JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

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SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1996

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The Centennial Olympic Games of Atlanta

OLYMPIC FAMILY - FAMILLE OLYMPIQUE



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPORTS

PHILATELISTS

ARTICLES

A Centennial Olympic Journal	Mark Maestrone	4
Olymphilex '96 Palmares	Mark Maestrone	14
USPS Atlanta Philatelic Cancels	Mark Maestrone	17
Women's Soccer Comes of Age	Mike Freed	24

REGULAR FEATURES & COLUMNS

President's Message	Mark Maestrone	1
Letters	Mark Maestrone	2
The Sports Arena	Mark Maestrone	29
Reviews of Periodicals	D. Crockett & M. Maestrone	31
News of Our Members	Margaret Jones	32
New Stamp Issues	Dennis Dengel	34

SPORTS PHILATELISTS INTERNATIONAL

1996 ATLANTA
OLYMPIC GAMES
p. 4

OLYMPHILEX '96
PALMARES
p. 14

USPS ATLANTA 1996 CANCELS

Women's Soccer

p. 24

p. 17

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

Some Thoughts On Olymphilex '96

Despite all the twists and turns associated with the planning and execution of Olymphilex '96, I was pleased to see it finally get off the ground. I am still far from convinced that combining it under the same banner with "other" Olympic collectibles is a good idea, but that topic is best left for later discussion.

So, what did I like about the exhibition? I found the venue relatively spacious and the lighting excellent – two very important elements for a successful show. The entrance and exits to the exhibition floor were awkward, but this really couldn't be helped. In the end, we were lucky to have been allocated space in a venue so close to the Olympic arenas.

As any exhibition organizer will stress, a show can be made or broken by the quality of its work force. The Olymphilex volunteers, whether official or unofficial, were both tireless and dedicated. The Olymphilex Organizing Committee owes them a huge debt of gratitude.

Finally, the exhibits themselves, both philatelic and memorabilia/coins, were truly first quality. Ingrid O'Neil deserves high praise for coordinating the excellent displays of memorabilia. Using vertical cases for each of the Olympiads was both effective and aesthetically pleasing.

In San Diego, we have an annual architectural competition called "Orchids and Onions" in which the best examples of different design disciplines are awarded orchids. The worst receive ... well, you guessed it. Here are my Olymphilex "onions":

❖ TRAFFIC FLOW IN THE PHILATELIC AREA. Retail store planners stress placement of your biggest drawing point (at Olymphilex, it was the USPS booth) where foot traffic must pass other merchandise first. The predominantly non-philatelic visitors swarmed the USPS booth near the entrance elevators and then departed. I am sure that they weren't even aware of the other dealers and postal administrations around the perimeter of the room.

- SAVVY STAMP CENTER. Despite its good intentions, this youth activity area seemed, at best, a rather forlorn appendage. Perhaps in Europe and Asia where stamp collecting is more prevalent among the young, it would have worked. Rather than squandering precious resources on a separate children's philatelic area, it might have been more useful to have given free packets of stamps to every child at the entrance to the show. Short guided tours geared to their level of interest and attention spans might have been more effective.
- * PUBLICITY. This should have been one of the highest priorities of the exhibition committee. Instead, the show received virtually no "play" in the media. Attendance after the first day was so poor, that some of the volunteers were sent onto the sidewalk at the main entrance to hand out fliers. There should also have been a schedule of events available noting first day ceremonies (there were four), autograph sessions by athletes (almost every day), and other special events.

It's easy being a "Monday morning quarter-back." The above criticisms, however, are given in the hope that future Olymphilex exhibition committees may benefit from others' experience. I eagerly look forward to seeing how our Australian hosts will put their own "stamp" on Olymphilex 2000!

SPI World Wide Web Site: http://www.concentric.net/~laimins/spi.html

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

by Mark Maestrone

Angel Zarraga Information

With reference to the "Arts Information Wanted" request in the May-June 1996 issue of JSP from Thomas Charles asking for information about the artist Angel Zarraga (1886-1946). I suggest he check out the 1989 Mexico set (Scott 1439-1443, I think) which shows some of his work. Two stamps are entitled "Three Soccer Players." Hope this helps.

Dennis Dengel New Stamp Issues Editor

Australian Football Stamps Correction & Australia Post 1996 Olympic Participation

Reference the entry under Australia in the New Stamp Issues column contained in the July-August 1996 issue of *JSP*.

[Column Editor, Dennis Dengel notes that] the pane of sixteen 45c stamps was issued to commemorate the centenary of the AFL (Australian Football League). This a bit odd as the AFL has been in existence for only three or four years. However, it evolved from the VFL (Victorian Football League) and 1996 is the 100th season of VFL/AFL football.

This has nothing to do with soccer, but rather with Australian Football. The game was invented in the middle of the 19th century as a way for cricketers to keep fit in winter. It has some similarity to Gaelic Football, but is played by teams of 18 on an oval ground of no set dimensions. An oval shaped ball is used. It is televised in the U.S.A. and we are told that it is quite popular.

In addition to the pane of sixteen stamps, a booklet for each of the 16 clubs was also issued. Each booklet contains a pane of ten stamps. Each stamp is the same – that is, each of the stamps in the pane of 16 also appears in a pane of ten.

With reference to the article by Mark Maestrone on postal services at Atlanta (July-August

1996 issue of JSP), I have some additional information.

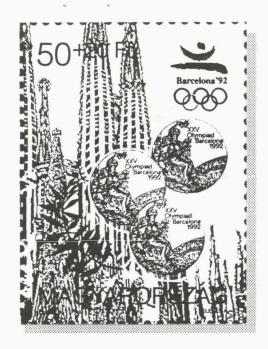
An article in the July 9, 1996 issue of the *Melbourne (Australia) Daily Sun* prompted me to ring the head office of Australia Post to find out details. [Editor's Note: the article, which Mr. D'Arcy kindly enclosed, discussed offices that Australia Post planned to set up in Atlanta to process mail to and from the Australian Olympic Team.] I was told [by an Australia Post employee] that:

- The Australian Olympic Committee had invited Australia Post to handle all mail for the Australian team in Atlanta. Australia Post agreed to do this.
- Staff would be rostered between the village and Olymphilex.
- ❖ Outgoing mail would be handled as is Defence Forces mail. Mail would be deposited at Australia Post facilities. Domestic charges [postal rates] would apply, in this case 45c for a standard letter. All mail would be sent to Australia for postmarking and sorting. No special postmark or cachet would be applied.

It has been my experience, however, that Defence Mail sometimes has a unit cachet applied, so I would say that covers will appear with team cachets applied.

T.J. D'Arcy Heathmont, Victoria, Australia

[A fuller discussion of the philatelic aspects of the Centennial Olympic Games is provided elsewhere in this issue. It should be mentioned, though, that while Australia Post did have a booth at Olymphilex 96, its primary Atlantabased facility was at the Fox Theater. The U.S. Postal Service shared space with them at this location. An Australian Club and Sydney 2000 offices occupied the remainder of this restored 1929 movie theater in the Midtown area of Atlanta, just north of the city center.]



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A Centennial Olympic Journal

by Mark Maestrone

n his first trip to Greece following the awarding of the Games of the First Modern Olympiad to Athens, Pierre de Coubertin noted in his Olympic Memoirs that he was "both anxious and joyful – but more joyful than anxious." One-hundred-and-two years later, I sensed the same tension in this city of nearly 400,000 in the new American South. Come what may, Atlanta was ready to host the Centennial Olympic Games.

For me, this Olympic Games would be a totally new experience. I would be seeing this quadrennial event not through the eyes of a spectator, as at previous Games in Los Angeles and Calgary, but as an ACOG (Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games) volunteer and accredited member of the media.

Arriving three days before the Opening Ceremony, I rushed to obtain my ACOG and press credentials. As one of some 40,000-plus volunteers who would staff the Games, I was also presented with a wonderful uniform, courtesy of Hanes, the official outfitter.

By 7:30 p.m. on that first evening, I was driving along the nearly empty highway through downtown Atlanta, amazed at how little traffic there was. This also gave me my first opportunity to view some of the stadia. On my right, the recently completed Olympic Stadium rose, its erector-set looking Olympic cauldron ready to receive the Olympic flame that had just traveled across the country. Immediately to the north, the Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium was ready for the baseball players. With the skyscrapers of downtown Atlanta bathed in a warm orange glow from the slowly setting sun, I remarked to myself what a truly spectacular backdrop this city made for these Games of the XXVIth Olympiad.

Atlanta was not a total stranger to me, yet I had never realized how truly compact the city was. What appeared on a street map to be miles away, was, in actuality, only a brief walk. I was surprised, therefore, when moments later I passed the high-rise apartments of the Olympic Village at Georgia

Tech overlooking the major north-south freeway through downtown. No wonder the security experts were so concerned!

My accommodations for the Games turned out to be ideal. Thanks to SPI member, Vic Polizos, I stayed with a delightful family across the street from him in Decatur, about a 15-minute drive east



Figure 1. Peachtree Street main entrance to Olymphilex '96. The large semicircular marquis wasn't installed until the end of the first week due to conflicts with the venue management.

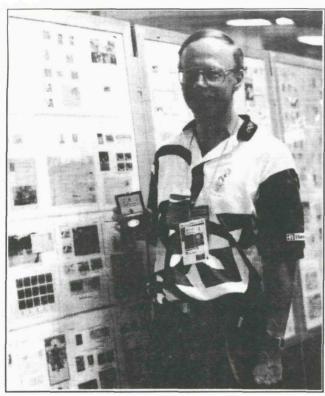


Figure 2. Norm Jacobs at his tennis exhibit frames displaying his well-deserved large-silver award.

of the city. Founded in 1823, Decatur is full of southern charm with wide lawns and large homes. I certainly had no problem finding my host family's home – I just looked for Vic's front yard festooned with three large Greek, Olympic, and American flags. Talk about being prepared for the Games!

Wednesday, July 17, my first full day in Atlanta, was an exciting one for all the volunteers. That evening, ACOG was hosting us at the dress rehearsal for Friday's Opening Ceremony. But first, I got to experience two of the aspects of these Games that most concerned the organizers: the weather and the transportation system.

The heat and humidity bordered on unbearable, and I certainly felt compassion for those volunteers with outdoor assignments. I, on the other hand, was stationed in the air-conditioned comfort of Olymphilex '96. Getting to this downtown site was a simple matter. Free parking was available at a MARTA (Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority) rail stop about 15 minutes from where I was staying. Over the two weeks of the Games, the media made much of the inadequacy of the transportation system. I, however, found it fast and efficient, even though it became greatly overcrowded at peak riding times.

Olymphilex '96 (Figure 1) occupied the entire seventh floor of the Merchandise Mart (a wholesale showroom building constructed in 1961). Arriving early in the afternoon, I was astonished to discover the exhibition nearly entirely set up.

Philately was only a portion of the overall Centennial Olympic Collectibles exhibition. In the shape of an "L," the Olympic coins and memorabilia displays and booths occupied one leg. The philatelic exhibits and postal administrations were laid out in the other section. Low ceilings provided excellent lighting. However, the philatelic section was a bit overcrowded with booths, exhibit frames and the Savvy Stamp Center (Figures 3 & 4).

