to one hundred color proofs may be pulled. Should the Minister of posts not approve any of the colors presented to him, additional colors are used and new proofs made until he is satisfied.

Color trial proofs are printed on hard white or cream paper. colors is tried, most color proofs occur in colors other than the one finally selected

2 COLLECTIBLE BY-PRODUOTS OF THE CREATION OF POSTAGE STAMPS (Cont'd)


10: itat - Bence/funceir
(Printed in reddish-violet on heavy paper; note the clouds in the background.)

(known as "adopted color essays"). The design is usually fully completed, including postal values. Three holes, for counting purposes, are punched near the base of the proof. There may be additional handwritten numbers or inscriptions. Usually fourteen copies are made of each color and shade, of which there are up to thirty-three. Color trial proofs are small, from $45 / 16 \times 5 \frac{1}{2}$ inches and upward.


Color Trial Proof (Printed in sepia; note the punches near the bottom)
Color plate proofs. Since 1955 color plate proofs (essays) on gummed paper thicker than the stamp paper have replaced color proofs. These color essays are printed in sheets of twenty-five for large stamps and fifty for smaller stamps. Usually about twenty sheets are printed. The stamps are always imperforate in these color plate proofs.

Presentation materials. After the adopted color is chosen and before the stamps themselves are printed and go on sale, the various presentation materials are prepared on a hand press. Most of these are distributed to high government officials and foreign dignitaries and are used for political purposes; they are sometimes known as "Minister Sheets" as a consequence. Obviously very few copies of presentation material reach the philatelic market. This group of material may include:

1. Deluxe proofs--the stamp is printed, imperforate and in its chosen color(s), in the middle of a miniature sheet of different sizes. Since october, 1949, their size has been reduced to $315 / 16 \times 51 / 8$ inches. The edition is one hundred and thirty-five copies. Proofs may be plain, punched with holes, or embossed with circular seals.

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Deluxe Proof (Printed in the chosen color; note the indentification punches)

2. Deluxe sheetlets--in the case of sets of two or more stamps these are printed together, perforate and in their chosen colors, as a gummed miniature sheet, the size is $315 / 16 \times 51 / 8$ inches and the edition is twelve to twenty-two copies, not all of which are distributed. Of all the French specialties, these only can be used for postage; occasionally they can be found cancelled. Printing of deluxe sheetlets was discontinued in December, 1959.
3. Deluxe collective proofs (tableaux)--in the case of sets of two or more stamps these may be printed together, imperforate and in the selected colors, in miniature sheets. The size is from $315 / 16 \times 51 / 8$ inches up to full-page size and the edition is ten to twenty copies.

Imperforate stamps. Distributed for only one year after the issue date of the perforate stamps, imperforate stamps are printed on the same paper and in the same colors as their perforate counterparts. Quantities vary up to a maximum of one thousand. Sheetmargin and sheet-corner copies merit premium prices.


Imperforate Pair

Characteristics of proofs and essays. Philatelically speaking, proofs and essays are the first stamps printed from a die and, as such, are of the highest fidelity and quality. They are prepared under very strict government supervision. They are printed on superivr paper which is not subject to ordinary deteriorating influences--gum disturbances, thinning, creasing, and loss of perforations. They will last for centuries, even in humid climates, and can be cleaned with warm, soapy water.

Supply and prices. All these by-products of stamp production are definitely in short supply, but are still remarkably low in price considering the supplies available. Prices depend upon supply and popularity; demand is not yet in line with their scarcity, beauty, and true desirability.

Investment potential. There can be no risk in buying artists' proofs. When souvenir sheets issued in one to three thousand copies are advertised at from $\$ 30$ to $\$ 70$ each, it is not hard to imagine the potential of a philatelic item issued in twelve to twenty-four copies. Even one hundred copies makes a proof automatically ten to thirty times as rare as a souvenir sheet issued in one thousand to three thousand copies. When one realizes that the total available supply of artists' proofs is concentrated in the eight copies the artist receives, it is easy to understand why time has already shown these proofs to be one of the safest and wisest investments.

Summary. The desirability of these French specialty items rests, not only in their elusiveness, but also in the stunning brilliance of their appearance. There are legions of collectors of French stamps seeking these items, so sports philatelists who wish to add this material to their collections are advised to procure their requirements as soon after issuance as possible, before their prices become prohibitive. It is pieces like these French special.ty items which will make your collection distinctive and, perhaps, unique!


Kenya overprints. Kenya has announced a serieg of four overprints commemorating the sixtieth meeting of the International Olympic Committee originally planned for Nairobi in mid-October. Since the announcement, this meeting has been switched to Baden-Baden, West Germany, because the Kenyatta government denied entry to the South African and Portuguese delegates. Now the big question is whether the overprints will appear. And underlying that question is the more subtle question of whether the planned overprints were primarily true commemoratives or another effort to capitalize on the sports philatelist and his hobby.
R.M.B.
U. S. Olympian stamp albums. This voluntary Olympic collection for display in olympic House in New York dity has been enriched by donations from H. E. Harris of the 1939 Haiti Bl and 1948 Peru C78-81, and from Travis Land of the 1960 Republic of Buinea overprints "Jeus olympiques, Rome 1960". Except for a few imperforates and souvenir sheets the collection is complete with eight exceptions, but these include Greece l28, Greece 194-97, Haiti CBl-2, and Peru C8la! A.L.L.

Black blots on the first Greek Olympic set. Editor William Wylie of "Western Stamp Collector" reports how black blot efforts in 1897 affected the first Greek 0lympic set. At that time there was an organization known as the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps. In its November, 1897, bulletin the SSSS listed a number of items it regarded as speculative and urged collectors to refuse to buy them. These included Canada's Jubilee series and the Cabot series of Newfoundland!

