

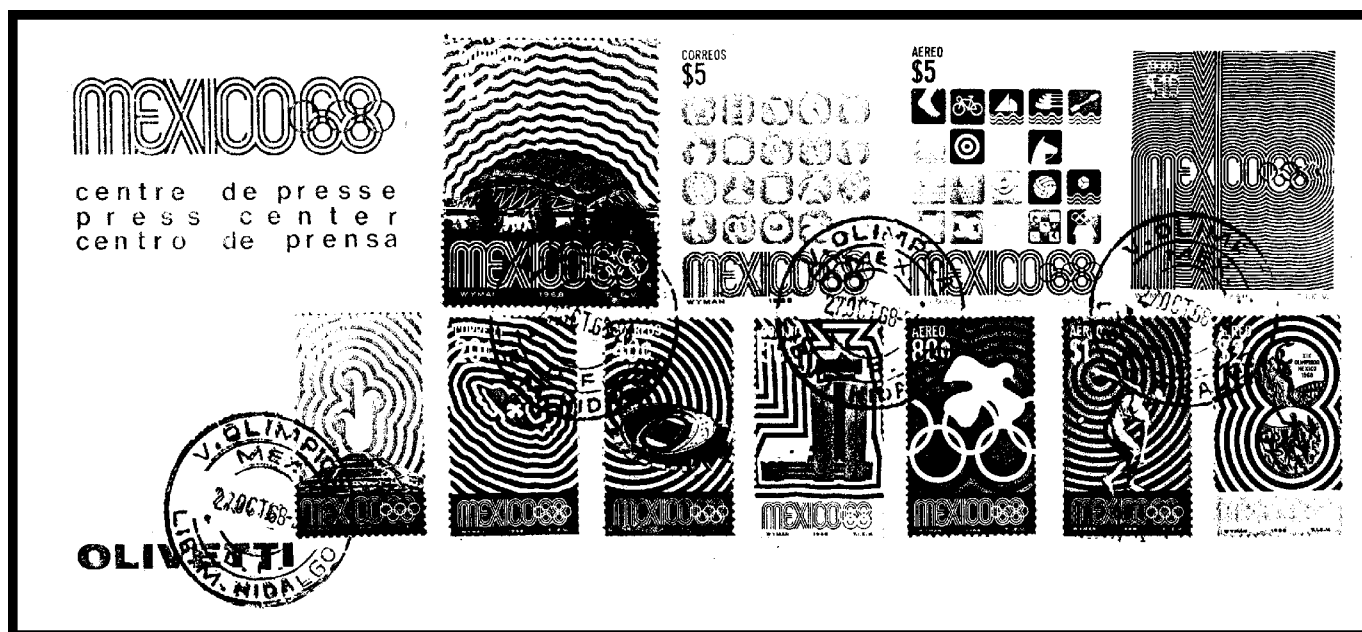
JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

VOLUME 37

JULY-AUGUST 1999

NUMBER 6

The *Olé* Olympics: Mexico City, 1968



Olivetti sponsor cover franked with Mexico's final issue of Olympic stamps and postmarked with the Olympic Village cancel on the last day of the Games.

TABLE OF CONTENTS



SPORTS
PHILATELISTS
INTERNATIONAL

ARTICLES

The Olé Olympics: Mexico City, 1968	<i>Ray Soldan</i>	3
The 1928 Olympic Stamps of the Netherlands and their Cancellations	<i>Laurentz Jonker</i>	11
Babe Ruth, A Philatelic Remembrance	<i>Norm Rushefsky</i>	16
Care and Feeding of Olympic Posters	<i>Bob Christianson</i>	21

REGULAR FEATURES & COLUMNS

President's Message	<i>Mark Maestroni</i>	1
2000 Sydney Olympics	<i>Brian Hammond</i>	23
Auction Results	<i>Sherwin Podolsky</i>	27
Reviews of Periodicals	<i>Mark Maestroni</i>	31
News of Our Members	<i>Margaret Jones</i>	33
New Stamp Issues	<i>Dennis Dengel</i>	34
Commemorative Stamp Cancellations	<i>Mark Maestroni</i>	35

SPORTS PHILATELISTS INTERNATIONAL

1968 OLYMPIC GAMES

p. 3

1928 OLYMPIC GAMES

p. 11

BASEBALL

p. 16

MEMORABILIA PRESERVATION

p. 21

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

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July-August 1999

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

FIPO Newsletter

This issue's President's Message is devoted to reprinting the most pertinent parts of the recent newsletter from FIPO headquarters:

FIPO Circular #1/99

Rome, 30 March 1999

1999 PROGRAMME

In 1999 FIPO has already taken part in the FIP International Exhibition Australia '99 in Melbourne and will also be present at the international philatelic exhibitions in Paris and Peking. During these exhibitions, as was done in Melbourne, the "Prestige" collection will be exhibited and, upon request of FIPO, an "Olympic Day" will be organised.

FIPO participated in the exhibition organised by the Union Espanola de Filatelia Olimpica (UEFO) organised for the celebration of the centenary of the Barcelona Football Club. The exhibition, to which the Italian Union of Olympic Philatelists also collaborated, [was] a great success. FIPO will also participate and collaborate [on] the philatelic exhibition, Filatem, to be organised in Palma de Majorca in July, during the 20th Universiad. FIPO has also patronised the philatelic exhibition, Olympsport, [held in the] Czech Republic in May. FIPO will also be helping to organise the V Olympic Collectors' World Fair at the Olympic Museum from 21-23 May 1999. During this year specialised exhibitions will be held at the Olympic Museum. [The] following are scheduled: pentathlon, rowing, cycling and tennis.

109TH IOC SESSION - SEOUL

FIPO is planning to participate to this Session with a philatelic exhibition (12-20 June) ... A commemorative stamp of the Session will be issued on the 12th June.

NEW EDITION OF THE "FIPO/IOC/YVERT" OLYMPIC CATALOGUE

Several meetings were held between FIPO and Yvert. It was decided to publish a new edition comprising the following characteristics: transition to a four-colour printing process; translation of the titles and names of countries into 3 languages – English, Chinese and Japanese; and a glossary in German, Spanish and Italian, in addition to the 3 previous languages. This new edition will be produced for the next Olympic Summer Games which will be held in Australia in September 2000. The catalogue should be ready by the end of June 2000 ... Between now and September 2000, it was decided to reprint the first edition with some minor corrections (including copyright). Copies of the reprint are now available.

OLYMPHILEX 2000

Several meetings have taken place with Australia Post, the Australian Philatelic Federation, the FIP, IOC Marketing, SOCOG and the Australian mints. Results of these meetings:

The SPI web site is located at:

<http://www.geocities.com/colosseum/track/6279>

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1. OLYMPHILEX will indeed take place during the Games period (from 15-28 September 2000).
2. Center Point (the tower in the centre of downtown Sydney) has been confirmed as the venue.
3. The organising committee has been created.
4. OLYMPHILEX has been registered as a legal entity (with SOCOG's agreement).
5. The Australian mint (Canberra) will strike a one-dollar coin inside the exhibition venue.

Another meeting with all parties involved took place in Australia on the occasion of the international philatelic exhibition, Australia '99, in March 1999. FIPO was given a free stand and used it to promote and publicise OLYMPHILEX 2000. The exhibition bulletin will be sent within 3 months.

MEETING WITH FIP BOARD, LAUSANNE 6-7.2.1999

Present: FIP Board, Mr. M. Tecardi, Mr. M. Bergman

1. OLYMPHILEX: Manfred Bergman reported on the site (Center Point), the date, the participation of the Australian mints (and the strike of a legal coin on the site), and the collaboration of Australia Post (and in general terms the stamp issuance program).

Ed Druce (Australia and probable FIP co-ordinator) reported on the configuration of the Organisation Committee.

Manfred Bergman reported on the budget. At any rate the budget will be balanced. With the possible inclusion of the "Winner Stamps" programme, there might even be a profit. However, until this is realised, Manfred Bergman asks the FIP to confirm a previous commitment to send (3) FIP jury members at the countries' cost. This was confirmed.

Manfred Bergman also confirmed that the delivery of the exhibits should be either by a commissioner for several countries, or by sending the exhibits to Lausanne (FIPO shipment). Those suggestions were accepted.

Jury problems: Manfred Bergman noted that prospective jurors for Olympilex were not trained for the task. He therefore suggested to have them trained at the occasion of Philexfrance. The Board accepted this suggestion.

2. UPU: ... Manfred Bergman reported on the latest fraudulent issues and the possibilities to fight them. Manfred Bergman also insisted on the need to push through IOC President Samaranch's motion on the use of stamps on illustrated postcards.

3. Olympic Stamp Issuance Policy: FIPO advised of its policy and the determination of the IOC to protect its markings. FIP President Mohr assured FIPO of FIP's complete agreement and support, but warned of IFSDA's opposition. FIPO noted that with so many fraudulent issues being reported to the UPU, the latter is determined to fight against all abuse in the philatelic field.

4. Jury Problems: Manfred Bergman [briefly] described his concern about some thematic jurors and proposed to school jurors at the occasion of world exhibitions. Arrangements to that effect were made with Philexfrance. FIP President Mohr advised that such training [was] also envisaged by FIP for all classes of philately and not only for thematics. After general training in Paris, a special [session] for Olympic thematics can take place.

5. FIPO Publications: FIPO advised on [its] intent to edit [1] the Olympic Stamps Encyclopaedia and [2] the article by Bud Sellers (member of the Board) on the 1939 Haiti Coubertin stamps.

6. Relations With FIP: FIP and FIPO reconfirmed their collaboration ... FIPO reiterated its readiness and its wish to act as jurors in FIP exhibitions where sport and Olympic exhibits were shown. President Mohr is going to study this point again.

INTERNET

From February 1st to November 28th, 1998 the CCO web site was designed and developed in house. Four different web sites (FIPO, FINO, ACOM, CCO) were prepared with background information gathered from the offices of the Villa du Centenaire. The different sites were established in FLASH technology and standard HTML. Over 300 pages were put on-line including past, present, and future information on all Olympic Collectibles. Various image galleries were also created.

At the IVth International Olympic Collectors Fair the CCO presented the sites to various members of the Olympic Collectors family. The sites were well received and much enthusiasm was felt from the general public. Since then many Olympic dealers and collectors have asked us if they can place a link to our site. Some attending NOCs, such as Argentina, asked for and received a specific briefing on technical aspects of the site.

Maurizio Tecardi
Secretary General

The Olé Olympics: Mexico City, 1968

by Ray Soldan

Host nations have issued postage stamps commemorating the role of their honored city in an unbroken streak spanning the past 18 Summer Olympic Games. This dates back to Belgium's six stamps for the Antwerp Games of 1920. The issues have ranged from the United States' two stamps for the Los Angeles Games of 1932 to the 79 stamps, plus six souvenir sheets, churned out by Russia for the Moscow Games of 1980. As to which nation did the finest job of producing its Olympic series, in my opinion, it's no contest. Mexico magnificently portrayed its culture and the Olympic sports with a four-year series of 40 stamps and 16 souvenir sheets.

Mexico's souvenir sheets were a bit unnecessary because they duplicated the designs of the stamps. Their purpose was to drag in extra money in the form of a surcharge.

On most semi-postal issues, the added money goes into an associated fund. But Ernesto Fink, reviewing Mexico's 1968 Olympics program in the January 13, 1969 issue of *Linn's Weekly Stamp*

News, wrote: "It was never stated for what benefit the surcharge was to be used, but it can be presumed that this extra amount went into the 'piggy bank' of the Minister of Finances. It certainly did not go to the Olympic Committee or any philatelic organization."

However, to Mexico's credit, collectors were not overly gouged by the series. Bought for face value at the post office, the 40 stamps and 16 souvenir sheets cost \$12.88 in U.S. dollars, according to Fink's calculations. Just \$3.27 of that was a surcharge.

The first set, released December 17, 1965 (five stamps and two sheets) had a face value of 11 pesos (92 cents), including the surcharge. It showed pre-Hispanic ceramic pieces found in Mexico City museums which, by stretching one's imagination, could pass as athletic in nature (Figure 1).

The 1966 set issued on October 15 (also five stamps, plus two souvenir sheets) displayed line drawings of athletes presumably performing Olympic events (Figure 2). However, the 2.25 peso value clearly depicted football (American football, not soccer). The 1966 issue, Fink said, cost \$1.28.



Figure 1. Four values (in souvenir sheet form) from the first set of stamps issued by Mexico in anticipation of the 1968 Olympic Games. In all, the Mexican postal authority released 40 stamps and 16 souvenir sheets in five sets between 1965 and 1968.

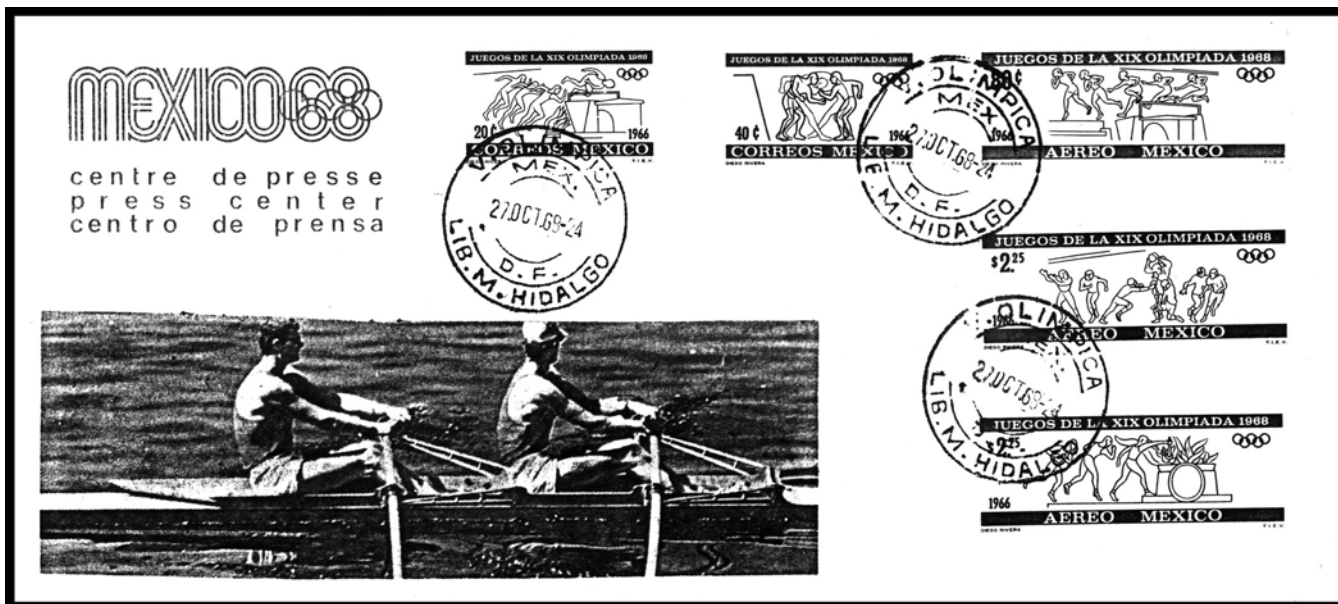


Figure 2. Mexico's second set of stamps were issued in 1967. The \$2.25 peso value showed, strangely enough, the sport of American football which was most certainly not on the Olympic schedule. Blank envelopes imprinted with a "press center" corner card were provided to members of the media by Olivetti, one of the Olympic sponsors. Their name is hidden by the rowing illustration affixed by the author. The 27.OCT.68 last-day-of-the-Games cancel was applied at the Olympic Village.

