



Journal of SPORTS PHILATELY



REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH S3



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Volume 24

SPEED SKATING WEEK 1975 -- AND ITS DEVELOPMENTS

by Harry C. Henriksen

Every four years the world becomes aware of speed skating, America's most productive medal producer in the Winter Games. Erik Heiden's outstanding five gold medal performance at Lake Placid (1980) was a highlight of the outstanding achievements of our fantastic skaters.

The USA's medal production is even more remarkable, since Olympic (or metric) speed skating is not the most popular form of ice racing practiced by the thousands of American youngsters who skate on "long blades."

Olympic skating takes place outdoors on a large 400 meter oval. Two competitors are paired in each race. In Olympic or World Competition, where a total of fifty of the world's finest skaters may compete, the winners are chosen on the fastest times skated. It is not unlikely that the gold and silver medalists could come from the same pairing. Even though a skater was second in his pairing, his time could be second best in the competition, and earn him the silver medal.

American skating, from the time a youngster puts on his first pair of skates until he reaches his late teens, has been what we call "pack-style skating." This exciting form of racing is similar to track. Six to eight skaters start on the line in heats, and are advanced to semi-finals or finals on the basis of placement in their races.

Although outdoor pack-style skating has been around since the late 1800's, indoor speed skating is rather a new adaptation of the sport. With the advent of refrigerated indoor ice rinks, the idea of indoor racing on tracks from 100 to 125 meters has become most popular in the United States, Canada, Great Britain and Japan. In spite of growing popularity, little had been done prior to 1975 to promote the sport worldwide.

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In 1974, three sportsmen formed a committee to submit Champaign-Urbana, Illinois for the 1975 National Indoor Championships. The chairman was Bill Markland and the other members were Harry Henriksen and Donald Prather.

Champaign had been one of the centers of indoor skating since the 1930's and had hosted the "Land of Lincoln Championships" which, since its beginning, has been the world's most prestigious indoor competition.

Realizing the the community was committed to holding the "Land of Lincoln", the committee proposed to invite the nation's speed skaters to compete in that event March 1 and 2, to remain during the week for practice and festivities, and to skate the National Championships March 8 and 9.

The Amateur Skating Union of the United States (ASU) approved the plan, and the most ambitious indoor speed skating program to date, became a reality.

The local community gave complete support through financing and publicity and Governor Dan Walker proclaimed March 1-9 as "Speed Skating Week in Illinois." Secretary of State, Michael Howlett produced certificates for the competitors and agreed to present the awards at the National Championships.

Since the National Championships were an important part of Speed Skating Week, the committee began to look for national exposure.

As a philatelist, I suggested we request a special cancellation from the United States Post Office. After consultation with the Champaign Postmaster, Cal Haarhues, we submitted a request for three cancellation hubs with the following wording:

1975 SPEED SKATING
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Since the committee would be sending large amounts of mail prior to the events, we received approval for the hubs to go in use February 1, 1975 to continue until the last day of "Speed Skating Week", March 9th.

As part of my activities as publicity chairman I designed the logo which was used on pins, buttons, posters, patches, news ad's, vehicles, etc. Prior to the inauguration of the hub cancellation I produced about four hundred envelopes with the official logo. (Fig. 1). These envelopes, with the cachet, were cancelled during the first run of the hubs on February 1, 1975. The hubs were produced by the Pitney - Bowes Company at a cost of \$180.00 to the national committee. It is estimated that 100,000 pieces of mail were cancelled each day with the national slogan.



Fig. 1

This is the end of the story as far as philatelic endeavors are concerned. Happily, it is just the beginning for indoor speed skating. The next year, the 1976 Bicentennial Year, Champaign-Urbana requested permission from the International Skating Union (ISU) to stage the first International Short Track (Indoor) Competition.

The competition was granted and supported by President Ford, the Bicentennial Committee and the State of Illinois. Special medals were struck by Jack Ahr (designer of the Bicentennial quarter), and the event was covered by the major media, including Sports Illustrated.

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Sports Philatelists International is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to the study and collecting of postage stamps and related collateral material dealing with sports (including Olympics) and recreation and to the promotion of international understanding and goodwill through mutual interest in philately and sports. Its activities are planned and carried on entirely by the unpaid, volunteer services of its members. All members in good standing receive the bi-monthly issue of Journal of Sports Philately. The dues for regular U.S. membership are \$6.00, foreign \$8.00 (airmail is additional) per year plus a one time admission fee of \$1.00. Membership applications may be obtained from Margaret A. Jones, 3715 Ashford-Dunwoody Rd., N.E., Atlanta, GA 30319 USA.

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Members of the ISU and visiting ambassadors and consuls were so impressed with the exciting "American" sport that in 1977 another World Competition was held in Grenoble, France. In 1978 the ISU staged the first ISU Championship, and three years later, in 1981, indoor skating was awarded world championship status at Meudon, France.

At Calgary, in 1988 indoor short track skating will be presented as an exhibition Olympic sport. It is believed by many officials that this truly American aspect of speed skating will be accepted as an official Olympic event in 1992.

Fig.1

3 1/4 x 6 1/2 inch bond envelope, with 1975 logo cachet in royal blue (offset printing). All covers were cancelled first day (February 1, 1975) with hub slogan.

Harry C. Henriksen, Curator of Exhibits
University of Illinois Museum of
Natural History
and
Curator, Brundage Olympic Collection
World Heritage Museum

Editor's note: The illustrated cover can be obtained from Harry C. Henriksen, 103 E. Chalmers, Champaign, IL 61820. Price is 1 cover \$1.50 plus SASE, 5 covers - \$5.00 plus SASE.

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The ballot for the next election will be in the July-August issue.

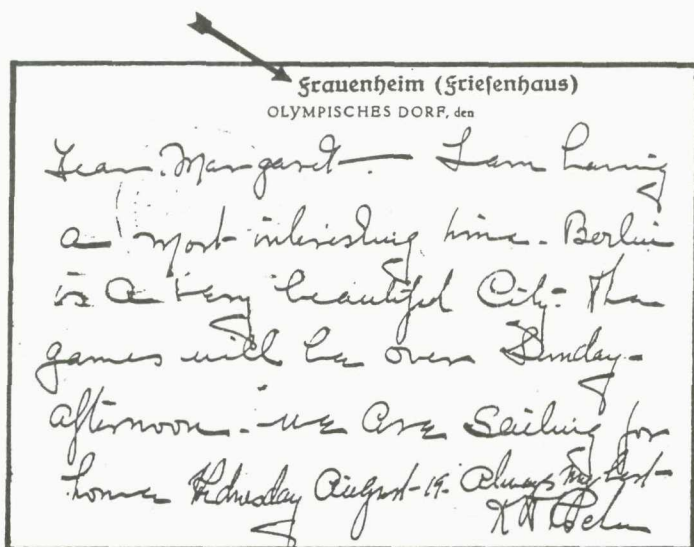
HELP WANTED

Members interested in forming a study group for the sport of tennis. Details furnished for a SASE. L.M. Yerkes, PO Box 40771, St. Petersburg, FL 33743 USA.

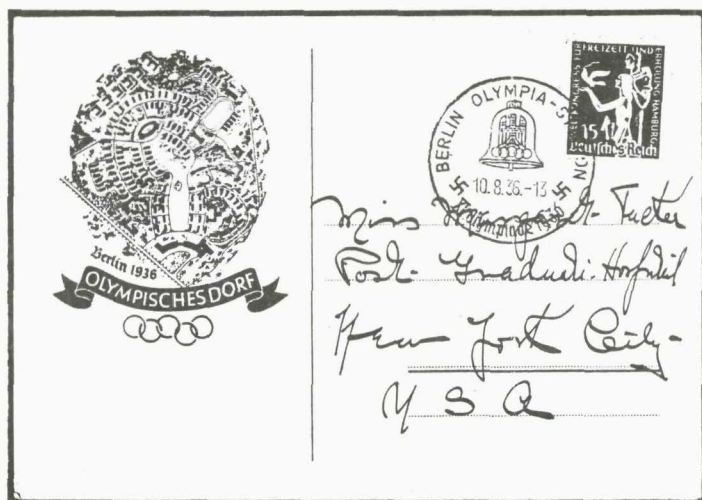
OLYMPIC SIGNATURES

FROM THE

EDWARD B. EPSTEIN COLLECTION

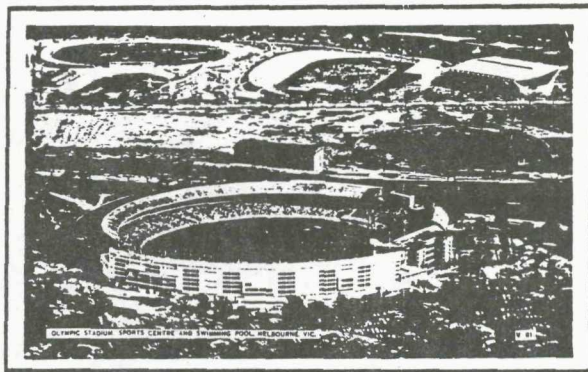
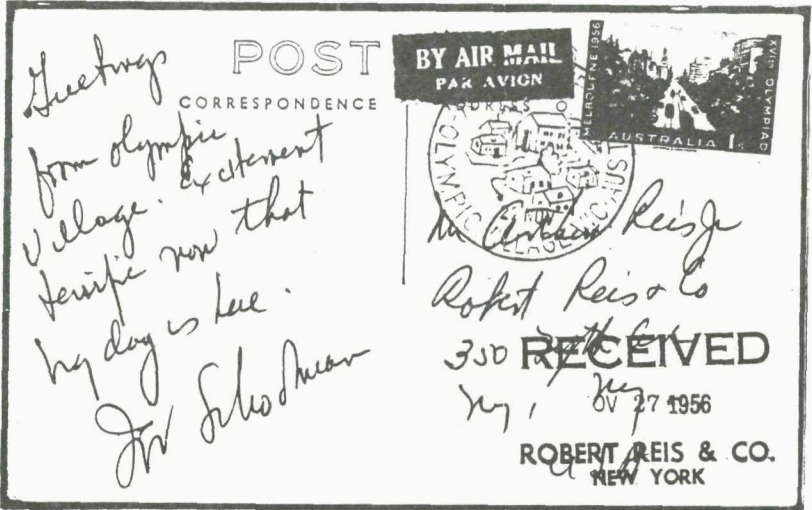


SIGNATURE OF NURSE KATHERINE T. ROCHE, U.S. MEDICAL COMM. ON
REVERSE FACSIMILE OF OLYMPIC VILLAGE STATIONERY OVERPRINTED
"FRAUENHEIM (FRIESENHAUS)" FOR USE AT REICHSPORTFELD WOMEN'S
DORMITORY CANCELED FROM BERLIN OLYMPIC STADIUM AUG. 10, 1936



AUSTRALIA

IRVING M. SCHOOLMAN, 1956 ASST. MGR.-TRAINER, U.S. MEN'S TRACK & FIELD TEAM & MEMBER OF U.S. OLYMPIC TRACK AND FIELD COMM. SIGNED NOV. 22, 1956 MELBOURNE OLYMPIC SOUVENIR CARD FLOWN FROM OLYMPIC VILLAGE. REC'D. HANDSTAMPED NOV. 27, 1956



REDUCED FACSIMILE OF CARD'S VIEW SIDE

1985 WORLD

ICE HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Joe Lacko

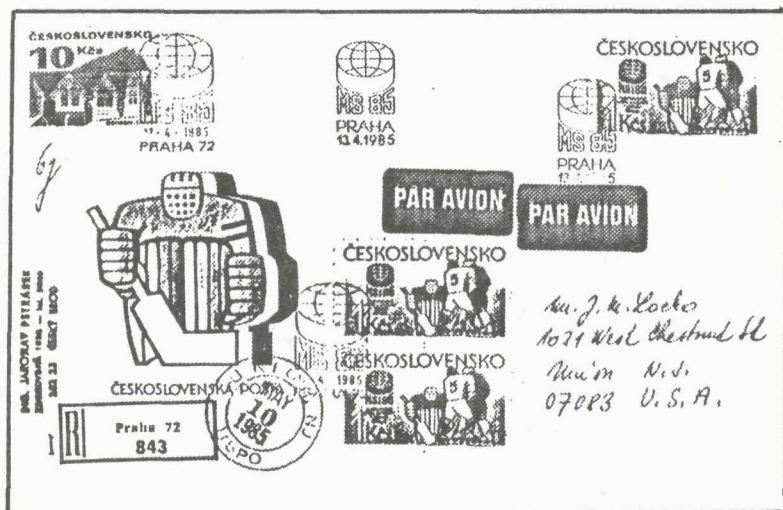
The 1985 World Ice Hockey Championships were held in Prague from April 4 to May 3.

