

JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

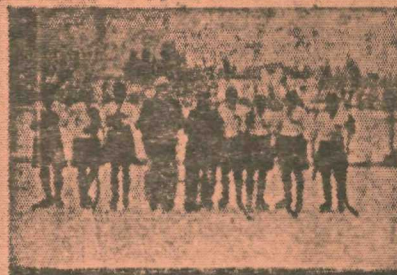
VOLUME 32

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1994

NUMBER 3

France and the Olympic Winter Games

JEUX OLYMPIQUES DE CHAMONIX 1924



CLICHÉ C.O.F.



ÉQUIPE TCHÉCO-SLOVAQUE

Au cours de notre match avec le Canada, j'ai été grièvement blessé au pied et ce n'est que grâce à un massage fait par M. DUBOIS avec

" **SALAS EMBROCATON** " que j'ai pu, trois jours après, affronter un nouveau match, étant complètement guéri.

Signé : Ingénieur IROUBECK
Cap. de l'Équipe Nat' Tchéco-Slovaque

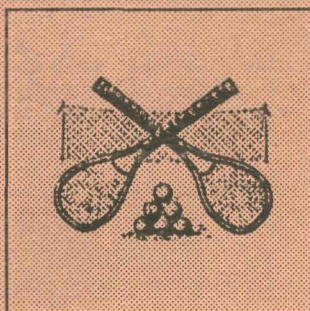
ÉQUIPE CANADIENNE

A tous ceux que cela peut intéresser, nous certifions que Monsieur VARNIER a été engagé par l'Équipe Olympique Canadienne de Hockey sur glace comme entraîneur et masseur durant le Tournoi de CHAMONIX et qu'elle a été très satisfaite du liniment et

" **EMBRICATION SALAS** " qu'il utilisa dans ses massages, avec les effets les plus salutaires pour les joueurs.

Extrait du Livre d'Or de la Société Alsacienne de Laboratoires
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The Czech and Canadian ice hockey teams at the 1924
Winter Olympic Games in Chamonix, France.



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JAN-FEB 1994

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SPORTS PHILATELISTS INTERNATIONAL

PRESIDENT: Mark C. Maestroni, 2824 Curie Place, San Diego, CA 92122
VICE-PRESIDENT: Sherwin D. Podolsky, 299 Whitworth Street, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
SEC.-TREASURER: Robert L. Mummert, 601 Greendale Road, York, PA 17403
DIRECTORS: Edward B. Epstein, 570 Fort Washington Avenue, New York, NY 10033
 Glenn A. Estus, P.O. Box 451, Westport, NY 12993
 Norman F. Jacobs, Jr., 2712 N. Decatur Rd., Decatur, GA 30033
 John La Porta, P.O. Box 2286, La Grange, IL 60525
 Dorothy E. Weihrauch, P.O. Box 5955, Scottsdale, AZ 85261
 Robert E. Wilcock, 24 Hamilton Cres., Brentwood, Essex, CM14 5ES, ENGLAND
SPECIAL REP TO ACOG: Norman F. Jacobs, Jr., 2712 N. Decatur Rd., Decatur, GA 30033
AUCTIONS: Glenn A. Estus, P.O. Box 451, Westport, NY 12993
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PUBLISHER: John La Porta, P.O. Box 2286, La Grange, IL 60525
EDITOR: Mark C. Maestroni, 2824 Curie Place, San Diego, CA 92122
ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Brian Bjorgo, 3220 Forest Drive, Bremerton, WA 98310
 James Bowman, 3459 Township Avenue, Simi Valley, CA 93063
 Glenn A. Estus, P.O. Box 451, Westport, NY 12993
 Sherwin D. Podolsky, 299 Whitworth Street, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
 Dorothy E. Weihrauch, P.O. Box 5955, Scottsdale, AZ 85261
 Stephen Rock, 3300 Waterman Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23452
 Robert L. Mummert, 601 Greendale Road, York, PA 17403
 Glenn A. Estus, P.O. Box 451, Westport, NY 12993
AD MANAGER: B. Stahl, B. Tomkins, J. Trgovac, C. Vokoun
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1994 SPI Elections Just Around The Corner

Once again, the biennial election for SPI's officers and members of the Board of Directors is coming up. For the present, we are looking for a volunteer to serve as the Nominations Chairman. Duties are light: receiving nominations, checking to determine that nominees are members in good standing of SPI, and presenting the slate of candidates. Any member wishing to take on this task should contact the president as soon as possible.

Nominations are scheduled to open on March 1, 1994, and continue until April 15. The slate of candidates will be announced in the May issue of *JSP*, with balloting taking place until July 31, 1994.

We look forward to your participation!

The shake-up at the U.S. Postal Service has left many of us in the sport and Olympic collecting community wondering what to expect in the near future. Will there be U.S. stamps for the Lillehammer Olympic Games? And how about the 1994 World Cup soccer championships to be held here in the U.S.?

Well, *Stamp Collector* columnist, Stephen G. Esrati managed to catch a glimpse of the upcoming 1994 U.S. stamp program. His report, printed in the November 6 issue of that publication, and summarized in the November 22 issue of *Linn's Stamp News*, provides good news.

According to Stephen, the USPS will issue three stamps for the World Cup. Winter sports are also scheduled to be commemorated, although there is no indication whether or not they will be Olympic related. No further indication is giving as to denominations, design, or date of issue.

SPI will continue to keep you informed as we receive additional information.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will find a notice from the Mask Study Unit of the American Topical Association. This group is in the process of assembling and eventually publishing a handbook on cancellations and meter impressions picturing masks. Initially, I didn't see the reason for sending an announcement to SPI. Then I realized that a number of sports have equipment that includes face masks: a baseball catcher's mask, ice hockey goalie's mask, recreational

diving and swimming masks/goggles, and fencing masks. These are just a few that immediately come to mind.

So, I encourage members that collect sports whose participants wear masks to look through their collections and send in photocopies of their finds.

I recently received a note from Marshall Burde, Vice President of the San Jose (CA) Stamp Club. He would like to invite sports and Olympic exhibitors to enter his club's annual World Series of Philately show, Filatelic Fiesta.

Their 1994 show (the 60th!) is scheduled for March 26 and 27, 1994. It will be held at the San Jose Scottish Rite Temple at 2455 Masonic Drive. Show hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Marshall assures me that there is still time to enter exhibits. For an exhibitor prospectus or further information, write to Marshall Burde, 1009 E. Capitol Expressway, #121, San Jose, CA 95121. He may also be contacted at (408) 227-9419.

In closing this column, I hope everyone had a pleasant holiday, and I would like to wish each of you a happy and prosperous (philatelically, and otherwise) New Year!

OLYMPHILEX Youth Stamp Program

Olympic and sports stamps are needed for packets to be given to youth visitors at OLYMPHILEX '96. Please send your stamp donations (preferably used and washed) to Mrs. Trudy Innes, 14738 Darbydale Blvd., Woodbridge, VA 22193, U.S.A.

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France and the Olympic Winter Games

by René Christin
translated by Mark Maestrone

[The following article first appeared in the January 1992 issue of the French language publication, *La Philatélie Française*. It is reprinted with the kind permission of the author.]

In February 1992, Albertville entered the historical annals of sport by organizing the XVIth Olympic Winter Games. This was the third time that France had offered the entire sports world the opportunity to garner Olympic laurels; Chamonix in 1924 and Grenoble in 1968 preceded Albertville. These dates are inseparable in documenting the birth and development of the *White Olympics*.

When, on June 16, 1894, in the great amphitheater of the Sorbonne, Baron Pierre de Coubertin proposed the restoration of the Olympic Games, a decision that would profoundly influence the lives of men in the century to come, winter sports were only in their infancy. There was little or no skiing, but there was figure skating (first world championship in 1896) and ice hockey (first match in France in 1894). This late birth of winter sports in comparison to the more mature summer disciplines, did not preclude their Olympic entrance by the side door! An abortive entry, incidentally, because if figure skating had been included in the program of the First Olympic Games of the modern era in Athens in 1896, the competition would not have been able to take place, lacking a skating rink! One had to wait for the 4th Games in London in 1908 in order to see a presentation of Olympic figure skating. On 29 October 1908, the Olympic titles (men-ladies-pairs) were awarded before a packed house. But the Scandinavians feared that including winter sports in the Olympic Games would compete with their celebrated *Nordiska Spelen*. They therefore refused to include these disciplines in the program of the Stockholm Games in 1912. It was not until the Olympic Games of Antwerp in 1920, that



Figure 1. An official poster of the Games published by PLM.

another ice sport first appeared, ice hockey.

The idea for separate games (winter and summer) progressed. At the Lausanne Olympic Congress in 1921, Count Clary obtained authorization for the VIIIth Olympic Games of Paris in 1924 (Figure 2) to organize an *international winter sports week* (Figure 1). This competition, which would be conducted from January 24 to February 4, 1924, was entrusted to Chamonix, at the time the best known

of French winter resorts. This choice was given official status at the Prague Olympic Congress in 1925 (Figure 3) where this week was officially recognized as the First Olympic Winter Games.

Chamonix carefully moved ahead with its preparations. Planned construction included an ice skating rink of three hectares [nearly 7½ acres], a ski jump and a 1,400 meter long bobsled run. It all had to be constructed in time! The snow fell in abun-

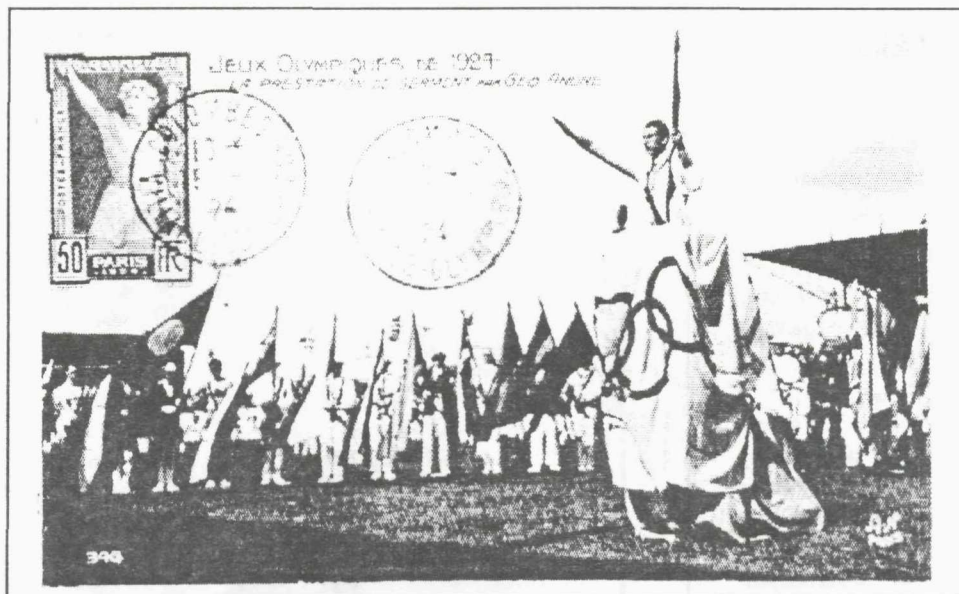


Figure 2. The Chamonix Winter Week was organized as part of the VIIIth Olympic Games of which Paris was the host city. On July 5, 1924, Geo (George?) Andre administered the Olympic Oath at Colombes Stadium, officially opening the VIIIth Games.

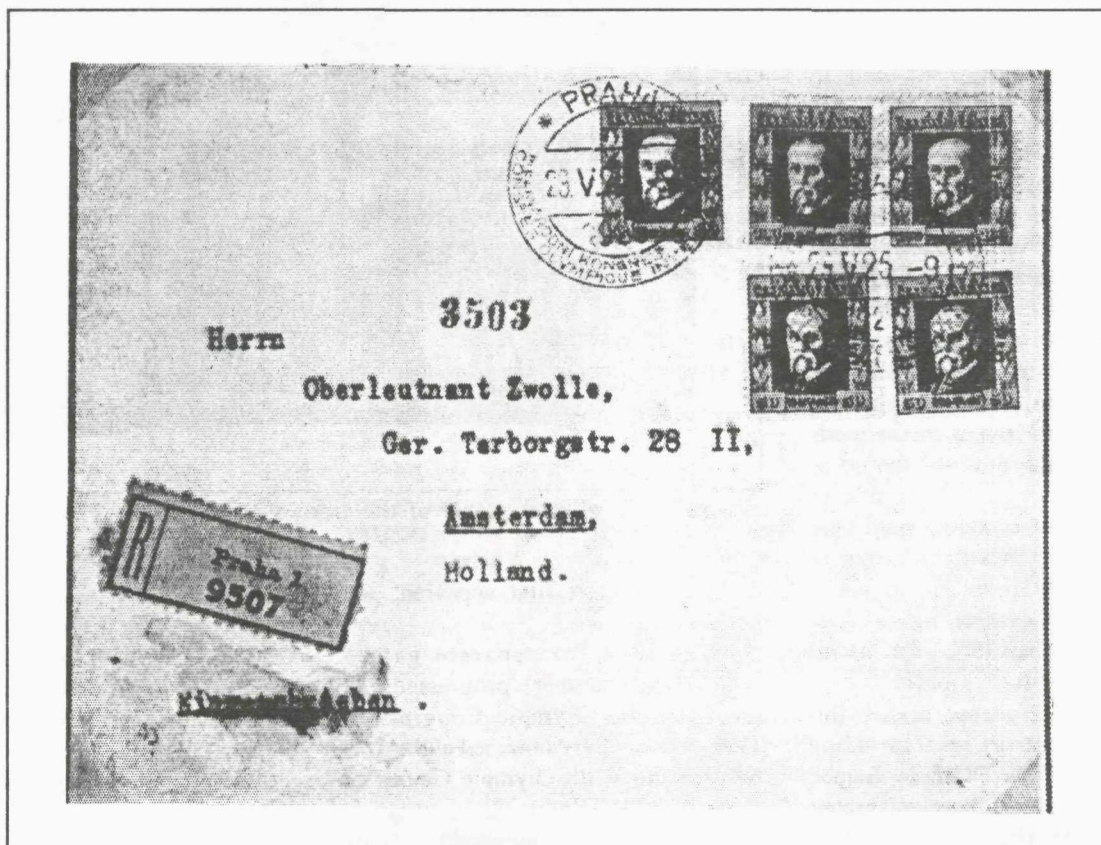


Figure 3. The Prague Congress of 1925 officially recognized the Olympic Winter Games as a separate event, and conferred on Saint Moritz (Switzerland) the right to organize the Second Olympic Winter Games. Although not mentioned in the Congress Report, it was the official recognition of the 1st Olympic Winter Games, held at Chamonix in 1924.



Figure 4. Sonja Henie, a petite, blond, 11-year-old girl, daughter of a world champion Norwegian cyclist enchanted the public, finishing in 7th place. But her revolutionary style for this period foretold her future as a triple Olympic Champion (1928, 1932, 1936).

dance from the end of December to mid-January, but a deep thaw transformed the skating rink into a swamp, abruptly ruining the preparations of the organizers. The miracle arrived on the eve of the inauguration; on January 23, the thermometer plunged. In the glacial cold on January 24, the opening ceremonies and the parade of delegations from 18 nations were held (there were 300 athletes, of whom 20 were ladies). The entire local population was invited to the festival!

The speed skating events opened the cycle of competitions. Although the American, Jewtraw, was a surprise winner in the 500 meters, the expected domination of the Finns in the long distances was confirmed. Figure skating offered the only competition for women at the Games. The Austrian girl, Planckszabo, won the headline ladies figure skating event. However, a future great figure skating star debuted, the 11-year-old Norwegian girl, Sonja Henie (Figure 4). The pairs event permitted France to carry away its only medal (bronze) won by Mlle. Joly and M. Brunet.

Ice hockey saw the terrific clash of European and North American teams which attracted an immense crowd around the skating rink (Figures 5 and 6). The Europeans were crushed and it was left to Canada and the United States to decide the outcome in the final. Eagerly contested before a record crowd, the competition ended with Canada's victory.

The queen of events was, along with hockey, skiing (only Nordic events, as Alpine skiing did not yet officially exist). All the world's "jet set" were present at Chamonix, and the battle was rough in the five events on the program: the "military" course, 50 kilometer [cross-country], 18 kilometer [cross-country], ski jumping, and the combined. The skiing competitions permitted the crowning of the *King of the Games* in the person of triple-winner Norwegian Haug (Figure 7). He won the 50 km event—of the 33 entrants, the 4 Norwegians took the top four places on a route comprised of 1,000 meters of vertical drop! Haug also triumphed in the 18 km and in the combined.

Swedes and Finns were beaten by their Scandinavian brother. As for the other countries, one must search the bottom of the results list to find a trace of them. Nordic domination was so complete.

On February 4, the Games were concluded with the ski jumping competition. On a clear and sunny day, an enormous crowd gathered around the foot of the jump to witness a new Norwegian triumph. Thams prevailed with a 49 meter jump ahead of two fellow-countrymen. One of them, Haug, added a bronze medal to his awards list, thereby guaranteeing him the combined title (18 km plus the ski jump). [See the Editor's Note regarding Haug's victory in the ski jump at the end of this article.]

Thus ended the Winter Games of the VIIIth Olympiad. Chamonix laid the foundation of these first Games, but their sporting success and popularity were such that official recognition was granted. Despite Nordic objections, the 1925 IOC Congress at Prague named these the First Olympic Winter Games.

