

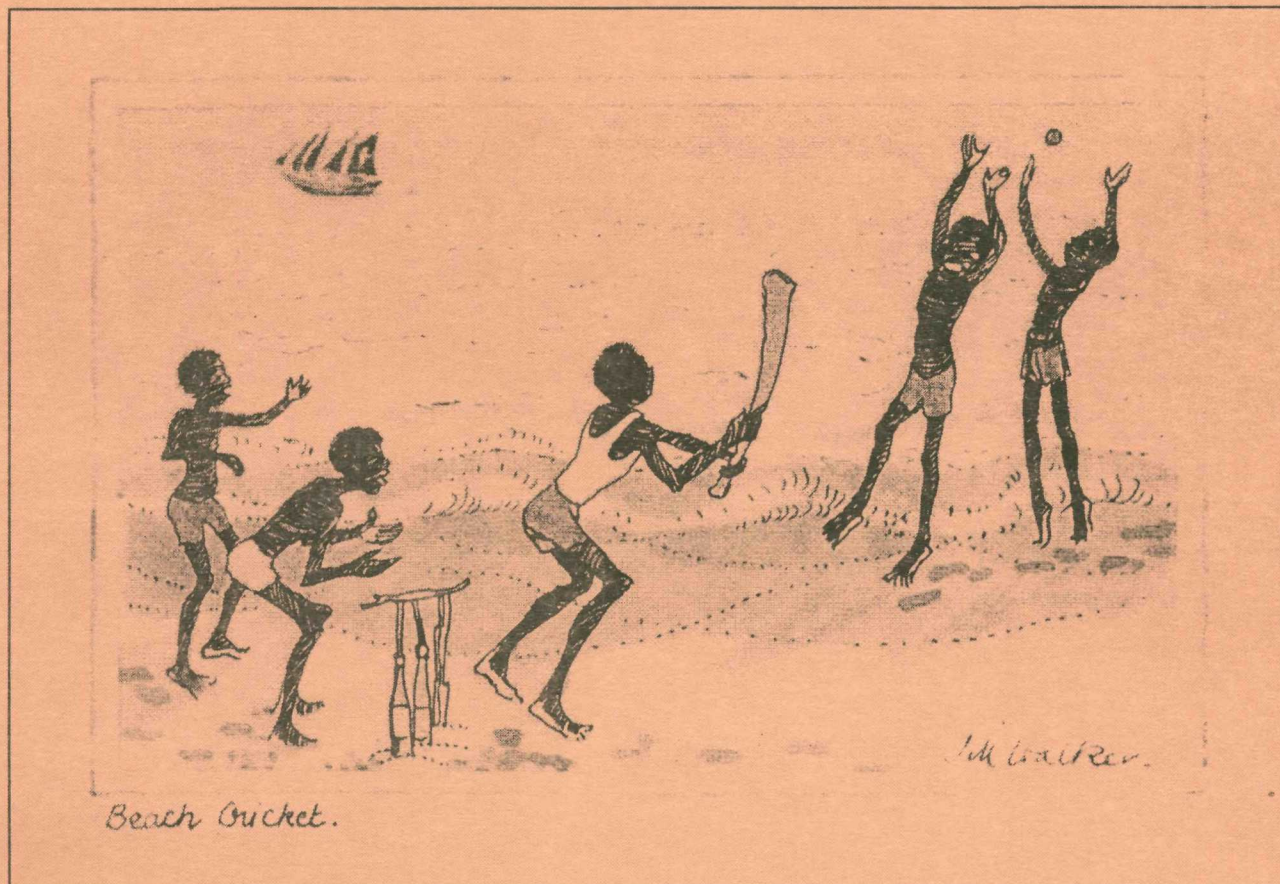
JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

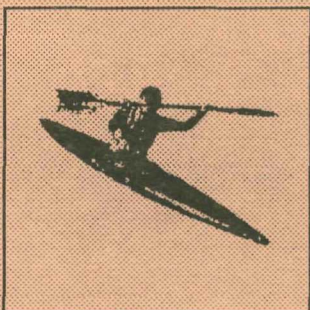
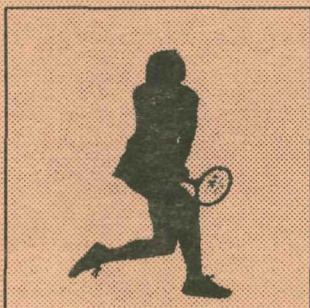
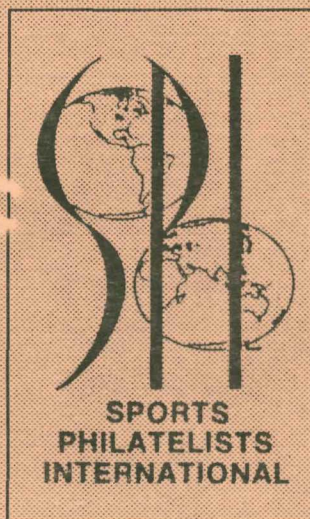
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MARCH-APRIL 1992

NUMBER 4

Cricket In The Caribbean





VOL. 30 NO. 4
MAR-APR 1992

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President's Message

by Mark C. Maestroni

I trust you will all forgive me for my unusually short message, but I'm rushing to finish this issue of *JSP* before the Winter Olympics begin next Saturday.

First, I would like to remind all of you of our 2nd International Convention which will take place during WCSE '92 in Chicago this May.

We will be kicking off our celebration with a cocktail reception on Friday, May 29 at 6:00 p.m. at the Radisson Suites Hotel across from the O'Hare Exposition Center.

The next day, our General Meeting will be held beginning at 10:00 a.m. Our featured speaker will be Mrs. Franceska Rapkin, chairman of the Society of Olympic Collectors in England. I hope you will all be able to attend, as I am sure her talk will be most interesting.

For those that may have missed our reservation coupon in the last issue, another is enclosed.

It is important that you return this to us, so that we may have a good idea of the number of members to expect. Despite the recession, I hope that each of you can make a donation of \$5 to help defray our entertainment costs.

On other business, our Constitution Revision Committee, comprised of Hugh Gottfried, Bill Barlow, and Winston Brown, is hard at work. They hope to have their revisions ready to be ratified by the membership in this fall's elections.

Speaking of elections, although we have received no volunteers for the Nomination Committee, I am declaring nominations open. Any member in good standing may write to me with their nominations, which close on May 1.

Finally, John MacAlpine has stepped forward to try his hand at being Advertising Manager.

See you all in Chicago this May! And don't forget to mail in your coupons and donations.

2nd International Convention of Sports Philatelists International

To be held during WCSE '92
May 22-31, 1992, O'Hare Exposition Center

Schedule of Events

Cocktail Reception, Friday, May 29 at 6:00 p.m.
Radisson Suites Hotel

General Meeting, Saturday, May 30 at 10:00 a.m.
Radisson Suites Hotel

First Basketball Cancellation Confirmed

On page 29 of the *Journal of Sports Philately*, Vol. 30, No. 2 [November/December 1991], there appears a 1933 cover bearing a pictorial basketball cancellation. This cover rests in my collection and as far as I can discover it is the only known one.

Both Luciano Calenda of Italy, who is the number one basketball collector in the world, and I agree that this is indeed a basketball cancellation. Luciano has researched it with many of his colleagues from both Europe and Asia.

Last September, while in Beijing, China, for the 100TH anniversary celebration of basketball, I had the opportunity to visit the National Sport Museum. Basketball was definitely one of the major sport events of the 1933 National Athletic Meet held in Nanking. The museum has many photos showing competitions within China and the cancellation looks identical to the size and shape of the basketball used in China during that time period. If you will look at the ball that Dr. Naismith is holding in the overlaid photo, you will note its similarity to the cancellation.

Yes, this is definitely the first basketball cancellation. If any one can disprove this, both Luciano and I would appreciate hearing from them.

George E. Killian
Executive Director
NJCAA
P.O. Box 7305
Colorado Springs, CO 80933-7305

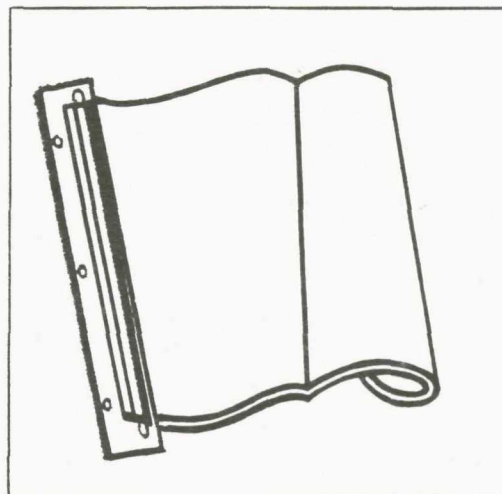
I'm convinced! However, if any reader has additional, or conflicting, information on this gem of basketball philately, please contact George at the address noted above.

Another Binding Option for JSP

While going through my latest issue of the *Journal of Sports Philately*, I found the article on binding JSP in some type of book [Letters Column, September/October 1991].

Here is what I do. I have purchased some plastic magazine protectors from one of those small mail order catalogues that everyone gets in the mail about every three months. They come punched in sheets of plastic, twelve to a sheet. Each strip of plastic has a long slot and three round holes. The magazine is opened to the center and slipped through the long slot [see accompanying diagram]. The three holes in the plastic strip fit over the corresponding prongs in a regular three-ring binder.

I have used this method for all of my magazines such



Insert pages of magazine thru long opening in plastic holder. See illustration. Be sure hole side is out. After inserting pages thru holder, place holder in a 3-ring binder.

J.H. SMITH CO., 330 CHAPMAN ST., GREENFIELD, MA 01301

as Scott's *Journal*, *The American Philatelist*, and now JSP. A 1½" binder will hold one year nicely. I hope this helps everyone keep their magazines together.

Melvin M. Hodgson
El Paso, TX

Thanks for your suggestion, Melvin. The ordering address appears in the illustration above.

Coubertin Checklist Revisited

Congratulations on the "Salute to Pierre de Coubertin" special edition, Vol. 30, No. 3. Very impressive effort and most informative. Everyone involved deserves praise.

A partial checklist of de Coubertin stamps was printed on page 24. Using this as a base, I reviewed the stamps in my Olympic collection and prepared an expanded checklist. In my view, a complete checklist should include all de Coubertin stamps, even if they do not have a Scott number. Each member can decide which country's stamps to collect.

Paul Tissington
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

We agree. Other members have sent in their checklists, too. We'll print a revised checklist in a future issue of JSP.

Cricket in the Caribbean

[This is the fourth in a series of articles on *Cricket and Philately* authored by Mr. Street for *JSP*.]

by Peter N. Street

A New Era

As the last English wicket fell, the large West Indian contingent among the spectators erupted into shouts of joy and impromptu calypsos. The time was summer 1950; the scene was Lord's Cricket Ground in London, the headquarters of cricket in England and, some would say, the world.

In the second Test Match the West Indians beat England by 326 runs—their first win against England in England.

Some brilliant batting by Allan Rae and the three Ws (Clyde Walcott, Everton Weekes and Frank Worrell) and the spin bowling of two 20-year-old unknowns, Sonny Ramadhin and Alf Valentine, who took eighteen wickets between them, ensured the victory.

By tradition, great events in the West Indies are heralded by song. Lord Kitchener led a jubilant band of

West Indians around Lord's, and a few days later Lord Beginner composed his famous calypso:

Cricket, lovely cricket,
At Lord's where I saw it:
Cricket, lovely cricket,
At Lord's where I saw it:
Yardley tried his best
But Goddard won the test
They gave the crowd plenty fun:
Second Test and West Indies won.

Chorus: With those little pals of mine
Ramadhin and Valentine.

On that momentous day, West Indian cricket entered a new era.

Of the eleven heroes of this historic match, five have appeared on stamps issued by the various British West Indian island nations: Rae, Stollmeyer, Worrell, Gomez and Ramadhin (Figures 1 a-e). Philatelically, the Islands have been by far the most prolific issuers of cricket stamps. By contrast, the other major cricketing countries, England, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have produced only a few stamps with a cricket theme.

The Beginning

Prior to gaining Independence, the various West Indian Islands were part of the British Empire. Cricket was carried to the Caribbean during the increased military and commercial activity immediately before and after the Napoleonic wars. (The Duke of Wellington, who occasionally played cricket as a schoolboy at Eton, defeated Napoleon Bonaparte at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.)

There is recorded mention of cricket at St. Anne's Cricket Club in Barbados in 1806. Similar clubs were formed in British Guiana (now Guyana), Trinidad and Jamaica before mid-century. The first inter-territorial game was played between Barbados and British Guiana in 1865 where the principal players were white commercial merchants, colonial administrators and the military.

Over the next few years the improvement in the quality of play enabled inter-territorial contests to be played on a regular basis.

The first English team toured the area in 1895, playing matches in Barbados, Trinidad, Jamaica and British Guiana. In 1896-7 two English

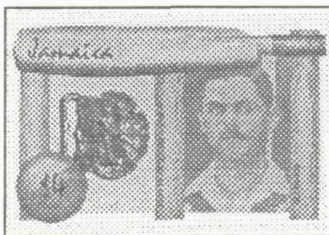


Figure 1a. Allan Rae

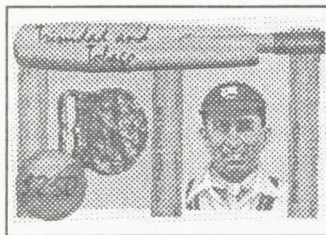


Figure 1b. Jeffrey Stollmeyer



Figure 1c. Frank Worrell



Figure 1d. Gerry Gomez

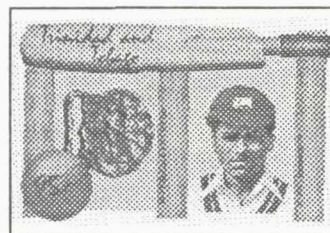


Figure 1e. Sonny Ramadhin

teams toured the West Indies. Among the players chosen for an all West Indian team was a young H.G.B. Austin (Figure 2). He later played a prominent role in Barbadian and West Indian cricket. Austin was an opening batsman; in 1903, he and G.B.Y. Cox scored 263 runs for the second wicket in a match between Barbados and Trinidad—the first double century partnership in first class cricket in the West Indies.

Austin was very active in West Indian cricket at the turn of the century, captaining national sides on tours to England. Upon his retirement in 1928, he founded and became the first President of the West Indies Cricket Board of Control. Subsequently, he entered politics and was elected a member of the House of Assembly from Bridgetown, serving for twenty six years and eventually becoming Speaker. Austin also entered the business world and founded his own company. Harold Austin was knighted for his contributions to his community, cricket, the military and commerce. Sir Harold is considered the "father" of West Indian Cricket.

C.L.R. James, in his thought provoking book *Beyond a Boundary*, discusses club cricket in Trinidad in the early years of this century. Membership depended almost entirely on social status and, hence, color. Mr. James, who was black, joined Maple, a club for the brown middle class, as they were the people he would meet in life.

By 1900, the progress of West Indian cricket was such that a tour of England was arranged. The team consisted of players from Trinidad, Barbados and British Guiana. At that time the preference was for white batsmen and black bowlers. Most notable were George Challenor, a white batsman (Figure 3) and George John, the greatest black bowler of his generation (Figure 4).

Between the Wars

World War I interrupted representative cricket and it was not until 1920 that inter-territorial matches were resumed.

In 1923, the West Indies team toured England with George Challenor as captain and a team that included George John and 22-year-old Learie Constantine (Figure 5).

The period between the wars saw the rise to prominence of two of the West Indies most famous cricketers, George Headley (Figure 6) and Learie Constantine.

Learie Constantine was the best known player to come out of the Trinidad club cricket system, as discussed by Mr. James. He developed into the complete cricketer, an exciting attacking batsman, a truly fast bowler in an era of fast bowlers and a magnificent fielder.

In international competition in the late 1920s and early 1930s, Constantine and Manny Martindale (Figure 7) from Barbados were the opening pace attack, often with devastating results. Constantine became a professional for the English Lancashire League in the early 1930s. During the Second World War he stayed in England and helped with welfare work.

After the war he passed his bar examinations and returned to his native Trinidad, where he became a Member of Parliament and eventually Minister of Works. Constantine later returned to England as High Commissioner and was created a Life Peer. Sir Learie Constantine died in 1971.

George Headley, who was the premier West Indian batsman of his era, was born in Panama and spent his childhood in Cuba where he played baseball.

In 1919, Headley returned to Jamaica where he began playing cricket. He made his international debut in 1930 at the age of 21. In a four test series against the Marylebone Cricket Club, George made four centuries.

He toured Australia in 1930-31 and England in 1933 and 1939. Although World War II interrupted his career, Headley played English League cricket for many years after the war. His keen eyesight allowed him to play his strokes late, and his timing and running between the wickets was exceptional. His first class career of 10,000 runs included 33 centuries and a batting average of almost 70.



Figure 2. H.G.B. Austin



Figure 3. George Challenor



Figure 4. George John

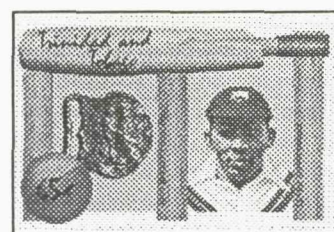


Figure 5. Learie Constantine

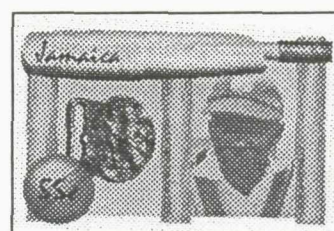


Figure 6. George Headley



Figure 7. Manny Martindale



Figure 8 (above and below). Guyana orchid stamps overprinted for the 60th anniversary of the West Indies entry into international cricket competition.



Test Status

The success of the 1923 tour of England was largely responsible for the West Indies receiving Test status in 1928. The sixtieth anniversary of this event was observed philatelically when Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago each issued a five-stamp set featuring past and contemporary cricketers from their respective islands. Many of these stamps are illustrated in this article. Guyana also celebrated this anniversary of the West Indian entry into International cricket with the re-issue, in booklet form, of two of its 1983 and 1986 orchid stamps overprinted "1928-88 Cricket Jubilee" (Figures 8 a-b). In addition, St. Vincent issued two groups of eight stamps and a souvenir sheet showing current international cricketers.

The previously mentioned Barbadian, Jamaican, and Trinidadian stamps follow a common format. The top of a wicket is shown with a cricket bat replacing the bails. The featured cricketer appears between the middle and leg stumps. The object between

the off and middle stumps is a bronze belt buckle (Figure 9). The original buckle was found in 1979 embedded in a bank of the River Tweed which forms the border between England and Scotland. Its design shows what appears to be a mulatto batsman being bowled, with the bat, stumps, bails, and ball can be clearly visible. The background of the buckle depicts an element that suggests a windmill, perhaps of the type used for crushing sugar cane. This theory is supported by the building over the batsman's right shoulder resembling a cane field hut. Decorations around the rim appear to be tropical plants. Analysis of the metallic content of the bronze indicates the buckle to date from either the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, which makes it the earliest known cricket artifact outside Great Britain.