On April 13th 1985 a single stamp was issued for this event. The 1 crown value shows the official organizing committee's logo: a puck with global lines on its surface under which is the MŠ 85 and on the bottom line is Praha and the date. In very fine print below the above design, it states that these are also the Championships of Europe. Obviously, this indicated that the European teams that are participating are also playing for the European Championship.

Nowhere does it say that it is the First Day of Issue. However, this can be considered as the first day. The stamp depicts a goal-tender and defensive and offensive players.

The cachet is similar to the likeness on the stamp, except that the color of the jersey is green instead of red. A special commemorative cancellation was also used during the time of the championships.

The cancel is of the hand type and it appears in the same format as the one of the First Day except that it is a bit larger and bold-face. The city of Prague and the date are here reversed and the number 72 follows Prague, which is a sectional number of the city.



It must be noted that this cancel was used exclusively in the arena's temporary post office and in order to have a cancel serviced on a hand-in basis, a ticket for the event had to be purchased. The problem was that tickets were difficult to obtain, as most of the games were sold out.

The cachet on the cover shown is of private making. These come in various colors on envelopes and postal cards.



Booklets containing five stamps commemorating the World and European Championships were sold by POFIS, the Czechoslovakian official philatelic agency. The strip of five stamps can be from a sheet and from any position, thus edge is not always available in the booklet.

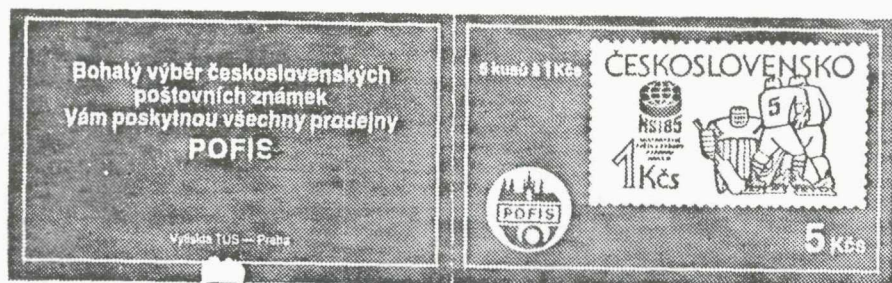
The booklet cover is blue while the stamp shown on the cover is white as is the printing which indicates the number of stamps, the price and the POFIS emblem. The rear of the cover is an advertisement telling that there is a generous selection of Czechoslovakian stamps available at POFIS stores.

For the World and European Ice Hockey Championships the official mascot was LVICE, which translates into English as Little Lion. A multi-colored label was issued for the occasion.

The World and European Championships went to the host nation, Czechoslovakia. In second place was Canada and the USSR was third. The United States finished fourth after a fast start but a very poor finish.



Inside Booklet Pane



Booklet cover exploded, front & back



Label

IN DEFENSE OF MY
OLYMPHILEX '85 EXHIBIT

by Ray Marshall

I am a new member to Sports Philatelists International, and only recently received my first issues of Journal of Sports Philately. I was in for quite a shock when I read Bob Wilcox's critique of Olymphilex '85 in the September-October 1985 issue! My exhibit of one frame of examples of improper 1984 Olympic cancellations elicited his review, "---- a frivolous frame showing L.A. cancels applied (improperly?) to stamps of less than (first class) 20¢ value".

I wasn't able to attend Olymphilex '85 in Switzerland, so I was at a disadvantage in not being able to exchange input on the exhibits with other collectors in the hobby. However, from what I read in the exhibition brochure, my exhibit was the only one showing examples of improper issues of any kind.

When I applied to Olymphilex to enter my exhibit, I felt compelled to send copies of all pages of the exhibit, and on the application form, to explain that this exhibit fulfilled one of the functions of FIPO, (in article 2) to warn against improper issues (of any kind). Included in my exhibit were documents/letters from various post offices across the U. S. A. telling me, in some instances, that I was the only person to have obtained their special pictorial cancels on less than first class postage.

The first page of my exhibit explained how I obtained the idea of "minus value cancels" from an article in the American First Day Cover Association's publication, First Days, showing how a member obtained F. D. C. cancellations on large posters, with one first class stamp, and topic-enhancing non-U. S. stamps, scattered around each poster, receiving cancellations on all stamps, with no "tie" to U. S. postage except for the one U. S. stamp. At the time, no one in the hobby knew that this was against U. S. Postal Regulations. U. S. Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) regulation 164.739 states: "Unused foreign postage stamps may be cancelled with a U. S. Postal Service postmark only when unused U. S. postage of the same rate of the appropriate rate is cancelled with the same stroke." (It was some time before I was to learn of this regulation).

In the meantime, however, copying the example from First Days, I began mailing out pages, with groups of stamps, six to ten groups on each page, for individual cancels on each group. My justification, and misguided thought that I was fulfilling legal requirements, was that the sum total of postage on each page was the required first class of 20¢. With every group of pages mailed out, a copy of the First Days article was enclosed also. Most postal personnel agreed that this was within guidelines. In a few instances, post-



ORCOEXPO PICTORIAL
CANCEL DONE IN
BLACK INK.



SAME CANCEL DONE
IN POSTAL MAROON
INK.

U. S. POSTAL SERVICE ROUTING SLIP		DEPT., OFFICE OR ROOM NO.	<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE <input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SEE ME <input type="checkbox"/> AS REQUESTED <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION <input type="checkbox"/> READ AND RETURN <input type="checkbox"/> READ AND FILE <input type="checkbox"/> NECESSARY ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> INVESTIGATE <input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION <input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY
TO:	Raymond Roy Marshall Box 702 Glendale, CA 91209		
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
FROM: [MILWAKEE, WISCONSIN POST OFFICE.]		EXTENSION	
DATE		ROOM NO.	

S ON 20
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VERS 1
: CUT-OUT
NCIENT
AMES,
A REDUCED
BRADLEY'S
IAL SYMBOL
OW.



room
3 ave
98, Calif

IN

REMARKS: GENUINE, RUBBER-STAMPED, INKED
IMPRESSION.



This is the design, but it
will be smaller (2 1/2" x 1 1/2")

[I ASKED FOR, AND RECIEVED, THIS OVERSIZE,
PRELIMINARY OLYMPIC CANCEL. THIS MAY
BE THE ONLY ONE THAT EXISTS. WITHOUT
POSTAGE, THIS ALSO MAY BE AGAINST U.S.
POSTAL REGULATIONS?] THIS IS "FRIVOLOUS"???

masters returned my material uncanceled, and in referring to regulation 164.73g, they inserted the words "First Class" thusly: "---only when unused First Class postage---." The words "First Class" did not appear in the regulation. However, with confused thoughts about the controversial opinion by some postmasters, I agreed with their determination when I entered my exhibit, labelling it as "improper issues."

Some of the more controversial postal letters were entered as a part of my exhibit. (The documents, incidentally, were made into covers, with first class postage, and 1984 Olympic date cancels added).

In time, I just couldn't agree that the regulations supposedly forbade my obtaining multiple cancels on pages with a total of first class postage, which I believed fulfilled the requirements of 164.73g. So, I continued receiving the pictorial cancels without bribery, collusion or "favors." I have CTO's not "favor" cancels. Perhaps one stigma attached to this type of postal error is that, from what I have heard, some are obtained by bribery, collusion or "favors." (But if this is true, where is the stigma to collecting, and writing about counterfeit stamps?)

As to the "mechanics" of my exhibit, I had never attended/seen a stamp exhibition, being a "loner" so I knew absolutely nothing about format. My collections are mounted in three ring notebooks, on black sheet protector pages, so black pages was what my exhibit was mounted on. (Later I did attend a stamp exhibit, and learned that "white is in").

Enclosed with this article are copies of two groups of the items that I exhibited at Olymphilix '85. Despit one's own personal prejudices, this is as much a part of philatelic history, (if not more so) than counterfeit material, which is created criminally, yet is an acceptable collectable. My material was never obtained criminally.

I would welcome an open letter from Bob Wilcox, published in this Journal, explaining his viewpoint on my exhibit, which must obviously be a sharp contrast to my beliefs. I like to believe that I am intelligent, with a high degree of open-mindedness and common sense--am I missing something?

As an appropriate post-script to this controversy, was my receiving the greatest shock of all, in November of 1985, a copy of DMM 176.1 concerning mail submitted for special (pictorial) cancellations: "postage: mailers requesting that their mail be cancelled with a special cancellation must affix first class postage to the mail." Cancels on addressed envelopes only, DMM 176.23. So it turns out, my material is improper, after all. Erroneously-mentioned DMM 164.73g referred to regular U. S. postal "bullseye" cancels only, not pictorial cancels.)

Anyone wishing more information, with illustrations of portions of my exhibit, may send 1.00 for a postpaid copy of my article, "Personalized Olympic Covers" in the December 1984 issue of Torch Bearers, (British) Society of Olympic Collectors. Ray Marshall Box 702 Glendale, CA., U.S.A. 91209-0702

PRIX OLYMPIA

The International Federation of Olympic Philately (FIPO) has created the Prix Olympia to honor the finest postage stamp issued for the 1984 Olympic Games at Sarajevo and Los Angeles. A gold medal will be awarded for this stamp and a silver and bronze medal for stamps placed second and third respectively.

An initial jury selected 12 designs to be submitted to an international grand jury consisting of selected members of the International Olympic Committee, FIPO, postal administrations, philatelic organizations and others. SPI members included in the jury are as follows: MANFRED BERGMAN, LAURENTZ JONKER, MANFRED WINTERNEIMER, ROBERT DE VIOLINI, MICHAEL TSIRONIS, A. SEKIMOTO and SHERWIN PODOLSKY.

The twelve stamps selected by the first jury are the 1984 Olympic issues:

Australia 30c
Jugoslavia 23.70d equestrian
Seychelles 50c Long jump
Eire 26p and 29p
France 4.00 IOC Anniversary/23rd Olympiad
West Germany 60 + 30 female discus thrower
West Germany 120 + 60 yachting
Poland 6 zt. fencing
Jugoslavia Winter Olympics: 4d biathlon, 5d slalom, 23.70d downhill skiing

The international jury was asked to judge five criteria: use of color, artistic merit of the design, technical skill in portraying athletic motion, merit of each subject presented and general appearance of the stamp.

Each category was ranked on a scale from 1 to 6 with total number of points to be entered for each stamp. A grading sheet was provided to each jury member.

I found the judging to be difficult and my professional accounting background no help. The IOC/FIPO sent me the actual stamps mounted hingeless in a special folder with a separate envelope containing the remainder of the sets from which the selected stamps came.

Only stamps issued by the postal administrations affiliated with the Universal Postal Union were considered in the competition.

--Sherwin Podolsky, 1/1/86

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COMPETATIVE SWIMMING ON POSTAGE STAMPS

Bruce A. Tomkins

Even though competitive swimming has been a recognized Olympic sport since the modern Olympics began in 1896 (Alfred Hajos of Hungary won the first-ever 100 meters freestyle in 1:22.2), swimming stamps were not issued until 1937. The first (Romania B70*), which commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Federation of Romanian Sports Clubs (U.F.S.R.), featured a athlete using "freestyle" in an open-water swim. Six months later (1938), Panama issued a five-issue set and souvenir sheet (C47a) highlighting sports competition in the Fourth Central American Caribbean Games. A backstroker was featured in the souvenir sheet and a single issue (C45). From these humble beginnings, at least 150 countries have issued over 350 stamps which display the four competitive swimming strokes, the starts, and related items such as swimming stadia. Competitive diving, which will not be discussed here, contributes yet another substantial body of philatelic items.

This article describes the swimming strokes, starts, personalities, and related items which have appeared on competitive stamps since 1937. Most, but not all, of these stamps have been issued during Olympic years. Hence, it is common to see less well-known athletic events, such as the Pan-American Games and the South East Asian and Pacific Games (SEAP), mentioned.

Even though swimming issues have become more popular with time, only three sets of stamps covering the sport are currently available. Ivory Coast C76-80 shows freestyle, backstroke, butterfly, a start, and water polo. DDR 621-625 and B92 add stamps illustrating breaststroke and diving, but which do not show a start. The most complete set to date is Romania 1546-52, which shows all four competitive strokes, a start, diving, and water polo.

STARTS

The official rules of swimming describe the "forward start" quite carefully. In general, the swimmer stands on a block tilted not more than ten degrees (although it can feel much steeper!), reaches down, and places his hands in front or on the sides of the starting block. This is the "grab" start. Curiously, the grab start never appears in a single swimming stamp! In fact, a careful study of swimming stamps shows a distinct evolutionary trend towards modern starts.