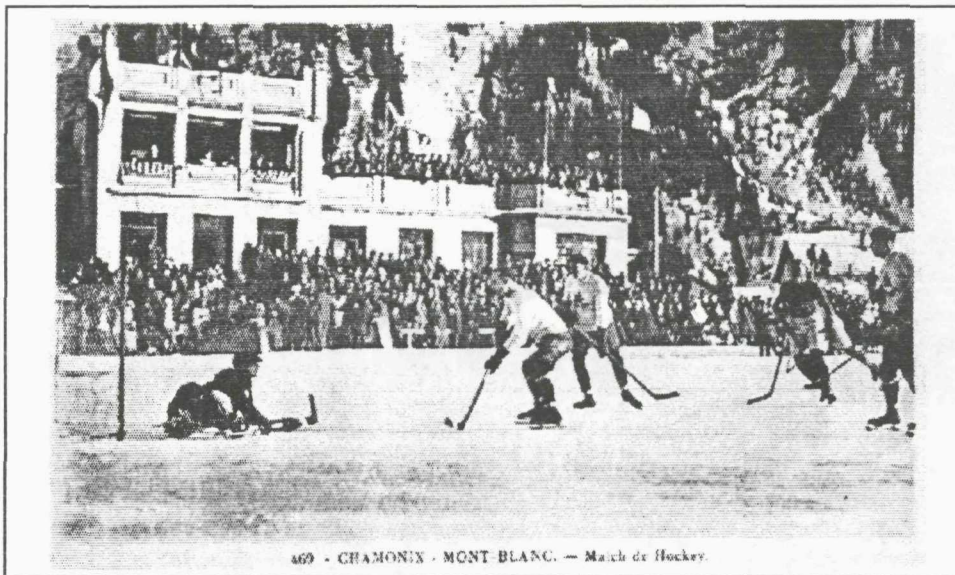


Figure 5. The Canada-Sweden match in ice hockey (a semi-final). Canada continued to reign as absolute master of world hockey (their record: 132 wins in 310 matches in Olympic competition!)

Figure 6. The U.S. Team was the only true rival of Canada. It overwhelmed the French 22-0, in the elimination round, before yielding in the final.



CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC. — Match de Hockey.



Figure 7. The top winner of the Games was the Norwegian Haug who was recently honored in his own country on one of the pre-Olympic stamps issued for the Lillehammer Games of 1994. He won the 50 km in very severe climatic conditions (wind and cold), in which 21 of 53 other competitors failed to finish the race! He next won the 18 km (ahead of 10 Scandinavians!) and carried off the combined jump-cross country with a bronze in the jump! [See Editor's Note at the end of this article.]

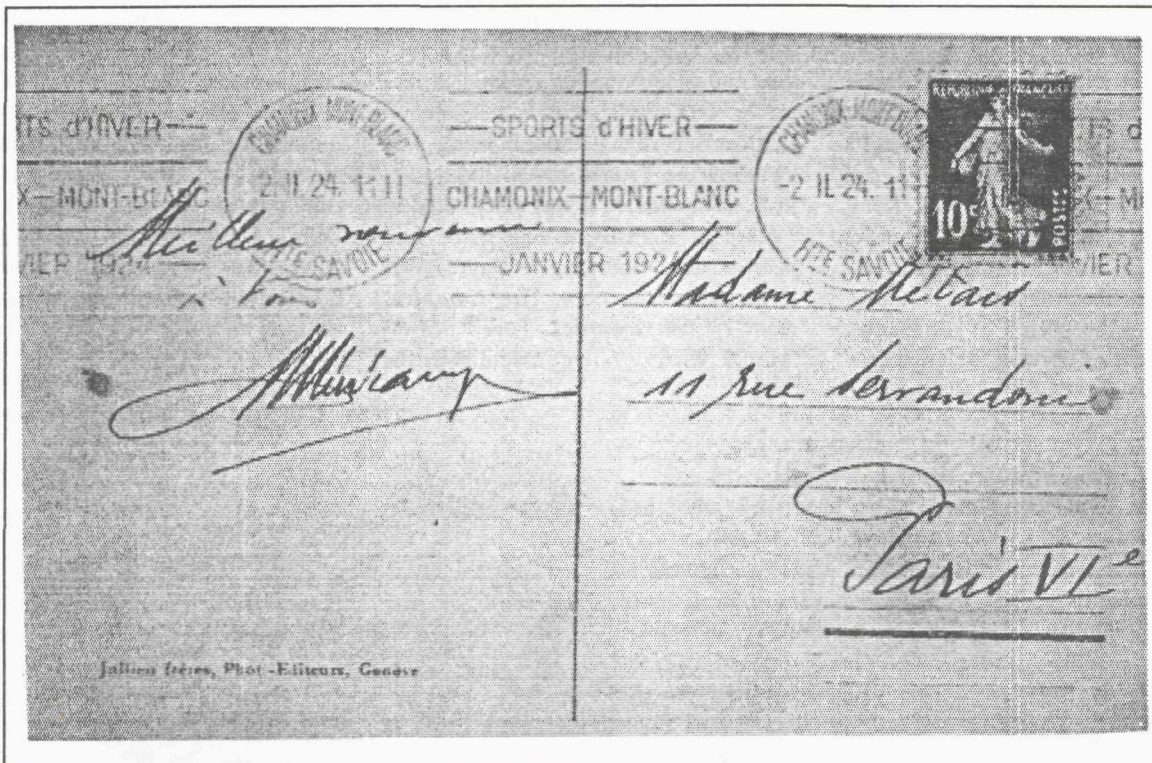


Figure 8. February 2, 1924 was an important date for the sport of skiing: on this day, the International Federation of Skiing was created in Chamonix. This postal cancellation from Chamonix is the only philatelic evidence of the Games.

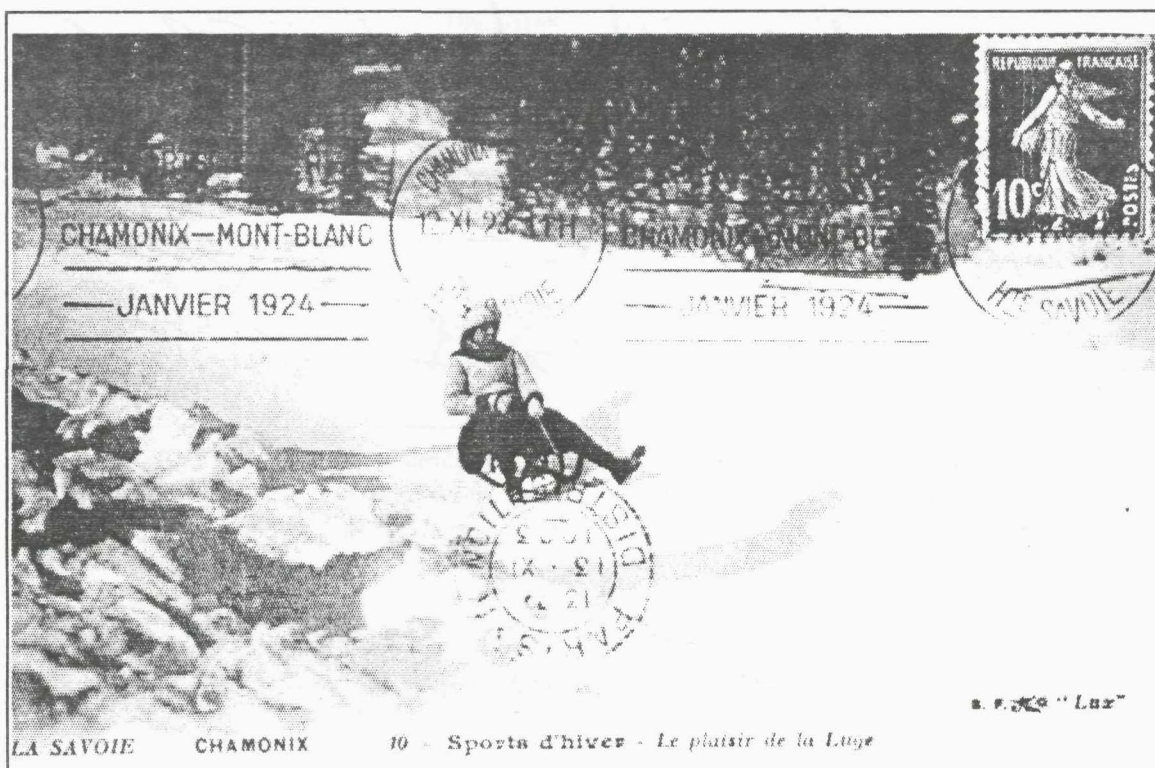


Figure 9. This cancellation was placed in service on November 12, 1923 at the Chamonix Post Office, and retired on February 7, 1924.

As recorded by the illustrations, the only philatelic evidence (Figure 8) of these first Olympic Winter Games was a machine cancel utilized from November 12, 1923 (Figure 9) through February 7, 1924 by the Chamonix post office. This Krag cancellation is highly sought after by specialists (it is far more often found on post cards than on covers). Cancels dated during the period of the Games (January 24 to February 4) are espe-

cially prized (Figure 10). On an Organizing Committee cover, it is a very rare and most attractive item. □

[Editor's Note: Although Haug was awarded the bronze medal in the ski jump competition, it was discovered in 1974 that a mathematical error had been made. According to David Walchinsky in his book *The Complete Book of the Olympics*, Toralf Strömstad of Norway (silver medalist in the

1924 Nordic combined) calculated that Haug had actually placed fourth in the ski jump behind Norwegian-born, Anders Haugen. Anders, who was competing for the United States, had actually scored .095 points higher in the combined total of both jumps. While Haug's bronze medal in the ski jump was subsequently awarded to Haugen, Haug still placed first in the Nordic combined.]

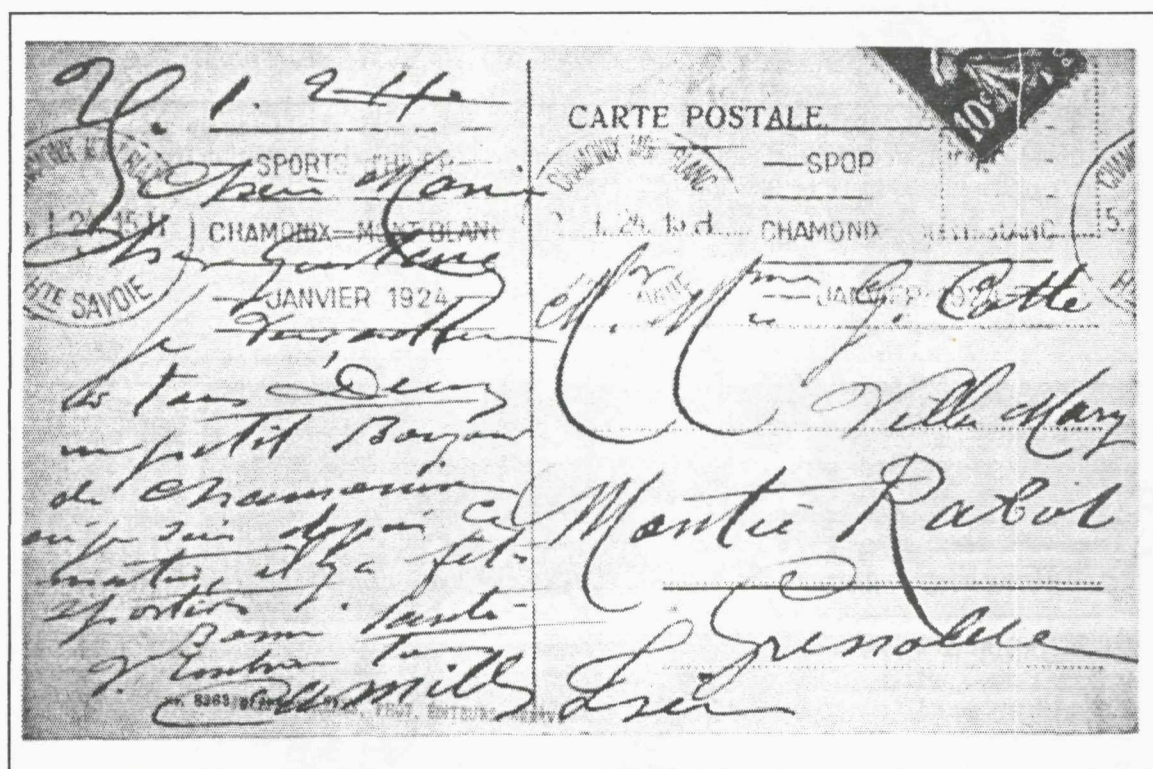


Figure 10. Cancellation from the first day of competition, January 25, 1924. The message on the card confirms that the publicity for the Olympic Winter Games was among its difficulties. Today, one can measure the progress that has since been made.

Columbia's 1935 Barranquilla Issue

by Sherwin Podolsky

This set of 16 stamps honored Colombia's Third National Olympic Games. Every stamp is face different and nine values show sports or are sports related:

		1994 Scott Used Catalog Value
2¢	Soccer	\$.50
4¢	Classic discus thrower	.50
5¢	Athlete giving Olympic salute	.50
7¢	Track	1.90
8¢	Tennis	1.90
10¢	Hurdlers	1.50
15¢	Athlete in stadium	4.25
18¢	Baseball	6.50
24¢	Swimming	6.50

The complete Barranquilla set is expensive. The 1994 Scott prices the mint set at \$1,139 and the used set at \$905. The length and cost of the set must have been inspired by the U.S. 1893 Columbus set (16 values), and the Greek Olympic sets of 1896 (12 values) and 1906 (14 values). All three sets included high value denominations. The Greek sets have a total 1994 Scott catalog value of \$558 mint and \$352 used for the 1896 issue, and \$300 mint and \$173 used for the 1906 issue.

Many years ago, the late Barbara de Violini, former SPI president, advised this writer that, in topical collecting, it was not necessary to collect complete sets. Stamps related to a sport could be selected from a set. The most expensive of the nine Colombian sport stamps listed above catalogs only \$6.50 mint or used.

The design of at least one stamp from this set, the 7¢ track, can be traced to a photograph taken at the 1912 Olympic Games. V. Furman states that the design shows H. Kohlehmäen (Finland, winner of first place) and J. Bouin (France) in the final stretch of the 5 kilometer race at Stockholm (*Philately on Olympic Suomi*, by V. Furman, 1993, p. 56, to be reviewed in a future issue of *JSP*). The diligent researcher can probably trace other designs to their source as well. Ample illustrated Official Reports, contemporary newspapers, magazine articles, and photo postcards may be helpful.

Let us now focus on Lot 1292 in the July 1993 auction of Harmers of London. It consisted of 37 commercial covers (including two picture postcards), one cover front, and one FDC, all bearing stamps from the 1935 Barranquilla set. That is a total of 39 items. Let's try to figure out what the lot is worth.

Besides being an excellent source of postal rate information, these covers can also enhance topical collections specializing in one or more of the sport and sport-related stamps.

The most amazing cover in the lot is a FDC of all values through 20¢ (Figure 1). Every stamp is socked on

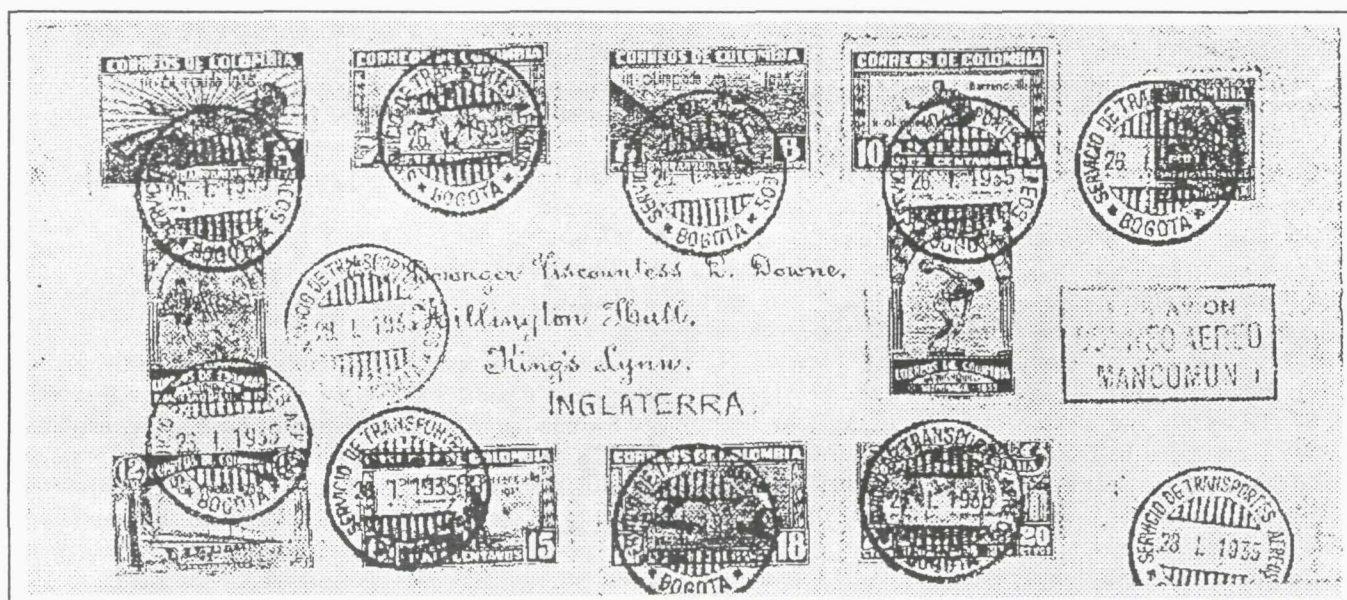


Figure 1. First day cover dated January 26, 1935 with the short set complete to the 20¢ value. Cover sent airmail to England. There are no markings on the reverse side.



Figure 2. The 8c tennis stamp used with the 4c classic discus thrower stamp and a 30c definitive on a cover sent airmail to Paris. No markings on the reverse.

the nose with a January 26, 1935 Bogota handcancel. There is a further postmark at lower right dated January 28, 1935. Perhaps on the later date, the cover was sent to its destination, England.

The rest of the covers in the lot are all commercial ones bearing various values from the set up to the 12c value. However, the 12c shows a pier, not exactly a sport-related subject. But perhaps the pier was a site for nautical or marine sports. Unfortunately, I have no details on the events. Following is an analysis of the covers:

First, let us list the covers bearing stamps showing a single sport: 2c Soccer (5 covers); 4c Discus Thrower (4); 5c Olympic Salute (9); 7c Track (1); 8c Tennis (1); and, 10c Hurdlers (4). The stamps may be in multiples but nearly all the covers also bear non-sport definitive stamps to meet required rates.

A number of the covers are franked with combinations of the sport stamps (not counting the FDC): 2c and 5c (1 cover); 2c and 10c (3); 4c and 7c (1); 4c and 8c (1); 5c and 8c (1); and 7c and 8c (1).

We should also be mindful of the postal destinations: United States (17 covers); France (10); England (5); Argentina (2); and one cover each to Mexico, Japan, Colombia, Costa Rica and Germany.

This is an impressive range of destinations. The sources of dispatch are widely varied as to both the city of origin and sender.

Postal usages include: surface rates (domestic and foreign), and foreign registered mail and registered airmail. Figures 2 and 3 show some of the commercial covers.

