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# JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

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JULY-AUGUST 1996

NUMBER 6

**Let The Games  
Begin!**





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Sports Philatelists International is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to the study and collecting of postage stamps and related collateral material dealing with sports (including Olympics) and recreation and to the promotion of international understanding and goodwill through mutual interest in philately and sports. Its activities are planned and carried on entirely by the unpaid, volunteer services of its members.

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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by Mark Maestroni

## Welcome To Olympilex 96 and the Centennial Olympic Games

Once again, athletes from around the world have gathered at the site of this quadrennium's Olympic Games. For 17 days, the best sportsmen and women in the world will strive to run swifter, soar higher, and be stronger than their fellow competitors.

For 40 years, philatelists, too, have contributed to the success of the Games. Beginning at the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne, Australia, displays of Olympic and sport stamp collections have awed visitors to the Games. In 1988, at Seoul, Korea, the Olympilex exhibition was transformed into a competitive fine arts event. Entries competed for medals as determined by a renowned panel of judges expert in the field of Olympic and sports philately.

1996 is not only the centennial of the first modern Olympic Games — we also celebrate one hundred years of Olympic stamps. Philately is thus one of the best means of tracing the history of the Olympic Games and the Olympic Movement.

For those who are able to attend this year's Games, we hope you will take time out of your busy schedule to visit the Olympilex 96 and view the world class exhibits on display. To learn more about philately, stop by the Savvy Stamp Center. With some 90 postal administrations in attendance, I'm

sure you will also find some wonderful souvenirs of the Games. Most of all, though, have fun. Sports Philatelists International hopes your experience at the Centennial Olympic Games and Olympilex 96 is both an enjoyable and rewarding one.

Certainly, for one reason or another, most of our members will be viewing the Olympics from the best seats in the house — that comfortable armchair in front of your television. But, there's no reason to miss out on the philatelic material. Beginning on page two of this issue of the journal is a review of the U.S. Postal Service's plans for Atlanta during the Games. While it is unfortunate that there will not be venue sports cancels, many theme cancels from Olympilex will be available by mail order. So, prepare those covers, then sit back and enjoy the Games!

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Before closing this final President's Message of the membership year, I have the sad duty to notify our members that P.J. Drossos of Greece (Member #354) passed away on May 10 at the age of 97. His son wrote that his father had been "working at his office up to two days prior to his death."

Let us hope that we all live such a long and productive life.

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

# U.S. Postal Service Plans At The 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games

by Mark Maestrone

The following information regarding the philatelic program and other logistical operations relating to the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta has been provided by the Atlanta district of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). Details are current as of the time we went to press with this issue of the *Journal of Sports Philately* (June 14).

By agreement with the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG), the visibility of the USPS is strictly limited during the Olympic Games. The restrictions upon the USPS include:

- ❖ No USPS postal facility, table, or drop boxes at any Olympic venue or immediately outside its gates (with the exception of Olympihlex 96).
- ❖ No USPS postal facilities at the Olympic Village, Press Center, Broadcast Center, or any other Olympic administrative office.
- ❖ No use of registered Olympic devices including the word "Olympic," the Olympic Rings, etc.
- ❖ No cancels for individual sports/venues.
- ❖ No special registration labels, meter tapes or other slogan cancels bearing Olympic devices.

## USPS CANCEL PROGRAM

### *Skyline Cancel*

The USPS is offering one Olympic-related pictorial postmark for use during the Games. This is a generic cancel which means that no sport will be depicted. The design of the cancel includes the skyline of Atlanta and the dates during which the Olympic Games will take place: July 19-August 4.

Interestingly, the Skyline cancel does not incorporate a changeable date mechanism, therefore

collectors will not be able to specify a particular date. This type of cancel would normally be considered a cachet. However, the USPS assures me that while there is no date in the cancel, it is being recognized by the USPS as a valid postmark. Table 1 lists the four postal facilities that will offer the Skyline Cancel on a hand-back basis. No station numbers or other text are included in the design. In other words, it will not be possible to identify the location where the cancel was applied unless some other postal marking (a circular date stamp) or element (a meter imprint) is present. The Skyline Cancel is also available by mail (see ordering instructions below).

### *Olympihlex 96 Theme Day Cancels*

As noted in Table 1, the previously mentioned Skyline Cancel will be available at Olympihlex. In addition, daily Theme Day Cancels corresponding to each day's special theme are expected to be offered.

**Table 1: Skyline Cancel Post Offices**

Station Address	Nearest Venue(s)
Central City Station* 183 Forsyth St. SW 30302	Within ½ mile of the Omni, Georgia Dome & World Congress Ctr.
Perimeter Center Sta.* 4400 Ashford- Dunwoody Road 31146	No venues nearby
Sandy Springs Station* 6094 Boylston Dr. NE 30328	No venues nearby
Olympihlex 96 Station** Merchandise Mart 240 Peachtree Street 30343	ACOG Headquarters

\* Full service postal facility

\*\* Stamp sales and hand-back cancels, only.



Please see page 26 of the May-June 1996 issue of the *Journal of Sports Philately* for a list of the theme days. Each different cancel will be used only one day.

The Theme Day Cancels are only available at Olympihlex or by mail. Collectors may deposit covers and cards to be postmarked with Theme Day Cancels in drop boxes at the Olympihlex Exhibition.

### *Slogan Machine Cancels*

On May 1, 1996, the USPS began using special slogan machine cancels in its automated facer canceler machines at its two processing and distribution plants in Atlanta and one in Athens, Georgia.

Norman Jacobs describes the Atlanta machine cancels in his "1996 Atlanta Olympic Games" column elsewhere in this issue. The cancel features a phoenix and the text "ATLANTA / Come Celebrate Our Dream." The USPS selected this design to avoid registered Olympic symbols and words which it is not authorized to use.

Identical versions are being used in all facer canceler machines at the Atlanta Processing and Distribution Center on Crown Road as well as at the North Metro Center in Duluth, Georgia. These will be in use through August.

The slogan machine cancel being used at the Athens, Georgia processing plant is text-only reading "ATHENS / GEORGIA, USA / Discover A Classic!"

### *Cancel Ordering Instructions*

Mail requests for both the Skyline Cancel and Theme Day Cancels may be made by sending stamped, addressed covers or cards to:

*Postmaster  
Special Olympic Cancellation Unit  
257 Lawrence Street  
Marietta, GA 30060-9998 U.S.A.*

Each envelope or postcard *must* be franked with the correct minimum first class U.S. postage for the item's destination. Please see Table 2 for rate information. Indicate clearly which cancel is desired: either the generic Skyline Cancel or a specific Theme Day Cancel.

As with all U.S. pictorial cancels, requests must be postmarked no later than 30 days following the date of the requested cancel.



*Designs for the Atlanta slogan machine cancel (top) and the slogan being used in Athens, Georgia (bottom).*

### POSTAL FACILITIES IN ATLANTA

The three regular postal facilities in Atlanta offering the Skyline Cancel on a hand-back basis are full service facilities. This means that registration, insurance, package mailing, etc. are available. The postal unit at Olympihlex 96 offers only stamps and merchandise for purchase along with hand-back servicing of the Skyline Cancel and all Olympihlex Theme Day Cancels. *Registration, meters, and other special services are not available here.*

Many other Atlanta-area postal facilities, including postal stores and mobile post offices, will have the Olympic stamps for sale along with other USPS non-Olympic mementos.

Besides the sheet of 20 Olympic stamps and the 32¢ Discobulus stamp, collectors may wish to obtain the "booklet" of Olympic postcards which reproduce the Olympic stamps. There may also be a special cacheted USPS Olympic cover available. The controversial USPS T-shirts depicting the Olympic stamps are no longer being sold by the USPS. These may be purchased at various officially-licensed ACOG outlets in and around Atlanta.

For a change of pace, consider using the special 32¢ Paralympic postal stationery envelope bearing the logo of the Paralympic Games, which will take place in and around Atlanta immediately following the Olympic Games.

### MAIL TO OLYMPIC FACILITIES

In its agreement with ACOG, the USPS will process incoming mail for all members of the Olympic Family (athletes, coaches, press, broadcast media, etc.). Once sorted by unique four-digit Zip Code extensions, the mail is bundled and turned



over to ACOG officials for delivery and distribution. ACOG was provided a complete list of the unique USPS-assigned four-digit codes. It is likely that they, in turn, informed all Olympic Family members of their respective codes to enable proper delivery of mail during the Games.

Incoming mail without a four-digit extension will be hand-sorted. Presumably, if sufficient information is not provided in the address for identification of the individual's location, the mail will either be turned over to ACOG to be sorted by them, or returned to sender.

### ***Olympic Village at Georgia Institute of Technology***

Each national team has its own four-digit code (indicated by the four "x's" in the following address). Mail to individuals at the Olympic Village is to be addressed as follows:

*[Athlete's Name]  
[Athlete's Nation]  
Olympic Village  
1996 Olympic Avenue  
Atlanta, GA 31190-xxxx U.S.A.*

Mail requiring a signature (e.g., registered mail, insured mail, express mail, etc.) will be signed for by the Chief of Mission of the addressee's country. This means that the USPS is absolved of any further responsibility for the mail once it is turned over to ACOG.

**Be Aware!** Mail sent *poste restante* to fictitious individuals at any Olympic facility (e.g., Olympic Village, Press Center, Broadcast Center, etc.) may not be returned. Since the USPS has no control over what happens to this mail once it is turned over to ACOG, it is very likely that your mail will be "conveniently lost." Even registered mail carries no guarantee of being returned after it is signed for by ACOG.

Since no USPS postal facilities will be available within the village, athletes desiring to mail postal matter must go to one of the public USPS postal facilities around Atlanta. There is a contract post office on the grounds of the Georgia Institute of Technology where the Olympic Village is located. ACOG appears to have made no arrangements to use this contract station to service the Olympic Village. It is not clear whether the station is located

within the confines of the Olympic Village, or if it will be operational to the public during the Games.

### ***Media Centers***

Mail to accredited members of the broadcast media should be addressed as below. A pre-assigned four-digit code must be included:

*[Addressee's Name]  
[Affiliate] (for example "NBC News")  
1996 Broadcast Center Blvd.  
Atlanta, GA 31165-xxxx U.S.A.*

Mail to the Press Center will be sorted into 12 four-digit categories. The largest media delegations, for example from the U.S. and Japan, will have their own four-digit codes. The address for accredited members of the press is:

*[Addressee's Name]  
[Delegation] (for example "USA")  
1996 Press Center Blvd.  
Atlanta, GA 31180-xxxx U.S.A.*

Table 2: U.S. Postage Rates		
Mail Class	Destination	Rate
Postcard (maximum size 4-1/4" x 6")	United States	20¢
"	Canada <sup>(1)</sup>	40¢
"	Mexico <sup>(2)</sup>	35¢
"	All others <sup>(2)</sup>	50¢
Letter: up to 1 ounce	United States	32¢
Letter: up to 1/2 ounce over 1/2 to 1 ounce	Canada <sup>(1)</sup>	46¢ 52¢
Letter: up to 1/2 ounce over 1/2 to 1 ounce	Mexico <sup>(2)</sup>	40¢ 46¢
Letter: up to 1/2 ounce over 1/2 to 1 ounce	All others <sup>(2)</sup>	60¢ \$1.00
Certified Mail Fee	U.S. Only <sup>(3)</sup>	\$1.10
Registered Mail Fee	All countries <sup>(3)</sup>	\$4.85

(1) Via airmail in U.S.; via surface mail in Canada.

(2) Via airmail.

(3) Postage must be added to certified mail or registration fee.



# The 1996 Olympic Torch Is On Its Way



by Thomas Lippert

*[Editor's Note: the following article appeared simultaneously in the most recent issue of Torch Bearer. Additional information and illustrations have been added to this version. Variations in text result from different styles in editing the original manuscript.]*

**T**he Greek National Day, celebrated on March 25 according to the Julian (Greek) Calendar used in former times, coincided with the opening day of the Games of the First Modern Olympiad held in 1896 in Athens, Greece. By the modern Gregorian Calendar, the date was April 6. It is therefore fitting that the centennial celebration, including the international philatelic exhibition "Athens 1896-1996," spanned these two dates. This exhibition of outstanding sport and Olympic philatelic exhibits opened on March 25 at the Zappeion Hall in Athens, continuing through April 6.

The selection of the Zappeion Hall as the venue was symbolically important as well. Evangelos Zappas, a renowned Greek philanthropist of his day, commissioned the famous hall. Unfortunately, he died before its inauguration in 1888. Like Zappas, many wealthy Greeks of the 19th century attempted

to resurrect the Olympic Games. Their activities led to the founding of the "Committee for Olympia," founded by royal decree in 1858, and eventually the national Olympiads of 1859, 1870, 1875, and 1888-1889.

At the Olympic Games of 1896, the Zappeion Hall was the competition site for the fencing events. It is known as a precursor to today's Olympic Village, serving in a similar capacity at the 1906 Intercalated Olympic Games at Athens.

The Zappeion Hall was philatelically important for it was only one of three venues at which special Olympic cancellations were made available during the 1906 Games (Figure 1).

The Athens 1896-1996 exhibition comprised material of highest quality from Olympic and sports collectors around the world. A rich variety of philatelic studies of specific Olympic Games, disciplines, regional sports competitions, and sports histories of individual countries contributed to the overall diver-

sity of this exhibition. Because FIPO (International Federation of Olympic Philately) was the patron, rather than FIP (International Federation of Philately), the scope of exhibits permitted entry was much wider. This allowed visitors an excellent opportunity to see exhibits that were still in the development



Figure 1. 1906 Olympic cancel used at the Zappeion Hall.





Figure 2. The Greek postal administration issued three sheetlets of stamps to commemorate the centennial of the 1896 Olympic Games that took place in Athens. Of the 250,000 sets issued, 50,000 were reserved for these official first day covers. This cachet depicts the ruins at Ancient Olympia with an inset portrait of D. Vikelas who was instrumental in bringing the first Olympic Games of the modern era to Athens.

phase. The 1250 square meter exhibit space (roughly 13,500 square feet) was quite sufficient for the display of the 120 entries from 26 countries.

The philatelic awards went to a broad assortment of exhibits. First, though, my congratulations to our *Journal of Sports Philately* for winning a large silver medal and special prize in the Literature Class.

The Grand Prix and only large gold medal went to Finnish collector Ossi Virtanen for his exhibit "The Olympic Movement 1894-1995." The title is somewhat deceiving, for it infers a lack of specialization. However, after viewing the excellent pieces spanning this period of the Games, the awards were well deserved. Congratulations to our fellow SPI member in Finland!

