

# JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

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## The XIXth Olympic Winter Games Salt Lake City, Utah



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PHILATELISTS  
INTERNATIONAL

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## SPORTS PHILATELISTS INTERNATIONAL

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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by Mark Maestrone

## Welcome to Olympex 2002

Time sure flies! Six years have already passed since the Atlanta Games of 1996 with all the pomp and ceremony typical of a Summer Olympics. While those Centennial Games certainly had their moments, they were almost too big to fully appreciate. In many ways that's why I prefer the Winter Games' compact nature.

For Olympic and sports philatelists, and in fact all Olympic collectors, we can count on plenty to see and do in Salt Lake City during these XIXth Olympic Winter Games. The U.S. Postal Service has issued a handsome quartet of winter sports stamps, complete with the Olympic rings, with which we can grace our covers and cards. A selection of 22 pictorial cancels is also slated, all of which are available each day during the Games to the general public.

But the Olympics are more than just an opportunity to create personalized philatelic souvenirs of our visit. An exciting array of displays have been arranged at the Olympex 2002 Exhibition in the historic City & County Building in downtown Salt Lake. These include:

- ❖ Over a dozen Winter Olympic and sports philatelic exhibits
- ❖ Collections of torches, winners & participation medals, posters, and coins
- ❖ Rare historic pieces on loan from the I.O.C. Museum in Switzerland
- ❖ A youth area with fun Olympic activities and contests for budding Olympic fans
- ❖ Covers personalized with your own picture taken right on the spot

Also planned nearby is an Olympic Trade Fair where collectors of memorabilia, coins and philately can visit a bourse of dealers. With all this activity we hope you'll have time for some sports events as well!

Let me take this opportunity to extend my personal welcome to all Olympic collectors from around the world.

*Let the Games Begin!*

**The SPI web site is located at:**

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

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## Nominations Open For SPI Elections

Nominations are now open for all offices (President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer) and the Board of Directors of Sports Philatelists International. Any member in good standing wishing to run for a position is invited to submit his or her name to the Nominations Chairman, Bernard McGovern, no later than March 31, 2002. Ballots will be included with the May-June issue of the journal.

Bernard McGovern  
2107 Marianna Street  
Tampa, FL 33612

email: [bmcgo10483@aol.com](mailto:bmcgo10483@aol.com)



### SPORT OLYMPIC GAMES



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# Salt Lake Ready to Welcome Olympic Collectors

by Mark Maestrone

**W**ith barely a month to go, the finishing touches are being applied to the Cultural Olympiad events celebrating the diverse world of Olympic collectibles.

First, and foremost, among the events is Olympex 2002, a non-competitive display of thematic and open class philatelic exhibits devoted to the Olympic Winter Games and sports played on snow and ice.

## OLYMPEX 2002

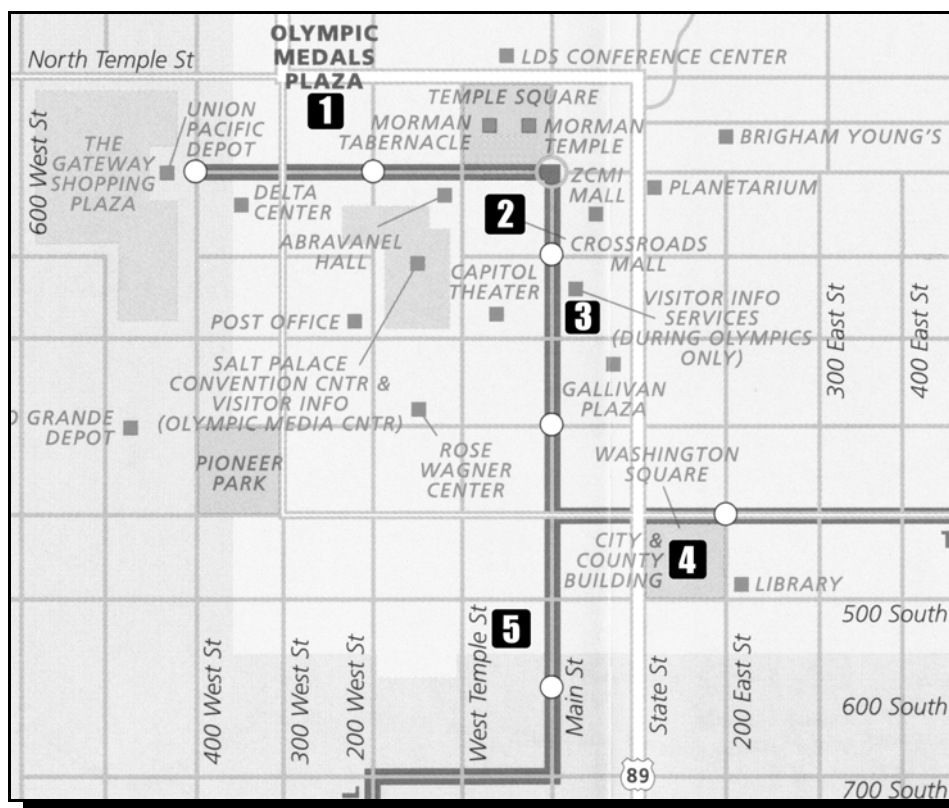
Olympex 2002 is being staged in Salt Lake City's historic City & County Building. It's located just one block east of Main Street – a hub of Olympic activity – and on the city's tram line (TRAX). The exhibition opens on January 15, 2002 and continues through February 28. Hours of operation are 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily.