What's It Worth? — Analysis

Perhaps the task is best broken down by first assessing the most valuable single item: the FDC. Where is the philatelic place for a cover like this? It would certainly be of interest in collections of the following subjects:

- National Olympiads (not part of the Olympic Games)
- General Sports
- General Sports FDCs
- Traditional Philately (Colombia, Colombia Postal History)

The FDC is the only one in the lot bearing the higher value sport stamps: 15c Athlete in Stadium, 18c Baseball, 24c Swimming. Topical collectors of these sports may like this FDC for that reason. Ordinarily they prefer a single value of the stamp they seek on a cover; this allows the subject to be the focus of the philatelic item. But this cover is exceptional. This substantial accumulation of nearly 40 covers strongly suggests that higher values are more difficult to find on covers that have been saved. Perhaps the higher values were used on heavier packages and packets

that did not lend themselves to being collected. Or, higher values may not have been readily available at all post offices.

Step 1: With the above information, try to assign a value to the FDC.

The balance of the lot of 38 items has good news for collectors of soccer because there are nine covers bearing this most popular topical stamp. The stamp is the lowest value in the set. I have seen tatty covers with this stamp at local shows. As I recall, they have been priced at \$5-\$20 apiece. The covers in the subject lot may have some wrinkles, but are not tatty. Try assigning a value per cover that might be charged by a bourse dealer. Granted, the four covers with combination sport stamps may deserve a premium, but soccer purists may want only their sport featured.

Step 2: Figure a total for the 9 covers with soccer stamps.

In the next group of 13 covers, the 4¢ and 5¢ values are more numerous than the two showing the 7¢ and 8¢:

- 4 covers showing 4¢ discus thrower
- 9 covers showing 5¢ Olympic salute
- 1 cover showing 7¢ track
- 1 cover showing 8¢ tennis

Step 3: Figure a per cover value for the 13 covers with the low values and a per cover value of the two other covers. Obtain a total for the group of 15 covers.

The next group consists of 4 covers with combination values of the sport set: 4¢ and 7¢, 4¢ and 8¢, 5¢ and 8¢, and 7¢ and 8¢. I don't think a collector specializing in a single sport would disdain these covers. They are certainly

legitimate and not philatelically inspired. Yet, these covers each probably have about the same value.

Step 4: Assign a value for each of the four combination covers and obtain a total.

The final group consists of six covers with the 12¢ bridge stamp. Most of these covers have additional, small definitives affixed. However, there is one cover sent surface rate to Germany with only this 12¢ stamp. Without further research, it is a little difficult to find a place for a cover with this subject in a topical collection.

Step 5: Assign a value for each of the six covers with the 12¢ bridge stamp. Obtain a total.

There are now five separate sub-totals. Obtain a grand total. Estimate what might be bid for the lot, without allowing for a 10% buyer's commission.

You might want to separate your bids according to the following categories:

- A. What a dealer would bid for resale.
- B. What a collector would bid who can use the entire lot.
- C. What a collector would bid for a few choice items and to resell the remainders, perhaps through SPI auctions.

Now, imagine all these different market forces bearing on the bidding, and try to answer the following questions:

- 1. What do you think the auctioneer's estimate was for the entire lot?
- 2. What was the auctioneer's opening bid?
- 3. What was the price realized, not counting commission?

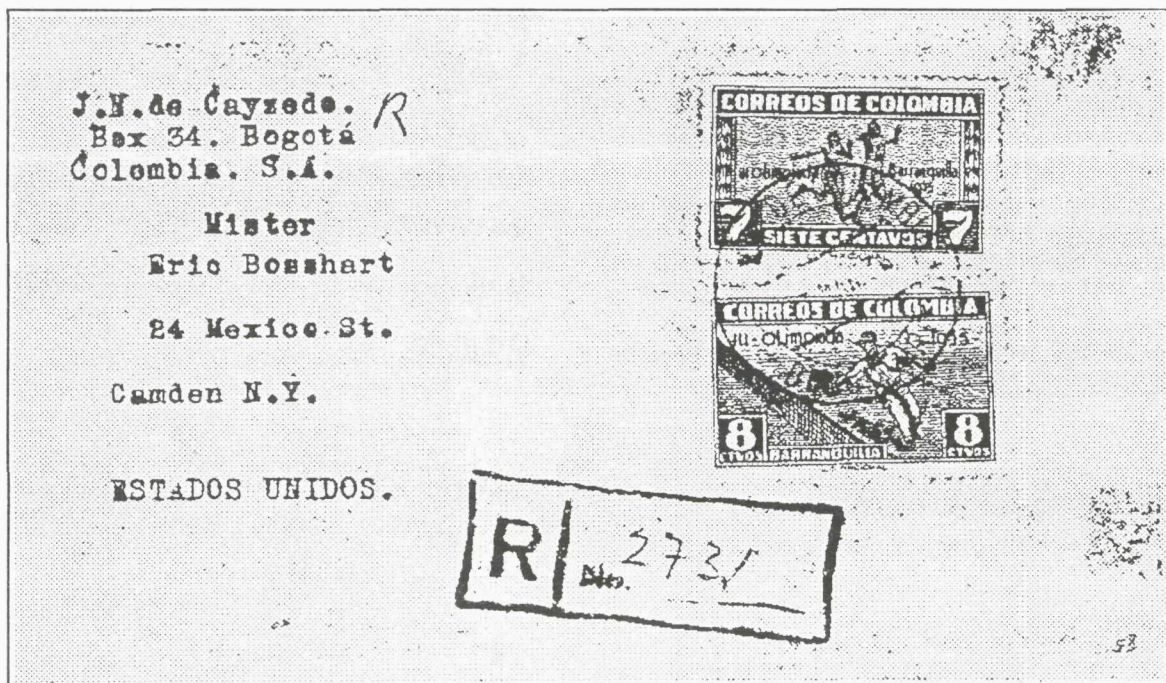


Figure 3. The 7¢ hurdles and the 8¢ tennis stamp on a registered cover to the United States. There are New York transit marks and Camden, NJ arrival cancels on the reverse side.

What's It Worth? — Answers

The following are the author's solutions.

1. The FDC	\$400
2. The 9 soccer covers - \$15 each	135
3. The 13 covers with the 4¢ or 5¢ values at \$10 each; the single cover showing track at \$20; the cover showing tennis at \$50	200
4. 4 combination covers at \$60 each	240
5. The six covers with the 12¢ bridge stamp at \$35 each	105

GRAND TOTAL \$1080

These values are based, in part, on what I have seen dealers at stamp shows charge for the most commonly available items, mainly the cheaper items. I projected values for the better covers using the lower values as a starting base. The value of \$400 for the FDC is a largely a subjective estimate.

However, I feel these values represent what a dealer might charge in the bourse circuit. A fair dealer bid might be \$500, to allow for a 10% buyer's commission.

A collector who can use the entire lot would most likely be a student of Colombian postal history, rather than a topical collector. The advanced collector would probably want the lot primarily for the FDC. The postal historian would probably like the variety of postmarks and postal usages. I estimate a fair bid would be \$1,000.

The topical collector seeking just the few items for his or her specialty would probably place a very high estimate for those items. The rest of the items would be discounted perhaps 50% to 70% for resale. However, I feel that the \$400 value assigned to the FDC would hold for any buyer. Aside from the FDC and except for the item in the topical collector's specialty, the rest of the lot is subject to considerable discounting.

Let's assume the desired items is the cover with only one tennis stamp. Let's assign double the value assigned earlier because our topical collector sorely needs this item. This comes to \$100. However the rest of the lot, including the FDC, comes to \$1080, which is subject to discounting mainly because our topical collector has to dispose of these items, perhaps by selling in auction(s) subject to seller's commissions of 10% to 15%. Our collector-speculator discounts the rest of the lot 50% to \$540, resulting in a final figure of only \$640, probably rounded up to a bid of \$700.

1. The estimate in the auction catalog was One Thousand Pounds (\$1500).
2. The opening bid was 850 Pounds (\$1275).
3. The lot was not sold.

Opinion

The lot was unsold because the estimate and opening bid (probably a reserve) were too high, not only for collectors but also for dealer resellers. Topical collector interest

would be specific and narrow, preferring just one or two items of subject interest. Dealer interest would probably focus on the lot for thematic customers and not for specialists in Latin American or Colombian philately or postal history. The very high valuations probably did not allow enough profit margin for the dealer or provide enough incentive to topical specialists.

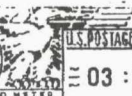
Another factor is the probable lack of a specialist catalog that values a stamp on cover. Such guidance would have been helpful to all kinds of potential bidders. The auctioneer's estimate gave no indication as to the source. □

UNUSUAL SPORTS STAMPS, COVERS & CARDS

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A Ten-In-One Cover

by Manfred Bergman

Here is a really fascinating cover, illustrated below, that includes many philatelic and thematic points of interest. I first saw this cover on the occasion of the thematic world exhibition in Rio de Janeiro in 1979. It was in an "Olympics and Arts" exhibit.

Take a look at the cover first and see how many points of interest you can identify. They involve the address, stamps, postmarks, and label.

1. The cover was posted in St. Petersburg on June 14, 1912 by the Julian (Eastern) calendar [June 27, 1912 by the Gregorian (Western) calendar].

2. The cover was short paid by one kopeck which resulted in postage due assessed later.

3. There is a dating error. The dater was fixed June 11, *1911 instead of 1912*.

4. The cover was cancelled again by the St. Petersburg transit office on June 15 (Gregorian, June 28).

5. The cover then went through Russian Finland. There, the Finnish tax cachet ("T") was affixed.

6. In addition, the Finnish transit office hand wrote the tax amount. One kopeck = 7.5 gold centimes. The tax was doubled, so 15 gold centimes was assessed. A manuscript "15c" appears very faintly just to the left of the middle Russian stamp.

7. The cover arrived in Finland on June 28 and then traveled by overnight ferry to Stockh lm where it arrived on June 29. It arrived at the Stadion Post Office where it received the single June 29, 1912 Stadion cancellation (without the letters "LBR" below the date bridge) as an arrival postmark on the reverse side of the cover. By chance it was the first day of the Olympic Games, so we have a first day cancellation.

8. The Postmaster added the postage due label for 12  re, which corresponds to 15 gold centimes.

9. On July 1, 1912, the person to whom the letter was addressed picked up the letter and 12  re (10+2

Swedish postage stamps) were affixed. There were no other postage due stamps available at the Stadion post office. The July 1, 1912 LBR cancellations, applied to the Swedish stamps, were added by mistake (or on request of the recipient, which is my opinion). In fact, the Stadion cancellation without the letters LBR should have been used because the LBR cancellation was used for items posted in the mail boxes. So we have a cover with both types of Stadion cancellations.

10. The recipient was Mr. G. Duperron, secretary of the Russian Olympic Committee and also a referee in the modern pentathlon. It is known that he was a stamp collector. For this reason, I believe he was the sender who also asked for the LBR cancellation to be applied on arrival.

I call this the "Ten-in-One" cover. In my opinion, it is the rarest cover from 1912 as it illustrates nearly all postal services available at the special post office. □

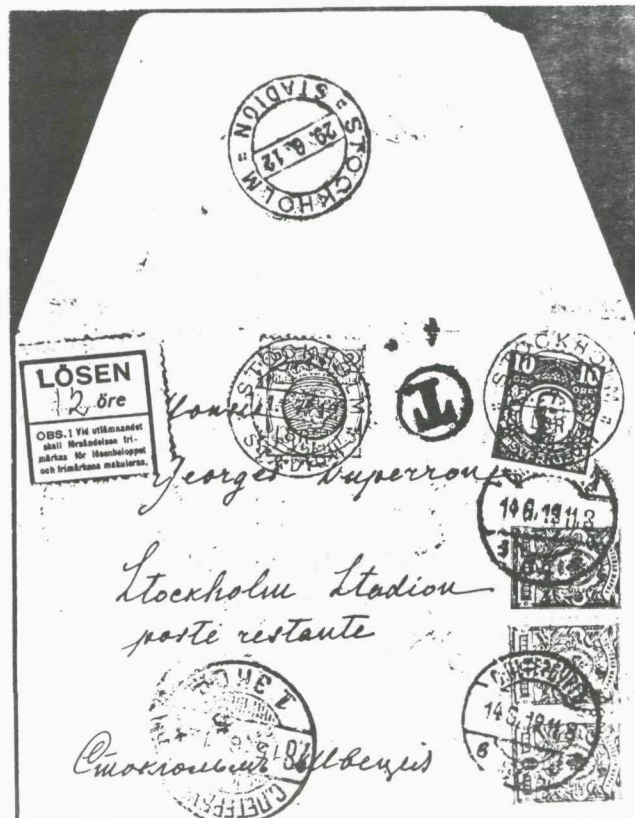




Figure 1. These four GDR stamps (Scott #941-43) reproduce German playing cards, as reflected in the inscription "Deutsche Spielkarten."

Is Bridge A Sporting Event?

by Eugene K. Sanger

Those of us who are involved in duplicate bridge consider it very much a sport, and there are well over 100,000 of us around the world. As a matter of fact, one annual tournament, the Epson Pairs, is probably the largest sporting event in the world. From 90,000 to 100,000 players all over the world play the same bridge hands at the same time to determine local,

national and worldwide champions.

As a longtime Life Master in the bridge world, as well as a stamp collector and part-time dealer in stamps for 35 years, I decided to combine my two hobbies and begin a "Cards on Stamps" collection. My collection consists of card-related stamps, first day covers, cancels, cachets, proofs, imperfs, souvenir sheets and whatever else comes my way. There had to be others out there

with the same two interests.

Inspired by a card-related front cover of an American Contract Bridge League monthly, the *ACBL Bulletin*, I wrote a letter which appeared in the July 1988 issue of the American Philatelic Society's journal, the *American Philatelist*, asking that kindred souls contact me. The silence was deafening! Only one reply came from a United States collector, and that fizzled. I did get a reply from a collector

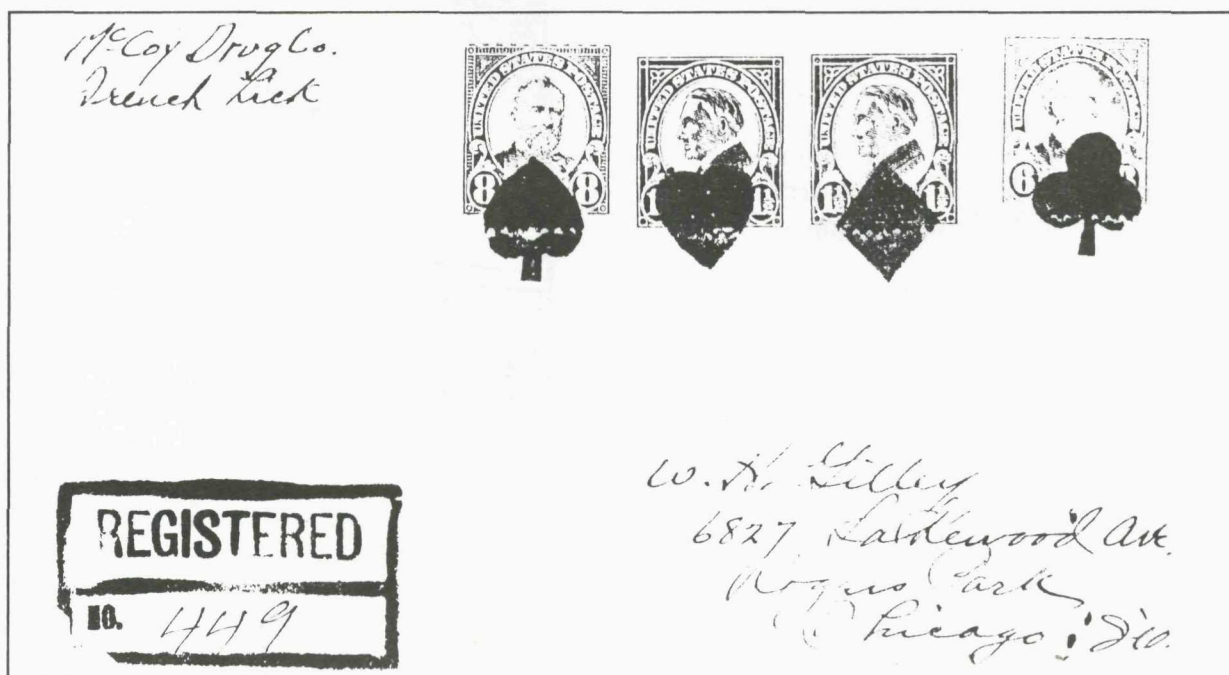


Figure 2. The four playing card suits cancel these "Prexies" on a 1929 registered cover from French Lick, IN to Chicago, IL.

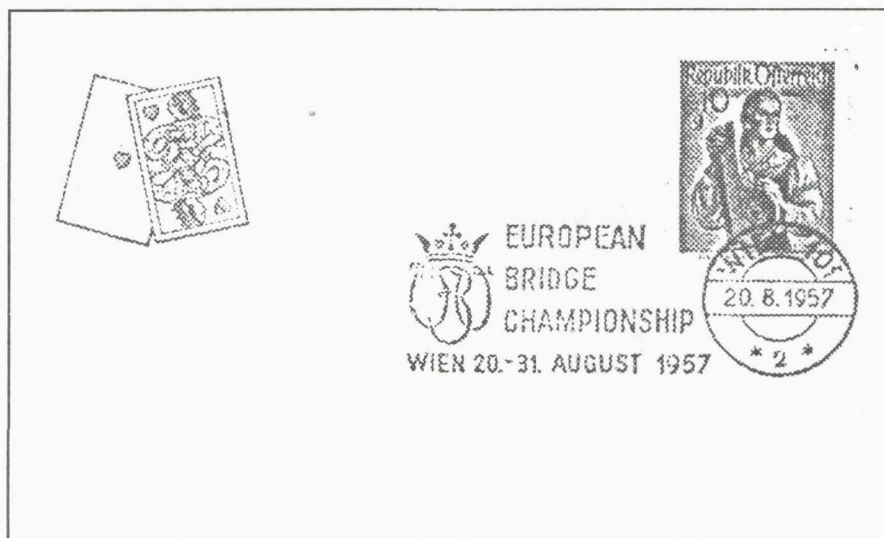


Figure 3. Special cancels for bridge tournaments include this 1957 version for the European Bridge Championships in Vienna, Austria.

in The Hague, Netherlands who was most helpful in getting me started. He bought for me a small paperback catalog written in French on just this topic, thereby letting me know that Europeans had a foot in the door.

