

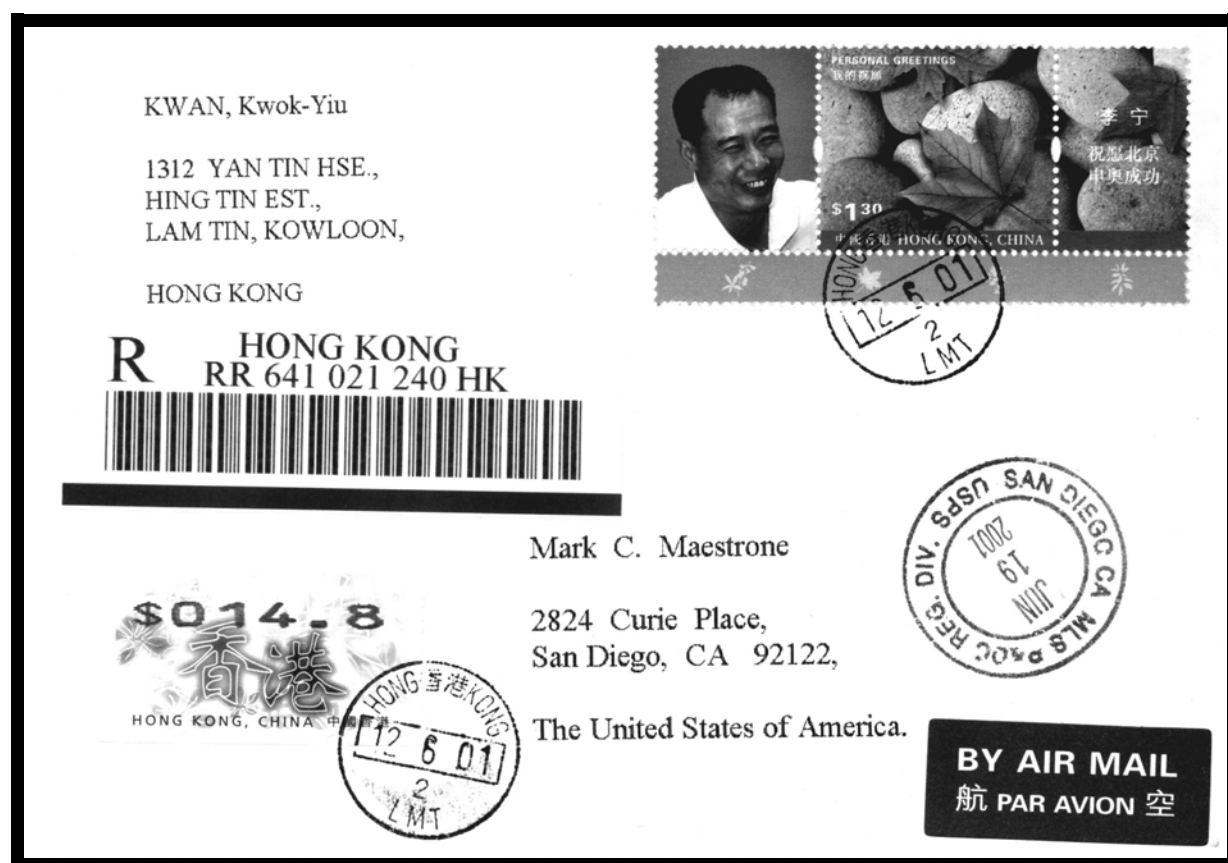
JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

VOLUME 39

JULY-AUGUST 2001

NUMBER 6

Hong Kong Sends Best "Wishes" To Beijing 2008 With P-Stamps



Registered First Day Cover for the sheetlet of P-Stamps honoring the Beijing 2008 Olympic Bid. Chinese 1984 Olympics triple gold medal gymnast, Li Ning, is pictured on this label.

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PHILATELISTS
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SPORTS PHILATELISTS INTERNATIONAL

5TH SPI CONVENTION

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

SPI CONVENTION AT ROMPEX 2001

I would like to start off this President's Message by thanking all our members who exhibited and/or attended our SPI Convention in Denver this past May. Seems to me that everyone had an enjoyable time (I know I did), and benefited from their visit. Inside this issue, we've provided a retrospective of the show.

It seems to me that while 6 years is a bit too long between conventions, having a get-together every year is too frequent. After all, it isn't an inexpensive vacation, especially when you add hotel, food, airline, and car rental costs to the hefty expenditures most of us make at the dealers tables.

I'd like to propose, therefore, that we consider holding our conventions every two years in odd-numbered years. This will allow those members who are exhibitors the opportunity to qualify their exhibits for Olympic competition before exhibit application deadlines (usually in the fall/winter preceding a Summer Olympic Games).

Any thoughts from the membership on this idea? Are there any suggestions on where we should hold our 2003 Convention? I'd like to see us on the west coast next time.

OLYMPEX 2002 AT SALT LAKE CITY

I have just received word from FIPO Headquarters in Rome that there will be a non-competitive exhibition of philately, numismatics and memorabilia associated with the upcoming Salt Lake City Olympic Winter Games. At the present time, I don't

have information on either the venue for the exhibition or the duration, although I expect it to run the full length of the Olympics.

The philatelic portion will comprise roughly 8 invited exhibits from the US and worldwide with winter sports or Olympic Winter Games themes. The Olympic Museum in Lausanne will no doubt also contribute a display of material.

The really interesting news is that a philatelic program is planned by the U.S. Postal Service! In addition to an "issue of stamps," the USPS has agreed to set up special post office substations at four venues: the Olympic Family Hotel, the Olympic Village, the Media Village, and OLYMPEX 2002. The presence of additional substations at competition venues is still under discussion. While the letter doesn't specifically state it, I assume there will be pictorial sports cancels available.

For those of us despairing of even having a single stamp issued for the Games, this is certainly more than we hoped for. I have no idea what caused minds to be changed, but I'm sure that the decision by United Parcel Service (UPS) *not* to renew their Olympic sponsorship removed some roadblocks that have been in place for the last 8 years. As new information on OLYMPEX 2002 and the USPS philatelic program becomes available, we'll be sure to report on it in the journal.

SPI GET-TOGETHER AT THE 2002 OLYMPICS?

Is there any interest in an SPI Get-Together the first week of the Games? Drop me an email if you'll be there!

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The SPI contingent at the Awards Banquet, Saturday evening: (seated, left to right) Cora Collins, Norman Jacobs, Dale Lilljedahl, and Joan Bleakley; (standing) Gary and Holly Gibson, Mark Maestroni, Bruce Tomkins, Conrad Klinkner, Patricia Loehr, and Charlie Covell.

5th SPI Convention at ROMPEX 2001 A Great Success

by Mark Maestroni

DAY 1: COLORADO SPRINGS OR BUST

While it's been six years since our last SPI convention, it seems to have been worth the wait if the following statistics are any judge:

- ❖ 16 SPI members attended from across the country; three new ones signed up.
- ❖ Every U.S. sport and Olympic exhibit, save one, was entered: 13 exhibits comprising 71 frames.
- ❖ An honest-to-goodness U.S. Olympic star – gold and silver medalist, Frank Shorter – spoke to us.
- ❖ We had not one, but TWO, special pictorial cancels for all three days; one was the first cancel commemorating the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympic Games!

Statistics aside, the most important indicator of the convention's success was that everyone who attended seemed to have a good time.

My trip actually began on Thursday, May 17, a day before the opening of ROMPEX 2001, with a jaunt to Colorado Springs with Texan, Dale Lilljedahl. About a 90-minute drive south of Denver, Colorado Springs is home to the headquarters of the U.S. Olympic Committee and the largest of the U.S. Olympic Training Centers.

As luck would have it, the skies opened up about half way there, providing us with intermittent showers throughout the day. While Dale and I may have gotten a bit soggy, our spirits were undampened.

For those who've not had a chance to visit the USOC facility, it's quite an extensive complex. Elite athletes in many different sports reside and train on site. All their expenses are entirely paid for as long as they remain at the top of their disciplines. The tour we received included the Olympic Shooting Center, Sports Centers, and Aquatics Center. At one point, our guide pointed out the overhead cable running the length of the indoor swimming pool along one side. As she explained, much to everyone's amusement, slow swimmers were secured to



Lee Collins (left) enjoying the warm spring weather on the porch of our hosts' home, Gary and Holly Gibson, and party-dog, Nick.

the cable and rocketed down the 50-yard length of the pool at world record pace. It was hoped that the simulation would increase the swimmer's speeds.

We also had the opportunity to stop in at the library and visit with its director, Cindy Slater. The Information Resources Center, as the library is known, began with a core collection of sports medicine titles. It has since grown into an extensive repository of books and periodicals relating to all sports and the Olympic Games. As Cindy conducted us on a brief tour of the collection, I couldn't help notice a number of young athletes availing themselves of the resources provided them.

Of course no visit would be complete without a stop at the Olympic Spirit Store where Dale and I picked up handfuls of USOC post cards (mine ended up as perfect vehicles for the Olympic cancel at ROMPEX).

DAY 2: THE FESTIVITIES BEGIN

The hall where ROMPEX 2001 was held was but a small part of the overall convention facility attached to the Holiday Inn. As we soon discovered, "attached" is a relative term giving no sense of distance. The route from the hotel lobby to the show was a circuitous hallway running over 200 yards (that's more than the length of two football fields, for you sports fans!). The more adventurous among us soon discovered a shorter route around the outside.

Nevertheless, the hall itself was well-suited to the show with plenty of room for the 48 dealers, society and show tables, US Postal Service booth

and exhibits. The dealers catered to a wide array of collecting areas. There was even one dealer who specialized in Olympics and sports (you can guess how popular *his* table was during the show)! My only complaint was that I didn't have enough time to visit all the dealers.

That evening, local SPI member, Gary Gibson and his wife Holly hosted us at their beautiful new home in the suburbs south of the city. With three cars, we managed to ferry our party goers to and from the festivities. In addition to myself and Dale, the revelers included Joan Bleakley (who served as the exhibition Jury Chairman); golf exhibitor Cora Collins (and husband, Lee); SPI Vice President (and soccer

exhibitor), Charlie Covell; SPI Board Member (and tennis exhibitor) Norm Jacobs; Harry Johnson from Oregon; and Olympic exhibitor Conrad Klinkner. Local resident and temporary chauffeur, Don Beuthel, although preparing to leave on vacation later that weekend, was enticed into staying for a short while.

While half the group was engaged in a lively conversation around the dining table, the rest of us enjoyed the balmy weather on the Gibson's porch. Holly prepared a seemingly endless procession of hot and cold snacks to nibble on. No one went away either hungry or thirsty ... well, perhaps except for the Gibson's dog, Nick, who found few "suckers" to fall for his "I'm-a-starving-dog" look!



Harry Johnson and Norm Jacobs at the Gibsons.



Conrad Klinkner, Harry Johnson and Olympic exhibitor, Jeffrey Bishop, listening intently to Dale Lilljedahl's presentation at the SPI Meeting.

DAY 3: AND THE WINNER IS ...

Saturday was certainly the "big" day with our SPI meeting at noon, talk by Frank Shorter at 2:00 p.m., and last but not least, the Awards Banquet that evening.

Gary Gibson and I began our day rather early by providing a dual presentation to the Topical Philatelists In Colorado meeting. Our theme was "Gymnastics." Gary talked about favorite pieces in his collection that weren't shown in his exhibit. I opted to present unusual philatelic elements or items with atypical usages from my own men's gymnastics collection.

Our SPI meeting at noon was well-attended by 13 members. After some "technical" problems with the overhead projector (you definitely *cannot* insert a European plug into an American electrical outlet), Dale Lilljedahl provided an interesting talk on specific aspects of the 1960 Squaw Valley Olympic Winter Games. Dale is preparing a monograph on the subject for publication by SPI, hopefully next year.

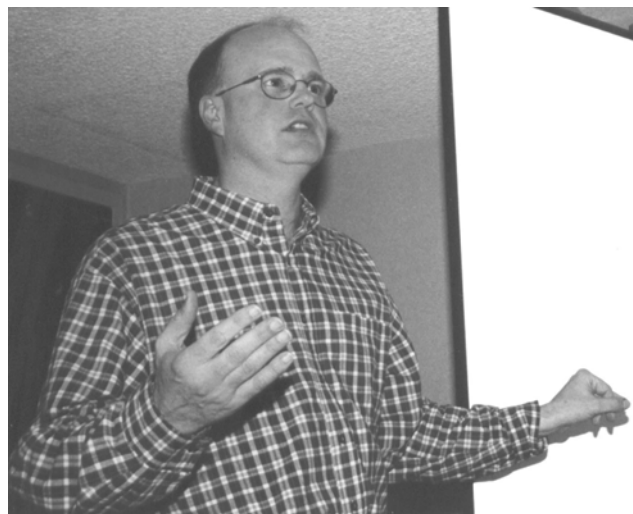
Following the meeting, exhibitors made a dash for the exhibit hall to find that during the interim awards had been posted (listed alphabetically within each medal level):

Court of Honor

James A. Bowman. "1936 Olympische Spiele."

Gold

Gorufu (Cora Collins). "The Sport of Golf."



Dale Lilljedahl delivered the keynote address at the SPI Meeting. His talk focused on interesting elements of 1960 Squaw Valley Winter Olympic Games philately.

Gary & Holly Gibson. "The Dimensions of Gymnastics."

Norman F. Jacobs, Jr. "Tennis – From Courtyard to Backyard, For Fun and For Fame."

Vermeil

Charles V. Covell, Jr. "Soccer (Just for Kicks!)."

Alice J. Johnson. "Figure Skating."

Conrad Klinkner. "Games of the Xth Olympiad, Los Angeles, 1932."

Patricia Loehr. "The World of Golf."

Silver

Jeffrey F. Bishop. "The Summer Games, 1896-1956."

Silver-Bronze

Robert P. Easterly. "Olympic Sailing."

Glenn A. Estus. "Olympic Machine Cancells – 1912-2004."

Claude D. Giralte. "Water Sports and Swimming Places."

