

Journal of Sports Philately

NUMBER II

JULY 1964

VOLUME 2

STAMPING OUT RUGBY AROUND THE WORLD

- A. G. K. Leonard -

The two stamps issued in South Africa on May 8th to mark the 75th anniversary of that country's Rugby Board are the latest additions to a steadily expanding sports theme. With previous contributions from places as diverse as Fiji and South Korea, Japan and Romania, they testify to the growing world wide popularity of the game which traces its origin back to the historic day in 1823 recorded by a wall tablet at the famous Rugby School in England; this tablet "commemorates the exploit of William Webb Ellis, who, with a fine disregard of the rules of football as played in his time, first took the ball in his arms and ran with it, thus originating the distinctive feature of the Rugby game".

The early history of rugby in South Africa is uncertain, but it was probably first played there between teams of British regiments at the time of the Zulu and Kaffir wars. The Winchester version of the game was introduced to the young men of Cape Town by Rev. G. Ogilvie, educated at Winchester College, who went out there in 1858. As the game spread to other towns, the first local governing body was formed in 1883, the Western Province Rugby Union, which today has a magnificent ground at Newlands, Cape Town. The Transvaal Rugby Union, which since 1927 has had its headquarters at Ellis Park, Johannesburg, was established in 1888. The following year saw the creation of the South African Rugby Board to act as the supreme governing body for the various local unions.

The new stamps celebrate its 75th anniversary. In large format, one horizontal and the other vertical, they depict respectively the Board's official badge--a springbok with the oval ball at its feet--and an action scene of a player diving across the line to score a try. On sale at all post offices for three months, they are in the 2 1/2 and 12 1/2 cent denominations covering the internal and overseas airmail letter rates and have been widely noticed by all correspondents.



Distinctive pictorial circular date stamps showing the Board's badge and the outlines of goal posts were used on first-day covers handled at Cape Town and Johannesburg on May 8th.

Rugby in South Africa has developed greatly during the past seventy-five years and the national team of "Springboks" now ranks among the world champions--a far cry from their first tour of Great Britain in 1891 (financed by Cecil Rhodes) when they did not win a single one of their nineteen matches.

The only other territory in the English-speaking world to give rugby its official Post Office "stamp of approval" was Fiji in 1951, on one of that year's pair of Health stamps--the 2d + 1d value (Scott B2). This attractive semi-postal derived its design from photographs of a Fijian for-



ward named Malakai Labaibure, taken by Charles and Inez Stinson of Suva, winners of a competition sponsored by the local General Post Office. It is the only stamp to portray an identifiable individual player, although really intended to represent the game generally.

Rugby was introduced into the Fiji Islands at the beginning of the century by British and New Zealand ad-

ministrative officers and other white residents. The Fijians are natural athletes and the rough and tumble of

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rugby appealed to their warrior nature; so it soon became popular--often played without boots and with rules somewhat flexible! The game is now well organized. The Fijians began playing "tests" against the Tongans forty years ago and their standard of play, in fast open style, has reached a high level. They took to boots in 1938 when the New Zealand Maori "All Blacks" paid their first visit to Fiji; thence then, the Fijians have exchanged frequent tours with New Zealand and Australia, proving great crowd-drawers and greatly enhancing the appeal of the game in that part of the world.



If Fiji was the second to put rugby on a stamp, Romania led the way seven years earlier. Despite unfavorable war-time conditions, the Romanian authorities produced a special issue in 1944 to honor the 30th anniversary of the country's Rugby Association (Scott B245). In large vertical format, it gave a striking picture of a player shaping to pass and was sold at a premium of 184 lei over its 16 lei postal value in aid of rugby funds.



Romania is the only country to have issued two separate rugby stamps. The second (Scott L294) was the 1.55 lei denomination of the multi-colored set of nine produced in 1959 illustrating various sports in which the Romanians had won international success that year; it also marked the Golden Jubilee of rugby there, the game having been introduced in 1909 by a group of students returning to Bucharest from Paris, where they had played it with their French companions.

At first there were only enough to make up two teams for friendly matches, but support grew; enthusiasm was not dampened by severe defeats of the national teams such as a 61-3 rout by France in the 1924 Olympic Games at Paris. Since the war Romanian rugby has enjoyed a spirited revival, there now being some 150 active clubs. In the international sphere Romania, having been narrowly defeated by France in 1957 by a score of 18 to 15, achieved a tremendous success in 1960 by beating the same opponents 11 to 5 before a cheering 100,000 capacity crowd at Bucharest.



France, of course, is one of the major rugby strongholds, so it was only right that the game should be featured on one of her 1956 quartet devoted to French national sports. This attractive, large fifty-franc stamp (Scott 803), colorful in violet and purple, offers quite the most spirited and realistic rugby scene available to the sports philatelist. The same stamp was also overprinted for use in Reunion (Scott 320).



Much more impressionistic was the version of a tackle presented in lively poster style, the work of academic artist Ivan Strnad, on the one-koruna value (Scott 1027) of the 1961 sports series from Czechoslovakia. The players seem as if they are about to slither right off the stamp, which commemorated the 35th anniversary of the introduction of rugby football into that country. Curtain". Rugby is now played in more than thirty



Although not yet as strongly established as in Romania, rugby is by no means a negligible force in Czech sport and the national team has to its credit several wins over other countries. An indication of the universality of the game was given in 1961, when the International Amateur Rugby Federation held its 19th annual congress in Prague, this being the first time it had met "behind the Iron

Western followers of the game might not think of "the Land of the Rising Sun" as a rugby stronghold, but it was not inappropriate for the Japanese to accord the game parity with judo on the pair of stamps released in 1953 in connection with the 8th National Athletic Meeting (Scott



589, printed alternately in the same sheet with 590). There are, in fact, more rugby clubs in Japan than in England, the home of the game, for Japan boasts nearly 1,300 teams and 30,000 players, all in the membership of the Japan Rugby Football Union, formed thirty-seven years ago.