Philatelists will be most interested in the 86 frames of exhibits covering virtually every Olympic Winter Games and many winter sports. Included will be rare material drawn from both private collections and the U.S. Postal Service archives. In addition, collectors of all stripes will be drawn to the fascinating display by Klepper Halvor of Norway on the 1952 Oslo Olympic Winter Games. Mr. Halvor's exhibit includes philately, medals, books and other memorabilia.

Many other displays abound at Olympex. Here are some highlights:

- Winners medals from every Olympic Winter Games from 1924 to the present.

- Complete set of Winter Olympic torches dating from 1952.
- A complete set of participation medals from the Winter Olympic Games.
- Every coin minted in commemoration of a Winter Olympics – all 104 of them!
- The mascots of every Winter Games.
- 34 posters of the Olympic Winter Games representing Beauty (17 figure skating posters) and Strength (17 depicting ice hockey).



DOWNTOWN SALT LAKE CITY

- 1- Olympic Medals Plaza
- 2- Crossroads Mall Temporary Post Office
- 3- Olympic Trade Fair (pending), 175 S. Main Street
- 4- Olympex 2002, City-County Building
- 5- IOC Hotel, Little America Hotel

Olympex 2002 has a special program of activities developed specifically for youth. These include a hands-on computer-based philatelic program, and a competition to design the best Winter Olympic stamp, coin or item of memorabilia (the winner in each category receives a free trip to the IOC Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland with a parent or guardian!).

Both adults and kids will enjoy the Kodak photographic kiosk enabling visitors to imprint their likenesses directly on a philatelic cover as a souvenir.

And as if this weren't enough, the IOC Museum will display a wonderful selection of pieces from its vast collection of Winter Olympic items.

There will be a table at the show where visitors may purchase cacheted covers already stamped and canceled with the special Olympic cancellations (more about those later).

#### OLYMPIC TRADE FAIR

If your interests turn to spending some money on collectibles, then you'll want to wend your way a couple of blocks up Main Street to the Olympic Trade Fair (see map).

Dealers in memorabilia, coins, and stamps will be present to serve your needs. A table selling stamps, cacheted covers (both blanks and canceled) will also be available for your convenience.

By a happy coincidence, your Olympic event ticket needs can also be accommodated here as the official Olympic Ticket Office is located right in the middle of the floor area!

*Editor's note: as of this writing, the agreement for an Olympic Fair is still pending.*

#### CROSSROADS MALL TEMPORARY USPS POST OFFICE

A block further north along Main Street brings you to the Crossroads Mall, a multi-level indoor shopping area where the Olympic visitor can come in from the cold and, yes, spend some money!