Post World War II

When International cricket was resumed after World War II, another West Indian batsman made his presence felt. Jeffrey Stollmeyer (Figure 1b), a tall, elegant opening batsman, had toured England in 1939 when he was only 18 years old. He was appointed captain of the West Indian national team in 1948 but due to injury did not actually captain the team on the field until 1951.

Stollmeyer led the team until 1955 when injuries forced him to retire from cricket. He subsequently became a selector and was President of the West Indian Cricket Board of Control from 1975-81.

Like his distinguished predecessor, Sir Harold Austin, Stollmeyer also had numerous business interests. He sold his family estates in cocoa, coffee and citrus fruits in the early 1970s and moved to Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. On August 6, 1989, he was beaten and shot by intruders, dying a month later from his injuries.

The First Black Captain

In the 1950s, the gradual social advancement of the majority black population combined with the granting of independence to the various island countries produced the first black national captain, Frank Worrell (Figures 1c and 10).

He was a member of the 1950 team that had beaten England, at home, for the first time. He was invited to lead the team against Pakistan in 1958, but he was forced to decline the honor as he was then studying at Manchester University in England. It was not until the 1960-61 Australian tour that Frank was actually able to lead the team on the field.

His success on that tour, both on and off the field of play, was such

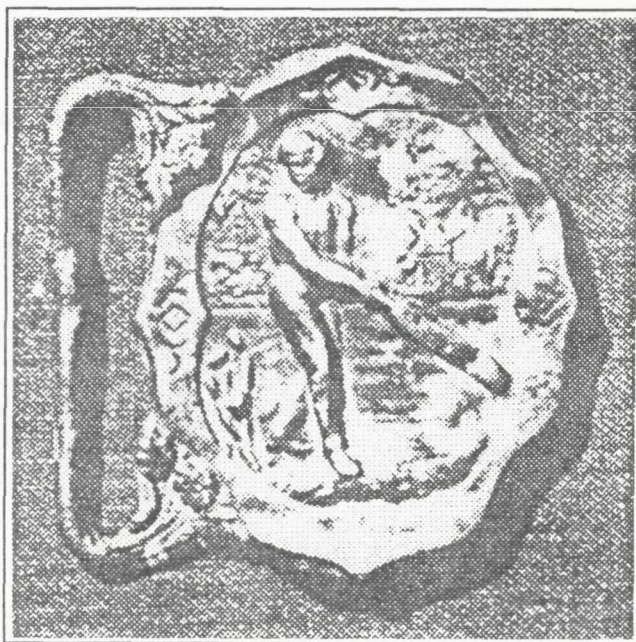


Figure 9. Brass belt buckle depicting West Indian cricket at the turn-of-the-century.

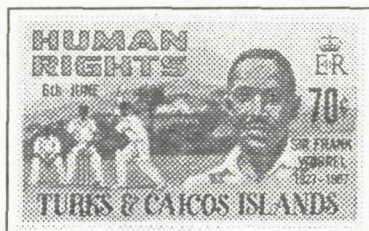


Figure 10. Frank Worrell

that when the team was due to return to the Caribbean it received a ticker tape farewell parade from the people of Melbourne.

Worrell, a shrewd and intelligent man, as well as a superb cricketer was able to weld the intensely individualistic cricketers of the various West Indian countries into a cohesive team.

He retired from cricket in 1963 and was knighted in 1964 for his service to cricket. In retirement, Worrell became a cricket administrator, Warden of the University of the West Indies, a Jamaican Senator and a staunch campaigner for civil rights.

Sir Frank died of leukemia in 1967 and was given a State funeral in his native Barbados and a memorial service in London's Westminster Abbey. Sir Frank Worrell was featured on one of the six stamps issued in 1980 by the Turks and Caicos Islands to commemorate Human Rights. Unfortunately, there are two

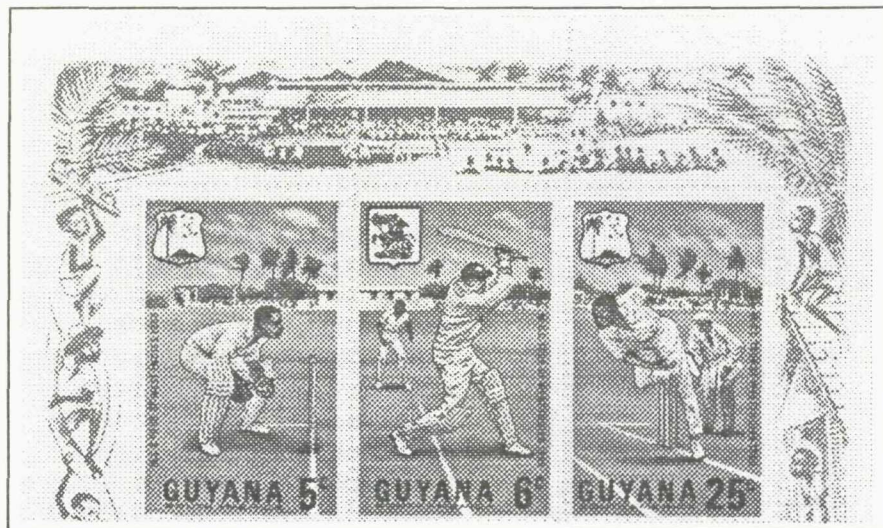


Figure 11. Guyana souvenir sheet commemorating the Marylebone Cricket Club's 1968 tour of the West Indies.

errors on the stamp. His surname is misspelled as "Worrel" and his birth date should be 1924 rather than 1927. The stamp was issued on the June 6, now annually observed as Human Rights Day.

Worrell's successor in 1964 as captain of the West Indian national team was an even more remarkable player, Garry (Gary) Sobers, considered by many as the greatest all-round cricketer.

Sobers first played cricket for his native Barbados in 1953 as a school-

boy of 16; he was selected as an orthodox slow left-arm bowler. Later, he added the "Chinaman" and "googly" to his slow bowling repertoire and developed as a new ball fast-medium bowler good enough to open the bowling for his team. His batting improved to such an extent that after only four years, at the age of 21, he batted for 10 hours in a Test Match against Pakistan for the world record score of 365 not out.

Added to all these accomplishments with bat and ball was his ex-

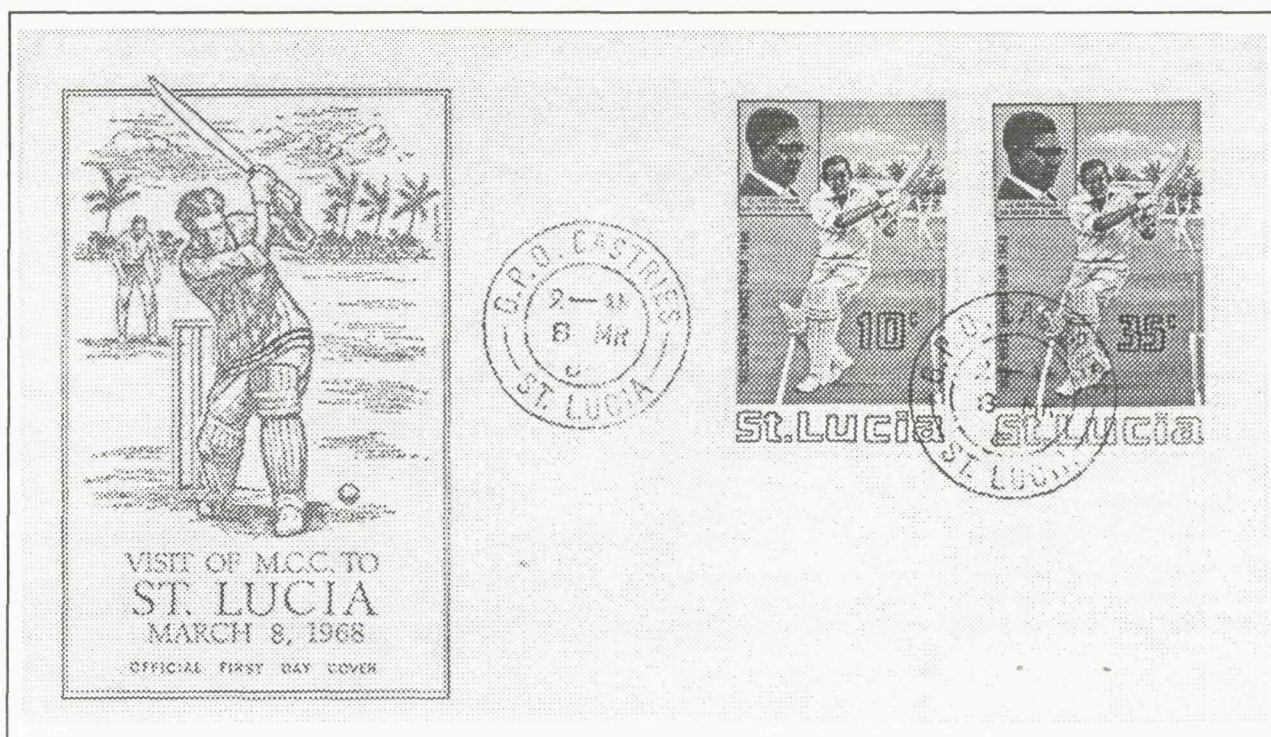


Figure 12. St. Lucia also noted the Marlebone Club's visit with a two-stamp issue as noted on this FDC.

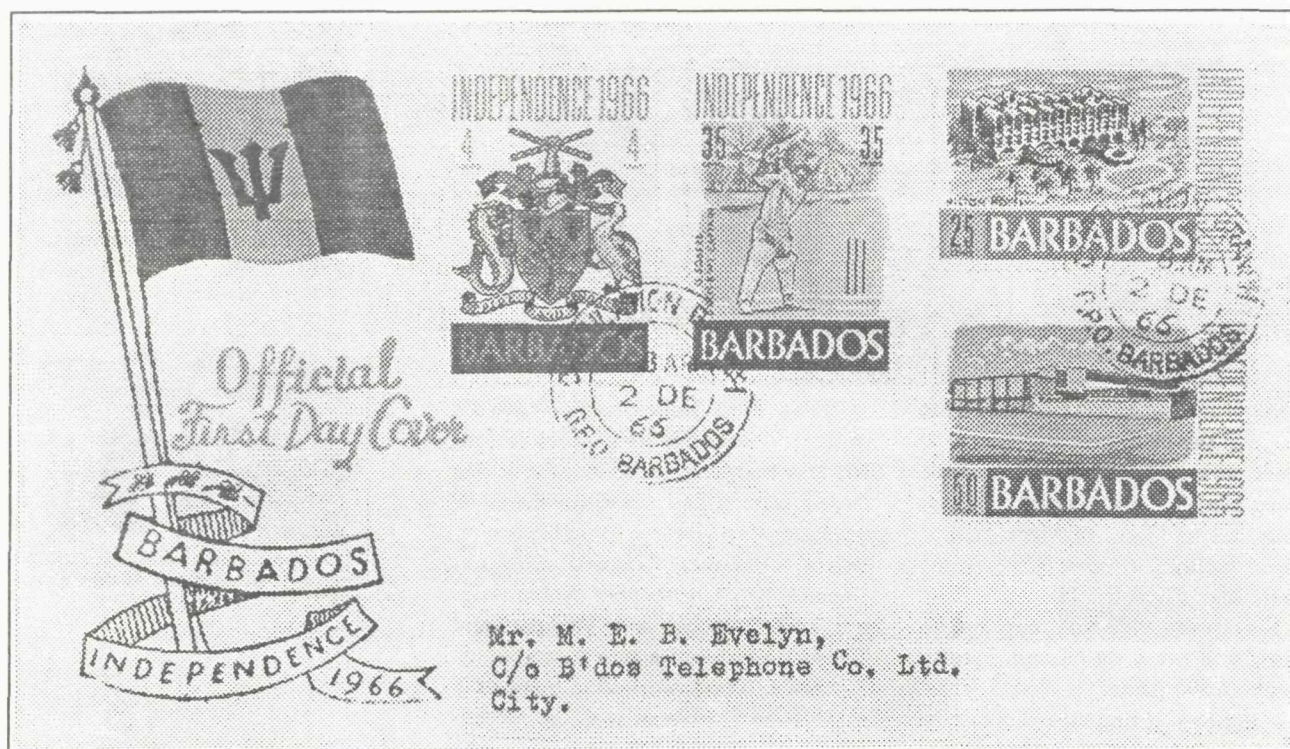


Figure 13. Barbados dedicated the 35 cent value of its 1966 Independence set to native son and accomplished cricketer, Garry Sobers.

ceptional brilliance as a close to the wicket fielder.

When producer Bud Greenspan was selecting sports figures for his *Numero Uno* Television series, Sobers was his choice to represent cricket.

Garry Sobers played cricket all over the world, with the West Indian national team, for South Australia and with the English County team of Nottinghamshire.

During Sobers's captaincy, the Marylebone Cricket Club of England, the English national team, made a 1968 tour of the West Indies. This tour produced several stamps and souvenir sheets. Guyana and Jamaica shared a common design (Figure 11) printed in sheetlets of nine stamps (three rows of three stamps) showing a West Indian bowler and wicket keeper and an English batsman. Although the players' features are unidentifiable it has been suggested that the batsman resembles English player Tony Greig and the bowler Lance Gibbs. Each strip of three stamps features the team emblems (lion for England; island, stars and palm tree for the West Indies) shown against a Caribbean cricket ground scene.

St. Lucia produced a two-stamp

set (Figure 12), each of which showed a West Indian batsman following through on a pull shot. Inset on both stamps is a portrait of Sir Frederick Clarke, Governor of the Island and an active player and administrator. He has been President of the St. Lucia Cricket Association, member of the West Indian Cricket Board of Control, a player for his University cricket team at Edinburgh in Scotland, and a former captain of the St. Lucia team.

Sobers retired from the first-class game in 1974 after nearly two decades

of cricket including 85 consecutive Test Matches. In December 1966, Barbados issued the first British Caribbean stamp to feature a cricketer as part of a four-stamp set celebrating Independence. It shows Sobers in a typical batting pose (Figure 13).

In 1975 he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II for his services to cricket during a Royal Visit as part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations (Figure 14). The ceremony was performed in an open air ceremony on the Garrison Savannah, in Bridgetown, Barbados, less than a mile from his birthplace and the site where he began playing cricket.

The Modern Era

Clive Lloyd (Figure 15) from Guyana became the national captain for the 1974-75 tour of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. He was to have the longest and most successful reign of any of their Test captains.

Under Lloyd's leadership, the West Indies became the most powerful team in the world. From 1975-1985 he led the national team 74 times, winning 36 matches, losing 12, and drawing 26—an outstanding record.



Figure 14. Garry Sobers was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II during Her Majesty's visit to Barbados in 1975.

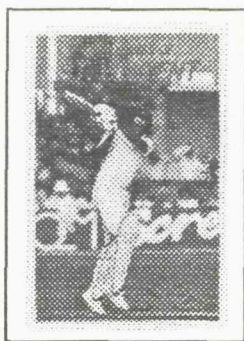


Figure 15. Clive Lloyd



Figure 16. Viv Richards

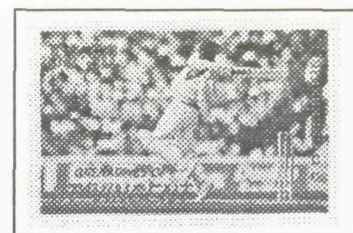


Figure 17a. Gordon Greenidge

Much of the success of this team was due to the batting of Viv Richards (Figure 16) and Gordon Greenidge (Figure 17a) and the use of as many as four fast bowlers. Bowlers such as Michael Holding (Figure 17b), Andy Roberts and Malcolm Marshall (Figure 17c) were able to keep up an untiring and often intimidating attack throughout the game.

In the 1950s, limited-overs cricket was introduced into the English County Cricket competition in an attempt to improve the finances of the game. This idea was used internationally for the first time in 1975 during the inaugural World Cricket Cup played in England under the sponsorship of the Prudential Assurance Company. The participants were the six major cricketing countries: Australia, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan and the West Indies augmented by Sri Lanka and East Africa.

The West Indies, under Lloyd's captaincy won this first competition. No less than twelve of the territories issued stamps and souvenir sheets to celebrate this victory. Ten (Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Christopher Nevis Anguilla, St. Vincent and Trinidad and Tobago) produced a two-stamp omnibus issue. The lower value featured a map of the Caribbean with the participating countries marked in red. The higher value showed the Prudential Cup (Figure 18).

Antigua and Barbuda issued a separate group of three stamps. Two show Antiguan players Viv Richards and Andy Roberts, who were members of the victorious team; the third shows the winning team with captain Clive Lloyd holding the Cup (Figure 19).

Richards and Roberts were also portrayed on a 1976 Souvenir Sheet of



Figure 17b. Michael Holding

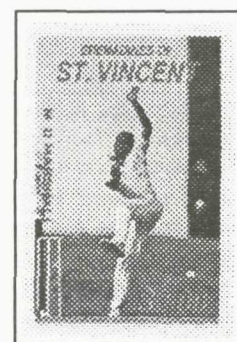


Figure 17c. Malcolm Marshall

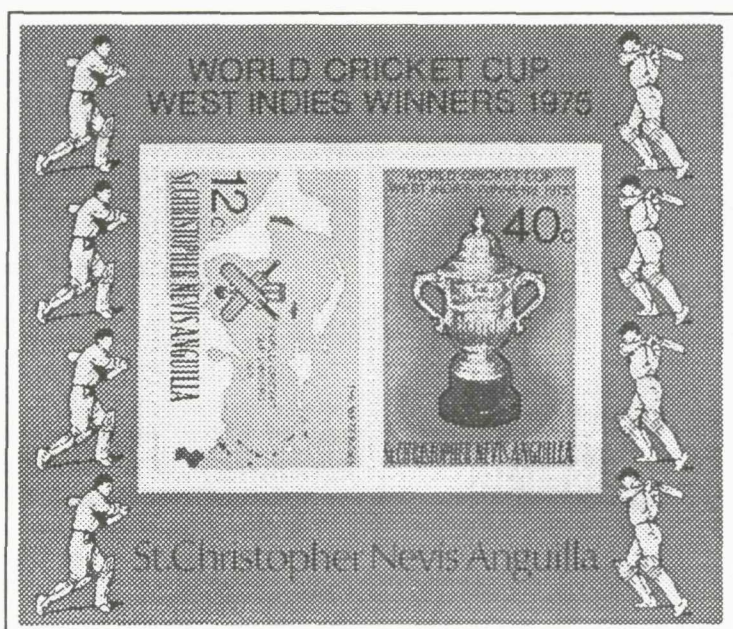


Figure 18. Souvenir sheet depicting participating countries in the inaugural World Cricket Cup (low value) and the trophy (high value).

Special events (Figure 20). As the other events depicted on the souvenir sheet were the Viking Space Mission, the first Telephone Transmission centenary and the U.S. Bicentennial, we can see how seriously Antigua takes its cricket.