Rugby was introduced into Japan in 1899 at Keio University by Professor E. B. Clarke, an ex-Cambridge scholar, and Mr. Ginnoyuka Tanaka, who had graduated at Cambridge and played rugby there. In the years before and after the first World War rugby spread to numerous Japanese schools and universities. In 1925 Mr. Shigeru Kayama, a leading figure in Japanese rugby, accompanied Prince Chichibu to England, where they studied the organization of the game and attended the famous Oxford-Cambridge "Varsity Match" at Twickenham. On their return they founded the Japan Rugby Football Union, of which the Prince was Patron-President.

In the 1930s Japanese teams exchanged tours with Canadian, Australian, and New Zealand sides. The war clouds in the Far East obscured the game during the next decade, but these international contacts have now been resumed and the post-war revival was signaled

by triumphant tours of Oxford and Cambridge University teams in 1952-53. Although the Japanese may not win many of their matches against heavier overseas opponents, they seem to have captured the true rugby spirit.

It is doubtless the Japanese influence which has extended rugby to Korea, of which philatelic evidence was given last October when the postal authorities of the Republic of (South) Korea released a special stamp (a late addition to the previously announced year's



program) to publicize the 44th National Games. Neatly printed in three colors, it featured an athlete carrying an Olympic-style torch alongside a group of rugby players in action. The recent issue carries the Scott designation of 412.

Thus there are already enough rugby stamps to command a colorful and significant page in the topical sports parade and, with rugby gaining new adherents in many lands, the future will doubtless see further additions to this expanding sports-philatelic theme.

SPI AWARD NOW AVAILABLE FOR EXHIBITIONS

- Bill Stoms -

SPI announces the introduction of the SPI Award. This new award will be offered for the best sports exhibit in a standard exhibition and will make its debut in New Mexico this coming November.

The award consists of a coin--rather a reproduction of a coin--imbedded in a clear plastic tray of about 3"x 5" in size; the tray has a name tag to identify the show and the year. The coin is a decadrachm of Syracuse, a Greek city on the island of Sicily. The original copy of this coin is in the British Museum and a description can be found in the publication of the Trustees of the British Museum called "A Guide to the Principal Coins of the Greeks".

This source states: "This specimen is one of the earliest of the so-called 'medallions' of Syracuse, the most popularly admired of ancient coins. The armour stands for prizes given; it is now generally agreed that it is the armour taken from the Athenians defeated at the battle of the Assinarus, when the Athenian expedition finally came to grief. This armour was given as prizes at the Assinarian Games which were celebrated by the Syracusans from 412 B. C. onward in commemoration of their victory, and the coins themselves were used for money".



In order to qualify for this award, one must enter the exhibit and actually display his sports material. The show will be held in Alamogordo, New Mexico, on November 8-8th; this is the annual exhibit of the New Mexico Philatelic Association. Due to the regional nature of the exhibit, several changes have been made in the standard rules to accommodate the exhibitors competing for this award. The usual rules permit exhibits by (1) members of the NMPA and the Rocket City Stamp Club, regardless of residence, and (2) by any resident of New Mexico, Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma, Arizona, and Utah. This geographical limitation has been lifted for the SPI Award, but entries not meeting these basic requirements will not be eligible for "Best of Show" or "Reserve"--second best of show. All other awards can be won by exhibitors from outside this geographical area if they qualify otherwise.

All show rules must be observed; a copy of these rules will be mailed with each application. To relieve the Rocket City Stamp Club of the work this award will require, entries should be mailed directly to William D. Stoms, 2161 A 36th Street, Los Alamos, N. M. The frames will be prepared, delivered to the exhibition, and picked up at the end of the show and finally the exhibits will be mailed to their owner with any awards and a program. Insurance is provided while the material is under preparation and on display. Judging will be by the regular show judges using the standard criteria for the show; their judgment will be final. At least five exhibitors must compete for the award to be given.

This will be the first offering of this award and, if successful, will be repeated at selected exhibits. The only restrictions are that show judges must select the winner using the exhibit's rules for judging and that five or more exhibitors must compete. It is not required that a winner be an SPI member.

The purpose of this award is two-fold. First, it is an excellent way to make our or-

ganization and topic better known to the general collector. Second, it will offer incentive to superior collectors to enter high-quality material. The ultimate goals are a larger, more active membership in SPI and a chance to exhibit in competition with other fine collections of sport philately.

As stated above, this is a first trial. It will be a success only if you enter the exhibition. The cost is nominal--only one dollar per frame if you compete in this class only. If you live in the area where exhibits are accepted, the price is determined by the class of membership. As many as five frames may be exhibited, each frame holding eight sheets of 8½" x 11" pages. The glass size is 24" x 36" with frames displayed with the 36-inch edge horizontal.

If you will exhibit in this show, please contact Bill Stoms as soon as possible as it will give the Rocket City Stamp Club and myself a chance to prepare for anything unexpected. For those SPI members who are precancel collectors, NMPA is an excellent source of precancels from New Mexico as all bulletins are mailed with desirable New Mexico precancels. Membership also qualifies one for "Best of Show" and "Reserve" awards. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to write as we want this award to be a big success and a big boost for SPI membership.

METHODS OF INVENTORING A STAMP COLLECTION

- Joseph E. Schirmer -

In talking to various philatelists, I am genuinely amazed that so few have a really suitable inventory of their collections. I believe that the majority of collectors fail to realize the importance of a well-planned inventory.

If most collectors lost their collections through either fire or theft, they would be at least eighty-five per cent incorrect in trying to list their losses. While most collections are not insured (and this is a deplorable situation); if one wants insurance, he must submit a complete and accurate inventory and a second copy of his inventory should be kept in a safe place of his own choosing.