Having checked in and received my venue credentials (yes, something more to hang around my neck), I assisted in the final preparations. There were still a few philatelic exhibits yet to arrive, and dealers and postal administrations were moving in. Otherwise, the venue was generally ready for the official opening the next evening.

There seemed no lack of volunteers, though most were non-philatelic ACOG personnel assigned to the exhibition. Apparently, the number of SPI volunteers from out-of-town was limited by the organizing committee. Nevertheless, I soon spotted our journal columnist, Norman Jacobs, busy carting things around the floor (Figure 2). Norm, his teenage son, Nathan, and I would be off to the Olympic Stadium later that afternoon for the dress rehearsal. Also among those volunteering at the show were SPI members Morris Rosen, and Alan Marder and his wife.

One of the surprises that day was the discovery that the USPS had, indeed, managed to arrange for a full array of sports cancellations. This was in addition to the daily theme cancels and Atlanta area postal station/mobile post office postmarks which we already knew about (although this program was greatly expanded). The USPS had incorporated a wall of mail slots into their booth allowing visitors the opportunity to obtain cancels for days that they might not be able to attend. The full USPS program is discussed in more detail elsewhere in this issue of the journal.

On to the Opening Ceremony dress rehearsal: what we saw at the stadium that night was not altogether different from what the rest of the world watched two nights later – complete with fireworks. The best part of the show was without a doubt the recognition of the ancient Olympic Games. What



Figure 3. The USPS booth at Olymphilex was situated immediately upon entry into the philatelic area of the exhibition, and was always busy. The mail slots for special postmarks are visible along the left wall.

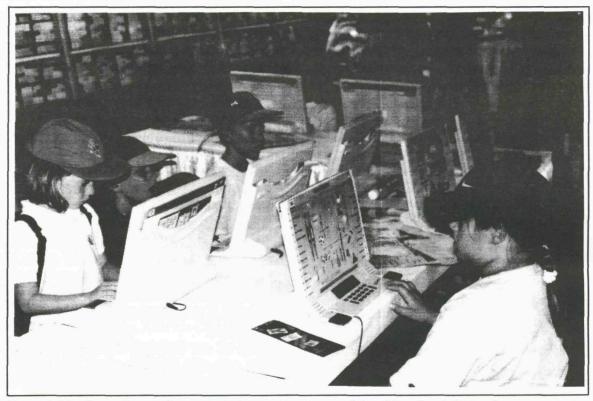


Figure 4. The Savvy Stamp Center, tucked away in a corner of the philatelic exhibition floor, saw varying amounts of traffic. Hopefully, some of these young Olympic visitors became budding philatelists.

those of you at home couldn't appreciate was the huge scale of those Greek columns and the athletes projected on the screens. They had to have been at least 40 feet tall. Sent chills up and down my spine.

Though a bit noisy (I was sitting right beneath them), the five spirits of the Olympics that periodically shot up from behind the stands were marvelous. We talked with some of these young men after the show. They admitted that without the ear protectors they wore behind their masks, they likely would have gone deaf from the sound of the wind machines blowing the colored material around them.

The only portions of the ceremony kept secret from us were the identities of the final torch runners and the person who eventually lit the torch: Mohammed Ali (Figure 5), a.k.a. Cassius Clay. Readers will recall that Ali won the light-heavyweight gold medal in boxing at the 1960 Rome Olympics.

There seemed to be a never ending list of last minute tasks to perform on Thursday, July 18, in

Figure 5. Mohammed Ali lighting the Olympic cauldron during the Opening Ceremony. This IOC-produced post-card was available only at the Marriott Marquis Hotel.

preparation for that evening's official opening. Jim Bowman (U.S. Commissioner, West Coast) and his wife Marian had been working all week to get exhibits in place, as had East Coast Commissioner Cora Collins and her husband Lee. Conrad Klinkner had arrived from California after a cross-country drive (gulp!) with his exhibit on the 1932 Games. Fellow philatelists from around the world dropped in during the course of the day. Jean-Pierre Piquot from France was there with his non-competitive exhibit on Tennis. Dieter Germann and his family arrived from Germany to enjoy the exhibition (Dieter's exhibit on the 1936 Olympics won the Grand) and the Olympics along with my long-time correspondent Karl Reiter. From even farther afield (Poland) came Dr. Roman Babut. Roman served not only as his country's commissioner, but also as an apprentice judge at Olymphilex. I once more had the pleasure of seeing Franceska Rapkin from Great Britain, even if only briefly as she was a judge, commissioner and jury secretary at Olymphilex.

H.E. Mr Juan Antonic Samuranch.
President of the International Olympic Committee
and the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie Olympique,

. Mr Trilliam Porter Payne.
President and Chief Executive Officer
The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games

Lr Jeffrey Bubceck:
Director, Cultural Olympiad
The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games

Cordially invite you to the opening of the Centennial Collectibles Exhibition Olymphilex '96/Stamps, Coins and Memorabilia

July 18, 1996 - 17:00 - 19:00 Atlanta Market Center - Merchandise Mart, 7th Floor

Please present this invitation at the door

RSVP

In the USA: Lynn Brockman, Venue Manager 205 Countryside Lane, Smyrna, GA 30080, fax (1-770) 436 8782

> Maurizio Tecardi, Atlanta Marriott Marquis 265 Peachtree Center Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30303 phone: (1-404) 521 0000 / fax: (1-404) 586 6299

> > For other countries: IOC Philatelic Department, Lausanne Telephone: (+41) 21 621 6388/9 Fax: (+41) 21 621 6394

Figure 6. The official opening of Olymphilex '96 on July 18 was presided over by the President of the IOC, Juan Antonio Samaranch. The official invitation is shown.

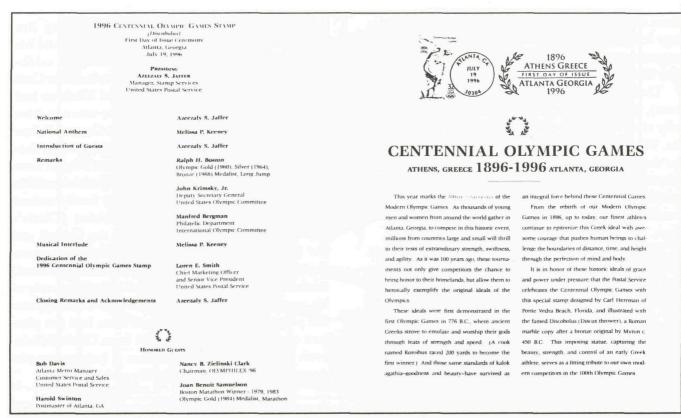


Figure 7. First Day Ceremony program for the 32¢ Discobulus stamp held on the opening day of Olymphilex, July 19.

Last, but certainly not least, I finally had the opportunity to meet two colleagues that I've had a long association with: Bob Farley and Thomas Lippert. Bob is Chairman of the Society of Olympic Collectors and editor of its publication, *Torch Bearer*, who was accompanied by his delightful wife, Brenda. Most of you will recognize Thomas as our "European correspondent" who regularly writes about Olympic philately in our journal. During the course of the Games, we became the three philatelic musketeers as we hunted down the various cancellations at Atlanta's post offices.

That evening, we all gathered in the auditorium area on the Olymphilex floor for the official opening (Figure 6). H.E. Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), opened the show by cutting a stamp coil. Brief remarks were given by him, as well as by Dr. Jeffrey N. Babcock, Director of the Cultural Olympiad, Dr. Manfred Bergman of the IOC's Olympic Collectibles Commission and Dr. D.N. Jatia, President of the International Philatelic Federation (FIP). Mr. Patrick Pearson (FIP Coordinator) and Mr. Maurizio Tecardi (FIPO Coordinator) attended as well. A wine and cheese reception followed, allowing many of us time to get acquainted, or reacquainted.

For those of you that still think that Coca-Cola owned the Games, I now have indisputable proof to the contrary. Just around the corner from our venue (right in the heart of all the Olympic activity) was an Italian restaurant. Immediately following the reception, Norm Jacobs, Bob and Brenda Farley, Thomas Lippert and I went there for a bite. Having been seated, the waitress, naturally enough, asked if we would like something to drink. Most answered "ice tea"; I asked for a diet coke. She responded that they only carried Pepsi! I guess the Olympic sponsorship police hadn't discovered their unpatriotic bill of fare.

Opening day at Olymphilex on Friday was a busy one. By all estimates, some 5,000 to 6,000 people came through the doors. The big draw, naturally, was the USPS First Day of issue (Figure 7) for the 32¢ Discobulus sheet of 20 stamps. I am sure that a lot of collectors visited Olymphilex that day, since the Olympic sporting events didn't begin until Saturday. Unfortunately, daily attendance dropped off markedly after that, averaging around 2,000-2,500. This seemed primarily due to less than adequate publicity. Both dealers and the Savvy Stamp Center suffered from a lack of foot traffic through the philatelic area of the exhibition.



Figure 8. One of the mobile post offices with two vans. There were rarely lines at these convenient facilities.

The USPS did a land office business that first day. They had roughly 10 clerks working non-stop selling stamps and canceling covers and cards for the first day of issue. The long lines lasted until closing time. I was particularly intrigued by the quantity of postal items being canceled for our Asian colleagues. Olympic philately must be alive and well in that part of the world.

The USPS booth at Olymphilex performed only two tasks: selling stamps and canceling mail. The individual sales stations were equipped with Postal Validation Imprinters (PVI: a modern version of the old meter machines), but they were deactivated.

I had finished my shift by mid-afternoon, whereupon Bob Farley and I took off to hit the mobile post offices around town. Bob had already managed to visit two of them, but there were still four more to go.

For the most part, all six stations were situated in the busiest parts of downtown, usually along with many other vendors. One, and sometimes two, mobile vans were staffed with between two and four personnel (Figure 8). Unlike Olymphilex, all services were available, including registration and certification. While Bob and I had to do a bit of "training" to get the results we were after, every one of the clerks was pleasant and attentive to our needs. Rather oily ink pads sometimes foiled our efforts.

Peachtree Street was especially busy that after noon, as crowds lined the street waiting for the Olympic torch to pass by in the final hours of its journey to the Olympic Stadium. Despite the crowds, there were never any lines at the mobile postal facilities. In fact, the drink sellers with their \$1 bottles of Coke (it was \$3.25 at the venues!) did far more business. At the Wall Street Mobile Station, which had two vans parked end to end, the senior clerk said that one van might be removed for lack business. During subsequent visits to these facilities during the course of the Games, I was never confronted with lines.