Another Antiguan issue which is indirectly linked with Richards and Roberts was the 1972 Souvenir Sheet celebrating the Golden Jubilee of their club, the Rising Sun Cricket Club (Figure 21). Neither player, however, is actually shown on the stamps.

The 1979 Prudential Cup was also won by the West Indies and the third, in 1983, saw India the winner. Neither event occasioned a philatelic issue by any West Indian country. However a new sponsor was found for the 1987 Cup—the Reliance Assurance Company. The co-hosts that year were India and Pakistan; Australia was the winner. Anguilla, one of the Leeward

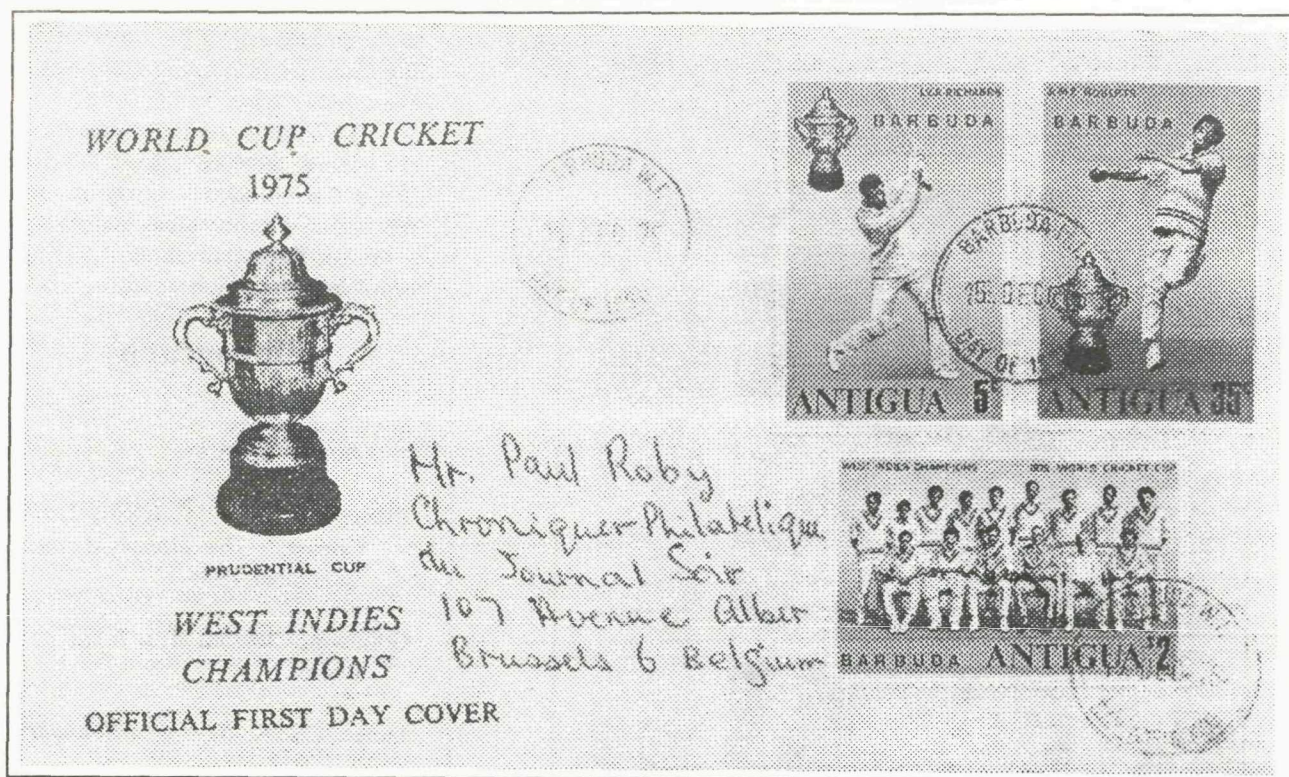


Figure 19. Antigua commemorated the West Indies Team's win with three stamps depicting Viv Richards (5 cents), Andy Roberts (35 cents) and the entire team (\$2).

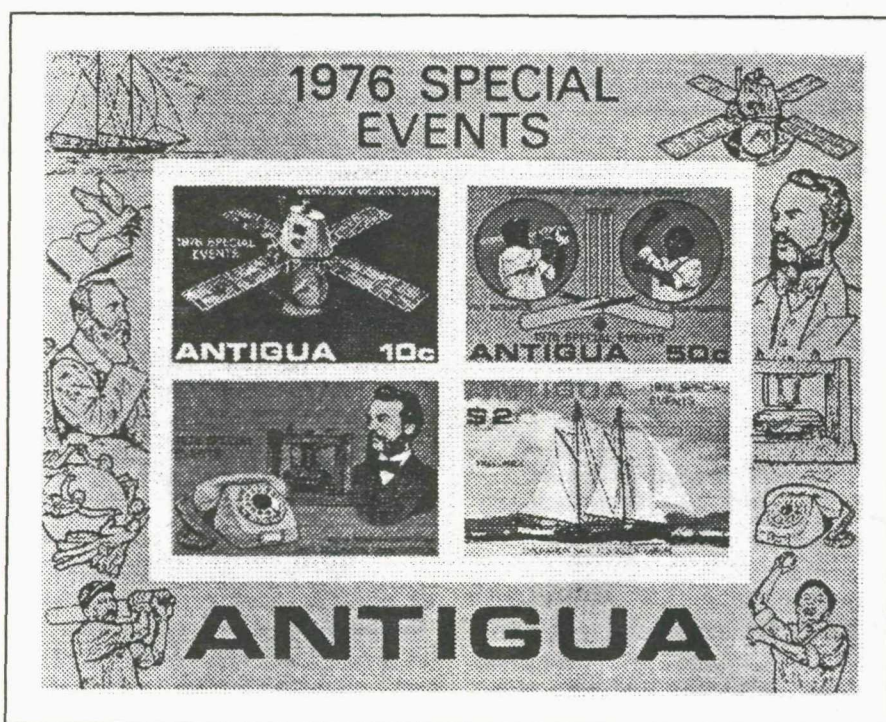


Figure 20. World Cup stars Viv Richards and Andy Roberts also appeared on the 50 cent value of Antigua's souvenir sheet.

Islands group, issued its first cricket stamps to commemorate this event (Figure 22).

Guyana issued seven stamps in November 1985 for Clive Lloyd's testimonial year. Three of the stamps in both large and small format depicted Lloyd playing a powerful straight drive; Lloyd's portrait superimposed on a cricket bat and wicket; and gloves, cap, wicket, pads and the flag of his native Guyana. The seventh stamp featured a photograph of Lloyd, in civilian clothes, holding the Prudential World Cup (Figure 23).

In 1986, Clive Lloyd retired from first class cricket as well as from the captaincy of the national team.

His successor was his premier batsman, Viv Richards, the first Leeward Islander to hold this position. Richards made his Test debut in the 1974-75 season and by 1980 he had become the dominant batsman of his era. He is the only West Indian, to date, to have scored 100 centuries.

The West Indian national team continues to be a dominating power in the cricketing world. Although its success from the games-won-and-lost viewpoint may have lessened since the Lloyd era, it is probably due more to

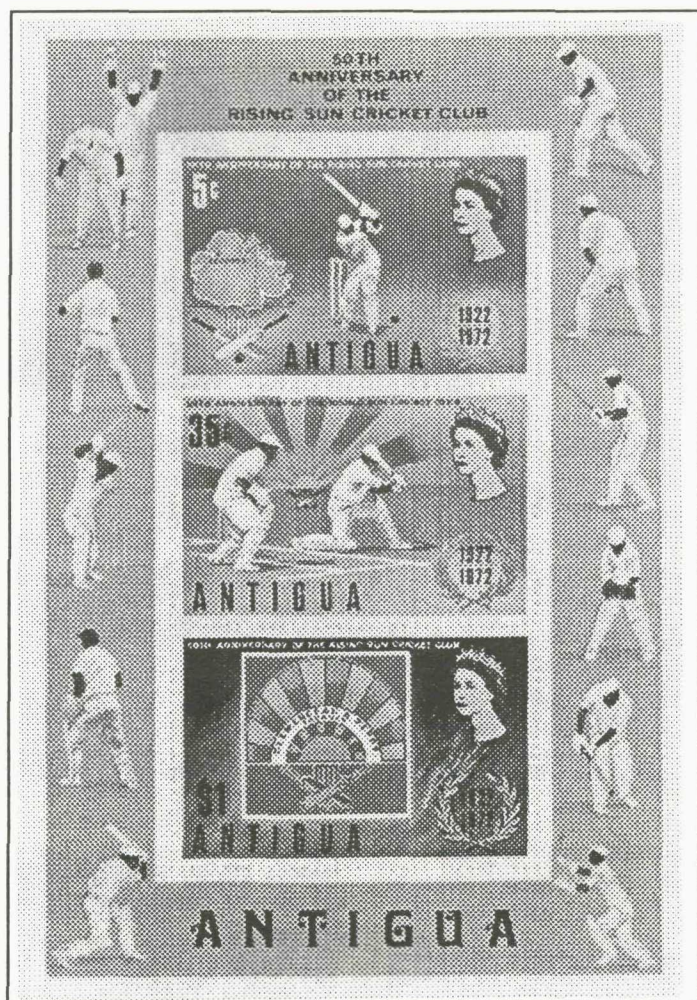


Figure 21. Both Richards and Roberts belonged to the Rising Sun Cricket Club in Antigua, noted on this 50th anniversary issue.

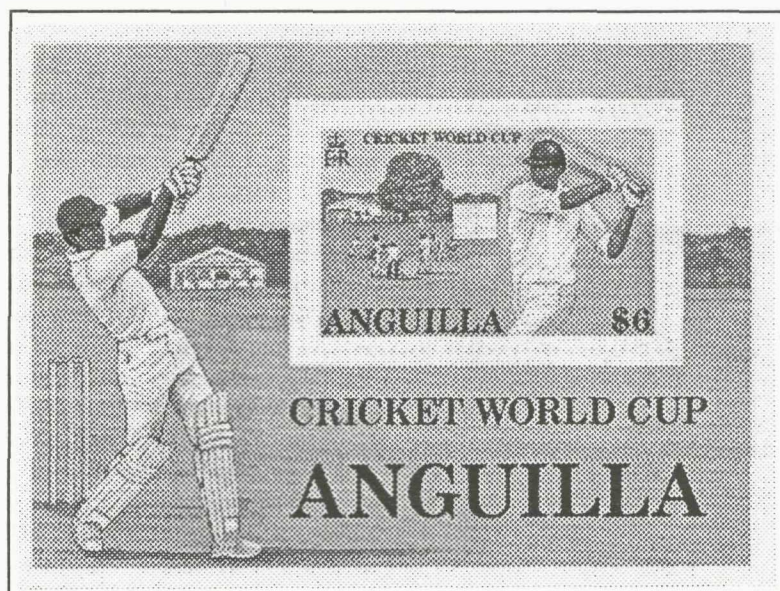


Figure 22. The 4th Cricket World Cup (1987) was co-hosted by India and Pakistan. The winner this time was Australia.



Figure 23. Clive Lloyd was saluted by his native Guyana on a 1985 seven stamp set. The \$3.50 value shows Clive holding the World Cup Trophy.

the improvement of the other cricketing countries than to the decline of the West Indies team.

The Team's continued success and the general level of interest in cricket in the Caribbean will surely result in the issue of many more stamps with a cricket theme, much to the delight of all British Caribbean collectors. □

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The 2¢ Essay For the 1932 Xth Olympiad

by Sherwin Podolsky

The July 1949 issue of *The Essay Proof Journal* reprinted the Addenda from Brazer's "Essays for U.S. Adhesive Stamps." The details from the article for this essay are:

Size of die sinkage 88.5 x 110 mm.
Design by Victor McCloskey, Jr.
Vignette engraved by John Eissler.
Frame engraved by E.M. Hall.

Brazer describes the item as a large die essay on India paper, die sunk on card. The design is in deep red and the denomination is 2¢. The issued stamp is in purple with a denomination of 3¢.

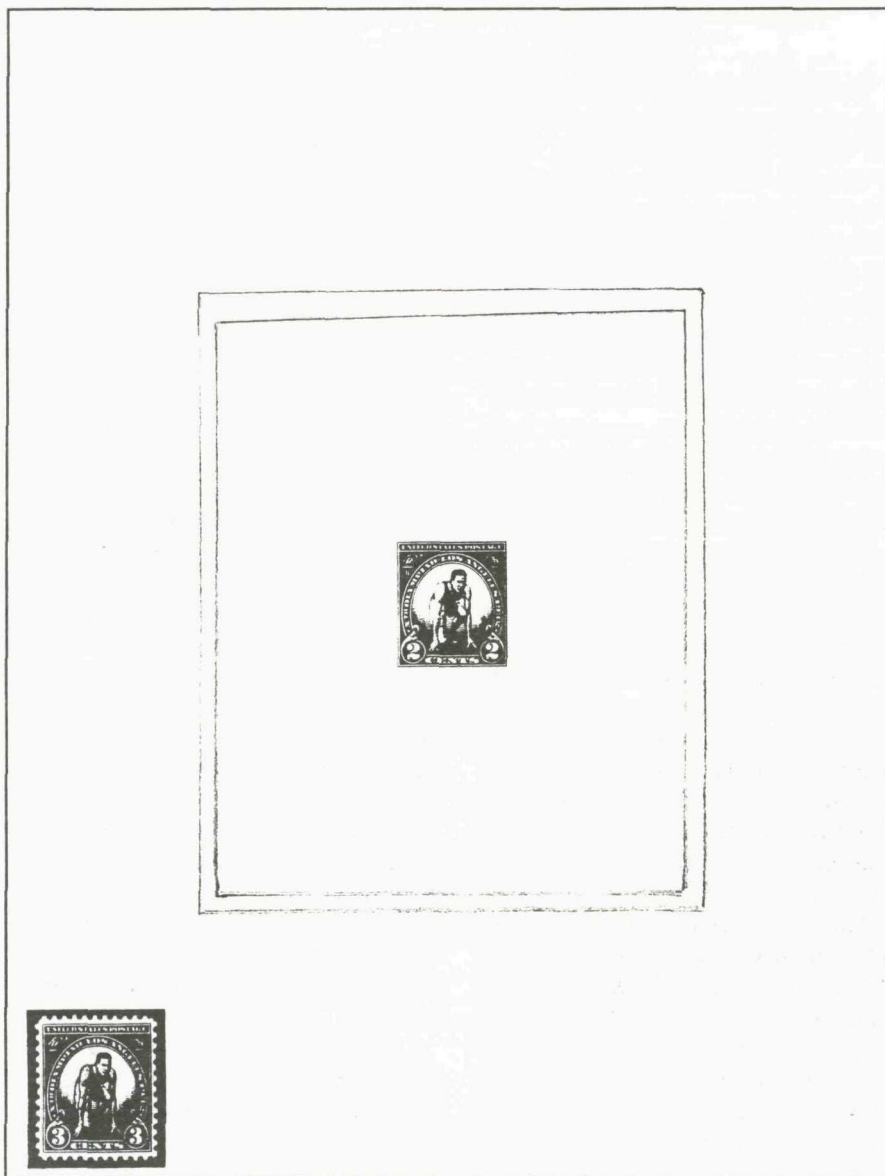
Through the courtesy of Ossi Virtanen of Finland, we have an illustration, at right, of the complete die of the 2¢ essay for the 1932 Olympic Games at Los Angeles. A copy of the issued 3¢ stamp appears at the lower left in the illustration. Brazer reports that only one example of this 2¢ large die is known.

The overall dimensions of the card are 157 x 202 mm. The die sinkage is outlined by the outermost box on the card and measures 88.5 x 110 mm. The essay is on a large piece of paper glued within the sinkage of the card.

Four plates were made from this die and they all bore the 2¢ denomination. However, the rate was changed, and no plates were printed.

We have an explanation of India paper from *Fundamentals of Philately*, by L.N. Williams, 1990:

"This is a tough thin opaque paper, often slightly toned, deriving its name from the fact that after it was first successfully made in England at Wovercote Mills, it was used for Oxford Bibles, and was known as India Bible Paper. Originally, the paper was introduced from China (about 1750), and is still, sometimes, referred to as "China Paper." India paper has often been used for proofs of dies and plates by many countries, including the U.S.A."



Sunken large die proof of a 2¢ Summer Olympic stamp for 1932. This stamp was eventually issued with a denomination of 3¢, and is depicted at lower left.

The Scott 1990 *U.S. Specialized Catalog* values Scott No. 718TC (the 3¢ Olympic in carmine) at \$1,000. Note that the Scott listing refers to the trial color of the 3¢ stamp as carmine. The essay illustrated here is for the 2¢ described by Brazer in a deep red color. I am not sure that Scott and Brazer were describing the same or different shades. Has anyone ever seen both the die essay and the trial color to compare the shades?

Our thanks to Mr. Virtanen for the opportunity to report this item. □

Ty Cobb Baseball Covers

Distinctive Ty Cobb cachet available on cover with 29¢ Olympic Rings stamp and FD cancel (\$3.50 each or 3 for \$10) or with 25¢ Lou Gehrig and special baseball cancel (\$3.00 each or 4 for \$10). Send order plus a #10 SASE to: Button Gwinnett Stamp Club, PO Box 2066, Lilburn, GA 30266-2066.

The Sports Arena

by Mark C. Maestrone

From time to time, collectors will come across stamps cancelled days or even weeks before the official first day of issue. These issues, especially on cover, may command modest premiums above the cost of a modern U.S. first day cover. However, when it comes to early release cancels on 1991 U.S. stamps—*caveat emptor* (let the buyer beware)! Wayne Youngblood, in the December 30, 1991 issue of *Linn's Stamp News*, reported that no fewer than 23 U.S. issues from 1991 had been found with cancellations predating the USPS's first day.

Youngblood attributes this situation to the flood of new issues. Postal employees tended to ignore the specific directions on their stamp packages, and began selling issues before their correct release date.

A chart that accompanied the article listed two stamp issues of concern. The 29¢ Track & Field set-tenant strip of five had a first day of issue of July 12. The earliest known use is July 9. The 100TH Anniversary of Basketball stamp experienced a far more dramatic earliest release. The official August 28 first day was preceded by nearly four weeks—the earliest known use is August 2.

If any member knows of earlier release dates for these or other Olympic or sports stamps, send us a clear photocopy of your find. In the meantime, beware of those selling modern early release covers for exorbitant prices.

Collegiate sports fans can be a very loyal bunch, especially when it involves a "big time" sport such as basketball. Some of these enthusiasts will go to nearly any length to prove the superiority of their team. But the 1991 *Chutzpa* Award must be given to the University of Nevada-Las Vegas (UNLV) supporters.

On April 1, 1991, a machine cancel was used in the Las Vegas mail processing center that read: UNLV NATIONAL CHAMPIONS/LAS VEGAS/APRIL 1, 1991 (Figure 1).