What method to use in an inventory is open to discussion, much depending on the individual collector--what he collects, how specialized the collection, etc. Inventorying a collection is a personal matter, like getting a haircut; so I'll merely suggest some methods and let the individual collector decide what is best for his particular needs.

I strongly suggest that, before making an inventory, the collector give considerable thought as to what he wants to know about his collection and what the insurance requirements, if any, happen to be.

Regardless of what system is used, I recommend that the following data be included:

- a. Country name
- b. Date of issue
- c. Catalogue number
- d. Condition--mint or used
- e. Form--single, block, plate block, sheet, first-day cover, proof, etc.
- f. Actual cost and catalogue value
- g. General data on the issue
- h. Description of error or variety if applicable
- i. Certification by an expert if applicable
- j. Other miscellaneous data as the collector sees fit

All of this will involve considerable work and time; but, once completed, will be relatively simple to keep updated. Merely add the data as other stamps are acquired and then keep the inventory in a safe place.

Typical methods of listing the inventory data include:

- a. Card system--use either a standard 3" x 5" or larger card and keep in either a metal or cardboard file cabinet
- b. Catalogue system--mark your catalogue with suitable symbols. Many dealers publish specialized lists; these are ideal for use in this system.
- c. Notebook system--use any good three-ring binder of a size most suitable to you. The pages can be typed, printed, or mimeographed to your specific requirements.

I use a standard notebook with printed pages containing the information suggested above. There are other methods and systems; but any one of the techniques listed above, or combination thereof, should meet the requirements of the majority of collectors.

Make an inventory of your collection by whatever method you choose, but make that in-

ventory now. It may pay dividends when you least expect it.

If you have new twists in your method of setting up and maintaining the inventory of your holdings, please write to me in care of Editor Bob Bruce so that we may share your special techniques with other SPI members.

MODERN OLYMPIC MEDALISTS ON STAMPS

- Jim Hughes -

Part Three

Courtney, Thomas United States

1956 Running--800 meters (1:47.7)
Relay--4 x 400-meters (3:04.8)

Dominican Republic Cl06 and Cl13



Courtney made such a superhuman effort in winning the 800-meter event that the victory ceremony had to be delayed an hour so that he could recuperate. He bested the Britisher, Derek Johnson, by only a foot in an extraordinary finish to an extraordinary race. He also anchored the winning 1600-meter relay team, running his lay in 45.8 seconds.

Granz, Christel

Germany

1936 Skiing--women's Alpine combined

Austria Bl40

Christel was the outstanding pre-war women's Alpine skier, having won twelve world titles from 1934 to 1939. The irony of her being depicted on this stamp is that it was issued to commemorate a ski meet which had been held in protest to the Olympic Committee's ruling on amateurism.



Outhbert, Betty

Australia

1956 Running--women's 100-meter dash (11.5)
 women's 200-meter dash (23.4)
Relay--women's 4 x 100-meters (44.5)

Dominican Republic 480 and B7

This 18-year old Australian flash anchored the 400-meter relay team to a new world and Olympic record and, in so doing, won her third gold medal. This lissome lass earlier had set new Olympic marks in the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes to the delight of the Aussie crowd. Bouncing Betty also set world records in the 200-meter dash (23.2) on Sept. 16, 1956, and in the 60-meter dash (7.2) on February 27, 1960.



Danielsen, Egil

Norway

1956 Javelin throw (281' 2 1/4")

Dominican Republic 481 and B8

6 MODERN OLYMPIC MEDALISTS ON STAMPS (Cont'd)

This Norwegian electrician upset the favorite and the then world record-holder, Janusz Sidlo, to become Norway's first athlete to win a gold medal in thirty-six years of Olympic track and field competition. Danielsen electrified the crowd on his third-from-the-last try with a throw good for a new world record and, of course, a new Olympic mark. This proved to be the outstanding record-making effort of the Melbourne Games.



Note the cover illustrating the previous entry



de Coubertin, Baron Pierre France

1912 Fine arts--literature

France 817

The originator of the modern Olympic Games, who had awarded hundreds of gold medals, was the recipient of one himself at Stockholm in 1912. In the Fine Arts contests his "Ode to Sport", entered under the pseudonyms of Georg Heherd and M. Eschbach, won the literature prize. Other stamps portraying Baron de Coubertin include German Democratic Republic 635, Haiti B1, CBl-2, 464, B18, Cl63, and CB28, Hungary 1498, Paraguay (set of five depicting Baron de Coubertin and a high jumper--SG1091-85), and San Marino 427 and Cl06.



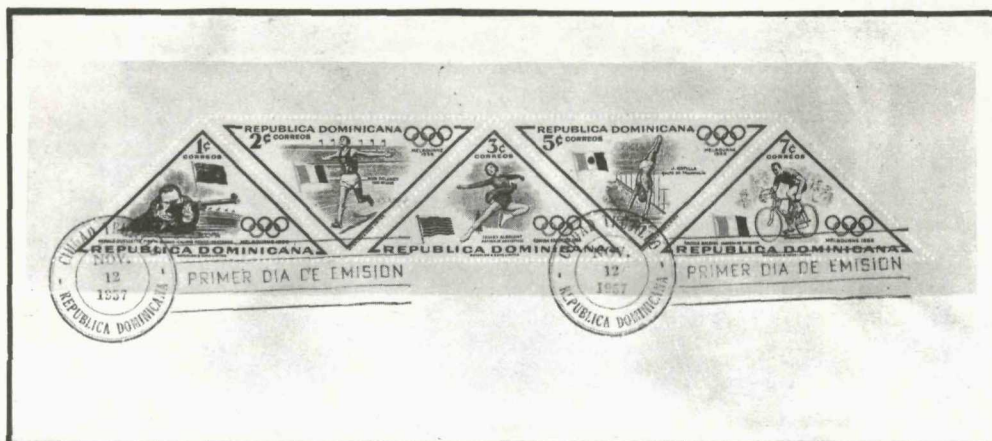
Delany, Ron Ireland

1956 Running--1500 meters (3:41.2)

Dominican Republic 485 and B13-4

In all of history there had never been a faster field than the one which lined up for the "Olympic Mile" at the Melbourne Games, for five of the twelve contestants had previously broken the magic four-minute barrier. The 21-year old Irishman--who was the youngest man in the field--came from tenth position in the tightly bunched field during the last lap to win by five yards. The Galloping Gael, who was an undergraduate at Villanova University, sprinted to an unbelievable last quarter of 54.2 to best the great Aussie fa-

vorite, John Landy (who finished third), and to establish a new Olympic record.



