

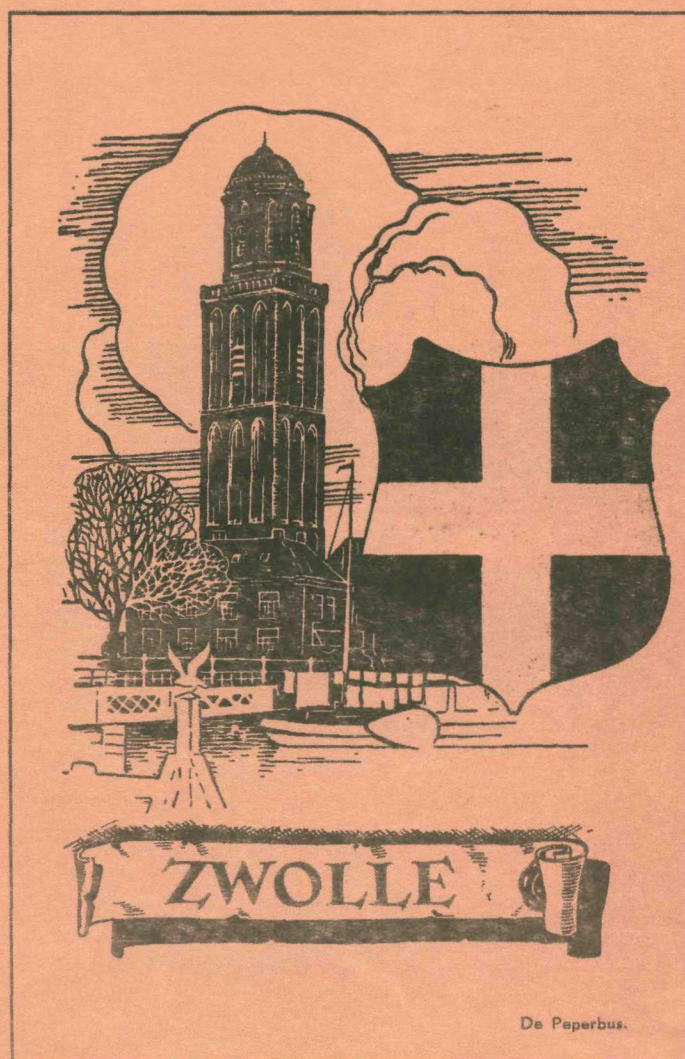
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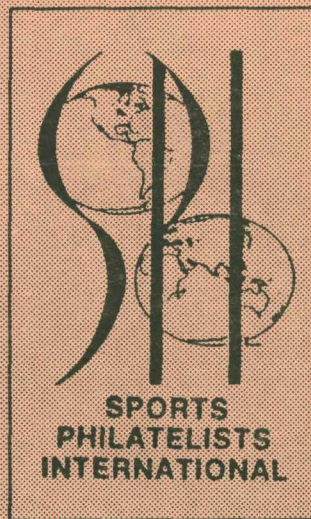
**An Olympic and
Sports History
of Zwolle,
The Netherlands**



De Peperbus.

Peperbus Tower and coat of arms of the city of Zwolle.

CONTENTS



VOL. 34 NO. 2
NOV-DEC 1995

Articles

Olymphelex 96 Lacks Sufficient Funding; USPS To Be Shut Out	<i>Les Winick</i>	3
An Olympic and Sports History of Zwolle, The Netherlands	<i>Laurentz Jonker</i>	5
The Vasaloppet: Sweden's Royal Ski Race	<i>Mark Maestronne</i>	10
1895 Duryea Racing Car Commemorated	<i>Margaret Jones</i>	15
Notes From the Ski Collection of Dorothy Gulick	<i>Sherwin Podolsky</i>	16
The Sunshine Games	<i>Tommy Hampson</i>	20
Manitoba Calling?	<i>Mark Maestronne</i>	24

Regular Features & Columns

President's Message	<i>Mark Maestronne</i>	1
Letters	<i>Mark Maestronne</i>	2
News of Our Members	<i>Margaret Jones</i>	25
The Sports Arena	<i>Mark Maestronne</i>	26
Reviews of Periodicals	<i>D. Crockett & M. Maestronne</i>	28
1996 Atlanta Olympic Games	<i>Norman Jacobs</i>	31
New Stamp Issues	<i>Brian Bjorgo</i>	35

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The More Things Change, The More They Stay The Same

While perusing some dusty, dog-eared back issues of our journal dating from the early years of Sports Philatelists International, I noticed one common denominator: my editorial predecessors had to consistently plead for more articles.

In those formative years, *JSP* was half the size — and that included the auction, checklists, and new issues lists. Even then, six to eight pages of articles were darned difficult to fill.

With our current format, we are running close to three times that number of pages of feature articles. That's about 18 pages per issue, 108 pages per volume, or roughly 54,000 words per year! Put in perspective, we annually publish the equivalent of a small book.

For the most part, we have been fortunate to have had just enough material. But that is changing. Fewer new articles are arriving leaving us with no backlog.

Here are a few more facts to digest. It takes a minimum of 40-60 hours to edit and layout each issue of the journal. Your editor and assistant editor share these responsibilities. When we must write additional material to fill in the gaps, add more hours.

So, it's time to get tough! This is your journal, not Sherwin Podolsky's and mine. There are nearly 450 members out there with interests ranging, quite literally, from "A" to "Z" (well, maybe to "Y," for Yachting). If only 10% sent in an article a year, we would have more than enough to choose from.

If this sounds like an idle threat, it isn't. The alternatives are shorter issues or (the worst scenario) only five issues per year.

From the feedback that we receive from you, the journal is considered a vital, if not the primary, benefit of membership. Yet, the one complaint we do hear is "you never print articles on subjects I'm interested in." My response to that: sit down at your typewriter or computer and tell the rest of your colleagues about your specialty.

Peg Jones, our Membership Chairman, has already written to a number of you asking for just such an article. How about responding in the affirmative for a change?

And please don't use the tired excuse that you don't have any writing ability. Collectively, philatelists are some of the best educated, most articulate people around. Have you noticed lately the number of contributions from our non-native-English-speaking members? If they can do it, so can you. Naturally, your editors will be happy to "punch up" your material. We'll also gladly act as a sounding board for your ideas.

I encourage each of you to adopt the following New Year's Resolution:

"This year I will write an article for JSP"

Ending on a high note, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the journal over the past year. Special kudos go to our regular columnists for never failing to submit their material: Brian Bjorgo, Jim Bowman, Dorothy Crockett, Norm Jacobs, and Peg Jones.

Before closing, the officers and Board of Directors of SPI wish all of you a happy holiday season. See you next year!

SPI's World Wide Web Site: <http://www.infopost.com/philately/index.html>

More On The '28 Olympics

In his Letter to the Editor in the September 1995 issue of *JSP* regarding Vsevolod Furman's article "The Arts Must Go Hand In Hand With Sport" (*JSP*, July 1995), Manfred Bergman correctly notes that the special Stadium post office in Amsterdam began operations on May 17, 1928. However, this is not the entire story; the Stadium post office, where station cancels "N1" and "N2" were applied, was only open on Games days.

It was open on June 10 for the soccer finals (Uruguay vs. Argentina), and again on June 13 for the replay match. On June 12, the opening day of the Arts Festival, the Stadium post office was closed.

There was also a third Stadium station cancel designated "N3." This cancel was not applied at the Stadium, but rather at the Amsterdam-Zuid post office. June 12 was a Tuesday, and therefore a normal business day at this post office. It was therefore possible to obtain the "N3 Stadium" cancel on June 12 — but only upon special request.

In principle, a N3 Stadium cancel is possible for June 12, but I have never seen one for that date. I would be happy to learn of any such examples.

Laurentz Jonker
The Netherlands

Olympic Astrophilately & The '95 European Youth Olympic Days

At the end of his Letter to the Editor published in the September 1995 *JSP*, Manfred Bergman light-heartedly raised the subject of Olympic astrophilately. He then "teased" us by mentioning that there are two such items relating to television transmission, but he didn't identify them!

Is one of them the Spanish stamp for the Barcelona 1992 Olympics depicting the Telefonica telecommunications tower at Montjuic?

There is also a Canadian stamp showing the passing of the Olympic Flame from Greece to Montreal via satellite.

For a chapter on the Opening Ceremony of the 1980 Moscow Olympics there is a se-tenant pair of Soviet stamps (with a label attached) commemorating the then-record-breaking 185-day space flight of Leonid Popov and Valery Ryumin. During the ceremony they broadcast live from space, their images appearing on the giant electronic stadium scoreboard. From space, the cos-

monauts were able to see both Moscow and Greece.

On a different subject, the European Youth Olympic Days aerogramme discussed in Mark Maestroni's "The Sports Arena" column (*JSP*, September 1995) was issued on July 4, 1995. There was no first day postmark. In addition to the special handstamp, there was also a slogan machine cancel.

Mint copies of the aerogramme can be obtained from the British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH3 5TT. It costs 45 pence and there is a 34 pence handling charge. Credit card payments are accepted.

Robert Wilcock
Great Britain



1976 stamp representing kindling of the Olympic Flame upon transmission of a satellite signal from Greece to Montreal.



During the Opening Ceremony at the 1980 Olympics, cosmonauts Popov and Ryumin broadcast live from space to the Olympic Stadium in Moscow.



Machine cancel with slogan noting Royal Mail's sponsorship of the European Youth Olympic Days. The logo of the event, a youth vaulter, the British Olympic Association emblem, is reproduced in the design.

Olymphilex 96 Lacks Sufficient Funding; USPS To Be Shut Out

by Les Winick

[Copyright *Linn's Stamp News*, Sidney, Ohio. Reprinted with permission from the October 16, 1995 issue.]

"If I have to personally borrow money, the show will go on."

This is what Nancy Zielinski Clark stated about the upcoming Olymphilex 96 stamp show, to be held July 18 to August 4, 1996, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Clark is chairwoman of the Olymphilex 96 committee.

Olymphilex 96 is scheduled to coincide with the 1996 Olympic Games, also to be held in Atlanta.

It looks as though the Olymphilex show's exhibit frames will be oversubscribed, but major problems for the committee linger, including money woes.

The 1,100 16-page frames will be a wide-ranging sports lover's paradise, with stamps and covers representing all sports-related disciplines.

There even could be exhibits on mountain climbing (that sport was part of the Olympics in the early 1900s) and airmail (first flights were connected with the 1932 Olympics).

The following stories about Olymphilex's troubles are true. I could not possibly make them up because they are so ridiculous that no one would believe me. The troubles are the main reason that there has not been much publicity regarding Olymphilex.

First of all, show organizers are having serious financial problems. Despite promises of support from the Atlanta Committee (ACOG) for the Olympic Games, only part of the money has materialized.

The show's space rental is a large expense, and printing brochures, building booths, getting a novice and youth area supplied, and paying for commissioners and jurors all take money.

It looks as though the vast majority of booth holders for the three-week event will be postal administrations. They are the only ones who can afford the tab.

One dealer from Greece found a house to rent thanks to the Greek community in Atlanta.

Most visitors to the Olympics will have to park on the outskirts of Atlanta and take the metro to the show.

The arena for Olymphilex also will house displays and booths for coins and memorabilia, but stamps are to take 50 percent of the total space.

More than 1,000 visitors per hour are expected to visit the collectibles arena, which will be air conditioned.

Those with tickets to the various Olympics events will have a lot of time to kill between the contests and will not want to leave the sports complex. They are expected to see the collectibles area, which is one of the Olympic Games few free sites.

Hotel and motel rooms are very tight in Atlanta. Rooms will be so hard to find during the Olympic Games that the Olymphilex commissioners and jury may have to play "hot beds" while in the home city of Coca-Cola.

The term "hot beds" was used during the Gold Rush days in California when hotels rented rooms to different shifts of people who shared beds so quickly the beds were still warm from the previous sleeper.

The Olymphilex commissioners are expected to arrive a few days prior to the show and will be asked to check out of their hotel rooms once they have set up exhibits.

Then the jury will arrive and will stay during most of the show so they can do their work and enjoy themselves. The jury will be asked to leave as soon as the stamp show is over.

The commissioners will return to take down the exhibits they brought from their home countries. I don't know if they will have the exact same hotel rooms, but it is a distinct possibility.

U.S. commissioners to foreign stamp shows usually manage to get away from the show once the exhibits are put in place and the opening ceremonies are over. They grab the chance to see the rest of the country.

The International Federation of Philately (FIP) requires commissioners to be in the exhibition hall to answer questions from jurors until their deliberations are finished. Questions might arise concerning supposed fakes in an exhibit, and the commissioner is to report this to the exhibitor.

If the Olymphilex organizers request the commissioners to vacate their hotel rooms because of the shortage of rooms, then they will be violating FIP's own rules. FIP is supposed to have waived this requirement, according to Clark.

Clark said that she has received loads of cooperation from stamp collectors and that the American Philatelic Society has supported her with legal help and laying out the show's floor plan.

APS helped her understand the ACOG contract, which had 27 pages that had to be approved.

So far, Clark has not received permission to borrow funds from private sources, but it may come. The problem is time. It is running out.

Another fascinating aspect of the 1996 Olympic Games is the role of the U.S. Postal Service: It has no role.

At the last Olympics, held in Barcelona, Spain, in 1992, the Postal Service was an official sponsor and outdid itself being stupid.

Postal officials took to Spain many postal employees, big postal customers and even two chefs to cook for the entourage.

When Postmaster General Marvin Runyon heard of this, he issued a manifesto stating that the Postal Service would not participate in any future Olympic Games. This has led to the following scenario for Atlanta in summer 1996.

United Parcel Service (the fellows in the brown uniforms and brown trucks) became an official sponsor of the 1996 Olympic Games. As an official sponsor, UPS has the right to use the official five-ring Olympic logo, and the Postal Service is not permitted on the sites of the Olympic events.

The International Olympic Committee, however, authorized all worldwide postal administrations to use the Olympic logo on postage stamps, subject to the approval of the local Olympic committee.

ACOG has said "No" to the logo on U.S. stamps, since a Postal Service competitor for overnight delivery, UPS, is paying to be an official sponsor.

So for 1996 for a major event going on within its borders, the United States, the host country will not be able to issue stamps with Olympic logos or marks.

The 1996 Olympics has two air carriers and three automobile firms as official sponsors, but only one official delivery service.

ACOG has requested that the Postal Service inspect all incoming Olympic Village mail and packages so that a mail bomb doesn't come into the Olympics.

The Postal Service agreed to inspect, but ACOG says that the Postal Service can't use its vehicles to bring the mail into Olympic Games territory.

The Postal Service can't give its mail to UPS to deliver because only the Postal Service has the constitutional right to deliver first-class mail.

ACOG has approved special pictorial cancels for the various events. In the cancels, the Postal Service can show the sport taking place, but not the Olympic rings or other symbols.

ACOG states that the Postal Service can have one table inside the event location to apply this cancel, meaning that anyone who wants the cancel applied on site on a given day must pay admission to the event to get the cancel.

ACOG will not permit the Postal Service employees applying the cancel to wear their Postal Service uniforms, just in case they appear on television or someone sees them within the Olympics confines.

Another part of this tale could be a wacky scene out of a Peter Sellers movie: The Postal Service can have one, and only one, table at the closing ceremonies for a special pictorial cancel to be applied only that day and only at that venue.

That one table can host two Postal Service employees dressed incognito.

If a portion of the crowd, expected to number approximately 100,000 at the closing ceremony, decides to approach the table to get a cancel, the eventual line might stretch out of the stadium, through the streets and into the suburbs.

Naturally, anyone who saw the commotion would blame the Postal Service for causing the situation. The press would play it up.