In the same issue the society withdrew the objections it had voiced previously to the Olympic Games issue of Greece, explaining that the Greek postal authorities had made it clear these stamps were to be a permanent series! W.W.W.

Ancient Olympic awards. No one knows ezactly when the ancient Olympic Games began, although few historical events have been so thoroughly researched. Some historians ielieve that the earliest ceremonies started about 1453 B.C., but the Games were first truly documented in 776 B.C.

In those early Games the prizes were of considerable material value. Frequently the victor received an amphora, which was a two-handled vase or jar with an oval body and narnow neck. These amphorae were elaborately decorated to make a worthy prize. Two stamps of the Greek first Olympic set (121 and 123) show such an amphora decorated to depict the mythological "Athene" (Minerva), who was the patroness of Athens and thus the protectress of the Games. One of the 1956 Netherlands Olympic issue (B298) depicts another amphora, this one displaying ancient runners.


In the 7 th Olympiad Iphitus, King of Elis, decreed that in the future the prize would be an olive branch. This decision was based on the Delphic oracle: "Iphitus, offer not material prize to honor victory; use the wild olive branch now covered with the thin veil of the spider's web". Before long this single olive branch had been shaped into a wreath which could be worn by the victor as a crown. Greece 400 shows Diagoras of Rhodes, an Olympic victor, being carried forward to receive
 his well-earned victory-crown of olive branches.

The scene of cutting the branches from the "crown bearing" olive tree on the Sacred Mount is shown on one (680) of the charming Greek 0lympic issue of 1960. A boy whose parents were still alive was led to the sacred olive tree by the judges; with a gold scythe he cut off the number of branches required for the competition.


In this same 1960 Greek Olympic set we also see the victor being crowned by the judges (686). This ceremony took place on the morning of the fifth and last day of the Games. The crowns were placed on a special gold-ivory table in front of the Chief Judge's seat in the Temple of Hera. When the herald had summoned the winners by announcing their
names and the cities they represented, each victor in turn was crowned by the sealor Judge.


Yet another of the honors bestowed on the victors in the ancient Games is shown on a third member of the 1960 Greek 0lympic set (687). When each victor returned to his home city, he was permitted to drive a victory chariot drawn by four white horses through a special gap in the walls encircling the city. Plutarch found this quite reasonable as "a town has little need of walls when its men could fight and win".

Greece had at least one other set of respected athletic competitions, although these have not attracted as much attention as the OIympic Games. The Pythian Games, the second most-important of the Greek festivals, lasted from 586 B.O. to 394 A.D. In these Games the victor's crown was formed of laurel branches. It is interesting that the olive branch (and wreath) has historical significance as a symbol of peace, while the laurel branch (and wreath) has been a symbol of victory. When stylized, the two branches can be distinguished one from the other only with difficulty. Thus many sports stamps depict a victor's wreath, but no one knows for sure which kind is actually shown-and usually the catalogue suggests "laurel".

France was the first to show a laurel-crowned (olive-crowned) athlete on two of its VIII Olympic Games series (198 and 201)


Since that time a considerable number of sports stamps have used this theme. A representative sample of these stamps follows:


Our study of the ancient Olympic Games will continue serially as part of "Olympiana" in each issue of "JSP". S.J.H.

Selection of site for 1968 Summer 0lympic Games. The forthcoming meeting of the IOC in Baden-Baden will consider the bids of four potential hosts for the 1968 Summer 0lympic Games. These include Buenos Alres, Detroit, Lyon (France), and Mexico City. If Detroit should prove successful, what will our Post office Department do with respect to commemoration of the event? A single stamp sufficed for the 1960 Winter Olympic Games at Squaw Valley, yet most Olympic hosts manage something a little better than a single commemorative. On the other hand, more than a single commemorative would strain severely the conservative policies of the P.O.D. With respect to the issue of commemoratives. R.M.B.

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Sports Philatelists International is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to the study and collection of postage stamps and related collateral material dealing with sports (including olympics) and recreation and to the promotion of international understanding and good will through mutual interest in sports and philately. Its activities are planned and carried on entirely by the unpaid, volunteer services of its members. All members in good standing receive the monthly periodical, "Journal of Sports Philately". The dues for regular membership are $\$ 3.00$ per year. Membership applications may be obtained from Mrs. Helen Turner, 3447 Spruce Ave., Bremerton, Washington.
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## EDITORIAL COMMENT

I regret very much the delay in the mailing of the September issue. The accumulation of extra duties preceding the start of the new academic year was just too much and the copy was eleven days late in getting to Bill Brecht. He tried to regain some of the lost time, but the Labor Day week-end interferred. Unfortunately, although for another reason, things do not look a great deal better for the October issue.

A verv nice group of manuscripts of varying length have come in during the past three weeks. I thank all of you for your cooperation. The success of the October and November 1ssues seems assured without undue "sweating" on the part of the editors. please keep it up.

Our November issue will feature an article on the Rimet Soccer Cup competition by Scot Landy. The preliminary manuscript was extremely well done. If we can locate sufficient appropriate illustrative material, this should be a great one. It may well have to run serially in two or more issues because of its length.

Some potential authors in our membership are beginning to get into the swing of things now. But I am sure that there are many others who can contribute worthily. What aave you to offer? Short articles and comments on Olympic subjects are still urgently needed.

## SERVICES

As might have been expected, the APS "black blot" program caught East Germany agair in July when that country areated its usual artificial shoveage of one valae of its threestamp set commemorating the German Gymnastic and Sports Festival. Surprisingly enough ir this time of racketeering in sports stamps, our favorite topic came off free in the listings in the August issue of "The American Philatelist".