Didrickson, Mildred

United States

1932 Running--women's 80-meter hurdles (11.7)
Women's javelin throw (143' 4")
High jump (silver medal)

Dominican Republic C99, CB3, and CB18

The "Babe" became the first woman athlete to win a double in the Olympic Games and missed by only a quarter-of-an-inch in the high jump of becoming a triple winner. As Mrs. George Zaharias she went on to greater heights in the world of golf and to gain recognition as one of the world's greatest all-time woman athletes.



Dogu, Yasar

Turkey

1948 Wrestling--free style (welterweight)

Turkey 986

(Continued on Page 10)

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Vic Wailly, Box 26S, Roxbury, Massachusetts 02119: Austria Olympic set \$1.70, on three FDCs \$2.95; ten special postmarks on plain covers \$3.50, on cacheted covers \$4.50, on official covers \$6.00; older issues in stock; subscribe now for all coming and Tokyo issues.

(Editor's note: The classified advertising rate is 2¢ per word; names and addresses are free. Send copy and remittance to Robert M. Bruce, 1457 Cleveland Road, Wooster, Ohio.)

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"Journal of Sports Philately"

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 Publisher : William G. Brecht, Brecht and Holer, Inc., 694 Third Ave., New York
 17, New York

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SPI's second annual spring auction is now almost a matter of history. By the time this reaches the membership, most of Bill's accounts will be closed; satisfied buyers will have added items to their collections and satisfied sellers will have disposed profitably of a few duplicates. Thanks are due all of you who participated one way or another, but our special thanks go to Bill Stoms who gives so freely of his time to make our auctions function smoothly. Would that our sales department were as popular and as much a tribute to his efforts!

Our third year begins on September 1st. The directors have decided to authorize an auction early in the fiscal year as well as the usual one held in the spring of our first two years. This decision is prompted by the highly respectable material already on hand for a new auction, by the desires of a few members to unload special duplicate material prior to the usual spring auction, and by the feeling that our auctions are well enough accepted by our membership to justify two auctions a year.

There are some drawbacks to scheduling this fall auction. In order to finish it completely before the Christmas season, it must be started now. Accordingly, the deadline for submission of lots will be September 5th; this comes perilously close to the summer vacation season, but it cannot be helped.

The auction catalogue will be published in the October issue of "JSP". Since this will not allow overseas members much time to get in their bids, it is suggested that those overseas members who take an active interest in our auctions make special arrangements with Bill Stoms to get an airmail copy of the catalogue. We regret the squeeze for time for these members, but can devise no better way to accommodate them fairly.

Bill reports that the proportion of donated lots fell off considerably in the recently-completed auction. It is this particular phase which nets a tidy profit for SPI and makes possible our broad range of services, especially a full-size "JSP". So select a few lots and send them in as donations to the cause when you mail Bill your consigned material. His address is 2161 A 36th St., Los Alamos, N. M. If you have trouble arranging and cataloguing your material for auction, Bill still volunteers to do the bulk of the work for you. Get your lots ready for Bill; the reminder in the August issue of "JSP" won't give you much working time. So do it now.

The May issue of "JSP", which should have reached our North American members long enough ago to have permitted responses by the time of this writing, contained several challenges which may affect rather drastically the future of SPI and its offerings to its members. I refer to the following:

1. George Kobylka's letter-to-the-editor suggesting that SPI adopt some method of screening the so-called sports issues, recommending those which seem to have been issued on a sound basis and suggesting a boycott of those which do not appear to meet reasonable standards.

2. Editor Bob Bruce's editorial concerning the need for assistance with the technical aspects of the preparation of our monthly periodical.

Apparently few of our members will admit the seriousness of these matters for there has been very little expression of interest. Frankly, I had hoped for more reaction and a range of useful suggestions which might be applied to both problems. It is not too late for your contribution to either or both of these problems.

A more indirect challenge appeared in the form of Jim Hughes' listing of Olympic medalists appearing on stamps. Jim would be the last one to indicate that his work is complete, that he has not missed some excellent competitors. Here is a gorgeous opportunity to bring more sports philatelic information together for the benefit of all sports collectors. One member has suggested three possible additions to Jim's first installment. Our compiler wants to hear from other members who have additional information; he plans to prepare a supplement to be published when his original serial is finished. The compiler's current address is S. J. Hughes, 2708 E. Edison St., Tucson, Ariz. 85716.

Because of my family's move to Ohio in mid-July I cannot predict when the August issue will appear nor how large it will be. And beyond that issue there is nothing but doubts and questions for the future.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS AND AFFILIATES

Last call for the SCOSC track cover. With the competition scheduled for July 25-26 you still have a chance to order SCOSC's special cover in honor of the U.S.A.-U.S.S.R. track meet in the Los Angeles Colosseum. Send your order to Barbara T. Williams, 6601 White Oak Ave., Reseda, Calif. The price is 35¢ each or three for one dollar. All profits will go to aid amateur athletics.