Dieter Germann of Germany, another SPI fellow and chairman of our sister society IMOS, won a gold medal. His well-known exhibit, "Olympic Games in Germany," was further honored by a special prize.

Last, but not least, Morris Rosen of the U.S. received a large vermeil medal for his exhibit entitled "Olympic Games 1896-1932."

From South Korea we viewed Lee Jong-Koo's collection on the Seoul Olympics of 1988 – *thematically* presented. This is one of the rare instances when an exhibit on a single Olympic Games from very recent times received an excellent evaluation (large vermeil medal plus a special prize). To reach this level, Lee examined the pre-Olympic history of these Games, documenting it with different varieties of the early Korean Olympic issues. The bulk of the exhibit, however, consisted of modern material.

Olympic aerophilately was represented by two exhibits. A vermeil medal was awarded to Jacek Kosmala of Poland. His presentation included nine covers from different countries mailed to Germany for the 1936 Olympic Zeppelin flight.

The Court of Honor displayed some remarkable pieces, especially from the earlier period of the Olympic Games.

Athens 1896-1996 took an interesting step by including exhibits of non-philatelic documents, primarily from the Games of 1896 and 1906.

Philatelists will certainly want to obtain a copy of the show catalog with its fine studies on the Greek Olympic issues of 1896 and 1906.





Figure 3. Each of the three sheetlets reproduces stamps from the set created for the 1896 Athens Olympic Games. The cachet on this official Greek post office cover illustrates the Panathenaic Stadium. The image of George Averoff, a wealthy Greek merchant who financed the renovation of the stadium, appears at upper left.

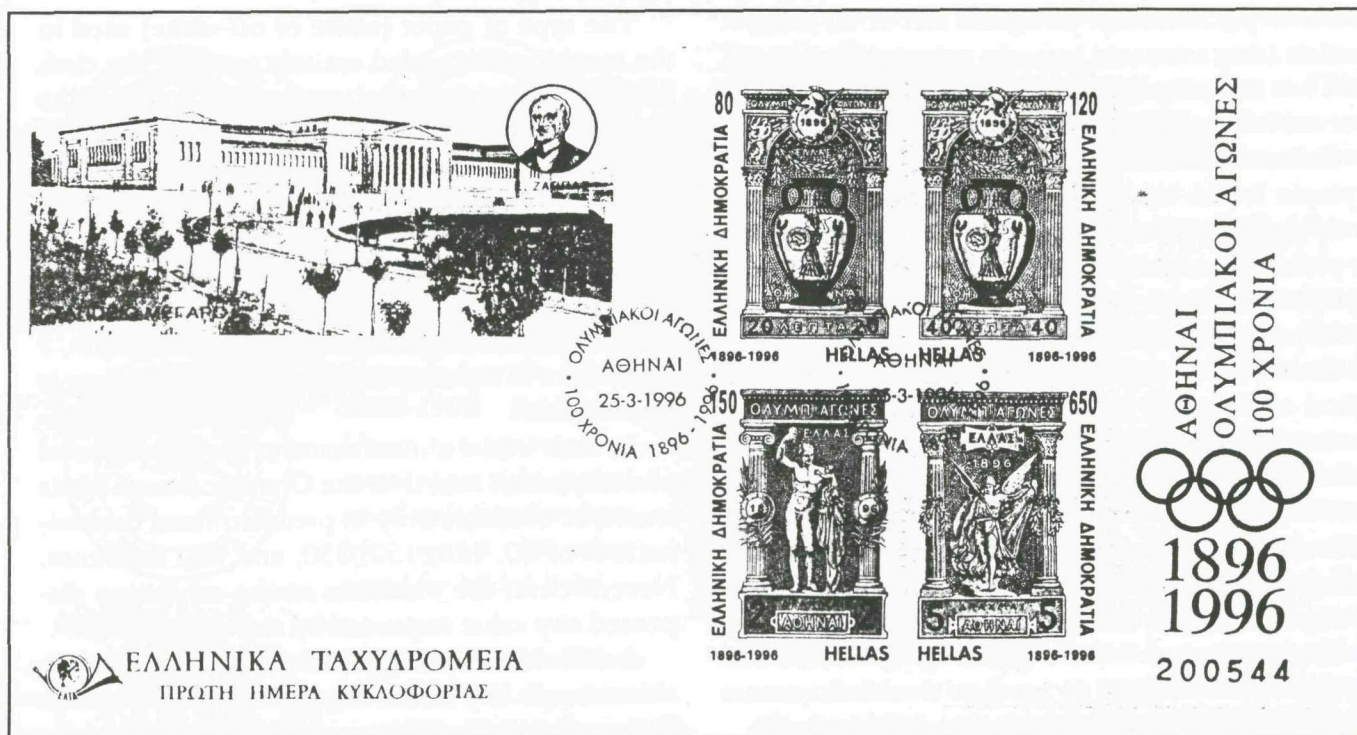


Figure 4. The final sheetlet of four stamps appears on this first day cover with a cachet showing the Zappeion Hall and its founder, E. Zappas. The cancel is dated March 25, 1996, precisely 100 years following the opening of the First Modern Olympic Games in Athens.



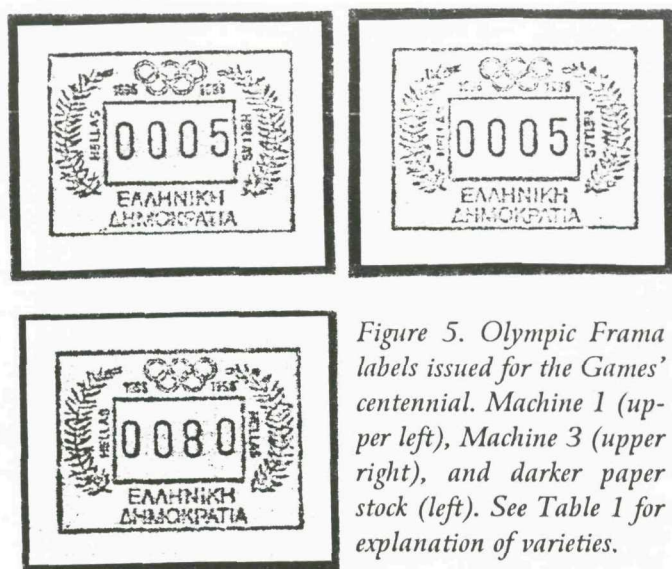


Figure 5. Olympic Frama labels issued for the Games' centennial. Machine 1 (upper left), Machine 3 (upper right), and darker paper stock (left). See Table 1 for explanation of varieties.

Hellenic Post (the Greek postal administration), one of the sponsors of the exhibition, did not disappoint the philatelic tourist. They decided to issue reprints (stamps-on-stamps) of all twelve 1896 Olympic Games stamps. Three sheetlets were designed with four different stamps per sheet. The values of the stamps on each sheetlet were 80, 120, 150 and 650 drachmas (a total face value of 1,000 drachmas per sheetlet). Complete sets of all three sheetlets (they were sold in packs containing one of each) was limited to 250,000. Of these, 50,000 were reserved for use on first day covers (Figures 2-4).

Collectors were also greeted by a nice surprise: Olympic Frama labels (Figure 5)! Greece has recently produced a number of these thematic labels for philatelic exhibitions. Printed in red were the Olympic rings at top and a value tablet flanked by laurel or olive branches. Adjacent to the rings are the dates 1896 and 1996 (practically illegible, as is typical of the older type Frama machines). These were available in three machines at the Zappeion Hall. Two of the machines were coin-operated and accessible to the general public. The third was at the philatelic counter and was used exclusively by the staff for large volume purchases of a single face value.

During the exhibition, at least two different paper stocks were used to produce the labels: one white, and the other slightly darker. When placed side-by-side, the difference is apparent. Labels produced by each machine are easily distinguished by flaws in the cliché or positioning of the inked image on the label (please refer to Table 1).

TABLE 1: FRAMA LABEL MACHINES

	Machine 1	Machine 2	Machine 3
Operator	Public	Public	Staff
Payment	Coins	Coins	—
Cliche	Broken left frame; ink patch by Δ	—	—
Distance: right frame to edge	4 mm	3.5 mm	4 mm

Occasionally, small patches of red ink appear at different places on the Frama labels. However, these cannot be considered legitimate varieties. The machines tend to deposit these patches of ink on the first few stamps produced following a period of inactivity. The identifying marks described for labels dispensed from Machine 1 are, however, consistently repetitive.

The type of paper (white or off-white) used in the machines depended entirely on what the clerk filling the machines had on hand. Typically, the white paper was used during the exhibition. The off-white paper did appear at one time or another in all three machines. A note to specialists: off-white paper was used in all the non-Olympic Frama machines I tested in both Athens and Piraeus. Assuming no large orders of Olympic Frama labels were generated following the close of the exhibition, I would have to say that the off-white paper variety is less common.

In their initial announcement, the Greek postal administration said that the Olympic Frama labels would be available only in predetermined denominations of 80, 120, 150, 350, and 400 drachmas. Nevertheless, the machines at the exhibition dispensed any value requested by the user.

A different commemorative postmark was available on each day at the Zappeion Hall post office. The cancels primarily commemorated the winners of each nation that participated at the 1896 Olympics. Table 2 outlines the subject of each day's postmark. Figure 6 shows the typical design of the cancels. The opening day cancel varied slightly.



**TABLE 2: EXHIBITION POSTMARKS**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Postmark Subject</i>
March 25	Opening Day
March 26	Demetrios Vikelos Day
March 27	Pierre de Coubertin Day
March 28	Winners of the U.S.A.
March 29	Winners of Greece
March 30	Winners of Germany
March 31	Winners of France
April 1	Winners of England
April 2	Winners of Austria
April 3	Winners of Hungary
April 4	Winners of Australia
April 5	Winners of Denmark
April 6	Winners of Switzerland

Philately was not the only pursuit on the schedule during the exhibition dates. A special charter flight took the invited exhibitors from Athens to a military airport near Ancient Olympia for ceremonies accompanying the lighting of the Olympic torch on March 30. This was one of many special events that our Greek hosts arranged for us. I doubt that anyone will forget this trip!

Thousands of people were present at Ancient Olympia for the ceremonies. The solemn occasion began when priestesses (actresses dressed in ancient Greek garments) asked the god Apollo to send down the sun's rays to ignite the torch. The torch was lit from the heat of the sun reflecting off a mirror. On the day of the ceremony, the sun shone brightly. However, the organizers were not so fortunate the previous day when a "dress rehearsal" was conducted for the press. Because the sun was missing, a lighter had to do the job!

Costos Koukodimos, a Greek long jumper, was the first runner to carry the torch. (Koukodimos placed sixth in the long jump at the 1995 World Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden.) From Ancient Olympia, the torch relay wound its way through the Greek countryside to Athens. The eight-day trip took the torch through Kalamata, Tegea, Corinth, Patras, Delphi, Vergina, and Thessaloniki.

Among the torch bearers was a member of SPI, Victor Polizos. As Victor has also been chosen to help run the torch in the U.S., he will be one of a select few to carry it twice!

*[For more information on the torch relay, see the following article by Franceska Rapkin.]*

I met the Olympic torch on April 6 at the Panathenaic Stadium in Athens, site of the 1896 Olympic Games. Quite a celebration was planned for the flame's arrival.

The festival began with sportsmen from the countries that had participated in the first Games competing in events that were conducted in 1896. The results were not terribly remarkable due to the cold weather that day. At times, the climatic conditions duplicated those during the original competition a century ago. Imagine, discus throwing without any shelter.

The athletic competition concluded with the awarding of medals (silver for the winner, bronze for the runner-up, just as in 1896) and laurel or olive wreaths by the Greek president and Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the IOC.



*Figure 6. Examples of postmarks from the Athens 1896-1996 Exhibition. Upper left, opening day cancel; upper right, typical cancel style for other days; left, special Marathon cancel for Michel Bréal.*

An additional cancel was used on 29 March honoring Michel Bréal of France and Spyridon Louis of Greece. Bréal proposed the integration of the Marathon race into the program of the First Olympic Games. Louis was the winner of the Marathon. This postmark was used not at the exhibition in Athens, but at Marathon, of course!



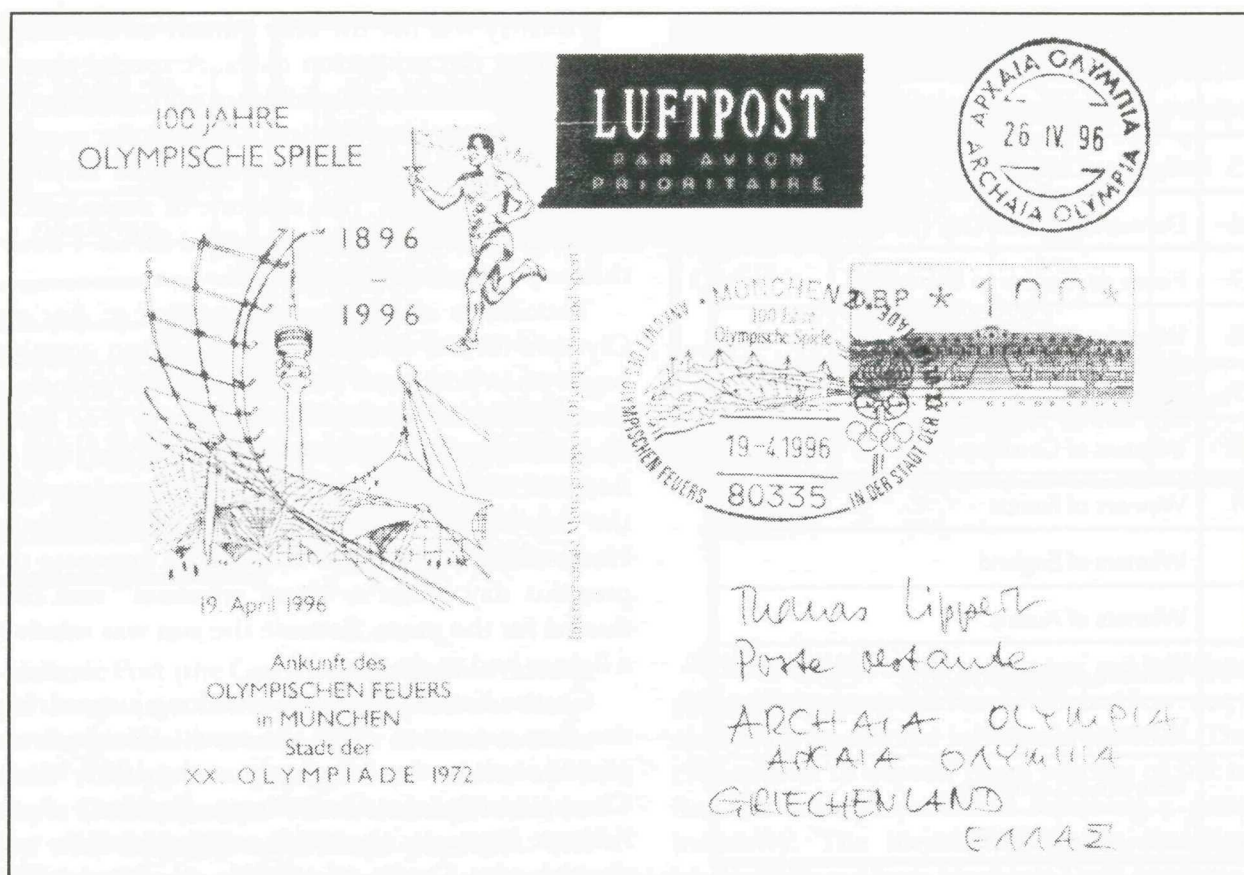


Figure 7. Munich greeted the arrival of the "courtesy" torch lit in Athens with a postmark on April 19 reproducing the Olympic Park constructed for its Games in 1972. The cover subsequently traveled to Ancient Olympia where it received a cancel on April 26, thereby linking the ancient and modern Games.

