

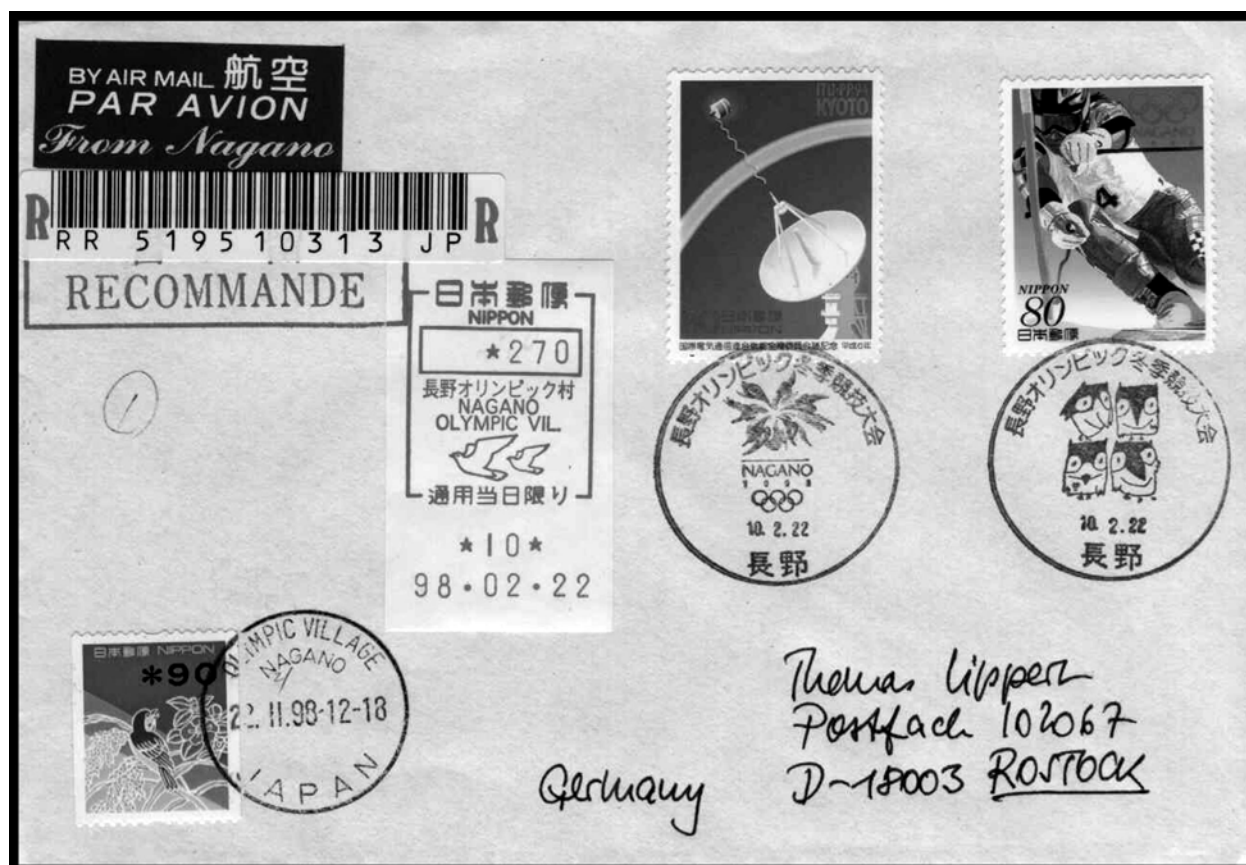
JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

VOLUME 36

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NUMBER 6

Olympic Village Post Offices at the Nagano Olympic Games



Registered letter from Nagano athletes Olympic Village to Germany the last day of the Games.

TABLE OF CONTENTS



SPORTS
PHILATELISTS
INTERNATIONAL

ARTICLES

Olympic Village Post Offices at the Nagano Olympics	<i>Thomas Lippert</i>	3
Dynamo Football	<i>Sergei Tropin</i>	13
Nagano 1998 Postal Materials of the Czech Republic	<i>Jaroslav Petrasek</i>	17
The First Football Team To Fly	<i>Tom Collins</i>	20
Centennial of the Athletic Football Club of Bilbao	<i>Jordi Virgili</i>	22
Ski Lifts: Where Would We Be Without Them?	<i>Maestrone/Podolsky</i>	23

REGULAR FEATURES & COLUMNS

President's Message	<i>Mark Maestrone</i>	1
Publications of Interest	<i>Sherwin Podolsky</i>	27
Reviews of Periodicals	<i>Mark Maestrone</i>	28
2000 Sydney Olympics	<i>Brian Hammond</i>	30
News of Our Members	<i>Margaret Jones</i>	34
New Stamp Issues	<i>Dennis Dengel</i>	35
Commemorative Stamp Cancels	<i>Mark Maestrone</i>	36

SPORTS PHILATELISTS INTERNATIONAL

1998 NAGANO OLYMPICS

p. 3

SOCCER

p. 13

FOOTBALL

p. 20

SKIING

p. 23

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

Our Secret Identities

By day, he was mild-mannered reporter, Clark Kent. By night he was – Superman! Now except for Lois Lane's suspicions, the good citizens of bustling Metropolis were blissfully ignorant of Kent's secret identity.

Each of us, too, have our own secret identities. In our real, day-to-day lives we are, for instance, teachers, lawyers, mechanics, architects – or retired from these professions. On nights and weekends, our philatelic alter-egos emerge. But like the denizens of fictional Metropolis, few of our non-philatelic friends are even aware of our avocations.

So what's the point of this analogy? Just this: we all have a marvelous opportunity to acquaint our friends, co-workers, and others with our hobby through writing articles in the mainstream press.

Let's examine how to go about this. First, if you are a member of a professional society, whether related to your career or your sports interest, there is no doubt a magazine published in that field. In my case, I could write an article for one of the professional architectural publications on Olympic Architecture. Or, I might choose to develop a theme on Men's Olympic Gymnasts for one of the gymnastics magazines that is out there. Naturally the theme would stress the philatelic aspects.

Another good source might be publications geared to those in the retirement age bracket

such as *Modern Maturity*, published by the AARP (the American Association of Retired Persons). Visit your local bookstore's magazine rack sometime. The possibilities are nearly endless.

The next step in the process is to contact the editor of the publication and request guidelines for articles. You might, of course, mention one or two potential themes to whet the editor's appetite. He or she will definitely let you know if the idea suits their periodical's interest. This can save a great deal of time in the end, especially if the editor provides some helpful advice!

Finally, it's time to sit down and write your piece. Remember to keep it short and simple; your intended audience is not composed of philatelists. Use personal anecdotes if you have them. For illustrative material, it's best to limit your selections to stamps and other easily identifiable philatelic elements. Stay away from complex varieties (die proofs, essays, etc.), small cancels and meters, and postal history covers that even the best of us have trouble figuring out. And now that you have the readers totally spellbound by your prose and wonderful stamp illustrations, don't forget to plug SPI in either the text of your article or at the end. We want them to know where to go for further information!

Unlike Superman, don't hide your secret identity under the proverbial bushel basket. Your friends and colleagues will most certainly thank you for introducing them to our great hobby!

The new SPI web site is located at:
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The Olympic Village Post Offices at the Nagano Olympic Games

by Thomas Lippert

The nerve centers of the Games were equipped with special post offices as announced early in the planning period in NAOC (Nagano Organizing Committee) documents.

Let's first take a look at the structure of the postal service at the Nagano Olympic Winter Games. The Shinetsu Regional Post Office was the central authority overseeing the Olympic post office system. This system included five temporary post offices (TPO) with the designation "Olympic Village." The post office located at the athletes village was referred to as the "Olympic Village Nagano" post office. This facility was responsible for all other TPO's in the Olympic infrastructure (see organizational chart below). It was here that all incoming mail to the Olympic family was sorted and then delivered to the relevant satellite post office.

The postal service cover in Figure 1 tells the story. What makes it interesting is the special postage-paid imprint (upper left), as well as the sender's address information (at bottom). The latter information (translated in Table 1) reflects the structure of the Olympic post office system.

Organizational Structure: Olympic Village Post Offices

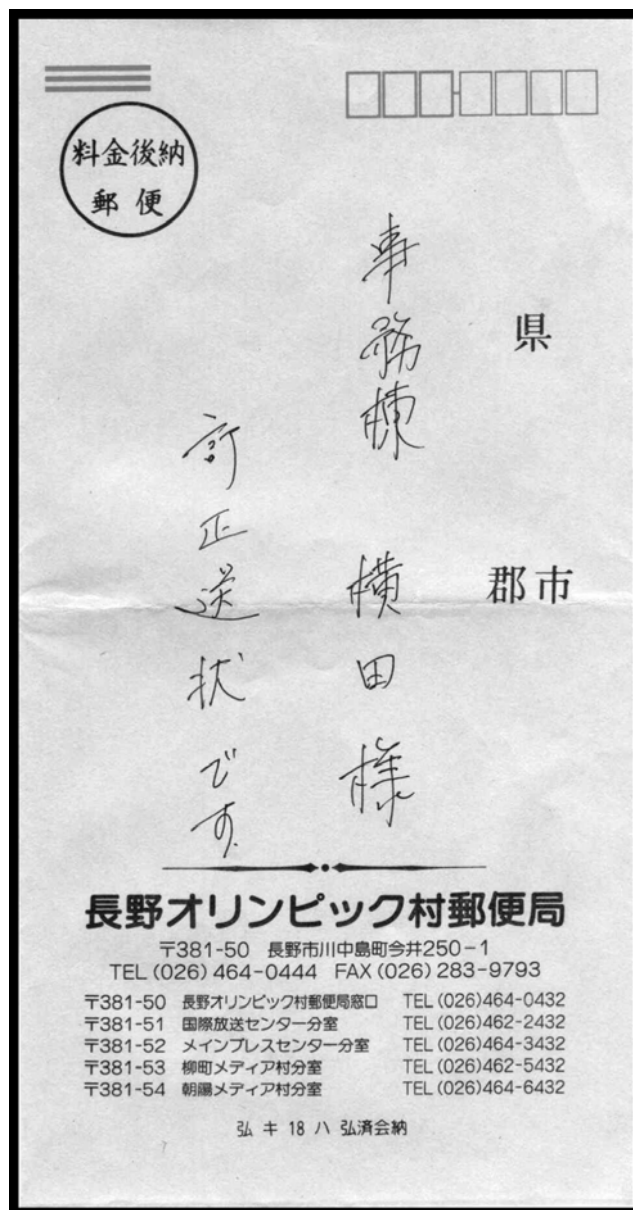
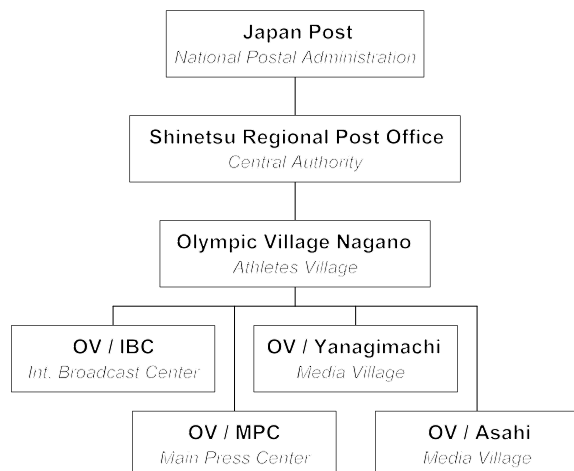


Figure 1. Post office cover delineating the structure of the Olympic Village post office system. Table 1 translates the text at bottom.

This was not the first time that special postal codes were assigned to Olympic post offices. Readers may remember the research conducted in decoding the zip codes used during the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta. Unfortunately at Nagano it isn't as simple since mail wasn't marked

Table 1
Olympic Village Nagano Temporary Post Offices

Post Office	Address	Olympic Postal Code	Period of Operation
Olympic Village Nagano (<i>Athletes Village</i>)	Imai 250-1, Kawankajimamachi, Nagano-shi	381-50	Jan. 24 - Feb. 25, 1998
Olympic Village / IBC (<i>Int. Broadcast Center</i>)	Wakazato 1534-5, Nagano-shi	381-51	Jan. 7 - Feb. 25, 1998
Olympic Village / MPC (<i>Main Press Center</i>)	Wakazato 894-1, Nagano-shi	381-52	Jan. 24 - Feb. 25, 1998
Olympic Village / Yanagimachi (<i>Media Village</i>)	3 Miwa 5 chome, Nagano-shi	381-53	Jan. 24 - Feb. 25, 1998
Olympic Village / Asahi (<i>Media Village</i>)	Kitanagaike 350, Nagano-shi	381-54	Jan. 24 - Feb. 25, 1998

with machine codes. These temporary postal codes likely saw the shortest period of use of any in Japan.

Shortly before the Games began on February 2, 1998, the postal code system in Japan changed from five digits to seven. Had this system been implemented at the Olympic Village post offices, it would have created more problems than improvements; no Olympic mail user in the world would have known about the additional two digits. This period of change is reflected on the Figure 1 cover. Although the sender's addresses bear five-digit codes, there are seven boxes at top for the addressee's postal code. It seems to me that the only way to illustrate this relationship by fully recognized philatelic means is with the cover in Figure 1!

Although each of these five post offices was identified by the name "Olympic Village," an additional, more descriptive name was added (e.g., MPC, IBC, etc.). Each post office was equipped with the following postmarking devices:

- A. Circular postmark in Japanese for national traffic
- B. Circular postmark in English for international traffic
- C. Roller cancel in Japanese (national traffic)
- D. Roller cancel in English (international traffic)
- E. Circular "universal" special Olympic postmarks (snowlets and NAOC logo) with common "Nagano" inscription (in service only during the period of the Games)

Each post office also had its own meter equipment for weighing and franking letters personalized with that post office's official designation (e.g., Olympic

Village / IBC). The red meter tapes (these were not Automat-type stamps) were valid only on the date and at the post office that issued them. They were not meant to be purchased and used at some later date.

Let's have a look at some examples. We'll begin with the athletes Olympic Village temporary post office. This post office officially opened on January 24, 1998, however postmarks are known from one day earlier.