Some of the earliest stamps which show swimmers in the starting position illustrate a start from the flat deck, such as that shown in Liberia C89, Ivory Coast 193, Swaziland 454 and 456a, and DDR B108. Later issues progress to actual starting blocks which are flat, such as Canada 657 (Figure 1), Liberia 592, and Mongolia 521, not tilted. The sloping blocks are actually a fairly recent feature, as shown in Hungary C277, Romania 2075, and Seychelles 353. Some issues really overdo the degree of sloping. In Russia

B73, for example, the block seems to be tilted about forty-five degrees -- an angle steep enough to make the competitor lose his balance!

The most commonly-displayed and oldest start is the "armswing" start, in which the swimmer leans forward slightly and raises his hands, palms up or at his sides, in back of him. When the starting horn is sounded, the swimmer would then swing his hands and arms forward forcefully, while simultaneously springing outward from the blocks. The armswing start is still used today during four-man relays, but much less commonly for individual events. A large number of swimming stamps display the armswing start; examples include Monaco 208, Romania 1448, Mongolia 521, Albania 1249, Canada 657 (Figure 1), and Luxembourg 460. The armswing start was so commonly associated with swimming that it was used as the symbol of swimming for a time, as shown in Turkey B163, Egypt C151, and Kuwait 699.

One major problem in any swimming start is a strong tendency for swimmers to enter the water through a very large "opening", thereby increasing water resistance and slowing the competitor at a time where he really should be moving his fastest. The modern solution to this problem is for the swimmer to change his body position in midair, to "pop" his hips high, and finally to enter the water through a comparatively small hole. This approach is the "pike" or "Tennessee" start, which is now used by most competitive swimmers. The pike start appears on just a few stamps, such as Cyprus 629, Antigua 434, Niue 295-96 and B42, Dominica 235-36, and Singapore 187 and 188a.

A number of stamps elected to simply forget about the blocks, the deck, and the water, and simply concentrate on the power, grace, and streamlining of a swimmer as he hangs in midair for less than a second, before he hits the water and swims on to -- hopefully -- victory. Israel 603 shows the stepwise descent of the swimmer into the water. Seychelles 549 (Figure 2) and 550a also show such a descent, but the motion begins with a distinct armswing start. No stamp shows the power of a swimmer's body in the same way as Spain 1623. Finally, San Marino has issued several stamps (C113, 465a, 592, 588) which concentrate on the swimmer's sleek, streamlined form as he hangs momentarily between the starting blocks and the water.

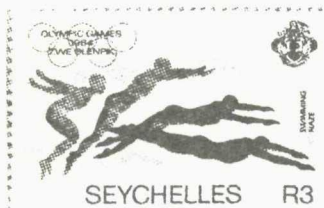


Fig. 2



Fig. 1



Fig. 3

Mongolia 521, which illustrates not only the armswing start but also the flat starting blocks, also commemorates one of the USA's more famous swimmers from the 1964 Olympics, DON SCHOLLANDER. Schollander won four gold medals at Tokyo, a record for the time. Two of his gold medals were earned in individual events (100 m freestyle, 53.4; 400 m freestyle, 4:12.2). He received the others in the 4 X 200 m freestyle relay (7:52.1, with Stephen Clark, Ray Saari, Gary Ilman, and Schollander) and the 4 X 100 m freestyle relay (3:33.2, with S. Clark, M. Austin, Gary Ilman, and Schollander). Schollander swam twice in the 1968 Olympics at Mexico City, where he earned a silver medal in the 200 m freestyle (1:55.8) and a gold medal in the 4X200 m freestyle relay (7:52.3, with John Nelson, Stephen Rerych, Mark Spitz, and Schollander).

Schollander's victory in the 100 m freestyle is specifically highlighted in Panama MK 902 K, 902 L, and 902 Lv. All three show gold, silver, and bronze medals, as well as names of the individuals who earned them. In addition to Schollander, the other swimmers mentioned are Robert McGregor of Great Britain (silver medal, 53.5) and Hans-Joachim Klein of Germany (bronze medal, 54.0).

Niue 295-6 and B42 were mentioned earlier as examples of the pike start. They also honor INES DIERS, one of the most highly-regarded freestylers competing at the 1980 Olympics in Moscow. Diers, a member of the DDR's women's national team, earned gold, two silver, and bronze medals in the 400 m freestyle (4:08.76), 800 m freestyle (8:32.55), 200 m freestyle (1:59.64), and 100 m freestyle (55.65), respectively. In addition, she was a member of the gold-medal 4 X 100 freestyle relay team (3:42.71, with Barbara Krause, Caren Metschuck, Diers, and Sarina Halsenbeck).

BUTTERFLY

Butterfly, or simply "fly", is the newest (officially recognized as an Olympic event in 1956) and most dramatic of the four competitive swimming strokes. Both arms, and to a degree the head and shoulders, are lifted from, and later enter, the water simultaneously. The entire body then rolls in a smooth, wavelike (undulating) motion, ultimately bringing the head, arms, and shoulders to the surface again. The armstroke looks vaguely like a butterfly when viewed head-on; hence the name of this stroke. Butterfly is, without question, the most exhausting swimming stroke. Competitive events simply do not feature distances of butterfly greater than 200 meters.

Swimming stamps vary greatly in their realistic interpretation of butterfly. Spanish Andorra 68 (Figure 3), which shows a head-on presentation of a flyer, is unquestionably the most accurate. This muscular swimmer is presented with his arms fully outstretched to the side and his head lifted slightly, just as he is about to throw his arms forward and re-enter the water. Dominica 666, which presents a side view of a flyer, is also realistic in that white turbulent water is shown around the swimmer's head and shoulders. Only Portugal 1150 depicts the undulating motion of butterfly; however, this representation is remarkably accurate.

Butterflyers typically breathe only every other, or even every third, stroke in order to keep their heads down, thereby reducing water resistance. As a result, any breath which can be taken while retaining good form is taken. For this reason, stamps which show butterflyers with their heads up but mouths closed (Comoro Islands C25) or even smiling (French Polynesia C119) (Figure 4) really seem strange!

KORNELIA ENDER, the "queen of swimming" at the 1976 Olympics (Montreal), is shown performing the butterfly on Mongolia 930. Ender, a long-time member of the DDR national women's swimming team, made her Olympic debut in Munich as a member of two relay teams. Her 4 X 100 m freestyle relay (3:55.55, with Gambriele Wetzko, Andrea Eife, Elke Schmisch, and Ender) and 4 X 100 m medley relay (4:24.91, with Christine Herbst, Renate Vogel, Roswitta Beier, and Ender) both won silver medals. Ender was a major force in women's swimming at Montreal, where she won three gold medals in individual competition (100 m freestyle, 55.65; 200 m freestyle, 1:59.26; 100 m butterfly, 1:00.13). In addition, she won a gold medal in the 4 X 100 m medley relay (4:07.95, with Ulrike Richter, Hannelore Anke, Andrea Pollack, and Ender), and a silver medal in the 4 X 100 m freestyle relay (3:45.50, with Ender, Petra Priemer, Andrea Pollack, and Claudia Hemple).

Togo recently released a souvenir sheet honoring butterflyer and freestyler MICHAEL GROSS of the Federal Republic of Germany. Gross, nicknamed "the albatross" because of his enormous wingspan (7'2" from fingertip to fingertip), won two gold medals in the 100 m butterfly (53.08) and the 200 m freestyle (1:47.44), as well as a silver medal in the 200 m butterfly (1:57.40) at the 1984 Olympics at Los Angeles. He also was a member of the silver-medal winning men's 4 X 200 m freestyle relay (7:15.73, with Thomas Fahrner, Dirk Kothals, Alexander Schwotka, and Gross) and a 4 X 100 m medley relay which finished fourth (3:44.26).

This particular souvenir sheet also appears with the overprint "Frederic Delcourt, France, Medaille D'Argent" Delcourt won a silver medal in the 200 m backstroke (2:01.75), but was disqualified in the consolation finals of the 100 m backstroke.



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

MARK SPITZ (USA) was unquestionably one of the greatest butterflyers and freestylers of all time. Only Upper Volta C120 shows this swimmer performing the butterfly; many others show him as a freestyler. For that reason, Spitz's achievements are listed under FREESTYLE.

BACKSTROKE

The stroke rules for backstroke are straightforward enough: the swimmer swims on his back! Indeed, the only rules for backstroke concern the turns, which are never shown on stamps, and the start, which is portrayed almost as frequently as the stroke itself. Modern backstrokers use the "single-arm backstroke", in which each arm is alternately lifted from the water at about the swimmer's waist, raised overhead, and forcefully placed back in the water behind the swimmer's head. Czechoslovakia 2294 (Figure 5) displays the arm motion better than any other issue available. An abstract view of the alternating armstroke is given in Yugoslavia 1148 and its associated sheetlet.

The backstroke start (Liechtenstein 320, Mali 81, [Figure 6], Hungary C332, Cape Verde Islands 407, and Mongolia 928) begins with the swimmer in the water, with his feet braced against the pool wall and his hands grasping the starting blocks. When the signal is given, the swimmer pushes himself up and away from the wall, leaving himself parallel to the water in midair for a split second. A moment later, his hands, arms, head, and body all disappear into a small hole in the water. If all goes well, the swimmer re-emerges several yards away from the wall -- stroking like mad!

At least two backstrokers have been mentioned specifically on swimming stamps. JOHN NABER (Mongolia 928) became a national hero as a member of the United States' national team at the 1976 Olympics in Montreal. Naber won gold medals in two individual events, the 100 m backstroke (55.49) and the 200 m backstroke (1:59.19), and a silver medal in the 200 m freestyle (1:50.50). He won two more gold medals in the 4 X 100 m medley relay (3:42.22, with Naber, John Hencken, Matt Vogel, and Jim Montgomery) and the 4 X 200 m freestyle relay (7:23.22, with Mike Bruner, Bruce Furniss, Naber, and Jim Montgomery).

ROLAND MATTHES (Chad 182) of the DDR won both gold and silver medals at both the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City and the 1972 Olympics in Munich. In 1968 he won two gold medals in the 100 and 200 m backstroke (58.7 and 2:09.6, respectively) and a silver medal in the 4 X 100 m medley relay (3:57.5, with Matthes, Egon Henninger, Horst-Gunther Gregor, and Frank Wiegand). He repeated this feat at Munich, winning the 100 m and 200 m backstroke (56.58 and 2:02.82) and taking second place as a member of the 4 X 100 m medley relay (3:52.12, with Matthes, Klaus Katzer, Hartmut Floekner, and Lutz Unger).

BREASTSTROKE

Breaststroke, by its very nature, is the least dramatic and the most difficult to illustrate of the four competitive strokes because both the arms and feet move

either entirely or almost entirely beneath the surface of the water. The rules of swimming require that a portion of the swimmer's head remain above the surface of the water at all times. For this reason, when breaststroke is illustrated at all (and only about a dozen stamps worldwide do), the head is usually the only part of the body which appears. Maldives 856 (Figure 7) is perhaps the best example of breaststroke, in which the head appears above the surface of the water and a little "fountain" spouts beneath the swimmer's chin.

Several breaststrokers are specifically honored on swimming stamps. FELIPE MUNOZ (Mali C163) of Mexico was the gold medal winner in the 200 m breaststroke (2:28.7) at the 1968 Olympics (Mexico City). MASURA FURUKAWA (Dominican Republic 526) of Japan won the same event in 2:34.7 at the 1956 Olympics (Melbourne). In this issue, Furukawa is shown executing the breaststroke turn and preparing for his next length of swimming, rather than actually performing breaststroke.

Malagasy Republic C156 and C171 shows both a breaststroker and a freestyler from the 1976 Olympic Games at Montreal; C171, the overprinted variety, identifies them as H. Anke and J. Montgomery, respectively. HANNELORE ANKE (DDR) won a gold medal in both the 100 m breaststroke (1:11.16) and the 4 X 100 m medley relay (4:07.95, with Ulrike Richter, Anke, Andrea Pollack, and Kornelia Ender). JIM MONTGOMERY (USA) won a gold and bronze medal in the 100 m freestyle (49.99) and the 200 m freestyle (1:50.58), respectively. He also swam the "anchor" (last) portion of the gold-medal winning 4 X 100 medley relay (3:42.22, with John Naber, John Hencken, Matt Vogel, and Montgomery) and 4 X 200 free relay (7:23.22, with Mike Bruner, Bruce Furniss, John Naber, and Montgomery).

