

JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

VOLUME 30

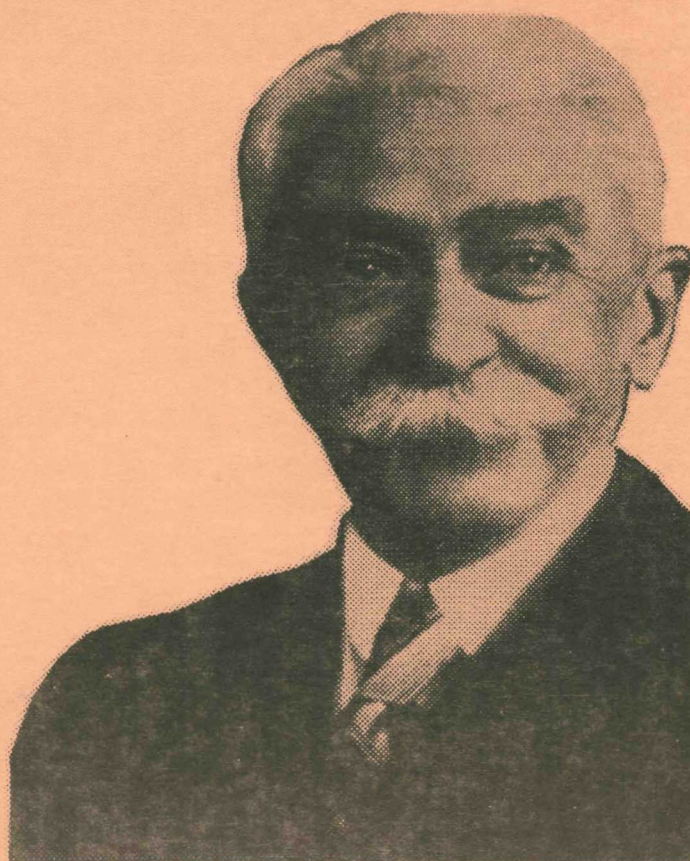
JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1992

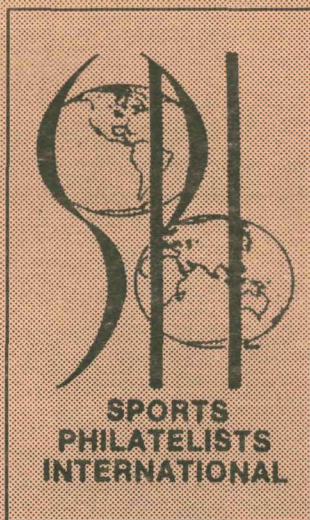
NUMBER 3

A Salute to Pierre de Coubertin

"This is enough to encourage
your servant to dream...of this
grandiose and salutary task,
the restoration of the Olympic
Games."

Pierre de Coubertin
November 25, 1892
The Sorbonne, Paris





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JOURNAL of SPORTS PHILATELY

PUBLISHER:	John La Porta, P.O. Box 2286, La Grange, IL 60525
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TYPISTS:	
ADVERTISING RATES:	COVER \$35.00; FULL PAGE \$32.00; HALF PAGE \$17.00; QUARTER PAGE \$10.00. Advance payment for all advertising must accompany copy. Camera ready copy must be supplied by the advertiser. Publishing deadlines: Jan. 15, Mar. 15, May 15, July 15, Sept. 15, Nov. 15 for the following issue.
	APS Affiliate Number 39
	ISSN 0447 - 953X

VOL. 30 NO. 3
JAN-FEB 1992

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual authors and they do not necessarily represent those of the editor, the officers of SPI or the position of SPI itself. All catalogue numbers quoted in this publication are from Scott's *Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue* unless specifically stated otherwise. SPI and JSP do not guarantee advertisements, and reserve the right to reject any advertising.

President's Message

by Mark C. Maestroni

With the beginning of a new year, and an Olympic Year at that, I would like to wish all our members a happy and prosperous New Year!

1992 is going to be busy for sports and Olympic collectors. The Winter Olympics in Albertville and Summer Games in Barcelona will rekindle the Olympic flame. This will also be the final time in which both celebrations take place in the same year.

On August 10, 1992, the City of Atlanta will begin her Olympic quadrennial culminating with the Opening Ceremonies on July 20, 1996—the 100TH anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games!

Yet, all these celebrations overshadow the contributions of the progenitor of modern sports competitions and the Olympic Games—Baron Pierre de Coubertin. In fact, it was on Friday, November 25, 1892, that de Coubertin arose to give a speech on "Creative Imagination" to an assembly of students, faculty, and other "important persons" at the Sorbonne University in Paris.

At the conclusion of his remarks, which was also the final speech of the evening, the Baron announced his intention to revive the Olympic Games! Little did he imagine the worldwide repercussions resulting from this decision announced on a gloomy Fall evening 100 years ago.

It is to Pierre de Coubertin that we dedicate this special theme edition of the *Journal of Sports Philately*. Sherwin Podolsky deserves the credit for both the concept and organization for this issue. The recent sale of archival material from the American Bank Note Company, printers of the very first commemorative to de Coubertin, occasioned the research on this very important Olympic and sport stamp (Haiti #B1 and CB1-2).

A remarkably large body of philatelic research has been done on this stamp issue. Sherwin has managed to gather together all this material and, combined with his original exploration of the ABNC essays, proofs, and specimens, assembled a definitive study.

Supporting this detailed philatelic story are a biography of Pierre de Coubertin, an original

piece by the honoree entitled "Why I Revived the Olympic Games," and a philatelic checklist of stamps commemorating the man. In his own inimitable way, Jim Bowman also devotes his exhibiting column to this theme.

As de Coubertin contributed greatly to the early formation of sports in general, we hope that all collectors, whether sport or Olympic, will benefit from this background information.

For the sports collectors among you, it's not too early to think about our 1993 theme issue which will be devoted to sports. If you have an idea for a subject or theme regarding a single sport or group of sports, drop me a line. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy this special issue!

Acknowledgments

Sherwin Podolsky wishes to thank F. Burton Sellers, Barbara Mueller, Peter Jeannopolous, William Sigerson, Harold Wasserman and Mark Maestroni for their unique contributions to this special tribute to Baron de Coubertin.

F. Burton Sellers, Barbara Mueller and Mark Maestroni assisted generously and endlessly with reviewing, editing and providing information. Peter Jeannopolous provided useful information. William Sigerson furnished a careful translation of a difficult text originally in French. Harold Wasserman lent permission and information from his many years in professional philately. Mark Maestroni lent a probing and questioning eye in the course of his reviewing that kept the mails busy for months. All these contributions are gratefully appreciated.

Vermeil For JSP

At the recent national literature competition at SESCAL '91 in Los Angeles, *JSP* won a Vermeil Medal. The *JSP* Committee thanks everyone for their help and encouragement in this project!

Pierre de Fredy, Baron de Coubertin

[The following article originally appeared in the February 15, 1984 issue of *First Days*, the house publication of the American First Day Cover Society, and is reprinted with their kind permission.]

by Sherwin Podolsky

Pierre de Coubertin was born in 1863 and died in 1937—he is known as the father of the Modern Olympic Games. He was a man of great vision, imagination, ambition, and drive. According to Richard Mandell, history professor at South Carolina, de Coubertin created the International Olympic Committee and—"No other modern institution of comparable significance owes so much to a single man."

Pierre's family name was Fredy and his legal name was Pierre de Fredy. He was descended from an Italian family that emigrated to France centuries before. For a man of unusual actions, Pierre did not look the part. One biographer called him a "slightly runted hyperactive mesomorph" with a "drooping left eyelid" and a "nose that was off center." In early manhood, he developed a large moustache, his most prominent feature.

His family took him on travels when he was a child. His parents were wealthy and titled and took vacations in horse-drawn coaches. Pierre had his own horses; trips from

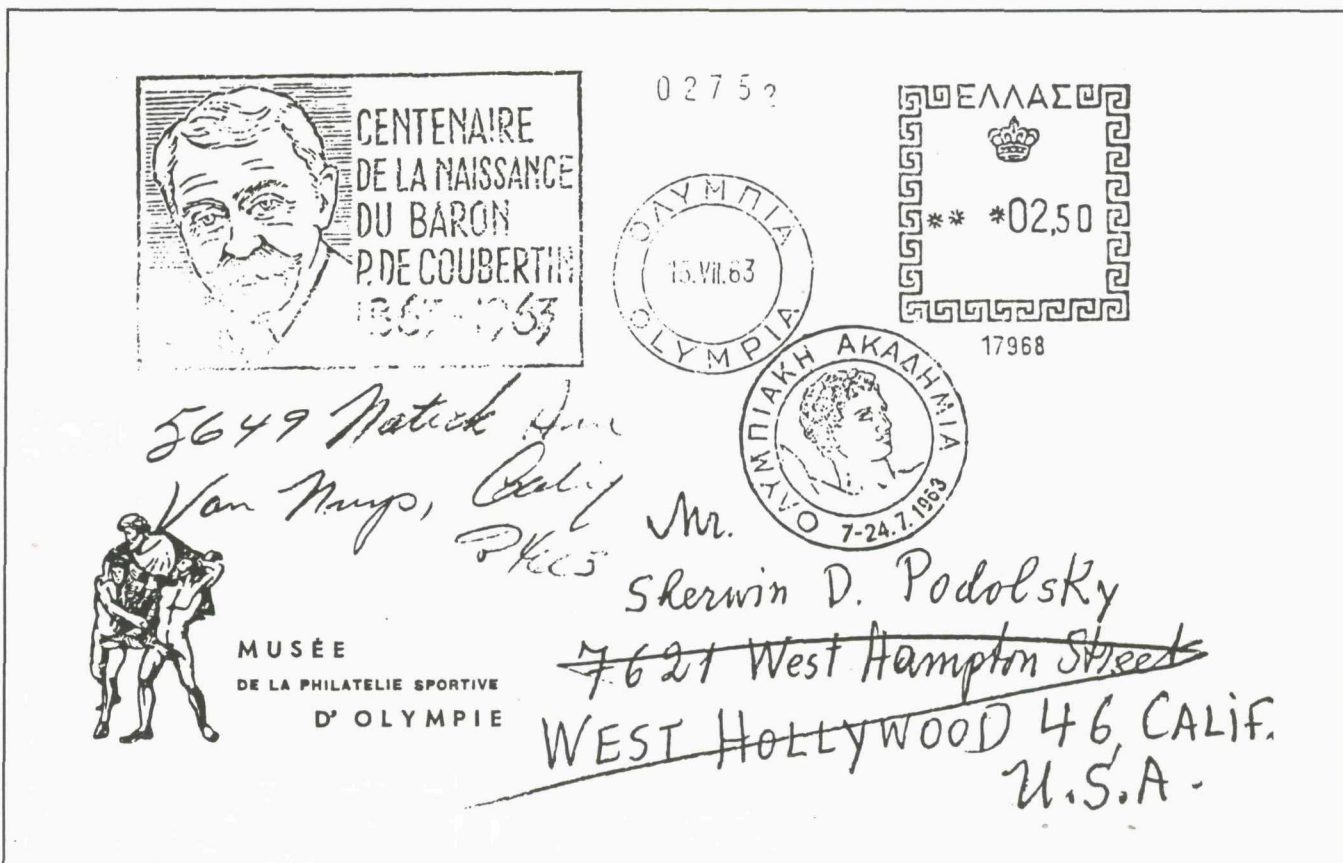
Paris to Rome on rocky, unmarked roads made him a resolute traveler.

France's defeat in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71 impressed Pierre and he felt it was due to the lack of natural pride and physical vigor among young Frenchmen. Educational reforms were needed to correct the situation.

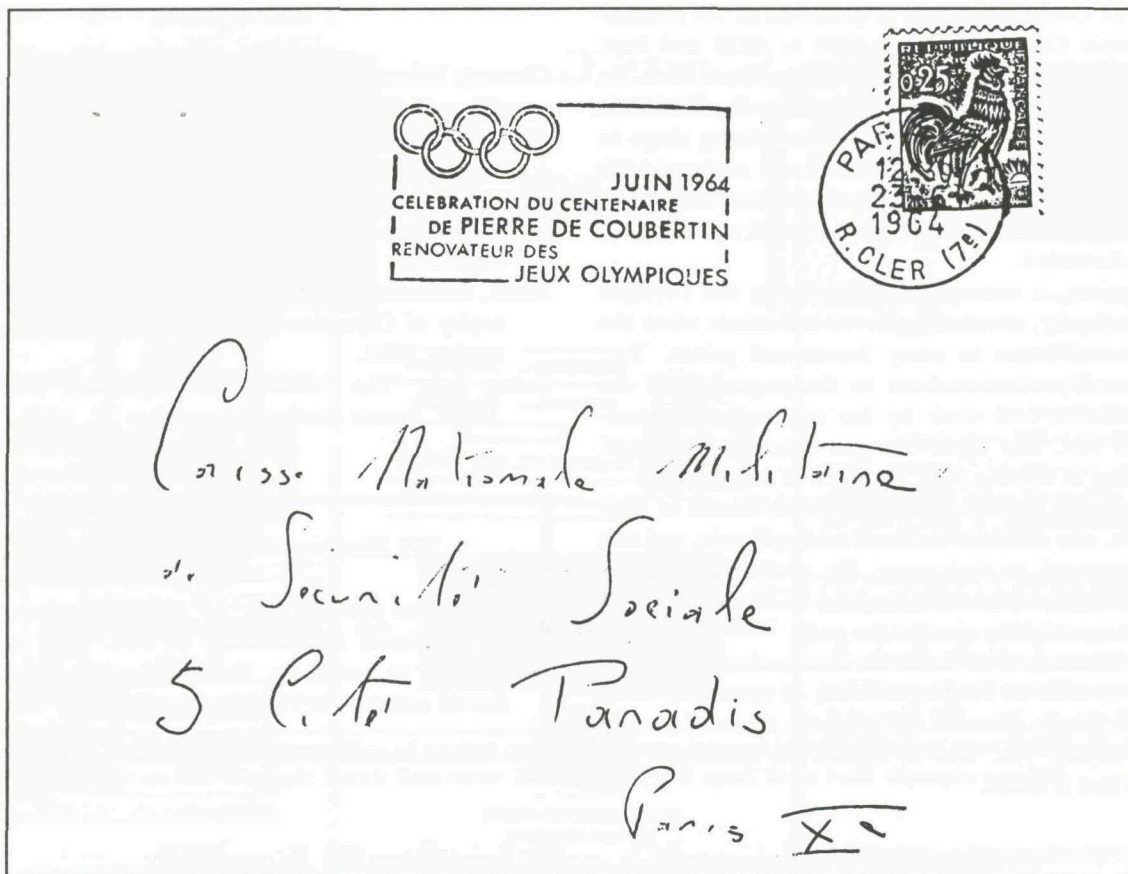
Pierre's associations with nobility put him in contact with persons interested in sports and athletics. He became imbued with the reported rediscoveries of the ruins at Olympia and the Olympic Games by German archaeologists in the 1870s. There were many ideas about the ancient Olympic Games that Pierre liked and that he felt deserved revival.

Amazingly, Pierre had the political and diplomatic skills to continue with his zeal to achieve his idealistic goal. In 1888, Pierre got two small French running clubs to join but ran into municipal bureaucracy that only grudgingly gave permission to lay a track for one day. Exercise and sport were simply not popularly encouraged in France at the time.

In 1892, a meeting was held in Paris to honor the fifth anniversary of the French Running Club. In attendance were men of science, letters, and politics. Besides lectures on antiquity, physical exercise, and the Middle Ages, events included a fencing match, a race, and a tea. In the gloomy main auditorium at the Sorbonne, Pierre gave a talk on



1963 Greek meter from the Olympic Museum in Ancient Olympia commemorating the centenary of the birth of Pierre de Coubertin.



Curiously, France, the land of de Coubertin's birth, noted the 100th anniversary of his birth a year late. This meter from Paris is inscribed "Juin (June) 1964"!

"Creative Imagination." The last speaker, he ended his talk "in a sensational fashion with the announcement of a resolution to bring about an early revival of the Olympic Games. The time had come to take the plunge! Everyone applauded, everyone approved, everyone wished me great success but no one had really understood." The general public was totally unimpressed.

Pierre decided on the idea of an "international congress," but found it necessary to use a "a little deception." Indeed, it was agreed to have an international congress to settle the question of amateurism. Pierre drew up the preliminary program. Visiting the U.S., Pierre received cooperation from athletic clubs, but not the American Universities. The French joined with minimal enthusiasm because of the inclusion of the Germans. The French also opposed having the Belgian gymnastics association join because "gymnastics and sports activities are 'diametrically opposed activities' and 'incompatible.'" Pierre reconciled this and other bickering.

At the last minute, the words "Congress for the Revival of the Olympic Games" appeared on the invitations. The program was designed to stimulate and imbue the congress with the beauty of Hellenism. There were speeches, poems, and music. Two meetings were conducted: one on amateurism and the other on Olympism. The separation of the perennially troublesome subject of amateurism from the Olympic idea was a stroke of genius. Pierre got his way. Finally, an International Olympic Committee was appointed,

"permanent in its principle and stable in its composition—whose members would be representatives of Olympism in their respective countries." Thus, the International Olympic Committee was born on June 23, 1894.

The IOC chose Greece to hold the First Modern Olympic Games in 1896, although this was not Pierre's choice. For financial reasons, the Greeks were reluctant. Pierre nevertheless visited the country and stirred up a storm of enthusiasm that saved the day.

What was the Olympic philosophy that de Coubertin revived? How does it relate to the ideas of the ancient Olympic Games? What ideas were retained, discarded and newly created?

It was at the age of 20, in 1883, during a stay in England, that "he had a revelation of the methods that, as in Ancient Greece, serve to achieve a balance between the cultivation of the mind and that of the body." At local Olympic Games in Wales, de Coubertin was "charmed by the veil of poetry that envelopes these games and by the perfume of antiquity they emanate."

The basic ideas were: education of the body to liberate the mind, physical fitness to develop mental hygiene, and fair play on which to base the dignity of human relations. These derive from two essential values cultivated in antiquity: peace and sacredness.

Also, Olympism promotes activity. Activity requires participation. Thus the losers were not despised but respected for their sportsmanship.

Pierre de Coubertin served as president of the International Olympic Committee from 1896 to 1925 and kept together the Olympic movement through the Great War. He refined the practices of modern Olympism. De Coubertin created the Olympic flag with five interlocking rings in 1914. The idea of olive branch crowns was replaced with medals. While a torch ceremony was retained from antiquity, the religious ceremonies honoring Greek mythological gods were discarded.

Amateurism, a concept honored during the Olympic Games in antiquity, eventually proved unrealistic when the victors returned home to many favors and prizes. Yet, Pierre likened professionalism to the paganism of the ancient gladiators and stuck by his amateurism requirements. The IOC has since become more realistic and compromising in dealing with the issue of amateurism.

De Coubertin and his wife survived the deaths of their two children, one of whom suffered schizophrenia, and two nephews entrusted to their care. He spent much of his fortune on his Olympism. He lived to be 74 and his wife lived to the age of 101, alert to the end.