* * * * *

Expiration of memberships. The next groups include the following:

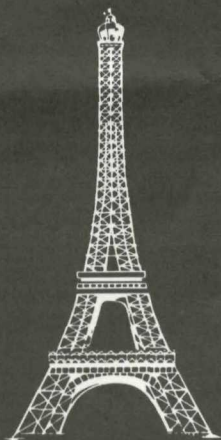
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Nos. 478-82	June 30th
Nos. 483-489	July 31st

* * * * *

Membership changes (to June 1st)

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Dogu was one of four Turkish wrestlers to win free-style championships at the Games in London, where the Turks also won two Greco-Roman titles. So one can readily see that they are among the world's best in this sport. Dogu is shown on this stamp wrestling Axel Gronberg of Sweden.



D'Oriola, Christian

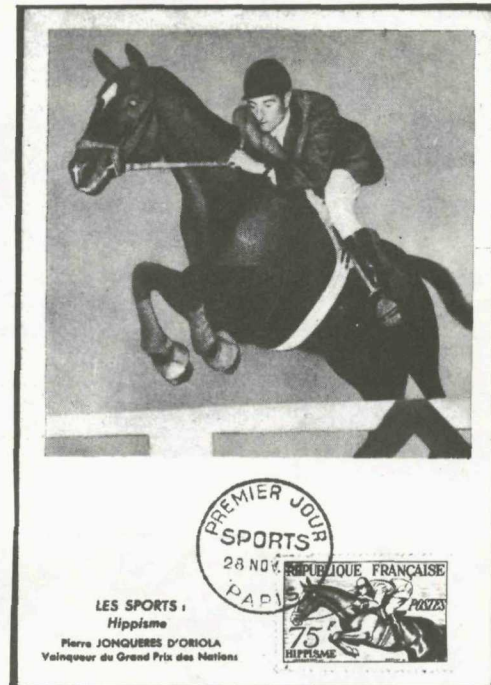
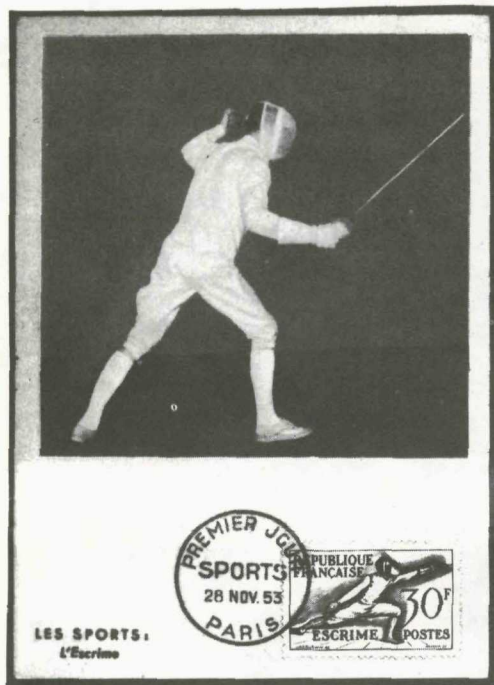
France

1952 Fencing--foil

1956 Fencing--foil

France 702

Christian was the only Frenchman, of the five previous winners in this event, to successfully defend his Olympic title. He was also the world's foil champion in 1947, 1949, 1953, and 1954.



D'Oriola, Pierre Jonquieres

France

1952 Equestrian--individual jumping

France 705 and Reunion 300

Pierre won the "Prix Des Nations" event at the Helsinki Games on Ali Baba (with no faults) over Oscar Cristi of Chile. The third place winner was Fritz Thiedeman of Ger-

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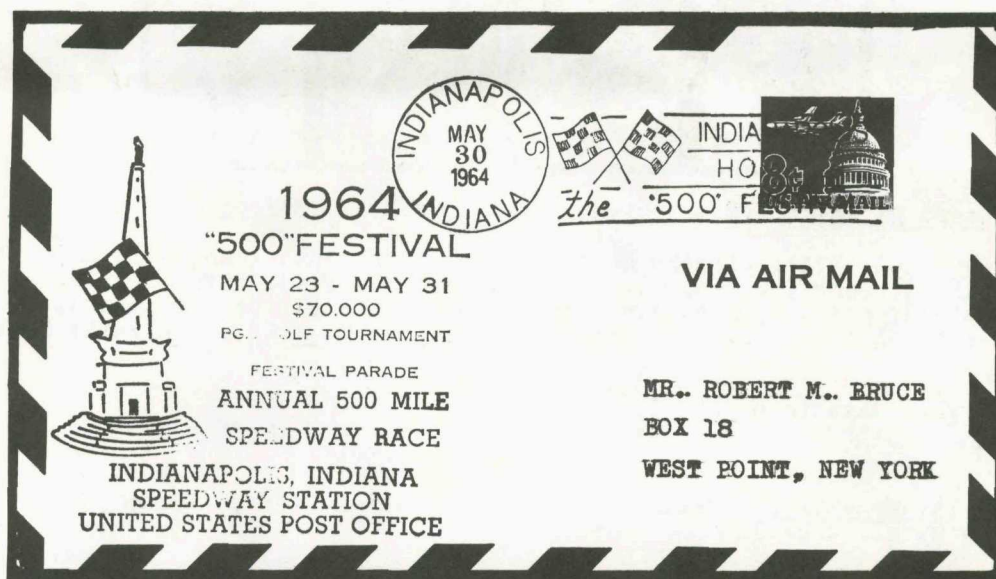
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many. Chevalier Jonquieres also won International (C.H.I.O.) Shows at Rome and Paris in 1955

CURRENT INDIANAPOLIS SPEEDWAY COVER

Through the courtesy and thoughtfulness of several of our Midwestern members, the cacheted cover for the 1964 Annual 500-Mile Speedway race in Indianapolis, Indiana, is illustrated below. Note the checkered signal flag which had to be used so frequently in this year's race!