Trinidad and Tobago recently issued three Olympic stamps, including one breaststroker (Figure 8), and a souvenir sheet showing all three varieties. The swimmer is not identified; however, the white cap with the letters "NAC" (Nashville Aquatic Club?) and the stroke suggest that this individual is TRACY CAULKINS, perhaps the greatest female swimmer in the history of the sport. Caulkins set more than 59 American swimming records and won 48 national titles -- more than any other amateur, male or female. She won two individual gold medals at the 1984 Olympics at Los Angeles in the 200 m individual medley (2:12.64) and the 400 m individual medley (4:39.24), and added an additional gold medal in the 4 X 100 m medley relay (4:08.34, with Theresa Andrews, Caulkins, Mary T. Meagher, and Nancy Hogshead). Caulkins also placed fourth in the 100 m breaststroke (1:10.88).

FREESTYLE

Technically, "freestyle" should be the most difficult stroke to define since the rules permit the swimmer to execute this stroke any way that he wishes (except in the individual medley, where the stroke chosen may not be butterfly, backstroke, or breaststroke). In practice, however, the stroke almost always selected is the Australian

crawl, in which the swimmer remains on his stomach and the arms reach forward alternately. For this reason, "crawl" and "freestyle" are used interchangeably. This is also the only stroke where a legal touch need not be made with the hand(s); touching the wall with the feet using a freestyle flip turn is perfectly legal.

Freestyle is depicted more frequently on swimming stamps than any other stroke; their number is exceeded only by issues which illustrate the start. Furthermore, most freestyle stamps are extremely similar to each other -- with some gratifying exceptions. Brazil 1277 shows a freestyler in a simplified fashion, but still easily identified. The task is much more difficult with Cyprus 536, which shows an abstract (almost avant-garde) representation of a freestyle swimmer with waves of water around him. Zimbabwe 474 shows a child's rendition of a swimmer -- and, of course, freestyle is shown. United Arab Emirates 46A-46C are unusual freestyle stamps in that they were prepared for the Second Gulf Long Distance Championships, but they were never issued formally.

Several world-class freestylers are portrayed on stamps. DEBBIE MEYER (USA), shown on Chad 181, won three gold medals at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico in the 200 m freestyle (2:10.5), the 400 m freestyle (4:31.8), and the 800 m freestyle (9:24.0). I. MURRAY ROSE (Australia), illustrated on Dominican Republic 505, won three gold medals in distance freestyle, viz. the 400 m freestyle (4:27.3) and the 1500 m freestyle (17:58.9) at the 1956 Olympics (Melbourne), and the 400 m freestyle (4:18.3) at the 1960 Olympics (Rome). HENRY TAYLOR (Great Britain) is pictured on Central African Republic C108, one of a set of stamps commemorating great Olympians from the past. He made his debut at the 1906 Olympics, where he won a silver medal in the 400 m freestyle (6:24.4). He was a force at the 1908 Olympics (London), where he won two individual gold medals in the 400 m freestyle (5:36.8) and the 1500 m freestyle (22:48.4), and anchored the gold-medal winning 4 X 200 m free relay (10:45.6, with John H. Derbyshire, Paul Radmilovic, William Foster, and Taylor).

Mongolia 704 portrays SHANE GOULD of Australia, who was clearly the dominant women's swimmer at the 1972 Olympics (Munich). Gould won three gold medals in the 200 m freestyle (2:03.56), the 400 m freestyle (4:19.04), and the 200 m individual medley (2:23.07). In addition, she added a bronze medal in the 100 m freestyle (59.06) and a silver medal in the 800 m freestyle (8:56.39).



Fig. 6



Fig. 8



Fig. 7

MARK SPITZ (USA), who is shown on Upper Volta C120, Liberia 619, Chad C153 (Figure 9), and Mongolia 699, was perhaps the greatest male swimmer in Olympic history. He earned a bronze medal in the 100 m freestyle (53.0) and a silver medal in the 100 m butterfly (56.4) at the 1968 Olympics at Mexico City, and added two gold medals in the 4 X 200 m freestyle relay (7:52.3, with John Nelson, Stephen Rerych, Spitz, and Don Schollander) and the 4 X 100 m freestyle relay (3:31.7, with Walsh, Zorn, S. Rerych, and Spitz). He made Olympic history, however, at the 1972 Olympic Games at Munich by earning seven gold medals -- the most gold medals ever won by a single individual at a single Olympic Games. These included four individual gold medals in the 100 m freestyle (51.22), 200 m freestyle (1:52.78), 100 m butterfly (54.27), and the 200 m butterfly (2:00.70). He added three more gold medals in the 4 X 100 m medley relay (3:48.16, with Mike Stamm, Tom Bruce, Spitz, and Jerry Heidenreich), the 4 X 100 m freestyle relay (3:26.42, with Stamm, Bruce, Spitz, and Heidenreich), and the 4 X 200 m freestyle relay (7:35.78, with John Kinsella, Fred Tyler, Steven Genter, and Spitz).

An unusual sidelight to Mark Spitz's record as told on swimming stamps is shown in the upper right-hand corner of Chad C153, where his winning time in the 100 m freestyle, 51"22, is shown. Until the Munich Games, swimming times were recorded using stopwatches good to tenths of a second. The Munich Games were the first Olympics to use fully-automatic timing, where timing good to hundredths of a second became feasible.

RELAYS

The most exciting swimming events are the relays, in which each swimmer in a four-man or four-woman team swims 100 to 200 m. For freestyle relays, each competitor swims either 100 or 200 m of freestyle. For the medley relays, each competitor swims 100 m, and the stroke order is backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, and freestyle.

Only one postal issue, Rwanda 1194, portrays the relays. It is not clear whether a freestyle relay or the end of a medley is illustrated. The stamp clearly shows freestyle; that stroke will occur in both of the situations mentioned previously.

SWIMMING MISCELLANEOUS

In addition to stamps which show strictly swimming, a small group of issues illustrates areas closely related to swimming. For example: where would swimming be without a pool? Stamps such as Tunisia 483, Umm al Qiwayn 21, Gabon C166 and C168a, and Brazil 1124 give a clear picture of an Olympic swimming and diving facility. Lifesaving is shown on Austria 1204 and Australia 421. For at least one Olympics and other regional competitions, the international swimming symbol was, appropriately enough, the bent arm of a swimmer in freestyle (Mexico C343, Indonesia 1001, Panama MK 1149). Finally, swimming is frequently illustrated in stamps honoring the modern pentathlon, where each competitor must swim 300 meters freestyle (Russia 4227, Hungary 2003 and 2600, Japan B28 and B31a).

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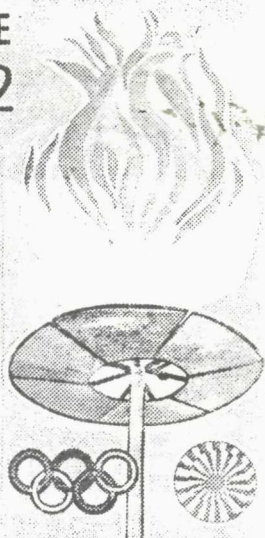
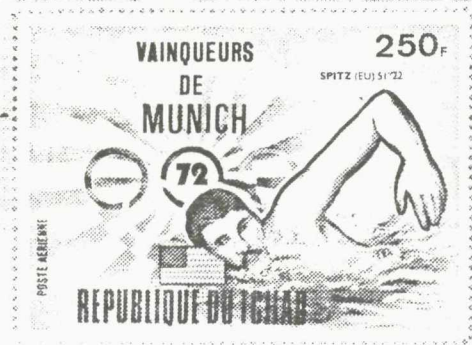


Fig. 9

In conclusion, the rich history of competitive swimming is portrayed very vividly on postage stamps. This article has provided a working guide to the starts, various swimming strokes, and some of the world-class swimmers, both past and present, who have appeared on postage stamps.

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CHECKLIST OF SWIMMING ISSUES(*)

Albania	759, 760, 1249, 1439
Algeria	400, 402, 546, 550a
Andorra	68
Angola	615
Antigua	434, 443, 443a
Argentina	1469
Australia	421, 528
Austria	1204
Bangladesh	120
Belgium	B792, B828, B983
Bermuda	453
Brazil	1124, 1277
Bulgaria	1017, 1368, 2036, 2637, 2638
Burma	171
Burundi	103
Cameroun	C187, C189a
Canada	366, 629-32, 657, B4
Cape Verde Islands	407
Central African Rep.	C23, C23a, C108
Chad	181, 182, 262, C153, C246, MK 447, MK 448
China, People's Rep.	B95, 1278, 1279, 1280, 1493-96
Colombia	C596
Comoro Islands	C25
Costa Rica	305, C304, C785
Cyprus	467, 536, 629
Czechoslovakia	644, 1262, 2294
DDR	621-25, B92, 790, 2177, B108, B192
Djibouti	C202
Dominica	235-36, 480, 666
Dominican Republic	505, 526, 780, 781, C254-C255, 896
Ecuador	926, C553, C732-733, 1027, 1028
Egypt	593, C151
El Salvador	C148, 1002
Ethiopia	C82
France	700, 1619
French Polynesia	C119
Fujiera	(?)
Gabon	C166, C168a
Gambia	512
Germany	B487, B530
Germany (Berlin)	9N419, 9NB 127
Great Britain	640
Greece	1184
Grenada	669, 797, 1194
Grenadines of St. Vincent	MK 169
Guernsey	286
Guinea, Republic of	718
Guinea-Bissau	489
Hungary	920, 1001, 1058, 1209, 1969, 2001, 2003, 2043, 2264, 2424-2430, 2600, C277, C332

 *Additional issues may be found in Robert M. Bruce, "Checklist of Sports & Recreation", American Topical Association, Inc., Milwaukee, WI, 1973.

Indonesia	1001, 1233
Iran	1789
Israel	603
Italy	1017, 1045
Ivory Coast	193, C76-B0, CB1
Jamaica	198
Japan	417, 469, 929, B28, B31a
Jordan	New issue
Jugoslavia	361, 464, 553, 565, 1095, 1148
Korea, People's Rep. of	1265
Korea, Republic of	1276 or 1277, 622-23
Kuwait	216, 551, 669, B22, 962
Lebanon	431, C386, C387a, C685, CB 14, CB 17
Lesotho	440
Liberia	592, 619, CB9
Libya	694, New issues (2)
Liechtenstein	320
Luxembourg	460
Malaysia Republic	C156, C171
Maldives, Republic of	B56, 1016
Mali	B1, C163, C281
Malta	649
Mexico	C343, C613
Monaco	208, 455
Mongolia	205, 356, 521, 699, 704, 928, 930, 1114
Mozambique	504, 611, B57
Netherlands	B416
Netherlands Antilles	B187, B188a
New Caledonia	351, 353, 354, 351a, C197
New Zealand	B53, B76, B76a
Nicaragua	1160
Niger	114
Nigeria	387
Niue	295-96, B42
Panama	431, 656, C45, C47a, Min 902K, Min 902L, Min 902 Lv, Min 1149
Papua New Guinea	422
Paraguay	(several issues, probably with Minkus numbers)
Philippines	611, CB6, new issue
Poland	704, B75, B136
Portugal	1150
Portugal/Timor	315
Portugal/State in India	318
Ras Al Khaima	(two issues, probably with Minkus numbers)
Redonda	(New issue)
Romania	1326, 1448, 1546-52, 2075, 3149, 3185, B70, B217, B218
Russia	1378, 1712, 1843, 2761, 3631, 4089, 4227, 4954, B73
Rwanda	1194
St. Lucia	517
St. Pierre et Miquelon	448
St. Vincent	770
San Marino	465a, 588, 592, C113
Senegal	Min 675
Seychelles Islands	353, 549, 550a
Sharjah	(?)
Sierra Leone	617
Singapore	187, 188a, 377, 419