The next Summer Olympic Games will be held in Australia in four years. The U.S. Postal Service and Australia are planning a joint stamp issue depicting the passing of the Olympic torch. ACOG, however, said that the Postal Service cannot use the five-ring Olympic symbol on any U.S. postage stamp but that Australia can.

The Postal Service may not even be able to picture the Olympic torch, because it is considered an integral symbol of the Games.

The Postal Service is unable to find out what it can or can't use because ACOG doesn't correspond with a non-sponsor. Meanwhile, Australia and the Postal Service have to make plans regarding the joint issue.

The president of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Antonio Samaranch, is an avid stamp collector (he also is president of the International Federation of Olympic Philately), but even he can't do anything with ACOG.

Negotiations are currently under way among the Postal Service, ACOG, the IOC and the U.S. Olympic Committee.

If I were the U.S. postmaster general, I'd tell the Atlanta Olympic committee to go to blazes, to pick up the Olympic Games mail at the nearest post office and to have good luck on the Games. Things would change for the better or worse — and my money is on the better.

Olympilex 96 already has paid 35,000 Swiss francs (about \$30,000) to FIP to have FIP patronage. The show's organizing committee now needs more money for tables, chairs, jury, commissioners, booths, frame rental and freight.

If you wish to help, contact Nancy Zielinski Clark, Olympilex 96, Box 1996, Lexington, GA 30648.

As Clark says, "The show's going to happen." □

[Editor's Note: According to the UPS, they are a TOP 3 Worldwide Olympic Sponsor in the category of "Express Mail and Package Delivery."]



Figure 1. The Dutch athletics team at the Paris Olympic Games of 1924. Harry de Keijser, ZAC (standing, second from left); Jan de Vries, ZAC (standing, second from right); Wim Peters, PEC (seated, second from left).

An Olympic and Sports History of Zwolle, The Netherlands

by Laurentz Jonker

edited by Mark Maestroni & Sherwin Podolsky

Zwolle, the capital of the province of Overijssel, has a population of only 100,000 inhabitants. Yet, it has a rich sporting history. Harry de Keijser and Willem Peters, the last two living members of the Dutch team at the 1924 Olympic Games at Paris, both from Zwolle, passed away in 1995 (Figure 1). This article discusses their athletic accomplishments and the sporting clubs to which they belonged.

Zwolle, like many other European communities of the nineteenth century, formed sporting clubs devoted to one or more athletic disciplines. The Zwolse Rowing & Yachting Club (ZR & ZV) was founded on September 25, 1887. Members of the club participated, naturally, in these two aquatic sports. Following the end of the rowing season in autumn, the athletes desired additional sporting amusement. Soccer, which had already reached a fever pitch in England before crossing the channel to the Netherlands, fit the bill. On October 1, 1893, the Zwolsche Athletische Club (ZAC) was founded by members of the rowing club (Figure 2). The first president was Jasper Warner who later became president of the Dutch Football Association from 1897 to 1919. He

was a co-founder of the Dutch Olympic Committee in 1912 and a member of the organizing committee for the Amsterdam Olympics in 1928.

ZAC's soccer club was the champion of eastern Holland in 1928. In the 1950s, professional competitions beckoned, but ZAC chose to retain its amateur status.

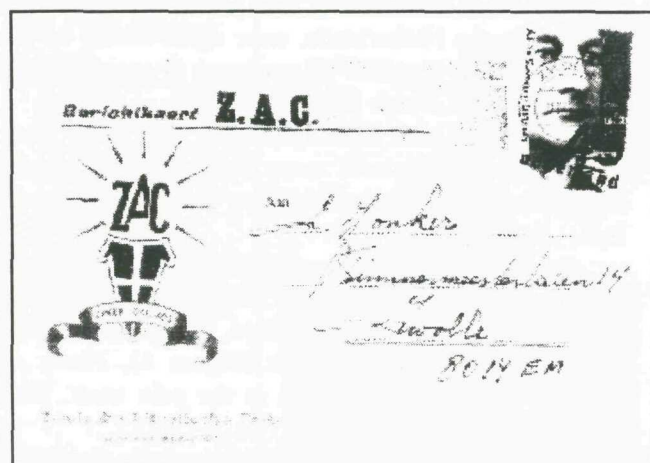


Figure 2. Postcard with logo of ZAC, the Zwolsche Athletische Club.



Figure 3. Caricature postcard from the 1934 World Soccer Cup in Italy showing Dutch soccer player, Beb Bakhuis.

The best soccer player was the legendary forward center, and later, the first Dutch professional player, Beb Bakhuis (Figure 3). Like fellow member Harry de Keijser, who we will look at shortly, Beb also served in the Dutch East Indies. After four years in the tropics, he returned to the Netherlands, once again taking up soccer. In only 23 matches he managed to score 28 goals for the national Dutch team.

In keeping with its name, ZAC was more than a soccer club. It embraced many kinds of sports, including cycling, gymnastics, athletics, basketball and handball.

During its first 20 years, ZAC produced many fine athletes. Harry de Keijser became a member in 1918. He was a very versatile athlete, competing in both jumping and throwing events (Figure 4). Harry was frequently a Dutch champion in the pole vault, discus and javelin.

At the 1924 Paris Olympics, he was the first Dutchman to participate in the most exhausting of athletic events: the decathlon. He placed tenth out of 38 contest-

ants, winning the discus throw (Figure 5). Harry de Keijser is incorrectly listed as "Harry de Keizer" in the Official Report of the 1924 Paris Olympics.

As an army officer, de Keijser was posted to the Dutch East Indies. There, he continued his athletic training in preparation for the 1928 Olympics at Amsterdam. He longed to compete at the Games being held in his homeland. Unfortunately, the Dutch East Indies government was too poor to send even one athlete to Amsterdam.

During World War II, Captain de Keijser was taken prisoner by the Japanese in 1942. He was interned for three years in Burma, and forced to work on the Burmese railroad. Readers who have viewed the movie "The Bridge Over the River Kwai" will recognize the horrors that de Keijser and his fellow prisoners endured.

From Harry's son, I was able to obtain copies of POW correspondence between Harry and his wife. By its very nature, the text was limited to a greeting (happy birthday, Merry Christmas, etc.), a statement of the internee's physical condition (good, usual, poor), and a closing sentiment (usually "I love you"). Fortunately, Harry's wife was able to preserve both his Olympic diploma from 1924 and newspaper clippings of his sporting accomplishments.

Despite the disappointment of not being able to compete at the Amsterdam Olympics, Harry de Keijser pursued athletics all his life. Tennis and bridge remained fond pastimes. He died on January 2, 1995 at the age of 94.

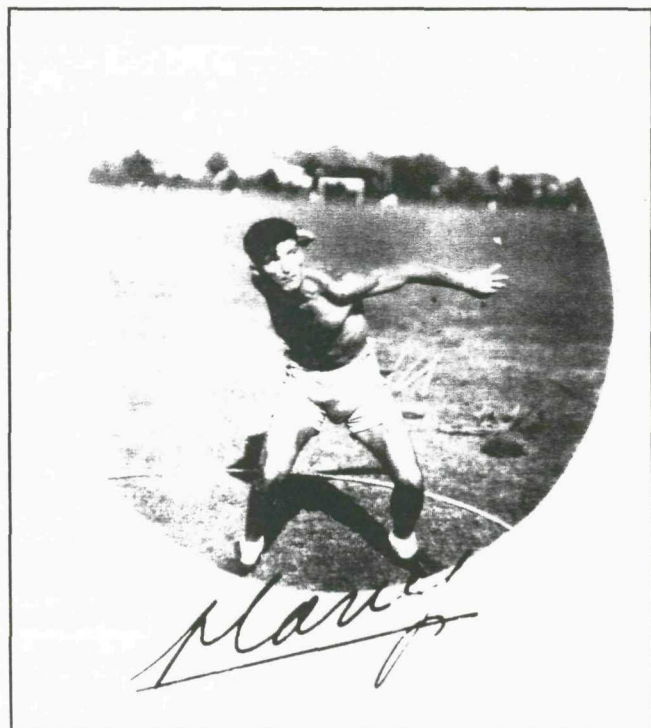


Figure 4. Harry de Keijser's specialties included the throwing events (discus and javelin).

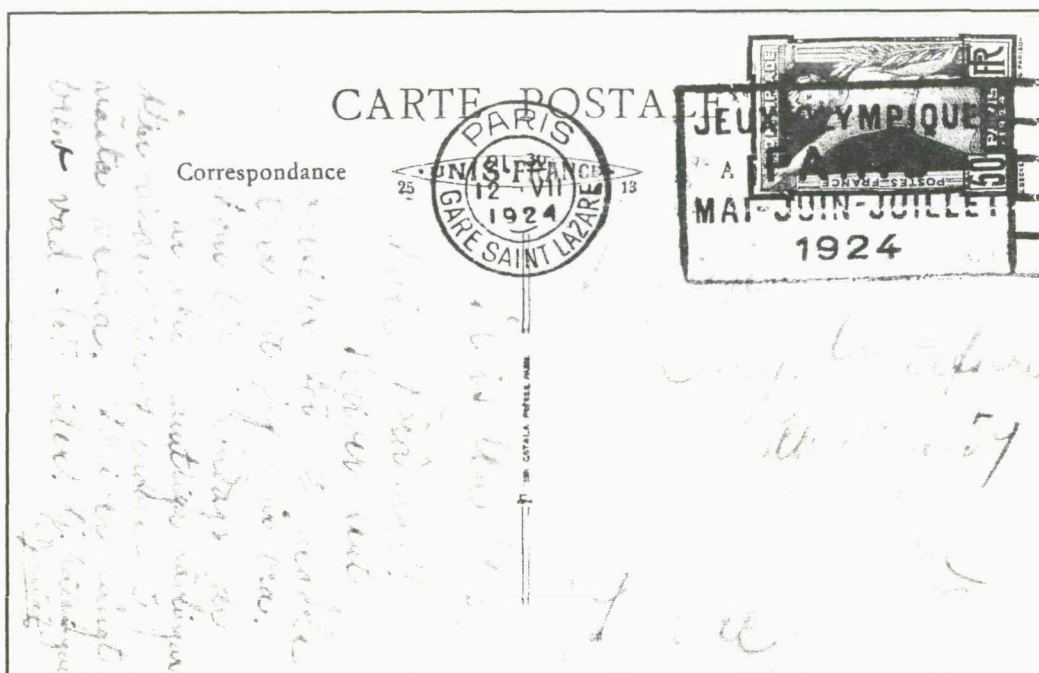


Figure 5. While De Keijser placed 10th in the 1924 Olympic decathlon, he won the discus throw event on July 12, 1924. Card with Olympic machine cancel from that date.

ZAC fielded a second (and last) Olympian — Jan de Vries. He won the club's only Olympic medal, a bronze in the 4 x 100 meter Relay at Paris in 1924. This was also the first Olympic medal in athletics for the Netherlands. De Vries previously competed at the 1920 Antwerp Olympics, but without significant results.

With the resurrection of the modern Olympic Games in 1896, amateur sports continued to grow as a leisure time activity. A second sporting club, PEC, was founded in Zwolle in 1910. At that time, ZAC was the elite club for industrialists and professionals, while PEC was primarily an athletic club for workers.

PEC, like ZAC, provided competition in both soccer and athletics. Its soccer team remained amateur for 50 years. After going professional, the team played once in the honor division. Today the PEC soccer club is defunct. In its place is the F.C. Zwolle team which plays in the second Dutch soccer competition.

One of the club's most successful members was Willem "Wim" Peters. Wim was noted for his speed and powerful jumping ability, making him a good sprinter and long jumper. However, he truly excelled in the hop, step and jump event (triple jump) in which he was an international star (Figure 6).

Between 1924 and 1942, Peters was the Dutch triple jump champion 16 times. The consistency of his jumps over this period was remarkable. He won his first championship in 1924 (at the age of 20) with a jump of 14.16 meters. Eighteen years later, his winning jump was 14.11 meters. His best mark at the championships was in 1930: 15.26 meters. Injuries were at least partly responsible in the three years that he relinquished his

championship crown (1931-1933). Interestingly, the Dutch triple jump champion in 1931 and 1932 was Jan Blankers, later the husband and trainer of famous Dutch women's athlete, Fanny Blankers-Koen.

Peters' success extended well beyond Holland during the period between the two World Wars. He triumphed at six English Open athletic meets (1927-1930, 1935, 1937). At that time, the English Open was one of the major European meets of the year.

Figure 6. Willem Peters executing the triple jump at the 1932 Olympic Games.

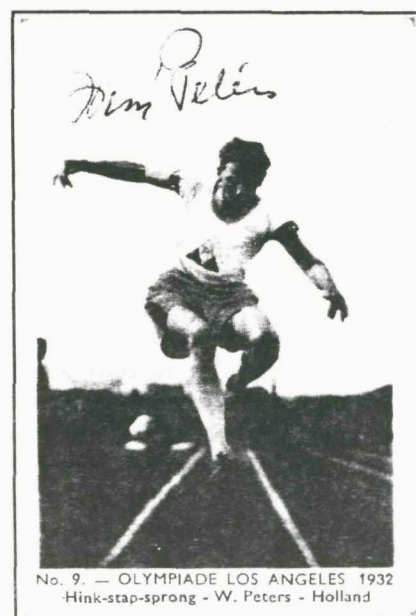




Figure 7. The youngest member of the Dutch athletic team, Wim Peters celebrated his 21st birthday on July 5, the opening day of the 1924 Olympics at Paris. Colombes Stadium cancels, and special Olympic boxed cancel.

The layout of today's athletic venues follow very strict regulations. In those days, however, they varied considerably. The length of the run-up for the triple jump changed, as did the surface (grass, packed soil, or even cinders). The length of the pit might be short or long. In his memoirs, Peters related that he thought he could establish a new world record at the 1927 English Open because of the longer jumping pit (thought to be ± 15 meters). He overshot the pit completely, winning with a jump of 15.48 meters (his personal best) — only 4 cm. short of the world record of 15.52 meters set by Daniel Ahearn.

He also excelled at the European championship level. At the 1934 event in Torino, Italy, a leap of 14.89 meters placed him first. For purposes of comparison, new world records in both the men's and women's triple jump were recently set at the 1995 World Championships at Goteborg, Sweden. In the men's competition, Edwards of Great Britain jumped 18.29 meters. For the women, Kravets of Ukraine achieved 15.50 meters.

Wim Peters participated in three Olympic Games. Only 21, he was the youngest Dutch athlete at the 1924 Paris Games (Figure 7). His best jump was 13.86 meters, not enough to qualify him for the finals. Anthony "Nick" Winter of Australia went on to win,

setting a new world and Olympic record of 15.525 meters (50 feet, 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches).

As a seasoned competitor, Peters was a favorite in the 1928 Olympics in his home country (Figure 8). These Games should have been the highlight of his career; instead, they ended with great disappointment for Wim. In the qualifying round of the triple jump on August 2, he faulted on his first jump. His second jump was a respectable 14.55 meters. But Wim's third, and final, jump was his best. The chief umpire saw it differently, though, declaring it null and void. Although the other judges insisted that the jump was good, the chief umpire refused to change his ruling. Wim placed seventh in the round, but only the top six athletes advanced to the finals later that same day. A Japanese athlete, Mikio Oda, was the first Asian to win an Olympic gold medal with his triple jump mark of 15.21 meters.

Years later, still bitter and with a lump in his throat, he told me "it was the Olympic gold medal jump."

Finally, at Los Angeles in 1932, Peters qualified for the finals of the triple jump. Entering in fourth place, he was forced to abandon his final jump because of a knee injury. Still, his 14.93 meter jump garnered him fifth place. The event was won by Chūhei Nambu of Japan with a world record jump of 15.72 meters.