Philatelists will want to locate this shopping emporium early in their visit. The U.S. Postal Service has a temporary post office (TPO) set up in the mall which will be expanded during the period of the Games to accommodate collectors wishing to obtain the special Olympic cancellations. This will be the only location for handback cancels. There will be no post offices at the individual sports venues or operational facilities. The hours of operation for the Crossroads Mall TPO are: Monday-Friday: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Saturday: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sunday: open, but hours not yet announced.

#### OLYMPIC CANCEL PROGRAM: FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

The USPS Olympic cancellation program is an extensive one. The first Olympic-related cancel will be used to commemorate the first day of issue of the Winter Sports block of four stamps (see cover illustration). The unveiling ceremony will be held at the Legacy Lodge in Park City, Utah on January 8, 2002. The ceremony, which is open to the public, begins at 10:30 a.m. Be advised, however, that space is very limited.

In attendance at the First Day Ceremony will be Stein Eriksen, Norwegian skiing star of the 1952 Oslo Winter Olympics. Stein, who now resides in Utah, won the Giant Slalom gold, and a silver in the Slalom.

The First Day cancellation (see Cancel #1 in the table that follows) will be available January 8 at the First Day of Issue Ceremony and, after the ceremony, at the Park City Main Post Office, 2100 Park Avenue, from noon to 5:30 p.m. It will also be available through the mail by sending franked cards or covers to: First Day of Issue, Postmaster, PO Box 6000, Park City, UT 84060-6000. There is a 30-day grace period for mail-in requests.

Visitors to the Crossroads Mall TPO will be able to obtain the first day cancel as a handback through the period of the Games.

#### OLYMPIC CANCEL PROGRAM: OLYMPIC TORCH ARRIVAL

The arrival of the Olympic Torch in Salt Lake City takes place on February 7, 2002, the day before the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Winter Games. A special ceremony to welcome the flame's arrival will take place that day (time to be announced later) on the steps of the City & County Building, the venue for Olympex 2002. Festivities surrounding the arrival are open to the public. The USPS will be on-site with a special cancel marking the occasion (Cancel #2). This cancel will also be made available at the Crossroads Mall TPO throughout the Games.

#### OLYMPIC CANCEL PROGRAM: OLYMPIC SPORTS CANCELS

The bulk of the USPS Olympic Cancellation Program will be introduced on February 8, the Opening Day of the Games. The program consists of 16 cancels (Cancel #2-18) commemorating each sport contested at these Olympics (including one combined cancel for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies). Four additional cancels honor the Olympic Arts Festival (Cancel #19), the nightly Medal Ceremonies for the athletes (Cancel #20), our own

Olympex 2002 and Olympic Trade Fair (Cancel #21), and the I.O.C. Hotel at the Little America Hotel (Cancel #22).

Each of these 20 cancels (Cancels #3-22) has a fixed date of February 8, 2002. However, the design of the sports cancels includes the date range that each sport is contested.

#### HOW & WHERE TO OBTAIN CANCELS

All 22 cancels will be available on a handback basis during the entire period of the Games at the Crossroads Mall TPO. As this is also a full-service facility, it will be possible to register your philatelic mail. The postal clerk, upon request, will also apply an Olympic rings handstamp to your numbered registration label making it a true Olympic registered cover!

Collectors wishing to mark a specific date with a sports cancel can have the postal clerk apply an additional circular date stamp, or "ball dater" in post office parlance, to their mail. This will be necessary to commemorate, for example, the finals in an event since all Olympic sports cancels bear a February 8 fixed date.

Those philatelists mailing in their covers for servicing will have to be content with the standard fixed-date cancel. Each cancel has a unique mailing address as noted in the accompanying table. Use the following format for addressing the outer envelope:

[Sport & station name as shown in the cancel]  
Postmaster  
[Address as shown above each cancel]

For example, to obtain a figure skating cancel, you would address your request as follows:

Figure Skating - Salt Lake Ice Center Station  
Postmaster  
PO Box 31778  
Salt Lake City, UT 84131-0778

Make sure that your cover or post card bears correct postage for its destination. The rate chart at right provides typical rates for U.S. and foreign post cards and letters.

#### NON-USPS PHILATELIC TABLES

USPS regulations require that a postal employee be on hand whenever canceling of mail is taking place. However, current staffing levels in Salt Lake


City prevent additional temporary post offices (other than the Crossroads Mall location) from being opened during the Games.

