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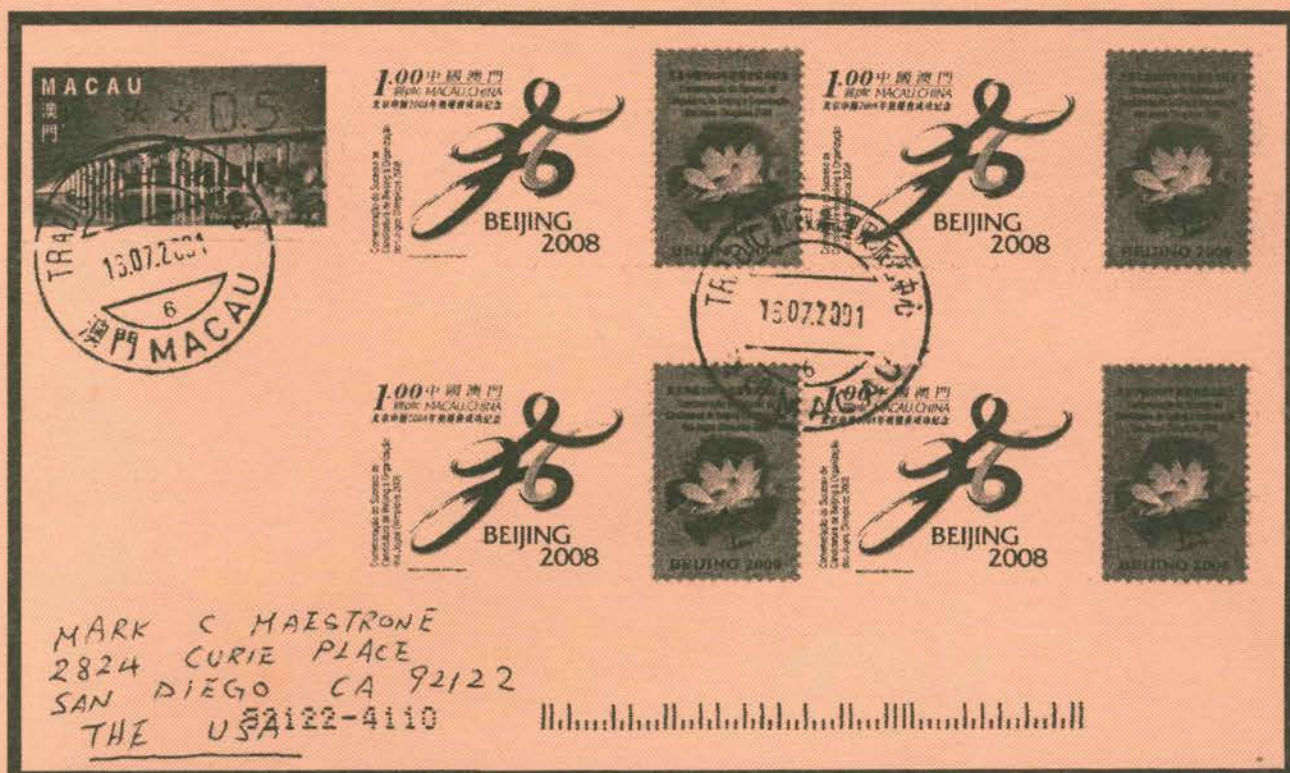
JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

VOLUME 40

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2001

NUMBER 1

Beijing Wins 2008 Olympic Games!



Macau, along with the PRC and Hong Kong, wasted no time commemorating Beijing's victory. The very next day, all three issued a common design stamp showing the Beijing bid logo.

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SPORTS PHILATELISTS INTERNATIONAL

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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.

Annual dues: \$20.00 U.S./Canada (first class mail), \$30.00 overseas (airmail).

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The Journal of Sports Philately is published bimonthly in odd numbered months. Advertising Rates: Cover \$35.00; Full Page \$32.00; Half Page \$17.00; Quarter Page \$10.00. Advance payment required. Camera ready copy must be supplied by the advertiser. Publishing deadlines: Jan. 15, Mar. 15, May 15, July 15, Sept. 15, Nov. 15 for the following issue. Single copy price \$2.50 postpaid.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual authors and they do not necessarily represent those of the editor, the officers of SPI or the position of SPI itself. All catalogue numbers quoted in this publication are from Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue unless specifically stated otherwise. SPI and JSP do not guarantee advertisements, but accept copy in good faith, reserving the right to reject objectionable material.

APS Affiliate Number 39

ISSN 0447-953X

Vol. 40, No. 1
Sept.- Oct. 2001

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

Index to Volume 39

Some of you may have noticed that this issue of the journal seems a bit lighter. No, you're not imagining things, as a quick peek at the total number of pages will reveal. This issue (and the November issue as well) are 32 pages in length in order to accommodate the index to Volume 39 which will be distributed in two parts of 4 pages each. The reason: cost of mailing.

In previous years, the added weight of the index has not presented a problem, we merely shipped it off along with an issue of the journal. Now with the revised USPS weight structure, even one additional sheet of paper bumps us up into the next rate increment – at a cost of \$150! We felt that money could be put to better use than spending it on postage. Rest assured that our 4-page-cut will be in less read portions of the journal such as some of our columns.

Eventually, we hope to be able to offer the index on the web and on CD.

News From FIPO Headquarters

Our organization of Olympic and sports philatelic societies has increased by one. On May 30, we welcomed our newest member, the Motivsammlerverein Olympische Spiele und Sport (MOSA) based in Austria.

The president of the new society is Dr. Ernst Schimpel. Correspondence may be mailed to the Deputy Chief/Vice-President Ortwin Schiessl, Lascygasse 14-16, 1170 Vienna, Austria.

In the March/April 2001 issue of *JSP* we reported a new address for the Italian members of FIPO. Their address has changed once more. All correspondence for UIFOS should now be sent to: C.P. 14327 Roma-Trullo, Via Lenin, 00149 Rome, Italy.

New Webmaster Needed Immediately!

My pleas for a new SPI Webmaster have gone largely unanswered. The Internet, while certainly not the panacea that many in the tech world have projected, provides a useful service. In addition to publicizing our society, thereby gaining us new members, our website should be a valuable source of information. Unfortunately, it has not even approached its potential in serving our members and the collecting community at large.

Philatelists are among the most intelligent, talented folks around. I would venture a guess that plenty of members have the time, creativity, and technical knowledge to perform this task.

Please don't wait for someone else to volunteer. As an old U.S. army recruitment poster read:

We Need YOU Now!

The SPI web site is located at:

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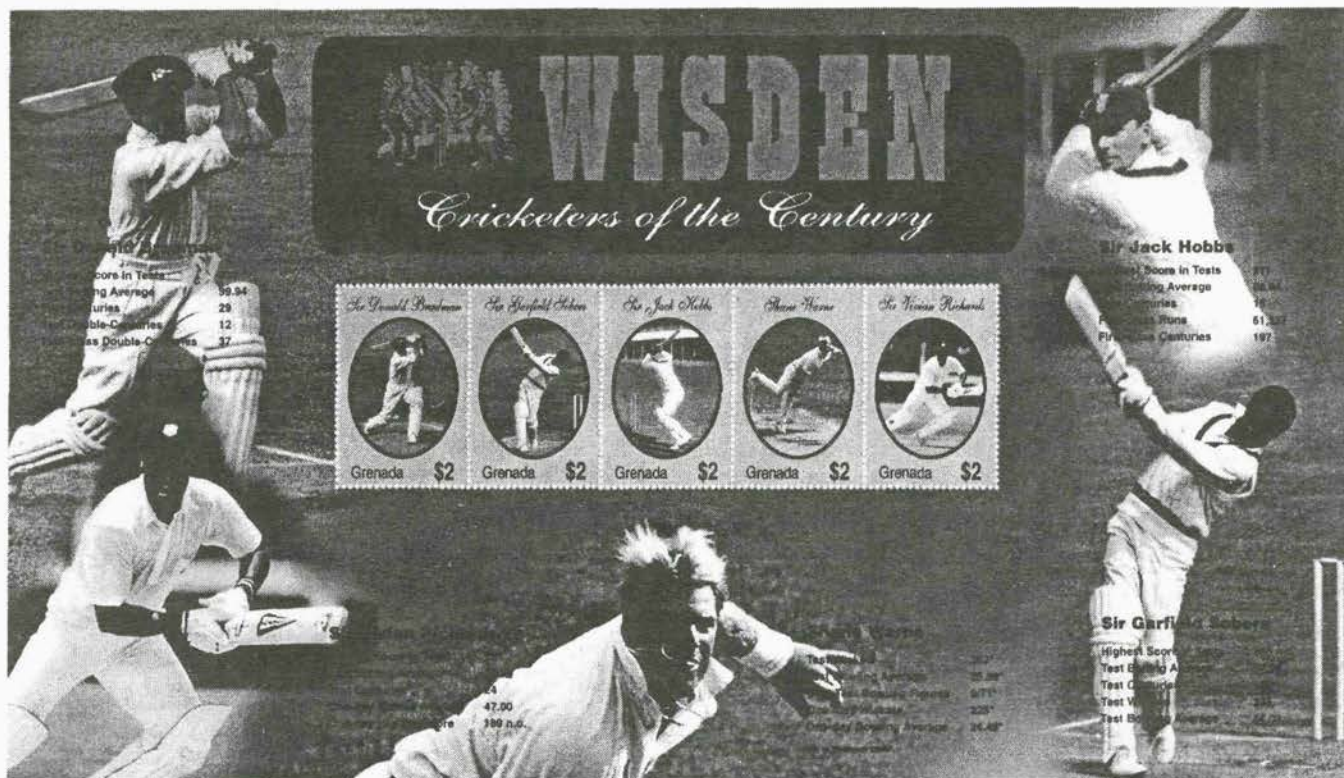


Figure 1. The five "Cricketers of the Century" as selected by Wisden Cricketers' Almanack. Grenada honored each man individually and collectively (shown here) with souvenir sheets of stamps.

Wisden's Five "Cricketers of the Century" Part 1

by Peter N. Street

Each year *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack*, the cricket lover's "bible," selects its five cricketers of the year. In the 2000 edition, by way of celebrating the end of the millennium, it selected its five cricketers of the century (Figure 1). They were Sir Donald Bradman, Sir Gary Sobers, Sir Jack Hobbs, Sir Viv Richards and, perhaps surprisingly, current Australian leg spinner, Shane Warne.

Before we discuss the five cricketers in detail, perhaps we should write a few words about John Wisden, the founder of the *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack*.

JOHN WISDEN

John Wisden was born in 1826 in Brighton, Sussex, a seaside resort on the south coast of Eng-

land. By the tender age of 18 he was playing for the strong Sussex XI. Called the "Little Wonder" due to his diminutive stature (he was only 5 feet 4 inches tall and weighed less than 100 pounds during his playing days) Wisden started as a round-arm bowler but later in his career switched to slow lobbs. (Round-arm bowling – hand to shoulder height – was introduced in 1835. Prior to that all bowling was underarm. Modern over-arm bowling was not legalized until 1864.)

Although considered an all-rounder by the standards of the day (his dependable, unspectacular batting earned him centuries against Kent and Yorkshire), it is as a bowler that he is most widely known. He played for Sussex from 1845 to 1863. For the period 1845 to 1859 he averaged 225 wickets per season with an astounding 455 in 1851.

He also played representative cricket; in one North versus South match in 1850 he captured all the second innings wickets.

In 1852 he founded the United All England XI with a Sussex colleague. Seven years later, he was a member of the All-England team that toured Canada and the United States. In one match he took six wickets with six consecutive balls (a double hat trick). On the trip over, Wisden showed the humorous side of his nature (his epigrams were said to rival those of Oscar Wilde) when he glanced at the heavy seas and observed "what this pitch needs is ten minutes of the heavy roller."

Wisden also showed considerable business acumen. Along with fellow cricketer, Frederick Lillywhite, he set up a cricket equipment and cigar business in 1855. Although the partnership was dissolved three years later, the business prospered and John Wisden was a wealthy man when he died in 1884.

John Wisden and Company continued to grow even after its founder's death. In 1897 it began manufacturing its own brand of sports equipment. Although German bombs destroyed the factory in 1944, the company continued until 1970 when it was acquired by Gray's of Cambridge. The company is currently owned by oil magnate and cricket-lover J. Paul Getty. By 1979, "The House of Wisden" as it is universally known, expanded into an additional publishing venture when it founded the *Wisden Cricket Monthly*.

On the 100th anniversary of his death in 1984, a new headstone was placed on John Wisden's grave in Brompton Cemetery near Chelsea Football Ground in London.

Notwithstanding his cricketing and business skills, John Wisden is best remembered as the founder, in 1864, of the *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack*. It remains to this day the major reference work on the game. The first edition cost one shilling and its 112 pages contained an eclectic collection of cricketing information and other sports trivia. By the late 1860's and into the 1870's, the *Almanack* had expanded to include scores of the previous season's matches, births and deaths of cricketers, match accounts and County records. This "Cricketers' Bible" boasted 500 pages by 1900. This doubled by 1950 and the 2000 edition has not less than 1,600 pages. Its arrival in bookstores is a sure harbinger of spring, signaling the start of another English cricket season.

On August 21, 1997, Guernsey, one of the Channel Islands located off the southeastern coast of England, issued a series of stamps for the Island of Alderney to celebrate 150 years of cricket on that

island. Cricket was introduced by soldiers garrisoned there. The stamps show cricket personalities with the 63-cent issue featuring John Wisden.