The use of the ordinary postmarks (Figure 2B) was announced in the official Japanese bulletins. The use of the machine postmark in Japanese was, however, a complete surprise (Figure 2A). What non-Japanese speaker could possibly identify this postmark as Olympic? The cancel would have been found on letters mailed during the Games, of which many probably ended up in the trash.

The postage meter tapes from all five Olympic Village post offices bear identical wording (Figure 3). The tapes were imprinted with the designation "OLYMPIC VILLAGE NAGANO" in Japanese and English. The post offices' full name (e.g., Olympic Village / IBC) was not used obviously due to space limitations. The dates are of little help in determining a meter's origin as the periods of operation of these post offices was usually the same (with the exception of the IBC which opened January 7, 1998). The number "*10*" above the date at bottom, which seemed at first glance to be something entirely different, is actually the completion of the date in Japanese style. According to Japanese regulations and tradition, the year of the current emperor's reign is included in postmarks. 1998 is the 10th year of the regency of Emperor Akihito.



Figures 2A & B. The Japanese machine postmark (left) from the athletes Olympic

Village was not announced in advance. The absence of any Olympic devices certainly means that this cancel was overlooked by most collectors.

The January 23 regular handcancel (right) is the day before the “official” opening of this TPO.

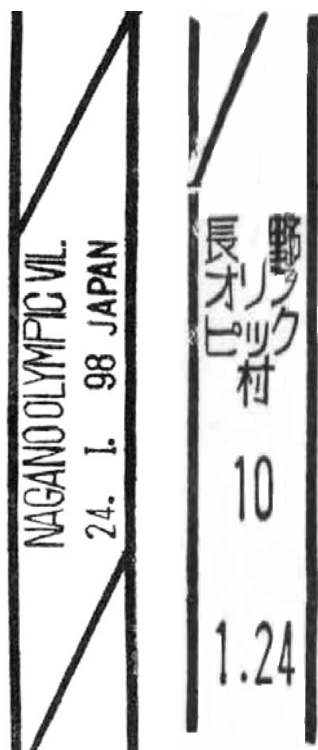


Figure 4. Each post office used two different Olympic roller cancels for domestic and international mail. At far left is the English cancel, while the other bore Japanese characters.

In addition to two different roller cancels for outgoing domestic and international mail (Figure 4), all Olympic Village post offices were equipped with a set of the “universal” snowlets and Olympic emblem postmarks. However, there is no text on these latter cancels that distinguishes them from those used at the regular post offices around Nagano.

Another surprise was special first day postmarks for the Olympic and Paralympic issues. In both cases the commemorative hand cancels were applied at approximately 60 other post offices in Japan. This time the text in the cancels read “Nagano Olympic Village,” rather than just “Nagano” (Figure 5)! A dove in the lower portion of the cancel differentiates it from the regular cancel in Figure 3.



Figure 3. The Olympic Village Nagano red meter tapes were identical for each post office. The only way of determining which of the five temporary post offices a meter came from is if a secondary cancel was applied. In this case, a regular English language postmark from the athletes Olympic Village ties the meter label to the card.

That’s not all from this office. We know of a small rectangular postage due postmark.

Now for something special. Although not philatelic, the item in Figure 6 is interesting from an Olympic postal history point of view: Olympic mailbag tags. The Japanese text in the middle reads “Olympic Village Nagano.” The postal designation “381-50” identifies the tag’s origin as the athletes village TPO.

The final piece (see cover illustration) from the athletes Olympic Village post office is a registered letter sent on the last day of the Olympics (February 22, 1998). The registration barcode number is self-adhesive and indicates the approximate number of international pieces mailed. It should be noted that



Figure 5. First day cover for the Paralympic stamp issues mailed from the Olympic Village Nagano post office. Normally, 110¥ would have been sufficient to pay the rate to Russia. In order to use both new issues, it was necessary to overfrank the cover by 50¥.

large mailers are permitted to store registration numbers. Thus, labels from one source may be mailed from another post office.

The Olympic Village was built in the town of Imai in the district of Kawanakajima. It was opened to the public on September 19-20, 1997. Some 11,000 visitors took this opportunity to tour the complex of about 47 acres with its 1032 dwelling units.

That same month, the International Broadcast Center (IBC) building was handed over to the NAOC. Soon after, the NAOC broadcasting department along with the host broadcaster, ORTO '98, moved in and began work. The U.S. broadcaster, CBS, also started installing their equipment. It was not until January 1998, that the TPO at the IBC began operation. This was the first of the five Olympic Village post offices to open for business.

As occurred at the central (athletes) Olympic Village post office, the Olympic Village / IBC post office used two round cancels and two roller cancels (one each in Japanese and English). These are variously illustrated in Figures 7-10.

Previously we noted that all Olympic Family mail was processed through the primary Olympic Village post office at the Athletes Village. Figure 9 illustrates the process. This express cover from



Figure 6. Olympic mailbag tag from the Olympic Village Nagano, 381-50.



Figures 7 & 8. Above left, Olympic Village / IBC round cancel in Japanese. The IBC roller cancel in Japanese is shown above right.

Great Britain was addressed to an individual at the IBC. However, the roller cancel at left center was applied at the central Olympic Village post office, then the cover was delivered to the Olympic Village / IBC post office for final delivery.

Registered mail was of course available at the Olympic Village / IBC facility. The cover in Figure 10 was mailed the last day (and last shift) of the IBC post office's operation. The last three digits of the registration number allow us to estimate the number of international registered covers mailed from here. Nevertheless, we cannot dismiss the possibility that a number of registration labels were held by volume mailers for use at other post offices.

All TPO's were equipped with a copied receipt (Figure 11). These are not philatelic, but they are worth collecting because they enrich an Olympic collection. Each is a genuine piece of Olympic postal history.

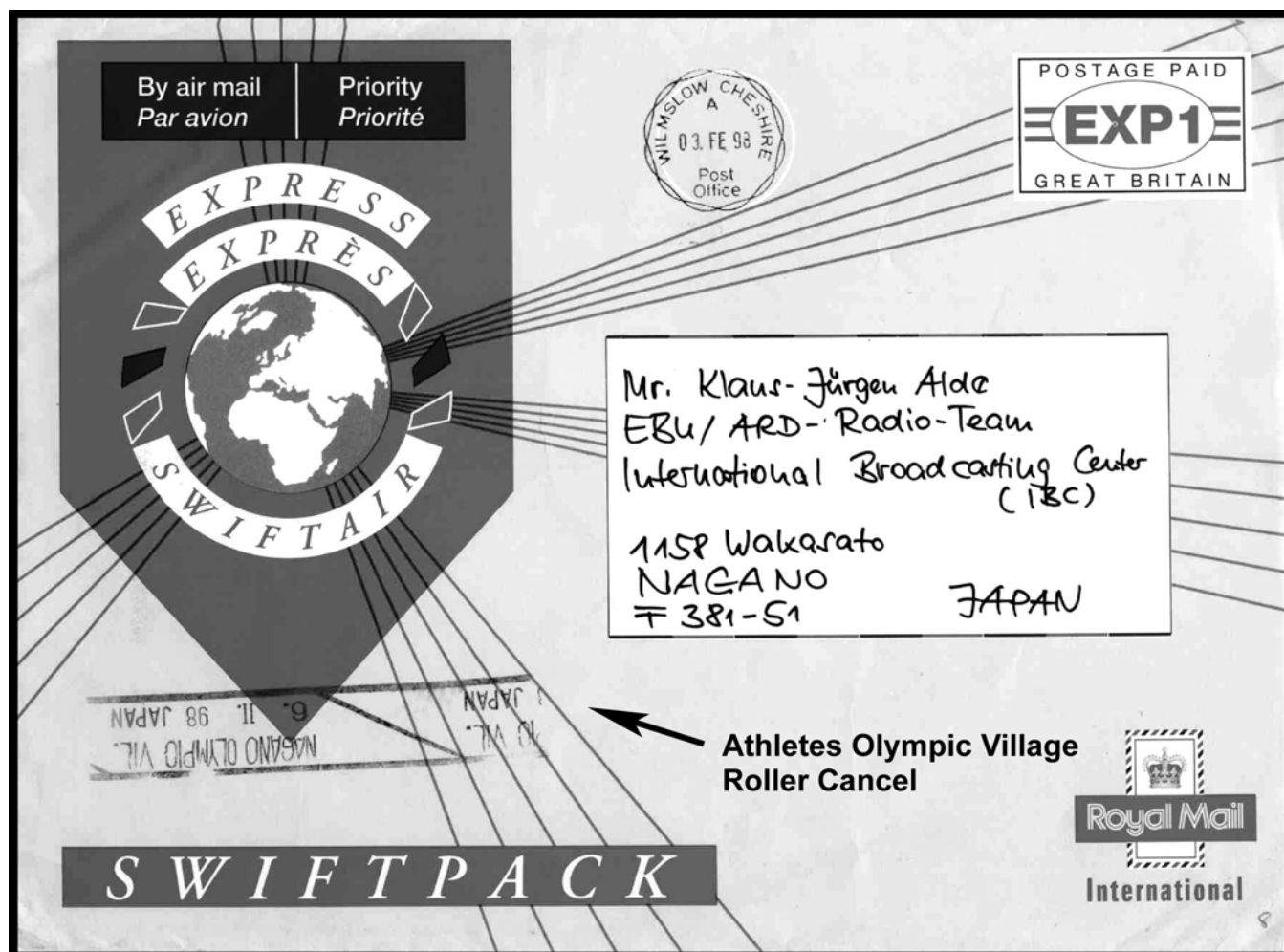


Figure 9. The roller cancel from the athletes Olympic Village TPO shows that all mail was first processed at this central facility before delivery to the respective satellite post offices (in this case, the IBC TPO).

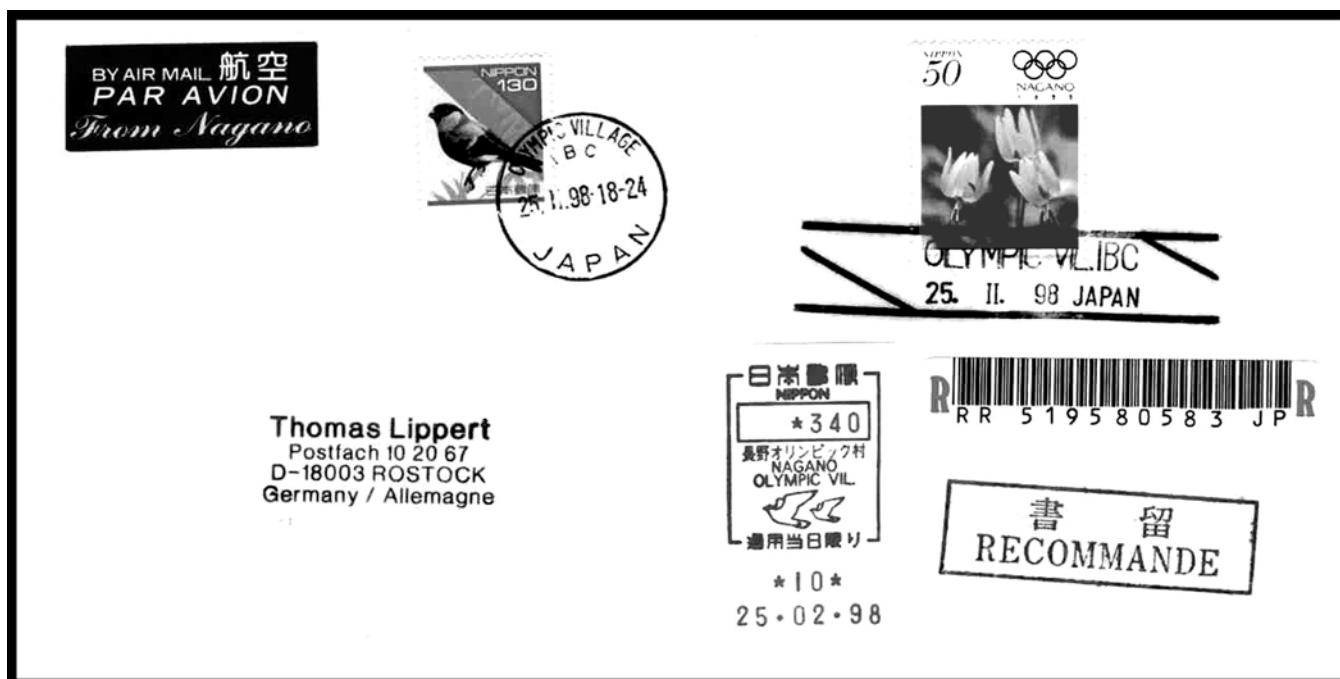


Figure 10. Registered cover from the IBC post office on the last day of operation. Only regular postmarks, in this case the English circular and roller cancels, could be used since the snowlets and NAOC cancels were discontinued following the end of the Games on February 22. The postage of 520¥ is correct for a registered airmail letter to Europe weighing up to 20 grams: 110¥ postage, plus 410¥ for registration.

領収書 RECEIPT	
金額 Amount	¥ 1,000
いつもご利用いただきありがとうございます 切手・葉書・印紙・販売品の代金上記金額を領収しました Stamps, postcards, revenue stamps and postal goods. Thank you for your service.	
領収日付印 DATE	
長野オリンピック村郵便局 Nagano Olympic Village P.O.	

Figure 11. Receipt for stamp services from the Olympic Village / IBC TPO. The circular Japanese cancel is used.

The Main Press Center (MPC) was situated in the Wakazato district, near the Ice Hockey Stadium A. As with all the Olympic Village post offices, it used two circular and two roller cancels. It's meter tapes were inscribed "Olympic Village Nagano." Figures 12-15 reproduce these philatelic items.



Figures 12 & 13. The Olympic Village / MPC circular cancel in English (left) and Japanese (below).





Figures 14 & 15. MPC roller cancels and meter tape. The English version cancel is at left, and Japanese one at right.

Figures 16 & 17. Yana-gimachi Media Village roller cancels in Japanese (above) and English.