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New Issue Column

Glenn A. Estus

- AFGHANISTAN: 11/85--FESTIVAL OF YOUTH AND STUDENTS--7af (Moscow Olympic Stadium), 13af, 12af, 18af.
- ALAND: 1/2/86--NORDIC CHAMPIONSHIPS OF ORIENTEERING--1.60 mk (hand with map). (1 million stamps).
- ALBANIA: 10/6/85--NATIONAL FESTIVAL AND GAMES--25q (War Horse Dance), 80q (Pillow Dance), 1.20 lek (women's kerchief dance), 1.60 lek (men's one-legged dance) plus a 1.90 lek s/s (fortress dance).
- ARUBA: 1/1/86--DEFINITIVES--60c (water skier)
- BELIZE: 12/20/85--MEXICO '86--"Pre World Cup Football/Mexico '86" overprint on sheetlet of ten different 50c stamps and \$5.00 s/s for the 50th anniversary of the first British Commonwealth omnibus issue.
- BEQUIA: 9/26/85--AUTOMOBILES--(printed in se-tenant designs of a pair of each value)--20c (1950 Alfa Romeo), 45c (1907 Chadwick Great Six), \$1.50 (1970 Plymouth Superbird), \$2 (1933 Napier Railton).
- BOLIVIA: 11/85--SOCCER TEAM--200,000b (Tiger Banner of Club "The Strongest"), (1 million copies)
12/3/85--CHESS CONGRESS--500,000b s/s with a 4b stamp showing the Bolivian Coat of Arms plus a label showing the congress emblem. (5,000 sheets).
- BULGARIA: 8/2/85--EUROPEAN SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS--5st (dolphin stroke), 13st (water polo), 42st (diving), 60st (synchronized swimming) (190,000 sets).
8/29/85--MEXICO '86--5st, 13st, 30st, 42st, 1 lev s/s (various match scenes). (230,000 sets and 170,000 s/s).
- BURKINA FASSO: 11/16/85--PHILEXAFRIQUE 3--s/s with four 250fr airmails (one shows boys running and playing soccer).
- COMOROS: 11/12/85--PHILEXAFRIQUE 3--four 250 fr stamps united in a s/s (two show marathoners).
- DJIBOUTI: 11/13/85--PHILEXAFRIQUE 3--four 100fr stamps united in a s/s (two show tennis and windsurfing).
- EGYPT: 11/85--WORLD SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS--5pi (squash player and emblem) (1 million stamps)

THE GAMBIA: 11/11/85--OLYMPIC WINNERS OVERPRINTS--60b (Gold Medalist/Claudia Loch/West Germany), 85b (Gold Medalist/Ulrike Meyfarth/West Germany), 90b (Gold Medalist/Pasquale Passarelli/West Germany), 1dal (Gold Medalist/Li Ning/China), 1.25dal (Gold Medalist/Michael Gross/West Germany), 2dal (Gold Medalist/Sylvie Bernier/Canada), 5dal (Gold Medal/Star Class/U.S.A.).
12/31/85--INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR--60b, 85b (two boys wrestling), 1.10dal, 1.50dal (group of boys swimming in a crocodile pool) plus 5dal s/s

GERMANY (FRG): 7/7/85--SPORTS AID--8 mark booklet with six 80pf + 40pf stamps (bowling)
1/1/86--AUTOMOBILE--80pf (stages in the development of the automobile)

GERMANY (WEST BERLIN): 7/7/85--SPORTS AID--8 mark booklet with six 80pf + 40pf stamps (netball)

GHANA: 9/9/85--MOTORCYCLE--5c (1984 Honda Interceptor), 8c (1938 DKW), 12c (1923 BMW R32), 100c (1900 NSU), plus 110c s/s (1973 Zundapp in the air at a motorcycle rally).

GUINEA: 10/26/85--WORLD SOCCER CUP--7s (Bebato, Brazil), 10s (Rinat Dassavev, USSR), 15s (Phil Neal, England), 20s (Jean Tigana, France), 30s (Fernando Chalana, Portugal), 35s (Michael Platini, France), 50s s/s (Karl Heinz Rummenigge, West Germany and a map of Mexico).

HUNGARY: 10/21/85--ITALIA '85--s/s containing three 5ft stamps with stamp on stamp design of the 1960 Olympic Games stamp of Italy. (250,300 perforate and 6000 imperforate examples).

IVORY COAST: 11/16/85--PHILEXAFRIQUE 3--s/s of four 250fr stamps (one shows boys playing soccer).

KOREA (DPR): 10/25/85--MERCEDES-BENZ--10ch (1960, Type 300 Sedan-de-ville), 15ch (1934 Type 770 Tourer), 20ch (1937, Type W-150, 7.7 liter), 30ch (1966, Type 600 Landaulet) plus 80ch s/s (1938 Type W-31 six wheeled Wehrmacht staff car). (10,000 stamp sets and 2000 s/s).

KOREA (REP): 11/1/85--1988 OLYMPICS--two 70w+30w stamps (canoeing and cycling) plus s/s uniting the designs (9 million stamps and 1.5 million s/s).

LESOTHO: 2/86--MEXICO '86--35s, 50s, 1 loti, 2m, plus 3m s/s (various soccer moves).

TOGO: 11/85--OLYMPIC MEDAL WINNERS--(all overprints)--500fr (pentathlon stamp) (Italie/Medaille D'or), 500fr (bicycle stamp) (Rolf Goez RFA/ Medaille d'argent), 500fr (boxing) (Kevin Barry Nle Zelande Medaille D'Argent), 500fr (Philippe Boise Medaille d'or France).

YUGOSLAVIA: 9/85--TAX STAMPS--3 dinars (European Shooting Competitions) and 2d, 3d, 4d, 5d on 2d, (boy playing soccer).

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

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- 1464R Theodore W. Brigham, Box 24, Mattituck, NY 11952. A teacher collecting only Olympics. (APS)
1465R Johnny Y. Maeda, Box 1539, Palo Alto, CA 94302-1539. A postmaster with specialized collecting interest in Super Bowl XIX. (Crisman)
1466R Erle H. Walden, 60 Holly St., Apt. 708, Toronto, Ont., M4S 2G7 Canada. He is retired and collects Olympics, soccer, baseball, table tennis, & Commonwealth Games. (Lane)
1467R Craig McIntyre, 7112 Bill Hughes Rd., Austin, TX 78745. He is in sales and collects only golf & baseball. (Jones)
1468R Fred Hermann, 3214 Barbara Lane, Fairfax, VA 22031. A student collector of tennis and table tennis. (Lacko)
1469A Nigel Shipley, 31 Malabar Crescent, Eltham, Victoria 3095, Australia. A schoolteacher collecting Olympics with special interest in Melbourne Olympics. (Podolsky)
1470R Michael T. Nichols, 149 Berkeley Circle, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920. A student collecting soccer. (Tompkins)
1471A IPE (Sales) BV., Charles House, 108-110 Finchley Rd., London NW3 5JJ England. (Reiss)
1472R Jose F. Alvarez, 5022 Celebrity Cir., Los Vegas, NV 89119. A waiter fluent in Spanish & Italian who collects soccer. (Northwood)
1473R Mrs. Ilse I. Buchheit, 14736 Darbydale Ave., Woodbridge, VA 22193. A medical office manager fluent in German and a collector of fencing. (Bleakley)
1474R Magoulas Petros, N. Theotoki 30, 182 33 Agios Ioanis, Rentis, Greece. (Reiss)

Reinstated Membership:

F. Hsu, Houston, TX; A. Markey, Akron, OH; H. Mezzack, Bowie, MD; R. Votaw, Santa Rosa, CA

Dropped Membership:

The following were dropped for no payment or reply:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| D. Asaro - Italy | M. Bergman - Switzerland |
| M. Birman - Brazil | J. Bleazard - South Africa |
| K. Cook - England | V. Faris - South Africa |
| J. Hentig - Canada | M. Oliveras - Spain |
| L. Peters - England | Johannesburg Library - S. Africa |
| G. Ribeiro - Brazil | M. Savard - Canada |
| A. Sheena - England | |

Total current SPI members as of February 1, 1986 = 334.

Awards:

Congratulations to the following SPI & ATA winners:

APEX '85 DONALD G. BEUTHEL a gold for "Federation Internationale de Ski".

ASDA National, New York ALICE J. JOHNSON A vermeil and an ATA bronze for "Figure Skating" and MARC FISK won the NE Youth Exhibiting Stamps senior division plaque from the USPS.

FOPEX '85, Albany, NY DR. ROBERT KNAPP a bronze and ATA best for "Canadian Postal Issues for 1976 Montreal Summer Olympic Games".

INDYPEX '85, Indianapolis, IN. CHRIS NORTHWOOD a gold for "The Fuhrer's Olympics".

ITALIA '85, Rome, Italy, FRANCO PELLEGRINI a Large Gold for "In the Spirit of Olympia" The collection's 240 pages are divided into: Olympic games in antiquity, the 5 days of the Olympic games, from the games' suppression in 303 to their reinstatement in 1896 and Athens 1896. Also the court of honor included JUAN ANTONIO SAMARANCH, IOC President, display of a selection of Olympic commemorative blocks of four.

PRINCEPEX '85, Dumfries, VA, SPI new member Ilse Buchheit silver for "Fencing Philatelically Speaking".

SOCOPEX '85, Colorado Springs, CO. DONALD BEUTHEL two golds for "Ping Pong Philately" & "Federation Internationale de Ski - The FIS".

THINGS TO SEND FOR

D. Haas Covers, P. O. Box 85, Prospect Park, PA 19076 has illustrated price lists featuring Jim Thorpe and Babe Ruth cacheted covers, some with unusual cancellations. One combination cover features the Jim Thorpe stamp cancelled on First Day of Issue with the Olympic Torch cancel available at Chicago, Illinois. The cover also features the regular Shawnee, Oklahoma FDOI cancel and an Olympic cachet. The cover is unaddressed and is priced at \$3. Write for complete list.

MUHLBRIA '86

IMOS, the German-language International Motive Group for Olympic and Sport Collectors will meet at Muhlheim a. Main, West Germany March 8-9, 1986. The two-day program will feature a special cancel honoring the 50th anniversary of the 1936 Olympic Games in Germany. Famous Olympians will include Tilly Fleischer, 1936 gold medal winner in javelin throwing and Fritz Schilgen, the torch bearer and lighter of the Olympic flame at Berlin in 1936. The "Olympia-Film 1936" by Leni Riefenstahl will be shown. There will of course be an exhibition, members' trading bourse and dealer bourse. The show is under patronage of Walter Troger, member of the International Olympic Committee. This program offers ideas for sport and Olympic collectors elsewhere. It would be nice to get collaboration with the national Olympic committee, too.

--Sherwin Podolsky, Dec. 22, 1985

BRAINSTORMING
(or perhaps a light mist)

by Dale Lilljedahl

Marvelous!! It's 2 AM and I still can't fall asleep. How can I be this tired and this wide awake at the same time? This is ridiculous! My flight to the pre-CD meeting in Houston tomorrow leaves at 7:00 AM. That is only 5 hours from now. It will make a great impression on the client when I doze off right in the middle of the meeting. I have got to get some sleep! OK now, be logical about this. The problem is that I've got so many things on my mind that I'll never fall asleep until I can concentrate on one thing....Counting sheep never works.... Let's see now, what can I think about?..... Well yesterday my Sherwin Plough stock rose a point. Thank goodness it finally turned up after three straight days ofhold it. That's the very thing keeping me awake. I've got to think about something totally unrelated to work or business or anything like that.

Let's see now.....I wish it would rain. My water bill was atrocious last month, and it will be even worse next month if this drought doesn't break The latest issue of the Journal of Sports Philately came today. The article on the postal meters at the game's temporary post offices was great. It never ceases to amaze me how the postal system can be so unorganized even after months of planning. I'll never forget how they messed up our postage meter at the office and we spent three da.....HOLD IT! I'm back to thinking about the office again. Where was I? Oh yea ... without that article I would have never known those meters existed, and now I even have an idea of their relative value. The last issue of the S.O.C.'s "Torch Bearer" also had an article on the Olympic meters as well as info on all phases of the game's philately. In fact, the SOC article is the only place I've heard about the "Return to Sender, Olympic Games Closed" handstamp. Its too bad all this information isn't assembled in one place. Wouldn't it be great to look in one book and get information on postal meters, publicity cancellations, cachets, stamps, and all the other stuff related to the US philately of the games?(yawn)

Wait a minute, SPI published a book on the 1932 LA games, so why can't it do one on the 1984 LA games? In the past year there have been articles on postal meters at the games, postal meters in the private sector, the torch run, the pre-Olympic publicity cancellations, and all sorts of stuff. There's bound to be enough knowledge among SPI members to fill a nice sized volume. Of course it would be a lot of work, and who has time for that? Mmmmm.... (yawn) You know, those articles were written by several different people.....so, why couldn't the chapters of the handbook be written by different people. Yea that's it! If we could get people to specialize in the various areas then the chief editor's job would be greatly simplified, and we might actually have a chance to publish the thing.

Wow! Then SPI would have books published on both the 1932 and the 1984 games. It will probably spark new interest in sports collecting here in the US as people see both books.....Oops, the 1932 handbook is almost sold out, so we really wouldn't have two books....(yawn)... Maybe a second edition could be published! The first edition provides an excellent base from which to start, and a bunch of other information has surfaced since 1976.... We could also split the 1932 handbook into chapters, and let several different people expand and update each area to produce an even better edition. Yea that's it, we will do it exactly like the 1984 handbook and no one person will be worked to death...(yawn)

Gosh ...if we wrote both books, then SPI would have handbooks on all the Olympic games held in th....well not all. I forgot about Squaw Valley in 1960 and Lake Placid in 1980....(yawn).... Oh well, at least we would have books on half the Olympic games held here in the US....(yawn).... Well heck, while we're at it why couldn't we just a...(yawn)...just write books on those two Olympics, too...(yawn)... We could split the..ah...the ah... the chapters up like before. and....(yawn) before you know it.... before you (yawn) know it.....we.....have...four...ZZZZZZZZ.