Member George Kobylka (SPI ll) of K-Line Publishing Company (1433 S. Cuyler Ave:, Berwyn, Ill.) is offering an attractive discount on the first purchase from K-Line's sports album pages by a SPI member. SPI will receive a portion of the discount for its assistance in bringing these worthwhile pages to the attention of its members.

The big news for this issue is that SPI hit its membership goal of 500 on August 29th, just two days short of the completion of its first year. Then two more completed membership applications reached Secretary-Treasurer Larry McMillan before the deadine, so we ended our first year with 502. And what is even better, by September 7 th another six new members were in the fold. Now if just a few more renewals of our early charter members would rush in to Larry, the outlook in the membership area would indeed be rosy.

## NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS AND AFPILIATES

Greetings from the Secretary-Treasurex. Larry McMillan wishes to thank so many of you for the pleasant greetings which you have sent to him along with your renewal checks. Although he would like to respond to each of you, obviously he can't. Please consider this as his poor substitute.

Expiration of memberships. These are becoming increasingly important just now:
Nos. 1-237 August 3lst
Nos. 238-281 September 30th
Nos. 282-322 October 3lst
We are nearing the eighty per cent mark on renewals for the first group, but that means that some forty-odd members will be without "JSP" and the other SPI services if they don't get on the ball quite soon. We are patient, but we can't carry you forever!

President of the Texas Philatelic Association. Travis L. Land of San Antonio, Texas, a director of SPI and a regular contributor to "JSP", has been elected as president of the Texas Philatelic Association. Congratulations, Travis, even though we may begrudge you the time away from SPI and "JSP" for your presidential duties.

August meeting of SCOSO. Others may take time off for vacations and for the summer, but this group never falters. As usual, the meeting was held at Helms Hall. Larry McMillan reported on the K-Line album recently purchased by SCOSC to house the sports collection being accumulated for the Helms Athletic Foundation displays. Fred Howard showed color essays of the 1963 Monaco Grand Prix and Monte Carlo Motor Rilly stamps. Two drawings and an auction of thirty-two lots closed the meeting.

Membership changes (to September lst).
Additions:

Address changes:
Babits, Lt. Col. George F., Box 2372, Edwards AFB, Calif. Buben, John R., 25 Oakland Ave., Sekonk, Mass. Davis, William R., 6705 Spring Rd., Richmond 28, Va. Eichorn, Leonard K., 21197 Ellacott Parkway, Cleveland 28, Ohio Pickett, George A., 1401 Farmington Ave., Berling, Conn. Rickard, Harry, Box 175, Lakeport, Calif.

Death:

## - Fred Farr -

The sole purpose of this column is to alert collectors to sudden changes in the prices of sports stamps or of circumstances which render particular stamps an excellent purchase at current market prices. Sports Philatelists International is irrevocably opposed to speculation in postage stamps; hence it must be emphasized that this column is exclusively to save money for our members, but only for those stamps which they would normally be expected to include in their sports collection. Collectors interested in speculation are advised to consult a stock broker!

T1p of the month--Muscat $27-30$. Issued in 1948 to celebrate the XIV Olympiad, these are the stamps of Great Britain, host nation to the Summer Olympic Games, overprinted for use in Muscat. These stamps are actually scarce, being issued in inmited printings varying from 73,998 copies of the lowest value to 66,867 copies of the high value. Used coples are even more desirable than mint. Remember the tremendous number of collectors of Great Britain and colonies and remember the large number of sports philatelists, all of whom must have this set if their collections are to be complete. Dealers will generally sell this set only in conjunction with the other overprints, also issued by the British dependencies in honor of the XIV Olympiad; so let us examine the desirability of the other sets, too.

British Morocco 95-8. Like their counterparts above, this 0lympic set of 1948 was also issued in small quantities--from 107,309 copies of the low value to 93,304 copies of the highest value. Mint sets retail for about $70 \phi$ in England, but used sets are sold for about $\$ 1.00$. Many were actually used in the postal services, hence postally used copies are not too scarce.

British Morocco--Tangier 527-30. The 1948 overprints for Tangier, then an internationally controlled city, were issued in quantities varying from 101,965 copies of the low value to 96,190 copies of the high value. A good percentage of these stamps were used up on commercial mail, hence there is no price differential between mint and used sets. British prices are about 75 7 a set, either mint or used.

Bahrain 64-7. This is one of the most desirable of the 1948 overprints, being issued in a quantity of 80,853 sets--even the low value had a printing of only 93,689 copies. Mint sets sell for about $\$ 1.00$ in Great $B r i t a i n$ and used sets are only a few cents higher. These are an excellent investment if you can buy appreciably under these prices.

Kuwait 84-7. This is the last of the 1948 overprints and has the unique distinction of having had a very large printing of the lowest value ( 179,060 ) but only 83,395 copies of the high value. It sells for a little over $\$ 1.00$ in Great Britain, either mint or used. Personally, I prefer the commercially used coples of all these sets, as they are actually much scarcer than mint. If you are lacking any (or all) of the se 0lympic Games sets, get them now before the 1964 olympics force prices upward on the older material. With all the collectors of British Empire stamps, how can you possibly lose?

Germany--Berlin 9N102. Another Olympic Games item, although not specifically issued in honor of the Olympic Games, is the elusive 20 pf value issued in 1953, depicting the Olympic Stadium in Berlin. This was a definitive stamp, hence was widely used in the postal service. Scott ( 1963 edition) lists this stamp at $\$ 2.75 \mathrm{mint}$ and $15 \phi$ used, but the 1964 Michel catalogue lists it at $\$ 3.75$ mint and $20 \phi$ used. Buy your copy now, and pay whatever your dealer asks--next year it will look like a bargain!