The NAOC accommodated the media in two separate villages: Yanagimachi and Asahi. The first of these was by far the larger of the two, with a capacity of 2300 persons. The Olympic Village / Yanagimachi post office opened its doors on January 24, 1998.



Figure 18. Registered cover from the Yanagimachi Media Village mailed to Germany the last day of the Games. Note that only 121 pieces of mail had been registered by this point (the last 3 digits of the number). A portion of the postage is paid with a meter from the TPO. Both village circular cancels were applied along with the universal NAOC logo cancel.

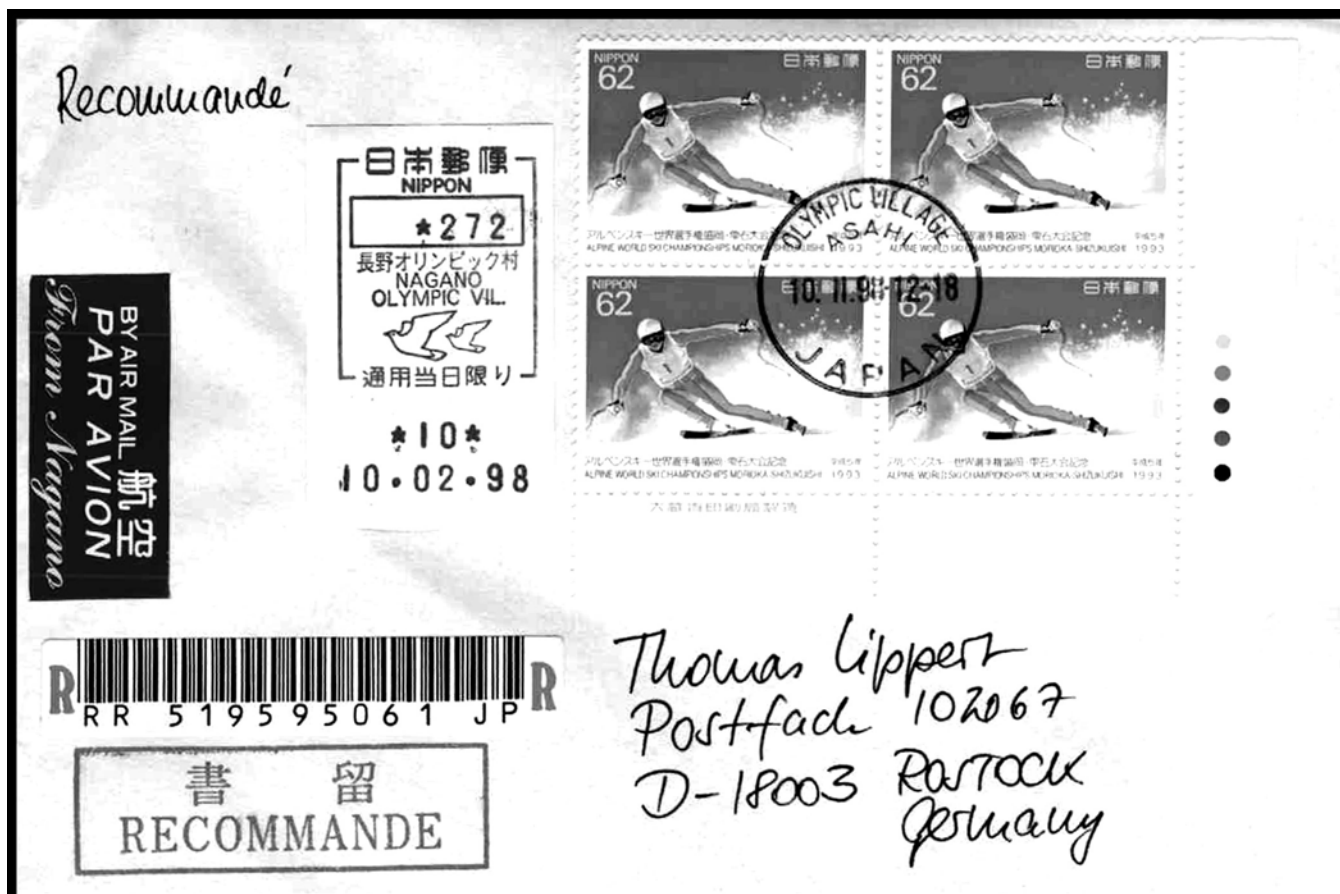


Figure 19. Registered cover from the Olympic Media Village at Asahi. The Asahi TPO meter paid a portion of the postage. The English circular Asahi cancel is used to postmark the stamps.

The staff at the Olympic Media Village TPO at Asahi was probably less busy than the post office employees at the Yanagimachi facility. After all, this smaller media village accommodated only 1200 members of the media covering the Olympic Games.

Nevertheless, this TPO was provided with the standard complement of cancels, meter machine and registration labels (Figures 19-22).

Figure 19 illustrates a registered cover mailed from the Asahi Media Village TPO. Only a week into the Games, and already 60 registration labels had been issued from this post office.

The cover reproduced in Figure 20 is of particular interest because it exhibits the use of the English circular cancel as an arrival postmark tying the large label in Japanese to the envelope.

Figure 20 (at right). The Asahi Media Village standard circular date cancel used as a receiving postmark (February 4, 1998) on a post restante cover. The cover eventually was returned to the sender as indicated by the "Retour Inconnu" back stamp.

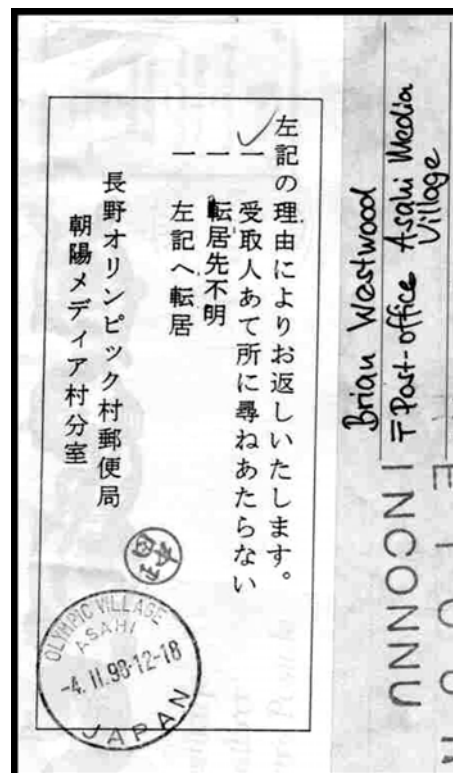




Figure 21. English version of the roller cancel available at the Asahi Media Village TPO.

Having reviewed the various postal markings at each of the five Olympic Village Nagano temporary post offices, let us once again return to that “key” cover in Figure 1.

Upon more careful examination of the logical structure of the phone numbers, one can’t help but notice two significant gaps in the sequence of the last four digits. Missing are telephone numbers ending in “-1432” and “-4432”. At least one of these gaps was closed by the author. In the NAOC telephone directory, the number ending in “-4432” is assigned to the post office at the satellite athletes village in Karuizawa. This post office was located in the hotel where the curling teams were housed. The regular Sengataki post office in Karuizawa Town, located not far away, was responsible for the temporary post office in the hotel. This TPO was in operation until February 16.

The exclusion of this small Olympic Village post office from the structure outlined on the cover in Figure 1, is logical since it was served by the main post office in Karuizawa, not from the Olympic

Village Nagano post office, which was under the auspices of the Shinetsu Regional post office. As this small TPO was not associated with Olympic Village post office system, it was not equipped with the various cancels and meter. It was, however, provided with the “universal” snowlet and NAOC logo cancels inscribed “Sengataki.” These same cancels were used in the main Karuizawa post office through February 22 (the last day of the Games).

For the first time at an Olympic Winter Games, an International Olympic Youth Camp was conducted. This program was fully recognized by the IOC. The young people met in Karuizawa, too. The author had the opportunity to view some of the final preparations inside the camp. Unfortunately, there was no special post office. On the way from the check-point to the main building, a familiar looking brown UPS van passed my guide and me. Alas, they were only making a delivery. I am certain they recognized that young people were not likely clients for their expensive services. UPS offices were limited to the main center of activity as described in the last issue of the journal.

Finally, I would like to reproduce an item that could be considered similar to an Olympic telegram, or maybe more accurately, an Olympic fax. Each TPO seems to have been supplied with these preprinted sheets (Figure 23). The procedure was as follows. First, the customer wrote a message on a regular sheet of paper. The clerk would then post-



Figure 22. Registered domestic cover from the Asahi Media Village TPO. In this case, only Japanese postmarks were necessary: the circular and roller cancels were applied.

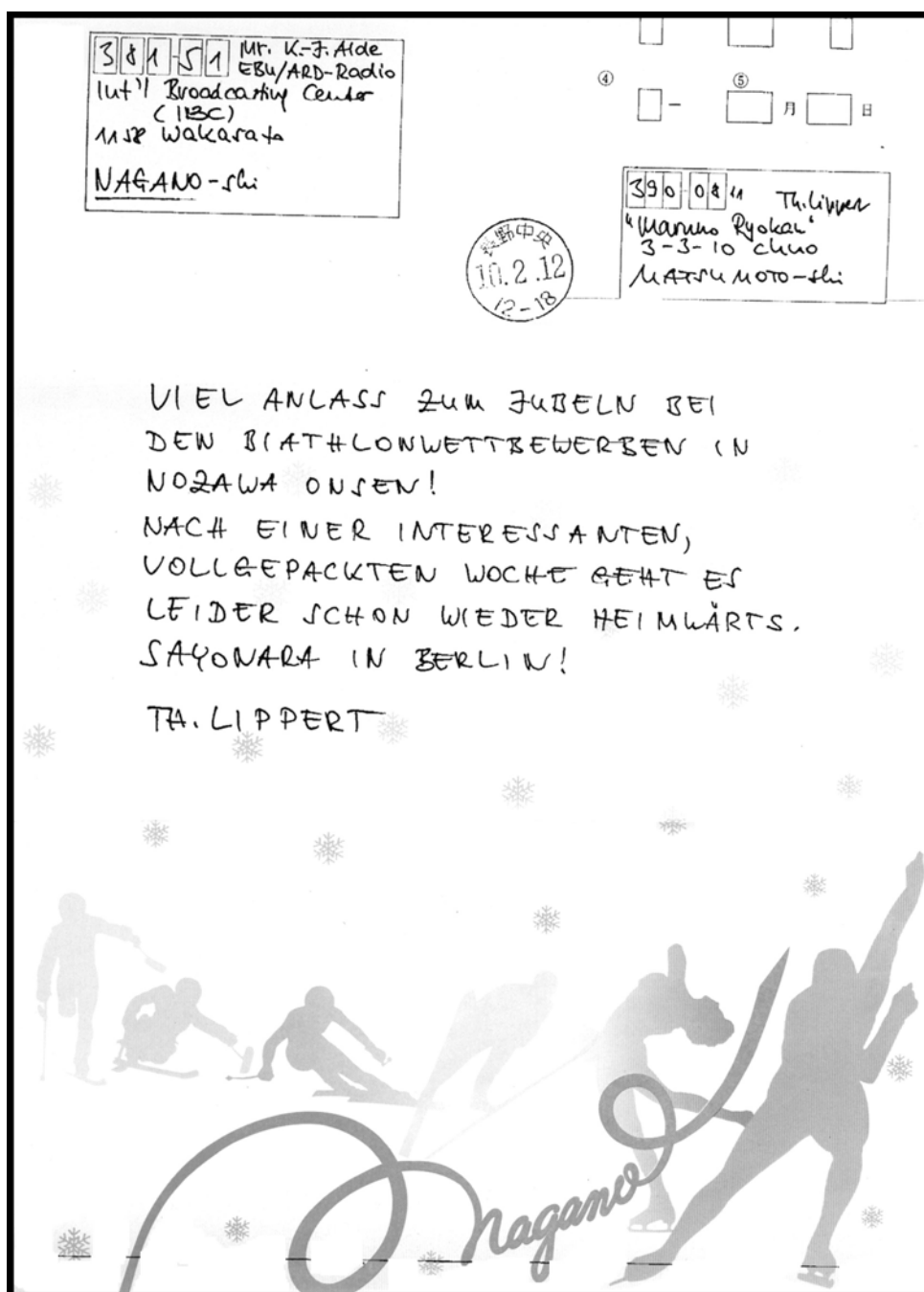


Figure 23. Olympic fax available for transmission from post office to post office.

mark this original and fax it to the receiving post office. The receiving post office would print the message out using the preprinted sheet that carried a pattern of snowflakes and designs of winter sports athletes. Obviously, the receiving post office had to be notified in advance that an "Olympic" fax was coming through. Of course, the postmark received at the other end was only a facsimile. Purists might dispute the design on the fax as Olympic. But that's another theme for the next time.

As we've seen before, the philately of the various facilities within the Olympic infrastructure has provided interesting moments for us collectors. There is, however, still more to tell about the temporary Olympic post offices and philately at the regular post offices in the Olympic cities and sports venues.

Before closing this chapter, I would like to thank our Japanese colleague, Masaoki Ichimura. Without his assistance, knowledge of the TPO's at the Nagano Winter Games would have been incomplete. ☺

ynamo Football

by Sergey Tropin

[Part 1 of this article, "100 Years of Russian Football," appeared in the January/February, 1998, issue of JSP.]

The first football clubs appeared in Russia at the beginning of this century. St. Petersburg and Moscow led the way, with other towns following suit as the game's popularity increased. The first Russian Championships were conducted in 1912 in which St. Petersburg beat Moscow, 4 to 1. A 1912 postcard depicts the first stadium in Moscow, Malakhovka (Figure 1).

By the 1920's, individual players, as well as groups of workers began forming associations or societies. Players generally joined an association whose members reflected their own professional backgrounds. For example, the Dynamo sports club was created for members of the armed forces. Its emblem is a capital "D" (*top*); the group's colors are white and blue. These features have remained almost unchanged since the association's founding.



Figure 1. Malakhovka, the first soccer stadium in Moscow. (1912 photo postcard)

Dynamo clubs were organized in many large cities by the mid-1930's: Minsk, Leningrad, Tbilisi, and Kiev (Figure 2). Dynamo even had its own stadium in Moscow. The most successful of the Dynamo teams came from Moscow and Kiev. These two teams are discussed in more detail below.