VLASTOS AUCTION RESULTS by Sherwin Podolsky

Vlastos Philatelic Auctions, Ltd., 40 Vassileos Georgiou Street, GR-15233 Hilandri, Athens, Greece held its 128th auction on November 18, 1985. An auction catalog entirely in English is perhaps unique among Greek auction houses. Vlastos provides a superb catalog production with selected lots illustrated in color.

I obtained prices realized for some 49 Olympic lots. The information came in a letter rather than a printed list. A study of the prices realized disclosed that all lots sold at very close to the printed estimated values. This suggests fairly high unlisted reserves or possibly resales to the original consignors. Personally, I have always been skeptical when an auction house does not provide a printed list of prices realized freely available to its bidders or other interested persons who may wish to study before bidding for the first time. The Condition of Sales listing the obligations of the bidders and auction house says nothing about reserves, how to obtain prices realized or whether the realizations reflect good faith sales to third parties. However, auction houses rarely mention these things anyway.

I remember years ago when my bids at 70% of estimated values were occasionally successful in the Vlastos auctions. The October 18, 1985 auction results suggests that a percentage rate closer to 95% or more was required for success.

It should be kept in mind that no auction house is immune to listing possible fakes and the existence of possible fakes of the commemorative cancels of the 1906 Olympic Games should be recognized. These fakes are allegedly the reuse of the old and original cancellation devices possibly even to this day. Unfortunately, no one has come forth to show and tell how such fakes may be identified, so this whole area admonishes the buyer to beware. I recall that at TEMBAL '83, one outstanding exhibit of early Greek Olympic material was found by a judge to include some fake 1906 cancels. This exhibit belonged to a long time Greek collector, too.

Selected auction lots are presented with the prices realized in thousands of Greek drachma. Thus, a realization of 94 means 94,000 Greek drachma.

Inflation is fairly rapid in Greece. The Vlastos bid sheet conveniently lists rates of exchange: US\$10 = 1,375 Greek drachma. This translates to 1,000 Greek drachma equal US\$7.2727. However, with the recent dollar decline, 1,000 Greek drachma became worth only \$6.6335 as of November 25, 1985. Vlastos does not charge commission to bidders. To conveniently convert the realizations below to US dollars, I suggest multiplying the amount shown by 7 which is probably close to the dollar figure that the successful bidder would have to pay upon receiving the invoice. Vlastos accepts U.S. personal checks in dollars at the current exchange rate.

Nevertheless, Vlastos remains an outstanding source of superior early Greek Olympic material. Service is excellent and the house is receptive to reports of questioned material in accordance with its conditions of sale.

The color plate illustrates the complete 1896 set of final proofs in issued color on carton paper. All values except the 2 drachma are imperforated with large margins. Each value was listed as a separate lot in the catalog. Some of the values are described as being on thin carton paper. The set includes 4 examples or varieties of the 5 lepta proofs. The total estimated value was 7,593,000 Greek drachma or about about \$53,151. The lots failed to sell and Vlastos reports that "they were included in the auction catalog not for sale but as an announcement that these pieces were found, most of which were unknown (previously)."

	Price
1896 Set complete mint never hinged, superb, 12 values, signed by O. Vlastos	240
1896 Set complete VF used with Almyros 29 March 1896 cancels. (Cancelled fifth day of Olympics)	35
1896 5 drachma Superb used with sock on nose cancel of Athens 25 March 1896, First Day of Issue and Opening Day of the Olympic Games	75
1906 Complete set of 14 values, VF, never hinged	94
1906 Complete set of 14 values, with rare STADION April 9, 1906 cancels. Opening Day of the Olympic Games. Signed by O. Vlastos. VF	170
1906 Similar set, signed. Canceled STADION 18 April 1906. VF	140
1906 2 lepta imperf. pair, VF mint, hinged.	35
1906 3lepta, final proof in issued color, imperf.	84

1906 5 lep. imperf. marginal block of 4. Vf hinged	25
1906 10 lep. final proof in issued color, imperf. pair on thick paper. VF hinged	58
1906 10 lep. imperf. marginal block of 4, VF hgd.	70
1906 25 lep. imperf. pair with full gum. Certified O. Vlastos. VF never hinged	70
1906 1 drachma, imperf pair with full OG. Certified by Vlastos. VF never hinged	170
1906 5 drachma VF with Acropolis Olympic cancel dated 9 April, 1906, Opening Day. VF	20
1906 5 drachma proof in natural color, imperf on thick paper, VF	22
1906 5 drachma proof in red lilac imperf pair on glaze red lilac carrton paper. VF, hgd.	56
1960 80 lepta proof, imperf pair with brown impression inverted. NH VF	36

Please remember prices above are in Greek drachma (000 omitted). To get approximate value in US dollars, multiply by 7.

DAVID FELDMAN AUCTION RESULTS by dale Lilljedahl

David Feldman S.A. held an extensive mail sale out of their Geneva office with a closing date of November 29, 1985. It had a special Olympic section of 345 lots spanning the era from the 1896 Athens games to the 1972 Munich games, as well as 26 lots containing Olympic collections. With the many essays, proofs, sheets, blocks, and covers, most of the individual lots were sold at rather dear prices. Since about one half of the lots covered the early Greek issues (1896-1906), I decided to split the results of this auction into two parts, and will report on the 1920-1972 issues in a later edition.

Obviously not all the lots can be listed: however, I tried to select the spectacular items sold and also chose a representative sample when several lots offered similar material. Feldman's has a policy of reserve bids, so I did not include any lots that sold exactly at their estimated price. Since one of my goals is to help SPI members keep up with current prices, I feel that this exclusion is necessary to provide a true measure of value. The selling prices listed below do not include the 15% auction commission and are based on an exchange rate of \$0.50 US to each Swiss Franc. Scott numbers are used throughout.

1896 Athens

- Greece #117 & 118 both overprinted in blue "speciman", never hinged
\$3500
- 1894 Blue embossed International Olympic Committee vignette, very
fine, \$130
- Greece #117, two complete panes of 25 with gutter between and a
Tamieon cancellation on the back, never hinged, \$210

Greece #117 & 118 both tied on a postal card to Germany by Athens cancellation. \$85.
 Greece #117-128 complete set in mint never hinged blocks of four.
 Good perfs, but one with some gum disturbance. \$7500
 Greece #123. Part sheet of 20 showing two sheetlets of 10 with gutter in between, never hinged & very fine. \$1400
 Greece #125, 127 & 128 all mint with fiscal overprints. Very fine. \$375
 Greece #125 Horizontal imperf vertically. Full gum, but left stamp has small thin and both have irregular perfs top and bottom. \$2100
 Greece #128 used with First Day of Issue cancellation. \$500
 Greece #117 margin block of four with first day cancel (mar. 25, 1896) one stamp has slight flaw, signed Raftopulos. \$900
 Greece #119 margin block of six with first day cancel (Mar. 25, 1896) Tape stains, signed Raftopulos. \$200
 Greece #124 with first day cancel (mar. 25, 1896) Slightly toned with a stain on the reverse side. \$130
 Greece #125 with First day cancel, signed Calves. \$230
 Printed circular of the Olympic Committee with purple Committee cachet and Athens Jan 17, 1896 cancellation. No franking as postage was paid by the committee. \$1000
 Small set of eight forgeries or forged cancels. \$120

1900 Athens

Greece #159-163 complete set mint. \$180
 Greece #160 sheetlet of ten, all never hinged except one with some perf separations. \$4000
 Greece #162 sheetlet of ten with a few minor faults including three minor tape stains in selvedge. \$5500
 Greece #163 showing overprint variety "delta" instead of "alfa" for third letter. Slight break in paper due to heavy overprint impression. \$100

1906 Athens

Greece #185 die proof, few toned spots cleaned at top, fine. \$140
 Greece #188 imperf trial color block of four in blue with gutter on card, very fine. \$220
 Greece #188 trial essay for color and perforations in brown, vertical pair on thick card, fine. \$220
 Greece #190 ultramarine die proof, creased and thin. \$240
 Greece #195 trial essay for color and perforations in blue green, vertical pair on thick card, fine. \$300
 Greece #197 trial essay for color and perforations in red brown, vertical pair on thick card, fine. \$220
 Greece #184 full sheet of 100, stamps all never hinged with slight stains in selvedge, fine. \$220
 Greece #185 full sheet of 100 never hinged and mint, with a couple of trivial disturbed spots, \$220
 Greece #185 imperf block of four used, cancelled in Athens, large margins, very fine, signed Raftopulos. \$240
 Greece #188 full sheet of 100, never hinged and mint, with minor tape stains in margins, very fine. \$300
 Greece #188 imperf block of four unused. Trivial gum disturbance with large margins, very fine. \$220
 Greece #189 imperf block of four unused, large margins and signed Raftopulos, very fine. \$300
 Greece #189 imperf single used, large margins, signed Raftopulos, very fine. \$180

Greece #190 Full pane of 50, never hinged, very fine. \$450
Greece #191 full sheet of 100, virtually all stamps are mint never hinged, some tape stains in margin, very fine. \$1300
Greece #194 imperf margin pair, one never hinged, large margins, signed Raftopoulos, very fine. \$700
Greece 101 postal entire bearing green Olympic vignette tied by Athens Olympic Zappion cancellation. \$1500
Greece #187 tied on postcard by scarce ATHENS AKROPOLIS, Apr. 9, 1906, cancellation of the first day of the games, very fine. \$190
Greece #185 & 186 tied on a postcard showing fencing by scarce ATHENS ZAPPIEON cancellation, very fine. \$190
Greece #187 on Olympic card showing the pole vault event, tied by special Athens stadium cancellation on Apr 19, 1906 (last day of the Games) signed Raftopoulos, fine. \$200
Olympic vignette in 7 different colors, all blocks of 30 except one block of 24. \$550

HELP WANTED

A new member, Nigel Shipley, 31 Malabor Crescent, Eltham 3095, Victoria, Australia specializes in the 1956 Olympic Games at Melbourne. His interests include not only philatelic items but also memorabilia of all kinds, but only for 1956 Melbourne. He does have a number of items for swapping or selling: official medallions, programs, booklets and maps, black and white video copy of the Games which runs for 20 minutes, results and records booklets for the 1952 and 1956 and 1960 Olympics, and also mint souvenir postcards from the 1982 Commonwealth Games at Brisbane. This is not a complete list, so write Nigel for further details.

LAOOC NEWS

by Sherwin Podolsky

The Los Angeles Times (November 29, 1985) reports that the mighty army of 70,000 workers and volunteers for the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee is now down to ten people. Once staffed in entire office buildings in Westwood and Culver City, it is now in the converted living quarters above a garage behind a three story brick mansion on West Adams Boulevard.

The senior vice-president's office is in the living room. File cabinets are in the kitchen. The photocopy machine is in the bathroom.

The tasks remaining include:

- cataloging which papers are to be made public, which are to be put in storage and which will be destroyed.
- dispose of 40 tubular sign-posts and remaining office equipment.
- dispose of remaining costumes from Opening Ceremonies.

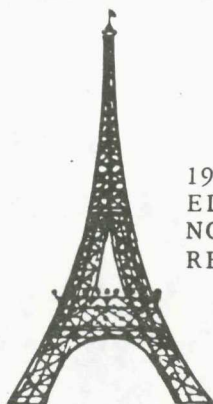
- disposing of remaining copies of 1500 page, two-volume history of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. 100 sets are available to the public at \$100. per set.
- disposing of several bags of counterfeit Olympic pins.
- disposing of existing lawsuits, including one related to the ouster of Jews for Jesus for passing out literature at one venue.
- answering requests for advice from other cities wishing to host other games including the Pan-American Games.

The LAOOC is scheduled to go out of business on January 1, 1986.