Argentina 697. This is one of the most beautiful•sport stamps ever issued; it depicts a ski jumper in a large-sized design which is printed in a vivid shade of blue. This stamp is a definitive, not a commemorative, hence it should be available in commercially used condition at a very reasonable price. Alas, but used copies seem almost impossible to get! The face value is 100 pesos, or about $73 \phi$ in $U$. S. currency. Most dealers, however, are asking around $\$ 2.00$ a copy, so this stamp may be scarcer than most of us believe. Buy it now, while it is still available, and you won't go wrong. If you can locate used copies, snap them up! Scott, incidently, lists this stamp at $\$ 2.75$ in mint con-dition--strange doings for a definitive stamp issued only two years ago and with a face value of only $73 \%$.

France Bl56. Difficult as it may seem for us to believe, this elusive stamp was issued in a quantity of one million copies, according to the Michel catalogue. Landmans' catalogue, however, asserts that only 215,000 copies were issued. This latter figure is more likely to be correct--perhaps $1,000,000$ copies were issues, but only 215,000 copies were sold. Anyway, this stamp has always been elusive, even in the era immediately after the war, when the United States was ilooded with stamps from Europe. Although this stamp lists for only $\$ l .25$ mint (Scott's catalogue), it is usually sold only in a strip of five, containing four non-sport stamps. Recently there has been a tremendous increase in collectors of France and this stamp is becoming more' elusive every day. You have been warned!

Ghana 61-5. My personal opinion is that almost every stamp issued by Ghana is trash,
but this set must be getting elusive--a British wholesaler is offering mint sets to the trade at $\$ 1.40$ per set! Dealers in the. U. S. offer the set at retall today for about $\$ 1.00$, so draw your own conclusions. This set also exists in cancelled-to-order condition, using genuine cancellations, but these are much cheaper (about 20\& per set wholesale). Every first day cover I have seen was sent via registered mail, hence is backstamped with the New York City postmark (they were addressed to the Ghana Philatelic Agency). Evidently these first-day covers are scarce; they bring about $\$ 3.00$ at retail. If you can get a mint set for $\$ 1.00$, by all means buy it!

Persia. (Iran) 1041. This large-sized multicolored stamp was issued in 1955 to commemorate the winning by Persia of the world's freestyle wresting championships, held in Tokyo in 1954. Scott lists the stamp at $75 \neq \mathrm{mint}$ and $60 \not \subset$ used and dealers sell it for $40 \phi$ or so in mint condition. At the time of issue it was stated that only 20,000 would be issued, although not one catalogue of sports stamps gives the quantity issued. There is no doubt that this stamp was issued in limited quantities, so get your copy if you need it.


COMBINING SPORTS AND STAMP COLLECTING

- Bob Bruce -

Dr. Roland C. Geist is a faculty member at Roosevelt High School in New York Oity. After he finishes his daily teaching stint, he also serves as coach of bicycling, coach of skating, and advisor to the Roosevelt High School Stamp Club.

In addition to its regular activity program, his bicycle club has begun a collection of cycling stamps. This collection now numbers over one hundred stamps from fifty countries. The members classify their stamps as (1) racing (over half the collection), (2) touring, (3) military, (4) utility, (5) antique, (6) velodromes, (7) maps of bicycle tours, (8) parts of bicycles (wheels, handledars, etc.,), and (9) history of transportation including bicycles.

They count as their most interesting items a 1900 Cape of Good Hope emission showing Sgt. Major Goodyear on a bicycle, a "Corriere Alta Italia" set issued for bicycle service in Italy in 1945, and a privately-printed "Fresno and San Francisco Bicycle Mail Route" item issued during a rail strike. The club also has over forty covers, postal cards, etc., featuring bicycling on stamps. They have voted as their most popular stamp Hungary 1057 because it shows clearly all the parts of a racing cycle.

Not to be outdone, Dr. Geist's skating club has begun a similar collection featuring its favorite activity. It now includes 63 stamps from nineteen countries, though six of these stamps depict roller skating. The club classifies its collection into (l) hockey, (2) figure skating, (3) speed skating, and (4) skating stadia. They note that Hungary and Russia lead in production of skating stamps with fourteen and thirteen respectively. They have selected Hungary 1484-90 as their favorites because so many skating activities (pair skating, free style skating, jump, lift, spin, and spread eagle) are depicted.

In 1960 Dr. Geist's skating club petitioned the Postmaster General to issue a stamp honoring American skaters of the past. They were disappointed, but not too dissatisfied, with the Squaw Valley "snowflake", especially since Tenley Albright had been honored earlier by the Dominican Republic.

The programs of Dr . Geist's clubs do not cease with the end of the school year. This summer they planned and carried off a fifty-day trip to Sun Valley, Squaw Valley, Yosemite National Park, San Francisco, Crater Lake, Seattle, Vancouver, Lake Louise, and Jasper National Park. To complete such a trip with either club would have been quite a feat, but to plan a mixed program of cycling and skating so that both groups were happy and satisfied must have taken a bit extra in leadership. Quite a man, our friend Dr. Geist!

Recently Dr. Geist's three organizations petitioned the then-Postmaster General Day for a series of stamps depicting vigorous recreational sports to promote the President's Youth Pitness program. The response was a flat "no". Nor was Senator Javits able to help them. Their group, and Dr. Geist, are quite perturbed that one portion of our government should feel so strongly about physical fitness while another portion shows not the slightest interest in promoting the project.