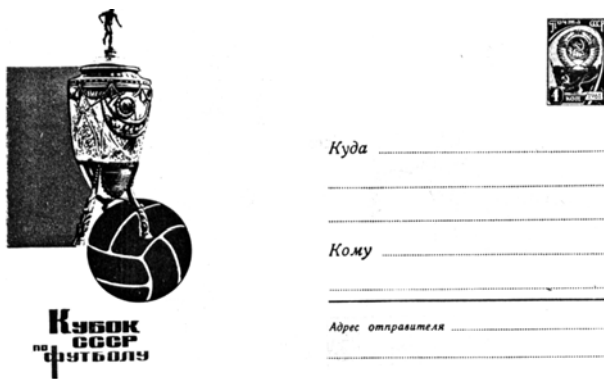
DYNAMO MOSCOW

Dynamo Moscow was a regular participant in the USSR Championships of the premier league dating back to 1936. In that year they became the first USSR champions. They've received that honor no less than 15 times in their history, and are also the owners of the USSR Cup prize (Figure 3). Figure 4 shows the Dynamo team that won the 1967 USSR Cup.

Dynamo Moscow also achieved international fame when they played against England in November, 1945 (Figure 5). In four matches against the best English and Scottish teams, Dynamo won two and tied two. The combined score from the four matches: 19 goals to 9 in Dynamo's favor.



Figure 2. The Dynamo Leningrad team.



Figures 3 & 4. Postal stationery depicting the USSR Cup (top), and Dynamo Moscow (below) winners of the 1967 Cup competition.



Figure 5. The Dynamo Moscow team of 1945 which was a sensation in its matches against the best of the British and Scottish teams.

The Russian postal administration commemorated the 50th anniversary of this event in 1995 with a postal stationery cover (Figure 6). The imprinted stamp notes "50 years of a football tour of Dynamo-Moscow to Great Britain."

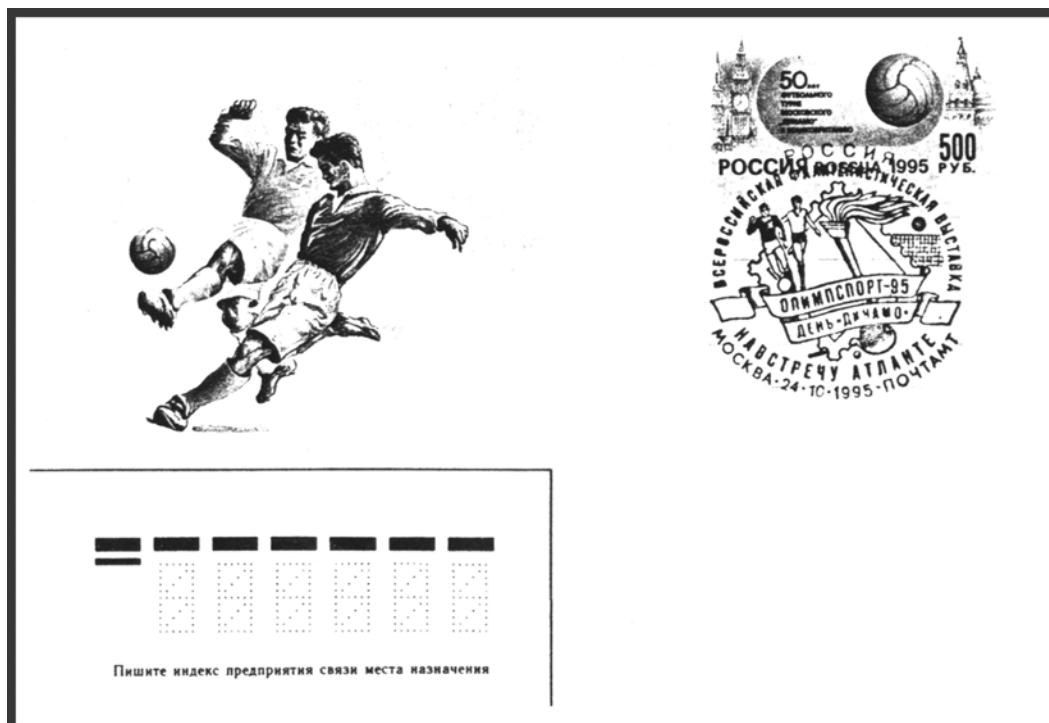
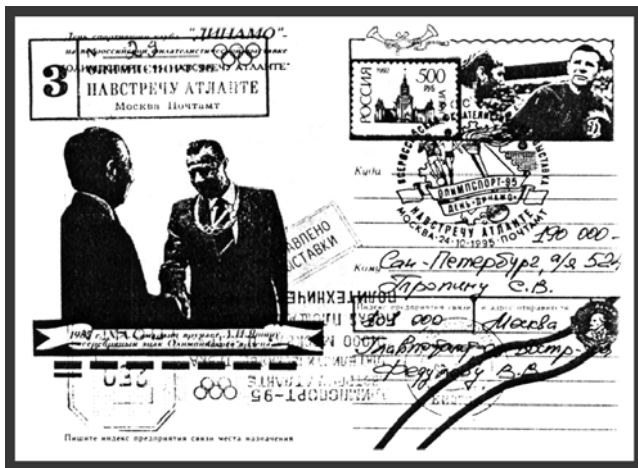


Figure 6. Stamp and cancel commemorating the 50th anniversary of Dynamo Moscow's 1945 matches against the best teams in England and Scotland.



Figures 7 & 8. Lev Yashin, famous goalkeeper for Dynamo Moscow, on stamps of the USSR and Nicaragua (above). Yashin was awarded the Olympic Order in 1985, commemorated by the cover, below.



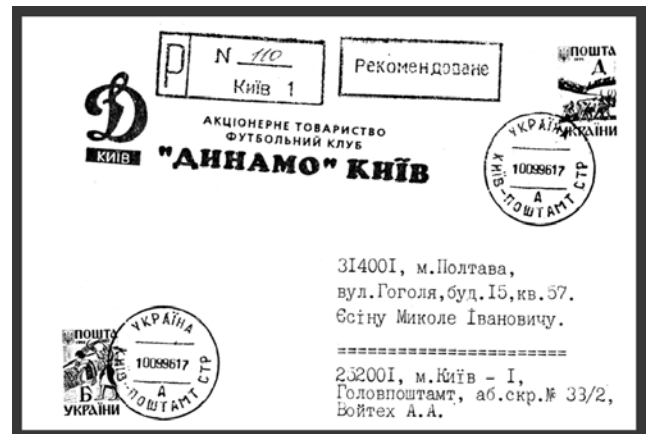
Lev Yashin is perhaps the most famous goalkeeper for Dynamo Moscow. He participated in the World Cup finals of 1962, 1966 and 1970 as a member of the combined USSR team. In 1963, Yashin was honored as best sportsman of the year, receiving the “gold football” award. He has also been pictured on the stamp issues of various countries (Figure 7). The Olympic Order was bestowed upon Lev Yashin in 1985, an episode depicted on a special cover produced for the Sport ‘95 philatelic exhibition (Figure 8).

DYNAMO KIEV

Kiev, capital of the Ukraine, fielded a Dynamo club team that has repeated as USSR champion as



Figures 9 & 10. Commemorative cover and postmark for the 1960 USSR Cup (above), won by Dynamo Kiev. Shown below is an example of the club's advertising cover displaying their logo.



well as winner of the USSR Cup. A special cover commemorates the USSR Cup of 1960 between Dynamo Kiev and Shakhter-Stalino (Figure 9).

Dynamo Kiev was the first USSR soccer club to win the European Cup. The Cup also went to them in 1975 and 1986.

The post office in the USSR issued both a postal stationery cover (1984) and postal card (1988) honoring the team, as well as Dynamo football players killed in World War II.

With the independence of Ukraine, Dynamo Kiev is now the best club in the country (Figure 10). They participate in the European Champions League, known as UEFA. Figure 11 illustrates one of many advertising covers used by Dynamo Kiev for ticket distribution.

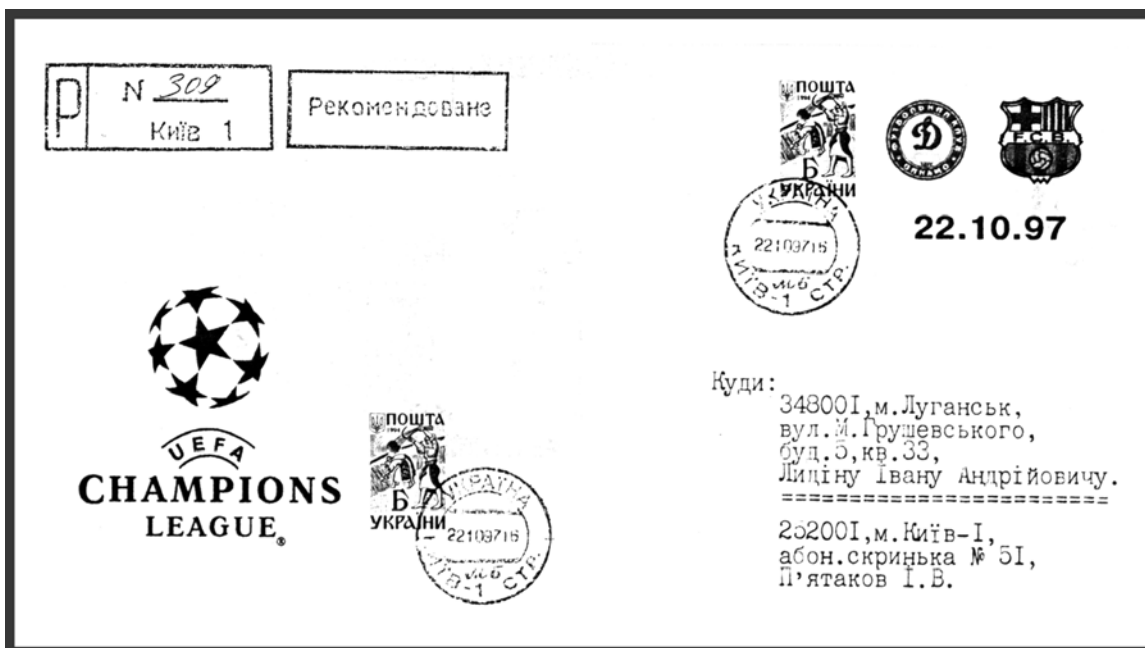


Figure 11. Dynamo Kiev, which plays in the UEFA League, used this type of advertising cover to deliver tickets to its games.

CONCLUSION

The achievements of Dynamo club players have been commended by the USSR and Russian governments. In fact, the society was decorated with the nation's highest order, the Order of Lenin.

The 50th anniversary of the Dynamo team was commemorated by the Soviet post office on postal stationery covers, a stamp, and by a special hand-stamp (Figures 12-13). They were further honored on their 60th anniversary in 1983, again with a postal stationery cover (Figure 14).



Figure 12. Stamps commemorating the 50th anniversary of Dynamo.

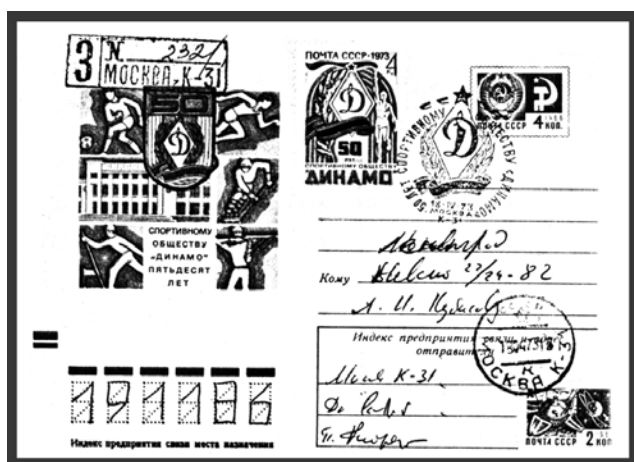


Figure 13. The USSR recognized the 50th anniversary of the Dynamo clubs with this special postal stationery and cancel in 1973.

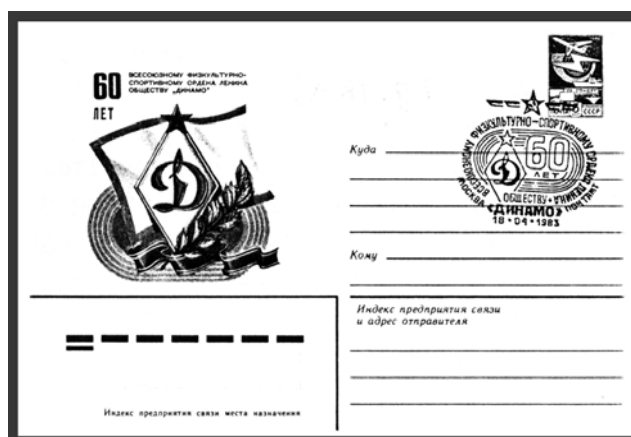


Figure 14. 1983 postal stationery honoring the 60th anniversary of Dynamo football.



Figure 1. Olympsport salute to Czech hockey goalie, Dominik Hašek, and his gold medal team. The text dubs the competition as "Hašek's Ice Hockey Tournament of the Century."

Nagano 1998 Postal Materials of the Czech Republic

by Jaroslav Petrášek

Sportsmen from the Czech Republic departed for Japan with only reasonable hopes of success. The team made up for its failure to bring home any medals from the 1994 Lillehammer Olympic Winter Games by returning from Nagano with one each of all three medal colors. Without a doubt, the public regarded their gold medal in the Olympic ice hockey competition as the most valuable. Because of the depth of the teams, especially with professional players from the Canadian-American National Hockey League, the competition at Nagano was dubbed "The Tournament of the Century" (Figure 1). As with the basketball competition at the 1992 Barcelona Games, most expected the hockey competition to be between

two "Dream Teams." The only question: which one would win? Much to everyone's surprise, things did not quite work out that way.