THE SELECTION

As indicated above, *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack* annually picks its "Five Cricketers of the Year." This selection is usually done by the editor with a little help from his friends.

However, for its Five Cricketers of the Century, Wisden decided to use a group of one hundred distinguished ex-players and cricket writers as a selection committee (the only current player among the selectors was Australian National captain, Steve Waugh).

This slate of candidates was chosen from the then nine Test playing countries with about half coming from England and Australia and based roughly on the number of Test matches played.

The criteria for selection were fairly broad with the two main guidelines being "excellence can be interpreted broadly" and "it is legitimate to take into account leadership qualities, personality, character and impact on the public."

The supremacy of Don Bradman was clearly demonstrated by his reception of all 100 votes. Gary Sobers, usually considered the greatest all-rounder of the century, did almost as well with 90 votes. However, the other three places were by no means certain with a surprising 47 players receiving at least one vote. The final choice was clear cut with Jack Hobbs (30 votes), Shane Warne (27), and Viv Richards (25) having a clear edge over Dennis Lillee and Frank Worrell (tied at 19).

Another interesting facet of the selection was that the Five's first class careers spawned almost the entire century with very little overlap or gaps.

THE FIVE CRICKETERS OF THE CENTURY:

SIR DONALD BRADMAN

In 1997, the tenth annual "Australians in Sports" survey found that the voters' favorite sporting personality was cricketer Sir Donald Bradman with 29% of the vote. Golfer Greg Norman, with 10%, was a distant second. That Sir Donald, universally known as "The Don," should still be foremost in the minds of the Australian sporting public is only the more remarkable when you realize that at that time he was 89 years old and had not played in a first class cricket match for nearly fifty years.

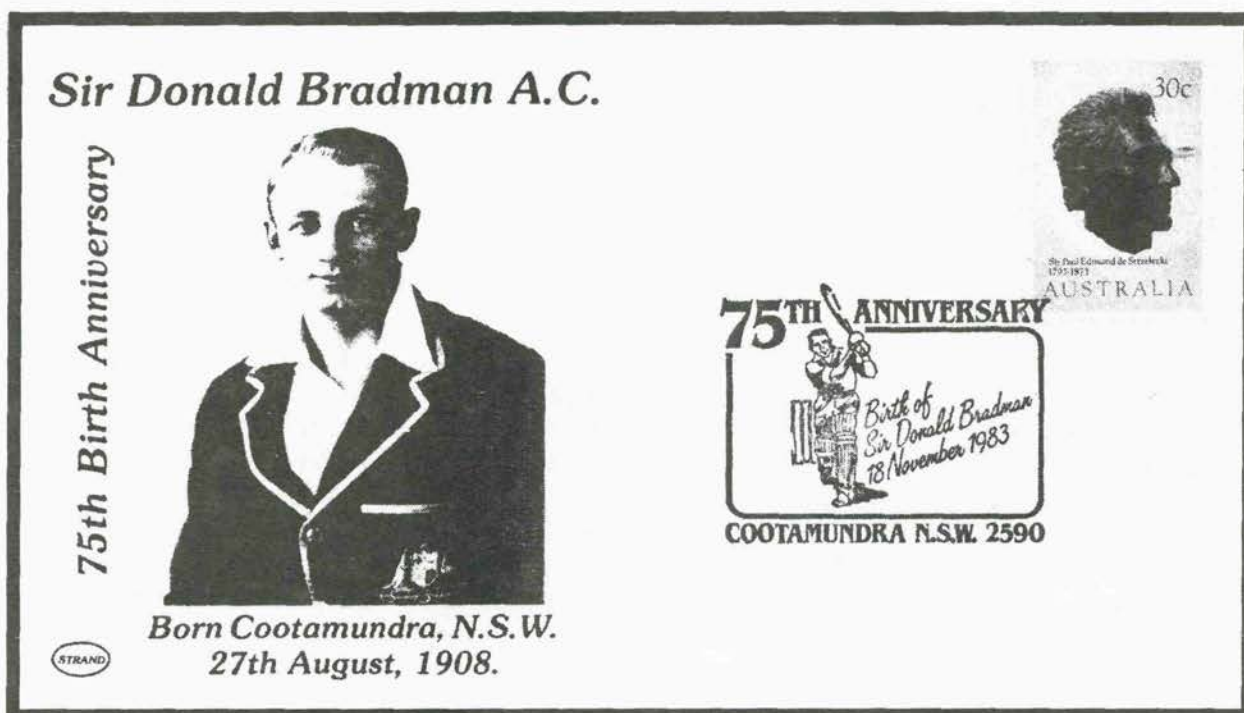


Figure 2. Sir Donald Bradman, honored by an Australian pictorial cancel on his 75th birthday in 1983.

Sir Donald Bradman was born in 1908 at Cootamundra, New South Wales. His forebears came from Suffolk, England. His grandfather emigrated to Australia in 1852 at age 18. Bradman spent his formative years in Bowral some 80 miles from Sydney. He showed an early skill in games and athletics and was playing grade and state cricket in his late teens. In his first Sheffield Shield match (Australia's primary interstate cricket competition) he scored 118 runs and for the next 21 years of first class competition he was to average a century every three innings. During that period he scored 117 centuries, 29 of them in Test matches. In addition he played 37 innings of more than 200 runs and six of over 300. He was the first non-English batsman to score the century of centuries.

His run scoring ability was based only partially on his physical attributes. He was only 5'-7" and had normal eyesight, but he was very quick on his feet. His exceptional skill was instead due to his mental approach, resolve, patience, power of concentration and the knack for assessing a cricket situation. Cricket journalist and playing contemporary of The Don, Jack Fingleton, wrote:

"It was confidence that went a long way toward making Bradman what he was. He had, of course, all the other essentials of batsmanship – eyesight, gift of timing, splen-

did footwork, superb judgement – but these could not have turned to the great wealth they were had he not possessed the confidence to give them full play. Confidence oozed out of Bradman."

His first Ashes tour (*see JSP, March 1988*) in 1930 foretold the trouble he would cause English cricket in the coming years. In that season he scored 2,960 runs (average 98.66) and scored 10 centuries. Such was his reputation as a run scorer that when England toured Australia in the 1932-33 season the English captain, Douglas Jardine, decided Bradman needed special tactics. He and the English selectors devised a bowling technique whereby the English fast bowlers (principally Harold Larwood) bowled at the batsman's legs rather than at the stumps. An arc of fielders was stationed on the leg side anticipating the miss hit and subsequent catch.

This leg theory bowling, dubbed "bodyline" by the Australian press was partially successful. Bradman's run output was reduced, England won the series and the Ashes were regained (*see JSP, March 1994*). However the tactics almost caused an international incident and they were never used again.

At one time Sir Donald held both records for Test match and first class cricket runs. In 1930, at the tender age of 21 and with only two years of first class experience he scored 452 not out in a Shef-



Figure 3. Australia honored its countryman, Sir Donald Bradman on two of its "Legends" stamps.

field Shield match against Queensland at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Seven months later he made the then highest score in Test cricket of 334 runs. He scored a century before lunch and 309 by the end of the first day – the only player ever to score 300 runs in a single day's play.

In the remaining years of his playing career Bradman dominated the batting of the cricket world. In 1936 he was made captain of the Australian national side. In leading these teams he showed the same shrewd judgment and powers of concentration that dominated his batting. During that time he never lost a series.

World War II interrupted his career but in 1948 he returned to England as the captain of an Australian team that was undefeated throughout that summer. At the end of the tour he announced his retirement from the first class game.

In the final Test match at the Oval in London, Bradman needed to score only four runs to have a Test average of 100 runs.

Applauded all the way to the wicket, he was bowled second ball by Eric Hollies. He was knighted in 1949 for his services to cricket.

Australia does not soon forget its sporting heroes and Sir Donald Bradman remained a public figure of immense significance. In retirement Sir Donald became a stockbroker and accepted several company directorships. At different times he was chairman of Australian Board of Control and chairman of selectors for the Australian National team.

In 1932 Bradman had married Jessie Menzies and when she died in 1997 Sir Donald described his marriage of 65 years as the "greatest partnership of his life."



Figure 4. Upon his death earlier this year, Australia Post reprinted its "Legends" stamps for Bradman – redesigned to include his birth and death dates and commemorative inscription in the selvedge.

Sir Donald was the subject of numerous biographies and articles in the cricket press and as each decade passed he was the inevitable subject of an article entitled "The Don at 70, 80, etc." He himself wrote several books and many articles for cricket magazines. His coaching film originally made in 1934 is now available in video and his memorabilia are regularly auctioned for vast sums of money.

In 1979 he was appointed a Commander of the Order of Australia (AC), the highest civilian honor that can be bestowed on an Australian in modern times.

His health had deteriorated somewhat toward the end of his life but such was the esteem in which he was held by the Australian public that it was seriously suggested that he take part in the torch procession for the 2000 Olympic Games. Some even thought he might light the Olympic Flame although how, at 91, he could have climbed all those steps, I'm not sure.

He died peacefully in his sleep on Sunday morning, February 25, 2001 at his home in the Adelaide suburb of Kensington Park after a bout with pneumonia. Tributes poured in from around the world as the cricketing fraternity remembered its greatest player. Ever the private man, Sir Donald's funeral was private followed by a memorial service at St. Peter's Cathedral in Adelaide on March 25. (By an amazing coincidence I happened to be working on the Bradman part of this article when I read of his death in our local [Florida] newspaper.)

Sir Donald has appeared on a number of philatelic items. In 1983 a special cover was produced to celebrate the 75th anniversary of his birth. The special postmark shows a batsman playing an off drive (Figure 2).

In 1996 Australia Post changed its stamp issuing policy to allow living people (apart from royalty) to appear on stamps.

A year later these same Australia Post authorities created the Australian Legends awards to recognize Australians who have made significant contributions to the national character and identity. Sir Donald Bradman was the first recipient of this award. The se-tenant pair of 45¢ stamps was issued on January 23, 1997. One shows a portrait and the other depicts Sir Donald at bat in the third Test match versus England at Headingley Leeds, England in 1930 when he made the then record Test score of 334 runs (Figure 3). To commemorate his death Australia Post re-issued its Bradman Legend stamps to include the dates "1908-2001" (Figure 4).

The Caribbean island of Grenada issued souvenir sheets in 2000 to mark Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Century. The Sir Donald Bradman sheet shows him in action against India in 1947. The eight-stamp sequence shows a cover drive from his innings when he achieved his hundredth first class century (Figure 5).

SIR GARFIELD SOBERS

Queen Elizabeth II stood in the warm Caribbean

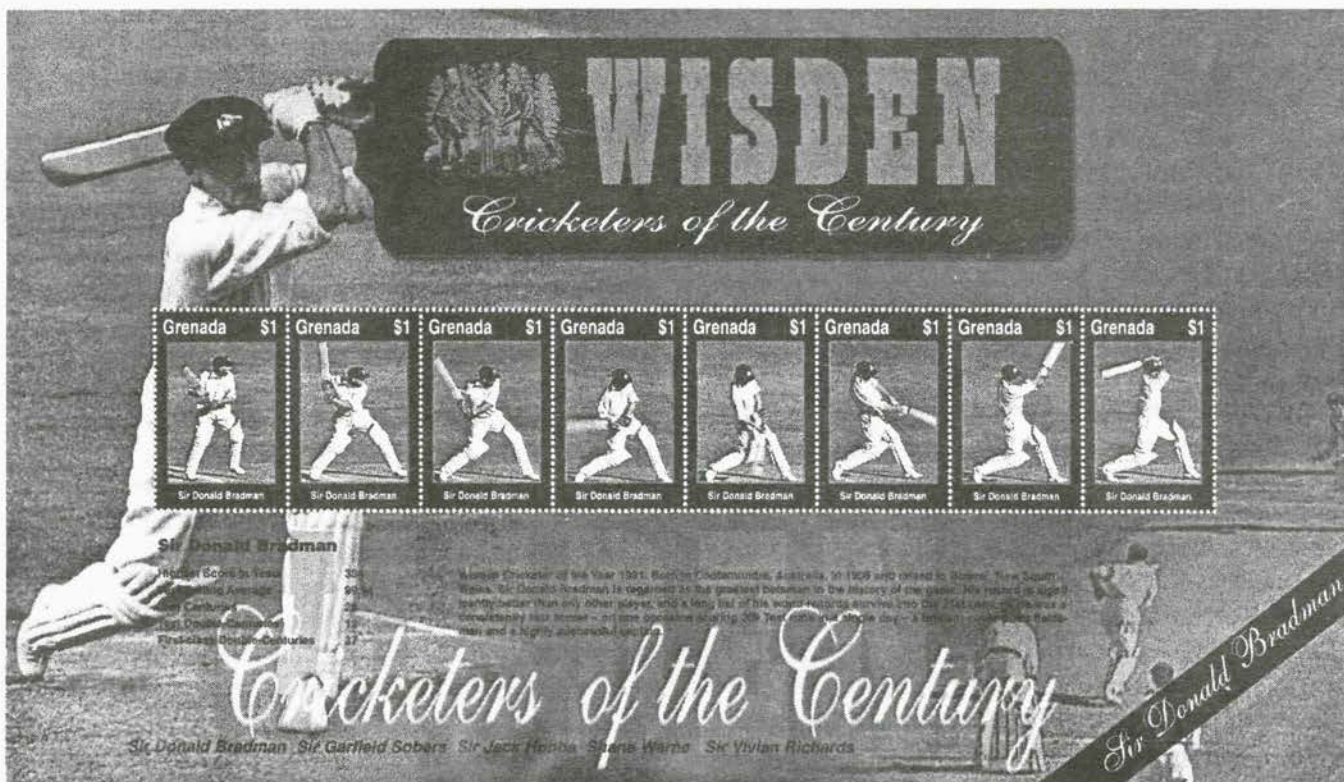


Figure 5. Sir Donald Bradman, the first of Wisden's "Cricketers of the Century."