This portion of the day's events ended none too soon. Hardly had the winners of the athletic events taken their victory lap around the stadium track when the Olympic torch arrived.

Obviously to celebrate the centennial of the Olympic Games, it was decided that a symbolic international torch relay would take place in the stadium. Famous athletes from all around the world helped light additional torches to be given to each of the past Olympic host cities. These were turned over to either the mayors of those cities who were present, or representatives of their national Olympic committees.

German National Olympic Committee president Tröger received both flames destined for the Olympic host cities of Berlin (1936) and Munich (1972). He carried both flames on board the home bound Lufthansa flight, burning his hands in the process. Only the quick reflexes of an airline flight attendant prevented the flames from falling. The first Olympic flame arrived in Berlin on April 15. The second flame traveled to Munich, arriving on April 19

(Figures 7 & 8). Did other host cities contribute to our collections with special Olympic torch postmarks?

The original Olympic flame kindled at Ancient Olympia remained in Greece for three additional weeks (were more torch postmarks available?). Delta Airlines, a worldwide sponsor of the Centennial Olympic Games, then transported the flame to Los Angeles. The Olympic Torch Relay began its journey from the Los Angeles Coliseum, the Olympic stadium for both the 1932 and 1984 Games, on April 27.

Figure 8. The Olympic "courtesy" torch for Berlin visited the Postal Museum on April 25 where a special cachet in blue was available.





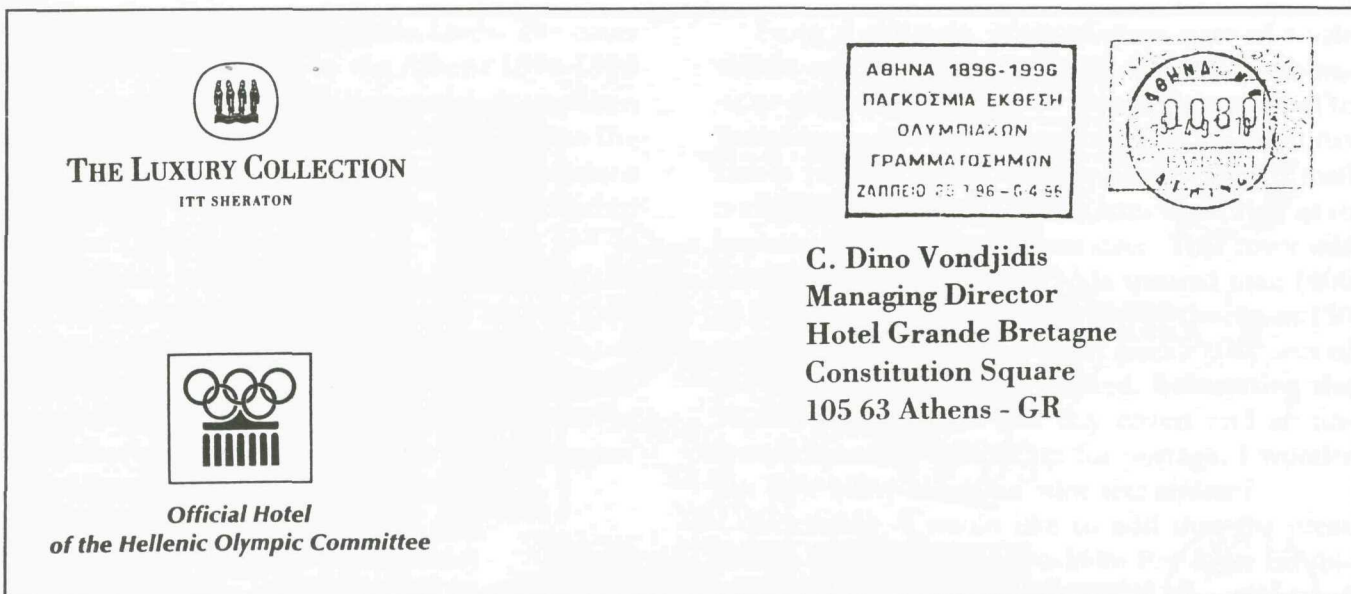


Figure 9. An unannounced slogan machine cancel noting the 100th anniversary celebrations was available at postal sorting offices in Athens, Piraeus, and Salonica. The text of this example is in Greek; an English-language version also exists.



Figure 10. A poste restante cover mailed from Germany to Greece bears the special "Spyridon Louis" slogan meter sponsored by IMOS. To register the cover and forward it to Piraeus, Greek postal regulations required only a 350 drachma fee (paid by a Frama label).

[Editor's Note: unfortunately, the U.S. Postal Service did not plan a series of torch relay cancels as it has done for past U.S. Games.]

Before concluding this review of the Athens 1896-1996 Philatelic Exhibition and the Olympic Torch Lighting Ceremony and relay, let us take a look at some interesting covers and cancels from this period.

I was surprised to discover a slogan machine cancel with an Olympic theme being used at the Athens, Piraeus, and Saloniki postal sorting offices. Hellas Post had not announced their existence as part of their general Olympic program. The cancel (Figure 9) came in both Greek and English versions.

IMOS, the German Olympic and sports collectors group, used a special meter commemorating the



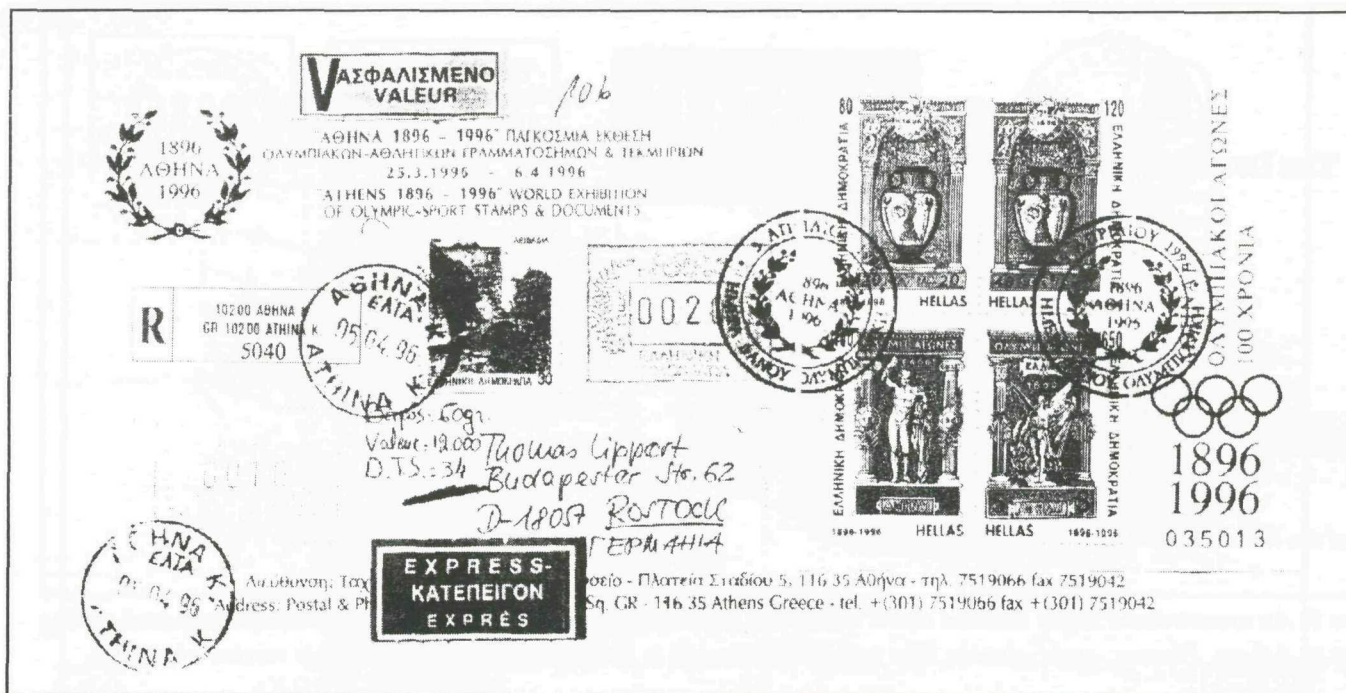


Figure 11. The high value of the sheetlets (1,000 drachmas) makes it difficult to use one in its entirety to pay a legitimate postal rate. With an additional 60 drachmas, a single sheetlet paid the correct rate for insured/express postage to Germany.



Figure 12. Use of a single 650 drachma high value stamp can be equally difficult. In this case, the rate paid for a letter to Germany insured for 10,000 drachma.




1896 Marathon winner, Spyridon Louis. The cover in Figure 10 was mailed to the Athens 1896-1996 exhibition post office (poste restante). It was then readdressed and forwarded by registered mail to the author at his hotel in Athens. The postal regulations required that only the registration fee be added to the letter (350 drachmas).

While the face value of an entire sheetlet of the new Olympic stamps was relatively high (1,000 drachmas, roughly US \$4.20), it was possible to use an entire sheet to pay a legitimate postal rate. The cover in Figure 11 was mailed from the exhibition to the author's home in Germany via insured/express mail. Here is how the rates work out:

Letter rate to Europe (up to 50 grams)	200 dr.
Express fee	400 dr.
Basic insured mail fee	400 dr.
Insurance coverage (5 dr./1000 dr. value)	<u>60 dr.</u>
Total Postage	1,060 dr.

The insured mail labels used at the exhibition were unnumbered, necessitating the use of a numbered registration label.

From a philatelic point of view, uses of single values on cover are interesting. The 80 drachmas value paid the rate for mail within Greece. Mail to Europe costs 120 drachmas, while the 180 drachmas stamp fulfilled the postage requirements for mail outside Europe. Figure 12 illustrates a solution as to how to use the 650 drachmas issue. This cover was mailed to Europe (200 dr.) via insured mail (400 dr.) with a declared value of 10,000 drachmas (50 dr.). As previously mentioned, only 250,000 sets of the three sheetlets were printed. Subtracting the 50,000 sets used on first day covers and an unknown quantity broken up for postage, I wonder just how many complete mint sets remain?

In closing, I would like to add that the great success of the Athens 1896-1996 Philatelic Exhibition was due in no small part to the efforts of Georgios Dolianitis, president of the exhibition organizing committee. He was always present to lend assistance, even inviting many of the Olympic fans into his Olympic library. I am sure that all the exhibitors thank him and his colleagues for their help and generosity, and for seeing to it that all who visited had a pleasant stay. 

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*Figure 1. A priestess deposits the Olympic flame into a container using the torch she has just lit from the sun's rays.*

## The 1996 Olympic Torch Relay: From Ancient Olympia to Athens

by Franceska Rapkin

**O**n March 30, 1996, the Olympic Torch Relay began its long journey to Atlanta, Georgia, when the flame was lit by the rays of the Greek sun in the ancient stadium at Olympia. This is the fourteenth occasion that there has been a torch relay connecting the site of the games of antiquity with a modern stadium for the Summer Games.

Although a torch relay was not part of the ancient Olympic Games, various fire ceremonies were integral elements of many Greek pagan festivals. At

Olympia, the winner of the one stade race (approximately 100 yards), the most prestigious race of all, was invited to light the flame that marked the end of the quadrennial Games. For the ancient Greeks, fire represented Light, Truth, Purity and Knowledge. A temple at Ancient Olympia was dedicated to Hestia, the goddess of the hearth, where priestesses were responsible for keeping the sacred flame alight at all times. The flame symbolized the chain of life and death and the succession of generations who transferred the spiritual light.

In 1896, when Athens hosted the First Modern Olympic Games, the Hellenic Olympic Committee



organized a torchlight procession through the main thoroughfares of the city. At both the 1928 Games at Amsterdam and the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics, a flame burned in a specially prepared brazier at the stadium.

However, the modern torch relay was the brainchild of Carl Diem, a German sports educator and Secretary General of the Organizing Committee for the XIth Olympic Games at Berlin in 1936. During the International Olympic Committee's 1934 Session at Vienna, he suggested a relay connecting the two stadia. Those present voted overwhelmingly in favor of the suggestion.

Ever since that first relay, when the flame was lit by the sun's rays with a giant magnifying glass specially produced by the Karl Zeiss Company in Jena, Germany, the torch relay has become a part of Olympic tradition. In 1936, each country through which the torch passed supplied her own athletes. A runner covered one kilometer before handing the flame over to the next torch bearer. The torches were made by the Krupp Works in Essen, and

became the property of the runner in commemoration of his participation. In all, 3,075 runners were needed in that first relay to cover the distance from Olympia to Berlin.

At every Summer Games, and more recently at every Winter Games, the torch relay begins with the lighting of the flame at the Temple of Hera in the ancient sanctuary of Olympia. After a cold and fairly dull month, March 30 dawned with bright blue skies and sunshine. It was truly the first day of spring and one sent by the gods. Some 20,000 people gathered at the ancient stadium, for the most part standing on the grass banks on either side of the track. Only the privileged few had seats on the arena floor.

