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TABLE OF CONTENTS



SPORTS
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INTERNATIONAL

ARTICLES

Olympihlex 2000	Mark Maestroni	3
"Legends of Baseball" Postmarks	Mark Maestroni	7
Bridge Officially Becomes a Sport	Eugene Sanger	10
Disappearance of a Giant	Pascal Bedenes	11
Olympic Post Offices at the 1984 Los Angeles Games: Part 2	Laurentz Jonker	13

REGULAR FEATURES & COLUMNS

President's Message	Mark Maestroni	1
SPI Annual Financial Statement	Andrew Urushima	2
2000 Sydney Olympics	Brian Hammond	25
Book Review	Jim Bowman	30
Reviews of Periodicals	Mark Maestroni	32
News of Our Members	Margaret Jones	33
New Stamp Issues	Dennis Dengel	34
Commemorative Stamp Cancells	Mark Maestroni	35

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2000 SUMMER OLYMPICS

3

BASEBALL

7

BRIDGE

10

TENNIS

11

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Mark C. Maestroni, 2824 Curie Place, San Diego, CA 92122

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Charles V. Covell, Jr., 2333 Brighton Drive, Louisville, KY 40205

SECRETARY-TREASURER:

Andrew Urushima, 906 S. Idaho Street, San Mateo, CA 94402

DIRECTORS:

Glenn A. Estus, P.O. Box 451, Westport, NY 12993

Norman F. Jacobs, Jr., 2712 N. Decatur Rd., Decatur, GA 30033

John La Porta, P.O. Box 2286, La Grange, IL 60525

Sherwin Podolsky, 3074 Sapphire Avenue, Simi Valley, CA 93063

Jeffrey R. Tishman, 37 Griswold Place, Glen Rock, NJ 07452

Robert J. Wilcock, 24 Hamilton Cres., Brentwood, Essex, CM14 5ES, England

Glenn A. Estus, P.O. Box 451, Westport, NY 12993

AUCTIONS:

MEMBERSHIP:

Margaret A. Jones, 5310 Lindenwood Ave., St. Louis, MO 63109

SALES DEPARTMENT:

Cora B. Collins, P.O. Box 2183, Norfolk, VA 23501

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PUBLISHER:

John La Porta, P.O. Box 2286, La Grange, IL 60525

EDITOR:

Mark C. Maestroni, 2824 Curie Place, San Diego, CA 92122

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Sherwin Podolsky, 3074 Sapphire Avenue, Simi Valley, CA 93063

ASSOCIATE EDITORS:

Dennis M. Dengel, 17 Peckham Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Glenn A. Estus, P.O. Box 451, Westport, NY 12993

Brian Hammond, 6 Lanark Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 3EH, U.K.

Norman F. Jacobs, Jr., 2712 N. Decatur Rd., Decatur, GA 30033

Margaret A. Jones, 5310 Lindenwood Ave., St. Louis, MO 63109

AD MANAGER:

CIRCULATION:

PUBLICITY:

Glenn A. Estus, P.O. Box 451, Westport, NY 12993

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

SPI Election Returns

The votes have been cast and I'm pleased to announce that your officers and board of directors have been reelected. I'm sure you will join with me in not only congratulating them, but also thanking them for generously donating their time and expertise on behalf of our society.

The exact results of the election, as tallied by our secretary-treasurer, Andrew Urushima, are as follows (✓ = elected):

✓ <i>President:</i> Mark Maestrone	52
✓ <i>Vice President:</i> Charles Covell Jr.	52
✓ <i>Secretary-Treasurer:</i> Andrew Urushima	52
<i>Member, Board of Directors:</i>	
✓ Glenn Estus	52
✓ Norman F. Jacobs Jr.	52
✓ John La Porta	52
✓ Sherwin Podolsky	52
✓ Jeffrey R. Tishman	52
✓ Robert J. Wilcock	51
Vic Manikian (write-in)	1

In reviewing the results of our last election, I note that we had virtually the same number of ballots cast: 52 this year versus 51 in 1998. This is roughly 14% of the membership, which is a commendable number considering everyone was running unopposed. A big "thank you" to all who voted!

By the time you receive this issue of your journal, the last Olympic Games of the 20th Century will be upon us. For the next 16 days, most of us will be

relaxing in front of our televisions watching the best athletes in the world compete for honors on the playing fields of Sydney, Australia.

In keeping with that theme, we have dedicated this issue to the Games "Down Under." As most of you will know, the last time the Olympics were held in the Southern Hemisphere was in 1956 when Australia first played host. Noel Almeida provides a retrospective on those Games with a discussion of first day and flight covers from his collection.

The Olympic Torch Relay is an integral aspect of Games' tradition, helping to set the stage for the ensuing Opening Ceremonies. Thomas Lippert reports on this year's relay which began on May 10 with the lighting ceremony in Ancient Olympia, Greece. He then accompanies us on the torch route through Greece, the Aegean Sea, and the island nations of Oceania to the shores of Australia.

Brian Hammond wraps up his pre-Olympic column on Sydney 2000 with the most current information on the philately and memorabilia of the Games.

For those lucky enough to be attending the Games, I hope you will take the time to visit OLYMPHILEX 2000 at Centrepoin in downtown Sydney. Not only will there be plenty of attractions for the casual collector, but sports events cancels will only be available at this one location (there will be no venue post offices). So ...

Let The Games Begin!

The SPI web site is located at:

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

Mark Maestrone: markspi@prodigy.net

Charles Covell: cvcove01@athena.louisville.edu

Andrew Urushima: aurushima@yahoo.com

Glenn Estus: gestus@westelcom.com

Norman Jacobs: nfjr@aol.com

John La Porta: album@ziplink.net

Sherwin Podolsky: sapphiresv@earthlink.net

Jeffrey Tishman: jtishman@aol.com

Robert Wilcock: bob@toward.freemove.co.uk

Margaret Jones: docj3@juno.com

Australia Post Olympic Stamp and Cancel Program

by Mark Maestrone

With the Games of the XXVIIth Olympiad practically upon us, information on Australia Post's philatelic plans for the 2000 Sydney Olympics is finally surfacing. Information used to write this article was current as of August 21 when this issue of the *Journal of Sports Philately* went to press.

UPCOMING OLYMPIC STAMPS

Between now and the end of the Olympic Games on October 1, Australia Post will be issuing three sets of stamps that, depending on how the Australian Olympic team does, could total a score or more! The total increases when one includes the many possible variations and formats of each stamp. The upcoming issues are as follows:

1. Olympic Games Sports Issue (17 August 2000)

Each of the ten different stamps in this set will feature a sport competed in at the Sydney Olympic Games. Sports depicted are (in alphabetical order): athletics (track & field), basketball, equestrian, gymnastics, hockey, rowing, swimming, tennis, triathlon, and water polo. These were selected to represent sports of particular importance to Australians as well as new sports (triathlon) that will be competed in at the Olympics for the first time.

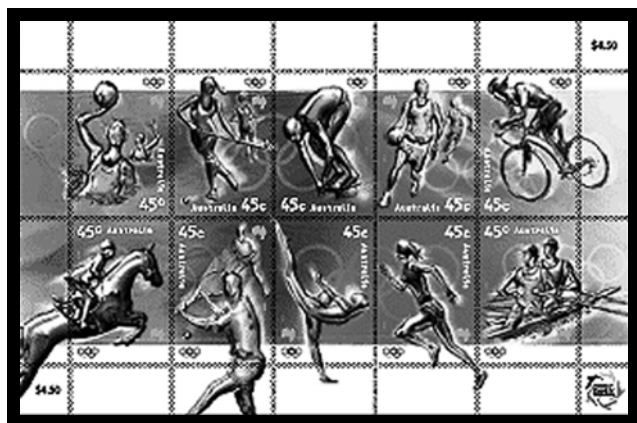


Figure 1. Sheetlet of 10 Olympic Sports stamps issued by Australia Post on August 17, 2000.

Each stamp carries a value of 45c (the domestic postage rate). All ten stamps are printed se-tenant in two rows of five stamps. The designs, as shown in Figure 1, bleed into the selvage of the sheetlet. These sheetlets are issued with water-activated gum.

Booklets of ten self-adhesive stamps (one of each design) are also available (Figure 2).

A set of ten maximum cards can be purchased for A\$11.50. First day covers of each stamp are also being sold.

As part of this set, two pieces of postal stationery are being sold by Australia Post. An international Pre-Paid Envelope (PPE) depicting a cyclist is for sale (Figure 3). The indicium bears a generic Olympic rings stamp imprinted on the envelope and pays the rate for overseas mail. The cost is A\$1.58.

An aerogramme (Figure 4) showing the Sydney Opera House – with a slightly different Olympic rings indicium – costs 78 cents.

In addition to the individual stamps, a Prestige Stamp Album, a Stamps Souvenir pack and other philatelic products, will be sold.

2. Sydney/Athens Joint Issue (15 September 2000)

During the Opening Ceremonies of the Sydney Olympic Games, the Olympic flag will be handed over to a Greek delegation representing Athens, Greece, the host city of the next Olympic Games in 2004. To mark the occasion, Australia and Greece will release a joint stamp issue comprising two values.

A 45-cent value shows the Parthenon in Athens, while the Sydney Opera House is portrayed on the A\$1.50 value.

Each stamp is printed in a pane of 20 stamps with tabs. There are two variations of tabs: titled or so-called "P" tabs (personalized).

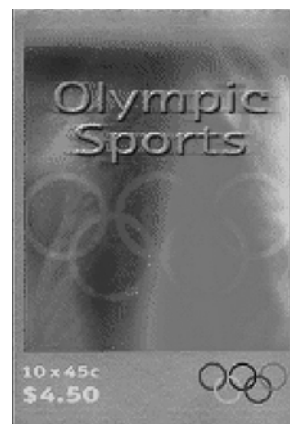
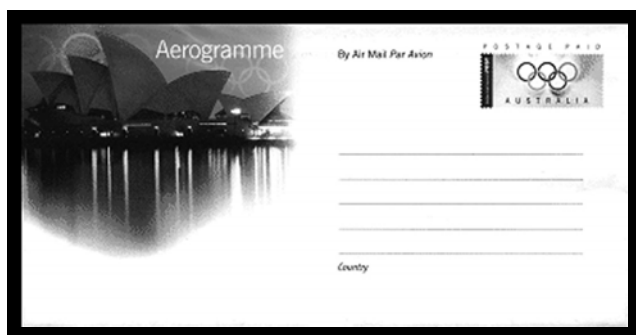


Figure 2. A booklet of ten self-adhesive Olympic Sports stamps.



Figures 3 & 4. Above, the A\$1.58 international Pre-Paid Envelope showing a cyclist. The international aerogramme reproducing the Sydney Opera House and valued at 78 cents, is shown below.



Title tabs bear the word "Sydney Athens" on the 45-cent value and "International Post" on the A\$1.50 value (Figure 5). OLYMPHILEX 2000 will offer these stamps as "P" stamps. Visitors may have the tabs customized with their own photograph.

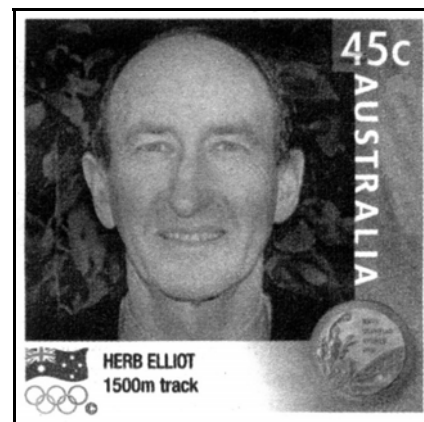
Two variations of each pane will be printed. The normal 20-stamp pane of each stamp will have a non-decorative, plain selvage margin. However, the same panes are being printed with a decorative border. These are only sold as a set of two panes (one of each value).

Collectors wishing a complete set of 4 panes will have to spend A\$78 (roughly US\$45).



Figure 5. Sydney-Athens joint issue commemorating the handing over of the Olympic flag to Athens during the opening ceremony of the Sydney Olympic Games. Each of the two stamps – the A\$1.50 value on the left and 45-cent value on the right – are being issued with either titled tabs (as shown here) or with "P" tabs personalized at Olympihlex 2000.

Figure 6. Test version of the Olympic Gold Medalist stamp to be issued during the course of the Games for each Australian gold medalist, individual or team.



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3. Australian Gold Medalists Issues (16 September – 1 October 2000)

Australia Post, which introduced the first "instant" stamps with labels personalized with the photographs of individuals (so-called "P" stamps), will be using similar technology to issue stamps commemorating each and every Australian gold medal winner at these Games (Figure 6). Each full-color stamp, square in shape, will be printed in 10-stamp sheetlets (five rows of two stamps). The wide selvage to the right of the stamps will carry details of the athlete/team portrayed (Figure 7).

Here's how it will work: a digital action photograph of each gold medalist, be it an individual or team, is selected from shots taken either during the event or on the awards stand. The image is then electronically transmitted to the design studio in Sydney where the stamp is created. Six printers, one in each state capital, receive the completed design, again electronically, and print the stamps. The completed stamp is placed on sale by noon the following day at 67 postal outlets around Australia. Within three days, the stamps will be reprinted using standard offset printing methods, and distributed nationwide.

The instant stamps will be differentiated from each other, and the offset printed versions, by a small emblem in the lower right margin of the sheetlet's selvage. The emblems, printed in red, are of native animals or birds. For example, the stamps printed in Melbourne will bear a possum, while those of Sydney and Perth are imprinted with a platypus and black swan, respectively. A small map of Australia, also in red, will be used on the offset stamps printed at Melbourne.

How many stamps might there be? It's anyone's guess, but at the 1992 and 1996 Olympics, Australia won 7 and 9 gold medals, respectively. With



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Figure 7. Test version of the sheetlet of ten gold medalists stamps. The stamps will be issued in two versions: an "instant" or digital version that will go on sale by noon the day following a gold medalist's win, and a traditional offset printed version to be available within 3 days.

a home court advantage, they could easily win more. The U.S. increased its typical Olympic gold medal count by 20% at Atlanta, so it's certainly conceivable that the Australian athletes could mine 10 or more golds!

Collecting all the various Medalist stamps in both versions ("instant" and offset) will no doubt keep collectors scrambling. In all, there will be seven versions of each stamp. A complete set of sheetlets for each gold medalist will cost A\$31.50 (approximately US\$19).

Australia Post is offering a subscription system for the offset version of the Gold Medalist stamps. The "instant" versions are available individually as long as supplies last.

UPCOMING OLYMPIC CANCELS

The Olympic cancellation program is an ambitious one. In addition to the 28 sports cancels, there will be a special cancel for Olympilex 2000, the

Olympic Village, and the Centenary of Women in the Olympic Games. These 31 cancels will have changeable dates. Two additional cancels – one each for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies – are single day postmarks. Olympilex 2000 is open only until September 28. After that date, cancels may be obtained from the General Post Office (GPO) in Sydney. *(See adjacent page for cancel illustrations.)*

- Olympic Opening Day Cancel:
Olympilex (September 15)
- Olympilex 2000 Cancel: available at Olympilex
(September 15 - 28)
- Centenary of Women in Olympic Games Cancel:
Olympilex (September 15 - 28)
GPO Sydney (September 29 - October 1)
- Olympic Sports Cancels:
Olympilex (September 15 - 28)
GPO Sydney (September 29 - October 1)
- Olympic Village Cancel:
Homebush and Queen Victoria Building Post
Office, NSW (September 2 - October 4)
- Olympic Closing Day Cancel:
GPO Sydney (October 1)
- Gold Medalists First Day of Issue Cancels:
GPO's in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth,
Hobart, Darwin, Canberra, Brisbane; Olympilex;
Post Offices Queen Victoria Building, Strathfield,
and Burwood, NSW (September 16 - October 2)

Readers wishing to mail in prepared covers for cancellation may send them to (see above list to determine where desired cancel will be applied):

1. GPO Sydney NSW, 2000 Australia
2. Post Office, Homebush & Queen Victoria Building, Sydney NSW, 2140 Australia
3. Post Office, Olympilex, AMP Centrepont Tower Sydney NSW, Australia

Alternatively, readers may send all their postmark requests to: Australian Philatelic Bureau, PO Box 4000, Ferntree Gully Vic 3156, Australia.