Figure 8. The 1928 Olympics: Peters had his best jump disqualified in the preliminary triple jump round on August 2. Registered cover with August 1 Stadium cancels; August 2 receiving cancel.

Wim qualified for the Dutch team going to the Berlin Olympic Games of 1936. An obstinate athlete with a strong sense of morality, Peters refused to participate because of his objection to Naziism. His boycott of the 1936 Games cost him dearly in the following years. The hierarchy of the Dutch athletic federation (KNAU), some of whom were Nazi sympathizers, prevented him from defending his European title in 1938, even though he was Dutch champion that year.

During World War II, Wim continued to speak out against the fascism sweeping across Europe. He was arrested twice, and incarcerated in the POW camps at Almelo and Vught in Holland. PEC was the only Dutch athletic club banned during the German occupation.

In later life, Wim Peters became a local official of the city of Zwolle. He also served as president of PEC, and president of the district of Overijssel. Having mended his differences with KNAU, he became president of its technical committee. Like de Keijser, Wim remained physically active, playing tennis well into his 70s. He was also a very good bridge player.

After the death of his wife in December 1994, he lost his will to live. Following a short illness, Willem Peters died on March 30, 1995 at the age of 91.

And what of the first sporting club in Zwolle, the Zwolse Rowing and Yachting Club (Figure 9)? It remains modest in size, but with a successful Olympic history. Its medal winners in rowing include competitors in the paired-oared shell without coxswain: Nico Rienks (gold, Seoul 1988; bronze, Barcelona 1992), and Henk-Jan Zwolle (bronze, Barcelona 1992). Both athletes recently qualified to compete at Atlanta in 1996. □

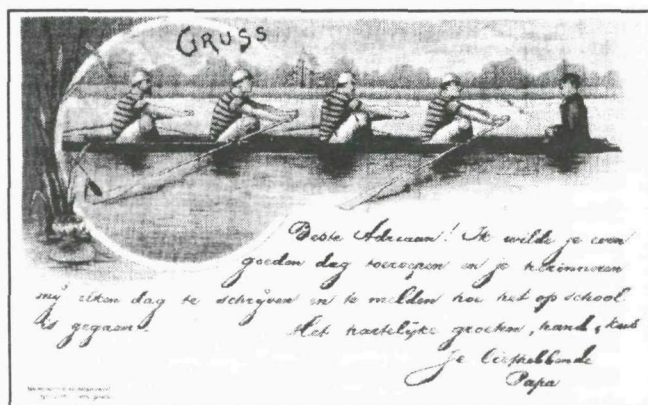


Figure 9. "Gruss" rowing card in the blue and white colors of the Zwolse Rowing & Yachting Club.



Figure 1. Sweden's annual Vasaloppet from Sälen to Mora draws over 10,000 competitors.

The Vasaloppet: Sweden's Royal Ski Race

by Mark Maestroni

[The late Dorothy Gulick, a long time member of SPI, was a veteran skiing philatelist. The following article builds upon a previous article by her, as well as material and write-ups from Dorothy's collection.]

Sweden's Vasaloppet, or Vasa Ski Race, is one of the most famous cross-country skiing competitions in the world. At 85.25 kilometers (nearly 53 miles), it is also one of the longest (Figure 1). Just finishing the event is considered an accomplishment in itself! More importantly, though, is that the race commemorates a turning point in Swedish history.

In the early 16th century, Sweden was under the domination of the Kingdom of Denmark. A young Swedish nobleman, Gustaf Eriksson (1496-1560), was a particularly vocal opponent of the often barbaric Danish rule. He distinguished himself in battle against the Danes and was eventually taken hostage and imprisoned. Escaping his captors, he made his way to Dalecarlia, a region in central Sweden. From the town of Mora on the shores of Lake Siljan, Eriksson attempted to organize the peasants into a revolt against the Danish rulers, but was initially unsuccessful. In January 1521,

he decided to leave Sweden. Setting out on skis, Eriksson's destination was Norway.

It wasn't long before the Dalecarlians had a change of heart. They sent two of their best skiers in pursuit of the Swede. Engelbrekt of Morkalby and Lars from Kattilbo followed Gustavus' tracks finally overtaking him at Sälen near the Norwegian border. Eriksson returned to Mora with them and led a Dalecarlian army against the Danes. Following their liberation in 1523, the people of Sweden crowned Eriksson king. As founder of the royal House of Vasa, he became Gustavus I.

Gustavus Vasa was honored on three stamps (Figure 2) marking the 400th anniversary of Sweden's war of independence with Denmark (Sweden #194-6).



Figure 2. The annual Vasaloppet commemorates Gustaf Eriksson's (later, King Gustavus Vasa) flight from Mora to Sälen near the Norwegian border with Sweden.

Beginning in 1922, Eriksson's flight from Mora and his pursuit by the two Dalecarlians was commemorated by the Vasaloppet cross-country ski race. The course follows as closely as possible the route Eriksson took from Mora to Sälen. The event's organizers found it more practical, however, to begin the race at Sälen, finishing at Mora, where hotels and other amenities were capable of handling the thousands of participants and spectators.

Swedish skier, Ernst Alm, won the inaugural event in a time of 7 hours, 32 minutes, 49 seconds. The race has been conducted every year since, on the first Sunday in March. Only in 1932 and 1934 was the race cancelled due to insufficient snow.

Nils Karlsson, a native of Mora and one of Sweden's most famous cross-country skiers, won the Vasaloppet nine times, setting a record in 1953 in 5:01:55. At the 1948 Olympic Winter Games at St. Moritz, Switzerland, Karlsson won the gold medal in the 50 km. race, and finished fifth in the 15 km. distance. He also competed in the same two races at the Oslo Olympics in 1952, placing sixth and fifth, respectively.

Sweden issued a set of stamps (Scott #462 & #464) commemorating the 1954 World Ski Championships for both Nordic and Alpine events, held at Falun and Are (Figure 3). The same design is reproduced on both

stamps — a silhouette of a cross-country skier. It is said that Karlsson was the inspiration for Professor Stig Blaumberg's design.

A silhouette image figures prominently in the first "adhesive" for the Vasaloppet (Figure 4). For the 1936 race, a special label was created picturing a modern skier in the foreground. Looming in the back is the



Figures 3 & 4. At left is one of the Vasaloppet's most famous competitors, Olympian Nils Karlsson. A coil and booklet stamp issued for the 1954 World Ski Championships are believed to portray him. In 1936, a label was issued for the race (at right) depicting a modern skier in the foreground, and a silhouette of a medieval skier, probably Gustavus Vasa, in the background.



Figure 5. A special cancel for the Vasaloppet was used for the first time at Mora in 1937.

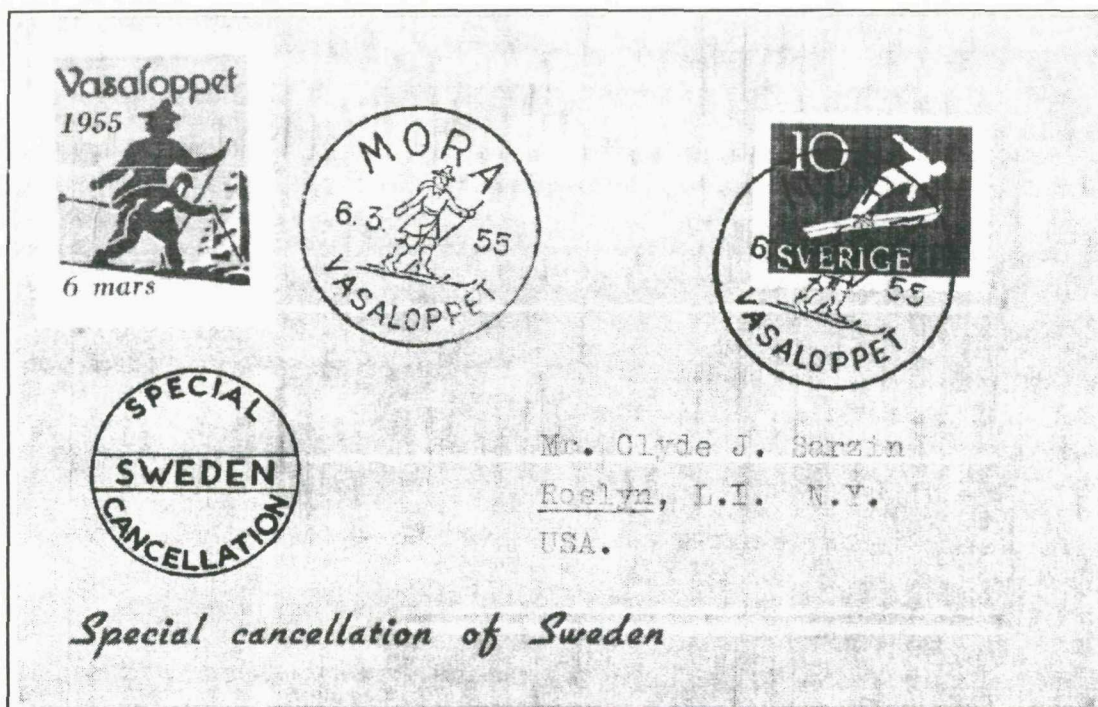


Figure 6. The special Vasaloppet cancel was transformed into a pictorial beginning with the 1955 event. The image of a medieval skier, perhaps Gustavus himself, takes center stage.

silhouette of a medieval skier, perhaps Gustavus himself. Note the single pole which was representative of that early period. Skiers straddled the pole, dragging it along to slow themselves.

It wasn't until 1937 that the event was favored with a special cancellation (Figure 5). The town name, Mora, appears in the upper portion of the circular date cancel. "Vasaloppet" follows along the bottom of the circle. Two stars separate the words, creating a bridge for the centrally placed date, 14.3.37.

For the 1955 running of the race, the cancel was transformed into a pictorial (Figure 6). While the arrangement of the words is much the same, the medieval skier developed for the 1936 label has been included in the center of the cancel. The mode of dress, ski equipment, and even a knapsack, are easily discerned. The date is split in two parts by the figure, thus eliminating the stars that appeared in earlier cancels.

The label, too, was eventually changed. The 1960 version shows a modern skier finishing the race, arms raised (Figure 7). Our medieval skier, minus the hat, watches from the sidelines. For the 1965 race five years later, the design of the label shows a skier and victory wreath (Figure 8). In 1968, Gustavus magically reappears cheering on the modern competitor!



Figures 7 & 8. The 1960 (left) and 1965 (right) labels show more modern designs.

The popularity of the Vasaloppet has grown significantly over time. A special report by *Life Magazine* on the 1962 race noted that there were 2,061 entrants, of whom 1,997 crossed the finish line. By 1973, there were a record 10,103 competitors! To commemorate the March 2, 1973 Vasaloppet, its 50th running, the Swedish postal administration dedicated one value of a five-stamp booklet pane (Scott #994) to the event (Figure 9). Clearly

shown are thousands of skiers taken part. With 20,000 skis, it is easy to see why the Swedes euphemistically refer to the race as "the world's biggest wandering lumberyard"! The remainder of the stamps in the pane publicize other tourist attractions of the Dalecarlian region.

In addition to the special stamp, three pictorial cancels were used (Figure 9). The cancel at Sälen shows a racer at the start. The Evertsberg cancel depicts a competitor energetically moving past a stand of coniferous trees. Finally, at Mora, the victorious skier arrives with a wreath around his neck.

When one compares these numbers to those at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games where there were 7,078 athletes, it is truly remarkable that this event with over 10,000 competitors is conducted every year — and at the same location!

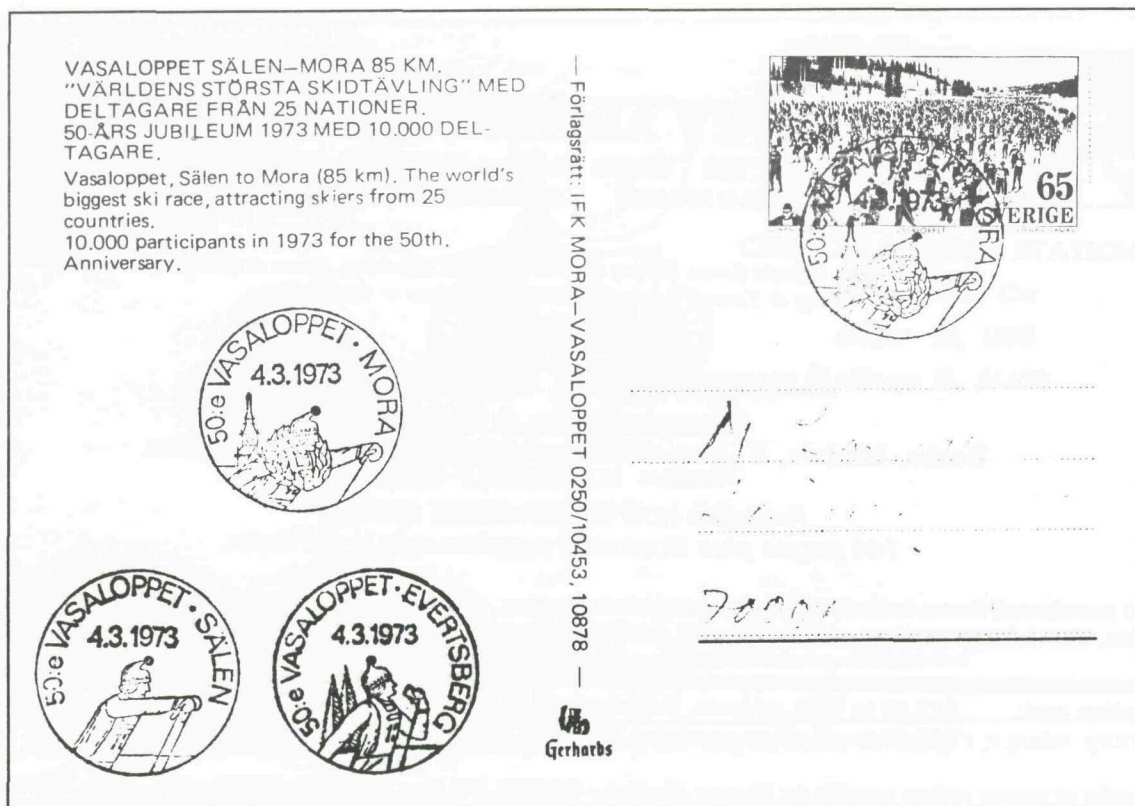


Figure 9. Sweden commemorated the 50th running of the Vasaloppet in 1973 with a special stamp canceled at Mora. Two additional commemorative cancels are shown inset.

Lest readers imagine that the organizing committee does little more than set up a start and finish line, consider the following (excerpted from an article by Martin Bostrum about the 1973 Vasaloppet):

"... doctors and nurses have stations all along the route of the run. At two places meals and drinks are served — 13,000 quarts of blueberry soup, 12,000 quarts of lemon water, and 23,000 oranges. This is all served by 400 waiters at a 600 yard long table. After the Run, a dinner is served which includes three tons of potatoes, 1,600 kilos of meat [3,500 pounds], 300 kilos of cheese [660 pounds], and 6,000 quarts of milk."

As long as there is snow on the ground and skiers willing to brave the grueling cross-country trek, I am sure that the Vasaloppet will continue. And wouldn't King Gustavus be pleased! □

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Harvey Abrams is a Physical Educator (BS, MAT, Ph.D/abd), Olympic Games & Sport historian and antiquarian book dealer. As an athlete he tried out for the US Olympic Freestyle Wrestling Teams in 1972, 1976, 1980 and 1984; founded the Philadelphia Amateur Wrestling Club (1973) and represented the United States at the International Olympic Academy (1981). Listed in Who's Who in the East (1995). He will continue to operate his book business.