In contrast to the razzmatazz that will accompany the torch on its journey across the United States, the ceremony at Olympia was simple and moving, lasting less than an hour. Hillary Rodham Clinton, wife of U.S. President Bill Clinton, as well as William Porter Payne, President of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, were among



*Figure 2. A dove is released at the conclusion of the lighting ceremony to "spread the news" of the upcoming Olympics.*





Figure 3. A series of nine cancellations traces the route of the Olympic Torch Relay across Greece.

those who spoke before the lighting ceremony. The Olympic flag, followed by those of the United States and Greece, were raised. The national anthems of both countries were then played. After the speeches, a small group of dignitaries proceeded through the stadium arch into the sanctuary of Olympia. Within the ruins of the Temple of Hera, the flame was lit, much as it was in 1936 (Figure 1).

The large crowd outside the sanctuary waited patiently, falling silent when they heard the drum roll indicating that the flame had been lit. A single girl in flowing white robes emerged from the sanctuary slowly beating a drum. She was followed by more girls in classical white Greek dresses, each carrying an olive branch. In their midst, a girl carried the flame in cupped hands. The container was so small that it sometimes appeared that the flame leapt magically from her palms.

A brief, yet graceful, dance followed. Then, the first of many runners to come approached, dipping his torch into the flame. Before this runner left the stadium, a white dove was released, symbolically spreading the news that the Olympic celebrations had begun (Figure 2).

There is little doubt that the Greeks remain bitter that the Centennial Olympic Games were not

awarded to Athens, despite the fact that the Greek capital was ill-prepared to host such an event. Great ceremony was made of the actual centenary of the First Modern Olympic Games a hundred years ago. A stamp and document exhibition was held at the Zappeion Hall coinciding with the exact dates of those first Games. [Please see Thomas Lippert's article for more information on the exhibition.] The events included a trip to Marathon to honor the instigator of the race, French philosopher and educator, Michel Bréal, as well as the first winner of the Marathon race, the Greek, Spyridon Louis.

Interestingly, the torch relay's procession through Greece was hardly fêted. Several sources indicated that the torch run was accompanied by little comment and even less publicity, except in those places where it stayed overnight. Even the lighting of the flame at Olympia received minimal coverage on Greek television. The torch's arrival in Athens as part of a re-enactment of the sporting events of a hundred years ago in the Panathenaic Stadium, did receive wider notice. Obtaining information about the torch's journey following its arrival in Athens on April 6 was almost impossible. It is scheduled to arrive in Los Angeles on April 27 for a torch relay across the United States. No one could



tell me for certain where the torch would be in the intervening 21 days. There were rumors that it was to tour the Greek islands.

Without stamp collectors, it is possible that there might never have been cancellations for the torch relay. A special postmark was used at the post office at Ancient Olympia commemorating the lighting of the flame. Other commemorative postmarks noted the torch's progress across the country (Figure 3). After leaving Olympia, the torch wound its way south through the Peloponnesus, arriving at Kalamata for its first overnight stop. By nightfall of the following day, the torch had reached Tegea at the center of the Peloponnesus. The third day it traveled to Nemea, another site of important games in ancient times, before continuing on to Corinth where it made its third overnight stop (Figure 4).

On Tuesday, April 2, the torch passed through Kiata, Akrata and Aegio in the northern part of the Peloponnesus. After an overnight stop at Patras, it crossed the water to the Greek mainland, coming to rest at Delphi, site of the famed Pythian Games, for the fifth night.

The end of the sixth day found the torch in Vergina. This city gained renown in the late 1970s when a professor of archeology, Manolis Andronikos, discovered many rare and valuable artifacts there. He came to the conclusion that Vergina was actually the first capital of the Kingdom of Macedonia. A series of royal tombs was unearthed, among them that of Phillip II (B.C. 359-336), father of Alexander the Great, one of the most important figures in Greek history.

On the seventh day, the torch left Vergina and continued its journey north to Salonica. The next day, April 6, the torch traveled from Salonica by either car or bus to Marathon, some 42 kilometers to the northeast of Athens. It finally ended its trip at the Panathenaic Stadium at the end of an evening of sporting events.

As in the first Games 100 years ago, there were no electronic time keepers and no starting blocks. The only concession to modern technology was a giant television screen so that the spectators could see all the events in detail. We've come a long way in the intervening century!

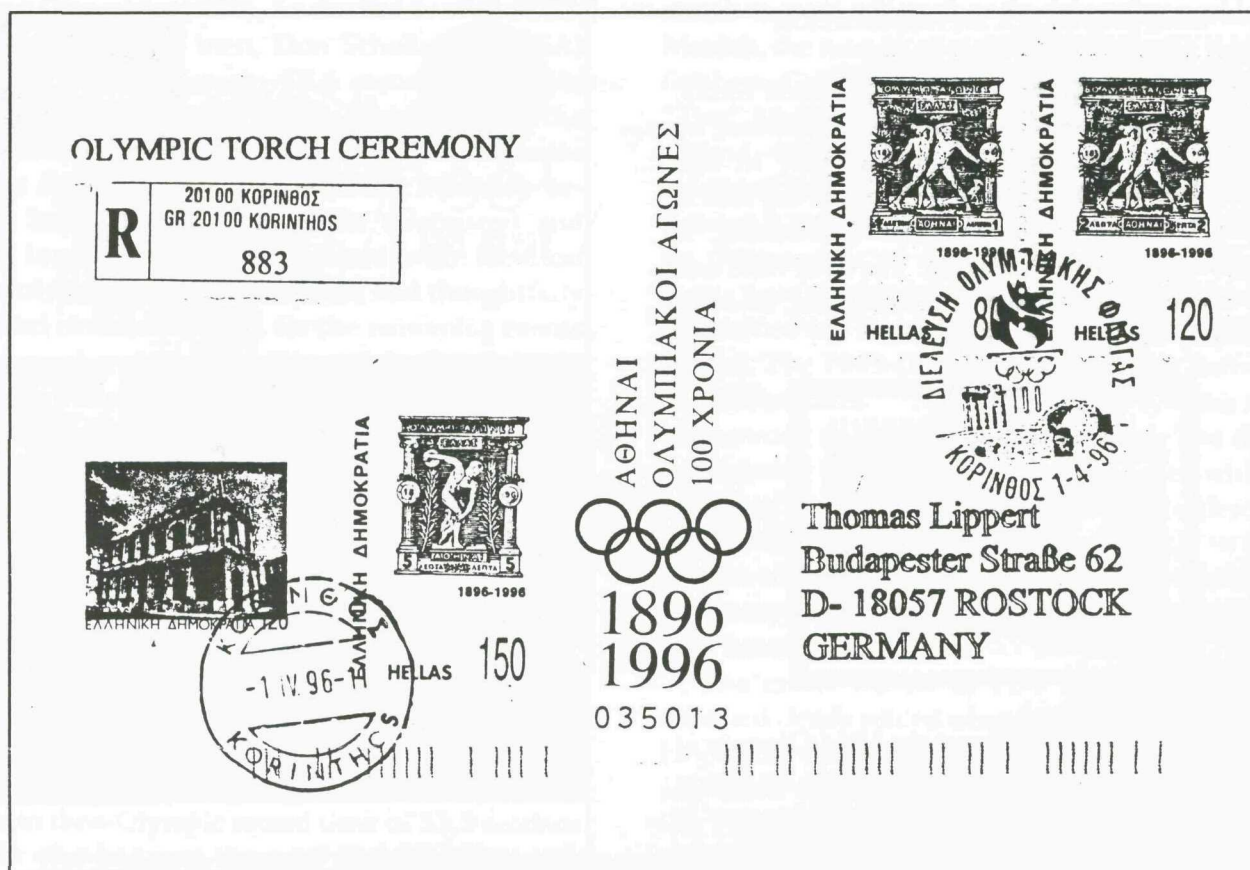


Figure 4. A registered cover from Corinth, where the Torch Relay ended its third day.



# Controversies in Competitive Swimming

by Bruce A. Tomkins

In general, competitive swimming remains a sport largely unclouded by controversy. In most cases, whatever "controversies" arise are, in fact, disagreements concerning new innovations and modifications in the individual strokes. In the overwhelming majority of cases, swimmers conduct themselves in a manner which dignifies the sport, and the fastest swimmer in a given event wins.

The long history of both competitive and Olympic swimming shows a handful of incidents involving true controversy, which probably demonstrates that "the exception proves the rule." This article will focus on four controversies which have arisen in swimming during the last fifty years.

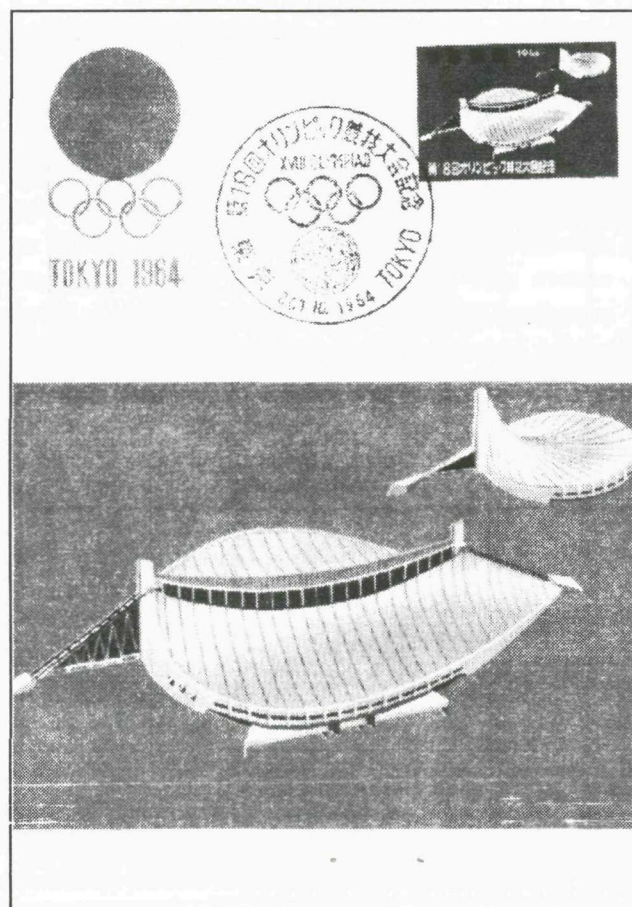
## TIME AND PLACE DETERMINATION

When Olympic swimming is televised today, viewers can always check the progress of the race by consulting the electronic timing display in one corner of the screen. Here the progress of the race is digitally recorded in hundredths (sometimes, it seems, *thousandths*) of a second. The final time and place finishes appear clear, unambiguous, and unclouded by controversy.



Figure 1. A timing controversy at the 1964 Olympics at Tokyo's National Gymnasium (right), gave the bronze medal in the men's 100-meter freestyle swimming event to Hans-Joachim Klein (Germany). Don Schollander (above) took the gold in Olympic record time [Scott 521].

Clearly, this precise determination of time and place finish was not always so. Until approximately 1972, the spring-operated "dial" watch, which could only record to tenths of a second, was the standard for timing swimming events. Twenty years later, the United States Swimming rule book still described the procedure for determining official time when a mixture of "dial" and "digital" watches was used for timing a race.<sup>1</sup> This particular section of the rule book was completely rewritten in 1993, and the "dial" watches are now illegal for the determination of official time. The 1993 rule book now reads that "... All timing systems, *including manual watches* (emphasis mine), shall have a resolution of one one-hundredth of a second (0.01 second) ..."<sup>2</sup> The widespread and accepted use of timing equipment





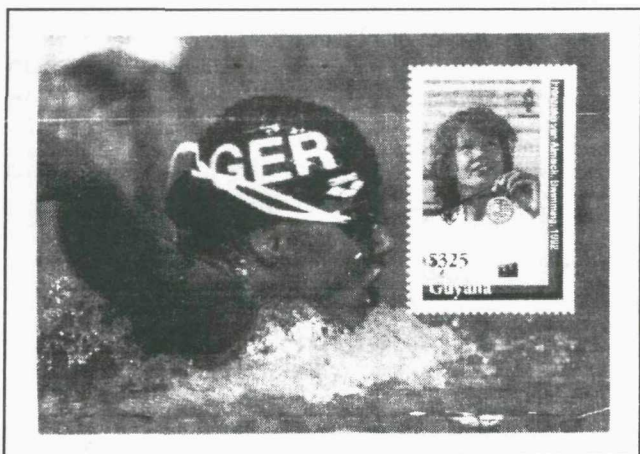


Figure 2. German swimming star, Franziska van Almsick, played the odds at the 1994 World Swimming Championships and almost lost. While her time in the preliminaries did not qualify her for the finals of the 200-meter freestyle, she advanced when a teammate was “bribed” to abandon her own spot in the finals. Van Almsick won the finals in world-record time [Scott 2871].

which could distinguish finishes within 0.01 second unambiguously removed many previous controversies concerning time and place finishes.

One of these controversies occurred at the Tokyo Olympics (1964). In the finish of the 100-meter freestyle for men, Don Schollander (USA) was the clear winner in 53.4 seconds (Olympic record), with Robert McGregor (Great Britain) the silver medalist in 53.5 seconds. The problem arose in the determination of the bronze medalist, because both Hans-Joachim Klein (Germany) and Gary Inman (USA) had finished with identical times of 54.0. The Japanese hosts had thoughtfully provided electronic timers for the swimming events and, even though they were not used officially, they were consulted by the judges. It turned out that Inman and Klein had stopped the clock at the exact same hundredth of a second, but that Klein had finished one *one-thousandth* of a second sooner. After 35 minutes of consultation, the judges decided that even if the electronic timing was unofficial, it had provided sufficient cause to award the bronze medal to Klein (Figure 1).<sup>3</sup>

A similar, and even more outrageous, situation arose in the 100-meter freestyle for men which was swum at the 1960 Olympics in Rome. Here, both John Devitt (Australia) and Lance Larson (USA) swam in then-Olympic record time of 55.2 seconds — but who had won the race? Consider the available evidence:

- Three human judges were assigned the task of declaring the first-place finisher. Two voted for Devitt, one for Larson.
- An additional three human judges had the task of declaring the second-place finisher. Again, two voted for Devitt, one for Larson. That left the human judges evenly-divided; three voted for each swimmer.
- When the unofficial electronic timers were consulted, it turned out that Larson had registered 55.1 seconds to Devitt’s 55.2. That would correspond to a winning margin for Larson of about 7 inches — roughly the length of a hand.