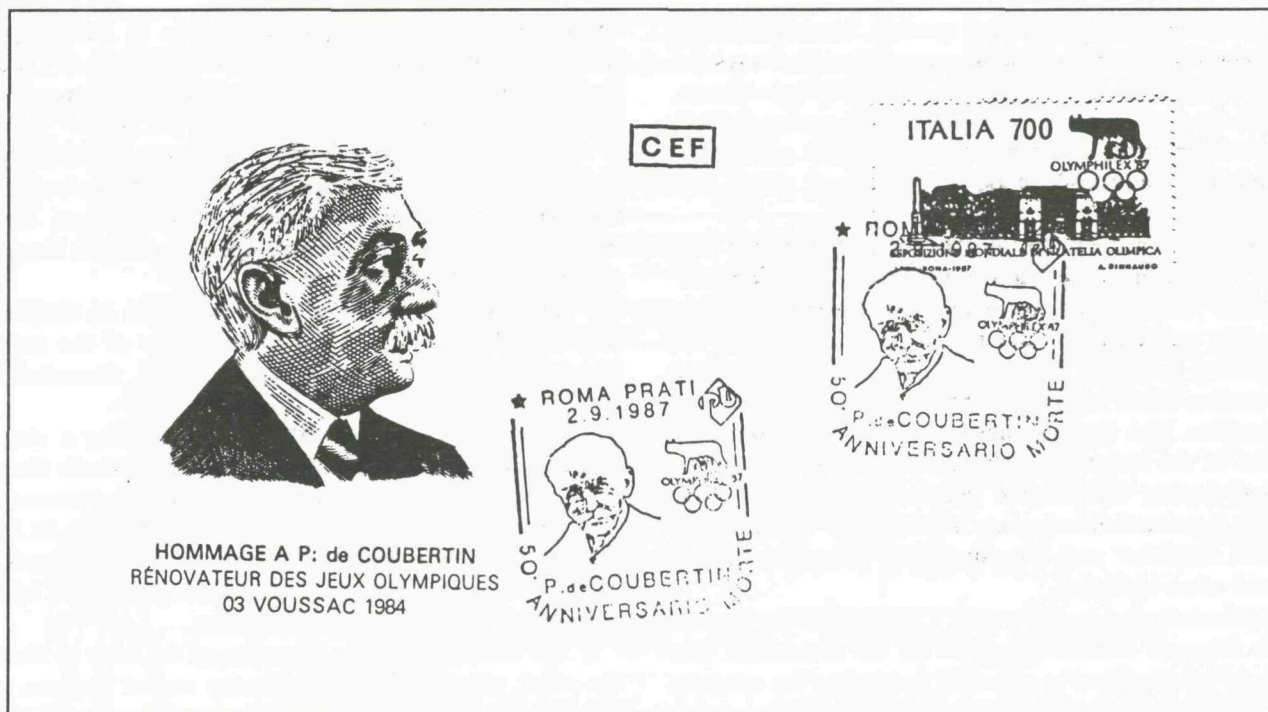
When Pierre retired from the International Olympic Committee in 1925 at Prague, he said, "I must take leave of you. I ask you to preserve and keep the flame of revived Olympism among you, and to uphold the principles and institutions that it needs." □

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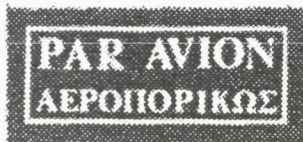
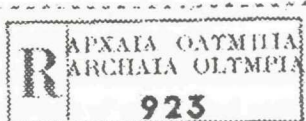
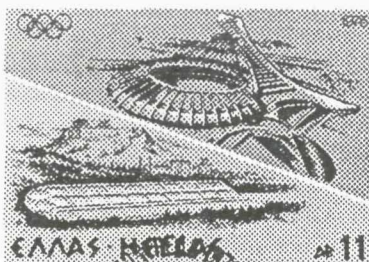
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SPI Election Nominating Committee

1992 is an election year for Officers and members of the Board of Directors of SPI. Any member wishing to serve on the Nominating Committee should contact the President by February 15, 1992.



Upon his death in 1937, de Coubertin's heart was interred at Ancient Olympia. Italy honored the 50TH anniversary of his death with a special commemorative hand cancel.



Mister H.D.Wagner
Waldseer Straße 1
D-6707 Schifferstadt
Germany

For Pierre de Coubertin, the juxtaposition of ancient and modern was integral to the success of the Olympic Games. The two Greek stamps on this Olympic Torch Run cover illustrate art and sport from both Olympic periods.

Why I Revived the Olympic Games

by Pierre de Coubertin

[This article was reprinted from the *Fortnightly Review*, Volume 90, July 1908, pp. 110-5. The original was unillustrated; thematic philatelic connections have been added to guide in collecting material related to Pierre de Coubertin.]

translated by Helen Chisholm

If in reviving the Olympic Games, I had merely sought to restore one of the noblest and most interesting of ancient institutions, I do not think I should have needed an excuse, for such an ambition would certainly have been both comprehensible and legitimate. It might, however, have been reasonably characterised as a fanciful and superfluous undertaking. There is so much necessary work to be done to supply the myriad needs of our day that we ought not to waste ourselves in unnecessary efforts. I have in mind a saying of the great Dr. Arnold about the cultivation of some rare plants. "How interesting," he said, "to give oneself up to this if only one's life could be twice as long as it really is!" But the Olympic Games are in no way comparable to the cultivation of rare plants. It is my profound conviction that they are one of the corner-stones of progress and health for the youth of our day. Let it be understood that if among the readers of this article there are any who despise athletic sports, and see in them nothing but expensive and puerile amusements, I do not address myself to them, for we have no common ground of argument. But I do not expect to encounter such a point of view, which would be quite out of date. Certainly there have been abuses, particularly in

England and the United States, and it is always right to combat abuses; but this does not affect the value of the fundamental principle underlying the practice of athletic sports—that there is nothing else upon which young men can employ their strength in their hours of recreation and liberty with such advantage both moral and physical. It is not at the moment when the whole civilised world, from Petersburg to Madrid and from Tokio to Punta Arenas, is adopting Anglo-Saxon ideas on this point that Anglo-Saxons themselves are likely to renounce them.

Well, then, the athletic life of modern youth demands the revival of the Olympic Games; and in that conviction I called for their revival, thinking not merely of France or England, Greece or Italy, but of humanity in general. But, I may be asked, what difference do you make between the Olympic Games and what are nowadays called world-championships? Were the games of antiquity anything else than our competitions for world-championships, on their own lines, and taking into account the then meaning of the word "world"? I do not deny that, and I agree that world-championships do form part of the Olympic Games; nevertheless the Olympic Games are "something else" as well, and it is just this "something else" that matters, as it is not found in any other variety of athletic competition.

There are two ways of regarding athletic sport: first, the individual point of view, which is, let me hasten to say, the best and the most desirable. On the day when a nation exists in which each young man possesses sufficient taste for physical exercises to make him practise them regularly,

either alone or with his comrades, seeking in wholesome sports an admirable means to perfect his health and increase his strength, then on that day humanity—or a section of it, at least—will have realised perfection. But we are not there yet, and hence we are constrained to regard athletic sport from a second and quite different point of view—that of organised competition. Athletics for the sake of winning something: this is at once the potent incentive and the dangerous canker with which we have to reckon. Potent incentive, we cannot deny; the most potent of all, in fact. Human society is worked by the principle of competition; it has always been so, and is so more than ever. Competition is becoming more and more intense, bringing in its train greater and greater dangers of corruption. Unbridled competition entails grave risks to the spirit of fair play, occasions the commission of blameworthy acts, engenders a lamentable atmosphere of jealousy, envy, vanity, and mistrust. This may be seen in all branches of activity, and athletic life cannot escape from it. Certainly athletic organisations, societies, and federations lead no placid and peaceful existence; they are torn by violent quarrels, and too often seek to injure one another, to steal away each other's champions. This state of things will continue, being, indeed almost inevitable. I am forced to acknowledge that the individual practice of athletic sports, regularly and perseveringly undertaken for the sake of health, beauty, and harmony, is a chimera. A few individuals may be capable of this, but the rank and file never will be.

We must therefore fall back upon the system of organised competition, and allow it to dominate athletic sport. But we can give it a counterpoise, a regulator, as did those ancient Greeks who, we find, had to grapple with most of the problems that perplex us; and their regulator was Olympia. At Olympia vulgar competition was transformed, and in a sense sanctified, by contact with national sentiment superbly excited.

Over-excited, I might even say; for it was excess that in the end ruined and corrupted ancient athleticism. But the end came very slowly. For centuries athleticism, its home in Olympia, remained pure and magnificent. There, States and cities met in the persons of their young men, who, imbued with a sense of the moral grandeur of the Games, went to them in a spirit of almost religious reverence. Around them were assembled men of letters and of the arts, ready to celebrate the victories of their energy and muscle;

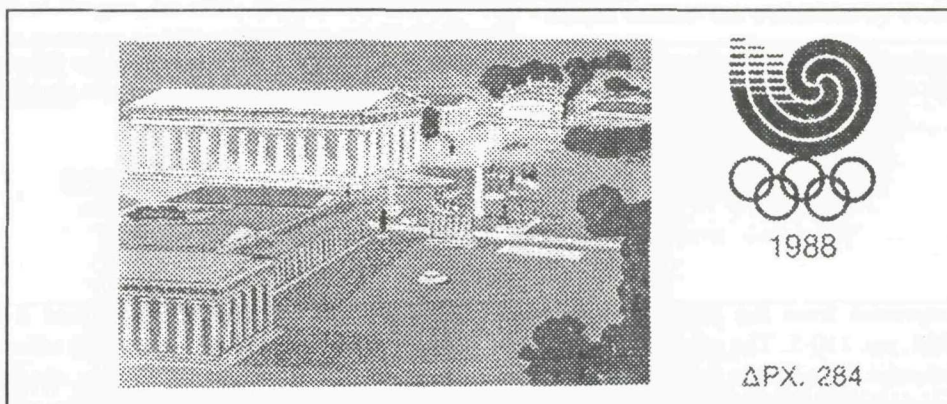
and these incomparable spectacles were also the delight of the populace. No doubt low ambitions and mean passions were present; there is no human assembly without them, no human institution which they do no infest. But despite them the whole result was something grandiose and strong, which dominated Hellenic civilisation, influencing happily and gloriously the youth of the country, and through them the entire nation.

Such were the Olympic Games of ancient times; such ought to be those of our own day. I perceived clearly the danger run by athleticism in an atmosphere of advertisement and bluff, such as our modern atmosphere is apt to be in a society where effort is generally applied to the quest for material gain, where consequently athletic sports are likely to be commercially exploited by the organisers of public exhibitions. I saw the necessity for re-establishing the Olympic Games as a supreme consecration of the cult of athletics practised in the purest spirit of true sport, proudly, joyfully, and loyally. But to reach a realisation of the idea many stages had to be travelled, and naturally this took time. First of all, the new Games must be exclusively

modern in form; to revive chariot-races, for instance, would only have been to institute a hippodrome devoid of interest for the mass of young men, and to make mere actors of the participants; while, as modern sports are very numerous, an

overloaded programme would result. Secondly, the new Games must be international; that is to say, the competitors must be the best representatives of civilised nations. In ancient times they were already international in the sense that there was as much difference between the citizens of the various cities of Greece, Italy, and Egypt as there could be now between an Englishman, a Spaniard, and an Italian. Those cities readily went to war with one another, and even in times of peace their rivalries were acute. But in our days, despite the rapidity and number of means of transport, it is not easy to bring together periodically representatives of all countries, because of the difficulties they encounter in leaving their daily occupations, and in finding, either wholly or in part, the necessary contingent expenses.

It was done, however, in 1896, 1900, and 1904, not to speak of the Athenian series of games inaugurated in 1906. We may therefore consider that one stage has been accomplished, and that the Olympic Games of London are going to consummate definitive success. Our English friends have brought a truly admirable zeal and intelligence to the



The Palestra at ancient Olympia (one story building at center, left on this Greek booklet cover) was both the focus of training and learning for athletes.



Instead of an oath to Jupiter (Zeus), Coubertin envisioned modern Olympic athletes giving a salute while reciting the Olympic Oath pledging honor in competition.

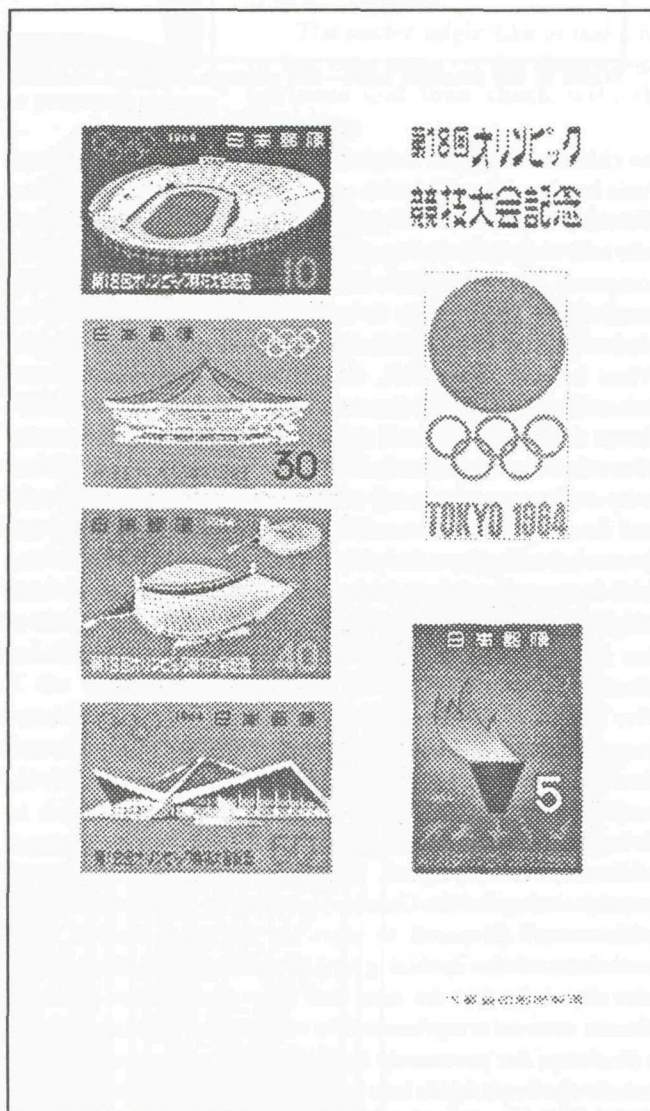
preparation of the Fourth Olympiad. Lord Desborough has been a matchless president; and how can I say enough of the moving and working spirit of the organisation, the Rev. R.S. de Courcy Laffan, who gives us a spectacle of antique virtue revived in devoting to the cause of athletic sport a mind of the highest culture, accustomed to interest itself in the great concerns of morals and philosophy? Surely, when during twelve years they have been celebrated with an ever increasing brilliancy of success, the Olympic Games will have given proof of sufficient vitality to assure their future, and we shall no longer need to fear any break in the continuity of our revived Olympiads.

Will the achievement then have reached the culminating point for which I have been aiming? Far from it; and I do not even hesitate to say that in my eyes only the pedestal of the structure is complete. Anyone who studies the ancient Games will perceive that their deep significance was due to two principal element: beauty and reverence. If the modern Games are to exercise the influence I desire for them they must in their turn show beauty and inspire reverence—a beauty and reverence infinitely surpassing anything hitherto realised in the most important athletic contests of our day. The grandeur and dignity of processions and attitudes, the impressive splendour of ceremonies, the concurrence of all the arts, popular emotion and generous sentiment, must all in some sort collaborate together. This cannot be achieved by a single Olympiad, nor even by three or four; it will need at least a quarter of a century. But, then, when one aspires to create or recreate institutions of this magnitude, the first condition is not to be in a hurry.

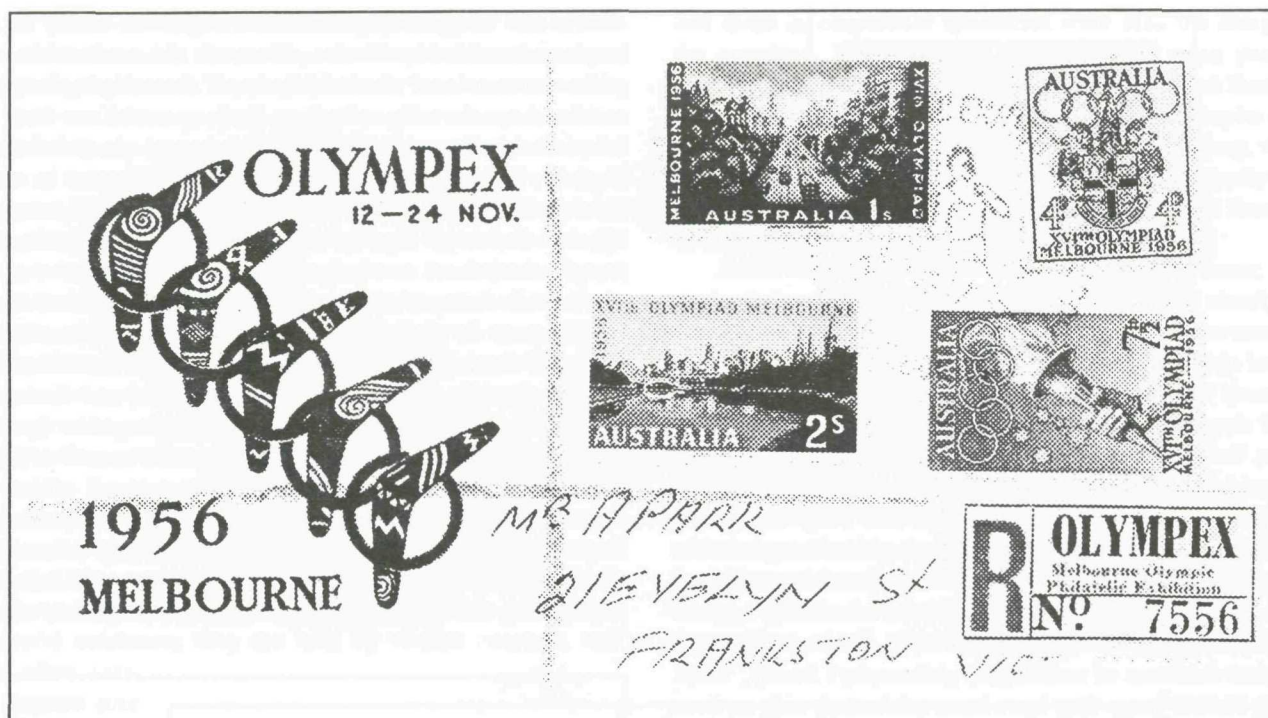
Here again, moreover, we must be resolutely modern. Let us have no clumsy and tactless restitutions. But it is possible to draw inspiration from the past without copying it. To take one example from many: at Olympia the competitors—and it was certainly not one of the least impressive episodes of the Games—assembled before the statue of Jupiter and took solemn oath that they would compete fairly and loyally, swearing also that they were without reproach and worthy to meet their adversaries. Jupiter is no more, and we have lost faith in statues. But I imagine the athletes of the future taking oath before the Games each upon the flag of his own country, and in presence of the flags of other lands affirming solemnly that they have always been loyal and honourable in sport, and that it is in a spirit of loyalty and honour they approach the Olympic contest.

Would not this provide a scene of dignified beauty fit to inspire actors and spectators alike with the most noble and generous emotions? And similarly, if for vulgar choruses and bands performing selections from operettas we were to substitute an interpretation by great massed choirs of masterpieces by a Handel or a Gluck, should we not be confirming in the completest manner the marriage of Arts and Sports—that is to say, of muscular strength and creative imagination, those two poles of human life?

In this order of ideals all is yet to be done; but much is prepared in the path of progress. The international Olympic Committee, in summoning in 1906 a conference which met at the Comédie Française in Paris, and discussed the best means for henceforward drawing together Sports, Arts, and Letters, gave the signal for a movement of high importance in this line. Henceforth the scattered efforts of artists can be directed towards a definite aim. Sculptors and musicians have already grasped the possibility of seeking new inspiration in athleticism. At this moment all Brussels is admiring the splendid group, "Lutteurs à Cheval," from



At the largest scale, Olympic Architecture has become one of the most prominent forms of artistic expression, much as Coubertin hoped...



While at the smallest scale—the postage stamp—Coubertin's vision of relating art and sport is disseminated worldwide.

the chisel of the great Belgian sculptor, Jacques de Lalaing; Paris has been hearing with emotion Augusta Holmès's fine oratorio, entitled "Ludas pro Patria"; and the ears of Athenians still ring with the harmonies of the "Olympic Hymn" composed by the Greek musician Samara. Architects have meanwhile, although it is true but timidly, attempted to evolve plans for gymnasiums modelled on antique ideals. When he died, Bartholdi, the celebrated sculptor, left the International Olympic Committee the designs for a "Monument des Sports," which should be one of the finest works of art that the world has seen. On another side, dramatic art is by degrees accustoming itself once more to the open air, and in many different countries performances recalling the theatre of antiquity take place. Finally, in Switzerland the well-known musician Jaques-Dalcroze is striving with admirable zeal to reform choreographic art, degraded as it has been by the vulgarity and stupidity of our modern dances.