Postmarking instructions (cancel type and date) should be clearly indicated on each cover and don't forget correct postage. From Australia to the US, the postcard rate is A\$1.00. Airmail letters (50 gm) are A\$1.50.





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Figure 1. Geerlings cacheted first day cover for the 1996 Australian stamp honoring the 1996 Atlanta and 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.

Melbourne 1956 Olympic Games Covers

by Noel Almeida

With the approach of the Sydney Olympics, I carefully went through my Australian 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games covers with a view to presenting a small (one frame) first day cover exhibit at our local library. In sorting my material, I also came across a number of interesting flight covers relating to those Games. This article presents a selection of each.

1956 OLYMPIC FIRST DAY COVERS

Keeping in mind that the general public would be viewing my one-frame exhibit, I had to select items that would draw attention to the display. The first page, therefore, had a very colorful first day cover (FDC) with a Sydney 2000 theme (Figure 1).

The FDC was painted in water colors by cachet artist Frans Geerlings of Van Nuys, California, for the Australian stamp issued on July 22, 1996. It commemorated both the Centennial Olympic Games in

Atlanta and the 2000 Sydney Games. The first page of the exhibit, with its strong USA connection, enabled me to develop the theme "American covers of the 1956 Olympics."

The 1950's were the golden era of Australian FDC's with several Australian dealers, cover producers and collectors making covers for each new issue. The Australian Post Office got into the act as well by marketing its first general purpose FDC in 1954.

My Olympic cover collection is restricted to the three Australian issues (six stamps) for the Melbourne Games of 1956. It presently consists of 206 different covers and maximum cards by 49 makers. Four of the covers were made in the USA for locals and rarely surface in Australia. Figure 2 is a FDC for the 2 shilling stamp issued November 30, 1955 and inscribed with the name "C.G. Junior III" at bottom left. Charles George, Jr. is the son of Charles William George, a native of New Jersey, who produced FDC's between 1947 and 1977 for US stamps. He also did FDC's for a few British Commonwealth countries.

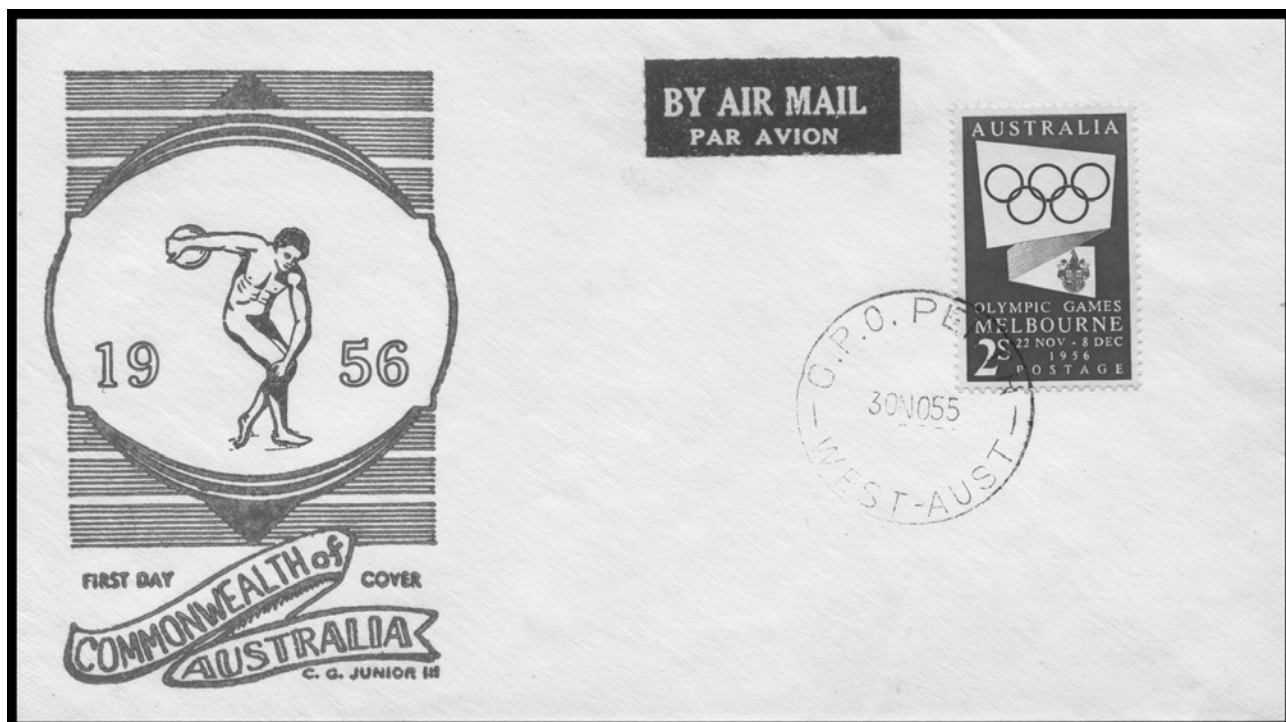


Figure 2. First Day Cover for the 2 shilling Australian 1956 Olympic Games stamp. The cachet is by an American artist, Charles George, Jr.

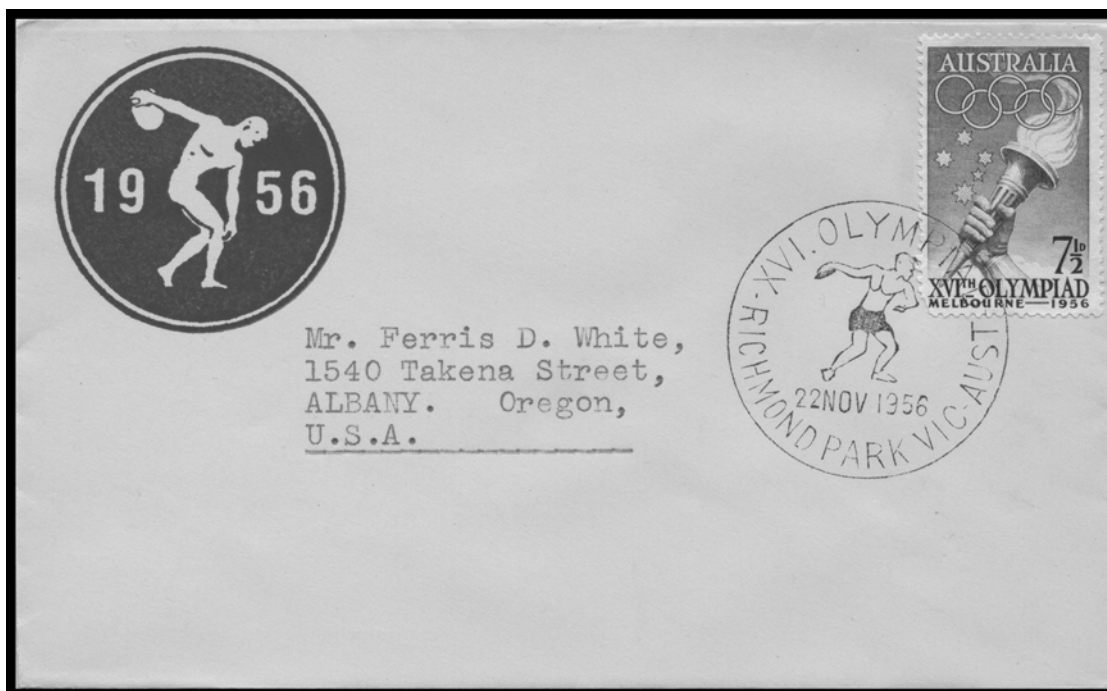


Figure 3. Another American cachet designer, Ferris D. White of Albany, Oregon, produced this cacheted cover for the '56 torch stamp. Coincidentally, the use of the Discobolus statue by Myron is similar to that depicted on the cover in Figure 2.

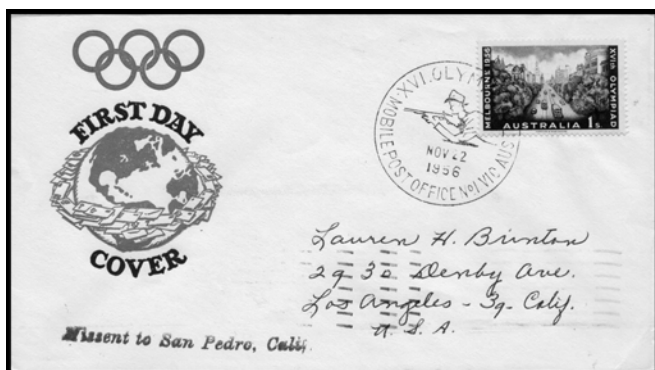


Figure 4. Al Van Dahl's "mail circling the globe" cachet was a standard design used by him for numerous first day covers.

Figure 3 shows a cover by Ferris D. White with the 7½d 1956 torch stamp, postmarked November 22, 1956, the opening day of the Games. It has a rubber stamp cachet of a discus thrower in blue, similar to the central design of the George cover. White, of Albany, Oregon, had many Australian correspondents with whom he exchanged covers.

Coincidentally, the cover illustrated in Figure 4 also has an Albany connection. Van Dahl Publishing Company of Albany was the publisher of *Western Stamp Collector*, the first stamp periodical in the USA



Figure 5. A Clyde Sarzin cover bearing a scarce meter tape used at the NYC offices of the Australian News & Information Bureau.

to publish twice weekly, starting in August 1935. Al Van Dahl (1883-1954) was born in Holland and emigrated to the USA in 1911 after learning the printing trade in Germany. His FDC design – letters encircling the globe – was used for numerous US stamps up to the 1960's. It was also sold "blank" (unserviced) to collectors, dealers and stationers.

Clyde J. Sarzin of Long Island, New York, is responsible for the two-color thermo-engraved cover in Figure 5. Sarzin died in 1986 but his cover business flourishes under his daughter. The scarce meter machine slogan of October 20, 1955 is from a Pitney-Bowes machine used by the Australian News & Information Bureau in New York City.

Finally, two more covers with an American flavor. Figure 6 is a FDC addressed to the renowned Paramount Films at their offices in New York City from the Postmaster-General of Australia. The full set of four stamps is postmarked on the day of issue (October 31, 1956) with an Olympic Village pictorial postmark. Fifty-four Olympic pictorial postmarks were used by the Australian post office at various venues during the Melbourne Olympics, which began on November 22 and finished on December 8, 1956.

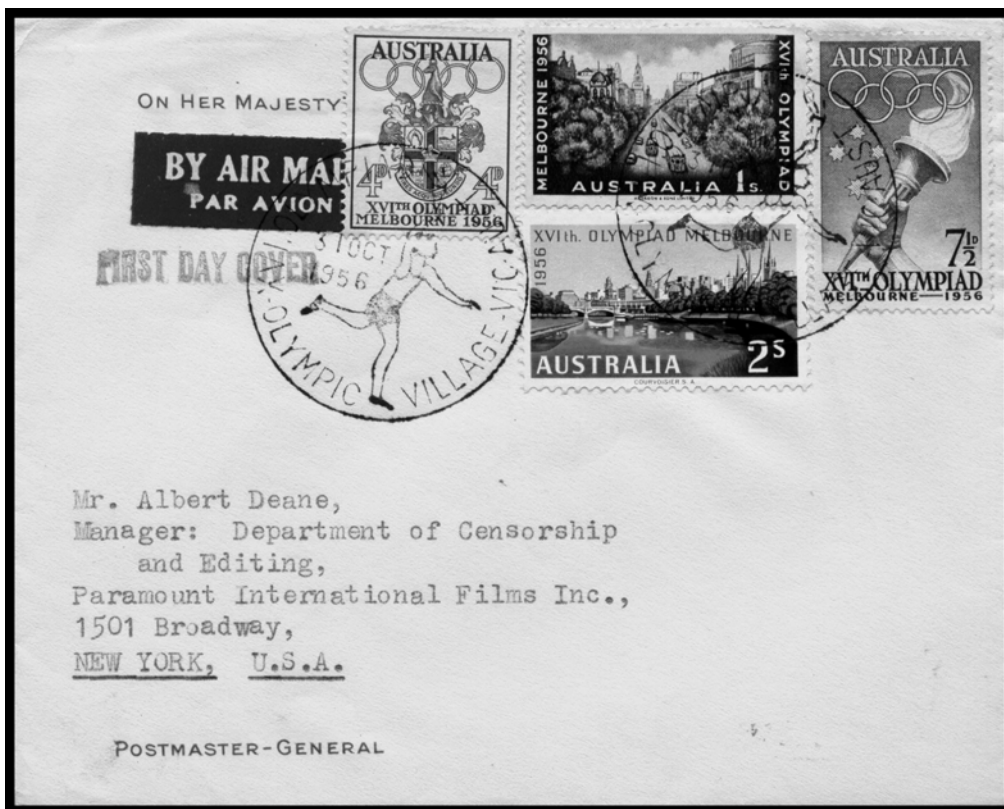


Figure 6. This handsome first day cover with pictorial cancel from the Olympic Village was mailed to the New York offices of Paramount Films.

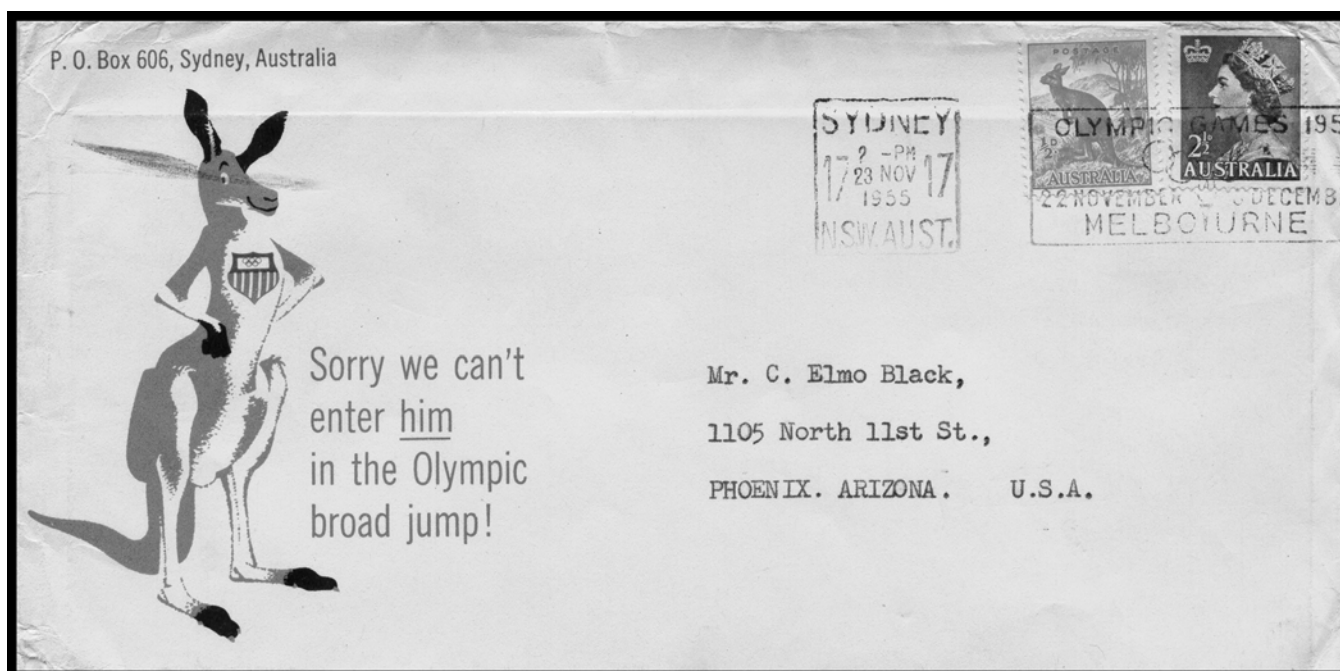


Figure 7. This kangaroo remains steadfastly Australian despite the U.S. Olympic Team insignia on his chest!