Despite this evidence, the chief judge, who did not have any say in this matter according to the rules at the time, ordered Larson’s time changed to 55.2 and gave the decision to Devitt. Four years of protests failed to alter the result.<sup>4</sup>

The introduction of electronic timing as the official time was designed to remove discrepancies such as those discussed, but in at least one case, even more controversy resulted. When the 400-meter individual medley for men was swum in Munich, the margin of victory between the top two finishers, Gunnar Larsson (Sweden) and Alexander “Tim” McKee (USA), was *two one-thousandths* of a second, 4:31.981 to 4:31.983. In other words, the margin of victory was approximately 3 millimeters!<sup>5</sup> Because it seemed patently absurd to declare victory by thousandths of a second, the timing requirements were rewritten so that official times are never determined any closer than one-one hundredth of a second. The 1993 *United States Swimming Rules and Regulations* states “... Times from all systems shall be recorded to hundredths of a second. The digits representing thousandths shall be dropped with no rounding<sup>6</sup>.” The same source goes on to describe ties as follows: “. . . Official times identical to hundredths shall be ties, with swim-offs as required to determine qualifiers or alternates for consolation or final heats . . . ”<sup>7</sup>

The entire matter of time and place finishes appeared clearly settled when U.S. swimmers Nancy Hogshead and Carrie Steinseifer both swam the 100-meter freestyle for women in 55.92 seconds at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. Both competitors were awarded gold medals without fuss or unwanted controversy.



## FAILED STRATEGY AND CONTROVERSY AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ROME, 1994

Swimmers who compete for national and world championships frequently gamble in meets which are swum in the "preliminaries" and "finals" format.

Briefly, the swimmer tries to swim just fast enough to qualify as one of the top eight swimmers in the "preliminaries"; these competitors will vie for the championship in the "finals," which are frequently swum on the evening of the same day. The swimmers will then go "all out" for the championship in the finals. Those swimmers who do not guess correctly and who do not qualify for the finals may qualify for the "consolation finals," which consist of the next eight swimmers and are also swum in the evening session — or may not qualify for the evening session at all. Once the "championship" and "consolation" finals are swum, no competitor from the "consolation" finals may claim a championship, even if he or she posts a faster time than the eventual winner of the "championship" finals.

One competitor who played this dangerous gamble and seemingly lost was Franziska van Almsick, the German star who has had more written about her and more money spent on her in recent years than perhaps any other swimmer in history (Figure 2). Ms. van Almsick was one of many world-class swimmers who competed during the World Championships in Rome in September, 1994. She swam the preliminaries of the 200-meter freestyle for women and finished ninth with a time of 2:01.55, seemingly out of the championship heat. Yet, she competed in the championship finals of the 200-meter freestyle that evening, beating the field with a world-record time of 1:56.78. How could this be?

Two days after van Almsick's world record swim, German officials confirmed the speculation and controversy which had swirled around their star swimmer. The second German swimmer who had competed in the preliminaries of the 200-meter freestyle, Dagmar Hase, had qualified in the preliminaries for the last position in the finals, but had legally scratched her race. When the championship finals were reseeded prior to the evening session, van Almsick qualified for Hase's place in the finals. *Swimming World and Junior Swimmer* reported that Hase had been offered a hefty bribe, consisting of free flight tickets to anywhere in the world and a

two-week holiday of her choice, for stepping aside for her teammate. In addition, the German team benefitted from an extra DM50,000 (\$32,300) in the general pot of sponsorship monies.<sup>8</sup>

Has there ever been a more controversial way to qualify for a world-record swim?

## CONDUCT AND CONTROVERSY — THE DAWN FRASER STORY

Probably no single swimmer caused more controversy in her lengthy career than Dawn Fraser, the freestyle specialist and swimming star from Australia. She completely dominated the 100-meter freestyle, holding the world record for an incredible fifteen years, beginning with the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games (Figure 3). In addition, she was the silver medalist in the 400-meter freestyle at Melbourne and finished fifth in the event at the 1960 Olympics in Rome. However, her conduct away from the pool was controversial in every imaginable way.

Immediately following her victory in the 100-meter freestyle in Rome, Fraser assumed that she had the following day to herself, and spent that morning shopping and sightseeing. She returned to the Olympic Village in time for lunch and had just finished a big plate of spaghetti when Roger Pegram, the manager of the Australian swimming team, approached her and ordered her to get dressed so that she could swim the butterfly leg of the medley relay qualifying heat. Stating that she was stuff-

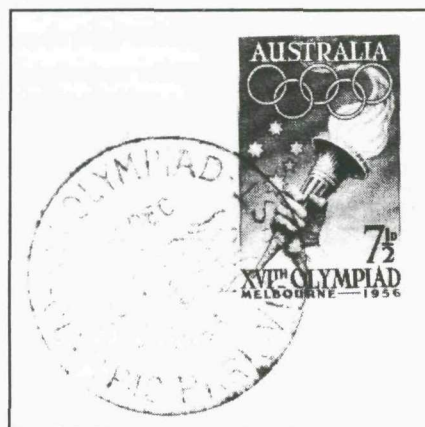


Figure 3. Dawn Frazer, one of swimming's most controversial figures, began her Olympic career at the 1956 Melbourne Games. On December 6, she and her teammates won a gold in the 4x100-meter freestyle relay.



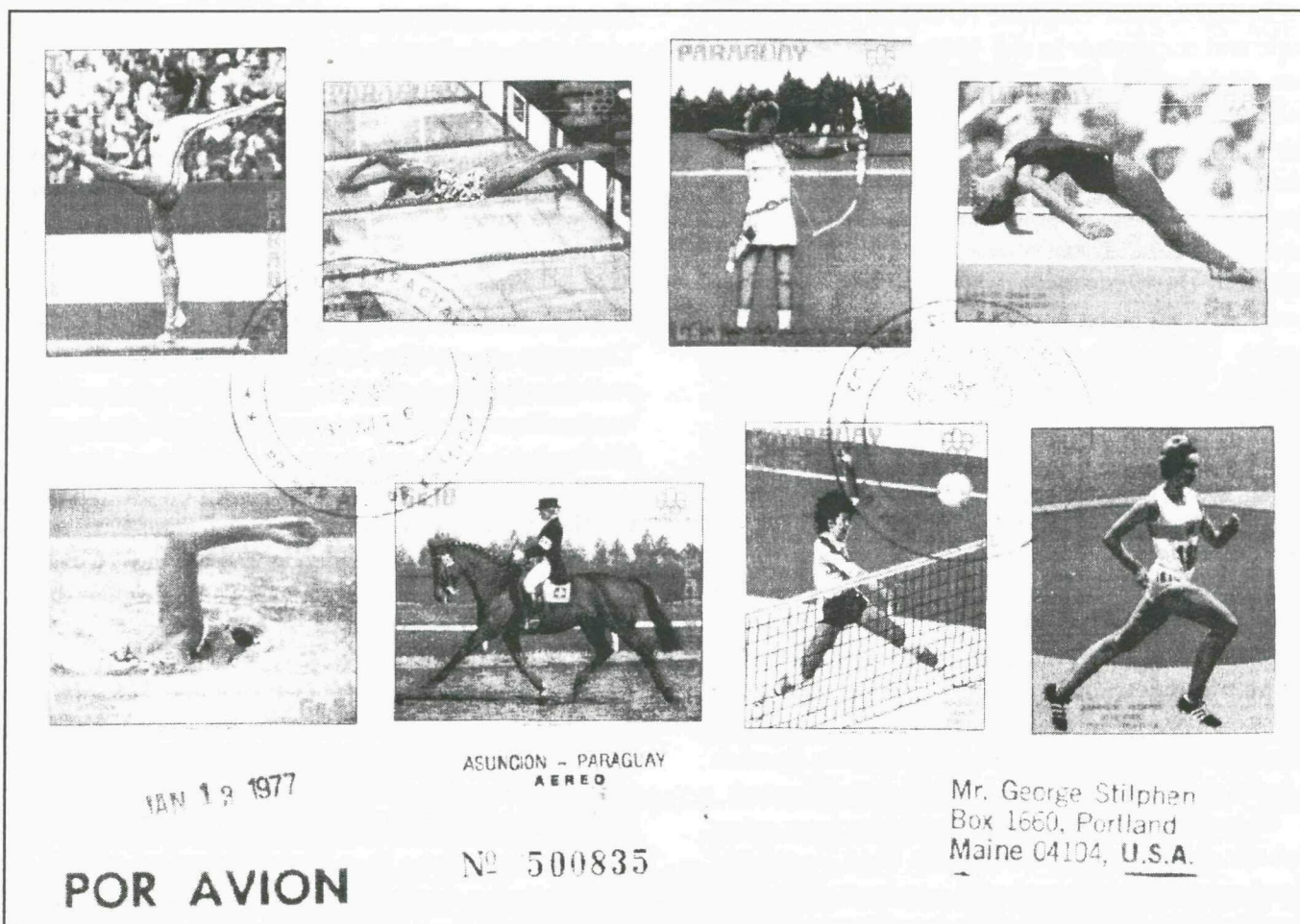


Figure 4. Shirley Babashoff (bottom row, left – Scott 1703e) lost five of six races at the 1976 Montreal Olympics to the East German swimmers, including Kornelia Ender (top row, second from left – Scott 1703b).

fed and unprepared, Fraser refused to swim and returned to her room for a nap. Eventually, Alva Colquhoun volunteered to take her place. For the remainder of their stay in Rome, the Australian women refused to speak a single word to Fraser or to each other as long as she was in the room.<sup>9</sup>

Fraser's rebellious spirit was unquenched four years later, when she led a middle-of-the-night raid to steal a "souvenir" flag from the Emperor's palace in Tokyo. She was arrested, but the charges were dropped and the Emperor gave her the flags as a gift. The Australian Swimming Union treated the matter with considerably less leniency, slapping her with a ten-year suspension from the sport, which was ultimately dropped after four years. The escape in no way detracted from her status as a national heroine. Most Australians were less interested in her out-of-the-pool antics than they were in her becoming the first Olympic swimmer to win the same event (100-meter freestyle) three times. Fraser was elected to parliament in 1990.<sup>10</sup>

#### THE USE OF PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS IN SWIMMING

Both swimmers and spectators alike expect that a given race will be won or lost on the basis of superior speed, ability, or technique — but not the use of drugs or other means of artificially enhancing one's performance. Performance-enhancing drugs have clearly been the most talked-about aspect of all sports. They reach into the amateur, collegiate, and professional ranks, and cut across the usual boundaries of age and gender. In the early 1970's, the drugs of abuse which concerned most coaches and officials were stimulants such as barbiturates. From the late 1970's to the present, this concern seems to have faded in the face of the muscle-building anabolic steroids, which are analogs of testosterone. Both men and, increasingly, women, have been accused of taking these substances on a regular basis to enhance their athletic performance.



In 1972, Rick DeMont (USA), a known asthmatic and competitor in the 400-meter freestyle for men, took several tablets of Marax for a flare-up of asthma. He did not know, nor had his coaches or trainers told him, that Marax contained ephedrine, a banned stimulant. DeMont won his event, but was later disqualified on the basis of a positive test for stimulants. Furthermore, he was banned from swimming the finals of the 1500-meter freestyle for men, for which he had qualified through the preliminaries. DeMont's gold medal was subsequently awarded to the second-place finisher, Bradford Cooper (Australia).

In 1972, the East German women failed to win a single gold medal, yet four years later at Montreal, they swept eleven of thirteen events. How had the team improved so quickly? The East Germans themselves attributed the rapid rate of success to new skin-tight, almost see-through, Lycra swimsuits. They used weight-training and rigorous scientifically-monitored training regimes. However, other observers wondered aloud if the East German women weren't also using a regime of anabolic steroids to build their physiques and improve their speed.

If, indeed, the East German women were using anabolic steroids, their chief victim must have been American Shirley Babashoff<sup>11</sup>, perhaps the most versatile female swimmer of her time (Figure 4). She

faced the East Germans six times in 1976 in distances ranging between 100 and 800 meters. She lost to the East Germans five times, taking silver in the 200-meter freestyle (to Kornelia Ender) and the 400- and 800-meter freestyle (to Petra Thümer). Babashoff placed fifth in the 100-meter freestyle (won by Ender). Babashoff also anchored the 4 x 100-meter medley relay which earned a silver medal to the East German's gold (Ulrike Richter, Hannelore Anke, Andrea Pollack, and Kornelia Ender). The only race in which Babashoff won a gold that year was in the 4 x 100-meter freestyle relay. Her teammates were Kim Peyton, Wendy Boglioli, and Jill Sterkel.

Had the American women been beaten in 1976 by the most awesome swimming machine ever assembled? Or, had the victors simply been a team of well-coordinated drug users? The questions still remained unanswered and as controversial twenty years after Munich.

The questions about the East German women persisted through 1988, as Kristin Otto led the team with her six gold medals (Figure 5). Had Otto, as well as other members of the East German team, been taking anabolic steroids? A recent document from the files of the East German secret police, the Stasi, seems to confirm that at least four of the East German women were regular users.



Figure 5. The East German women, led by Kristin Otto, continued to dominate Olympic swimming events through the 1988 Games in Seoul, Korea. On September 22, Otto won golds in the 100-meter backstroke and 4 x 100-meter freestyle relay.



Briefly, the four women in question, Kristin Otto, Heike Friedrich, Daniela Hunger, and Dagmar Hase, were tested for the ratio of testosterone to epitestosterone. According to Dr. Robert Voy, M.D., former Chief Medical Officer for the United States Olympic Committee, a normal ratio is about 1:1, with men measuring slightly higher (up to about 1.2:1), and women slightly lower. Even in men with severe glandular disorders, ratios above 3:1 are rarely, if ever, seen. To avoid even the possibility of error, the International Olympic Committee has designated only ratios above 6:1 as indicating a positive test for steroids. The tests on the East German swimmers showed the following ratios: Kristin Otto, 17.0:1; Daniela Hunger, 12.5:1; Dagmar Hase, 10.0:1; and Heike Friedrich, 8.8:1.<sup>12</sup>

With the unification of East and West Germany, the sports medicine machine which produced those unusual East German swimmers has disappeared. Or has it? Several world-class competitors and coaches now look upon the Chinese women and

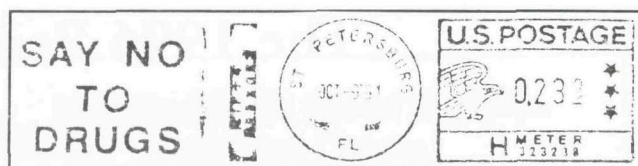


Figure 6. It was later discovered that the East German women's swimming teams had engaged in extensive steroid use. With increased testing for drugs, today's swimmers would be well-advised to heed these words!

their unusual success in a very short period of time, and the same questions concerning the use of anabolic steroids have surfaced again (Figure 6).

It isn't clear how many swimmers, if any, have truly taken anabolic steroids. This unusual controversy in swimming will not be resolved in time for the upcoming Atlanta Olympic Games.