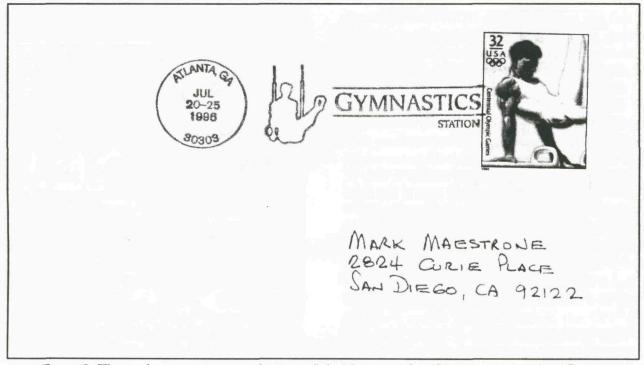


Figure 9. The men's gymnastics compulsories on July 19 was my first Olympic event at these Games.

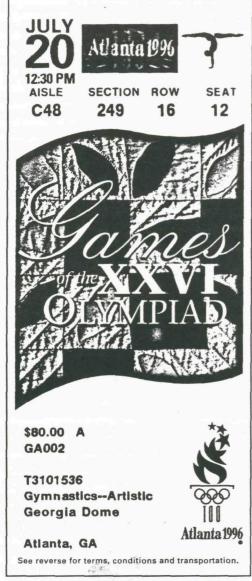


Figure 10. An example of the Olympic tickets. A hologram at the top pictured either the words "Atlanta 1996" or the centennial logo of laurel wreaths and the number "100" depending on how one viewed the image.

Saturday: day one of the competitions and my first event. Norm and I planned to attend the third session of men's gymnastics that afternoon at the Georgia Dome (Figures 9 & 10). Usually I wouldn't go to the compulsory competition, but I couldn't be sure of seeing the U.S. men's team the following week. I was pleasantly surprised, though, by how well they did, placing fifth overall going into the team finals.

Following the competition, Norm decided (and I concurred) to each purchase one of the Visa Olympic Cash Cards (Figure 11). While he fed our two

\$20 bills into the machine, I watched the crowds emerging from the stands. Who should appear, but Bart Conner, one of our gold medal gymnasts from the '84 Games in Los Angeles. We exchanged a few words, Bart predicting that the U.S. men's team would finish fifth in the finals. Despite my attempts to stall him, he was off before I could introduce him to Norm.

Another first that day was my introduction to the Centennial Olympic Park. It was impossible not to traverse this 21-acre expanse of grass and brick pavement when going to the sports complex consisting of the Georgia Dome, Omni Arena, and World Congress Center.

While there were some nice features, especially the "Fountain of Rings" where children (and an occasional adult) frolicked to cool off, the park was just too overcrowded (Figure 12). And the main street leading into, and through, the park, International Boulevard, was so packed with vendors, street shows, and religious proselytizers that it was sometimes impossible to move. The latter were particularly insidious, shoving tracts and other religious literature into your hands, nearly all of which ended up on the ground. This hucksterism was, for me, the downside of these Games.

Back at Olymphilex, I met up with another colleague from Europe, Jaroslav Petrasek from the Czech Republic. While he and I have only carried on a lively correspondence, it was our good friend, Joe Lacko, who introduced us. Jaroslav had brought along a number of "goodies" for my gymnastics collection, and allowed me to peruse some of his other treasures that were for sale or trade. I should also mention that Jaroslav served as his country's commissioner to Olymphilex.



Figure 11. Visa Cash Card picturing Mel Stewart, 1992 200m butterfly and 4x100 medley relay gold medalist. Series 3: Design #2 of 4.

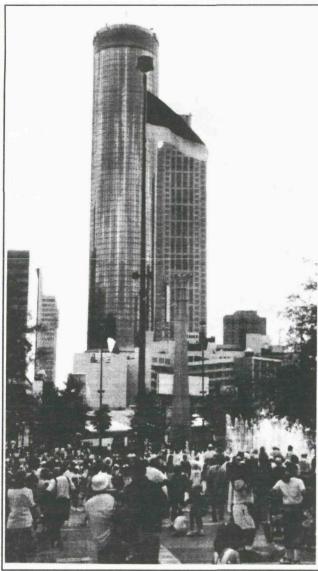


Figure 12. A view of Centennial Olympic Park looking toward the distinctive circular Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel, only one block from Olymphilex. The Olympic "Fountain of Rings" is visible at lower right. The reddish paving is composed of the individually-numbered and inscribed bricks sold to the public.

Later that evening, the "musketeers" (Bob, Brenda, Thomas and myself) got together again, this time at Norm and Kathy Jacobs'. Following refreshments at their home, we were all off to their favorite French restaurant. Excellent food, wine, and company made for a most pleasant evening. I only hope that we didn't totally bore Kathy and Brenda with our philatelic chatter.

There was far more to these Olympic Games than just sports. The fine arts program developed by the Cultural Olympiad was very extensive, including a number of excellent exhibitions.

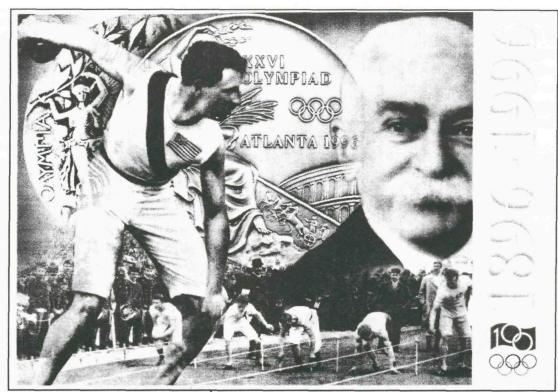
Some of the most memorable moments of these Games centered on the accomplishments of women athletes. It was, therefore, opportune that on Sunday, Norm and I visited *The Olympic Woman* presentation, sponsored by Avon, at Georgia State University. This multi-media exhibition explored women's achievements during a century of Olympic participation (yes, there was an "unofficial" woman marathon runner at the 1896 Games).

While an extensive selection of memorabilia from athletes was on display (Helen Wills tennis shoes, Dawn Fraser's bathing suit, and Joan Benoit's Marathon cap), the chronological development of women's sports proved very enlightening. For example, Pierre de Coubertin had this to say: "I personally am against the participation of women in public competition, which does not mean that they should not participate in sport, yet not in public."

Even more interesting was a discussion of the all-female games, called "Olympiades Féminines" (Women's Olympics). These competitions were held at the Stade de Tir in Monte Carlo, Monaco in May, 1921. Three-hundred women from Great Britain, France, Italy, Norway, and Switzerland competed in basketball and athletics at these first games. Might there have been a philatelic connection? Who knows.

Walking back to Olymphilex from the exhibition, Norm and I managed to gain access to the Marriott Marquis Hotel (for the IOC Family), thanks to our ACOG credentials and the fact that we were both wearing our uniforms. On the lower lobby level, a post office of sorts was available for the convenience of those at the hotel. Surprise, they had a special IOC cancel (see the cover of this issue of the journal). Various special postcards were available for purchase. There was also a bonus: with each purchase you received, free, one of each of the Mohammed Ali torch lighting postcard (see Figure 5) and a special postcard featuring a montage of Olympic images (Figures 13 & 14).

Having spent five successive days working at Olymphilex, I devoted my final three days in Atlanta to the pursuit of things philatelic and enjoying some more of the Olympic extravaganza that was now in full swing. The men's gymnastics team final on Monday night was fantastic. And true to Bart Conner's earlier prognostication, the U.S. men's team did come in fifth. Considering that they placed much lower at both Barcelona and Seoul, this signaled a distinct improvement.



Figures 13 (top) and 14 (below). The second of two special postcards produced by the IOC and available only at the Marriott Marquis Hotel (the IOC Family hotel). This card portrays images associated with the Olympic Games: medals, the start of the 100 meter race at Athens in 1896, and Pierre de Coubertin. The address side (below) reproduces the logos of the 10 Worldwide Olympic Sponsors of the Centennial Olympic Games.

SUPPO	RTING THE DREAM						
			00 1996 1000				
			_				
Coca Cola.	(Koda) Panasonic	VISA	TDW	BAUSCH & LOMB	John Hance	XEROX	*
The	Worldwide Olympic		Centenn	ial Olympic	-		

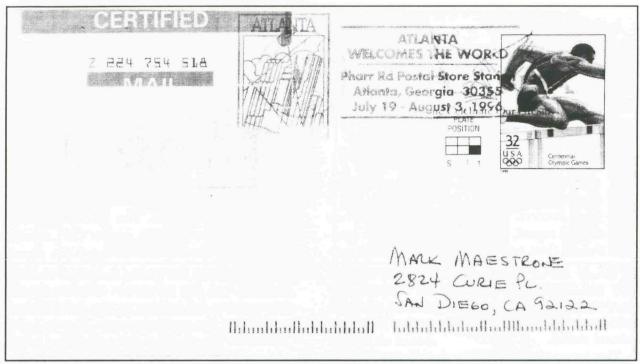


Figure 15. The Atlanta area postal stores provided a special "Skyline" cancel customized with their postal station name and zipcode. However, the fixed date inscription – July 19 - August 3, 1996 – makes the cancel useless for commemorating a special event on a specific day. In this case, a meter, erroneously still reading "Hapeville, GA," helps pin down the day, July 23, 1996.

I also discovered a sport that I had not seen before – team handball. For those of you who envision two men beating a small rubber ball against a wall, forget it. This sport is a fast-paced offense-defense game with seven men on a team. Imagine a combination of soccer and basketball, and you've got the idea. I watched Croatia (the eventual gold medal winner) come back from a five-goal deficit to beat Switzerland 23-22 in the final few minutes.

Time was also spent looking at the numerous excellent philatelic exhibits on view at the show, as well as patronizing the various postal administration booths. Many offered special hand stamps for use in the Olymphilex philatelic passports being sold by the American Philatelic Society. Unfortunately, it wasn't until later in the week that the general public discovered these traditional philatelic mementos.

One full day was entirely devoted to securing as many of the various postal station cancels as possible. In seven hours of driving, I managed to visit all nine post offices in Atlanta's northeast quadrant (Figure 15).

My final evening in Atlanta, Bob, Thomas and I (Figure 16) splurged at what had become our favorite restaurant in Atlanta: Einstein's. Their signature dessert – a Frozen Fusion Reactor – was a

real treat. Essentially a hot chocolate ice cream sundae, it arrived spewing clouds of steam from the melting collar of dry-ice around it. A fabulous production, rather like the Centennial Olympic Games themselves!

Thanks to all those who contributed information and illustrative material for this article, especially Norman Jacobs and Thomas Lippert. The author apologizes for any individuals whose names he may have inadvertently omitted – there were so many of you.



Figure 16. Thomas Lippert, the author, and Bob Farley at Einstein's restaurant in Atlanta.

Olymphilex '96 Palmares

by Mark Maestrone

udging by the exhibits, and the awards bestowed upon them, Olymphilex '96 was a great success. The jury, as noted in their official report, were "impressed by the quality of the exhibits and pleased with the large percentage of new exhibits, which demonstrated a lively and continuing interest in our hobby." This was also the first Olymphilex exhibition at which medal levels are fully equivalent to other FIP international shows.