Unfortunately for the UNLV Basketball Team, they were eliminated from the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) Championships two days earlier during the quarterfinal competition on March 30. The Duke Blue Devils beat the UNLV Runnin' Rebels 79-77, and then went on to win the championships by defeating the Kansas Jayhawks 72-65 in the finals on April 1.

Under normal circumstances, it would have been reasonable for UNLV and their fans to anticipate repeating as 1991 champs. They were the 1990 collegiate champions going into the 1991 playoffs with a perfect 34-0 season!

What is odd, though, is that this machine cancel would have to have been produced no later than December 1, 1990, according to USPS regulations. Pretty confident, considering that the '90-'91 season had barely begun.

The machine cancel was put into use on April 1 for one day. Word is, that approximately 400,000 pieces of mail received the cancel.

In an Associated Press story from *The Columbus Dispatch* and reproduced in *Linn's*, Las Vegas postmaster Joseph Ryan insisted that it was perfectly legitimate. "Our ace in the hole was that we only ran it that one day, April 1, and on that day they were still the national champs." (The finals were played in the evening of April 1.)

Sounds like fancy footwork to me!

William J. Hybl was elected President of the United States Olympic Committee on September 29, 1991. He succeeds Robert H. Helmick who resigned under fire when it was learned that he had used his office for

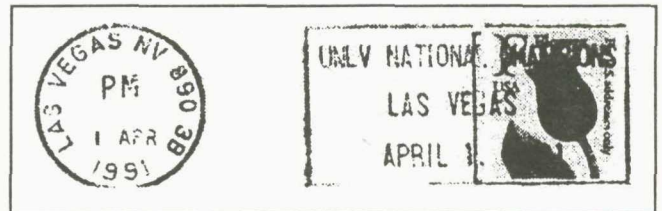


Figure 1. A Las Vegas machine cancel used April 1, 1991 noted UNLV's winning of the NCAA Basketball Championships, an event that did not occur. (Linn's Photo)

personal financial gain. Apparently Helmick, a lawyer, had benefited from his association with Olympic-related concerns, representing a conflict of interest. Helmick also resigned his position as one of the two U.S. members of the International Olympic Committee.

The new USOC president is a former aide to President Bush, and served in Ronald Reagan's White House as a counsel dealing with Olympic affairs.

Our sister society in Germany, IMOS, celebrated their 25TH anniversary with a special card and cancel. The oval handcancel depicts a basketball, soccer ball, tennis ball, and baseball (Figure 2). Congratulations to them, and may they see 25 more years of serving sports and Olympic collectors worldwide! Thanks to Dorothy Weihrauch for sending us the item.

To those who have not been raised in a country where cricket is a national pastime, you've probably been confounded by this sport. My British friends have tried to explain it to me, so far to no avail.

SportsLetter, the bimonthly newsletter of the Paul Ziffren Sports Resource Center in Los Angeles, recently ran the following explanation from England entitled "Cricket: As Explained To A Foreign Visitor":

"You have two sides, one out in the field and one in. Each man that's on the side that's in, goes out, and when he's out, he comes in, and the next man goes in until he's out. When they



Figure 2. IMOS celebrated its 25TH anniversary with this multi-sport cancel.

are all out, the side that's out comes in, and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in, out. Sometimes you get men still in and not out. When both sides have been in and out, including the not outs, that's the end of the game!"

Ah, now I understand!

Just across my desk: more information on the special cable television (pay-per-view) coverage planned for this summer's Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain.

NBC, the U.S. network carrying the Games, has entered into an agreement with cable television systems nationwide to supplement NBC's already substantial coverage.

Olympics Triplecast will provide simultaneous, but different, coverage on three cable channels. Broadcasts will begin on the first day of competition, and continue for all 15 days, 24 hours a day. That works out to 1,080 hours of Olympic competition!

Olympic Triplecast is available in three packages priced at \$170, \$125, or \$95. Of course, NBC will be offering the usual coverage of the most

popular events. However, if you are interested in less popular sports that rarely receive coverage, this package may be just what you're looking for.

For additional information on how to purchase one of the Olympics Triplecast packages, just call (toll free) 1-800-OLYMPIC.

In an attempt to properly date metered mail, the USPS is increasingly using sprayed-on, single line cancels instead of the typical machine cancellations. Often, these new markings, which normally note the city and state (abbreviated) and date, show up on stamped mail as well.

Recently, Fred Baumann's "Postmark Pursuit" column in *Linn's* identified a graphic device incorporated in the marking from North Metro Georgia and North Metro IMPC (both in the Atlanta area). As illustrated in Figure 3, two symmetric tomahawks have been created out of the dot matrix pattern. For those baseball fans that have watched Atlanta Braves games, the most recent fan gesture is the "Tomahawk Chop." Some USPS Braves fan obviously thought this would be an appropriate symbol.

A tomahawk appears at either end of the marking, enclosing the wording. The two variations read as follows: "NORTH—METRO—GA 11/01/91 16:37 OCR#7" or "NORTH—METRO—IMPC 12/02/91 18:14 OCR#7".

Baumann has not been able to isolate the beginning date for this cancel, admitting that the graphic device is often very difficult to distinguish from the many other characters. If members have covers mailed from Atlanta around the time of the World Series or anytime after, take a close look at them. Your editor welcomes any further information, or a clear photocopy, of this interesting "hi-tech" meter cancel.

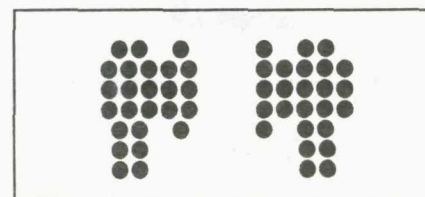


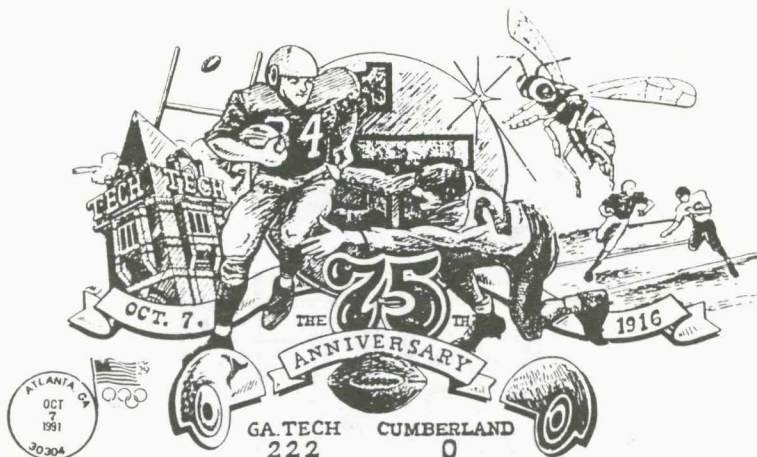
Figure 3. Dot matrix sprayed-on postmark from Atlanta depicting two tomahawks, unofficial emblem of the Atlanta Braves baseball team. (*Linn's diagram*)

Fabulous Opportunity To Purchase Commemorative Sport Covers, Cancels, & Prints !!!!!

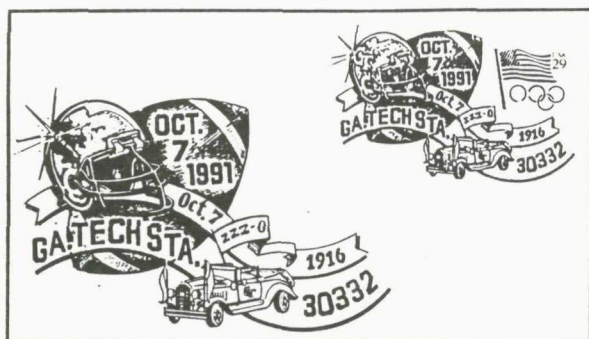
John Heisman, for whom the Heisman Trophy is named, coached the Georgia Tech football team for 16 seasons in Atlanta, winning four straight titles. Heisman never had a team with a losing record and was the first Georgia Tech coach to win more than 100 games establishing an overall record of 102-29-6.

Heisman's 1916 champions beat Cumberland University 222-0, setting record for the most points scored in a college football game. The massacre occurred in Atlanta on October 7, 1916, before 11,000 fans, who saw Georgia Tech score 32 touchdowns and 30 extra points in forty five minutes and the fourth quarter was never played.

Georgia Tech made history on October 7, 1916 and its record remains in the sports annuals till this day.



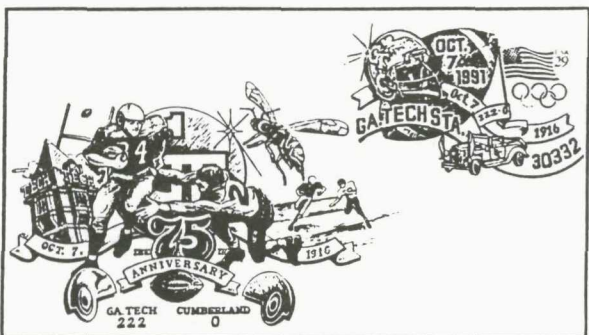
8 1/2 X 11 Prints available on this item only.



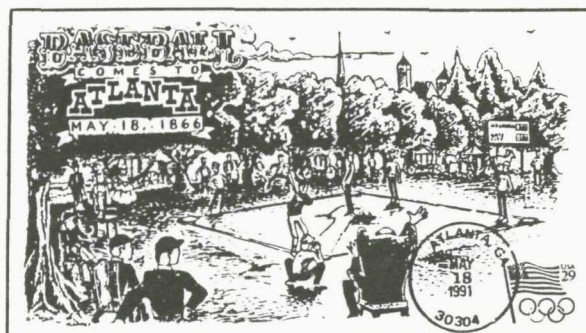
All covers \$7.50 each, signed by Artist add additional \$2.50

PRINTS are \$30.00 each, signed by Artist add additional \$5.00

Please add \$3.00 per order for Postage and Handling



Atlanta's First Ball Park and First Baseball Team 1866

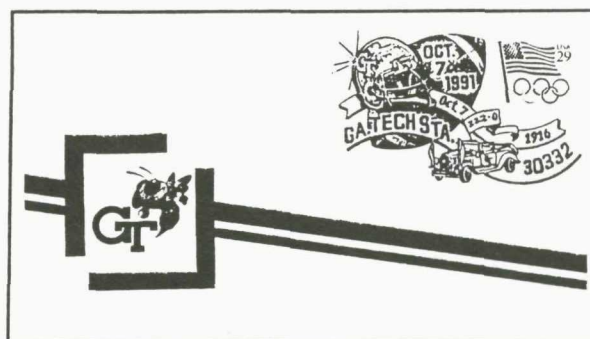


Complete story of the game is included free of charge with purchase of this cover.

The Final score of the famous game, according to the umpire was:

The Atlanta Club, 29 runs.

The Gate City Club, 127 runs.



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Basketball Centenary & Olympic Stamps Issued

by Mark Maestroné &
Richard Scott

Over the last few months, the United States Postal Service (USPS) has issued new stamps to commemorate the centennial of the sport of basketball, advertise its own sponsorship of the 1992 Olympic Games, and celebrate the upcoming Winter Olympic Games in Albertville, France. Both the basketball and five se-tenant Winter Olympic stamps were issued with a denomination of 29¢ paying the domestic first class rate for letters weighing up to one ounce. The single \$1 USPS Logo with Olympic Rings stamp pays the charge for certifying domestic mail.

29¢ Basketball Centenary

The USPS's Ceremony Program for the first day of issue contained an excellent summary relating to the beginnings of this sport:

"The sport of basketball has come a long way since its creation in 1891, when 30-year old James Naismith set out to develop an athletic activity that could be played indoors during winter months in a northern climate.

"Naismith, working as an instructor at the International YMCA's Training School (now Springfield College), took a standard soccer ball, hung a peach basket at either end of his small gymnasium and divided his class into two nine-member teams. The object of the game was an elementary one; for one team to throw the ball into one basket while preventing the other side from throwing it into the other, and to do so without running.

"From these humble beginnings, basketball has evolved into the most widely-played and watched team game in the world. It is now played in every section of the globe, both by women and men, in schools, colleges, and clubs and at national and international levels. It has been included in the Olympic Games since 1936."

The multicolored design for the stamp shows an above-the-basket view

of one player dunking a ball, while another defends the basket. Only players' hands and forearms are included in the design. Following the USPS release of the design work for this stamp many months ago, a number of letters appeared in various philatelic publications complaining that the design of the stamp portrayed a foul being committed by the defensive player—possibly goaltending. I asked member George Killian, who is also President of FIBA (the international governing body for amateur basketball), for a ruling. George assured me that "there is no foul."

The stamp was designed by Lon Busch of Ellisville, Missouri, and issued in post office panes of 50. One group of four photogravure cylinder numbers appears in one of the four corners of each pane. Other marginal markings include the 1991 USPS copyright symbol, Olympic logo, and the words "Use Correct ZIP Code." Other production information is included in Table 1.

First Day Ceremony

It was fitting that the August 28, 1991 first day ceremonies for this

Table 1
29¢ Basketball Centenary

First Day: August 28, 1991 at Springfield, Massachusetts
General Sale: Beginning August 29, 1991
Scott Number: 2560
Format: Post office pane of 50 stamps (5 rows of 10 stamps each)
Perforation: 11
Process: Photogravure, by Bureau of Engraving & Printing
Colors: Yellow, magenta, cyan & black
Stamp Size: 1.41" x .84" (image area); 1.55" x .99" (overall)
Quantity Printed: Not known
Plate Number: One group of four gravure cylinder numbers
Marginal Markings: 1991 USPS copyright symbol, USPS Olympic Logo, 36USC380, "Use Correct ZIP Code"
Designer: Lon Busch, Ellisville, MO
Art Director, Typographer: Richard Sheaff (CSAC)
Project Manager: Jack Williams (USPS)

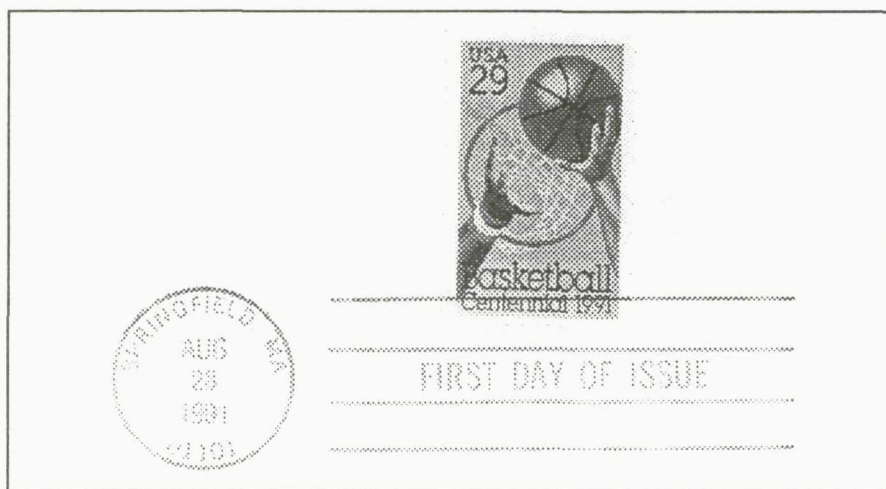


Figure 1. Non-pictorial First Day Cancel on the 29¢ Basketball Centenary stamp.

stamp took place at the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts, as this was the birthplace of the sport. Attending the celebration, which began at 10 a.m., were many luminaries including Richard "Digger" Phelps, former head basketball coach at the University of Notre Dame. Phelps and Tom Heinsohn from the Basketball Hall of Fame delivered the remarks, while Deputy Postmaster General Michael S. Coughlin dedicated the new stamp.

For some unknown reason, the USPS reverted to using a standard, non-pictorial first day of issue cancel for this stamp (Figure 1). For such a popular topical, one would think that the USPS could come up with something better, especially since they have been producing some quite inspiring cancels for the various Olympic stamps issued over the past two years.

On the other hand, they provided a truly excellent first day ceremony program (Figure 2). The cover captures the excitement of an early turn-of-the-century basketball game, complete with a peach basket, brown soccer ball, and players with fantastic handlebar mustaches! The back of the program cites Jim Lamb as the designer of the cover illustration. The inside of the program contains a first day canceled single of the basketball stamp, along with the customary ceremony program.

\$1 USPS Logo with Olympic Rings

The name of the game is advertising and the USPS is banking on its sponsorship of the Olympic Games to generate big bucks from philatelic sales.

Unfortunately, three expedited mail stamps (\$2.90, \$9.95 and \$14.00) and 20 Olympic sports stamps weren't enough. On September 29, 1991, a \$1 stamp was issued in Orlando, Florida which reproduced the USPS eagle emblem and Olympic Rings, beneath which is the inscription "Official Sponsor of the 1992 U.S. Olympic Team."

Normally, a stamp's designer is a different person from the art director, typographer, etc. It appears that this stamp was no more than a "paste

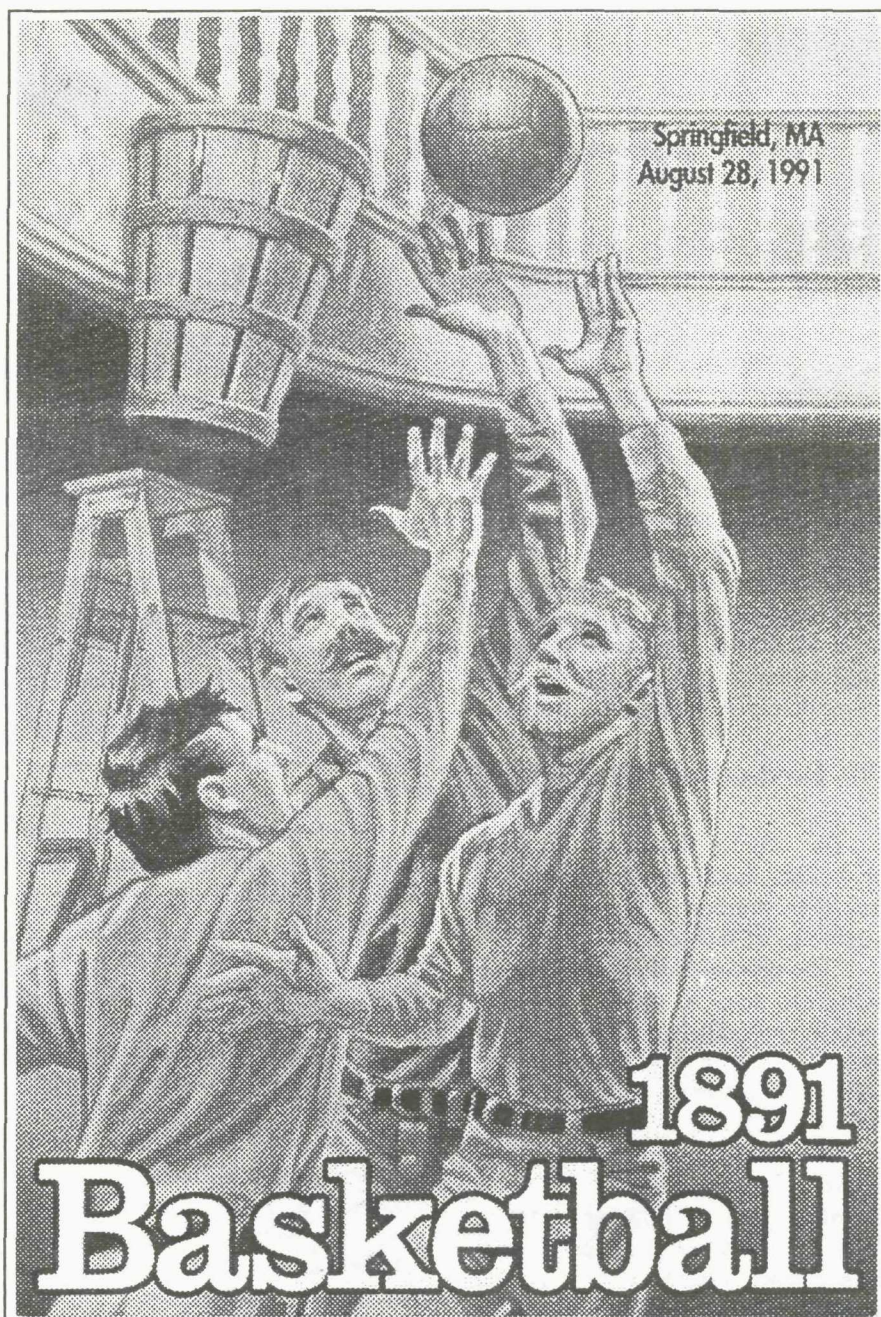


Figure 2. Basketball FD ceremony program cover depicting an early game, complete with peach basket and volleyball.

up" job; most recent U.S. stamps have been carrying these logos in their selvage. The only distinctive element of this issue are the vertical gold bands on the left and right sides.