Thus, on all sides, individual efforts are ready to converge towards and ideal of general harmony. The arts are drawing together; sound, line, colour, and form seem to be preparing to associate once more in movement, which is living beauty, and thus to constitute the spectacular element of the modern Olympiad. With their aid may be framed a worthy setting for the Games—a setting in which shall move athletes well prepared to assist in the great festival, and conscious of the special glory it confers upon them. It is now the rule that no one can take part in the Olympic Games save as a representative of his own country. This is a first step, for previously the nationality of competitors had not always been taken into account, but merely their technical qualities. A fundamental article of the general regulations drawn up in 1894 reserves the right of the organising committees to reject any candidate whose character or

previous record of conduct might reflect injuriously upon the dignity of the institution. We must establish the tradition that each competitor shall in his bearing and conduct as a man of honour and gentleman endeavour to prove in what respect he holds the Games and what an honour he feels it to participate in them. Then we should revive, as I have said, the ceremony of the oath; and we should seek the means to conclude the Olympiad with a distribution of prizes commensurate with the dignity of the occasion. At present this prize-giving takes place in a wretchedly undignified fashion. The victors, hastily clothed, listen to some dull little speech, and then carry their prizes off under their arm in the midst of the rough cheers of their comrades. The question of costume is a somewhat delicate one. Modern dress, for men at least, is not a thing of beauty. But the costume of his sport is to the athlete what his uniform is to the soldier, and it is in that garb he ought to appear at the final ceremony. The procession of victors—ridiculous in the clothes of town-life—would at once gain charm if fencers carried their weapons and tennis players their racquets, if cyclist led their machines and polo-players held their sticks, all wearing the costumes of their respective sports.

Such is my view of the development which ought to take place in the institution of the modern Olympic Games. I myself am determined to work for this, and I feel assured of the concurrence of all my loyal collaborators, among whom I count—and in the first rank—Father Time himself, for without him in such undertakings nothing lasting can be achieved. Lasting the work must be, to exercise over the sports of the future that necessary and beneficent influence for which I look—an influence which shall make them the means of bringing to perfection the strong and hopeful youth of our white race, thus again helping towards the perfection of all human society. □

Haiti's 1939 de Coubertin Issue: The Essays, Proofs and Specimens

by Sherwin Podolsky

[The recent sales of the archives of the American Bank Note Company and F. Burton Sellers' seminal article [*The Essay-Proof Journal*, 3rd Quarter 1989], allow us to take a look at the essays, proofs and specimens of Haiti's first semi-postal issue, in 1939, showing Baron de Coubertin and the Haitian and Olympic flags. A study of them lets us appreciate the stages in stamp development. Articles in other journals assist our study. Correspondence with F. Burton Sellers, Barbara Mueller, Harold Wasserman and Leo Malz add to the information.]

The Artist's Sketch

Figure 1 is the artist's sketch of a 10 centimes + 10 centimes postage value. Barbara Mueller, editor of *The Essay-Proof Journal*, has identified the designer as Charles Mack. (*The Essay-Proof Journal*, 4th Quarter, 1989).

Ms. Mueller noted that a wide variety of Latin American essays, including the one in Figure 1, that were done by the American Bank Note Company (ABNC) had many common characteristics. She approached Aurelia Chen, a marketing specialist for the ABNC, who contacted various retired personnel who subsequently came to the company's offices. "They immediately and without hesitation recognized the work as characteristic of designer Charles Mack and were even able to give the names of engravers of some of his work."

The drawing in Figure 1 is in the issued stamp size, on a thin tissue-like paper and in approximately the colors of the issued stamp. Along the

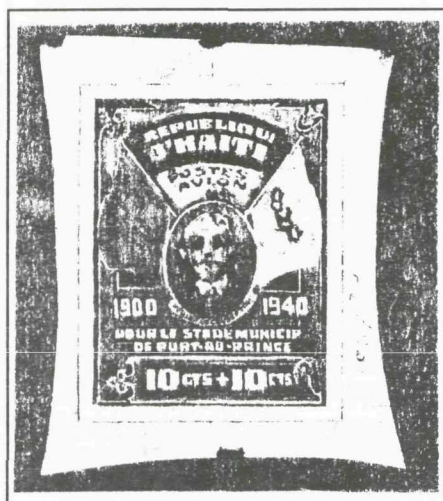


Figure 1. Sketch of the proposed stamps by artist Charles Mack.

right side of the tissue, just outside the drawing, is the word "accepted" in pencil.

Thus, we see the ideas of Andre Chevallier, president of the Haiti National Olympic Committee. It was Chevallier of Haiti who proposed a semi-postal set of stamps to raise funds for the Municipal Stadium, and the inclusion of Coubertin's portrait and the Olympic flag in the stamp design. The law authorizing the stamps included design details such as the portrait of Coubertin, the reference to the Municipal Stadium, the semi-postal nature of the denominations, and the inclusion of the Olympic flag. It is not clear whether the law also authorized inclusion of the

Haitian flag. However, both flags are included in the artist's sketch of the proposed stamps.

How the denominations were chosen is also not clear. None of the denominations selected met any domestic postal rates. Perhaps the international postal rates were selected to boost the face value of the stamps for sale to collectors.

When Figure 1 is compared with Figure 2, which shows the set of three issued stamps, differences and similarities are apparent.

The reader might like to make his or her own notes on the design comparisons and then check with the following:

1. The box ornamentalions below the flags in the artist's sketch are omitted in the final design.
2. The top corners in the original sketch are simplified in the final design.
3. The ornamentation on the box containing the denomination at the bottom is changed from the artist's sketch to the design on the issued stamps. The ornamentation of both sides of the box on the issued stamps is nearly identical to that on the left side of the sketch, except for a lighter background.
4. The tablet containing the country name on the sketch becomes self-contained on the issued stamps.
5. The tablet indicating postal service, "Postes" or "Postes Avion," is smaller and contained on the issued stamps.
6. The portrait of de Coubertin has been changed from the frontal view on the artist's sketch to a slightly left three-quarter view on the finished stamp.



Figure 2. The set of 3 issued stamps, Scott Nos. B1 and CB1-2.

HAITI: REPUBLIC D'

AIR MAIL

F 10629-30

00

INDEX COPY

79913

7.10.30 Supplied by Will Ford from original photo
79913
July 10/39



NOTES: MARK NOTE COVERAGE

Municipal Stadium Issue

F 10629-30- 6/7/39

Eng. by Will Ford

Appr'd. 7/10/39

Color: Purple

P.E.M. Original photo returned to customer, 1 photo of original photo, 1 large photo reduction, 1 small photo reduction of original photo stamp size. Rough sketch returned to Broad St. photo of rough sketch, large original washed model, 1.25¢-60 cts., 1 washed photo reduction of large model stamp size (ok'd model)

Figure 3. The master die proof in the trial color green, mounted on index copy card.

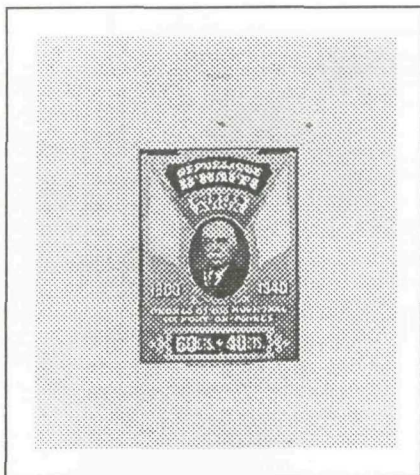


Figure 4. Die proof of the 60+40 centimes value in the issued color.

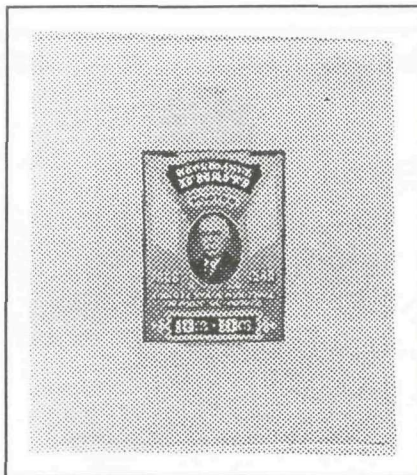


Figure 5. Die proof of the 10+10 centimes value in the issued color.

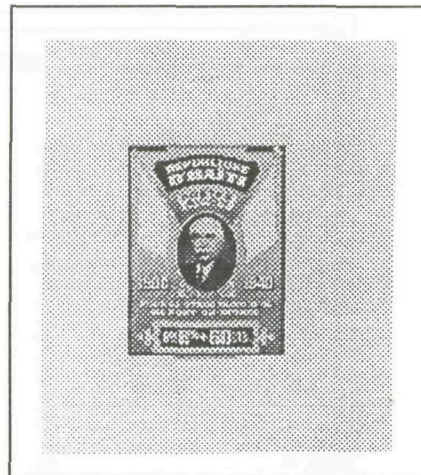


Figure 6. Die proof of the Gde 1.25+60 centimes value in the issued color.

The Master Die Proof

Figure 3 shows a master die proof (without denomination and without the flag colors) in an unissued color—green—on an index card. The proof measures 75 x 79 millimeters and is mounted on a card measuring 237 x 157 millimeters. The imprint of the printer, "American Bank Note Company," is far below the stamp design. The pencil notation at the top of the proof and the typed notation at bottom give a 7/10/39 finish and approval date.

The card lists the color as purple, but the proof is actually in green. Green was not a color used for any of the finished stamps. The green proof bears die number 79913 engraved near the top. This die number does not appear on any of the later dies for any of the stamps.

Sellers suggests that perhaps this proof should be classified as a progress color proof or essay. Barbara Mueller calls it a master die trial color proof. Ms. Mueller also suggests that if Clarence Brazer's definition is used, this item is a die essay. Brazer used the term die essay to indicate that a design is incomplete. Brazer's terminology, however, is used primarily in reference to U.S. material.

Figure 3 identifies the engraver as Will Ford, both on the proof itself and also in the typed information on the card.

The index copy of the master die proof bears the typed initials "P.E.M.," after which there is a list

of various documents used in production. The true meaning of the initials is unknown. However, Sellers suggests they may be the initials of the production archivist who had custody of the various documents. Dr. James Helme postulated that the initials stand for "Products Employed in Manufacture" (*Collectors Club Philatelist*, March/April 1991, pp.97-124). George Brett suggests "Pictorial Engraving Materials" (*The Essay-Proof Journal*, Fourth Quarter, 1990.) Elizabeth Pope of Christie's auction house states that they mean "Printing and Engraving Materials" (*The Essay-Proof Journal*, Second Quarter, 1991.)

Aurelia Chen, product manager of the American Bank Note division of U.S. Banknote, comes to the rescue with the correct meaning: "Picture Engraving Materials." Ms. Chen says that these materials were kept in the Picture Engraving Department and had no connection with printing and/or manufacture, as such. (*The Essay-Proof Journal*, Third Quarter, 1991).

The Imperforate Die Proofs

Figures 4, 5 and 6 show the imperforate die proofs with denominations, finished except for the flags, in the issued colors. All of the die proofs show the printer's imprint just below the design, as shown on the issued stamps. The die proofs are listed with their die numbers as follows:

Denomination	Die Number
60 + 40 (airmail)	79915
10 + 10 (postage)	79916
1. 25 + 60 (airmail)	79917

Figure 7 is the same die proof shown in Figure 5 but sunk and mounted on a card. It has the die number 79916 engraved near the top of the proof. There is a pencil notation at bottom: "see index copy on Haiti for color of Flags. Litho work of flags not rec'd—see index." Thus, the die proofs in Figures 4, 5, 6 and 7 were prepared without the colors of the Haitian flag and Olympic Rings because the litho work for these elements had not been received.

Index Copies of the Die Proofs

Figures 8, 9 and 10 show large cards rubberstamped in red "Index Copy." Barbara Mueller explains more about these:

"The term 'Index Copy' is an in-house term of the American Bank Note Company. It was never (or at least very rarely) used as part of philatelic parlance until the archive sales. An index copy proof is merely one that is pasted onto the index cards for company records and shows rough treatment, definitely not made for collector consumption. The U.S. Bureau of Engraving & Printing used a similar system for their records, even the same sized cards."

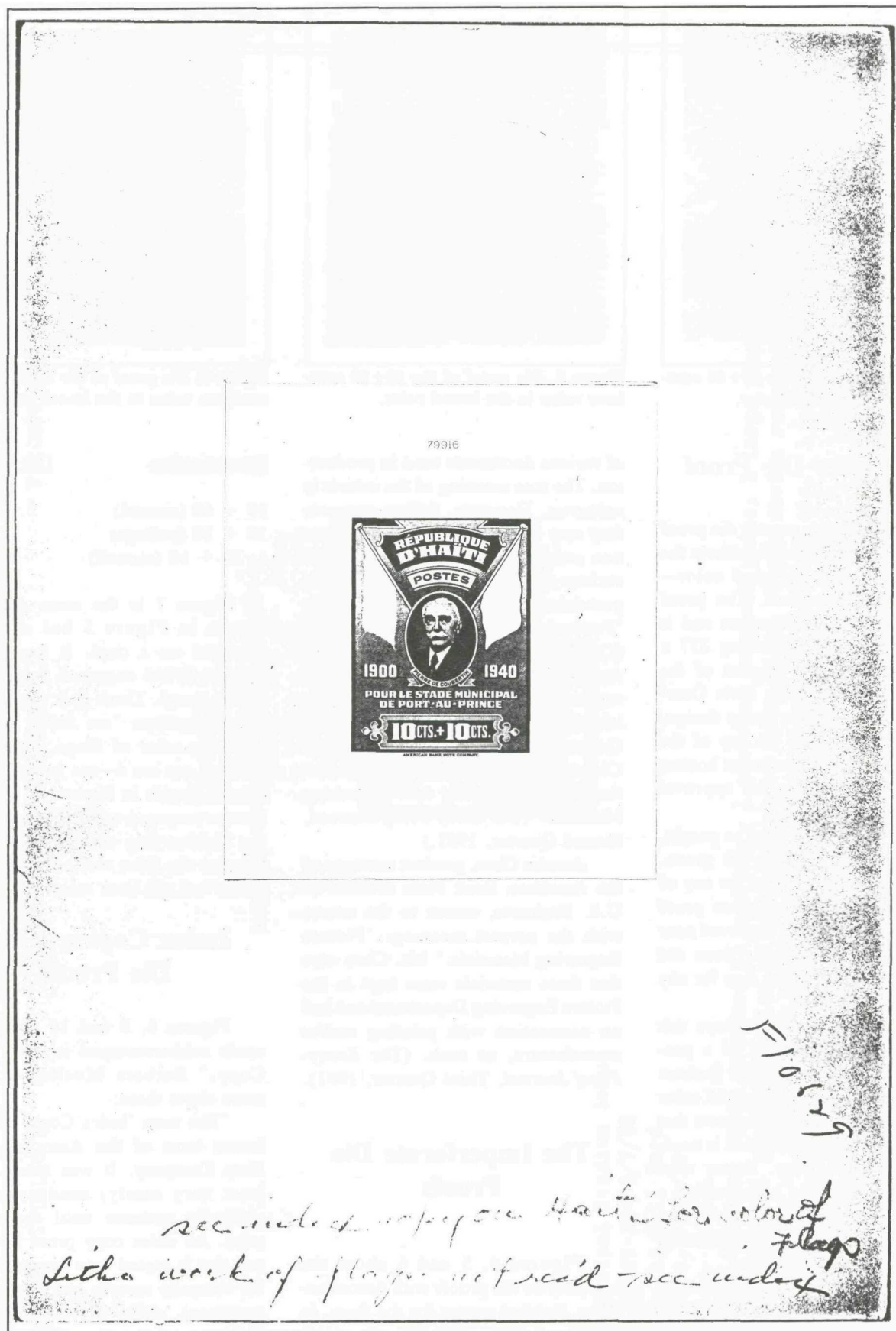


Figure 7. Die proof of the 10 + 10 centimes value in the issued color, sunk and mounted on card.

HAITI: REPUBLIC D.

AIR MAIL

F 10629-30

1.25x60

F 10629-30 Worked over by Will Ford July 18/39

79917

79917



Municipal Stadium Issue.

F 10629-30- 6/7/39

Worked over by Will Ford

Appr'd. 7/25/39

Color: Grey $8\frac{1}{2}$ (Nat. flag of Haiti in red & blue) Olympic flag in blue, yellow, black, green, & red.)

See master die # 79913

No die proofs in color- see order card.

Figure 8. Index copy of the 1.25 Gourde die proof in the issued color. Note tiny cuts on the proof (at arrows). Similar cuts exist on Figures 9 and 10.

HAITI: REPUBLIC D'

POSTAGE

F 10629-30

10¢

F. 10629-30 Worked over by Will Ford July 18/39

79916

1946



INDEX COPY

Municipal Stadium Issue

F 10629-30 -6/7/39

Worked over by Will Ford

Appr'd. 7/25/39

Color: Red 32 (Nat. flag of Haiti in red & blue) Olympic flag in blue, yellow, black, green & red.)

See master die # 79913

No die proofs in color: see order card.

Figure 9. Index copy of the 10 + 10 centimes die proof in the issued color.

HAITI: REPUBLIC D'

AIR MAIL

F 10629-30

60¢+40¢ ✓

Worked over by Will Ford July 19/39

79915

79915



INDEX COPY

Municipal Stadium Issue

F 10629-30-6/7/39

Worked over by Will Ford

Appr'd. 7/25/39

Color: Purple 5 (Nat. flag of Haiti in red & blue) Olympic flag in blue, yellow, black, green, red.)

See master die # 79913

No die proofs in color- see order card.

Figure 10. Index copy of the 60 + 40 centimes die proof in the issued color.

Table 1
Die Proof Notations

<u>Denomination</u>	<u>Die Number</u>	<u>Notation</u>
1.25 + 60	79917 F.10629-30	Worked over by Will Ford July 17/39
10 + 10	79916 F.10629-30	Worked over by Will Ford July 18/39
60 + 40	79915 F.10629-30	Worked over by Will Ford July 19/39

Figures 8, 9, and 10 show index die proofs for each denomination with the Haitian flag and Olympic Rings colors shown twice: once in the proof margins and again in the stamp design. Note the juxtaposition of the colors with their places in the stamp design in the proofs. The colors were added by the litho process to the engraved vignette.

A manuscript "X" in ink appears on the face of each vignette, which Leo Malz, a noted topical dealer, presumes to indicate that additional die proofs would not be made.

Sellers, however, has a different opinion to explain the "X" markings on the index copies:

"I have examined the photocopies of the index proofs with their large 'Xs.' It seems to me that these ink markings were probably applied at the same time as the annotations above each proof regarding 'working over' by Will Ford. What I suspect is that Will Ford made some final retouches to the dies after these index proofs were made and they were defaced to indicate they were not the final version of the dies."

"These differences may be quite small but could be proved by careful magnified examination of these index proofs against the die proofs. This thought finds some support in the fact that the imperforate stamps in my collection which were 'For Approval' were approved by Hershey on July 26, after the reworking by Will Ford. [See next subsection: Imperforate Stamps on Card, 'For Approval']. These Hershey-approved items are the last, datewise, among these various essay and proof items and presumably are representative of the final version of the dies and the issued stamps."

Examination of the proofs on the index copies and comparison with the issued stamps disclose minute design differences. Tiny details in the design on the index copy proofs seem coarser and less well-defined than on the finished stamps. This examination supports Sellers' theory.

These index copies of the die proofs (Figures 8, 9 and 10) show the same (imprinted) die numbers as on the imperforate die proofs in Figures

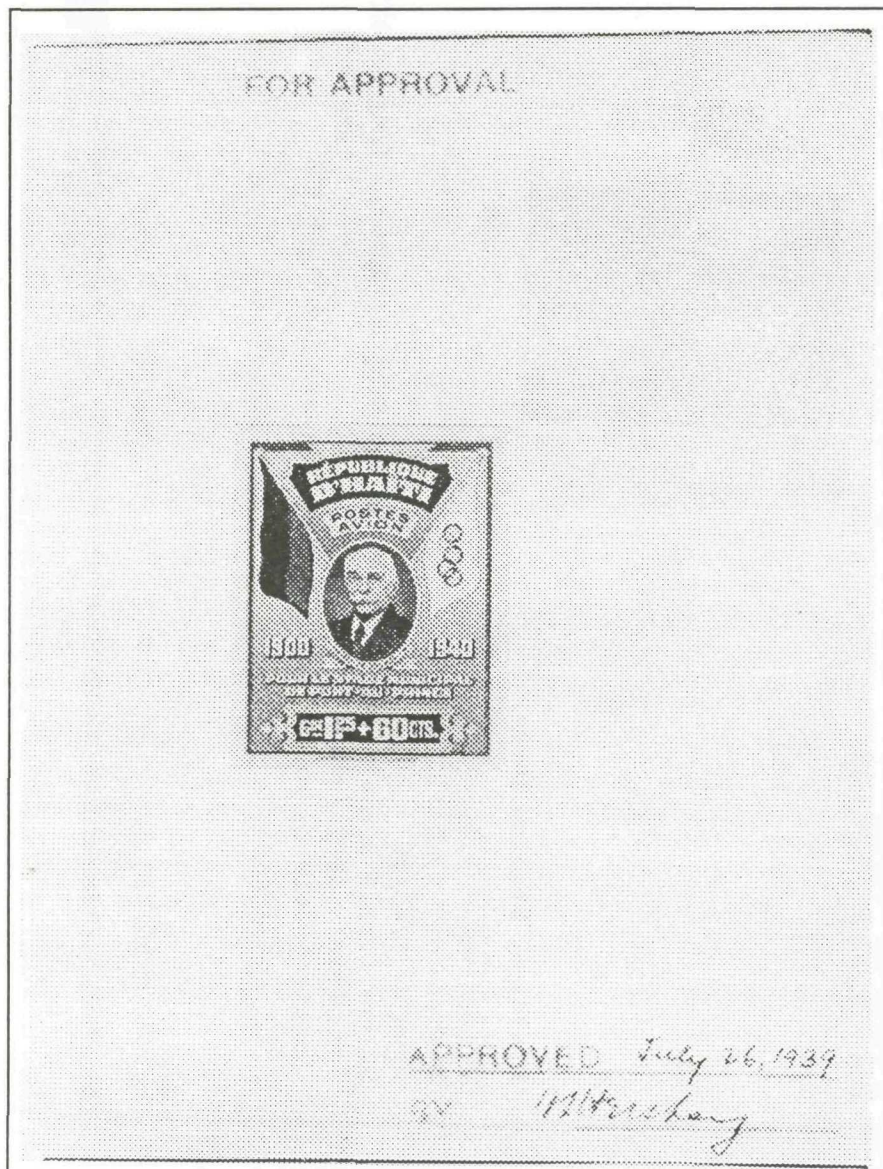


Figure 11. Imperforate stamp of 1.25 + 60 Gde value mounted on card. Similar examples exist of other values.