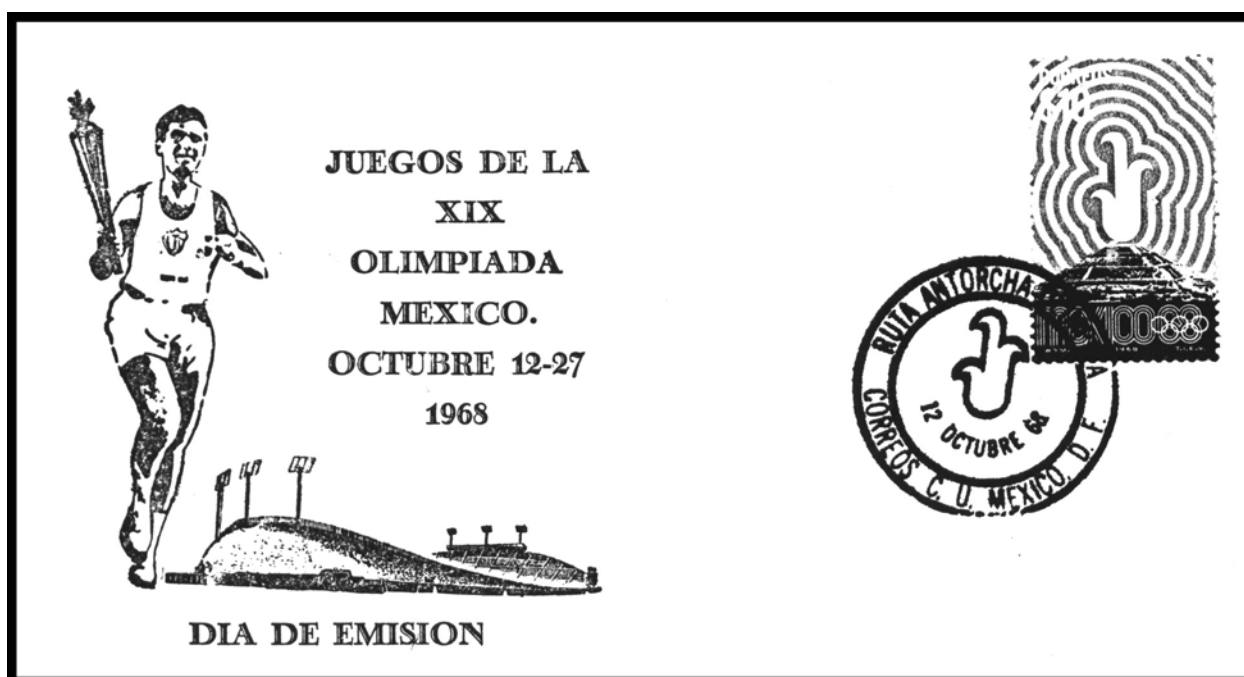


Figure 3. Among the final set of stamps, the \$10 peso value featured the Olympic flame over Mexico's Pyramid of the Sun. This torch run cancel from Mexico City was the last of five special postmarks created for the relay.



Figure 4. C. Robert Paul, publications editor of the U.S. Olympic Committee, described Bob Beamon's jump in the 1968 U.S. Olympic Committee Report: "... He soared from the marker in a wide arc to the end of the long-jump pit. The experts estimated the distance as 8.50 meters. They approached and incredulously shook their heads. They check the wind. Everything was correct, 8.90 meters (29'-2½"). This fantastic world record may last beyond the year 2000."

The 19 sports contested on the 1968 Olympics program were commemorated on two colorful and well-designed sets issued on October 12, 1967 (nine stamps) and March 21, 1968 (ten values). American Lance Wyman designed both sets in which black silhouettes on bright backgrounds connected horizontally from one stamp to the next.

The U.S. postal administration obviously took note. It had Wyman design four U.S. stamps for the 1972 Olympics. Remember the cyclists, runners, bobsledders and skiers? Again, Wyman utilized silhouettes in a modified form.

Mexico's set of 19 sports and eight souvenir sheets cost a modest \$4.88.

Three Mexican artists designed the 1965 and 1966 sets. For the final, wrap-up set of eleven

stamps and four souvenir sheets, Wyman was called upon once again. This series cost \$5.80 as it contained more high values than the previous sets.

One of these eleven stamps, a stylized Olympic flame glowing over Mexico's Pyramid of the Sun, was issued on October 6, 1968, the day the Olympic flame arrived in the port of Veracruz on the Gulf of Mexico (Figure 3). The remaining ten stamps were released on October 12, 1968, the opening day of the Games of the XIXth Olympiad.

By official decree of the post office, the 10 peso flame stamp was supposed to be sold only between October 6 and the closing of the Olympics on October 27. But with 300,000 printed, a huge supply remained and sales continued.

"The reason for this discrepancy," Fink explained "is the philatelic division is not a dependency of the Mexican post office, but directly under the Mexican Ministry of Finances (which was prone to gather money any way it could)." Basically then, the flame stamp no longer could be bought at post office windows, but was available from the philatelic division. Fink noted in his *Linn's* article that the printing of 250,000 of each souvenir sheet was excessive, correctly predicting they would be "a drag on the market for 15 to 20 years." The first souvenir sheet in 1965 appeared without gum, indicating that the post office did not expect buyers to use it as postage. But, Fink said, "... we can state with satisfaction that (the full series was) printed in very large quantities and distributed all over the country, even to the remotest post offices in Indian villages." I can personally vouch for Fink's assertion that the Olympic stamps were available to anyone who wanted them. As a sports reporter for Oklahoma City's *Daily Oklahoman* newspaper, I covered the 1968 Olympics. Rather, I covered side events pertaining to Oklahoma connections and color items not reported by the Associated Press (AP). The AP, of course, took care of reporting Bob Beamon's epic long jump (Figure 4), the Black Fist pro-test by Tommie Smith and John Carlos, Al Oerter's fourth discus gold, the U.S.A.'s surprisingly easy romp to the basketball title with a no-name squad, etc.

Did I witness all of these historic events? If you've ever been to an Olympics, you wouldn't ask. I saw only the basketball victory over Yugoslavia – that because the U.S. coach was Henry Iba of Oklahoma State.

The Mexican postal service had three, maybe four, mobile units set up in the athletes' Olympic Village (Villa Olimpica Deportiva) and an inside postal counter at the Village entrance. There also

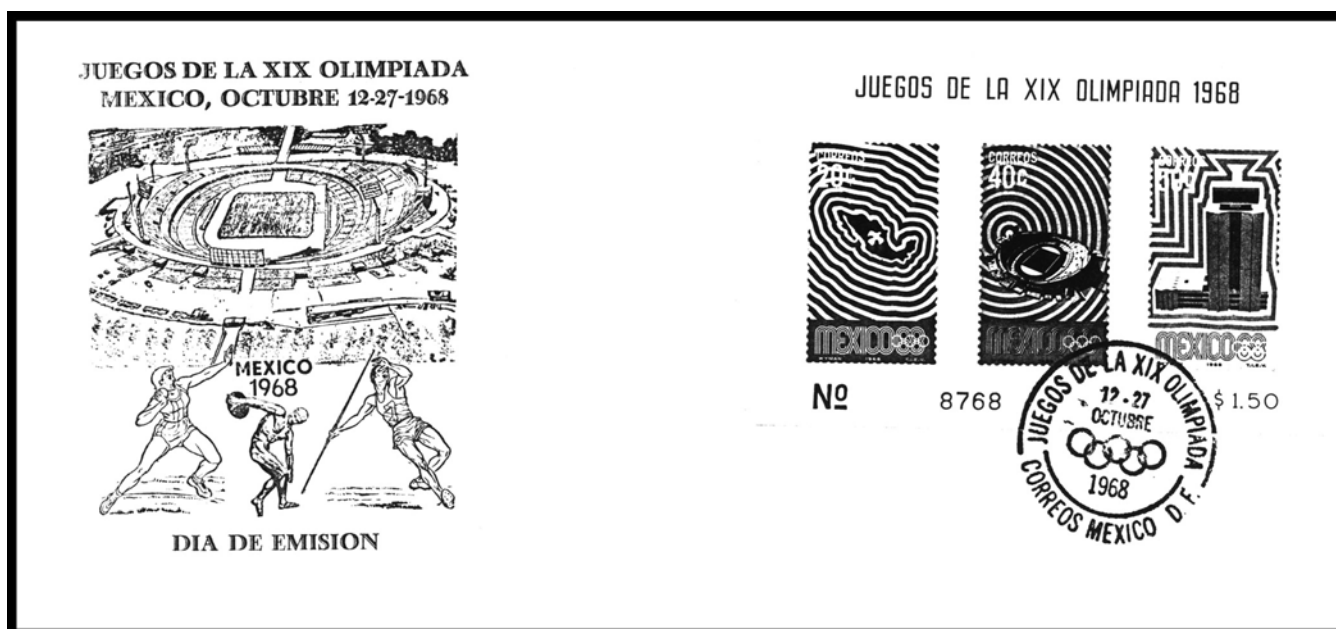


Figure 5. The first day of issue of the final set of stamps coincided with the opening day of the Games, as well as Columbus Day, a national holiday. The main post office in Mexico City, with only a few windows open, was unable to keep up with the thousands in line waiting to buy the new issues and have them postmarked.

was a postal counter in a separate village (Villa Coapa), built to house journalists, judges and cultural ensembles.

[Editor's note: there were a total of 15 mobile postal units using an identical hand cancel. These were identified by a unique number (see Figure 7).]

I bought Olympic stamps in both villages, but had to go to the main downtown post office to end up with all 56 of the different issues.

The athlete and media complexes were both freshly constructed for the Olympics. Situated about two miles apart, the villages were slated for public housing following the Games.

Villa Coapa had space for 5,000 guests and charged \$4 a day for two people with a continental breakfast included. Other meals in a large cafeteria, open almost around the clock, cost \$2 each.

Shuttle buses, departing every 30 minutes, took journalists to the Olympic Village and the various sports venues. That system mostly worked.

Mexico's organizing ability had been doubted since that October day in 1963 at Baden Baden, Germany, when Mexico City was awarded the Games. In truth, no strong candidate city existed, with the other three finalists being Buenos Aires, Argentina; Detroit, Michigan; and Lyon, France.

Transportation hitches did occur. Such as the day my wife and I hopped a shuttle to the city center. On the way, traveling down a narrow street, the bus bumped into a street vendor's stand. Our driver

got out to discuss the situation and a Mexican teenager immediately jumped into the bus and grabbed the ignition keys. We thus were stranded many minutes before police arrived and resolved things.

The distance from Villa Coapa to the downtown Olympic headquarters in the Hotel Maria Isabel must have been about 10 miles. I see in one of my *Daily Oklahoman* stories I described it this way: "By actual measurement, it was five shouting duels between our bus driver and other motorists who thought they should occupy the same driving space at the same time."

In their book, *The Story of the Olympic Games*, John Kieran and Arthur Daley pointed out Mexico City's perceived laxity. "A successful staging of the Games was regarded as an impossible dream. Yet in some miraculous fashion the Mexicans achieved it. They pulled off a coup of enormous magnitude and produced so magnificent a show that even their severest critics were forced to admit the stunning success of this unexpectedly superb fiesta."

I personally liked to call these the "Olé Olympics." Sure, this was purely for alliterative purposes. But even before the 16 days ended, it was evident there was plenty to shout about.

The main entrance to the Olympic Village was through a building which contained souvenir shops, desks with representatives of various Olympic committees and a long post office counter.

I had been a stamp collector of sorts, mostly U.S., prior to the Olympics. I had come with no particular plan for obtaining Olympic cancels. But one day I decided to prepare some covers and wound up using all 40 stamps and twelve of the souvenir sheets in producing 17 covers. With the 17 envelopes prepared, I marched up to the stamp counter in the Olympic Village, probably three days before the Games ended, and asked if I could get opening-day cancellations.

"No," was the reply. "But, I can give you a last-day cancellation."

So, my 17 covers, on #10 envelopes (see Figure 2 for an example) made available to the media by Olivetti (a business machine manufacturer) all have a "V. OLIMPICA / 27.OCT.68 / LIB. M. HIDALGO" cancellation.

After returning to Oklahoma, I placed a different sports color photo from one of several Mexico City newspapers as a cachet on each of the 17 covers. The Mexico City newspapers did a great job of reporting the Olympics, in words and pictures, one of them in English. Unfortunately, I did not make a note of what athletes were pictured on the cachets I created – but at least I have a one-of-a-kind set.

Had I attempted to get first day cancellations, I learned later, I would have run into mass confusion (Figure 5). October 12, the opening day of the Games, coincided with Columbus Day, an official Mexican holiday. The philatelic window, plus a few other windows, were opened in the Main Post Office downtown, even though it was a holiday. Thousands of people waited in line three or four hours to buy stamps (ten stamps were issued that day). They then had to endure a similar wait at a different window for a first day cancellation. Yes, there was only a single philatelic window in the Main Post Office.

When Beamon long jumped almost two feet beyond the world record with his 29'-2½", I didn't find the English newspaper that next day. So, until returning to Oklahoma, all I knew was he'd jumped 8 meters, 90 centimeters. But since the world record was listed as 8 meters, 35 centimeters, you knew it was some jump.

Mexico City being four years before the Israeli team massacre in Munich, there was minimal security at the Olympic Village. I'd entered several times with barely a flick of a press badge to talk to Oklahomans for stories.

One such interview was with Lester Lane of Purcell, Oklahoma, who was coach of the Mexican Olympic basketball team and had been the steady-



Figure 6. One of the many humorous postcards provided in press kits distributed to accredited members of the media.

ing influence on the 1960 U.S. team at Rome. Lane, an Amateur Athletic Union veteran, started on that 1960 team (America's Olympic finest until the National Basketball Association "Dream Team" era) along with collegians Oscar Robertson, Jerry West, Jerry Lucas and Terry Dischinger. Walt Bellamy was the top reserve.

During a visit with another Oklahoman several days into the Games, Dr. Don Cooper, one of four members of the U.S. medical team, reported there had been no run-ins yet with Mexico's dreaded diarrhea bug. "But," Doc Cooper said, "we basically practice preventive medicine. When we were at Lake Tahoe for the final Olympic tryouts, I noticed in the newspaper that deer season was starting. So I went out and bought orange vests for our distance runners."

One time my wife was with me in the Olympic Village entrance building and I said I'd take her into the Village proper to look around, although she had

no credentials. "Just look straight ahead and act like we belong," I instructed her. Not a word was said as we breezed through about a 10-yard wide entrance which had a gate checker posted on each side. Just imagine what would happen today if such an entrance was attempted.

Even before the days of Olga, Nadia, Mary Lou and Shannon, women's gymnastics was a solid draw on the Olympics program. I was turned down at the U.S. press desk when I requested two tickets to the women's finals. "No way," a representative said. "Here's a pair for the men's gym finals."

Promptly walking over to the Mexican Organizing Committee desk several yards away I easily swapped them for the women's finals. Vera Caslav-ska of Czechoslovakia repeated the all-around victory she had achieved at Tokyo in 1964 and also won gold in the vault, uneven bars and floor exercise. Vera set what was believed to be another Olympics first when she married Czech teammate, Josef Odlozil, during the Games. Odlozil finished eighth in the 1,500 meters run. In July 1998, Caslav-ska was inducted into the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame, located in Oklahoma City, but was reportedly not strong enough to make the trip to the U.S. for the event.

In a pre-Olympic press package, each visiting newsman received a bottle of tequila, brochures of various sports, maps and six postcards. The post-cards were cartoon depictions of Olympic events (Figures 6 & 8). Not even thinking about the value of posting or canceling them, mine remain in unused,

pristine condition. So, basically, was the tequila (pickled worm and all) when it was discarded.

Fink stated that 26 different Olympic cancella-tions were used during the Games, plus five other special postmarks for the Olympic flame stamp.

[Editor's note: Manfred Winternheimer's catalog on the philately of the 1968 Mexico City Olympic Games (including addenda printed in 1975 and 1982) counts ten commemorative hand-cancels (five torch relay, one general Olympic, three Olympic Village, and one Olympic Press Center at the Hotel Maria Isabel); 15 mobile unit handcancels; 23 machine event cancels; and 45 machine publicity cancels (plus an additional 21 varieties). Examples of the different types are illustrated in Figure 7.]