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1895 Duryea Racing Car Commemorated

by Margaret Jones

The Charles Duryea Station, a temporary philatelic station, was opened at the LaHarpe (Illinois) Historical Society Museum on August 12, 1995. A pictorial cancellation was made available commemorating the Duryea 1895 Racing Car and Charles Duryea.

Charles Duryea (1861-1938) graduated from Gittings Seminary at LaHarpe in 1882. That year's valedictorian, Duryea gave an address entitled "Rapid Transit" during which he predicted a future dominated by automobiles and airplanes.

Along with his brother Frank, Charles designed and built the first successful gasoline-powered automobile in the United States in 1893. The "Duryea" one-cylinder model had its trial run in Springfield, Massachusetts. It is now displayed at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC.

In 1895, the brothers established the Duryea Motor Wagon Company, the first incorporated automobile company. In addition, Duryea manu-

factured the first taxicab in the United States in 1900. Charles also served as vice president of the first automobile club organized in the U.S.

The picture on the cancellation illustrated above is the second model, built in 1895, of the famous Duryea racing car. It was driven by Frank on November 28, 1895 in the Thanksgiving Day race from Chicago to Evanston, Illinois, a distance of 52 miles. Frank was awarded \$2,000 as the winner of this first gasoline-automobile race in the United States.

The cancellation was used in conjunction with LaHarpe's Summerfest. ☐

Memorabilia Wanted

If you have Olympic (preferably U.S. Games) medals, badges, torches, pins, etc. for trade, please write me: Alan R. Polsky, 4086 Hayvenhurst Drive, Encino, CA 91436, U.S.A.



Figure 1. Postal card bearing military postmark of the 59th Division dated June 13, 1917. Note cachet at left, in purple, "5. Reggimento Alpini/Verificato Per Censura/Battagl. Monte Suello."



Figure 2. Picture side of a colorful postcard postmarked 1906. Shows the Third Alpine Regiment marching skiers.

Notes From the Ski Collection of Dorothy Gulick

by Sherwin Podolsky

[Author's note: Dorothy Gulick, a long time SPI member, died several years ago. I have since acquired her collection which contains many write-ups and reference material. This article is based on information in the collection.]

Military Skiing

During World War I, Italy fought on the side of the Allies. Italian regiments were stationed in the Alps. Soldiers were provided with postal cards; millions were issued and used. Figures 1 and 2 show two examples.

Ski Flying

This is a form of skiing in which style doesn't count, and only distance is important. It has become a popular sport since WWII. An international competition is held each year.

The international ski week is often held at Oberstdorf, West Germany. The start of the jump is 536 feet above the landing area, and the run is 1,660 feet long. Jumps as far as 460 feet have been recorded. It is the largest jump in Europe — probably in the world. The FIS (International Ski Federation) controls conditions very carefully because of the dangerous nature of the sport. Naturally, the weather must be perfect.

Figures 3 and 4 illustrate two special cancellations used for the International Ski Flying Week at Oberstdorf. The 1950 cancellation shows the date of Ski

Flying Week as February 28 to March 5 (6 days). The cancellation for 1952 shows the week as February 28 to March 2, only four days. 1952 was a leap year; 1950 was not. However, the event continues to bear the designation "week" in all cancellations.

Royal Bulgarian Post

In 1964, riding the Olympic bandwagon, the "Royal Bulgarian Post" came out with a Winter Games issue. As Bulgaria was no longer a kingdom, no "Royal Post" could have existed in 1964. This issue therefore seems rather strange. Samples of the stamps were sent to dealers and collectors from the philatelic office of Dragomir Prodanov in Madrid, Spain. The advertisements bore a Spanish stamp and cancellation. The "labels," were not good for postage.



Figures 3 & 4. At left is the 1950 cancellation used at Oberstdorf. Inscribed below the town name is "843 m. hochallgau," a reference to 843 meters high district. The design of the 1952 cancellation (right) used at Oberstdorf remains basically unchanged from 1950.

Ski Form



Figure 5. Souvenir sheet, one of two different issued by the Royal Bulgarian Post, a fictional entity. It shows the flag of the kingdom and royal crown.

The Royal Bulgarian Post labels commemorating the 1964 Olympic Winter Games were issued in five values in sheets of twelve. Each portrayed a different winter sport. Two souvenir sheets were also issued (Figure 5). The colorful labels contain language in Bulgarian and Russian.

Mr. Prodanov went to the trouble of preparing covers for sale by cancelling the "Royal Bulgarian" stamps with a Spanish meter! The American Philatelic Society promptly issued a warning against these labels, and it is hoped that not many collectors were taken in by this bogus issue. Figure 5 illustrates one of these labels.

Dorothy Gulick was interested in the posture of the skiers shown on cancellations and stamps. Figure 6 shows a cancellation from the town of Spindleruv Mlyn, dated March 2, 1947 for the Ski Championship in (Bohemia) Czechoslovakia. The jumper is nearly parallel to his skies, which is a very modern style.



Figures 6. An examination of the posture of ski jumpers shows that the skier at left maintains good form.

Figure 7 shows a First Day Cover dated February 15, 1950 for the Tatras Cup Ski Races held in the town of Tatranska Lomnica, in the High Tatras Mountains. The skier in this cancel exhibits a poorer style as he is bent too much at the hips.



Figure 7. First Day Cover. The ski jumper shown in the cancel is almost at a 90 degree angle, a back-breaking posture.



Figure 8. Austria FDC with cachet and stamp showing a biathlete.

The Biathlon

A combined skiing and rifle-shooting event, the biathlon was added to the Olympic Winter Games in 1960. The skiers carry a rifle and 20 rounds of ammunition while traversing a 20 kilometer course (Figure 8). They make four stops to fire at targets at distances ranging from 100 to 250 meters. Five shots at pull targets are taken at each distance. A miss means an additional two minutes' time added to a contestant's record, with the winner determined by the total elapsed time. (From the 1964 *U.S. Olympic Book*).

Ski Meter

The Washington State Highway Commission had a sense of humor. Using an old cartoon from *The New Yorker* magazine, its meter shows ski tracks going on both sides of the tree (Figure 9).

Water Skiing

Figure 10 shows both sides of a full color advertising cover with meter for the Florida Cypress Gardens. The red meter shows flowers and a woman skier. □

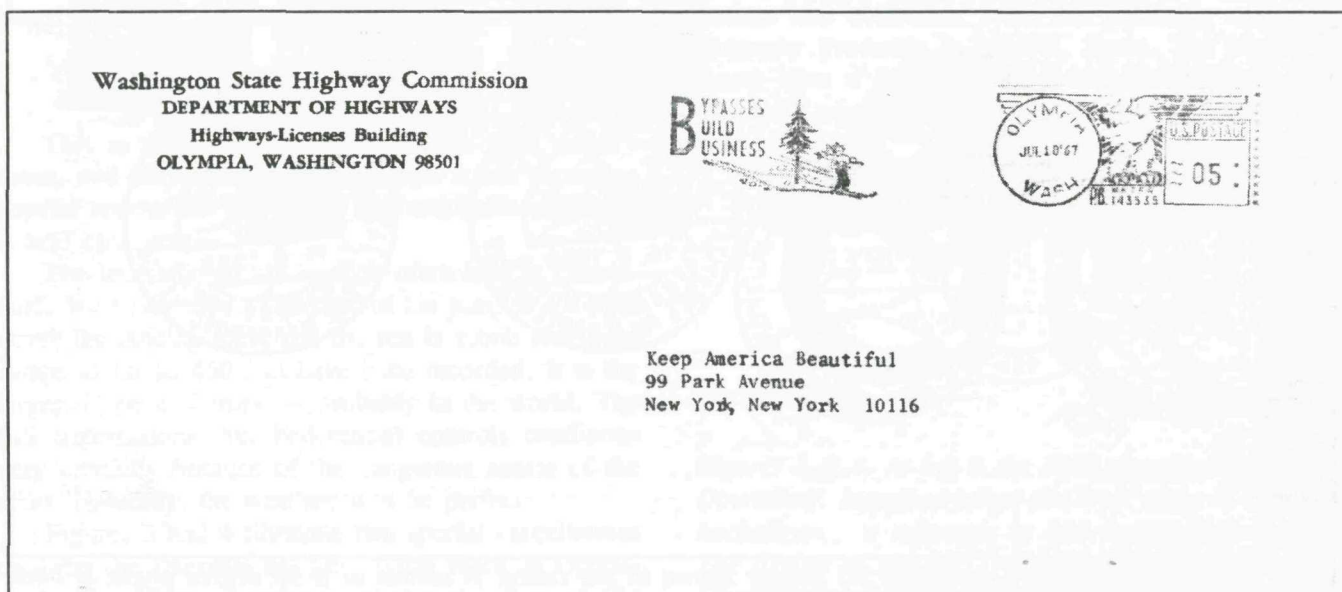
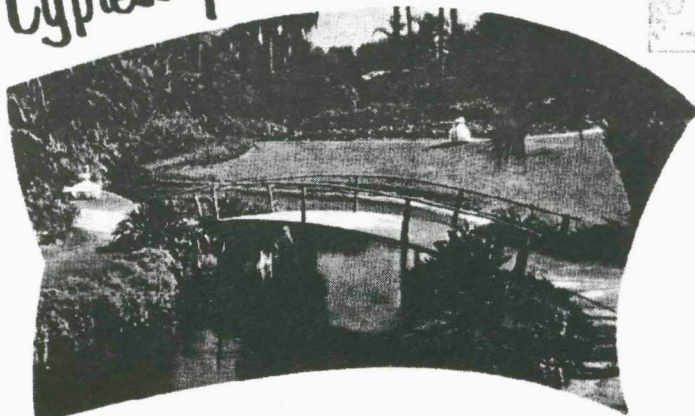


Figure 9. Purple meter reading "Bypasses Build Business." Dated July 18, 1967.

Florida Cypress Gardens

Address:
Cypress Gardens, Fla.
Cable: FLACYPGAR



Aquariums, Inc.
Maywood, New Jersey

Published by Pan American Publishing Corp., North Miami, Fla.

Cypress Gardens *Water ski capital of the world*

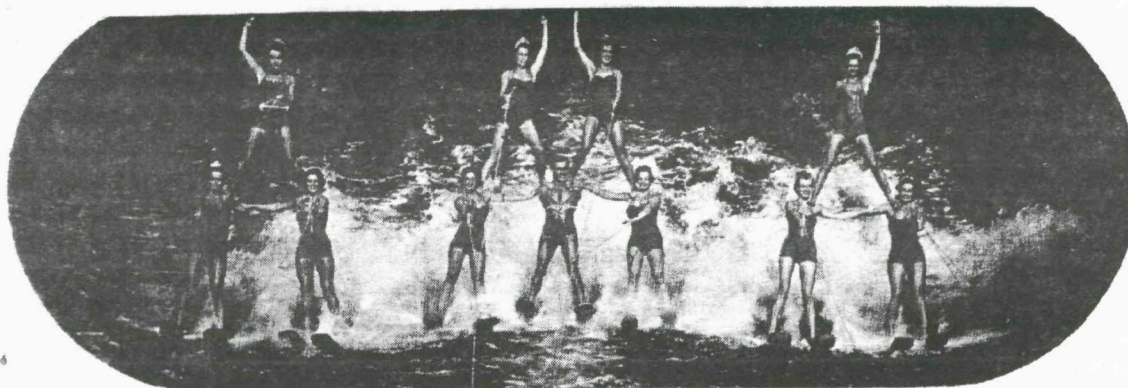


Figure 10. Spectacular multi-color advertising cover showing a bridge garden scene on front (top). The reverse shows acrobatic water skiing (above).

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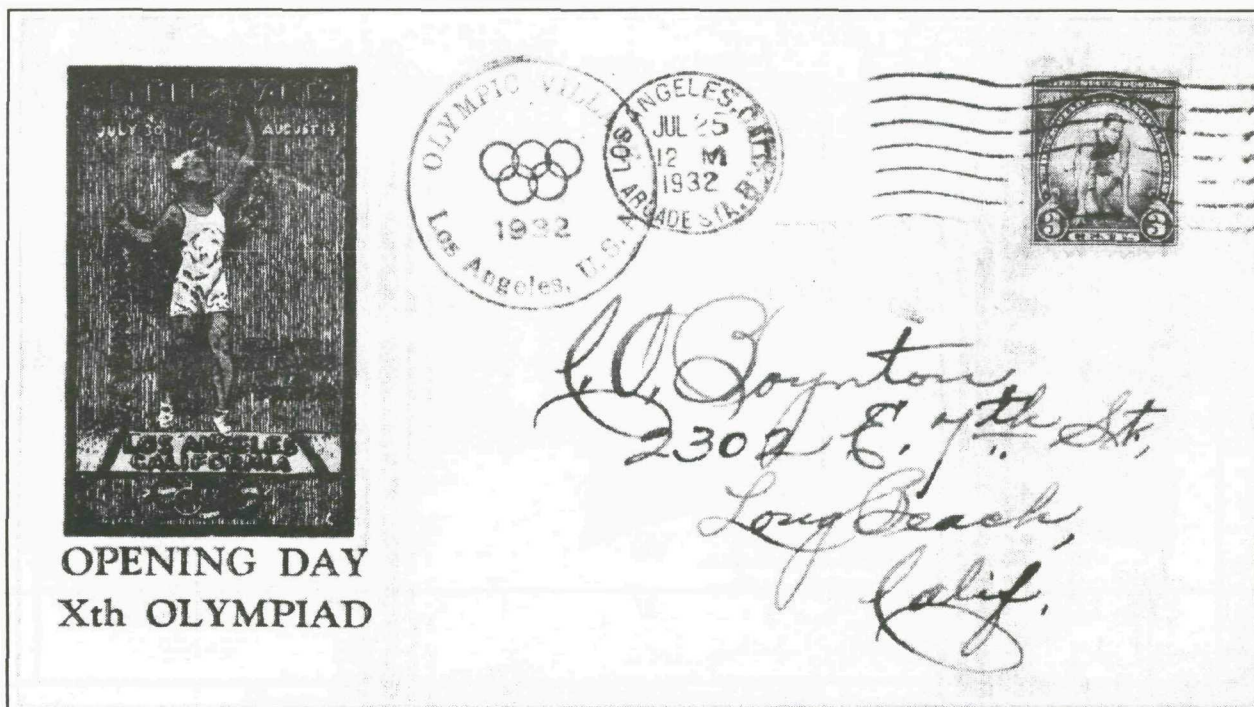


Figure 1. On July 25, 1932, the British Olympic Team arrived at Los Angeles after a 13 day journey. They promptly checked into the Olympic Village. Machine cancel and special circular Olympic Village cachet.

The Sunshine Games

by Tommy Hampson

Many a tale could be unfolded about the Tenth Olympic Games held at Los Angeles, California, in August, 1932. After some doubt as to whether they could, or should, be held in the middle of a world depression and in the very country where it started, American genius triumphed over the many financial and organisational problems involved. The United States succeeded in staging an Olympic celebration universally voted the best to date, and setting a standard which, in subsequent Olympiads, the organisers have been hard put to do it to better.

Not only was a special stadium and pool prepared for the 1932 Games, but for the first time a special Olympic Village was built to house the men competitors from over 30 nations. Everything, in fact, was on the American scale, but the warm soft air and brilliant sunshine of California was perhaps the greatest asset the organisers had. It undoubtedly led to the breaking of record after record.