4, 5 and 6. The die numbers are repeated in pencil on two of the three index copy die proofs (Figures 8 and 10). Above each of the typed die numbers on the index cards is a paper cutout in the same material as the die proof selvage, with penciled notations as listed in Table 1.

Gene Hessler, noted student of security engraving and Vice-President of The Essay-Proof Society, gives us information about Will Ford. He was born in 1895 and died November 3, 1962. In 1912, he went to work for the ABNC and retired from there in 1960. He was the son of another noted engraver, Joseph R. Ford.

It has been speculated that the number prefix letter "F" found on die proofs of the American Bank Note products stands for "foreign." But Aurelia Chen says that "F" was not strictly a foreign designation, since it was also used on domestic orders. In practice, the letter "F" was used as a number prefix for internal record keeping. (*The Essay-Proof Journal*, Third Quarter, 1991.)

Figures 8, 9 and 10 also identify the color for each denomination. Information on the index cards describe the colors as follows:

Denomination	Color
1.25 + 60	grey 8 1/4
10 + 10	red 32
60 + 40	purple 5

The ABNC made its own inks. *The Story of the American Bank Note Company* (William H. Griffiths, 1959) states that the inks are usually in off-shades of conventional colors instead of straightforward green, red, blue and the like. It appears, then, that the number after the color listed on each index card is for a precise color formula.

Imperforate Stamps on Card, "For Approval"

Figure 11 shows an imperforate copy of the 1.25 + 60 airmail stamp, complete with the flags, on card. The

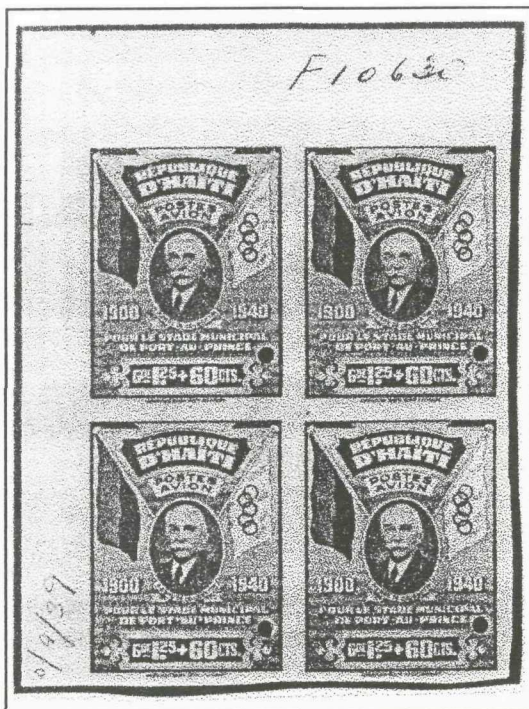


Figure 12. Imperforate plate proof, hole punched, of the 1.25 + 60 Gde value. Similar examples exist of other values.

stamp is actual size and without the die number. Similar cards exist for the other two denominations. Each, like that of Figure 11, was stamped at the top "For Approval," and bore the date July 26, 1939, and the signature of H.L. Hershey, a name known to Mr. Sellers as having appeared on earlier ABNC die proofs.

Each of these cards bears imperforate copies of the finished stamps, fully gummed. Each stamp is attached by the gum at the top to the heavy card and with a tissue cover of the same size as the card to protect the stamp. Sellers says that it is not possible to determine whether each of these three "stamps" is a single copy struck from their respective dies, or whether they were cut from full 50-stamp sheets struck from the finished plates. Since they were prepared

"For Approval," Sellers believes they were struck from the original dies and submitted "For Approval" before the full printing plates were made. "The presence on gummed paper is a puzzler," says Sellers, "but no other imperforate copies of these stamps have ever been recorded, which probably would have occurred if full sheets on gummed paper had been

printed and not perforated." However, at the time of writing his article in 1989, Sellers was unaware of the imperforate plate proof blocks, discussed later, that subsequently showed up at the Christie's May 1991, auction.

Ideas are exchanged between the artist, craftsmen, printers and the stamp-issuing authorities. A number of approvals at different stages of production is possible among these people. At this stage, which is the production of the imperforate stamps on card, the information suggests that approval by the printers was sought.

Imperforate Plate Proofs

Christie's Robson Lowe (Zurich) auction catalog for the sale on May 28, 1991, lists the following lot: "HAITI. 1939 Port-au-Prince Athletic Stadium Fund Olympic Postage and air set of 3 corner marginal imperforate plate proof blocks of four in issued colors on gummed paper, each unit with security punch hole. Only one sheet of 50 of each value exists. Estimate Sfr. 2500."

The illustration of one block of this lot shows an imperforate upper left corner block (Figure 12). Marginal pencil notations on the selvage include a partly indistinct date "?0/9/39" and "F10630." It seems that the month is October because of the zero, and the pencil dating on other documents follows the American way of indicating the date in month/day/year order. Each stamp has a neat punch hole in the same place as on specimen stamps. [A last minute bit of information comes from the November 30, 1991 David Feldman auction catalog. A lower left vertical block of six (2 across, 3 down) with corner margins bears the pencil inscription "Received from J. Torquis 10/9/39." This clearly confirms that the date is 10/9/39.]

Barbara Mueller believes that the imperforate plate proofs with their punched holes are probably from the so-called archive file copies. Sheets of each order are put into files for future reference as to design, color, etc.



Figure 13. Set of specimens of the perforated stamps. Overprinted SPECIMEN in red and hole punched.

Specimens

Specimens are stamps defaced to prevent postal use. The introductory section to the Scott catalogs explains that specimens are samples of stamps issued by member nations sent to the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union in Switzerland. "Member nations receive these specimens as samples of what stamps are valid for postage. Stamps are also distributed to government officials or for publicity purposes, and stamps submitted by private security printers for official approval, also may receive...defacements." Sellers says that Scott's explanation applies to specimen stamps of most countries.

Sellers, however, describes the practice of Haiti as follows:

"Haiti, as a UPU member, also sent stamps as specimens to the UPU, but normally did not overprint the copies they sent. What we are dealing with here are American Bank Note Company Specimen overprints. I don't think they were sent to either Haiti or the UPU but were prepared only for the ABN archives."

Figure 13 illustrates the specimen stamps. The illustration shows that the word "Specimen" is printed sans serif at the top of the denomination tablet. The overprint color is red. Also, a neat hole punch was made near the lower right corner of the stamps, the same location as on the imperforate plate proofs.

Dealer K. Bileski has advertised that less than 200 complete sets "ex-

ist" of the specimen stamps. Since the stamps were printed in sheets of 50, 200 stamps would be four complete sheets. I do not know the source of Bileski's information, but it seems unlikely that less than full sheets would be hole-punched and overprinted as Specimens.

Overview

Let's review (1) the typed notes at the bottom of the index copies and (2) the actual proofs themselves. This study reveals much about the process of stamp development. Here is a listing of the documentation which I believe is in reasonably chronological order:

- Original photo (presumably of Coubertin; see photo on journal's cover)
- Photo of original photo
- Large photo reduction
- Small photo reduction of original photo to stamp size
- Rough sketch (artist's sketch)
- Photo of rough sketch
- Large original washed model
- Washed photo reduction of large model to stamp size
- Master die proofs without denominations and litho colors
- Die proofs with denominations and without litho colors
- Die proofs with denominations and litho colors

The photo varieties and washed model essays have not been previously reported on the philatelic scene. Thus, details such as size, color of the washed model, quality, texture and quantity are not known. Most likely,

the number of copies must be very few, and, in some cases, the examples may be unique.

Table 2 summarizes the chronology of some of the events in the stamp development process. Note that the imperforate plate proofs with hole punch appear to have been made after the first day of issue of the stamps. Most likely, the imperforate plate proofs were made earlier, with the punch holes applied later, on October 10, 1939.

Thus, in addition to the unique essay, there is an amazing and complex variety of proofs and specimens. While this article focuses on the development of one stamp issue, its story suggests similar situations exist for other stamps printed by the ABNC.

Also, we are exposed to the sometimes imprecise terminology used in the field of essays, proofs and specimens. More than one term can apply to a document.

Value, Supply and Demand

Because essays, proofs and specimens have no postal validity, they are primarily used in stamp development and administration. Thus the quantities that may appear in the philatelic marketplace are very small.

Sellers believes the following items are unique: the artist's sketch, the index proofs and probably, also, the approved proofs. The sunken die proofs, including one in green, probably exist in quantities of three to five copies, according to information about ABNC proofs of other Haiti issues. Imperforate plate proofs exist as one complete set from sheets of 50 stamps, according to the Christie's (Zurich) auction description mentioned earlier.

The set of three corner marginal imperforate plate proof blocks of four in issued colors on gummed paper did not realize the reserve at the Christie Zurich auction in May 1991. The lot had been estimated at Sfr. 2,500. The amount of the reserve was not disclosed, but some other foreign auction houses post reserves often at 70% of the estimates. This would suggest a reserve of Sfr. 1,750, to which must

be added the buyer's commission of 12.5%, for a total of approximately Sfr. 1,970 or US\$1,300. (Exchange rate computed in August 1991). Proportionately, a set of singles might be valued at only \$325. However, the preferred way to collect imperforates is in not less than pairs without marginal selvage, or singles with marginal selvage. A set of pairs might be valued at \$650. This includes a premium of perhaps 5% to 10% for marginal or corner selvage.

Bileski has advertised that "less than 200" specimen sets exist of the Coubertin stamps. Wasserman recalls that these specimens were part of a large lot in the Christie (New York) sale on September 12, 1990. The average realization per item in the auction lot was probably around \$3 to

\$5, according to Wasserman. This does not, of course, take into account that some items might have greater appeal and value to thematic collectors. In May 1991, Bileski was advertising the Coubertin specimen set of three stamps for \$500.

Wasserman feels that the "die proofs are much more impressive and much more desirable. In any exhibit, they would rate higher than the specimens." One large die proof of the Haiti 10 + 10 centimes in carmine and without the flag coloring, sunk on a card measuring 103 x 116 mm., was sold for \$550 including the 10% buyer's commission (Harmers, New York, auction of the Ira Seebacher Sports Collection, Sept. 18, 1986).

1992 marks the centenary of Coubertin's call for the revival of the

Olympic Games. 1994 will mark the centenary of the formation of the International Olympic Committee and the choosing of Athens, Greece for the site of the First Olympiad of the modern era. 1996 will mark the centenary of the modern Olympic Games. All these events will focus greater interest on the Haiti 1939 stamps honoring the founder of the modern Olympic Games. □

[For a general discussion of essays, proofs and specimens, the reader is referred to *Fundamentals of Philately*, by L.N. Williams and published by the American Philatelic Society in 1990. Chapter 6, "From Design to Issued Sheets," outlines the procedures of stamp development and gives examples and definitions.]

Table 2
Chronology of Development of the Haiti De Coubertin Stamps

<u>Date</u>	<u>Process</u>
Unknown	Artist's sketch (Figure 1)
6/7/39	Contract file set up: No. F. 10629-30 (Figure 3)
7/10/39	Master die approved—green color (Figure 3)
Unknown	Imperforate die proofs made, but without litho colors (Figures 4, 5, and 6); also sunk on card (Figure 7)
7/17/39	1.25 + 60 proof made with litho colors (Figure 8)
7/18/39	10 + 10 proof made with litho colors (Figure 9)
7/19/39	60 + 40 proof made with litho colors (Figure 10)
7/25/39	Three proofs with litho colors approved (Figures 8, 9, and 10)
7/26/39	Approval of imperforate copies of finished stamps (Figure 11)
Unknown	Printing of the perforated stamps (Figure 2)
Unknown	Production of specimen stamps, overprinted and hole punched, perforated and gummed (Figure 13)
10/3/39	First Day of Issue of the perforated stamps (see article in this journal on postal usages)
10/9/39	Imperforate plate proofs made and hole punched (Figure 12)

Haiti's de Coubertin Stamps of 1939

by Sherwin Podolsky

[Much of the following article is derived from Harold Wasserman's article, "Solved: The Case of the Handsome Wallflower," *Journal of Sports Philately*, July-August 1968, pages 1-4. Wasserman obtained information from the book, *La Timbrologie Haitienne 1881-1954*, by the late Leon Montes, judge and a foremost student of Haiti Philately. Additional information was supplied through correspondence between Jan L. Montes, son of Leon Montes, and Wasserman. Wasserman also obtained facts from W. Felix Salnave of the Postal Division of the Ministry of Finance of Haiti. Information on the Sylvio Cator Stadium was furnished to Sherwin Podolsky by Peter Jeannopoulos and F. Burton Sellers.]

The Need and the Idea

Andre Chevallier, President of the National Olympic Committee of Haiti, had long realized that his country needed a modern stadium in its capital city, Port-au-Prince. The new stadium would be comfortable, attract international matches and provide better playing conditions for the participants. Additionally, it would be a magnificent site for soccer, Haiti's national sport. How, he wondered, could the funds for the project be realized?

Mr. Chevallier consulted the government Fiscal Representative, the principal figure to ask for a State subsidy for the stadium project. However, the official claimed there was no provision in the budget for the project and therefore, he could not authorize it. The Fiscal Representative, nevertheless, liked the idea.

A Commune was established, headed by Mr. Chevallier, to handle the stadium project and its funding. The Commune settled on the novel idea of funding the project by means of a set of semi-postal charity stamps. At first, the Commune sought the entire proceeds of the issue for the stadium project, but eventually it had

to agree to accept the proceeds of the surtax only, after deducting an undetermined amount for printing costs. The State was also looking to profit from the project. Montes described it as a contract with a lion—the State being the lion.

The involvement of the Commune required a special government contract. The legislature considered the amount of the surtax, and a system for collecting and disbursing it to the Commune. The legislative committee wanted to have a group of collectors pay for the cost of printing the stamp issue, but the legislature rejected the idea. To do so would have given an unsavory and speculative air to the issue. In a message to the legislature, the President of the Republic claimed that only the State was qualified to undertake the issue. On March 14 and 15, 1939, the legislature passed the law that determined the denomina-

tions, surtax and period of validity.

Denominations, color for the engraved portions, and quantities authorized to be printed are exhibited in Table 1.

The total face value of the set was 3.05 Gourdes or about 61 cents in U.S. currency at that time. The stamps were to be valid from the date they were placed on sale through December 31, 1940, inclusive. The printing order was given to the American Bank Note Company of New York, who made delivery to Port-au-Prince at the end of September 1939.

The Proposed Budget

Table 1 outlines the hoped-for revenues for the semi-postal stamp issue based on the quantities printed.

More than 37% of the gross proceeds would go to the surtax for building the Commune's stadium.

Table 1
Authorized Printing

<u>Denomination</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
10 + 10 cents	red	200,000
60 + 40 cents	purple	75,000
1.25 Gde + 60 cents	gray	75,000

Proposed Budget

	<u>Gourdes</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Gross proceeds, including surtax, based on quantities printed:	253,750.00	50,750.00
Distributed as follows:		
Gross proceeds from surtax to Commune:	95,000.00	19,000.00
Gross proceeds from postage to Post Office:	158,750.00	31,750.00

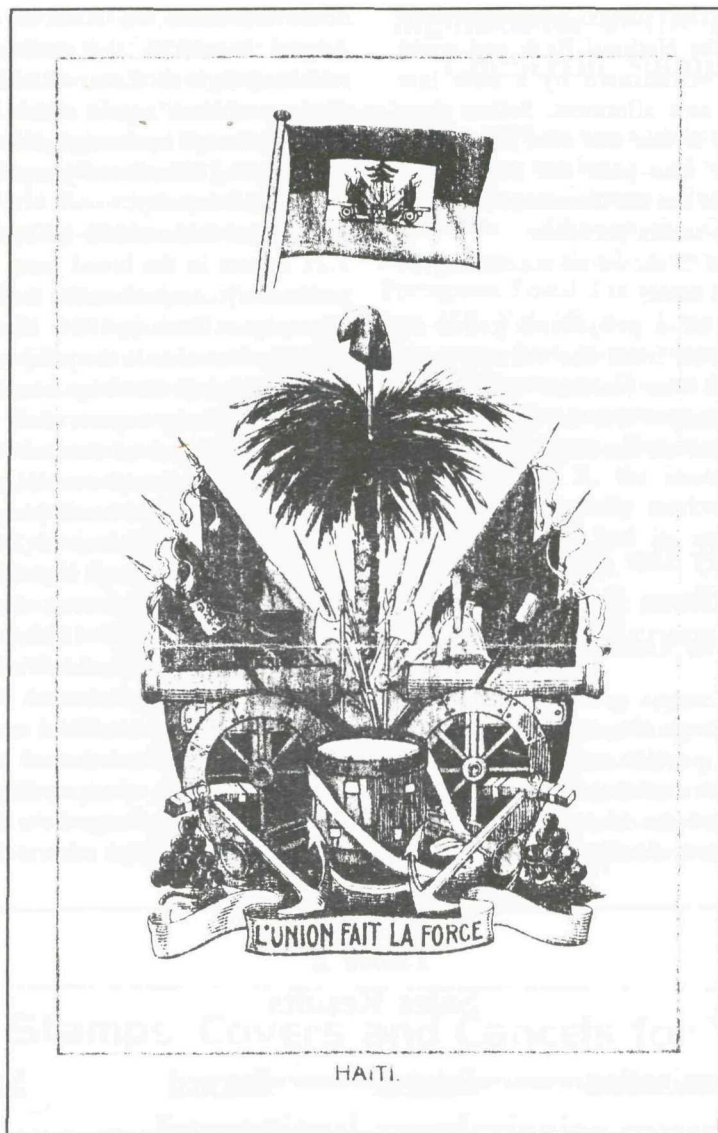


Figure 1. The Haitian flag with Coat of Arms above an illustration of the Coat of Arms. From a picture postcard.

Design Considerations

In accordance with the project submitted by Mr. Chevallier and approved by the legislature, the stamps were issued in memory of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Games and second President of the International Olympic Committee. His portrait, imprinted in medallion fashion, was taken from a photograph made in Lausanne about a year before his death in 1937. Mr. Chevallier was responsible for selecting Coubertin as the central subject and the inclusion of the Olympic flag in the design.

The dates 1900 and 1940 on the stamps can be confusing. 1900 marked

the Games of the Second Olympiad at Paris. 1940 was the year of the 12TH Olympiad which was originally to have been held at Tokyo but was transferred to Helsinki before finally being canceled due to World War II. However, the dates 1900-1940 had nothing to do with the Olympic Games. 1900 coincided with the inauguration of the first sports event, association football (soccer), on the old playing field where the modern stadium was to be built. 1940 marked the 40th anniversary of that event. However, as explained above, the stamps were not sold in 1940, the anniversary year. It is odd that the stamps would not be sold in a year commemorated in the design.