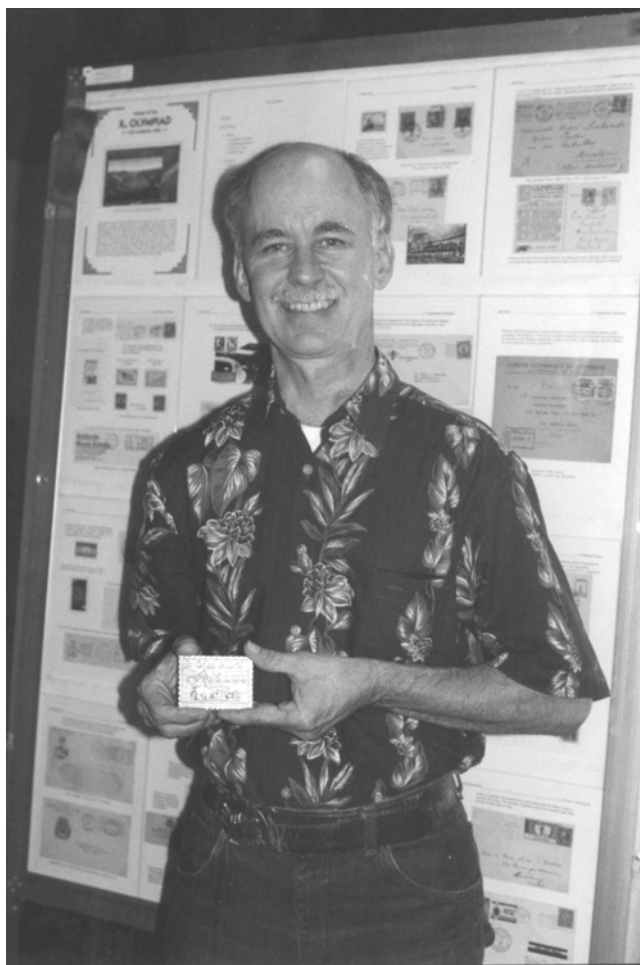
Display Class: Second

Clyde Jennings and Frances Dixon. "Ya Gotta Have Balls."

Shortly thereafter, Frank Shorter arrived, accompanied by his daughter, for his afternoon presentation. During the subsequent autograph signing at the SPI table, many of us gathered around to listen to Frank regale us with further anecdotes about his days as a marathon runner. These are summarized in a separate article by Dale Lilljedahl. I would like



Exhibitors at their frames following the Awards Banquet: (left) Norm Jacobs holding his SPI Trophy; (above) Cora Collins; (below left) Conrad Klinkner with his Vermeil ROMPEX medal; (below right) Pat Loehr displaying her IPGS Award.





Holly and Gary Gibson receiving their ROMPEX gold medal from Jim Kilbane of the ROMPEX committee. Below, Charlie Covell is presented with his Vermeil.



to mention that Frank was an extremely gracious and friendly gentleman who made our convention a very special event. Our thanks to him for taking the time to visit with us!

Most of those who were not at the society table during Frank's autograph signing were instead attending the Jury Critique. While I was not there, I heard that it went very well and that exhibitors were provided with much worthwhile feedback. Kudos go to the entire jury, and especially to Jury Chairman Joan Bleakley, for their outstanding work.

Shortly after the conclusion of the show on Saturday, most SPI members gathered for the Awards Banquet. Unfortunately the tables only seated 8 (although we were able to squeeze in a ninth chair). Still, it wasn't possible to gather our entire clan at a single table.

Following a cocktail hour and better-than-average banquet (most chose the New York Strip Steak, although a Sautéed Breast of Chicken was also

offered), the assembled crowd sat back to enjoy the awards ceremony presided over by the exhibition President, Sherri Jennings, in a very fetching gown. No wonder all the male winners insisted on giving her a big hug!

The SPI Best-of-Show Trophy went to Norman Jacobs for his excellent tennis exhibit. This year, SPI's trophy was a crystal vase reminiscent of Lalique's art deco designs from the early 1900's. Norm was also awarded the American Topical Association's First Place medal and ribbon.

The International Philatelic Golf Society provided a pair of awards. Their top award went to Patricia Loehr, while a second prize was awarded to Clyde Jennings and Frances Dixon for their Display Class exhibit.

Other special awards that went to sport or Olympic exhibits were: ATA Second Place medal and ribbon to Gorufu (Cora Collins) for her golf exhibit; ATA Third Place medal and ribbon, as well as the Topical Philatelists In Colorado Award, to Gary and Holly Gibson for their gymnastics exhibit.

For the record, the Grand went to Sherry Straley for "City of Sacramento 1849-1869." The Reserve Grand was awarded to Stanley Luft's exhibit, "Alsace-Lorraine/Elsass-Lothringen, 1870 to UPU." I'd like to add that the Reserve Grand award was a beautiful old map of the region surrounding Ancient Olympia, Greece. You can bet all the Olympic and sports exhibitors were lusting after that prize!

DAY 4: A BLIZZARD IN MAY?!

Sunday, the last day of the show, dawned sunny and warm. Norm and I had pre-arranged to meet at the nearby Hilton Hotel for breakfast where we were joined by Cora and Lee Collins. With the substantial repast under our belts, Norm thought it a good idea to walk back to our hotel, an opinion with which I heartily concurred.

I don't know what it is about the last day of a show, but the time seems to fly by. Before we knew it, four o'clock was upon us. Norm, Pat Loehr and I had flights leaving at roughly the same time and we'd decided to share the hotel's airport shuttle at 4:30 p.m. The primary concern for Pat and Norm was getting their exhibits dismounted in time to make the shuttle. The ROMPEX committee deserves particular accolades for their prompt, speedy assistance. Within 5 minutes of closing, both exhibits were in their respective boxes and ready to go.

Gathering in the hotel lobby, we three watched as the sky became suddenly dark and gale force winds began to blow. The temperature, which had been into the 70's earlier in the day, dropped some 40 degrees in the space of an hour! Driving (slowly) to the airport, we could feel the small shuttle bus being buffeted by the winds. By the time we arrived, a light sprinkling of rain had been added to the weather mix. At this point, we three parted company for our respective airlines.

Emerging from the underground subway system into my concourse like a rabbit popping out of his hole, I was dumbstruck at the view out the terminal's windows – a blizzard of snow (alternating with sleet) was blowing across the field! Fortunately, the equipment for my flight had already landed from La Guardia. Others were not so lucky as incoming flights were diverted to other airports.

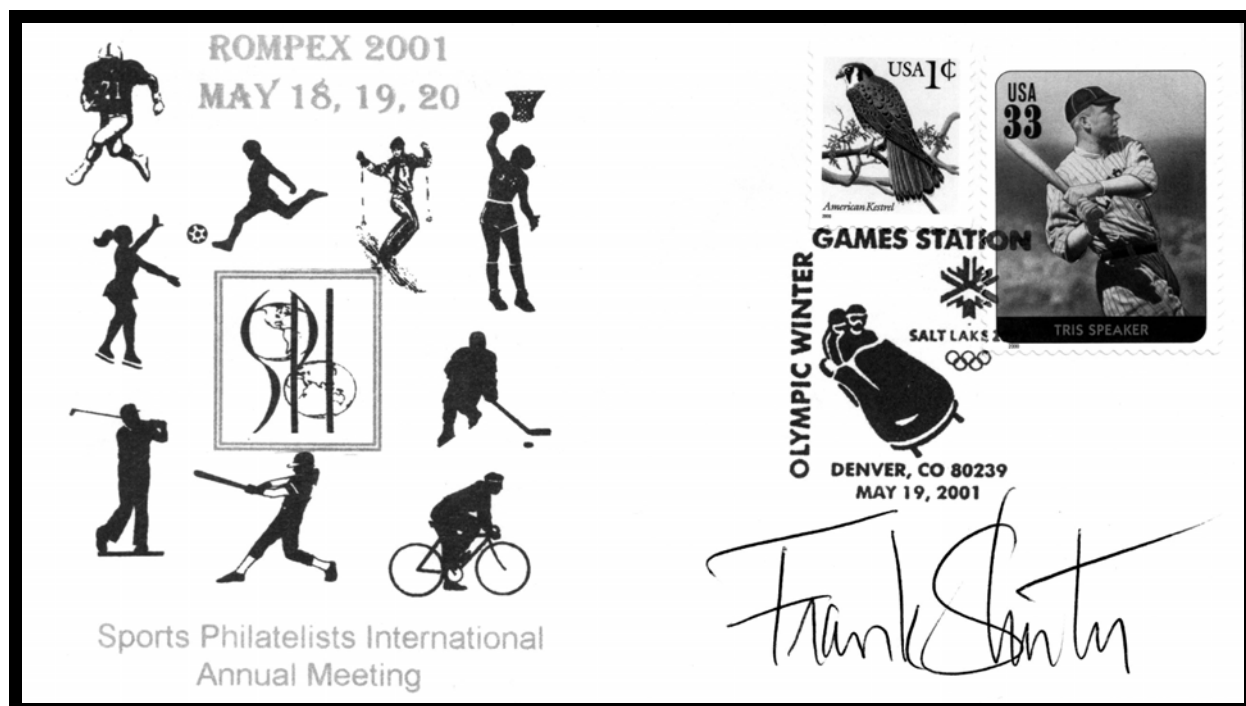
Eventually, we boarded our flight and waited to be de-iced (twice). We were lucky as United had its own de-icing equipment. As I later learned from Norm and Pat, they had to wait in line for the airport's contractor to de-ice their planes, putting them quite behind schedule.

The weird weather notwithstanding, ROMPEX 2001 and the 5th SPI Convention were a terrific success. I'd like to thank ROMPEX 2001 President Sherri Soraci Jennings, and her entire committee for

a job well done! Special thanks on the SPI side go to Gary and Holly Gibson for being such terrific hosts and to Dale Lilljedahl for accepting the challenge of delivering the SPI talk on such short notice. And of course we cannot forget to thank Frank Shorter for adding panache to our convention.

Last but not least, many thanks to all of you who attended and/or exhibited. Your participation made the entire exercise worthwhile. Shall we do this again in another two years? 🏠

Special thanks to Charlie Covell, Norm Jacobs, and Pat Loehr for providing the photographs that accompany this article.



ROMPEX 2001 cacheted cover with the Olympic Winter Games Station cancel honoring the 2002 Salt Lake City Games, and autographed by Frank Shorter, special guest speaker at the show. The golf cancel is shown above.

Birth of An Olympic Cancel

by Mark Maestrone

From the outset of planning for ROMPEX 2001, it had been my intention to secure permission for a special show cancel honoring next year's Salt Lake City Olympic Winter Games. Little did I realize what was in store for me in having to deal with not one, but *two* organizations with drawers full of red tape. The purpose of this article is to briefly describe the process which led to the creation of two sets of rubber hand cancels and to detail their differences.

Ever since the Olympic Games' transformation from just another quadrennial sporting event into the megalithic, corporate juggernaut that it has now become, Olympic-related words and marks are guarded with near religious zeal. Woe to he who, without prior written permission, uses otherwise innocently-sounding phrases that perhaps violate the "brand protection" of the IOC or other members of the Olympic family.

It did take some convincing, but I was eventually able to satisfy the Salt Lake Olympic Organizing Committee (SLOC) that I wished to use the official SLOC logo and words "Olympic Winter Games" for a legitimate, not-for-profit purpose. The central design of a two-man bobsled was approved along with the "protected" phrases and emblem. Three canceling devices would be produced with identical designs. Each cancel was for a different day – May 18, 19, or 20, 2001.

The US Postal Service (USPS) proved equally caught up in rules and regulations. Ideally, they like to receive the application and artwork for pictorial cancels at least 8 weeks before the date of use. At the rate that the SLOC was moving, I'd be lucky to have it ready 8 days before the show! With no time to spare, the SLOC contracts were signed and the cancels manufactured.

But why, you may ask, were two sets of cancels produced? The answer is really quite simple:

1. The SLOC have an official licensee that makes nothing but rubber hand stamps (I'm not kidding!). I was required to have them manufacture the three cancels.
2. The USPS have their own contracts to manufacture the hand cancels at no cost to applicants.

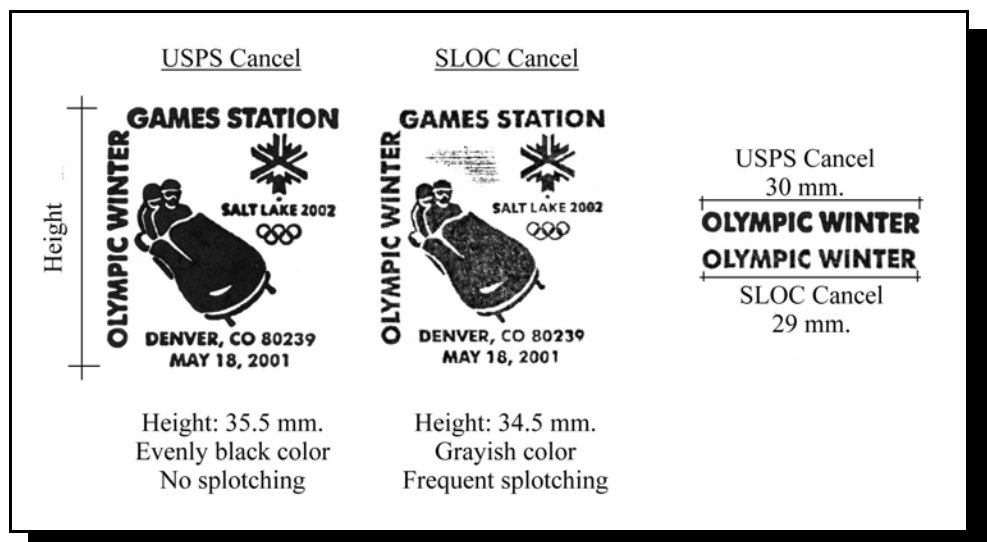
Rather than buck the system by trying to convince the USPS to let us make the cancels (since we were under contract to have the cancels made at our expense by the SLOC's licensee), I let them make their own set for use at the show.

As you can see from the illustration shown at bottom, there are some readily apparent differences between the two sets even though the artwork I submitted to both the SLOC licensee and USPS were absolutely identical.

First, the USPS cancel is evenly black, while the SLOC cancel is grayish. This comes from the inking of the cancels. The USPS cancels were self-inking while the SLOC cancels were inked from an ink pad. Also, the background of the SLOC cancels is sometimes transferred (as seen to the left of the SLOC emblem in the illustration below).

Second, and less apparent, are the dimensions: the USPS cancel is slightly larger.

The USPS cancels were available from the cancel table at the show (and for 30 days after from the post office), while the SLOC cancels were used at the SPI table at ROMPEX. Only a few dozen imprints of each day exist. ☛



An Afternoon With Frank Shorter

by Dale Lilljedahl

A great part of the SPI 2001 Convention was the opportunity to spend an afternoon with Olympic marathon champion, Frank Shorter. After winning the 1972 Olympic marathon (only his fifth competitive marathon), Mr. Shorter went on to garner the silver medal in Montreal in 1976. At one time a letter carrier for the US Postal Service, ROMPEX 2001 President, Sherri Jennings, used to deliver Frank's mail. He remembered her and was persuaded to come to Denver.