The stark official envelope of the Postmaster General, with the coat of arms of Australia engraved on the flap, contrasts sharply with the light-hearted and colorful Skippy souvenir cover (Figure 7). This Australian icon has been emblazoned with the US Olympic Team logo! Note the Sydney machine cancellation that was used by our post office on many occasions to publicize the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. With the appointment of Atlanta-based giant United Parcel Service (UPS) as official courier for Sydney 2000, the US has relegated Australia Post to a secondary position. Thankfully, Skippy has not sold out to the Yanks and steadfastly holds on to his Aussie identity!

1956 OLYMPIC FLIGHT COVERS

The focus will soon turn to the arrival of 11,000 athletes and 15,000 members of the media from 200 countries around our planet. Sydney's Kingsford Smith airport will witness hundreds of flights that will touch down around the clock. My Melbourne 1956 cover collection has a few Olympic flight covers that readers may find of topical interest.

The Melbourne Olympics was the first time that the Games were awarded to any city in the Southern Hemisphere. Forty-four years later, the Olympic flame crosses south of the equator for only the second time in 104 years.

Even as we approach the start of the new millennium, Australia is still considered to be too dis-

tant from the strongholds of the Olympics (Europe and North America). In 1956, airplanes were the most efficient way of bringing competitors to Melbourne (3,342 from 72 nations). This exercise is set to be repeated for Sydney 2000, albeit, on a much bigger scale.

From Europe came a flight of Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) the official carrier of Norway, Denmark and Sweden. The flight did not originate in Scandinavia but in Vienna. Austria issued a vignette to commemorate the flight and also printed the vignette on postal cards. Olympic cover collectors in some European countries prepared covers for the flight. A pictorial postmark, dated November 16, 1956 was used by the Austrian post office to cancel covers with Austrian stamps (Figure 8).

My collection includes covers from that flight that originated in Luxembourg, Finland, Germany and Denmark. Instead of preparing a different cachet to apply to covers that had other countries' stamps, Austria simply used the pictorial postmark as a cachet on these foreign covers. Figure 9 shows a cover from the German Democratic Republic with the Austrian cancel as a cachet.

Three identical canceling devices (numbered 1, 2 and 3) were used. Numerous sightings, over many years, confirm that numbers 2 and 3 do not appear on non-Austrian covers. The flight came over the North Pole and envelopes have arrival cancels dated November 22, using the Olympic Village (torch relay) postmark.



Figures 8 & 9. Austrian Olympic flight covers from Vienna to Melbourne. The commemorative postmark was used as a cachet on foreign covers (below). Olympic receiving cancels of November 22 are on the reverse.



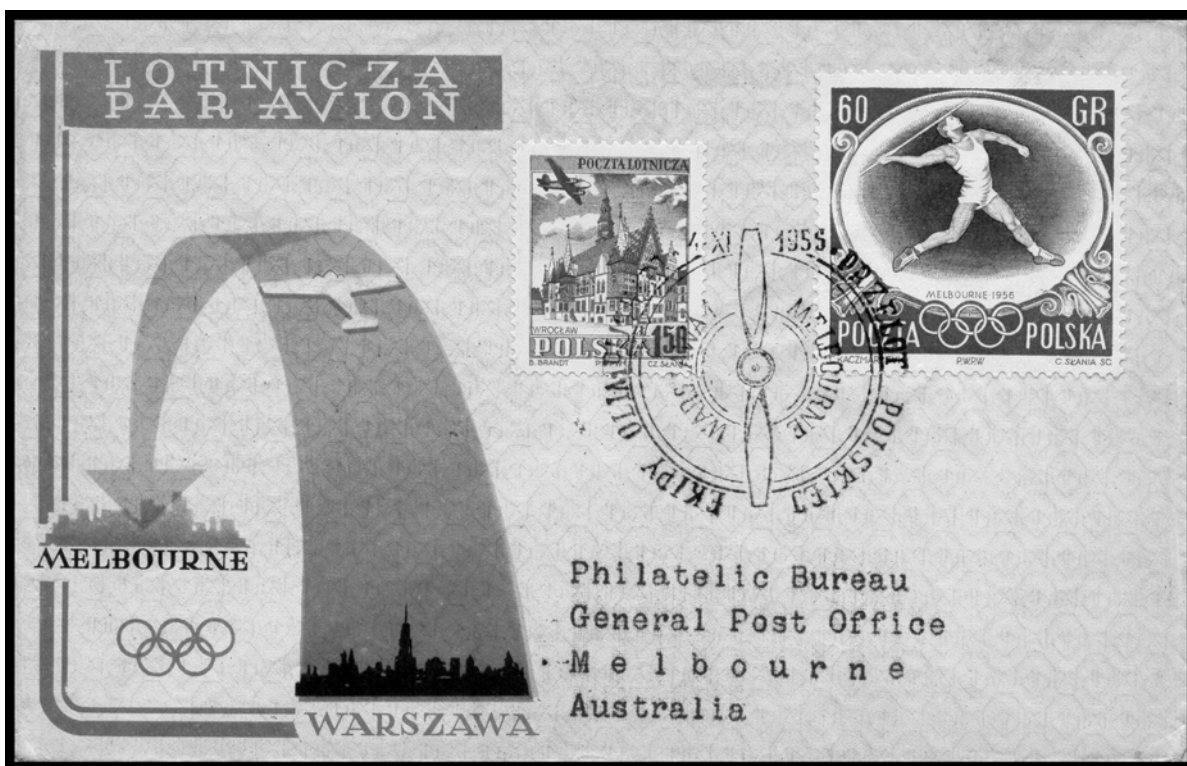


Figure 10. Registered KLM Olympic flight cover (handstamped registration box and number on reverse) from Warsaw to Melbourne on November 4. Cover is backstamped with an Olympic Village cancel showing the Olympic Village entrance on November 9 (see Figure 11).

The Games of the XVIth Olympiad opened on Thursday November 22 with the closing ceremony held on Saturday December 8.

KLM (Royal Dutch Airlines) headquartered in Amsterdam, put on a special flight. Here again, the flight did not originate in Holland but in Warsaw. Like the SAS flight, collectors in Germany and Luxembourg prepared flight covers with Poland issuing a souvenir envelope. A pictorial postmark, dated November 4, was used to cancel Polish stamps

(Figure 10), or as a cachet on foreign covers (Figure 12). The KLM covers are backstamped, November 8 or 9 with the Olympic Village pictorial cancel (Figure 11).

The Olympic Committee of Israel printed a special flight envelope to accompany their team on November 17. A steel circular date stamp of Lod, where the Ben Gurion Airport is located, was used to cancel stamps. Three different rubberstamp cachets were used (Figure 13). The covers are back



Figure 11. Reverse of cover in Figure 10 showing the handstamped registration mark and pictorial receiving cancel from Melbourne on November 9.



Figure 12. Cover from Luxembourg to Melbourne via the special Olympic flight from Warsaw. Note the Polish pictorial cancel used as a cachet rather than a postmark.



Figure 13. The Olympic Committee of Israel created a set of three different rubberstamped cachets (shown above and below) to use on special Olympic flight covers from Israel to Melbourne. The cachets are different colors: blue (above), rose (below left), and green (below right).



stamped November 24 using the Olympic Village torch relay postmark.

One other Israeli souvenir flight cover, showing a javelin (spear) thrower, was prepared (Figure 14). It does not have a rubber stamp cachet but is back stamped November 27 at the Olympic Village. I have not been successful in tracing the producer of the cover, nor the origin of a flight cover postmarked July 4, 1956 to Moscow for an Olympic qualifying

soccer match (Figure 15).

No story on Olympic flight covers would be complete without mentioning the Olympic Torch Flight. In 1956 the *Southern Horizon*, a Qantas Airlines Super Constellation, piloted by Captain Andy Young, made a flight from Athens, Greece to Darwin, Australia carrying the sacred Olympic flame in a miner's lamp. To honor the flight a souvenir cover was prepared (Figure 16). Stamps of Greece were



Figure 14. Another Israeli Olympic flight cover to Melbourne. Unfortunately, the cover maker remains a mystery to the author.



Figure 15. This flight cover addressed to Moscow appears to commemorate an Olympic soccer qualifying match. The cover is postmarked July 4, 1956. A Moscow receiving cancel on the reverse is dated July 9. Can any reader supply details on the match or cover origins?



Figure 16. The Olympic Flame was transported aboard a Qantas Airlines flight from Athens to Darwin.

canceled at Olympia with a special torch postmark on November 2, with covers back stamped November 22 with the Melbourne Main Stadium (shot put) postmark. The *Australian Air Mail Catalogue* by Eustis states that 33,116 covers were carried on the flight, making it common even today.

Figure 17 was on the torch flight as witnessed by

the special postmark and backstamp. What sets it apart is the rather weak registered post marking (No 26) of Olympia at the top left corner. Legendry Olympia is now only a small village, 350 kilometers southwest of Athens. Consequently, it is hard to imagine the postmaster receiving many requests for the registration service. 🍷



Figure 17. An unusual registered torch run cover canceled at Ancient Olympia.

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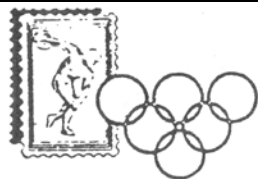
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Figure 1. At top, registered and insured (*valeur déclaré*) cover from Ancient Olympia to Germany on May 10. The reverse (shown below in Figure 1a) bears both a transit postmark from Patrai (May 11, 2000) and a seldom seen, self-adhesive label for insured mail affixed by the German Post (see Figure 1a, below).

The Olympic Flame Journeys to Sydney

by Thomas Lippert

As I write this report, the Olympic flame has completed only half its journey from Ancient Olympia in Greece, to its final resting place in the cauldron at the Sydney Olympic Stadium. The conclusion to this story must therefore wait until later.

Once again, an Olympic Summer or Winter Games has occasioned the reenactment of the solemn lighting ceremony at Ancient Olympia. Some 64 years after its introduction at the Berlin Games of 1936, we are seeing the longest Olympic torch relay ever conducted. At a press conference in Athens, the new chairman of the Greek Olympic Torch Relay Committee, Georgios Chaldiki, presented the statistics relating to this year's relay in

Greece. The torch will travel over 1065 km (over 660 land miles) and 500 nautical miles – the longest relay ever conducted in the country where the Olympic Games were born.

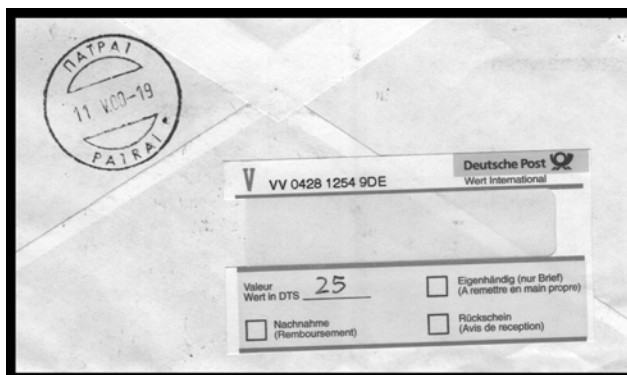


Figure 1a. Reverse of the cover shown in Figure 1.

It was on May 10, 2000, that the Olympic flame was kindled (Figure 1). The “high priestess” conducting the lighting ritual was played by the 28-year-old Athens-born actress, Thaleia Prokopiou. It was she who called upon Apollo to send down the rays of the sun. Unfortunately, the cloudy weather prevented Apollo from hearing her. A backup flame, lit the previous day for the benefit of the press, was used for the remainder of the ceremony. (This is not the first time the weather has not cooperated, however this author recalls previous incidents to have been handled with greater discretion.) The head of the Greek National Olympic Committee, Lambis Nikolaou, announced the introduction of two new elements into the Olympic flame lighting ceremony: a dance by boys from the National Drama School choreographed in the style of ancient Greece, and the addition of two flutes accompanying the traditional drums.

While a single dove soared into the sky, the Greek high jump champion, Lambros Papacostas, lit his torch from the sacred flame. From Australia came the Governor-General, Sir William Deane, the highest ranking individual at the ceremony. The Greek portion of the relay was entirely under the direction of the Greek torch relay organizing committee. It was they who proposed that the second torch bearer be a representative from the host country, Australia. As a symbol of both nations, Yianna Souleles, a 15-year-old Australian school girl of Greek extraction, was invited to be the second torch bearer. As it so happened, the Greek Olympic Committee had invited another Australian to be the first runner from that country: Sophie Gosper, the 11-year-old daughter of Australian International Olympic Committee (IOC) member (and Vice Presi-

dent of the IOC), Richard Kevan Gosper. The proud father agreed, obviously not thinking about how this last minute substitution of an IOC official’s daughter would look!

Once word reached the press, a major scandal ensued. Nonetheless, Sophie Gosper was the second runner, and first Australian, to carry the torch. Without a doubt it was a great disappointment for young Yianna who had come to Greece with her parents and a number of classmates. She did, however, have the opportunity to bear the torch later on that first day.

The public outcry was so loud, especially in Australia, that even IOC President Samaranch was forced to deal with “the case” – the worst publicity for the IOC since the bid city bribery scandal of 1998-1999 [Editor’s Note: For a time, Mr. Gosper was also embroiled in that scandal!]. The consequences of this affair overshadowed the relay which continued around the Peloponnese for two days visiting, among other towns, those of Tripoli and Patras (Figure 2 illustrates all the town cancels along the route through Greece.).

On May 12, the relay turned northward onto the Greek mainland. A special ceremony was conducted at the overnight stop in Ioannina (Figure 3) where the flame arrived at 8:45 p.m.

Kastoria, Thessaloniki and Kavala in Northern Greece were the next three stops on the torch route on May 13, 14, and 15, respectively (see Figure 2).

The Olympic flame reached the coastline at Alexandroupoli on May 16 (see Figure 2). Historically a maritime nation, it was only fitting for the torch to visit some of the Greek islands in the Aegean Sea. At Alexandroupoli, a gun boat of the Greek marines was waiting to transport the flame



Figure 2. Cancels for the Greek portion of the 2000 Olympic torch relay: (left to right, top row) Ancient Olympia, Tripoli, Patras, Ioannina, Kastoria, Thessaloniki, (bottom row) Kavala, Alexandroupoli, Mytilini, Vathi, Hermoupoli, and Athens.