The catalog, which provides illustrations along with Scott and foreign catalog numbers of all the items known to the compiler, became my bible. However, having already obtained all the items in this catalog (and some not listed), I wrote for and received a German auction catalog

with a section of lots on the topic of Cards on Stamps. The lots were mostly cancels on covers. My bids were unsuccessful and my request for prices realized went unanswered.

My next move was inspired by the card-related cover of the July-August 1993 edition of the *Scott Stamp Monthly*. It contained an article and list of most of the known card-related stamps of the world. I wrote the three compilers of the list, and received replies from two of them. We have exchanged information en-

larging our list of available or soon-to-be-issued stamps. I asked them if they were interested in helping form a small study group, but have not yet received affirmative replies.

Eventually, I became a member of the American Topical Society where I found the Chess group not interested at all. However, the president of Sports Philatelists International encouraged me to write an article on the topic. With the submission of this article went my check for membership in your (now OUR) society. I hope to hear from some of you who have, or would like to start, a collection on this topic.

My native Dallas happens to be the home of some of the greatest men and women bridge players in the world, many of them national and/or international champions. Bob Hamman is considered the top player in the world. Along with fellow Dallasite, Bob Wolff, who is current president of the World Bridge Federation, they are the top-rated pair in the world. They, their spouses, and others attending international tournaments have been helpful in my project. They have taken some of my covers or souvenir sheets to obtain autographs from winners of international contests.

As will be seen in the accompanying illustrations, bridge is not the only

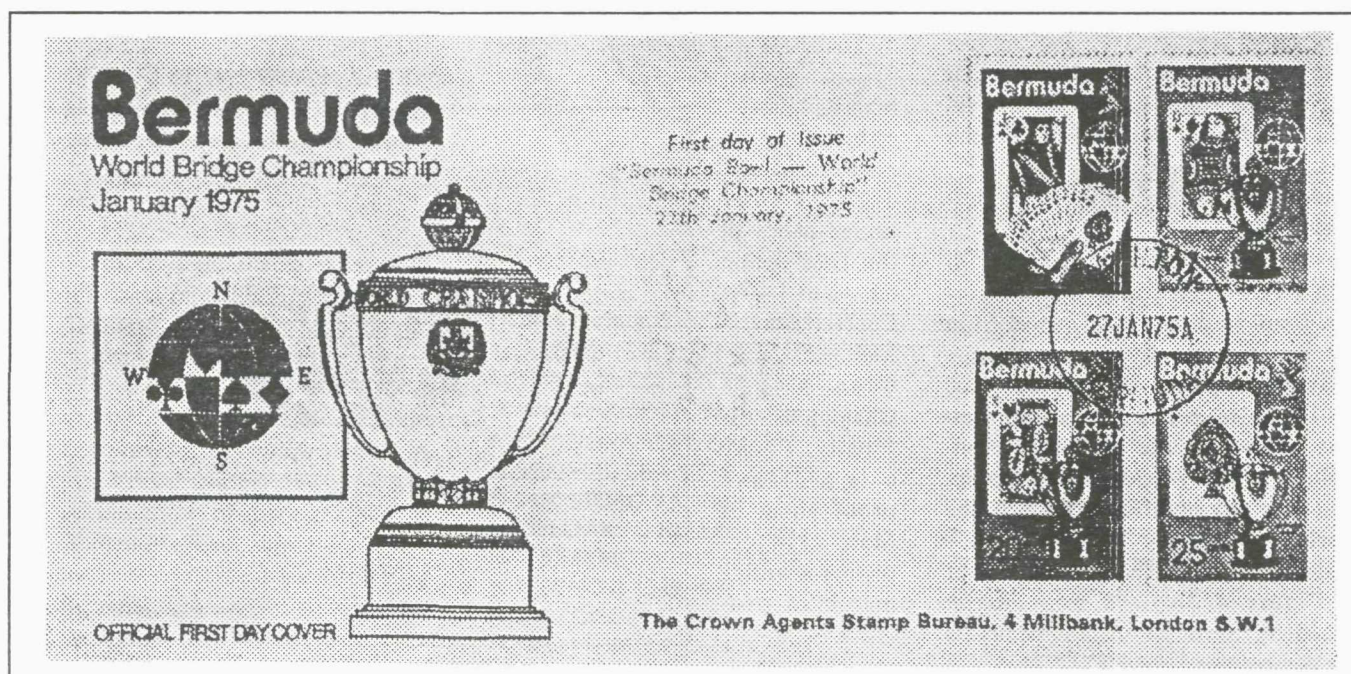


Figure 4. Bermuda honored the 1975 World Bridge Championships in Hamilton, Bermuda with four playing card stamps and a first day cover.

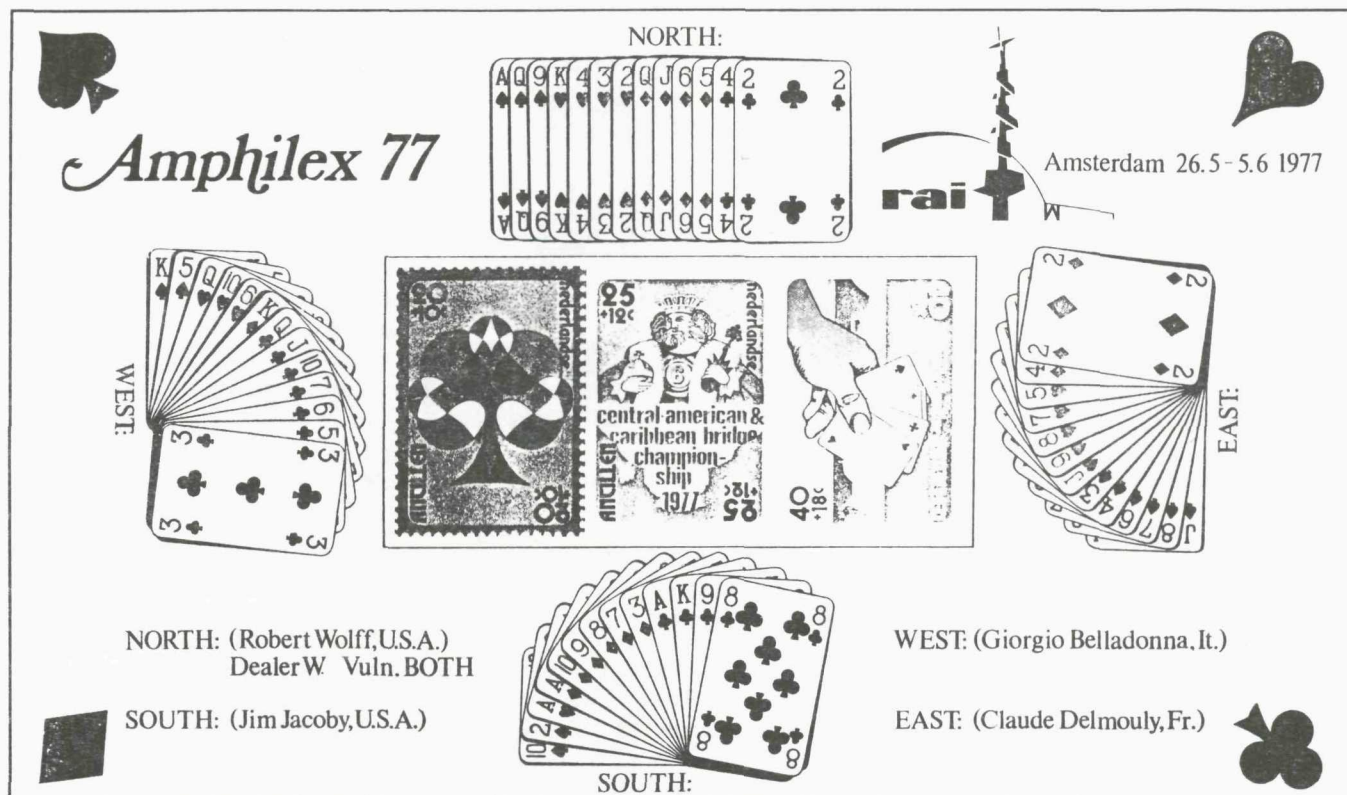


Figure 5. The names of renowned U.S. bridge champions, Robert Wolff and Jim Jacoby, appeared on a souvenir sheet from the Netherlands Antilles.

card game which goes into my collection. Figure 1 is an example of stamps depicting playing cards from the former GDR (Scott #941-43). Cancels, especially fancy cancels from the United States, should not be ignored. Figure 2 reproduces a rare series of fancy cork cancels of the four bridge suits on a registered cover. As per post office regulations, all circular date stamps were applied on the reverse. The cover, mailed from French Lick, Indiana on October 28, 1929, arrived in Chicago, Illinois the following day.

The Austrian cover in Figure 3, with a card-related cachet in the corner, bears an ornate hand cancel from the prestigious European Bridge Championships of 1957. That year, the Italian team emerged as the winners. The pinnacle of bridge competition is the World Championship, held regularly in different cities of the world. In January 1975, Bermuda hosted the event. The first day cover in Figure 4 displays four stamps issued by Bermuda to commemorate the competition (Scott #312-315).

Card players, whether fictitious or real, are an important facet to be

included in a Cards on Stamps collection. One of French artist Paul Cezanne's most famous paintings, "The Card Players," is memorialized on a French stamp issued in 1967 (Scott #1016). Real-life players, Robert Wolff and Jim Jacoby of the U.S., are noted on the souvenir sheet in Figure 5. The sheet was issued for Amphilex 77, an international philatelic exhibition in Amsterdam, and depicts four bridge hands in the final game of the 1977 Central American and Caribbean Bridge Championships. Finally, Figure 6 is a deluxe proof sheet of Mali #314 depicting a bridge match in progress.

With these few examples of what is avail-

able, I hope to pique the interest of other philatelists who are also card players. Those interested in collecting Cards on Stamps are encouraged to write me: Eugene K. Sanger, P.O. Box 25454, Dallas, TX 75225. You may also telephone me at (214) 739-5706, or send a fax to me at (214) 361-7842. □

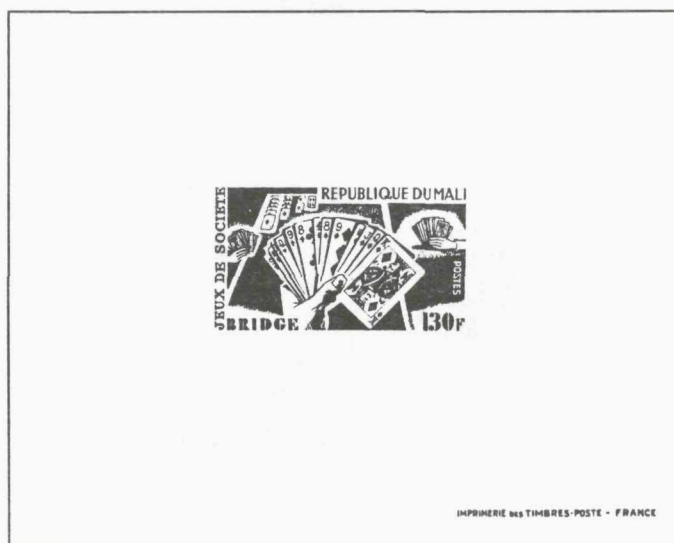


Figure 6. A deluxe proof sheet of Mali's 1960 bridge stamp illustrates the wide variety of philatelic material available for a Cards on Stamps collection.

Lillehammer Olympic Cancels

by Mark Maestroni

Lillehammer won't be disappointing the Olympic collectors among us. In addition to Norway Post's Olympic stamp program, three separate pictorial cancel programs have been created:

Special Olympic Cancels Program. Thirteen cancels commemorate first days of issue for the Olympic stamps, inauguration of Olympic venues, and pre-Olympic and Olympic cultural festivals. The program began in October 1992 with the first Olympic stamp issue, and continues through the last day of the Games on February 27, 1994. Four special cancels are still to come (letter designations are Norway Post's):

- J) Lillehammer and 7 other post offices, 3 January-27 February 1994. This cancel, depicting the architecture of Lillehammer, will be used at the Lillehammer Main Post Office the temporary postal facilities at the Olympic Villages, Broadcast Center, and Press Centers. The cancel at each facility will be identical, including the name: 2600 Lillehammer.
- K) Opening of the Winter Art Exhibition, Lillehammer, 8 February 1994. The cancel illustrates a paint palette and two paint brushes.
- L) Third Olympic stamp issue, Lillehammer, 12 February 1994. Standard FD cancel of the royal crown above a post horn.
- M) Stamp Fair, Lillehammer, 31 January-27 February 1994. A simulated stamp showing the architecture of Lillehammer is illustrated. The Stamp Fair will be a non-competitive display of Olympic philatelic exhibitions sponsored by Norway Post.

Torch Run Cancels Program. Beginning with the lighting of the Olympic

Torch in Morgedal, Norway on November 27, 1993, 75 post offices along the torch route will provide the special cancel. The final stop, and final torch cancel, is in Lillehammer on the Opening Day of the Games, February 12, 1994. The post offices along the route of the Torch Relay are provided below. Four of the cancels should be mailed to addresses different from the cancel designation:

1. N-Gullfaks C 10.12.1993 and N-5002 Bergen 11.12.1993 should be sent to Postbutikken, N-5002 Bergen, Norway.
2. N-M/S "Kong Harald" 2.-4.1.1994 should be sent to The Post Office, N-9005 Tromsø, Norway.
3. N-0101 Oslo 5.2.1994 should be sent to Oslo Central Post Office, N-0101 Oslo, Norway.



- N-3103 TØNSBERG 30.11.1993
- N-3705 SKIEN 1.12.1993
- N-4950 RISØR 2.12.1993
- N-4800 ARENDAL 3.12.1993
- N-4604 KRISTIANSAND S 4.12.1993
- N-4480 KVINESDAL 5.12.1993
- N-4370 EGRSUND 6.12.1993
- N-6800 FØRDE 18.12.1993
- N-6770 NORDFJØRDEID 19.12.1993
- N-6150 ØRSTA 20.12.1993
- N-6025 ÅLESUND 21.12.1993
- N-6400 MOLDE 22.12.1993
- N-6500 KRISTIANSUND N 23.12.1993
- N-6600 SUNNDALSØRA 27.12.1993
- N-7340 OPPDAL 28.12.1993
- N-7332 LØKKEN VERK 29.12.1993
- N-7130 BREKSTAD 30.12.1993
- N-9005 TROMSØ 31.12.1993
- N-9170 LONGYEARBYEN 1.1.1994
- N-M/S «KONG HARALD» 2.-4.1.1994 2)
- N-9900 KIRKENES 4.1.1994
- N-9730 KARASJØK 5.1.1994
- N-9500 ALTA 6.1.1994
- N-9080 STORSLETT 7.1.1994
- N-9048 SKIBOTN 8.1.1994
- N-9200 BARDUFØSS 9.1.1994
- N-8500 NARVIK 10.1.1994
- N-9400 HARSTAD 11.-12.1.1994
- N-8400 SORTLAND 12.1.1994
- N-8300 SVOLVÆR 13.1.1994
- N-8200 FAUSKE 14.1.1994
- N-8001 BODØ 15.1.1994
- N-8600 MO 16.1.1994
- N-8800 SANDNESSJØEN 17.1.1994
- N-8940 TERRÅK 18.1.1994
- N-7800 NAMSØS 19.1.1994
- N-7700 STEINKJER 20.1.1994
- N-7600 LEVANGER 21.1.1994
- N-7007 TRONDHEIM 22.1.1994
- N-7090 STØREN 23.1.1994
- N-7460 RØROS 24.1.1994
- N-2500 TYNSET 25.1.1994
- N-2670 OTTA 26.1.1994
- N-2620 FOLLEBU 27.1.1994
- N-2800 GJØVIK 28.1.1994
- N-2080 EIDSVOLL 29.1.1994
- N-2000 LILLESTRØM 30.1.1994
- N-1850 MYSEN 31.1.1994
- N-1752 HALDEN 1.2.1994
- N-1701 SARPSBORG 2.2.1994
- N-1440 DRØBAK 3.2.1994
- N-1311 HØVIKODDEN 4.2.1994
- N-0101 OSLO 5.2.1994 3)
- N-2200 KONGSVINGER 6.2.1994
- N-2400 ELVERUM 7.2.1994
- N-2420 TRYSIL 8.2.1994
- N-2450 RENA 9.2.1994
- N-2300 HAMAR 10.2.1994
- N-2612 SJUSJØEN 11.2.1994
- N-2600 LILLEHAMMER 12.2.1994

Olympic Sport Cancels Program.

Cancels for each of the 14 Olympic winter sports, plus opening and closing day, will be available. Cancels will only be applied on the day or days that events in that sport are contested. Opening and closing day postmarks will be used on February 12 and 27, respectively. The ice hockey postmark will be available with either a Lillehammer or Gjovik designation. The alpine skiing cancel will also be available from two sites: Oyer and Favang. All 16 cancels are depicted below, along with the venue name and post office designation (postal code and town name).



1. Opening Day, Olympic Park, 2600 Lillehammer. Date: Feb. 12



2. Luge, Hunderfossen, 2638 Faberg. Dates: Feb. 13-16, 18.



3. Bobsled, Hunderfossen, 2638 Faberg. Dates: Feb. 19, 20, 26, 27.



4. Alpine Skiing, Hafjell, 2636 Oyer. Dates: Feb. 21, 23-27.



5. Alpine Skiing, Kvittfjell, 2634 Favang. Dates: Feb. 13-15, 17, 19, 20.



6. Freestyle Skiing, Kanthaugen, 2600 Lillehammer. Dates: Feb. 15, 16, 21, 24.



7. Ski Jumping, Lysgardsbakkene, 2600 Lillehammer. Dates: Feb. 20, 22, 25.



8. Combined Skiing, Lysgardsbakkene/Birkebeineren Stadium, 2600 Lillehammer. Dates: Feb. 18, 19, 23, 24.



9. Cross-Country Skiing, Birkebeineren Stadium, 2600 Lillehammer. Dates: Feb. 13-15, 17, 19, 21, 22, 24, 27.



10. Biathlon, Birkebeineren Stadium, 2600 Lillehammer. Dates: Feb. 18, 20, 23, 25, 26.



11. Ice Hockey, Hakon Hall, 2600 Lillehammer. Dates: Feb. 12-27.



12. Ice Hockey, Gjovik Olympic Cavern, 2800 Gjovik. Dates: Feb. 12-21, 23-26.



13. Figure Skating, Hamar Olympic Amfi, 2300 Hamar. Dates: Feb. 13, 15, 17-21, 23, 25, 26.



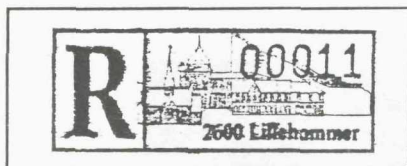
14. Short Track Speed Skating, Hamar Olympic Amfi, 2300 Hamar. Dates: Feb. 22, 24, 26.