Within recent years a tremendous number of islands near the British Isles have begun issuing gaudy labels, which are laughingly called "local stamps". Islands like Sark, Jethou, Lundy, and a host of other privately-owned property have released a deluge of junk, purporting to honor popular events like the annual Europa series. So we must steel ourselves for next year's coming frauds, when the 0lympic Games will signal the arrival of another spate of this trash.

To the best of my knowledge the only one of these "territories" which has issued "stamps" depicting sports, or having a sports connotation, is the principality of Thomond. Thomond originally was one of the three principalities which comprised the Kingdom of Munster in southwestern Ireland. The o'Briens were the ruling family of the principality and, although both the principality and the ruling family became extinct some time ago, there is a gentleman in Dublin who calls himself "His Highness, Raymond the 0'Brien".

It is this man who claims to be the ruling prince of the non-existent principality of Thomond, which is sald to be an area comprising a small number of acres on a peninsula where the Shannon River empties into the Atlantic ocean. To increase the importance of this "principality" it is alleged that the renowned Shannon Airport is located within the geographical confines of Thomond.

What could be more natural than that the ruling "prince" should order a set of stamps issued to back his claim-and also to make a few highly desired American dollars! In 1960 or 1961 a set of twelve multicolored labels appeared on the market, having an ostensible face value of about $\$ 1.47$ in American currency. In this case face value meant nothing; the set was widely advertised in the American philatelic press for a mere $28 \phi$.

Every sports philatelist will be delighted to know that the good Prince Raymond included four sports designs, which are diamond-shaped like the rest of the set.


The $1 \frac{1}{2} p$ value shows a steeplechase jumper and the $2 \frac{1}{2} p$ value depicts a horse race. Two men playing hurling appear on the 3 p value while the 4 p depicts three soccer players.

It is indeed refreshing to know that this altruistic prince remembered us, the sports philatelists of the world, and we thank him heartily from the bottom of our depleted purses--depleted, that is, after countries like Mongolia, Paraguay, Albania, and similar ilk have taken us for a philatelic sleigh ride!

But this story isn't at an end yet. Because we enjoyed a good thing, presumably; the fairy prince had the same set overprinted in honor of the annual Europa celebrations--but that set costs 75¢. We may be sure that His Highness will not forget us next year, when the Olympic Games are held in Tokyo.

These labels, incidentally, are still available from the same Hew York 0ity atamp dealer who first introduced them to the world several years ago. But don't ask me to give you his name and address!

THE ISLE OF MAN'S TOURIST TROPHY WEEK

- Bob Bruce -

For five days during June the tiny Isle of Man comes alive as it plays host to the annual "Tourist Trophy Week" motorcycle races. Then literally thousands of cyclists compete with the avowed purpose of "cracking a ton"-averaging over one hundred miles per hour for the course. One of the world's most perilous, this course is laid out over 37 and $3 / 4$ miles of mountain roads, with hills and unbanked curves providing a supreme test.

On "Black Sunday" the amateurs take over and thousands of motorcyclists make individual efforts to "crack a ton". The price is high, for even the best of the professionals
find the course a real measure of both machine and driver's skill. In 1963 two amateurs died in their efforts and more than twenty were hospitalized.

After "Black Sunday" quality replaces quantity in the professional competition. As With automobile racing, factory teams make carefully planned efforts to win the competition for their company and its product. First comes the Iightweight Class for machines with engine displacement up to 250 cubic centimeters. The Junior Class includes machines with engine displacement up to 350 cubic centimeters. In the races just completed the factory team representing the Hondo Company of Japan produced the winner in both of these classes. In the Heavyweight Class for machines with engine displacement over 350 cubic centimeters not one, but three, competitors managed to "crack a ton" with the winner averaging 104.6 miles per hour.


The above slogan cancel was used to publicize this motorcycle race in 1957 and is extremely scarce. It is shown here through the courtesy of Jack Paterson (SPI is) of Edmonton, Canada.
(Editor's note: In the September l4th issue of "Western Stamp Collector", W. Dennis Way comments on these cancellations in his column "Our London Letter". A Detroit collector had written to him in an effort to locate these cancellations for his Motorcycles-onStamps collection. The columnist looked around in his own section of London, but without success. He then cited Francis J. Field, Ltd., of Sutton Coldfield, Warwicks, England, as a likely source for such cancellations and similar material. Some of our members who require such material for their collections may find this address worth remembering.)

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## THE SCAROITY OF SPORIS STAMP LITERATURE

- Harold W. Taylor -

During the years I have been interested in the literature of philately, I have noted the limited number of publications dealing with sports philately. Sports stamps have gained the most ground in the last decade; but still, compared with other fields, there is a marked scarcity of printed matter on the subject. Why is this true?

Sports is one of the fastest growing specialty fields today and is far from reaching the peak of its popularity. For this reason alone it offers a challenge to the philatelic writer. Almost every other field of topical collecting has contributed some research material, but the sports field is suffering from a dearth of the printed word. Why?

Two examples are illustrative of this shortage of material. The National Philatelic Museum's permanent contribution to philately during its twelve short years of existence Was the issuance of thirty-six bulletins of the highest quality. In Mrs. Helen $K$. Zirkle's wonderful index to these works ("Philatelic congress Yearbook, 1961") only one article on sports stamps is included. Our own Ira Seebacher contributed that in January, 1950.

Second, the subject index covering all the American Philatelic Congress yearbooks (Volumes 1 through 25) lists not one article on sports stamps. In short, high class work is virtually non-existent.