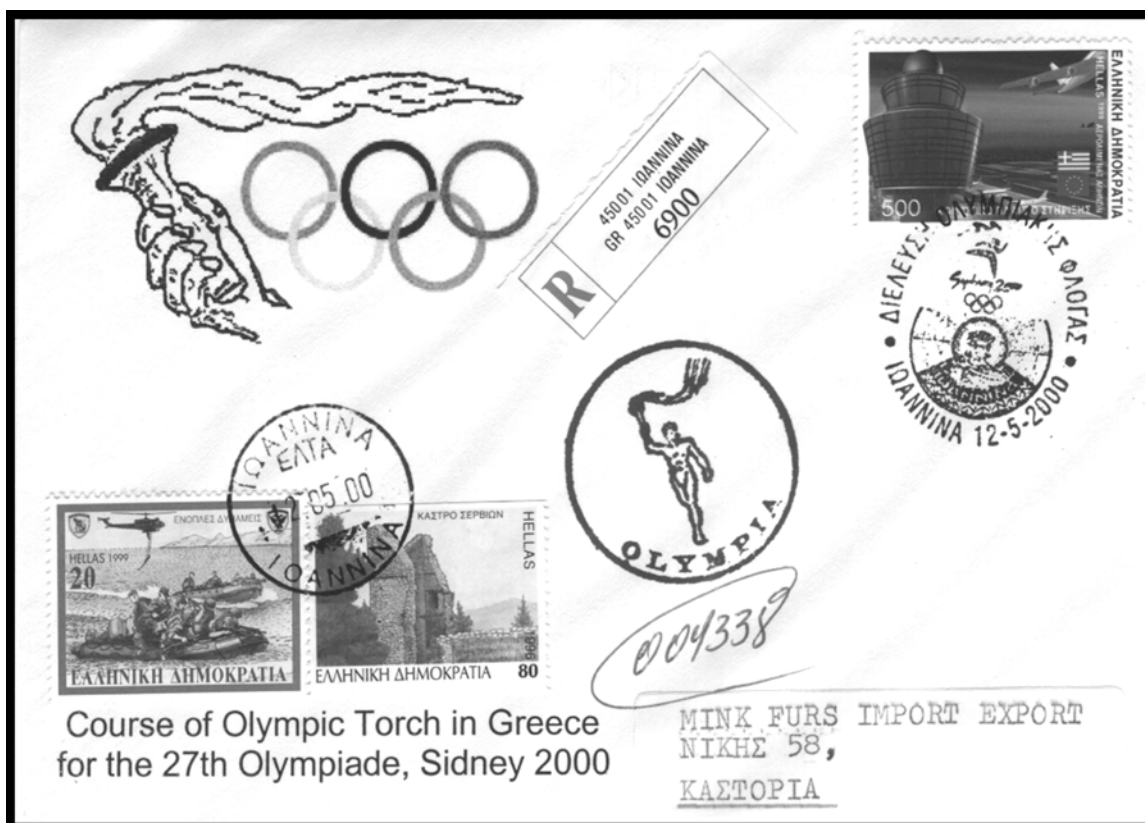


Figure 3. Registered cover from Ioannina where the torch stopped on its third night.



Figure 4. Registered cover on May 18 from the island of Chios where the torch relay stopped briefly on its way to Samos. The circular marking at lower left is a ship cachet from the Polemistis. It is usually applied in blue, but sometimes it appears in rose.



Figure 5. Registered cover from Hermoupoli on Syros.

and its relay team. The “Polemistis,” which means “Warrior” in Greek (an odd choice of ships for such a peaceful mission as spreading the Olympic word) began its journey the next day to the island of Lesbos via the islands of Samothraki and Limnos. Receptions were given on all three landfalls.

At 9 o'clock the Polemistis departed the town of Mytilini on Lesbos for a short visit to the island of Chios (Figure 4). The day's final destination was the town of Vathi on Samos island (see Figure 2).

The next day, May 19, saw the flame depart Vathi at 10 in the morning. Some seven hours later Tinos Island was reached where a brief, 45-minute celebration took place. Hermoupoli (Figure 5) on Syros Island was the final destination of the day, arriving at 7 p.m.

May 20, the Polemistis and its crew completed their torch relay duties. Departing at 8:30 a.m. from Hermoupoli, the ship reached Andros Island, the last port-of-call on the island hopping expedition. Later that day, the Polemistis docked at the port of Rafina near Athens. A short 39 km run brought the torch to its final point in Greece. That evening there was a celebration at Athens' Panathenaic Stadium

which still bears scars from an earthquake. For safety reason, only 400 spectators were allowed to view these festivities. Another site, with the famous Zappeion Hall as a backdrop, was originally chosen to host this ceremony, but the venue was later changed.

The atmosphere inside the stadium appeared rather ghostly to television viewers who were greeted by great empty spaces. Long jump champion, V. Tsamita, was the last torch bearer. After a miner's lamp was lit from her flame, Greek NOC President, Lambis Nikolaou, passed the Olympic flame to the Australians. With a police escort, the flame was taken to Athens airport for the next phase of its journey.

A special postmark (Figure 6) was available at the Postal Museum in Athens. Special hours of operation were in effect May 20 with the museum remaining open until midnight.

In summary, the Greek post office was well prepared for the torch relay. With special post office hours of operation and attractively designed commemorative postmarks, what more could collectors ask for?

Apart from the enthusiasm shown by spectators along the relay's course, the official evaluation of the torch relay was less positive as a result of public reactions to the substitution of an IOC official's daughter for a Greek/Australian girl as the second torch bearer. In a Greek NOC session shortly after the Olympic flame left Greece, wide criticism was directed at the slow pace of preparations for the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. Among those on the receiving end of IOC President Samaranch's expressions of disappointment were the former Greek sports minister, George Lianis, representatives of the Greek government and of the Organizing Committee of Athens 2004.

Meanwhile another torch relay project quite literally got off the ground! Australia-born astronaut, Dr. Andrew Thomas, proposed that a replica of the Sydney Olympic torch be transported aboard the

space Shuttle Atlantis on Mission STS-101 to the International Space Station. NASA and the Sydney Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) both thought this an excellent idea. A scaled down version of the Olympic torch to be taken into space was designed and constructed. Mission STS-101 was originally scheduled for a mid-April launch. This timing would have drawn attention to the upcoming kindling of the Olympic flame at Ancient Olympia. As luck would have it, the launch of the Atlantis was aborted in the very last seconds of the countdown due to high winds in the launch area. Finally on May 19, the Shuttle Atlantis, carrying the torch replica and a Sydney 2000 Olympic flag, blasted off from Cape Canaveral (Figure 7). The crew returned safely to Earth ten days later.

There were no special postmarks for this occasion, but the standard date cancel from the Ken-



Figure 6. Express postal card mailed from the Postal Museum in Athens during the special opening hours on May 20. The Athens torch relay cancel was used to postmark the 500 drachma stamp and 5 drachma indicium of the postal card. The additional 100 drachma stamp was required in order to obtain the cancel of the Postal Museum. The postal card was addressed to the Athens 2004 Olympic Organizing Committee. Their cachet, in blue, can be seen at left.



Figure 7. Astronaut James S. Voss, holding a replica of the Sydney Olympic Torch against a backdrop of the Sydney Olympic flag while orbiting Earth in the Shuttle Atlantis.

nedy Space Center, which is more thematically relevant than a plain post office cancel, serves to document the launch (Figure 8).

The space Shuttle Atlantis flight served as a symbolic bridge between the first (Greek) and second (Oceania & Australian) legs of the torch relay. Shortly after midnight on May 21, the chartered Boeing 767 provided by the official Olympic Airline, Ansett, took off for its first destination, Guam (Figure 9). The Ansett plane, decorated in Olympic colors, was given the flight number AN-2000 in honor of the Games during a send-off celebration in

Melbourne on May 20. Athens is not a regularly scheduled destination for Ansett. The design on the plane was similar to that depicted on a set of Olympic postcards picturing an Ansett Boeing 747-300.

A few covers were transported aboard the Boeing 767 charter flight from Athens to Guam, courtesy of the flight captains Jim Snowball and David Donnelly, both of whom signed the cover illustrated in Figure 10. At Guam, the covers were delivered to the U.S. Postal Service (Guam is a territory of the United States), which applied the "return to sender" rubber stamp and mailed them back to the sender.

Of the other covers taken along on the trip only some were signed by the captains – and none had that added official touch of being IOC business envelopes! While all covers were apparently turned over to the USPS, not all made it home. It seems likely they were lost in the mailstream.

Let us briefly take a look back to discuss early torch relay plans. At the 1997 meeting of the South Pacific Forum held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, Australia's prime minister, John Howard made a proposal to the member countries that they could hardly resist accepting. For the first time an Olympic torch relay would touch Oceania – and the Australian government would pick up the cost.

The Association of Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC) was formed at the Baden-Baden Olympic Congress of 1982. Founding mem-

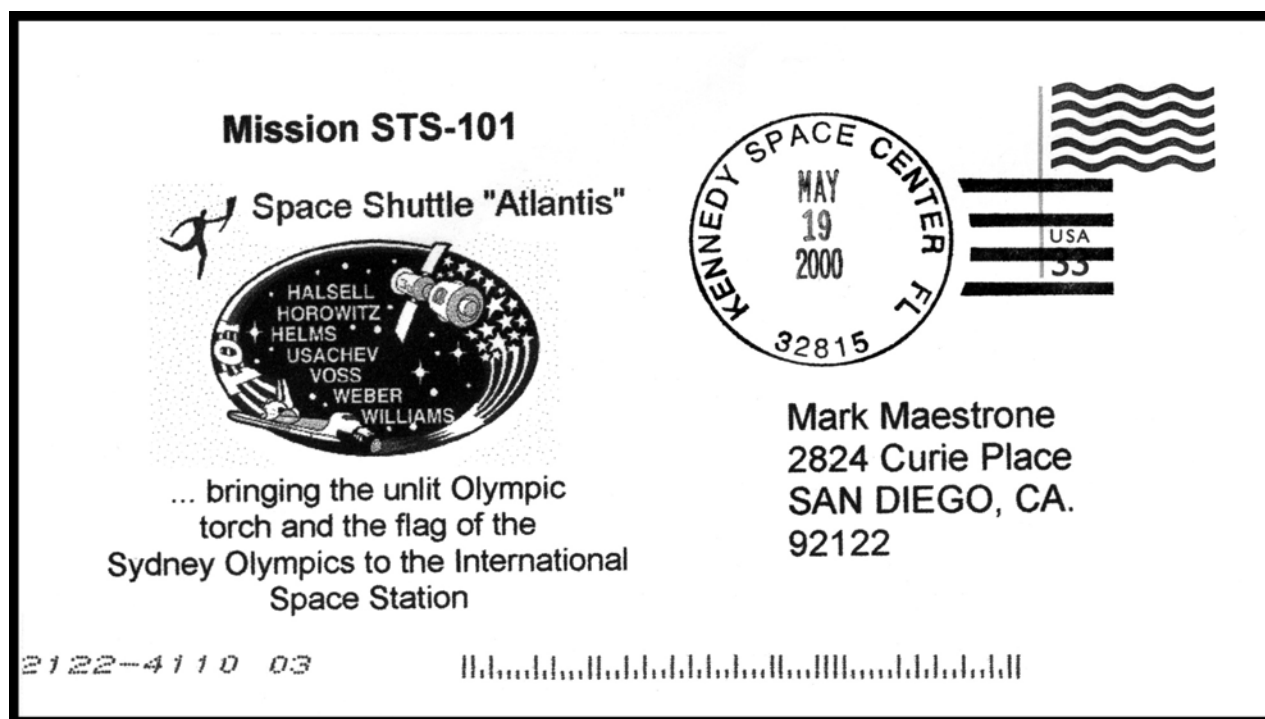


Figure 8. NASA Mission STS-101 carried a replica of the Olympic torch and a Sydney Olympic flag into space aboard the space Shuttle Atlantis.



Figure 9. Postcard documenting the flight of the Olympic flame to Guam, first stop in Oceania. Privately-applied boxed cachet notes departure time as ten past midnight on May 21, 2000.

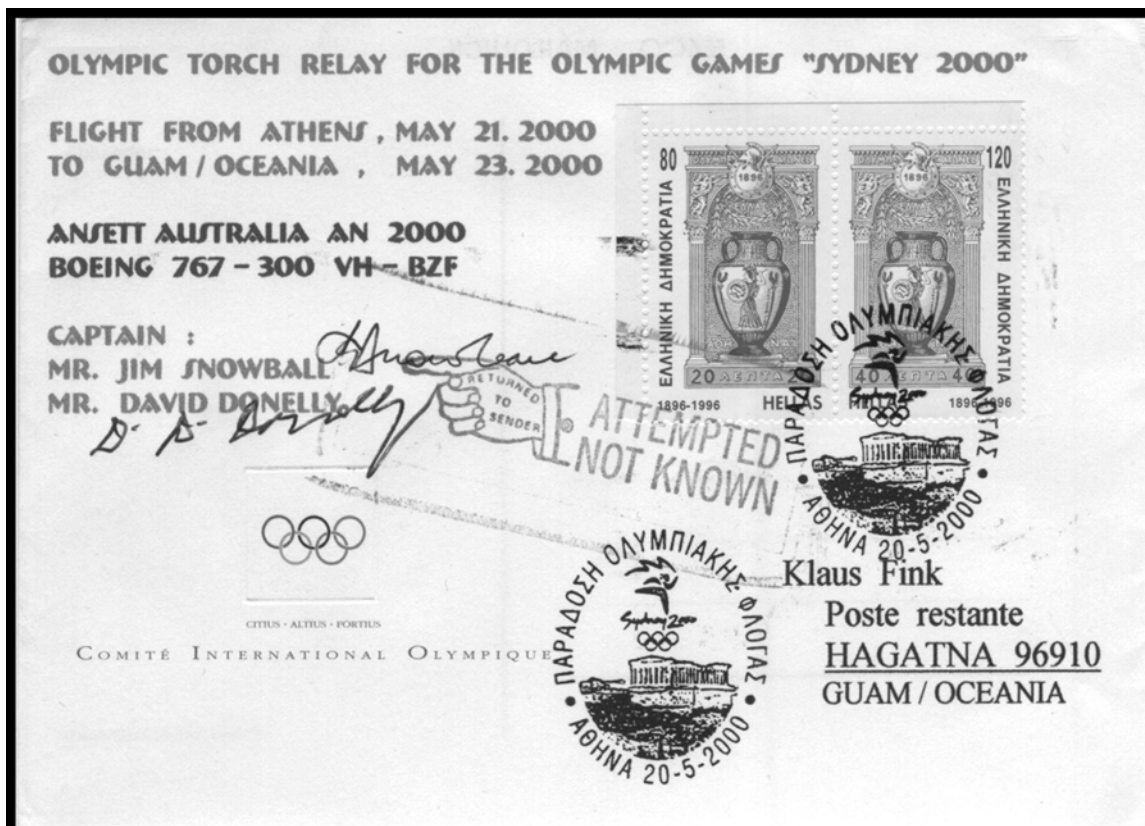


Figure 10. Flight cover from Athens to Guam, signed by the pilots, on IOC stationery.

bers included both the powerful NOC's of Australia and New Zealand as well as the committees from the nations of Papua New Guinea and Fiji Islands. From 1988 on, ONOC has contributed significantly to the development of sports in the Pacific region. With the support of the IOC's Olympic Solidarity Program, the Australia South Pacific 2000 Sports Program has been able to identify and develop athletes from the region who have reached the top ranks of their respective sports.

Over the last decade, many other nations from Oceania have swelled the ranks of the Olympic family. When the Oceania route of the torch relay was announced on November 25, 1998, at a joint press conference, there were twelve ONOC member countries which the Olympic torch would visit. A short time later, on December 12, the IOC awarded provisional recognition to the NOC of Palau (Belau). It was only logical that a Palau leg was added to the torch relay program. It was ONOC chief Kevan Gosper's task to release the plan for the Pacific route. At the same time, it was announced that he would be the first runner to welcome the

flame to Oceanian territory. However following the public relations disaster that resulted from the appearance of his daughter as the number two torch bearer in Greece – and on the advice of the IOC – Gosper eventually declined the honor and in fact did not appear at the Guam reception for the Olympic flame. Mrs. Di Henry, the manager of the torch relay, was instead welcomed by ONOC member, and chairman of the Guam NOC, Ricardo Blas, and the Chief Justice of Guam, Benjamin Cruz. Blas, a 1988 Olympic participant in judo, began the torch relay, while Chief Justice Cruz completed the relay as the 100th torch bearer on this most southern of the Mariana chain of islands.

To date, only one special torch relay postmark from a Pacific island is known. It does make one wonder why this opportunity wasn't used by the Oceania nations to release stamps honoring the Sydney Olympic Games, or at least create commemorative postmarks for the event. (Not long before the torch relay, Nauru released a stamp honoring the visit of IOC President Samaranch to that tiny island nation.)