The 1968 Games came close to being scrubbed at a late hour. One hurdle had been cleared in the early summer of '68 when the International Olympic Committee (IOC) reversed a February decision readmitting South Africa to the Olympics. Faced with an announced boycott of some 40 nations, South Africa was again tossed out. It had been barred from Tokyo in 1964 for its apartheid policies.

But Mexico's university students had been fuming for months over many national issues, including the "wasteful spending" to stage the Games. By mid-1968, the protests were spreading beyond the student hard-core sector.

Three weeks before the Games were to start, army tanks appeared on the road outside the Uni-versity of Mexico and in front of the main Olympic Stadium.

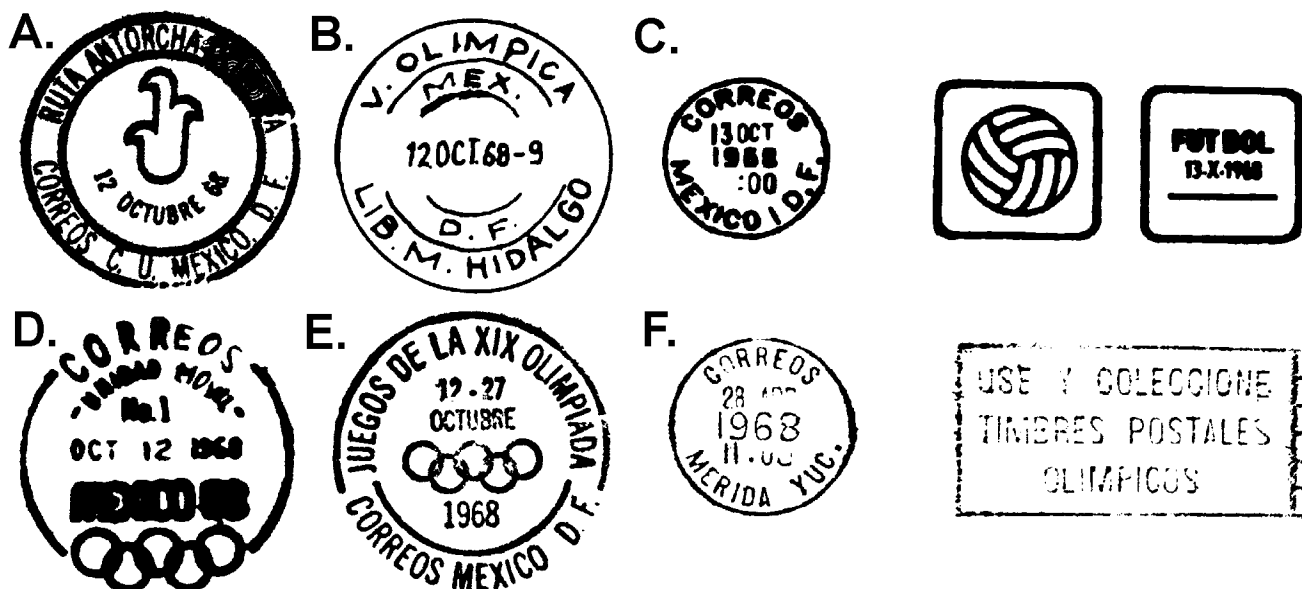


Figure 7. Examples of the various cancels used during the 1968 Games: A. torch relay handcancel; B. Olympic Village handcancel; C. machine event cancel for soccer; D. mobile unit handcancel from Unit #1; E. general Olympic handcancel; F. publicity machine cancel.

On October 2, ten days before the Olympic Opening Ceremonies – which came to be called “the Night of Sorrow” – the army acted. It opened fire on a large group of demonstrators in the Square of Three Cultures. Like the Tiananmen Square massacre in Beijing 21 years later, there is little agreement on the number of casualties. The 1969 *Compton Yearbook* merely said “dozens were killed.” Kieran and Daley reported in their book that “the official count was 49 dead.”

But a London publication, *The Olympic Games of 1984*, edited by Lord Killanin and John Rodda, had a far more grim version. Rodda, in a chapter on Mexico City, cited the demonstrators as numbering 10,000 (almost double some accounts) and wrote: “In a bitter battle lasting five hours, more than 260 were killed and 1,200 injured.” With the student revolt crushed, the Games went on with no political incidents other than the Black Fist incident on the 200-meters victory stand for which Smith and Carlos were expelled from the Games.

The Mexican Organizing Committee and its workers did an exemplary job of dealing with its 15,685 invited guests, which included 6,059 athletes, 844 of them women, and 4,374 members of the news media and technicians. ABC paid \$4.5 million for television rights, a far cry from today’s figures.

Yes, there was the traditional torch run, inaugurated at the 1936 Berlin Games. But it was a short one with the Olympic flame on Mexican soil for only six days before the opening of the Games. The story of the torch relay will be presented in detail in the next issue of the *Journal of Sports Philately*.

The architect of Mexico City’s Olympic success was Pedro Ramirez Vazquez, who was a true architect, one of the finest in Mexico. William O. Johnson, Jr., in his book *All That Glitters Is Not Gold ... an Irreverent Look at the Olympic Games*, probed into why Vazquez agreed to become chairman of the 1968 Games.

“I am an architect,” said Vazquez. “I know nothing about sports. The only Olympics I have ever seen is our own.”

“If you ask me why Mexico wanted the Games, I will tell you that a major purpose was the advantage of having people throughout the world see a true and honest version of Mexico as it really is. We wanted everyone to see our true image.”

“The diffusion of television across the world resulted in fine, advertising for our nation. Foreigners know only the folklore, sombreros, siestas, manana. They know of the violence of our revolutions.”

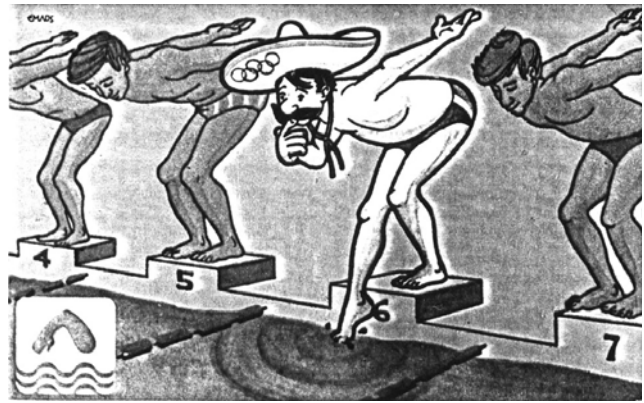


Figure 8. Another of the humorous series of post-cards distributed to the media.

“We had never taken the opportunity to explain to the world what contemporary Mexico was. The Olympics told Mexico’s story to millions.”

Problems in finance, politics and drugs have diminished somewhat that positive image Mexico showed in 1968. But those Olympic Games still stand as one of the most successful ones.

And, the stamp program the Mexicans developed has yet to be matched. 🇲🇽

SOURCES:

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The 1928 Olympic Stamps of the Netherlands and their Cancellations

by Laurentz Jonker
translated by Hans Kremer

Seventy years ago, the Olympic Games were held in the Netherlands for the only time. Baron van Tuyll van Serooskerken, after much lobbying, succeeded in getting the Games awarded to Amsterdam. Van Tuyll never got to see the Games. He passed away in early 1924 following a bout of flu, aggravated by pneumonia.

After the Dutch Government's decision against sponsoring the Games, the Olympic Organizing Committee had the tough task of collecting money some other way. An ambitious campaign among the Dutch citizens had tremendous success. The main dynamo behind the Committee was its treasurer, P.W. Waller. He was a stockbroker and later a tobacco dealer, with a great love of philately. His main sporting background was membership in the elite hunting society, NIMROD, of which Baron van Tuyll was the President.

Waller's stamp collection had grown steadily and on April 25, 1924 he sent a letter to the General Secretary of the Dutch Post, Telephone & Telegraph (PTT), Mr. J.F. van Royen, offering to donate his entire collection with the intention that it form the basis of a National Postal Museum. The current Postal Museum in The Hague is the direct result of this initial generous donation.

When Mr. Waller, as a member of the Olympic Organizing Committee, later approached the PTT about issuing a series of postage stamps with surcharges for the benefit of the Olympic Games of 1928, his request was given careful consideration. Ultimately the request was approved, resulting in the issuance, on March 27, 1928 of the "Olympic stamps of 1928." The set of eight values (Figure 1) had a total surcharge of 13½ cents:

1½ + 1 cents	Rower
2 + 1 cents	Fencer
3 + 1 cents	Soccer Player
5 + 1 cents	Yachting
7½ + 2½ cents	Shotputter
10 + 2 cents	Distance Runner
15 + 2 cents	Equestrian
30 + 3 cents	Boxer



Figure 1. Set of eight semi-postal stamps issued by the Netherlands for the 1928 Olympic Games in Amsterdam. The surcharge on the set amounted to 13½ cents.

The stamps were available through September 15, 1928, and the total "take" for the Olympic Organizing Committee added up to about 50,000 florins. The last day of use was December 31, 1928.

However it is not the stamps alone that are the focus of this article, but rather their use in combination with the special Olympic cancels.

The pentagonal cancel (Figure 2), designed by A. van der Vossen, symbolizes the interconnection of the five continents. There were a total of three cancels numbered "N1," "N2," and "N3." The first two were used during the Games, beginning May 17 at the special Amsterdam Olympic Stadium post office. Initially, the "N3" cancel was only used at the Amsterdam-Zuid post office. After July 28, the "N3" cancel was relocated to the temporary post office on the Olympic Stadium grounds where it was used as a backup cancel.

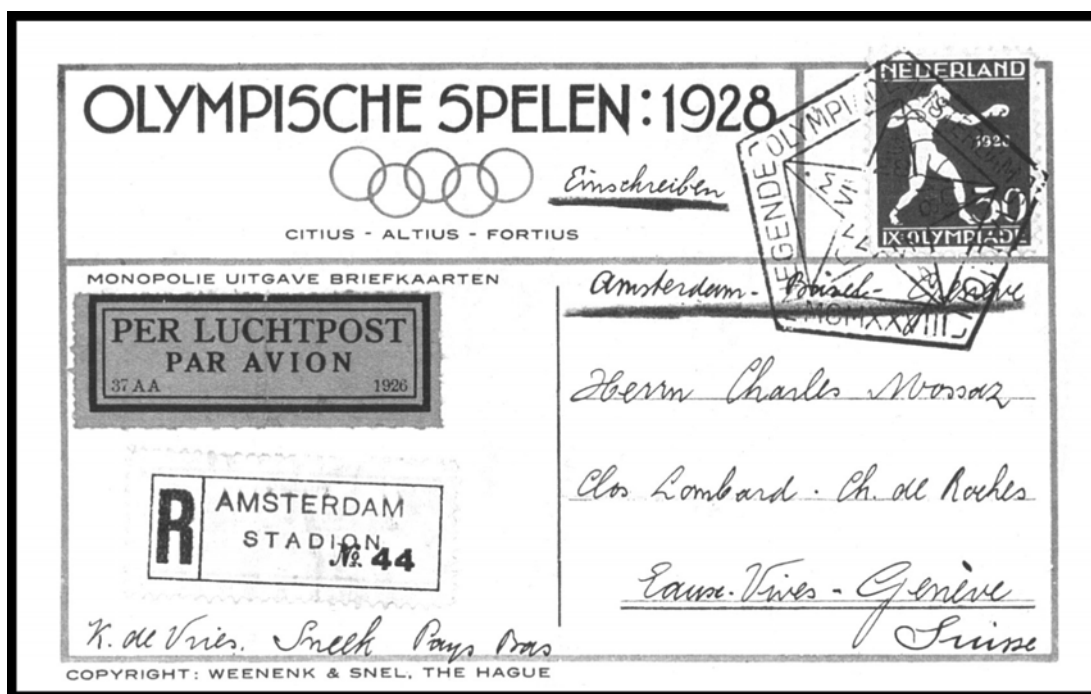


Figure 2. Olympic Stadion registered Olympic post card to Switzerland canceled with the Olympic Stadion pentagonal postmark on August 11, 1928.

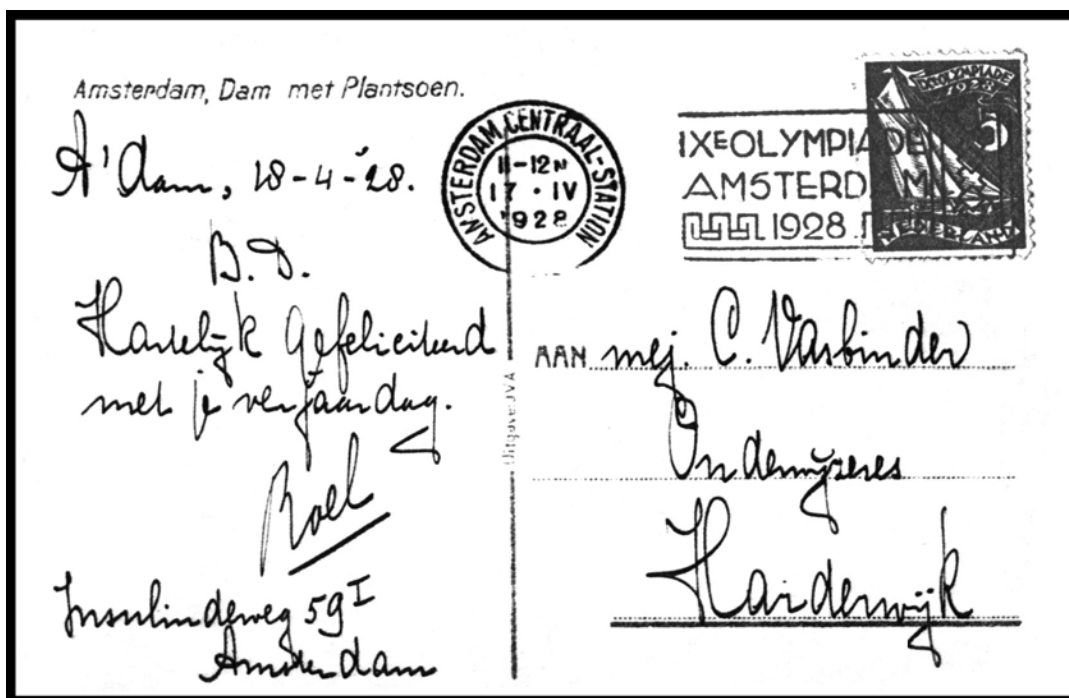


Figure 3. A machine cancel promoting the Games was used at the "Amsterdam Centraal - Station" post office beginning April 1, 1928.



Figure 4. From April 1 up until 10 a.m. on April 3, the “N” in “STATION” was reversed on the “Amsterdam Centraal - Station” machine cancels. The cover shown here was postmarked April 2, 1928.

The three cancels were in use only during the two periods in which the Games were conducted: May 17 through June 13, and again from July 28 through August 12. The numerals in three of the arms of the star of David are changeable. They are the M (Month), D (Day), and U (Hour). The other two arms show the year (1928) and the number of the cancel (N1, N2, or N3).

The usual color of the cancel is black. It can, however, also be found in violet. The violet ink was used by special request, only. The “N1” and “N3” violet cancels are very rare.

Another Olympic related cancel was the slogan cancel (Figure 3) used at the “Amsterdam Centraal - Station” post office. It was placed in use on April 1, 1928, and reads: “IX^E OLYMPIADE/AMSTERDAM/1928.” For the first 2½ days an interesting error occurred. The “N” of “STATION” was reversed, i.e. a mirror image (Figure 4). Last day of use was June 7, 1928 (Figure 5).

The Mulder company of Gouda had the sole rights to publish Olympic pictures. They leased the rights to print Olympic picture post cards to Wee-

nenk & Snel. This company issued a total of 121 (!) different post cards. The first 12 cards were also issued in a booklet with a perforation on the left so they could be removed. The paper is sometimes smooth, but other times can be somewhat rough. The primary subjects are the Olympic Stadium itself and impressions of the game of soccer. Athletics, bicycling and swimming were also displayed.