#### ENDNOTES

1. 1992 *United States Swimming Rules and Regulations*, Colorado Springs, CO, U.S. Swimming, 1992, p. 32.
2. 1993 *U.S. Swimming Rules and Regulations*, Colorado Springs, CO, U.S. Swimming, 1993, p. 33.
3. David Wallechinsky, *The Complete Book of the Olympics, 1992 Edition*, Boston, Little, Brown, and Co., 1991, p. 478.
4. Wallechinsky, *loc. cit.*
5. Don McFarlan, ed., *The Guinness Book of Records*, 1992, New York, Bantam Books, 1992, p. 751.
6. 1993 *U.S. Swimming Rules and Regulations*, *loc. cit.*
7. 1993 *U.S. Swimming Rules and Regulations*, p. 35.
8. Craig Lord, "Chinese Takeout," in *Swimming World and Junior Swimmer*, 35 (11), 1994, p. 61.
9. Wallechinsky, p. 525.
10. Wallechinsky, p. 525.
11. Ms. Babashoff is now a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service in the Los Angeles, CA area.
12. Phillip Whitten, "Red Star Over Atlanta," in *Swimming World and Junior Swimmer*, 35 (12), 1994, p. 51.

STAMPS DEPICTING SWIMMERS MENTIONED IN THIS ARTICLE	
Don Schollander	Guyana 2396g Mongolia 521 Panama 458J Panama 458K
Franziska van Almsick	Guyana 2871
Dawn Fraser	Guyana 2397i Palau 304
Kornelia Ender	Guyana 2392i Mongolia 930 Paraguay 1703b Kenya (new issue, 1996)
Hannelore Anke	Madagascar C171
Shirley Babashoff	Paraguay 1703e
Daniela Hunger	Sierra Leone 1787i
Kristin Otto	Central African Republic 910, 913a Grenada 1690 Guyana 2082f, 2083f Mongolia 1751 Tanzania 1268 Sierra Leone 1033



# The 1996 Paralympic Games

by Margaret Jones

**T**he United States Postal Service (USPS) issued an envelope on May 2, for the 1996 Paralympic Games to be held August 15-25 in Atlanta, Georgia. The #10 envelope (9.5" x 4.1") had its first day of issue in Washington, DC along with the sheet of 20 Olympic sports stamps. The indicium is illustrated at right. This is the first-ever Paralympic Games to be held in conjunction with an Olympic Games in the United States. (*See printing details in table.*)

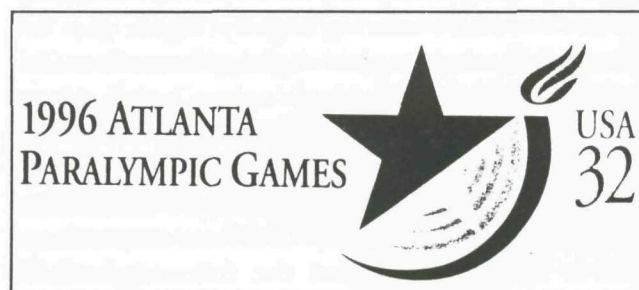
## HISTORY

The Paralympic Games were the vision of Sir Ludwig Guttmann, an English neurosurgeon at Stoke-Mandeville Hospital in Aylesbury, England in 1948. He organized the International Wheelchair Games to coincide with the 1948 London Olympics. The first Paralympic Games were held in Rome shortly after the 1960 Rome Olympics.

In 1960, only wheelchair athletes competed: 400 from 23 countries. As the Paralympic Movement grew, other classes of athletes began to participate, including the blind, paraplegics and quadriplegics, amputees, those with cerebral palsy and others (including dwarfs).

The International Coordinating Committee of World Sports Organization for the Disabled (ICC) was established in 1982 as a counterpart to the International Olympic Committee. The four federations under the ICC are: Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association (CP-ISRA), International Blind Sports Association (BSA), International Stoke-Mandeville Wheelchair Sports Federation (ISMWSF), and the International Sports Organization for the Disabled (ISOD). In 1992, the ICC was restructured and became the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).

The Paralympic Games have been held in 1960 Rome, Italy; 1964 Tokyo, Japan; 1968 Tel Aviv, Israel; 1972 Heidelberg, Germany; 1976 Toronto, Canada; 1980 Arnhem, Netherlands; 1984 Stoke-Mandeville, England and Nassau County, New



York, USA; 1988 Seoul, Korea; and 1992 Barcelona, Spain. Do any readers know of any philatelic items commemorating any of these events?

Paralympians' achievements compare favorably with Olympic feats. Examples include: Canadian Arnie Boldt, a single-leg amputee, high-jumped 6 feet 8½ inches; double-leg amputee Tony Volpen-test ran 100 meters in 11.6 seconds, less than two seconds behind Carl Lewis' then-world record set during the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. Paraplegic Kim Brownfield bench-pressed 602 pounds; the world record is 677 pounds set in the super heavy-weight division. Visually-impaired swimmer Trischa Zorn missed making the 1992 Olympic team by 1/100 of a second and won ten gold medals in the Paralympics that year.

## 1996 PARALYMPICS

In the ten days of competition, an estimated 3,500 elite athletes with physical disabilities from 120 nations will compete in 17 events, 14 of which are Olympic sports, making this the largest Paralympic Games to date. These games will utilize essentially the same venues as the Olympic Games and the sites will be supported by a staff of 1,500 officials and 12,000 volunteers. Approximately 1,000 coaches and team staff members complete the personnel for these games.

Recognizing the buying power of nearly 49 million people with disabilities in the United States, corporate sponsors for the Paralympics include: Coca-Cola Company, IBM Corporation, ACOG, Sunrise Medical, Home Depot, Bell South, Eastman Kodak, Swatch, Nora Beverages, Georgia Power Company, Shepherd Center, Orthotic and Pros-



thetic Athletes Assistance Fund, Ticketmaster, Randstad Staffing Services, Delta Airlines, Xerox, NationsBank, United Parcel Service, AT&T, MARTA, Miramar Communications, Sports Illustrated and B98.5 FM Radio. Philatelic memorabilia commemorating this event might be found through correspondence with these companies.

Blaze is the Paralympics' phoenix-like mascot and the 1996 theme is "The Triumph of the Human Spirit." In addition to the games, a Paralympic Congress will be held with experts convening to discuss a global plan of action to enhance business, social and recreational opportunities for persons with physical disabilities. Atlanta Paralympic organizers are giving ten metro Atlanta schools \$50,000 worth of adaptive sports equipment to use in a special education and physical education curriculum training program.

The 32¢ envelope's indicium reproduces "Starfire," the logo of the Paralympic Games. This symbol, shown in the accompanying illustration, represents the fulfillment of an athlete's dreams.

### 32¢ Paralympic Postal Envelope Printing Details

**First Day:** May 2, 1996; Washington, DC

**Design:** *Starfire*, logo of the Paralympic Games (blue, gold, and red); "USA/32" (red); "1996 Atlanta/Paralympic Games" (black).

**Designer/Topographer:** Brad Copeland

**Art Director:** Carl Herrman

**Project Manager:** Vance Harris

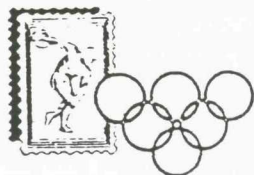
**Printing:** Offset flexography by Westvaco, Williamsburg, PA

**Colors:** PMS 032 red, PMS 286 blue, PMS 131 gold, black

**Tagging:** not specified

**Size:** No. 10 regular envelope, 4.124" x 9.5"

**Other Markings:** Recycled symbol; "Recycled" and "©USPS 1996" on flap (in PMS 286 blue)



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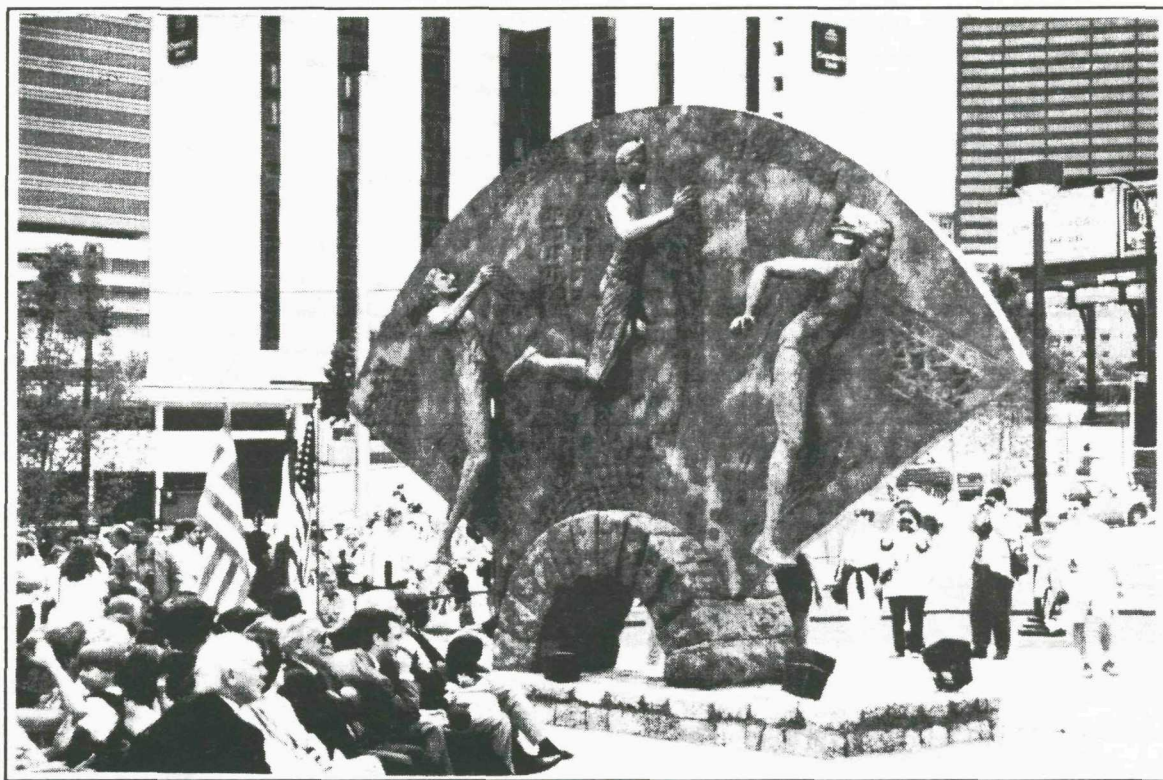


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# 1996 ATLANTA OLYMPIC GAMES

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by Norman F. Jacobs, Jr.



*Figure 1. The dedication ceremony for the sculpture, "Tribute," at Centennial Olympic Park.*

By the time you read this, the Centennial Olympic Games will be about to open, and many of you will be making last minute preparations for your trip to Atlanta. Let me extend a welcome to all of you. I hope that the southern charm and friendliness of Atlanta will show through in spite of the inevitable frenetic pace and congestion that comes with the Olympic Games.

I've already had the opportunity to personally meet or speak on the telephone with several SPI members, and I look forward to meeting more of you during the Games.

If you are wondering why I haven't yet asked if you ordered or requested Olympic postcards, the unfortunate reason is that we had a house fire in April, and are presently living in an apartment while we rebuild the upstairs. Regrettably, we lost some of the card supply that was to have been mailed. I will reorder and send out the cards as soon as possible,

but probably not until August. Until then, the rebuilding process, plus preparation of my exhibit for Olymphilex, will be about all I have time to accomplish.

## "Tribute" Sculpture Ceremony

On June 1, a crowd of 600 from around the world celebrated the links between Athens and Atlanta, and between the ancient and modern Olympic Games, with the dedication of the "Tribute" sculpture at Centennial Olympic Park.

The connection between the Greek communities in Atlanta and Athens goes much deeper than the obvious Olympic relationship. The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) took root in Atlanta 75 years ago, and provided the inspiration as well as the fundraising for the statue.



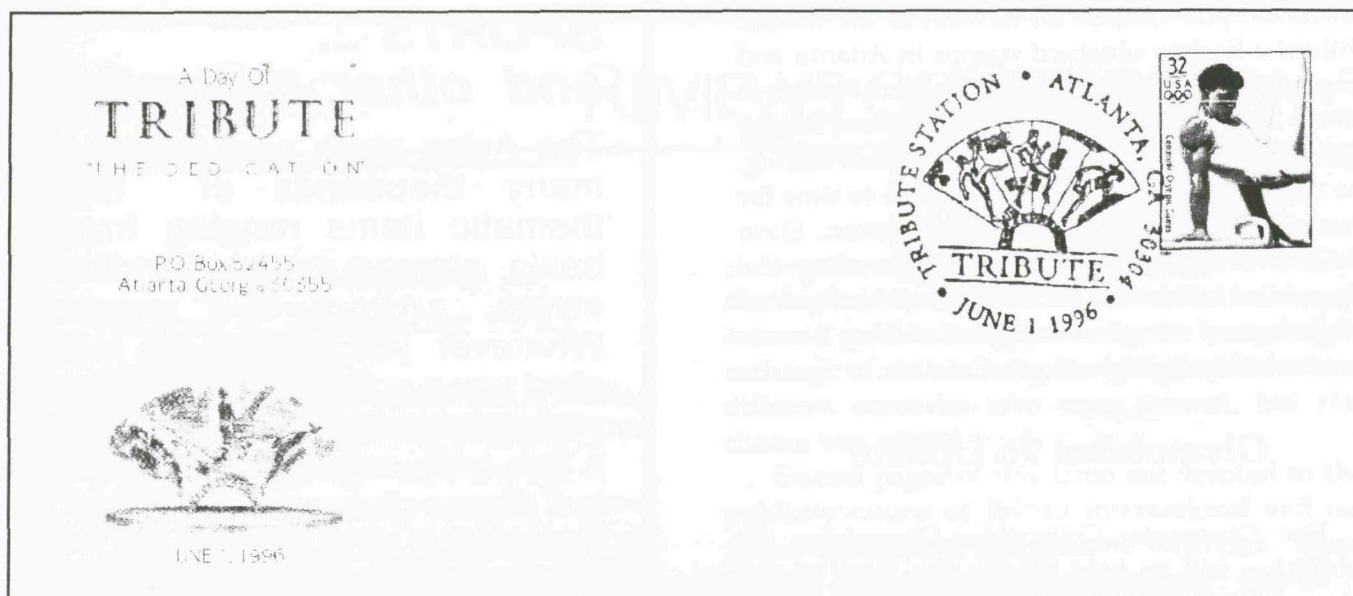


Figure 2. Special cacheted cover and cancel for the dedication ceremony of the "Tribute" statue, June 1, 1996.