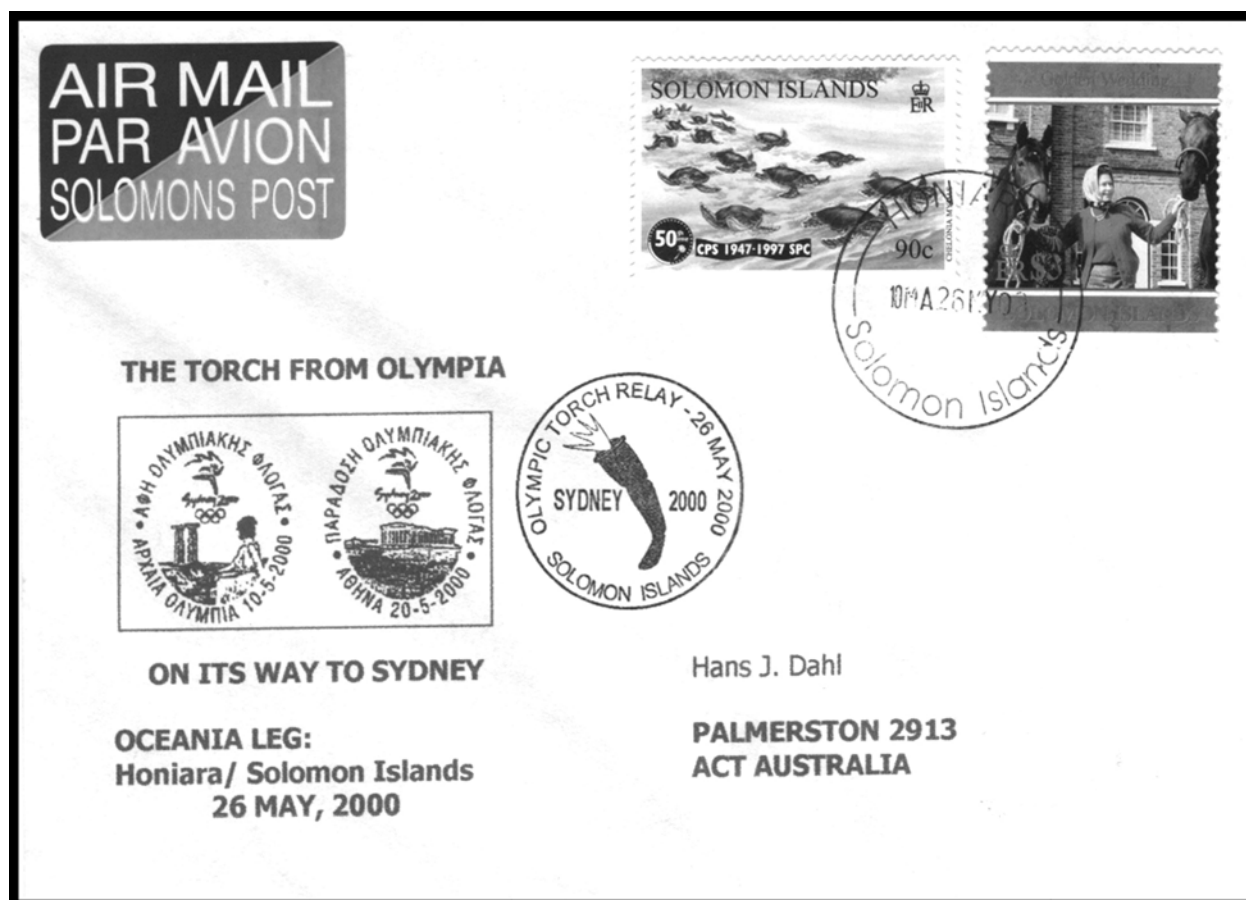


Figure 11. At Honiara in the Solomon Islands, a special torch relay postmark was used on May 26 as an additional cachet in black.

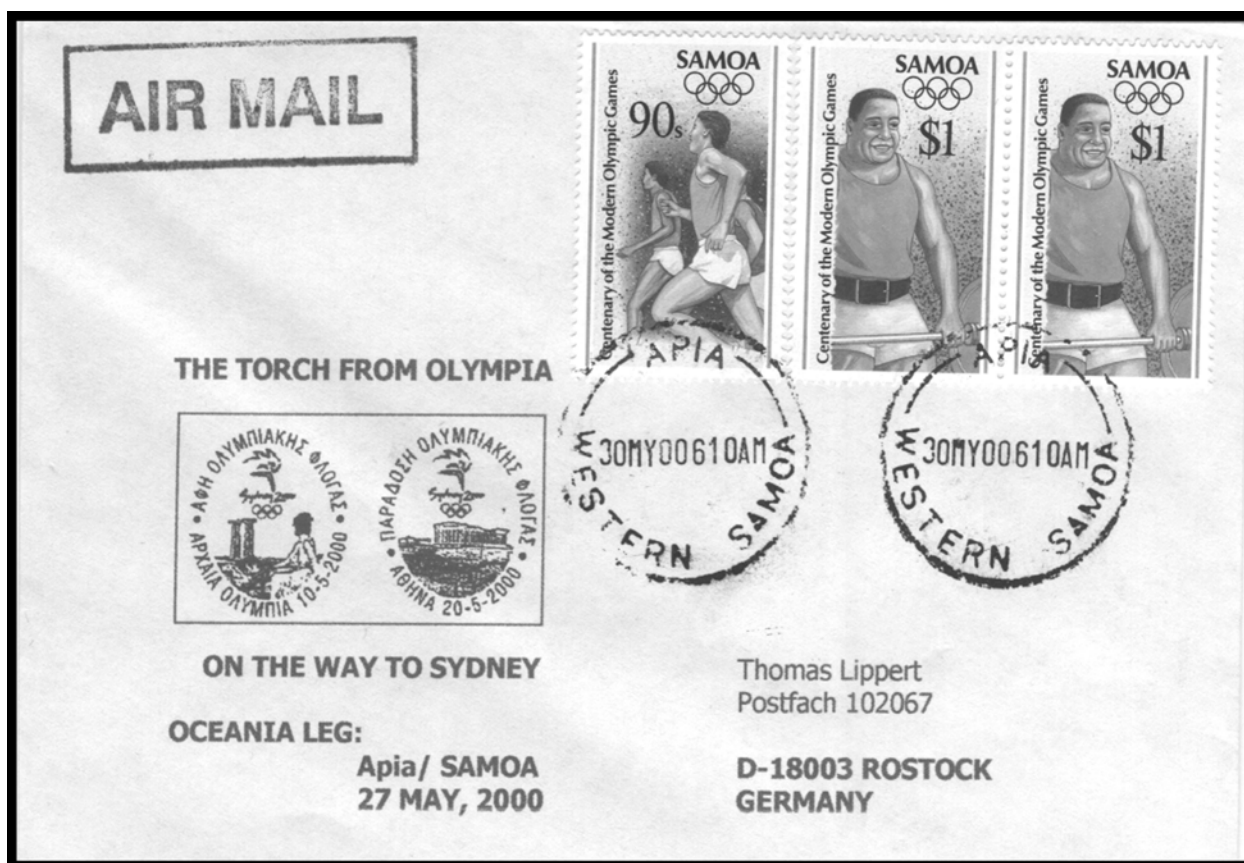


Figure 12. Airmail cover incorrectly postmarked May 30. The actual arrival day of the torch was May 29.

It was this author's intention to document the various stops of the torch relay through philatelic means. Unfortunately, this goal was only partially realized since neither special stamps, nor cancels were issued marking the occasion. Standard circular postmarks, while fixing the date of the relay, are not thematically strong enough by themselves to permit their use in philatelic exhibits. The torch relay schedule for Oceania was as follows:

May 22	Agana, Guam
May 23	Koror, Palau (Belau)
May 24	Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)
May 25	Yaren, Nauru
May 26	Honiara, Solomon Islands
May 27	Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
May 29	Port Vila, Vanuatu
May 29	Apia, Samoa
May 30	Pago Pago, American Samoa
May 31	Rarotonga, Cook Islands
June 2	Nuku'alofa, Tonga
June 3	Suva, Fiji (canceled; rest day in Tonga.)
June 5-7	Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland, New Zealand
June 9	Arrival in Australia at Ayers Rock

Security during the torch relay was a concern as political and social unrest on certain islands rose and fell periodically. The Solomon Islands, in particular, had been in the news in the period leading up to the torch relay, yet things were again calm for the flame's arrival. The celebration in the Lawson Tama Stadium at Honiara was the highlight of the Solomon Islands torch leg (Figure 11). Some days following the relay's passage, the unrest began anew.

Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands is well-known to those familiar with the history of World War II. In the same fashion, parts of Papua New Guinea played important roles in the war. One such place, the so-called Kokoda Track, was discussed during the planning stages of the relay. This track, a trail really, was historically important for it was along it that Allied troops held back the Japanese forces. The owners of the property through which the Kokoda Track ran were willing to allow its use by the torch relay – for 2 million Australian dollars. SOCOG and the PNG NOC resisted, routing the relay as originally planned.

The Olympic flame received a warm welcome upon its arrival at 9:20 a.m. at Jackson International Airport aboard a Flight West plane. Chief of State, Sir Mekere Morauta, appeared personally at the airport

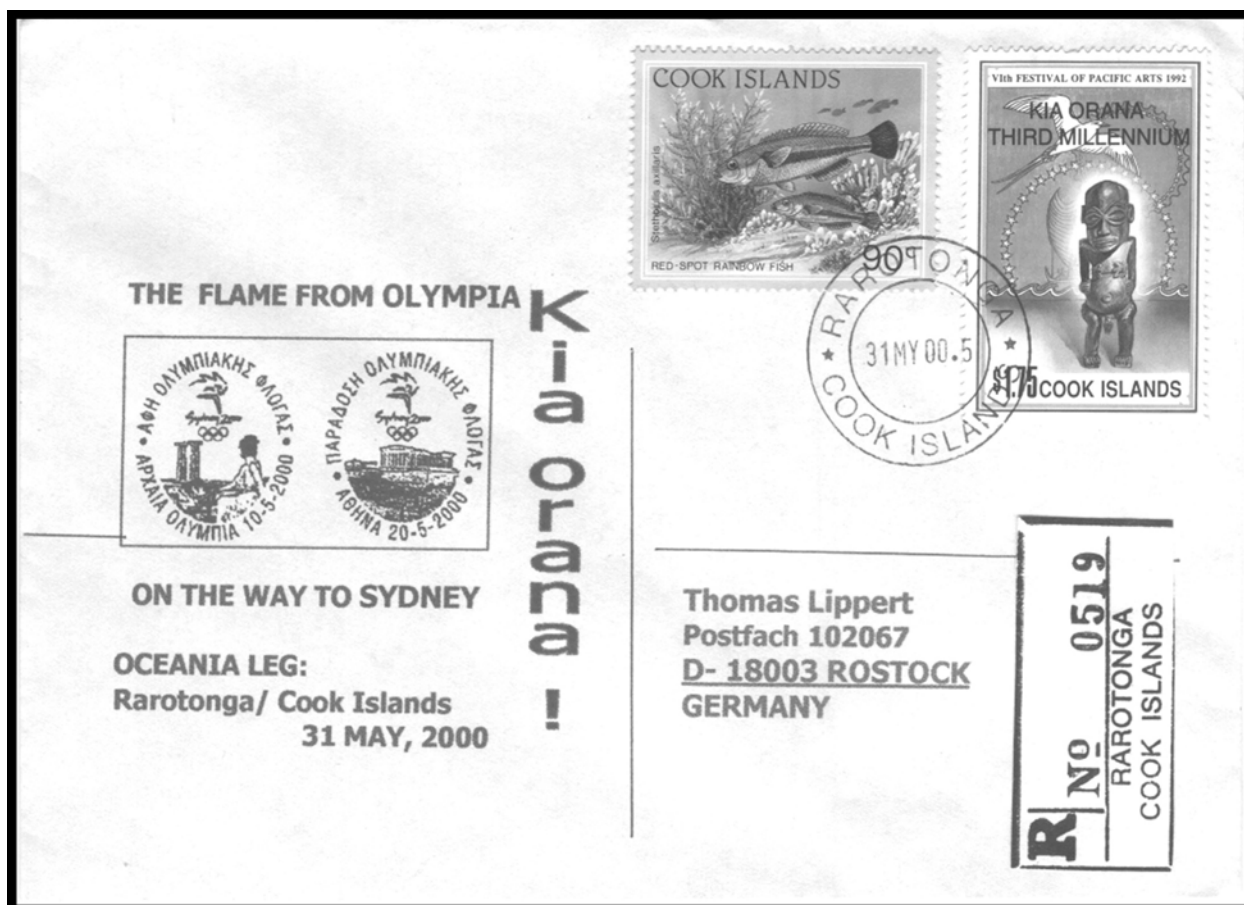


Figure 13. “Kia Orana” is the traditional welcome in the Cook Islands. May 31 registered cover from Rarotonga. The cover was returned inside a plastic protective sleeve and therefore bears no transit marks. However self-adhesive stickers from New Zealand were applied to the sleeve.

to greet the relay. As last torch bearer, he also lit a cauldron at the Sir John Guise Stadium.

Among the torch bearers was Marcus Bai, the famous rugby player for the Melbourne Storms, who returned to his native country to run in the relay.

One of the peculiarities encountered while traveling in the western Pacific is the International Date Line. The torch relay got caught up in this “time machine” when it spent Monday, May 29, in two different countries – Vanuatu on the western side of the date line, and Samoa on the eastern.

The first place visited on May 29 was the city of Port Vila on the island of Vanuatu. Chief Waea Tenene kicked off the celebration by running the first leg of the Olympic torch relay at 10:20 a.m. in the town of Erakor. This is the location where missionaries from Samoa landed 100 years before. The final torch bearer of the day, Estelle Kapalu, ran her portion of the relay at 5 p.m. in Independence Park. Estelle is a South Pacific Games record holder in the 400 meters and 400 meter hurdles. She will also be a competitor at Sydney. Having spent a full day at

Vanuatu, the torch relay took off in its Fokker F100, landing at Faleolo International Airport in Apia, Samoa on – once again – Monday, May 29 (Figure 12).

Pago Pago on American Samoa was the focus of the relay on May 30. One of the more unique modes of transportation for the torch was used here: a *Fautassi*, or war canoe, oared by 40 Samoans. Lisa Misipeka, a bronze medal winner at the 1999 World Track & Field Championships in Seville, Spain and one of the region’s top world-ranked athletes, helped row the canoe. Finally the American Samoa National Olympic Committee produced an exciting celebration at 5 p.m. at the Stadium of Veterans.

On Wednesday, May 31, Rarotonga, the capital of the Cook Islands, welcomed the torch relay with a traditional island greeting: “Kia Orana” (Figure 13). Here the NOC decided to hold a central celebration for the Olympic flame. Many Cook Islanders from the neighboring islands joined in the celebration with traditional tribal rites. Seven hours after landing at Rarotonga International Airport, a final ceremony for the torch relay was held at the National Stadium.

Despite the so-far successful relay through Oceania, bad news continued to hound the relay organizers since the flame's departure from Athens. Ethnic turmoil continued to ebb and flow between the indigenous peoples of Fiji and the Indian population that immigrated there from Asia. Each group comprises nearly half the population. In the latest incident, a group of Fijians arrested the prime minister and his minister in parliament. While the general assembly of Fijian chiefs agreed with the rebels' ideology, they didn't support their methods.

The IOC executive board decided at its meeting in Rio de Janeiro to adopt a wait-and-see attitude. On May 29, the Australian government advised SOCOG to bypass Fiji during the relay. The relay organizers saw the wisdom of this move from a security standpoint, as regrettable as the decision was. In many ways, Fiji is at the heart of the Olympic movement in Oceania. It had contributed much to unifying the South Pacific nations and was a founding member of the ONOC. Not only is the capital, Suva, the seat of the ONOC, but the University of the South Pacific in Suva is the site of the Olympic Information Center. Some of the most

active Olympic members reside in the islands. Now this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity was lost.