The USPS released these miniature panes of 20 with one group of six plate numbers in all four corners of each pane. The plate numbers are preceded by the letter "S" which stands for Stamp Venturers, the printer (see Table 2 for further details). Richard Scott provides the following details on the first day of issue.

First Day Ceremony

"The first day ceremony of the \$1 stamp was held at the Marriott World Center in Lake Buena Vista (Orlando), Florida, about a half hour away from where I live (more, as it turned out, due to rain, traffic, and poor navigation!) The ceremony was held on an outdoor terrace, and was attended by about a hundred or so people, including a few fellow members of the Central Florida Stamp Club.

Table 2
\$1 USPS Logo with Olympic Rings

First Day: September 29, 1991, in Orlando, Florida
General Sale: Beginning September 30, 1991
Scott Number: 2539
Format: Post office pane of 20 stamps (5 rows of 4 stamps each)
Perforation: 11
Process: Photogravure, by Stamp Venturers
Colors: Red, yellow, blue, black, green, and gold
Stamp Size: .84" x 1.41" (image area); .99" x 1.56" (overall)
Quantity Printed: Not known
Plate Number: One group of six gravure cylinder numbers in all four corners of each pane, preceded by the letter "S"
Marginal Markings: 1991 USPS copyright symbol, USPS Olympic Logo, 36USC380, "Use Correct ZIP Code"
Designer, Art Director, Typographer & Project Manager: Terrence McCaffrey (USPS)
Modeler: Richard Sennett (Stamp Venturers)

"The guest of honor was Olympic decathlon gold medalist Bruce Jenner, who was met with applause and thunder, and was interrupted midway through his talk by rain. We dashed for cover (like snails, because of the crowd, many using their First Day Ceremony Programs as meager umbrellas). While they were setting up to continue the ceremony in drier surroundings, I slipped away to the counter where two postal employees were processing covers; there was no line.

"There was a Postal Forum convention at the same time, and the exhibits looked interesting from the door, but I was unwilling to pay \$25 just to go in. So I left, and later was caught in a minor traffic jam: some sort of bicycle rally led by a postal vehicle, so I assume related to the Olympic effort. I later heard it was a ride from Clearwater to Kissimmee—about 120 miles!"

The ceremony program for the stamp depicted a torch on the front with the words "USPS Logo with Olympic Rings" at top and "Orlando, Florida" and "September 29, 1991" at bottom. The pictorial FD cancel for this stamp (Figure 3) shows the USPS eagle at left and Olympic Rings at lower right. The following wording appears in between: First Day of Issue/Sept. 29, 1991/Orlando, FL/32862.

29¢ Winter Olympic Strip of Five

Once again, Orlando, Florida played host to the issuance of an Olympic stamp—this time it was the se-tenant strip of five 29¢ stamps commemorating the upcoming XVIth Olympic Winter Games in Albertville, France (Figure 4).

Someone didn't bother to check their calendar, thereby giving us another "bloop" similar to that which appeared on the 1991 52¢ Hubert Humphrey stamps. The vertical margin tab notes that the Games take place from February 8 through 25, 1992! In fact, the Games conclude

on February 23. Fortunately, someone at the USPS saw the error before press releases were printed, allowing them to announce their own mistake. The error, however, was not corrected.

Despite this shortcoming, the stamps are very handsome. Like the Famous Olympians issue of 1990, explanatory labels for each of the depicted sports appear in the top or bottom selvage of each pane. In order from left to right, the winter sports portrayed are: ice hockey, ladies' figure skating, speed skating, slalom skiing, and bobsledding.

The labels provide an encapsulated description of each sport, except for the ice hockey label, which recalls the "miracle on ice" at the 1980 Games in Lake Placid, NY. Ice hockey collectors will find this an excellent piece for their thematic exhibits. It is the only true postal item that I have come across recognizing the U.S. Team's gold medal victory at those Games. In order, the labels' inscriptions are as follows:

Ice Hockey: "The 1980 U.S. Ice Hockey Team's history-making gold medal performance remains one of the country's most emotional and meaningful Olympic Winter Games triumphs."

Figure Skating: "Figure skaters combine the strength of gymnastics with the grace of dancing in one of the most beautiful and expressive athletic competitions of the Olympic Winter Games."



Figure 3. The pictorial first day cancel for the \$1 stamp illustrates the USPS eagle and Olympic Rings. Orlando, Florida was the first day city for this issue.



The 1980 U.S. Ice Hockey Team's history-making gold medal performance remains one of the country's most emotional and meaningful Olympic Winter Games triumphs.

Figure skaters combine the strength of gymnastics with the grace of dancing in one of the most beautiful and expressive athletic competitions of the Olympic Winter Games.

Speed skaters, dressed to reduce wind resistance, slice around an oval track in races from 500 to 10,000 meters in length, pushing themselves to speeds of up to 30 miles per hour.

Challenging to the beginner and expert, slalom skiing puts a premium on style and speed. It requires great skill as athletes race around flags, called gates, on a zigzag, downhill course.

Bobsled competition may be between teams of two or four and may reach speeds close to 90 miles per hour down an artificial run coated with ice and snow. It is fast, thrilling and dangerous.

The XVI Olympic Winter Games will be held in Albertville, France, Feb. 8-25, 1992.



Figure 4. The five se-tenant Winter Olympic stamps were issued with descriptive labels for each sport. The tab attached to the left of the ice hockey stamp is in error: the Games finished February 23, not February 25!

Speed Skating: "Speed skaters, dressed to reduce wind resistance, slice around an oval track in races from 500 to 10,000 meters in length, pushing themselves to speeds of up to 30 miles per hour."

Slalom Skiing: "Challenging to the beginner and expert, slalom skiing puts a premium on style and speed. It requires great skill as athletes race around flags, called gates, on a zigzag, downhill course."

Bobsled: "Bobsled competition may be between teams of two or four and may reach speeds close to 90 miles per hour down an artificial run coated

with ice and snow. It is fast, thrilling and dangerous."

This set of Olympic stamps was designed by Lon Busch of Ellisville, MO, the same artist who developed the previously discussed basketball centennial stamp. The five designs are printed in se-tenant strips of five, 35 stamps to a post office pane. Further production details are contained in Table 3.

First Day Presentation

Orlando was selected for the first day city, as it was hosting the U.S. Figure Skating Championships from

January 4 through 12. The U.S. Olympic Figure Skating Team in was provisionally selected at this competition.

For some unknown reason, the USPS chose not to hold a first day ceremony for the release of this set of stamps. They have previously stated that their policy is to refrain from holding ceremonies at philatelic shows, but to the best of my knowledge, there was no show taking place at the time of the Championships. I would have thought that this would have been a perfect opportunity to hold a first day ceremony. Imagine the number of youngsters from all around the country who probably

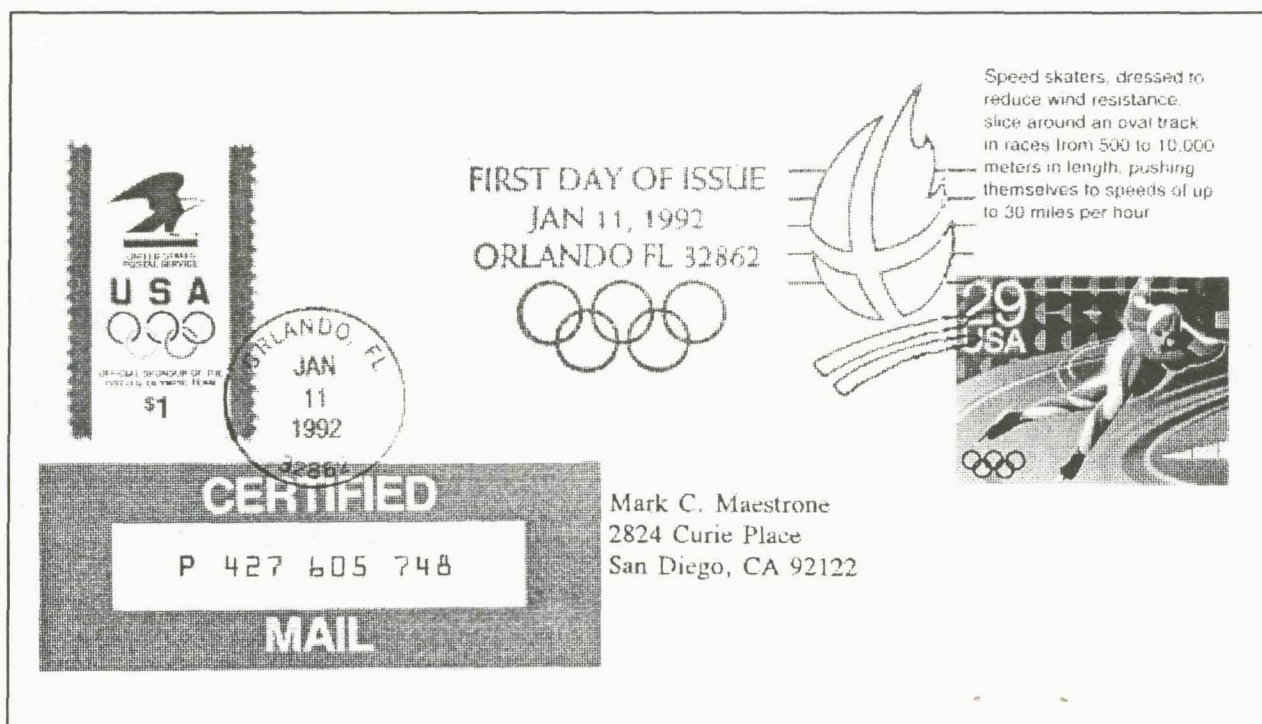


Figure 5. The first day cancel for the Winter Olympic issue reproduced the logo of the Albertville Winter Olympics. The illustrated cover also correctly uses the new \$1 Olympic stamp for certified mail.

attended the Championships, and would have been delighted to attend a first day!

To their credit, though, the USPS provided an outstanding pictorial first day cancel (Figure 5). The Albertville Olympic Logo, a flame with two lines underneath, occupies the right half of the cancel. The left side is comprised of the first day wording, date and place, and Olympic Rings.

I suspect that this will be a very popular issue with both Olympic and sport collectors. Don't hesitate to pick up a sheet or two at your earliest convenience. As an additional note, the dynamite track & field stamps that were issued last July in Los Angeles have almost completely disappeared from post offices and philatelic windows. If you're planning to use these on covers for this year's Summer Olympics, buy them NOW!

The final set of Olympic stamps, another se-tenant strip of five, is scheduled for sometime in May or June. The designs have already been released. The sports depicted will

include soccer, volleyball, swimming, women's gymnastics and boxing. We will announce new information as it becomes available.

One final note. The USPS has

announced that it will reissue the booklet of 29¢ Flag with Olympic Rings stamps. The stamps won't change, but the back cover will promote World Columbian Stamp Expo.

Table 3 29¢ Winter Olympics, Se-tenant strip of 5

First Day: January 11, 1992, in Orlando, Florida
General Sale: Beginning January 12, 1992
Scott Number: Not yet assigned
Format: Post office pane of 35 stamps (7 rows of 5 stamps each)
Perforation: 11
Process: Photogravure, by Stamp Venturers
Colors: Magenta, yellow, cyan, and black
Stamp Size: 1.105" x 1.44" (image area); 1.225" x 1.56" (overall)
Quantity Printed: Not known
Plate Number: One group of four gravure cylinder numbers preceded by the letter "S"
Marginal Markings: 1991 USPS copyright symbol, USPS Olympic Logo, 36USC380, "Use Correct ZIP Code, and inscribed tabs (see text)
Designer: Lon Busch, Ellisville, MO
Art Director & Typographer: Richard Sheaff (CSAC)
Project Manager: Joe Brockert (USPS)

Stamps, Covers and Cancels for Your Soccer Exhibit

Thanks to your response to my ad in the last issue of *JSP*, most everything has been sold; except for:

Material for the 1968, ^{SOLD}1972, and 1976 Olympic Soccer Competitions
PLUS

*1924 Uruguay Olympic issue 282-284 yellow papers in presentation folder, and
Lance Wyman original sketches, photos and artwork for World Cup Mexico C351.*

Write or call if interested; 29¢ SASE appreciated.

A listing of material in the balance of the collection has yet to be prepared. It consists mainly of issues for regional championships, club anniversaries, stamps showing famous players, etc., along with some relevant picture post cards, etc. There is also an accumulation of some of the issues for the 1982 World Cup.

If interested, send a 29¢ SASE; list will be sent when ready later this year.

All material subject to prior sale.

Stamps are as listed in *Soccer Stamps: A Comprehensive Checklist of the Soccer Stamps of the World, 1924-1980*, by the late Barbara Williams de Violini.

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Soccer Stamps available from Soccer America, P.O. Box 23705, Oakland, CA 94623; \$5.00 per copy, ppd.

Superior Galleries of Beverly Hills, California held its Father Flanagan's Boys Home Stamp Auction on July 15-16, 1991. The following are realizations including the 10% buyer's fee.

- Germany 1936, 2 RM black/red booklet containing stamps from the 1936 Summer Olympic set. The cover bears the eagle and Olympic rings with red stripe design. This is the rarer of the two booklet formats. Pristine. Michel MH42b (DM 425). Estimated at DM 285. Realized \$341.

The following four lots are Rocket Flight items related to the 1960 Winter Olympics at Squaw Valley, California:

- Lot of 5, all different, flown Olympic Rocket presentation cards. One bears a Tahoe City circular cancel without date, one is a dated Tahoe City cancel in ultramarine, another is the in blue. Another is the missing brown color in the presentation color. One missing red color in the presentation card. All are signed DeBruijn. Very fine. Ellington-Zwisler Rocket flight catalog numbers 29D1 and D1a. Each presentation card bears 4 National Rocket Society stamps and the USA 1960 Olympic stamp. Estimated at \$145. Realized \$165. The average price of each item was \$33. (Figure 1, example)

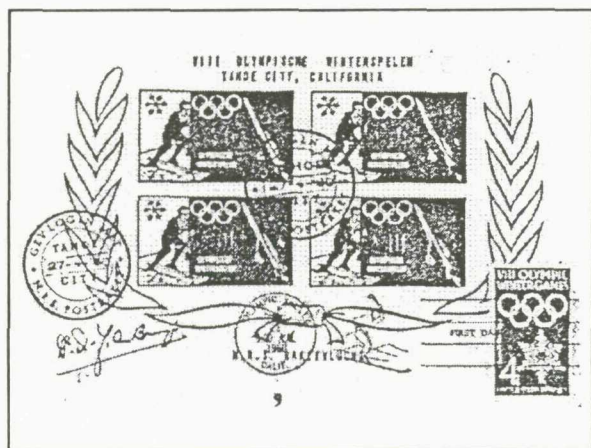


Figure 1. Example of 1960 Winter Olympic rocket cover.

- A similar lot of 44 normal, 22 red omitted and 22 brown omitted cards. Unfranked. Not flown. All signed DeBruijn. Ellington-Zwisler 29D1 and 29D1a. No estimate. Realized \$1,375. This works out to an average of about \$16 for each of the 88 cards. (The normal perforate or imperforate sheets are listed in the DuBois 1985 catalog at \$5 per sheet. The perforate sheet with either color missing lists at \$10 per sheet.)

- One cover. The 1960 February 18 Special Winter Olympics FDC flown rocket combo cover with green Tahoe City Cachet + special Olympic Village circular date stamp. Also bears the commemorative Winter Olympic Rocket stamp. Signed by Debruijn. Very fine. Ellington-Zwisler 29C4. Estimate \$50-75. Realized \$137.50.
- Lot of 8 covers similar to above. E-Z 29C4. Est. \$400. Realized \$440. This works out to an average of \$55 per cover.
- Monaco Scott 1029a variety. 1976 Montreal Olympic Souvenir Sheet varieties including imperf (gummed), imperf (uncut vertical pair, gummed) and imperf on card. Very fine. Owner's new issue cost \$225. Estimated \$250-\$300. Realized \$440.
- Hungary Scott C324 variety. 1972 Munich Olympics Souvenir Sheet, imperf. Original gum, never hinged. Very fine. Michel Block 89b (DM 350). Estimated \$235. Realized \$29.70 (sic).

The following results come from the Harmers, New York auction on July 17-18, 1991. Realizations include the 10% buyer's fee.

- France 1924 Olympics, set complete in one collective proof, 302 x 200 cm., with interleaving. Negligible edge faults. Fine. Yvert & Teller 183-186 (FF 25,000). No estimate. Realized \$2,300.
- France 1953 Sports set of six, plus 2 collective proofs of 3 designs each. Very fine. Y & T 1012-7 (FF 6,750). No estimate. Realized \$400.
- France 1956 Sports set of 4, plus the set on one collective proof. Fine to very fine. Y & T 1072-75 (FF 3,400). No estimate. Realized \$190.
- France 1968 Olympics set of 5, plus collective proof. VF. Y & T 1543-47 (FF 5,500) No estimate. Realized \$270.
- Switzerland 1944 Olympic Jubilee 30 c. "open eye" variety. Original gum, hinged, very fine. Zumstein 261wR1 (Sfr. 330) No estimate. Realized \$75. (Figure 2)

Figure 2 (at right). 1944 Swiss Olympic Jubilee Issue, "open eye" variety.