The sculptor, Peter Calaboyias, now lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, having emigrated from Ikaria to escape the Nazi occupation during World War II. He told me that he designed the fan as an abstract expression of the unfurled curve of a Greek amphora. The athletes running through the fan symbolize the progression from the ancient Games, through their revival in 1896, and to their modern expression in this centennial year. The base of the sculpture is made of ancient stones collected from Olympia where they lay scattered after the temples and Olympic site were destroyed. Greek stonemason, Themistodes Devves flew to Atlanta to help set the base of the sculpture. Figure 1 shows the sculpture in its downtown setting.

Greek-American, Dr. Nick Demos, the conductor of the Georgia State University Wind Symphony, led the orchestra in performing "Tribute," a musical piece commissioned for the Olympic Games. The unveiling of the statue was assisted by 100 Greek schoolchildren flown in for the event by ACOG. The simplicity and beauty of the sculpture was well-matched by the emotional and elegant ceremony.

Thanks to Victor Polizos, an SPI member and AHEPA Centennial Foundation board member, the cancel shown in Figure 2 was available on June 1 from a special postal booth set up in the lobby of the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The cancel is available on a cacheted cover from Victor Polizos for \$2 per cover, plus a self-addressed stamped envelope large

enough to accommodate these #10 business-size covers. Mail your request to him at, 427 Moreland Avenue, Suite 400, Atlanta, GA 30307, U.S.A.

## Atlanta Slogan Machine Cancel

On May 1, the two Atlanta-area processing and distribution plants put into service a special slogan machine cancel showing the phoenix, Atlanta's city symbol, and text reading "Atlanta Come Celebrate Our Dream." This is the closest the Atlanta District of the USPS could come to an Olympic cancel without violating copyrighted Olympic-related words or symbols. [Please see Mark Maestroni's article in this issue for more details on the USPS's program for the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games.]

## Unofficial Olympic FDCs

As most of you already know, the USPS, USOC and ACOG have not been working well together, and sports philately has suffered the consequences. I had been looking forward to the first day ceremony for the Olympic sheet in Atlanta on May 2, but it was rescheduled at the last minute to Washington, DC. This occurred as a result of the conflict among the three organizations over the USPS marketing of Olympic stamp T-shirts.

Without any publicity, however, the USPS did release the stamps in Atlanta that day, but only at



downtown post offices! Ed Jackson of the Athens Philatelic Society obtained stamps in Atlanta and prepared covers canceled with the red Peachtree Center Station postmark. This is the postal facility nearest ACOG headquarters. Thanks to fast driving, the stamps also reached Lexington, GA in time for Nancy Clark and Lexington postmaster, Dave McGee, to prepare unofficial FDCs using the Olympihlex hand cancellation. I have also received a full sheet of stamps on a registered May 2 cover postmarked in Raleigh, North Carolina.

## Olympihlex 96 Update

The Centennial Collectibles Olympihlex 96 Exhibition will be held on the 7th floor of the Atlanta Merchandise Mart at 240 Peachtree Street in downtown Atlanta. This location is within a long walk of most of the downtown venues. The show opens Friday, July 19, running through Saturday, August 3. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on August 3.

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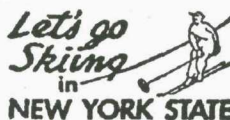
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# REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS

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by Dorothy Crockett & Mark Maestroni

## *Olympic Magazine* Number 8, December 1995

One can always expect an eclectic mix of articles in the Olympic Museum's quarterly magazine. This issue's contents won't disappoint the reader.

The Olympic Museum in Lausanne is as comfortable with traditional means of displaying art as it is with today's more up-to-date methods. "Olympic Treasures" looks at the spectacular presentation of ancient Olympic-related Greek art currently on view at the Olympic Museum. As a counterpoint, "The Museum of [the] 21st Century" discusses the high-tech means by which the museum acquaints youngsters with the excitement of the Olympic movement.

Centennial related articles cover the 1896 Games at Athens; Spyridon Louis, "The First Hero" of those Games; and "A Century of Sport Press." Continuing their focus on different Olympic corporate partners, the magazine spotlights Kodak, a sponsor since 1896.

*Olympic Magazine* is available in either English or French for 80 Swiss francs per year (outside Europe) from the Musée Olympique Lausanne, 1 Quai d'Ouchy, CH-1001 Lausanne, Switzerland.

- M.M.

## *Torch Bearer* Volume 13, Issue 2

The feature article in the May issue of this journal of the Society of Olympic Collectors is a report by Thomas Lippert on the international philatelic exhibition and related activities with which Greece celebrated the centenary of the first modern Olympic Games. It is illustrated with reproductions of a wealth of philatelic material, including frame labels, and examples of the hand cancels used for each day of the philatelic exhibition as well as those throughout the torch's journey through Greece. Franceska Rapkin, who also was present at the exhibition, comments on the FIPO

(International Federation of Olympic Philately) meeting held in connection with it. She had hoped it would provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of views among the many members from different countries who were present, but this chance was missed.

Several pages of this issue are devoted to the publicity efforts of British international and national sponsors of the Atlantic Olympics. These include newspaper advertisements, reminders printed on their product wrappers (e.g., sugar packets), contests with Olympic-related prizes, and a good many new issues of promotional stamp books by Royal Mail.

There is a long report from Australia on Olympic activities there, including the release of a new board game called *Olympiad*, publication of a book called *15 Days in '56* (The first Australian Olympics), release of two new phone cards, Olympic heritage coins issued by Australia Mint and a postmark now sporadically in use reading "Australia Post part of the Olympic Team."

The editor reports that a relatively unknown sport will appear as an exhibition sport at Atlanta. Called "Aunt Sally," it is an Oxfordshire pub game played on summer evenings in public house gardens. It is a game taken very seriously in Oxfordshire, where there is a County League. It is a team game in which a player attempts to knock a piece of wood off a vertical swivel by throwing a stick at it. Look for it at Atlanta!

To join the Society of Olympic Collectors, write the secretary, Mrs. Elizabeth Miller at 258 Torrisholme Road, Lancaster LA1 2TU, Great Britain.

- D.C.

**Golf Topical Stamps, FDCs, cancels for sale. Also sports cancels. Trades okay. Please write for listings: William Wollney, 1571 W. Ogden, Apt. 1536, LaGrange Park, IL 60526, U.S.A.**



## OLYMPIANS ON STAMPS 1896-1994

by Mark C. Maestroni and Joan R. Bleakley

This book, with its strikingly attractive cover, will bring a smile to many Olympic devotees, whether philatelists or not. Olympians we have seen or read about can be traced in this book to see if any stamps exist commemorating them.

The introduction is a valuable guide and should not be missed before using the contents. A discussion of the development and qualifications of an Olympian stamp gives an appreciation of the challenges of this effort. The spelling of an Olympian's name can be complicated by marriage and custom. Changing national boundaries affect identification of nationality. Every sport in which the Olympian participated is identified. The tables include one athlete who competed as female but was found, at death, 48 years later, to be a man.

The tables list every Olympic Games in which a commemorated athlete competed. One athlete competed in six consecutive Olympics. Another competed in two Olympics 28 years apart. An American athlete is the only Olympian who won gold medals in both summer and winter Olympics.

Medal status is given. Also noted are events in which athletes may not have finished, were eliminated or disqualified, or did not start.

When a stamp is not listed by the *Scott Catalogue*, *Michel Katalog* numbers are used. The introduction concludes with tables of cities and dates of the summer and winter Olympics through the year 2002.

The Table of Olympians, taking up 128 pages, is the heart of the book and lists 1,461 athletes. It contains the following information: name, nationality, sport(s) competed in, gender, Olympic Games participated in and whether summer or winter, events and results, *Scott Catalogue* number and date of issue. The listing is alphabetical by last name. The three appendices list athletes by (1) nationality, (2) sport, and (3) Olympic Games.

Since this is an initial work, the authors acknowledge that there are bound to be errors and omissions and welcome corrections. The authors plan to publish new editions every four years. They hope, in future editions, to include special cancellations (including meters) honoring Olympians. I might suggest also a listing of ancient Olympians on stamps and cancellations.

Perhaps the most difficult aspect is the listing of stamps of many exploiting countries. The authors purposely included all issues, leaving it up to the collector/exhibitor to decide what should be collected or shown. Collectors are limited only by their desire and pocketbook. To avoid possible judges' displeasure, exhibitors may want to avoid or limit showing stamps of exploiting countries.

I found this book to be a fascinating research tool. Preparing a want list was a quick task. Although only individual stamps are listed, it was easy to identify sets they came from. If one does not have a *Scott Catalogue*, the name of the country and date of issue will enable the collector to quickly locate the stamp in most any other catalog.

Although the book must be laid out horizontally, the metal spiral binding is generous and allows the pages to be folded back to minimize taking up limited desk space. To keep the book price low, there are few stamp illustrations.

This is a delightful and extremely useful addition to an Olympic and philatelic library. I see this reference competing with Wallechinsky's every Olympiad.

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Published by Sports Philatelists International, 1996. Spiral bound, soft cover, 187 pages, page size 11 x 8½ inches (horizontal format). Available for \$20 (U.S.)/\$25 (foreign) postpaid per book from Custom Impressions, P.O. Box 2286, La Grange, IL 60525.



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# NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

---

by Margaret Jones, Dorothy Crockett & Mark Maestrone

## New Members

2069R Thomas "Thom" M. Boykoff, 222 Randolph Drive #303, Madison, WI 53717 USA. Thomas is an attorney. *Soccer; Baseball; Basketball; Football; Hockey* (Jones)

2070R Dan Gindling, 1380 Garnet Avenue #E-230, San Diego, CA 92109 USA. Dan is a writer. *Bicycling; Climbing* (Maestrone)

2071R Gil B. Fried, 7527 Coachwood Drive, Houston, TX 77071 USA. Gil is a professor/attorney. *Badminton; Jewish Themes* (Jones)

2072R Kawee Kehasukcharoen, 76/25 Soi Langsuan, Pleonchit Road, Bangkok 10330, Thailand. Kawee is a travel agent. *Gen. Sports; Oly.; Stadia; Archery; Swimming; Water Sports; Golf* (Jones)

2073R VUB Vereinigte Universitäts-und Fachbuchhandlung. PO Box 27 02 09, D-50509 Cologne, Germany. A book seller. (Jones)

2074R Kausie Ganesan, 23122 Frisca Drive, Valencia, CA 91354 USA. Mrs. Ganesan is a medical assistant. *General Sports; Olympics; World Cup Soccer* (Jones)

### Reinstated:

0578R John W. Pagliano, 40 Empty Saddle Road, Rolling Hills Estate, CA 90274-2759 USA. *Olympics, Summer and 1920, 1924, 1968* (Jones)

0794RH Maurice D. Wozniak, Stamp Collector, 700 E. State Street, Iola, WI 54945 USA. He replaces Dane Claussen as editor.

0990R Sport Information Resource Center, 1600 Promenade James Naismith Drive, Gloucester, Ontario, Canada K1B 5N4.

Total Membership, April 30, 1996 = 449

## Exhibition Awards

### INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

**Athens 1896-1996**, held in Athens, Greece from March 25 through April 6, was sponsored by FIPO. The following SPI members won awards (unfortunately, I do not have the titles of all their exhibits): Ossi Virtanen, "The Olympic Movement 1894-1995," large gold and the Grand Prix award; Dieter Germann, "Olympische Spiele in Deutschland," gold and special prize; Morris Rosen, large vermeil and special prize; Mark Maestrone, *Journal of Sports Philately*, large silver and special prize; Robert Farley, silver-bronze; Dino Tognellini, bronze; and Thomas Lippert, promotion class bronze. (M.M.)

### NATIONAL SHOWS

**Filatelico Fiesta**, sponsored by the San Jose Stamp Club, held in March in San Jose, CA. William Dutcher won a silver-bronze and ATA second award for "Horse Racing Stamps and Cancellations."

**Westpex 96**, held in San Francisco, CA in May. Conrad Klinkner's exhibit, "Games of the Xth Olympiad," won a silver medal, the O'Neil Memorial Award for the best topical exhibit, and an ATA silver award.

### REGIONAL AND LOCAL SHOWS

At the **Alaska Philatelic Exhibition**, held in Anchorage in February, Dave Schwantes won a silver for "Iditarod Sled Dog Race Mail." A youth silver was awarded to Ashleigh Atkinson for "Swimming and Diving."

**Novapex 96** was held in March in Redding, CA, sponsored by the Redding Stamp Club. William Dutcher's exhibit "Horse Racing Stamps and Cancellations" received a vermeil award and the ATA award. Thomas Fitzpatrick received a youth silver-bronze for "U.S. Sports Stamps."



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# NEW STAMP ISSUES

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by Dennis Dengel

**Andorra (French):** 29 January 1996, Sports. 3.70Fr, basketball in midair; 2.80Fr, Borrufa Skiing Trophy.

**Algeria:** 1995, 100th Anniversary of Volleyball. 3d, players and symbolic volleyball.

**Armenia:** 1994, Olympic stadium/national Olympic committee. 30dr, 100th Anniversary of International Olympic Committee; 40dr, Olympic rings.

**Australia:** 23 April 1996, 100th Anniversary Australian Soccer league. Pane of sixteen 32c stamps: members of various Australian Soccer clubs.

**Austria:** 9 February 1996, World Ski Jumping Championships. 7s, ski jumping.

**Bangladesh:** 25 December 1995, 100th Anniversary of Volleyball. 6T, volleyball match.

14 February 1996, World Cup Cricket. 4t, 6t, 10t: various cricket scenes.

**Benin:** 30 April 1995, 1996 Atlanta Summer Games. 45Fr, water polo; 50Fr, javelin; 75Fr, weightlifting; 100Fr, tennis; 135Fr, baseball; 200Fr, synchronized swimming; 600Fr souvenir sheet, diving.

**Bolivia:** 1995, 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. S/s of two: 1.50Bs, '92 Barcelona Games; 3.50Bs, '88 Seoul Games.

**Brazil:** 6 October 1995, 100th Anniversary of the Flamengo Football Club. R\$0.15, waving crowd and club insignia.

30 November 1995, World Swimming Short-Course Championship. Block of 4: R\$0.23, free style, backstroke, butterfly, and breaststroke.

8 December 1995, Anniversary of the Botafogo Football & Regatta Club. R\$0.15, emblem of the club and its headquarters.

**Brunei:** 21 September 1995, World Volleyball Federation Centenary. 20c, 60c, 90c.

**Bulgaria:** 17 July 1996, 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. 3L, pole vault; 7L, high jump; 10L, long jump; 15L, triple jump.