In an attempt to bring the Fijians into the celebration, the Cook Islands NOC invited Miriama Cham-bauldt, an Olympian (1976 and 1984 Games) from Fiji residing in Paris, to run in the Cook Islands relay leg along with the other 100 torch bearers that had been selected. Miriama had already been invited to run in Fiji's relay, so she diverted her trip to the Cook Islands instead. Other ONOC officials from Fiji were less lucky and were unable to get a flight to the Cook Islands in time for the festivities.

On June 2, Tonga gave a royal welcome to the Olympic torch relay. The King's daughter, Princess Fanetupouvava'u Tuita, was the first torch runner to bear this flame, kindled at Ancient Olympia, through the oldest monarchy in Melanesia. The King himself watched as his grandson, Prince 'Aho'eitu Tuku'aho, ran the torch through the grounds of the royal palace. Among the other bearers was a 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games silver medalist in boxing, Paea Wolfgramm. Because the Fijian leg of the relay was canceled, the torch relay took a rest day in Tonga on June 3.

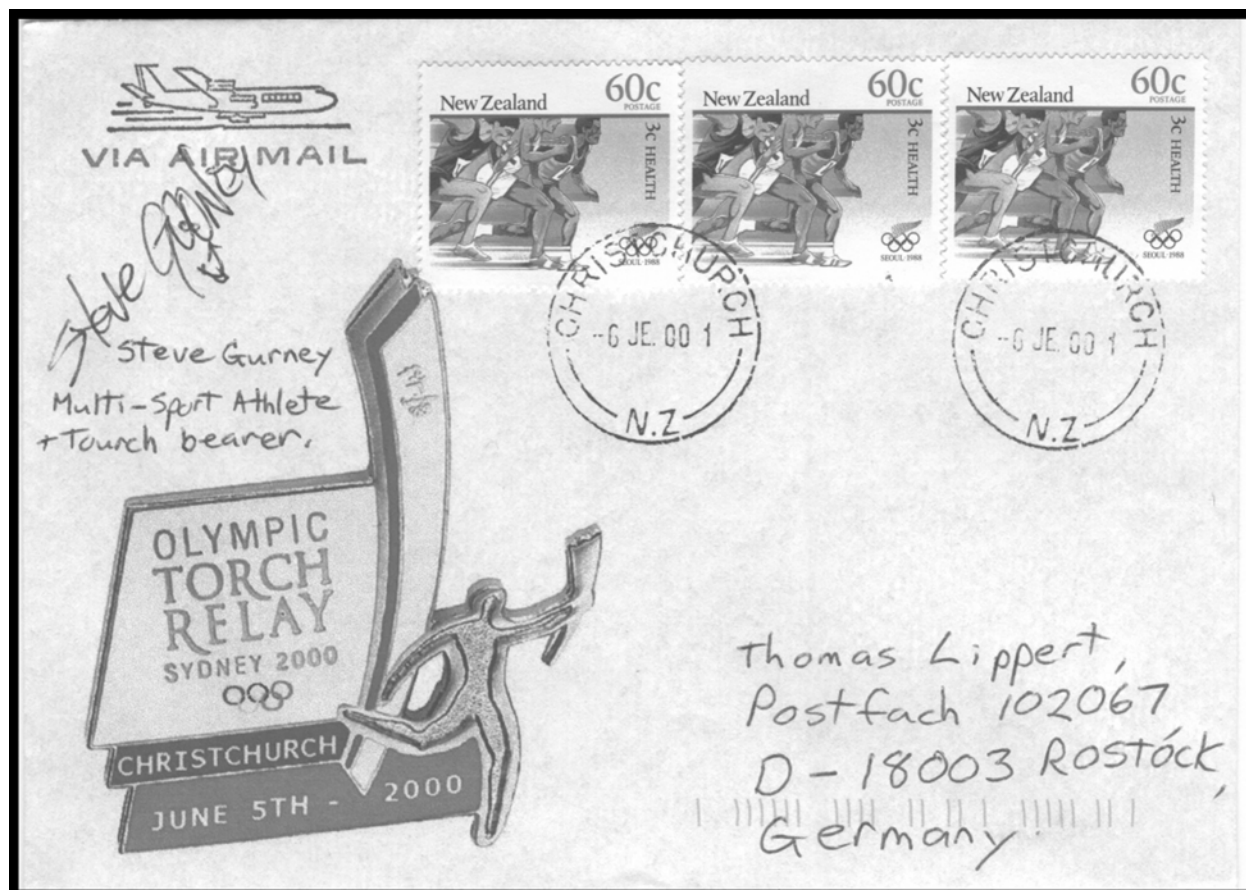


Figure 14. Cover mailed from Christchurch June 6, the day after the torch relay departed for Wellington. Post offices were closed June 5 for a holiday. Autographed by athlete and torch bearer, Steve Gurney.

On June 4, the Flight West plane departed Tonga for New Zealand. The small Fokker F-100 made an unplanned stop along the way, however. At first the listeners of local radio station VL2NI on Norfolk Island (Australian territory) couldn't believe it, but then they realized their luck. At 9:20 a.m. the flight landed at the local airport and some 50 people gathered behind the barrier at Norfolk Island's airport hoping to catch at least a glimpse of the Olympic flame. All they saw, though, was the small miner's lamp which, as a precautionary measure, was carried outside during refueling of the plane. SOCOG Torch Relay Manager, Di Henry, didn't change any official plans to accommodate this brief sojourn. The result was a number of disappointed children and angry, upset mothers. A reporter wrote: "The torch relay manager, Ms. Di Henry, came over to where they were standing and handed out old flags commemorating the torch's stopover in Nauru, and said: 'You know, and I know, that it's been on Australian soil, but we won't tell anybody, will we?'" A random story for the torch relay archives.

Onward to New Zealand for a 3-day stop where the plans for the torch relay sharply contrasted with the previous two weeks in tropical surroundings. Peter Snell, a running legend from the 1960's, brought the flame by helicopter to Coronet Peak. Snow (remember this is winter in the southern hemisphere!) provided an appropriate surface for

the first torch bearer, Albertville alpine skiing silver medalist, Annalise Coberger, who skied the first leg of New Zealand's relay. Later, a plane brought the flame to Christchurch where New Zealand IOC member, Tay Wilson, welcomed the flame. Wilson was among the torch bearers in Wellington. One of the local sports heroes, Steve Gurney, carried the flame through Christchurch (Figure 14). On June 5, the torch convoy departed for Wellington, the capital.

In Wellington, a group of Maoris greeted the flame. Prime Minister Helen Clark was handed the Olympic torch by her Minister of Sports, Trevor Mallard. The New Zealand Prime Minister was certainly in great condition: she started her leg so quickly that the flame went out!

On Day 3 (June 7), the relay reached the area of geysers around Rotorua. After a 20-minute plane ride, the Olympic flame arrived at Northern Auckland. Elite sportsmen did much of the "leg work" during this portion of the relay. Among them was Olympian Ian Ferguson, who received four gold medals at two Olympic Games.

That evening, on the terrace of the War Memorial in Auckland, a splendid celebration took place – the last for the Oceania portion of the 2000 Olympic Torch Relay. All in all, the South Pacific tour by the Olympic flame had been a colorful success. That night the Olympic carrier, Ansett Airlines, once again took over transportation of this relay. This time it

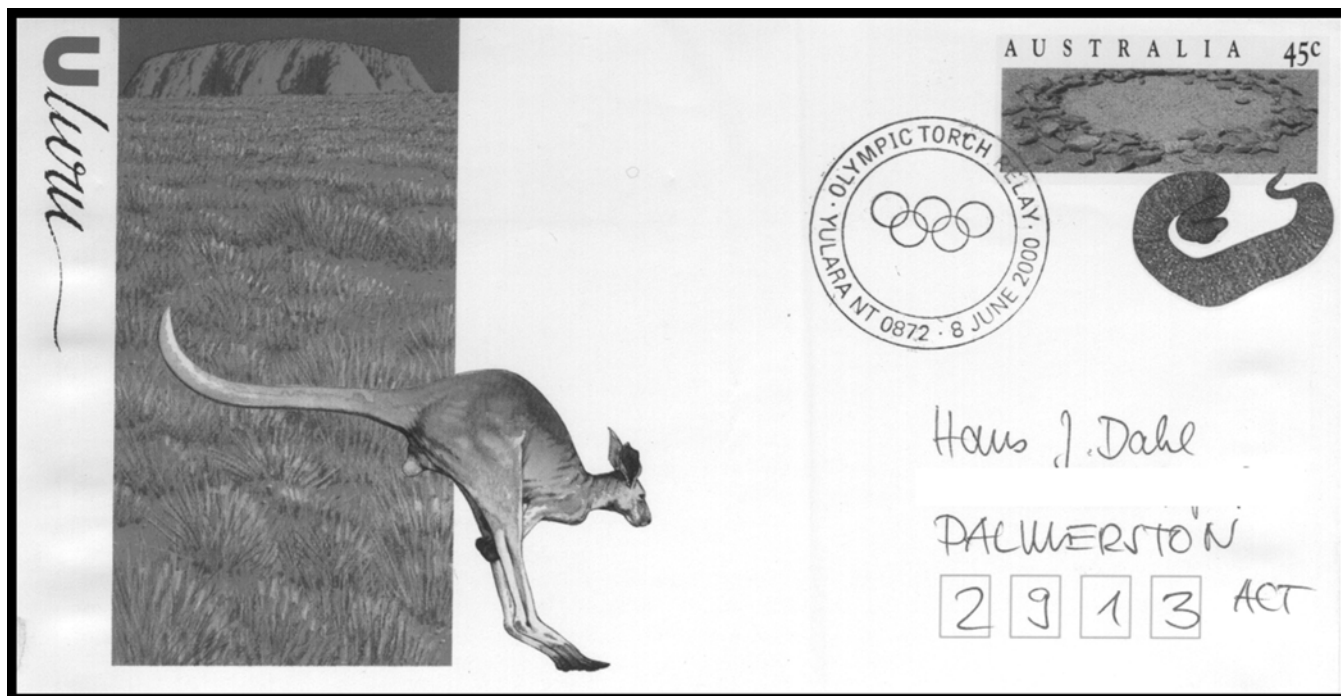


Figure 15. Cover from Yulara (Uluru), also known as Ayers Rock, mailed on June 8 at the start of Australia's 100-day Olympic torch relay.

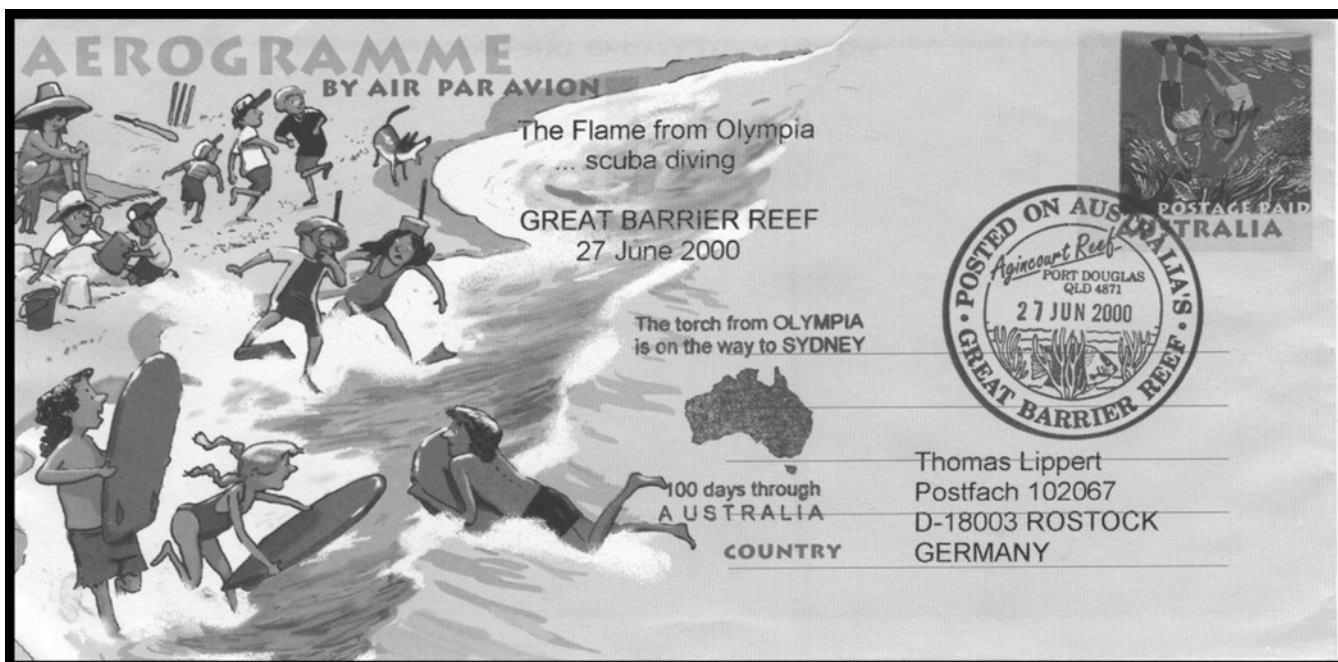


Figure 16. Aerogramme posted from the Great Barrier Reef on June 27 when the Olympic flame went scuba diving!

was an "Olympic designed" Airbus A-320 which brought the flame to Australian soil for the first time since 1956 – at least officially (remember: the Norfolk Island landing is supposed to be a secret).

Uluru, better known as Ayers Rock (Figure 15), marked the start of the 100-day relay through the vast continent of Australia. As of this writing, much of the relay in Australia has yet to take place. Let us therefore postpone further discussion of it until more information is available from our fellow Aus-

tralian Olympic philatelists.

Before closing, it's worth mentioning that Australia Post very recently announced that it would use nine special postmarks for the torch relay across Australia. The postmarks will begin with one at Uluru/Yulara, continue with one for each of the six state capitals, plus the federal capital of Canberra/ACT, and finish with the Sydney cancel on September 12.

Among the very different kinds of transports planned, the most spectacular one seems to have occurred at the Great Barrier Reef near Cairns where the Olympic flame went scuba diving (Figure 16)!

In a future issue of the *Journal of Sports Philately*, we shall continue with our discussion of the Australian portion of the 2000 Olympic Torch Relay. Stay tuned!



Figure 17. Postpaid cover to Germany from AMP, the Torch Relay sponsor. The Deutsche Post marking cancels the two stamps not touched by the Australian machine cancel.

2000 SYDNEY OLYMPICS

by Brian Hammond

OLYMPIC POSTCARDS – THE INK GROUP

As the Games of the XXVIIth Olympiad approach, we can expect the usual rush of collectibles. The Ink Group, the official postcard licensee, has published 22 new postcards:

Series 6: Mascot Cards.

6 032 161/1	105 x 210	3 Mascots
6 032 163/3	105 x 210	3 Mascot
6 032 164/4	105 x 210	3 Mascots

Series 7: Sports Cards.

6 032 173/2	122 x 170	Pictograms
6 032 174/3	122 x 170	Flag & Rings
6 032 175/4	122 x 170	Official Logo

Series 8: Homebush Bay Card.

6 032 176/1	122 x 170	Frog
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Series 9: Spirit Cards.

6 032 180/1	170 x 122	4 Views
6 032 182/3	170 x 122	4 Views
6 032 183/4	170 x 122	Waratah
6 032 184/5	210 x 105	4 Views

Series 10: Spirit Cards.

6 032 186/1	122 x 170	Athletics
6 032 188/3	170 x 122	Beach Running

Series 11: Sports Cards.

6 032 192/2	122 x 170	Swimming
6 032 193/3	170 x 122	Swimming
6 032 195/5	210 x 105	Rhythmic Gym.

Series 12: Spirit Cards.