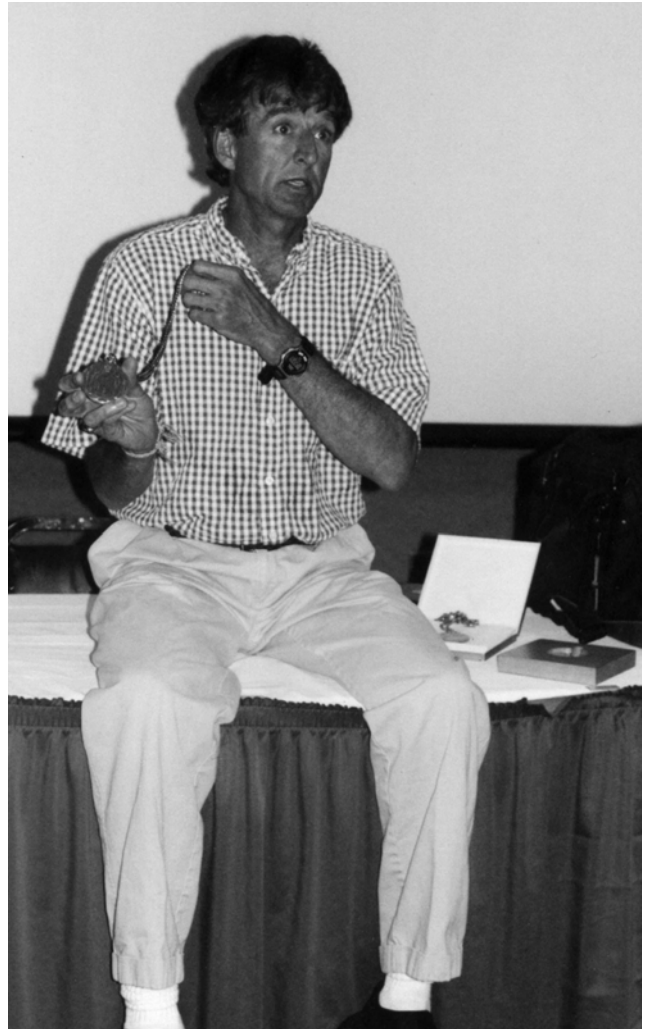
Frank and his 11-year-old daughter, Julie, arrived prior to the first scheduled meeting, and enjoyed the fun of the youth table and the bourse. Julie has recently combined her interests in animals and art to join the ranks of philately. Approximately 20 people gathered in the Aspen Theater for Frank's reminiscences about his Olympic experiences, and then adjourned to the SPI table on the show floor, where he was available for autographs.

ASPEN THEATER

Mr. Shorter arrived before the 2:00 p.m. kickoff and started signing autographs immediately. After a while, he sat on the table at the front of the auditorium, and started talking as if he was sitting amongst friends. In a matter of minutes, the rest of us were just as relaxed, and we settled into an immensely enjoyable hour.

The first half of Frank's talk noted the similarities between stamp collectors and long distance runners. For one thing, both indulge in visualization. Runners use visualization techniques to prepare for their races; likewise, philatelists visualize the people and history of the items they collect. Although different in purpose, they both involve imagination.

The primary similarity between these two pursuits is passion. Frank could sense the passion of the collectors on the show floor as they pursued their hobby. Likewise to compete at the international level you must be passionate about running or you could never maintain the rigorous training schedule. In the ten years that he competed at the highest level, Frank ran an average of 17 miles a day, and he admits his passion for running is what carried him through such a daily ordeal. His passion lives on as he still runs 10-12 miles a day.



Frank Shorter displaying his silver marathon medal from the 1976 Montreal Olympics before passing it, and his gold medal from Munich in 1972, around the audience.

At this point in his discussion, Mr. Shorter delighted the audience when he passed around his gold and silver Olympic marathon medals, a privilege he normally reserves for the children's groups to which he speaks. The medals are an integral part of his message to school kids that you should pursue your passions, and be pleased when you do your best.

This is a message Frank was forced to internalize shortly after the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal. He won the silver, but was suspicious of the circumstances that placed him in second. Soon after the



Frank was surprised to learn that his Olympic successes had been immortalized in philately. A quick hunt of the bourse dealers yielded two copies of this Republic of Maldives souvenir sheet (Scott #419) noting his 1972 gold medal at Munich. One copy was given to Frank; this second one bears his autograph at top.

Games he spoke to a group of fourth graders about passion. A few days later a packet of thank you letters arrived from the class, one of which spoke so deeply to Frank that he kept it handy for years. The youngster's letter read something like this:

"Dear Mr. Shorter,
Thank you for coming to our class and showing us your medals. Next time I hope you get a bronze."

Leave it to a ten-year-old to put all into perspective.

The second half of Frank's talk focused on his two Olympic marathons, and his expectations. Every Olympian "visualizes" the roar of the crowd as he leaps victoriously across the finish line. Unfortunately for Frank, circumstances in both 1972 and 1976 denied him the realization of that dream.

With four miles left in the 1972 marathon in Munich, Frank had a full sixty-second lead, and it

would take a total meltdown to miss out on the crowd's acclaim. Yet about 46 seconds before he entered the stadium, the crowd roared without him. As he came out of the tunnel onto the track, the stadium began to fill with whistles (Europe's equivalent of American booing), and he thought, "Gosh, I know I'm an American, but give me a break." A little further down the track someone yelled, "It's all right, Frank." Well of course it was all right, he was about to win the Olympic marathon by a full minute. It was not until a reporter asked him about "that other guy" that he learned an imposter had run into the stadium ahead of him.

Ironically he again missed the applause of the masses in 1976 as the silver medalist in the Olympic marathon finishing 46 seconds behind Waldemar Cierpinski of East Germany. Yet something about that race always bothered Shorter. At the 34-kilometer mark Cierpinski made his move into the lead, and it simply looked too easy for someone running at world class pace. He had never seen that type of surge this late in a race, either before or since.

Year's later Frank's suspicions were confirmed when he served as chairman of the Anti-Doping Agency overseeing the drug testing of Olympic athletes. The fall of the Communist block opened the records of the East German secret police, the Stasi, who took pride in their meticulous record keeping. As supervisors of the East German Olympic program they kept precise records of the performance enhancing drugs dispensed to their athletes. Frank now has in his possession a document detailing how the Stasi bought and administered illegal drugs to their athletes for the 1976 Olympics. Athlete #62 on that list was Waldemar Cierpinski!

Frank opened the floor to a few questions, and then we adjourned to the show for the autograph session. Julie, of course, went exploring for new finds.

AUTOGRAPHS AND ANECDOTES

The autograph session was held at the SPI booth on the show floor. Frank brought his medals for the kids, and spent extra time encouraging them in their future endeavors. For the first hour the booth stayed busy with eager philatelists seeking to have their 1972 Olympic covers and collector cards autographed. Fortunately, everyone was considerate in not asking him to sign huge numbers of items. He even brought some pictures of himself to sign for folks.

As the crowd thinned out, Frank began the ardu-

ous task of signing the programs for that evening's Awards Banquet. He was surprised to learn that he had appeared on several postage stamps, and we managed to find one for him.

Soon there was not much to do, and those of us at the booth got to chew the fat with him for an hour. For me it was the highlight of the weekend getting to hear the good, the bad, and the funny side of competitive running. The following stories are only a sample of those told, and although they are related in the first person, they must not be misconstrued as direct quotes. Frank, forgive me if I mess them up.

A poor start to the 1976 marathon – “If the Olympic Village had not been located nearby the Olympic Stadium in Montreal, I might have missed competing in the 1976 marathon.

Prior to the race I was on the warm-up track with the other competitors loosening up for the race. I was wearing an experimental, light-weight shoe partially constructed of raffia that was manufactured by one of the big companies. Suddenly, it began coming apart at the seams; I knew it would never last through a 26-mile race. The only other shoes I had with me were my training shoes which were far too heavy for a competitive race.

Fortunately one of the coaches of the American race walking team strolled out to the track to watch us warm up. It was even more fortunate that he lived in the same suite and could get to my gear. I yelled at him across the barbed wire-topped fence, and he took off running to get my other race shoes. After what seemed like an eternity he sprinted over and lobbed my shoes over the fence. After lacing up my replacement pair of shoes, I looked up to find myself alone on an empty track. I ran to the assembly room, but it too was deserted. By the time I arrived on the Olympic Stadium track, everyone was already at the starting line. I missed the traditional warm-up lap, and instead sprinted across the field to join the others with just 15 seconds to spare. If the Village had been 100 yards further away, I could have missed the silver medal.”

A run in my pantyhose – “Prior to one of our major races, a nasty cold front moved in and radically lowered the local air temperature. I trained in Florida for a good portion of every year, so my training partner and I were not terribly thrilled with the prospect of running in the cold. Besides the fact that the cold sapped the energy we needed for the run, it was also just plain uncomfortable.

So after brainstorming for some way to keep our legs warm during the race, we finally settled upon women's pantyhose. After all, we'd seen women wear them with their short skirts during the winter, and from afar they seemed to offer some level of warmth. It didn't work. Oh sure they held a little heat close to our skin at the beginning of the race, but that ended as soon as we started to perspire. The wind blowing against the damp pantyhose acted like a refrigeration unit and made the race a thoroughly miserable experience.”

Making a pit stop – “At the 1971 Pan-American Games in Cali, Columbia, I ran both the 10,000 meters and the marathon.

It is inevitable when visiting a South American country that one will sooner or later be stricken with that most disagreeable malady known as ‘Montezuma's Revenge’ (or perhaps ‘Inca's Revenge’ in this case). Unfortunately for me it came in the middle of the Pan-American Games marathon.

I started to feel it about five miles into the race, and knew I was in trouble. It actually took my mind off the race for a while, but finally around the 16-mile mark I had to do something. Fortunately that point of the race was out in the countryside, and I left the other three front-runners, jumped into the bushes, and took care of business. Only one person passed me during my pit stop. Returning to the race, I was able to quickly overtake him.

I kept to my pace and in due course was surprised to find myself catching up to the lead group. I approached them as quietly as possible, got right behind Ken Moore, and sarcastically said, “Yoo hoo, I'm back.” They spun their heads around and lost heart on the spot. Even Alvaro Mejia, the reigning Boston marathon champ was psyched out. I picked up the pace, and won the gold in 2:22 and change.”

There were many other anecdotes: the steeplechase runner who could not keep his shoes on; the stress fracture that kept Frank from competing in the 10,000 meters at Montreal; the flirtatious advances of an East German lady runner; and the accidental journey onto the Anti-Doping Agency. Ask him about these the next time you see Frank Shorter.

Thanks to Norm Jacobs for supplying the photo of Frank taken during his talk at ROMPEX.

Sport Parachuting

A Brief History

by Bill Wickert

[The following article originally appeared in Parachutes, the quarterly newsletter of the Parachute Study Group.]

Parachuting as a sport picked up many followers after the end of World War II. Before the war, during the Depression, parachute jumping was more of a spectator sport. During air shows at county fairs, the parachute jump was a primary attraction, providing entertainment along with those daring “wing walkers” (Figure 1).

The paratroopers of World War II captured the imagination of people. It was a new and novel approach to warfare. Men serving in the paratroops were characterized in newspapers, movies and various written reports as the elite of the military service.

The public was further captivated by their exploits during the D-Day parachute assaults on

Normandy, and the heroic stand of those “Battled Bastards of Bastogne,” the U.S. 101st Airborne Division. Then near the end of the war, the final Allied airborne operations utilized parachute and glider missions to cross the Rhine River.

Back in 1928 some Russian military advisors saw a parachute jump being demonstrated at Kelly Air Force Base. Officers of the United States Army were not impressed, but the Russians were. Immediately, the Russian Army began a training program for parachute troops. They also formed parachute clubs that provided training and personnel for future use (Figure 2).

At one military demonstration by Russian paratroops one observer, Hermann Goring, was so impressed that he took the idea back to Germany. At that time Germany was not allowed by the Versailles Treaty to have a large armed forces. Following the Russian idea parachute clubs were formed to provide training for future personnel. To further complement their cause glider clubs were founded to train pilots for the future Luftwaffe.

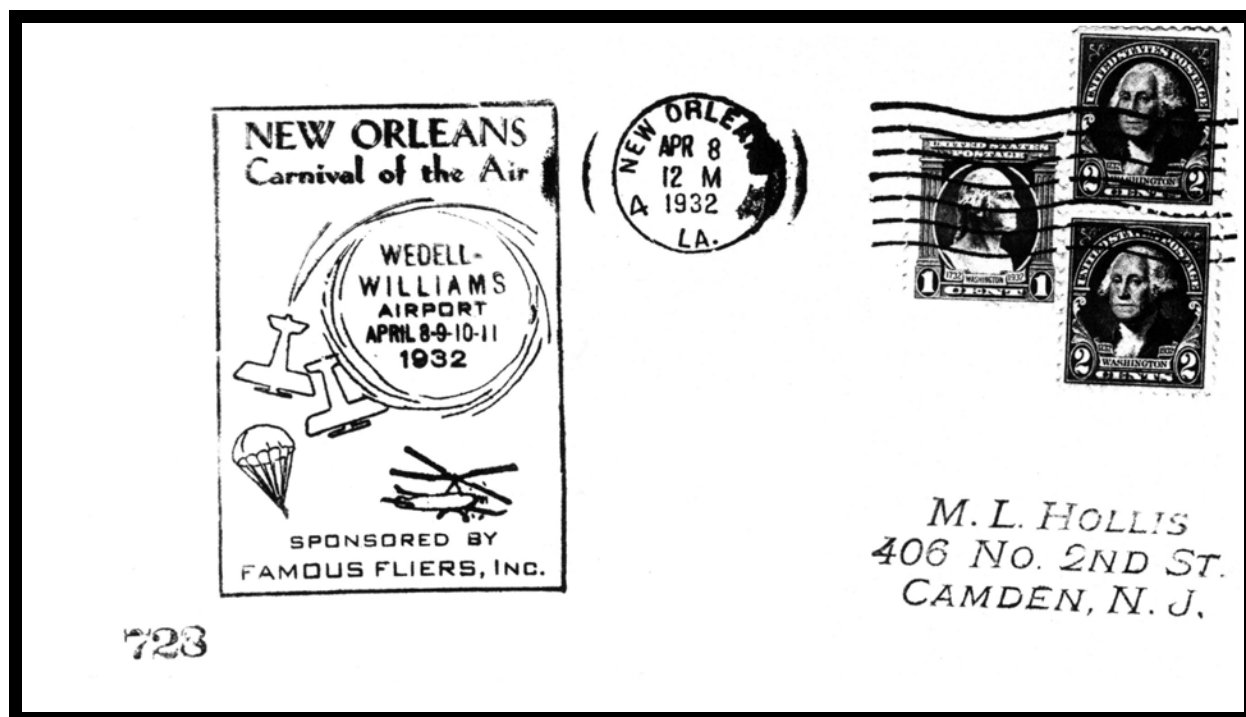


Figure 1. The public's fascination with parachuting began with air shows at county fairs in the Depression Era of the 1920's and 30's. The cachet on this cover celebrates the 1932 New Orleans "Carnival of the Air" with airplane acrobatics, helicopters, and parachute jumping.