Figures 6-8. Sir Garfield Sobers batting (above). Queen Elizabeth II knight-riding Sobers during her 1957 visit to Barbados (right, above right). While both stamps were issued for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977, the one at right was issued later. It is rouletted rather than normally perforated, and printed on self-adhesive paper.



sunshine on a small roped-off platform. She had a sword in her hand and in front of her was a small bench. The tall lithe figure stepped forward and knelt on the bench. The Queen tapped him on each shoulder with the sword. With that, cricketer Gary Sobers became Sir Garfield Sobers.

The year was 1975 and the Queen was on a Royal Visit to Barbados. The knighting took place at the Garrison Racecourse barely a mile from Walcott Avenue where Sir Garfield was born and was the first outdoors investiture in British history.

It was an unlikely accolade for a man born in poverty. One of seven children, Sobers' father, a merchant seaman was drowned in a U-boat sinking in World War II.

Sobers was an instinctive player who mistrusted coaches. He learned the game playing in the streets of St. Michael's parish with his brothers and friends. Such was his innate skill that by the age of twelve he was bowling in the nets at the fashionable Wanderer's Cricket Club.

At age 14 his youthful talent was spotted by a police captain and he was invited to join the police band as a bugler. This meant that he could play on the Barbados Police Cricket Team. Two years later he was playing for Barbados and taking wickets

against the touring Indian team. At 17 Sobers played his first Test match. Brought into the side as a spin bowler for the fifth Test match against England he took four wickets for 75 runs in the first innings when England scored 414 runs. Four years later his promise as a true all-rounder was realized when his first three-figured Test innings became a then world record of 365 not out. As the West Indian captain declared immediately after Sobers had beaten Sir Leonard Hutton's twenty-year record in knowing how many runs would have been scored as the West Indians still had seven wickets in hand.

By this stage of his career Gary Sobers was beginning to establish his claim to be the greatest all-rounder of all time.

Several years later the renowned cricket writer, Neville Cardus, wrote of Sobers in the 1967 issue of *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack*:

"His is the most renowned name of any cricketer since Bradman's high noon. He is, in fact, even more famous than Bradman ever was: for he is accomplished in every department of the game and has exhibited his genius in all climes and conditions ... he is a stylish prolific batsman, two bowlers in one, fastish left arm seaming the new ball and slow to medium back of the hand spinner with the old ball, a swift, accurate slip fielder and generally an astute captain."



Figures 9-11. Sir Garfield Sobers.





Figure 12. Sir Garfield Sobers, considered by many the greatest all-rounder of the century, had the second most votes in balloting for Wisden's "Cricketers of the Century" list.

In the early 1960's Sobers was part of the West Indian's successful tour of Australia under Frank Worrell's leadership. He played for South Australia in the 1961-62 to 1963-64 seasons twice making a thousand runs and taking 50 wickets in the ten Sheffield Shield matches, a feat never before accomplished.

In 1968 the English cricket authorities allowed the County teams to engage overseas players. Sobers was one of the first to respond and he was hired by the Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club. He was made captain and his influence was immediate moving the Nottinghamshire team several steps up the Championship table. He played for Nottinghamshire for seven seasons. Probably his most renowned feat during this period was in 1968 when playing against Glamorgan he hit slow left arm spin bowler Malcolm Nash for six runs in each ball of his over.

When Frank Worrell retired at the West Indian national captain in the 1964-65 season, Gary Sobers was his natural successor. He captained the West Indian side in 39 Tests. He was an enterprising captain, always willing to gamble. In the 1967-68 tour by England, Sobers, exasperated by the go-slow tactics of the opposition, declared England

needed 215 runs to win at 78 per hour. Sobers' bowlers maintained a bowling rate of 19 overs and England won. Sobers was greeted by the West Indian cricketing public as a pariah and vilified in the Caribbean press.

In 1970 the touring side to England was supposed to be the South Africans. However, due to that government's racial policies the tour was canceled. A "Rest of the World XI" was created to replace them with Gary Sobers as captain and the team included several South African players.

In 1971-72 Sobers let the World XI to Australia. At Melbourne he scored 254 and one of the spectators, a certain Sir Donald Bradman, rated it the greatest innings he had seen on Australian soil. Bradman was later to rate Gary Sobers as the greatest all-rounder of all time.

As a player he was perhaps the last of a dying breed. He never wore a helmet claiming it made a batsman take too many rests, nor did he wear a thigh pad for it restricted his movement. He always used a relatively light bat (2 pounds, 4 ounces) enabling him to cut and hook more effectively. He always "walked" (left the field of play) if he felt he was out and as a captain he would sometimes gamble on the result to ensure an entertaining match.

After *Twenty Years at the Top*, the title of his entertaining autobiography, he retired from first class cricket in 1974. All those years of almost continuous cricket had taken a toll on his knees and when he could no longer perform to his satisfaction he decided it was time to go.

After his retirement, Sir Garfield worked for CARICOM, the federation of Caribbean nations, and in the late 1980's he was employed by the Barbados Tourist Board. In the 1980's, television documentary maker Bud Greenspan produced a series of sports videos for the Public Broadcasting System in the United States. Entitled *Numero Uno*, each featured the foremost player in a sport. Gary Sobers was selected to represent cricket.

Sir Gary also toured the world as a cricket ambassador playing a number of representative matches. In April 1994 he was on hand in Antigua when West Indian and Trinidad batsman, Brian Lara, surpassed his record test total by scoring 365 runs.

Sir Gary Sobers has appeared on a number of stamps. In 1966 Barbados issued a four-stamp series to celebrate its independence. The 35 cents stamp shows Sobers making an off-drive (Figure 6). His knighting ceremony was featured on two separate stamps although they show the same illustration (Figures 7 and 8).

In May 2000, Sobers was one of the three cricketers Barbados featured on its omnibus issue to celebrate the 100th Test Match to be played at the Lord's Cricket Ground in London (Figure 9).

St. Vincent and Guyana both issued three stamps and a souvenir sheet in July 1994 and February 1995, respectively, to celebrate 100 years of English Tours. The \$20 stamp shows Sobers congratulating Brian Lara on breaking his Test match run record (Figure 10). St. Vincent's \$2 stamp shows an action shot of Sobers making an off drive (Figure 11). Lastly, the Grenada souvenir sheet issued in 2000 shows action shots of Sobers both as a bowler and a batsman (Figure 12).

SIR JACK HOBBS

Every December 16 there is a special luncheon meeting at the Surrey committee room at the Oval, the primary London ground of the Surrey County Cricket Club and a Test match venue. The meeting is to celebrate the birthday of a very special cricketer. The menu, by tradition, is that cricketer's favorite meal: tomato soup, roast lamb and apple pie. There is only one toast, to "The Master" because this is the Master's Club. Note that the apostrophe is between the "r" and "s," there is only one Master: Jack Hobbs. At one time Hobbs himself

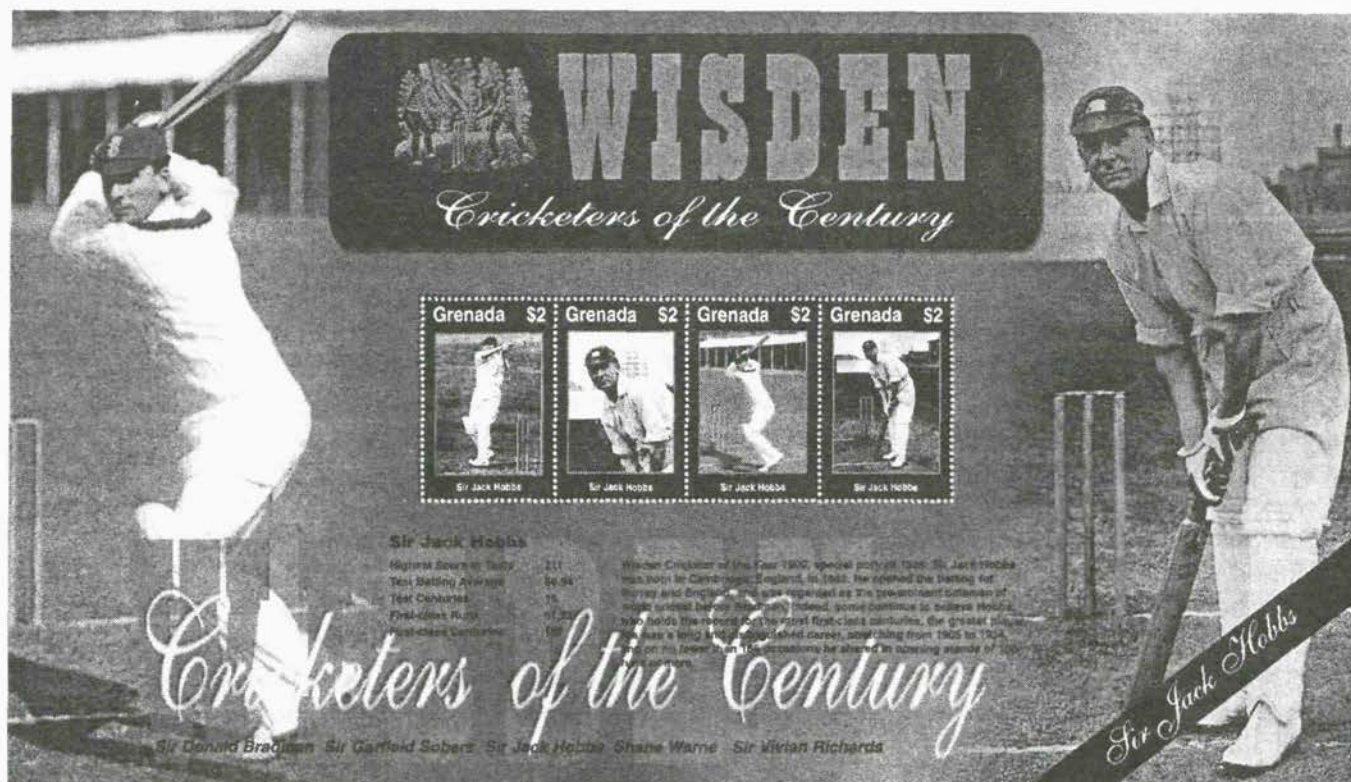


Figure 13. Sir Jack Hobbs was the third cricketer selected for Wisden's "Century" list.

attended, but it's been many years since that happened (he died in 1963). When his 98th birthday was celebrated, the toast was proposed by Andrew Sandham, his Surrey colleague in many opening partnerships. Nowadays the vast majority of the guests have never seen him play.

Jack Hobbs was born in Cambridge in 1882. His father was a net bowler for Fenners, the University ground, and later a groundsman. His boyhood idol was Tom Hayward, a fellow Cambridge man. It was Hayward that brought him to the Surrey County Cricket Club.

In his first match for Surrey in April 1905 Hobbs and Hayward opened the innings against the Gentlemen of England led by Dr. W.G. Grace. Hobbs scored 29 and 85 not out. These were the first of more than 60,000 runs that Hobbs would make in first class cricket playing for Surrey and England. Two weeks after this match he made 155 against Essex in his first Championship match and was promptly awarded his county cap. This was the first of 197 centuries he was to make in his illustrious career. Perhaps the most remarkable statistic was that 98 of these hundreds were made after Hobbs attained the age of 40. (In this modern era the number of players in first class cricket over that age could probably be counted on one hand.)

He has a number of other records to his name: the highest score (316 not out) ever made in a first class match at Lord's; the highest score (266 not out) in the Gentlemen versus Players match; his 16 centuries and aggregate of 4,052 runs in that fixture; and, his twelve centuries against Australia. In 1925 at the age of 42 he made 3,024 runs with an average of 70.

In the fourteen Test series that he played for England between 1907 and 1930, he totaled 5,410 runs and averaged 56. Always playing as an opening batsman, he took part in 166 first wicket partnerships of over one hundred. Of those, 28 exceeded two hundred. For Surrey his opening partner was Tom Hayward, who was succeeded by Andy Sandham. In Test matches he shared in 23 century partnerships, eight with Wilfred Rhodes and 15 with Herbert Sutcliffe.

Hobbs' career batting average was only 50.62 primarily because he was not interested in scoring runs for their own sake. For much of his Surrey career the side had a strong batting side and his home ground (the Oval in London) had good batting pitches. Under these circumstances he often "had a go" after he had reached his century. How-



Figure 14. Hobbs' portrait (left) and him making a square cut (right) on the Grenadines' "Leaders of the World series."

ever if playing conditions were difficult, he could apply himself with great concentration and batting skill. The essence of his batting was the ability to make his strokes without having to hurry. He was able to sight the ball early after it had left the bowler's and move into position with ease and poise.

Hobbs seldom bowled. He had an easy, rhythmic action and was able to swing the ball late. In the 1909-10 series against South Africa he opened both the bowling and the batting in three of the Test matches. In 1920 he even headed the English first class bowling averages (17 wickets at 11.82).

He was a magnificent fielder at cover and was often able to effect a run-out. In the 1911-12 Australian tour he ran out 15 batsmen.