The ice hockey team from the Czech Republic featured many excellent players: experienced NHL goalkeeper, Dominik Hašek; up-and-coming superstar, Jaromir Jagr; and ten other Czech professionals from the NHL. The team was supplemented by stars from the Czech national league. Together with their coaches, Ivan Hlinka and J. Lenner, they surprised the entire ice hockey world. The Czech team exhibited such aggressiveness and enthusiasm, that they managed, step-by-step, to overcome Finland, the U.S.A., and Canada. The icing on the cake was their victory over arch rival, Russia.

Perhaps time will place this Olympic ice hockey tournament in its proper perspective. At home,

however, there is no doubt. When the gold medalists returned home to Prague, 150,000 enthusiastic fans turned out to greet them in the venerable Old Town Square, celebrating from early afternoon until midnight. This was only after a tumultuous welcome at the airport and visit with President Wenceslas Havel at his home.

Let us now turn to postal material which philatelists can add to their collections to commemorate the subject of Czech participation at the 1998 Nagano Olympic Winter Games. We will go through the items one by one.

POSTAGE STAMPS

A single stamp with a value of 7 Kč was issued portraying an ice hockey puck. A first day cover and commemorative cancel were prepared for the occasion (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Czech Nagano Olympic Games stamp and FD cancel depicting an ice hockey puck.

MACHINE POSTMARKS

The opening of the Games on 7 February 1998 was marked by a machine postmark used at the Prague 6 post office (Figure 3). The cancel shows cross-country skier, Catherine Neumann, in competition at the 1994 Lillehammer Games. Her image is complimented by the addition of the date "7.2.1998" (opening day of the Nagano Games), and slogan "LET'S BEGIN THE GAMES." In addition, the machine



Figure 3. Catherine Neumann's image graced the Nagano Olympic Games opening day machine cancel used at the Prague 6 post office.

postmark was also used as an overprint on postal stationery cards.

METER IMPRINTS

On 7 February 1997, Olympsport began using a new die slug in its Postalia meter machine (Figure 4). The meter depicted Helen Šikolová, bronze medalist in the 5 Km. cross-country skiing event at the 1972 Olympic Winter Games at Sapporo, Japan. The meter commemorated the 25th anniversary of the last time Japan hosted the Winter Olympics as well as the one year mark before the start of the Nagano Olympics.

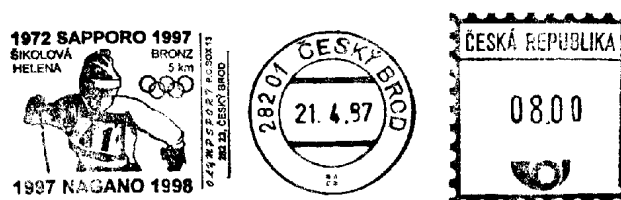


Figure 4. In honor of the 25th anniversary of the 1972 Sapporo Olympic Winter Games, Olympsport used a special meter die slug showing 1972 Czech bronze medalist, Helen Šikolová.

The Czech Olympic Committee also celebrated this anniversary, but with an ice hockey theme. Their meter (Figure 5), used on 5 November 1997, pictures Francis Pospíšil, captain of the Czechoslovak team that won a bronze medal at the Sapporo Games.

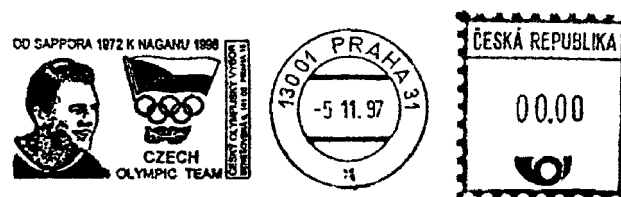


Figure 5. 1997 meter used by the Czech Olympic Committee honoring the Czech ice hockey team's bronze medal at the 1964 Sapporo Winter Olympic Games. Francis Pospíšil, the captain, is depicted.

The primary contingent of the Czech Olympic Team left for Nagano on 30 January. The Prague 6 post office used a special meter cancellation (Figure 6) noting Czechoslovakia's first Winter Olympics medal won at the 1928 St. Moritz Olympic Winter Games. Rudolf Burkert garnered a bronze medal in the ski jumping competition.

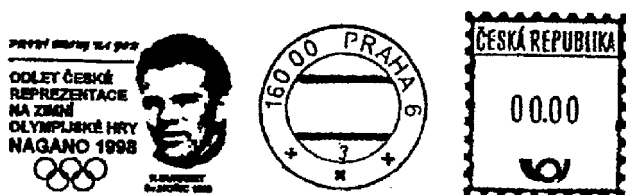


Figure 6. Rudolf Burkert won the first Winter Olympic medal for Czechoslovakia at the 1928 St. Moritz Games. He is shown on this Prague post office meter used on 30 January 1998 on the departure of the Czech team for Nagano.

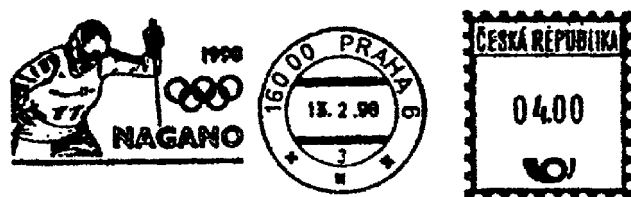


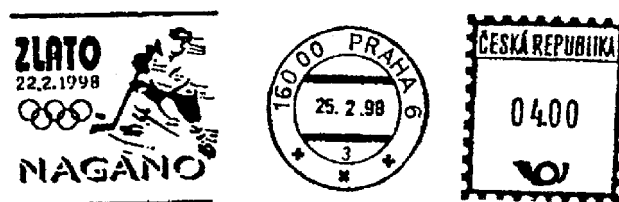
Figure 7. The Czech team's first medal at the Nagano Games was one by Catherine Neumann in cross-country skiing. The Olympic machine cancel used 3 days earlier was modified to commemorate her win.

At the 1998 Games, the first Czech medal was won by Catherine Neumann: a bronze in the 5 Km. cross-country event on 10 February. The next day, the Prague 6 post office began using a modified version of the Neumann opening day machine postmark, shown in Figure 3, in its Postalia meter machines. The imprint, reproduced in Figure 7, is in red.

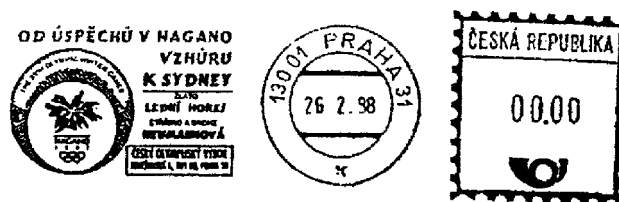
Following the victory of the Czech ice hockey team on 22 February, the Prague 6 post office used a special meter die showing a stylized hockey player and the word "Zlato" (Gold). This meter imprint (Figure 8) was used from 22-25 February.

The Czech Olympic Committee began using a commemorative meter slug in its machine on 25 February (Figure 9). The slogan, picturing an Olympic medal bears text reading: "From success in Nagano onward to Sydney! / gold / ice hockey / silver and bronze / Catherine Neu-mann."

Olympsport changed its meter machine die slug on 25 February. The new slogan (Figure 1) illustrated ice hockey goalie, Dominik Hašek, and included the text, "Hašek's Ice Hockey Tournament of the Century."



Figures 8 & 9. Czechs were jubilant over their gold medal win in ice hockey at Nagano. The Prague 6 post office honored the team on a meter cancel (above) used from February 22-25. The Czech Olympic Committee commemorated the team's victory as well as Catherine Neumann's two medals on the meter shown below.



One machine cancel and seven meter cancels provide the philatelist with many new additions to their Nagano Olympics collections.

Finally, we can complete our discussion by noting that when the main group of Czech Olympians departed for Nagano, special covers commemorating the Olympic flight were prepared and sent along with them. These consist of stationery postcards overprinted with the logo of the Czech Olympic team. The flown cards are rubber stamped with a cachet in black (Figure 10).



Figure 10. Cachet used on Czech Nagano team flight covers.

SOUVENIR SHEET

Still to come on 1 April 1998 will be a special souvenir sheet with a face value of 23 Kč showing a joyous ice hockey goalie at the very instant of victory. The selvedge of the sheet depicts both a Czech and Russian hockey player (the Czechs defeated the Russian Team, 1-0, in the final). The printing quantity is expected to be small. First Day Covers and a commemorative postmark will also be available. ☺

The First Football Team To Fly

by Tom Collins

It was back in 1929 that football coach Roy Johnson first decided to fly his team to a game. “FLY?”, everyone asked. “Golly, where’s he going to get all the planes? It would take the Graf Zeppelin to fly a whole football squad. And why fly? No sensible coach wants to field a team that’s airsick.”

No, but you didn’t build an athletic program in a little cow college by being too sensible either. When Coach Johnson came to the University of New Mexico in 1920, the enrollment was 227, and the football field didn’t have grass. The first day of practice each September was devoted to removing tumbleweed, cacti, and some of the larger rocks covering the field. By 1927, Coach Johnson got tired of this, so he borrowed a plow and a team of horses, and planted grass. He watered it every morning himself. In his spare time, he taught physical education, coached boxing, baseball, track, golf, basketball, and when there was water in the fire department’s pool – swimming.

The football team played nearby schools like Montezuma Seminary and occasionally got as far west as Arizona. Then came the big invitation from Occidental College near Los Angeles to play in the huge new bowl in Pasadena.

Oxy was evidently reaching far for an opponent. Stanford and UCLA had the Rose Bowl booked for the afternoon of October 12, so Occidental had to settle for Friday night. Few coaches wanted to play under the lights, which were a novelty at the time.

New Mexico had never played at night, but Coach Johnson agreed to try. He felt that a trip to California – the first one in the school’s history – would be very educational for his ranch kids ... and it might help recruiting too.

His decision came just at the time that Albuquerque was delirious with “airline fever.” In the

summer of 1929, Charles A. Lindbergh helped organize Transcontinental Air Transport (TAT), the first airline with a coast-to-coast schedule. The passengers traveled by train at night and by plane in the daytime. The segment from Clovis, New Mexico to Albuquerque and on to Los Angeles was entirely by air. The line had four or five huge Ford tri-motors that carried twelve passengers each.

Caught up in the fever, Coach Johnson decided that the team should fly to the big game. As a wily strategist, he prepared public opinion by calling several press conferences to say that flying was out of the question. That started the citizens talking, and soon they were all begging him to reconsider. Slowly, he gave in and he finally agreed that every boy who brought a note from his parents – and promised to study on the trip – would have an airplane ride. Yet TAT didn’t have enough space. Even by adding its one spare plane, it could provide only about 18 seats. You see, it did have a few other paying passengers.

“Eighteen seats will be fine,” said the coach. “Because of air sickness, we’ll send our best eleven boys to Los Angeles by train, and the subs will go in the plane. Then for the return trip, they will switch, and everyone will have a plane ride.”

The train group left town quietly that Thursday at 3:45 a.m. and the subs assembled at the Albuquerque airport before a cheering crowd the same morning at 10:00 a.m. One fifth of the town’s adult population was on hand to see history in the making.

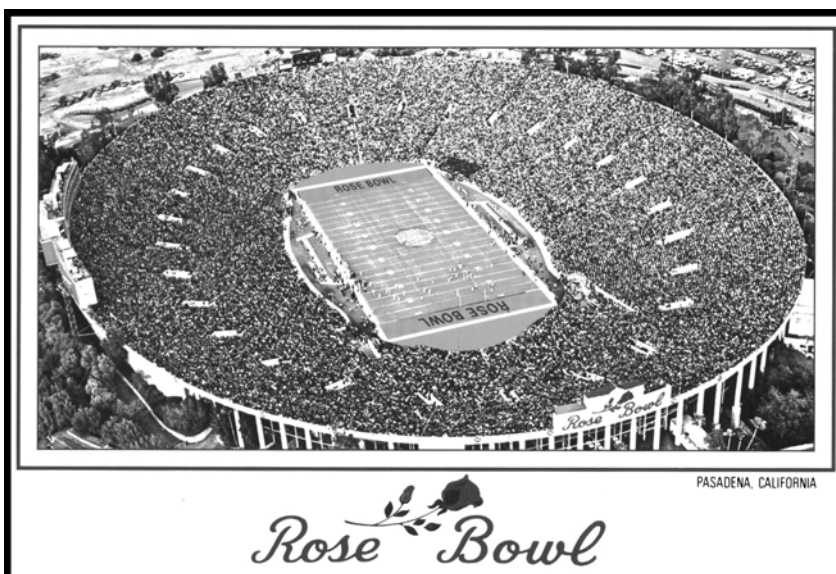
The pilots took them across Arizona, buzzing herds of antelope and detouring over the Grand Canyon for fun. The boys reached Los Angeles in time to motor out to Pasadena for a little practice under the lights. But where was the first team? Still on the train. They did not encounter the lights (henceforth described in school annals as “those glaring lights”) until the night of the game itself.



A Ford Tri-Motor plane, pictured here, carried the University of New Mexico football team to Los Angeles.

Coach Johnson's precautions against air sickness led to the great strategic error of the trip. New Mexico starters had difficulty adjusting to the lights. Not once did they manage to catch and hold a punt.

The Oxy team was notably stronger too, and the New Mexico boys were awed by the size of the Rose Bowl and the huge crowd of 17,000. Most troublesome was the fact that the ball was white and the Occidental jerseys were white as well. When Oxy carried the ball, it was well-nigh invisible (Coach Johnson later persuaded his old coach, Fielding Yost of Michigan, to get the rules changed so that the ball would contrast with the jerseys' color).



The game ended with a 26-0 loss for New Mexico, but everyone enjoyed the trip and the university was proud to have the first aerial football team in history.

The business manager on that flight, Tom Popejoy, later became president of the university. TAT eventually became Trans World Airlines, and now has

much bigger planes. The trip across the West is much faster, but the pilots don't buzz antelope anymore. 🐘

This article, excerpted by the author, appeared in Saturday Afternoon by Richard Whittingham, published in 1985 by Workman Publishing, New York.