After the war, parachute jumping grew slowly in popularity as a recreational sport in the United States. The U.S. Army helped to keep the activity in the public eye by maintaining parachute troops.

As time passed many of the small local airfields began offering courses in parachute jumping, making instructors and planes available for the new sport enthusiasts to use.

Initially, the static line method of jumping used by the military was employed. Eventually "free fall" and sky diving teams were formed. These teams formed intricate patterns in the air prior to opening their parachutes.

Another training method, the tandem jump, was practiced. In this configuration the "jumper," usually a novice, was strapped to the instructor so they jumped as "one." The instructor was responsible for pulling the ripcord.

This was the route sport parachuting took in the United States. It seems to be much more popular in Europe where championship events are scheduled, drawing jumpers from around the world.

Perhaps another reason for the popularity of sport parachuting is the many sky diving teams composed of military personnel. The United States Army has its Golden Knights (Figure 3), the U.S. Navy the Chuting Stars, and the British Army its Red Devils parachute team. These different teams perform at various public functions in the same manner as the well known U.S. Navy Blue Angels fighter jet acrobatic team. These teams also enter many of the world championship parachuting events.

Thus we see that sport parachuting is a sport that seems to be growing around the country. Unfortunately for the philatelist, the United States does not issue many stamps for those with an interest in sport parachuting. European countries and even those in the Pacific Rim area issue stamps that feature parachutes and parachutists (Figure 4). Perhaps this may be because not as many people collect sport parachuting as say fencing, football or one of the better-known sports.

Editor's Note: The preceding article by Mr. Wickert was submitted along with a touching letter that I'd like to quote:

"A few months ago Dr. Charles E. Pugh ask[ed] me to write a brief article on sport parachuting to submit to your publication. At the end of March I sent Charley [this article] for his opinion and suggestions. I told him that if he was satisfied he could then forward it on to you.

Unfortunately, before Charley could read the article he passed away suddenly ... I just thought I would send it along to you as a last token of my friendship and esteem of Charley."

Dr. Charles E. Pugh was one of our newest members having only joined us last autumn. All of us at SPI extend our condolences to Charley's family and dedicate this article to his memory. Bill has also agreed to fulfill Charley's offer to provide a parachuting stamp check list to anyone requesting it. Please write to: Mr. W.M. Wickert, 3348 Clubhouse Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23452-5339.

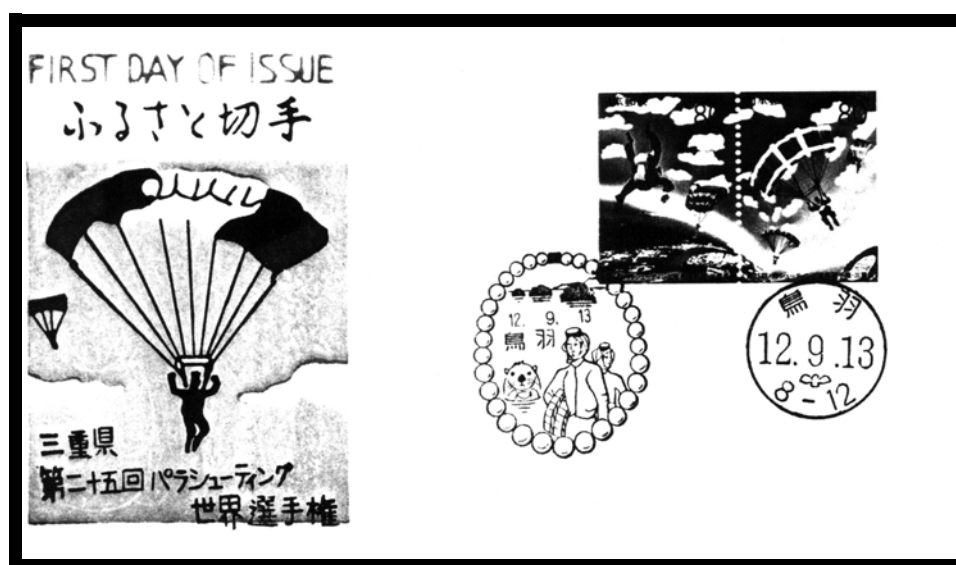


Figure 4. Parachuting has also become popular in Asia as represented by this pair of colorful Japanese stamps depicting parachutists on a cacheted FDC and cancel.



Three Postcards From Belgium: Competi- tive Swimming at the 1920 Antwerp Olympics

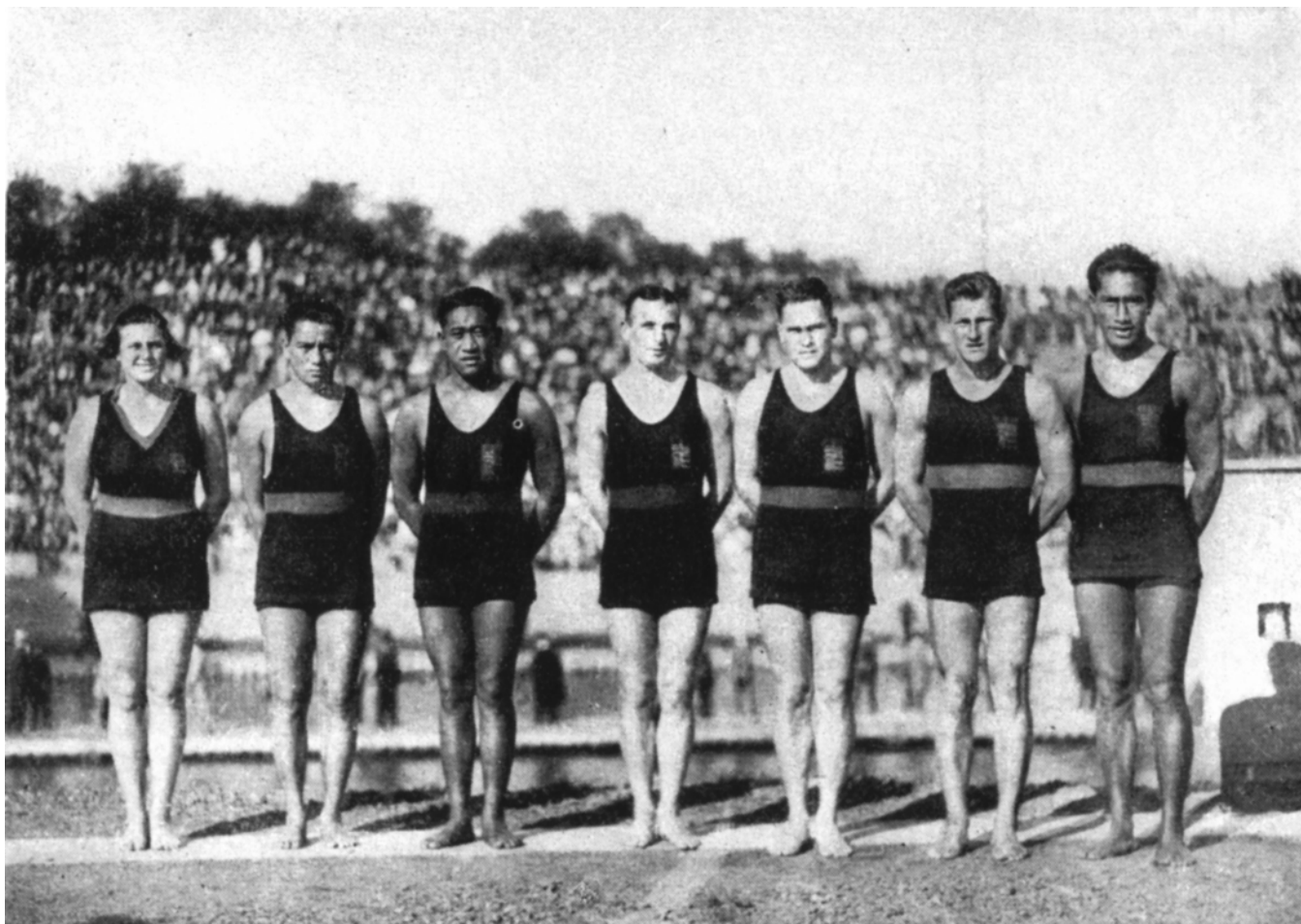
by Bruce Tomkins
& Roxanne Frey

It started innocently enough ... A stamp auction was offering three picture postcards from Belgium, shown in Figures 1-3. Each one bore a rectangular slogan cancel with “VII^e Olympiade” in the left panel; the right panel clearly showed “Antwerpen” (Flemish) and “Anvers” (French), both official spellings for “Antwerp” in this bilingual country. The dates given in the slogan cancel, “August-September 1920”, certainly fell within the time frame of the 1920 Olympics, which was April 20-September 12, 1920. The three postcards were also canceled with a clear double-ring handstamp from Gent (29-VIII-1920), Brussels (24-VIII-1920), or Antwerp (25-VIII-1920). The most intriguing feature of these postcards, however, was the auctioneer’s claim that all three had been canceled on a day where there was a swimming final. Exactly which events had been contested on those days? Who had competed? From what nations and clubs? How and where had each of these people qualified? And, what happened in each of those finals? All of these questions, which could not be answered by the auctioneer, will be addressed in this short article.

TRYOUTS TO SELECT THE AMERICAN OLYMPIC TEAM

The Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) held team selection meets for the 1920 Games in Antwerp for all sports between February 22 and July 28, 1920. The swimming tryouts for men and women from the West Coast and Hawaii were held at Neptune Beach, Alameda, California between June 26-27, 1920. No comparable try-outs were held for competitors from the Atlantic Coast. Perhaps the results from another swim meet, not specifically designated as a team selection qualifying meet, were used to determine the competitors from the Atlantic Coast. Alternatively, but less likely, there may have been so few real contenders from the Atlantic Coast that holding a swimming tryout would not have attracted sufficient swimmers to make it worthwhile. Hence, the most prudent approach would be to send the best candidates from the Atlantic Coast directly to the swimming finals. The men’s swimming finals were held between July 10-11, 1920, at Lincoln Park Lagoon, Chicago; the women’s finals were contested on July 10 at Manhattan Beach, NY.¹

The number and variety of events contested at these tryouts were considerably fewer than those for present-day Olympic Games. For example, the butterfly stroke would not be invented for another



Hawaiians swimming for the U.S.A. (left to right): Helen Moses; Warren Paoa Kealoha, first, 100-meter backstroke; Pua Kela Kealoha, second, 100-meter freestyle; Ludy Langer, second, 400-meter freestyle; William Harris, third, 100-meter freestyle; H. Kruger; Duke Kahanamoku, first, 100-meter freestyle. All but two won places for America and two broke world's records.

forty years, thereby removing not only competition in that discipline, but also the individual medley and the medley relays. At the Western Olympic Swimming Tryouts in Alameda, the men competed in only the 100- and 400-meter "races" (freestyle), the 200-meter breaststroke, and the 100-meter backstroke; the women contested only the 100-meter freestyle.

The results for the 100-meter "race" (freestyle) for women contested at the Final Olympic Swimming Tryouts at Manhattan Beach, which determined team members referenced in this article, were as follows ²:

1. Ethelda Bleibtrey, New York Women's Swimming Association;
2. Charlotte Boyle, New York Women's Swimming Association;

3. Irene Guest, Meadowbrook Club, Philadelphia, PA;
4. Mrs. Frances Cowells Schroth, "unattached", Oakland, CA;
5. Margaret Woodbridge, Detroit Athletic Club.

The results for the men's races at the Final Olympic Swimming Tryouts at Lincoln Park Lagoon, IL, determined many of the competitors referenced in this article. These results are summarized as follows:

200-meter breaststroke

1. Lt. M.J. McDermott, U.S. Navy, 3:14.0 ³;
2. Jack Howell, Oakland Athletic Club, Oakland, CA;
3. G. Albert Taylor, Chicago Athletic Association.

400-meter breaststroke

1. G. Albert Taylor, 7:00.4;
2. Steven Ruddy, New York Athletic Club;
3. C. S. Quimby, U. S. Navy.⁴

100-yard freestyle⁵

1. Duke Paola Kahanamoku, Outrigger Canoe Club, Honolulu, HI, 0:55.0;
2. Pua Kela Kealoha, Hui Makami Club, Honolulu, HI;
3. Norman Ross, Illinois Athletic Club, Chicago;
4. J. K. Gilman, U. S. Navy.

One Mile – Freestyle

1. Eugene Bolden, Illinois Athletic Club, 25:26.0;
2. Ludy Langer, Hui Nalu Club, Honolulu, HI;
3. Fred K. Kahele, U. S. Navy;
4. Leo Geibel, New York Athletic Club.

TRAINING ON THE WAY TO ANTWERP

The American Olympic team traveled to Antwerp by ship, in the same manner as the team that went to the Stockholm Games in 1912. Training for the swimmers employed a canvas tank that was twelve feet long and nine feet wide. It did wonderful service, except for the bursting of a seam, an accident quickly repaired. Training began on the second day of the journey, and continued daily in both morning and afternoon, until two days before landing. A few competitors practiced twice a day, but the majority practiced only once. The total time of practice was estimated between four and five hours per day.⁶ The modern concept of “tapering” for a major meet, in which both the time and intensity of practices were reduced systematically, was at least forty years away!