The flag at the left is one of two

versions of the Haitian flag with blue and red stripes. The usual Haitian flag has the coat of arms of the country included in a box at the center of the flag. On the Coubertin stamps, the flag is presented at rest and draping. To produce the Haitian flag with its more complicated coat of arms design might have been too great a challenge for the printers. Figure 1 shows the Haitian Flag with the coat of arms included. Below the flag is an enlarged illustration of the coat of arms which is multicolored. The coat of arms includes a palm tree with a cap, six flags, two cannons, a drum and other flourishes.

Printed in sheets of 50 (in five rows of ten stamps) and perforated 12, the stamps were engraved, with the exception of the flag colors which were lithographed. The stamps are extremely well executed and are normally found well-centered. They make a very colorful set.

As soon as the stamps were issued, Andre Chevallier sent sets to Henri de Baillet-Latour, President of the International Olympic Committee. Baillet-Latour responded in a letter dated November 24, 1939:

"My thanks and my warmest congratulations for the magnificent stamps issued by the Haitian Post Office to commemorate Baron de Coubertin, founder of the International Olympic Committee. The most beautiful of Olympic stamps have been printed by the Republic of Haiti, and I am delighted to express to you the joy I felt on seeing them."

The Sale of the Stamps

The stamps were first placed on sale Tuesday, October 3, 1939. The first day of issue would have been a cause of celebration, but World War II had begun with Germany's invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939. Dealers in England had placed several orders, but most of them were not honored because of difficulties in converting the Pound Sterling because of the volatility of currency exchange in wartime. If funds arrived unexpect-

tedly, Haitian government authorization was needed to export the stamps, for this was equivalent to sending money abroad.

Submarine warfare nearly paralyzed relations with other European countries, so that German, French, Belgian and Dutch dealers could not obtain the stamps. There was little or no demand from other Pan-American countries. The Haitian philatelic market, itself, was virtually nonexistent.

The large dealers and advanced collectors knew that these stamps were being sold at the Bank of Haiti at a special window that was difficult to locate. The general public was unaware of the stamps as they were not available at the Post Office.

The administration failed to publicize the stamps. Sportsmen and sport spectators never saw the stamps. Whatever the reason for government obstruction, first day sales would have been nil if not for the dealers in the United States.

The Last Days of Sale

As the expiration date of sale drew near, members of the Commune tried to get the period extended. They failed. They tried to get the surtax reduced or eliminated, but again lost. There were no legal antecedents for Haiti's first semi-postal issue, so it was decided to stick to the letter of the law.

On Tuesday, December 31, 1940, dealers, collectors and late-comers, seeking to fill their needs, proceeded to the isolated bank window. However, the employee on duty incorrectly interpreted the law to mean that the stamps were to be sold *until* December 31, 1940 and not *through* December 31, 1940. The buyers-to-be were very upset and argued to no avail.

Sales Results

The decree that authorized the issue also stated that all unsold stamps would be burned. This was done on February 15, 1941. A final accounting of sold and destroyed stamps is examined in Table 2.

Of 75,000 complete sets printed, only 8.4% were sold. The Commune had to pay for the printing cost of the

stamps. The surtax proceeds were held by the National Bank and could only be withdrawn by a new law giving a new allotment. Sellers does not know if this was ever done. It is not clear who paid the deficit and whether or not the Commune received the entire surtax proceeds.

Table 2 shows an accounting of the actual sales.

Out of a projected gross of \$19,000.00 from the surtax, only \$1,480.88 was realized. The surtax realized only 7.8% of its estimated gross based on the original quantities printed.

Why the Municipal Stadium Became the Sylvio Cator Stadium

Although the stamps apparently failed to provide sufficient funds to finance the stadium, they nevertheless perpetuated the idea. The municipal stadium was finally built and called

Stade Leconte. On National Day, August 16, 1958, the stadium was renamed Sylvio Cator Stadium in memory of Haiti's great athlete. A set of seven stamps honoring Sylvio Cator and showing him broad jumping was also issued that day.

Sylvio Cator (1900-1952) leaped 7.21 meters in the broad jump in the preliminary competition for the Eighth Olympiad at Paris in 1924. However, he broke his ankle in the jump and did not make it into the later rounds.

Wallechinsky reports that, at the Ninth Olympiad at Amsterdam in 1928, Cator placed second, for a silver medal, in the broad jump with a leap of 7.58 meters, or 24 feet, 10½ inches. The stamps issued honoring Sylvio Cator, however, show the inscription: "7M.937-1928." Thus, the philatelic record and Wallechinsky's differ for some reason. Perhaps Cator achieved an unofficial record in 1928 somewhere and that is what is recorded on the stamps. Figure 2 shows one of the stamps from the set.

Wallechinsky also reports that six

Table 2
Sales Results

<u>Denomination</u>	<u>Printed</u>	<u>Burned</u>	<u>Sold</u>
0.10 + 0.10	200,000	191,300	8,680
0.60 + 0.40	75,000	68,103	6,897
1.25 + 0.50	75,000	68,704	6,296

Actual Proceeds

	<u>Gourdes</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Gross proceeds, including surtax, based on actual sales:	20,280.60	4,056.12
Less proceeds to the State:	<u>12,876.20</u>	<u>2,575.24</u>
Balance to the Commune:	7,404.40	1,480.88
Less cost of printing:	<u>8,985.65</u>	<u>1,797.13</u>
Net loss to Commune:	(1,581.25)	(316.25)

weeks after the Olympic competition, Cator became the first man to break the 26-foot barrier with a jump of 26 feet, ¼ inch. Cator never won an Olympic championship. Cator's record was broken before the 1932 Olympics by a World Record jump of 26 feet, 2¼ inches by Chuhei Nambu of Japan.

Sylvio Cator had an illustrious career. He was appointed mayor of the City of Port-au-Prince and in 1950 was elected Legislative Deputy of the People. Cator once owned the Savoy Hotel and served as a Director of Tourism. He was proficient in many different track and field sports and promoted physical fitness.

Although the stamps honoring Cator are not semi-postal, some of the sales proceeds went to wiping out the deficit in the budget of the Haitian Football Association and for sports promotion in Haiti. A news account says that there was also a "surcharge on the stamps to be sold as regular postage." Perhaps the surcharge was on separate sales by the Association.

Significance of the Haiti Coubertin Stamps

The 1939 set was a philatelic first for depicting the founder of the modern Olympic Games, Baron de Coubertin. Although the Olympic Rings were previously shown on the Portuguese Postal Tax stamp of 1928 (see *JSP*, Vol. 29, No. 1, pp. 22-3), they were first shown in color on these Haiti stamps. The set also has significance for collectors of soccer and stadium stamps. Had it not been for World War II, the issue would have been successfully marketed and Haiti would have had its municipal stadium much sooner.

Catalog Errors

The Scott catalog appears to be misleading in describing that the surtax was "used to build a Sports Stadium in Port-au-Prince." Better wording might be to say that the surtax was intended to build the stadium.



Figure 2. Haiti 1958 stamps honoring the 30th anniversary of Cator's broad jump record in 1928. From a set of 7.

ium. Also, the stamp is noted simply as engraved in the catalog listing, whereas the flag colors were actually lithographed. □

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Checklist of Pierre de Coubertin Stamps

by Sherwin Podolsky



Germany #986



GDR #635



GDR #636

The International Olympic Committee published *Post, Philately and Olympism* in two volumes. Volume I gives a short checklist of Coubertin stamps and makes no apologies for excluding the stamps issued by the Trucial States, "so discredited from the philatelic point of view." The list below is incomplete as it was published in 1984.

Starting with its 1992 editions, the Scott catalogs will include many previously unlisted stamps as well as some countries not previously listed. This material will include de Coubertin and other sport and Olympic stamps. Readers should use their best judgment in collecting the belatedly listed material, much of which was issued solely to gain collectors' money and are not considered favorably by judges in philatelic exhibitions. The following stamps (with Scott numbers) are, however, quite collectible and exhibitable:

Haiti (B1, CB1-2), 1939 surtax issue for construction of a stadium.

France (817), 1956 60th anniversary of the Olympic Games in Athens.

San Marino (427, C106), 1959 pre-Olympic events for Rome, 1960.

Hungary (1501), 1963 centenary of Coubertin's birth.

Monaco (548), 1963 various sport anniversaries.

German Democratic Republic (635-6), 1963 centenary of Coubertin's birth.

Paraguay (unlisted), 1963 centenary of Coubertin's birth.

Federal Republic of Germany (986), 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City.

Greece (1028), 1971 75th anniversary of the modern Olympic Games.



Monaco #548



San Marino
#427



San Marino #C106

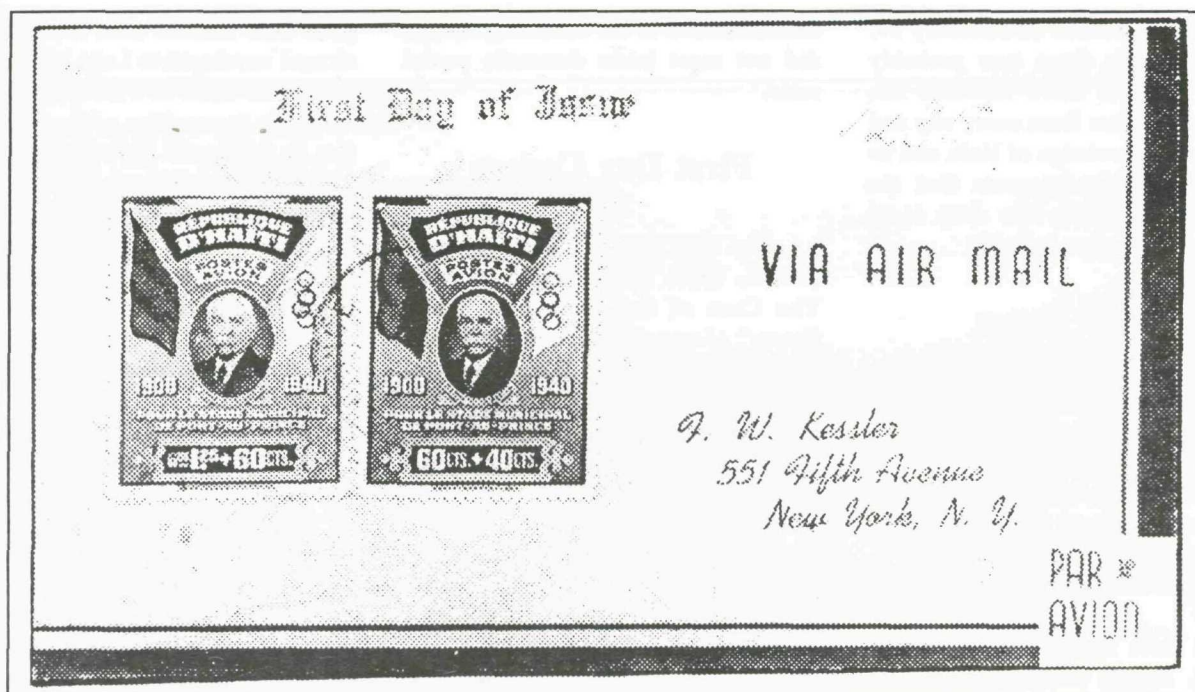


Figure 1. First Day Cover with single circle cancel addressed to a New York stamp dealer. Type "A" postmark.

Haiti's Pierre de Coubertin Stamps: Postal Usages

by Sherwin Podolsky

[Harold Wasserman, F. Burton Sellers, Peter Jeannopoulos, Leo Malz and Ossi Virtanen contributed information and/or illustrations for this article.]

Sales Distribution

The 1939 Pierre de Coubertin stamps were sold, perhaps exclusively, at an obscure window at the Banque Nacional in Port-au-Prince, the capital city of Haiti. However, Jan Montes, son of Leon Montes, the Haitian judge who wrote *La Timbrologie Haitienne* in 1954, reported to SPI member Harold Wasserman that "the stamps were distributed all around the country and mainly in all the towns of the Republic." Wasserman and Sellers doubt this was the case.

Wasserman believes that if they were distributed in such a manner, the postmasters probably never took them out of the vaults for sale at the counter. They hid the stamps as successfully as the Administration had hidden

the window at the Bank. Wasserman reports seeing one canceled copy postmarked at St. Marc and one cover postmarked at Cap-Haitien, which went via Port-au-Prince to the United States. If the stamps were used in other towns, the covers were not saved.

F. Burton Sellers, a student of Haiti philately, does not believe there was any distribution of the stamps throughout Haiti. He gives his reasoning as follows:

"a. This was a 'local' matter which benefited only Port-au-Prince. Sale of the semi-postal stamps in other cities would not have been very attractive to the local burghers!

b. Since the stamp denominations were only for foreign rates, and most foreign mail originated in Port-au-Prince and a very few other large cities, there was little reason to send the stamps to every little hamlet or village of a dozen souls, many of whom could neither read nor write, and even fewer would know anyone

outside the country to send a letter or FDC to!

c. The stamps were not printed until some time in August 1939 at the earliest. They still had to be sent to Haiti, probably by ship. By the time they arrived in Haiti, there was very little time to distribute them throughout the country to meet an October 3, 1939, First Day of Issue. Considering how poor communication and travel were in Haiti, it is most unlikely that such a deadline could have been met.

d. Total sales were so limited, and apparently most of the sales went to collectors and dealers, that there could not have been very wide distribution in the country.

e. The lack of any covers (except maybe one) from cities other than Port-au-Prince does not support the theory that the stamps were widely distributed within the country.

f. The stamps were withdrawn from sale on December 30 or 31, 1939 and

all remainders burned on February 14, 1941. Although there was probably enough time to have recalled the unsold remainders from every city and hamlet, my knowledge of Haiti and its postal operations suggests that the possibility of getting this done is so remote as to beggar belief!"

Postal Rates

The stamp denominations met the following rates:

10 centimes: boat mail rate to U.S.A.
60 centimes: airmail to the U.S.
1.25 Gourdes: airmail to Europe, Africa, Asia and other points

The rates apply to 15 grams or about ½ ounce. Sellers believes the rates did not include registration, although covers, later discussed, were often treated as registered mail. Sellers states that "Haitian postal rates are often mysteries with ill-announced changes. My opinions are based largely on observation of covers rather than on official decrees."

Sellers advises that the domestic surface rate was only 3 centimes within the city of Port-au-Prince and 5 centimes within the country. The

denominations of the Coubertin stamps did not meet basic domestic postal rates.

First Day Covers

The first day of issue was October 3, 1939. In his article "Solved: The Case of the Handsome Wallflower" (*Journal of Sports Philately*, July/ August 1968), Wasserman reports that one dealer in airmail stamps had 35 covers sent to him, each with the two airmail stamps. This information is confirmed and the dealer identified by two covers reported by F. Burton Sellers and Ossi Virtanen.

Figure 1 shows the airmail stamps used on cover to F.W. Kessler, a well-known New York dealer in airmail stamps. The cover has the notation "20/35" on the back. Note the penciled registry marking "1235" on the front. The cover in Figure 3 has a similar marking reading "1236."

Figure 1A shows the reverse side of another, but very similar first day cover also addressed to Kessler and with the same two airmail stamps. This cover shows not only the transit postmarks, but also, along the side, the notations "14/35" and "Montes." Examination of the two covers sug-

gests that Kessler sent 35 addressed airmail envelopes to Leon Montes who processed them as First Day Covers. Kessler's typewritten address suggests that he addressed his own envelopes.

Based on his experiences, Wasserman also reports that Cross Stamp Company of New York must have had over 100 covers at that time. The covers had a variety of combinations of the stamps. However, Wasserman says that at one time he had a set of blocks on three matched covers which he believes to have been unique.

One of the local firms, El Saieh and Noustas, prepared a large number of covers. These included singles, pairs, blocks of four, five and six, strips, and one cover with the blocks of the first two values and a single stamp of the high value—there wasn't room on the cover to put a third block! They also had unusual combinations of values, making rather strange covers. Figure 2 illustrates a first day cover with a corner marginal strip of three of the low value, postmarked October 3, 1939, and addressed to Issa El Saieh at Port-au-Prince. The cover is overfranked for domestic use.

Covers showing correct postal usage must be scarce. Figure 3 illustrates the use of the 60+40 airmail

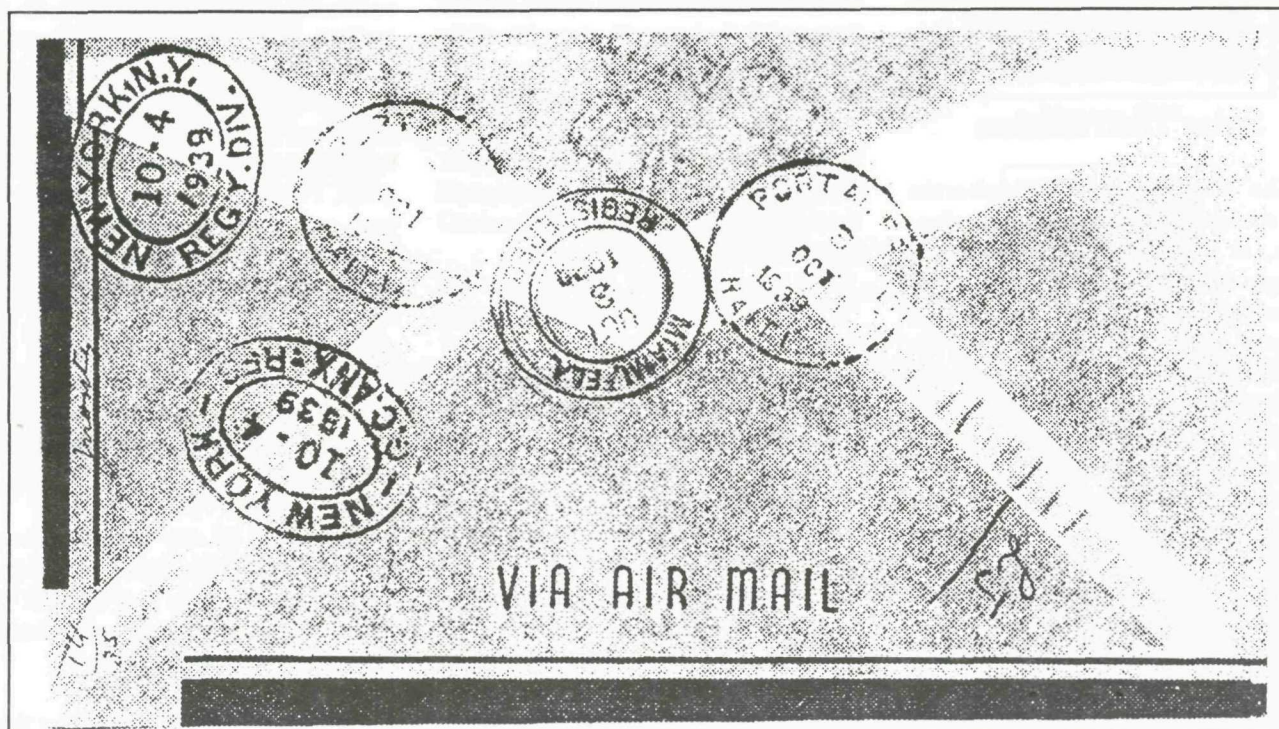


Figure 1A. Reverse side of cover in Figure 1 sent to Kessler and showing the markings "14/35" and "Montes." This suggests that Leon Montes prepared 35 covers for the airmail stamp dealer, F.W. Kessler.