15. Speed Skating, Hamar Olympic Hall, 2300 Hamar. Dates: Feb. 13, 14, 16-21, 23, 25.



16. Closing Day, Olympic Park, 2600 Lillehammer. Date: Feb. 27.



Special registration label to be used during the Olympic Games in Lillehammer.

In addition to the three cancellation programs, Norway Post has printed special registration labels to be used at the various Olympic post offices. The special label, illustrated above, will be issued on January 3, 1994. It will remain in use through February 27, the last day of the Games. While the special registration label does not carry the Olympic Rings, it does reproduce the "architectural skyline" graphics that have already appeared on two of the Olympic stamp issues. The information received appears to indicate that only one type of registration label will be used: 2600 Lillehammer. A special address (see mailing instructions, below) is provided for collectors

wishing to obtain the special registration label on cover. However, it seems likely that this label would also be applied to any registered mail being processed with the Special Olympic or Olympic Sports Cancels.

Mailing Instructions

Collectors wishing to mail in their own covers for cancellation should carefully follow these instructions:

1. Covers must be franked with at least the minimum "B-post" rate (refer to the postal chart in Table 1, below). Covers without franking will not be processed.
2. Covers may be either addressed or unaddressed. Collectors submitting unaddressed covers must include a pre-addressed return envelope with correct franking.
3. Each cover must clearly indicate the cancel type and date required. Covers must reach the destination post office by the day requested for cancellation. Back dating will not be done.

4. Mailing Addresses:

Special Olympic Cancels (four remaining cancels): covers should be mailed to Norway Post Stamp Bureau, P.O. Box 9350 Gronland, N-0135, Oslo, Norway.

Torch Run Cancels: covers should be mailed directly to the individual post offices as previously listed. The outer envelope should be marked "Fakkel".

Olympic Sports Cancels: covers should be mailed to Norway Post Stamp Bureau, P.O. Box 9350 Gronland, N-0135, Oslo, Norway. The outer envelope should be marked "Saerstempel OL 94". This address is used for all 16 sports cancels.

Special Olympic Registration Label: collectors may send covers with correct franking to: Postkontoret, 2600 Lillehammer, Norway. The outer envelope should be marked "Rek. brev."

Table 1
Postal Rate Chart for Norway
(Rates in Norwegian Kroner)

Class	Europe	Other
"A-post" ¹	4.50	5.50
"B-post" ²	4.00	4.50
Registration ³	25.00	25.00
Express Mail ⁴	35.50	35.50

¹ First Class or Airmail, for first 20 grams.

² Second Class Mail, for first 20 grams.

³ Registration Fee only. Must be added to A- or B- postage rate.

⁴ Express Mail Fee only. Must be added to A- postage rate only. Express mail not available for B-post.

Mask Cancel Handbook

The Mask Study Unit of ATA has announced plans to compile a handbook of worldwide cancellations and meter impressions that picture masks of all types, including sports (e.g., diving, swimming, baseball, ice hockey, etc.). Collectors wishing to participate in this project should submit photocopies of covers with such cancels or meters (and an indication of ink color other than black) to: Carolyn Weber, P.O. Box 2542, Oxnard, CA 93034, U.S.A. Credit will be given to all contributors. Postage and copying costs reimbursed upon request.



Figure 1. A special Swiss stamp was issued to commemorate the opening of the new Olympic Museum in Lausanne. The museum's handcancel postmarks this registered cover.

New Olympic Museum Opens in Lausanne

by Mark Maestrone

After 78 years, Baron Pierre de Coubertin's dream of a permanent Olympic Museum finally came to pass. A new facility on the banks of Lake Geneva in Lausanne, Switzerland opened on June 23, 1993 — appropriately, International Olympic Day.

In commemoration of the event, the Swiss postal administration issued a stamp depicting an ancient Greek discus thrower (Figure 1). A special museum handcancel postmarks the stamp. An additional aqua-colored rubber handstamped cachet (Figure 2) reproduces the logo of FIPO (the International Federation of Olympic Philately) in the center.

The museum's inauguration coincided with the 100th Session of the IOC in Lausanne on June 23 and 24 (Figure 3).

The five level, 11,000 square meter (roughly 120,000 square feet) building is the world's largest repository of information on the Olympic Games, as well as a center for discourse on the meaning of the Olympic Games and history of the Olympic Movement.

An exhibition space on two of the levels is devoted to permanent and

temporary exhibitions. Collections span the entire cultural spectrum of both the ancient and modern Olympic Games. Priceless works of art that include ancient Greek vases decorated with athletes and Auguste Rodin's bronze sculpture, "The American Athlete," are on display. A visually stunning display of Olympic medals can be seen, along with an extensive philatelic collection, much of which was donated by Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee. Even contemporary athletic memorabilia is included in the museum's collection. The helmet that French skier Jean-Claude Killy wore during his triple gold medal sweep in Grenoble in 1968 is just one of the many items on view.

The Olympic Study Center includes a 15,000 volume library; a film and video archive comprising 7,000 hours of footage; 200,000 color and



Figure 2. Special FIPO cachet applied to covers on the inauguration of the new Olympic Museum.



Figure 3. The IOC held its 100th Session in conjunction with the Museum's opening. This specially cacheted cover noted the event with both a special corner card and scarlet hand stamp.

black-and-white photographs; and an archive of Olympic documents. Films, audio-visual presentations, seminars and symposia can be conducted in the state-of-the-art 180-seat auditorium.

Public services include a Museum Shop, offering products, publications, and souvenirs, and a café on the third floor overlooking the lake and the Olympic Park. The park is very much a part of the museum's offerings, as it features specially commissioned works by such artists as Chillida, Botero and Berrocal. The Olympic flame burns continually near the entrance to the building.

When Baron de Coubertin established the headquarters of the IOC in Lausanne in 1915, he also founded a small, core museum "that would not only preserve the legacy of the newly revived Olympic Games, but would embody the ideals of 'Olympism' — the union of sport, art, and culture." Over the years, the museum's collection has grown, continually exceeding available space. One of President Samaranch's primary goals upon his

election in 1980 was to create a permanent facility designed specifically for the purpose. A provisional Olympic Museum on avenue Ruchonnet was opened in 1982. Two years later, land was purchased for the new museum, with construction beginning in 1988.

Designed by Pedro Ramirez Vazquez of Mexico City, and Jean-Pierre Cahen of Lausanne, Switzerland, the five-story building is partially constructed into the site's slope. Clad in white marble from Thasos, Greece, the museum's facade echoes the classic glory of Ancient Greece. Walkways wind down the hill, linking the multiple terraces of the landscaped Olympic Park, ending in a lake-side plaza.

While the exterior evokes memories of the past, the Olympic Museum's interior utilizes the best of modern technology. Sophisticated interactive exhibits aid both the visitor and researcher. Magnetic cards recording the best moments of the Olympic Games can be viewed in the archive consultation room. Video records on

1,200 cassettes are loaded by a robot according to commands given at each of 16 monitoring stations. The robot can also respond to questions in four different languages.

The Olympic Study Center, housing the library, audiovisual department, historical archives, and photographic collection, is designed for ease of use. The Center is open to both the casual visitor and scholar, with programs and displays designed to the appropriate level of use. Of course, computerized catalogs and files make the task much easier, and help preserve the collections of letters and other perishable documents dating back to the founding of the IOC in 1894.

For those wishing to visit the Olympic Museum, it is located at 1, Quai d'Ouchy. The permanent and temporary exhibitions, as well as the shop and cafeteria, are open Tuesday to Sunday beginning at 10:00 a.m. The museum is closed on Mondays. The gardens of the Olympic Museum are always open. □

Wimbledon Tennis Cancel Update

[The following is an update to Dorothy Weihrauch's article on the 1993 Wimbledon Tennis Championships which appeared in the September/October 1993 issue of *JSP*.]

by Ron Backhouse

For many years, the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) Museum at Wimbledon received permission from the post office to have a special hand cancel promoting the Wimbledon Tennis Championships. In practice, it was the curator of the Museum who submitted the design for the cancel, paid for it, and consulted with the post office on its creation.

There were a number of ways in which a collector could obtain the special cancel. Firstly, stamped and addressed envelopes could be sent to the London SW post office. An extra charge of three pence per cover was assessed. Secondly, those attending the Championships could deposit their pre-addressed and stamped covers in the special Museum postbox. Again, the three pence surcharge was levied. Lastly, I would presume that covers could also be mailed directly to the Museum for postmarking. In all cases, the Royal Mail required that canceled covers had to be dispatched to the addressee through normal postal channels. However, for protection the post office did bulk together covers to the same addressee.

Royal Mail has also had a booth at Wimbledon, which in recent years was part of the general retail sales area on the Wimbledon grounds. They did not, however, bring in a temporary mobile post office truck. Oddly, mail posted at this booth did not receive the special cancellation. This predicament left me without an example of the special cancellation one year.

At some point after the 1992 Championships, the Museum curator died. His replacement was not interested in continuing the tradition of providing a special Wimbledon Tennis Championships postmark for 1993. Two other outside parties applied for

permission to provide a 1993 special cancel; both were refused. Therefore, no 1993 Wimbledon Tennis Championships cancel was available.

Another curiosity which I briefly discussed in my previous article was the Post Office Counters, Ltd. hand stamp. To the best of my knowledge, this cancel was first used in 1991. The only two copies of this 1991 edition that I have seen were those acquired by me (I still have one). This cancel was never advertised or announced, unlike the special pictorial postmarks which are regularly included in the Royal Mail's official philatelic newsletter.

I am still not clear about the regulations surrounding the use of the Post Office Counters hand stamp. Figure 1 depicts a post card with both 1992 cancels. The LTA Museum's pictorial postmark cancels the stamp, while the Post Office Counter's hand stamp has been applied at upper left. This card was not processed through the London SW post office's facer cancelling machine, which would seem to confirm that the pictorial postmark was applied at the Championship grounds. I suspect that those

covers mailed to the post office may have been handstamped at the London SW post office, whereupon they were likely returned to the addressee under official post office cover.

The Post Office Counters hand stamp appears to have been confined to use at the official Royal Mail counter on the Wimbledon grounds. Generally speaking, one must specifically ask for the Counters hand stamp to be applied. Of course, mail to be sent via registered or recorded delivery would automatically receive the cancel when posted at the counter. In a sense, the Post Office Counters postmark was used in much the same way as a standard circular date stamp.

Ordinary mail left at the Royal Mail post office at Wimbledon would only receive the Counters postmark upon request. The positioning and clarity of the cancel was entirely dependent on the specificity of the mailer's instructions and the willingness and/or attention of the post office clerk on duty. After cancellation, the mail would then be deposited into the general mailstream, eventually receiving a machine cancellation at the London SW post office. □

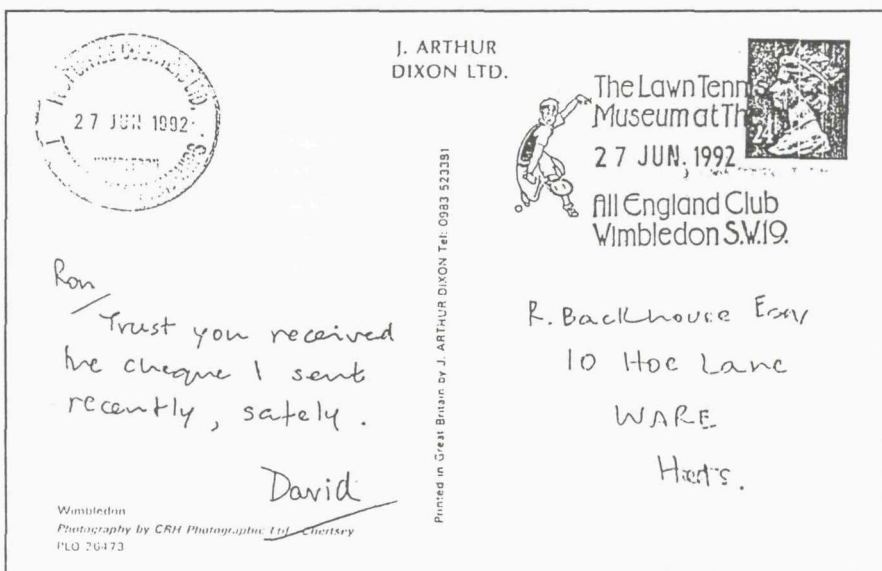


Figure 1. Post card with both the 1992 LTA Museum cancel for the Wimbledon Tennis Championships and the circular Post Office Counters date stamp.

On Sports and Olympic Exhibiting

by James Bowman

THEME DEVELOPMENT of an exhibit is the subject for this issue. The **PLAN OF EXHIBIT**, as I discussed in the previous issue of *JSP*, and **THEME DEVELOPMENT** are both closely interrelated. When properly developed, they have the ability to demonstrate to the viewer (or jury member) that the exhibitor has thoroughly researched and appropriately "illustrated" his theme with philatelic material in a logical manner. Now I will attempt to take this "profound" statement and get to the basics of how to do it.

An approach that is original, i.e., new or unconventional, can make your exhibit stand out among the others. Whether your subject is Gymnastics or Olympics, there are many opportunities if you can only expand your thinking. A Gymnastics exhibit can offer the expected brief introduction of the history of gymnastics, followed by the various events for both men and women, famous gymnasts, and gymnastic competition sites. It might also delve into how each event got started and how it changed through time. In the case of men's long horse vaulting, one could relate this to the fact that knights used wooden horses to practice mounting and dismounting. Also that the vaulting apparatus at times varied from country to country such as illustrated on a Portuguese India issue featuring a wood vaulting box.

The thematic and philatelic text, as well as the philatelic material used to illustrate the theme, must be skillfully chosen and displayed in the correct position and in proper sequence. One "rule of the road" says that "for every noun used in the thematic text, there should be an accompanying philatelic element." This is a rule that can't be followed in all cases, but surely should be a guiding objective.

A correct thematic relationship means that the thematic text and the philatelic item should be positioned so that the relationship between them is correct. An example of an incorrect relationship would be having the thematic text for a particular item near the top of a page and the related philatelic item separated from that text by other text and philatelic items. One might counter that the philatelic item was too large to really place it where it should be. The options are clear — select another philatelic item of proper size, or rewrite or replan the page.

Another practice that I find useful is positioning the thematic text above the philatelic item and the philatelic text below it. The text should be correct and brief, but sufficient to provide a proper correlation between the item used and the text. Some exhibitors elect to use different styles of type for the thematic and philatelic text. This can be very effective.

And of course, do not overlook the presence of chapter and sub-chapter headings at the top of the exhibit page. Refer to my previous article in the November/December 1993 issue of *JSP* in which two Plans of Exhibit are shown that illustrate the chapter and sub-chapter concept.

The widest possible selection of philatelic items commensurate with the theme should be attempted. I have discussed such possibilities in previous columns and will not repeat them here. However, one aspect that I have not focused on to date is that of "postal character." For example, the philatelic items should, in addition to the thematic aspect, have a direct relationship to the issuing country from a political, historical, cultural, economic or similar standpoint. Thus, it would be inappropriate to use a Sonja Henie stamp from a Sand Dune country to illustrate her ice skating victory at the 1936 Olympic Games. That Sand Dune country probably never fielded an ice skating competitor, nor participated in a Winter Olympics.

Other attributes of items with good "postal character," as stated in the FIP Guidelines, include:

- Genuinely cancelled stamps as opposed to CTOs;
- genuinely transported commercial mail with relevant cancellations as opposed to mere souvenir documents created for collectors;
- genuinely transported items with correct postage and relevant thematic cancellations; and,
- documents with individual, differing addresses, as opposed to covers and cards received as a result of mail backs or subscription.

The use of maximum cards should be limited to a few, significant items, chiefly to make more obvious the information on the stamp. The card and stamp should be theme-related as well as the cancellation.

Keeping the above in mind, review this issue and determine for yourself which of the illustrations shown have good "postal character." The previous issue of *JSP* had several items with poor "postal character."

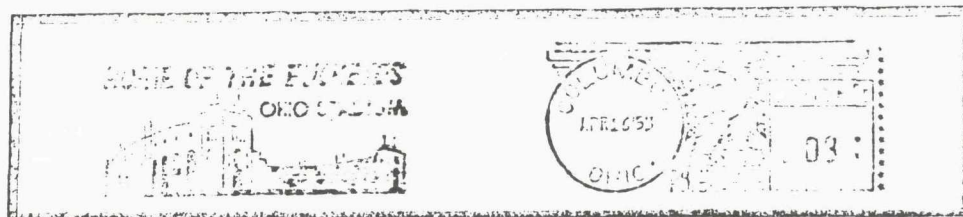
I must add that one collects what he wants to, and that is proper. However, if one desires entering the arena of national and international exhibiting according to the established rules, then one must collect accordingly. If you enjoy it, collect both ways, but never lose sight of the fact that the material destined for your exhibit must have that character factor.

From a practical standpoint, especially when collecting Olympics and other sports topics, it is difficult to find items with good "postal character." Even today, I have some covers in my 1936 Olympics exhibit which need upgrading due to the postal character issue. My philosophy is to get started with that exhibit, realizing that the process is one of constant striving for improvement by upgrading material and thematic line revisions. To do otherwise is to never get started on that exhibit!

III. KIEL/BERLIN - 1936

3.0 Games in Progress - 3.4 Participants

The competitive events started August 2nd following the Opening Ceremonies on the previous day. Every day until closing on August 16, winners were being determined at various sites in or near Berlin as well as Kiel. Track and Field Events were extremely popular and were dominated by the exploits of Jesse Owens from Ohio State University.



Ohio State "Buckeye" Stadium has running track named in honor of Jesse Owens.

Owens won gold in 100m dash, broad jump, and with the 400m relay team. In 100 m dash, was clocked at record 10.2 secs. but it was disallowed due to wind.