THE COMPETITION POOL IN ANTWERP

It is clear, even from the rather charitable description given in the official *Report of the American Olympic Committee*, that the swimming conditions in Antwerp were far from ideal. The official record notes:

The swimming course in Antwerp met all requirements [of the time]. However, the water was an unheard-of low temperature,

considerably below 60 degrees, and rather unclean. The low temperature affected some competitors more than others, and as a rule Americans suffered a good deal more than the Europeans. While the coldness of the water worked certain hardship on competitors in the swimming and diving events, it certainly endangered the health of the members of the American water polo team. Frequent cases were reported where our men had to be assisted out of the water, and it required considerable attention to enable some to use their limbs after playing water polo. . . It would be of great importance at future Olympic Games to take into consideration the temperature of the water, which should not be excessively low as in Antwerp nor unreasonably warm, and to pass a rule at the next meeting of the International Swimming Federation to this effect.⁷

Ethelda Bleibtrey was far less charitable, saying that she and her teammates swam their races in Antwerp “in mud and not water”, and in a tidal estuary.⁸ In any event, the days of swimming competition in such deplorable conditions were surely numbered after the Antwerp Games. For at least twenty years, and probably for much longer than that, the USA Swimming Rule Book and those of its sister organizations have included the following requirements concerning air and water temperature: “Water temperature between 78 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit shall be maintained for competition ... Air temperature within 8 feet above deck level in indoor facilities shall be not lower than 76 degrees Fahrenheit, with relative humidity maintained at about 60% and air velocity at about 25 feet per minute.”⁹

In addition, photographs of the competition pool clearly show an absence of both starting blocks and lane lines. The former was neither unusual nor particularly detrimental because even many modern pools, albeit not suitable for Olympic competition, require competitors to start from the deck. The latter, however, may have been a contributing factor to the “reswim” of the men’s 100-meter freestyle, as described later in this article.

CONDUCT OF COMPETITION

As noted earlier, the swimming competition in Antwerp featured only a handful of individual events



1920 Olympic Games slogan machine cancel from “Bruxelles (ND) Brussels” station on August 24, 1920. Swimming and weightlifting competition took place this day.

compared to more current Games. Men competed in the 100-, 400-, and 1500-meter (*not* yards!) freestyle, the 200- and 400-meter breaststroke, and the 100-meter backstroke. The women competed in the 100- and 300-meter freestyle. In addition, the men competed in the 800-meter “team race” (freestyle relay), comprised of teams of four swimmers, each to swim 200 meters. The women swam a 400-meter “team race”, again comprised of teams of four swimmers, but now each swimming 100 meters. A maximum of two reserves were permitted for both men and women. The maximum number of competitors allowed from a given country in any given individual swimming event was four. As late as the 1976 Olympic Games (Montreal, Canada), the number of competitors allowed under those conditions was three, and has been two since the 1980 Olympic Games (Moscow).

The competition was conducted in a format featuring preliminary, semi-final, and final heats. Not more than three swimmers competed in both the preliminary and semi-final heats. The final heats, by contrast, could feature between three to five individual swimmers or relay teams. This is in stark contrast to current practice, in which up to eight individuals or teams may compete in the preliminary, semi-final, or final heats.

BRUSSELS (BRUXELLES) AUGUST 24, 1920

The first event described for this day of competition was the semifinals of the 1500-meter “free stroke”, now usually referred to as “freestyle” and still the longest competitive swimming event. The use of a “semifinal” format in itself was unusual in that it was revived for the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia. The *New York Times*¹⁰ noted that Norman Ross won the first heat in 23:02.4 minutes, followed by Fred K. Kahele in second place and Eugene Bolden in third place.¹¹ All three members of the USA qualified for the event finals. There was no description given for additional heats of this event. By contrast, the *Report of the American Olympic Committee* lists the same order of finish for this heat, but noted a final time of 23:22.6 – a serious discrepancy with that reported by the Times.¹²

The results were not nearly as encouraging in the semi-finals of the 400-meter breaststroke, an event which was contested only at the St. Louis (1904), Stockholm (1912), and Antwerp (1920) Games.¹³ Jack Howell finished third in the second semi-final heat (6:51.0) and qualified for the finals. His teammate, M. J. McDermott (7:13.2), swimming in the first heat, finished third and failed to qualify, leaving only one American in the finals.

The finals of the 100-meter “free stroke” produced both a world record and unexpected controversy. Duke Kahanamoku clearly won this event with a new world-record time of 1:00.4, breaking his own world record of 1:01.4. However, one of competitors, William Herald (Australia) complained that both Duke and teammate Norman Ross “pocketed” him, thereby denying him a higher place finish, and demanded that the race be reswum.

How could this happen? Under current international swimming rules, in which a competitor must remain in his lane throughout a race and the racing lanes are clearly marked with colored lane lines, a competitor cannot be “hemmed in” by two adjacent competitors from the same, or even different, teams. However, lane lines are a comparatively modern invention and were probably not available in 1920.

For these reasons, the Olympic judges decided that the finals of the 100-meter “free stroke” would be reswum, Ross would be disqualified, and Duke’s record-setting time would stand.

The final standings of this heat showed that the USA – and Honolulu, HI – had finished 1-2-3. Pua Kela Kealoha finished second (1:02.2) and William W. Harris ¹⁴ was third (1:03.2). Ross’s apparent fourth-place time (1:03.8) did not stand.

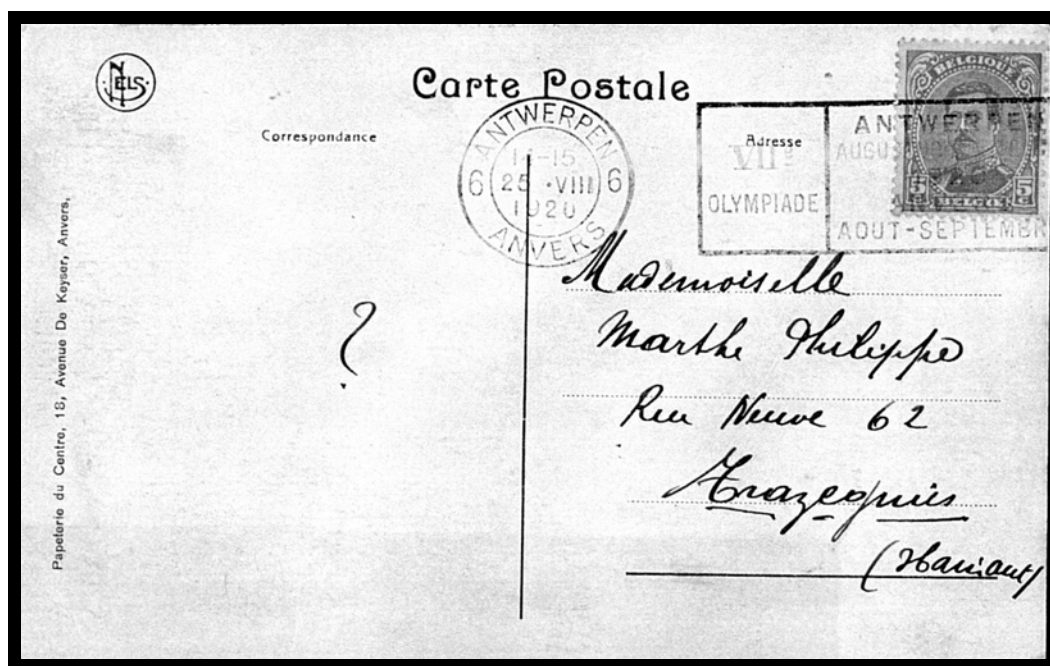
ANTWERP (ANTWERPEN / ANVERS)

AUGUST 25, 1920

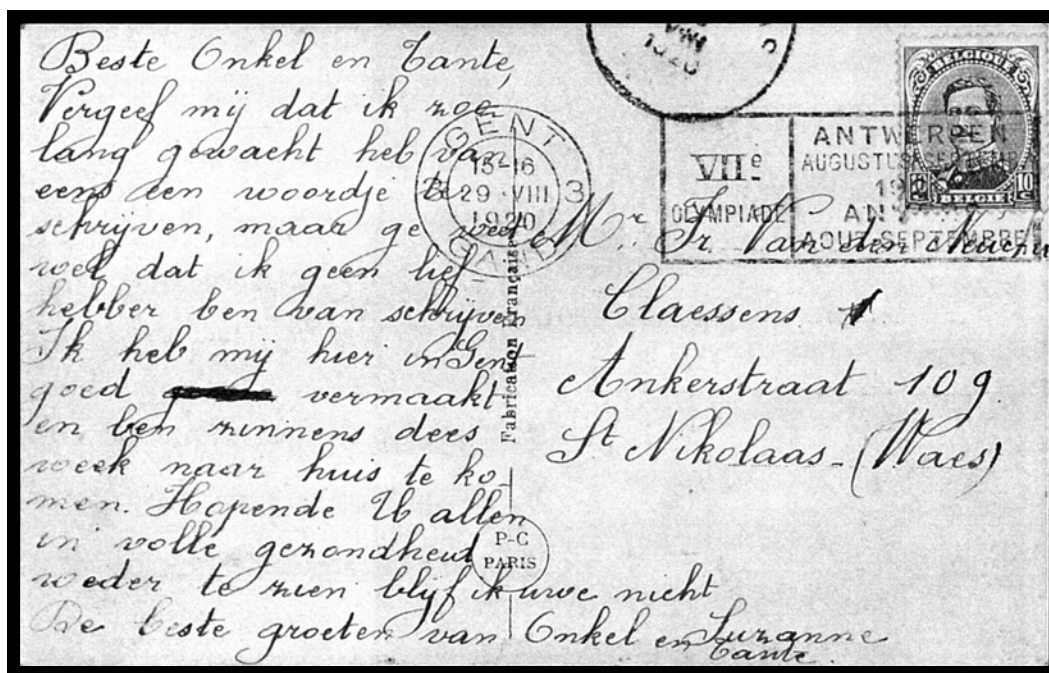
The success that the Americans enjoyed in the finals of the men’s 100-meter “free stroke” continued during the women’s competition of the same event. Ethelda Bleibtrey won the event with her world-record time of 1:13.6, thereby beating the old record (1:16.2) set by Sarah “Fanny” Durack of Australia at the Stockholm Games in 1912.¹⁵ This event also produced a 1-2-3 finish for the United States; Irene Guest earned second place (1:17.0), while Frances C. Schroth finished third (1:17.2).

Norman Ross won the final heat of the 1500-meter “free stroke” with his time of 22:23.2. The remaining finishers included George Vernot (Canada, 22:36.4e¹⁶), Francis Beaurepaire (Australia, 23:04.0e), Fred Kahele (USA, 23:59.1e), and Eugene Bolden (USA, 24:04.3e).

August 25 was also the day for qualifying heats in the men’s 800-meter freestyle relay. The fastest relay, posting a time of 10:20.4, was comprised of Americans Perry McGillivray (Illinois Athletic Club, Chicago),¹⁷ Norman Ross, Pua Kela Kealoha, and Duke Kahanamouku. Teams from Australia (10:36.4), Sweden (10:54.4), Great Britain (10:51.0), and Italy (11:01.2) also qualified for the finals.



Swimming and diving were both featured on August 25, 1920 during the Antwerp Olympic Games. Slogan machine cancel from the “Antwerpen 6 Anvers” station.



August 29 was the final day of swimming at the 1920 Olympic Games at Antwerp, Belgium. The U.S. set two new world records that day to cap its very successful aquatic competition.

The final competition in the 400-meter breast-stroke featured Scandinavian swimmers in the gold, silver, and bronze positions. Håkon Malmroth (Sweden) won the event with his time of 6:31.8 min, followed by Thor Henning (Sweden, 6:45.2), and Arvo Aaltonen (Finland, 6:48.0). Jack Howell, the lone qualifier from the United States, finished fourth with his time of 6:51.0.

GENT (GENT / GAND) AUGUST 29, 1920

This was the last day of swimming competition in the Antwerp Olympics, and the results continued a remarkable string of successes for the United States team, including two new world records. For example, the men's 800-meter "free stroke" relay team, composed of McGillivray, Kealoha, Ross, and Kahanomoku¹⁸ set a new world and Olympic record of 10:04.4.^{19,20} Australian swimmers had set the previous record, 10:11.6, at the Stockholm Olympics in 1912. Teams from Australia (10:25.4), Great Britain (10:37.2), and Sweden (no time reported) finished second, third, and fourth, respectively, at Antwerp.

The women's 400-meter "free stroke" (freestyle) relay team, comprised of Ethelda Bleibtrey, Irene Guest, Francis Schroth, and Margaret Woodbridge

also set a world record with their first-place time of 5:11.6.²¹ The teams from Great Britain (5:40.8) and Sweden (5:43.6) finished second and third, respectively, and represent the only competition that the United States had in the final heat.

The men's 200-meter breaststroke was the only event of the day in which neither a new world nor Olympic record was broken. Håkan Malmroth's (Sweden) winning time of 3:04.4 was slower than both Walter Bathe's (Germany) Olympic record of 3:01.8 set at the Stockholm Games in 1912 and Percy Courtman's world record of 2:56.6. Additional finishers included Thor Henning (Sweden, 3:09.2), Arvo Aaltonen (Finland, 3:12.2), and Jack Howell (USA, no time reported).

The reswum finals of the men's 100-meter free-style produced an order of finish identical to that noted on August 24 and a new Olympic, but not a world, record. Duke Kahanamoku set a new Olympic record of 1:01.4, breaking the previous record of 1:02.4 held by Kurt Bretting that was set at the Stockholm Games in 1912. Duke's world-record time of 1:00.4, which was set in the original final, was not threatened.

The remaining finishers in the finals were Pua Kela Kealoha (1:02.6), William W. Harris (1:03.0), and William Herald (Australia, 1:03.8), who all placed without further controversy.

EPILOGUE: CONCLUSION OF SWIMMING COMPETITION AND AWARDS PRESENTATION, AUGUST 30, 1920

For the first time in the history of the Olympic Games, the swimming competitions were won by the United States. In the sixteen events contested, members of the United States team earned eleven first-place, seven second-place, six third-place, and eight fourth-place finishes. In five events, the United States won the first three places. The most successful individual competitors were Norman Ross (Chicago) and Ethelda Bleibtrey (New York), with three victories each, and Duke Kahanamoku, with two victories. The victory of the United States was overwhelming and, by the standards of the day, possibly unique ... Despite the terrifically cold water, representatives of the United States established four world's records and six Olympic records.²²

The awards presentation for swimming at the 1920 Antwerp Olympic Games demonstrated the incredible domination of the swimmers from the United States. The *New York Times* described the presentation as follows:

King Albert of Belgium presented the medals and other awards won at the seventh Olympiad to the winners in the athletic, swimming, and rowing events at the stadium this afternoon. It would have been necessary to use a large basket for the Americans' share alone of the statuettes and awards. Out of about one hundred awards for athletics, the share of the United States' representatives was nearly forty.²³



Bruce Tomkins competed for fifteen years as a "Masters" swimmer and is currently a national championship-qualified swimming official. Roxanne Frey is the Associated Director for Development and Public Affairs for the University of Illinois Library, Urbana, IL.