I do not know the answer. Perhaps someone else does and will explain in the near future. This question did arouse my curiosity and spawned the desire to complie a bibliography with the hope that it would call for response from others and perhaps some cooperative research. My effort listed only the books I was able to locate. I know that it fell far short of completion; it was very short. Could we SPI members produce a complete list?

I am sure that there is also a reasonable number of periodical articles in this field. It would be wonderful to have them compiled. But it would take an enormous amount of research and work. It would be a real challenge to the members of SPI. Could we tackle the two tasks? I welcome comments.

## March Addenda

12th Bulgaria. Tourist issue. lst blue, 5st lilac, and 20st green (scene at Sun Beach); 2st red, 3st ochre, and l3st turquoise (scene at Gold Sand Beach). Printed by photogravure. (Additional information)

## May Addenda

25th Czechoslovakia. looth anniversary of the Moravian Empire. 1.60k yellow and black (falconer).

## July Addenda

lst United States. Hunting permit stamp. \$3.00 black, blue, Jellow, and green (pair of brant landing). Printed by Giori press.

13th Hungary. looth anniversary of the Siofokfurdo resort. $60 f$ brown and blue (sailboat). Designed by F. Bokros and printed in photogravure. Also issued imperforate.

30th German Democratic Republic. World Championship Motorcycle Races. lopf dark and light green, $20 p f$ dark and light red, and 25 pf dark and light blue (various types of motorcycles). Engraved by Margot Sachs (l0pf and 25pf) and 0swin Volkamer (20pf). Printed in combined recess and photogravure by Veb. Deutsch Wertpapierdruckerie, Leipzig. Low value printed in limited quantity.

## August Addenda

lst Nigeria. llth World Scout Jamboree, Marathon, Greece. 3 d green, gray, and vermillion (Greek and Nigerian scouts shaking hands); lsh black and vermiliion (scouts dancing around campfire). Printed in triangular format by Harrison and Sons, Ltd., from designs by D. Stephenos Apostulou and G. A. Okiki. Size: 2.7 inches. Prepared in sheets of fifty by photogravare. Also souvenir sheet containing both stamps, perforate and arranged base to base. (Additional information)
loth Colombia. South American Athletic Games, Cali, June, 1963. 20ф and $80 \phi$ (air) (both hurdler surrounded by the flags of the ten participating nations). Printed in diamond format.
loth Mali. Sports Week, Bamako. 5 fr and lofr (lst, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in the 800 meter run); $20 f r$ (acrobatic dancers); and 85 fr (soccer). Designed by Aufschneider and printed by heliogravare by Delrieu of Paris.
13 th Portugal. 8 th centenary of the Military Order of Avis. le, 1.50 e , and 2.50 e (all knight with a lance). Designed by Candido Costa Pinto and printed by off-set at the Portuguese Mint. Quantities: le, 5,000,000; l.50e and $2.50 \mathrm{e}, 1,500,000$ each.

18th Hungary. loth anniversary of the Peoples Stadium, Budapest. $60 f$ redish-brown (Pierre de Coubertin). Printed in diamond format by photogravure. Quantity: 1,600,000 perforate and 15,000 imperforate.

28th Christmas Islands. Definitive issue. $12 \phi$ (power cruiser in Flying Fish Cove).


## September Addenda



2nd France. World Water Skilng Championship, Vichy. $30 \neq$ (male water skier making turn). Designed and engraved by Gandon. (Additional information)
Ivory Coast. Tourism and big game hunting on the Bouna Preserve. IOfr (Alcelaphus Major); 20 fr (warthog); 45 fr (hyena); and 50fr (Colobus monkey). Printed at the Paris State Printing Office.
15th Philippines. Tourist issue featuring favorite native dances. $5 \phi$ multicolor (TinikIIng dance, Leyte Island); $6 \phi$ multicolor (Pandago Sa Ilaw); loф multicolor (Itikitik dance, Surigao Island); and $20 \not \subset$ multicolor (Singkil dance, Lanoa del Sur). Printed by heliogravure by Thomas de la Rue and Company. Quantity: 2,000,000 sets.

16th Luxembourg. World Fishing Championship, Wormeldange, September 22nd. 3fr (swallow blue snapping at a lure). Designed by Auguste Tremon and printed by Atelier de Fab-





## HANDBOOK

## -



 Japanese. Marginal inscription at sheet top is in Japanese and in Eng-
lish ("The 4 th National Athletic Meeting") 14. 8 y blue

1949, September 15. Fourth National Athletic Meeting, Yokohama (swimm

> Design: Swinmer crouching at start Sc $469 ;$ Gi Cl77; Mi 459 ; YT 428
Toll
by Ira Seebacher

## STAMPS

.
SPORTS

Photogravure in sheets of 50 ( $10 \times 5$ ). Japanese inscription at sheet top


Design: Boy scout holding staff for hiking, tent in background. Field Book", a manual published by the Boy Scouts of America. The
manual He used one of his scouts to pose for the cover, George Paxton Russell, a resident of St. Petersburg, Fla., at the time of the ap-
pearance of this stamp, whose picture was on the cover of the manual
and on the stamp designed by the Japanese. The stamp's designer was
Tamotsu Murayama who later explained how it was he happened to use Tamotsu Murayama who later explained how it was he happened to use
this particular picture for designing the stamp. Sc 467; G1 C178; Mi 460; YT 434

1949, October 30. Fourth National Athletic Meeting, Tokyo, Oct. 30. Unw.;
P 12. Photogravure in sheets of 80 with four se tenant designs so that any block of four stamps ( $2 \times 2$ ) shows all four designs. Top sheet marging have inscriptions in Japanese and English ("The Fourth National manual was the work of Scoutmaster William Hillcourt, Mendham