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Centennial of the Athletic Football Club of Bilbao, 1898 - 1989

by Jordi Virgili

This year, football (soccer) is the subject of Spain's "Sports" stamp series commemorating the centennial of the founding of the Athletic Football Club of Bilbao. This club was established in 1898 by a group of 36 sportsmen, not unlike the many clubs being set up in England at the time. Presently, the club has 33,000 members and it is governed by a board of directors elected every four years by the members themselves.

From its inception, this club has only had Basque players on its team, or those trained in the Basque minor leagues. This makes the club a "case unique in the history of world football," according to the French sports paper *L'Equipe*. The Athletic Football Club of Bilbao has been one of just three Spanish teams always to have played in the First Division. Among its records are 24 King's Cup victories and eight League championships. With regard to international competition, Athletic Bilbao was runner-up in the UEFA Cup for the 1976-77 season and has participated in three European Champions Cups.

The team has played twice in the "Recopa," five times in the Fairs Cup, and eight times in the UEFA Cup.

The first coach of the team was a Briton named Shepperd. During its hundred years of history, there have been a total of 40 coaches, most of whom have been foreigners including some others of British nationality.

The stamp issued by Spain on 10 February 1998, displays the flag and shield of the Athletic Football Club of Bilbao (Figure 1). The face value is 35 pesetas. The stamp's dimensions are 40.9mm by 28.8mm (horizontal) with perforations of 13 $\frac{3}{4}$. A total of 2.5 million stamps were printed.

The post office in Madrid used a commemorative first day postmark to honor the occasion (Figure 2).

In upcoming years, sports philatelists in Spain should be happy as more football clubs celebrate their centennials!

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Información No. 3/98, Correos y Telégrafos, Servicio Filatelico de España.



Figures 1 and 2. The centennial celebration of the Athletic Club of Bilbao included a stamp issued on 10 February 1998 by the Spanish postal administration, as well as a special first day cancel used in Madrid.

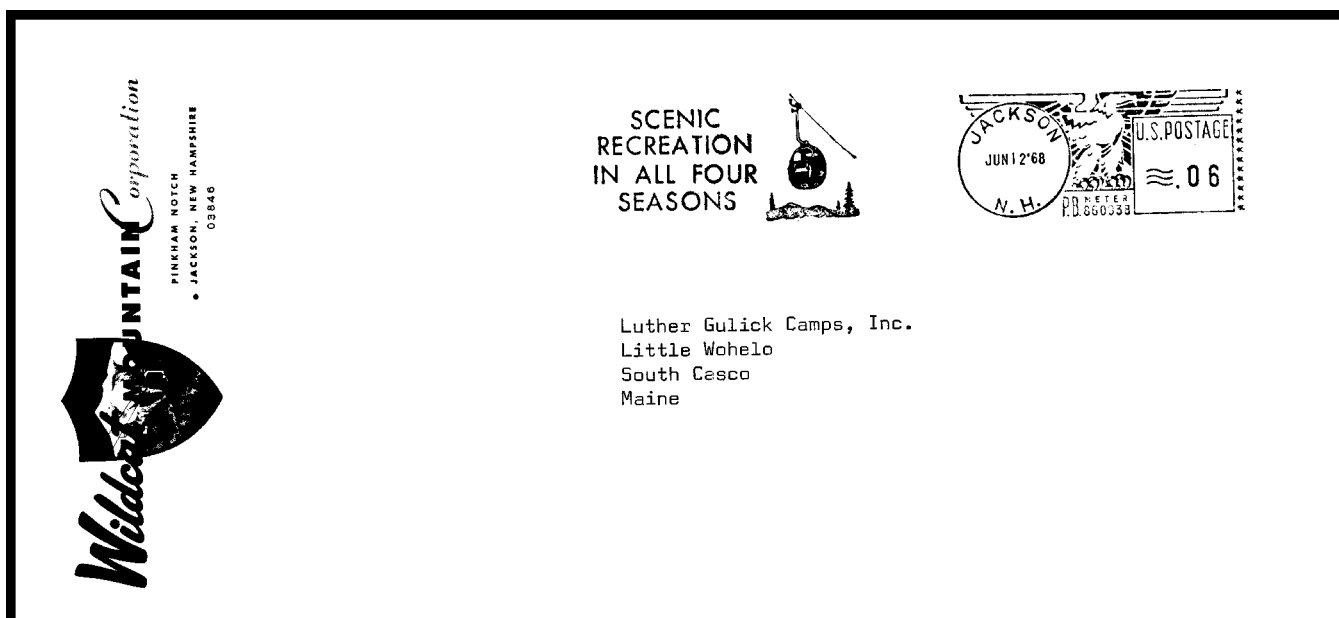


Figure 1. Ski gondolas, an enclosed “bubble car” form of chair lift, carry two to six passengers. Gondolas are popular forms of transport at mountain resorts that cater to year-round visitors.

Ski Lifts: Where Would We Be Without Them?

by Mark Maestroni
illustrated by Sherwin Podolsky

S chussing down an Alpine slope, fine powder billowing up around us. The crunch of crisp, new fallen snow under our boots as we trek back to the chalet after a day on the slopes. The smell of hot chocolate as we warm ourselves by a blazing wood fire. These are all images that most of us who ski conjure up when we dream of a perfect ski vacation.

What we certainly take for granted, though, are those modern conveyances known as ski lifts. Imagine spending most of the day hiking up a mountain on foot, all for a few minutes of pleasure. Believe it or not, until as recently as the 1930's, that was exactly how skiers got to the top of a slope! It would hardly be an overstatement to say that ski lifts, in their various configurations, have done the most to popularize skiing as a recreational sport.

The Swiss have been at the forefront in developing modes of ski lift transportation. Rope tows, while not a new idea, were successfully implemented in Switzerland in 1932. It was also a Swiss engineer,

Erich Konstam, who thought of adding a wooden T-shaped bar to a rope tow, thus creating the first T-bar lift in 1934. The first cable car for skiers was installed at Säntis, Switzerland in 1935.

Swiss were not the only ones to make an impact on ski technology. An American, Jim Curran, realized that for many ski areas in the U.S. rope tows were insufficient and cable cars too expensive to build and maintain. His invention, the chair lift, is still a mainstay for the majority of ski areas in North America. Sun Valley, Idaho, one of the earliest large-scale ski resorts in North America, introduced the first chair lift system in the winter of 1936-37.

Ski lifts are characterized by two basic types: drag lifts and aerial lifts.

Drag lifts, which include button lifts and T-bar lifts, are designed for slopes with short to medium vertical drops over just about any distance. In both systems, a skier (with skis on) is towed up a slope, either singly or in tandem.

Aerial lifts take skiers over long distances with much steeper vertical drops, frequently traversing rough terrain that is either unsafe or not skiable. Chair lifts fall into this category, as do gondolas and



cable cars. With the latter two systems, however, skiers do not wear their skis while being transported. All three systems are based upon a moving cable from which the cab or chair is suspended. Chair lifts can carry either one or two persons (Figures 2-4), while cable cars may have a capacity for 125 skiers at a time. Gondolas were introduced as a less expensive enclosed system, generally carrying between two and six persons (Figure 1).

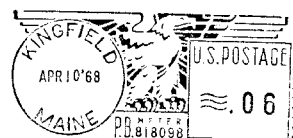
Aerial systems are often used in combination with drag lifts. To understand their interrelationship, think of how a typical surface road network is laid out. Aerial lifts function as the high speed, high

capacity "freeways," taking skiers between the resort or town at the base of a mountain up to the ski runs. Drag lifts are the "feeder roads" to the tops of individual slopes.

While chair lifts predominate at ski areas in North America, gondolas and cable cars remain the most popular form of transportation at European resorts. Enclosed aerial systems are depicted quite frequently on pictorial cancellations of Switzerland. Figures 5 through 8 show gondola cars. Crans-sur-Sierre (Figure 5) is part of the Crans-Montana ski area in western Switzerland. The elevation of both Crans (1500 meters) and the top station of the gon-



RIDE THE MIGHTY GONDOLA



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Figure 13. Sugarloaf Mountain at Kingfield, Maine is one of the largest and most popular ski resorts in New England. The resort's meter invites visitors to "Ride the Mighty Gondola."

dola system (2600 meters) are provided in the cancel. Crans also promotes itself as both a summer and winter recreation area ("Sun, Sports, Golf").

Swiss ski areas with cable cars of various sizes are commemorated by the cancels in Figures 9 through 11. Andermatt (Figure 9), is a fairly small resort situated south of Lucerne and north of the St. Gotthard Pass in eastern Switzerland. This ski area sports eight lifts with the top station at 2,961 meters (9,715 feet).

Of course Switzerland is not the only European country famous for skiing. One of the best known of all ski resort areas is Chamonix-Mont-Blanc in the Haute Savoie region of France (Figure 12). Chamonix hosted the very first Olympic Winter Games in 1924, and figured prominently in the 1992 Games. The cable car depicted on this slogan machine cancel from 1955 is most certainly one of the large variety. The cancel helpfully provides both the base altitude of the city (1050 meters) as well as the height of Mont-Blanc itself (4810 meters) – the highest point in Europe.

So the next time you take a ski vacation, do remember what a terrific time saver ski lifts are when you "Ride the Mighty Gondola" (Figure 13)!

SOURCES:

Philatelic material is from the collection of the late Dorothy Gulick.

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Scharff, Robert, ed., *Ski Magazine's Encyclopedia of Skiing*, New York: Harper & Row, 1970.

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PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

by Sherwin Podolsky

Miscellaneous Olympic Vignettes

I am donating to the American Philatelic Research Library copies of *Merkur* magazine, a German language journal devoted to non-postal and pseudo-postal issues. The copies include issue numbers 94 (10 March 1956), 95 (10 May 1956), 96/97 (25 July 1956), 98 (10 October 1956), 100 (February 1957), and 101 (10 April 1957).

The aforementioned issues serialize the *Rampacher* catalog of Olympic vignettes through 1952. The successor to this series is Robert J. DuBois' *Catalog of Olympic Labels 1894-1985*.

Issues 100 and 101 include miscellaneous sections which are summarized below:

ISSUE 100:

- International Workers Olympiads. Nine varieties are listed from 1925 to 1936. Five of these are designated as rare.
- Balkan Olympiads. Four varieties are listed from 1929 to 1937; all are rare.
- Workers Olympiads in Czechoslovakia. Eight varieties are listed, of which one is rare.

ISSUE 101:

Various Olympic Games. Fourteen varieties are listed; nine are rare. They were issued from 1912 to 1953 and included the following:

- 1923 Far Eastern Olympic Games, Osaka Japan.
- (1932?) "At Olympiads Speak Esperanto."
- Two vignettes for the 1936 Olympiada Popular at Barcelona, Spain. This was to have been a rival event to the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games, however the Spanish Civil War caused their cancellation.

Addendum: imperforate varieties of the 1912 Flag-wavers multicolor series are listed for four languages and are all rare. Several other varieties are also mentioned and described, but they must all be in the DuBois catalog.

Paul F. Rampacher was an outstanding collector and cataloger of poster stamps and labels of the world. He lived in Budapest and I corresponded and exchanged with him for a few years. He lived through the revolt against the Soviet occupation in 1956, and was active well into his 90s. After his death, his massive collection was sold intact in an auction in Germany. I would be pleased to hear from readers who know more about Mr. Rampacher and his collection.

Readers wishing to borrow this rare resource can write to the American Philatelic Research Library, P.O. Box 8000, State College, PA 16803.

The Poster Stamp Society

Readers interested in Olympic and sports vignettes may find the monthly bulletin published by the Poster Stamp Society useful. The January 1998 issue illustrates many quaint and colorful vignettes from the turn-of-the-century into the 1930s or 1940s. The "Philatelic Side-line Bulletins," published from 1910 to 1912, are discussed along with descriptions of members' interests (which include commemorative labels, precancels, cancellations, perfins, etc.).

A mini-sale or auction is conducted each month with all lots illustrated. There are 18 different labels in the \$2 category, ranging up to 18 different in the \$10 category. The artistic quality of the offerings is very high. Sport and Olympic vignettes are included.

Membership in the Poster Stamp Society, which includes the membership, is \$10.00/year in USA, \$12.00/year in Canada and \$15.00/year overseas.

To join, please send appropriate dues and mailing information to: Cinderella Publications, 3654 Upper Applegate Road, Jacksonville, Oregon 97530.

The editor and publisher is Walter Schmidt (same address as above). His e-mail address is: pssoc@cdsnet.net.

REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS

by Mark Maestrone

IMOS Journal February 1998 (#97)

This issue of the German-language IMOS Journal begins with an update of sports and Olympic cancels by Manfred Winternheimer. Mr. Winternheimer and Charly Biernat present information relating to the 25th anniversary memorial to the Israeli athletes slain at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games. Woodbridge High School in Woodbridge, NJ held a special program honoring these athletes. A special pictorial cancel was also used to mark this solemn occasion. Olympic postcards (1912 & 1928) from the collection of Laurentz Jonker are reproduced. Horst Rosenstock examines Olympic badminton in a well-illustrated article. Rounding out this issue is the continuation of Hans-Jürgen Eikermann's feature on national participation at the Olympic Games. This time, the 1948-1956 period is covered.

Included with this issue is the regular review of German press articles on sport and the Olympics; a 919-lot auction; and society news.

Contact: Dieter Germann, Postbox 1128, D-63534 Grosskrotzenburg, Germany.

Journal of Olympic History Summer 1998 (Vol. 6, #2)

The *Journal of Olympic History* is published three times a year by the International Society of Olympic Historians. While not philatelic in nature, it nevertheless provides valuable information that all Olympic and sports collectors can find benefit from.

This issue covers the following topics: Michel Bréal, who encouraged de Coubertin to include the Marathon in the revived Olympic Games; Korean sports in the 80's, including the Seoul Olympics of 1988; Irish-born Olympic medalists from 1900-1924; "Olympic Legends Honoured at Sydney's Games Sites"; Serbian weightlifting (1857- 1992); and an analysis of the athletes at the Nagano Olympics.

Regular columns provide news on upcoming Olympic Games, the IOC, and sports federations; a listing of obituaries of Olympic athletes; book

reviews; and new member information. An index to Volume 5 of the journal appears at the end of this issue.