The Ivy, Shreve & Mader, New York, sale of July 10-13, 1991 had several interesting lots in a massive, superbly produced catalog. With the prices realized, this catalog is a valuable reference for future bidding and bourse buying. I keep a storage box full of useful catalogs with prices realized for reference.

There were 39 lots of beautiful mint 1904 Louisiana Purchase stamps. I have noted that other auctions have had very few, or no, lots of these stamps. The Louisiana Purchase stamps are integral elements in a collection devoted to the Third Olympic Games at St. Louis.

A survey of the lots and their illustrations revealed that premiums over catalog values were paid, especially for never hinged stamps with large margins and exceptional centering. In most cases, the blocks realized less than their catalog values, suggesting again that premiums were paid primarily for fresh, well-centered stamps with large margins.

The prices realized that are listed below do not include the 10% buyer's premium. Scott 1988 catalog values were used. I have elected to report on lots containing single stamps, although blocks, many with plate numbers, were also offered.

Readers are invited to carefully examine the lot descriptions, prices realized and the illustrations. Note especially the quality of centering and the perforations and how these factors influenced the prices realized. I was amazed to see how discriminating some bidders can be. It makes me wonder if my standards for condition are too low.

- Lot 1268. Complete set, 1 cent to 10 cents. Fresh. Original gum, never hinged, fine to very fine. Catalog \$457.50. Realized \$325.00.
- Lot 1269. 1 cent. Fabulously well centered within uncommonly large margins, with strong color and impression, pristine original gum, never hinged, extremely fine. Catalog \$27.50. Realized \$70.00.



Lot #1269

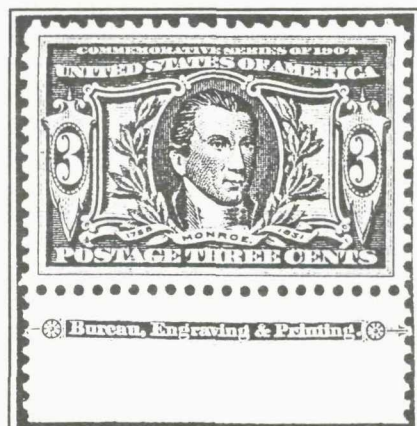


Lot #1272

- Lot 1272. 2 cent. Well centered, large margins, exceptionally fresh and crisp. O.G. N.H. Extremely fine. Catalog \$25. Realized \$65.00.
- Lot 1277. 3 cent. An exciting mint single which possesses centering and margins quite unlike the vast majority, being very nearly perfectly centered amid large margins quite uncharacteristic of the issue, crisp color and impression. O.G., N.H. Extremely fine gem. Catalog \$95.00. Realized \$300.00.
- Lot 1278. 3 cent. Bottom margin imprint single, particularly choice and impressive, perfectly centered with



Lot #1277 above, #1278 below



extravagantly large and even margins, strong color, sharp impression. Full O.G., N.H. Extremely Fine. Catalog \$95.00. Realized \$525.00.

- Lot 1279. 3 cent. Virtually perfectly centered mint single with intense violet color. O.G., N.H. Extremely fine. Catalog \$95.00. Realized \$130.00.
- Lots 1280 through 1282. 3 cent. Lightly hinged to very lightly hinged. Extremely fine. Well centered, beautifully centered or exceptionally well centered. Catalog \$95.00 each. Realized \$50.00 each.



Lot #1279



Lot #1280

- Lot 1288. 5 cent. Wide margins, O.G., N.H. Extremely fine. Catalog \$110.00. Realized \$150.00
- Lot 1289. 5 cent. Centered amid four large margins. O.G., N.H. Bright and fresh. Catalog \$110.00. Realized \$260.00.



Lot #1288



Lot #1289

- Lot 1291. 5 cent. Excellent margins and centering. Exceptionally fresh, bright color. O.G. Barest trace of hinging in one corner. Catalog \$110.00. Realized \$80.00.



- Lot 1297. 10 cent. An exciting mint example that ranks among the very finest we have had the pleasure to offer, possessing centering and margins quite uncharacteristic of this typically tight margined series, with extravagantly large and symmetrical margins all around. Superb color and impression, unblemished O.G., N.H. A superb gem. Catalog \$200.00. Realized \$1,000. [Remember to add 10% buyer's premium.]



Lot #1297

- Lot 1298. 10 cent. Exceptionally well centered, fresh bright color. O.G., N.H. Extremely fine. Catalog \$200.00. Realized \$350.00.



Lot #1298



Lot #1303

- Lot 1303. 10 cent. O.G., N.H. Very fine. Catalog \$200. Realized \$85.00.

The following are other lots in the Ivy, Shreve & Mader auction.

- Lot 1875. U.S. 1972 8 cent Olympic. Black "US," "8c," and inscription omitted. Right margin single. O.G., N.H. Extremely fine. A few minute specks of black visible only under magnification, but should qualify for a major color missing error. Unlisted in Scott or Datz. Very striking. Estimate \$200-\$300. Realized \$140.00.
- Lot 2762. Guinea. 1960 Olympics. 100 Fr. to 500 Fr. airmail set of 3 varieties. Listed in 1966 Sanabria. Complete set of varieties: the 100 Fr and 500 Fr with overprints in black, orange and orange inverted, all 3



Lot #1875

in green and the 200 Fr. with double overprint (only 20 issued). O.G., some N.H. Very fine. Six are signed Sanabria. Estimate \$150-\$200. Realized \$160.00. [The lot appears to list 10 different stamps.]

- Lot 2873. Peru 1948 Olympic souvenir sheet, without "Aero" overprints. Sanabria \$450.00 (presumably 1966). Unlisted in Scott 1990 catalog. O.G. (presumably hinged). Very fine. Estimate \$300-\$400. Realized \$300.00.
- Lot 2874. Peru 1956 Melbourne overprinted Olympic souvenir sheet without "Aero" overprints. Sanabria 123 (\$350.00) O.G., N.H. Very fine. Estimate \$200-\$300. Realized \$220.00.

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Figure 1. The stunning French upset of the highly touted U.S. Team made the 1991 Davis Cup Finals the most exciting in many years.

The 1991 Davis Cup Finals

by Dorothy Weihrauch

No Davis Cup tennis finals in many years have aroused as much emotion and excitement as those held between France and the United States at Lyon November 29-December 1, 1991 (Figure 1). An enthusiastic, highly partisan capacity crowd of 8,000 gathered in the Lyon Sports Palace to cheer on its team to its first Davis Cup victory since 1932. That was the era of the famous French "Four Musketeers"; one of their number, Jean Borotra ("The Bounding Basque"), was among the spectators when France's team finally recaptured the Cup after 59 years (Figure 2).

That France and the United States reached the 1991 Davis Cup finals was in both cases due to a bit of luck. En route to the finals, the United States was to play a strong German team, unexpectedly weakened when Germany's best player, Boris Becker,

was forced to withdraw before the competition began due to injury. France played Yugoslavia in its semi-final match and achieved an easy victory when Yugoslavia's two best players, who are Croatian, refused to play under the Yugoslav flag.



Figure 2. Jean Borotra, one of France's "Four Musketeers," was on the last winning French Davis Cup team in 1932.

The 1991 French team was captained by Yannick Noah, a great player of the 1980s now semiretired from professional tennis. The U.S. captain was Tom Gorman, a somewhat controversial figure who has in the past been faulted for his choice of players to represent the U.S. in Davis Cup play. Both captains were criticized for their selection of players for the final matches. Noah chose Guy Forget, ranked #6 in the world, but coupled him with Henri Leconte. Leconte underwent his third back operation in the early autumn and thereafter was on the verge of retiring from tennis. He played few matches during 1991 and was ranked 159th in the world. Moreover, he is generally unpopular with French tennis fans since he is a streaky player, who may perform brilliantly for four or five games and then have his game collapse completely. As it turned out, he

was the hero of the 1991 Davis Cup finals.

Gorman chose Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras as singles players, and Ken Flach and Robert Seguso for the doubles team. The latter are perhaps the second best doubles team in the world, with a record of only one previous loss in Davis Cup play. They had never been beaten by a French team. But they were playing in Lyon in their first Davis Cup final. Agassi, ranked #8 in the world, has a good record in Davis Cup play. Sampras, however, while ranked #7 in the world, had never previously competed in a Davis Cup match. He was thus unaccustomed to the pressure inherent in Davis Cup competition—playing for one's country rather than merely for prize money, as well as in an opponent's country before highly partisan fans. Also, Sampras was accustomed to being a crowd favorite, a situation which certainly did not prevail in Lyon. In his favor, was the fact that the matches were being played on his favorite surface—a fast indoor court

where the ball bounces low.

The first finals match was a singles competition between Agassi and Forget, which Agassi won handily in four sets. Then Sampras and Leconte took to the court and played an extremely close match, marked by solid play from Sampras but absolute brilliance from Leconte, who won in four sets. For perhaps the first time in his life, Leconte became the idol of the French sports press who called him "a giant."

The doubles competition followed the next day, with Leconte and Forget constituting the French doubles team. The selection of these two was another of Noah's controversial decisions, since Leconte is not too well regarded as a doubles player, nor, judging from past history, did it seem likely that he would play well two days in a row. Instead, he was again the hero of the match, reinforcing Forget whose game at times appeared somewhat fragile. The French easily won the first set on two breaks of Seguso's serve and went on to take the match in four sets.

France thus led the competition two matches to one; all of France was ecstatic.

On the third day, in accordance with Davis Cup format, the reverse singles were played. Sampras played first, taking on Forget in what proved to be the deciding match. Forget won the first set in a tie breaker and proceeded to take the match in four sets. While Sampras served very well, he was able to break Forget's serve only once, although he had many break point opportunities. Forget's normally brilliant serve (he led the professional ranks in aces in 1991) did not desert him as it sometimes does in pressure situations.

Davis Cup competitions have come to be somewhat lightly regarded in recent years, since tennis has become a highly paid professional sport. But the atmosphere of the 1991 matches evoked memories of past years, when for the tennis world capturing the Davis Cup for one's country was the sweetest of victories. □

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Olympic Canoeing Medalists on OLYMPSPORT '91 Postal Materials

by Jaroslav Petrásek

OLYMPSPORT, the Society of Czechoslovak Olympic and Sport Philately, and IMOS (the German equivalent) together celebrated their 25TH anniversaries by holding OLYMPSPORT '91. This international exhibition of Olympic and sport philately was held in Český Brod, Czechoslovakia from September 21-29, 1991.

The organizers of the exhibition created a slogan machine cancel in black (Figure 1). The Postalia cancellation commemorated the 55TH anniversary of the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin where Czechoslovakia won two gold medals in canoeing. The cancel illustrates the Czech gold medal team in the Canadian Pairs 1,000 Meters, Jan Brzák-Felix and Vladimír Syrovátka. Their names, along with

Zdeněk Škrdlant and Václav Mottl, appear vertically along the right edge of the cancel. The latter two canoeists won the Canadian Pairs 10,000 Meters for Czechoslovakia.

Vladimír Syrovátka, called Rus, was born June 19, 1908 in Zdolunovo, in what is now Ukraine. At the European championships in 1934, Syrovátka teamed with Brzák to win both the Canadian Pairs 1,000 Meters and 10,000 Meters. He was also a manufacturer of canoes, kayaks and slalom skis.

Jan Brzák-Felix was a native of Czechoslovakia, born in Prague on April 6, 1912. He is one of the best known Czech sportsmen. In addition to his Olympic victory in 1936 with Syrovátka, Brzák was victorious in the following two Olympics. He competed with Bohumil Kudrna to win the gold in London in the Canadian Pairs

1,000, making him one of the few gold medalists from 1936 to retain his Olympic title 12 years later. This same team won the silver in Helsinki in 1952. Brzák was World Champion three times between 1938 and 1950. He was also a member of the Czechoslovak team that competed at the First White Water World Championships in slalom that took place in Genova, where Jan won two silvers and two bronze medals. Between 1929 and 1952, Brzák-Felix won a total of twenty-seven national canoeing titles in Czechoslovakia.

Václav Mottl was born in Prague on May 19, 1914. Zdeněk Škrdlant, Mottl's partner in the 10,000 meter race in Berlin, was born February 6, 1914.

The Figure 1 postal stationery envelope was specially prepared for the exhibition. The stationery's il-

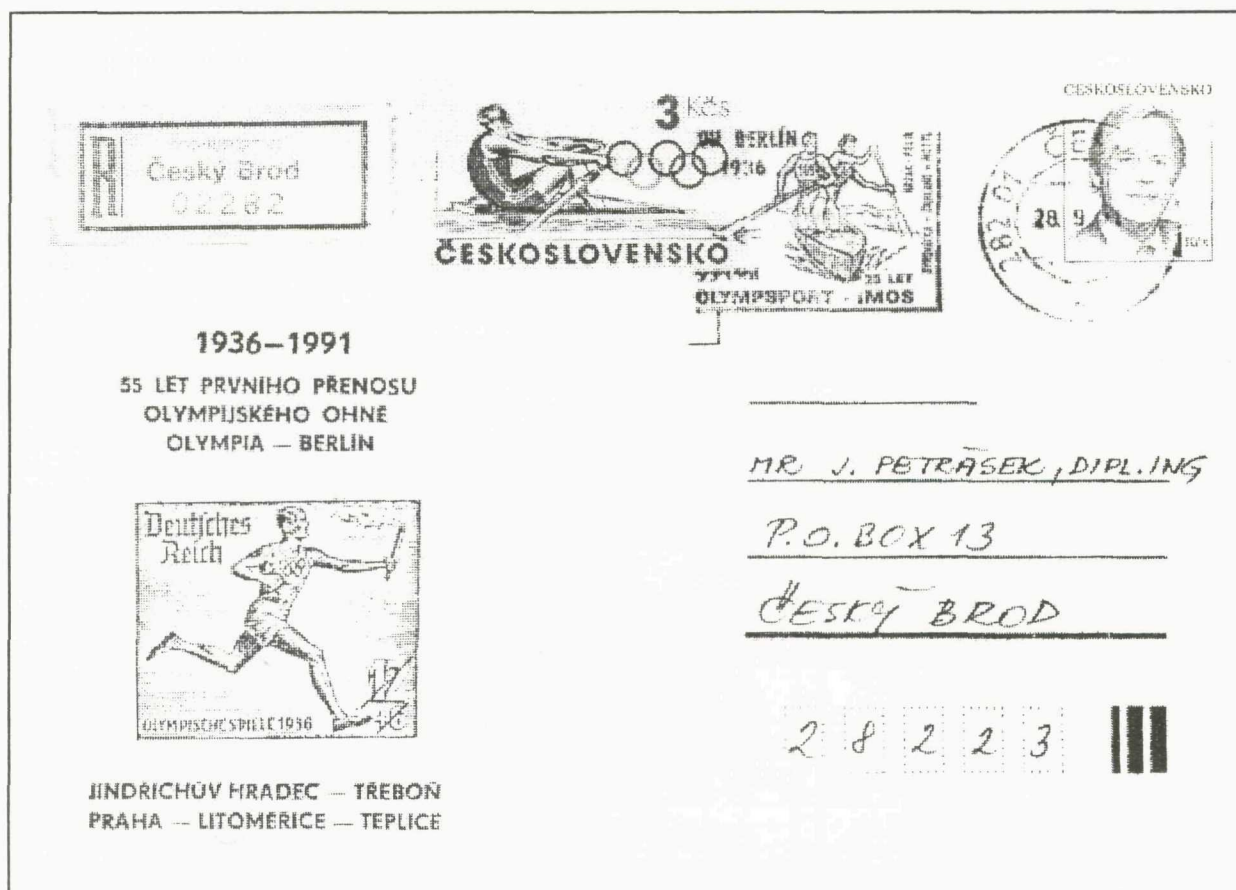


Figure 1. A special postal stationery envelope, registration label and machine cancel were created for the OLYMPSPORT '91 Sport and Olympic Philatelic Exhibition held in Český Brod, Czechoslovakia.



Figure 2. This red meter imprint, patterned after the Figure 1 machine cancel, had a limited distribution of only 200 pieces. The rowers depicted are Brzák and Syrovátka.

illustration commemorates the 1936 Olympic Torch Run from Olympia, Greece to Berlin. The 1936 German Olympic torchrunner stamp is reproduced, under which appears the Czech towns through which the Olympic Torch passed: Jindřichův Hradec, Třeboň, Praha, Litoměřice, and Teplice. The selection of the Berlin 1936 Olympic theme is of great importance. Since the collapse of the communist ruled government in Czechoslovakia, this was the first time in 40 years that Nazi era material has been allowed to be shown in this country. Until this time, all such material was forbidden; philatelic exhibits that included such items were disqualified. A specially imprinted registration label for OLYMPSPORT '91 was also provided. The white label (used on the cover in Figure 1) has a red "R" and box; the other printing is in blue.

A limited edition meter imprint (Figure 2) was produced. It uses the same illustration as on the machine cancel, but in red. The meter was used only on September 28, the final day of the exhibition. Each participant received one; only 200 pieces exist.

Other Olympic and sport items

were prepared for this exhibition. These included:

- 3 types of stamp booklets (one each for Albertville, Barcelona, and High Tatra—the candidate city for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games (Figure 3);
- A commemorative handcancel noting the host cities for the 1992 Olympic Games (Albertville and Barcelona) which is illustrated in Figure 4;
- 2 stationery cards (Figures 5 & 6).

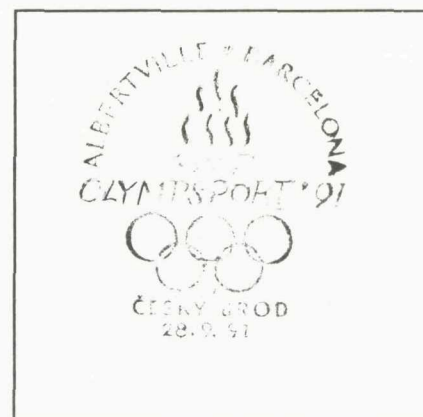


Figure 4. The black OLYMPSPORT '91 handcancel notes the 1992 Olympic host cities: Albertville and Barcelona.