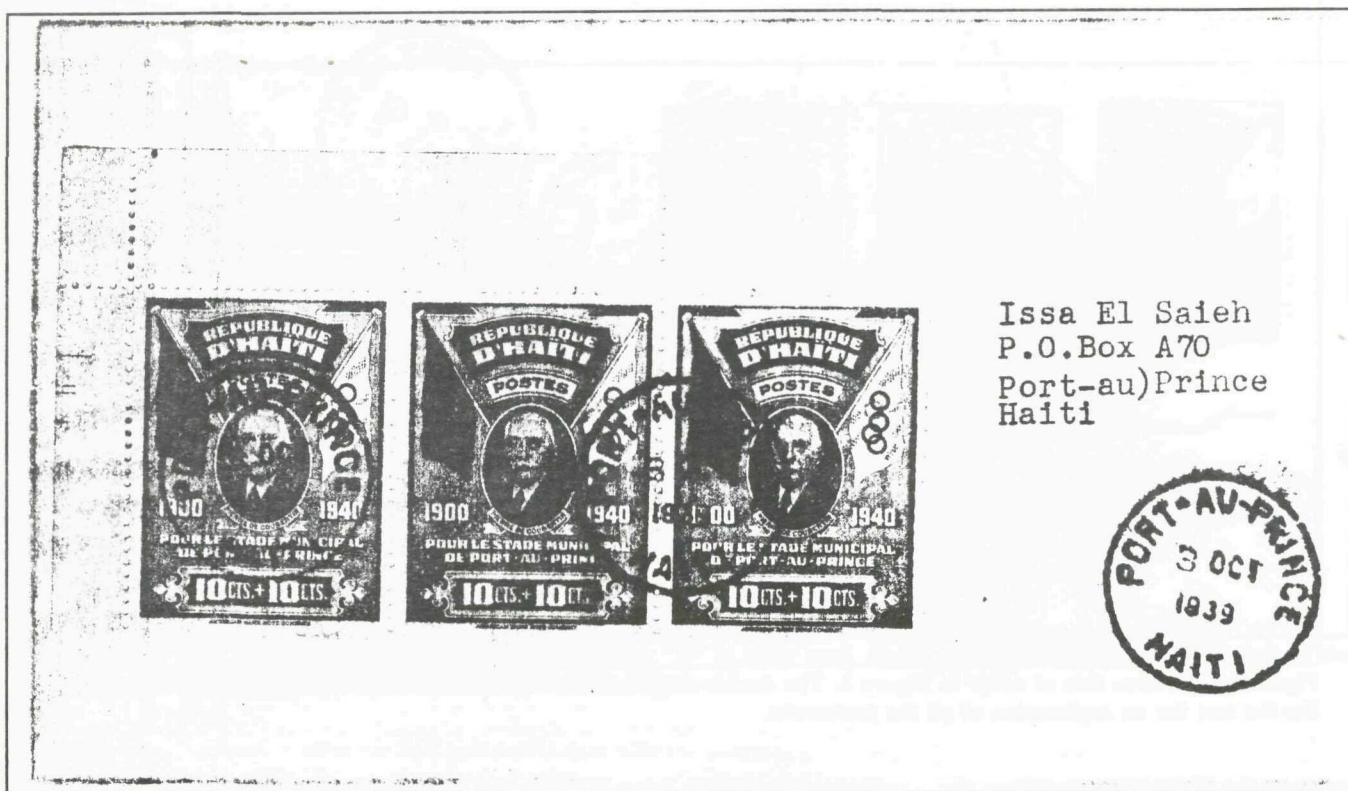


Figure 2. FDC with an unusual strip of three 10 centimes stamps addressed to a local Haitian stamp dealer. Type "A" postmark.

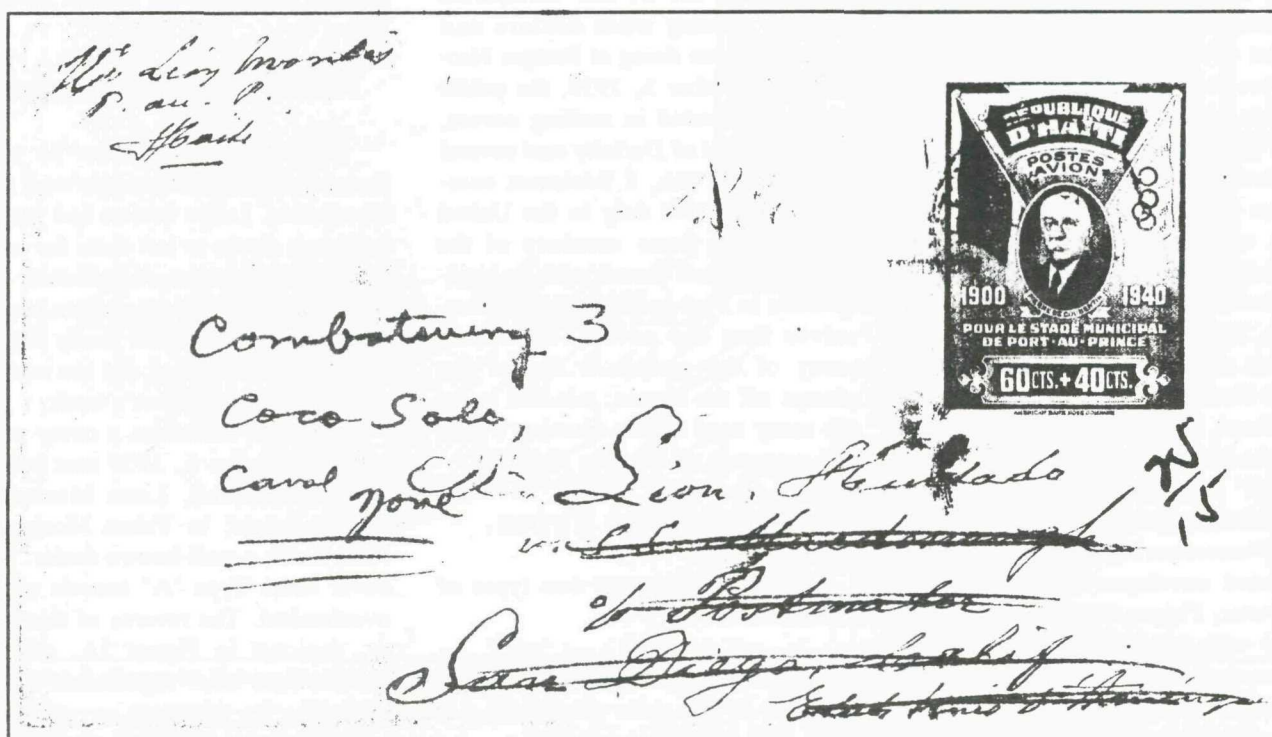


Figure 3. Cover from Haitian philatelist Leon Montes to San Diego, then redirected to Canal Zone. Type "B" postmark.

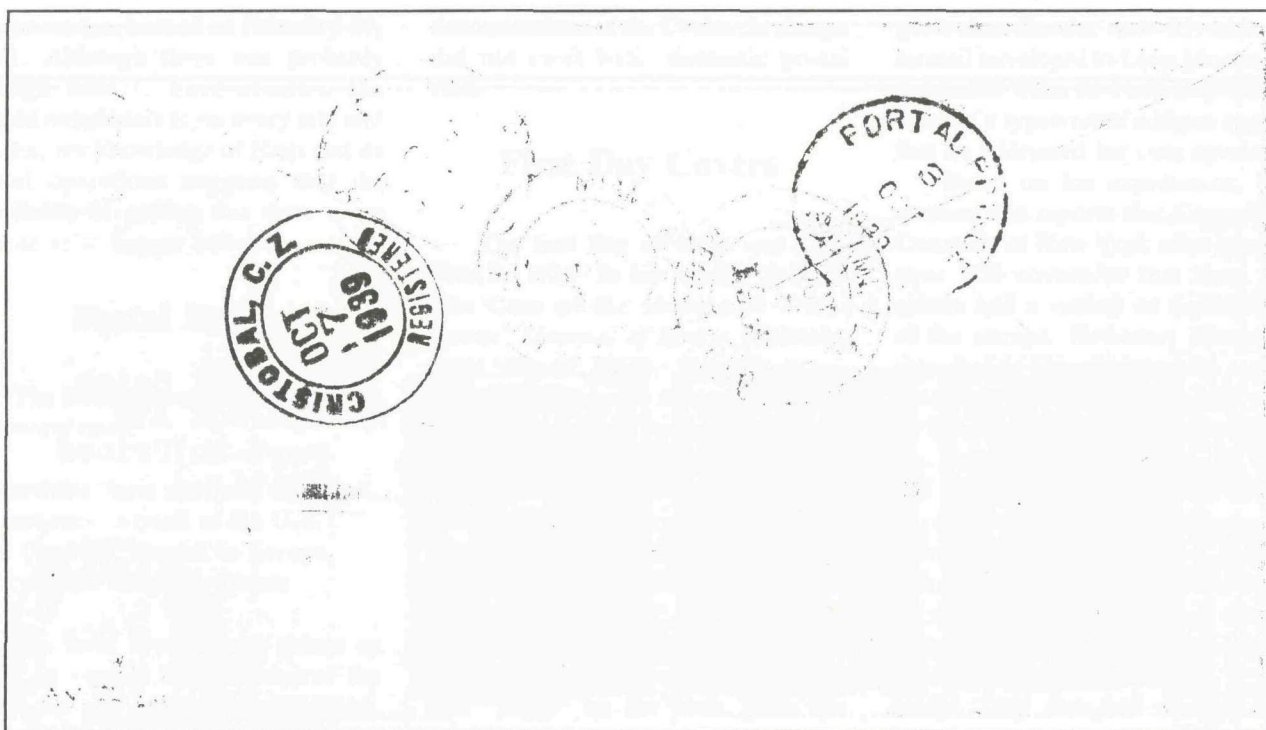


Figure 3A. Reverse side of cover in Figure 3. The double-ring Coco Solo cancel is too faint to show in the illustration. See the text for an explanation of all the postmarks.

stamp to the United States, where the cover was redirected from San Diego, California to Combatwing 3, Coco Solo, Canal Zone. According to the corner address, the cover was sent by Leon Montes. There are numerous backstamps (Figure 3A), but the cover is first day postmarked on October 3 at Port-au-Prince and has a Miami, Florida arrival postmark of the same day. The next chronological postmark is dated October 5 at San Diego where it was readdressed. The cover went back to Miami where it was postmarked on October 6. The next cancel is dated October 7 at Cristobal, Canal Zone. The last cancel, although faint, is that of Coco Solo, Canal Zone, dated October 9, 1939. All the cancels of Miami, San Diego and Canal Zone are double-ring registry types. The "25/15" is probably a dealer's "catalog value/net price" marking.

Wasserman reports that no official cacheted envelopes were available. However, Figure 4 shows a first day cover with two interesting deep blue rubberstamps on a size number 10 envelope. The upper stamped cachet is a double circle showing a palm emblem in the center. The outer wording reads: COMITE OLYMPIQUE HAITIEN. The other, and larger, rubber-

stamp appears to have a pictorial emblem at the center, and wording: REPUBLIQUE D'HAITI/BUREAU DE L'EDUCATION PHYSIQUE/PORT-AU-PRINCE. The cover bears a complete set of the Coubertin stamps. Seeing what dealers and collectors were doing at Banque Nationale on October 3, 1939, the public became interested in mailing covers, too. A Doctor of Divinity sent several covers to his son, a lieutenant commander on active duty in the United States Navy. Some members of the Haitian National Guard, with its headquarters in Port-au-Prince, sent themselves first day covers. However, many of the recipients soaked the stamps off the covers, testified to by the many used copies showing a first day postmark of October 3, 1939.

Handcancel Types

Wasserman reports two types of handcancels:

Type "A": date in 3 lines—day, month and year in that order (Figure 1).

Type "B": date in 2 lines—day and month in one line, with the year below (Figure 2).

Jeannopoulos adds a third type: Type "C" which is similar to Type "B." Duplex type with oval killer containing the letter "H" (Figures 4 and 6). The lettering in the Type "C" circle appears to be slightly smaller than in Type "B."

Non-First Day Covers

Following the October 3, 1939 first day activity, the stamps went into hibernation. Large dealers had laid in sufficient stocks to last them for some time, and the advanced collectors had taken care of their immediate needs. Commercial covers are rarely found; covers other than first day are scarcer than the proverbial hen's teeth.

Figure 5 illustrates a cover postmarked October 6, 1939 sent by the noted philatelist, Leon Montes of Port-au-Prince, to Vahan Mozian of New York, a well-known dealer. The cover bears Type "A" cancels and is overfranked. The reverse of this cover, depicted in Figure 5A, exhibits circular and oval registration marks indicating its treatment as registered mail. Another cover, reported by Wasserman, is dated November 14, 1939. It has never been opened and is presumably philatelic.



Figure 4. Cover with Type "C" duplex hand cancel and letter "H" in killer oval. At left are blue rubberstamped cachets of the Haiti Olympic Committee and the Bureau of Physical Education.

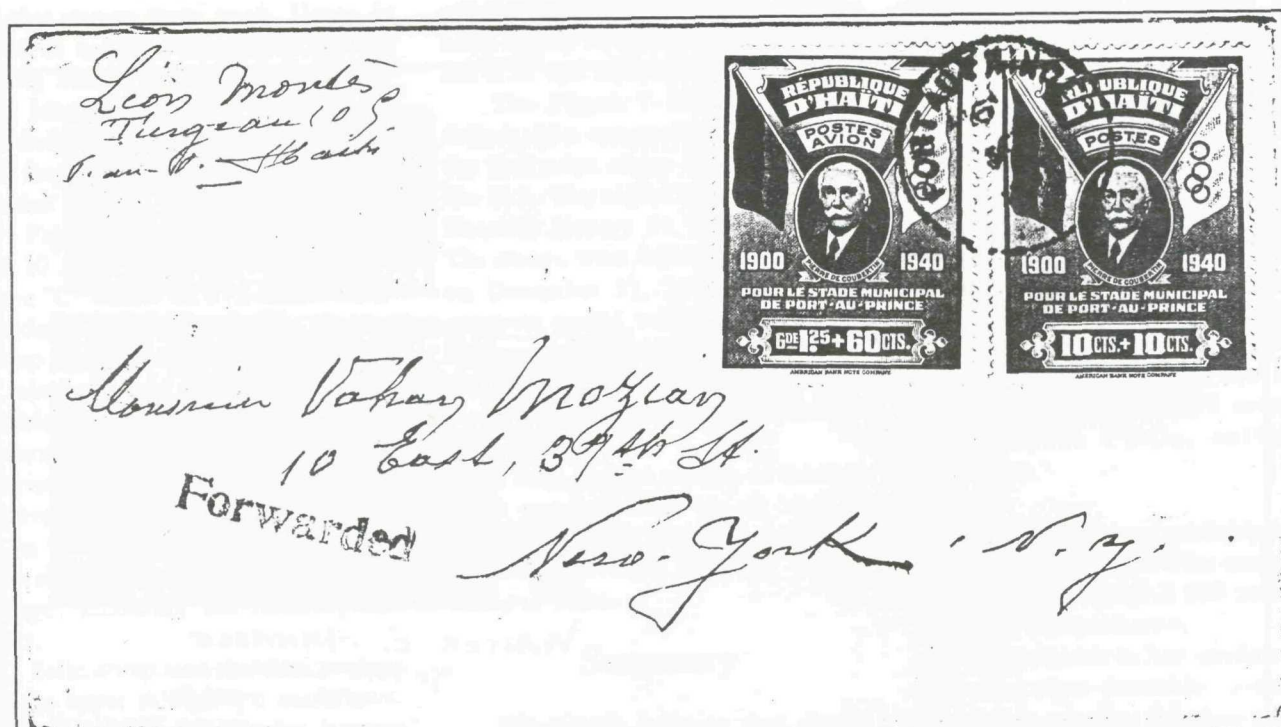


Figure 5. Cover to Vahan Mozian, a New York stamp dealer. Sent by Leon Montes.

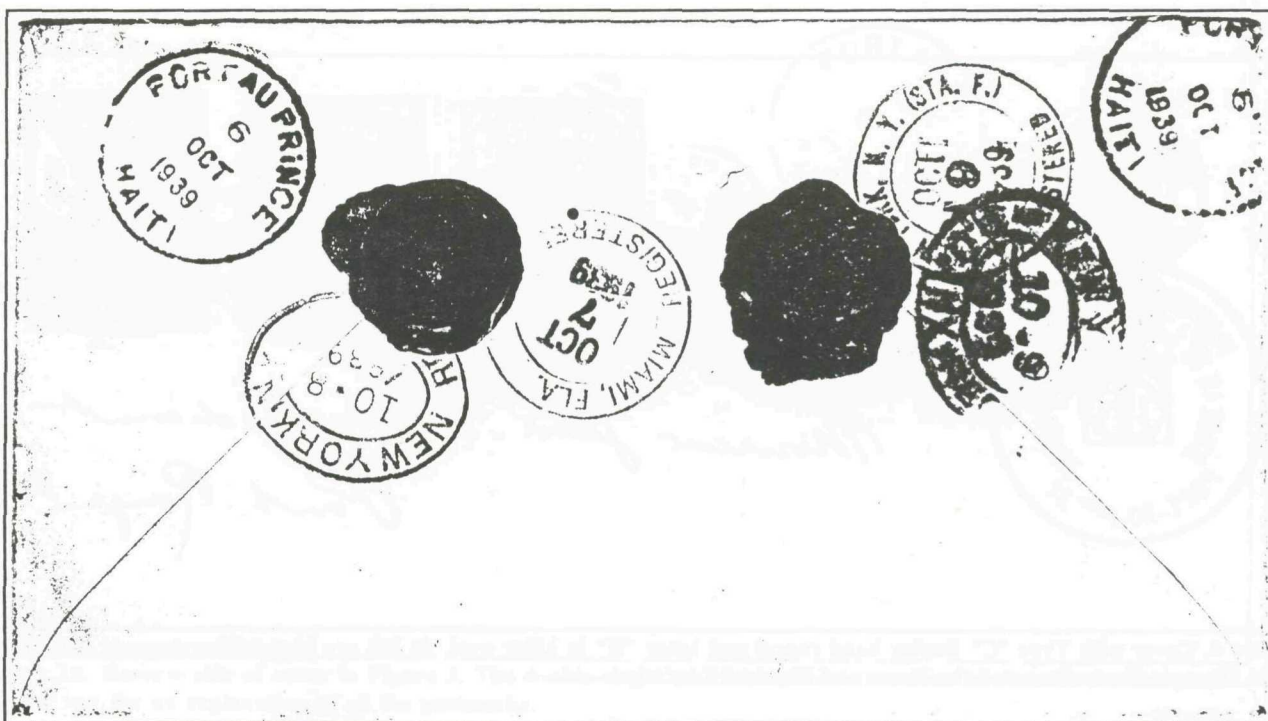


Figure 5A. Reverse side of cover in Figure 5. Large blobs are wax seals. Receiving postmarks show treatment as registered mail in the U.S.A.

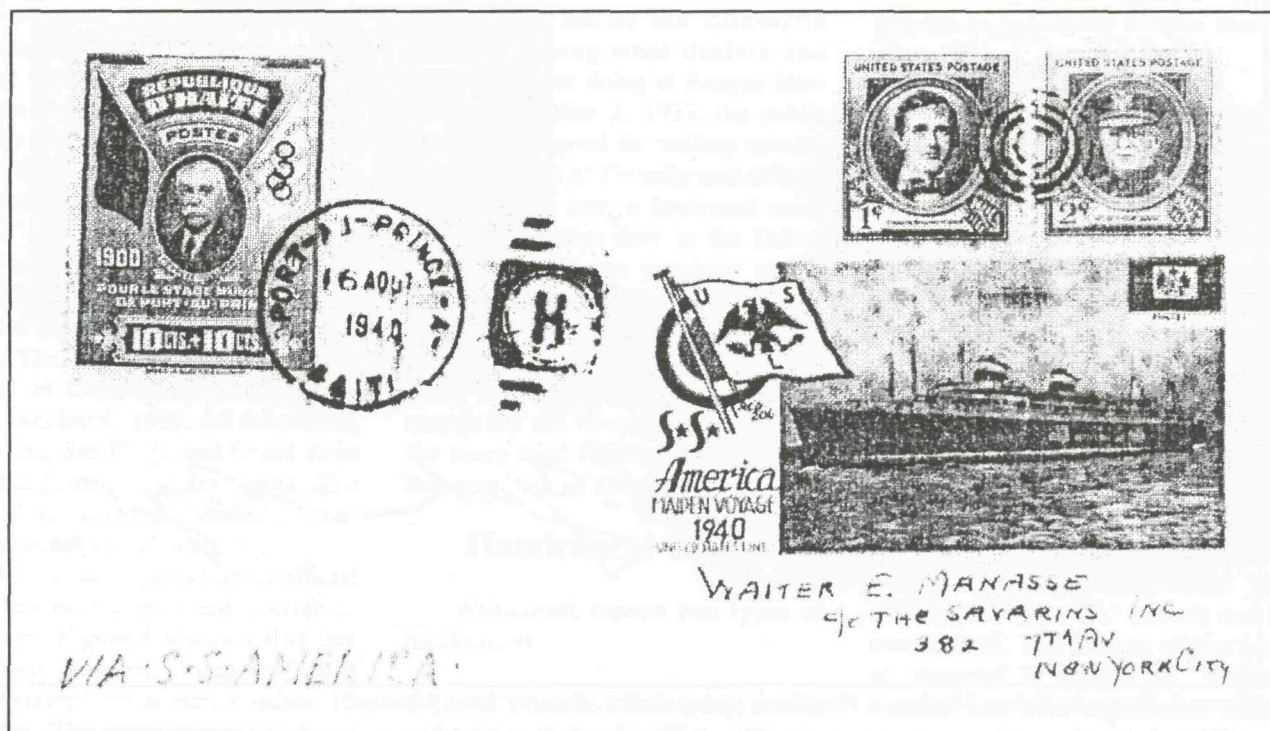


Figure 6. Combination cover addressed to New York City. Posted after period of validity ended December 31, 1939.