The jury consisted of (in alphabetical order): Roman Babut, Poland (apprentice); Manfred Bergman, Switzerland; Hans-Walter Bosserhoff, Germany; Douglas N. Clark, USA (apprentice); Nancy B.Z. Clark, USA; Georges Dolianitis, Greece; D.D. Gray, USA (Jury Secretariat); D.N. Jatia, India (Honorary President); Steve Luster, USA (Jury Secretariat); Giancarlo Morolli, Italy; Charles J. Peterson, USA (President); Franceska Rapkin, Great Britain (Secretary); F. Burton Sellers, USA (Vice-President); Maurizio Tecardi, Italy (Vice-President); Michalis Tsironis, Greece; Patricia Stilwell Walker, USA.

A total of 215 exhibits were in competition. Of these, 139 were entered in the Competitive Class (97 adult, 13 youth, 29 literature). The remaining 76 exhibits competed for Promotion Class awards (69 adult and 7 youth).

The breakdown of awards was as follows: Competitive Class: 7 Gold; 13 Large Vermeil; 20 Vermeil; 23 Large Silver; 22 Silver; 22 Silver-Bronze; 25 Bronze and 5 youth diplomas. Promotion Class awards included: 1 Large Gold (to Otello Bortolato of Italy – the only one awarded at Olymphilex); 1 Gold; 2 Large Vermeil; 4 Vermeil; 9 Large Silver; 15 Silver; 16 Silver-Bronze; 12 Bronze; and 5 youth diplomas.

The Olymphilex medals, designed by Maurizio Tecardi and minted by the Italian Mint, are surely among the handsomest medals I've seen. The obverse and reverse sides are shown on the next page.

The special Sports Philatelists International Award (and a Large Vermeil) went to Herbert Huber of Germany.

Space prevents reproducing the entire results of the competition here. The following list, in rank order, includes all USA entries (SPI members are marked with an *) and all non-USA members of SPI. Scores are shown in (). Note that in the Promotion Class, five points are added to the scores to compensate for judging at the full FIP level. My apologies if I've omitted anyone. Thanks to Norman Jacobs for the photographs reproduced here.

COMPETITIVE CLASS

- *Dieter Germann, Germany. Olympic Games in Germany 1936. *Gold (93) and Grand Prix award*.
- *Cora B. Collins, USA. The Sport of Golf. Large Vermeil (89) and special prize (Olymphilex '96 Chairman's Award).
- *Conrad J. Klinkner, USA. Games of the Xth Olympiad. Large Vermeil (87) and special prize (Croatian Society of Olympic and Sports Philately Award).
- David R. Torre, USA. Classic State and Local Fish and Game Stamps. Large Vermeil (87) and special prize (American Philatelic Society Award).
- *James A. Bowman, USA. 1936 Olympische Spiele. Large Vermeil (86).
- *Giorgio Sini, Italy. Calcio, Football, Soccer. Large Vermeil (86).
- *Vic Manikian, USA. The Olympic Movement and the Summer Olympics 1894-1948. Large Vermeil (85) and special prize (Post Italiane Award).
- *Morris Rosen, USA. Olympic Games 1896-1932. Large Vermeil (85) and special prize (Republic of San Marino Award).



Cora Collins, the highest placing US exhibitor, receiving her medal from Patrick Pearson (at left), FIP Coordinator. Maurizio Tecardi (FIPO Coordinator), center, holds Cora's special prize, the Olymphilex '96 Chairman's Award.



Conrad Klinkner's Large Vermeil for his "Games of the Xth Olympiad" was the second highest US award. Conrad is shown receiving his special award from Mr. Pearson and Mr. Tecardi. Manfred Bergman appears at back behind the lectern.



Alaskan, Vic Manikian, arrived in Atlanta in time to receive his Large Vermeil and special prize. From left to right: Mr. Pearson; Nancy Clark (Chairman of Olymphilex '96); Mr. Tecardi; Dr. Jeffrey Babcock (Director, Cultural Olympiad); and Vic.



Youth award winner, Joyce Victoria Adams, receiving her silver-bronze award from apprentice judge, Roman Babut, of Poland.





Olymphilex medal, designed by Maurizio Tecardi and minted by the Italian Mint.

- *Noboru Hirasawa, Japan. World of Skiing. Vermeil (81).
- *Mark C. Maestrone & Joan R. Bleakley, USA. "Olympians on Stamps." *Literature Vermeil* (81).
- *Sebastián Sabaté Culla, Spain. Olympic Games History. Vermeil (80).
- *Zhuoyu Yuan, Canada. 1936 Olympic Games in Germany. Large Silver (78).
- Myrtis E. Herndon, USA. "The Sporting Spirit: Perceptions in Philatelic Art, Iconography and Sports Philately, 1896-1974." *Literature Large Silver* (77).
- *Mark C. Maestrone (editor), USA. "The Journal of Sports Philately." *Literature Large Silver* (77).
- *Trevor Bevan, New Zealand. Association Football. Large Silver (75).
- *Vsevolod N. Furman, Ukraine. "Philately on Olympic Suomi." *Literature Silver* (73).
- *Charles V. Covell, Jr., USA. Soccer (Just for Kicks). Silver (70).
- *Joyce Victoria Adams, USA. The Olympic Games: Swifter Higher Stronger. Youth Silver-Bronze (68).
- *Sebastián Sebaté Culla, Spain. "El Podio Olimpico: Los Heroes de los Juegos Olimpicos." *Literature* Silver-Bronze (68).
- Nicholas Palmer, USA. Olympics in Stamps. Youth Silver-Bronze (66).
- *Alice J. Johnson, USA. Figure Skating. Bronze (62).
- *Ugis Kenins, Latvia. Olympic Fame. Certificate (56).
- Tracy Zavrl, USA. Olympic Stamps. Youth Diploma (54).

PROMOTION CLASS

- *Sherwin Podolsky, USA. Olympic Games 1896-1944. *Large Vermeil* (82+5).
- *Norman F. Jacobs, Jr., USA. Tennis. Large Silver (73+5).
- *Alvaro Trucchi, Italy. Shooting. *Large Silver* (72+5).
- *Patricia A. Loehr, USA. The World of Golf. Silver (69+5).
- *Gary & Holly Gibson, USA. Dimensions of Gymnastics. *Silver* (66+5).
- *Peter M. Street, USA. Cricket Around the World. *Silver-Bronze* (64+5).
- *Dino G. Tognellini, Italy. Baseball. Silver-Bronze (62+5).
- *Nickolay W. Penev. Bulgaria. The Long Way to Victory. *Silver-Bronze* (62+5).
- Robert J. Christianson, USA. A Representative History of the Games. *Silver-Bronze* (60+5).
- *Gianni Galeotti, Italy. Games of the XXIII Olympiad Los Angeles 1984. Silver-Bronze (60+5).
- *Thomas H. Lippert, Germany. Lillehammer 1994: Postal Activities of the Olympic Offices. *Silver-Bronze* (60+5).
- *Manfred Winternheimer, Germany. Olympic Medal Winners 1896-1936. Bronze (59+5).
- *Pere Magrané Torrell, Spain. European Basketball Salutes Atlanta. *Bronze* (55+5).
- Robert Leske, USA. Batter Up! Youth Diploma (48+5).
- *Jeffrey R. Tishman, USA. Splendid with Swords. *Certificate* (34+5).

USPS Atlanta Philatelic Cancels

by Mark Maestrone

s one of his first acts upon assuming the position of Postmaster General, Marvin Runyon promised that the United States Postal Service (USPS) would not repeat its mistake in Barcelona by becoming a sponsor of another Olympic Games.

This was an unfortunate, and unnecessary, decision on his part. Atlanta had already been selected as the host of the centennial Olympics. And although the United Parcel Service (UPS) was subsequently named the official expedited mail and package service of the Games, it wasn't necessary for the USPS to entirely close the door on such an opportunity. Had the USPS and the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (AGOG) begun good-faith negotiations at an early date, a solution short of full sponsorship might have been possible. In the end, no sponsorship arrangement was really concluded, except for authorizing the postal service to print stamps with the Olympic rings on them.

The preceding background information helps explain the scope of the USPS cancellation program in Atlanta. The ACOG-imposed restrictions were as follows: no use of the Olympic rings, the word "Olympic" or any other registered Olympic device on cancels; and, no presence of USPS personnel at venues (except for Olymphilex). In fact, the USPS was not even allowed to transport mail into or out of ACOG facilities such as the Olympic Village.

The following tables explain each of the three categories of "Olympic" cancels available. Table 1 shows the 16 theme day cancels used at Olymphilex '96. Table 2 reproduces the 25 sports cancellations used only at Olymphilex. Lastly, Table 3 lists the 38 postal stations in and around Atlanta that offered one of three distinct types of cancels: Atlanta Skyline, Liberty the Eaglet, or Mobile Unit (see figure below).

In a future issue of the journal, we will look at the auxiliary markings from various postal entities at Olymphilex, as well as some special cancels used around the Atlanta area.



A certified cover canceled with the Rhoades St. Mobile Station postmark. The PVI label fixes the date of mailing as July 19, 1996 – the day of the Opening Ceremony and the first day of issue of the Discobulus stamp.

TABLE 1 16 OLYMPHILEX THEME DAY CANCELS

There were a total of 16 different Olymphilex theme day cancels. A full-size example is shown at right. For easy identification, I have numbered these T1-T16. Each cancel was available only on the day indicated. Handback cancels could be obtained only at the Olymphilex U.S. Postal Service booth. Cancels could also be ordered by mail up to 30 days following the date of the cancellation from: Olymphilex 96 Station, Postmaster, 257 Lawrence Street, Marietta, GA 30060-9998.





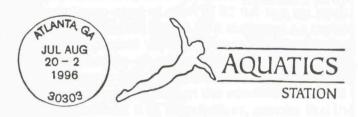
OLYMPHILEX '96 STATION





TABLE 2 25 ATLANTA 1996 SPORTS CANCELS

Twenty-five sports cancels were produced for the Centennial Olympic Games. None, however, note the Olympic Games in either their wording or the design of the illustrations. Shown full-size at right is a typical sports cancel. The circular date dial is positioned to the left of each sports design. The text in the dial always reads "ATLANTA, GA/ (date) /30303". I have numbered the cancels S1-S25 for ease of identification.