NOTES & REFERENCES

1. American Olympic Committee, *Report of the American Olympic Committee: Seventh Olympic Games, Antwerp, Belgium, 1290*. Greenwich, CT, Condé Nast Press, 1920, pp. 173-174.

2. American Olympic Committee, p. 201. No times are available for the women's 100-meter freestyle, although they were reported for the first, sec-

ond, and final heat of the 300 meters freestyle.

3. All times were reported to fifths of a second and doubtless reflect the use of "hand" timing with a dial watch, rather than fully-electronic timing where results are routinely reported to one-hundredths of a second.

4. Jack Howell actually finished first in this event but was disqualified. He was apparently allowed to compete in this event in Antwerp, anyway; see text following.

5. Both the 100-yard freestyle and one-mile freestyle were actually competed as their metric equivalents in Antwerp, viz., the 100-meter and 1500 meter freestyle. It is not clear why these events could not be competed in meters during the tryouts, as were the two breaststroke events.

6. American Olympic Committee, p. 250.

7. American Olympic Committee, pp. 258-259.

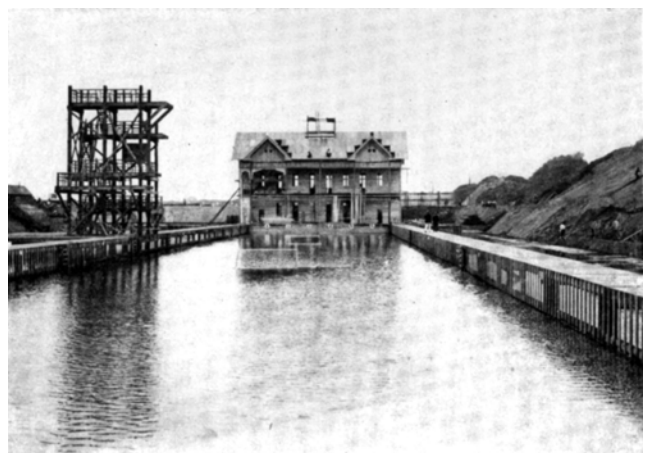
8. "Ethelda Bleibtrey – Honor Swimmer", in Buck Dawson, "Weissmuller to Spitz . . . An Era to Remember. The First 21 Years . . . The International Swimming Hall of Fame." Ft. Lauderdale, FL, International Swimming Hall of Fame, (1988?), p. 74.

9. Rule 103.6, "Water and Air Temperature", *2001 USA Swimming Rules and Regulations*, Colorado Springs, CO, USA Swimming, 2001, p. 42.

10. "American Boxers Win at Olympics. Eagan, Mosberg, and De Genero are Victors on Points in Final Hard-Fought Bouts." *The New York Times*, August 25, 1920, p. 11.

11. *The New York Times* reported only the winning time of a given heat or event.

12. American Olympic Committee, p. 311. The official listing shows the three competitors from the United States swimming with third-, fourth-, and fifth-place times, yet qualifying for a final event with only four available places. One possible explanation is



The swimming pool at the Antwerp Olympics. The diving tower is at left.

that the official record inadvertently omitted the existence of a fifth-place finisher in this event. Note that *Wallechinsky*, p. 625, does report five, not four, times from the final heat.

13. David Wallechinsky, *The Complete Book of the Summer Olympics, 1996 Edition*, Boston, Little, Brown, and Company, 1996.

14. William W. Harris, Outrigger Canoe Club, Honolulu, HI, was the second-place finisher in the 440 yard freestyle championship at the Final Olympic Swimming Tryouts for men at Lincoln Park Lagoon, IL. It is not clear why and how he qualified to swim the 100-meter freestyle.

15. "U.S. Mermaids are Olympic Winners; Miss Bleibtrey Sets Record in 100-Meter Free-Stroke Swim – Two Americans Follow; Normal Ross Also Leads." *The New York Times*, August 26, 1920, p. 12.

16. These times are "estimated" in *Wallechinsky*, p. 625.

17. Did not compete in the Final Olympic Swimming Tryouts for men.

18. *The New York Times* and *Wallechinsky* (p. 644) present two different orders for the relay swimmers; it is difficult to determine the correct one with certainty. However, because Duke Kahanamoku was the world record-holder at the 100-meter distance

and undoubtedly the fastest man on the team, it would be reasonable, but not absolutely certain, to assume that he swam in the anchor (last) position, thereby making *Wallechinsky's* order the correct one.

19. "U.S. Swimmers Set New Olympic Mark; Relay Team Covers 800-Meter Distance in 10:04 2-5 with Australia Second; Women Also Break Record, Win Final of 400-Meter Relay in New Olympic Time of 5:11 4-5 – Kahanamoku Follows Suit". *The New York Times*, August 30, 1920, p. 10.

20. The splits were McGillivray (2:27.2), Kealoha (2:33.2), Ross (2:30.0), and Kahanamoku (2:34.0).

21. *The New York Times, the Report of the American Olympic Committee*, and *Wallechinsky* (p. 677) differ on the exact winning time. *Wallechinsky* and the *Report of the American Olympic Committee* report 5:11.6, while the *Times* lists the winning time twice as 5:11.8.

22. American Olympic Committee, pp. 246-249.

23. "Olympic Winners Receive Awards; King Albert and Two Princes Make Presentations – U.S. Athletes Predominate". *New York Times*, August 31, 1920, p.10.



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Presidents At the Ballpark

by Norman Rushefsky

In prior articles in the *Journal of Sports Philately* I have noted that the history of the United States is interwoven with that of baseball. An important thread in this regard is a great interest in baseball by people who have been elected to the highest office of our country. In earlier years the President was expected to throw out the obligatory first ball at the start of each season. This was particularly true when the Washington Senators were the home team of the nation's capital.

The first incumbent President to attend a baseball game was Benjamin Harrison on June 6, 1892. He watched Cincinnati defeat Washington 7-4 in 11 innings. The Washington team was then in the National League. The Cincinnati team was the first to play a professional baseball game as early as 1869. This was recognized as the 100th anniversary of professional baseball with a U.S. stamp issued in 1969 (Figure 1). The official cachet on First Day Covers of this stamp used by the Commissioner of Baseball shows President Nixon, a big baseball fan, in the act of throwing out the first ball which he probably did many times.

President William Howard Taft, once a standout pitcher at Yale University, threw the first presidential pitch on April 14, 1910 for his favorite team the Washington Senators. Figure 2 is a FDC of the Flag



Figure 1. FDC cachet used by the Commissioner of Baseball featuring President Nixon.



Figure 2. In 1910, President Taft initiated the annual ritual of tossing out the first ball to open the baseball season.

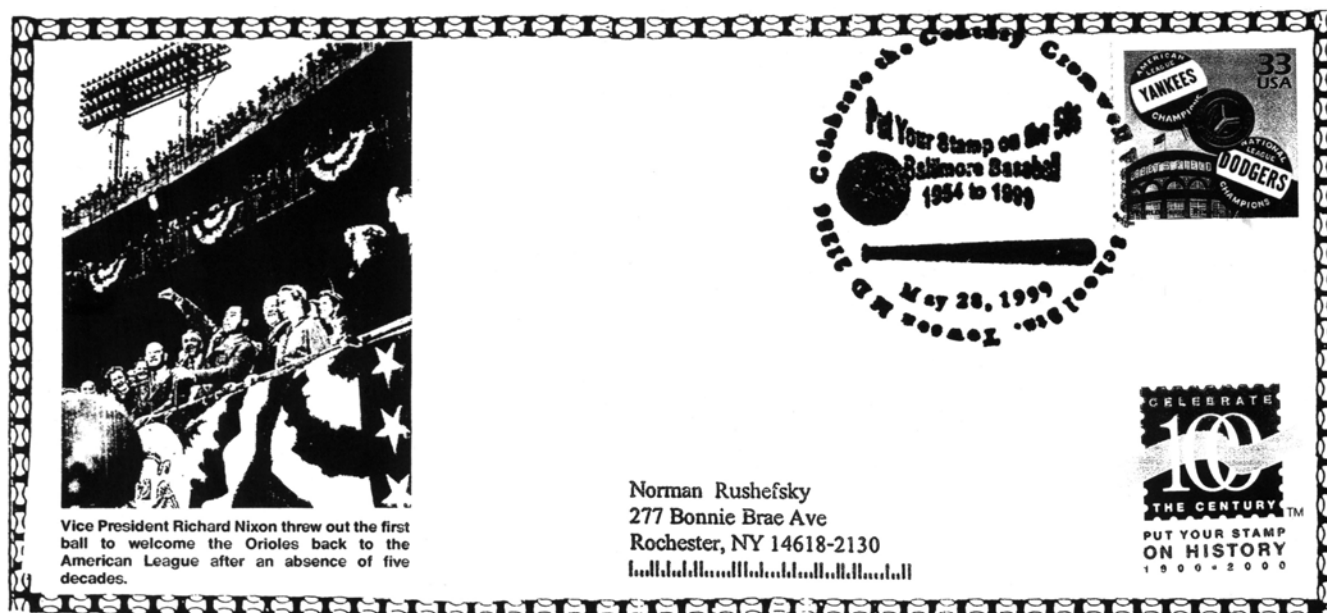


Figure 3. The postmark on this cover celebrates the return of Major League baseball to Baltimore.

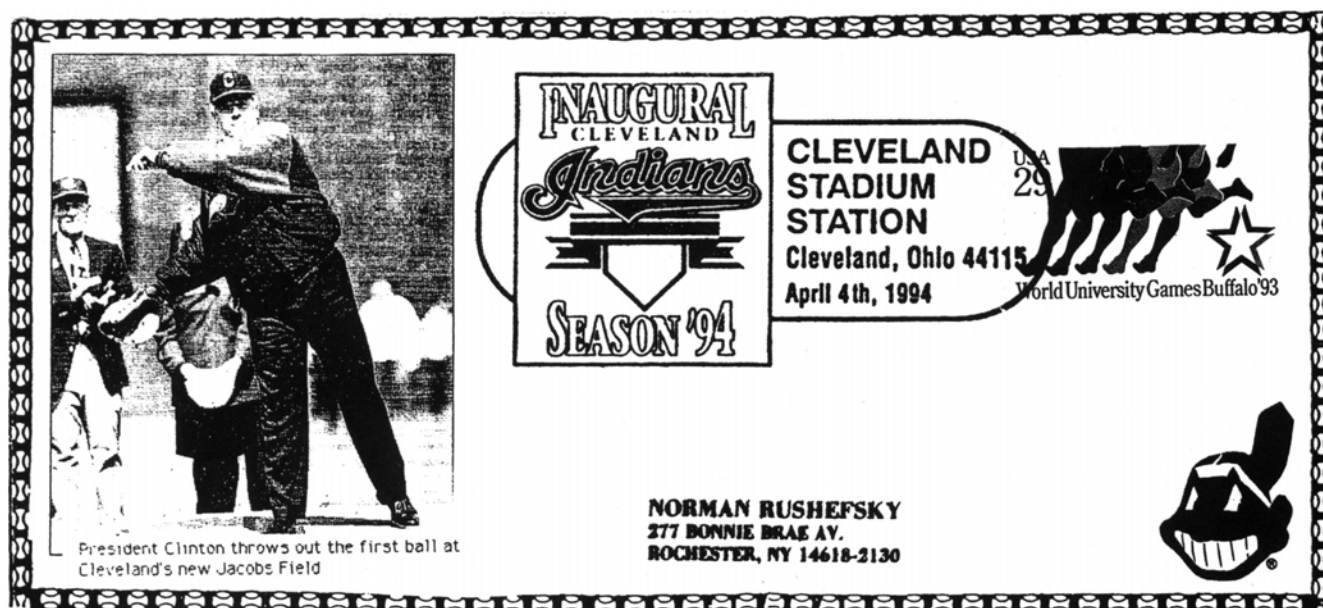


Figure 4. President Clinton goes to the mound to toss the first pitch at "The Jake."

Over Capitol stamp with a cachet featuring Taft initiating the springtime ritual. Some even attribute the seventh inning stretch to Taft. Once when attending a game, Taft rose in the seventh inning. Out of respect for the President all the spectators rose as well. In reality, Taft rose to leave the stadium.

While most Presidents since Taft have made the annual first pitch, only a few are noted on philatelic items. Figure 3 is a cover having a 1999 postmark that celebrates the 45th anniversary of the return of professional baseball to Baltimore in 1954. In that year the former St. Louis Browns team moved the franchise to Baltimore to become the Baltimore Orioles. The cachet portrays Vice President Nixon throwing out the first ball to welcome the Orioles back to the American League after an absence of five decades.

Figure 4 is a cover canceled with a 1994 postmark celebrating the inaugural season of the Cleveland Indians at the new Jacobs Field stadium. The first pitch was thrown out by President Clinton as illustrated by the cachet on this cover.

In addition to throwing out the first ball, a few Presidents have excelled at the game when young. Figure 5 reproduces a cover with a postmark noting the inauguration of George H. Bush as vice president of the United States in 1985. The cachet notes that Bush was captain of the Yale varsity baseball team in 1948. Bush, wearing a baseball uniform, is shown with Babe Ruth.

His son, George W. Bush, the current president

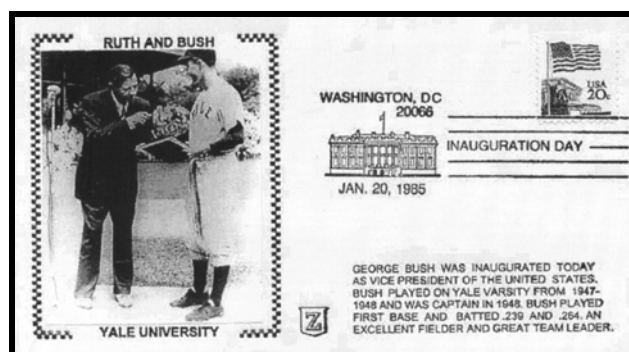


Figure 5. Yale's George H. Bush and Babe Ruth are featured on this cacheted inauguration day cover.

was, before serving as governor of Texas, the president of the Texas Rangers baseball team. The cover in Figure 6 bears the 2001 inaugural postmark for President George W. Bush and a cachet depicting Bush and Arlington ballpark, home of the Texas Rangers. The cachet goes on to note Bush's acknowledgment of the biggest mistake of his adult life: trading the then-young Sammy Sosa. Despite that huge mistake, President Bush is easily the most knowledgeable baseball fan to become President.