Distance from Europe and financial stringency limited the sizes of teams from European countries, among them Great Britain. We were able to send on the 6,000 mile journey a team of only 72 strong, including men and women competitors for nine or ten different sports. But in the face of the strongest opposition that

the nations of the New World could muster, and the challenge of Japan, a comparative newcomer to the Olympic Games, this small team acquitted itself remarkably well.

We sailed on the old "Empress of Britain" from Southampton on July 13 and travelling via Montreal, Toronto, Chicago, and the Santa Fe railroad, arrived at Los Angeles on July 25, taking thirteen days for a journey which could now be done by air in not much more than two (Figure 1). From Chicago, a special train, well over 500 yards long, took the British team and half a dozen others across the American continent. The journey was tedious; at times it was unbearably hot; we lived and slept in the same railway coach for nearly five days, our only relief being the frequent but usually short stops every two or three hundred miles.

On these occasions, in the singlets and shorts in which most of us spent the day for the sake of coolness, we would tumble out on to the platform and take what exercise we could — if the local population with its myriad autograph hunters would permit us. We were a happy crowd, and in spite of many discomforts there were few real grumblers. I believe that the team managers and officials, among them Mr. E.J. Holt, who, for the past two years, has been in Melbourne helping to prepare for the 1956 Games, would agree that the competitors really gave them little to worry over.

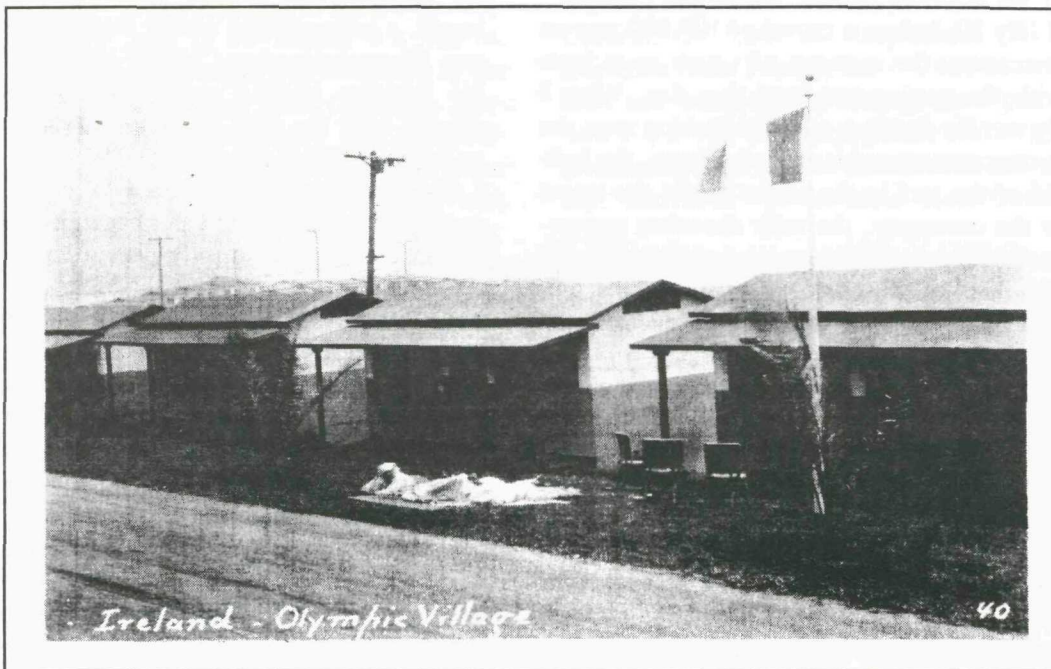


Figure 2. The Olympic Village, for men only, consisted of a series of two-room cabins grouped together by nation. Each national group had its own dining facility.

Having arrived in Los Angeles, the men took up their quarters in the Olympic Village just outside the city, while the women were accommodated in hotels in the city itself. Guarded from the outside world by a ten foot chain link fence, constantly patrolled by colourfully dressed horsemen in full cowboy rig, we lived in small two roomed chalets, each country in its own "camp lines," with its own dining room in which the normal food of the home country was cooked and served (Figure 2). The only thing we missed badly was the real English cup of tea; the American method of making tea

by steeping it in hot (rarely boiling) water in small muslin bags does not produce the same beverage.

The village contained its own shops and services and even a cinema had been made in a large natural bowl in a central position. Although the village boasted no training facilities most people found the village roads and wide expanses of grass adequate for exercise. Serious training sessions were held at the excellent High School tracks in the district, to and from which regular competitors' bus services were run.

The opening of the Games, in the massive new

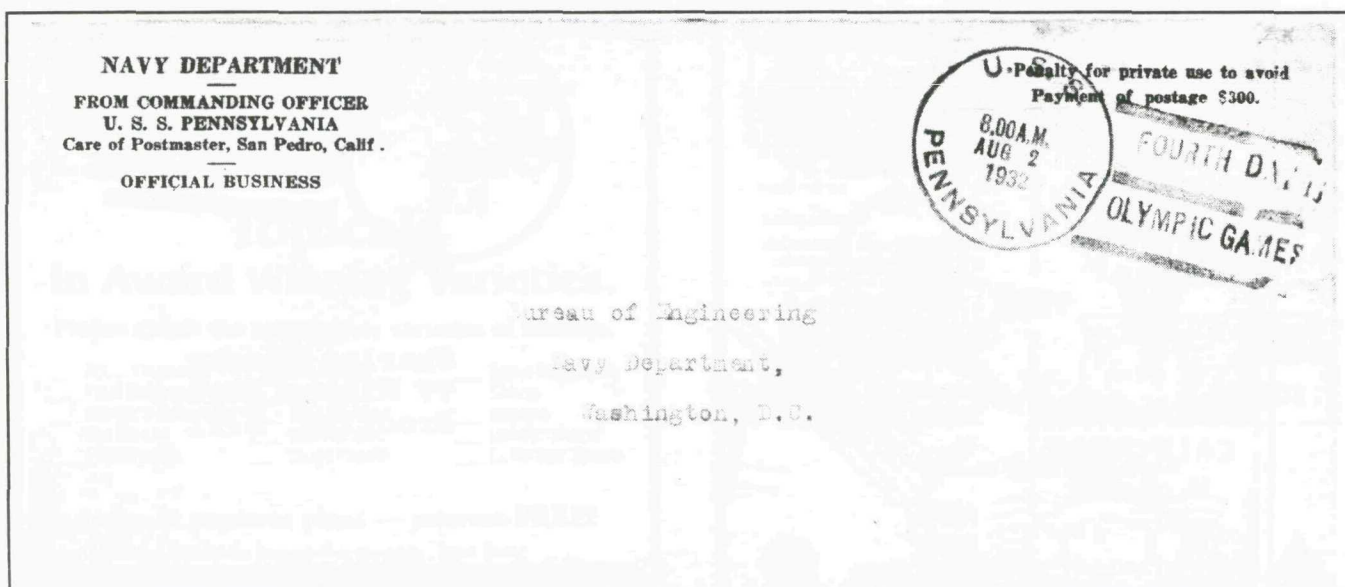


Figure 3. On August 2, the author, Tommy Hampson, won his gold medal in the 800 meters, edging out Alexander Wilson of Canada by a foot. U.S.S. Pennsylvania naval cancel for the "fourth day" of the Games.

stadium, on July 30, before a crowd of 100,000 was an impressive occasion, the memory of which must have remained with the participants until this day. What I recall chiefly was the dazzling sunlight flashing from the gaunt white concrete structure of the stadium, the brilliant emerald of the turf in the centre where the teams lined up for the ceremony, the milk chocolate appearance of the running track, the wonderful variety of colour in the flags of the competing nations, the uniforms of the teams and the gay dresses and hats of women spectators.

Naturally, my clearest memory is of my own part in the heats and final of the 800 metres, and of the 4 x 400 metres relay. I remember being astounded by the ease of running on that smooth resilient earth track, ploughed, watered and rolled to almost satin texture every day. When I won my heat on July 31 from Sera Martin, the French holder of the world's 800 metre record at the time, in 1 min. 53 sec., I felt as if I was doing no more than coasting. Yet when the nine finalists went to their marks at 4 p.m. on August 2 (there were luckily no semi-finals) I was probably the most diffident of them all (Figure 3).

The race has been described in detail so often before that I will not attempt to repeat the story here. Suffice it to say that I had trained, up to the last minute, on the assumption that the winner would have to do 1 min. 50 sec., then regarded with somewhat the same awe as the four minute mile in recent years, and that the best way to do this would be in two quarter miles of about 55 seconds each.

Following this plan, I was obliged to let Phil Ed-

wards, a valiant negro runner from British Guiana, who was then representing Canada, go far ahead in running his first lap in 53.8 secs. But I gradually made up ground over the next two hundred yards. When about to make my final effort some 250 yards from the tape, I was passed by Alex Wilson, Edward's team-mate, who rapidly went to the front and began to draw away. I had to make a split second decision whether to try to pass Edwards on the outside round the last bend or save those extra three or four yards for an all-out attack on the seven yards lead Wilson had gained in the home straight. I chose the latter course, but shall never forget the effort of that last eighty-yards struggle, or the wonderful relief when out of the corner of my eye I saw the white form of Wilson gradually disappear and felt the worsted break across my chest.

Recovery was as painful as the effort, but oh! the thrill of the Olympic Victory Ceremony, the Union Jack at the masthead and the National Anthem in my ears! Britain had won her first victory in the Tenth Olympic Games, her middle distance reputation was safely upheld for the fourth successive time, and the mystic 1 min. 50 sec. beaten for a new world's and Olympic record of 1 min. 49.8 sec.

Two days later came the heats of the 4 x 400 metres relay. Crewe Stoneley, myself, Lord Burghley (the popular team captain) and Godfrey Rampling won our heat reasonably comfortably after a shaky first leg. In the final [August 7] we faced very strong American and Canadian teams, which included between them three finalists in the Olympic 400 metres, won, like most other events in a new world record time (Figure 4).

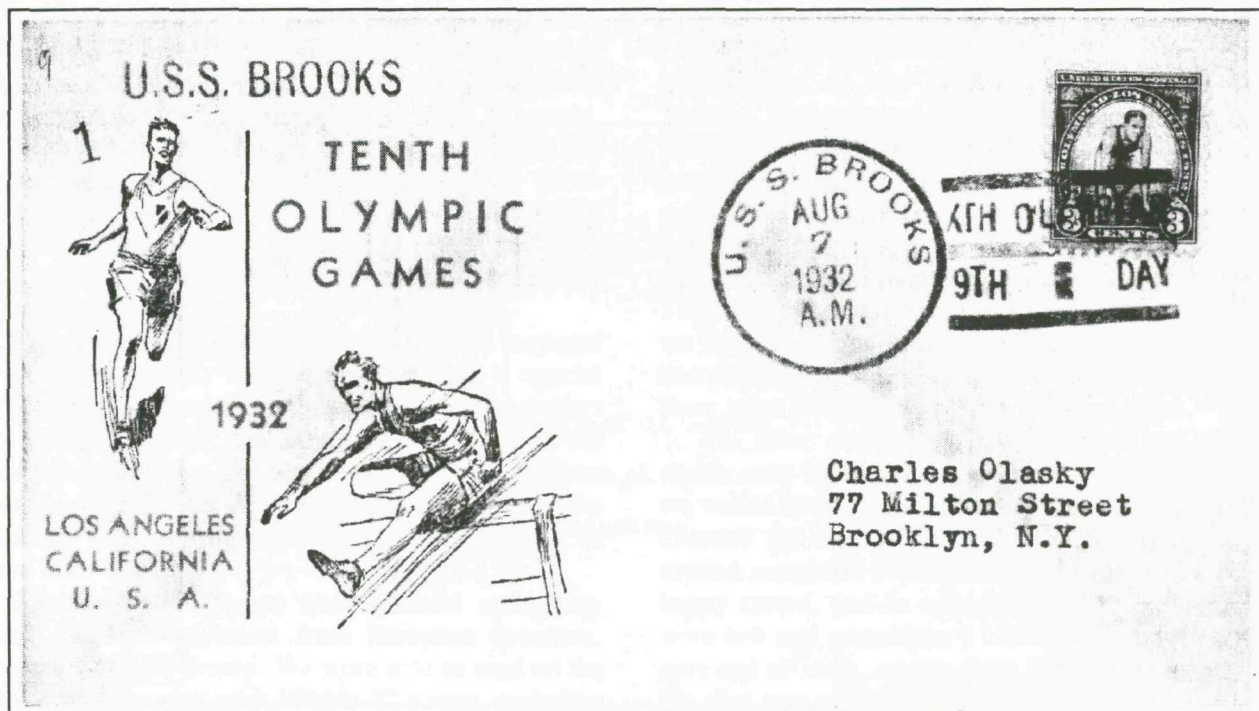


Figure 4. On August 7, the British 4 x 400 meter relay team placed second to the American squad who set a new world record. U.S.S. Brooks naval cancel, in blue, with embossed U.S. Navy Department seal at left.



Figure 5. Lord Burghley, captain of the British 4 x 400 m. relay team, was a veteran of the 1924 and 1928 Olympics. Burghley's specialty was the hurdles, winning the 400 meter event at the 1928 Games. Along with his relay silver at Los Angeles, Burghley placed 5th and 4th in the 110 m. and 400 m. hurdles, respectively.

Again we had rather a disappointing beginning, but pulled up to second place with a second leg inside 48 sec., and in an equally fast third leg Lord Burghley (Figure 5) held this position. Finally, Godfrey Ramping, making a stout effort to cut down Bill Carr's ten yard lead, succeeded in taking five yards off the American to qualify the team for a second medal. Thus I personally returned to England with one gold and one silver medal, but by no means the only one with Olympic Honours.

Great Britain took first in the 800 m. track, 50 kilometres road walk (T.K. Green), and the coxswainless pairs and coxswainless fours in the rowing events

held at Long Beach; second places in the 1,500 m. (J.F. Cornes), the 3,000 m. steeplechase (T. Evenson), the marathon (Sam Ferris), the 4 x 400 m. relay, Women's foils and welterweight boxing; third places in the women's 4 x 100 m. relay (track) and 4 x 100 m. relay (swimming) and several fourth, fifth and sixth places. In the "unofficial" points table Great Britain was placed sixth.

Whether they returned as Olympic Victors, medalists, minor place winners or just as competing representatives of their country, however, all members of the team came back richer for their experience. I am confident that they bore testimony to the accuracy of the statement of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympic Games, that "the important thing in the Olympic Games is not winning but taking part; the essential thing is not conquering, but fighting well."

This article is reprinted from Olympic Odyssey, compiled and edited by Stan Tomlin, and published on behalf of Mssrs. Bovril Limited by Modern Athlete Publications Limited, Croydon, England, 1956. The original article was not illustrated.

FRANCE and COLONIES PROOFS & ESSAYS

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Manitoba Calling?

by Mark Maestrone

Manitoba Telephone System produced a series of four labels noting various sports especially popular in Canada. Member Bob DuBois wonders about the date of issue of these handsome se-tenant, multi-color labels, as well as any other information on them.

As illustrated above, the labels depict ice skating, snowshoeing, tobogganing, curling, ice hockey, and

skiing. The first label, which lists these sports, also notes hunting. Could there be a fifth label for that sport?

The hockey stamp displays a smiling goalie wearing the jersey of the Winnipeg Monarchs. Did Manitoba Telephone help sponsor the team? Can our ice hockey collectors tell us more about this sports team?