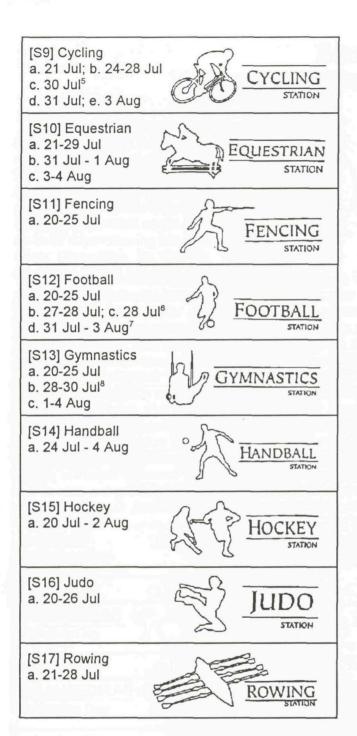


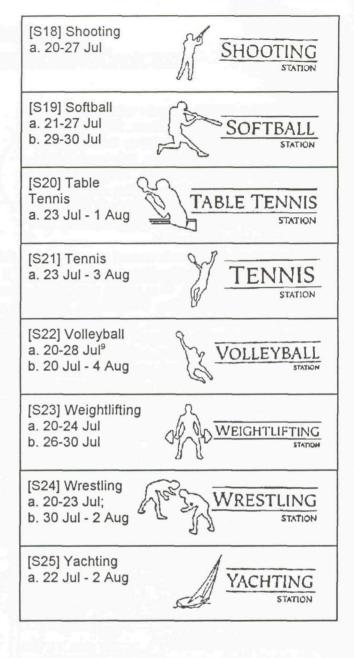
The dates of use of each cancel correspond to the days on which events in that sport occurred. As the circular date dials do not contain moveable dates, it was necessary to specify periods of use in the dater rather than single dates. One of the post office personnel referred to these as "slash dates," which is an appropriate descriptive term. Sometimes, events in a specific sport were not contested every day over an unbroken sequence of days. To accommodate this situation, a different cancel was created for each continuous period of competition days. Aberrations did occur in this system, which are documented in the endnotes. I have assigned each date sequence a subvariety letter designation ("a" through "e"). Including subvarieties, there are a total of 44 face different collectible sports cancels. It should be noted that one sport, modern pentathlon, was not commemorated by a cancel. It was contested on 30 July. Interestingly, none of the five sports of the modern pentathlon (shooting, fencing, swimming, equestrian, athletics) were competed on that day either, so cancels depicting those sports are not available as acceptable substitutes!

Each sports cancel was available only on the day, or sequence of days, indicated. Handback cancels could be obtained only at the Olymphilex U.S. Postal Service booth as there were no separate postal facilities at the sports venues. Cancels could also be ordered by mail up to 30 days following the date of the cancellation from: Olymphilex 96 Station, Postmaster, 257 Lawrence Street, Marietta, GA 30060-9998, U.S.A.

[S1] Aquatics a. 20 Jul - 2 Aug ¹	AQUATICS STATION
[S2] Archery a. 28 Jul - 2 Aug ²	ARCHERY
[S3] Athletics a. 26 Jul - 4 Aug ³	ATHLETICS STATION
[S4] Badminton a. 24 Jul - 1 Aug	BADMINTON STATION

[S5] Baseball a. 20-25 Jul b. 27-30 Jul c. 1-2 Aug	BASEBALL STATION
[S6] Basketball a. 20 Jul - 4 Aug	BASKETBALL STATION
[S7] Boxing a. 20-28 Jul b. 30 Jul - 4 Aug	BOXING STATION
[S8] Canoe/Kayak a. 26-28 Jul ⁴ b. 30 Jul - 4 Aug	CANOE/KAYAK STATION





- 1. Includes diving (26 July-2 August); swimming (20-26 July); synchronized swimming (30 July); and water polo (20-24 July; 26-30 July).
- 2. Ticketed sessions to archery did not begin until 29 July. A session on 28 July was not open to spectators.
- 3. No athletics events took place on July 30, though the cancel dates span the period 26 July through 4 August.
- 4. A ticketed training session for the slalom events occurred on 26 July.
- 5. Although 30 July (mountain bike event) and 31 July (road racing event) are contiguous dates, separate cancels with identical designs were created to distinguish between the two different cycling disciplines.
- 6. A separate cancel was created for the football competition on 28 July (semifinal games) to distinguish it from the quarterfinal games commemorated on the cancel dated 27-28 July. Both cancels have identical illustrations.
- 7. This cancel should have included 30 July on which semifinal games took place.
- 8. A non-competitive "Gala Event" gymnastics exhibition was conducted on 30 July.
- 9. Beach volleyball (23-28 July) was contested within the longer period of indoor volleyball (20 July-4 August). Nevertheless, two separate cancels with identical designs (but different date sequences) were created.

TABLE 3 38 USPS POSTAL STATION CANCELS

The Atlanta District of the U.S. Postal Service created three series of special cancellations for use during the Centennial Olympic Games. The "Atlanta Skyline" cancel was used at each of 22 full-service postal stores in the City of Atlanta. For the convenience of Olympic visitors, the USPS also stationed six mobile post office units in the downtown area. These units were equipped with their own "Mobile Station" postmarks. In addition to these facilities, ten postal stores outside of Atlanta joined in the Olympic celebration by applying a special "Liberty the Eaglet" cancellation to mail. All three cancel types omit any reference to the Olympic Games. However, the sequence of dates appearing on the cancels – "July 19 - August 3, 1996" – leaves little doubt as to the event they commemorate. It is, nonetheless, curious that the final date of the cancel is August 3 rather than August 4 (the day of the Olympic Closing Ceremony). Possibly this earlier date was selected to coincide with the final day of the Olymphilex 96 exhibition.

The "Atlanta Skyline" cancel features a drawing of Atlanta's skyline and the words "Atlanta Welcomes The World." A bouncing peach, symbol of Georgia, crosses the scene. A mobile post office leaving tire track cancellation bars in its wake is depicted on the "Mobile Station" cancel. While Olympic officialdom touted its mascot, Izzy, the postal service graced its northern Georgia post office cancels with its own children's mascot, "Liberty the Eaglet," greeting visitors to Atlanta with a cheery "Hello World!" Examples of all three cancel types are illustrated at full size below.

Handback cancels were only available at the respective postal stations during the period July 19 through August 3 (see the endnote accompanying the Peachtree Center Station listing for an exception). Cancels may also be ordered by mail if requests are postmarked no later than September 2. Mail orders must be addressed to the individual post offices at the zipcodes provided. Orders should be addressed as follows:

[NAME] POSTAL STORE STATION POSTMASTER PO BOX 9998 [CITY] GA [ZIPCODE]-9998.

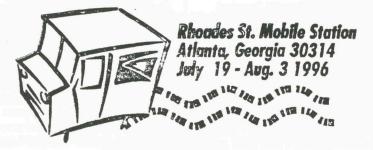


ATLANTA WELCOMES THE WORLD

Pharr Rd Postal Store Station Atlanta, Georgia 30353 July 19 - August 3, 1996 Decatur Postal Store Station
Decatur, Georgia 30030
July 19 - August 3, 1996

Atlanta Skyline Cancel [Numbers US1-US22]

Liberty The Eaglet Cancel [Numbers UL1-UL10]



Mobile Post Office Unit Cancel [Numbers UM1-UM6]

Postal Store	Location	Cancel	PVI No./Meter No./CDS ⁽¹⁾
[US1] Akers Mill Atlanta GA 31139	2997 Cobb Pkwy., Suite 300	Skyline	A STATE OF THE STA
[UL1] Alps Road Athens GA 30604	Alps Road	Liberty	CDs: Alps Rd Sta Athens GA 30604
[US2] Briarcliff Atlanta GA 30345	104 Briarcliff Road NE	Skyline	P: #00042473-11 Atlanta GA 30329 ⁽²⁾ M: #PB3370441 Atlanta GA CDs: Briarcliff Sta. Atlanta GA 30345
[UM1] Broad Street Atlanta GA 30308	Broad Street at Luckie Street	Mobile ⁽³⁾	P: #00060851-01 Atlanta GA 30309 Cds: Main Post Office Atlanta GA 30321
[US3] Broadview Atlanta GA 30324	740 Morosgo Drive	Skyline	x
[US4] Brookhaven Atlanta GA 31119	3851 Peachtree Road	Skyline	M: #PB3359255 Atlanta GA
[US5] Central City Atlanta GA 30302	183 Forsyth Street SW	Skyline	P: #00065316-02 Central City GA 30302
[US6] Civic Center Atlanta GA 30308	570 Piedmont Avenue NE	Skyline	
[US7] CNN Center Atlanta GA 30303	1 CNN Center-CNN Mall [Inside CNN Building]	Skyline	P: #00078396-02 Atlanta GA 30303 Cds: CNN Center Finance 30303-2705
[US8] Cumberland Mall Atlanta GA 30339	1000 Cumberland Mall NW	Skyline	
[UL2] Decatur Decatur GA 30030	520 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.	Liberty	P: #00037031-17 Decatur GA 30030 Cds: Decatur GA 30030
[US9] Druid Hills Atlanta GA 30333	1799 Briarcliff Road	Skyline	M: #PB3358303 Atlanta GA Cds: Druid Hills Sta. Atlanta GA 30333
[UL3] Ellijay Ellijay GA 30540	305 Industrial Boulevard	Liberty	P: #00035161-02 Ellijay GA 30540
[US10] Embry Hills Atlanta GA 31141	3579 Chamblee Tucker Road	Skyline	M: #PB3368407 Atlanta GA Cds: Embry Hills BR Atlanta GA 31141
[UL4] Fairburn Fairburn GA 30213	75 Washington Street	Liberty	
[UL5] Georgia Sq. Mall Athens GA 30606	Atlanta Highway	Liberty	
[US11] Greenbriar Mal Atlanta GA I 30331	2841 Greenbriar Parkway	Skyline	
[US12] Hartsfield Atlanta GA 31123	Hartsfield Airport/N.Terminal	Skyline	P: #00065463-06 Atlanta GA 31123 Cds: Hartsfield Int'l 31123
[US13] Howell Mill Atlanta GA 30327	1715 Howell Mill Road NW	Skyline	
UM2] International Boulevard Atlanta GA 30303	International Boulevard at Carnegie Way	Mobile	P: #00061014-03 Atlanta GA 30309 Cds: Main Post Office Atlanta GA 30321
UL6] Limestone Gainsville GA 30501	2490 Limestone Parkway	Liberty	· P: #00047589-02 Gainsville GA 30501

Postal Store	Location	Cancel	PVI No./Meter No./CDS ⁽¹⁾
[US14] Little Five Points Atlanta GA 30307	1087 Euclid Avenue NE	Skyline	
[US15] Main Office Atlanta GA 30321	3900 Crown Road SW	Skyline	hard obligation -
[US16] Martech Atlanta GA 30318	794 Marietta Street	Skyline	
[UL7] Memorial Stone Mountain GA 30083	5152 Memorial Drive	Liberty	
[UL8] Mountain Park Stone Mountain GA 30087	1785 E. Park Plaza	Liberty	P: #00043249-53 Stone Mtn. GA 30087
[UM3] Nassau Street Atlanta GA 30303	Nassau Street at Centennial Olympic Park	Mobile	
[US17] North Highland Atlanta GA 30308	1190 N. Highland Avenue NE	Skyline	
[US18] Northlake Atlanta GA 31145	3012 Northlake Parkway	Skyline	P: #00054083-03 Atlanta GA 31145 Cds: Northlake Branch Atlanta GA 31145
[US19] Peachtree Center ⁽⁴⁾ Atlanta GA 30343	240 Peachtree Street NW	Skyline	M: #PB3368439 Atlanta GA Cds: Peachtree Center Sta. 30343
[US20] Perimeter Center Atlanta GA 31146	4707 Ashford-Dunwoody Rd.	Skyline	P: #00079072-10 Atlanta GA 31146 Cds: Perimeter Br Atlanta GA 31146
[US21] Pharr Road Atlanta GA 30355	575 Pharr Road NW	Skyline	M: #PB3368448 Hapeville GA ⁽⁵⁾ Cds: Atlanta GA 30998
[UM4] Rhoades Street Atlanta GA 30314	Rhoades Street at Vine City MARTA Station	Mobile	P: #00040699-06 Atlanta GA 30309
[UL9] Rockbridge Norcross GA 30093	4771 Britt Road	Liberty	
[US22] Sandy Springs Atlanta GA 30328	227 Sandy Springs Place	Skyline	P: #00014355-09 Atlanta GA 30328 Cds: Atlanta GA Sandy Springs BR 30328
[UL10] Stone Mountain Stone Mountain GA 30086	5181 W. Mountain Street	Liberty	
[UM5] Wall Street Atlanta GA 30303	Wall Street at Peachtree Center Street	Mobile	P: #00060119-08 Atlanta GA 30309 P: #00065584-07 Atlanta GA 30309 Cds: Main Post Office Atlanta GA 30321
[UM6] West Peachtree St. Atlanta GA 30308	West Peachtree Street at Ponce de Leon Street	Mobile	P: #00060812-09 Atlanta GA 30309