Contact: Bill Mallon, 303 Sutherland Court, Durham, NC 27712, U.S.A.

Olympsport Vol. 30, #1/98 & 2/98

The Czech Olympic Ice Hockey Team's victory at Nagano is featured in issue 1/98 of the Czech-language journal of *Olympsport*. The bulk of the issue takes a close look at the philately of these Games from the pre-Olympic competitions, through the Torch Relay, to the rich variety of cancels used during these Olympic Winter Games.

Additional articles include a summary of 1996 meters from the IOC Museum in Lausanne; a continuation of the series on shooting sports; an article on speed skating; and the latest news on the World Cup Championships in France.

Issue 2/98 completes the philatelic picture at Nagano begun in issue 1/98. The Paralympic Games, held immediately after the Winter Olympics in Nagano, is examined in depth.

Other articles in this issue discuss upcoming exhibitions (Prague '98 and Olympihlex 2000); the 90th anniversary of the Czech Hockey Federation; XVI Commonwealth Games in Malaysia; a continuation of the series on Czech Olympic medalists; and the final part of the series on the history of the European Football Championships.

Contact: Jaroslav Petrasek, POB 13, 282 23 Cesky Brod, Czech Republic.

OSPC Journal #1, 1998

Berlin's Olympic and Sports Philately Club puts out an excellent, information-packed journal. Of course you'll need to speak German to read it. This first issue of 1998 begins with an article by Thomas Lippert detailing some philatelic aspects of the Nagano Olympics (including a look at "Par Avion"

etiquettes, which I've not seen discussed elsewhere). Karl Rathjen writes on Lake Wendouree in Australia, site of the rowing competition at the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. An interesting series of articles that begins in this issue discusses the use of Olympic logos in philately. In Part 1, Heinz Niemann covers the Squaw Valley 1960 Games through the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. Part 7 of Eberhard Büttner's article on the Moscow Olympics of 1980 concludes this issue.

Contact: OSPC, Franz-Stenzer-Str. 35, 12679 Berlin, Germany.

Phila-Sport **April-June 1998 (#26)**

Bruno Cataldi Tassoni's review of the host country philately of World Cup '98 in France is the lead article in this issue of the Italian journal from UIFOS. Cesare Ravaldi and Leon Vanverre combine forces to examine the "World of Baseball" in this first of a series of articles. As with many of the journals this month, the Nagano Olympic Games are reviewed by Maurizio Tecardi. For the skiers among you, Alvarro Trucchi looks at the interesting sport of Ski Archery. In his continuing series on Olympic Torch Relays, Pasquale Polo covers the Winter Olympic runs of 1952 through 1972.

On a more erudite note, Bruno Cataldi Tassoni analyzes the Autumn 1997 Feldman Auction which contained the extensive collection of Michael Tsironis, one of the pre-eminent collectors and

exhibitors of early Olympic material. Nino Barberis reports on errors, freaks and oddities on the 1996 U.S. Olympians stamps. These include sheets that are entirely imperforate, stamps with shifts in the phosphorescent tagging, and the incomplete application of gum.

New issue information and reports on pictorial cancels worldwide are included.

Contact: UIFOS, Via dei Monti Tiburtini, 600, 00157 Rome, Italy.

Podium **April 1998 (#21)**

Podium, the journal of the Argentine Sports Thematic Group, opens with a review of glider competition in the Olympics. Formula 1 racing in Argentina is discussed by Jorge Casalia; Geraldo de Andrade Ribeiro, Jr. looks at Brazilian medal winners at the Olympics in shooting.

Other items feature the sports of football (soccer), equestrianism, cycling and basketball, as well as new stamp issues and pictorial cancels.

Contact: Jorge A. Casalia, C.C. 30 Suc. 19, C.P. 1419, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Torch Bearer **February 1998 (Vol. 15, #1)**

As is customary for our sister society in Great Britain, this issue of their journal carries a wide variety of articles suiting nearly every Olympic taste. An interesting piece by an anonymous autograph collector details his trials and tribulations in obtaining the autographs of living World Record Holders in the men's mile event. David Buxton reviews the career of British runner, A.N.S. Strobe-Jackson, winner of the Olympic 1500 at Stockholm in 1912. And Bob Farley begins his eagerly anticipated series on his trip to Nagano for the Olympic Winter Games.

Various other articles of interest include Moses Laufer's country-by-country analysis of stamps issued for the Centennial Olympics in Atlanta; a review of recent postal stationery issues; Part 10 of John Miller's series on 1996 Olympic Games sponsorship in Britain, which concentrates on stamp booklet varieties issued by Royal Mail; and a look at philatelic material for upcoming Olympic candidate cities.

Contact: Mrs. Elizabeth Miller, 258 Torrisholme Road, Lancaster LA1 2TU, Great Britain.



2000 SYDNEY UPDATE

by Brian Hammond

101ST IOC SESSION, MONACO

When I first began collecting the Olympics in the early 1960's it was still possible to build a near complete collection of Olympic material provided you had sufficient cash. Today most of us need to select an area of Olympic collecting; part of the fun is seeking out material to add to it.

I have recently received material from the 101st IOC Session in Monte Carlo, Monaco at which Sydney, Australia was elected host of the 2000 Olympic Games on 23 September 1993. Figures 1 and 2 illustrate the two booklets of stamps issued by the session's host country on 20 September 1993.

The first booklet is composed of eight se-tenant 2.80f stamps printed on a pale turquoise-green paper. Each stamp includes the Olympic rings in white against a red background. The images and wording alternate between turquoise-green and brownish black. Subjects depict: the coat of arms of Monaco; bobsledding; alpine skiing; sailing; rowing; swimming; cycling; and logo of the 101st Session.

Eight 4.50f stamps make up the second booklet pane on buff-colored paper. Printing colors are in rose and brownish black, with the Olympic rings on a blue background. The first and last stamps duplicate those on the lower value set. The remaining subjects are: gymnastics; judo; fencing; hurdles; archery; and weightlifting. The booklet cover (Figure 2) is printed in red for the 2.80f value stamps and blue on the higher value set.



Figures 1 & 2. Sydney was selected as host of the 2000 Olympic Games at the 101st IOC Session in Monte Carlo, Monaco. On that occasion, Monaco issued two stamp booklets (right). The booklet cover (above) was the same for both strips of stamps.



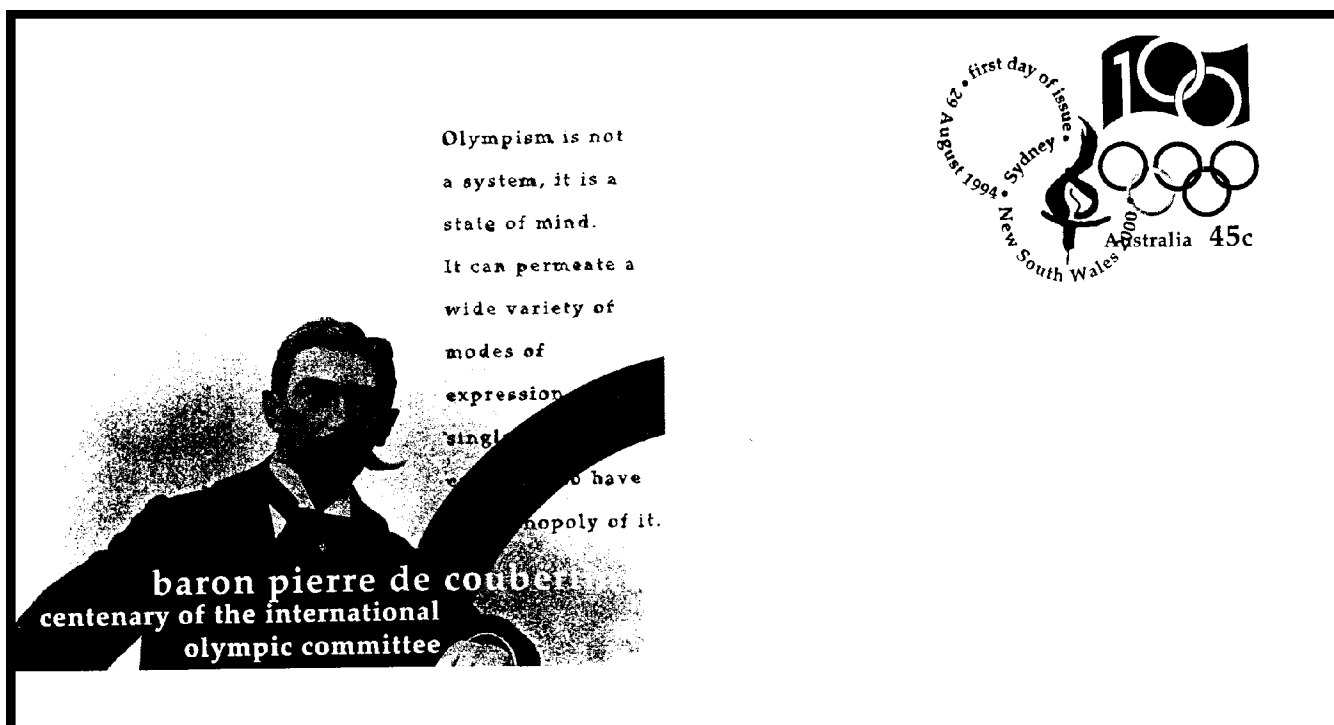


Figure 3. Australia honored the 1994 centennial of the IOC with a postal stationery envelope commemorating Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Games.

CULTURAL FESTIVAL

In my May, 1998, column I outlined plans for the four-year cultural program. As over a third of the total budget for the festival series was spent on the first year's "Festival of Dreaming," the 1998 "Sea Changes Festival" and 1999 "Reaching the World Festival" have been canceled. According to a report in the Sydney *Morning Herald*, the "Harbor of Life Festival" in 2000 remains substantially unchanged.

CENTENARY OF THE IOC

In 1994, the IOC celebrated its centennial. Many postal authorities, including Australia Post, issued stamps and other items to commemorate this event. Figure 3 reproduces a postal stationery envelope designed by Michelle Gauci. The imprinted 45c stamp shows the IOC "100" logo in correct colors. Baron Pierre de Coubertin appears on the cachet, along with his definition of "Olympism." The 29 August 1994 first day postmark includes the Olympic flame.

AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC LEGENDS STAMPS

At the end of my last column, I briefly mentioned

the subjects of this year's Australian Legends Issue, a surprise that Australia Post keeps secret until the very last moment. With an obvious nod to the upcoming 2000 Olympics, six Australian Olympic legends were honored on twelve 45c stamps issued on 21 January 1998. The stamps are arranged in horizontal pairs with a portrait of each athlete on the left and a reproduction of the athlete in action on the right-hand stamp (Figure 4). The six Australian Olympic athletes are: Betty Cuthbert, athletics (1956 Melbourne); Herb Elliott, athletics (1960 Rome); Dawn Fraser, swimming (1956 Melbourne); Marjorie Jackson, athletics (1952 Helsinki); Murray Rose, swimming (1956 Melbourne); and Shirley Strickland, athletics (1956 Melbourne).

The first day postmark in brown shows the Olympic rings, with the text "Sydney / NSW / 2000" below.

The athletes' images appear in sepia against a gold stripe. Each photo is set in a green frame with lettering in green. The Olympic rings are in their true colors.

The set is available in three formats: a miniature sheetlet at AU\$5.40, a sheetlet pack costing AU\$5.80, and in a stamp booklet for AU\$5.40 (Figure 5). The stamps in the booklet are self-adhesive, whereas stamps in the other two formats are of the lick-and-stick variety. The stamps in the booklet have die-cut perforations.



Figure 4. Australian Olympic Legends sheetlet depicting six famous Australian Olympic athletes.

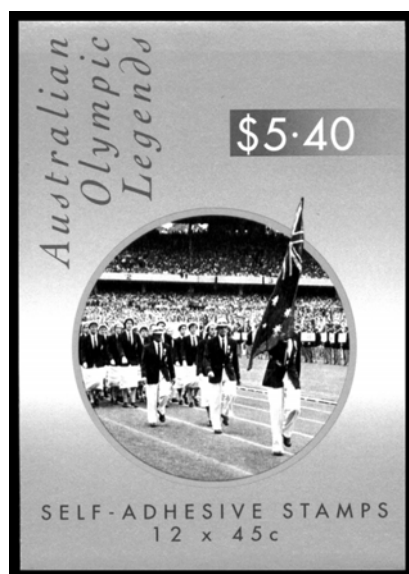


Figure 5. Legends stamps in booklet format. Pairs of athlete's stamps are oriented vertically rather than horizontally as on the panes. Booklet stamps are self-adhesive.

Souvenir items associated with this set include an Olympic Legends book (AU\$12.95); signed first day covers in frames (AU\$99 per cover); and issued a set of six maximum cards.

Sophie Byass from the Australia Post Graphic Design Studio designed the stamps, which were printed in offset lithography by SNP Cambec. Stamp size is 37.5mm x 26mm with 13.86mm x 14.6mm perforations. The stamps will be withdrawn from sale on 31/12/98.

NEW SPORTS AND NEW EVENTS

For collectors of individual sports I will seek to keep you informed on the final program of events for the 2000 Games. Three new sports are included: triathlon, taekwondo, and trampoline. The aim of the IOC is to limit the size of the Games while at the same time make room for new sports and events. The total number of competitors at Sydney has been fixed at 10,200. Women, however, will see a significant increase in opportunities for competition at these Games. New events for them will be included in the sports of modern pentathlon, weightlifting and water polo. Baseball, boxing and wrestling remain the only sports not yet open to woman who nevertheless are projected to make up 42% of competitors in Sydney – an increase of 6% over Atlanta.

Melbourne's Cricket Ground used as the Olympic Stadium in 1956 will host some men's preliminary football matches. Other preliminary matches will be played in Adelaide, Brisbane and Canberra.