There seem to be more questions than answers for this attractive series. Please address additional information directly to your editor! □

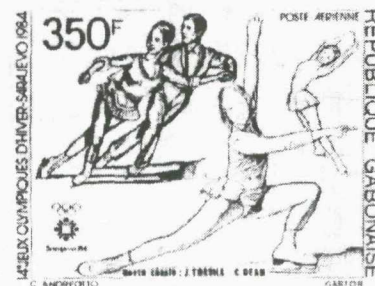
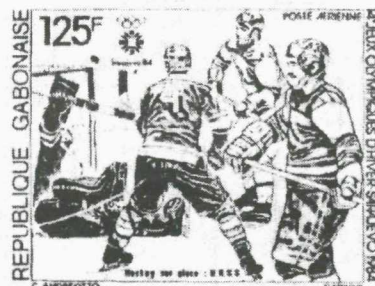
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News of Our Members

by Margaret Jones

New Members

2018R Robert E. Antonacci, 203 Victoria Park Drive, Liverpool, NY 13088 USA. An electrician, Robert specializes in Olympics only. (Jones)

2019R Arthur H. Groten, P.O. Box 30, Fishkill, NY 12524 USA. A physician, Arthur also does business for Meter Stamp Associates. He is a general collector, including Olympics. (Jones)

2020R Klaus-Dietrich Borstel, Leninallee 27, D-39576 Stendal, Germany. Retired, Klaus collects the Olympics. He specializes in the 11th Winter Games as well as GDR sports. (Podolsky)

2021R Librairie R. J. Segalat, Rue de la Pontaise 4, Case Postale 244, CH-1018 Lausanne 18, Switzerland. This is a bookseller.

2022R Trevor Wilkin, PO Box 182, Cammeray 2062, Sydney, NSW, Australia. Trevor is a banker and belongs to dealer associations. He collects banknotes and Melbourne Olympic memorabilia. (Shipley)

2023R Michel Larouche, 1350 St. Louis, Ville St. Laurent, Quebec, Canada H4L 2P3. An engineer, Michel collects 1976 Summer Olympics and is willing to translate French articles. (Jones/Internet)

2024R Aleksandar Popovic, 311 Pennell Circle, Apt #3, Tallahassee, FL 32310 USA. Aleksandar is a graduate student who specializes in Olympics and is willing to translate Croat, Serb, Russian and French articles. (Maestroni/Internet)

2025R Roderick B. MacDonald, St. F.X. University, Box 5000, Antigonish, NS, Canada B2G 2W5. Dr. MacDonald is a professor and is a general collector, including Olympics. (Maestroni/Internet)

2026R George D. Osterhoudt, 36637 Cord Street, Zephyr Hills, FL 33541-1138 USA. In the service, George is a general sports collector, including Olympics, and specializes in baseball, basketball, ice hockey and chess. (APS)

2027R Jerome Wuchholz, 9444 Shepard Road, Macedonia, OH 44056 USA. A pension administrator, Jerome specializes in the Olympics. (Mummert)

2028R Hugh J. Inglis, PO Box 550, Bucksport ME 04416 USA. Hugh is in sales and collects general sports, Olympics, and ice hockey. (Jones)

2029R Fernando Mesa, 1024 Hoolea Place, Kailua, HI 96734-4023 USA. A merchant marine, Fernando specializes in Summer Olympics, any year. He is willing to translate Spanish articles. (Jones)

2030R Norma L. McCumber, 3340 Del Sol Blvd, #28, San Diego, CA 92154 USA. Mrs McCumber is retired and collects general sports, including Olympics, with emphasis on Olympic and sports mascots, sea sports. (Jones)

2031R Marvin G. Graunke, Pinehurst, Route 71, Ottawa, IL 61350 USA. Marvin collects general sports, including Olympics. (Jones)

Resigned:

Bruce R. Glenn (1997)
Warwick Gowland (1312)
LeRoy E. Haberkorn (1227)
Johannesburg Public Library (1193)
Arthur Ransom Jr (1453)
Jan Roseneder (1956)
Frank Vosicky (1716)

New Addresses:

Dave Degelman, 312 Spring Lakes Blvd., Bradenton, FL 34210.
Robert DuBois, 838 Temple Road, Pottstown, PA 19465. (New ZIP Code).
Guni F. Gunnarsson, Holagata 7, 900 Vestmannaeyjar, Iceland.
Dott Luca Imperiali, L.GO Alessandria del Carretto, 12, I-00060 Morena RM, Italy.
Valy Lev, 880 Wedgewood Court, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089.
Moisey Levin, 760 East 10th Street, #4J, Brooklyn, NY 11230.
Roberto Lopez P., A.P. 1558, San Luis Potosi, CP 78230, Mexico.
Franceska Rapkin, Eaglewood, Sheethanger Lane, Fel-den, Hertfordshire, England HP3 0BG.
Dr. Gerald Weinberger, 11435 Rhododendron Lane, Doswell, VA 23047.

Total Membership, August 31, 1995 = 449

The Sports Arena

by Mark Maestroni

Athletic clothing and its development over time is a theme that I would certainly like to see someone develop into an exhibit.

I recently received the post card reproduced in Figure 1 from SPI member, George Killian. If you look closely at the stamp, you'll notice that the front runner is sporting the new "triangular lens" sunglasses that have become very popular on both the track and speed skating oval.

University Games collectors will, of course, be interested in this issue as it commemorates the recently held Games in Fukuoka, Japan from August 23 through September 3. The reverse of this "official" card pictures what I take to be one of the venues (the text is entirely in Japanese). I believe that the cancel is for the first day of issue as it is dated August 7. It portrays the mascot (a horse?) playing basketball.

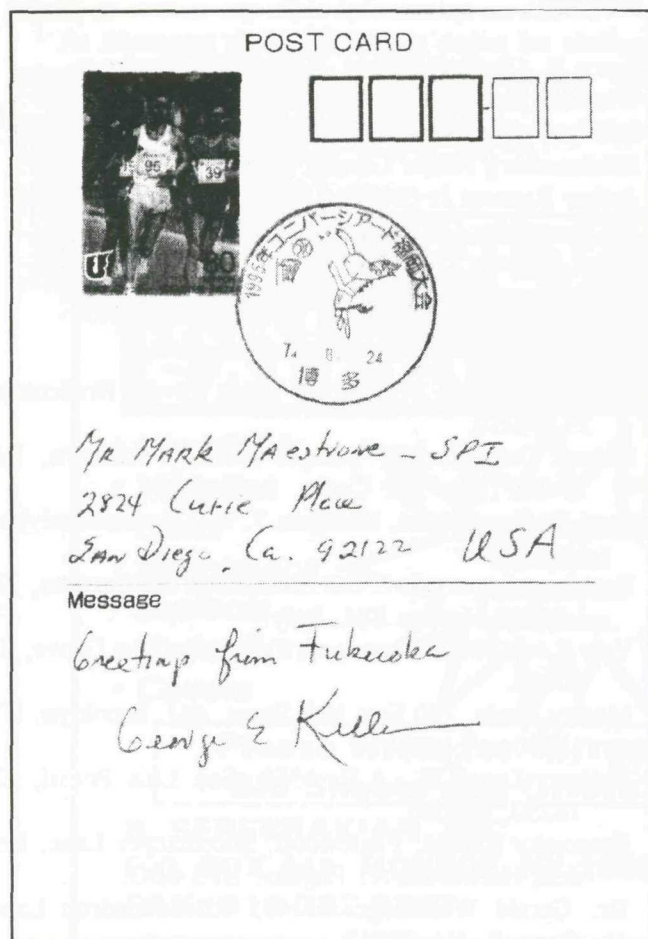


Figure 1. Stamp and FD cancel for the 1995 University Games held in Fukuoka, Japan. The stamp, picturing runners, displays the latest in "cool shades."

Sometimes as I read about the latest new U.S. stamp issues, I wonder how our Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee can overlook potential subjects that are "as American as apple pie."

Volleyball, a sport invented in the United States and played all over the world, celebrated its 100th anniversary this year. Instead of a U.S. stamp commemorating this fact, we were given the woefully unattractive beach volleyball stamp as part of a five-stamp series on recreational sports (see my review in the September-October 1995 issue of *JSP*, page 20). No mention was made of the anniversary.

The birthday didn't go unnoticed, though. The postal administration of the Slovak Republic came through with a handsome adhesive and cancel (Figure 2). The first day of issue was August 16, 1995. The stamp and commemorative FD cancel (in black) were designed by Dusan Nagel. A second cancel (in blue) shows a "1" followed by two volleyballs to form the number 100. I believe that this is the logo created by FIVB (the International Volleyball Federation) for the anniversary.

Thanks to Ervan Smazak from our sister society in the Slovak Republic for submitting the cover.

This was not the only volleyball centennial philatelic item. The Italian Olympic Committee used the special meter shown in Figure 3 for the anniversary. It was in use from April 24 through May 13, 1995.



Figure 3. Meter, in red, used by the Italian Olympic Committee to commemorate the centenary of volleyball.

Speaking about postal administrations, it must be particularly tough for those in the newly independent democratic nations of central and eastern Europe. The urge to produce limited edition philatelic material to generate hard currency is certainly tempting.

In general, it seems as though most of these nations have taken a very conservative path by issuing far fewer stamps than previously.

Member Nikolay Penev of Bulgaria shows us that unnecessary issues still occasionally surface (Figure 4). For last year's World Cup, his country overprinted a souvenir sheet on December 15, 1995, with an inscription noting Bulgaria's third place finish (vertically at

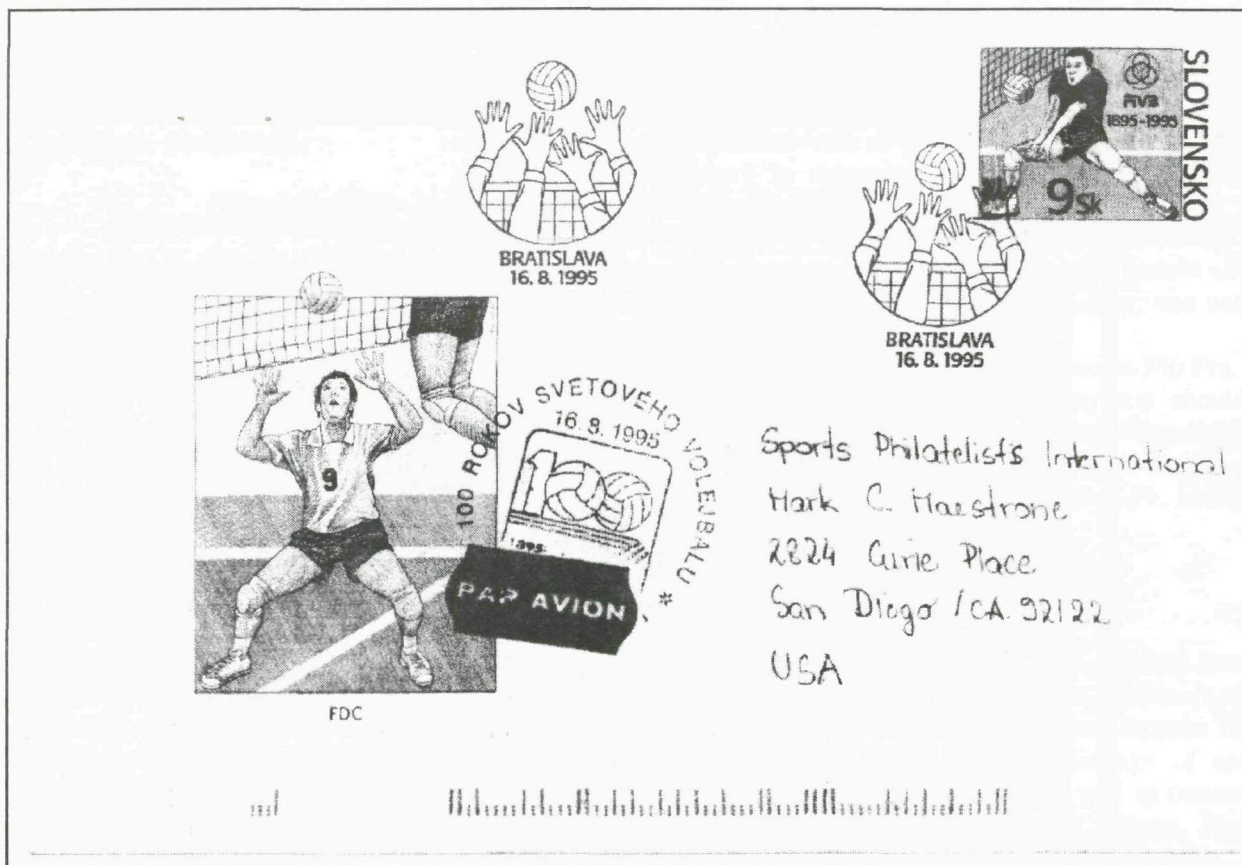


Figure 2. The Slovak Republic issued a stamp and special FD cancel for this year's 100th anniversary of volleyball in cooperation with the Slovak Olympic Committee and the Slovak sport and Olympic philatelic society.



Figure 3. Bulgaria's limited edition overprint noting the country's bronze medal at the 1995 World Cup. Only 20,000 were produced.

left). The printing size was only 20,000 with each sheet individually numbered (bottom right). Nikolay goes on to say that the overprinted souvenir sheet could only be obtained through the philatelic society. Each collector was limited to one copy.

I don't know how many collectors there are in Bulgaria, but I wonder how many of these sheets were sold to western dealers.

Member Klaus D. Borstel of Germany asks members to assist him in preparation of his philatelic exhibit

on the XIIth Olympic Winter Games in Innsbruck. He is looking for philatelic information and material related to Denver, Colorado, as the candidate city and the first choice of the IOC as host for these 1976 Games. Members interested in swapping material and/or information may contact him at: Leninallee 27, D-39576 Stendal, Germany.

Luca Imperiali, one of our long time members in Italy, specializes in the Olympic Games as well as soccer, tennis, baseball, motor sports, ball sports, wrestling, and more. His material includes First Day and regular cover material, cancellations, meters, and postal stationery. If you are a collector in one of these areas, he will be happy to send you photocopies of items with prices. His new address is: L. GO Alessandria del Carretto 12, 00040 Morena RM, Italy.

William Sibenheller, though not a member of SPI, specializes in billiards and is looking for the following stamps (mint or used): Belgium #1009, Kuwait #842, Peru #700 (2 copies), Sri Lanka #876 (2 copies). Please send prices to: 187 Glen Cannon Drive, Pisgah Forest, NC 28768. He will respond promptly and enclose postage.



Figure 1. A post card enclosed in the *Olympic Museum Magazine* reproducing a proposed stamp design for the 1940 Helsinki Olympic Games.

Olympic Magazine, #6

The winner of the 1995 European Museum of the Year Award was the Olympic Museum in Lausanne. Appropriately, the June 1995 issue of the *Olympic Magazine* leads off with this news. For a museum that's only two years old, this is a remarkable achievement!

A retrospective of American artist Andy Warhol's works was on display at the museum from May to October. This issue's cover story takes a look at the exhibition and the artist.

Also announced were the winners of the 1995 IOC Best Sports Photographs contest. In its tenth year, this competition was entered by no less than 102 photographers from 22 countries. The photographs, in both color and black-and-white, were "snapped" during the past year at major sporting events. The gold medal went to David Sprudens of the *Sunday Express* newspaper in Great Britain. It shows Peter Schmeichel, the goalkeeper of the Manchester United football team, flying through the air to make an extraordinary save.

An interview with Chinese IOC member, Zhenliang He, is presented. As chairman of the Cultural Commis-

sion of the IOC, he discusses his views on the IOC museum and the future relationship of sport and art.

One of the more fascinating articles in this issue explores the models for two well-known sport sculptures: August Rodin's "L'Athlete Americain" and Emile-Antoine Bourdelle's "Heracles Archer." Rodin used a young American, Samuel Stockton White III, as his model. A photograph of Mr. White shows why he was given the 1899 Sadow Medal for the "strongest, most perfect and harmonious physical development in the United Kingdom." An Army officer, Doyen Parigot, posed for Bourdelle's sculpture. Parigot later died at the Battle of Verdun.