While President Bush may exhibit difficulties with elocution, he waxes poetic when talking baseball. It can truly be said that a baseball man now occupies the White House. Indeed, one of his earliest decisions as president was to have a ball field for youth built on the White House grounds.

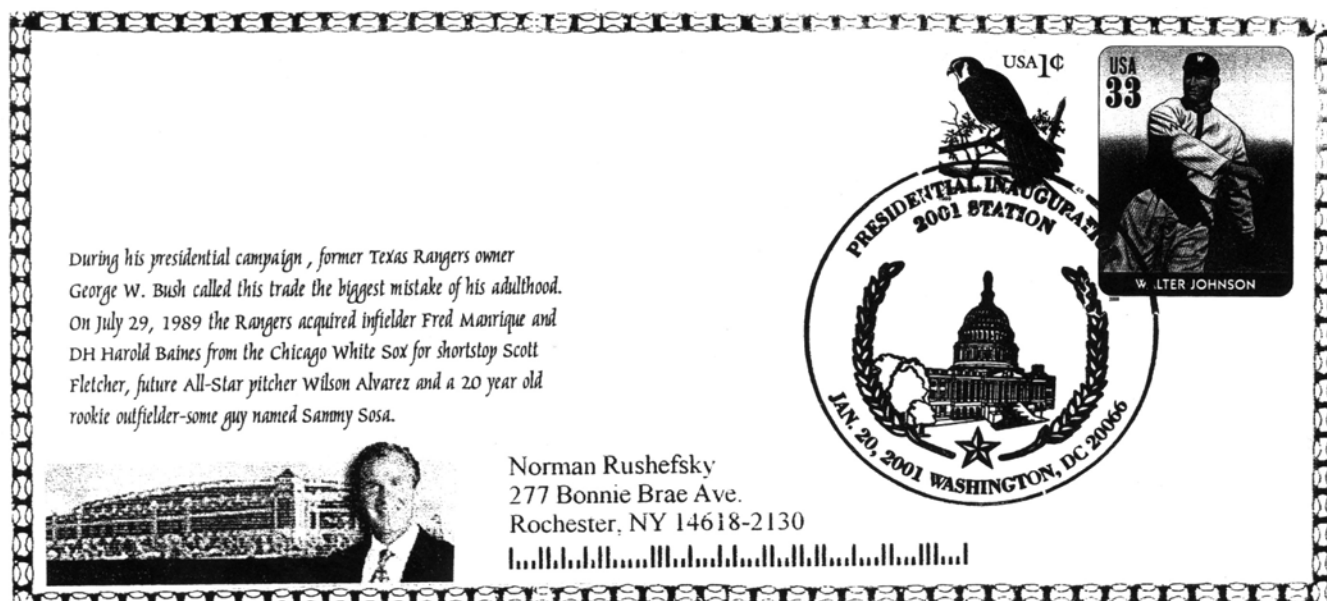


Figure 6. President George W. Bush and the home of the Texas Rangers Baseball Team of which he was president.

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The Journal of Sports Philately is currently soliciting articles from the membership. Each of you can help by:

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- ❖ Submitting an article from another publication for reprinting in JSP. The article can be in any language ... we'll take care of the translation.

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THE SPORTS ARENA

by Mark Maestrone



Petro-Canada 25th anniversary prestige-type booklet containing 12 self-adhesive stamps resembling the booklet cover shown here. Petro-Canada was the primary sponsor of the 1988 Olympic Torch Relay. The pair of torch runners depicted at the bottom of the cover and on the stamps are Canadian Olympians, Barbara Ann Scott-King and Ferd Hayward. At 8½ inches wide by nearly 4¼ inches high, the booklet is gargantuan!

This issue's Sports Arena column features two unusual philatelic items directly associating the Olympic Games with a corporate entity.

Canada Post, in concert with Petro-Canada, issued a booklet pane on September 13, 2000, of 12 self-adhesive 46¢ stamps commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Canadian energy giant. In 1988, Petro-Canada was the organizer and sponsor of the 1988 Calgary Olympic Winter Games' Torch Relay. This accomplishment is represented on both the stamps and cover of the booklet by a pair of torch runners together gripping the shaft of the torch. These two runners have been identified as Canadian Olympians, Barbara Ann Scott-King (who as Barbara Ann Scott won the Women's Singles figure skating gold medal at the 1948 St. Moritz Olympic Games) and Ferd Hayward, the first Newfoundlander to compete for Canada in an Olympics (as a race walker at the 1952 Oslo Games). Scott-King and Hayward were the first two torch bearers as the relay began at St. John's, Newfoundland.



Two varieties of die cuts exist. At left is the variety found in all booklets (2 peaks at right and bottom). The variety at right (2 peaks at left and top) comes from panes printed specifically for sale as singles in collector packs and year collections.

The booklet resembles a prestige booklet in that there are multiple pages (twelve in all, excluding the covers) of text and pictures. The pane of 12 stamps forms the inside front cover of the booklet.

As reported in the March 12, 2001, issue of *Linn's Stamp News*, another variety of die cut stamps exists (see above illustration, courtesy of *Linn's*). The peaks and valleys of the die cut perforations on the stamp on the right are in the opposite location to

those on the stamp at left. When asked about this variation, Canada Post officials admitted that during the process of creating loose panes of the stamps, the die cutting tool was oriented in a different direction than when used to cut the panes for the booklets. Whether this was done by accidentally turning the panes 180° when inserting them into the die cutting machine, or inverting the die cutting template in the machine, is unknown.

The stamps from all the “inverted” die cut sheets were separated into singles and processed into collector packs and year collections. None of the 12,500 panes is known to have been sold intact. There were far more panes produced for sale in the booklets – one million in all.

Various passages of text in the booklet describe Petro-Canada’s involvement with the Torch Relay.

“In 1988, Petro-Canada won the hearts of Canadians with its ambitious 18,000-kilometre cross-country Torch Relay. The 88-day run brought the Olympic Flame through every province and territory and finally to Calgary to open the XV Olympic Winter Games. The torch run is still seen by many as a memorable event that brought together people across the country in a celebration of the Canadian spirit.”

Two additional paragraphs of text read:

“One of the proudest moments for Petro-Canada came in 1988 when the company organized and sponsored the longest and coldest Torch Relay in Olympic history. More than 7,000 Canadians won the honour of carrying the Olympic flame for one kilometre.”

“The resulting goodwill from millions of Canadians who purchased commemorative glasses helped the company and the Canadian Olympic Association create a special fund for Canada’s athletes and coaches. Through the Olympic Torch Scholarship Fund, thousands of Canada’s promising athletes and coaches have received financial support to help them complete their post-secondary education while they train and compete.”

In addition to the picture of Scott-King and Hayward, a photo of two other torch bearers is included in the booklet. Perhaps they are the final two runners, local athletes, Ken Read and Cathy Priestner.



Publicity post card for the L'Impérial Palace Hotel in Annecy, France, which features a permanent exhibition of original Olympic posters.

In keeping with the theme of Olympic tie-ins with businesses, I present an interesting post card which arrived in a package from Olympic Headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The colorful picture, as seen above, features a splendid building facing on the mountain-ringed Lac L'Annecy in the Haute Savoie. Evidently this is the L'Impérial Palace Hotel in Annecy, France (why the hotel is flying a Swiss flag is a mystery!).

The reverse of the card provides details of a “distinctive collection of original posters” including official posters of the Olympic Games and posters of “city candidates.” The collection is mobile and may be loaned for special occasions. The website advertised on the front features a permanent exhibition of posters.

Does anyone know what the relationship is between the hotel and the International Olympic Committee?

2008 OLYMPIC BIDS – BEIJING

by Mark Maestrone

CHINA POSTAL STATIONERY AND POST CARDS

If the host city for an Olympic Games was selected solely on the quantity of philatelic material issued in support of its bid, then Beijing would certainly win hands down!

From the Beijing 2008 bid committee, we have a set of six attractive post cards presented in a shiny red folder with the bid logo on the front. The cards are vertically oriented and measure 4" x 6.5". The colorful picture side of the cards depict themes related to the Beijing bid:

1. Five knotted silk swatches in Olympic colors.
2. A Chinese gyroscope in Olympic colors.
3. Temple of Heaven in red, girded by rings
4. Athletes emerging from the Olympic flame.
5. A runner superimposed on a Chinese dragon.
6. The bid logo wrapped around a child's fingers.

The cards bear no Olympic captions on the reverse, however each set of cards is serially numbered in red ink (the author's set is No. 008476).

Conrad Klinkner discovered these folders of cards at the Beijing 2008 booth at the International Collectors Fair held in Seoul, Korea in May. The folders of cards sold for around \$2.00.

Conrad also brought back a very handsome postal card issued by China Post and provided free (one per person) to visitors to the Beijing 2008 booth.

The front depicts a painting by artist Charles Billich entitled "Beijing Millenium Cityscape" (the word "Millenium" is misspelled on the card's reverse). The card, measuring approximately 5.8" x 4", is pre-printed with an indicium depicting the bid logo and text "Beijing 2008." The card's value is 60 fen. There has been no report of a series of these postal cards. However, the same indicium is used on the set of 28 postal stationery cards commemorating the gold medals won by China at Sydney.



One of six post cards promoting Beijing's bid for the 2008 Olympics. The reverse of each card is serially numbered (below).

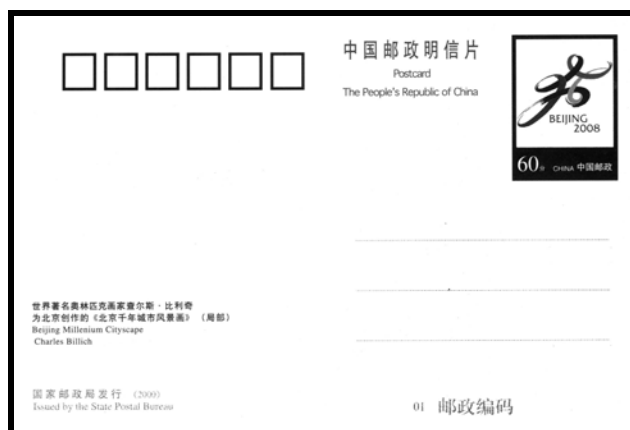




Chinese postal card with indicium (shown at right) promoting the Beijing 2008 Olympic bid.

NEW HONG KONG P-STAMP SHEETLETS

To date, we've reported on the two sets of P-stamps issued by Australia Post (under contract to the Chinese National Philatelic Corporation) following last year's Olympics. One set celebrated the 28 Olympic gold medals won by China at the 2000



Sydney Olympic Games (there were actually 29 stamps, as the Men's Gymnastics Team was split between two stamps). A composite sheetlet of 20 P-stamps honored past Chinese Olympic gold medalists from 1984 through 1996.

As reported by our Hong Kong correspondent, Kwok-Yiu Kwan, Hong Kong Post released two sheetlets of 18 P-stamps on June 12, 2001 entitled



Hong Kong "My Wish" sheetlet of 18 athlete P-stamps for Beijing 2008 Bid (see table for identification).

"My Wish – Chinese Celebrities from the Sports and Entertainment Circles Wish Beijing Success in Bidding for Hosting the 2008 Olympic Games." The sheetlets are composed of eighteen HK\$1.30 Happy Memories stamps (6 rows of 3 stamps) with a personalized label attached to either side of each stamp. The label to the left of each stamp shows a photograph of a person, while the matching label to the right bears the person's name and text wishing good luck to the Beijing 2008 Bid (identical for each P-stamp).

Chinese luminaries of stage and screen are portrayed on the labels of one sheet, while the other carries photographs of star Chinese sportsmen and women. The two sheetlets with a combined face value of HK\$46.80 are sold only as a set for HK\$120 (roughly 2.5 times face). The sale of sheetlets was limited to two sets per customer per visit. Supplies were exhausted in a matter of hours.

These stamps were designed by Arde LAM and printed by The House of Questa in the United Kingdom. The individual stamps (excluding labels) measure 32 mm x 28 mm; the full panes are 297 mm x 210 mm in size.

Hong Kong "My Wish" Sports P-Stamps

Fu Mingxia <i>W. Diving</i> '92, '96, 2000	Lang Ping <i>W. Volleyball</i> 1984	Xu Haifeng <i>M. Shooting</i> 1984
Cai Zhenhua** <i>Table Tennis</i> Coach	Li Ning <i>M. Gymnastics</i> 1984	Wang Yifu <i>M. Shooting</i> 1992
Deng Yaping <i>W. Table Tennis</i> 1992, 1996	Nie Weiping** <i>Go Player</i>	Wang Junxia <i>W. Athletics</i> 1996
Chen Xiaomin <i>W. Weightlifting</i> 2000	Ye Qiaobo <i>W. Speed Skate</i> 1992, 1994	Gong Zhichao <i>W. Badminton</i> 2000
Kong Linghui <i>M. Table Tennis</i> 2000	Xie Jun** <i>Chess Player</i>	Liu Xuan <i>W. Gymnastics</i> 2000
Li Yongbo <i>M. Badminton</i> 1992	Xiong Ni <i>M. Diving</i> 1996, 2000	Zhan Xugang <i>M. Weightlifting</i> 1996, 2000

* Athletes names are arranged in the order in which they appear on the sheetlet.

** Non-Olympic athletes.

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POSTAL STATIONERY CORNER

by Glenn Estus

In March 2001, The Matthew Bennett firm of New York City auctioned the John H. Beachboard collection of postal cards. Beachboard was editor of the *United States Postal Card Catalog* (USPCC) from 1980 to 2000. The collection included four United States postal cards that would fit nicely into a sports or Olympic exhibit.

Two of the items were “tagging omitted errors.” Tagging is added to the cards to activate automatic facing and canceling machines. Most stamps and postal stationery today have tagging added, either in the form of a small bar on the stamp image, or covering the overall stamp design.

In 1979 the United States Postal Service (USPS) issued a 10¢ postal card (Scott UX80) commemorating the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games which depicted a track and field sprinter. The tagging error is not listed in the Scott *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps*, but is listed as USPCC No. S96a. This error realized \$425.00. The unique card was canceled from Coos Bay, Oregon, on February 11, 1980.

Four copies of the 13¢ 1984 Los Angeles Olympics postal card showing a torch runner have surfaced with the tagging omitted (Scott UX102, error unlisted; USPCC No. 119a). In the Bennett auction, a mint copy realized \$500.00, meeting the a pre-auction estimate.