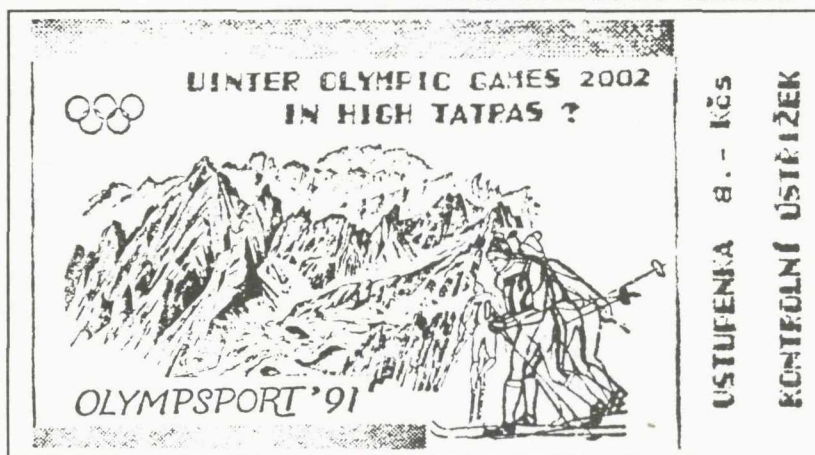


Figure 3. High Tatra, depicted on this special booklet cover, will bid on the Winter Olympic Games of 2002.

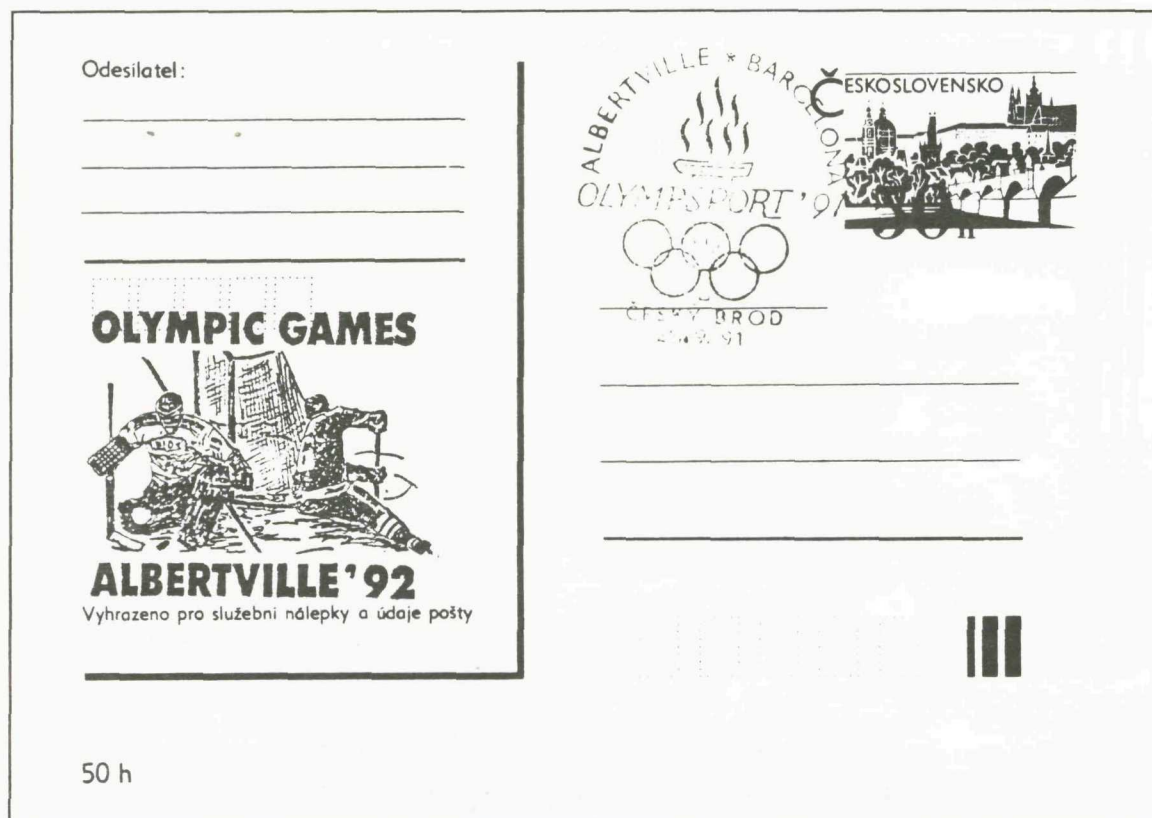


Figure 5. Special postal stationery cards commemorating the Albertville Winter Olympic Games and...

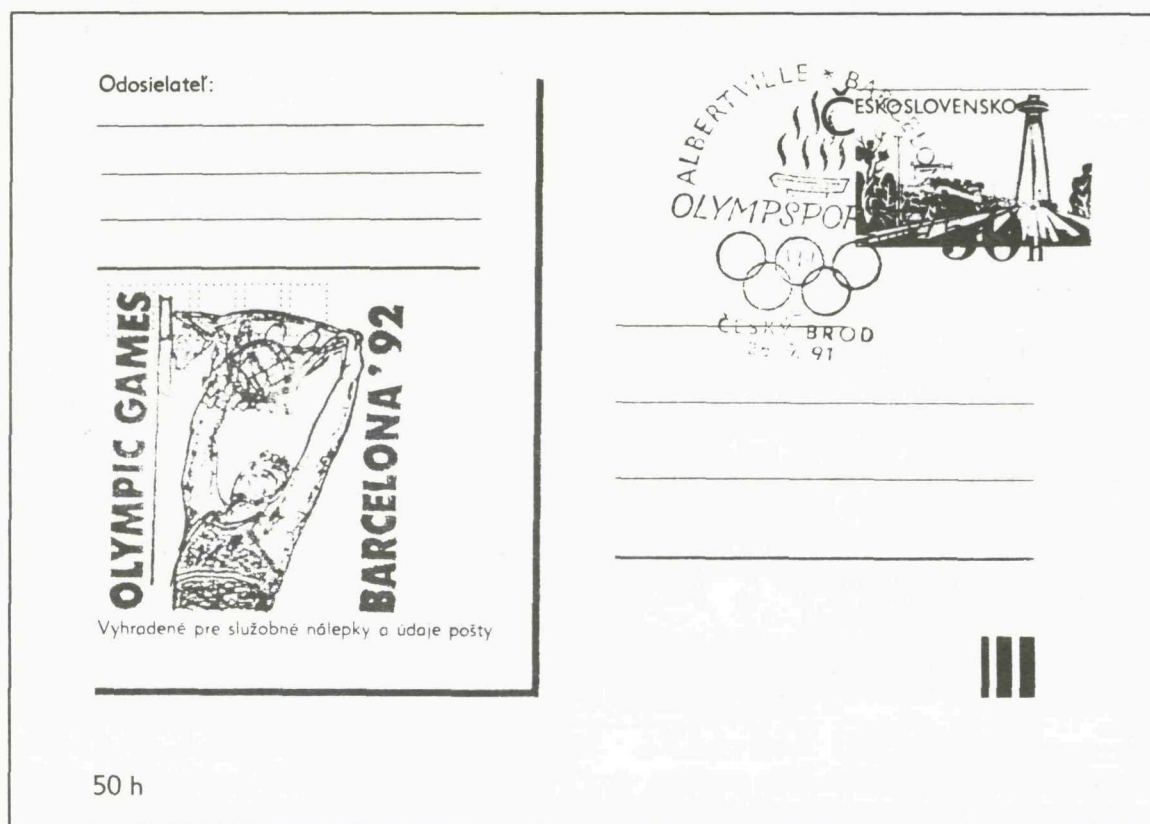


Figure 6. ...the Summer Games in Barcelona, Spain.

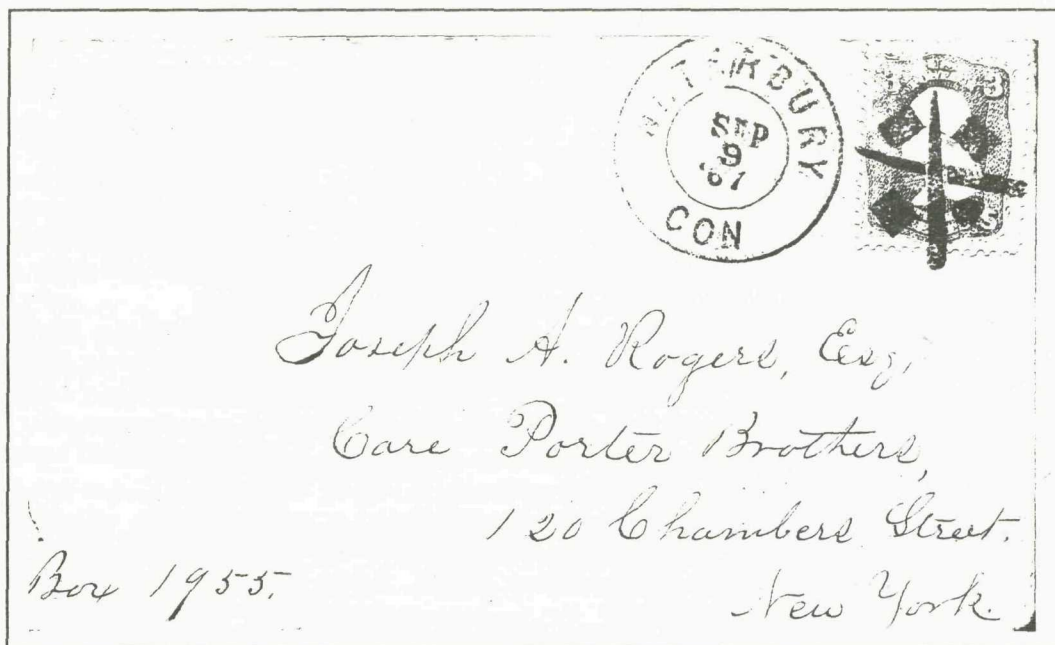


Figure 1. 1867 Waterbury-Naugatuck Baseball Game fancy cancel on cover. Realized \$15,400.

U.S. Baseball Postmarks: The Not So Humble Origins

by Norman Rushefsky

To collectors of 19th century postmarks, the most sought after are those from Waterbury, Connecticut. An auction realization for at least one Waterbury cover has exceeded a quarter of a million dollars. Postmarks of various designs were prepared by postal clerk and later Postmaster, John W. Hill, over a period extending from about 1865 to 1890. During this period, the cancelling devices were carved into apothecary corks and used for short periods, usually a few days, until they wore out and were replaced by that of another design. Several of the designs created by Hill involve baseball themes.

On December 13, 1990, the remarkable Henry W. Houser collection of these postmarks was auctioned by Christie's Robson Lowe. The auction included two baseball postmarks. Figure 1 shows the most valuable of the two. The catalog description reads as follows:

- Lot 80. Bats, Baseball and Diamonds (Rohloff O-2), type 1, bold complete strike ties 3¢ Rose (65), full, fairly clear Waterbury Sep. 2, 1867 double-circle datestamp on buff cover to New York, Rogers correspondence. (Figure 1)

This cancel commemorated Waterbury's Excelsior team's victory over the Naugatuck Valley Nine on July 24, 1867.

EXTREMELY FINE MARKING AND COVER. A VERY EARLY AND RARE BASEBALL RELATED

DESIGN. Ex Matthies, Rohloff rarity RRRR (not more than five covers known), illustrated in Rohloff. Estimate \$7,500-10,000.

This cover realized \$15,400 which includes the 10% buyer's premium. Figure 2 shows a second cover which realized \$1,045. The lot description is as follows:

- Lot 81. Bats, Baseball and Diamonds (Rohloff O-3), type 2, fairly clear and complete strike ties 3¢ Green (158), full clear Waterbury Jul 2 datestamp on cover to Plantsville Ct., Hotchkiss correspondence, very fine marking and cover, an extremely rare design repeating the baseball motif found in 1867, Rohloff rarity RRRR (not more than five copies known). Estimate \$1,000-1,500. (Figure 2)

For those on more modest budgets for purchasing postmarks, examples of these Waterbury postmarks, albeit reproductions, may be obtained from the Waterbury Stamp Club. For the last few years, this club has reproduced a selected few of these postmarks for use by the USPS at the club's stamp show called BRASSPEX. Figure 3 shows a cover with the two reproduced postmarks used for BRASSPEX 1990. As may be seen, one of these is a baseball postmark and I believe it is a reproduction of that shown in Figure 2. Figure 4 illustrates an earlier unofficial "postmark" that was used at BRASSPEX 1983 and which appears similar to that of Figure 1. □

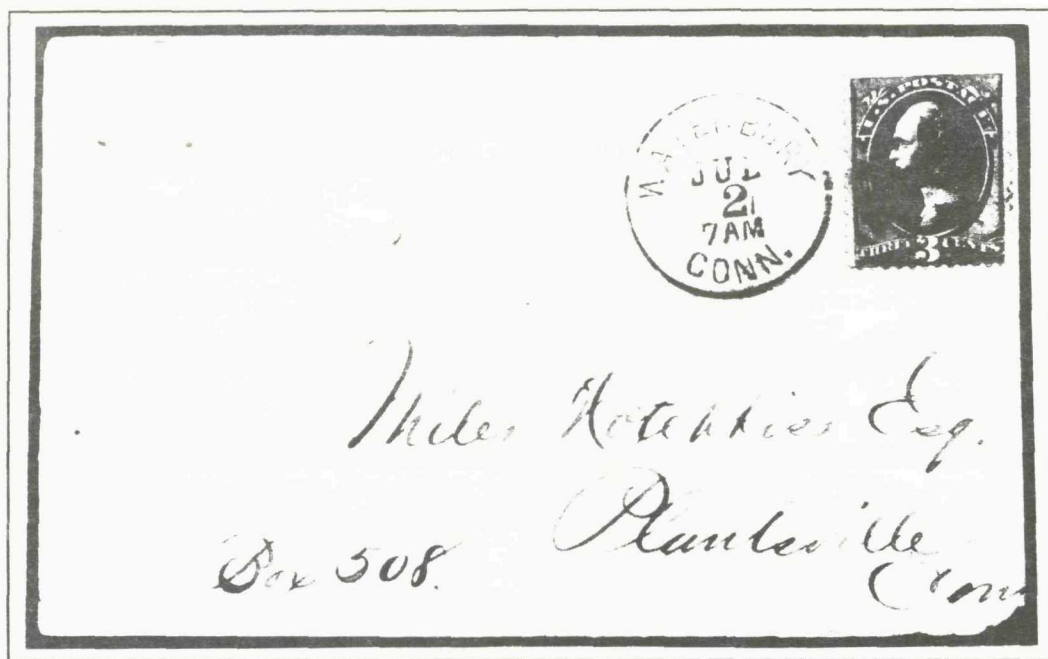


Figure 2. An additional baseball cover was offered, with a Waterbury cancel similar to that in Figure 1. It realized \$1,045.



Figure 3. A modern reproduction of a baseball cancel, probably the one illustrated in Figure 2, appears on this BRASSPEX 1990 show cover.

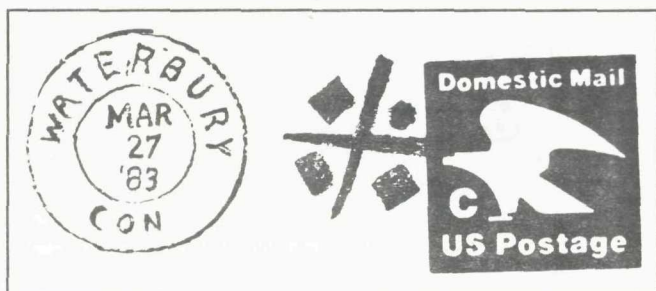


Figure 4. BRASSPEX 1983 reproduced (unofficially) a baseball fancy cancel that bears a striking resemblance to the one depicted in Figure 1.



OLYMPICS



Our May auction will feature a large section of nice Olympic seals, labels, tickets, covers, and stamps - early to modern. The handsome catalog is printed by one of the top printers of stamp catalogs and contains photos of most of the lots. In addition to the Olympic material there are dozens of other categories - some philatelic, some not - but all interesting. We are becoming known for our "different" catalog. We feature back-of-the-book, Cinderellas, Americana, Expos, etc. And, of course, each auction offers classic U.S. and foreign stamps, covers, and cancellations. Always strong in scarce British Empire as well.

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ARA

OLYMPHILEX '92

Bulletin #1 for OLYMPHILEX '92 contains a brief history of the previous Olympic and Sports Philatelic Exhibitions, of which the 1992 exhibition will be the fifth.

OLYMPHILEX '85 was the first of these international exhibitions devoted to Olympic and sports philately, organized by FIPO (International Federation of Olympic Philately) and by the IOC (International Olympic Committee). It was held in Lausanne, Switzerland, at the Palais de Beaulieu, in March 1985, and drew 200 sports and Olympic collections, mounted in 1,150 exhibit frames. The Court of Honor included collections of Manfred Bergman (noted for containing some of the outstanding Olympic rarities of the 1896-1940 period) and Michalis Tsironis (with its in-depth study of the Greek Olympic issues of 1896 and 1906). IOC and FIPO President, Juan Antonio Samaranch, also showed selections from his collection. A few of the special postmarks used to commemorate this first OLYMPHILEX are shown in Figure 1.

The second of these international shows was held in Rome in 1987, in the headquarters building of CONI (the Italian National Olympic Committee) on the grounds of the Foro Italico. The exhibition dates (August 29-September 9) coincided with the World Athletic Championships then being held in Rome. Some 50,000 visitors are estimated to have attended the exhibition and seen some of the outstanding sports and Olympic collections on display. On September 2, 1987, the 50th anniversary of the death of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Games, a special homage was paid him.

OLYMPHILEX 1988, the third of these international exhibitions, was held in Seoul from September 19-28, during the period of the Games of the XXIVth Olympiad. The site was the Korea Exhibition Center. A total of 270 sports and Olympic exhibitors from 140 countries entered their collections in the competition in Seoul. Twelve postal administrations were represented at the exhibition, each using a special commemorative postmark, while the Korean Post Office provided a different special cancellation for each day of the exhibition.

Edition number four of OLYMPHILEX was held in Varna, Bulgaria from October 19-25, 1990. Due to the uncertain political and economic conditions then prevailing in Bulgaria, as well as to the fact that this exhibition did not coincide with an important international sports event, some concern was initially expressed about the show's potential success. In fact, however, while exhibits were received from only 27 countries, the quality level of the material exhibited was very high.

OLYMPHILEX '92 is expected to attract a very large number of high level sports and Olympic exhibits as well as an enormous attendance, due to its location in Barcelona during the Games of the XXVth Olympiad.

The site of the exhibition will be the Faculty of Economics and Business Sciences and the dates July 29-August 6, 1992.

Matchpoint

Issue number 25 dated December 1991, is to be the last issue of this tennis newsletter, since Les Yerkes has decided to discontinue it. It will be sorely missed by tennis collectors.

This final issue contains the conclusion of Pierre Wertheimer's article about the production file of Ecuador #C67, the tennis stamp issued for the First Bolivarian Games. Several new items of tennis-related postal stationery are illustrated and new stamps and postmarks are detailed. There is also one page reproducing poster stamps depicting tennis players. Finally, a page from the collection of English tennis collector, Ron Backhouse, is reproduced, showing (Figure 2) the scarce Heinrich Hammer meter mark of the 1930s.



Figure 1. Some of the special cancellations produced for OLYMPHILEX '85 in Lausanne, Switzerland.



Figure 2. This rare early German tennis meter cancel from the collection of Ron Backhouse appeared in the final issue of *Matchpoint*, the tennis newsletter edited by Les Yerkes.