Additional articles include a look at the Cultural Olympiad plans for Nagano's Olympic Winter Games in 1998; an examination of IBM's long history of Olympic sponsorship; the legend surrounding basketball's "dream team" at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics; and an overview of the Olympic Museum Library. As always, six postcards at the end of the magazine reproduce philatelic items of interest. Figure 1 shows one of these cards illustrating a proposed stamp design for the 1940 Olympics in Helsinki, Finland — a Games that never took place because of World War II.

Olympic Magazine is published quarterly in either English or French versions. The cost is 68 SFr. in Europe; 80 SFr. overseas. For more information, or to subscribe, write to: IOC Museum, 1 Quai d'Ouchy, CH-1001 Lausanne, Switzerland. - M.M.

Olympsport

The February 1995 issue of *Olympsport* provides, as usual, a wide variety of articles on both sports and the Olympic Games. Although entirely in Czech, one can easily glean important information from the illustrations.

The lead story by the editor, Jaroslav Petrsek, discusses the 1904 Olympics in St. Louis. A second article by the same author looks at the very unusual triple-ring cancels for the 1950 Tatransky Pohar winter sports competition in Czechoslovakia.

Janos Mester briefly discusses Olympic Flights, while Jiri Kotlovsky looks at some early Czech Rugby cancels. Additional short articles cover the 1924 Chamoniix Olympic Winter Games, vignettes of the 1900 Paris Exposition (site of the Olympic Games), and the 1930 World Ladies Games in Prague.

Olympsport is published quarterly. Membership is 20 DM per year or the equivalent. For more information, write to: Jaroslav Petrsek, *Olympsport*, B.P. 13, 282 23 Cesky Brod, Czech Republic. - M.M.

Podium, Vol. 2, #5

A wide variety of sports are featured in the August 1995 issue of this 24-page Spanish-language publication of the Grupo Deportes Tematico in Argentina.

Julio Santanelli takes a look at the 1st World Championship of Football held in Montevideo, Uruguay in 1930. While Uruguay issued no stamps for the occasion, there were a number of slogan machine cancels during 1929 and 1930. Even a 1930 Zeppelin cover bearing one of the special cancels is illustrated.

The sport of gliding is also examined, with concen-

tration on the first competition held in 1935 in Switzerland. A number of cancels are shown, as are stamps from various nations in Europe and South America.

Also discussed in this issue are: a special 1995 Argentine cancel commemorating Delfo Cabrera's victory in the men's Marathon at the 1948 London Olympics (Figure 2); the Third Rugby World Cup held this year in South Africa; champion automobile racers, including Juan Manuel Fangio; a brief history of volleyball shown through cancels and stamps; and yachting's "Boston Teapot" trophy.

Podium, published bimonthly, costs 350 Frs. for the Americas, 450 Frs. elsewhere. Payment should be in mint sports/Olympic stamps valued according to the Yvert catalog. Send your requests to: Mr. Jorge A. Casalia, Grupo Podium, C.C. 30, Suc 19, 1419 Buenos Aires, Argentina. - M.M.

Tee Time, #33

Tee Time now has a new editor — David Brooker of Forest Grove, Oregon — as well as volunteers who will write new columns for the newsletter. Regular coverage by these contributors includes listings of new golf stamps and U.S. cancellations, as well as comments on the philatelic golf scene in Great Britain, Japan and Australia.

The September 1995 newsletter contains a long article on golf-related Japanese Echo Cards. A total of 23 cards from the period 1988 to 1994 are illustrated and described philatelically. There is also an explanation of recent changes in this unique form of postal stationery.

New golf stamps and recent U.S. cancels are illustrated. A recent sports set from Batum, which includes a golf stamp, is discussed. Also noted is that the contributor has three first day covers for the set, each with a different first day date.

If you are interested in membership in the International Philatelic Golf Society which publishes this quarterly newsletter, contact the secretary, Kevin Hadlock, 447 Skyline Drive, Orange, CT 06477, U.S.A. - D.C.

Torch Bearer

Torch Bearer for August 1995 (Volume 12, Issue 3) contains a report on OLYMPIAFILA '95, the sports and Olympic philatelic exhibition held this past June in Budapest. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) was patron of the event which coincided with the 104th Session of the IOC and the centenary of the Hungarian Olympic Committee. While this is quite a full account of the exhibition and the philatelic material issued in connection with it (many special postmarks, for example), the article does not report on the results of the IOC session.



Figure 2. Delfo Cabrera won the 1948 Olympic Marathon event, as commemorated on this Argentine cancel.

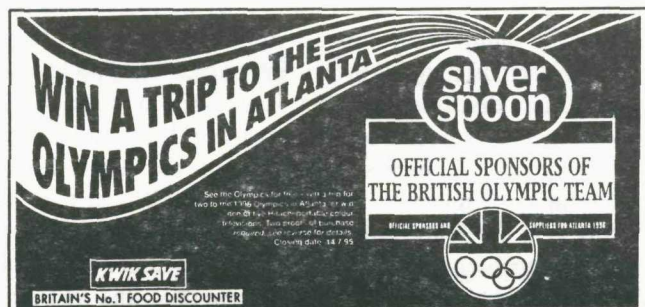


Figure 3. Silver Spoon, a sponsor of the 1996 British Olympic Team, is a purveyor of granulated sugar. Above is an entry blank to win a trip to Atlanta. At left is a packet of sugar noting their sponsorship.

There is a brief article on the 3rd European Youth Olympic Days held in Bath, England July. Philatelically, this event was celebrated with a fine aerogramme issued by Royal Mail, as well as by a commemorative cancel.

This issue also includes a summary of discussions held in Lausanne during the First World Olympic Collectors Fair in October 1994, at which International Federation of Olympic Philately (FIPO) representatives explained the role they expect to play in coordinating Olympic and sports philatelic activities worldwide. FIPO is the governing body for national sport and Olympic philatelic organizations. One of its projects will be the gathering of data for the publication of a handbook of Olympic philatelists worldwide.

This issue also reports on sponsors of the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games who operate in the United Kingdom. One of those sponsors, Silver Spoon, has done extensive advertising. In addition to an instant winner game, they ran a special "Question and Answer" competition for a free trip to Atlanta (Figure 3). This contest was held in conjunction with the Kwik Save discount grocery store chain.

Members who acquire information about new sponsors in the UK are asked to write the editor.

Torch Bearer is the quarterly journal of the Society of Olympic Collectors. Persons interested in membership should write the secretary, Mrs. Elizabeth Miller, 258 Torrisholme Road, Lancaster LA1 2TU, England.

- D. C.

Sports & Olympics Exhibits Awards

National Shows

PIPEX '95, sponsored by the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs, held in June in Victoria, British Columbia. A silver bronze and the ATA bronze were awarded Vincent Leonardson for his exhibit "Runners and Blades."

STAMPSHOW '95, sponsored jointly by the APS, ASDA and the U.S. Postal Service, held in St. Louis in August. A silver award went to Conrad Klinkner for "Games of the Xth Olympiad, Los Angeles, 1932."

U.S. Postmark Reference Wanted

I am looking for a sports-related U.S. postmark reference for the years 1939-45. Please write Roman Babut, P.O. Box 913, 00950 Warsaw 1, Poland with information.

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ACOG Internal Mail Markings

In the March-April issue of *JSP*, I illustrated an internal mail marking which ACOG uses to certify that incoming mail, particularly in large envelopes, has been inspected and is suitable for delivery to the addressee. The marking has a diameter of 1-7/8" and is shown in Figure 1. However, there is also a different marking in use which is slightly smaller at 1-3/4" in diameter, with smaller lettering and a very tiny line under Atlanta 1996 which reads "TM, © 1992, ACOG." I have shown this in Figure 2. At present, we do not know the pattern of use of these two markings, but perhaps that will become more clear over the next few months.

From April 23-25, 1995, the Cultural Olympiad sponsored a gathering of Nobel laureates in literature, attended by eight of the sixteen living recipients. Unfortunately, the panel discussions and readings at the Carter Center were limited to an audience of 450 people due to the small size of the auditorium. Tickets went quickly. The conference was staged in collaboration with *The Georgia Review*, edited by Stanley Lindberg. Because of the concern over limited seating, incoming mail to the Cultural Olympiad during this period was dated so that ticket requests could be filled on a first-come basis. Figure 3 shows a pen-dated cover sent from *The Georgia Review*. Figure 4 reproduces a hand stamped receiving mark in blue with the date in red. This cover also



Figures 1 & 2. Illustrated above (reduced in size) are two receiving cancels applied at ACOG. At left is a slightly larger version. The cancel at right includes microprinting noting the trademark status of the ACOG logo.

has a USPS spray cancel dated 3/27/95. This is two days prior to the receiving mark, even though this was a local cover mailed from Atlanta. The circular Atlanta cancel shows only the first three numbers of the Zip Code: 303. I believe that some incoming covers also received an "Olympic Programs Department" marking which I will try to show in the next column. My thanks to Nancy Clark for the covers shown here.

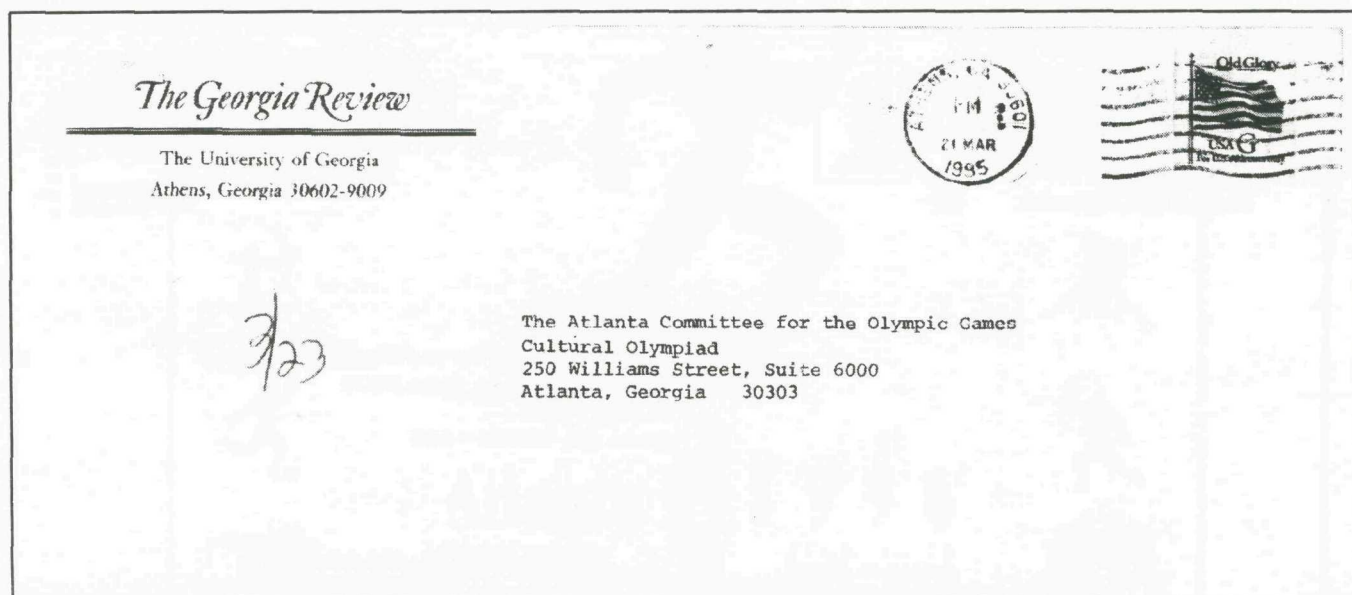


Figure 3. *The Georgia Review*, in cooperation with the Cultural Olympiad, sponsored a panel discussion of Nobel laureates in literature in April. The Cultural Olympiad pen-dated requests for tickets.

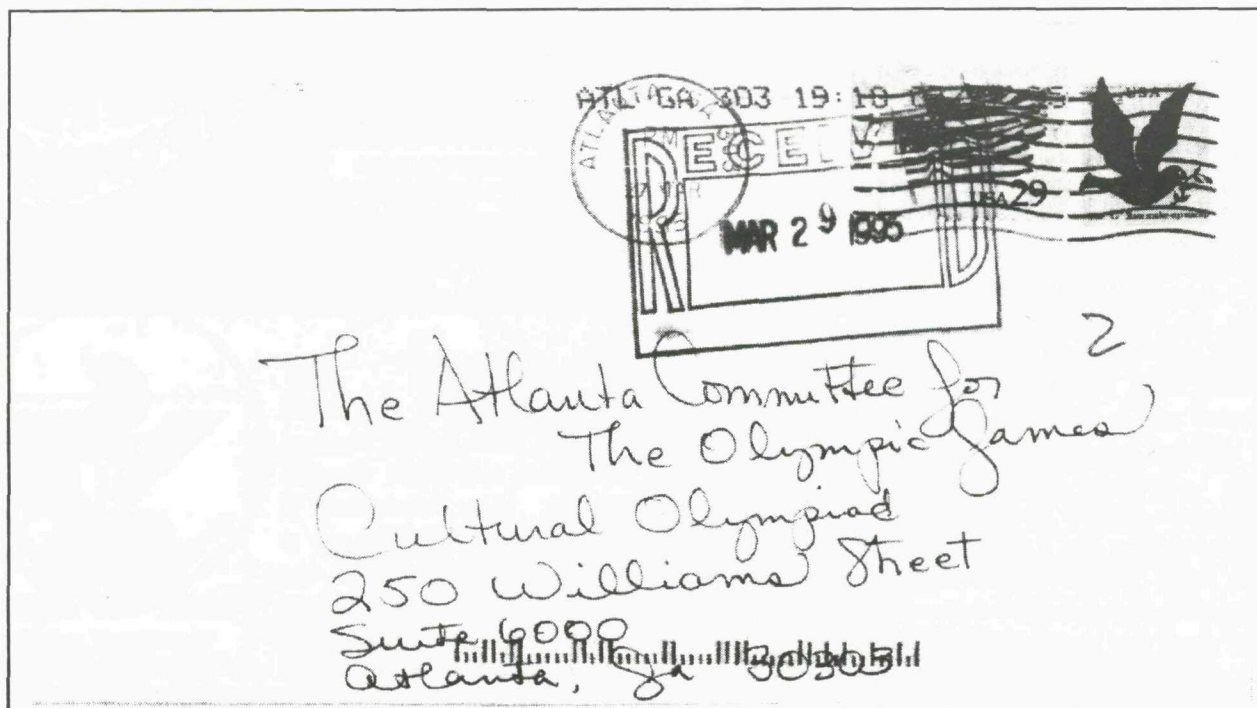


Figure 4. As an alternative to pen-dating requests, as in Figure 3, the Cultural Olympiad also used a standard mechanical docketing device with blue frame and red date.

Olympic Soccer Advertising Cover

The cover shown in Figure 5 was postmarked in Birmingham, Alabama at the site of some of the soccer preliminary matches. It is addressed to Billy Payne, President of ACOG. The corner card shows a soccer ball flying through the Olympic logo. The soccer ball is in brown and black; the logo is printed in red, blue, purple, gold and green. This very attractive cover "begs" for a soccer advertising meter!