**Central African Rep.:** 1995, 1994 World Soccer Championships. Venues: 300fr, Citrus Bowl; 385fr, RFK Stadium; 430fr, Cotton Bowl; 450fr, Soldier Field; 500fr, Giants

Stadium; 1,000fr, Foxboro Stadium; 2,000fr s/s, Rose Bowl.

**Chile:** 13 November 1995, 100 Anniversary of Chilean Soccer. Block of 4 se-tenant famous soccer players: 100p, Carlos Dittborn, Hugo Lepe, Eladio Eojas and Honorino Landa.

**China:** 14 August 1995, World Table Tennis Championships. 7 yuan sheet.

4 February 1996, Third Winter Asian Games. Four 50 fen stamps: speed skating, ice hockey, figure skating, skiing.

**Colombia:** 1995, First Pacific Ocean Games. 750p stamp.

**Cook Islands:** 12 January 1996, 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. 85 cent, discus; \$1.00, torch bearer; \$1.50, running; \$1.85, gymnastics; \$2.10, archery; \$2.50, javelin. Each stamp also shows the Olympic flame.

**Cuba:** 25 September 1995, 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. 10c, wrestling; 15c, weightlifting; 65c, women's volleyball; 75c, women's track and field; 85c, baseball; 90c, women's judo; 1p s/s, boxing.

**Cyprus (Greek):** 10 June 1996, 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. 10c, high jump; 20c, javelin; 25c, wrestling; 30c, swimming.

**Cyprus (Turkish):** 21 August 1995, Tourism. 7,500l, windsurfers.

**Czech Republic:** 6 September 1995, Greco-Roman Wrestling World Championships. 3Kcs.

**Denmark:** 21 March 1996, Sports. 3.75Kr, wheelchair basketball; 4.75Kr, swimming; 5.00Kr, yachting; 9.50Kr, cycling.

**Dominican Republic:** 22 May 1996, 100th Anniversary of Basketball. 3p, symbolic basketball.

**Finland:** 26 February, 100 Years of Women's Gymnastics. 2.80, stylized gymnast.

**France:** 14 December 1995, 1998 World Cup Soccer Championships. 2.80fr, soccer field and emblem.

**Gambia:** September 1995, 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. D1, decathlon; D1.25, diving; D1.50, swimming; D2.00, volleyball; D10.0, water polo; D15.0, single sculls; D25 s/s, hurdles.



**Germany:** 6 December, German Soccer Champions. 1dm, Borussia Dortmund team in action.

**Great Britain:** 3 October 1995, Rugby League Centenary. 19p stamp.

6 February 1996, five stamp booklets featuring the Olympic/Paralympic logo on the covers.

**Greece:** 24 March 1996, 100th Anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games. Three s/s, 4 stamps per sheet: Sheet 1, Boxers and Discobolus statue; Sheet 2, Minerva Vase and Hermes statue; Sheet 3, chariot driving, Acropolis and Parthenon.

**Guernsey:** 25 April 1996, European Soccer Championships. Se-tenant pairs of 16p, 24p, 35p, 41p stamps: different matches.

**Guyana:** September 1995, 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. Sheetlet of 8 stamps each \$60.00: pole vault, long jump, women's track, wrestling, discus, basketball, boxing, weightlifting; \$300 s/s, hurdles.

**Hong Kong:** 20 March 1996, 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. \$1.20, gymnastics; \$2.10, diving; \$2.60, track and field; \$5.00, basketball.

**Indonesia:** 19 Aug 1995, "Sail Indonesia '95." 700R, tall ships race; 2500R s/s.

**Ireland:** 1 February 1996, Olympic Games/Paralympics. S/s of nine 32p stamps: running, discus, canoeing.

12 March 1996, Irish Horse Racing. Tracks: 28p, Fairyhouse; 32p, Galway; 52p, Leopardstown; 4.92p prestige Booklet.

**Israel:** 20 February 1996, Outdoor Sports. 1.05S, mountain biker; 1.90S, paraglider; 2.00S, women's volleyball.

**Italy:** 6 September 1995, First World Military Games. 850 Lire, runners.

**Jamaica:** December 1995, 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. Track and field champions: \$1.00, Arthur Wint; \$5.00, Donald Quarrie; \$10.00, Herbert McKenley; \$15.00, Jesse Owens.

**Japan:** 28 September 1995, Sports World Championships in Judo and Gymnastics. 280 yen, judo; 280 yen, two gymnasts.

13 October 1995, 50th National Athletic Championships. 50 yen, bicycle race.

**Jersey:** 8 June 1996, Centenary of Olympic Games. 19p, rowing; 23p, judo; 35p, fencing; 41p, boxing; 60p, basketball.

**Kenya:** January 1996, 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. Sheetlets of nine: 20/-, pole vault, equestrian, diving, women's track, torch run, men's hurdles, kayaking, boxing, women's gymnastics; 25/-, Greg Louganis, Muhammed Ali, Nadia Comaneci, Daley Thompson, Kipchoge Keino, Kornelia Ender, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Michael Jordan, Shun Fujimoto. Sheetlet of 6: 14/-, men's swimming; 20/-, archery; 20/-, weightlifting; 32/-, women's javelin; 40/-, fencing; 50/-, men's discus. Two 100/- s/s: torch runner and gold medalist.

**Korea, North:** 4 September 1996, First World Military Games. S/s of three 40ch stamps: woman marksman, soldier, emblem of the event.

4 February 1996, Third Asian Games. S/s of two 30ch stamps: speed skater Kim Song Sun, flag; speed skater Ye Qiao Bo, Chinese flag.

17 February 1996, Fifth Paektusan Prize International Figure Skating Championship. 10ch, 20ch, 30ch: various couples skating.

**Kuwait:** 5 June 1995, 100th Anniversary of Volleyball. 50F, 100F, 150F: symbolic volleyballs and the figure "100."

**Liberia:** 6 October 1995, George Weah Soccer Championship. Surcharged stamps: 50c+20c, 75c+25c, 80c+20c, \$1.50+50c: Golden Ball award winners.

**Liechtenstein:** 3 June 1996, 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. 70r, gymnasts on parallel bars; 90r hurdles; 1.10Fr cyclists. Each stamp shows ancient and modern athletes.

**Marshall Islands:** 27 April 1996, 100th Anniversary of Olympic Games. Se-tenant block of four 60c values: discus, Olympic rings, reproduction of 1896 Greek Olympic stamp.

**Mexico:** 22 August 1995, 13th Mexico City Marathon. 2.70p, two runners.

**Micronesia:** 27 April 1996, 100th Anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games, 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympic. Se-tenant block of four 60c values: discus thrower, Olympic rings, reproduction of an 1896 Greek Olympic stamp.

**Nauru:** 1 September 1995, 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. S/s of four 60c+15c stamps: athletes.

**New Zealand:** 24 January 1996, Racehorses. 40c, 80c, \$1.00, \$1.20, \$1.50, \$1.80: horse and jockey. Horses names: Kiwi, Rough Habit, Blossom Lady, Il Vicolo, Horlicks and Bonecrusher.

**Norway:** 18 April 1996, Centenary of the Olympic Games. 3.50NOK, skier; 5.50NOK, runner.

**Paraguay:** 28 September 1995, 100th Anniversary of Volleyball. 300G, volleyball + "100"; 600G, volleyball in net; 1,000G hand and net.



**Poland:** 23 August 1995, World Carriage Racing Championships. 60gr, 80gr: views of carriage racing.

16 October 1995, World Championship of Acrobatics. 45Gr, acrobatic pyramid.

**Romania:** 8 September 1995. Fifth Romanian Tennis Championship. 1,020 lei, racket and ball.

8 December 1995, 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. 50L, runner; 100L, gymnast on rings; 150L, canoeing; 500L, fencing; 960L, rowing; 2,300L, boxing; 2,600L s/s, gymnast on balance beam.

**St. Pierre & Miquelon:** 12 February 1996. 5.10Fr, boxing.

**St. Vincent & the Grenadines:** 1 September 1995, 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. Sheetlet of 8 \$1.00 stamps and \$5.00 s/s: swimming.

December 1995. Sheetlet of 9 se-tenant 90c stamps: (Disney) basketball, boxing, ice skating, golfing, tennis, football.

**Slovakia:** 16 August 1995, 100th Anniversary of Volleyball. 9Sk, player and volleyball.

15 February 1996, 100th Anniversary of the Olympic Games. 9 kr, runner Alojz Szokol and Acropolis.

**South Africa:** 8 February 1996, Africa Cup of Nations Soccer Championships. Non-denominated definitive stamp.

**Slovenia:** 16 November 1995. 70T, Bloke skis.

**Switzerland:** 12 March 1996, Pro-Sport Federal Gymnastics Festival. Booklet of ten 70c+30c: colorful ribbons.

**Thailand:** 9 December 1996, 18th Sea Games. Se-tenant strip of four 2b+1b: fencing, snooker, diving, pole vaulting. Plus 15b s/s.

**United States:** 1 April 1996. 1996 Boston Marathon. 32¢, symbolic marathon runners.

2 May 1996, 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. Sheet of twenty 32¢: men's cycling, women's diving, women's running, men's canoeing, decathlon, women's soccer, men's shot put, women's sailboarding, women's gymnastics, freestyle wrestling, women's softball, women's swimming, men's sprinting, men's rowing, beach volleyball, equestrian, men's basketball, men's gymnastics, men's swimming, men's hurdles.

May 1996, 1996 Atlanta Paralympic Games. 32¢ stamped envelope, logo of Paralympic Games.

**United Arab Emirates:** 27 February 1996, Hobie Cat World Sailing Championship. 50 fils, sailboat with "UAE" on sail; 3 dirhams, sailboat emblem.

**Uruguay:** 1995, America Cup Soccer Championship. Strip of five se-tenant 2.30p stamps.

**Uzbekistan:** 1995, International Tennis Tournament in Tashkent. 10s, tennis player and tournament emblem.

**Vanuatu:** 1 February 1996, Fishing. 55Vt, net casting; 75Vt, reef fishing; 80Vt, deep sea fishing; 140Vt, game fishing.

**Vatican:** 7 May 1996, Centenary of the Olympic Games. Five 1250 Lire stamps: statue of an athlete, torso of an athlete, hand and 5 golden beams, stylized image of an athlete, torso of Hercules.

**Vietnam:** 1995, 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. 400d, hammer throw; 3,000d, cycling; 4,000d, running; 10,000d, pole vault; 12,500d s/s, basketball.

**Wallis & Futuna:** 24 January 1996, Sports. 95Fr, golfer.

**Yugoslavia:** 10 September 1995, 100 Anniversary of Volleyball. 90p, volleyball player and globe.

4 October 1995, 50th Anniversary of the Partisan Soccer Club. 80 p, club emblem.

*Corrections, comments, advice? Please write the author at 17 Peckham Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603, USA, or e-mail him at: 70363.3621@compuserve.com*

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## SPORTS CROSS INDEX APRIL-MAY 1996

Baseball: 96408-921; 96531-681.  
Basketball: 96503-769.  
Cycling: 96504-274; 96505-270; 96526-152.  
Football: 96419-685.  
Horse Racing: 96504-402.  
Ice Hockey: 96427-481.  
Olympics (Summer): 96412-146; 96428-613; 96503-928; 96524-172.  
Olympic Torch Relay: 96514-688; 96518-670; 96518-748.  
Running: 96412-017; 96412-021; 96415-017; 96415-021; 96420-436; 96426-017; 96514-441.



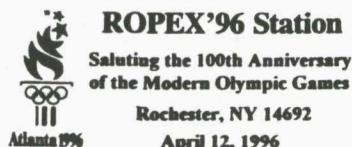
96408-921 San Diego, CA 8



96412-017 Hopkinton, MA 12



96412-021 Boston, MA 12-14



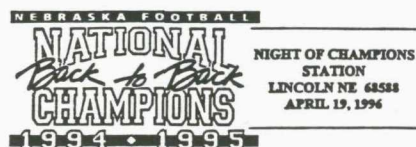
96412-146 Rochester, NY 12-14



96415-017 Hopkinton, MA 15



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96419-688 Lincoln, NE 19



96420-436 Toledo, OH 20-21



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Marathon Running

96426-017 Boxborough, MA 26-28



96427-481 Plymouth, MI 27-28



96428-613 Ottawa, IL 28



96503-769 Ozona, TX 2-4



96503-928 Anaheim, CA 3-5

Artwork Unavailable  
Tour Dupont Station  
(Silhouette of racer on bicycle)

96504-274 Greensboro, NC 4





96504-402 Louisville, KY

4



96505-270 Mount Airy, NC

5

Artwork Unavailable  
Revco Cleveland Marathon Station  
(Silhouette of runner)

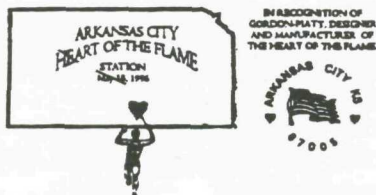
96505-441 Cleveland, OH

5

Artwork Unavailable  
Platte Run Station  
(Torch runner, "Ft. Kearney")

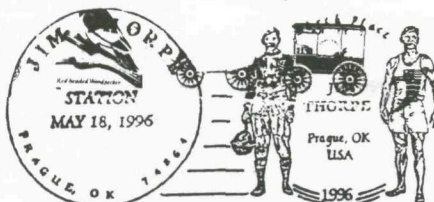
96514-688 Kearney, NE

14



96518-670 Arkansas City, KS

18



96518-748 Prague, OK

18

Artwork Unavailable  
Montgomery Elementary Stamp Sta.  
(Child's drawing of basketball,  
Olympic rings, "Let the games begin")

96524-172 Mercersburg, PA

24

Artwork Unavailable  
Thrift Drug Classic Station  
(Bicyclists)

96526-152 Pittsburgh, PA

26



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5/31-6/8

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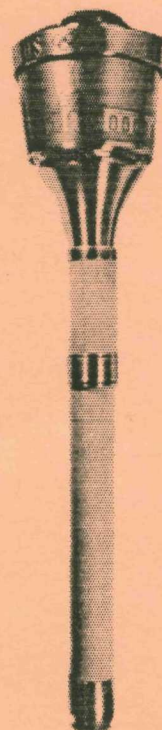
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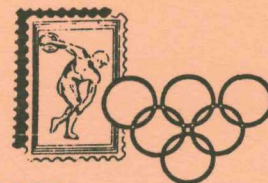
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compiled by Margaret A. Jones

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