NEW ISSUES CALENDAR

- Barbara T. Williams -

April Addenda

- 1st Spain. XXV Anniversary of the National Movement. 30¢ (javelin thrower and runner) and 1pta (tourism). (Additional information)
- 10th Niger Republic. Friendship Games. 15fr, 25fr, and 45fr.
- Bhutan. Innsbruck and Tokyo Olympic Games. 33ch multicolored, 70ch multicolored, and 1.30ng multicolored; all overprinted with the emblem of the Games and a 50ch surcharge for the benefit of the committee to study Bhutan's possible participation in future Winter Games and to encourage winter sports in Bhutan. Quantity: 50,000 (33ch), 30,000 (70ch), and 20,000 (1.30ng).

May Addenda

- 8th Congo Republic. 30fr (Biaboua ballet) and 60fr (Kebe Kebe dance masks).
- 13th German Democratic Republic. German Youth Meet, East Berlin. 20pf multicolored (young athletes and gymnast on long horse. Designed by Walter Ekkehard, Dresden).
- 18th Albania. XVIII Olympic Games, Tokyo. 3L (hands lighting Olympic torch), 5L (Olympic torch, Olympic rings, and joining hemispheres); 7L (Olympic flag and Mt. Fiji); 10L (stadium); and 15L (souvenir sheet) (Olympic flag and Mt. Fiji). Quantities: 100,000 perforate sets and souvenir sheets and 17,000 imperforate sets and souvenir sheets.
- 31st Hungary. Hungarian-Swedish Athletic Contest. 5fo reddish-brown (runner breaking tape). Quantities: 4,520,000 perforate and 6,000 imperforate.

June Addenda

- 12th Hungary. XVIII Olympic Games, Tokyo. 30f (fencers); 50f (gymnasts); 60f (soccer); 80f (equestrian); 1fo (runners); 1.40fo (weight lifter); 1.50fo (gymnasts); 2fo (hammer thrower and pole vaulter); 2.50fo (boxers); and 3fo + 1fo (water polo).

12 NEW ISSUES CALENDAR (Cont'd)

All stamps are multicolored and in diamond format. Quantities: 450,000 perforate sets and 15,000 imperforate sets. (Additional information)

- 24th Israel. XVIII Olympic Games, Tokyo. 8ag (runners); 12ag (discus thrower); 30ag (basketball); and 50ag (football). All multicolored. Designed by Dan Reisinger, Tel Aviv. Printed in sheets of fifteen by the Government Printers, Hakirya, Tel Aviv. (Note new date of issue). (Additional information)



- 27th Ivory Coast Republic. XVIII Olympic Games, Tokyo. 35fr and 65fr.

- 27th Mali Republic. XVIII Olympic Games, Tokyo. 5fr (soccer and stadium); 10fr (boxing and stadium); 15fr (runner, Olympic flag, and stadium); 85fr (hurdler, Olympic flag, and stadium); and 115fr (souvenir sheet containing all four stamps of the set). All stamps are multicolored. Designed by Decaris and printed in Paris by line engraving.

Jugoslavia. Olympic Games (6)

July

- 1st Upper Volta Republic. XVIII Olympic Games, Tokyo. 15fr, 25fr, 85fr, 100fr, and 225fr (souvenir sheet).
- 11th Cameroons Republic. Tropics Cup competition. 10fr, 18fr, and 30fr.

Current

Bahamas. Olympic Games, Tokyo. 1sh overprinted "8p".

Bulgaria. 50th Anniversary of Levski Physical Culture Association. 2st (soccer); 13st (volleyball); and 60st (souvenir sheet) (European Women's Volleyball Cup and map of Europe). All stamps are multicolored, have the emblem of the Association, and are inscribed "1914-1964". Designed by V. S. Korenev and S. T. Kantshev. Quantities: 1,000,000 (2st), 200,000 (13st), and 100,000 (60st).

Guinea Republic. XVIII Olympic Games, Tokyo. Scott 044-6 overprinted "Jeux Olympiques Tokyo 1964" and including the Olympic rings. 100fr deep rose, sepia, and green (Orr overprinted) (runner); 200fr olive bistre, ultramarine, and magenta (045 overprinted) (bicycling); and 500fr ochre, dark blue, and red (046 overprinted) (sculling). Overprints occur in either red or yellow.

Guinea Republic. IX Winter Olympic Games, Innsbruck. 10fr green and gold (ice hockey); 25fr purple and gold (ski jumper); 50fr blue-green and gold (skier); and 100fr orange and gold (figure skater).

Forecast

Cameroons Republic. Olympic Games, Tokyo. 9fr, 10fr, and 300fr.

Central African Republic. Olympic Games, Tokyo. 25fr, 50fr, 100fr, 250fr, and 425fr (souvenir sheet).

Chad. Olympic Games, Tokyo. 25fr, 50fr, 100fr, 200fr, and 375fr (souvenir sheet).

Comoros Archipelago. Olympic Games, Tokyo. 100fr.

Congo Republic. Olympic Games, Tokyo. 25fr, 50fr, 100fr, 200fr, and 375fr (souvenir sheet).

Fiji. 50th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of Fiji and the Golden Jubilee Jamborette, Suva. 3p (Jamborette emblem) and 1sh (three scouts representing the three major races of the Colony). Printed by Harrison and Sons, Ltd., London. (August 3rd).

Gaboon Republic. Olympic Games, Tokyo. 25fr, 50fr, 100fr, 200fr, and 375fr (souvenir sheet).

Ifni. Stamp Day. (2, cyclist and motorist). (Nov. 23rd).

Lebanon. Olympic Games, Tokyo. 2 1/2p, 7 1/2p, 10p, 15p, 25p, 50p, and souvenir sheet. Quantities: 150,000 sets and 25,000 souvenir sheets.