Figure 2 reproduces the back of card number 17 (bird's-eye view of the Olympic Stadium). It is an interesting card due to the variety of philatelic elements. The card was sent via registered airmail from Amsterdam to Geneva, Switzerland. The postage is correct. The rate for a post card to a foreign country was 10 cents. The surcharge for airmail service was 5 cents and registration cost another 15 cents, for a total of 30 cents. The date “11.VIII.1928” has added significance as it was the day Dutch boxer Bep van Klaveren won the Olympic featherweight boxing title. The registration label was hand-stamped “Amsterdam Stadion” in violet. From May 17–June 13, these registration labels were completed by hand using ink, or blue or violet pencil.

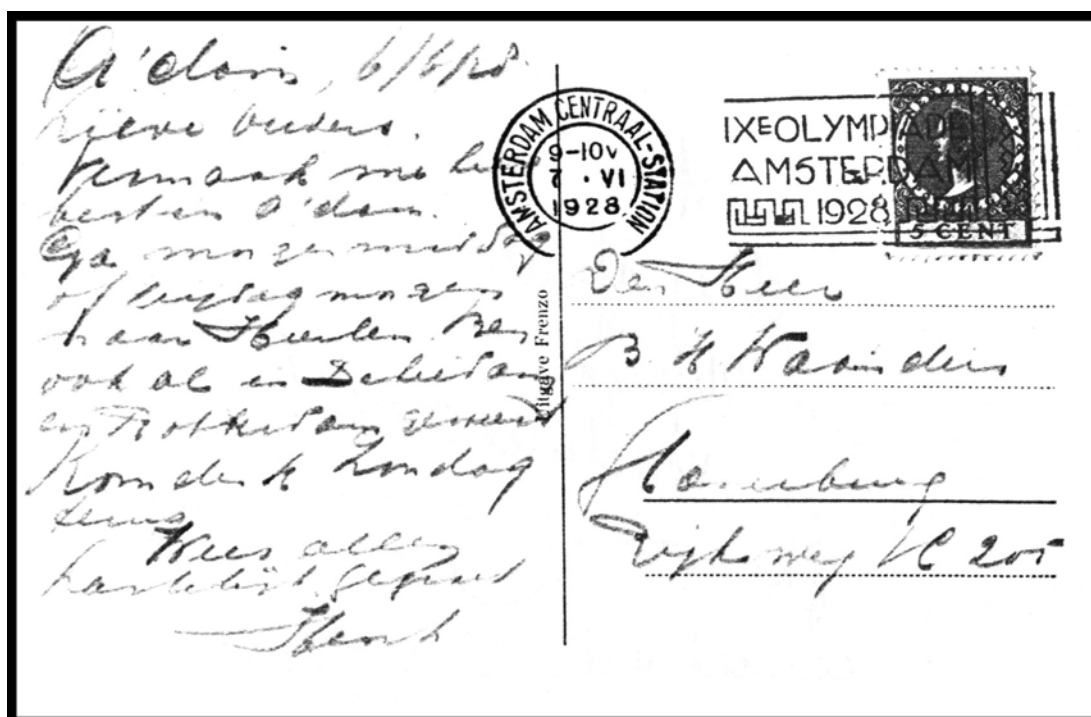


Figure 5. The machine cancel advertising the Olympic Games at Amsterdam was used through June 7, 1928 even though the Games did not conclude until August.

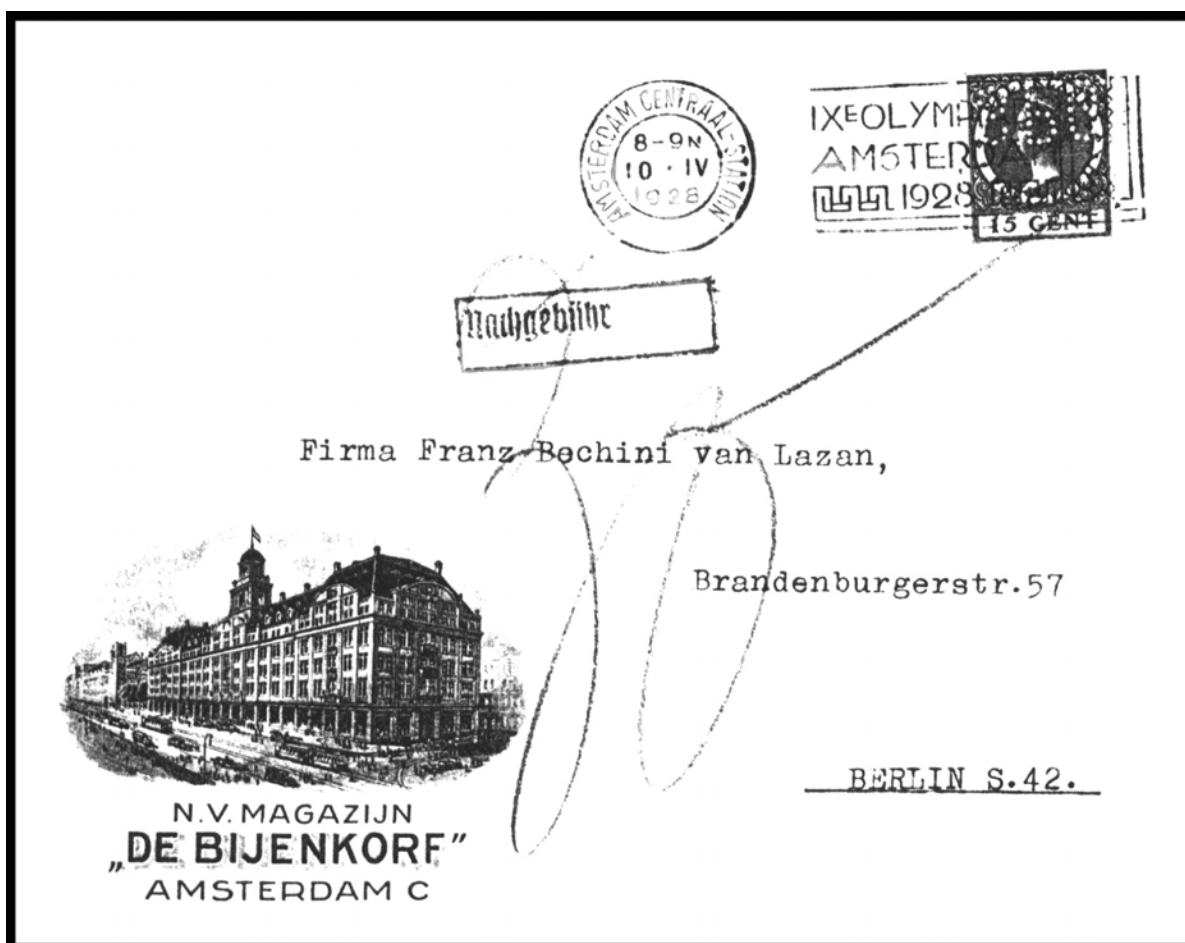


Figure 6. Olympic machine cancel on cover franked with a perfin from the De Bijenkorf store.



Figure 7. A nice, but seemingly typical, Olympic post card is actually quite unusual. The cancel is from Sloten, site of the Olympic rowing events on the final day of competition. The postage of 3 cents pays the printed matter rate abroad (in this case to Namur, Belgium).

Figure 6 shows the Olympic machine cancel on a very interesting cover. The De Bijenkorf was a department store that partially outfitted the Dutch Olympic team at the 1928 Games. What makes this commercial cover stand out is the stamp used to frank the cover – a perfin of the De Bijenkorf store!

The cover bears a manuscript “30” at center indicating postage due of 15 x 2 (postage due was always charged at twice the difference). Since the first weight increment for covers abroad was 15 cents, this cover probably fell into the second weight increment.

A second Weenenk & Snel card (#78, the Olympic torch) is franked with two copies of the 1½ cents Olympic stamp depicting a rower (Figure 7). One’s first impression might be that this card is nothing special: correct franking, Olympic stamps on an Olympic post card – nice, but unfortunately no Olympic cancellation. But wait! The local cancel reads “Sloten, 10.VIII.1928.” Would you believe it, the Olympic rowing finals were held on that day on the waters surrounding the village of Sloten! The Olympic pentagonal cancel was not available there, but an interesting cover after all.

This English translation of Mr. Jonker’s article first appeared in Netherlands Philately (Vol. 23, #2, pp.

42-44), the journal of the American Society for Netherlands Philately, and is reprinted with their, and the author’s, kind permission.

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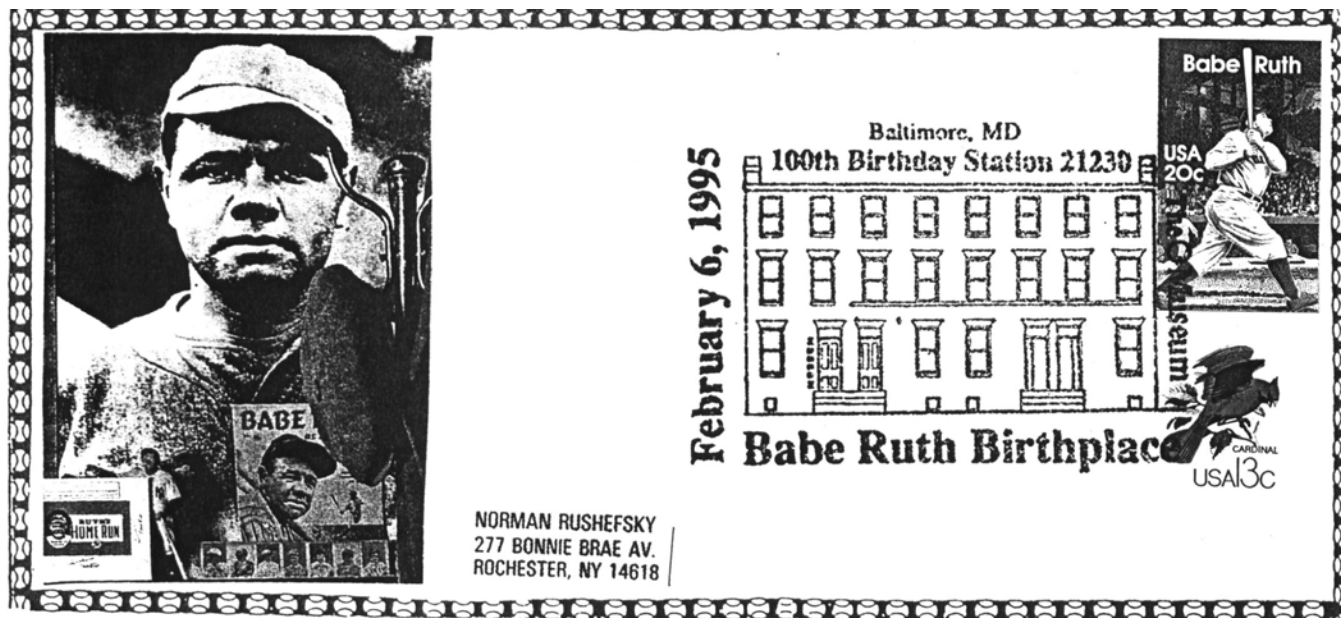


Figure 1. Babe Ruth's birthplace in Baltimore, Maryland, now a museum dedicated to the baseball legend.

Babe Ruth, A Philatelic Remembrance

by Norm Rushefsky

The greatness of Babe Ruth can be best appreciated by recognizing that those who break his baseball records are destined for their own greatness. The two long lasting records which instantly come to mind are the 60 home runs in one baseball season and 714 career home runs. The former record was set in 1927 and the latter represents an accumulation over a career starting in 1914, when "The Babe" started as a pitcher with the Boston Red Sox, and ended in 1935.

George Herman "Babe" Ruth was born in Baltimore on February 6, 1895 at 216 Emory Street, the home of his maternal grandfather, Pius Schamberger. This building is now the site of the Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum (Figure 1). In 1983 the museum was used as an unofficial first day site for postmarking of first day and second day of issue covers of the 20¢ Babe Ruth stamp issued July 6, 1983 in Chicago (Figure 2). The stamp was issued in Chicago to tie in with the 50th anniversary celebration of the All Star Game.

Ruth's father was a saloon keeper and the family at one time lived above the saloon. Interestingly, the location of a second saloon that the Ruth family owned and operated at 406 West Conway is now situated in short-centerfield of Oriole Park at Cam-

den Yards home of the Baltimore Orioles since 1992.

Ruth grew up as a relatively difficult child and was placed into the care of the Xaverian Brothers of the St. Mary's Industrial School for Boys. He was a large, strong lad, and some of the brothers took a liking to him and encouraged his play of baseball. At the age of 19 he was signed to a professional baseball contract with the Baltimore Orioles, then of the minor league International League. A first day cover of the 1939 3¢ baseball centennial stamp postmarked on the first day of issue of this stamp in Baltimore and featuring the then minor league

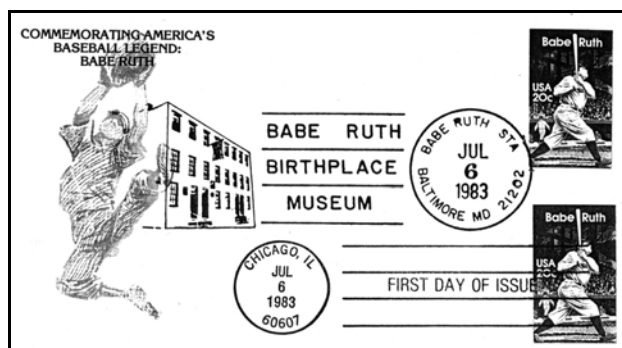


Figure 2. The Babe Ruth Museum was also an unofficial site for cancellation of first day covers of the 20¢ Ruth stamp.

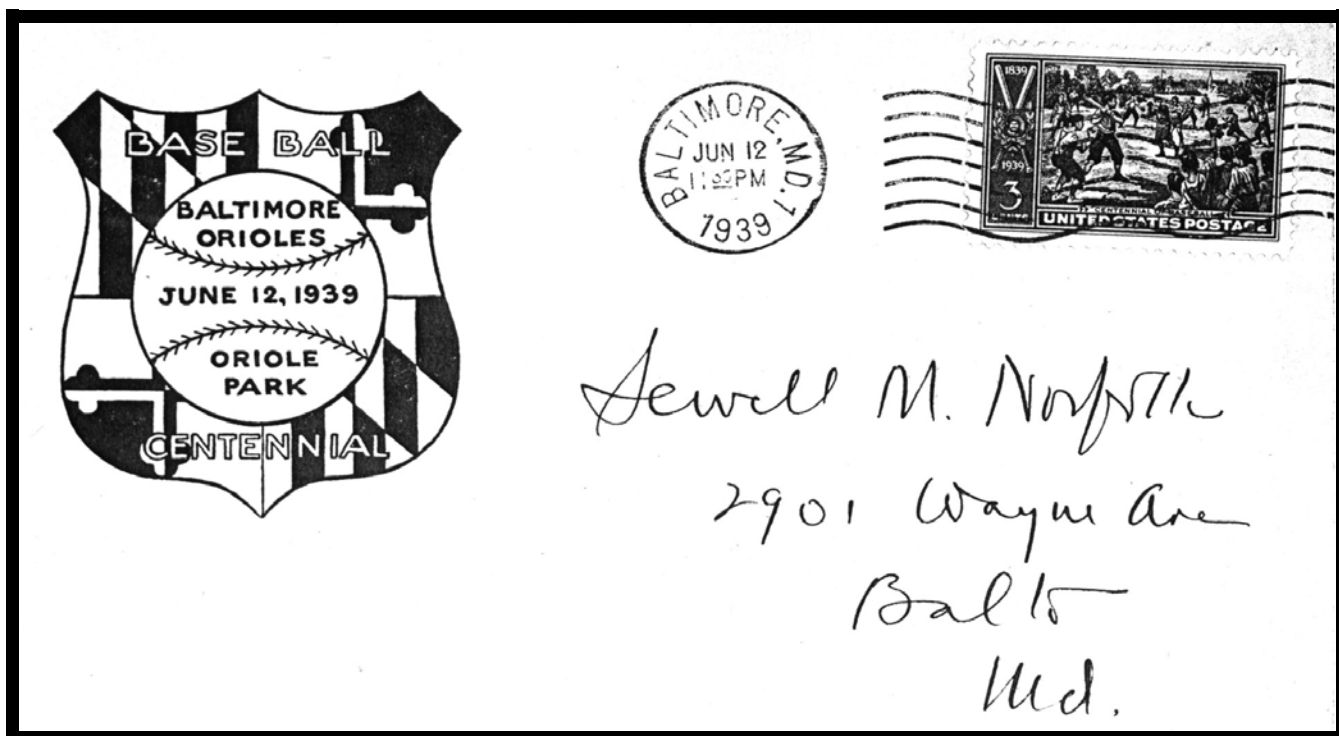


Figure 3. First day cover of the 3¢ baseball centennial stamp postmarked at Baltimore, an unofficial postmark site for the stamp. Ruth signed his first professional contract to play for the then-minor league Baltimore Orioles.