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19th Games (1968) 3 parts	22.50	(2.45)
19th imp., 3 parts	4.35	(0.95)
19th Games part 4	17.50	(1.50)
Part 4 is for non-Olympic members only.		
20th Games (1972) Part 1	6.00	(1.25)
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"A Simplified Handbook of Adult Competitive Sports Stamps"

Bob Bruce & Jim Yarwood

Section 78--Russia (Continued)

1941, February 17 (Halm and Kobylanski), 23 (Landmans and Seebacher). 23rd birthday of Red army and navy. Unwmkd; P 12 (Sc and Mi), $12\frac{1}{2}$ (Yt), $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ (Gi and Mi), $12\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ (Min); designed by F. Koslov and Ivan I. Budassov; photogravure by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

29. 45k dark green (equestrian jumping)

Sc 829; Min 907; Gi 955; Mi 798; Yt 822

1946, July 7 (Landmans and Schmidt and Schneider), 21 (Sc, Min, Gi, and Mi). Sports festival. Unwmkd; P 12 (Min, Gi, Mi, and Yt), $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ (Sc); designed by Vassily V. Savialov (Gi), Aleksander V. Sawjalov (Mi); photogravure by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

30. 30k blue-green (parade of physical culturists)

Sc 1056; Min 1164; Gi 1196; Mi 1047; Yt 1043

1948, February 23. Games of the Soviet Federal Republic. Unwmkd; P 12 (Gi), $12\frac{1}{2}$ (Min, Mi, and Yt), $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ (Sc); designed by V. Andreiev (Gi), W. Andrejev (Mi); photogravure by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

31. 15k blue (slalom skiing)

a. Marginal copy, imperforate at top (Seebacher)

32. 20k green-blue (motorcyclist)

a. Top perforation doubled (Cherrystone auction, 1980)

Sc 1253A, 1254A; Min 1310, 1312; Gi 1343, 1344; Mi 1192, 1193; Yt 1190, 1191

1948, September 15. Games of the Soviet Federal Republic. Unwmkd; P 12 (Gi), $12\frac{1}{2}$ (Min, Mi, and Yt), $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ (Sc); designed by V. Andreiev (Gi), W. Andrejev; photogravure by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

33. 15k violet (running)

34. 30k brown (soccer)

a. Horizontal pair imperforate between (Cherrystone auction, 1980)

35. 45k lilac-brown (motorboat racing)

a. Marginal copy imperforate at top (Seebacher)

36. 50k blue (diving)

a. "NOYTA СССР" in thick lettering (Gi)

b. Imperforate trial color plate (four different colors) (Cherrystone auction, 1980)

c. Imperforate trial color plate (four colors combined) (Cherrystone auction, 1980)

Sc 1254-57; Min 1311, 1313, 1314, 1315; Gi 1394-97; Mi 1246-49; Yt 1224-27

Note: Min indicates that No. 35 was issued on February 23.

1948, October 29. 30th anniversary of Young Communist League. Unwmkd; P 12 (Gi), $12\frac{1}{2}$ (Sc, Min, Mi and Yt); designed by E. I. Sokolov; photogravure by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

Russia (Continued)

37. 20k brown-lilac (parade of athletes in Dynamo Stadium)
a. "Star" in banner in upper right corner; thinner and taller lettering in inscription.

Sc 1289; Min 1399; Gi 1428; Mi 1280; Yt 1286

1949, March 8. International Women's Day, Mar. 8, 1949. Unwmkd; P 12½; designed by Vassily V. Savialov (Gi), Aleksander V. Sawjalov (Mi); photogravure by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

38. 1r emerald green (women athletes)

Sc 1339; Min 1442; Gi 1471; Mi 1323; Yt 1316

1949, August 7. National sports. Unwmkd; P 12½; designed by Vassily V. Savialov (Gi); Aleksander V. Sawjalov (Mi); photogravure by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

39. 20k blue (sailing)
40. 25k blue-green (kayak)
a. P 12 x 12½ (Gi)
41. 30k violet (swimming)
42. 40k red-brown (bicycling)
43. 40k green (soccer)
44. 1r rose (parachuting)
45. 2r black (high jump)

Sc 1376, 1377, 1378, 1379, 1380, 1382, 1383; Min 1469, 1470, 1471, 1472, 1473, 1475, 1476; Gi 1497, 1498, 1499, 1500, 1501, 1503, 1504; Mi 1357, 1358, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1363, 1364; Yt 1368, 1369, 1370, 1371, 1372, 1374, 1375

1949, November 12. National sports. Unwmkd; P 12; designed by Vassily V. Savialov (Gi), Aleksander V. Sawjalov (Mi); photogravure by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

46. 20k blue-green (ski jump)
47. 40k orange (women's gymnastics--rings)
48. 50k dark blue (ice hockey)
49. 1r red-orange (weight lifting)

Sc 1415, 1416, 1417, 1418; Min 1521, 1522, 1523, 1524; Gi 1549, 1550, 1551, 1552; Mi 1409, 1410, 1411, 1412; Yt 1396, 1397, 1398, 1399

1951, September 19. Promotion of aviation. Unwmkd; P 12½; designed by Vassily V. Savialov (Gi), Aleksander V. Sawjalov (Mi); lithography by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

50. 1r blue/violet-blue/rose (parachutists)
a. Main parachute shroud lines pass behind small parachute at lower right--second printing.

Sc 1592; Min 1704; Gi 1727; Mi 1595; Yt 1578

1952, March 3. Winter sports. Unwmkd; P 12½; designed by Vassily V. Savialov (Gi), Aleksander V. Sawjalov (Mi); photogravure by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

51. 40k multicolored (speed skaters)
52. 60k multicolored (cross country skiers)
a. First skier's right ski tip missing--second printing
b. Pink omitted

Russia (Continued)

Sc 1617-18; Min 1728-29; Gi 1751-52; Mi 1619-20; Yt 1602-03

1954, May 29. Sports. Unwmkd; P 12 (Sc), 12½ (Min, Gi, Mi, and Yt); designed by R. F. Shitkov; lithography by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

53. 40k orange-brown/blue-black (sailing)
 - a. Horizontal pair, imperforate between (Seebacher)
54. 40k orange-brown/pale brown/black (hurdling)
 - a. Yellow frame (Cherrystone auction, 1980)
55. 40k orange-brown/dark blue/black (swimming)
 - a. Yellow frame (Cherrystone auction, 1980)
56. 40k orange-brown/pale brown/black (bicycling)
 - a. Yellow frame (Cherrystone auction, 1980)
57. 40k orange-brown/pale brown/black (running)
58. 1r orange-brown/cobalt/black (downhill skiing)
59. 1r orange-brown/black-brown/black (basketball)
 - a. Left margin imperforate (Cherrystone auction, 1980)

Sc 1710, 1711, 1712, 1713, 1714, 1715, 1717; Min 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, 1821, 1822, 1824; Gi 1845, 1848, 1847, 1846, 1844, 1850, 1851; Mi 1714, 1710, 1713, 1712, 1711, 1715, 1717; Yt 1694, 1697, 1693, 1695, 1696, 1699, 1700

1956, January 4. International Horse Races, Moscow, Aug. 14-Sept. 4, 1955. Unwmkd; P 12 (Sc), 12 x 12½ (Yt), 12 x 12½ (Nos. 60 and 61--Min, Gi, and Mi), 12½ (No. 62--Min, Gi, and Mi); designed by Y. R. Grscheshkevich; lithography by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

60. 40k black-brown/sepia (thoroughbred with jockey)
61. 60k dark greenish blue/bluish green (same as No. 60)
62. 14 brown-violet/violet-blue (trotter with sulky and driver)

Sc 1789-91; Min 1909-11; Gi 1930-32; Mi 1798-1800; Yt 1775-77

1956, January 18. 5th All-Union Spartacist Games of the Soviet Trade Union Sport Clubs, Moscow, Aug. 12-18, 1955. Unwmkd; P 12 (Sc), 12½ (Min, Gi, Mi, and Yt); designed by Vassily V. Savialow (Gi), Aleksander V. Sawjalov (Mi); lithography by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

63. 14 brownish lilac/green (symbol of Games, stadium)

Sc 1793; Min 1912; Gi 1933; Mi 1801; Yt 1778

1956, August 5. 6th All-Union Spartacist Games, Moscow, Aug. 5-16, 1956. Unwmkd; 12 (Sc), 12 x 12½ (Nos. 64, 69, 70, and 72--Mi), 12 x 12½ (Nos. 65 and 69--Halm and Kobylanski), 12 x 12½ (Nos. 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 73, 74, and 75--Gi), 12½ (Mi), 12½ x 12 (Nos. 70, 71, 72, 76, and 77--Gi), 12½ x 12 (Nos. 65, 66, 67, 68, 71, 73, 74, 75, 76, and 77--Mi), 12½ x 12 (Nos. 70 and 77--Halm and Kobylanski); designed by L. F. Golowanov (Nos. 64, 65, 66, 69, 72, 74, 75, 76, and 77) by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

64. 10k scarlet (relay)
65. 25k orange-brown (volleyball)
66. 25k greenish blue (rowing)
67. 25k dark blue-green/dark brown (swimming)
68. 40k pale salmon/yellow-brown/yellow (medal)
69. 40k pale red-brown (tennis)
 - a. P 12½ (Gi)
70. 40k celadon/brown (soccer)
71. 40k dark green/black-brown (fencing)
 - a. P 12½ (Gi)

Russia (Continued)

- 72. 40k blue-green (bicycling)
- 73. 40k yellow-green/red (stadium and flag)
- 74. 40k gray-blue (diving and sailing)
- 75. 60k blue-violet (boxing)
- 76. 60k blue-violet (gymnastics)
- 77. 1r pale carmine-brown (basketball)

Sc 1840-53; Min 1960-73; Gi 1981, 1982, 1984, 1983, 1991, 1990, 1988, 1987, 1986, 1989, 1985, 1993, 1992, 1994; Mi 1849, 1850, 1852, 1851, 1854, 1855, 1859, 1858, 1853, 1857, 1856, 1860, 1861, 1862; Yt 1829, 1830, 1832, 1831, 1839, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1834, 1838, 1841, 1840, 1842

1956, August 5. 3rd World Championship in Parachuting, July, 1956. Unwmkd; P 12 x 12½; designed by E. F. Nowitsky; lithography in sheets of 100 by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

- 78. 40k multicolored (parachutist)

Sc 1854; Min 1974; Gi 1995; Mi 1863; Yt 1825

1957, February 24. 23rd World and European Ice Hockey Championship, Moscow, Feb. 24-Mar. 4, 1957. Unwmkd; P 12 (Min and Gi), 12 x 12½ (Sc, Mi, Yt, and Seebacher), 12½ (Gi, Mi, Yt, and Seebacher); designed by J. L. Levin; photogravure by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

- 79. 25k blue-violet (emblem of championship)
- 80. 40k cornflower blue (hockey player)
- 81. 60k yellowish green (hockey goalie)

Sc 1910-12; Min 2033-35; Gi 2052-54; Mi 1919-21; Yt 1895-97

1957, June 20. 10th Peace Bicycle Race. Unwmkd; P 12 (Sc), 12½ x 12 (Min, Gi, Mi, and Yt); designed by E. N. Gundobin (Mi), Vassily V. Savialov (Gi); lithography (Sc, Gi, Mi, and Landmans), typography and photogravure (Min) by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

- 82. 40k dark brown-carmine/black-blue (bicycling)

Sc 1956; Min 2080; Gi 2092; Mi 1958; Yt 1938

1957, July 15. 3rd International Summer Youth Games, Moscow, July 29-Aug. 11, 1957. Unwmkd; P 12 (Sc, Min, and Seebacher), 12½ (Gi, Mi, and Yt); designed by Vassily V. Savialov (Gi), Aleksander V. Sawjalov (Mi); lithography by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

- 83. 20k blue-violet/orange-brown (women's gymnastics---free exercise)
- 84. 25k blue-green/purple (wrestling)
- 85. 40k dark blue-green/red/olive (stadium)
- 86. 40k carmine-red/bluish violet (athletes of three races)
- 87. 60k cornflower blue/dark lilac-brown (javelin)

Sc 1963-67; Min 2090-04; Gi 2096-2100; Mi 1962-66; Yt 1943, 1944, 1946, 1945, 1947

1957, July 20. Russian victories in 16th Olympic Games, Melbourne, Nov. 22-Dec. 8, 1956. Unwmkd; P 12 (Sc, Min, and Gi), 12 x 12½ (Yt, Halm and Kobylanski, and Sieger), 12 x 12½ (Nos. 88, 89, 90, 91, and 93---Gi and Mi), 12½ x 12 (No. 92---Gi and Mi); designed by Vassily V. Savialov (Gi), Aleksander V. Sawjalov (Mi); lithography by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

Russia (Continued)

- 88. 20k cobalt/lilac-black (javelin; women's javelin--Inese Janseme)
- 89. 20k green/black/purple (runner; men's 5,000 and 10,000-meter runs--Vladimir Kuts)
- 90. 25k red-orange/black/cornflower blue (gymnastics; men's parallel bars and all-around--Victor Chukarin)
- 91. 40k bright violet/black (boxing; featherweight--Vladimir Safonov, light welterweight--Vladimir Jengibarian, middleweight--Gennadi Schatkov)
- 92. 40k multicolored (soccer--Russia)
- 93. 60k pale blue-violet/dark brown (weight lifting; lightweight--Igor Rybak, middleweight--Fedor Bogdanovski, middle heavyweight--Arkadi Vorogiyev)

Sc 1968-73; Min 2095-2100; Gi 2101, 2102, 2103, 2105, 2104, 2106; Mi 1968, 1967, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972; Yt 1948-53

1957, July 27 (Min, Gi, Mi, and Landmans), 28 (Schmidt and Schneider). 6th World Youth Festival, Moscow, July 28-Oct. 11, 1957. Unwnkd; P 12 (Min and Gi), 12½ (Mi and Yt); designed by Vassily V. Savialov (Gi), Aleksander V. Sawjalov (Mi); lithography (Mi), lithography and photogravure (Min), typography (Gi), by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

- 94. 40k gray-violet/black (Moscow Stadium)

Sc 1976; Min 2102; Gi 2109; Mi 1975; Yt 1956

1958, May 29 (Seebacher), June 5 (Sc, Min, Gi, Mi, Yt, and Halm and Kobylanski). 6th World Cup Soccer Championship, Stockholm, June 8-29, 1958. Unwnkd; P 12 (Sc and Yt), 12½ x 12 (Min, Gi, Mi, and Halm and Kobylanski), 12½ (No. 96--Mi and Seebacher); designed by R. F. Shitkov; lithography by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

- 95. 40k violet-ultramarine/vermillion/pale brown (soccer players and globe)
 - a. Imperforate
- 96. 60k violet-ultramarine/vermillion/pale brown (same as No. 95)
 - a. Imperforate

Sc 2072-73; Min 2205-06; Gi 2210-11; Mi 2089-90; Yt 2056-57

Note: 150,000 imperforate sets issued on July 1, 1958.