- 1. Each postal store/mobile unit was equipped with PVI (Postage Validation Imprint) machines and/or traditional meter machines. In addition, each had standard circular date stamps in either black or red. Where known, the machine numbers and inscriptions are provided to assist in identification. P=PVI; M=meter; Cds=circular date stamp.
- 2. Many of the postal stores had been completed just in time for the Games. Sometimes, equipment had to be borrowed from outlying post offices (see endnote 4, below). Often, there was no time (or personnel forgot) to change the inscriptions on the machines, as in this case.
- 3. All receipts from all mobile post offices read "Mobile Unit #0099, 1072 W. Peachtree."
- 4. An SPI member reports that he visited the Peachtree Station post office on Sunday, August 4, and was surprised to find that they still had their "Skyline" cancel in use (apparently, they had been collected from most other post offices the day before).
- 5. This meter machine was borrowed from the Hapeville, GA post office.

Women's Soccer Comes of Age

by Mike Freed

f there is a group that has truly earned the title "Women of the 90s," it is female soccer players. During this decade, a sport which as recently as 25 years ago was not officially recognized by most of the world's governing soccer bodies has staged its first two official world championships. While men's soccer has been an Olympic sport since 1900, this summer's Games in Atlanta introduces women's Olympic soccer competition.

The Football Association (FA), which controls all soccer activities in England, decided in 1902 not to allow women's clubs to join their organization, citing the lack of special rules for women and the fact that "it could not be held responsible for the many injuries expected." Unfortunately, most of the other European national associations followed suit, leaving women's soccer to struggle on its own for almost seventy years.

The 1960s and 1970s saw women's soccer begin to make strides. In 1957, West Berlin hosted an unofficial women's football championship which was won by England. West Germany, Austria, and the Netherlands were the other participants. Many of the Eastern European countries began to see women's teams appear in the state-sponsored sports programs. Germany recognized women's soccer in the late 1960s, while Italy introduced a women's league, drawing in many players from other countries who still had not recognized women's soccer.

France inaugurated a women's cup competition in 1968. Soon, most national governing bodies brought women's soccer under their wing, including the English FA (1969), Belgium (1971) and the Scottish FA (1972). A second unofficial world championship, this time held in Mexico, took place in 1971, involving a number of European and Latin American teams. The final, won by Denmark, took place in the famed Azteca Stadium (host to the men's 1970 World Cup final), drawing 100,000 spectators.

The 1980s saw support for the game come from the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the world's governing body. From a philatelic perspective, the first of a handful of stamps relating to women's soccer appeared. A 1981 pair issued by the Republic of China (Scott 2260-61) features a pair of players and a goalkeeper. In 1982, Belgium's issue for Youth Philately and Scouting (Scott 1131) depicted two boys and two girls playing soccer. Finally, there was Hungary's 1985 set commemorating the International Youth Year. The lowest denomination stamp of the set (Scott 2919) recognizes girl's soccer (Figure 1).

The People's Republic of China hosted the 1988 International Women's Football Tournament, a FIFA-sanctioned event. The tournament was staged in Guangdong during the first two weeks of June, and featured some of the top national teams from around the world, including our own team from the United States. Norway triumphed after defeating the USA team 1-0 in the quarterfinals. While there were no stamps issued specifically for the event, Figure 2 shows a cover with the tournament logo and a special cancel. The competition was such a success that China was awarded the honor of hosting the first ever FIFA World Championship for Women, scheduled for 1991.





Figure 1. Various examples of women playing soccer on stamps of the 1980s.





Figure 2. China commemorates the International Women's Football Tournament which it hosted from June 1-12, 1988.

Between 1988 and 1991, the United States began to emerge as a world power in women's soccer. One key to their success was certainly the number of players involved in U.S. soccer programs. A study by the Soccer Industry Council of America in the early 1990s estimated that 16 million Americans participated in some form of organized soccer. Of these, roughly 36% were female. But perhaps the greatest factor was the influence of coach Anson Dorrance. Dorrance built his national team around many players from the University of North Carolina (UNC) team, which he also coached. UNC became a virtual dynasty, winning eight of the first nine NCAA Division I women's collegiate championships. By 1991, the USA was one of the favorites to win the tournament.

The USA build-up was impressive, sweeping through the CONCACAF (the soccer region comprising North and Central America) tournament. The team won their five games by a combined score of 49-0. In the world championships, which were held in November of 1991, the USA opened tentatively (a 3-2 victory over Sweden), but built momentum, defeating Brazil 5-0 and Japan 3-0 to finish group play. In the quarterfinals, the United States crushed Taiwan 7-0, and then swept away

the European champions, Germany, 5-2. In the final, played before 60,000 spectators in Guangzhou's Tianhe Stadium, the USA defeated Norway 2-1 to become the first women's world champions.

To commemorate the hosting of this tournament, China issued a pair of stamps (Scott 2371-72, shown in Figure 3). We all have favorite items in our collections, and I must admit this is one of mine, but not because of its philatelic value. The front and back of the cover bear the autographs of 32 members of the United States and German national teams, including 19 participants in the 1991 championship and six others who would take part in the 1995 championship. Among those who signed the cover are Coach Dorrance, Michelle Akers-Stahl (the tournament's leading scorer, who tallied the game winning goal against Norway), Carin Gabarra-Jennings (voted the tournament's most outstanding player as well as the third leading scorer), Heidi Mohr (the German forward and the tournament's second leading scorer), Mia Hamm (named United States Soccer Women's Player of the Year several times, and one of the top players on our current Olympic team) and Tony DiCicco (the current national team coach). The tournament mascot is also shown on the cancel.



Figure 3. A FDC for the First Women's World Championship, signed by members of the USA and German teams.

The world's best women's national teams gathered again four years later, this time in Sweden. This nation has been one of the world's most progressive countries for women's soccer, as its professional league became the home of many of the top USA players during the period between the two championships. Sweden's philatelic contributions to women's soccer include one value of a three-value set issued in 1988. Scott 1708 pays tribute to Pia Sundhage, one of the most "capped" players (a "cap" refers to an appearance for the national team) in Swedish women's soccer (Figure 4).

The United States team was again among the favorites. They backed up that reputation in group play, tieing China 3-3 and then defeating both Denmark (2-0) and Australia (4-1). This feat was accomplished in spite of the fact that Akers-Stahl and Gabarra-Jennings were both plagued with injuries that limited their playing time and effectiveness. In the quarterfinals, the USA posted a 4-0 victory over Japan, advancing them to the semifinals. They were joined by two other 1991 semifinalists, Norway and Germany, along with China, who upset the hosts on penalty kicks.

In the semifinals, the first corner kick of the game resulted in the match's only goal as Norway dethroned the United States, after withstanding relentless second-half pressure. Germany defeated China in the other semifinal. Norway eventually claimed the honor that eluded them in 1991 by defeating Germany in the final to become the world champions. The United States went on to defeat China 2-0 for third place. While there were no stamps issued by Sweden to commemorate the championship, I'm sure there are covers marking the event. Sadly, I do not have any in my collection (for those who missed it, that was a subtle hint to anyone who might have such an item).



Figure 4. Sweden honors Pia Sundhage (at right).

Through the relentless campaigning by many of the players on the United States team, women's soccer came of age this summer in Atlanta with inaugural Olympic competition. The sheet of 20 Olympic stamps recently released by the United States Postal Service features women's soccer as one of the sports depicted (Figure 5).

At the Centennial Olympics, the United States, Denmark, Sweden and China found themselves in one group; Germany, Japan, Norway and Brazil comprised the other. The USA gained their revenge on Norway with a 2-1 win in the semifinals, with the game winner coming in overtime on a "golden goal," FIFA's recently installed version of sudden death overtime. In the final, the USA downed China 1-0 to claim the gold medal before the largest crowd ever to witness a women's sporting in the United States.

Women's soccer in the United States will get a boost in the summer of 1999 as the United States hosts the Third Women's World Championship of Football.

About the author: Mike Freed has been coaching youth soccer for 17 years, the last ten of which have



Figure 5. USPS women's soccer stamp for the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games where women's Olympic soccer will debut.

been exclusively with girl's teams. His teams, the Valley Soccer Club and Upper Bucks Soccer League, have won numerous league and tournament titles, with more than 30 of his Under-19 Girls players having gone on to compete at the college level. He was named the Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Association's Girls Coach of the Year in 1994. Mike works part-time as an accountant while running his own business, Keystone United Overseas Travel, which arranges soccer tours for both teams and players who want to travel abroad, as well as foreign teams that want to come to the United States. His interest in collecting soccer stamps came about through an introduction to the hobby by the father of one of his players.

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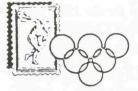
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THE SPORTS ARENA

by Mark Maestrone

ATTENTION OLYMPIC AFICIONADOS! If you haven't been to your bookstore lately, drop by soon. The latest edition of David Wallechinsky's *The Complete Book of the Summer Olympics* is now available. Readers will recall that when David's first edition was published back in 1984, it covered both summer and winter Games. Beginning in 1994, his new publisher, Little, Brown and Company, decided to separate the two disciplines

This paperback edition, all 843 pages of it, covers the results of the Summer Olympic Games from 1896 through the Barcelona Games of 1992. New photographs have been included along with some new tables of information (e.g. a list of Summer Olympic Games records).

The price is \$15.95 in the U.S. – a real bargain considering the quantity of information provided.

Australia seems to have gotten a jump on organizing Olymphilex 2000 in conjunction with the Olympic Games in Sydney.

From SPI member Noel Almeida comes word that Mr. Bernard Doherty, consulting editor of the Australian philatelic publication, *Stamp News*, has been appointed APF co-ordinator (Australian Philatelic Federation) of this philatelic event.

According to the news release printed in the May 1996 issue of *Stamp News*, "the Exhibition is fully funded by the Olympic Committee, but with the philatelic control in the hands of the Australian Philatelic Federation with the coordination of the FIP." Very interesting!