Baltimore Orioles in the cachet is shown in Figure 3. Before the year was out his contract was sold to the Boston Red Sox and Ruth was pitching in the Major Leagues. Ruth was considered one of the premier pitchers of his day. However, in later years with the Red Sox, he also played outfield in games he didn't pitch to take advantage of his hitting. In 1920 the New York Yankees purchased his contract for what was then a tremendous amount – \$100,000 cash and a mortgage loan of several hundred thousand dollars. Ruth became a Yankee and baseball legend. Boston Red Sox fans attribute the sale of Ruth to their failure to subsequently win a World Series. This failure is referred to by these fans as the "Curse of the Bambino."

The Yankees used Ruth as a hitter rather than as a pitcher so he could play every day and the crowds

came in such numbers to the Polo Grounds (which they shared with the New York Giants) that a new stadium, the present day Yankee Stadium, was built and opened in 1923 to showcase the great Yankee team that included the Babe. The stadium is still known as the "House that Ruth Built."

Ruth's most productive year was perhaps 1927 when he hit a record 60 home runs (Figure 4). This one year record by Babe Ruth topped the Pittsburgh Pirates *team* total of 54 – the team the Yankees defeated in the World Series. Indeed, Ruth out-homered 12 of the 16 major league teams, including every team in the American League.

Ruth's popularity during the 1920s is recognized by a second Babe Ruth stamp of the Celebrate the Century 1920s issue (Figure 5). During the 1920s and 1930s, Ruth even had a candy company named after him (Figure 6). Contrary to popular opinion, however, the well known candy bar, "Baby Ruth," is not named after Babe Ruth. Rather, it is thought to have been named after the daughter of President Grover Cleveland.

In the 1930s, Ruth also was featured on radio sponsored by Sinclair Refining Company. Various slogan meters noting the radio program and similar



Figure 4. Pictorial postmark commemorating the 60th anniversary of Babe Ruth's 60-home-run season.

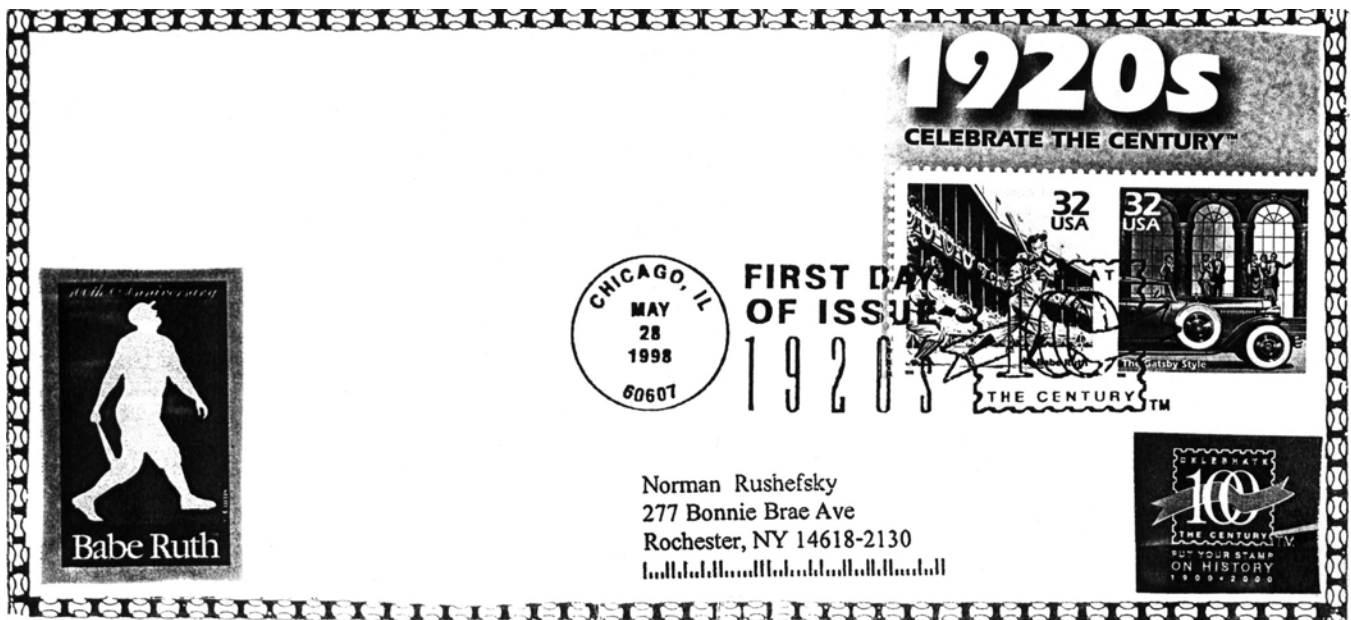


Figure 5. First Day Cover of the second U.S. baseball stamp to honor Ruth.

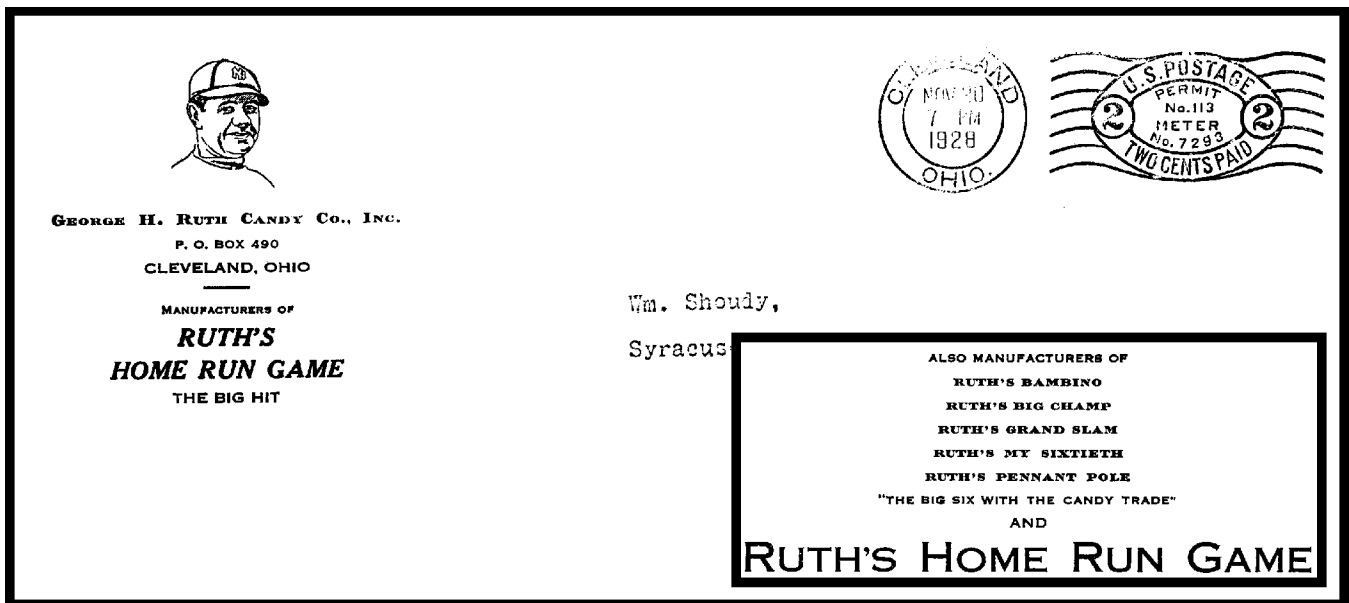
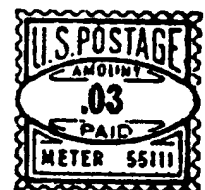


Figure 6. Advertising envelope of the George H. Ruth Candy Company. Inset shows text on reverse of cover listing the various products in the company's line of candy.

Figure 7 (right). Meter slogan advertising the Sinclair-Babe Ruth Baseball Contest radio show on CBS on Wednesday and Friday evenings in 1937.



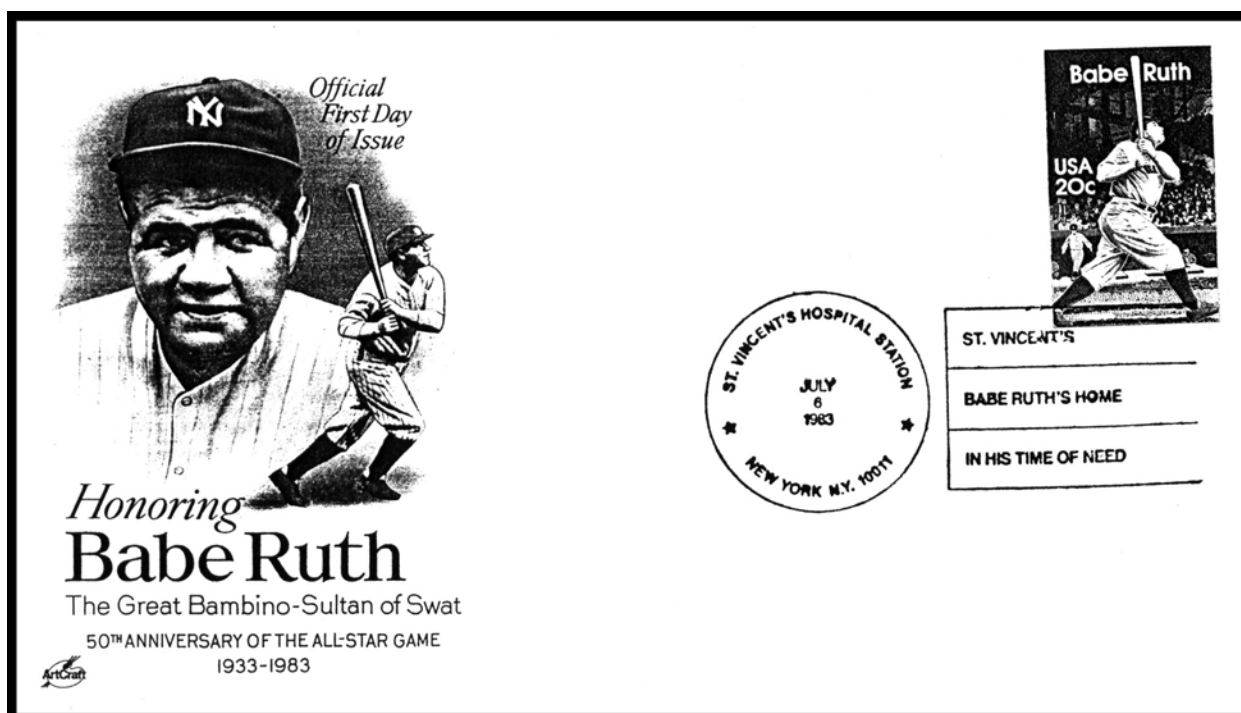


Figure 8. St. Vincent's Hospital in New York was another unofficial first day site for the 20¢ Ruth stamp.

to that illustrated in Figure 7 are known from New York City and Kansas City, Missouri in addition to that of Chicago as shown.

Babe Ruth died of cancer in 1948. St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City provided treatment to Ruth. St. Vincent's was also used as an unofficial site for postmarking of first day covers of the 20¢ Ruth stamp (Figure 8).

Babe Ruth will be long remembered for his achievements, even though his major records have been broken. His place in how American's perceive the history of this country and respect of this man may be noted from the postmark shown in Figure 9.

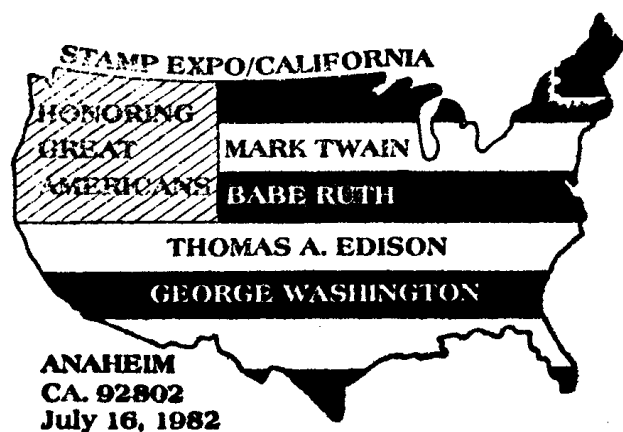


Figure 9. 1982 postmark honoring great Americans, including Babe Ruth.

Several names of great Americans in our history are listed including Babe Ruth.

The record of 60 home runs was broken in 1961 by Roger Maris with 61 home runs in a season and smashed in 1998 by Mark McGwire's 70 home runs which is noted by a postmark (Figure 10). Ruth's career record of 714 home runs noted in the postmark in Figure 11 was surpassed in 1974 by Hank Aaron.

Babe Ruth's life was filled with adoration by young and old alike. His work with youth was legendary. Numerous youth baseball leagues honor his name. The machine slogan postmark used in



Figure 10. On September 8, 1998, Mark McGwire broke Roger Maris' home run record of 61 in a single season.

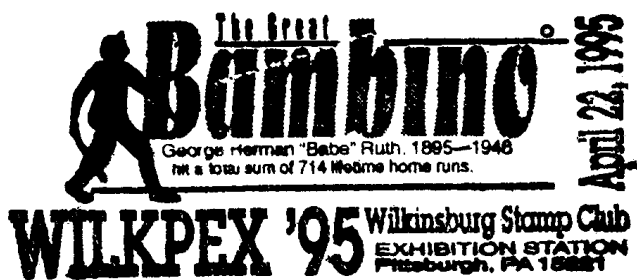


Figure 11. Ruth's lifetime home run total of 714 was noted on this 1995 postmark.

1972 (Figure 12) from Pine Bluff, Arkansas is but one of many Babe Ruth youth league baseball related postmarks.

His life was immortalized in the movie "The Babe Ruth Story" starring William Bendix as the Babe. A meter slogan used by Monogram Pictures Corporation, circa 1950, advertises this movie (Figure 13). A book of the same title is advertised in a meter slogan used about 1948 by E.P. Dutton & Company (Figure 14).

Figure 14 (right). Slogan meter, circa 1948, advertising Ruth's biography.



Figure 12. Babe Ruth World Series machine slogan cancel from 1972.

THE HOME RUN OF
Fita
★
"The BABE RUTH Story"

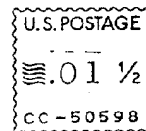


Figure 13 (above). Slogan meter, circa 1950, promoting the movie, "The Babe Ruth Story."