Off the field of play, Hobbs was a man of quiet dignity who shunned the spotlight and was thus able to lift the status and dignity of the English professional cricketer. He also played in an era when England's captain was always an amateur (England's first professional captain was Len Hutton in 1953). In the Old Trafford Test match against Australia in 1926, the English captain, A.W. Carr, contracted tonsillitis during the match. Hobbs, then 43 years old and the senior professional on the side, was asked to lead the team. It was typical of his quiet modesty that he pointed out that there was another amateur, G.T.S. Stevens, on the team. However Stevens was making his debut and Hobbs reluctantly took over the captaincy.

Jack Hobbs retired from the first class game in 1934 when he was fifty-three years old. Such was his estimation in the eyes of the cricketing public that in 1953 he was knighted for his service to cricket. He was also held in high esteem by his contemporaries. In the March 2001 issue of *Wisden Cricket*

Monthly, Alf Gover, the oldest living Test cricketer at 93 told how excited he was to open the Surrey innings with Hobbs. The game was against Northamptonshire and Surrey had a half hour to bat before the close of play. Normally a fast bowler, Gover was pressed into service to open the batting with the Master. He survived that evening and even part of the next morning before he was dismissed. Gover feels his own gravestone should read, "He opened with Hobbs."

In an article in the September 1982 issue of *Wisden Cricket Monthly*, commentator John Arlott picked a "desert island" cricket team. Sir Jack Hobbs was his first pick. Arlott wrote:

"He blended perfection of execution with complete ease of style but also because of his generosity of spirit. How many of today's leading batsman can laugh when they are out of turn to the bowler who dismissed him and say 'well bowled'."

Jack Hobbs received three benefits from Surrey which enabled him to set up a sports equipment

business in Fleet Street in London. I can well remember as a teenager going up to London to buy a cricket bat from Jack Hobbs' shop.

Apart from the Grenada souvenir sheet showing Jack Hobbs (Figure 13), he was also featured on the Leaders of the World Series issued by the Grenadines of St. Vincent in 1984. One stamp shows a portrait of Hobbs while the other shows him making a square cut (Figure 14).

(To be continued in the next issue of JSP.)

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Figure 1. First day of issue (April 1, 1924) of the 1924 Paris Olympic Games stamps.

Used Long After

by Dale Lilljedahl

Although we do not see it occur frequently in the United States, it is a common practice in many countries for the postal administration to declare some of their postage stamps invalid after a period of time. Actually all U.S. postage stamps printed prior to 1861 are invalid for use as postage, although I doubt too many people would use those stamps on letters today. At the start of the Civil War all postage stamps printed prior to the secession of the southern states were declared invalid to deny the Confederacy a possible source of revenue. All stamps issued since that time can still be used to send mail.

In many nations postage stamps have a limited period of use. Typically after six months to a year they are invalidated. Perhaps this practice increases the sale of postage, since new stamps must be purchased to replace the unused ones that are no longer valid.

In the 1920's France routinely voided their com-

memorative stamps. However, it took a vigilant postal employee to catch people trying to use postage stamps after their withdrawal. A review of my French covers leads me to believe that many slipped by the authorities.

France issued a set of four stamps on April 1, 1924, to commemorate the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris. The 10 centimes and 25 centimes values are both known to exist on covers of that date. Figure 1 shows the 25c used from Banlieue.

According to both Heiko Volk and the *Marianne Catalog* all four of the Olympic stamps were declared postally invalid on December 31, 1924. Yet the cover in Figure 2 prominently displays the 25c Olympic stamp used from Paris 121, Rue des Halles in 1932, about eight years after it was declared void.

Even worse is the Figure 3 cover with a single 25 centimes Olympic stamp hidden amongst the crowd in a 1940 cover from Vincent de Tyrasse.

I guess the 1924 Olympic stamps continued to rise from the dead for many years after their scheduled demise!



Figures 2 & 3. Despite the fact that the 1924 Olympic stamps were valid for only 9 months, they continued to slip by postal employees 8 – and even 16 – years later!



"Sir Walter" – Champion Golfer

by Patricia Ann Loehr

In the world of golf, those who rise to the top are almost certain to acquire some sort of affectionate and enduring title along the way, befitting their contributions to the sport. So it is with "Sir Walter" Hagen as pictured on a "Kings of Sport" commemorative cover (Figure 1). If such nicknames alone were a measurement of greatness, then Sir Walter might have an advantage since he was also known as "The Haig." His date and place of birth are honored by the cancellation on this cacheted cover.

Hagen's long and storied journey into the cherished history of the sport began with his victory at the United States Open championship of 1914 at the Midlothian Country Club in Illinois. After his win at Midlothian, Hagen returned to Rochester, but he would not stay. He left to accept an offer to be the club professional at Oakland Hills Country Club near Detroit, Michigan.

Upon arriving in Detroit, Hagen found himself in an environment that welcomed his appetite for an extravagant lifestyle – one that he would support using his golfing abilities. However, Hagen soon

announced that he would resign his club position to become an independent professional tournament golfer. Despite the turnaround in his plans, Hagen made lasting friendships in Michigan.

Sir Walter established his greatness during the "Roaring Twenties" also known as "The Golden Age of Sport" in America. He won his first Professional Golfers Association (PGA) championship in 1921, followed by four in a row from 1924 through 1927.

He created the occupation of the touring golf professional by recognizing the entertainment potential and excitement tournament golf had to offer. In pursuit of championship golf, Hagen traveled extensively. He won four British Open Championships in the 1920's. Like the title character in F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel, *The Great Gatsby*, Sir Walter lived, golfed, and traveled first class. He loved to party, have a good time, and spend his money. He stated that he never wanted to be a millionaire, just live like one.

Ever conscious of the need to develop new golf-related ventures with which he could support himself, Hagen became the first professional golfer to start a business manufacturing golf equipment on a production basis.

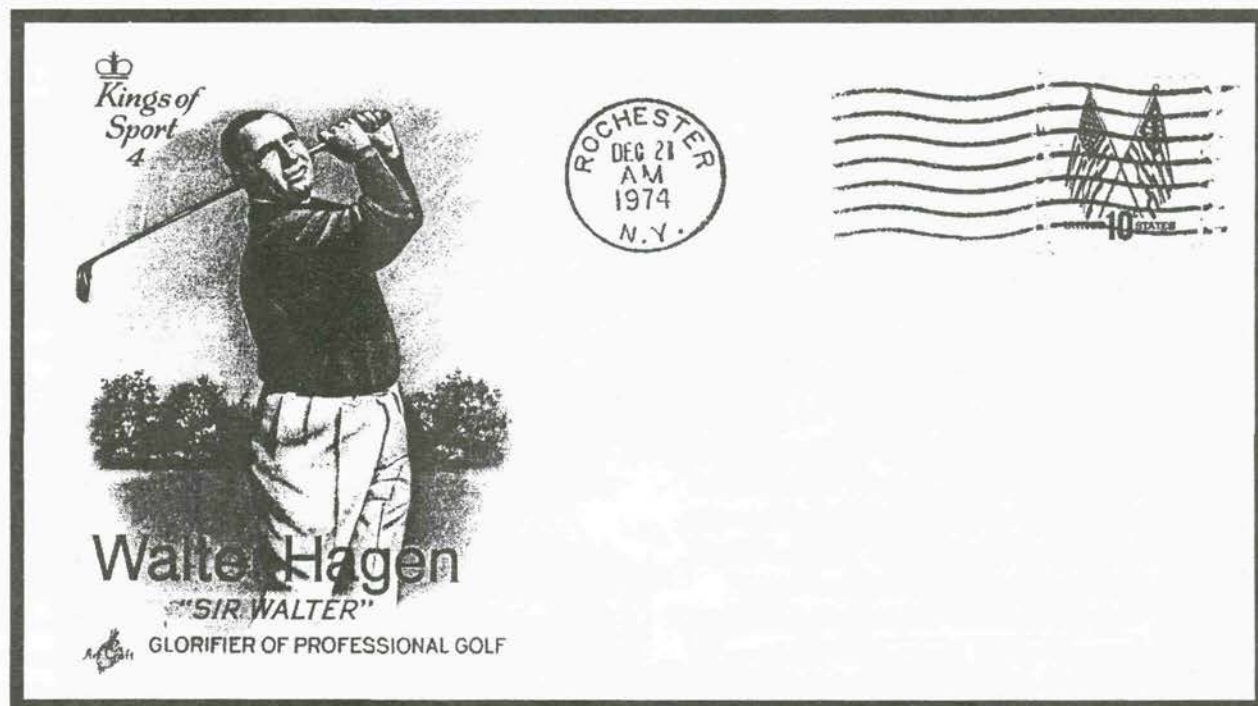


Figure 1. Walter Hagen was born in Rochester, New York on December 21, 1892. The cover commemorates this great golfer who would have been 82 years of age this day.

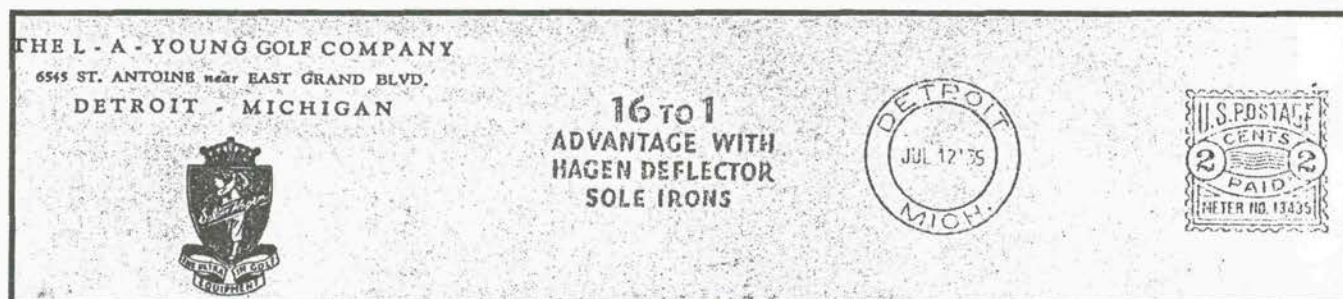


Figure 2. Though the company was sold to L.A. Young in 1927, Hagen's name continued to be used on products as indicated by these meter imprints.



He soon found the demands of maintaining his golfing commitments and running a company to be too much. Detroit businessman L.A. Young purchased the company in 1927 and transferred the name to Detroit where he opened a factory.

Golf philatelists benefit from this chapter in Walter Hagen's life as it resulted in a few slogan meter stamps promoting his golf equipment. The early meters are from Detroit (Figure 2). Young eventually moved the company to Grand Rapids as seen on later meters (Figure 3). He finally sold it to the Wilson Company in 1944.

The meter impressions are in purple; the corner cards are printed in red and black. The company

logo – a shield design surmounted by a crown – resembles a coat-of-arms featuring Sir Walter.

By the time the meter stamps appeared, Hagen's competitive golf career was ending, yet he continued to participate in exhibitions. When it came time to leave the world of professional golf, Hagen purchased his first home in Traverse City, Michigan and lived there until his death, October 5, 1969 at the age of 76. While the commemorative cover in Figure 1 was produced to honor Sir Walter after his death, the meter stamps – thanks to Sir Walter himself – remind us of all the success he accomplished during his lifetime and his fondness for his adopted home, Michigan.

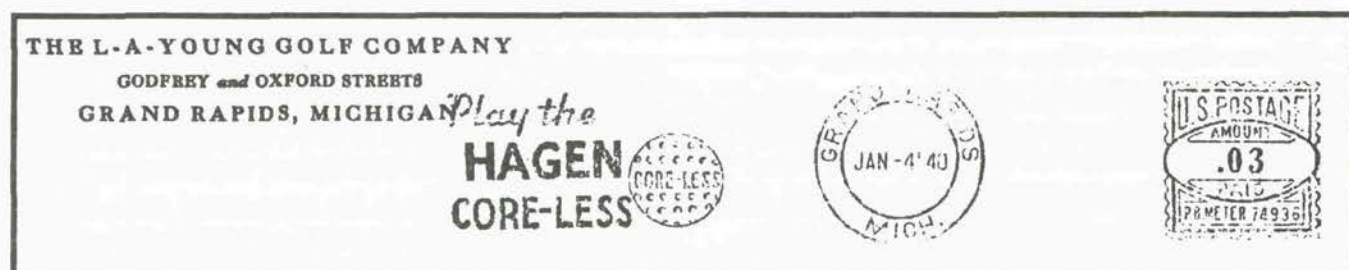
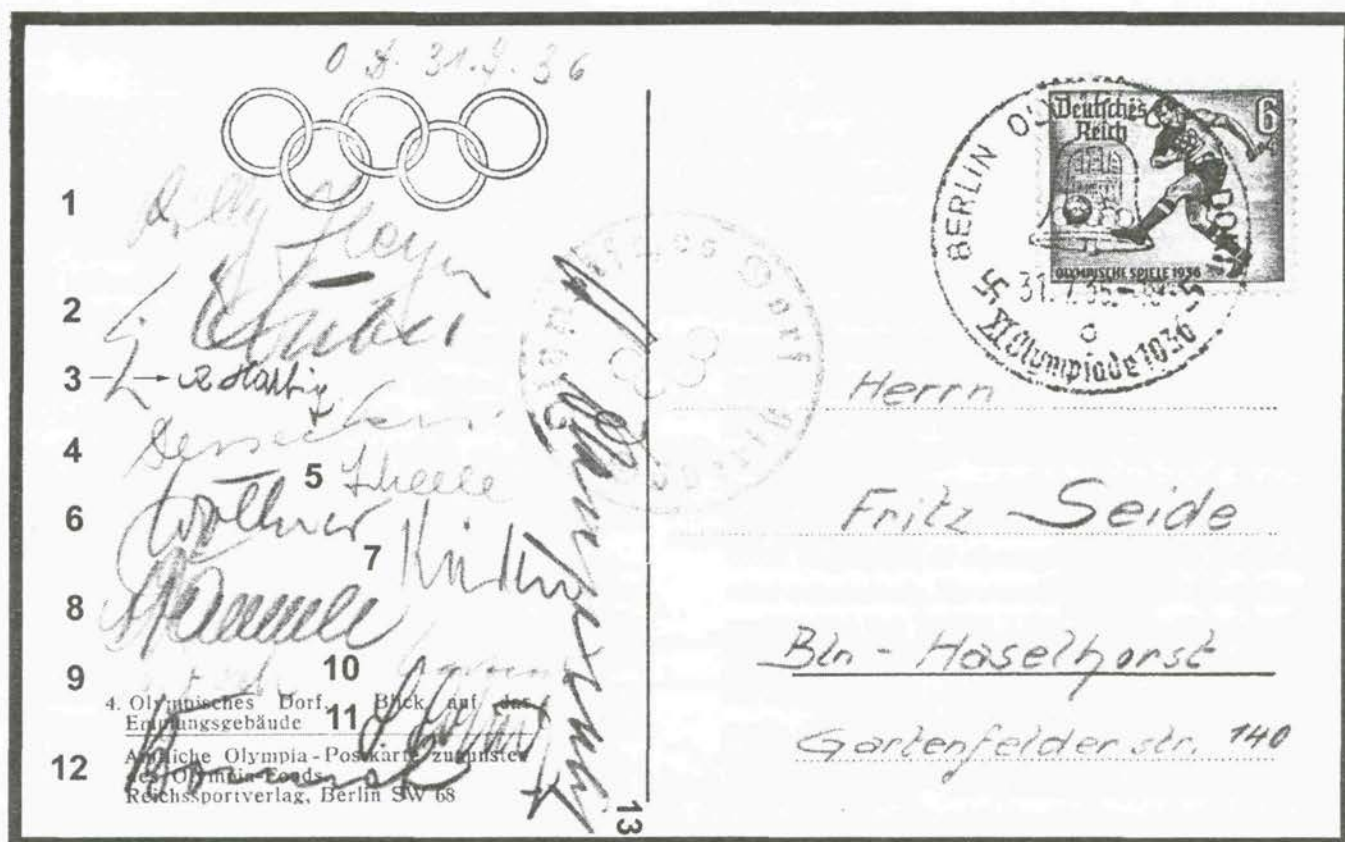