From our recent SPI Questionnaire, we had a request to do some articles on making one's own cacheted covers.

As none of your editors are particularly experienced in this area, I explored the availability of existing written material on the subject. Low and behold, our publisher, John La Porta, came up with a great resource.

"Handcrafted Cachets: The Make-Your-Own

Cachet & Envelope Handbook" by Gene H. Russell fills the bill better then any of us could. This 114-page paperback handbook provides step-by-step directions on producing your cachets in just about any medium you can think of. Copious illustrations provide ideas and inspiration for the imagination-challenged individual.

Published by the American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS), this second edition is available for only \$13.95 postpaid in the United States (international orders please add \$2 per item). Your orders should be sent to AFDCS Sales, P.O. Box 1335, Maplewood, NJ 07040.

SPI Membership Chairman, Margaret Jones, informs us of a special exhibition taking place in St. Louis during June-July 1996 in commemoration of the 1904 World's Fair Exhibition. Readers will remember that the Games of the IIIrd Olympiad took place in St. Louis in conjunction with the 1904 Fair.

Margaret writes: "The Missouri Historical Society has announced a month long exhibition of the 1904 World's Fair. The exhibit will contain maps, photographs and memorabilia from the Society archives relating to the fair, beginning June 22, 1996. A touch-screen computer will show the Fair buildings and the sites as they are today."

Olympic visitors coming to Atlanta may wish to make a detour to attend the "Meet Me at the Fair" exhibition which continues through the second week of July.

Also from Margaret Jones comes information on a sprayed-on slogan marking for basketball that "overshot" the mark.

The United States Postal Service (USPS) in the Peoria, Illinois district was to use the cancel "IHSA Plays In Peoria" on March 15 and 16, 1996. These were the dates of the Illinois High School Association's (IHSA) AA Boys Basketball Tournament Championship.

21:45 Q3/18/96 IHSA PLAYS IN PEDRIA

However, the cancel continued to be used March 18, at least until 21:45 (9:45 p.m.) as shown above. It should also be pointed out that the USPS fouled out by putting the cancel on the back side of the envelope rather than across the stamp.

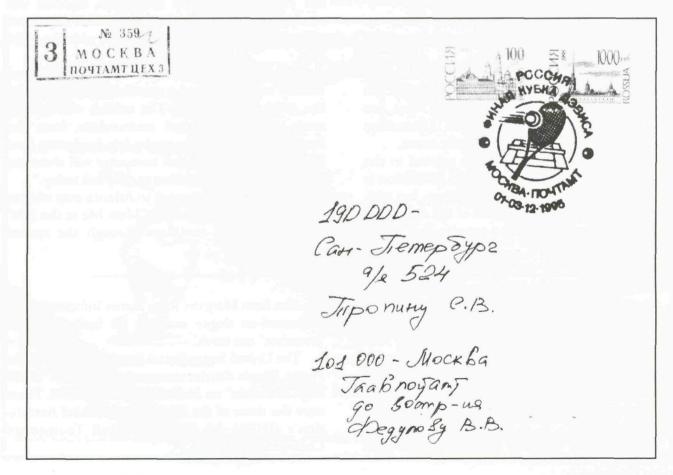
In a related matter, the IHSA asked U.S. District Judge, Michael Mihm, to bar GTE Entertainment Inc. from using the cliche "March Madness" to advertise a computer basketball game in connection with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) basketball tournament. The judge ruled that the IHSA might have had a strong case for controlling "March Madness" in 1939 when one of its employees coined the phrase as a description of the IHSA basketball tournament. But he stated that the phrase now has common usage and that the public uses it for events other than this tournament.

The IHSA filed for a trademark on "March Madness" in 1989 and added "America's Original March Madness" in December 1994. The IHSA says it will continue the fight in court.

Sergei Tropin of St. Petersburg, Russia submits the illustrated cover commemorating the finals of the 1995 Davis Cup tennis championships held in Moscow December 1-3, 1995. The cancel was used all three days.

The finals consist of five matches - four men's singles matches and one doubles match. Pete Sampras and Jim Courier competed for the U.S. The Russian team was composed of Chesnokov, Kafelnikov and Olkhovsky. In the first pair of singles matches, Chesnokov lost to Sampras, while Kafelnikov bested Courier. The doubles match between Sampras/Courier and Kafelnikov/Olkhovsky went to the U.S. In the first reverse singles match, Sampras beat Kafelnikov to clinch the Cup three matches to one. The final pro forma match between Chesnokov and Courier went to the Russian.

125th (British) Open Golf Championship cacheted covers for sale with special cancel dated either 18 or 21 July 1996. £3 or \$5 each, post paid, from Sportz Stuff, 61 Leonard St., Neath, Wales, SAII 3HW, Great Britain. Visa/Mastercard accepted.



REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS

by Dorothy Crockett & Mark Maestrone

Japanese Philately Vol. 50, No. 5

Normally, we do not review publications that are not primarily sport or Olympic related. However, SPI member Vic Manikian brought to my attention this very interesting October 1995 issue of the journal of the International Society for Japanese Philately.

Peter Bunbury-Murray of Australia and Kenneth Kamholz of the U.S. compiled a "Topical Index of [Japanese] Sports Designs." Included are "amateur and professional sports designs on Japanese stamps, both adhesive and imprinted postcards or the message side of a government-issued card, through 1994."

The stamps are indexed by sport. For each, the date of issue is provided along with the face value and a brief description of the purpose of issue. While these postal materials are not illustrated, a variety of commemorative cancels are. Personally, I would like to see an index of these sports cancels which are rich in quantity and diversity.

This issue is available for \$2.00 postpaid from John D. Fluck, 9309 Fairhaven Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772.

- M.M.

Olympsport Number 1, 1996

Atlanta 1996 is featured prominently in this issue of the Czech language publication from the Czech Association of Olympic and Sports Philately. Included with the issue is a helpful summary of the contents in both English and German.

Basic information on the upcoming Games in Atlanta is provided (e.g. venue map, information on the Atlanta logo, Izzy the mascot, etc.). The final part of an article on the 1924 Paris Olympics by Rene Christin (translated from *Torch Bearer*) is presented. Various news items on philatelic meetings, chess, ice hockey, ski jumping, and soccer are also noted.

For additional information on joining their society, please write Mr. Jaroslav Petrasek, POB 13, 282 23, Cesky Brod, Czech Republic. - M.M.

OSPC Berlin Journal Number 1, 1996

This issue of the journal of the Olympia-und Sport-Philatelisten-Club of Berlin looks at a variety of topics. The central article in this number discusses "Sport in Berlin." This is followed by updates on the Olympic Games of Atlanta 1996, Nagano 1998, and Sydney 2000. Atlanta 1996 commemorative cancels and cacheted postal envelopes from Russia are illustrated and discussed.

Part 4 of an article on the philatelic output from the USSR during the Moscow Olympics of 1980 is presented. This chapter deals with both standard circular date cancels used during the Games and commemorative cancels. An examination of Olympic winners on stamps continues with Part 2.

SPI member Thomas Lippert, welcomes inquiries about the club and its journal. Please write him at Budapester Str. 62, D-18057 Rostock, Germany.

- M.M.

Podium Number 9, April 1996

Podium, the Spanish-language publication of Argentina's Sports Thematic Group, features an article on the characteristics of Greece's 1896 Olympic stamps. Automobile racing, namely Formula 1 competitions in Argentina, is reviewed. Rounding out this issue are articles on the Cuban Olympic issues of 1960, key pieces from Dieter Germann's awarding-winning exhibit on the 1936 Olympic Games, aero-sports, and the 1995 Davis Cup Tennis finals in Moscow.

To join the Sports Thematic Group of Argentina and receive its journal, please write to Mr. Jorge A. Casalia, C.C. 30 Suc 19, 1419 Buenos Aires, Argentina.

News of Our Members

by Margaret Jones & Dorothy Crockett

New Members

2075R Steve Glickman, 1552 Beechwood Blvd., Pittsburg, PA 15217 USA. Steve is an attorney. *Running; Bicycling; FDC postmarks.* (Jones)

2076R Joan B. Cook, 707 Sudbrook Road, Baltimore, MD 21208-4761 USA. Mrs. Cook specializes in *Cricket*. (Jones)

2077R Viele Orazio, Via del Mare 85, I-00040 Pomezia (RM), Italy. Mr. Orazio is a software researcher. *Olympics*. (Maestrone/WWW)

2078R Alan Tohn, 3453 Frederick Street, Oceanside, NY 11572 USA. *All Olympics; Basketball; Soccer; Baseball; Golf.* (Jones)

2079R Denise M. Huffhines, 5715 Baltimore Drive, #38, La Mesa, CA 91942 USA. Miss Huffhines is a correctional deputy probation officer. *Soccer*; *World Cup Soccer*. (APS)

2080R Nick Schroeder, 2450 N. Fratney Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212-2933 USA. Nick is a graphic designer at Marquette University and rowing club coach. *Rowing; Track and Field; Regional and National Games*. (ATA)

2081R Colm Thomas Murphy, 7 St. Bartholomew's Terrace, Rochester, Kent, England MEI 1BX. He is a teacher and volunteers to write articles. *Irish Olympians; Soccer; Rugby; Cricket; Summer Olympics*. (Jones)

2082R Fred J. Stiekel, 69 Maple Street, New Providence, NJ 07974-2402 USA. Fred collects *Olympic host countries & Greek Olympic issues*. (Jones)

2083R William L. Kullman, PO Box 1045, Union, OR 97883 USA. Mr. Kullman is a rancher. *Fencing*. (Jones)

2084R Hugh M. Goldberg, Subway Stamp Shop,

Inc., 2121 Beale Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601 USA. He is a professional philatelist wishing to expand his shop's reference book selection. (Estus)

New Addresses:

American Philatelic Research Library, PO Box 8000, State College, PA 16803 USA.

Michel Larouche, 165 av. Brunet #10, Dorval, Quebec, Canada H9S 5R5.

Andrew F. Potter, 41 Rosemead Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey, England CR4 1EZ.

Peter Street, 3901 - 71st Street West, #68, Braden ton, FL 34209 USA.

Deceased:

354R P.J. Drossos 176C Atsushi Sekimoto

Resigned or Dropped:

694R Dane Claussen 2001 Henny Janny Vincze

Total Membership, June 30, 1996 = 455.

Thanks to those of you who renewed memberships before the "deadline." Also the multi-year renewals were appreciated.

Exhibition Awards

Plymouth Show, sponsored by the West Suburban Stamp Club, held in April in Plymouth, Michigan. A vermeil Youth Award went to Joyce V. Adams, age 12, for her exhibit "The Olympic Games – Swifter, Higher, Stronger."

NAPEX, a Washington, DC area national show held this year in Tyson's Corner, VA over the May 31-June 2 weekend. A vermeil award and the ATA silver went to Gorofu (Cora Collins) for "The Sport of Golf."

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New Stamp Issues

by Dennis Dengel

Algeria: 24 January 1996. 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. 20 dinars, javelin thrower, doves and Olympic rings.