CANCELLATIONS

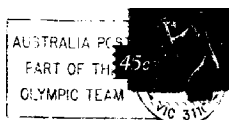
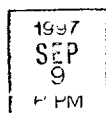
There are five different types of "Australian Post Part Of The Olympic Team" machine cancels. Types 1 and 2 are boxed date-stamp varieties. Only the date appears in the Type 1 cancel, while the Type 2 cancel bears both the date and station name. Type 3 is a circular date-stamp variety. Types 4 and 5 are both two-line sprayed on markings resembling a dot-matrix printer. In Type 4, the two lines are centered one above the other. The type is smaller and the lines justified right and left in Type 5.

This slogan machine cancel was placed in use in October, 1995, and was still in use in 1997. Some offices have used it throughout this period, while others have used it at various periods with breaks of several months in between. At the time of writing the earliest example I have seen is a Type 3 from Sunshine Coast 4560 dated 04/10/95. The most

recent is a Type 2 variety dated 09/09/97 from Eastern Sub Vic 3110. Tom D'Arcy states that his local office in Victoria used the slogan intermittently until at least 22/12/97. A summary of the cancel types and their places of use follows:

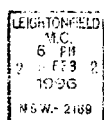
Type 1:

Canberra 2610
Eastern Subs 2004
Hobart 7000
North Western 2781
Northern Subs 2058
Southern Subs 2215
Sth Western Subs 2169



Type 2:

Eastern subs 3110
Freelong 3221
Hunter region 2781
Macay 4741
Melbourne 3000
North Gate 4013
Northern subs 3074
Perth 6000
Southern subs 3169
Sth Eastern subs 3176
Townsville 4810
Underwood 4119
Western subs 3012



Type 3:

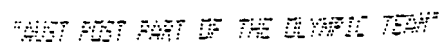
Cains 4870
Gold Coast 4217
North Gate 4013
Southern subs 2215
Sunshine Coast 4560



Types 4 and 5: Canberra 2610



Type 4 Cancel



Type 5 Cancel

Adelaide Sa 5000 used the slogan from September, 1996, and Hobart 7000 used three types. Greenlog Vic 3215 also used the slogan while some offices

used more than one type of cancellation, either at the same time or at different times.

OLYMPIC SPONSORS

The Olympic movement has, at present, eleven worldwide sponsors. They are Coca-Cola, IBM, John Hancock, Kodak, McDonald's, Panasonic, Samsung, Time, UPS, Visa, Xerox. In addition, SOCOG has have local sponsors that supply goods and services as well as cash support for the Games. In the past many sponsors have used special postal slogans on their mail to advertise their support. This is in addition to labels and advertising on their products. Anset Australia are the official airline for Sydney 2000 and are using a sponsor logo on their letterhead.

Channel 7, the Australian television company which won the Australian broadcasting rights for the 1998, 2000, and 2002 Games, used a slogan postmark purchased from Australian Post. Their logo and the words "7 Sports Good as Gold" appear in the cancel which was in use from early February to mid-March, 1998. According to Channel 7, the cancel was meant to complement the Australian Living Legends stamps rather than the 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Nagano. The slogan was used at the following mail centers:

NSW Canberra MC 2610
NSW Eastern Suburbs MC 2004
NSW Hunter MC 2310
NSW North Western Suburbs MC 2781
NSW Northern Suburbs MC 2058
NSW South West Suburbs MC 2169
NSW Southern Suburbs MC 2215
Queensland Northgate MC 4013
Queensland Underwood MC 4119
South Australia Adelaide MC 5000
Tasmania Hobart MC 7000
Victoria Geelong MC 3221
Victoria Melbourne City MC 3000
Victoria Northern MC 3072
Victoria South Eastern MC 3179
Victoria Southern MC 3169
Western Australia Perth MC 6000

This cancel was also scheduled for use in the Eastern MC 3110 machines. Instead, they were fitted in error with the slogan and post code of Werribee [Victoria].

Next time we will look at some official Olympic postcards and Olympic Coins.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Margaret Jones

New Members

2115 Rolf Hang-Stockenschneider, Reitbahn 23, D-47053 Duisburg, Germany. He is an accounting manager. *Ice Hockey* (WWW)

2116 Stanley R. Longenecker, 930 Wood Street, Mount Joy, PA 17552-1926 USA. Stan is a carpenter/painter. *General sports, including Olympics; autographs of sports stars on cover; #855 Un-cached Baseball First Day Covers* (Jones)

2117 Thomas W. Collins, 301 Poplar Street, Darby, PA 19023-2028 USA. Tom is a police dispatcher. *Football: FDC and Cachets* (WWW)

2118 Kwok-Yiu Kwan, 1312. Yan Tin Hse., Hing Tin Est., Lam Tin, Kowloon, Hong Kong. He is a banking officer and is willing to translate short items from Chinese to English. *General sports, including Olympics; Soccer* (ATA/Jones)

2119 Paul "Stampaul" Malak, 3010 Hartman, Toledo, OH 43608-1936 USA. (Jones)

REINSTATED

1150 Peter D. Martin, P.O. Box 513, Sidney, OH 45365 USA

1284 Nicholas J. DeMartini, 408A Clinton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231-3606 USA

1326 Leslie D. Gailey, P.O. 308, Sandy, UT 84091-0308 USA

1629 Charles D. Rabinovitz, P.O. Box 265, Sykesville MD 21784-0265 USA

1946 Roberto A. Lopez P, AP 1558, CP 78230, San Luis Potosi, Mexico

ADDRESS CHANGES

John A. Dustin, 13730 W. Barr Road, Manhattan, IL 60442-9727 USA

Harry Johnson, P.O. Box 397, Seal Rock, OR 97376 USA.

Terry Williams, 4792 Green Street, Duluth, GA 30096-4418 USA

Total Membership, April 30, 1998 = 391

If you have not renewed, this is your **LAST** issue. When you ask to be reinstated, any back issues will be sent with the following SPI bulk mailing.

Members' E-mail Addresses

Grosjean, Bertrand

grosjean_bertrand@cesnac.dgac.fr

Hang-Stockenschneider, Rolf

hang-stockenschneider@T-online.de

Vannelli, Valentino

v.vannelli@cia.it

Williams, Terry

twilliam@arches.uga.edu

Exhibit Awards

AMERISTAMP EXPO. Patricia Ann Loehr was awarded bronze in display class for "U.S. Cancellations of the Centennial Olympics (XXVI Olympiad)." Angelica Puentes received youth gold for "Olimpiadas – Un Evento en el Mundo."

ALAPEX 98 (Birmingham, Alabama). Charles Wallace was awarded vermeil, GPS vermeil and AAPE presentation awards for "The 1936 Olympics." Heinrich Hahn received silver and GPS silver for "Olympic Games – Germany 1936."

ST. LOUIS EXPO (Missouri). Charles Ekstrom won vermeil and APS post-1940 medal, ARA gold and Bureau Issues Association statue of freedom awards for "Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamps." Juan Carlos Santacruz received silver for "La Copa Mundo de Futbol Jules Rimet."

NEW STAMP ISSUES

by Dennis Dengel

Azerbaijan: October 6, 1997. World Cup Soccer Championships, France. Six se-tenant 200m stamps showing team photographs (Italy, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, England, Germany). One 1,500m s/s showing Tofiq Bahramov.

Bhutan: October 9, 1997. World Cup Soccer Championships, France. Six stamps showing English players (5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 nu). Eight se-tenant 10nu stamps showing various team captains. Nine se-tenant 10nu stamps showing previous winners. Two 35nu s/s showing individual players.

Cambodia: January 10, 1998. World Cup Soccer Championships, France. Six stamps showing various soccer scenes (200, 500, 900, 1000, 1500, 4000 riels). One 5,400 s/s soccer scene.

Georgia: July 21, 1997. Georgian Women's team wins 1996 World Chess Olympiad. A pane of three 30t stamps, a pane of 4 se-tenant 30t stamps, two 20t stamps plus 40t and 50t stamps showing present and previous winners.

Lesotho: October 31, 1997. World Soccer Championships, France. Six stamps (1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3 and 4m) various soccer players. Six se-tenant 1.5m stamps showing various matches. Two 8 m s/s showing players.

Liberia: October 1, 1997. World Cup Soccer Championships, France. Two panes of eight se-tenant 50 cent stamps showing various countries' players.

Maldives: 1997. World Cup Soccer Championships, France. Six stamps showing past winners (1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 10 rufiya). Three panes of 8 se-tenant 3rf showing various teams in action. Three 25rf s/s showing team captains.

Micronesia: March 1998. World Cup Soccer Championships, France. Pane of eight se-tenant, 32 cent stamps plus two \$2.00 s/s all with various soccer scenes. A \$3.00 s/s, runner and torch.

Paraguay: January 27, 1998. World Cup Soccer Championships, France. Two stamps (200, 500 guaranis) players Julio Romera and Carlos Gamarro. One 1,000g showing Paraguayan team.

Peru: October 17, 1997. The 13th Bolivar Games. Se-tenant block of four 2.70 sol stamps showing tennis, soccer, basketball, shot put.

St Vincent-Grenadines: February 2, 1998. Nagano Winter Olympics. 70 cents, ice hockey; \$1.10 bobsledding; two \$2.00, figure skating, mogul skiing; pane of eight se-tenant \$1.50 stamps showing previous medalists; two \$5.00 s/s ice hockey.

Tanzania: October 6, 1997. Nagano Winter Olympics. 100/-, 250/-, 500/-, 600/-, four se-tenant 250/-, stamps plus two 1,000/- s/s all feature past medalists.

October 20, 1997. World Cup Soccer Championships, France. 100/-, 150/-, 200/-, 250/-, 500/-, 600/- stamps showing team photographs. Two panes of eight se-tenant 250/- stamps showing individual players on the first pane and stadiums on the second pane. Two 1,000/- s/s showing Pele.

United Arab Emirates: March 2, 1998. Dubai International Sailing Federation competes in the World Sailing Championship. Four stamps (50f, 1dh, 2.50dh, 3dh) showing various sailing scenes.

SPI Rapid Notification Service

Do you collect new U.S. sport and Olympic commemorative postmarks? If so, then you need to take advantage of SPI's Rapid Notification Service. For more information send a self-addressed stamped envelope to William E. Fraleigh, RD #3, Box 176, Red Hook, NY 12571, U.S.A.

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP CANCELS

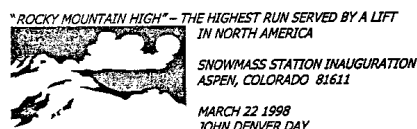
by Mark Maestrone

THE NUMBERING SYSTEM

Catalogue numbers are shown at left, such as 88101-911. In this example: 88=Year [1988]; 1=Month [January]; 01=First day of use; 911=First 3 ZIP code digits. The months of October, November and December are 2-digit months, and are expressed as X, Y, and Z. The place of use is listed next, followed by the dates of use. All cancels are in black. The numbering system is from the Commemorative Cancel Catalog published by General Image, Inc., PO Box 335, Maplewood, NJ 07040, and is used with their kind permission.

SPORTS CROSS INDEX MARCH - MAY 1998

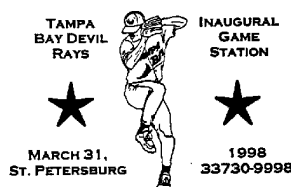
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Baseball: 98331-337, 98404-333.
Basketball: 98326-641.
Equestrian: 98418-287, 98423-405,
98501-402, 98502-402, 98523-128.
Football: 98424-685.
Running: 98428-570, 98502-328.
Skiing: 98322-816, 98524-816.



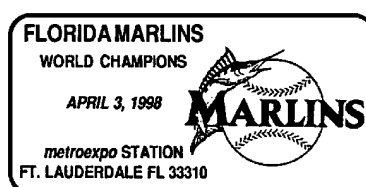
98322-816 Aspen, CO 22



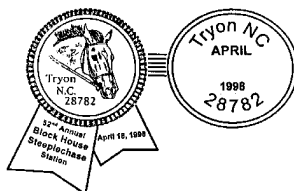
98326-641 Kansas City, MO 26-29



98331-337 St. Petersburg, FL 31



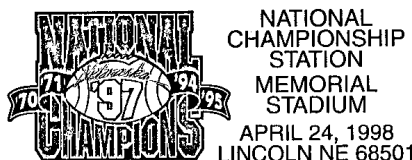
98404-333 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 3-5



98418-287 Tryon, NC 18



98423-405 Lexington, KY 23-26



98424-685 Lincoln, NE 24



98425-802 Denver, CO 25

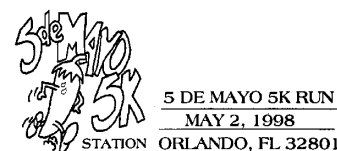


DANIELSEN RELAYS STATION
SALEM SD 57058
APRIL 28, 1998

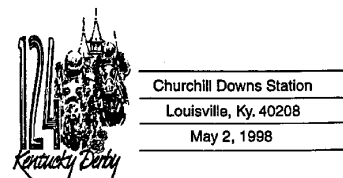
98428-570 Salem, SD 28



98501-402 Louisville, KY 1



98502-328 Orlando, FL 2



98502-402 Louisville, KY 2

DRESSAGE at SARATOGA



98523-128 Saratoga Spr., NY 23-25



98524-816 Vail, CO 24

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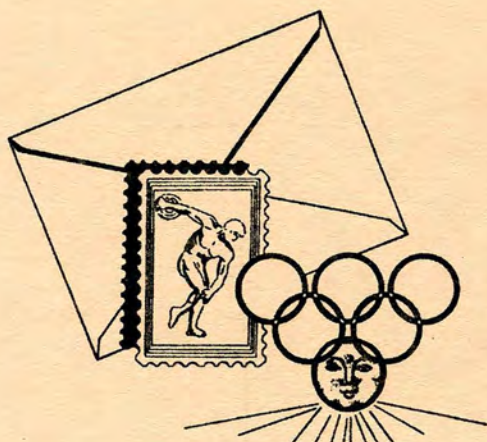
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and \$40.00 (Overseas)

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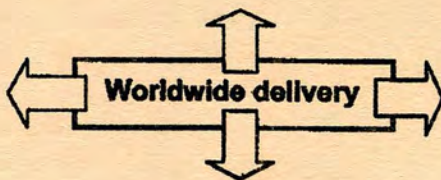
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