Figure 7. Late use, probably commercial, in January 1941. The stamp paid the boat rate to the U.S.

As time went on, fewer and fewer of the stamps were used. Usage in 1940 is scarce. Wasserman reports seeing stamps postmarked in February, May and June, but none later. It is likely that those stamps used after the first day were actually purchased on that day and used later.

Figure 6 illustrates a cover with the 10 + 10 Coubertin stamp with a Type "C" cancel on a "S.S. America" maiden voyage cover. The Haitian stamp is postmarked August 16, 1940, a relatively late usage. There is a double ring arrival handcancel on the reverse reading: New York, N.Y. Christchurch St. Annex, General Delivery/ August 22, 1940. The cachet in red and blue is very colorful. The colors are mixed throughout the design, including the lettering and flags.

Sellers explains the dual postage on the cover in Figure 6 as follows: "The 'S.S. America' Maiden Voyage cover was posted in New York originally with U.S. postage. It was put off ship in Haiti, the Haitian stamp added, and the cover returned to the U.S. These covers were sent by arrangement with the shipping line and I

believe a similar situation occurred in other countries where their stamps were added to covers originating in the U.S. and the covers returned."

The Figure 7 illustration, from Sellers, is a commercial cover using the low value stamp on boat mail to the U.S. The cancel is a roller type. Note the January 14, 1941 postmark. The stamps were withdrawn from sale on December 31, 1939. The cover suggests postal validity beyond the closing date of sale. Is this perhaps the latest known, probably commercial, use of any of the Coubertin stamps?

I have seen no reports of the high value correctly used on air mail to Europe. Indeed, I have seen no covers addressed to other than the United States or Haiti.

Summary

Wasserman believes that almost all covers with the Coubertin issue fall into three categories:

1. handback covers
2. local covers
3. covers to the United States

Virtually all are first day covers; very few exist on commercial mail. Neither Wasserman nor Sellers recall seeing any covers to any other countries. Many of the covers to the U.S. were not backstamped. Uses of the Coubertin stamps in combination with other stamps of Haiti are unknown.

The Harmer's auction of the Ira Seebacher collection in September 1986 listed the following lot:

"Haiti: Semi-postal; 1939 Coubertin, complete set, including Air Post semi-postals, plus 4 extras, on 3 covers to U.S., 2 are FDCs, estimate \$197.50+."

The estimate was probably based on the catalog values of the stamps off cover. The lot realized \$95 including the buyer's commission.

While covers in fine condition are probably more desirable, collectors might also consider the used set with clear first day postmarks. Cancellations of cities other than Port-au-Prince would be an exceptional find. Late date postmarks also have special interest. □

The De Coubertin Stamp Which Was Never Issued

by Edward B. Epstein

Two of five sheets of thumbnail sketches, so named due their small size, were used in the preparation of the October 12, 1968 Mexico City Olympic Games postage stamp issues. These drawings from my collection may be compared to thinking with a pen on paper during which time an artists' ideas are visually transformed into doodles. To quote Lance Wyman, the designer of the issue, "the series shows a coordination, or bringing together, of the themes and images on single sheets which would be developed at a later date." In addition to the quick, rough embryonic representations of the designs, the sheets are of extreme interest because they also show ideas which would later be eliminated from the issued set.

Among the designs on Sheet #2 (Figure 1), dated February 12, 1968 by the designer, is a two peso air mail, square format sketch (second row, left design) picturing a partially silhouetted profile of Pierre de Coubertin on the right edge. Also included in this circled Number 8 sketch, which is captioned "Baron" beneath it, are lines radiating from the five Olympic Rings.

During an interview with Lance Wyman, he explained the concept of the radiating lines which characterized the designs of the issued set. Based on pre-Columbian design motifs, Wyman stated that "the outward lines achieved a radiating effect which expressed an outward flow of waves, which I hope suggests communication."

A far different approach for the de Coubertin idea is evidenced in another series of magic marker sketches on Sheet #6 (Figure 2). This later group, according to the designer, was created following the February 12 sheet. For the de Coubertin stamp, the square format was changed to a rectangle. The vertical design (second row, fourth from left), which has an "X" across it, shows a complete profile of the Baron with radiating lines outlining the de Coubertin silhouette.

According to Lance Wyman, the placement of the profile in the center of the stamp with the lines radiating from it was visually more appealing. The five Olympic Rings from the first sketch were eliminated from the second idea because the lines and rings resulted in a confusing design.

Lance Wyman stated that the Pierre de Coubertin stamp proposal was further refined and presented with the other drawings for approval. Due to the large number of values for this issue (ten), the de Coubertin design was rejected during the selection of ideas for final development. □

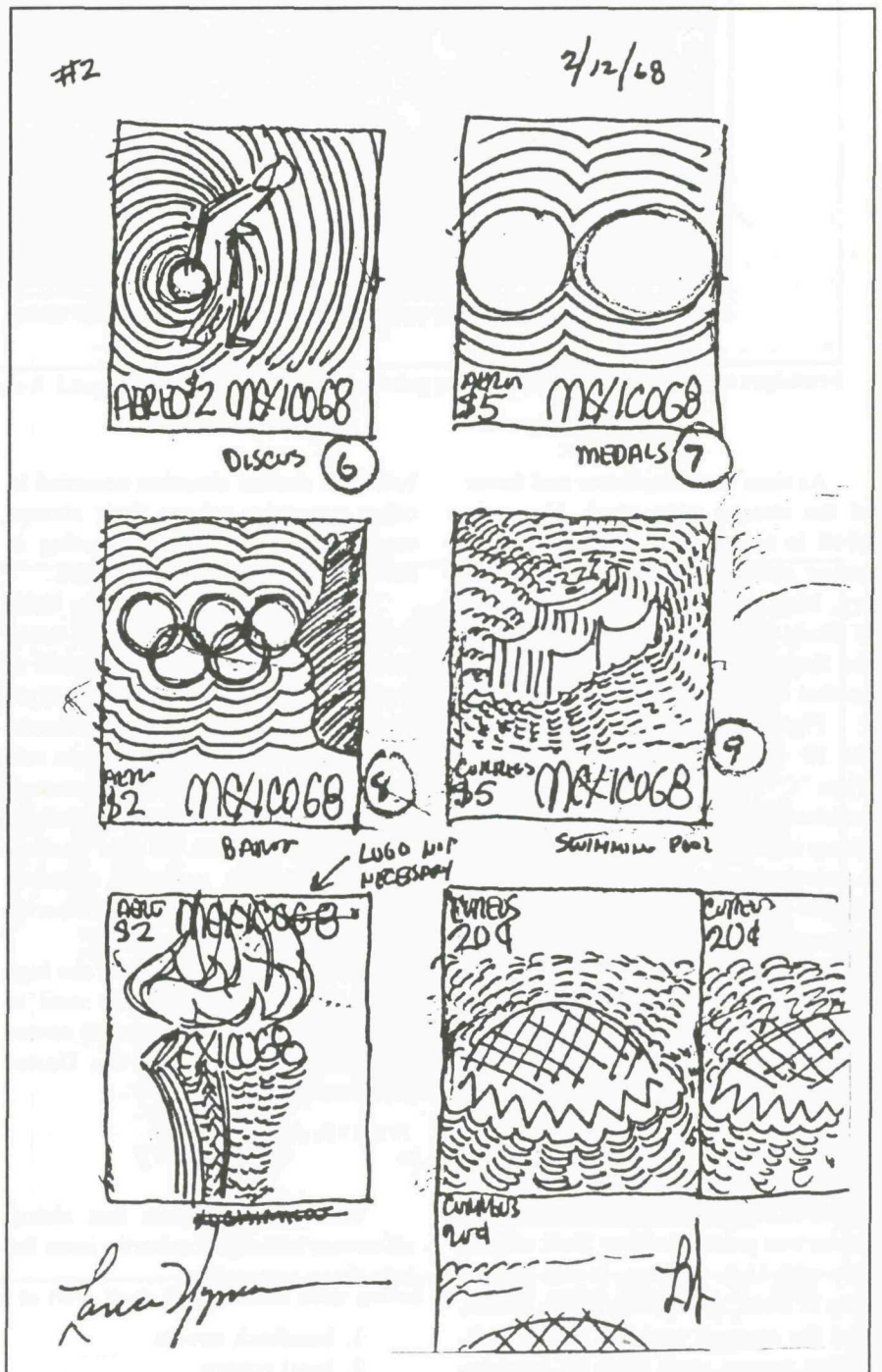


Figure 1. Sheet #2 showing Lance Wyman's first sketch for a de Coubertin stamp (second row, left) in his series for the 1968 Mexico City Olympic Games.

F6

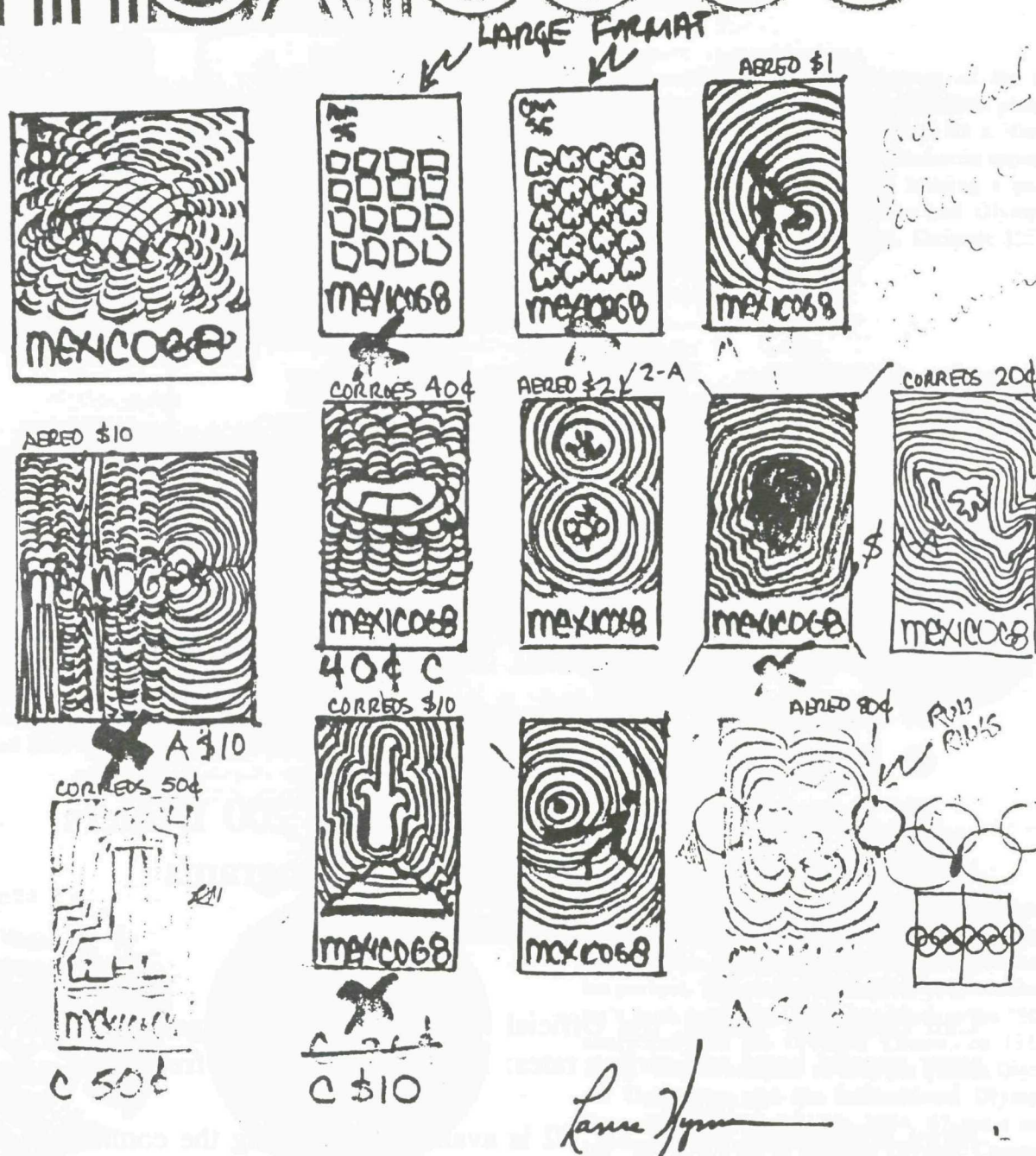


Figure 2. Sheet #6 shows a revised, and subsequently rejected, version of the de Coubertin stamp (second row, fourth from left).

2nd International Convention of Sports Philatelists International

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World Columbian Stamp Exposition '92
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Coubertin Commemorative Medals

by Ingrid O'Neil
edited by Mark Maestrone

Because of his close connection to the Olympic Games, Pierre de Coubertin has often been the subject of commemorative medals. SPI member Ingrid O'Neil has had the opportunity to offer many of these medals in her auctions. She selected some of the more interesting items and allowed us to reproduce them.



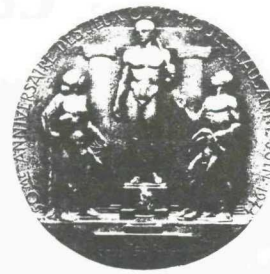
France commemorated the 20TH anniversary of the re-establishment of the Olympic Games with this silver plaque issued in Paris in 1914. The plaque measures 53 x 70mm and was designed by Kautsch. A bust of Coubertin appears at left. On the opposite side, an angel holding a palm branch frames a list of Olympic Games and Olympic Congresses held between 1894 and 1916. Estimate \$250. Realized \$297.

The Centenary of Pierre de Coubertin's birth in 1963 provided the opportunity for many countries to salute the founder of the Modern Olympic Games. Germany noted this event on the silver medal by Holl (at right), measuring 40mm in diameter. De Coubertin is depicted on one side, and his famous "Olympic Creed" is partially quoted on the reverse: "The important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the essential thing in life is not to have conquered but to have fought well." Estimated \$55. Realized \$85.



France, the home of de Coubertin's birth, minted a goldplated medal in 1963 as well (at left). Measuring 66mm in diameter, the obverse reproduces his portrait. The reverse notes 1963 as de Coubertin's birth centenary. Also inscribed is the "50TH anniversary of the Olympic Committee 1911-1961." This is curious, as both the French Olympic Committee and the International Olympic Committee were founded in 1894, 67 years earlier. The IOC's list of National Olympic Committees shows no committee as having been founded in 1911! Estimate \$150. Realized \$150.

Medals depicting de Coubertin have also been issued during celebrations of the Games or meetings of the IOC. With the world at war in 1944, the Olympic competitions had been cancelled. Nevertheless, a very handsome medal was issued that year to mark the 50TH anniversary of the reestablishment of the Games in 1896. The commemorative medal by Strindberg shown at right, is 50mm in diameter. Coubertin is portrayed on one side, while the other shows a nude victorious athlete from ancient times flanked by admirers. The medal was released in Lausanne, Switzerland. Estimate \$250. Realized \$250.



Two medals were minted for the 1972 Olympic Games held in Munich, Germany. The medal at left counterposes Pelops, founder of the ancient Olympic Games in 776 B.C. and de Coubertin, renovator of the Games in 1896. The busts of these gentlemen appear against the background of the Acropolis in Athens. The copper-nickel medal is 61mm, and was issued by W. Beumer. Estimate \$95. Realized \$140.

At right is an 18mm medal in gold also released at the 1972 Munich Olympics. The names of the Olympic cities from 1896 onward surround de Coubertin's bust. The reverse (not illustrated) shows runners before a skyline of the city. This medal, in proof condition, is scarce. Estimate \$100. Realized \$125.



International Olympic Committee Congresses are held periodically, usually once every decade. The most recent took place in Baden-Baden, Germany in 1981. The commemorative medal for this 11TH Olympic Congress depicted Pierre de Coubertin against the background of the official logo of the congress. The reverse is a stylized rendering of the Olympic Rings and the year "1981." Struck in silver, the 45mm medal is by Huster. Estimated \$85. Unsold.



Finally, de Coubertin medals have been issued by various national sporting societies. The East German Society to Further the Olympic Idea produced a medal in 1974 portraying a rather jowly de Coubertin. The piece measures 40mm in diameter and is made of cupro-nickel. Estimate \$45. Realized \$50.

A Pierre de Coubertin Thematic Exhibit

After having seen some of the advanced drafts of the material for this special issue devoted to Pierre de Coubertin and along with related information that I have acquired in my own research for my 1936 Olympic Games thematic exhibit, it has become readily obvious that the subject of de Coubertin is a fertile field for a thematic exhibit. It was at the urging of Sherwin Podolsky that I undertake the task of discussing the development of such an exhibit.

I will attempt to illustrate that such an exhibit can involve much more than the philatelic issues depicting only Coubertin. His influence and contributions to the Olympic movement spanned many years and involved much travel, during which time he interfaced with many famous personalities and government officials. With some creativity, it is possible to philatelically document the man, his times, his travels, his accomplishments and finally, the people involved.

Coubertin was born in Paris January 1, 1863, and was deeply affected by his country's defeat by Germany in the wars from 1870-81. He became preoccupied in searching for educational reforms which would instill national pride and promote physical adeptness in young Frenchmen. It has been said that he was somewhat militaristic and wanted to do his part to ensure that France won the next war. Somewhere along the way, he got waylaid by the Greeks and moved along to a more rewarding "hobby" for which he will forever be remembered.

I strongly recommend reading *Olympic Memoirs* by Pierre de Coubertin. These memoirs were originally published in 1931 when Coubertin was 69 years of age. By this time, he could look back and review his accomplishments in sufficient perspective, having been Secretary and eventually President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) during the period 1895-1925. An English language version of the publication was issued by the IOC in 1979 and includes comments by his great-nephew, Geoffrey de Navacelle.

A good starting place for development of a plan is a summary prepared by de Navacelle and included in the 1979 publication.

I have used portions of his summary in preparing this "strawman" Exhibit Plan which is obviously too extensive to be tackled without some whittling down and modifying. Nevertheless, I believe that it serves to illustrate the broad aspects that could be incorporated into such a thematic. During the period covered by the outline, Coubertin diligently guided and manipulated events to ensure that his objectives relative to Olympism were achieved. The outline suggests many opportunities for exploration regarding the

places, events, and personalities with which Coubertin was involved. Such elements have a definite place in a Coubertin thematic as long as they are connected relevant to the man and his activities.

I cannot guarantee that one will find suitable philatelic material to illustrate each element of my outline. That challenge is part of the sweat and fun that some of us experience in preparing exhibits. There is nothing wrong with reworking an outline to accommodate what is currently available. Patience pays off. I have long hoped for the day that certain athletes and officials would be philatelically commemorated to allow inclusion in my 1936 Olympics exhibit. For years, I was unable to mention Dr. Theodor Lewald, the Secretary of the German Olympic Committee, who played such an important and controversial role in the staging of the 1936 Games. In November of this year, he was finally recognized by a special cancellation.

Only the preparer of the exhibit is able to develop an acceptable Plan of Exhibit in accordance with his personal decisions as to scope, relevancy, and availability of suitable material. Now, on to my "strawman" outline...