A sales table at Olympex 2002, manned by volunteers, will sell the new U.S. Winter Sports stamps and cacheted covers (blanks and cancelled with the various Olympic pictorial postmarks). During those hours when a postal employee is present the Olympex 2002 cancel (#21) will be made available for use.

A temporary philatelic table will also be installed at the I.O.C. Hotel (Little America Hotel). For a few hours a day when a postal employee is present (probably in the morning), the I.O.C. Hotel cancel (#22) will be applied to mail. This facility is within the security perimeter and will NOT be open to the general public.

There will not be a USPS TPO at the Olympic Village. Instead, Mail Boxes Etc. (MBE) has agreed to serve as a contract post office to deliver mail to the athletes. They will also accept outgoing mail which will be transported to a USPS facility nearby and postmarked. MBE will not be permitted to cancel mail. A special Olympic Village pictorial cancel is under discussion, but has not yet been approved.

No TPO is planned for the Main Press Center (MPC) at the Salt Palace Convention Center. Instead, mail will be collected and transported to the Downtown Post Office across the street.

Last, but not least, discussion is still under way to honor each U.S. medalist with a special cacheted cover issued within 24-hours and available at post offices nationwide. 

U.S. POSTAL RATE CHART	
Post Card: U.S. Domestic (max. 4¼"x 6")	21¢
Post Card: U.S. Domestic (oversized)	34¢
Post Card: Canada/Mexico (max. 4¼"x 6")	50¢
Post Card: All other international	70¢
Letter: U.S. Domestic (1 <sup>st</sup> ounce)	34¢
Letter: U.S. Domestic (each add. ounce)	23¢
Letter: Canada/Mexico (1 <sup>st</sup> ounce)	60¢
Letter: All other international (1 <sup>st</sup> ounce)	80¢
Certified Mail fee (domestic only)	<i>add</i> \$2.10
Registered Mail fee	<i>add</i> \$7.25

<p>1. PO BOX 6000, Park City, UT 84060-6000</p> 	<p>2. PO BOX 31793, Salt Lake City, UT 84131-0793</p> 
<p>3. PO BOX 31790, Salt Lake City, UT 84131-0790</p> 	<p>4. PO BOX 31798, Salt Lake City, UT 84131-0798</p> 
<p>5. PO BOX 31784, Salt Lake City, UT 84131-0784</p> 	<p>6. PO BOX 31785, Salt Lake City, UT 84131-0785</p> 
<p>7. PO BOX 31783, Salt Lake City, UT 84131-0783</p> 	<p>8. PO BOX 31786, Salt Lake City, UT 84131-0786</p> 
<p>9. PO BOX 31778, Salt Lake City, UT 84131-0778</p> 	<p>10. PO BOX 31788, Salt Lake City, UT 84131-0788</p> 
<p>11. PO BOX 31787, Salt Lake City, UT 84131-0787</p> 	<p>12. PO BOX 31782, Salt Lake City, UT 84131-0782</p> 

<p>13. PO BOX 31797, Salt Lake City, UT 84131-0797</p> 	<p>14. PO BOX 31781, Salt Lake City, UT 84131-0781</p> 
<p>15. PO BOX 31792, Salt Lake City, UT 84131-0792</p> 	<p>16. PO BOX 31780, Salt Lake City, UT 84131-0780</p> 
<p>17. PO BOX 31779, Salt Lake City, UT 84131-0779</p> 	<p>18. PO BOX 31791, Salt Lake City, UT 84131-0791</p> 
<p>19. PO BOX 31796, Salt Lake City, UT 84131-0796</p> 	<p>20. PO BOX 31789, Salt Lake City, UT 84131-0789</p> 
<p>21. PO BOX 31794, Salt Lake City, UT 84131-0794</p> 	<p>22. PO BOX 31795, Salt Lake City, UT 84131-0795</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cancellation Notes</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cancels #3-22 have a fixed date of February 8, 2002. All are available for use each day throughout the Olympic Winter Games (February 8-24).</li> <li>2. Cancels may be ordered by mail using the unique addresses noted above each cancel.</li> <li>3. All cancels (#1-22) are available on a handback basis at the Crossroads Mall Temporary Post Office in Salt Lake.</li> </ol>	