Mauretania. Olympic Games, Tokyo. 15fr, 50fr, 85fr, 100fr, and 250fr (souvenir sheet).

Mongolia. XVIII Olympic Games, Tokyo. 5m (gymnast); 10m (javelin); 15m (wrestling); 20m (runners); 30m (equestrian); 50m (swimmer); 60m (cyclist); and 1t (emblem of the Tokyo Games).

Niger Republic. Olympic Games, Tokyo. 60fr, 85fr, 100fr, 250fr, and 500fr (souvenir sheet).

San Marino. European Baseball Championship. 15L and 70L. (August 30th). (Additional information)

Senegal. Olympic Games, Tokyo. 85fr and 100fr.

United Arab Republic (Egypt). Olympic Games, Tokyo.

Wallis and Futuna. Olympic Games, Tokyo. 31fr.

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PHILATELIC MARKET REPORT

- Fred Farr -

This installment of "Philatelic Market Report" is devoted exclusively to the sports stamps of France and is an evaluation of the current market conditions prevailing in the United States, in France, and in the London stamp market. Virtually all of these stamps are showing an upward trend in price, although some are obviously a better bargain than are other French sports stamps. As always, the American retail market lags considerably behind the stamp markets of Europe; indeed, American retail prices are often considerably lower than American wholesale prices! That's your tip-off to these stamps if they are missing from your collection.

France 198-201. This ever-popular set of four stamps was issued in 1924, when France was the host country to the 8th Olympiad. Retail prices in the United States average \$3.00 to \$3.25, although wholesalers ask \$3.60 (up from \$2.80 in 1963). The Paris market asks \$4.60 (up from \$4.00 in 1963), but the London market will supply at \$3.20. Note that the American retail price is less than the American wholesale price--how long do you think these conditions will prevail?

France 322. France honored the FIS World Championship in 1937 with this handsome blue stamp depicting a ski jumper. Dealers in Paris want \$1.00 for this stamp although dealers in London ask only 70¢. American dealers price this stamp at 65¢ while American wholesalers ask 85¢ (up from 60¢ in 1964). We may conclude that this stamp represents an excellent purchase at today's prices--if it is missing from your collection.

France 349. A strange situation prevails with this stamp, issued in 1938 to honor the World Cup Football Championships. Almost everyone wants the same price for this stamp; London--\$1.00; Paris--\$1.10; U. S. wholesale--\$1.00, up from 60¢ in 1963; and U. S. retail--95¢. It would appear that this stamp will show a steady increase, but no spectacular jumps in price, due to the market stability of this stamp. Remember, sports stamps

14 PHILATELIC MARKET PLACE (Cont'd)

show their most spectacular increases in price when there is a wide disparity of prices prevailing between the low U. S. market prices and the much higher prices in Europe--this causes American dealers to buy up these stamps at low prices so they can be sold in Europe at a large profit.

France 693. This tri-colored commemorative was issued in 1953 in tribute to the fiftieth anniversary of the "Bicycle Tour of France". An odd situation exists wherein American retail prices are higher than those prevailing elsewhere: U. S. retail--25¢, U. S. wholesale--15¢; Paris--18¢; and London--14¢. Frankly, I do not know why this situation should exist; only 3,075,000 copies of this stamp were issued, which is considerably less than the number issued of France 349 (retailing for 95¢). This stamp probably has much greater investment potential than would appear at first glance because everyone is ignoring it.

France 700-05. This set is the most expensive item among all French sports stamps; each stamp is a miniature work of art. American dealers ask \$3.50 to \$4.25 for this set although wholesalers want \$4.00 (up from \$3.25 in 1963). The London market charges \$4.20 and the French dealers get \$5.30 for this set. With the latest increase in the wholesale price of this set, American dealers must obviously raise their prices to \$5.00 or more, depending on the wholesale price prevailing when the retailer seeks to re-order this set. Remember, this set belongs in every collection of Olympic Games stamps, so prices should advance this year.

France 801-04. This attractive set of four stamps is almost anti-climactic when compared with the preceding set (France 700-05). Even if this set has not been as popular as other French sports stamps, it is an excellent investment at today's prices because the American retailer is the low man on the totem pole of stamp prices. American dealers ask \$1.00 for this set although U. S. wholesalers want \$1.20 (up from \$1.00 in 1963). Parisian dealers charge \$1.60 and London dealers get \$1.40 for this set. I don't see how American dealers can continue to sell this set for less than it costs them to replace it. At the modest price of \$1.00 this set is an excellent purchase for your collection.

France 817. Issued in 1956 to honor Pierre de Coubertin, this stamp retails for 35¢ or 40¢ in the United States although Paris dealers ask 50¢ and London dealers get 42¢. With only 2,500,000 copies issued, I regard this stamp as an excellent purchase at today's prices, and I would not be surprised to see this stamp increase in price this year due to the number of collectors of Olympic Games stamps who will start filling in the earlier stamps once the ballyhoo of the Tokyo Games is over.

France 845. The International University Games were held in Paris during the summer of 1957; so France issued this commemorative which, at first glance, hardly appears to be connected with sports philately. The American and British retailers want 15¢ for this stamp although French dealers hold out for 25¢. There were only 2,200,000 copies of this stamp issued, so I conclude that it may well be a sleeper. At this modest price you can be sure of purchasing this stamp now.

France 883-86. Personally I like this set, each stamp of which depicts a different native sport. Once again, it is the American retailer who simply doesn't like money--he can't like money because he charges less than anyone else for this set. Retail prices in the U. S. are 50¢ or 55¢ although the American wholesaler gets 60¢; meanwhile the French dealers charge 85¢ and the dealers in London get 65¢. Only 2,350,000 sets were issued; this is a very small quantity for a country like France which uses tremendous quantities of stamps for every-day postal needs. If you don't buy this set now at the low price currently prevailing, you deserve to pay the higher price which is inevitable.