The 13¢ Olympic yachting postal card which was also issued for the 1984 Los Angeles Games, is known with the magenta and yellow colors omitted (Scott UX100, error unlisted; UPSS No. S117a) realized \$7,000 against a pre-auction estimate of \$2,000-\$3,000. One mint and one unused copy have been reported. This card is also know with black, yellow, and red omitted (Scott UX100a)

Perhaps the most unusual item that sports philatelists would find interesting is a 14¢ Olympic yachting postal card (illustrated at right with a normal card above it). According to *Linn's Stamp News*, this item was used from a legitimate company and has a machine cancel from Paterson, New Jersey (December. 11, 1986). It is speculated that a printing firm, having run out of 13¢ postal cards, printed a new batch in black only (the normal card is of course in four colors) and changed the value

on the imprinted stamp image to 14¢. This is definitely an unauthorized and illegal card. The card realized a selling price of \$1,300.

For the record, if we peruse the Scott *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps* we find the following errors on sports postal stationery:

- U583 13¢ Golf stamped envelope (black omitted; black & blue omitted)
- U587 15¢ Auto Racing envelope (black omitted; black & blue omitted; red omitted; red & blue omitted)
- U597 15¢ Cycling envelope (blue omitted)
- U631 29¢ Football envelope (black omitted)
- U641 32¢ Paralympic Games envelope (blue & red omitted; blue gold omitted; red omitted; black & red omitted)
- UC57 30¢ 1984 Olympics Equestrian aerogramme (die cutting reversed)
- UX102 13¢ 1984 Olympics Torch postal card (black & yellow omitted)
- UX246 20¢ 1996 Olympics Decathlon postal card (men's cycling picture on reverse side)



REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS

by Mark Maestrone

IMOS Journal May 2001 (#110)

IMOS celebrated its 35th anniversary during their annual congress held, this year, in Suhl, Germany. With their special congress cancel, they honored the grandfather and father of the turner (gymnastics) movement in Germany, J.C.F. GutsMuths and F.L. Jahn, respectively. Two articles, one by Karl Rathjen and the other by Dieter Germann, address the men's contributions.

Other articles in this issue include a look at sports in Suhl and the surrounding region known as Thuringia. Jan Knapp and Matthias Krauss list Olympic winners from Thuringia. Manfred Winternheimer provides illustrations of all stamps portraying or commemorating these Olympians. Wolfgang Marx reviews winter sports in the region, while Gerhard Schneider discusses motorsports in Suhl.

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

Olimpismo Summer 2000

Olimpismo, the journal of the Union of Spanish Olympic Philately (U.E.F.O.) has been noticeably absent for quite sometime. I don't know if they have been publishing on a regular schedule or not, however I just recently received the Summer 2000 issue. Subjects covered include: the centennials of the FC (Football Club) of Barcelona in 1999 and RCDEspanyol club in 2000; a discussion of thematic exhibiting; the 7th IAAF World Championship of Athletics in Seville in 1999; and a review of the various exhibition cancels associated with the London 1908 Olympic Games.

Contact: UEFO, Apartado de Correos 21041, E-08080 Barcelona, Spain.

Phila-Sport January-March 2001 (#37)

Alvaro Trucchi opens this winter issue of the Italian-language journal of UIFOS with an article on snowboarding. This relatively new Olympic sport has already established itself as a popular subject on stamps and cancels judging from the wide variety

illustrated here. Next, Cesare Ravaldi takes a brief look at Olympic baseball slogan machine cancels from 1984 and 2000. Luciano Calenda reviews the philately of the XX Winter Universiade. An extensive article on the European Weightlifting Championships is presented by Riccardo Belli. While the first championships were held in Rotterdam in 1896, it wasn't until the mid-20th century that competitions were marked with philatelic emissions. Additional articles review philately related to German tennis great, Boris Becker by Valeriano Genovese, and the story of the Commonwealth Games as examined by Gianni Galeotti.

Contact: UIFOS, Casella Postale 14327 Roma Trullo - via Lenin, 00149 Rome, Italy.

Torch Bearer May 2001 (Vol. 18, #2)

This issue of the SOC's lively journal presents a number of first-hand accounts. To begin, Bob Wilcock reviews the March 2001 AFCOS (our French sister society) spring meeting in Lyon. Come September, SOC and AFCOS will be holding a joint meeting in Henley, so this was a prelude of things to come. Also in this issue, David Buxton covers the Second International Winter Olympic Collectors Fair held this past February in Lillehammer. Lastly, Jean Pierre Caravan regales the reader with his personal account of 6½ weeks in Australia as a volunteer at the Olympic Village!

From a more strictly philatelic viewpoint, Tom D'Arcy provides a review of "Cancellations Relevant to the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games." These include first day cancels, torch relay cancels, and 28 pictorial event cancels. The latter appeared in three distinct varieties: machine applied cancels on covers sold by the Australian Philatelic Bureau (APB); OLYMPHILEX 2000 hand cancels; and special order hand cancels from APB. Cancels on the Australian Gold Medallist stamps as well as those commemorating the Paralympic Games which followed the Olympic Games are also discussed. News items, additions to the library and new issue information are also provided.

Contact: Miss Paula Burger, 19 Hanbury Path, Sheerwater, Woking, Surrey, GU21 5RB, GB.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Margaret Jones

New Members

2198 Chan Hon Leung, PO Box 35215 King's Road, Hong Kong China. Mr. Leung is a merchant. *Olympics*. (WWW)

2199 Susan M. Haack, 3304 N Broadway, Box 179, Chicago IL 60657-3517 USA. Ms. Haack is vice president of a hospital management association. *Olympics*. Email: clownsnacks@prodigy.net

2200 Deborah J. Crain, 124 Sitter Street, Pleasant Hill, MO 64080-1740 USA. *Olympics*. (WWW) Email: dcrain6568@aol.com

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Marsha Lopez, 1675 Hastings Circle NW, Uniontown, OH. 44685 USA

Gregg F. Shively, 606 Elder Way, Round Rock TX 78664-7108 USA

James W. Smith (email) colsmith@mmcable.com

Total Membership, April 30, 2001 = 335

FALLSPEX 2001 (Cuyahoga Falls, OH). Marsha Lopez, APS Bronze medal, "Olympic Figure Skating Icons."

EDMONTON NATIONAL SHOW (Canada). Mircea Ursac, SPI certificate, "Olympic Games, Stamp Production, 1896-1964"; Franciska Yurich, SPI youth certificate, "Sports Played on Different Surfaces."

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NEW SPORT ISSUES

by John La Porta

Anguilla: May 5, 2000. 100th Cricket Test Match at Lord's Ground. Anguillian cricket players: \$2, Lanville Harrigan; \$4, Cardigan Connor.

Austria: March 16, 2001. Austrian Soccer Champions. 7S, soccer play, soccer scene, Casino Salzburg club emblem.

Cape Verde: September 15, 2000. Sydney 2000 Olympics. 10esc, gymnast; 40esc, judo; 50esc, hurdler; s/s of three stamps.

Colombia: April 21, 2000. Sydney 2000 Olympics. 1,000 pesos, symbolic gymnasts.

Czech Republic: May 9, 2001. European Men's Volleyball Ch., Ostrava. 12k, volleyball scene.

Finland: May 16, 2001. Orienteering World Championships. 3.60 markkas, compass.

Georgia: September 20, 2000. Sydney 2000 Olympics. Strip of three se-tenant stamps: 20 tetris, 50t & 80t, different designs with ancient Greek runner.

April 21, 2001. Ninth National Games. S/s, \$5 definitive stamp: Aw Boon Haw Gardens with Sandra gloves and matches in border.

Honduras: September 13, 2000. Sydney 2000 Olympics. 2.60 lempiras, soccer players Ivan Guernero, Mario Chirinos; 10.65l, swimmer Ramon Valle; 12.45l, runner Gina Coello. S/s of four stamps: two 4.30l stamps, swimmer, soccer player Danilo Turcios; 10.65l, runner Pedro Ventura; 12.45l, soccer player David Suazo.

September 13, 2000. Sydney 2000 Olympics. Semipostal 48.50l+1.50l on 1978 1.50l: Honduras '78 Philatelic Exhibition airmail showing Mayan pelota court. (Scott C619)

Ireland: April 26, 2001. Motor Sports/Royal Irish Automobile Club 100th anniversary. 30p/0.38e, Jordan Grand Prix Formula 1; 32p/0.41e, Rosemary Smith drives a Hillman Imp to victory in 1965 Tulip

Rally; 45p/0.57e, Paddy Hopkirk drives Mini-Cooper S to win the 1964 Monte Carlo Rally; £1/1.27e, Rudolph Caracciola wins 1930 Grand Prix in Mercedes SSK; £2/2.54e s/s, Jordan Grand Prix Formula 1. Booklet of ten 30p/0.38e stamps.

Japan: May 31, 2001. 2002 FIFA World Cup. Single plus se-tenant pair 80+10 semipostals. Mascot.

Morocco: September 15, 2000. Sydney 2000 Olympics. 6.50dh, Olympic Flame, symbolic boxer, runner, soccer player, games emblem.

Nauru: September 15, 2000. Sydney 2000 Olympics. All designs have Olympic rings and map of Australia: 90¢, runner, discus thrower; \$1, basketball; \$1.10, weightlifting; \$1.20, Olympic Torch, runner.

North Korea: January 5, 2001. World Chess Champions. Pane of six se-tenant stamps: 10ch, E. Lasker and J.R. Capablanca; 20ch, A. Alekhine and M. Euwe; 30ch, M. Botvinnik and V. Smyslov; 40ch, T. Petrosian and M. Tal; 50ch, B. Spassky and R. Fisher; 1w, A. Karpov and G. Kasparov; 2.50w s/s, Wilhelm Steinitz; 2.70w booklet.

Norway: April 20, 2001. Active Leisure Time. 4.50kr, white water kayaking; 75kr, rock climbing.

Philippines: September 20, 2000. Sydney 2000 Olympics. Four se-tenant 5p stamps: running, archery, shooting, diving. S/s of four se-tenant stamps: boxing, equestrian, rowing, taekwondo.

Poland: February 7, 2001. 20th Winter Olympic Games, Zakopane. 1zl, skier's goggles.

February 23, 2001. Ski Jumping Championships, Lahti. Two 1zl stamps: different views of ski jumper, Adam Malysz.

Portugal: March 1, 2001. World Indoor Track and Field Championships. 85esc/0.42e, runners; 90esc/0.45e, pole vaulter; 105esc/0.52e, runner; 250esc/1.25e, high jumper; 350esc/1.75e s/s, hurdlers.

San Marino: April 17, 2001. Games of the Small States of Europe. Eight se-tenant 800l/0.41e stamps: mascot (Rasta) participating in sports of boccie ball, running, swimming, cycling, target and skeet shooting, judo, tennis and table tennis, basketball and volleyball, running with flame.

Sierra Leone: February 27, 2001. World's Greatest Racehorses. 200 leones, Native Derby, Belmont and Preakness 1953; 500l, Spectre, Oaks, 1901; 2,000l, Carbine, Melbourne Cup 1890 and Sydney Cup, 1889. Two panes of six 1,200 leone stamps: (pane 1) Arkle, Gold Cup, 1964-66; Golden Miller, Gold Cup, 1932-36; Phar Lap, Melbourne Cup, 1930; Battleship, Grand National, 1938; Kelso, Washington, D.C. International, 1964; Nijinsky, Irish Sweeps Derby, 1970; (pane 2) Red Rum, Grand National 1973, 1974 and 1977; Sir Ken, Champion Hurdle, 1952-54; War Admiral, Triple Crown, 1937; Troytown, Grand National, 1920; Shergar, English Derby and Irish Sweeps Derby, 1981; Allez France, Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, 1974. Four s/s each with a 5,000 leone stamp: Desert Orchid, Gold Cup, 1989, and King George VI Chase in 1986, 1988, 1989 and 1990; Cigar, Dubai World Cup, 1996, Breeder's Cup, 1995 and

Arlington Citation Challenge, 1996; Cup Trophy; French horse race.

Syria: September 25, 2000. Sydney 2000 Olympics. £17, weightlifting; £18, women's shot put; £25 s/s, javelin.

United Arab Emirates: April 24, 2001. Winner of Dubai World Cup. 3dh, 3.50dh views of horse Dubai Millennium.

Uruguay: February 28, 2001. Rowing Club of Paysandu 100th Anniversary. 11p, the Club.

Vanuatu: September 15, 2000. Sydney 2000 Olympics. Booklet with five 67 vatu stamps: weightlifting designs.

Yugoslavia: March 8, 2001. Women World Chess Champions. Pane of eight se-tenant 10 dinar stamps and a central label: Vera Mencik; Polgar Zsuzsa; Rudenko Ludmila Vladimirovna; Elisabeta Ivanovna Bykova; Olga Nikolaevna Rubtsova; Nona Terentievna Gapridashvili; Maja Grigorievna Chiburdanidze; Xie Jun.

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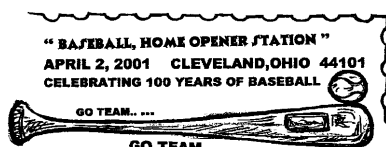
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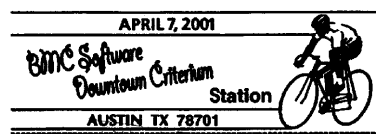
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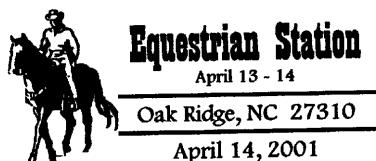
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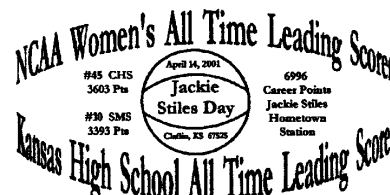
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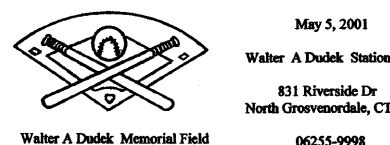
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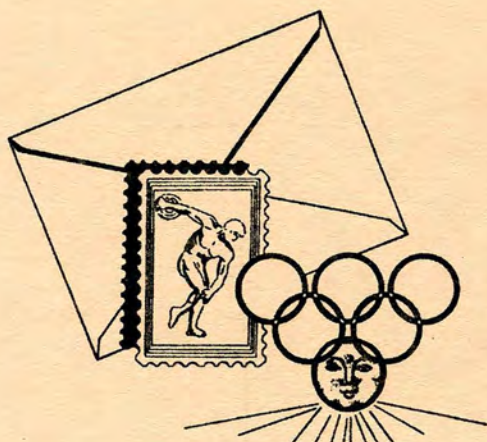
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