Figure 3. While Young later moved the company to Grand Rapids, Michigan, the Hagen name, synonymous with quality golf products, continued to be used in slogan meter advertising.



1936 Berlin Olympic postcard bearing the signatures of 13 members of the German men's track & field team. The numbers adjacent to each name are keyed to the accompanying identification table. Not all names have been deciphered.

Team Spirit

by Mark Maestroni

The German Men's Athletics team at the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games certainly took team comradeship to heart if the postcard reproduced here is any indication. No less than 13 members signed the back of this card before it was mailed from the Olympic Village on July 31, 1936 – the day before the Games opened.

The card is franked with a 6pf + 4pf Olympic soccer stamp, meeting the correct rate for a post card to a domestic destination. The stamp is canceled with an Olympic Village cancel (station "O"). The circular "Olympisches Dorf" cachet was included. I do not know who the addressee, Herrn Fritz Seide, was. Perhaps he was a coach or fellow athlete who was not able to attend the Games?

I discovered the card in a dealer's box at the ROMPEX 2001 show in Denver this past May. At the time, I had no idea who the signatories were, but I

reasonably assumed they were competitors. The only autograph that rang a bell was #3, "R. Harbig."

Once at home, I consulted a variety of sources, managing to read eight of the names. Thomas Lippert, a fellow SPI member in Germany, was able to identify two more, as well as supply some details of their athletic careers.

So who were some of these athletes and how did they do at the Games?

Rudolf Harbig, the "key" to the puzzle, is perhaps the best known of the group. He competed in two events at these Games; his best finish was a bronze medal in the 4 x 400-meter relay.

Harbig was one of the many casualties of World War II, dying in Russia in 1944. For many years, he was somewhat of a cult figure, especially in East Germany. A stadium in his hometown of Dresden (in what used to be the GDR) was named for him, as was a special track & field meet held until 1966. West Germany honored him with a stamp in 1968.



Rudolf Harbig honored by Germany on a 1968 stamp (Scott B435).

Also well-known in the athletics stadia of the day was Erwin Huber. Considered by many to be the finest all-round athlete in Europe at that time, Huber nevertheless finished out of the medals in the decathlon competition at Berlin.

Erwin Huber did achieve lasting fame in Leni Riefenstahl's movie about the 1936 Olympic Games, "Olympia." The first part of this four-hour epic juxtaposes examples of ancient Greek art and culture with modern equivalents. An image of Myron's famous statue, the "Discobulus" or discus thrower dissolves into a view of Erwin Huber duplicating the same pose.

As for the other German athletes who signed the post card, their names seem to have vanished into the mists of time.

I would welcome more information on any of these gentlemen, as well as identification of the last three names on the card.



German 4 x 400-meter team (bronze medal): von Stülpnagel, Voigt, Harbig, and Hamann.

1936 German Olympic Men's Athletics Team

	Name	Event	Result
1	Willy Heyn	3,000-meter Steeplechase	9 th Place (9 min. 26.4 sec.)
2	Erwin Huber	Decathlon	4 th Place (7,087 pts)
3	Rudolf Harbig	800 meters 4 x 400-meter Relay	6 th Place (1 st round heats) Bronze (3 min. 11.8 sec.)
4	W. Dessecker	800 meters	Eliminated in semi-final
5	Hans Scheele	400-meter Hurdles	Heat 4 - 3 rd Place (54.6 sec.)
6	Heinz Woellner	Hop, Step, and Jump	4 th Place (15.27 meters)
7	Willi Kurten	400-meter Hurdles	6 th Place (2 nd round heats)
8			
9	Erich Joch	Hop, Step, and Jump	7 th Place (14.88 meters)
10	E. Mertens	800 meters	5 th Place (2 nd round heats)
11			
12			
13	H. Blazejczak	400 meters	6 th Place (2 nd semifinal)

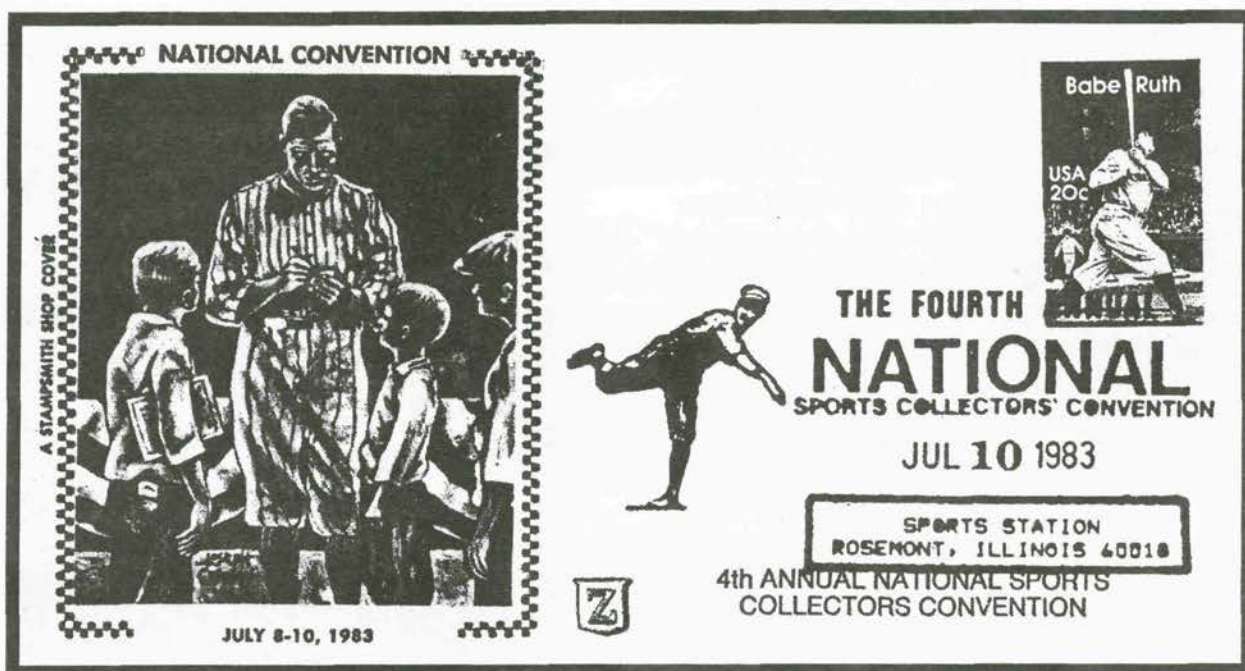


Figure 1. 1983 Rosemont, Illinois: earliest use of a baseball postmark at a sports card show.

Baseball Card Shows: Going, Going, Gone

by Norman Rushefsky

In collecting baseball cancels, there is a subtopic unique to U.S. postmarks – those related to baseball card collecting. Typically, baseball related postmarks, whether they be those of the United States or of other countries, celebrate various baseball events, teams, players or sports related activities or stamp shows. During the 1980's, before the stock market bubble, speculation in baseball cards was rife. With prices continuously rising, it was inevitable that new collectors would enter the market, thus providing the increased demand upon which the speculative fever feeds.

A philatelic benefit of this fever were the numerous special cancels created for baseball card and memorabilia shows. Eventually, due to an oversupply of baseball cards and the reduced demand from youth due to other sports card collecting interests, the fever broke and prices fell accordingly.

The earliest baseball postmark in my collection for a sports collectors' event is illustrated in Figure 1. The cancel honors the 4th National Sports Collectors' Convention held in Rosemont, IL in 1983.

The 1987 Springfield, NJ cancel reproduced in Figure 2 is, to my knowledge, the first marking a baseball card show.

In 1989 an aptly named Spring Spectacular Baseball Card Show was held in Cincinnati, OH. The "spectacular" postmark, measuring over 3½" wide by 2" high, is shown in Figure 3. It was used on June 10 and 11, 1989. The June 10 date is of particular interest because it was the first day of issue of the Lou Gehrig baseball stamp at Cooperstown, NY. The postmaster in Cincinnati refused collectors' mail-in requests for postmarking of the Lou Gehrig stamp with the June 10 cancel unless actually presented for cancellation on that day.

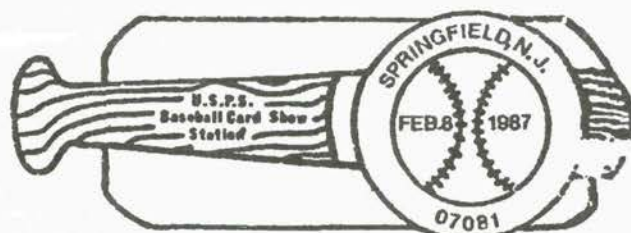


Figure 2. The earliest postmark that I am aware of mentioning the words "baseball card."



Figure 3. This postmark would have made a great unofficial first day postmark for the Lou Gehrig stamp – do any exist?

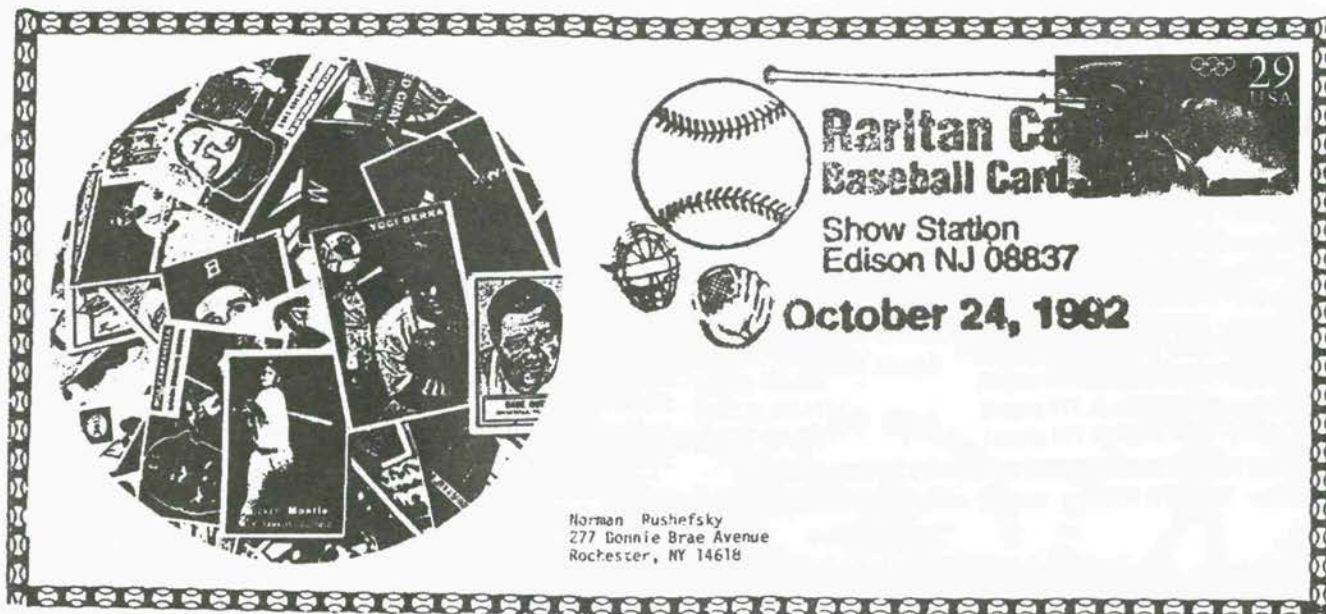


Figure 4. The final "baseball card" postmark seems to have been used for a New Jersey show in 1992.