6 032 196/1	105 x 210	Harbor Bridge
6 032 201/6	210 x 105	Harbor Bridge
6 032 202/7	210 x 105	Fountain
6 032 204/9	210 x 105	Harbor Bridge
6 032 206/11	210 x 105	Harbor Bridge
6 032 207/12	210 x 105	Bondi Beach

Additional postcards are expected between now and the Sydney Games. Tom D'Arcy, who supplies us with much useful information, noted that there is

only one card apiece in Series 3 (Children's Art cards) and Series 8. Five cards have not yet been issued (Series 7/1, Series 9/2, Series 10/2 & 5, and Series 11/1.) They are planned but no date of issue has been announced.

OLYMPIC POSTCARDS – OTHER SUPPLIERS

Fairfax issued a series of six postcards at the time of the last Olympic Games in Atlanta. It is traditional for the host city of the following Games to put on a display at the closing ceremony of an Olympics. This Sydney did in 1996. One of these postcards had text reading "Atlanta Olympic Games – 1996" with a view of the Sydney display on the front. The reverse read: "Australia's presentation at the Closing Ceremony of the Atlanta Olympic Games in 1996". On all six cards, the Sydney logo appeared at the bottom left above the words "Fairfax / Team Millennium Olympic Partner".

Earthfocus have two postcards printed on Konica photographic paper. Both are multicolored photographs taken by Peter Clayton. The size is 150 x 105 mm. One shows Stadium Australia and is on sale at some post offices in Sydney. The second illustrates the AMP Tower (also called Centrepont Tower where Olympilex 2000 will take place). At 325 meters in height, it is Sydney's tallest structure. Metal sculptures on the tower celebrate the 2000 Games.

Lindemans are an official supplier for the Games. Ken Cook has provided a photocopy of a trade card displaying the Sydney logo and text "WEALTH FOR TOIL" on the view side beneath which is printed "LINDEMANS for we are young and free". On the reverse is "Here's to sharing the Olympic games spirit and a glass of Lindemans in Sydney 2000" plus the signature of Philip John, Chief Winemaker. Ken has also sent me a photocopy of a second card from Lindemans showing a view of shops. The SOCOG logo and text "Australians All" appears at top while the Lindemans name is inscribed at the base.

Sydney G. Hughes has produced a set of postcards named the "Festival 2000" collection showing scenes of Sydney. They are not official Olympic cards, but the cards show some of the Olympic

venues or have other Olympic connections. [SF=Small Folded; LF=Large Folded; SC=Shaped Card; PC=Postcard; LP=Large Postcard]

SGC-1 (SF): Opera House & AMP Tower, "Sydney Australia"

SGC-2 (SF): Harbour Bridge & Homebush, "Sydney Celebration City"

SYV-10 (LF): 7 Views of Sydney & Homebush, "Millennium Celebration"

SYV-13 (LF): 5 Views of Sydney, "Festival 2000 Collection"

SYV-14 (LF): 6 Views of Sydney & Homebush, "Festival 2000 Collection"

SX-1 (SC): 4 Views of Olympic Venues, "New Millennium Sports Capital" (Figure 1)

SYG-21 (PC): 5 Views of Sydney & Venues, "Celebration Capital"

SYG-22 (PC): 3 Views of Sydney, "International Celebration Capital"

SYG-23 (PC): 6 Views of Sydney & Venues, "Millennium Sports Celebration Capital"

SYG-24 (PC): 5 Views of Sydney & Venues, "International Sports Celebration etc"

SYG-25 (PC): 3 Views of Sydney, "Millennium Sports Celebration Capital"

SYG-26 (PC): 3 Views of Sydney, "Millennium Sporting Celebrations"

SYG-27 (PC): Opera House & Olympic Venues, "Sport Celebration Capital"

SYP-8 (LP): 5 Views of Sydney, "Capital City Celebrations"

SYP-9 (LP): Harbour & 4 Venues, "Millennium Sporting Celebrations"

SYP-10 (LP): 5 Views of Sydney & Venues, "Millennium Celebration Capital"

SYP-11 (LP): 6 views of Sydney & Venues, "Millennium Sport Celebration Capital"

SYP-12 (LP): 4 Views of Sydney, "Sydney Celebration City"

SYS-20 (PC): 2 Views of Sydney, "Sydney Sport Celebration Capital"

SYS-21 (PC): 2 Views of Sydney, "New Millennium World Sporting Capital"



Figure 1. A Hughes "Festival 2000" Olympic-related shaped postcard (SX-1) showing Olympic venues.

SYS-22 (PC): Olympic Park & Views, "Sydney Australia, Stadium Australia"

Tom D'Arcy has sent information on four post-cards published by Stadium Australia:

PG/PAN/STA1 (LF): Completed Homebush site

PG/PAN/STA3 (LF): Stadium Australia at night with football match in progress

PG/STA4 (PC): Stadium Australia at night with balloons and fireworks

PG/STA6 (PC): Exterior of Stadium Australia

These cards were available from a small gift shop inside Stadium Australia. The numbering system suggests at least two additional cards, one of which might show the railway station at Homebush.

OLYMPIC PHONE CARDS FROM TELSTRA

Telstra have issued three pre-paid calling cards: 1) \$20 View of Ayers Rock; 2) \$10 Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Australia; and 3) Thorny Devil, Australia (face value not known). All cards have the Sydney logo and Telstra PhoneAway in white with blue background below each illustration. A multicolored leaflet bearing the Sydney logo advertises the cards.

OLYMPIC VISA CARDS

Visa has issued six cards for the 2000 Games. Three have the USA Olympic rings logo and feature the sports of baseball, cycling and gymnastics. The other three have the Sydney logo with backgrounds of a koala bear, ball sport or the logo of the Games.

OLYMPIC STAMPS, MINIATURE SHEETS, FIRST DAY COVERS

On June 20, 2000, Australia Post issued a set of eight panoramically shaped stamps, two of which were Olympic. The 50c value shows the Sydney Opera House and the \$1.50 depicts the Sydney Harbor Bridge. The Olympic rings and Paralympic logo are also featured on the stamps. The stamp bulletin acknowledges that they are part of the Olympic stamp program. Collectors should be aware that first day covers are supplied as a set of three bearing the eight stamps. Likewise, the maximum cards and stamp pack are available only in a full set.

The stamps' designer is Beth McKinlay of the Australia Design Studio. The two Olympic stamps are 42.63 x 18.75 mm and are printed in litho by SNP

Ausprint on CPL red phosphor paper, and perforated 14.55 x 13.87 in sheets of 50. FD covers are canceled with the "Sydney NSW 2000" postmark depicting a globe with Australia at center.

The Paralympic Games, which take place in Sydney following the Olympic Games, are commemorated on a five-stamp set issued July 3, 2000. The two 45c stamps are issued in se-tenant pairs in both water-activated gum and self-adhesive formats. The three 49c stamps, which can be combined to make up the new large letter rate, are also in a se-tenant strip with colored selvage. They are issued with water-activated gum only. The sports represented are tennis (wheelchair), track (amputee), basketball (wheelchair), cycling (vision impaired), and shot put (amputee).

All five stamps are 26 x 37.5 mm in size and designed by FHA Image Design, Melbourne. They are printed in litho by SNP Ausprint and perforated 14.6 x 13.86. There are two sets of FD covers: one for the five water-activated gum stamps, and one for the two 45c self-adhesive stamps. All are canceled with a Sydney Paralympic logo postmark.

A booklet of ten stamps contains 4 x 49c cycling, 4 x 49c basketball and 2 x 49c shot put stamps. Stamp packs were also issued for the self-adhesive 45c stamps, containing eight stamps in four gutter pair strips. Strip one has the two stamps. Strip two has the stamps with a Sydney Paralympic logo multicolored label between them. Strip three has a blue and white label with the date of the Games and the fourth strip has a label reading "ONLY 10 LEFT" in blue and white. On the reverse of each strip is a black vertical line and the words "SNP AUSPRINT." All the stamps include the Sydney Paralympic logo.

Australia Post also issued a set of five postal stationary maximum cards for posting in Australia with delivery worldwide. The face of each card features one of the stamps canceled with the logo postmark.

A number of 2000 Olympic stamps have been, or are expected to be, issued from around the world. These will be reviewed in a future column. In the meantime, I'd like to mention two items for collectors to keep an eye out for.

The 7.00 franc stamp from Monaco is a particularly useful one for Olympic collectors as it includes the logos of both Sydney 2000 and the 101st IOC Session at which Sydney won the bid for the 2000 Games. "Citius - Altius - Fortius," the motto of the Olympic movement, appears at the stamp's base.

Another interesting postal item is an Olympic aerogramme from the Vatican with a 1500 lira imprinted stamp showing the rings on a flag. A photograph of Pere Henri Didon (1840 - 1900) and his Olympic motto are also reproduced on the aerogramme.

OLYMPIC STATIONERY FROM SPONSORS

1. ADT Security (Olympic supporter): logo in full color on their "with compliments" slips.
2. Energy Australia (Team Millennium Olympic partner): new color letterheads and "with compliments" slips (on these, the blue parts of the logo appear in purple).
3. Tyco (Olympic supporter): envelopes, letterheads and business cards with logo in full color.
4. Sydney Olympic Broadcasting Organisation: "postage paid in Australia" envelope, size approximately 235 x 120mm. SOBO logo appears above the words "Sydney 2000" and Olympic rings at top left.
5. Holden (Olympic partner): official automotive partners using an envelope with Games logo alongside their own (in black). 220 x 110 mm.
6. Mistral: "postage paid in Australia" window envelope, 220 x 110 mm, logo in black above the word "Provider" in lower right corner.
7. SOCOG: postage paid envelope printed in blue, 235 x 129 mm. At top: logo and text "GAMES OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM." On back flap in blue (English) and black (French) is contact information for their Melbourne office. The Melbourne Cricket Ground is a venue for the Olympic soccer competition.

ENVELOPES – NON-POSTAGE PAID

In the January-February 2000 issue of the *Journal of Sports Philately*, I listed all the postage paid envelopes known. Since then I've been able to update the list. I expect there to be many more and I would welcome examples or photocopies of any not listed to date. Listed below are non-postage paid envelopes from Sydney Olympic partners, sponsors and providers.

Fuji Xerox Australia (Worldwide Partner): SOCOG logo [3 types]
 McDonalds (Worldwide Partner): Olympic rings & own logo with Olympic rings
 Panasonic (Worldwide Partner): Olympic rings & own logo with Olympic rings
 Panasonic (Worldwide Partner): SOCOG logo
 Air New Zealand (Partner): SOCOG logo
 United Airline (Partner): SOCOG logo [2 types]
 Ansett Australia (Partner): SOCOG logo [2 types]
 Pacific Dunlop (Partner): SOCOG logo
 Energy Australia (Partner): SOCOG logo [4 types]
 Holden (Partner): SOCOG logo
 7 Australia (Partner): Olympic rings, plus own logo with Olympic rings
 Adecco Industrial (Supporter): SOCOG logo
 Law Appointment (Supporter): SOCOG logo
 Carlton & United (Supporter): SOCOG logo [4 types]
 Olex Cables (Supporter): SOCOG logo
 Olex Cables (Supplier): No logo [window]
 2 UE Radio (Supporter): SOCOG logo
 Traveland (Supporter): SOCOG logo
 Diamond Press (Provider): SOCOG logo
 Schenker (Provider): SOCOG logo [window]
 Visy (Provider): No logo
 Jonathan Wren (Supporter): SOCOG logo [window]
 Olympic Store: SOCOG logo
 Project 2000: No logo [3 types]
 SOCOG Bid Limited: Bid logo

OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY

The Olympic flame arrived in Australia on June 8, 2000, at Ayers Rock Airport on an Ansett A-320 plane decorated with the Torch Relay logo. (The relay from Ancient Olympia until touchdown in Australia is discussed in a separate article in this issue.)

The 100-day relay will tour all regions of Australia before reaching the Olympic stadium at Sydney on September 15. Dates during which the relay traverses each of the seven Australian states:

Northern Territory	June 8 - 9
Queensland	June 9 - 28
Western Australia	June 30 - July 10
Southern Australia	July 11 - 18
Victoria	July 19 - 31, August 6 - 14
Tasmania	August 1 - 5
New South Wales	August 14 - September 15

Australia Post is selling a set of nine torch relay covers. The set features a special relay postmark on

the torch cover from March 1999 and franked with the Sydney logo stamp issued on September 14, 1999. The postmark has the Olympic rings in the center and a double ring with the text "Olympic Torch Relay" and town name and date. The covers are canceled as follows: June 8, Yulara; June 13, Brisbane; June 29, Darwin; July 7, Perth; July 14, Adelaide; July 31, Melbourne; August 2, Hobart; September 5, Canberra; September 12, Sydney.

Ink group has issued an official torch relay poster. Many pins have been created for the relay as well as a torch relay medallion. A model car and a tour route puzzle are two additional items honoring the relay.

AMP, sponsor of the relay, are running a "Greet the Torch" contest. The *Brisbane Courier-Mail* produced a classroom Torch Relay pack.

Havilah (now called "1st Class Collectibles") who produced the test event covers are offering a set of 30 covers postmarked at towns outside the capital cities. The first three covers have just arrived. They are:

1. The Olympic Torch reaches Australia. Nova Peris Kneebone, the first official torch runner in Australia. Day 1 with 45c Olympic logo stamp and official torch relay postmark from Yulara.
2. Yulura to Alice Springs with Evonne Goolagong Crawley and Nova Peris Kneebone. The cover with torch stamp is canceled with the Yulura pictorial cancellation.
3. The Olympic Torch in the Northern Territory canceled on June 8 at Yulara, Northern Territories.

OLYMPIC LABELS

1. Visy: size 58 x 26 mm. All lettering is in white on a royal blue background. On the left side is the SOCOG logo and designation "PROVIDER." On the right is the name "Visy" in a box and text "The Official Provider of Packaging / Recycling Services to the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games."
2. AMP: size 65 x 79 mm with a white background. Around the four edges is an 8 mm wide dark blue border. The SOCOG logo, "Sydney 2000" and rings in full color, with a thin dark blue line below, are at top. At bottom is the text "AMP / Official Partner" in dark blue.



Figure 2. Bodalla, the "Official Dairy Supporter" of the Games, created this colorful mascot label for kids.

3. SOCOG: size 105 x 105 mm. The background is graded from light yellow green in the center to dark blue at the edges. Around the center inside an 85 mm diameter circle is white lettering reading "Football at Australia's Olympic Games 13 Sept - 30 Sept 2000 / www.olympics.com." In the center is the mascot, Olly, standing on a football.
4. Bodalla: size 105 x 115 mm. with a blue and white background. Text: "I had a go at the (in white) / KIDS 2000 (in red) / OLYMPIC GAMES ARENA (in green) at the top. It has the three mascots in full color at center. Below are: the Western Star and Bodalla logos and text "Official Dairy Supporter." The Sydney logo and designation "Supporter" appear at lower right. (Figure 2)
5. Swatch: large label, 4.5" x 2.5" shows the logo and "Swatch the Official Timekeeper." Another label about 150 x 150 mm depicts the mascots. At top are the Sydney logo and "flick flak the Swiss watch for children" and "water resistant."
6. Channel 7: gold sticker 2" x 3" with the Olympic rings above the words "Channel 7" (more information on this label is requested).
7. Labels in blue with white lettering and red with white lettering, 100 x 100 mm. Text: "Australia's Olympic Games 15 Sept - 1 Oct 2000".

8. Oval egg-shaped sticker, MAA in support of the Australian Paralympic Committee. Text: "You only get one body / (view of car) / Drive safely".
9. Torch Relay label with torch logo in center. Text around perimeter: "Official licensed collection / (rings) / Olympic Torch Relay / Sydney 2000" in flag shaped box size about 70 x 70 mm.
10. Stadium Australia: size 30 x 40 mm. Label has a transparent substrata with a black coating. "Stadium" / (an Australian Aboriginal dot design of 5 concentric circles) / "Australia".

OLYMPIC COVERS

Special covers with cachets have been produced for both "250 days to go" and "200 days to go" before the opening of the Sydney Olympic Games. Previous issues have given details of the covers for 500, 400, 366 and 300 days to the 2000 Olympics. The series of covers produced for the opening of venues, and for special and test events at the Sydney sports venues has increased to include the follow covers.