France 969. In 1960 France issued a very homely and uninspired stamp in honor of the 17th Olympiad in Rome. For once American dealers are cheaper than foreign dealers; U. S. retailers ask 10¢, French dealers demand 13¢, and London dealers want 12¢. Interestingly enough, there are very few wholesale offerings of this stamp, which may indicate that the 5,500,000 copies issued have been largely dispersed. I recommend the purchase of a block of four, plus a first-day cover; that should make an attractive album page. Incidentally, I do not foresee any spectacular price increases for this stamp.

France 1019-20. This attractive multicolored set was issued in 1962 to honor the FIS World Championships held at Chamonix. Although very cheap in the United States, this set must really be an outstanding bargain at today's prices. American dealers charge 25¢ per set, which is the same price charged by U. S. wholesalers. But French dealers get 52¢ for this set and the London market wants 42¢. With 5,545,000 sets issued, there should be enough stamps to go around at the current American prices, yet facts are facts and European dealers are getting the prices which they ask. By all means make sure that this set is in your collection today.

France 1034-35. The jumbled design of this pair of stamps makes it difficult to realize that they were issued to publicize sports aviation, which is more honored in Europe

(especially in the Iron Curtain countries) than in the United States. This set sells for 12¢ to 15¢ in the U. S., although dealers in Europe want 20¢ or more for it and many American wholesalers don't even have any stocks left. Some 5,120,000 sets were issued, but this is approximately the standard quantity of all French commemoratives being issued. You can't lose your shirt if you buy a set (in singles or in blocks) at today's prices. Remember, the fact that these stamps honor sports aviation means that airmail collectors will also be seeking this set, thereby adding to the market pressure on these stamps.

France B60-2. I like this set of three semipostals, issued in 1937, and I feel that they are probably the most unappreciated stamps of all the sports issues of France. Only 1,500,000 sets were printed and vast quantities must have been destroyed during World War II, yet this attractive set has never reached the valuation of many sports items issued in much larger quantities. American dealers charge 60¢ or so for this set, although it would appear that U. S. wholesalers have long since depleted their stocks of this item. London dealers want 80¢ for this set and Parisian dealers get \$1.05. Just several years ago this set was available here for 35¢, so I hope you can see the handwriting on the wall.

France B153a and B156. The market activities of this stamp were fully discussed in the October, 1963, issue of "JSP".

A sleeper? France 1002 depicts a winter scene on Mont Dore, including a pair of ski poles thrust into a snowbank. This attractive stamp was issued on July 1, 1961, which was just a short time ago; but nobody can agree what this stamp is worth. American wholesalers would appear to have no stocks left. American retailers want 10¢ or more for this stamp while French dealers charge 12¢ to 15¢. "Scott" values a mint copy at 8¢, while "Minkus" lists it at 20¢ and the Michel catalogue gives it a value of 23¢. Considering the fact that this stamp has a face value of only 4¢, I believe that this stamp bears further watching. Interestingly enough, some 10,390,000 copies were issued, so I don't quite know what to make of the entire situation.

OLYMPIANA

Pseudo-Olympic rings on non-Olympic stamps. The appearance of interlocking rings on postage stamps is not always an indication that these stamps are related to the Olympic Games. The latest indication of this occurred on the long sport set (13 values) issued by Nicaragua at the end of 1963. Each value carries an interlocking-ring symbol (three rings in the top row and two rings in the second row). However, these stamps depict sports popular in Nicaragua and have no connection with official Olympic sports.

In 1952 Brazil issued a single stamp (Scott 725) honoring the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Fluminense Football (Soccer) Club. This stamp depicts both the Olympic flame and the interlocking rings. Ira Seebacher in his "Handbook of Sports Stamps" notes: "It is difficult to understand why a design, so predominantly Olympic in its symbolism, should have been used to honor a soccer club. Perhaps the stamp which bears the legend 'Glorificacao do esporte' was intended to mark Brazil's participation in the Helsinki Games. Those whose efforts to gain a stamp for Fluminense may have been so elated and eager to let the world know this was the first stamp ever issued for a soccer club that they, perhaps unwittingly, suppressed its Olympic connotation." Be that as it may, no positive connection has been made between this stamp and the Olympic Games.

The 1954 issue of Colombia (623-24 and C256-57) publicized the 7th National Athletic Games held in Cali. All four stamps have three large interlocking rings in the foreground. However, the two stamps displaying the Olympic torch have five interlocking rings on the torch itself, and the two stamps depicting the stadium have the five rings on a flag proudly flying atop the stadium--a total of eight rings per stamp!

Indonesia has put out three separate issues which carry the Olympic rings. The first (B58-62) prominently displays the rings in the center of what was termed stamps honoring the "Asiatic Olympic Games"; but, as Ira Seebacher says, are more properly called the "Asian Games". The second set (B63-7) publicized the second National Games held at Jakarta. The ring symbol on this set is difficult to discern. The rings are on the stem of the flame and blend in with the background. The third set (B121-25) commemorated the All-Indonesian Youth Congress held at Bandung. The five rings top the allegorical design of the stamp.

The three-value set of Egypt (292-94) issued to publicize the first Mediterranean Games shows a ring symbol on each value, but in a different arrangement in each case. The 10m has the five rings in a straight line; the 22m has them in a circle; and the 30m has two rings in the top row and three in the bottom row.

In no case of the above-mentioned items is there any actual connection between these stamps and the Olympic Games. And if this were not enough to confuse collectors of Olympiana, other stamps show two or three rings (Egypt 384 and Algeria B49). Literally, we are engaged in a three-ring circus with the five-ring Olympic symbol! H.W.

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