The reader will note that the U.S. Postal Service provides a thirty-day grace period for obtaining these postmarks. Requests for June 10 postmarks on envelopes bearing the Gehrig stamp that were submitted after that date were denied whereas envelopes bearing the Gehrig stamp were permitted the thirty-day grace period for the June 11 cancel. I have yet to see an unofficial first day of issue of the Lou Gehrig stamp postmarked with this June 10 postmark.

From 1987 through 1991 quite a few baseball topical postmarks were used at baseball card or sports memorabilia shows. The curtain appears to have descended on this practice in 1992. The Raritan Center Baseball Card Show in Edison, NJ (Figure 4) is the last baseball postmark in my collection honoring one of these baseball collecting events.

With the rise in sports card collecting, interest in stamp collecting waned. Many stamp shows found it economically necessary to also cater to coin and sports card collectors. A fallout from this was that a few baseball topical postmarks were used for



The All American Coin, Stamp & Baseball Card Show

1914 - 1992

78 Years of Celebration Station

Mother's Day

May 9, 1992

Santa Clara Convention Center
Santa Clara CA 95054

Figure 5. While this cancel honors Mother's Day, it also is a baseball topical collectible.

shows that included the word "baseball" in their names.

This appears to be exclusively limited to shows put on by Expos Unlimited in Santa Clara, CA in 1991 and 1992. Figure 5 illustrates one postmark used at one of these shows ostensibly to celebrate Mother's Day of 1992. The postmark also features the name of the show which is "The All American Coin, Stamp & Baseball Card Show," thus making the postmark a suitable one the baseball topical philatelist

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2000 SYDNEY OLYMPICS

by Brian Hammond

When the last part of this series of articles was published in the March/April 2001 issue, I promised an update as new material and information became available. Since then John La Porta has been listing Sydney 2000 Olympic stamp issues in his "New Stamp Issues" column. Thomas Lippert and our editor produced an interesting article on the Sydney Personalized stamps in the May/June 2001 issue. The following update includes material not yet covered: Sydney cancellations and the many additional postcards that have come to light since the Games concluded.

TICKETS AND PHONE CARDS

For collectors of Olympic tickets, I have added a new one to my collection. This ticket was issued to allow people who did not have a ticket to an Olympic event access to the Olympic Park at Homebush. The ticket design appears to be different for each day of the Games. I do not know which dates exist or how many tickets were issued each day. The tickets are numbered and bear the Sydney Games logo. They were issued in connection with the *Daily Telegraph*.

Germany issued three phone cards. Two 6 DM cards depict gymnastics and jumping, while the third, valued at 25 DM, shows runners.

Of the 32 Australian phone cards issued for the Games, four reproduce the Sydney Mascots. One card each is valued at \$50 and \$20; the final two cards have \$10 denominations. The remaining 28 sports cards were discussed in my January/February 2001 column.

AUSTRALIA POST OLYMPIC POSTMARKS

This section updates information in previous articles. Thanks to Tom D'Arcy for his help and to SOC/Torch Bearer for some of the illustrations.

Torch Relay Cancells – The nine torch relay cancellations from Australia Post bearing the Olympic rings in the center were issued in three different diameters (full information can be viewed at the IMOS web site: www.olympia-philatelie.de). Type

1 was used by the philatelic service in Melbourne for individual orders. All nine cancels are 34 mm in diameter. Type 2, also used by the philatelic service, but for complete sets of covers, are all 33 mm in diameter. Type 3 was used by the GPO at the locations mentioned on the postmark. The diameter of the Type 3 cancels varies by location: 34 mm at Yulare, Darwin, Adelaide and Melbourne; 33 mm at Perth and Canberra; 32 mm at Brisbane; and 31 mm at Hobart. The size of the cancels from the Sydney GPO are not known. Note: some Hobart cancellations have the Olympic rings at an angle instead of straight.

Sports Pictorial Cancels – All 28 sports cancels were used on each day of the Games from September 15 through October 1, 2000. There are three types of each sports cancel differentiated by the overall diameter of the cancel and type face of the date slug (illustrated below). Type 1 cancels were machine applied by an outside contractor to sets of covers available by mail from the Australian Philatelic Bureau in Melbourne. The cancels, artwork for



Type 1: 38mm
Serif Date



Type 2: 36-37mm
3mm Nonserif Date



Type 3A: 38mm
3mm Nonserif Date



Type 3B: 38mm
2mm Nonserif Date

which was supplied by Australia Post, measure 38 x 37 mm and have date slug text in a serif typeface. The ink density is uniform (typical of machine-applied postmarks). Type 2 cancels were used at OLYMPHILEX 2000 until September 28, and then at GPO Sydney until the end of the Games. These hand cancels varied from 36 mm to 37 mm (horizontally) and used a sanserif typeface for the date slug that was 3 mm high. Type 3 cancels were hand applied at the Australian Philatelic Bureau in Melbourne and used to cancel special orders. The date slugs had 3 mm (subtype "A") or 2 mm (subtype "B") sanserif lettering. Athletics, Canoe/Kayak, Hockey, Judo, and Shooting used the 3 mm lettering while the remaining sports had 2 mm lettering.

Olympic Gold Medalist Cancels – Collectors should note that there are variations in size of the gold medalist cancels. Also some post offices did not open on a Saturday or Sunday and some had a public holiday on Monday, October 2, 2000. The following table provides dates of operation of each post office providing digital Gold Medalist stamps on the first day of issue. Post offices with identical dates of operation are grouped together.

Gold Medalist Stamps – First Days of Use		
<i>Post Office Groups</i>	<i>FD's on this date ...</i>	<i>... moved to this date</i>
Sydney NSW 2000 Perth WA 6000 Olympic Village	Post offices open all days during Games	
Brisbane QLD 4000 Melbourne VIC 3000 Darwin NT 0800	9/17 9/24 10/1	9/18 9/25 10/2
Queen Victoria Bldg. NSW 1230 Strathfield NSW 2135 Burwood NSW 2134 Adelaide SA 5000	9/17 9/24 10/1	9/18 9/25 10/3
Olympihlex Sydney NSW 2000	9/29 9/30 10/1	unavailable unavailable unavailable
Canberra ACT 2600	9/17 9/24 9/30 10/1	9/18 9/25 10/3 10/3
Hobart TAS 7000	9/17 9/24 9/30 10/1	9/18 9/25 10/2 10/2

Olympihlex 2000 Cancels – The special cancel from the OLYMPHILEX exhibition at the Royal Australian Mint in Canberra measured 31 mm in diameter. The cancellation from OLYMPHILEX in Sydney comes in two sizes: 35 mm and 31 mm. My 35 mm copies came from the Melbourne Bureau and the 31 mm copies were obtained at the OLYMPHILEX stand at the show.

Olympic Village Cancel – This cancel was only issued with the wording "Olympic Village Sydney NSW 2000." It was not issued with the text "Homebush NSW 2000" as illustrated on page 5 of the September/October 2000 issue of *JSP* (Australia Post had used an incorrect illustration in its advance publicity).

OLYMPIC POSTCARDS

As I suspected, additional Sydney Olympic postcards are still being discovered. My own collection includes over 600 different cards and is far from complete. Recent additions include:

Avant Cards – These cover a wide selection of subjects. Some are advertisement cards from Olympic sponsors while others promote the Olympic arts festival events. Some have the Olympic rings or logo on either the face or back. They were given away at the time of the Games. I know of no list and new cards are still being found.

Sydney Aquatic Centre – The Centre produced a set of four cards with advertising on the reverse noting that it was the venue for the 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Nucolorvue Productions printed these cards. They show the Entrance, Leisure Pools, Children's pool area and Competition Pool.

Anset Australex Cards – One new card has surfaced, #Aus 326, depicting a Boeing 747-300 at Paris' Charles de Gaulle Airport on 6/96.

Bartel Cards – While not the official postcard supplier, Bartel has many cards with an Olympic theme including a series showing the Sydney 2000 Olympic Arenas. I have ten cards in this series.

New Millennium Images and David Messent – Both produced a number of cards during the Games, many showing Olympic Sydney at night or

the display of fireworks on the final night at the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Sydney G Hughes – Their cards include the Australian Olympic Committee logo from many Australian towns, and text reading “Assisting Athletes in the Australian Olympic Team.”

AMP – An official Olympic partner, AMP issued a joined set of three cards with views of Sydney and the AMP Tower on the face and details of AMP and their Olympic sponsorship on the reverse.

Canada Post – Canada’s postal administration issued a set of five cards called “Mission Sydney” showing Derek Porter, Nicolas Gill, Lynn Bessette, Joanna Malar and Karen Furneauk.

Norway Olympic Museum – The museum produced two Melbourne postal stationery post cards with different imprinted stamps. The javelin card includes the Olympic rings while the football card has the Sydney logo on the back.

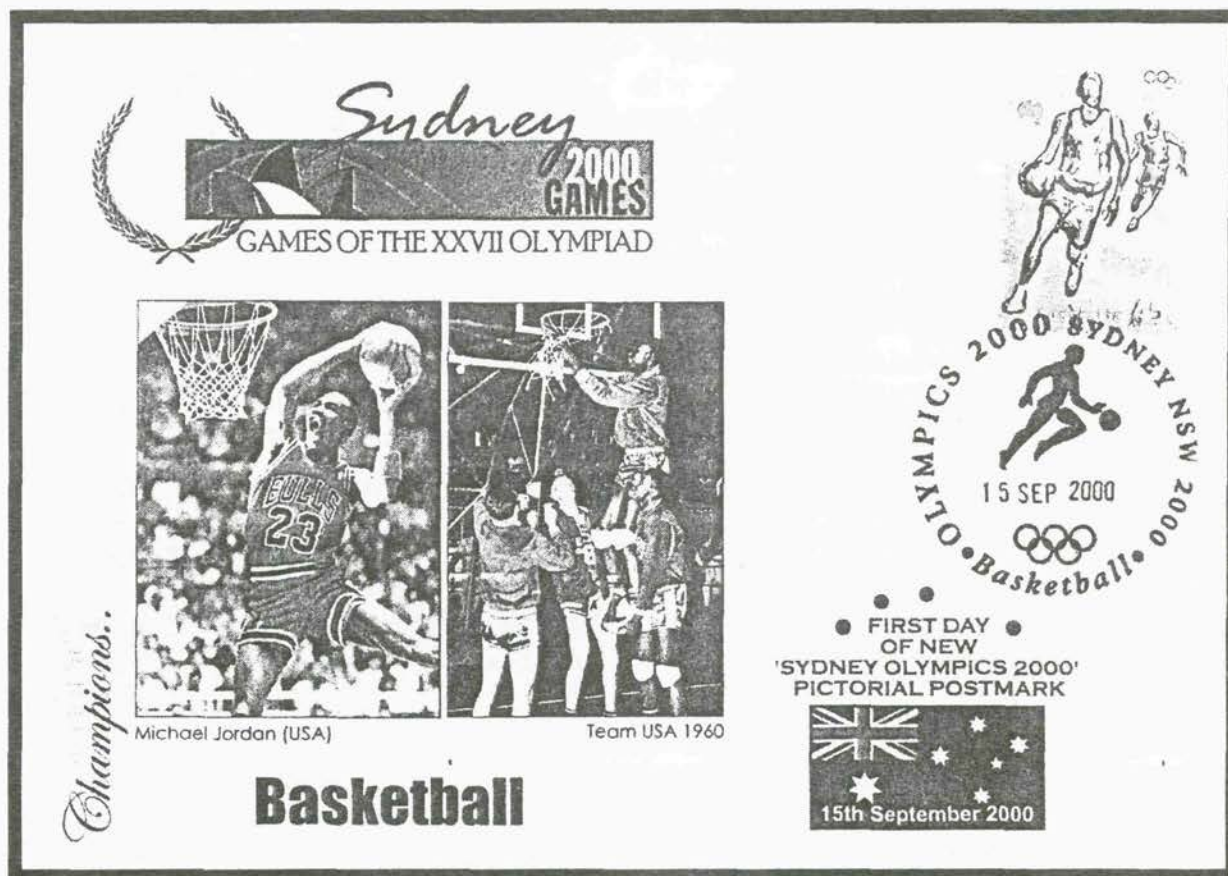
OLYMPIC COVERS

Winternheimer Torch Relay Covers – In addition to those listed in the March/April 2001 issue, further postmark cancellations were used between Greece and Australia.

Sports Covers – A set of 28 Olympic Champions covers was issued on the opening day of the Games (September 15, 2000). Each of the covers (see illustration below) includes photos of Olympic gold medal winners from around the world, plus one of the 28 Type 3 sports cancels.

Great Britain Medal Winners Covers – Produced by Benhams. There is one cover for each of the 28 British medal winners at Sydney. They are canceled in Australia with the correct sports cancellation and date of winning the medal.

Wesley First Day Covers – This well-known cover maker produced FDC’s for some Sydney issues. Tom D’Arcy ordered these, in some cases not receiving them until some 15 months after the date of issue.



First day of use of basketball Olympic sports cancel (Type 3B, applied at Melbourne)

THE SPORTS ARENA

by Mark Maestroni

In my last column (July/August 2001), I illustrated an interesting post card bearing the Olympic rings and a web site URL (www.olympieral.com). A number of questions were posed by this curious item, most of which have now been answered by a member in France, Jean-Pierre Picquot.