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Special Olympics

Synchronized Swimming  
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Wind Surfing  
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African Games  
Asian Games  
Central American Games  
Cent. Am. & Caribbean Games  
British Commonwealth Games  
Games of New Emerging Forces  
Pan American Games  
University Games

#### Summer Olympics:

1924	1968
1932	1972
1936	1976
1940	1980
1948	1984
1956	1988
1960	1992
1964	1996

#### Winter Olympics:

1960	1968
------	------

### TO SECURE SPORT LISTS:

Via e-mail to: [hjohnson@casco.net](mailto:hjohnson@casco.net)

Via mail -- Send SASE to: Harry Johnson  
P.O. Box 397  
Seal Rock, OR 97376







Figure 1. Registered first day airmail cover to Budapest via Vienna. Innsbruck FIS World Championship cancel February 20 1936. The 35g Austrian semi-postal stamp depicts Crisl Cranz.

## The greatest Alpine ski racer of all time is ...

by James Bentley

CRISTL CRANZ

**T**he 19th Winter Olympic Games open in Salt Lake City, Utah on February 9, 2002, the first Olympics of the New Millennium. It's a good time, perhaps, to look back and debate who were the greatest alpine racers of the last century.

Greatness is not an absolute, determined by statistics alone. Statistics can deceive, and it is easy to forget how things have changed over the seven decades of organised international ski racing. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't speculate on how Hermann Maier, the dominant skier on the circuit before his motorcycle accident, compares to the champions of the past.

Cristl Cranz (Figure 1) has the best major championship record of anybody. Cranz raced for Germany in the five years before the Second World War and won 12 World Championship gold medals as well as two Olympic titles at Garmisch-Partenkirchen in 1936, to the delight of the leaders of the Third Reich. Twice – in Chamonix in 1937 and in Zakopane in 1939 – she achieved a clean sweep of all three gold medals: the downhill, slalom and combined. For six successive years, she was an alpine combined gold medalist. Five were world titles and one was the 1936 Olympic title. She didn't compete in the World Championships in 1936. This extra event was

organized by FIS – the Fédération Internationale de Ski – because the Olympic Committee decided to disbar “professionals,” i.e. Swiss and Austrian hotel ski instructors, from the Olympics.

### BIRGER RUUD

There is another skier from the 1930's who has a unique place in alpine ski racing history. Birger Ruud from Norway was a gold medalist in ski jumping in 1932 and 1936. In 1935, Ruud finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the alpine combined in Mürren and then, in 1936, became the only skier to win an Olympic event in both the Nordic and Alpine disciplines. He won the downhill event, but did not collect a medal as Olympic medals were only awarded for the alpine combined. Ruud finished fourth.



Figure 2. Club Ala souvenir cover from 1956 celebrating Toni Sailer's giant slalom win, autographed by Sailer.

### TONY SAILER

After the war, Tony Sailer (Figure 2) of Austria was the first skier to match Cristl Cranz's clean sweep of all the available medals. The alpine combined had been dropped from the Olympic program in 1952 and replaced with the giant slalom. In Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, Sailer won the downhill, giant slalom and slalom and also won the World Championship combined event. Two years later, he almost did it again at the World Championships in Badgastein, winning the downhill, giant slalom and combined, but having to settle for silver in the slalom.

### MARIELLE GOITSCHER

French skiers dominated Alpine skiing in the 1960's, winning more than half the championship



Figure 3. Honduras 1968 imperf stamp commemorating the Goitschel sisters.

tions in the giant slalom.

Marielle's final Olympic gold was the slalom at Grenoble, where her achievements were overshadowed by Jean-Claude Killy, voted French Sportsman of the 20th Century in 1999.

### JEAN-CLAUDE KILLY

Jean-Claude Killy (Figure 4) is certainly the most famous skier of the last century, and may be the greatest. Killy won his first international ski race in 1961 at the age of 18, became French national champion in 1964 and European champion in 1965. He was the leading member of the strong French ski team, professionally trained by Honoré Bonnet, which won 17 of the 24 medals in the 1966 World Championships in Chile. Killy won the downhill and combined that year and went on to win all three events at the Grenoble Olympics in front of his home crowd in the French Alps.