As holder of world broad jump record, he almost didn't make the qualifying jump. Finally qualifying, he beat field of 16 jumpers for new Olympic record.

Although not winners of gold medals, Germany did garner medals in the 400 and 1600 meter relays.

Erich Borchmeyer, won bronze on Germany's 400 meter relay team; also placed 5th in the finals of the 100 meter dash.



Rudolf Harbig received bronze with Germany's 1600 meter relay team, also ran in 800 meter preliminaries but did not qualify for the finals.

John Lovelock of New Zealand took the gold in the 1600 meter race.



Fanny Blankers-Koen was member of the 1936 Nederland 4x400 meter relay team which took 5th place.



Figure 1. This page from my thematic exhibit "The 1936 Olympic Games" illustrates theme development by discussing participants at these Games.

Much has been written about the "how to" of thematic exhibiting, but a picture is the best way to bring the point home. Figure 1 serves as an illustration of theme development.

In a later article when **PRESENTATION** is discussed, I will, in some detail, describe page layout and the concept of the "ice pick" area. For now, I will only point out that the eye tends to focus on a page at a central point just above the horizontal dividing line. This is determined by folding the page it in half.

With this in mind, I refer you to Figure 2 which is, in fact, the earlier version of the exhibit page in Figure 1.

Notice that the Figure 2 page has a "hole" where the eye initially, and naturally, wants to focus.

Several other pages in my exhibit had similar problems and were revised for INDYPEX '93. I did not have time to redo two pages that had "ice pick" problems, thinking no one on the jury would notice this "minor" omission. Well, I was awarded a Gold, but at the critique one of the jury members mentioned two pages that were not up to par. You guessed right, they were the same two pages I didn't find time to rework. To me, this reinforces the fact that indeed, the judges do notice "minor" transgressions. It truly does pay to give attention to small details.

III. BERLIN/KIEL - 1936 3.0 Games in Progress - 3.4 Participants

The competitive events started August 2nd following the Opening Ceremonies on the previous day. Every day until closing on August 16, winners were being determined at various sites in or near Berlin as well as Kiel. Track and Field Events were extremely popular and were dominated by the exploits of Jesse Owens from Ohio State University who won gold medals for the 100 meter dash, broad jump, 200 meter race, and as member of the 400 meter relay team.



Owens was clocked at a record breaking pace 10.2 seconds in the 100 meter dash but the record was disallowed due to the wind.

Owens, holder of world broad jump record, almost failed to make qualifying jump of 23' 5 1/2". Making finals, he beat field of 16 jumpers for a new Olympic record of 26' 5 5/16".



Although not winners of gold medals, Germany did garner medals in the 400 and 1600 meter relays.



Erich Borchmeyer, member of Germany's bronze medal winning 400 meter relay team. He also placed 5th in the finals of the 100 meter dash event.



Rudolf Harbig, also received bronze medal running with Germany's 1600 meter relay team. He also ran in the 800 meters preliminaries but did not qualify for the finals.

Turkey honored two Americans in their 1940 Balkan Games issues. Original photos were the basis of the stamp designs.

Earl Meadows of the University of Southern California won the pole vault at 14' 3 1/4" which was a new Olympic record for the event.



In 1936, the world discus record was held by Schroder of Germany. In the Games, he fell short of his record of 53.1 meters by 5 meters. Kenneth Carpenter won gold with toss of 50.48 m.



Figure 2. This earlier version of the exhibit page in Figure 1 shows how a visual "hole" just above the center of the page detracts from the overall presentation.

The Sports Arena

by Mark Maestroni

SPI member John Capers, an avid golf collector, submitted the interesting first day cover in Figure 1. The souvenir sheet of eight stamps issued by St. Vincent on November 25, 1991, pictures seven current players, plus Bobby Jones, one of the all-time greats of the sport. John notes that he collaborated on obtaining the autographs of the seven living players: Gary Player, Nick Faldo, Severiano Ballesteros, Ben Hogan, Jack Nicklaus, Greg Norman, and Jose-Maria Olazabal. Only eleven covers were autographed. Of these, Nicklaus, Norman, Player and Faldo each received one. The remaining seven are in private collector hands.

John adds that this souvenir sheet is part of a series commemorating people from different walks of life. Apparently, there were no single stamps issued. Thanks, John, for sharing this interesting piece with us.

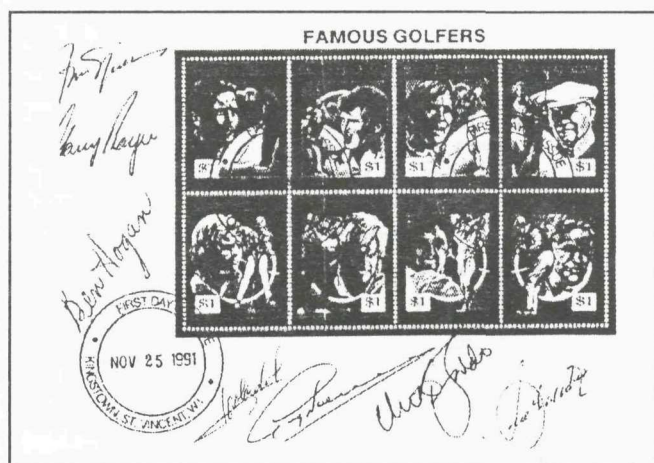


Figure 1. All seven living golfers depicted on this St. Vincent souvenir sheet autographed it: (top to bottom) Nicklaus, Player, Hogan, Olazabal, Norman, Faldo and Ballesteros.

Additional information has come to light on the "Flag Over the Olympic Rings" booklet of stamps issued by the U.S. Postal Service in 1991. As reported in the July 26, 1993 issue of *Linn's Stamp News*, the stamp was issued with both paper and ink varieties.

A comparison of accumulations of the stamp revealed that there were both high-gloss and low-gloss varieties to the paper's finish. When examined under long-wave ultraviolet light, the yellow Olympic Ring apparently glows dramatically. This would indicate that the yellow ink used in this printing was fluorescent. According to the article's author, Michael Baadke, the high-gloss stamp with fluorescent yellow ink was printed before the low-gloss stamp without the fluorescent ink.

Because this stamp was sold only as a booklet of 10 stamps, and was a popular vending machine product, it may have gone through numerous printings. We do know, for example, that there are at least three booklet cover varieties.

So, check your stamps and see if you have all the reported varieties of covers and stamps. While this issue was officially removed from sale on June 19, 1993, small stocks may still exist at various post offices around the country.

I previously reported that the only cancellation for the 1993 World University Games in Buffalo, New York was a generic pictorial cancel. However, member George Killian recently sent me the cancel in Figure 2. This appears to be a standard circular date stamp (CDS) that was created specifically for the Games. Now that we have evidence that a special CDS was in use at the Buffalo 14240 post office, can any reader report on other post offices with the same CDS? Also, what of the events that were held in Canada? Can any of our "neighbors to the north" fill us in on Canadian postmarks for the World University Games?



Figure 2. A World University Games hand cancel was used at the Buffalo, NY 14240 post office.

SPI Membership Director, Peg Jones, has supplied an update on preparations for next year's U.S. Olympic Festival. The 1994 edition (held in all non-Summer Olympic years) will be in St. Louis, Missouri, Peg's new home.

St. Louis started its one-year countdown to the festival with a special program at the annual Veiled Prophet (VP) Fair over the Fourth of July weekend. Denny Bond, coordinator of the 1994 Festival, provided a program with Olympians Bonnie Blair (speedskating) and Steve Lundquist (swimming).

The 1994 U.S. Olympic Festival will provide competition in 37 sports beginning on July 1 and continuing through July 8 (eight days). Plans call for the festival to be held along the waterfront in conjunction with the 1994 Veiled Prophet Fair.

Reviews

by Mark Maestrone & Sherwin Podolsky

Sports Works — The Inside Guide (Computer Software Program). System requirements: IBM PC or Compatible. PC/MS-DOS 3.3 or above. Hard drive required (uses 9 MB). 530K free RAM (conventional memory). VGA video card and monitor. 3½" high-density floppy drive (5¼" disks available from publisher for \$10 extra). Microsoft mouse or compatible (optional). Published by Software Marketing Corporation, 1993. Includes 24-page manual. List price: \$29.99. - MM

Staring at a WordPerfect screen all week can get down right boring. So, when I was asked to review a new software program called *Sports Works*, I jumped (no pun intended) at the chance. As an amateur sports buff in general, and a rabid gymnastics and Olympics enthusiast, I figured that I was at least marginally qualified to report on this program's ins-and-outs.

Loading the program was no problem. It comes on five 3½" disks which I proceeded to feed into a Hewlett Packard Vectra 386. The installation time, however, was abysmally slow—it took nearly 50 minutes to completely install *Sports Works*. Even though a mouse is recommended, the program operates quite easily using the cursor keys. The setup requirements are minimal. If you intend on printing out any of the text or illustrations, a printer must be selected. The list of printers supported by the program is extensive, and includes both 9- and 24-pin dot matrix printers, as well as laser and ink jets. Unfortunately, I could not change the default port from LPT1 to LPT2, which is where my printer is located. The F1 Help file and manual did not solve the problem either. I might have been able to do this with a mouse, but it was impossible using only the cursor keys.

Preliminaries out of the way, I launched into the program. The screen is divided into three sections: a picture area at upper left utilizes roughly 40% of the screen; 16 icon boxes, one for each sports family, stretches along the bottom; and a menu list appears at right.

The organization of the program is really very simple. Select a sports family (e.g., Field Sports, Court Sports, or Shooting Sports) from among the icon boxes, and a new illustration appears in the picture box. Press "T" and the icon boxes disappear to reveal text. A new menu lists the sports in the selected family. Combative Sports consists of, among others, boxing, wrestling, judo, karate, fencing, and sumo wrestling. Even Akido, a martial arts sport that I had never heard of, was listed. Clicking your mouse or positioning your cursor on a specific sport immediately opens another menu, a different illustration, and new text. Typically, the menu for each individual sport includes a history of the sport, rules, equipment, etc. One that I found particularly interesting was Orienteering, a relatively new sport in Europe that combines cross-country running and naviga-

tional techniques. Selecting one of these menu items reveals new explanatory text. Sometimes, a new illustration and menu appear, though this is not typical. So if you've been counting along with me, each sports family covered by an icon has at least two layers, and sometimes three.

So far, I was impressed with the organization of the program. But the proof is in the pudding, or in this case, the text. How accurate was the information? Turning to gymnastics, which by the way is the only sport with its own icon, I began to read—and this is where I must criticize the software writers. The history for each of the ten gymnastics events is identical. In reality, many of these events, especially those for women, did not appear until long after the first appearance of the sport in the early 1800s. The factual information is often quite vague, and sometimes absolutely wrong. For example, the text for the floor exercise notes that the event was "first developed by L.C. Jahn." This is incorrect on two counts: the progenitor of the sport of gymnastics was F(rederick) L(udwig) Jahn, and he did not develop the floor exercise. It is obvious that the researchers did not do a particularly good job, as this very basic information on the sport is contained in any encyclopedia. In their haste to cut corners, the one-size-fits-all text tripped them up. There were also numerous spelling errors and glaring grammatical mistakes, which is really unforgivable in a text-based program.

As mentioned, the illustrations do support, and in many cases augment, the text. They can sometimes be rather comical in their presentation. For each sports group, there is at least one animated illustration. Two runners dash down the track in one animation; in another, an archer pulls a never-ending number of arrows out of his quiver and shoots them.

The exception to the use of effective illustrations is in the Olympics family section. The static opening picture, the Olympic Rings against a fiery backdrop, is the only illustration. The creators missed a golden opportunity here. There are an endless number of illustrative possibilities from famous Olympic athletes, to views of the sporting venues. Even great moments in Olympic sports could have been displayed.

This raises another weak point in the program's text: the Olympic section is quite superficial. There is only one layer to the menu, instead of the customary two or three for the other sports families. Instead of dealing with each Olympiad individually, the program discusses groups of Games. What is truly surprising is that the Winter Olympic Games are almost completely ignored! True, there is a separate icon family for winter sports, but this really does not deal with the Olympic aspects.

One rather enjoyable feature is the Quiz Section. Select a sport and the program feeds you a series of ten questions. The "ding-a-ling" of a bell (which can be turned off) greets a right answer, while a long buzz signals a wrong multiple

choice selection. (My co-workers wondered what I was doing at my work station when the loud buzzing went off!) At the end, your score is displayed; high scores are recorded and saved.

From an operational standpoint, *Sports Works* has a useful, if limited, series of tools. Hot keys are available; holding down the ALT key while pressing "P" takes you to the Print menu. Unfortunately, nowhere does it tell you that the ALT key must be used to activate the hot keys—I discovered that by accident. Both text and pictures can be printed out or exported to another file for use in a word processing program, for example. Even with a laser printer, though, the illustrations are fairly crude. I suspect that if the software developers had used images with a greater density of pixels, the overall program size would have skyrocketed far beyond the modest 9 megabytes. Worth mentioning is that the manual, which is very short, is most helpful. I would recommend reading through this before operating the program, as it will help you to move more freely around the screen.

Overall, I enjoyed spending a few hours with *Sports Works*. I learned some things about various unfamiliar sports, and was suitably challenged by some of the quiz questions. However, I think this program needs far greater depth in the text to make it more than of passing interest.

"French Engraved Proofs Since 1940; Production Functions and Quantities" by John W. Adams. *The Essay-Proof Journal*, 3rd and 4th Quarters, 1993. Volume 50, Nos. 3-4. Whole Nos. 199/200. Pages 93-113. Check with the American Philatelic Research Library, P.O. Box 8338, State College, PA 16803 to borrow the magazine or to obtain photocopies of the article. -SP

The final issue of *The Essay-Proof Journal* capped the fifty year history of the Essay-Proof Society which is now defunct. It also honors the thirty years of contributions by Barbara R. Mueller as the editor of the journal.

Of significant interest to thematic philatelists is John W. Adam's excellent and well-illustrated article. "French proofs are an extremely rich and diverse field," although there is no catalog. The "deluxe" proofs and imperforates of France listed with prices in the Yvert and Ceres catalog are not true production proofs at all. "Discerning what is genuine production material is a task beyond the current expertise of the general collector."

Philatelists prefer proof material which is indisputably linked to the production of stamps for postal use. Philatelic judges accept and recognize this kind of material in exhibits. Other kinds of proofs are produced primarily to separate unwitting collectors from their money.

Adams describes the evolution of policy and production of the engraved proofs for France and the French Community. The production process allowed flexibility for the designer who may require that proofs be pulled at any stage of the design process to check the progress of work.

The varieties of artist's proofs (APs) are discussed in great detail. Artist's proofs seals were introduced in 1959 "as a result of reforms to reduce overruns." Sepia test

proofs are true production items and were produced from 1953 to 1963.

Color essays were produced by the printer, not by the designers and engravers. Imperforates in approved final colors are marked "bon a tirer" and placed in an archive. No such marked examples have come on the market.

Deluxe sheets (epreuves de luxe) are made at the end of a production run, not as part of it. There are many other varieties of proofs and the serious reader should obtain the original article. Fakes, reprintings, and production leaks are some of the abuses that have tarnished the reputation of later proofs.

Perhaps it is appropriate to end this review by quoting the article's final endnote:

"The collector is advised to beware auction catalog descriptions; they are seldom accurate; to beware any and all investment lures; the market is 'thin'; and to beware fakes; there are some very good ones on the market."

WANTED

U.S. covers postmarked July 31, 1932 and August 2, 1932, preferably franked with Olympic stamps. Please send photocopies with prices to: Roman Babut, P.O. Box 913, 00-950 Warsaw 1, Poland.

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101st IOC Session, Sponsors and Collectibles

Articles in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* concerning the 1996 Olympic Games appear on almost a daily basis, with a weekly "Olympic Watch" feature on Saturdays. Recently, many of the reports have described the changes in sports and venues which are still being worked out. I think that most of the decisions about venues will be finalized by the end of the year, so I should be able to report on the final selection in the next issue of *JSP*. Although the details of the decision-making, negotiating, and creative efforts that go together to develop the 1996 Olympic Games are big news in Atlanta, I still find that many people in other cities don't even realize that the Games will be held here in 1996. However, I suspect that by early 1996 it will be hard to avoid the sponsors' marketing blitz.

As any Olympic philatelist knows, the International Olympic Committee recently met in Monte Carlo, Monaco. The meetings lasted from September 17 to 24, 1993. Of course, the most newsworthy decision reached by the IOC was the awarding of the 2000 Summer Olympic Games to Sydney, Australia. For only the second time in Olympic history, the Games will be held in the Southern Hemi-

sphere. In addition to this very public activity, the IOC also received an update on the progress of the preparations in Atlanta. Dick Pound, the head of the IOC's coordinating commission for the 1996 Olympics, indicated that the IOC is irritated by the frequent venue changes in Atlanta (more on this next issue!). Apparently, the IOC was satisfied with the progress of the financing and sponsorships; at least the committee did not offer any public criticisms.

To honor this 101st Session of the IOC, Monaco issued a series of Olympic stamps. The cover in Figure 1 is franked with some of these stamps, and appears courtesy of Dr. Jeffrey Babcock. The September 9, 1993 cancel marks the announcement date of the awarding of the 2000 Summer Olympic Games to Sydney. Barely visible in the photocopy is a commemorative cancellation showing the Olympic Rings and repeating the logo from the cachet in the lower left hand corner. The stamp at the upper left also repeats the theme of the 101st IOC session.