First, Jean-Pierre corrected me as to where I'd obtained the card: it had been included with a recent copy of the AFCOS journal (our French sister society), not in a package of items from IOC Headquarters in Lausanne as I erroneously stated.

Second, he provided information on the origin of the card: "Our member Michel Couasnon is the managing director of the Imperial Palace Hotel in Annecy (near Albertville). He is also one of the greatest Olympic poster collectors in the world. Most of the posters are decorating the walls of the Imperial Palace Hotel. For that reason, he is using the Olympic rings on the non-commercial postcard you received."

Jean-Pierre added that the only Olympic connection between the IOC and the hotel is one of friendly relations.



It's hard enough convincing U.S. sports and Olympic entities to use slogans in their meters promoting their organization or sport, so when one of them takes a step in the right direction, it's worth mentioning.

A recent solicitation from the U.S. Olympic Committee in Colorado Springs used a postage paid indicium that resembled a slogan meter in many respects (illustrated above). In addition to the standard postage paid box at right (which, incidentally, includes the words "United States Olympic Committee"), the design of the pre-printed indicium includes a mute double-ring circle (meant to simulate a circular date stamp) and slogan – the

Olympic motto: "SWIFTER, HIGHER, STRONGER". The imprint, entirely in red, measures 2.8" wide and 0.8" high at its widest points. The design of the indicium resembles the uneven character of a rubber hand-cancel's imprint, complete with breaks in the circle and lines above and below the motto, as well as stray ink spots. Naturally, though, the indicium was applied by a printer, not the USOC when the mailing was created.

Readers are encouraged to keep their eyes open for these postage paid envelopes as they are worthy of collecting and displaying in a modern Olympic thematic or postal history exhibit.

By now, we all are aware that Beijing, China was awarded the 2008 Olympic Games on July 13, 2001. To commemorate the event, the PRC, Hong Kong, and Macau all issued special stamps *the very next day!* Each postal administration released a sheetlet of 12 stamps of common design showing the Beijing 2008 bid logo. Attached to the right side of each stamp is a label depicting a native flower. In addition to the individual sheetlets, a "presentation" sheet which includes all three sheetlets was sold. A full report on these stamps will be presented in the November issue of *JSP*.

Remaining on the subject of the 2008 Olympics, Kon Sokolyk of Toronto uncovered a promotional card distributed by the Toronto 2008 bid committee (illustrated below). The background of the standard 6" x 4" card is in orange with text in black and bid logo in multiple colors.



Toronto 2008 Olympic Bid
EXPECT THE WORLD

The Toronto 2008 Olympic Bid Corporation (TO-2008) is a non-profit organization working to bring the 2008 Olympic Games, Paralympic Games and Cultural Festival to Toronto. Since its inception, TO-2008 has involved athletes, youth, the community, businesses and individuals eager to see Toronto host the Olympic Games. TO-2008 is strongly supported by Torontonians, the Canadian public, as well as all three levels of government. The 2008 Olympic Games, Paralympic Games and Cultural Festival will provide a significant, lasting legacy for youth, sport, culture and community renewal – a legacy of which all Canadians and the world can be proud.

Come visit us
WWW.TO-2008.COM

The reverse of the card, shown above, promotes the bid and it's goal of providing "a significant, lasting legacy for youth, sport, culture and community renewal – a legacy of which all Canadians and the world can be proud."

In the final vote at the IOC session in Moscow, Toronto held its own in both the first and second rounds of balloting. For the record, the voting was as follows (the reason vote totals differ is that following the elimination of Osaka in the First Round, Japanese IOC members were permitted to vote):

FIRST ROUND

(52 votes needed to win)

Beijing	44
Toronto	20
Istanbul	17
Paris	15
Osaka, Japan (eliminated)	6

SECOND ROUND

(53 votes needed to win)

Beijing	56
Toronto	22
Paris	18
Istanbul	9

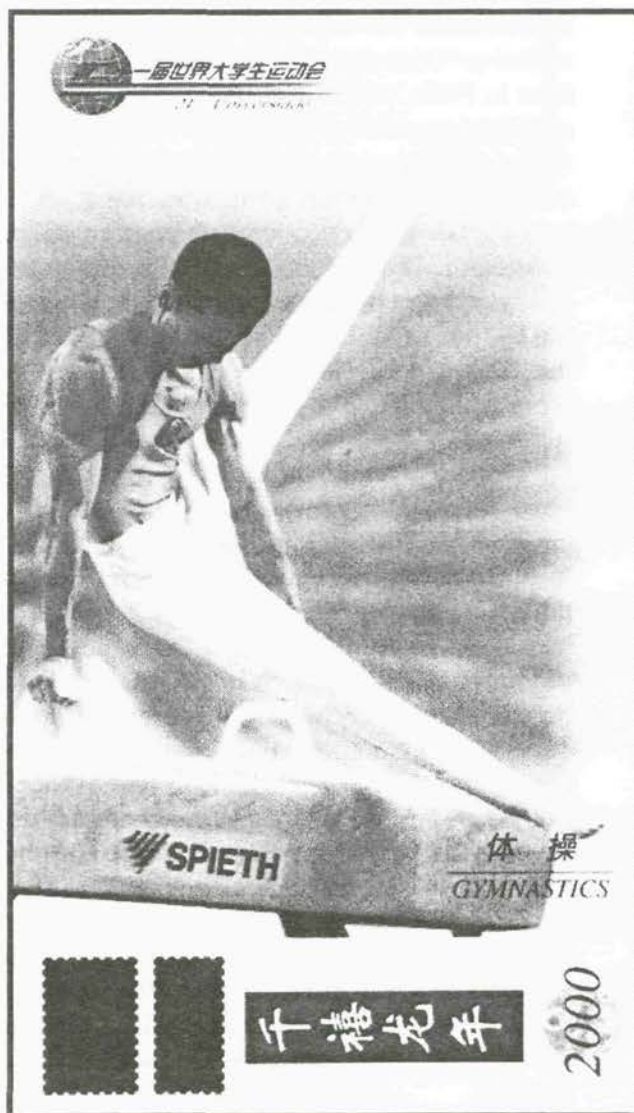
For the statisticians among you, here are the results of an interesting study conducted in January 2001. According to the 14th annual Superstudy of Sports Participation, the five sports with the highest growth (measured in terms of U.S. sporting goods sales) from 1999 to 2000 were: snowboarding (+51.2%), skateboarding (+49.2%), wakeboarding (+32.3%), snowmobiling (+28.1%), and gymnastics (+27.3%). The report, cited in the June/July 2001 issue of *International Gymnast Magazine*, goes on

to say that baseball, basketball, and volleyball all lost participants, while soccer showed a small increase of 1% over the year.

With snowboarding already added to the Olympic schedule at the Nagano Olympic Winter Games of 1998, can skateboarding at the Olympics be far behind?

Member, George Killian, recently sent me a handsome booklet of 10 postcards depicting gymnastics (4 men's, 5 women's and 1 rhythmic) that was produced for the 21st Universiade (University Games) held in Beijing during August 2001. One of the men's cards is shown below.

The postcards' backs are identical. The games' mascot and production information take up most of the message area. Are there booklets of post cards devoted to other sports as well?



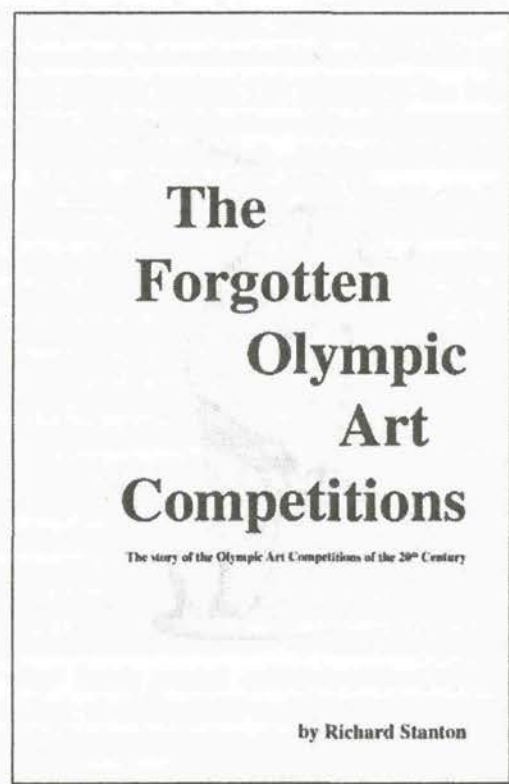
BOOK REVIEW

by Dale Lilljedahl

The Forgotten Olympic Art Competitions, by Richard Stanton. Published by Trafford Publishing, an on-demand service at Suite 6E, 2333 Government St., Victoria, British Columbia V8T 4P4, Canada. The book may be ordered from the address above or online at www.trafford.com for \$27.50 plus postage. The total with shipping to a U.S. address is \$34.23. This 412-page book is in English, and has numerous illustrations of the artists, objects d'art, and IOC members involved in the Art Competitions.

Olympic reviver, Pierre de Coubertin, always dreamed of fusing sport and art in the celebration that became the Olympic Games. In 1906 he convened a "Consultative Conference" of IOC members in Paris, where the slate of Art Competitions and the governing rules were adopted. The Fine Arts contests were divided into five categories: Architecture, Literature, Music, Painting, and Sculpture. Although they occurred in every Olympiad between 1912 and 1952, the Art Competitions were always controversial and fraught with problems for the Games organizers. Finally at the 49th Session of the IOC at Athens, Greece in 1954, the fine arts were stricken from the competitive arena, and replaced by the exhibitions we know today. In the intervening 50 years the Olympic Art Competitions have truly been forgotten.

Richard Stanton has taken a huge step in filling the information gap about the Olympic Art Competitions with this book. Researching the IOC archives, he has uncovered and translated multiple original documents, and the book has a scholarly feel as he travels chronologically through the history of the competitions. Starting with the 1906 conference, Stanton provides the reader with translations of the pertinent documents and correspondence he found, and supplements that with commentary interpreting his findings. He includes all seven Olympics hosting Art Competitions, and the corresponding difficulties each Organizing Committee experienced in trying to host the competition. Finally, the 1952 protests leading to the 1954 expulsion of the Arts Competitions is faithfully documented.



Two bonus sections appear at the end of the book. First is a small number of biographies of the Olympic medal winners that place the Olympic experience in context with their artistic life. The third section is a series of appendices that categorize the results, participants and other curiosities. For example, the medal winners are separately recorded by Olympiad, by Art Category, and by Country to help the reader in his research. These appendices provide an excellent summary of the story of the competitions.

While I found the book easy to read, I tended to skip over the reproductions of the various sets of rules, but that did not detract from the book. The strength of Stanton's book lay in its research. I bought it to help me study the 1924 Games, and it provides a wealth of information to help me organize an Arts Competition section to a philatelic exhibit. Dates, panels of judges, and participants are all listed for each Olympics, as well as, the IOC members involved. All in all it is a welcome addition to my Olympic library.

POSTAL STATIONERY CORNER

by Glenn Estus

My first two columns dealt with Olympic postal stationery. However, we must not forget those who collect individual sports outside of the Olympics.

Skiing has long been a very popular sport, both on the amateur and professional levels. In the post-World War II years, skiing emerged as one of the major recreational activities during winter months.

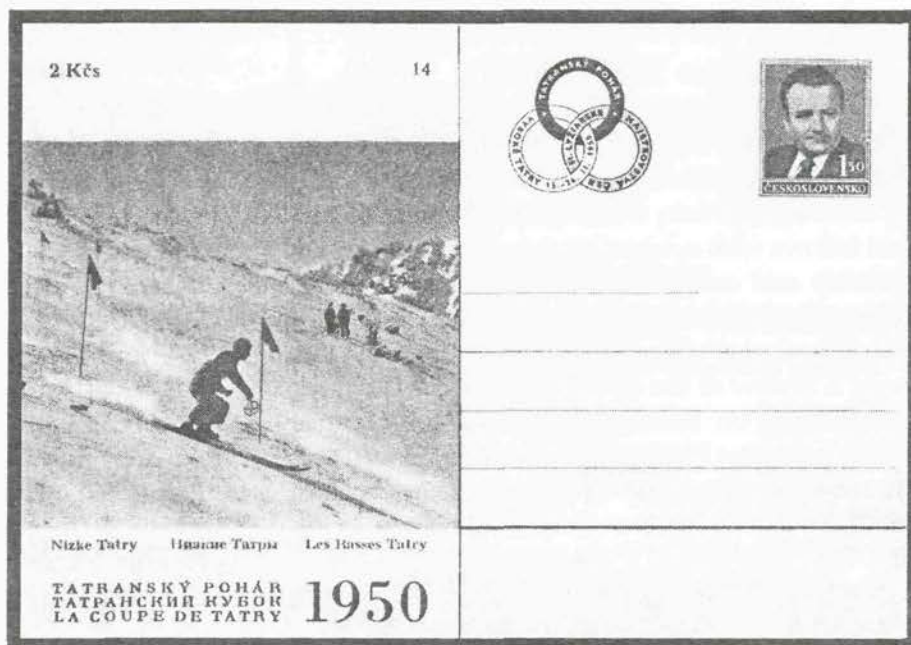
In Eastern Europe, the Tatras Mountains are a popular winter sports destination astride the border between Slovakia and Poland. Skiing is only one of the many winter sports available in the area.

The Czechoslovakian post office issued 16 postal cards for the 1950 Tatra Cup honoring the Czechoslovakian Ski Championships.