"My Only Authorized Story"
THE BABE RUTH STORY
By Babe Ruth
As Told To Bob Considine



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Recreational Sports, May 23, 1995, Philadelphia, PA
Recreational Sports, May 22, 1995, Ambler, PA
Oldsmobile Classic, May 29, 1995, East Lansing, MI
USGA Centennial, June 15, 1995, Southampton, MI
The B.C. Open, Sept. 15, 1995, Endicott, NY
The Ryder Cup, Sept. 24, 1995, Rochester, NY
Oneida Golf Club, Oct. 21, 1995, Sherrill, NY
The Tour Championship, Oct. 29, 1995, Tulsa, OK
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Care and Feeding of Olympic Posters

by Bob Christianson

Whenever I go to an Olympic collectibles show, I am always a little jealous of the collectors who specialize in medals and badges, because their entire inventory can be included in their carry-on luggage.

I focus my Olympic collecting in several areas including mascots and official reports. My favorite, though, is Olympic posters. Posters offer wonderful connections to the Olympic Games. Usually produced to promote attendance and publicize the Games, these graphic images typically reflect contemporary art styles that years later will vividly call to mind the period during which the Olympics were held.

Official posters originally consisted of a primary design that often was produced in large quantities and in different languages. Collectors prefer posters printed in either of the two official languages of the International Olympic Committee (French and English) or the language(s) of the host country (Figure 1).

Secondary poster designs were often issued as the Games drew nearer. Travel related organizations (railways, tourist boards, airlines) occasionally utilized an Olympic organizing committee's official posters, sometimes overprinting them for their own purposes. Other times, they may have chosen to produce entirely different designs on their own.

As the scope of the Games expanded and interest in them grew, whole series of posters appeared commemorating the Games' mascots, the individual sports, the competition venues, and the Art and Culture festival. More recently, organizing committees have commissioned renowned artists and graphic designers to create entire series of posters.

Viewed one at a time, Olympic posters appear to be light and manageable, but collections can grow quickly and in large numbers they can be very bulky. If transporting posters is a problem, it doesn't begin to approach the concerns about storage, preservation and presentation that quickly ensue.

There are only so many walls on which a collector can display his posters, without taking over the family home's entire decorating plan, or resorting to expensive alterations or expansions resulting in museum-like edifices to house their collection.



Figure 1. This cross-country skiing poster from the 1984 Olympic Winter Games in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, bears text in French, English and the host country national language, Serbo-Croatian.

Even if we could display all our treasures, we would still face the concern about preserving them. Before putting a poster in a frame, it should first be protected against deterioration over time. Most older posters were not intended for long-term retention (Figure 2). They were printed on relatively common paper stock, usually with substantial acid content. This characteristic exposes these posters to the potential for serious deterioration. Untreated, the posters will suffer color changes, eventually become brittle, and ultimately crumble and blow away with the wind.

Following "pH" testing confirming the presence of acid, the deterioration process can be stopped with a simple chemical treatment involving soaking or spraying the poster. This is best performed by a professional.



Figure 2. Many older Olympic posters were simply not designed to withstand the ravages of time and thus deteriorate rapidly if not properly preserved.

Once a poster is stabilized, several options should be considered in protecting the poster from additional damage. Remember: the damage of acidification can only be halted, not reversed. The options available are linening, lamination, and encapsulation.

1. **LINENING** is the process most often used in preserving posters. This process involves adhering the poster to linen or a similar fabric which is usually faced with paper. This process allows for restoration and paper replacement. The process is expensive, costing from \$50 to \$100 for a standard size poster, not including restoration work. Linening often takes weeks or months to complete. It is safe and reversible in the short run, but experts are not certain what detrimental effects, if any, the adhesives may pose decades from now.

Many posters that were lined in the past may not have undergone deacidification and would be subject to further deterioration, but probably not as severely as if they had not been lined, since the process does protect against handling damage like creasing, tearing, and paper loss.

2. **LAMINATION** is another process that may be utilized in preserving posters and other similar types of memorabilia. Tissue paper or nylon is laminated to the front and back of a poster through a heat process. This clear coating does not detract from the appearance and allows for handling of the poster. In the long run, there are concerns the process may not be reversible. Lamination **does not** involve coating the poster with the plastic often used to protect driver's licenses and old photos.


Dry mounting, a process where posters are glued to a foam board is actually detrimental to a poster's health, and should only be used on posters of limited collectibility and for short-term display.

3. **ENCAPSULATION**, a process now most often recommended by preservation professionals, was developed by the Library of Congress for the preservation of their sheet documents. A properly deacidified poster is simply placed in an acid-free Mylar (polyester) enclosure or sleeve and sealed airtight. The poster is kept dry and free of contaminants but is not attached to the Mylar in any way. This is a simple reversible process that is less expensive than the other methods.

For those posters that are framed, care should be taken to use acid-free materials for backing or matting. If there is a possibility of exposure to daylight, a UV-safe glass should be used. From a strictly aesthetic viewpoint, glare-free glass detracts from the appearance and should be avoided.

The decision to employ any of these care options should be weighed against the cost of the procedures and the value of the posters themselves. Sometimes the minimum care of merely storing the posters in a cool, dry and clean place will suffice. Posters should be stored flat, one on top of another. Do not leave them in shipping tubes or the poly-sheaths in which they are packaged. If you have limited storage alternatives, at least remove the rubber bands frequently looped around posters.

A good storage alternative to the small diameter shipping tubes is to allow the poster to relax and unroll somewhat, then wrap some brown paper around it and tape the brown paper. You can usually get larger shipping tubes (actually triangles) from the post office or Fed Ex. Tape these together and slip the rolled posters inside. This will protect the posters against crushing that may occur if posters are left in substandard cardboard or plastic shipping tubes or rolled unprotected.

With some minimum care, your posters should give you pleasure for years to come. 

2000 SYDNEY OLYMPICS

by Brian Hammond

AUSTRALIA TORCH STAMP AND POSTMARKS

Australia hosted a World Stamp Expo, AUSTRALIA '99, in Melbourne this past March. The exhibition's maritime theme was reflected in the designs for most stamps issued in conjunction with the show. As has become standard practice for major internationals, each day's events focused on a special subject; March 22 was Olympic Day. In commemoration, and keeping in mind that the Sydney 2000 Olympics are just around the corner, Australia Post issued the first in a series of special stamps for the Games. A first day postmark and Olympic Day cancel accompanied the stamp issue (Figure 1).

For the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games – the first held in Australian – the Australian postal administration issued six stamps. Two pre-Olympic stamps in blue and green featured the Games' logo. Four more stamps were issued at the time of the Games: the 3½d featured the arms of the city of Melbourne; a 7½d stamp reproduced the Olympic torch in light blue; and the final two showed views of the city.

One of the most glorious sights at the Games of the XVIth Olympiad was the lighting of the Olympic flame for the first time in the Southern Hemisphere on November 22, 1956. As part of the Olympic Day celebrations at AUSTRALIA '99, a AU\$1.20 stamp was issued featuring the 1956 Olympic Games torch stamp in a contemporary multi-colored stamp-on-stamp design. Created by FHA Image Design of Melbourne, the stamp was printed in sheets of 50 (two panes of 25) by SNP Ausprint in offset lithography on paper supplied by Harrison. The stamp size is 26 x 37.5 mm with 14.6 x 13.85 perforations. Sheetlets of ten were promised by the post office but these were not issued until later. A postal stationery Olympic Torch Maximum Card to be posted in Australia for delivery worldwide was available. Also for sale were so called "penny folders" featuring both the torch stamp and an Australian penny. The official first day cover reproduced an image of a torch bearer along with text reading "Olympic Torch" on the face. The reverse gave brief details of the 1956 Olympics. The first day postmark from Melbourne Victoria 3000 shows a torch and map.

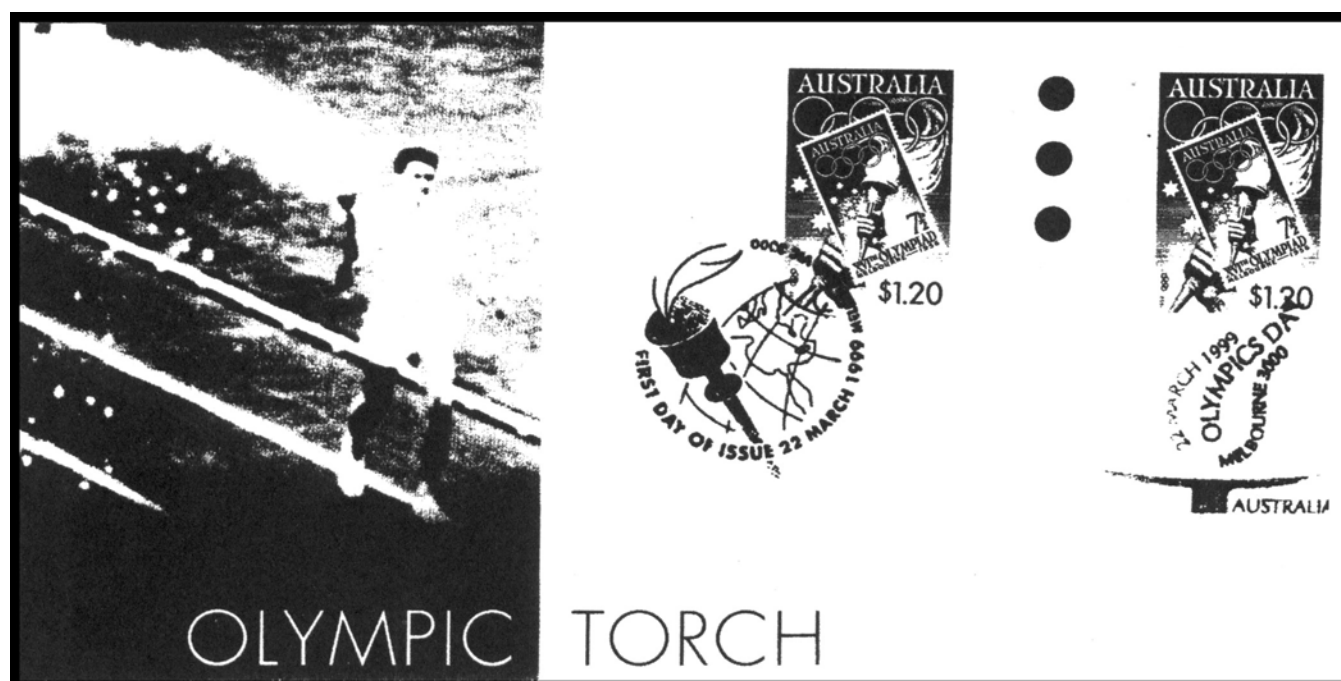


Figure 1. First Day Cover for Australia Post's first issue directly commemorating the Sydney 2000 Olympics. The first day cancel is shown at center. At right is the special Olympic Day cancel from Australia '99.

The special Olympic day postmark from AUSTRALIA '99 comprises text in the shape of the Olympic flame. Ron Clarke, the final torch bearer at the 1956 Olympic Games, was to have been present at the exhibition on Olympic Day. Unfortunately, he was occupied raising funds for Olympian Betty Cuthbert who suffers from multiple sclerosis (MS) and had been duped by a con man. In his stead were Marjorie Jackson plus the winners of the 4 x 100 meter freestyle swimming relay team: Dawn Fraser, Lorraine Crapp, Faith Leech and Sandra Morgan. This was only the relay team's second meeting since 1956!

OLYMPHILEX 2000

Olympic Day also served as the ideal forum for launching the publicity for Olympilex 2000, the Olympic Sports Stamp, Coins and Memorabilia Expo taking place from September 15 through 28, 2000 (Figure 2). There was a speech by Manfred Bergman. Details of the stamp program for the 2000 Olympic Games were announced and are as follows:

- March 22, 1999. Olympic Torch. Single AU\$1.20 stamp.
- September 1999. Sydney 2000 Olympic Games Logo. Single stamp featuring the official logo.
- June 2000. Panorama of Sydney. Miniature sheet of four stamps showing a panorama of Sydney Harbor.
- September 2000. Olympic Games Sports. Sheetlet of 10 stamps featuring various Olympic sports.
- September 2000. Olympic Flag Handover (joint issue with Greece). Handover of the Olympic Flag to Greece, the host nation of the 2004 Olympic Games.
- September 2000. Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games. Single stamp for the Games to be held October 18-29, 2000.

A special Olympilex 2000 first day cover for the Olympic Torch stamp was printed, as well as a leaflet detailing the event. Visitors to Olympilex are promised free admission, a free souvenir from Australia Post, daily cancels, dealers stands and a special coin from the Royal Australian Mint. A prospectus will be available in the near future. Other items available are replica cards of the 1956 3½d stamp, key rings featuring either the 1956 or 1999 torch stamp and two maximum cards which are in fact postcards #4 and 5 from the Ink Group series of



Figure 2. Olympilex 2000 logo, unveiled at the Australia '99 world stamp exhibition.

five logo cards listed in a previous article. Both cards were franked with the new torch stamp and first day canceled. Australia Post is the gold sponsor for Olympilex 2000.

2000 OLYMPIC STAMPS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

Sydney 2000 is commemorated by North Korea on three miniature sheets comprising five different stamps. All bear the original bid logo. The 2.50 fen value depicting a basketball player is included on all three sheets either alone or in combination with other values (20f cycling, 50f soccer, 80f show jumping, and 150f javelin). A special first day postmark reproduces a basketball player in silhouette dribbling down the court.

As part of a set of four Olympic stamps issued by Uruguay on January 30, 1996, the \$2.50 value shows a torch runner against the backdrop of the Sydney Opera House. Text includes the words "Sydney 2000."

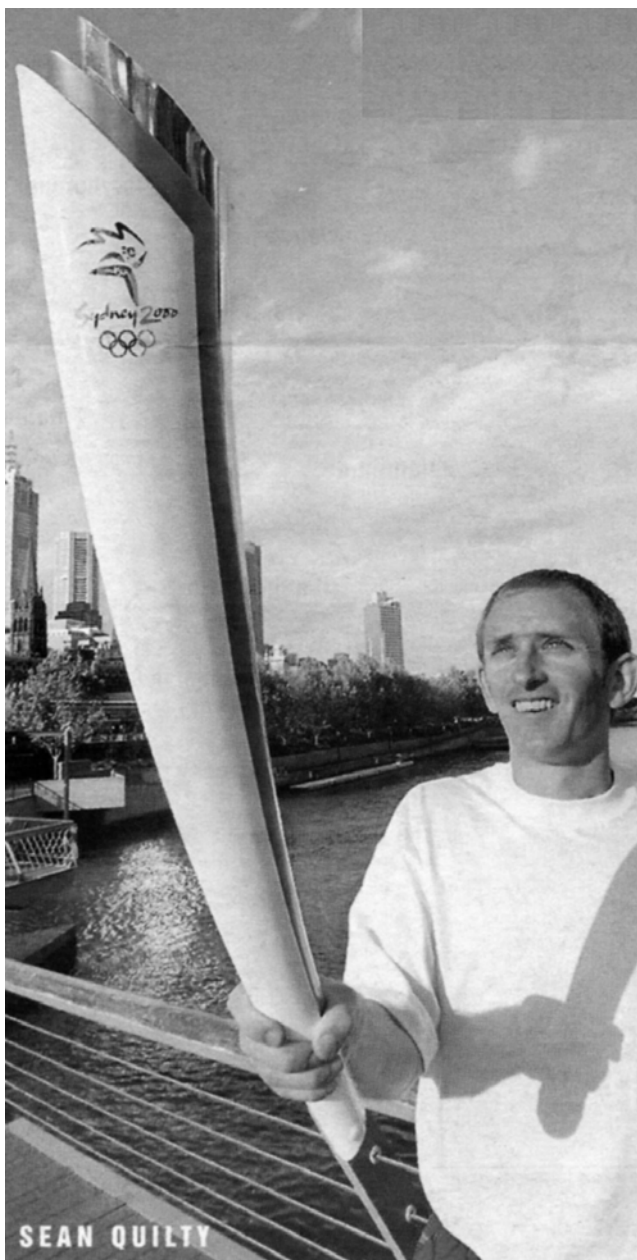


Figure 3. Olympic marathon hopeful, Sean Quilty of Australia, holding a 2000 Olympic Games torch.