Part of the challenge in collecting the history of the 1996 Olympic Games will be identifying and obtaining the special slogan meters which sponsors typically use to

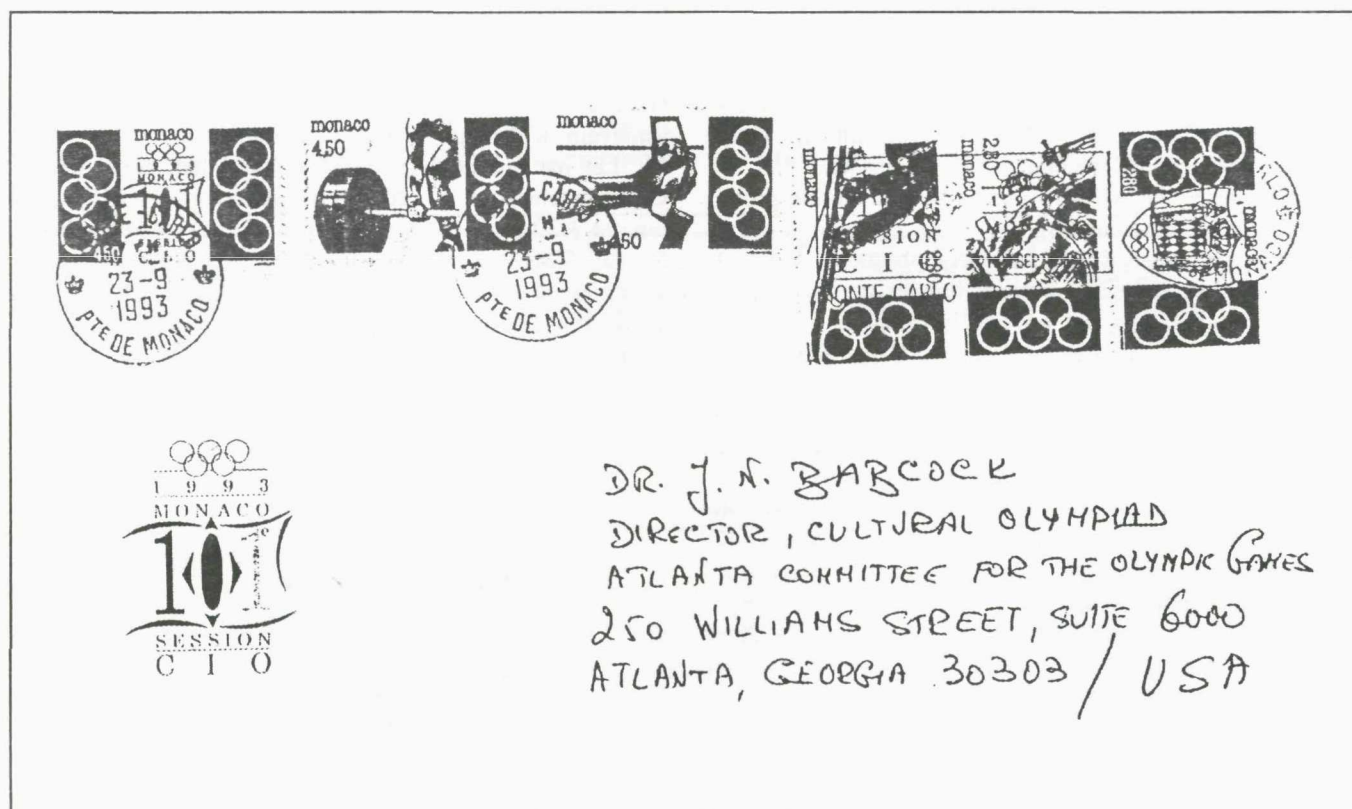


Figure 1. A cover from the 101st IOC Session in Monaco bearing stamps commemorating the event and postmarked September 9, 1993—the day Sydney, Australia was selected as host of the 2000 Summer Olympic Games.

publicize their involvement with the Olympic Games. As of this date, I have not seen any sponsor-produced meters for the 1996 Games, but I expect we will as the Games draw closer. So that you can watch for these — and report them to *JSP* — I have included a current list of Worldwide Sponsors, Centennial Olympic Games Partners, and Sponsors:

Worldwide Sponsors: Coca-Cola, Kodak, Visa, Bausch & Lomb, Sports Illustrated, Xerox, and Panasonic.

Centennial Olympic Games Partners: NationsBank, Champion, The Home Depot, IBM, Budweiser, and McDonald's.

Sponsor: John Hancock.

Since many philatelists are also interested in other collectibles, I will also try to update the *JSP* readership on the marketing efforts in these areas, which have already begun. For example, the ACOG has already licensed a series of Olympic pins, some of which are out of production and no longer available. By 1996, ACOG hopes to sell 15 million pins, which would provide \$5 million revenue for the Games.

Recently, the ACOG floated a proposal for a Centennial Park on land just west of the downtown Atlanta area. The parks facilities would include an official Olympic pin trading center. I am skeptical about the chances of this park becoming a reality, because it would require additional millions of dollars from corporate sponsors as well as the displacing of some businesses and residents. A similar controversy arose when residents living in the area of the new Olympic Stadium were displaced.

I did not expect the original mascot pin would be either scarce or valuable, since huge numbers were produced. However, Whatizit has been transformed into Izzy with a new name and new look — and a new mascot pin. Only 60,000 of the original Whatizit pins were made.

Last month, the ACOG issued a limited edition group of seven pins commemorating the 1,000 day countdown to the Olympic Games. 5,000 sets were produced, most of which were apparently distributed within the ACOG family, including to volunteers and workers in the retail outlets. A small number were sold at the Olympic Experience store, and at the new suburban store in Alpharetta, Georgia, but none were sent to the retail store at Market Square where I usually look for such items. Figure 2, courtesy of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, illustrates this pin.

To give you an idea of the scope and popularity of pin collecting, the Lillehammer Olympic Committee has already issued about 280 pins. The ACOG is planning to issue as many as 1,500 pins by the end of the Games. At \$5 each, one could expect to spend \$7,500 to collect them all. And I thought the philatelic output from the Central African Republic and Guinea was out of control!! The official ACOG pins will be widely marketed around the U.S., so I doubt the typical pin will be a very good investment. Limited edition pins would be a better bet. To discourage counterfeiting, ACOG pins are imprinted with a code on the back indicating the year, manufacturer, the design and size

of the issue. Starting in 1994 they will also have a holographic sticker on the reverse. Of course, some of the most desirable pins will be the ones which cannot be purchased but must be acquired in trades, such as the media pins, sponsor pins, and pins of other national Olympic committees. For anyone interested in Olympic pins, there is an organization called Olympin, located at 1386 Fifth Street, Schenectady, N.Y. 12303. The ACOG also plans to start a pin collectors club, which will offer newsletters, pin guides, and a means of obtaining limited editions and boxed sets. When the information on joining becomes available, I will include it in this column, but I do not intend to report on pins as a regular feature.

I mentioned in last month's column that the Cultural Olympiad plans to produce a series of Fine Arts posters. These will be designed by distinguished artists from around the world. The first works in the series will premiere at the 1994 Lillehammer Winter Olympic Games, with the complete series being displayed during the 1996 Atlanta Centennial Olympic Arts Festival. The Centennial Series will also include a specially commissioned poster honoring the 100th anniversary of the Games as well as reproductions of 35 previous posters of the Olympic Games. Actually, the poster program is even more extensive than this, because the Fine Arts Series is only one of six sets of posters which ACOG plans to issue. In all, 100 different posters will be produced. The themes of the other five series are: Olympic Games Sports, Olympic Competition, Georgia Graphics Showcase, Youth, and Centennial Olympic Games. I will include ordering information in this column if they are made available for mail sale.

Not to ignore numismatics, ACOG also plans a series of commemorative coins in 1995 and 1996. Sixteen coins will be minted by the U.S. Mint. The design themes have already been selected: Gold (the Games, from ancient Greece to Atlanta); Silver (the celebration of human achievement through sports); and Clad (Youth).

Let me remind U.S. readers that a half-hour Atlanta Olympic television special will be broadcast by NBC beginning at 3:30 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) on Super Bowl Sunday. This will be the first national coverage of Olympic activities other than the dance routine during the closing ceremonies in Barcelona and the coverage of the unveiling of the mascot Whatizit.

I would like to close by wishing all SPI members a healthy, peaceful, happy, and philatelically interesting 1994.



Figure 2. This commemorative pin is only available as part of a "countdown" set. Just 5,000 were produced.

Basketball Philatelic News

In the October 1993, issue of this newsletter for basketball collectors, Luciano Calenda displays a first day cover of the Philippines sports set, Scott 380-82. The FDC establishes that Washington, D.C., as well as Manila, was a first day city for the set—a generally unknown fact. This is one of the early sports sets (it includes the very first tennis stamp).

Several scarce basketball-related items recently offered at auction are reproduced in this issue. One is an oversized 1933 express cover sent from Nanking to Shanghai and franked with 32 stamps, each of which is tied by a pictorial cancel depicting a basketball. It was offered in George Alevizos' October 21 mail sale with an estimate of \$1500. *BP News* editor George Killian notes that this is only the second example of this cancel on cover he has ever seen — the first being in his own collection.

Shlomo Vurgan of Israel displays a registered first day cover of the Panama souvenir sheet Scott C47a which he believes to be rare. Luciano Calenda has researched two questionable basketball cancellations, one of 1970 from Thailand, the other of 1966 from Finland, and established that neither is bona fide. The balance of this issue reproduces much new basketball philatelic material, particularly cancellations.

Bicycle Stamps

The autumn 1993 issue of the quarterly *Bicycle Stamps* features presentations on the 1993 World Championship

Bicycle Races held in Oslo and on the annual Spanish race which is run in the Barcelona area, called "Volta a Cyclista a Catalunya." Relevant covers, cancellations and postcards are reproduced, but very little descriptive text is provided. New issues of bicycle-related stamps, cancels and postal stationery from a number of countries are also reproduced. Several collectors offer bicycle-related material for sale.

Membership in the Bicycle Stamps Club, which provides four issues of *Bicycle Stamps* a year as a membership benefit, now costs U.S. \$17, reduced from \$20 due to the decrease in value of the British pound. Contact treasurer Bill Hofmann, 610 N. Pin Oak Lane, Muncie IN 47304 or the secretary, Tony Teideman, P.O. Box 90, Baulkham Hills, NSW 2153, Australia, about membership.

Phila-Sport

Issue #8 (fourth quarter, 1993) of this Italian sports periodical reports on the second stage of their national competition for best sports exhibit. The winner, in a very close contest, was Paolo Padova, whose exhibit "Corri cavallo, corri" ("Run Horse, Run") was awarded 84 points and a large vermeil medal. (This exhibit received 75 points and a large silver medal last year at Genova '92, the international all-thematic exhibition.) The third and final stage of the Italian competition, which is to take place in Verona in November 1993, is open only to exhibits which have already received at least 85 points in national competition — and thus earned a gold award. At the time this issue of *PHILA-SPORT* went to press there were already eight qualified entries in this competition. (It might be noted

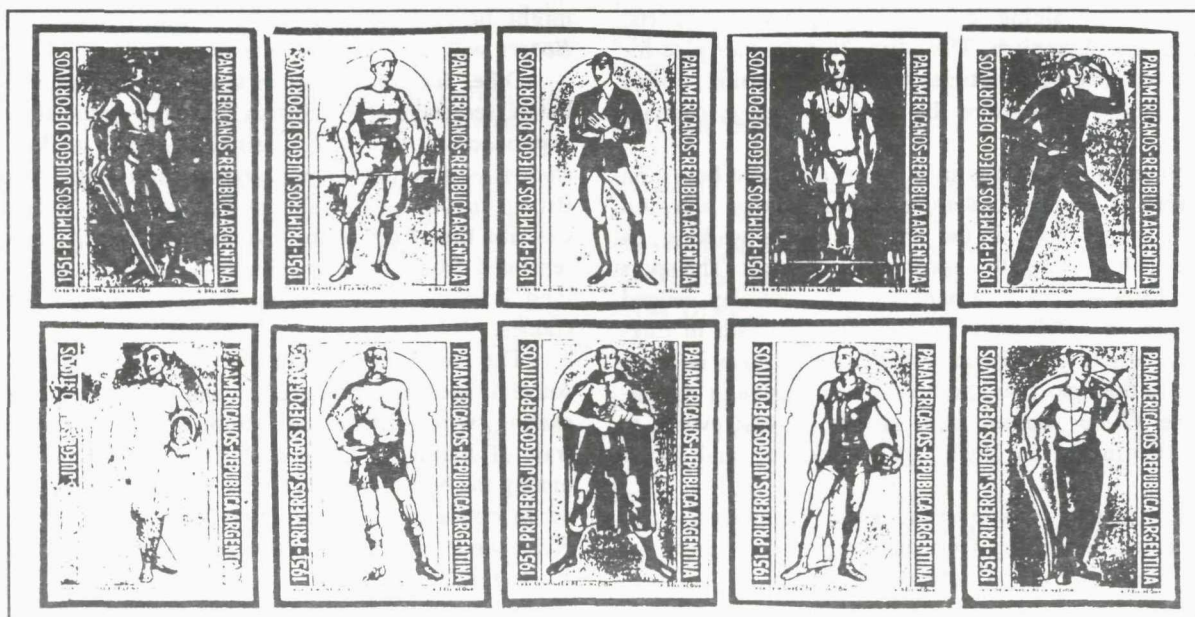


Figure 1. Ten of the 18 essays for a never-issued set commemorating the 1951 Pan American Games in Argentina are discussed in Issue #8 of *Phila-Sport*.

parenthetically that in the United States there are not that many sports/Olympics exhibits being regularly shown in local, regional and national shows combined — not to mention their average lower medal level).

Feature articles in this issue include one by *PHILASPORT* editor Bruno Cataldi Tassoni on rare and/or expensive philatelic treasures in the sports field, which he concludes may be good investments as well as a necessity for serious exhibitors. Among the examples of this type of material which he illustrates is a 1934 cover sent from Rhodes to Milan, franked with five copies of Italy Scott 324 and one of Scott 325, the latter partially imperforate. It has been expertized and stated to be the only known example of this partially imperforate variety on a postally used cover — a great treasure for the soccer collector. Another example is the set of 18 photo essays of a proposed Argentina sports set (Figure 1). These essays were to be issued in 1951 to celebrate the first Pan American Games, held in Buenos Aires. For unknown reasons issuance of the set was first postponed and then cancelled, so that no Argentine postal emission at all honored these Games.

Among the other, briefer articles in this issue of the Italian Sports and Olympic Philatelists' quarterly journal is one on the World Championship of Bocce (a type of lawn bowling) held in Saluzzo, Italy, in October 1993. Other articles discuss: the great figures of Italian sports and Olympic philately of earlier years; the contribution of Count Alberto Bonacossa to the Italian sports scene; and the opening, last June, of the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland.

La Philatelie Thematique — Supplement Sports

The fourth issue for 1993 of this quarterly publication of the French Thematic Association's Sports Group contains articles on race walking, cycling, Olympic winter sports, basketball and Olympism. The editorial is another plea for members to write more articles for the publication, noting that two in this issue were the work of foreign (Italian) members.

As is usual the articles in this periodical are heavy on illustrations of stamps, covers, etc. and light on text. An exception in this issue is the article on race walking, in which the author traces that sport's development. The sport began in 1809 when a Scot named Captain Barclay walked 1,000 miles in 1,000 hours at Newmarket Heath in England. The article on Olympic winter sports also is more informative than most, as it discusses the change in emphasis in the Winter Games from strictly Nordic events to include (beginning in 1908) artistic skating and (later) hockey.

Finally, a short article in this issue reproduces essays of unaccepted designs by German designers of stamps for the 1976 Innsbruck and Montreal Games.

Tematica Filatelica E Cultura

This is the publication of the Brazilian Thematic Association. The September 1992 issue was sent for review by the publication's editor, Geraldo de Andrade Ribeiro, Jr. who is an SPI member. This publication is written entirely in Portuguese with, however, the title page listing of articles given in both Portuguese and English.

There are three sports-related articles in this issue. One article deals with a youth soccer competition which inaugurated the Sao Paulo Municipal Stadium in 1940. The second one discusses the fraudulent stamps purportedly issued by Cuba in 1960 for the 1960 Rome Olympics. The last article, by editor Ribeiro, is entitled "Our First Olympic Medal," and concerns the medals in shooting won by two members of Brazil's shooting team at the 1920 Antwerp Olympics. Guilherme Paraense won a gold in the rapid-fire pistol, and his teammate Afranio da Costa received a silver in the free pistol event. The medalists are pictured on two 1992 stamps of Brazil (Scott #2349 and 2350), while Brazil's first day cancellation pictures their weapons.

Torch Bearer

We learn in the November 1993 issue of *Torch Bearer* that Society of Olympic Collectors Vice Chairman, Bob Farley, will replace Franceska Rapkin as the periodical's editor beginning with the May 1994 issue. Bob visited Lillehammer in March 1993 to acquaint himself with the area before the 1994 Games, and reports on his findings in this issue.

Also in this issue Bob Wilcock poses some questions for Manfred Bergman who offered advice in the May 1993 issue of *Torch Bearer* to potential exhibitors of recent Olympiads. As with many Olympic collectors, Wilcock anticipates difficulties in aspects of thematic development. For example, he says that in illustrating some points, reference to a cover's corner card rather than its postal area might be necessary. Hopefully future issues of *Torch Bearer* will address these questions further.

Other feature articles in this issue include one by Ian Paton, secretary of the British Thematic Association, on his experiences at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics while a college student — a period when currency control and rationing in Britain made any trip abroad an adventure. Other articles describe the origin of the five interlocking Olympic Rings, reprinted from "Olympic Review," and one on New Zealand Post's Olympic stamp program for the Barcelona Games.

The Hutt River Province Principality's 1984 Olympics souvenir sheet is reproduced. It shows speed skating, figure skating, wind surfing and weight-lifting, as well as a portrait of Baron de Coubertin. Hutt River cinderellas are among the best known and most attractive. Anyone interested in obtaining the sheetlet or learning more about Hutt River cinderellas should write Ivan Mircev, P.O. Box 431, Nerang 4211, Australia.