Killy has the best World Cup performance ratio of any male skier, achieving 21 podiums and 15 wins from 24 races in 1966/67, or 21 wins from 30 results if the six combined events are added in. He was the World Cup winner in all three disciplines as well as the overall winner. Killy also won the professional World Ski Championships in 1973.



Figure 4. Ras al Khaima 1968. Jean-Claude Killy after the 1968 Grenoble Olympics men's downhill.





Figure 5. Central African Republic 1979 with inverted Moser-Pröll overprint in black.

ships in Val Gardena and won her first World Cup title at 17. She went on to be the most successful racer ever in the women's World Cup, winning 62 times in a career spanning 175 events.

From 1973, she raced under her married name of Moser-Pröll and was overall World Cup champion five years in a row from 1971 to 1975, then again in 1979. No other woman has been overall champion more than three times. She was World Cup downhill champion seven times, winning all eight downhills in 1973 and a record eleven consecutive downhills from December 1972 to January 1974. She also won two World Championship downhills and the Olympic title in Lake Placid in 1980, relegating Hanni Wenzel of Liechtenstein to silver medal position. This denied Wenzel a clean sweep of the medals as she won both the giant slalom and slalom.

At the start of the 1970's Gustavo Thöni of Italy was the dominant man, then two racers, Austria's

## ANNEMARIE MOSER-PRÖLL

Annemarie Pröll (Figure 5) from Austria took her first championship medal in 1970, a bronze in the downhill at the World Champion-

ships in Val Gardena and won her first World Cup title at 17. She went on to be the most successful racer ever in the women's World Cup, winning 62 times in a career spanning 175 events. From 1973, she raced under her married name of Moser-Pröll and was overall World Cup champion five years in a row from 1971 to 1975, then again in 1979. No other woman has been overall champion more than three times. She was World Cup downhill champion seven times, winning all eight downhills in 1973 and a record eleven consecutive downhills from December 1972 to January 1974. She also won two World Championship downhills and the Olympic title in Lake Placid in 1980, relegating Hanni Wenzel of Liechtenstein to silver medal position. This denied Wenzel a clean sweep of the medals as she won both the giant slalom and slalom. At the start of the 1970's Gustavo Thöni of Italy was the dominant man, then two racers, Austria's Franz Klammer and Sweden's Ingemar Stenmark, came along and dominated the media and the results statistics for the next nine years.

## FRANZ KLAMMER

One way to become a sporting legend is to survive being the



Figure 6. Paraguay 1977. Franz Klammer (no. 15) winning the 1976 Innsbruck Olympic downhill.

hot favorite, win the biggest race of your career, the Olympic downhill, in front of a home crowd and to win it in style. Franz Pfnur and Cristl Cranz did it for Germany in 1936; Killy and Goitschel for France in 1966 and there had been home winners in 1948, 1952 and 1964, but the pressure on Franz Klammer was intense. At 22, he was the reigning World Cup champion in downhill, having won eight of the previous season's downhills, and all of Austria's hopes rested on him. He didn't disappoint.

Coming down at number 15, Klammer (Figure 6) risked everything and won gold in the most reckless and exciting 1 minute 45.73 seconds of skiing ever seen. Klammer went on to retain his World Cup downhill title in 1976, then again in 1977 and 1978. Winning for a fifth time in 1983 gave him five downhill titles, two more than any other man.

## INGEMAR STENMARK

Ingemar Stenmark's World Cup record was considered unassailable until Hermann Maier started winning races in 1997. Stenmark's tally was 86 victories, 155 podiums in 216 races. By December 2000, Maier had won 33 of his 100 World Cup races, achieving 60 podiums.

Ingemar Stenmark only competed in giant slalom and slalom, though he did attempt the combined event a few times. This meant he only won three overall World Cup titles.

His record in the technical events, however, may never be equaled – eight giant slalom and eight slalom titles, including seven in a row in both events from 1975 to 1981.

Returning from injury in 1982, he was not invincible, but won another slalom title in 1983 and his last, in the giant slalom, in 1984. Stenmark also delivered in the major championships.