FIPO Document #22

The April 1991, issue of this official publication of the International Federation of Olympic Philately is 49 pages in length. It includes only one feature article—the first part of a longer piece which will list and describe (with illustrations) the postal emissions of the U.S.S.R. issued for the 1980 Summer Olympics. Most of the balance of the periodical is devoted to the detailed press releases of several countries promoting their new sports and Olympic stamps, illustrations from recent European auction catalogs of Olympic and sports lots and messages from FIPO members seeking exchange partners or correspondents.

A final section is a priced list of publications available from the International Olympic Committee and the Olympic Museum. From the former the most interesting appear to be: *Official Report Athens—The Games of the First Olympiad*, 84 pages, 20 Sfr.; *Official Report of the Xth Olympic Congress, Varna 1973*, 171 pages, 25 Sfr.; *Official Report of the XI Olympic Congress, Baden-Baden 1981*, in 3 volumes totalling 292 pages, total price 50 Sfr.; and *Official Results: XIII Olympic Winter Games, Lake Placid, 1980 and Games of the XXII Olympiad, Moscow, 1980*, 479 pages, 30 Sfr. These publications are available, postpaid, by check or money order in Swiss francs payable to "International Olympic Committee," and sent to the IOC, Olympic House, Accounting Department, 1007 Lausanne, Switzerland.

Publications from the Olympic Museum include *Post, Philately and Olympism*, Volume I (1896-1928), 184 pages,

Sfr 30, and Volume II (1932-1960), 325 pages, Sfr 50; *Calgary '88*, 208 pages, Sfr 49; and *Seoul '88*, 221 pages, Sfr 49. In each case, specify if you want the English or French version. To order, send a check in Swiss francs or a money order payable to Musée Olympique, at Avenue Ruchonnet 18, Case postale 1121, 1001 Lausanne, Switzerland. Postage charges are included in the above prices.

Filatelìa Sport—Olimpica #29

This is the last issue of the Italian Sports Group's periodical to appear under the editorship of Pierangelo Brivio, who for the past 10 years has served both as editor and as head of the Sports Group. There is no indication in this large (84 page) final issue as to who will replace him.

Eleven pages of this issue are devoted to Mauro Gilardi's identification (with illustrations) of new basketball philatelic material. He also reviews—and highly recommends—Luciano Calenda's recently issued catalog of basketball material entitled (in Italian) *One Hundred Years of Basketball in Philately*. No price is given, but Luciano Calenda's address is in the SPI Membership Handbook.

Sixteen pages are given over to an illustrated discussion of a series of postally-used postcards with humorous cachets relating to the French bowling game, boules. Each card has been autographed by players and officials who took part in competitions. An article on the forthcoming Albertville Olympics, in addition to reproducing new French philatelic material devoted to the Games, also discusses the history of Savoy, the region of France where Albertville is located.

This issue also offers an explanation of the rules of korfbal, commemorated on a recent Belgian stamp. This is the only team sport in which men and women compete together. As always, many new cancellations and meters (Figure 3) from throughout the world are illustrated. Of special interest is an article reproducing both old and recent pictorial cancellations of Japan for the sport of table tennis, as well as a chart giving the Latin alphabet equivalents of the Japanese characters representing Japanese town names.

Basketball Philatelic News

The December 1991 issue of the newsletter for collectors of basketball includes photocopies of much new material on the topic as well as several interesting discoveries. Among these is a photocopy of a constant plate variety occurring on #33 of each sheet of 50 of Italy's 1991 basketball stamp (Scott 1844). Caused by a scrap of extraneous matter on the printing roller, the variety consists of a white blot toward the lower right of the stamp. A total of 80,000 of this variety should exist.

There is the suggestion that the first day cancellation used February 17, 1962 on the versions of Mauritania 126-127 overprinted for the Rome and Tokyo Olympic Games (see Scott footnote) may have been a basketball cancel. To subscribe, write to George E. Killian, Editor, c/o National Junior College Athletic Association, P.O. Box 7305, Colorado Springs, CO 80933-7305.

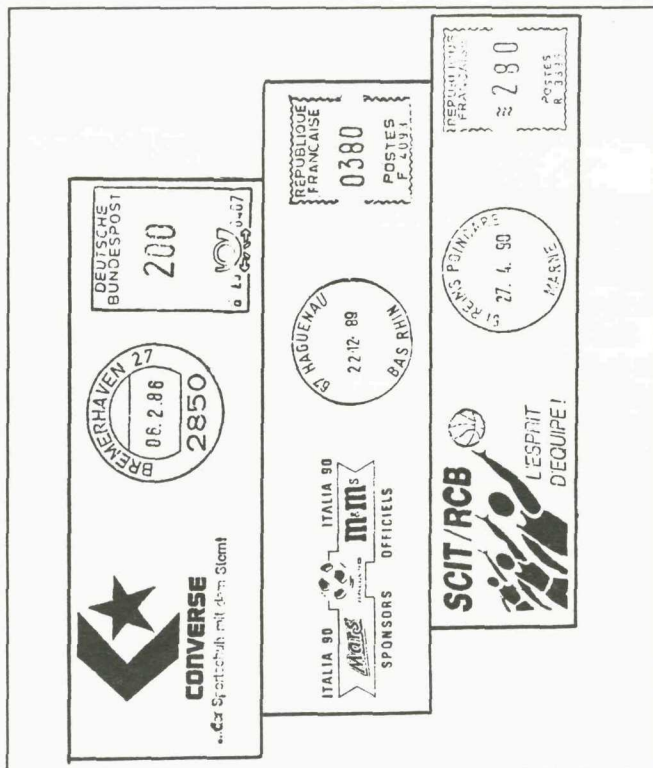


Figure 3. A variety of European sports sponsor meters were illustrated in issue #29 of the Italian Sports Groups' periodical.

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- VII CORTINA WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES
- VIII SQUAW VALLEY WINTER GAMES
- IX INNSBRUCK WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES
- X GRENOBLE WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES
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On Sports and Olympic Exhibiting

by James Bowman

Whether or not you are now engaged in exhibiting sports, you might find it worthwhile to visit one of the two major International Thematic Exhibitions if you plan to vacation in Europe this year.

The first of these is OLYMPHILEX '92 which will be held in Barcelona from July 30 through August 7 in conjunction with the Games of the XXVth Olympiad. Both competitive and promotional class exhibits will be included covering a broad range of subjects encompassing Olympic Games (Summer and Winter), Sports, and international sports events.

Having participated in OLYMPHILEX '88 in Seoul, I can assure you that attending an OLYMPHILEX provides one a rare insight into the breadth of sports collecting and exhibiting that cannot be duplicated elsewhere.

The second opportunity is GENOVA '92 World Exhibition of Thematic Philately. This exhibition covers the whole range of thematic subjects but a large number of sports related exhibits are expected. This exhibition runs from September 18-27.

If you happen to be in Barcelona or Genova while the exhibitions are in progress, be sure to stop in. Not too far down the line, we can hopefully look forward to an OLYMPHILEX '96 in Atlanta. Atlanta will provide a great opportunity for those residing in the United States to participate by exhibiting and/or attending OLYMPHILEX '96. You have four years to get ready and I can't think of a better way to start your preparation than by attending one of the exhibitions that I have mentioned above.

Now, it's time to get on to preparing that sports exhibit that you haven't started yet but have had the best intentions of doing. The key to that exhibit in your head is obtaining a broad variety of commercially used philatelic items related to your topic. Unfortunately, the good commercial usages are not readily obtainable and you will probably find it

necessary to use some "philatelically-inspired" items initially to develop your theme. However, you should be continually on the lookout for those commercially used items that will serve well in upgrading your exhibit.

To illustrate my point, Figure 1 is an example of a "philatelically-inspired" usage that should be avoided. This item was obviously "created" for the resale market. First, it is addressed to a stamp dealer which may or may not be "damning" by itself and the letter has never been opened. The clincher came when I included this item in my exhibit at BALPEX and found an identical piece in another 1936 Olympic exhibit in which the serial number of the registration label was only a few digits different from mine and it was also from the same roll of labels. Most judges can quickly discern what is philatelically-inspired and what is not.

Figure 2 is an example with a much preferred commercial usage. It has markings on the reverse side indicating receipt at both the Chicago and Woodstock, Illinois Registry Divisions. The envelope has been opened (not too carefully) for removal of contents.

In both examples, the covers are over franked. The proper postage for each cover should have been 55 pfen. The rate for a foreign destination letter weighing up to 20 grams was 25 pf, and registration cost an additional 30 pf. It was not uncommon, during the 1936 Games to frank letters with the complete set of the eight stamps or one of the two souvenir sheets issued by Germany for the Games. The Figure 1 cover carries a franking of 113 pf while the Figure 2 example bears only 60 pf. Thus, the Figure 2 cover earns another "gold star" in that it is not grossly over franked.

This discussion, I hope, will start you thinking about what to look for in selecting exhibit-quality material. This by no means implies you can't collect what pleases you, but if you are going to exhibit, a little thought in selecting your pieces can go a long way toward raising your award level.

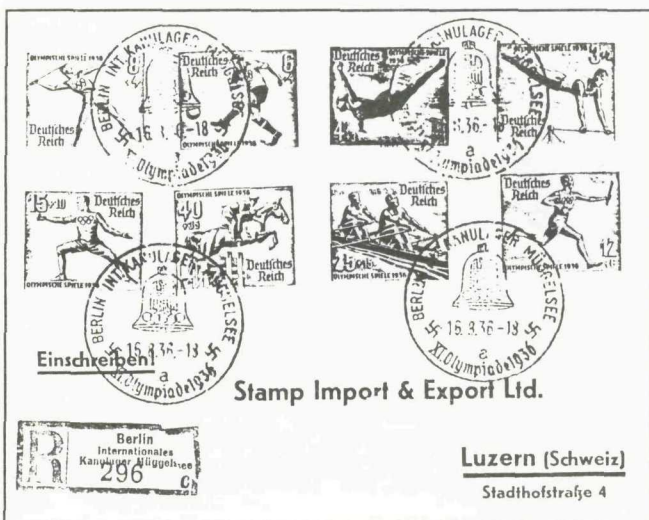


Figure 1. This cover was obviously philatelically-inspired with over twice the necessary postage applied.



Figure 2. With nearly exact postage, this cover qualifies as a more desirable commercial usage.

News of Our Members

by Clem Reiss & Dorothy Weihrauch

New Members

- 1808R Michael A. White, Box 222, CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950. He is an attorney fluent in Chamorro and French. He collects only basketball. (Killian)
- 1809R Helmuth Hagin, 820 Ridge Rd., Glendale, CA 91206-1753. He is fluent in German and is a general collector. (La Porta)
- 1810R Randy Peters, 5581 Summer Way, Delta, BC V4M 3Y5 Canada. He is in sales and fluent in German. He collects ice hockey, baseball, football and soccer. (Reiss)
- 1811A Pere Magrane, Aveda. Vall D'Aran, 50-El Pinar, Reus 43206 Spain. He is a bank manager and is fluent in English, Spanish and French. He collects basketball and is interested in exchanging worldwide sports philatelic material for basketball. (Killian)
- 1812R D.R. Damidovich, 423 W. Downer, Apt. 1B, Aurora, IL 60506. He is an estimator and collects all shooting sports. (Jones)
- 1813R Alan R. Polsky, 4305 Redwood Ave., #10, Venice, CA 90292. A real estate broker and attorney, Alan collects Olympics, including memorabilia. (Podolsky)
- 1814R Gary Gibson, Box 1444, Englewood, CO 80150. He is a financial advisor and collects gymnastics. (La Porta)
- 1815R John B. Dichira, 4135 George's Way, Boca Raton, FL 33434. A lawyer and general collector who has a special interest in Olympics, football, basketball, tennis, racquet sports, martial arts and boxing. (Jones)
- 1816R Jim McKane, 1240 Oakview Rd., Long Lake, MN 55356. A dentist, Jim collects figure skating. (Jones)
- 1817R Peter A. Laimins, 559 Highland, W. Chicago, IL 60185. He is a computer engineer and is fluent in Latvian. Peter collects ice hockey. (Jones)

New Addresses

- Roberta Horowitz, P.O. Box 61240, Pasadena, CA 91116-7240
- John Van Staden Jr., Box 54089, 2640 - 52 Street NE, Calgary, Alberta T1Y 6S6, Canada

Deceased

- H.N. Beinart passed away January 31, 1991. His wife, Naomi, will continue SPI membership.

Total membership November 21, 1991 399

Membership Interest Listings

Warwick Gowland of New Zealand has expanded his collecting interests to include American football, harness

racings (trotting), and rugby and volleyball competitions at national and international games.

Sports & Olympics Exhibits Awards

Local and Regional Shows

APEX '91. Held in Aurora, CO in September 1991, and sponsored by the Aurora Stamp Club. Donald Beuthel earned a silver bronze and the ATA third place award for his exhibit "Sledding."

RIPEX '91. Sponsored by the Rhode Island Philatelic Federation, held in Warwick, RI in September. A bronze medal went to Vincent Leonardson for "Runners and Blades."

HOUPEX '91. Sponsored by the Houston Philatelic Society, held in Houston in September. Vic Manikian received a silver plus the ATA award for best topical for "Olympic Games, 1896-1948." A junior silver award plus the award for best exhibit by a first time exhibitor went to Jeff Stark for "Babe Ruth Story."

STEPEX '91. Held in Elmira, NY in October, sponsored by the Elmira Stamp Club. A silver went to Paul Kretschmer for "The Nordic Skier." Three bronze awards went to other sports exhibitors: to Dave Bauer for "Hockey, Hockey, Hockey," to Mike Breed for "Olympic Stamps," and to Clayton Spanenberg for "The Solomon Islands 1987 Americas Cup Issue."

TOSAPEX '91. Held in October in West Allis, WI. Claude Giralte received a silver for "Swimming Pools," and Mary Yahr was awarded a bronze for "Time Out for Games."

FENTOPEX '91. Sponsored by the Reuben E. Fenton Philatelic Society, held in Lakewood, NY in October. Devin Cogswell's exhibit "Baseball Players on Stamps" received a silver award.

National Shows

VAPEX '91. Held at Virginia Beach, VA in November, sponsored by the Virginia Philatelic Federation, Inc. Exhibiting under the pseudonym "Gorufu," Cora Collins received a gold, the ATA silver award, the SPI certificate and the Virginia Philatelic Federation Award for her exhibit "The Sport of Golf."

Organizers of U.S. stamp shows wishing to award the SPI "Best of Show" certificate should contact SPI Secretary-Treasurer C.A. Reiss.

Commemorative Sports Cancels

by Mark C. Maestroni

THE NUMBERING SYSTEM

Catalogue numbers are shown at left, such as 88101-911. In this example:

88=Year [1988]

1=Month [January]

01=First day of use

-911=First 3 ZIP code digits

Because the months of October, November and December are 2-digit months, they are expressed as O, Y, and Z respectively.

The place of use is listed next, followed by the dates of use. All cancels are in black unless otherwise specified.

The numbering system is from the Commemorative Cancel Catalog published by General Image, Inc., PO Box 335, Maplewood, NJ 07040, and is used with their kind permission.

[Note: The following entries and accompanying illustrations have been assembled from the USPS Pictorial Postmarks Bulletin and Linn's "Postmark Pursuit" column. Additional entries for months previously covered in this column will be presented in an Addenda section at the end.]

SPORTS CROSS INDEX DEC. '91-FEB. '92

CYCLING: 92213-798.

FIGURE SKATING: 92104-328.

FOOTBALL (American): 91Z30-921, 91Z31-799, 91Z31-857.

ICE HOCKEY: 92104-908, 92121-507.

OLYMPICS (Summer): 92201-914.

OLYMPICS (Winter): 92104-908, 92111-902, 92201-914, 92206-908.

SKIING: 92206-908.

YACHTING: 92104-951, 92117-928.

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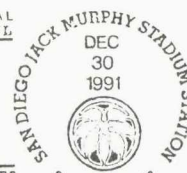
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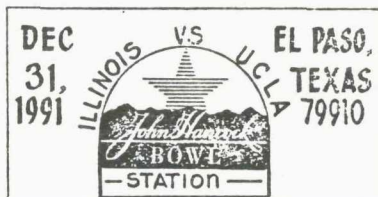


COUGARS VS HAWKEYES
DECEMBER 30, 1991



91Z30-921 SAN DIEGO, CA

30



91Z31-799 EL PASO, TX

31



91Z31-857 TUCSON, AZ

31



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92104-328 ORLANDO, FL

4-12



92104-908 LONG BEACH, CA

4



92104-951 SAN JOSE, CA

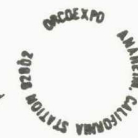
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(Illustration unavailable)

92111-902 HAWTHORNE, CA

11-12



92117-928 ANAHEIM, CA

17-19



U.S. H. ALL STAR
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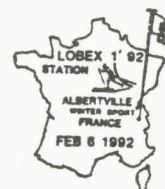
92121-507 WATERLOO, IA

21

(Illustration unavailable)

92201-914 VAN NUYS, CA

1-2



92206-908 LONG BEACH, CA

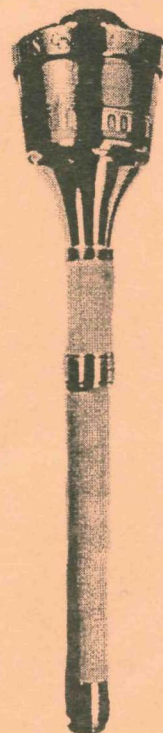
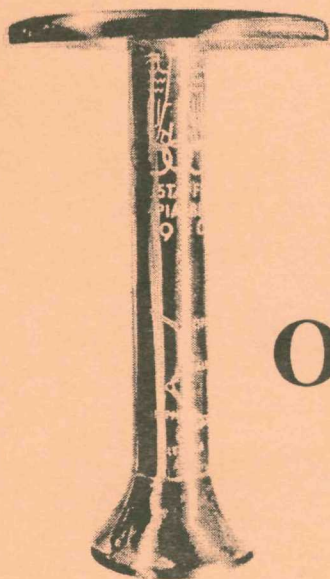
6-9



92213-798 TERLINGUA, TX

13-17

For the record: 25 New Hampshire post offices have offered a special "Touch the Torch" cancel for one day only between January 1 and February 7, 1992. The circular hand cancels depict a torch, the USPS eagle and appropriate wording. The Olympic Rings are not displayed.



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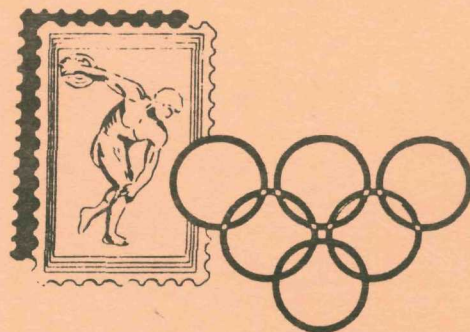
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