On July 15, 1997, Micronesia issued four pre-Olympic stamps which also commemorate the 2nd Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Games. [Editor's Note: while these stamps in no way refer to the Sydney 2000 Olympics, the cachet recalls the 1984 Los Angeles Games. The torch bearer appears to have the "Stars in Motion" Olympic logo on his jersey!]

TORCH DESIGN AND RELAY

Michael Knight officially unveiled the design for the 2000 Olympic torch on March 8, 1999. The

torch's design, created by Blue Sky Design of Paddington Sydney, draws its inspiration from the Sydney Opera House, the blue waters of the Pacific Ocean and the curve of the traditional Australian boomerang (Figure 3). The torch is composed of three layers that represent earth, fire and water. The inner layer is polished stainless steel, the middle layer is anodized aluminum and the outer layer is coated aluminum. It weighs approximately one kilogram, is 72 centimeters tall and the canister of fuel will burn for 20 minutes. About 12,000 torches will be produced. As at Atlanta, torchbearers may purchase their torch for about AU\$300 (roughly US\$200).

The 2000 Torch Relay will begin at Ancient Olympia, Greece on the May 12, 2000 and travel to twelve Oceania countries before arriving in Australia at Uluru on June 8. During the 120 days between its lighting and the Opening Ceremony it will cover 60,625 km and use 11,900 torchbearers. Its 27,000 km journey in Australia to the Sydney Olympic Stadium will take 100 days.

The twelve Oceania countries to be visited by the torch are American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guam, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. An evening celebration will be held in every capital city in each country. Each day, an average of 70 km of the route will be covered by approximately 100 torchbearers. This part of the relay is sponsored by the Government of Australia with the support of Air New Zealand.

In Australia the torch will pass within one hour's drive of over 85% of the Australian population. It will visit Darwin on June 29 and 30, Perth between July 6 and 9, Melbourne from July 29 to 31, and Hobart on August 3 - 5, before arriving in Sydney's environs on September 11. On September 14, the day before the Opening Ceremonies, there will be an evening celebration in the city of Sydney. We are told twenty-five different types of transport could be used to transport the flame. Watch for philatelic material as there will be special ceremonies occurring at lunchtime and in the evening during the course of the torch relay.

NEW OFFICIAL POSTCARDS FROM INK GROUP

In previous columns, I have listed all the official postcards. Six new cards have been issued in the children's art series (Children's Art Cards, series 2):

16032 116 C2/2 Andy Norman (aged 7)

26032 117 C2/1	Leanne Ernst (aged 9)
36032 118 C2/3	Alana Sharp (aged 11)
46032 119 C2/4	Nicky Thompson (aged 9)
56032 120 C2/5	William Whitelaw (aged 10)
66032 121 C2/6	Nathan Delon (aged 5)

Collectors should note that the first set of six Children's Art Cards were issued as a unit in an envelope numbered 6032 108. Set 2 was issued together with set 1 wrapped in a specially printed paper band numbered 6032 115. The overall winner from each year has his or her design published as a "Share the Spirit" poster (6032 109, set 1 and 6032 117, set 2).

OLYMPIC STADIUM COMPLETED

The first event in the 110,000 seat Homebush Olympic Stadium, took place on March 6, 1999. It stands 58 meters high and cost about AU\$640 million (US\$435) to construct. The opening event, a rugby match, was attended by a world record crowd of 104,000. The official opening is due to take place in June 1999.

TICKETS AND NEW EVENTS FOR SYDNEY

The event schedule and ticket details for the Games are now available. Ticket prices range from a high of AU\$576 (nearly US\$400) for the most expensive Opening and Closing Ceremonies seats to AU\$15 (US\$10) for a preliminary session of baseball. [Editor's Note: Scanning the ticket brochure distributed in the United States by Cartan Travel, the official agent in this country, I notice that prices are noticeably higher here. The most expensive Opening/Closing Ceremony ticket, for example, is US\$1054.]

Many new events not on the 1996 Atlanta Olympic program are included. Two new Olympic track and field events for women are the hammer throw and pole vault. Women will compete in Modern Pentathlon, water polo and seven classes of weightlifting for the first time in Olympic history. The yachting program has been increased to eleven events with the inclusion of the 49e high-performance dinghy class. Synchronized swimming will include a duet in addition to the team event. New sports are taekwondo, with four events for both men and woman, plus trampolining and Triathlon, with one event each for men and woman. Weight groups and distances have been changed in some events since the last Olympics.

The Games take place from September 15 through October 1, 2000. Book early for the top events if you plan to be in Sydney.

ARTS FESTIVAL

This year's festival theme is "Reach the World." Events showcasing the breadth of Australian cultural and artistic life are planned for all five regions represented by the Olympic rings. Two of many events worldwide include a U.S. tour of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, and a major exhibition in London in September marking the one year count-down to the 2000 Olympics.

OFFICIAL POSTER PROGRAM

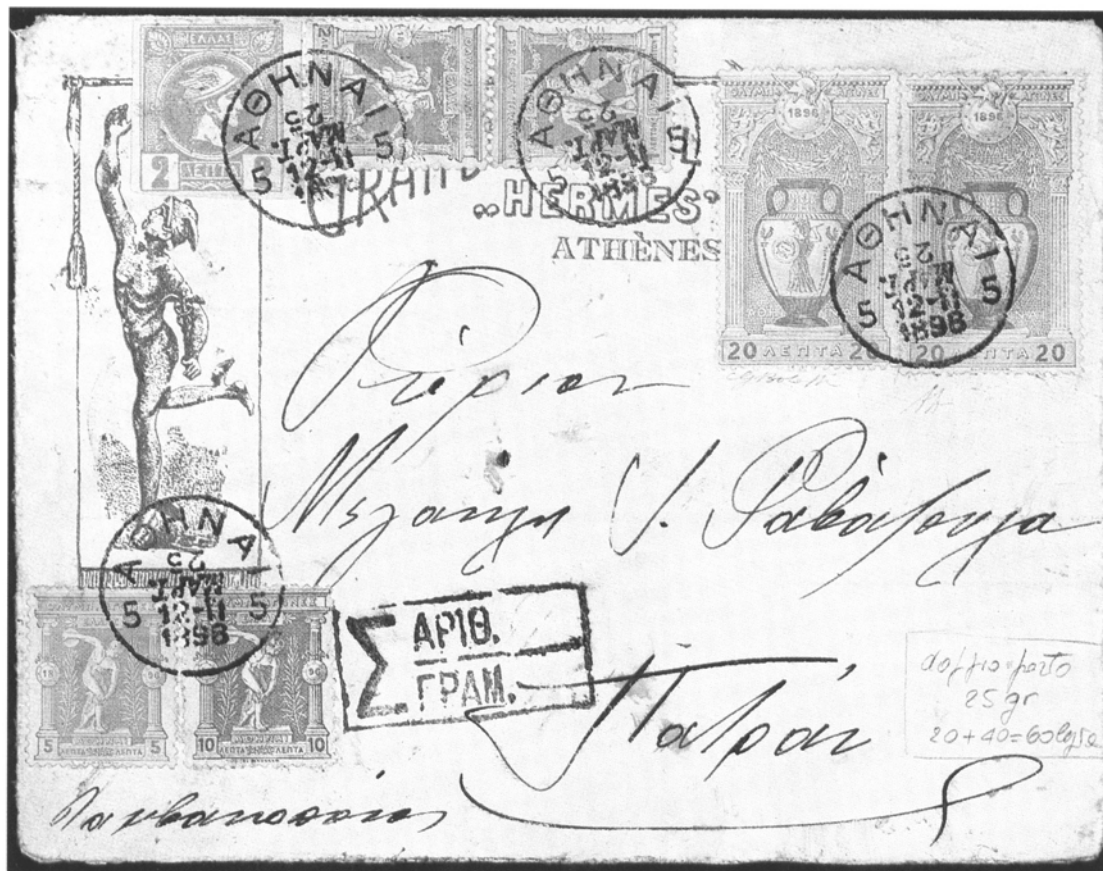
The official Olympic poster program began at the Stockholm Games of 1912. The posters are a reflection of each city's cultural heritage. Sydney's plan is to produce a total of 50 official posters: a logo poster, mascot poster, eight artists' posters, eight designer/illustrator posters, 28 sports posters, and four "Share the Spirit" children's art posters. On February 25, 1999, the first dozen posters were launched: the logo and mascot posters, all eight designer/illustrator posters (Figure 4), and two "Share the Spirit" posters. The "Share the Spirit" program was begun in 1997 and is conducted through Australia's primary school system. Each year, an overall winner is chosen from six finalists (whose work appears on the official Children's Art Cards post card series).



Figure 4. Designer poster by David Lancashire.

AUCTION RESULTS

by Sherwin Podolsky



Lot 60020. An impressive registered cover with month and day inverted. Perhaps only one other cover is known with inverted month and day, according to Laurentz Jonker.

The "Parigi" Olympic Games Collection David Feldman Auctions, February 19, 1999

Over 1000 lots of Olympic material, including a few non-Olympic, were offered at auction by David Feldman in Zurich, February 14-19, 1999. Separate catalogs were issued for the auction and for prices realized. The auction included the "Parigi award winning collection" which was started in the late 1950s. Manfred Bergman was the mentor who assisted in its development.

"Parigi" is a nom de plume of Franco Canepa of Italy. The catalog states that sections of the "Parigi" collection were exhibited and earned many awards. The section "Olympic Games of Paris 1924" was

exhibited at Olympilex 87 in Rome and won the Grand Prix.

This auction is the largest and most comprehensive auction of Olympic philately in my memory. The auction catalog and prices realized are a valuable resource for the Olympic philatelist, whether beginner or advanced. There is rich diversity in stamp varieties, postmarks, proofs and essays, meters, covers of the Olympic Organizing Committees, postal stationery, covers registered from the Olympic Games, naval Olympic covers, Olympic Zeppelin flights, etc. The vast range of material

covers territory far beyond the listings in the standard postage stamp catalogs.

Laurentz Jonker reports that of the 1000+ lots, roughly half were won by four bidders. Approximately 96% of the lots were sold. Due to the size of this auction, two or more auction reports are required in order to cover the highlights. Prices are in Swiss Francs (SFr.) and do not include the 15% commission charged to the buyer. As of this writing, April 8, 1999, the Swiss Franc was US\$.6751. A rate inclusive of the 15% works out to nearly \$.78 per SFr.

Lot 60008. Haiti 1939. Complete set of the Coubertin final proofs in imperforate corner block of 6 on gummed paper, each with control punches. Very fine and extremely rare proofs from the archives of the American Bank Note Company. Est. Sfr 2000 - 3000. Realized Sfr. 2800.

Lots 60016, 60017 and 60018. Lots 60016 and 60018 are postmarked 25 March 1896 – Opening Day of the Games. Lot 60017 is postmarked April 1, 1896. Envelopes of the Olympic Committee. Each cover with large double-ring Olympic Committee cancel. Est. Sfr. 2000 - 3000 each. Realized, respectively, Sfr. 6000, Sfr. 4200, and Sfr. 4600.

Lot 60020. 1896 Athens. Cover with First Day Cancel: Athens 5, 25 March 1896 circular date stamp (cfs) with date and month inverted. The cds ties a 1 lepta + 2 lepta + 5 lepta + 10 lepta + 30 lepta Olympic stamps + Hermes Head 2 lepta paying the double rate registered fee, on cover to Patras. Some soiling, an extremely rare combination of Hermes Head and Olympic issues. Hermes Head definitives were withdrawn from circulation while the Olympic Games postage stamps were in use. Estimated at Sfr. 3000 - 5000. Realized Sfr 12000.

Lot 60021. 1896 Athens. First Day Cover. Athens 1, 25 March 1896 cds tying 1 lepta + 2 lepta pair on cover to Piraeus, 25.3.96 arrival back stamp, address partly rewritten. Fine. Very rare 5 lepta printed matter rate. Est. Sfr. 2000 - 3000. Realized Sfr. 28000.

Lot 60037. 1896 Athens. Sixth Day of the Games.. The complete set (1 lepta to 10 drachma) used on folded cover from Athens to Munich, Germany, all tied by Athens 3, 30 March 1896 cds. Some tape stains, but an outstanding exhibition showpiece for the Olympic connoisseur, signed Calves, certified E. Diena. From the Caruso collection. Est. Sfr. 15000 - 20000. Realized Sfr. 19000.



Lot 60042. A handsome 1896 essay.

Lot 60042. 1896 Athens. Essay. The artist's original hand painted design depicting wrestlers. Pen and ink mounted on card. 28mm x 38mm, for the 10 lepta value. This is the only known artist's proof from the unique set housed and exhibited in the Dr. Caruso collection. An important museum show-piece. Est. Sfr. 20000 - 25000. Realized Sfr. 24000.

Lot 60064. 1896 Athens. Sperati forgeries of proof of 40 lepta, and 60 lepta pairs and 10 drachma. All signed by the master forger, Sperati. Very fine and scarce. Est. Sf. 700 - 1000. Realized Sfr. 1200.

Lot 60171. 1900 Athens surcharges. 25 lepta on 40 lepta Olympic stamp in combination with the Large Hermes Head 50 lepta on 40 lepta, tied by Athens 3 cds on registered cover to France. Few tape stains. An important and extremely rare combination franking. From the Raftopoulos archive. Certified Raybaudi. Est. Sfr. 4000- 5000. Realized Sfr. 14000.

Lot 60185. 1900 Paris. Three covers and three cards, all with UNITED STATES POSTAL STATION machine cancels. A very fine and scarce assembly. Est. Sfr. 200 - 300. Realized. Sfr. 1000. (A request for photocopies of this lot disclosed that one cover had a handcancel as well as the machine cancel. In Bomar's *Postal Markings of United States Expositions* [1986], the total catalog value of the cancels was \$750. Frederick Langford's *Flag Cancel Encyclopedia* [1976] illustrates only one type of machine cancel but gives values mostly by type, color and size of cover or card. He lists at least 15 varieties valued from \$45.00 to \$150.00 each.)

Lot 60236. 1906 Athens. 1 lepta to 5 drachma. Complete set of Segg proofs on carton paper, all in issued colors. Includes extra 30 lepta. Some toning. Rare. The Segg proofs have a faint line at top (for horizontal designs) or on right side (for vertical designs). Est. Sfr. 2000 - 3000. Realized Sfr. 2200.

Lot 60238 and Lot 60239. 1906 Athens. The J.P. Segg presentation card with complete set of 14 proofs (1 lepta to 5 drachma) in issued colors. Mounted on sunken card. Each Est. Sfr. 4000 - 5000. Realized: Lot 60238 (better quality) Sfr. 5000. Lot 60239 (some usual stains and creases). Sfr. 4000.

Lot 60302. 1906 Athens. 1 lepta plus 2 lepta (2) on front of unaddressed postcard tied by Athens/Acropolis 9 April 1906 cds. Fine. Signed A. Diena & Raftopoulos. Est. Sfr. 400 - 500. Realized Sfr. 400.