Argentina: 30 March 1996. 100th Anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games. 75 centavos, modern and ancient greek runners; \$1.00, modern discus thrower plus Myron's Discobulus.

Aruba: 28 May 1996. 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. 85 cents, runners and the Olympic flame; \$1.30, cyclists and the Olympic flame.

Australia: 6 June 1996. 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. Australian gold medalists on se-tenant pair of 45 cent stamps: Edwin Flack; Fanny Durak. \$1.05, two views of Olympic wheelchair athletes.

22 July 1996. 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics/Sydney 2000 Summer Olympics. 45 cents, Olympic flame, kangaroo and eagle.

Austria: 21 June 1996. 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. 10s, flag waver.

Azerbaijan: 20 September 1995. 1998 World Cup Soccer. 100, 150, 250, 300 manats, 400m s/s: various soccer scenes.

Bahamas: 1996. 100th Anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games. 15 cents, swimming; 55 cents, running; 60 cents, basketball; 70 cents, hurdles; \$2.00 s/s, javelin and Atlanta 1996 logo.

Barbados: 2 April 1996. 100th Anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games. 20 cents, soccer; 30 cents, relay race; 55 cents, basketball; \$3.00, gymnast; \$2.50 s/s, Myron's Discobulus.

Belgium: 1 July 1996. 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. Two 16fr + 4fr stamps: table tennis and swimming; 34fr + 6fr s/s, high jump.

Bermuda: 21 May 1996. 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. 25 cents, triple jump; 30 cents, cycling; 65 cents, sailing; 80 cents, equestrian events.

Brazil: 21 May 1996. 100th Anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games. 18c, marathon; 23c, gymnastics; 1.05r, beach volleyball; 1.05r, swimming.

British Virgin Islands: 22 May 1996. 100th Anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games. 20 cents, hurdler; 25 cents, volleyball; 50 cents, swimming; \$1.00 sailing.

Burkina Faso: 1995. 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. 150F, basketball; 250F, baseball; 600F, tennis; 750F, table tennis; 1,500F s/s, equestrian events.

1995. Sports personalities. 300F, Juan Manuel Fangio; 400F, Andre Agassi (tennis); 500F, Ayrton Senna; 1,000F, Michael Schmacher; 1,500F s/s, Enzo Ferrari (auto racing).

Cayman Islands: 19 January 1996. 100th Anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games. 10 cents, sailing; 20 cents, sailboarding; 30 cents, sailing; \$2.00, running.

Central African Republic: 1996. 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. 170F, running; 300F, track; 350F, cycling; 600F, weightlifting.

Congo Republic: 1996, 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. 90f, archery; 150f, basketball; 205f, baseball; 300f, volleyball; 400f, kayaking; 1000f, wrestling.

Cuba: 15 February 1996. 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. 10c, track and field; 15c, weightlifting; 65c, judo; 75c, wrestling; 85c, boxing; 1 peso s/s, baseball.

Czech Republic: 27 March 1996. 100th Anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games. 9.60kr, Jiri Guth-Jarkovsky, Olympic stadium and Olympic rings.

29 May 1996. 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. 3kc, javelin.

Dominican Republic: 1995. 100th Anniversary of volleyball and the Norceca championship. 5p, player and net; 6p, player, ball, and Norceca 95 logo.

Estonia: 26 March 1996. 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. S/s of three stamps: 2.50kr, gold medal from First Modern Olympics; 3.50kr, weightlifter Alfred Neuland; 4kr, cyclist.

Equatorial Guinea: 1996. Famous race car drivers. Se-tenant strip of four 400F values: Juan Manuel Fangio, Ayrton Senna, Jim Clark and Jochem Rindt.

Fiji: 18 June 1996. 100th Anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games. 31 cents, hurdling; 63 cents, judo; 87 cents, sailboarding; \$1.12, swimming; \$2.00 s/s, 1896 athlete.

Finland: June 1996. 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. 13.60 mk booklet of 4 se-tenant 3.40 mk stamps: canoeing, sailing, rowing and swimming.

France: 3 June 1996. 1998 World Cup Soccer. Four 3fr stamps: soccer player in action and World Cup logo.

The Gambia: 8 June 1996. World Cup Soccer. Sixteen 2 dal stamps, team photograph of each participating team; sixteen 25dal s/s, famous soccer player from each of the 16 teams.

Germany: 13 June 1996. 100 Anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games. 80 + 40pf, Carl Schuhmann, gymnast; 100 + 50pf, Josef Neckermann, equestrian; 100 + 50pf, Annie Hubler-Horn, skater; 200 + 80pf, Alfred Flatow and Gustav Flatow, gymnasts.

Gibraltar: 2 April 1996. European Soccer Championships. 21p, 24p, 34p and 1.20 pounds: various soccer scenes.

2 May 1996. 100 Anniversary of Modern Olympic Games. 34p, Olympic Games; 49p, First Modern Olympic Games; 1.05 pounds, Olympic Games today.

Great Britain: 14 May 1996. Soccer legends. £6.48 booklet. 19p, Dixie Dean; 25p, Bobby Moore; 35p, Duncan Edwards; 41p, Billy Wright; 60p, Danny Blanchflower.

9 July 1996. Olympics and Paralympics. Se-tenant strip of five 26p stamps: runner, javelin thrower, basketball player, swimmer, and victorious athlete.

Greece: 4 June 1996: 100th Anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games. 10dr, ancient runners; 80dr, discus thrower; 120dr, weightlifter; 200dr, wrestlers.

Guinea: 1995. 1998 World Cup Soccer. 150, 250 and three 500 Fr stamps of various soccer scenes; three 500fr s/s.

Hungary: 18 April 1996. 100th Anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games. 24ft, swimming; 50ft, tennis.

Iceland: 25 June 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. 5kr, runner; 25kr, javelin thrower; 45kr, long jump; 65kr, shot put. 45kr and 65kr values also in booklet form.

Ireland: 30 May 1996, Irish winners of the Isle of Man Tourist Trophy. 32p, Stanley Woods; 44p, Artie Bell; 50p, Alec Bennett; 52p, Joey and Robert Dunlop, 50p s/s, Dunlop brothers.

Isle of Man: 21 April 1996. Irish winners of the Isle of Man Tourist Trophy. 20p, Artie Bell; 24p, Alec Bennett; 45p, Stanley Woods; 60p, Dunlop brothers.

Israel: 25 June 1996. 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. 1.05s, fencing; 1.60s, pole vaulting; 1.90s, Greco-Roman wrestlers.

Liberia: 22 April 1996. 100th Anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games. 20 cents, steeplechase; 25 cents, boxing; 50 cents, javelin; \$1.00 hurdles.

Luxembourg: 20 May 1996. 100th Anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games. 25fr, Olympic flame and rings.

Maldives: 12 July 1996. 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics.

1re, gymnastics; 3re, archery; 5re, diving; 7re, pole vaulting; 10re, track and field; 12re, hurdles; pane of nine 5re stamps, scenes from previous Olympics; two 25rf s/s, Olympic torch and Olympic flame.

Mauritius: 26 June 1996. 100th Anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games. 60 cents, boxing; Rs4, badminton; Rs5, basketball; Rs10, table tennis.

New Caledonia: 7th World Championship of Va'a Canoe race. Se-tenant strip of 4 stamps: 30fr, 65fr, 95fr, and 125fr, various stages of outrigger canoe race.

New Zealand: 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. Five round stamps in the shape of medals. 40 cents, swimming; 80 cents, cycling; \$1.00 runners; \$1.50, rowing; \$1.80, yachting.

Trinidad & Tobago: 1996. Brian Lara, cricket star. 50 cents, \$1.00, \$1.25, \$2.50, \$3.00, s/s (\$3.75 and \$5.01 values): cricket scenes involving Lara against the team from England.

Norway: 18 April 1996. 100th Anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games. 3.50kr, skier; 5.50kr, runner.

Palau: 31 May 1996. Olympic legends and contenders. 32 cents, U.S. Olympic sprinter, Michael Johnson.

Portugal: 7 June 1996. European Soccer Championships. 78 and 140 escudos, and s/s: various soccer scenes.

Samoa: 15 July 1996. 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. 70 sene, boxing; 90 sene, running; \$1.00, weightlifting; \$4.00, javelin.

St. Kitts: 100th Anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games and St. Kitts first participation in the Olympic Games. 10 cents, runner and St. Kitts & Nevis flag; 25 cents, high jumper and U.S. flag; 80 cents, runner and Olympic flag; \$3.00, 1896 Olympic poster; \$6.00 s/s, Olympic torch.

St. Vincent & The Grenadines: 6 September 1995. Baseball. \$2.00 stamp, \$30.00 gold foil: baseball player, Cal Ripkin.

20 March 1996. Basketball. \$2.00 stamp, \$30.00 gold foil stamp: Michael Jordan playing basketball.

17 April 1996. Sports Legends. Pane of sixteen \$2.00 stamps, \$6.00 s/s: Michael Jordan. Pane of sixteen \$2.00 stamps, \$10.00 s/s: Joe Montana.

20 April 1996. \$2.00 stamp, \$30.00 gold foil stamp: Joe Montana in uniform.

Seychelles: 1996. 100th Anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games. 50 cents, swimming; R1.50, sailing; R5, boxing.

Solomon Islands: 30 June 1996. 100th Anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games. 90 cents, \$1.20, \$1.35, \$2.50: views of previous Olympics (Tokyo, Los Angeles, Paris, London).

Slovakia: 3 May 1996. 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. S/s with 12sk + 2sk stamp, boxers.

30 May 1996. Round Slovakia Cycle Race. 3sk, racing cyclist, map of Slovakia.

Slovenia: 6 June 1996. World Youth Cycling Championship. 55t, symbolic cyclists.

6 June 1996. 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. 65t, rower, Iztok Cop and kayaker, Fedja Marusic; 100t, high jumper, Britta Bilac and hurdler, Brigita Bukovec.

Spain: 26 April 1996. Olympic bronze medalists. S/s of nine se-tenant 30pta stamps and 6 non-postal labels: running, kayaking, swimming, tennis, shooting, boxing, field hockey, canoeing, yachting.

Taiwan: 22 June 1996: 100th Anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games. NT5.00, gymnast; NT15 runners.

United Nations: 19 July 1996. Sports and the Environment. 32 cents, basketball; 50 cents, women's volleyball; Fs 0.70, cycling; Fs 1.10, sprinters; S6, gymnast; S7, hurdler. Three s/s contain a pair of stamps: 32 cents and 50 cents; Fs 0.70 and Fs 1.10; S6 and S7.

United States: 1 November 1996. Professional cycling. Two 50 cent stamps, cyclists in action.

Yugoslavia: 100th Anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games. DIN 1.50, discus thrower; DIN 2.50, runner.

12 April 1996. 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. DIN 1.50, basketball; DIN 1.50, volleyball; DIN 1.50, athletics; DIN 1.50, water polo; DIN 1.50, archery; DIN 1.50, field hockey; DIN 5.0 s/s, Atlanta.

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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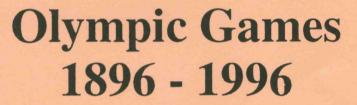




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