News of Our Members

by Robert Mummert & Dorothy Weihrauch

New Members

1925R John A. Riseley, 10250 Longmont Drive., Houston, TX 77042. John, who is an engineer, collects soccer, sports, and the Olympics. (Mummert)

1926R Bertram Cohen, 169 Marlborough Street, Boston, MA 02116. A marble dealer, Bertram also collects marbles on stamps. (Jones)

1927R William E. Fraleigh, RD 3, Box 176, Red Hook, NY 12571. William is a printer, collecting baseball, football, postmarks, and athletes' autographs. (Collins)

1928R Donald W. Briggs, 881 Park Avenue, Binghamton, NY 13903-6015. In retirement, Don's sporting collecting interests include baseball, football, Summer and Winter Olympics, and track and field. (Jones)

1929R B. Gates, 1226 W. 5th Avenue, Spokane, WA 99204. He collects bicycles and skiers. (La Porta)

1930R Michael E. Groom, 25 Crestview, Hutchinson, KS 67502. Michael collects Winter Olympics, cross-country skiing and biathlon. (Maestroni)

1931R Michael Wiggins, P.O. Box 71, Webb City, MO 64870. Michael is the new APS Affiliates Chairman, replacing Bob de Violini. (Maestroni)

1932R Samantha Burde, 1155 Loupe Avenue, San Jose, CA 95121. A junior collector, Samantha is interested in U.S. Olympic stamps and covers. (Neima)

1933R Eugene K. Sanger, P.O. Box 25454, Dallas, TX 76225. Gene collects cards on stamps. (Maestroni)

1934R John W. Hurley, 21 Buttonwood Road, Churchville, PA 18966. John, who is retired, collects Olympics, golf, tennis, baseball and football. (Jones)

1935R Moh Zon Dao, 251/4C Zai Men 1 Road, Shanghai 200041, P.R. of China. He collects early Olympics, soccer, covers and FDCs. (Jones)

1936R Stephen J. Tosti, P.O. Box 307, Ipswich, MA 01938. Stephen collects only Summer Olympics. (Mummert)

1937R Zhuoyu Yuan, 953 Ossington Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. A university student, he collects the 1936 Olympics, both Summer and Winter Olympics, Asian Games, and World Cup Soccer. (Mummert)

1938R Steve Ingber, 1616 Yates Avenue, New York, NY 10461. Steve is a supervisor interested in the Olympic Games worldwide. (Bleakley)

New Address

Sherwin Podolsky, 299 Whitworth Street, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360-8689.

Reinstated Member

1939R Ilse Buchheit, 14736 Darbydale Avenue, Woodbridge, VA 22193. Ilse specializes in fencing.

Total Membership, October 31, 1993

447

Sports & Olympic Exhibits Awards

Local and Regional Shows

CINPEX '93, held July 31-August 1 in Cincinnati. Vincent Leonardson received a silver for "Runners and Blades."

AMERICOVER '93, held in July in Boxborough MA, sponsored by the American First Day Cover Society. The award for the best exhibit by a junior went to Jay Linn Tinker for "Let's Go Diving."

APEX '93, held in September in Aurora CO, sponsored by the Aurora Stamp Club. The Reserve Grand, a gold and the ATA first award went to Holly and Gary Gibson for "The Dimension of Gymnastics." Also Don Beuthel received a vermeil for "Sledding."

National Shows

ROMPEX '93, held in May in Aurora, CO, is sponsored by Rocky Mountain Philatelic Exhibitions, Inc. Holly and Gary Gibson won a silver, as well as the ATA bronze and the Topical Philatelists of Colorado award for their exhibit, "The Dimension of Gymnastics."

INDYPEX '93, sponsored by the Indiana Stamp Club, was held in Indianapolis in September. James A. Bowman's exhibit "1936 Olympische Spiele" received a gold award, the ATA silver medal, and the Germany Philatelic Society's bronze award. Youth exhibitor, Joyce Victoria Adams, aged 10, showed "The Olympic Games — Swifter, Higher, Stronger." She received a gold and the Youth Grand award, as well as the ATA Youth Award, a first place Kurner Youth award, and the award for the most popular junior exhibit.

New Stamp Issues

by Brian Bjorgo

Information for this list has been obtained from various sources including *Linn's*, *STAMPS*, *Mekeels*, *Stamp Wholesaler* and *Scott's Monthly Journal* between 15 September and 30 November 1993. Those sets previously listed in this column and which have recently been assigned Scott's numbers have been placed in a separate column. For brevity, only the denomination and sport depicted on each stamp will be mentioned. Comments from SPI members are welcome and should be directed to the New Stamp Issues editor.

Antigua and Barbuda: 30 July 1993, USA '94 World Soccer Cup. Set consists of twelve \$2 stamps and two \$6 s/s's. Depicted are members of England's 1966 Championship team and the emblem of the 1994 event.

Argentina: 27 March 1993, Argentina Soccer Association Centenary. One 38c stamp depicts two soccer players. Scott #1791.

28 August 1993, National Sports. One 1p stamp depicts polo player on horseback.

Barbuda: 16 August 1993, Anniversaries and Events. One of a set of seven stamps depicts Bus Mobacher-Weatherly and yacht. Denomination is \$1.

Belarus: 15 October 1993, Sporting Event Overprints. One overprint in English and Russian reading "Winter/Pre-Olympics/Games/Lillehammer/Norway" (1500r on 5r flag and map stamp); the second overprint "World Cup/USA 94" is in English and Russian (1500r on 5r coat of arms stamp).

Canada: 6 August 1993, Toronto Bicentennial. One 43c stamps depicts "Sky Dome" stadium in foreground. Scott #1484.

China P.R.: 9 May 1993, First East Asian Games. Two Se-tenant stamps depict runner, mascot and Shanghai stadium.

China (Taiwan): October 1993, Sports. Set of two stamps, both \$5, depicting gymnastics and martial arts.

Colombia: 7 June 1993, America Cup/Ecuador 93. One 250p stamp depicts symbolic soccer players. Scott #C858.

31 July 1993, Elimination Rounds for 1994 World Soccer Cup. One 220p stamp depicts soccer player and flags of participating nations.

Comoro Islands: 1993, Barcelona Olympics Winners. One 1500f stamp and two 1500f s/s's. Stamp depicts boxing; the s/s's depict boxing and water polo.

12 May 1993, 1994 World Cup Soccer. Four-value set (25, 75, 100, and 150f) depicts soccer players. Scott #794-7.

Congo: 1993, Pre-Olympics for 1996 Atlanta Olympics. Set of five stamps, one s/s of six stamps, and six s/s's. Depicted are equestrian (50f); bicycling (75f); yachting (120f); fencing (240f); track (300f); basketball (500f); s/s of all six stamps; and six individual s/s for each stamp.

1993, Lillehammer '94 Olympics. Two-value set, s/s of two, and two individual s/s's. Figure skating is depicted on the 400f and ice hockey is depicted on the 600f.

Czech Republic: 18 August 1993, World Rowing Championships. One 3k stamp depicts sculling.

Dominica: 30 April 1993, Inauguration of President Clinton. One s/s with \$6 stamp depicts President Clinton playing basketball.

October 1993, USA '94 World Soccer Cup. Set of eight stamps and two s/s's. Denominations are 25, 55, 65, 90, 90, \$1, \$2, \$5; the s/s's are \$6. Depicted are soccer players of various nations. Editor has list if required by members.

Equatorial Guinea: 1993, Olympic Winners. Set of four stamps, 100f, 250f, 350f and 400f.

Finland: 8 October 1993, Physical Education 150th Anniversary. One 2.30m stamp depicts girl jumping off balance beam and children playing soccer.

Gabon: 15 September 1993, Trap Hunting. Set of four stamps: 100f, 175f, 200f, and 300f; designs not reported.

October 1993, USA '94 World Soccer Cup. Set of four stamps and one s/s. Stamps depict soccer players (1.50, 3, 10 and 12D), the 25D s/s depicts Ireland and Brazil teams.

Gambia: October 1992, USA World Soccer Cup. Seven-value set and two s/s's depict emblem of 1994 event and scenes from recent championships: 1.25, 1.50, 2, 3, 5, 10, 12, 15d; the two s/s's are both 25d.

Gambia (cont'd): October 1992, Disney/Winter Olympic Sports. Eight stamps (50, 75, 1, 4, 5, 7, 10, 15d) and two 20d s/s's. Disney characters perform ski ballet, figure skating, speed skating, biathlon, bobsled, luge, downhill skiing, ice hockey on the stamps; the s/s's depict mogul skiing and cross-country skiing events.

1993, Disney Presents "Casey at the Bat". Nine se-tenant 2d stamps depict various scenes of baseball games. Two 20d s/s's depict additional baseball scenes.

Ghana: November 1993, USA '94 World Soccer Cup. 4 stamps (80, 100, 600, and 800C) and one 1200C s/s. Designs not reported.

Grenada: 7 September 1993, Genoa Club and Italian Soccer Centenary. Two m/s's of six se-tenant \$3 stamps depict various soccer players; two s/s's each of \$15 depict insignia of Genoa team and photographs of early Genoa soccer players.

October 1993, USA '94 World Soccer Cup. Eight stamps (10, 25, 35, 45, \$1, \$2, \$4, \$5) and two \$6 s/s's. All depict scenes from recent soccer championships and emblem of 1994 event.

Grenadines: October 1993, USA '94 World Soccer Cup. Seven stamps and two s/s's. The stamps and s/s's all depict players of various nations: 15, 25, 35, 45, \$1, \$2, \$4, \$5 stamps; the s/s's are \$6 denomination each.

Guinea: 3 December 1992, Anniversaries/Events. Two values of long set depict a racing car driver and America's Cup Yacht Race. Scott #1208 and 1210.

1993, Barcelona Olympic Winners. One stamp and two s/s's, all 1500f gold-foil depicting swimmers and equestrian.

1993, Lillehammer '94 Olympics. Five stamps (150, 250, 400, 450, and 1500f) and six s/s's (one of four stamps, four single stamp s/s's and one gold foil s/s). Depicted are ice hockey (150), bobsled (250), biathlon (400), skiing (450) and figure skating (1500 gold-foil).

1993, Atlanta 1996 Olympics. Five stamps (150, 250, 400, 500 and 1500f) and six s/s's (one of four stamps, four single stamp s/s's and one gold-foil s/s). Depicted are soccer (150), bicycling (250), basketball (400), baseball (500) and running (1500 gold-foil).

Guyana: 1993, America's Cup. One \$130 stamp depicts yacht Stars and Stripes.

26 July 1993, Famous Personalities of 20th Century. One pane of three-pane set of six \$50 stamps depicts various athletes in their sports: football, O.J. Simpson; cricket, Kanhai; tennis, Sabatini; golfer, Ballesteros; soccer, Beckenbaur; soccer, Pele; basketball, Wilt Chamberlain; and gymnastics, Nadia Comaneci.

October 1993, USA '94 World Soccer Cup. Twelve stamps and two s/s's: all depict emblem of 1994 event and scenes from recent championships; denominations are \$5, \$6.40, \$7.65, \$12.80, \$15.30, \$50, \$100, \$130, \$150, \$190, \$200, \$225; the two s/s's are \$325 each.

Indonesia: 9 September 1993, National Sports Week. Four stamps and one s/s: 150, swimmer; 300, bicyclists; 700, mascot; 1000, high jumper; the design of the 3500r s/s has not been reported.

Italy: 1 July 1993, World Kayaking Championships. One 750l stamp depicts kayakers. Scott #1937.

Japan: 3 September 1993, 48th National Athletics Championships. Two se-tenant stamps depict swimming and karate.

7 October 1993, 10th World Veteran's Athletic Championships. One 62y stamp depicts a runner.

Kenya: 1 July 1993, 17th World Congress of Rehabilitation. One value (11/- of five value set depicts wheelchair athletes. Scott #614.

Korea P.R.: 25 May 1993, World Soccer Championship. Six value set (10, 20, 30, 50, 70, 90) and two s/s's (one with values 10, 30 and 90; and second s/s contains the 20, 50 and 70). All designs depict soccer players and trophy.

15 June 1993, World Champions of Korea. Six stamps (10, 20, 30, 50, 70, 90) and two s/s's (one contains two each of 10, 30 and 900; the second s/s contains two each of 20, 50, and 70). The sports depicted in denomination order are as follows: weightlifting, gymnastics, table tennis, ham radio, taekwondo, and free-style wrestling.

Laos: 3 November 1993, USA '94 World Soccer Cup. Five stamps and one s/s. Designs not reported.

Lesotho: October 1993, USA '94 World Soccer Cup. Seven stamps and two s/s's: all stamps depict the emblem of the 1994 event and scenes from recent soccer championships. Denominations are: 20, 30, 40, 70, 2, 3, 5, and the s/s's are both 6m.



Commemorative Sports Cancels

by Mark C. Maestrone

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, when available, have been assembled from Linn's "Postmark Pursuit" column and USPS Bulletins.]

SPORTS CROSS INDEX SEPT-DEC '93

AUTORACING: 93O16-273, 93Z12-352.
BASEBALL: 93O01-760, 93O23-049,
93O30-760, 93Y09-191.

BOXING: 93Y13-018.

CYCLING: 93915-970, 93916-970.

FOOTBALL: 93Y12-465.

HOCKEY, ICE: 93O07-152, 93O08-928.

SKYDIVING: 93918-327, 93O24-852.

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15

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97021
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93916-970 DUFUR,OR

16

1993 U.S.
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SKYDIVING
CHAMPIONSHIPS
DELAND FL 32724
SEPT. 18, 1993

93918-327 DELAND,FL

18



Final
Weekend
October 1
1993

Rangers Station, Arlington, Texas 76011

93O01-760 ARLINGTON, TX

1-3



93O07-152 PITTSBURGH,PA

7



INAUGURAL GAME

93O08-928 ANAHEIM,CA

8



NASCAR DAYS STATION
(5TH ANNUAL)

In Memory Of
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RANDLEMAN NC 27317
OCTOBER 16, 1993

93O16-273 RANDLEMAN,NC

16-17



MAINE
BASEBALL

93O23-049 FAIRFIELD,ME

23



October 24 - 30, 199:
Skydiving Station
Eloy, Arizona 85231

93O24-852 ELOY,AZ

24-30



93O30-760 ARLINGTON, TX

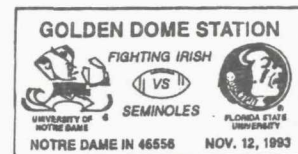
30-31



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93Y09-191 PHILADELPHIA,PA

9



93Y12-465 SOUTH BEND,IN

12-13

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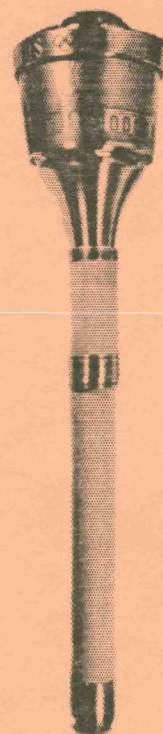
93Y13-018 BURLINGTON,MA

13-14



93Z12-352 BIRMINGHAM,AL

12



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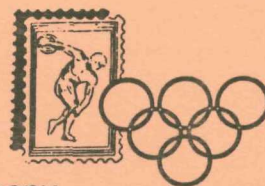
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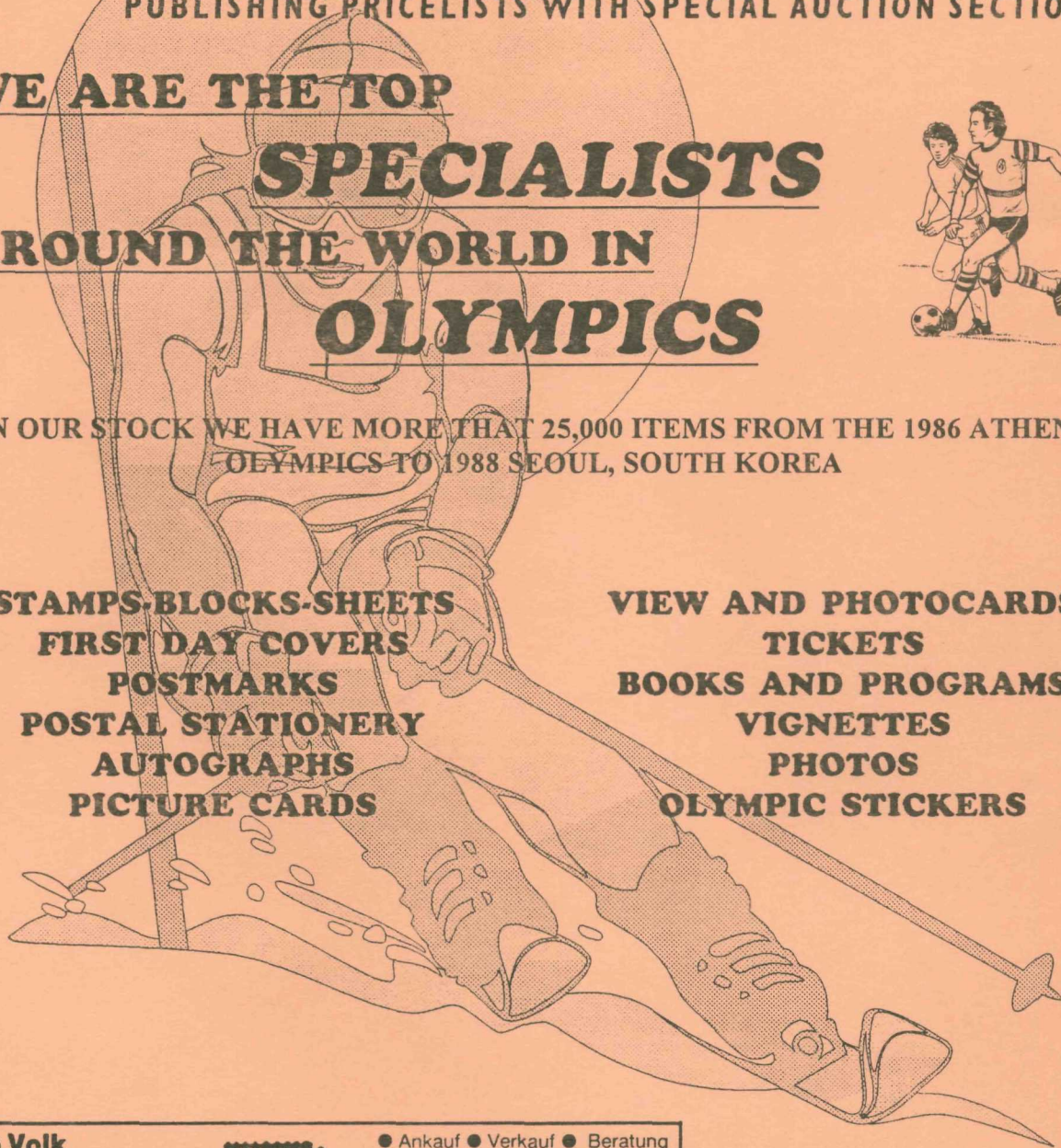
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Spezialversandservice
in alle Welt.

**OLYMPIADE
und
FUSSBALL**

- Klassik bis heute -



Briefmarken, Blocks, Kleinbogen, FDCs,
Sonderstempel, Freistempel, Ganzsachen, Programme, Photos,
Postkarten, Vignetten, Autogramme, Eintrittskarten, Bücher,
Anstecknadeln sowie andere Besonderheiten