Plan of Exhibit

- 1.0 The Early Years
 - 1.1 Birth
 - 1.2 Education
 - 1.3 Sports Interests
 - 1.4 Philosophical Outlook
 - 1.5 Vocation
- 2.0 Revival of the Olympic Games
 - 2.1 1892 Paris Conference
 - 2.2 Proposing the Revival
 - 2.3 U.S. and London Visits (1893-1894)
 - 2.4 1894 Paris Congress: Athens Chosen
 - 2.5 Appointed IOC Secretary
- 3.0 The First Olympiad (Athens 1896)
 - 3.1 Overcoming the Obstacles
 - 3.2 Reconstruction of the Stadium
 - 3.3 Participants
 - 3.4 The Program
- 4.0 The Second Olympiad (Paris 1900)
 - 4.1 The Olympic Congress at Le Havre (1897)
 - 4.2 Convincing the French
 - 4.3 Paris Universal Exhibition
 - 4.4 Participants
 - 4.5 The Program

- 5.0 The Third Olympiad (St. Louis 1904)
 - 5.1 First Proposal
 - 5.2 IOC Accepts Chicago as Venue
 - 5.3 Venue Changed to St. Louis
 - 5.4 IOC London Meeting (1904)
 - 5.5 St. Louis Games
 - 5.6 Participants
 - 5.7 The Program
- 6.0 The 1905 Olympic Congress (Brussels)
 - 6.1 Plans for the 4TH Olympiad in Rome
 - 6.2 Negotiations with the Vatican
 - 6.3 Other Achievements
- 7.0 Inclusion of Literature and Arts
 - 7.1 Founded in Ancient Games
 - 7.2 Consultative Conference on Art, Letter and Sports at Athens (1906)
 - 7.3 IOC Accepts Literature and Arts for Competition
- 8.0 The Fourth Olympiad (London 1908)
 - 8.1 Transfer of Games from Rome to London
 - 8.2 Use of Metric System at Issue
 - 8.3 Participants
 - 8.4 The Program
- 9.0 The IOC Meeting in Berlin (1909)
 - 9.1 Examination of Amateurism
 - 9.2 Berlin Withdraws Candidature for 1912 Games
 - 9.3 Program for 1912 Games in Stockholm Developed
- 10.0 The IOC Meeting at Budapest (1911)
 - 10.1 Events Added to 1912 Games (Equestrian and Pentathlon)
 - 10.2 Arts Competitions Activated
- 11.0 The Fifth Olympiad (Stockholm 1912)
 - 11.1 Diplomatic Difficulties
 - 11.2 Participants
 - 11.3 The Program
- 12.0 The 20TH Anniversary of the Games (Paris 1914)
 - 12.1 Coubertin Presses France to Host Games
 - 12.2 More Obstacles: The French Cabinet Falls
 - 12.3 Success at Last
 - 12.4 Introduction of Olympic Flag
 - 12.5 Participants
 - 12.6 The Program
- 13.0 The Four War Years
 - 13.1 Coubertin Shelves Plan to Retire
 - 13.2 Lausanne Becomes Administrative Center
- 14.0 The Seventh Olympiad (Antwerp 1920)
 - 14.1 Budapest and Antwerp Candidates
 - 14.2 Antwerp Reaffirms Bid After War
 - 14.3 Participation of "Enemy" at Issue
 - 14.4 Participants
 - 14.5 The Program
- 15.0 The 1921 Maneuver at Lausanne
 - 15.1 Attempts to Take Over IOC
 - 15.2 Calming National Differences
 - 15.3 Award of 1924 and 1928 Games
- 16.0 Rome IOC Session (1923)
 - 16.1 Concept of Regional Games Discussed
 - 16.2 1932 Games Awarded to Los Angeles
- 17.0 The Eighth Olympiad (Paris 1924)
 - 17.1 More Organizational Problems
 - 17.2 Less Than Satisfactory Results
 - 17.3 Participants
 - 17.4 The Program
- 18.0 The IOC Congress at Prague (1925)
 - 18.1 Coubertin Retires
 - 18.2 Baillet-Latour Elected to IOC Presidency
- 19.0 The Legacy
 - 19.1 Monument Dedicated at Olympia (1927)
 - 19.2 Death
 - 19.3 Legends

If other readers of this column have suggestions relative to preparing an exhibit on Pierre de Coubertin, I would be glad to include your comments in a future issue.

Basketball Material Wanted

New member Pere Magrane of Spain is a worldwide collector of basketball thematic material including stamps, FDCs, souvenir sheets, meters, handcancels, etc. He would like to sell or trade his other sports material for basketball items. Pere can correspond in English. Please contact him at:

Mr. Pere Magrane
Avgda. Vall d'Aran, 50 - El Pinar
43206-Reus/Catalunya
Spain

1992 Winter Olympics Cachet Available

The Clinton Stamp Club has prepared a cacheted cover honoring the Winter Olympics to be sold at its annual show, CLINTPEX 92, on February 23, 1992. The cachet depicts a hockey player and may be purchased for \$1.00 plus a #10 self-addressed stamped envelope from: Cachet Chairman, Clinton Stamp Club, P.O. Box 91, Clinton, CT 06413.

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Correspondence with F. Burton Sellers, Barbara Mueller, Harold Wasserman, Peter Jeannopoulos, K. Bileski, Leo Malz and Ossi Virtanen, 1990-91.

Harold Wasserman also gives credit to his sources of information: the book by Leon Montes listed (above), Jan L. Montes (personal correspondence 1968), and Felix Salnave (personal correspondence 1968 and 1971). M. Salnave held the position "Chef du Bureau des Timbres Administration Generale des Contributions, Port-au-Prince, Haiti."

William Sigerson of the APS Translation Service provided a translation of the chapter in Leon Montes' book, pages 184-91, dealing with the 1939 Coubertin stamps. Mark Maestroni provided a translation dealing with the same issue on page 161.

F. Burton Sellers provided photocopies of clippings of articles dealing with the 1958 Haiti Sylvio Cator stamps.

Readers wishing to learn more about the production of a stamp's design are referred to Williams. L.N., *Fundamentals of Philately*. State College, PA: American Philatelic Society, 1990 (Revised Edition). Pages 118 and 127-30 discuss the dies for the 1924 France Olympic stamps.

Golf Material Wanted

Golf topical stamps and covers with tournament cancellations for sale or trade. Write or call for listings.

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Bungee Jumping Anyone?

We have had a request from a non-member for information on bungee jumping philatelic material. Any member who has information on this new craze should write to Owen L. Cranmer, PO Box 456, Clarksdale, AZ 86324. You might also encourage Owen to become a member of SPI!

News of Our Members

by Clem Reiss & Dorothy Weihrauch

New Members

- 1794R Arthur R. Clark, PO Box 318, Hanover, PA 17331.
A general collector with special interest in baseball, Olympics, football & golf. (Estus)
- 1795R Stanley S. Kim, 657 Oakland Ave., #201, Oakland, CA 94611. Fluent in Korean, he collects only Olympics. (Jones)
- 1796R Larry W. Stiles, 1505 N. Carolwood Blvd., Fern Park, FL 32730. He is retired and collects only Olympics. (Jones)
- 1797R Bernard F. McGovern, 2107 Marianna St., Tampa, FL 33612. He is a health administrator. He collects fencing stamps, covers & cancels. (Reiss)
- 1798R Mrs. June Welford, Borobudur, International Hotel Apt. 104, PO Box 1329, Jakarta, Indonesia. She is fluent in Indonesian and a tennis director collecting tennis, golf, Olympics, soccer & equestrian. (Estus)
- 1799R Daniel J. Siesel, PO Box 336, Broomall, PA 19008.
He is an attorney and collects only baseball. (Reiss)
- 1800R Conde R. Thorn, 1934 Quail Run Loop NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122. A hydrologist who collects specifically bicycling. (Jones)
- 1801R Donald W. Bowman, 3548 N. Valley St., Arlington, VA 22207. He is retired. (Waters)
- 1802R Michael Wiggins, 401 W. 5th., Minneapolis, KS 67467. He is an executive recruiter who collects baseball. (Jones)
- 1803R Stan Hansen, RR1 Golden Beach Rd., Bracebridge, Ont. P1L 1W8 Canada. He is a R & D engineer and general collector. His interests are ice hockey, Olympics and soccer. (Jones)
- 1804R Robert Mummert, 601 Greendale Rd., York, PA 17403. He is an accountant and collects tennis. (La Porta)
- 1805R Elizabeth A. Webb, 605 Barnes Ave., Syracuse, NY 13207. She is a legal secretary and collects sailing & power boats. (Jones)
- 1806R Douglas A. Morehouse, 10 Cypress Rd., Somerset, NJ 08873. A director of admissions and a general collector specializing in baseball stamps & cancels. (Jones)
- 1807R Susan Hutchinson, 4625 Oak Grove Dr., Flintridge, CA 91011. She is a horse trainer who collects equestrian sports and horse racing. She is interested in trading sports stamps for equestrian material. (Podolsky)

New Addresses

James Carlin, 4540 Bee Ridge Rd., Sarasota, FL 34233
Carol A. Costa, 4351 Foxton, Dayton, OH 45414-3950
Brian Eatough, 231 Parsons St., Brighton, MA 02135-1870
John Everett, 448 Waymarket, Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Arthur Mueller, 3510 Turtle Creek Blvd., #48, Dallas, TX 75219-5543

George Waffle, 284 Vanderbilt Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205
Dan Walsh, 205 Caracura Dr., Buda, TX 78610
Rich Zelachowski, 220 Centre Ave., Secaucus, NJ 07094

Sponsor Membership

E. Joseph McConnell, Monroe, NY

Dropped—No Forwarding Address

Edward Keeley, Dekalb, IL
Patrick Kennedy, S. Burlington, VT
Kazimierz Kuzmin, Glen Cove, NY
Eugene V. Pittner, Fremont, CA (because of poor health)

Deceased

Jaroslav Justyn, Czechoslovakia (passed away in July 1991)

Total Membership August 10, 1991	430
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Deceased	-1
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New Stamp Issues

by Brian Bjorgo

Information on this list has been obtained from the following sources: *Linn's*, *STAMPS*, *Stamp Collector*, *Mekeels*, *Stamp Wholesaler*, and *Scott's Monthly Journal* between 1 January 1991 and 30 June 1991. As additional information on previously reported sets is made available (e.g. Scott Catalogue numbers or the subject of a stamp's design), it will appear in this column keyed by a double asterisk (**).

Korea (PDR): 14 July 1990, ASIAN GAMES. 10c (panda emblem), 30c (various athletes), 40c (rings emblem of games), and 10c s/s (panda emblem).

8 August 1990, ITALIA '90 World Cup Soccer. Germany's Victory: six values and s/s each showing the Italia '90 emblem, the German flag and the trophy. 15c (world globe on soccer balls), 20c (Jules Rimet), 25c (soccer ball and colors of the Italian flag), 30c (Olympic stadium in Rome), 35c (goalkeeper), 40c (emblem of the German Soccer Association), 80c s/s (goalkeeper and emblem of the German Soccer Association).

Laos: 10 January 1990, ITALIA '90 World Cup Soccer. Six values and s/s depicting soccer scenes: 10, 15, 20, 25, 45, 105 and 95k s/s.

1990, BARCELONA '92 Summer Olympic Games. 10k (basketball), 30k (hurdles), 45k (high jump), 50k (cycling), 60k (javelin), 90k (tennis), and 95k s/s (rhythmic gymnastics).

1990, ALBERTVILLE '92 Winter Olympic Games. 10k (speed skating), 25k (cross-country skiing), 30k (slalom), 35k luge), 80k (ice dancing), 90k (biathlon), and 95k s/s (hockey).

Maldives: 27 December 1990, ITALIA '90 World Cup Soccer. 1, 2.50, 5, 10 and two 18 s/s depicting players from participating countries (Netherlands, England, Brazil, USSR, Austria and South Korea). Scott #1486-91.

11 March 1991, OLYMPICS. 50L (Greek runner Pheidippides, Olympic rings, mountain road from the first marathon run of the Olympic Games).

Malta: 8 June 1990, ITALIA '90 World Cup Soccer. 5c (soccer ball), 10c (flags), 14c (hands and goal net).

Marshall Islands: 6 January 1991, HORSESHOES. 30c (people pitching horseshoes). Scott #274.

Mauritania: 1990, BARCELONA '92 Summer Olympic Games. 5u (equestrian), 50u (archery), 60u (hammer

throw), 75u (field hockey), 90u (handball), 220u (table tennis), and 150u s/s (runner on stamp-satellite, equestrian events and stadium in margin). Scott #663-9.

Mexico: 20 November 1990, 16TH CENTRAL & GARRIB-BEAN GAMES. Se-tenant strip of four 750p stamps: cat mascots, two different designs depicting Mayan ball players, ball court and stone ring. Scott #1670-73, 1673a.

Monaco: 26 April 1991, BARCELONA & ALBERTVILLE '92 Summer & Winter Olympic Games. Se-tenant pairs of 3f and 4f (cross-country skiers, sculpture and Olympic rings), se-tenant pairs of 3f and 5f (runners, sculpture, view of Barcelona and Olympic rings).

Netherlands Antilles: 13 June 1990, Brion Trappers SOCCER Club. Semi-postal, 65 + 30c (logo and soccer ball).

New Zealand: 6 March 1991, New Zealand Football (SOCCER) Association Centennial. Se-tenant pair of 80c stamps (goal, 5 players and referee). Scott #1022, a, b.

Nicaragua: 14 February 1990, BARCELONA '92 Summer Olympic Games. 500c (javelin thrower), 1,000c (jumper), 5,000c (basketball), 10,000c (gymnast), 30,000c (cyclist), 100,000c (boxers), and 75,000c s/s (soccer).

10 March 1990, ALBERTVILLE '92 Winter Olympic Games. 500c (ski jumper), 1,000c (skier), 3,000 (figure skater), 5,000c (speed skater), 10,000c (cross-country skier), 30,000 (cross-country skier), 100,000 (ice hockey), and 75,000c s/s (two-man bobsled).

1990, ITALIA '90 World Cup Soccer. 500c, 1,000c, 3,000c, 5,000c, 10,000c, 30,000c, 100,000c and 75,000c s/s depicting soccer scenes.

Niger: 28 March 1990, ALBERTVILLE '92 Winter Olympic Games. 110f, 300f, 500f, 600f. No design data available.

Paraguay: 4 April 1991, ITALIA '90 World Cup Soccer. Silver overprint noting that the 1994 World Cup will be held in the USA: se-tenant strip of 1g, 2g, 3g, and 5g. S/S contains four 60c stamps and five labels.

Peru: 19 October 1990, FOURTH SOUTH AMERICAN RECREATIONAL GAMES. 110,000I (drawing of Indian boy with torch), 280,000I (rifleman), 290,000I (runner), 300,000I (soccer players). Scott #993-6.

5 February 1991, 14TH SOUTH AMERICAN GAMES. 560,000I (swimming), 580,000 (horse jumping), 600,000I (sailing), and 620,000I (tennis). Scott #1000-3.

Romania: 19 March 1990, ITALIA '90 World Cup Soccer. 50b, 1.50L, 2L, 3L, 4L, 5L and 10L s/s each depicting various soccer players in action. Scott #3595-3600. No Number assigned to s/s.

St. Tome & Principe: 24 October 1989, ITALIA '90 World Cup Soccer. Se-tenant block of three 10d and one 20d (posters from 1962, 1950, 1982, and 1934), two 25d s/s (mascot, USA 1994 World Soccer Cup), one 50d s/s (design not reported).

24 October 1989, BARCELONA '92 Summer Olympic Games. Three 5d stamps (running, basketball, tennis), 35d (baseball), two 50d s/s (sailing), and four s/s each containing one stamp (design not reported).

St. Vincent: 23 July 1990, BASEBALL Records. Overprints on M/S Scott #1276: "Sixth No-Hitter, 11 June 90 Oakland Athletics" and "300TH Win, Milwaukee Brewers, July 31, 1990." Scott #1336-7.

18 October 1990, 1988 OLYMPIC GAMES Winners. Names of winners overprinted on Scott #1116-20, 1347-51: six values and two s/s (names and events not available).

15 January 1991, 25 Years of FOOTBALL SUPER BOWLS. 4 s/s each containing two 50c stamps (action photographs from the first 24 Super Bowls); s/s containing three 50c stamps (Vince Lombardi Trophy on one; other two stamps show team helmets and the logos of the National and American Conferences); 25 s/s each containing one \$2 stamp showing the theme art from each Super Bowl. Scott #1400-24 perf; #1425-49 imperf.

San Marino: 22 March 1991, BARCELONA '92 Summer Olympic Games. 400L, 600L and 2000L (each stamp shows a runner and building: Athens, San Marino, and Barcelona).

Senegal: 17 January 1991, 13TH Paris-Dakar CAR RALLY. 15f, 125f, 180f, 220f (cars depicted on first three values, with motorcycle on 220f). Scott #910-913.

Sierra Leone: 12 November 1990, BARCELONA '92 Summer Olympic Games. 5L (100m dash), 10L (4 x 400m relay), 20L (100m dash), 30L (weightlifting), 40L (freestyle wrestling), 80L (water polo), 150L (gymnastics), 200L (cycling), and two 400L s/s (welte-rweight boxing, Olympic flag in stadium). Scott #1274-83.

Singapore: 27 December 1989, Singapore Indoor STADIUM. 30c (north entrance), 75c (interior), and \$1 (east

entrance); s/s contains one of each value.

South Africa: 1 November 1990, SURFING. One value of set depicts surfer in Camps Bay. Scott #794.

Spain: 7 March 1991, BARCELONA '92 Summer Olympic Games. Semi-postals: 15+5p (pentathlon), 25+5P (canoeing), 45+5p (rowing). Scott #B177-9.

12 April 1991, BARCELONA '92 Summer Olympic Games. Children's Art: 25p depicts painting of symbolic sailboats, Olympic rings and emblem of the Barcelona 1992 Summer Olympics.

Tanzania: 19 November 1990, Record Breaking SPORTS EVENTS. 5/- (Soling Class yachting, 1988 Seoul Summer Olympics); 20/- (downhill skiing, 1988 Calgary Winter Olympic Games), 30/- (Ronan Pensec, 1990 Champion of the Tour de France), 40/- (24 hours of LeMans Endurance Race), 75/- (two-man bobsled, 1988 Calgary Winter Olympic Games), 100/- (Belgian Grand Prix, 5000cc Class), 250/- (the Brickyard of the Indy 500), 300/- (Power Boat Gold Cup Championship Racing), two 400/- (Enduro Racing for motorcycles, and Schneider Trophy awarded to winner of international aviation race over the ocean).

30 November 1990, BARCELONA '92 Summer Olympic Games. 5/- (men's archery), 10/- (women's gymnastics), 25/- (heavyweight boxing), 50/- (canoe K2 race), 100/- (men's volleyball), 150/- (men's gymnastics), 200/- (men's 4x100m relay race), 300/- (men's judo), and two 400/- s/s (men's 400m hurdles, men's cycling race). Scott #648-657.

Thailand: 12 January 1991, RECREATIONAL GAMES. National Children's Day: children playing with tops (2b). One value of four-value set. Scott #1379.

16 December 1990, SPORTS Welfare. Semi-postals: four 2b+1b (judo, archery, high jump, and windsurfing). Scott #B70-73.

Tonga: 1990, 1990 COMMONWEALTH GAMES. 42s (boxing), 57s (archery), \$1 (bowling), \$2 (swimming).

1990, SPORTS. King's Birthday overprints on Scott #668-71: 32s (pole vaulting), 57s (rower). Scott #744,746.

Turks & Caicos: December 1990, BARCELONA '92 Summer Olympic Games. 10c (kayaking), 25c (100m race), 75c (pole vaulting), \$1.25 (javelin), and \$2 s/s (baseball batter gripping his bat; in border is map of world with dots for all cities that have been host to modern Summer Olympiads beginning in 1896 in Athens and ending with 1988 Olympiad in Seoul, Korea). Scott #878-882.

Uganda: 25 February 1991, BARCELONA '92 Summer Olympic Games. 20/- (women's 100m hurdles in the heptathlon), 40/- (long jump), 125/- (table tennis), 250/- (soccer), 500/- (men's 800m race), two 1200/- s/s (opening ceremony, women's four by 100m relay race).

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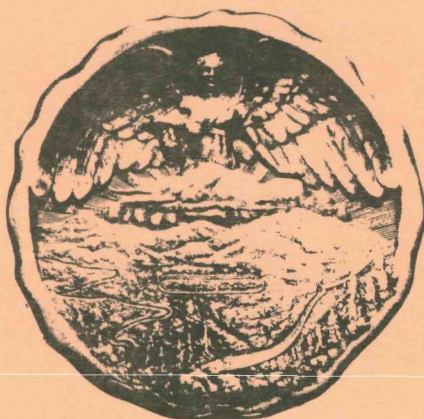
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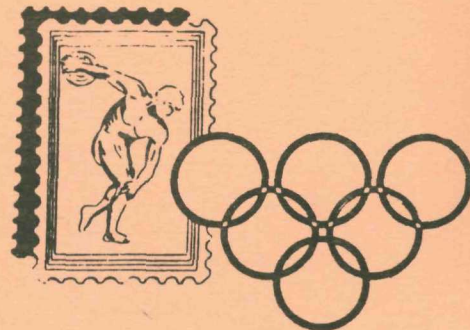
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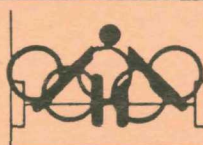


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