1950, October 28. Fifth National Athletic Meeting. Unw.; P 13K<xl3k. Photo
block of four stamps (2x2) shows all four designs. Marginal inscription
at sheet top is in English and Japanese ("The Fifth National Athletic

## 20. 8 y brown lake 21. 8 y brown lake

## 22. 8 y brown lake 23. 8 y brown lake

Designs: 20-Gymnast on flying rings; 21-Pole vaulter; 22-Soccer players; 23-Equestrian jumper
Sc 505-08; Gi 214-17; Mi 502-05; YT 453-56
1951, February 15, Mt. Zao Winter Sports. Unw.; P 13 $14 \times 13 / 2$ (No. 24) and 13\%2xi3\% (No. 25). Photogravure in sheets of 20 (No. 24~-4x5) (No. 2524. 8 . Japanese inscriptions at top sheet margin
Designs: Two different views of skiers in deep
Sc 511-12; Gi C220-21; Mi 514-15; YT 460-61
1951, October 27. Sixth National Athletic Meeting, Hiroshima, Oct. 27-31. Unw.; P 13kxi3k, Photogravure in sheets of 20 ( $4 \times 5$ ) with Japanese and
English inscriptions on sheet's top margin ("The Sixth National Athletic Meeting"). Each bheet contained two stamps which were laid out se tenant vertically and horizontally. Des. Saburo Watanabe (No. 26)
and Minoru Hisano (No. 27) $26^{\circ} 2 \mathrm{y}$ orange brown
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { 26: } \\ \text { Designs: } & \text { 27-Shot putter; } 27 \text { y grey blue }\end{array}$
Designs: 26-Shot putter; 27-Field hockey player
Sc $547-48$; Gi C247-48; Mi 546-47; YT 496-97
1952, July 5. Chubu Sangaku National Park Issue. Unw.; P 13kxl3k. Photogravure. Des. S. Kume.
a. souvenir sheet ( $129 \times 182 \mathrm{~mm}$ ), ungummed, imperf Design: Climbers on Yarigatake in the Japanese Alps
 stamps show a man crossing a rope bridge spanning a ravine in Kurobe
Valley, Mt. Shirouma-dake and Norikura-dike range; (b) Sold for 60 y . Valley, Mt. Shirouma-dake and Norikura-dike range; (b) Sold for 60 y .
Sc 561, Gi C254; Mi 593; YT $512-15$
952, October 18. Bandai-Asahi National Park Issue. Unw.; P $13 \% \times 131 / 2$.
29. 5 y brown
a. souvenir sheet ( $128 \times 182 \mathrm{~mm}$ ) imperf, ungummed Design: Climber viewing the little Fuji of Azuma Sc 569; G1 c262; M1 601, YT 519

1952, October 18. Seventh National Sports Meeting, Fukushima. Unw.; $P$ $134 \times 13 k$. Photogravure in sheets of $20(5 \times 4)$ with Japanese and English
inscription on Inscription on top margin of sheet ("The Seventh National Athletic
Meating ${ }^{\text {n }}$. Each sheet contains stamps of two designs laid out alternately so that all stamps are se tenant horizontally as well as vertically. Des. Watanabe Saburo (No. 31) and Hisano Minoru (No. 30) 30. 5 y ultramarine

Designs: $30-$ Mountain climber; 31 -Wrestlers with under man in "bridge"
Note: (a) the appearance of No. 31 raised a furore in Japan at the
time since it portrayed an Estonian wrestier defeating a German at ling. The Estonian--winner of the free style gold medal as well--is Palusalu and the German is Hornfischer, bronze medalist.since Japan's only gold medal at Helsinki was in wrestling, the Japanese were wroth
that a picture was not used of S . Ishii, bantemweight freestyle gold medalist

## Sc 567-68; G1 C260-61; M1 605-06; yT 524-25

 $(5 \times 4)$ with the two stamps se tenant alternately throughout. The sheet has Japanese and English inscriptions in 1 te top margin ("The Eighth National Athletic Moet$\left.\operatorname{lig}^{10}\right)_{5}$ 32. 5 y green

Designs: 32-Judo (a throw over the shoulder by a holder of one of the highest ranks
in the Kodokan School); 33 -Rubby (a scene from the 1952 Oxford-Waseba game)
Note: This sheet was the last issued for Japan's amual national sports meeting that carried marginal inecriptions in Eng1ish
Sc 58-90; G1 ce79-80; Mi 624-25; YT 544-45 Sc 589-90; G1 CZ79-80; Mi 624-25; YT 544-45
1953, November ? Unzen National Park Issue.

Design: Mt. Unzen from the golf course
Notes: (a) As do most Japanese souvenir sheets of their Parks 1esues, these sourvenir sheets vere 1ssued within deseriptive folders whose text was slanted tovarde pro-
moting tourime. Authority for the fact that the foreground on this stamp deplcts a


 yen though it had but a 15 -yen face; (o) Unzen, $4461^{1}$ high, is on the Shimabara Peninsula in the Nagasald Prefecture
Sc 592; G1 C282; MA 626; YT 547
 35. 10 y blue $(2,000,000)$