Update On Atlanta Olympic Postcards

ACOG has just issued some new cards which will be included in set #3, two of which are illustrated here (Figures 6 and 7). The skyline card includes 10 poses of Izzy as an athlete competing in various Olympic sports. The pictogram card shows 10 of the Atlanta 1996 pictograms, with the runner highlighted. Set #3 will include 51 cards, different from sets 1 and 2. See page 25 of May-June issue of *JSP* for prices and ordering

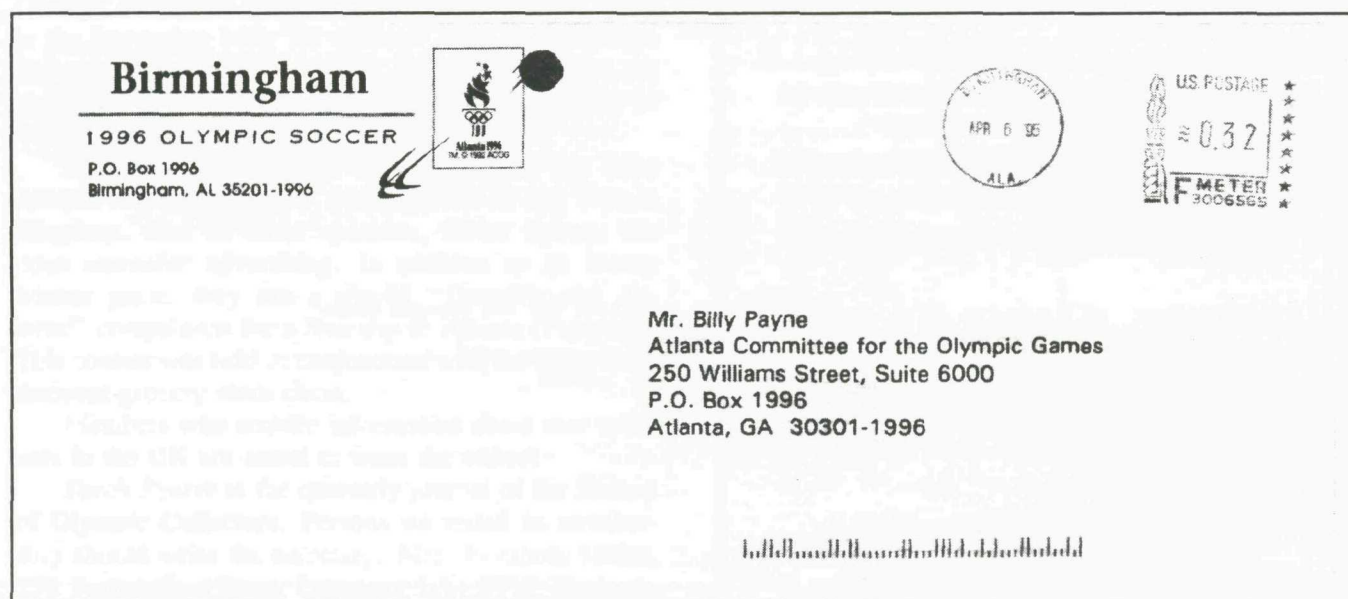


Figure 5. This attractive venue corner card envelope is from one of the non-Georgia Olympic sites, Birmingham, Alabama, where some of the preliminary soccer matches will be held.

OLYMPHILEX Stamp Wall

SPI members who would like to contribute to the wall of covers should send a postcard or envelope to Nancy Clark, OLYMPHILEX '96, P.O. Box 1996, Lexington, GA 30648 USA. When you visit the venue you should be able to spot your cover on the wall.

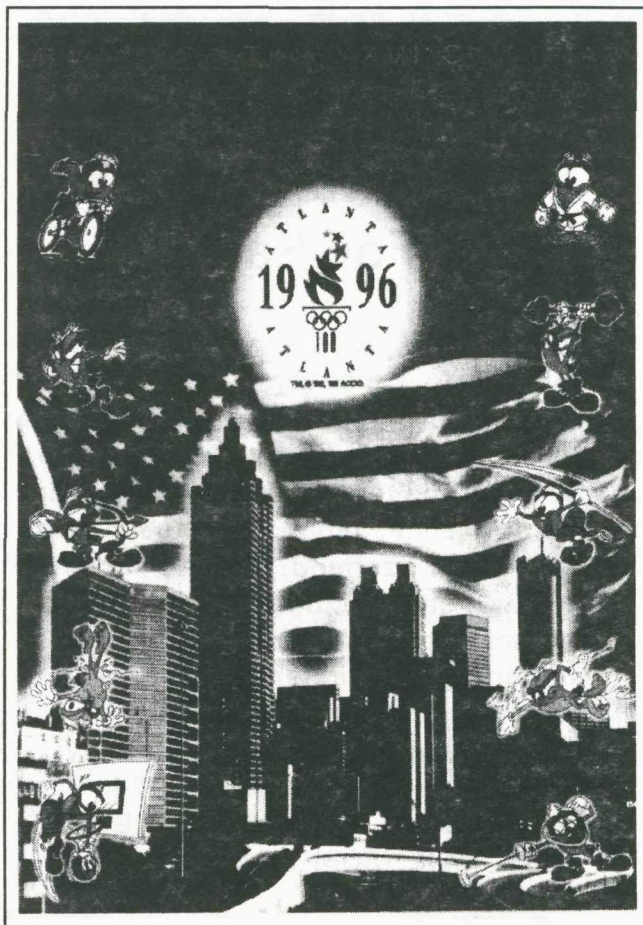


Figure 6. This official skyline postcard with text in French and English, shows 10 Izzy sports poses.



Figure 7. A new official postcard reproducing pictograms of some of the Olympic sports.

Skiing & Olympics Philatelic Material For Sale

Breaking up the Dorothy Gulick ski collection of covers and stamps. Other winter sports, some summer sports, and Olympics available, too. Strong in covers of Scandinavia, Germany, France, Japan, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Switzerland, Hungary, Poland, Russia, etc. Includes FDCs, slogan meters, special cancellations, postal stationery and vignettes. Material ranges from 1931 to 1980. Please describe your interests. Approvals available. Sherwin Podolsky, 3074 Sapphire Avenue, Simi Valley, CA 93063-2101. FAX: (805) 584-8689.

Attention Members! Help Needed

SPI needs to fill two positions immediately:

SPI Secretary/Treasurer

Due to personal reasons, our Secretary/Treasurer, Robert Mummert, must resign his duties. Any interested member with accounting skills should apply. Secretarial duties are minimal.

New Stamp Issues Editor

Brian Bjorgo would like to pass his bimonthly column on to someone else. Applicant must be able to submit his copy on a computer disk.

Those interested should send their particulars to Mark Maestroni, 2824 Curie Place, San Diego, CA 92122.

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- 1920 Belgium Olympiad Imperf Stamps;
- 1924 France Olympiad Postal card & Imperf. stamps;
- 1952 Finland Olympiad Stamp booklet;

WANTED:

Mint stamp, s/s, Used FDCs of **88 SEOUL OLYMPIAD** from: Yemen PDR, Niue, Gambia, Cape Verde, Guinea, Aruba, Penrhyn, Guyana, British Virgin Is., Anguila, Iraq, Jordan, New Caledonia, Wallis & Futuna, Aitutaki, Solomon Is., Cyprus, Maldives, Tonga, Palau, Congo, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Libya, Tchad, Antigua & Barbuda, Grenada & Grendines, Dominica, Paraguay, Belize and etc...

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New Stamp Issues

by Brian Bjorgo

The following list of sports stamps has been reported in *Linn's* and *Scott's Monthly Journal* between February and June 1995. If any errors or omissions are noted, please contact the editor of this column.

Malagasy: 21 December 1994, Atlanta 1996 Summer OG. 640f, 1000f, 1500f, 3000f; 7500f s/s: sports at Atlanta's facilities.

1994, Lillehammer 1994 WOG Winners. Silver overprints on stamps and s/s issued 13 December.

Mali: 1994, Centenary of IOC. 225f, 240f, 300f, 500f, 600f s/s: portraits of Pierre de Coubertin. #682-6.

Mexico: 27 July 1994, 12th Mexico City Marathon. 1.30p, runner.

29 September 1994, IOC Cent. 2p, Olympic rings. #1890.

Moldova: 29 August 1994, Centenary of IOC. 60b, Pierre de Coubertin; 1.50 lei, IOC emblem.

Monaco: 8 April 1995, Inter. Special Olympics. 3.00f, emblem.

Nauru: 8 September 1994, Commonwealth Games. \$1.50, weightlifting. #410.

New Zealand: 22 March 1995, Golf. 45c, 80c, \$1.20, \$1.80: golfers on various courses. #1255-8.

Nicaragua: 1995, Korean Baseball Championships. 8 m/s of nine 3.50Cs stamps.

Pakistan: 31 December 1994, Pakistan Wins World Cup Field Hockey championship. 5r, four trophies from previous championships. #825.

Papua New Guinea: 11 January 1995, Tourism. Se-tenant stamps: 65c hiking and rafting; 1k scuba diving. #857-9.

Peru: 20 March 1995, World Cup. 60c, player; \$4.80, mascot.

Poland: 5 September 1994, Centenary of IOC. 4000zl, Olympic rings and goddess Nike. #3210.

St. Vincent-Grenadines: 22 March 1995, Juventus Football Club. Eleven \$1 stamps, various players; \$6 s/s, trophies.

San Marino: 10 February 1995, Sporting Events. 100 L, cycling; 500 L, volleyball; 650 L, male speed skater; 850 L, World Athletic Championships in Goteborg, Sweden. #1319-22.

Saudi Arabia: 1994, World Cup Soccer. 75h, soccer player; 150h, player and maps of Saudi Arabia and USA.

Senegal: 1994, IOC Cent. 175f, 215f, 2275f, 290f stamps.

Sierra Leone: December 1994, Centenary of IOC/Olympic Medal Winners. Sheetlet of twelve 75Le stamps, medal winners;

two 1000Le s/s, Olympic torch runner and women's figure skating.

6 February 1995, Olympic Medal Winners. 2 m/s of twelve 200Le stamps: one pane shows winners in Summer Olympics, the other pane shows winners in WOG. 2 s/s feature women's singles figure skating winners.

Slovakia: 23 June 1994, IOC Cent. 3s, ancient Greek runner.

25 October 1994, Horse Racing 180th Anniversary in city of Mojmirovce. 2s, horses and jockey. #193.

Somalia: October 1994, World Cup Soccer. 100s, 3000s, 400s, 700s, 900s, 1200s, 1500s, 1800s, 2200s; three s/s composed of three of above stamps on each 800s (100s, 300s, 400s), 2800s (700s, 900s, 1200s), and 5500s (1500s, 1800s, 2200s).

World Wide Web Addresses

Following are a variety of World Wide Web addresses of interest to sport and Olympic collectors. The URL (universal resource locator) is printed in *italics*. The URL should be entered exactly as printed — no extra spaces should be entered; observe case of letter.

SPI: *<http://www.infopost.com/philately/index.html>*

American Philatelic Society:

<http://www.west.net/~stamps1/apshows.html>

Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games

<http://www.atlanta.olympic.org>

Croquet in Canada:

<http://www.wimsey.com/~dms/Croquet.html>

Designs By Margarita (Olympic & sports pins):

<http://www.infopost.com/margarita.html>

Nagano Olympic Organizing Committee:

<http://www.linc.or.jp/Nagano/index.html>

NationsBank (an Olympic sponsor):

<http://www.nationsbank.com/olympic.html>

Olympic Page (unofficial):

<http://www.intadv.com/olympic.html>

Pacific '97 International Philatelic Exhibition:

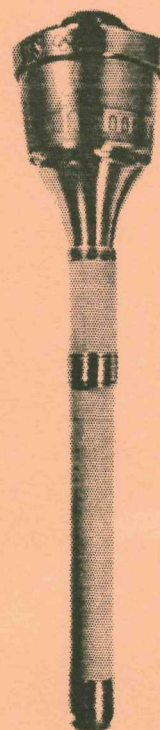
<http://www.west.net/~stamps1/pacfic1.html>

Philatelic Resources by Joe Luft:

<http://www.execpc.com/~joeluft>

United States Postal Service:

<http://www.usps.gov>



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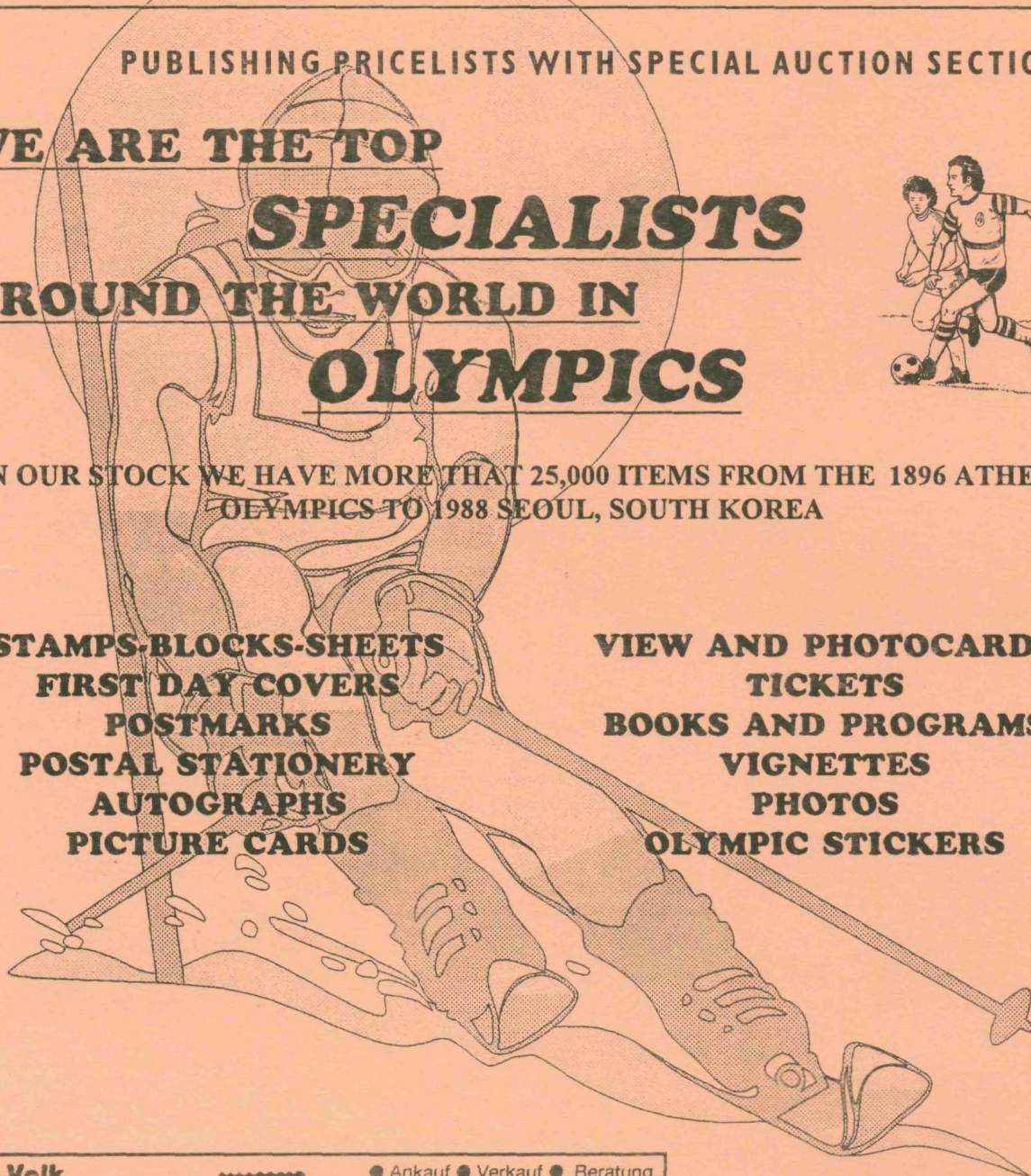
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