1958, June 24. 14th World Gymnastics Championship, Moscow, July 6-10, 1958. Unwnkd; P 12 (Sc), 12½ x 12 (Min, Gi, Mi, and Yt); designed by R. F. Shitkov; lithography (Sc, Min, and Mi), photogravure (Gi) by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

- 97. 40k multicolored (gymnastics--rings, and Moscow Stadium)
- 98. 40k multicolored (women's gymnastics--balance beam)

Sc 2075-76; Min 2208-09; Gi 2213-14; Mi 2092-93; Yt 2061-62

1959, Feb. 5. World Ice Skating Championship, Sverdlovsk. Unwnkd; P 12 (Sc), 12½ x 12 (Min, Gi, Mi, and Yt); designed by R. F. Shitkov; lithography by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

- 99. 25k multicolored (woman speed skater)
- 100. 40k multicolored (same as No. 99)

Sc 2168-69; Min 2304-05; Gi 2304-05; Mi 2196-97; Yt 2145-46

1959, February 12. Victory in 3rd World Basketball Championship, Santiago, Chile. No. 59 overprinted; unwnkd; P 12 (Sc), 12½ (Min, Gi, Mi, and Yt); designed by R. F. Shitkov; lithography by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

Russia (Continued)

101. 14 orange-brown/black-brown/brown (same as No. 59)

Sc 2170; Min 2309; Gi 2309; Min 2201; Yt 2150

Note: Russian was disqualified for refusing to compete against Nationalist China; Brazil was the winner, but Russia claimed the championship.

1959, May 15. Publicity for sports and travel. Unwnkd; P 12 (Sc); 12 x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ (Min, Gi, Mi, and Yt); designed by Aleksander V. Sawjalov; lithography by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

102. 40k multicolored (cross country skiing)

103. 40k multicolored (canoeing)

Sc 2202, 2203; Min 2343, 2346; Gi 2341, 2342; Mi 2228, 2229; Yt 2176, 2177

1959, August 7. 2nd National Spartacist Games. Unwnkd; P 12 (Sc), 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ (Nos. 104, 105, and 107—Min, Gi, Mi, Yt, and Halm and Kobylanski), 12 x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ (No. 106—Min, Gi, Mi, and Yt); designed by J. L. Levin (Mi), V. V. Rimenov (Gi); lithography on coated paper (No. 106), typography (Nos. 104, 105, and 107) by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

104. 15k lilac/gray (women's gymnastics)

105. 25k celadon/red-brown/gray (runner)

106. 30k brownish red/black-gray/dark olive (athletes holding trophy)

107. 60k pale blue/ochre/gray-black (water polo)

Sc 2224-27; Min 2360-63; Gi 2355-58; Mi 2249-52; Yt 2197-2200

1959, October 28. Honor for voluntary aides of the army. Unwnkd; P 12 (Sc); 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ (Min, Gi, Mi, and Yt); designed by J. L. Levin; lithography (Min), photogravure (Sc, Gi, and Mi) by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

108. 25k Turkish blue/brown (diving)

109. 40k orange-brown/black-blue (motorcyclist)

110. 60k gray-blue/olive-brown (parachutist)

Sc 2263, 2264, 2265; Min 2395, 2396, 2397; Gi 2390, 2391, 2392; Mi 2281, 2282, 2283; Yt 2234, 2235, 2236

1960, February 18. 8th Winter Olympic Games, Squaw Valley, Feb. 18-29, 1960. Unwnkd; P 11 $\frac{1}{2}$; designed by R. F. Shitkov; lithography by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

Olympic rings, plus

111. 10k violet-blue/salmon (ice hockey)

112. 25k multicolored (speed skater)

113. 40k pale violet/violet-blue/orange (downhill skiing)

114. 60k multicolored (woman figure skater)

115. 14 multicolored (ski jumper)

Sc 2300-04; Min 2425-29; Gi 2414-18; Mi 2317-21; Yt 2258-62

1960, August 1. 17th Olympic Games, Rome, Aug. 25-Sept. 11, 1960. Unwnkd; P 12 (Min), 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ (Sc, Gi, Mi, Yt, and Halm and Kobylanski); designed by Aleksander V. Sawjalov (Nos. 116, 119, 122, and 124), Vassily V. Sawjalov (Nos. 117, 118, 120, 121, 123, and 125); lithography by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

Olympic rings, plus

116. 5k multicolored (running)

117. 10k multicolored (wrestling)

Russia (Continued)

- 118. 15k multicolored (basketball)
- 119. 20k multicolored (weight lifting)
- 120. 25k multicolored (boxing)
- 121. 50k multicolored (fencing)
- 122. 40k multicolored (diving and sailing)
- 123. 40k multicolored (women's gymnastics)
- 124. 60k multicolored (canoeing)
- 125. 1r multicolored (equestrian steeplechase)

Sc 2359-68; Min 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2503, 2504, 2502, 2505, 2506; Gi 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2472, 2471, 2473, 2474, 2475; Mi 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2376, 2375, 2374, 2377, 2378; Yt 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2316, 2317, 2315, 2318, 2319

1960, August 23. 12th San Marino-Riccione Stamp Fair. Unwmkd; P 12 (Min), 11½ (Sc, Gi, Mi, and Yt); No. 122 overprinted; designed by Aleksander V. Sawjalov and Vassily V. Sawjalov; lithography by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

126. 40k multicolored (R) (same as No. 122)

Sc 2369; Min 2508; Gi 2477; Mi 2379; Yt 2321

1961, July 5. Russian technical sports skartakiad. Unwmkd; P 12 (Min), 12½ (Sc, Gi, Mi, and Yt); designed by Vassily V. Sawjalov (Gi), Aleksander V. Sawjalov; lithography (Nos. 128 and 129), photogravure (No. 127) by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

- 127. 4k black-green/red (gliders)
- 128. 6k dark blue-gray/vermilion (motorboat race)
- 129. 10k dark blue-gray/vermilion (motorcycle race)

Sc 2497-99; Min 2650-52; Gi 2602-04; Mi 2503-05; Yt 2431-33

1961, August 8. 7th Trade Union Spartacist Games. Unwmkd; P 12 x 11½ (Yt), 12½ x 12 (Sc, Min, Gi, Mi, and Seebacher); designed by N. E. Kruglov; photogravure by Government Printing Office Moscow.

130. 6k brownish carmine/lilac-rose (javelin throw, medal)

Sc 2500; Min 2660; Gi 2613; Mi 2513; Yt 2443

1962, February 17. Men's World Speed Skating Championship, Moscow, 1962. Unwmkd; 11½ (Sc, Gi, Mi, and Yt), 12½ (Min); designed by R. F. Shitkov; photogravure by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

131. 4k ultramarine/orange (speed skating, Luzhniki Stadium)

Sc 2562; Min 2718; Gi 2663; Mi 2575; Yt 2496

1962, March 3. Victories by I. Voronina and V. Kosichkin in World Speed Skating Championships, Moscow, 1962. No. 132 overprinted; unwmkd; P 11½ (Sc, Gi, Mi, and Yt), 12½ (Min); designed by R. F. Shitkov; photogravure by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

132. 4k ultramarine/orange (same as No. 131, I. Voronina and Kosichkin, world speed skating champions, 1962)

Sc 2563; Min 2723; Gi 2668; Mi 2580; Yt 2497

1962, March 3 (Sc and Gi), 4 (Min, Mi, and Seebacher). 1st Russian Winter Games, Sverdlovsk. Unwmkd; P 11½; designed by Aleksander V. Sawjalov (Mi), Lev Sawjalov (Gi); photogravure by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

Russia (Continued)

- 133. 4k blue-violet/carmine/pale gray (downhill skiing)
- 134. 6k greenish blue/violet/gray-black (ice hockey)
- 135. 10k blue/orange-red/dark violet-gray (figure skating)

Sc 2572-74; Min 2724-26; Gi 2669-71; Mi 2581-83; Yt 2500-02

1962, May 31. International Winter Sports Championship, Zakopane, 1962. Unwnkd; P 11½ (Sc, Gi, and Mi), 11½ x 12 (Yt), 12½ (Min); designed by Lev V. Sawjalov (No. 136) and R. F. Shitkov (No. 137); photogravure by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

- 136. 2k ultramarine/black-brown/red (ski jumping)
- 137. 10k ultramarine/red-orange/dark green-gray (woman cross country skier)

Sc 2564-65; Min 2719-20; Gi 2695-96; Mi 2607-08; Yt 2525-26

1962, June 27. World Summer Sports Championships, 1962. Unwnkd; P 11½ (Sc, Min, Gi, Mi, and Halm and Kobylanski), 11½ x 12 (Yt); designed by Lev V. Sawjalov; lithography (Min), photogravure (Gi and Mi) by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

- 138. 2k olive-brown/pale red/black (volleyball)
- 139. 4k orange-brown/pale yellow/black (bicycling)
- 140. 10k cobalt/olive-yellow/black (rowing)
- 141. 16k gray-olive/black/carmine-red (equestrian steeplechase)

Sc 2603, 2604, 2605; Min 2760, 2761, 2762, 2764; Gi 2698, 2699, 2700, 2702; Mi 2611, 2612, 2613, 2615; Yt 2529, 2530, 2531, 2533

1962, June 27. 7th World Cup Soccer Championship, Stockholm, 1962. Unwnkd; P 11½ (Sc, Min, Gi, Mi, and Halm and Kobylanski), 11½ x 12 (Yt); designed by Lev V. Sawjalov; lithography (Min), photogravure (Gi and Mi) by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

- 142. 12k Turkish blue/sulphur yellow/dark lilac-brown (soccer goalie)

Sc 2606; Min 2763; Gi 2701; Mi 2614; Yt 2532

1963, February 28. 5th Trade Union Spartacist Winter Games. Unwnkd; P 11½; designed by J. L. Levin; photogravure in sheet of fifty (5 x 10 with alternate rows inverted) by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

- 143. 4k pale blue/black/brown-ochre (woman figure skater, speed skater, and slalom skier)

Sc 2716; Min 2881; Gi 2827; Mi 2730; Yt 2644

1963, March 20. Victory of Russian team in World Ice Hockey Championship, Stockholm. No. 134 overprinted; unwnkd; P 11½; designed by Aleksander V. Sawjalov (Mi), Lev V. Sawjalov (Gi); photogravure by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

- 144. 6k greenish blue/violet/gray-black (B) (same as No. 134)

Sc 2717; Min 2882; Gi 2828; Mi 2732; Yt 2645

1963, May 29. 15th European Boxing Championship, Moscow. Unwnkd; P 12 (Min), 12½ (Sc, Gi, Mi, and Yt); designed by Lev V. Sawjalov; lithography by Government Printing Office, Moscow.

- 145. 4k multicolored (boxer)
- 146. 6k multicolored (referee announcing decision)

Sc 2746-47; Min 2914-15; Gi 2862-63; Mi 2767-68; Yt 2679-80