Design: Two speed akaters
Sc 595; G1 C285; M1 629 ; YT

1959, October 25. 14th Kational Athletic Meeting. Unw.; P 13k. Des. by Takao Yamanouchi (No. 57) and Minoru Hisano (No. 58); eng. by Katsuzo oshikiri (No. 57 ) and Tsuneo Kasano (No. 58). Recess printed in sheets
of $20(5 \times 4)$ with the two st amps se tenant throughout
57. 5 y grey blue $(10,000,000) 58.5$ y grey brown $(10,000,000)$ Designs: 57 -Hammer thrower; 58 -Fencer Sc 682-83; Gi $362-63$; Mi 713-14; YT 1960, March 15. Scenic Issue. Vnw; ; P 131/. Des, Nasaru Kimura; eng. by Shichizo Kurihara. Recess printed in sheets of 20 ( $5 \times 4$ )
59. 10 y red brown/blue green $(8,000,000)$ Design: Godaido Temple and sailboats in Matsushima Bay Sc 688; Gi C369: Mi 720; YT 643 1960, March 2Q. Mikawa bay 2uasi-National Park Iesue. Unw.; P 13\%. Des. Hitoshi otsuka. Photogravure in sheets of $20(5 \times 4)$. Unw.; P $13 / 2$. Des. 60. 10 y yellow/brown/orange/breen/blue ( $8,000,000$ ) Design: Takeshima off the town or Gamagori, sailboats in distance sc 691; Gi C372; Mi 721; YT 644 1960, July 15 . Scenic Issue. Unw.; P 13\%. Des. Yotaka Yoshida; eng. Katsuzo 0able 61. 10 y green/blue ( $8,000,000$ )
Design: Amano-Hashidate (Heavenly
Design: Amano-Hashidate (Heavenly Bridge), sallboats
Note: Michel says stamp was photogravure printed, an
Note: Michel says stamp was photogravure printed, an error
Sc 689; Gi C370; Mi 728; YT 643 A
Sc 689; Gi C370; Mi 728; YT 643A
1960, August 1. Ashizuri Quasi-Mati

62. 10 y buff/maroon/green/black $(8,000,000)$
Deeign: Hikers, Cape Ashizuri
Sc 698; G1 C379; M1 729; YT 651
1960, October 23. 15th National Athletic Meeting, Kumamoto. Unw.; P $13 \%$. Des. Hatash (
Nokatsaka (No. 63), Kateuzo Oshikiri (No. 64). Recess in in sheets of 20 ( $4 x$
63. 5 y dull blue $(8,000,000) 64$. 5 y rose violet $(8,000 p 00)$
Designs: 63 -Japanese fencing (Kendo); 64 -Woman gymast on vaulting horse sc 705-06; Gi C386-87; Mi ; YT 657-58
1961, October 8. 16th Mational athletic Meeting. Unw.; P 13\%. Des. H. Hasebe (No. 65), s. Okamura (No. 56 ) iieng. M. Hisano (No. U5), K. Oshikir1
(1). ternately throughout and no marginal inscriptions.
65. 5 y blue green $(8,000,000) 66$. 5 y ultramarine $(8,000,000)$ Designs: 65-Gyanast on horizontal bar; 66 -\%omen rowing
sc 736-37; G1 C413-14; Mi ; yT 687-88
recation du Timbre, Paris.
Romania. European Swimming Championships. 25 b brown and green (racing dive; $30 b$ olive and yellow (crawl stroke); 55 b turquoise and orange (butterfly stroke); 11 green and red (backstroke); 1.351 dark blue and red (breaststroke); 1.551 purple and orange (diver); 21 rose and yellow (water polo). Designs by V. Krivat and a. Veluda. (Additional information)
Russia. 6 k red and black (ice hockey player with a world globe and "1963" in background.

## October

15th U.A.R. (Egypt). Suez Canal International Long-Distance Swimming Race.
Forecast
Bulgaria. Honoring Thracian Tomb near Kazanlik. lst (horses and grooms) and 2st (chariot race). Quantity: 200,000 sets. (Additional information)

Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika. 60th Session of International Olympic Committee. $30 \phi$ and $50 \phi$ (overprinted "IX 10c/Nairobi 1963") and 1 sh $/ 30 \phi$ and $2 \operatorname{sh} / 50 \phi$ (overprinted "60th Session International Olympic Committee/Nairobi 1963"). (Editor's note: Since the scheduled session of the IOC has been transferred to Baden-Baden, Germany; it will be interesting to notice whether this proposed set still makes its appearance.)

Monaco. 50th anniversary of first airplane flight across Mediterranean by Roland Garroa on September 13, 1913, between Cannes and Bizerte. 2fr (portrait of Roland Garroa, aviator). (Additional information)

Poland. 13th European Basketball Ohampionship, Wroclaw, October 4-13, 1963. 40gr, $50 \mathrm{gr}, 60 \mathrm{gr}, 90 \mathrm{gr}, 2.50 \mathrm{z}$, and 5.60 z multicolor (hands holding basketball in various phases of the game). Also $10 z+5 z$ souvenir sheet (Wroclaw coat-of-arms and outline of Town Hall and Peoples Hall). Designed by Tadeusz Michaluk and printed by the State Printing Works, Warsaw. Quantities: l,500,000 copies of the low values and 750,000 copies of the 5.50 z value and the souvenir sheet. (Additional information)


EDITORIAL POSTSCRIPT
If this paragraph strikes a pessimistic note, take it at face value. For the second issue in a row, circumstances have prevented the copy for "JSp" from reaching Bill Brecht on schedule. This time it was some preliminary problems with advertising copy and then, at the worst possible time, a not-unexpected death in my family. These two failures and the apparent lack of interest make me wonder sometimes whether the entire project (SPI) is worth the effort. With the exception of some fifty dependable members I haven't the slightest idea of the feelings of our readers; not even the controversial material in the lead article of the September issue produces any reaction. Maybe the support and cooperation of these loyal fifty is no longer sufficient motivation for this "labor of love".

## FRED HOWARD

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