Each of the cards shows a winter scene or activity (illustrated above right). The brown indicium (with a postal value of 1.50 koruna) common to all the cards pictures President Gottwald. The illustration and labeling are in dark blue. The logo of three intertwined rings is in both brown (top ring) and blue (bottom two rings). According to long time SPI member, Joe Lacko, the text in the three rings translates as "Czechoslovakia Ski Championships, High Tatras."

Each of the 16 cards portrays a different view. The set of cards comes packaged in a special envelope listing the scenes on the cards as follows (text is in Czech, Russian, and French):

1. Les Hautes Tatry (snow covered Mountain peaks)
2. Les Hautes Tatry (a summit house)
3. Les Hautes Tatry (gondola)
4. Les Hautes Tatry (way station)
5. Les Hautes Tatry (peak)
6. Les Hautes Tatry (way station)
7. Les Hautes Tatry (hotel and spectators)
8. Les Hautes Tatry (spectators)



9. Les Hautes Tatry (village scene with church)
10. La Petite Tatra (mountain scene)
11. Rohace (4 high mountain peaks)
12. Tatraska Lomnica (snow covered hotel)
13. Les Basses Tatry (mountain scene)
14. Les Basses Tatry (slalom)
15. Les Basses Tatry (bare chested skier against peaks)
16. Les Hautes Tatry "Ostry" (mountain scene)

I have searched the skiing sources and the Internet (<http://www.fis-ski.com>) to try to discover what the Tatra Cup was, but to know avail. However, I did learn that currently in 2001 the Tatra Cup is a Tennis Tournament held in the region.

I also have found an incomplete set of similar cards from 1948 showing President Edward Benes. Each card is inscribed "ZIMNE SLETOVE HRY VO VYSOKYCH TATRACH 1948." These 1.50 koruna cards are printed entirely in brown and again have various skiing and winter scenes.

The cards that I have in my possession are numbered: 3 (Skier and Mountain scene), 5 (gondola station), and 7 (snow covered road and mountains). Perhaps a JSP reader has the rest of the postal cards in this set.

REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS

by Mark Maestrone

Esprit: Sports et Olimpisme **June 2001 (#20)**

With the vote on the 2008 Games now down to the wire, *Esprit* takes a last-minute look at the Paris bid, courtesy of Alain Gérardy and René Christin. René follows with a report on the society's General Assembly and exhibition held in March in Lyon. Other topics covered in this issue include post card artwork by Carlo Pellegrini devoted to snow and ice sports; a review of the Seoul Olympic Fair in May; and a report on Roland Garros Stadium tennis cancels honoring Philippe Chatrier after whom the center court is named. Chatrier was president of the French Tennis Federation as well as a member of the IOC.

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

Filabasket Review **August 2001 (#5)**

Basketball enthusiasts worldwide are more than adequately familiar with "the pros" in the sport – the Michael Jordans and the Shaqs, for example. If you aren't an American fan, though, you probably aren't that well-versed in the collegiate level of the sport. So saying, Hugh Gottfried and George Killian have tackled that subject with a discussion of the "NCAA, NAIA & NJCAA."

The journal's editor, Luciano Calenda, has been discussing the in-and-outs of exhibiting in the past two issues. With this third, and final, installment, he details "philatelic knowledge, study and research" and "condition and rarity."

This being issue #5, *Filabasket Review* features the fifth basketball stamp issued worldwide: Bulgaria Scott #579, one of five stamps commemorating the 1947 Balkan Games.

Other articles in this issue: a review of Brazilian basketball philately by Alesha Davydov; the story of basketball at the Mediterranean Games by Luciano Calenda; plus various odds and ends.

Contact: Luciano Calenda, PO Box 17126 - Grottarossa, 00189 Rome, Italy.

Olimpiafila **June 2001 (Vol. 4, #1)**

Dr. Pal Schmitt, Hungarian Olympic Committee president and IOC member, provides the foreword to this issue of the Hungarian Olympic and sports philatelic society (his address is translated into English; English summaries are provided for many of the articles).

There are two primary themes for this issue: water polo and team handball. Hungary has been justly renowned for its international water polo teams, which are discussed by Rezso Gallov in "1926-1999: Twelve European Championships Golds!" A number of other articles review the philatelic history of Hungarian water polo.

Handball-related articles include a "Short History of Handball in Hungary," by Károly Rupnik, while Zoltán Amler discusses the Hungarian women's team in "Pretty Ladies – That Would Be Great!"

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

Olimpismo **Vol. 5, #9**

The majority of this issue reviews Olympilex 2000 and the philately/numismatics of the Sydney Olympic Games. Sebastián Sabaté Culla reflects on the 20 years of IOC President Samaranch's tenure. Lastly, Conrado Durántez begins a series on "Olympism and Peace."

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

Der Olympia-Und Sport-Philatelist **Number 1, 2001**

Cycling opens this issue of our Berlin sister society's journal – a biography of Gustav-Adolf Schur. "Täve," as he is familiarly known, was a champion cyclist from the GDR, who went on to medal at both the 1956 and 1960 Olympic Games. The OSPC honored his 70th birthday with a cancel.

The Olympic Committee of the German Democratic Republic was founded fifty years ago in 1951. With the unification of East and West Germany, there is one National Olympic Committee (NOC) for the country. Volker Kluge reviews the history of the GDR's NOC. In a separate article, Günter Sauer examines "The Olympic Ideal in the GDR as Reflected in Philately." The 50th anniversary of a Leipzig institution, the Hochschule für Körperkultur (Physical Education Academy) is examined in an article by Dietmar Haupt.

In other articles, Eberhard Büttner presents Part 12 of his series on the philately of the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow. This installment continues the author's analysis of registered mail and their markings.

Thomas Lippert provides a philatelic addendum to the Sydney Olympic Games. This article covers "thank you" postal stationery used at the Games (called "Letter Link 2000"), plus more on the gold medalist and "P" stamps. The Chinese medalist "P" stamps produced for the PRC by Australia Post are also discussed.

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

FRANCE and COLONIES PROOFS & ESSAYS

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| <input type="checkbox"/> France | <input type="checkbox"/> Niger | <input type="checkbox"/> Ivory Coast |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Benin | <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. W. Afr. | <input type="checkbox"/> Senegal |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Congo, P.R. | <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Oceania | <input type="checkbox"/> Upper Volta |
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NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Margaret Jones

New Members

2201 Anthony Brown, 16 Montfort Road, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590-3523 USA. Anthony is a pharmacist. **General Sports, Olympics.** (Jones)

2202 Ted R. Sadler, 1720 Allen Drive, Westlake, OH 44145-2507 USA. Mr. Sadler is retired. **General Sports, Olympics.** (Jones)

2203 Linda C. Knuutila, 6609 Aiken Road, Lockport, NY 14094-9648 USA. Mrs. Knuutila is a homemaker. **Wrestling.** (Jones)

RENEWALS:

1955 Luis E. Garcia, 0-109 Hickory Avenue, Mundelein, IL 60060-3524 USA. **Golf.**
Email: luisgarcia2@juno.com

2158 Jaroslav Petrasek, Zborovska 1025, CZ-28223 Cesky Brod, Czechoslovakia.

RESIGNATIONS:

M.M. Baker; J.H. Van Lint.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

David Buxton, 88 Bucknell Road, Bicester Oxon OX26 2 DR, England.

Shawn Carney (email) sdcarney485@aol.com

John A. Dustin, 16020 SW Queen Victoria Place, King City, OR 97224-2439 USA.

Kenneth J. Gelms, 466 Canyon Drive, Solana Beach, CA 92075-1302 USA.

Kwan, Kwok-Yiu (email) elliskwan@hotmail.com

Marsha Lopez, 1675 Hastings Circle NW, Uniontown, OH 44685-7318 USA.

Morris Moorawnick, 19335 Kinloch, Redford Township, MI 48240-2603 USA.

Elten F. Schiller, 3125 Occidental Street, San Diego, CA 92122-3204 USA.

Total Membership, June 30, 2001 = 337

Exhibit Awards

AMERISTAMP 2001 (Tucson, Arizona). Jim McDevitt received a bronze for "It's Chess, Not Right."

SONEX 2001 (New Haven, Connecticut). Charles Ekstrom won the grand award and a gold for "Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamps."

VICTOPICAL (Victoria, British Columbia, Canada). Patrick O'Neill received a youth silver-bronze for "Sports"; Joshua Correia was awarded a youth bronze for "Soccer"; Fraser Crawford won a youth bronze for "Olympic Sports"; Morgan Jones won a youth bronze for "Olympics."

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COMMEMORATIVE STAMP CANCELS

by Mark Maestroni

THE NUMBERING SYSTEM

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

SPORTS CROSS INDEX APRIL-JUNE 2001

Auto Racing: 01527-462.

Baseball: 01519-673, 01607-352,
01628-074, 01628-115, 01628-152,
01628-534, 01630-329.

Basketball: 01402-554, 01618-573.

Boxing: 01610-130.

Cycling: 01602-200, 01602-222,
01605-176, 01607-08650A,
01607-08650B, 01610-191,
01618-647, 01627-135, 01627-787,
01630-577, 01630-722.

Equestrian: 01526-128.

Fishing: 01511-564, 01603-057.

Handicapped Sports: 01602-488,
01603-057.

Horse Racing: 01504-402, 01505-402,
01519-212.

Motorcycling: 01609-032.

Other Sports Games: 01609-462.

Running: 01616-127.

Soccer: 01617-402.

Special Olympics: 01602-488.

NCAA Final 4 Station
April 2, 2001
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Arizona
Duke
Maryland
Michigan State



01402-554 Minneapolis, MN 2

THE
KENTUCKY OAKS

MAY 4, 2001
127th KENTUCKY OAKS STATION
LOUISVILLE, KY 40208

01504-402 Louisville, KY 4



127th KENTUCKY DERBY STATION
LOUISVILLE, KY 40208
MAY 5, 2001

01505-402 Louisville, KY 5



01511-564 Pequot Lakes, MN 11-12



01519-212 Baltimore, MD 19



COFFEYVILLE STAMP CLUB STATION
COFFEYVILLE, KS. 67337 MAY , 2001

01519-673 Coffeyville, KS 19-20

SARATOGA ARC

Saratoga Dressage



FAMILY FESTIVAL
STATION

01526-128 Saratoga Spr., NY 26-28

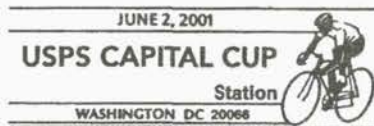


INDIANAPOLIS 500 STATION

MAY 27, 2001

INDIANAPOLIS IN 46206

01527-462 Indianapolis, IN 27



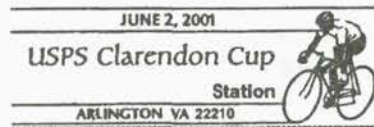
JUNE 2, 2001

USPS CAPITAL CUP

Station

WASHINGTON DC 20008

01602-200 Washington, DC 2



JUNE 2, 2001

USPS Clarendon Cup

Station

ARLINGTON VA 22210

01602-222 Arlington, VA 2



2001 STATE
SUMMER GAMES STA.
MT PLEASANT MI 48858
JUNE 2, 2001

01602-488Mt. Pleasant, MI 2



JUNE 3, 2001

Teenie's
Handicapped Fishing Derby

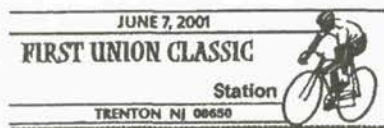
TEENIE'S HANDICAPPED
FISHING DERBY
STATION

CHITTENDEN, VT 05737

01603-057 Chittenden, VT 3



01605-176 Lancaster, PA 5



01607-08650A Trenton, NJ 7



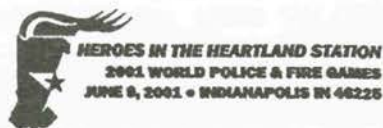
01607-08650B Trenton, NJ 7



01607-352 Birmingham, AL 7



01609-032 Laconia, NH 9-17



01609-462 Indianapolis, IN 9



01610-130 Canastota, NY 10



01610-191 Philadelphia, PA 10



01616-127 Rock Hill, NY 16

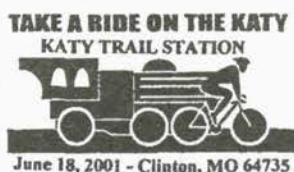


Louisix Station 2001
Sports City
Louisville, KY 40213
June 17, 2001

01617-402 Louisville, KY 17



01618-573 Mitchell, SD 18



01618-647 Clinton, MO 18



01627-135 Utica, NY 27

USPS PRO CYCLING
TEAM STATION
AUSTIN, TX 78701
JUNE 27, 2001

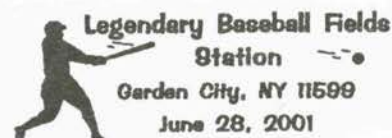


01627-787 Austin, TX 27



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01628-534 Racine, WI 28



01630-329 Vero Beach, FL 30



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KEYSTONE SD 57751
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01630-577 Keystone, SD 30



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01630-722 Little Rock, AR 30

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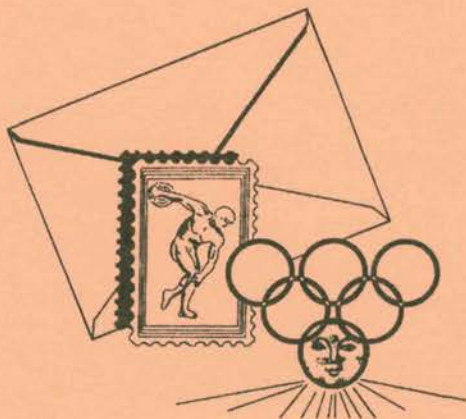
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