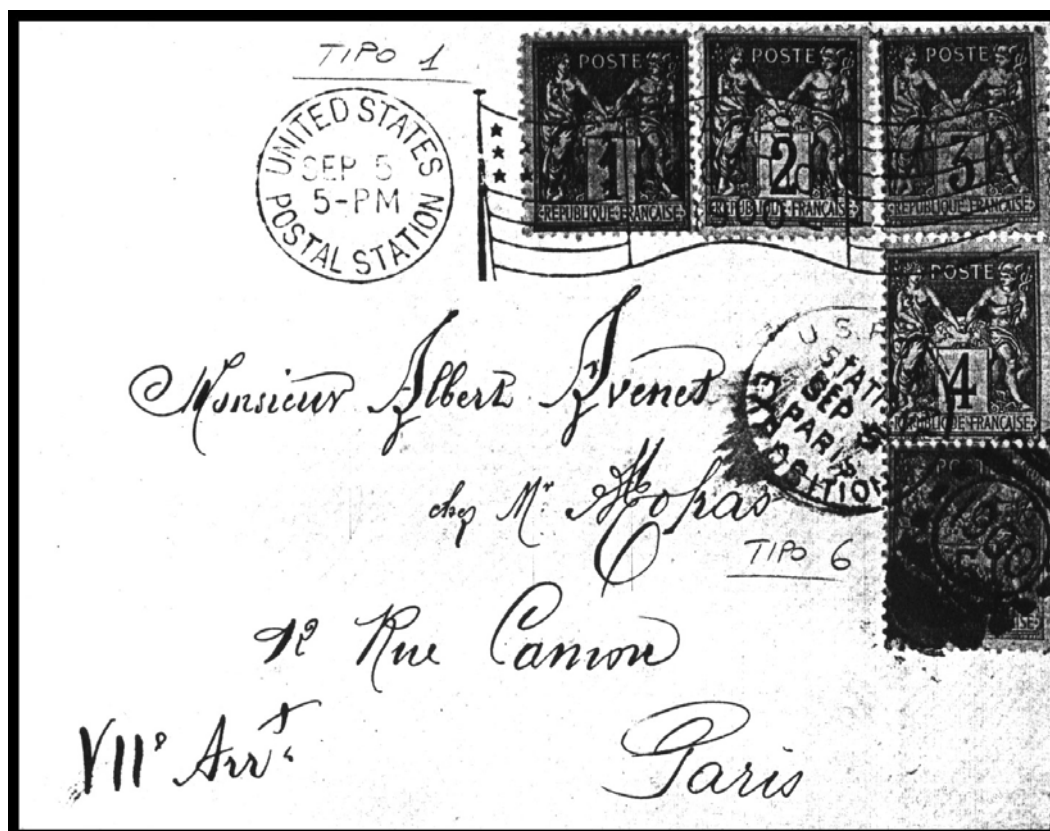
Lot 60303. 1906 Athens. 2 lepta + 3 lepta on picture side of postcard to Rome, tied by Athens/Acropolis 14 April 1906 cds. Fine. Est. Sfr 400 -500. Realized Sfr. 1600.

Lot 60304. 1906 Athens. Partial set (1 lepta to 2 drachma, less 30 lepta) on cover to London. Tied Athens/Stadion 17 April 1906 cds. Arrival back stamp. Perforation faults and cover wrinkles. Attractive showpiece. Signed. E. Diena. Est. Sfr. 1500 - 2000. Realized Sfr. 5000.

Lot 60310. 1906 Athens. Flying Hermes 10 lepta postal card and Olympic vignette in green tied by Athens/Zappeion 12 April 1906 cds (month and date inverted). Fine, attractive and rare. 1906 Olympic showpiece. Est. Sfr. 2000 - 3000. Realized Sfr. 8000.

Lots 60311 and 60312. 1906 Athens. On postcard, each with 2 x Zappeion cancel. Addressed, with arrival cancel. Lot 60311 with the Olympic vignette in blue tied by Zappeion and arrival cancels. Est. each Sfr. 1500 - 2000. Realized Sfr. 4800 and Sfr 4200, respectively.

The next installment will begin with 1908 London Olympics Games lots.



Lot 60185. Two different types of cancellations used by the U.S.P.O. postal station at the Paris Exposition in 1900. Correct 15 centimes postage rate for a local destination. Perhaps sent by the addressee to himself. No Olympic events are known to have taken place on the postmark date: September 5, 1900.

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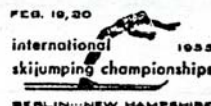
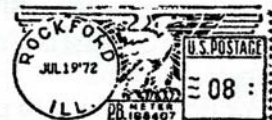
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REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS

by Mark Maestrone

IMOS Journal February 1999 (#101)

This issue of the IMOS Journal from Germany opens with updates on new sport and Olympic cancels and recently issued stamps from around the world. Karl Reiter displays a variety of Olympic and World/European Championship meters, followed by a similar, though much more thorough, examination of Australian Olympic meters from 1956-2000 by Bob Wilcock.

On a more humorous note, Gunter Pilz illustrates unusual design errors on volleyball stamps.

Part 2 of Thomas Lippert's in-depth study of the Nagano Olympic Games looks at postal materials from the Olympic Villages, Media centers and Olympic Youth Camp in Karuizawa.

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

Journal of Olympic History Spring 1999 (Vol. 7, #2)

The spring issue of the journal of the International Society of Olympic Historians provides the usual mix of interesting articles and erudite studies relating to the Olympic Games. Gymnastics takes center stage with a reprint of an article by David Miller on Leon Stukelj of Slovenia, the oldest living Olympic champion. A second article on gymnastics by Karl Rathjen discusses a postcard from the German gymnastics team at the 1896 Olympics.

Remembrances of notable Olympic luminaries are presented in a pair of articles. The first, by Anthony Th. Bijkerk, discusses what *really* happened at the funeral of Count Henri de Baillet-Latour, 3rd president of the IOC, who died in 1942 in the midst of the Second World War. Masaji Kiyokawa, an honorary member of the IOC and gold medal swimmer from Japan at the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics is memorialized by Bob Miyakawa.

Additional articles in this issue include: "150 Years of Olympism," by Dr. Don W. Anthony, which discusses the enduring importance of the Much

Wenlock Society to the Olympic movement, and British swimming memories of the 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games by Stephanie Daniels.

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

Malaysian Sporting Philately December 1998 (#10)

As the first issue of this journal since the XVIth Commonwealth Games took place in Kuala Lumpur, results of the competition take center stage. The editor discusses the games, ceremonies, and glorious moments through the medium of philatelic emissions.

Additional items include a look at the sport of badminton, as well as reviews of new issues, cancels, meters, etc. from around the world.

Contact: PSM OSPG, GPO Box 11748, 50756 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Olympsport Vol. 32, #1/101

A variety of topics are covered in this issue of *Olympsport* from our sister society in the Czech Republic. A compilation of short articles deal with special cancels from the Slovak Olympic Committee and IMOS; cancels from the 4th European Youth Olympic Days in Slovakia; new stamps from Sweden commemorating both the millennium and Olympic Games of 1912 in Stockholm; Olympic medalists; and soccer.

"Sport in Philately" covers the sports of ski-bobsleigh, cross-country cycle racing, and figure skating.

News of *Olympsport* is also included covering the OLYMPSPORT '99 competition in Prague from May 17-22. Postal stationery items from the OLYMPSPORT '95 exhibition in Moscow are reviewed, along with a material relating to the World Cup France '98 soccer championships.

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

OSPC-Berlin
Vol. 2, 1998

This publication from Berlin's Olympic and Sports Philately Club is always packed with interesting, thoughtful articles. Featured in this issue: the 1936 Berlin Olympic Torch by Kurt Hahn; Nagano '98, part 2 by Thomas Lippert; a philatelic review of the 1968 and 1972 Olympics by Heinz Niemann; and part 8 of Eberhard Buttner's philatelic study of the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

Other articles look at the World Youth Games of 1998 in Moscow (Thomas Lippert); 2nd Winter Sports Championships of the DDR (Wolf Marx); and the Olympic Stamp Exhibition in Dresden. A report on the IMOS Congress of 1998 is also included.

Contact: OSPC Berlin, Allee der Kosmonauten 151f, 12685 Berlin, Germany.

Podium
April 1999 (#27)

Rugby is the cover story featured in this issue of the journal of the Argentine Sport Thematic Group.

This year marks the centenary of Argentina's Rugby Union. A special stamp, souvenir sheet and of course a commemorative cancel were produced to mark the occasion. Many other sports receive treatment including cricket, cycling, soccer, volleyball, auto racing, and track and field (athletics).

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

Torch Bearer
February 1999 (Vol. 16, #1)

David Buxton's eye-witness account of the hurdles events at the 1972 Munich Games leads off this issue. John Akii-Bua of Uganda and Rod Milburn of the U.S. provided the excitement. Both champions passed away in 1997. An interesting article examines post-1960 Olympic stamps, especially from the Trucial States, and asks if commercial usage of these stamps makes them legitimate.

Also included in this issue are a checklist of U.S. Olympic stamps; new postcards from Sydney 2000; and a telephone card scam in Canada.

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



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NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Margaret Jones

New Members

2151 Edward B. DeGroot III, 1263 Willow Oaks Drive East, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250-2620 USA. Ned is a healthcare administrator. **Volleyball**. Email: neddeg@worldnet.att.net (ATA)

2153 Bruce R. Casarin, PO Box 53589, 4410 Kingston Road, Scarborough, Ontario, M1E 5G2 Canada. Bruce is a stamp dealer. **General Sports, Olympics**. (Jones)

2154 Richard P Derrick, 43 Jennings Road, St. Aubans, Herts, AL1 4NX United Kingdom. In addition to sales/marketing, Richard is a stamp dealer. **General Sports, Olympics, Cricket, Golf, Tennis, Skiing**. Email: richarderrick@woodfordsportscovers.free serve.co.uk. Web: www.woodfordsportscovers.freeseve.co.uk.

RENEWED:

1625 Thomas J Stillman, 870 - 40th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94121-3317 USA. Mr Stillman is a programmer. **General Sports, Olympics, Baseball, World Cup, World Championships, Regional Games**. Email: stillmant@usfca.edu (WWW).

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1337 George Foussianis, Chlois 46, Maroussi, GR-15125 Athens, Greece.

1094 Jack W. Ryan, 140 W. LaFayette Road, Medina, OH 44256 USA.

1204 Francesco Uccellari, C.P. 270, I-40100 Bologna, Italy.

1338 Ossi Virtanen, Humalistonkatu 16 B 115, 20100 Turku, Finland

33L Tiffany J. Welford, "TERRA MAGNA", 99 Ocean Vista Drive, Ninderry Rise Estate, Maroochy River, Queensland 4561 Australia. Email: welford@fan.net.au

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John Everett: john.everett@alum.mit.edu

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Deborah Eve Rubin: derubin@boo.net

Andrew Urushima: aurushima@yahoo.com

Tom Volk: aw210@freenet.carleton.ca

James Yarwood: jby78th@earthlink.net

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, APRIL 30, 1999 = 385

Exhibit Awards

AMERICAS 99 (Orlando). Charles Ekstrom, large vermeil and APS 1940-80 medal for "Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamps"; Norman F. Jacobs, large vermeil for "Tennis"; Alyson Colton, silver youth for "The Games of Winter."

ARIPEX 99 (Tucson, Arizona). James Bowman received gold, GPS gold and ATA gold for "1936 Olympische Spiele."

LINPEX 99 (Lincoln, Nebraska). Alan Anderson received silver-bronze for "Swords and Sabers, and Rapiers-Oh My!"

MARCH PARTY (Cleveland, Ohio). Charles Ekstrom won a gold and APS 1940-80 medal for "Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamps."

PENPEX 98 (Redwood City, California). Alyson Colton received an ATA youth award for "The Games of Winter."

VAPEX 98 (Virginia Beach, Virginia). Anthony J. Farnett, silver-bronze for "World of Motorcycles"; Devin Johnson, grand youth, AAPE youth grand and ATA youth for "Basketball"; Samantha Reed, bronze youth for "Traveling the World Through the Olympics."

NEW STAMP ISSUES

by Dennis Dengel

Australia: March 22, 1999. 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. \$1.20, stamp-on-stamp of 1956 Melbourne Olympics Torch Relay stamp.

June 8, 1999. 100 Years of Test Rugby. 45 cents, Australia vs New Zealand; 45c, Australia vs England; \$1.00, Aust. vs South Africa; \$1.20, Aust. vs Wales.

Austria: April 16, 1999. Austrian Soccer Champions. Seven schilling stamp showing a soccer scene.

May 7, 1999. 50th Anniversary of the Austrian General Sport Federation. 7 schilling, snowboarder.

Liechtenstein: May 25, 1999. 8th Games of the Small States of Europe. Three 70 rappen stamps: judo, swimming and athletics; six 90rp stamps: cycling, tennis, table tennis, shooting volleyball and squash.

Monaco: 1999. Fifth International Horse Jumping Show. 5.20 Franc (.79 Euro), riders on horseback.

1999. 75th Anniversary of Monaco Sports Association. Two 7fr (1.07E): boxer, soccer player and basketball.

Netherlands: February 2, 1999. 100th Anniv. Royal Dutch Lawn Tennis Fed. Booklet, four 80 cent stamps.

Norway: April 12, 1999. 1999 World Ice Hockey Championships. 4.00 and 7.00 krone: ice hockey.

San Marino: March 27, 1999. World Cycling Champ. 900 Lire (.46Euro) and 3,000L (1.55E), emblem.

Slovakia: January 12, 1999. 19th World Winter Uni-versiad Games/4th European Youth Olympic Day. 12 Slovak koruny, snowboarders.

Spain: March 11, 1999. 100th Anniversary Barcelona Soccer Club. 35 pesetas, emblem of club.

Uzbekistan: September. Uzbekistan Tennis Tournament. 15 som, tennis player.



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SPORTS CROSS INDEX MARCH-MAY 1999

Auto Racing: 99515-462; 99522-280.
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99412-441; 99417-775; 99528-212.
Canoeing: 99508-486.
Cycling: 99424-392.
Equestrian Sports: 99422-405.
Fishing: 99501-245.
Football: 99410-152; 99430-152.
Golf: 99317-303a; 99317-303b;
99329-956.
Horse Racing: 99430-402; 99501-402;
99508-486.
Mascots: 99408-490; 99410-152;
99506-764.
Olympic, venues: 99408-303.
Running: 99411-359; 99501-109;
99501-119; 99501-129; 99501-136;
99501-140.
Television: 99410-152.



99317-303a Atlanta, GA 17



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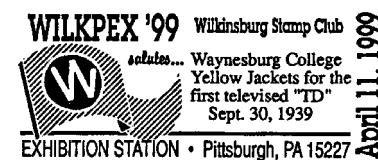
99329-956 Lincoln, CA 3/29-4/4



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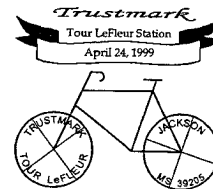
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99422-405 Lexington, KY 22-25



99424-392 Jackson, MS 24-25



99430-152 Pittsburgh, PA 30



99430-402 Louisville, KY 30



99501-109 Congers, NY 1



99501-119 Riverhead, NY 1



99501-129 Malone, NY 1



99501-136 Ogdensburg, NY 1



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99501-245 Brookneal, VA 1



99501-402 Louisville, KY 1



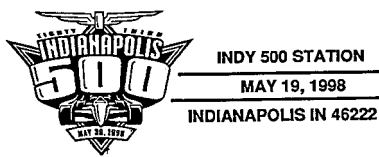
99506-764 Peaster, TX 6



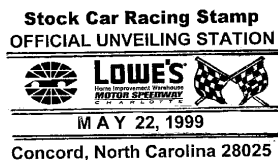
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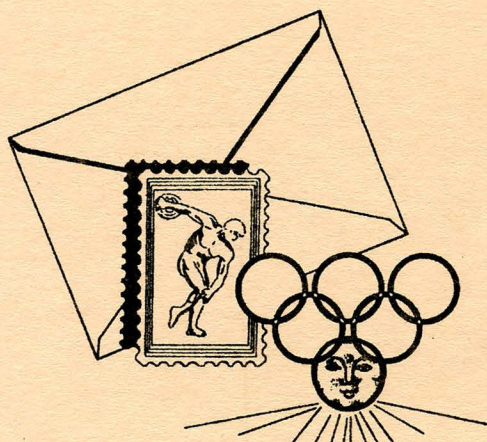
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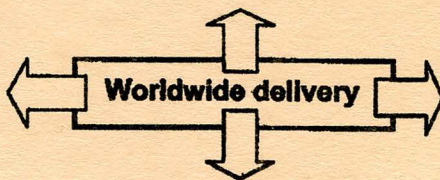
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