He had a poor Olympics in 1976, but won the double in the World Championships in 1978, and also took both giant slalom and slalom titles in the 1980 Olympics (Figure 7).

Among his other records, he was undefeated over 11 races in the World Cup giant slalom from March 1978 to March 1979, winning all 10 in the 1978/1979 season. That season, he achieved 13 wins, a record equaled by Hermann Maier in 2001.



Figure 7. Sweden 1981. Ingemar Stenmark.



Figure 8. Guinea 1984, imperf gold foil. Phil Mahre.

### PHIL MAHRE

The most successful American ski racer of the last century was Phil Mahre. Mahre challenged Stenmark during the latter part of his career in both slalom and giant slalom and was overall World Cup champion for three years from 1981. His twin brother Steve was also a regular World Cup winner and at the Sarajevo Olympics in 1984, Steve won silver behind Phil's gold (Figure 8) in the slalom, a unique achievement by skiing twins.

The introduction of the super G into alpine ski racing in 1986 makes it difficult to compare the great skiers of the 1930's or 1970's with more recent champions by counting the numbers of their Championship medals and World Cup wins.

For Cranz in the 1930's, there was a World Championship every year and three titles were awarded at each. Killy also had three titles to go for, but the major championships were held only every two years. From 1986, there were five World Cup categories every year and five championship titles awarded every two years.

### MARC GIRARDELLI

Two men dominated the World Cup overall standings for eight years from 1984: Marc Girardelli and Pirmin Zurbriggen. Zurbriggen won four and Girardelli won five overall titles, more than any other man. Both were all-rounders, winning World Cup titles in



Figure 9. St. Vincent 1993. Marc Girardelli winning a silver medal in the 1992 Olympics giant slalom.

the four categories of downhill, super G, giant slalom and slalom. Both also won World Cup combined events.

Marc Girardelli, an Austrian, chose to race for Luxembourg and won a total of 12 Olympic and World Championship medals, including three World Championship combined titles. Girardelli is the only skier to have taken victory in four World Cup disciplines in the same winter. But an Olympic gold medal eluded Girardelli (Figure 9).

### PIRMIN ZURBRIGGEN

Zurbriggen of Switzerland (Figure 10), however, won the Olympic downhill in Calgary in 1988. He also held the record of four successive super G World Cup titles until Hermann Maier equaled it in 2001.

### ALBERTO TOMBA

For many, however, Alberto Tomba was the skier of the era. He was the focus of media attention that spread beyond the skiing fraternity. He became a celebrity as well as Italy's sporting hero. Tomba "La Bomba" won double gold in giant slalom and slalom at the Calgary Olympics (Figure 11) and went on to win a third gold in Albertville, joining Sailer and Killy as the only men who have won three Olympic titles.

Like Stenmark, Tomba was capable of dramatic second-run victories following cautious first run times. He also stuck to the technical events in picking up 50 men's World Cup victories, second only to Stenmark's 8.



Figure 10. North Korea 1988. Zurbriggen is depicted, but the caption is incorrect.



Figure 11. St. Vincent 1992, specimen overprint. Tomba winning the 1988 Olympics giant slalom.





Figure 12. Paraguay 1990. Vreni Schneider winning the 1988 Olympics slalom.

Schneider was not, however, the only women skier setting records in the '90s.

#### KATJA SEIZINGER

Germany's Katja Seizinger (Figure 13) dominated the speed events with a record total of six super G titles as well as four downhill titles. Seizinger is the only skier to have won two Olympic downhills, retaining in Nagano the title she won in Lillehammer. In Nagano, she took home a record four medals from



Figure 13. Bolivia 1993 numbered souvenir sheet. Katja Seizinger is shown racing in the 1992 World Cup where she became both downhill and super G champion.

one Olympics.

#### ERIKA HESS

Another record breaker was Erika Hess of Germany, the best woman skier never to have won an Olympic medal. Her six World Championship

#### VRENI SCHNEIDER

In the 1988 Olympics, Vreni Schneider (Figure 12) of Switzerland won the same two titles as Tomba, missed out in 1992, but won her third Olympic gold in 1994.

Her accumulation of 55 World Cup wins is just behind Moser-Pröll's 62 and she achieved a record six World Cup giant slalom and six slalom titles.