- #33 (September 26, 1999) Equestrian: 3-Day test event, Horsley Park cancel.
- #48 (January 18, 2000) Swimming: World Cup, Sydney PSC cancel.
- #49 (January 24, 2000) Fencing: test event at Sydney Exhibition hall, Pyrmont cancel
- #55 (March 31, 2000) Shooting: World Cup test event, Green Valley cancel.
- #56 (March 24, 2000) Weightlifting: international test event, Pyrmont cancel.
- #57 (January 15, 2000) Soccer: test events at 5 interstate venues, Adelaide PSC cancel.
- #58 (March 24, 2000) Cycling: Australian Track cycling selection trials, Sydney PSC cancel.
- #59 (April 10, 2000) Synchronized Swimming: test event, Sydney PSC cancel. (Figure 3)
- #60 (April 17, 2000) Triathlon: test event at Sydney Opera House course, Sydney PSC cancel.

Alpha have produced a FD cover for the Sydney logo stamp with a hand-applied cancellation. The standard cancellation on official FDC's is machine-struck during the printing process.



Figure 3. Cover #59 in the series of covers for test events and other important pre-Olympic competitions. A synchronized swimming competition took place at the aquatics center on April 10, 2000.

OLYMPIC SET OF 26 MASCOT CADBURY SPORTS CARDS

Each card illustrates one of the Sydney mascots (Millie, Syd, and Ollie) taking part in a sport. The Sydney logo and Cadbury logo appear on the front along with the text "OLYMPIC/MASCOT CARD" and the card number. The reverse also shows the mascots in action accompanied by a brief description of the sport being portrayed. The cards measure 57 x 75 mm in size and are multicolored with a purple background.

01	Aquatics	All 3 Mascots
02	Archery	Millie
03	Athletics	Syd
04	Badminton	Ollie
05	Softball / Baseball	Syd & Millie
06	Basketball	Ollie
07	Boxing	Syd
08	Canoe / Kayak	Syd
09	Cycling	Syd
10	Equestrian	Syd
11	Fencing	Millie
12	Football	Ollie
13	Gymnastics	Syd & Millie
14	Handball	Millie
15	Hockey	Millie
16	Weightlifting / Judo	Syd & Ollie
17	Modern Pentathlon	Syd
18	Rowing	Ollie
19	Sailing	Ollie
20	Shooting	Millie
21	Table Tennis	Millie
22	Taekwondo	Syd
23	Tennis	Syd
24	Triathlon	Syd & Millie
25	Volleyball	Millie
26	Wrestling	Syd & Ollie

Cadbury have also put Olympic questions and answers on some confectionery wrappers. For example, I have nine different labels from individual Cadbury eclairs. Other items from Cadbury include a set of six children's storybooks. These books tell the story of the Olympic Games and are given away inside a 250g bar of dairy milk chocolate. All three mascots appear on both sides along with the Sydney logo.

Cadbury, like many Olympic sponsors, have produced pins – in this case, two sets of three pins per set. Each set was available in exchange for three gold bar wrappers and a payment of \$19.95. The offer was made to Australian residents only.



Figure 4. "Share the Spirit" card #6 032 174/3 (Series 7, #3) signed by Australian gold medalist, Russell Mark, at a "Meet the Athlete" event.

OLYMPIC CLUB

On June 3, 2000, Tom D'Arcy, who has provided outstanding help with this series, took his grandson to a "meet the athlete" event run by the Olympic Club and had a very enjoyable time. The athlete was Russell Mark who won a gold medal in shooting at Atlanta (Figure 4).

OLYMPIC INFORMATION WANTED

This is the final part of my "pre-Olympic" series on the Sydney 2000 Games before I leave to attend them. It is being written in mid-July and includes all the information I have received to date. Manchester bid material will be the subject of a special edition of *Torch Bearer* and a CD-ROM from The Society of Olympic Collectors. The society is also producing a postcard listing torch bearers of the Summer Olympics and including Olympic torch stamps plus a map of Australia. Details of the above may be obtained from Bob Wilcock, 24 Hamilton Crescent, Brentwood Essex CM14 5ES, United Kingdom (e-mail: bob@towlard.freereserve.co.uk).

Any reader with new information on the 2000 Games is requested to let me have details with photocopies for publication in my final columns following the Games. My address is: 6 Lanark Road, Ipswich. IP43EH, U.K. (e-mail: bkcpam@aol.com).

I would like to thank all who have helped me with this series including our editor. I especially wish to place on record the hard work over many years by Tom D'Arcy in amassing the great quantity of information used in this series. Without his help it would not have been possible to give such complete coverage of the Sydney Olympics.

REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS

by Mark Maestrone

Esprit: Sports et Olimpisme June 2000 (#16)

René Christin opens this issue of the French sport and Olympic journal with an article on white-water canoeing/kayaking. The occasion was the 22nd World Championships held in Treignac, France. Christin discusses the events, equipment, race courses, and past world championships accompanied by numerous cancels and meters.

AFCOS is a society for all collectors, not just philatelists. A lengthy article on pins of the 1998 Soccer World Cup is presented by Marc Tao. For the tennis collector, Pascal Bedenes reviews the life of prodigy, Steffi Graf who recently announced her retirement from the game at the ripe old age of 30!

Brief items on rugby, figure skating, and table tennis are included, along with philatelic and society news.

Contact: Mr. Bernard-Marie Pajani, 24, chemin de Pré la Dame, 74210 Faverges, France.

Filabasket Review April 2000 (#1)

A new international philatelic society devoted to "uniting basketball philately with basketball lovers" has been launched. The International Filabasket Society (IFIS) is currently publishing a quarterly journal in English. Luciano Calenda, also an SPI member and avid basketball collector, is the editor of their journal and the society's treasurer.

As outlined by the editor, the thrust of this publication will be to provide more "specific and technical support to the advanced collector" augmenting, but not replacing, George Killian's *Basketball Philatelic Newsletter* which concentrates primarily on the latest philatelic stamps and cancels.

This first issue, roughly 5.8" x 8.3" in size, is 24 pages long with a full color cover on card stock. The printing is clear and crisp. The editor hopes to present one long and 2-3 short articles per issue. He asks for articles of all sizes, questions about collecting and exhibiting, comments and suggestions.

"Basketball for the 'Disabled'" headlines this first issue. The editor was surprised to find only one meter devoted to this area of basketball even though he knew of many stamps, cancels and postal stationery items issued. This inspired him to examine the sport through text and illustrations.

An article on exhibiting reminds collectors not to overlook the YMCA's contributions to the early development of the sport. Some interesting and unusual usages (soldier mail and even an Italian postal stationery card) are depicted and discussed.

A brief article on the first basketball stamp (Philippines Scott #382) is followed by some updated information on previously reported stamps and cancels. Finally, Luciano Calenda presents an interesting story regarding Lithuanian-American player, Frank Lubin, who not only competed for the US in the Olympic basketball competition in Berlin in 1936, but also for the Lithuanians at the 1939 European Championships.

This first issue of *Filabasket Review* makes a fine addition to the growing library of Olympic and sport philately. If you're a basketball philatelist, I highly recommend checking out this new journal!

Contact: membership is US\$25 or 25 euros (banknotes via registered mail or International Postal Money Order) and may be sent to the treasurer/editor, Luciano Calenda, PO Box 17126 - Grottarossa, 00189 Rome, Italy.

Malaysian Sporting Philately June & December 1999 (#11/12)

The latest issue of the newsletter of the Malaysian Olympic and Sports Philately Group covers a lot of territory beginning with the World Cup Golf 1999 competition held in Kuala Lumpur, news that Malaysia will be vying for both the 2006 Asian Games and 2008 Olympics, and a report on the 1999 Formula One Grand Prix race in Malaysia.

Other sports covered include cycling, rugby, rowing, and volleyball, as well as updates on the Sydney Olympic Games.

Contact: C. Nagarajah, GPO Box 11748, 50756 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Olimpiafila
April 1999 (Vol. 3, #1)

The journal of the Hungarian sport and Olympic philatelic society starts its semi-annual issue with a look at Hungarian athletes in wrestling, the Hungarian Athletic Club on the occasion of its 125th anniversary and Hungarian 1900 Olympic medalist, Bauer Rudolf. Shorter articles deal with various Olympic Torch Relay flight covers and the shot put.

Contact: Sandor Kurdics, MOSFIT, POB 4, H-1387 Budapest, Hungary.

Der Olympia-Und Sport-Philatelist
Number 1, 2000

As always, our sister society in Berlin issues quite a hefty volume of Olympic and sport articles – this one is 76 pages long! In order, primary articles cover ancient oared galley ships (by Ronald Stier); 1952 (3rd) Winter Sports Championships of the DDR (Wolfgang Marx); part 1 of a series on cycling (Ehrhard Käthner); part 11 of Eberhard Büttner's series on the philately of the Moscow Olympic Games of 1980; the torch relay for the 1994 Lillehammer Olympics (Thomas Lippert); and 100 years of the German football league (Manfred Haase).

Short articles on a variety of subjects in the world of sport and Olympic philately are also published along with society news and events.

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

Phila-Sport
April-June 2000 (#34)

The journal's editor, Bruno Cataldi Tassoni, opens this issue with an article entitled, "The Shield of Rome" about Italian soccer. From the wildly popular to the more esoteric, Editor Tassoni follows up with "Blue Archery" which discusses Italian participation in the sport of archery. This past March, the town of Valtellina in Lombardy was the site of a snow festival at which various World Cup skiing competitions were conducted. Alvaro Trucchi discusses them along with past World Cup events. Last, but not least, Massimo Menzio reviews the recent competition for the 2006 Olympic Winter Games which were won by Torino.

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

Torch Bearer
May 2000 (Vol. 17, #2)

Bob Wilcock continues with Part 2 of his story on the Sarajevo 1984 Olympics covering the Organizing Committee and sponsor meters and cachets. John Crowther provides an excellent overview of the Wenlock Olympic Games which were founded in 1850 and celebrate their 150th anniversary this year. These games are considered a precursor to our present-day Olympics. An often ignored Olympics are those of Paris in 1900, yet another Games overshadowed by an exposition. Vic Manikian explores the many cancels from exposition post offices which are the only way to philatelically document these Olympics. David Buxton takes us on a enjoyable trip to the Winter Olympic Collector's Fair held this past February in Lillehammer, site of the 1994 Olympic Winter Games. Special cancels were available to commemorate this first winter fair. Lastly, the schedule of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Torch Relay is provided.

Contact: Paula Burger, 19 Hanbury Path, Sheerwater, Woking, Surrey GU21 5RB, Great Britain.

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NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Margaret Jones

New Members

2185 Ron J. Klimley, 9006 Arndale Circle, Tampa, FL 33615-1530 USA. Ron is a corporate trainer. *Rugby*. E-mail: rklimley8372@cs.com

2186 Emanuel O. Doyne, 8779 Haverhill Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45236-2149 USA. *US mint, baseball topics, FDC's/plate blocks*. E-mail: emanuel575@aol.com

ADDRESS CHANGES:

Thomas Birman, WCI 3A214, PO Box 120, Lebanon, OH 45036-0120 USA.

Jeffrey F. Bishop, 15 Scotland Drive, Livingston, NJ 07039-2810 USA.

Fernando Estandia, Farallon 162, Del Alvaro Obregon, 01900 Mexico D.F., Mexico.

Michael Fichtner, 6405 Stone Creek Drive, Indianapolis IN 46268-4066 USA.

Sharon E Whitting, 6001 Rock Ridge Drive, Flower Mound TX 75028-3771 USA.

Thomas Fornabaio: (new e-mail) ta4nabio@cs.com
Peter Street: (new e-mail) speteruth1@cs.com

DECEASED: 1742 Robert M. Divine; 1196 Daniel B. Marable

RESIGNED: David Body, Joan Cook, Dorothy Crockett, S.W. LeRoux, Peter Meade

Total Membership, June 30, 2000 = 372

Exhibit Awards

AMERISTAMP AWARDS (Portland, Oregon). Jim McDevitt won a bronze for "It's Chess Not Right"; Cho Yeung Chan obtained a silver display class for "Himalayas and the Climbers (1953-1988)"; Justin Colton received a silver youth for "The Games of

Winter"; Angelica Puentes Ospina won a silver youth for "Olimpiadas: Un Evento en el Mundo (An Event in the World)."

NATIONAL TOPICAL STAMP SHOW 2000 (Buffalo, New York). James A. Bowman received the Grand Award, ATA gold medal and SPI Best-in-Show award for "1936 Olympische Spiele"; Juan Carlos Santacruz won ATA silver-bronze for "Soccer - Jules Rimet Cup."

ROPEX 2000 (Rochester, New York). Alyson Colton received silver-bronze youth for "The Games of Winter."

SOPEX (Jackson County, Oregon). Thomas E. Pappas obtained a bronze for "The First Olympics."

STAMP SHOW LONDON 2000. James A. Bowman won a small gold for "1936 Olympische Spiele"; Gorufu received a large vermeil with special prize for "The Sport of Golf."

VICTOPICAL 2000 (Victoria, British Columbia, Canada). Lauren Sutherland obtained a silver-bronze youth for "Olympic Stamps."

WORLD STAMP EXPO 2000 (Anaheim, California). Conrad Klinkner received a silver for "Games of the Xth Olympiad: Los Angeles 1932." James A. Bowman's Grand Award winning "1936 Olympische Spiele" was shown non-competitively in the Court of Honor.

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by Mark Maestrone

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SPORTS CROSS INDEX JUNE-JULY 2000

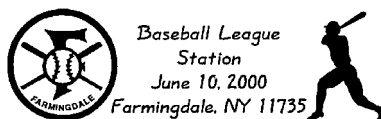
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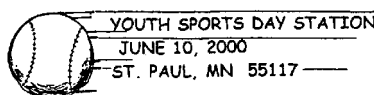
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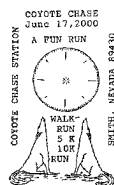
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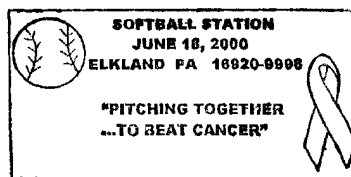
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00617-021 Weymouth, MA 17



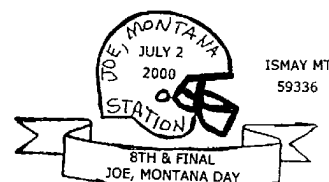
00617-894 Smith, NV 17



00618-169 Elkland, PA 18



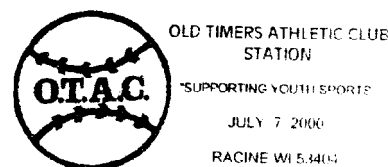
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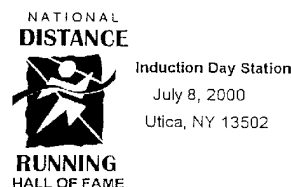
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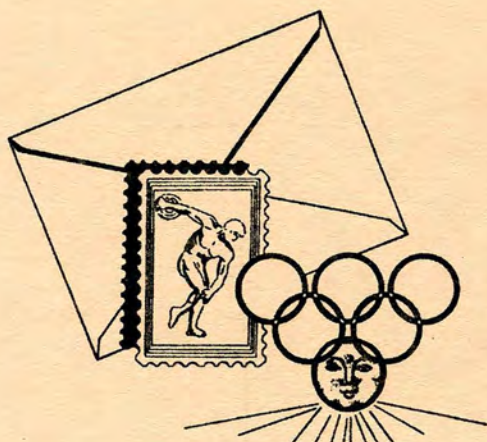
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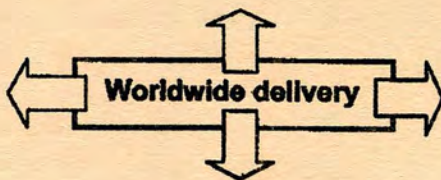
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