Figure 14. North Korea 1994, Deborah Compagnoni.

golds is a post-war record.

#### DEBORAH COMPAGNONI

For championship gold medals, no post-war alpine skier, man or woman, can rival Italian Deborah Compagnoni (Figure 14). Her World Cup record was modest – only 16 wins – but she won three Olympic and four World Championship titles from 1992 to 1998.

#### KJETIL-ANDRÉ AAMODT

The other contenders for the previous century's greatest Alpine ski racer were still racing in 2001. In 2001, the 29-year-old Norwegian Kjetil-André Aamodt became the fourth skier in World Cup history to win at least one race in all five disciplines, winning a slalom in Wengen, joining Zurbriggen, Girardelli and Günther Mader of Austria.

Aamodt won his first World Championship medal in 1991 and his first Olympic gold in 1992 (Figure 15). At the World Championships in St. Anton in February 2001, Aamodt won the combination event, and set two new records. He became the first post-war skier to win the World Championship in the same discipline three times in a row, and the first ever to hold a total of 14 Olympic and World Championship medals.



Figure 15. St. Vincent 1993. Kjetil-André Aamodt (#3) winning 1992 Olympic super G.

#### LASSE KJUS

Fellow Norwegian Lasse Kjus (Figure 16) achieved five medals in five events at the 1999 World Championships held in Colorado at Vail and Beaver Creek. He took gold in super G and giant slalom and silver in downhill, slalom and the combined.



Figures 16 & 17. Liberia 1997 (left). Lasse Kjus winning the alpine combined in Lillehammer. Central African Republic 1998 (right). Hermann Maier winning the Nagano giant slalom.

### HERMANN MAIER

If he recovers from injury, Hermann Maier could still finish his career as the greatest ski racer ever. Maier's tally and success rate of 41 wins and 66 podiums from his first 100 results can be compared to that of Stenmark, Moser-Pröll and Tomba.

In 2001, he won the overall World Cup with a record 1618 points. Maier dominated media coverage like Killy, Klammer and Tomba did. He already has three Olympic and World Championship gold medals. At the last Olympics in Nagano, Maier

crashed spectacularly out of the downhill, but returned battered and bruised to win both the super G and giant slalom (Figure 17). 🏆

*Editor's note: James Bentley's listing of alpine skiing stamps and the skiers depicted on them is available as an ATA checklist. He welcomes correspondence on skiing and ski stamps via his email address: [skistamps@jamesbentley.com](mailto:skistamps@jamesbentley.com)*



Figure 18. Jean-Claude Killy, the greatest alpine ski racer of all time ...

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# WCT Tennis Autographs & Cancells

by Tom Koch

**A**s an on-again, off-again philatelist for many years, I never considered sports as a serious topical area. This attitude came despite being a sportswriter for 13 years.

That changed when an inspiration arrived in 1982. It was in the form of Elten F. Schiller's book, *Baseball ... Stamps ... Autographs*. Following a career in baseball administration, Schiller was in an enviable position to acquire autographs from most of the leading players in the major leagues, past and present. While U.S. philatelic offerings with a baseball theme were slim, Schiller primarily shows the 1939 baseball centennial issue first day covers and the 1969 professional baseball issue first day covers.

Though he mostly used these two basic issues with various cachets, what impressed me was the grouping of the signatures by category, i.e., one cover bears the autographs of Bobby Thomson and Ralph Branca. Branca threw the pitch that Thomson hit for a home run in 1951, the famous "Shot Heard Round the World" that gave the New York Giants the National League pennant over the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Schiller grouped others: a cover autographed by players named the Sporting News Player of the Year,



Figure 1. Rod Laver and Jim Budge autographs on first day cover for the centennial of US Tennis.

one featuring pitchers leading the league in strike outs, another with the last two players with season batting averages over .400.

## WCT TENNIS AUTOGRAPHS

As public relations director for an international tennis promotions company called World Championship Tennis (WCT) during the 1980's I had easy access to all the great men's players in the world. With this vantage point, I decided I would do in tennis what Schiller had done in baseball. In addition, we held "Legends" tournaments in conjunction with the main event. This meant that great players

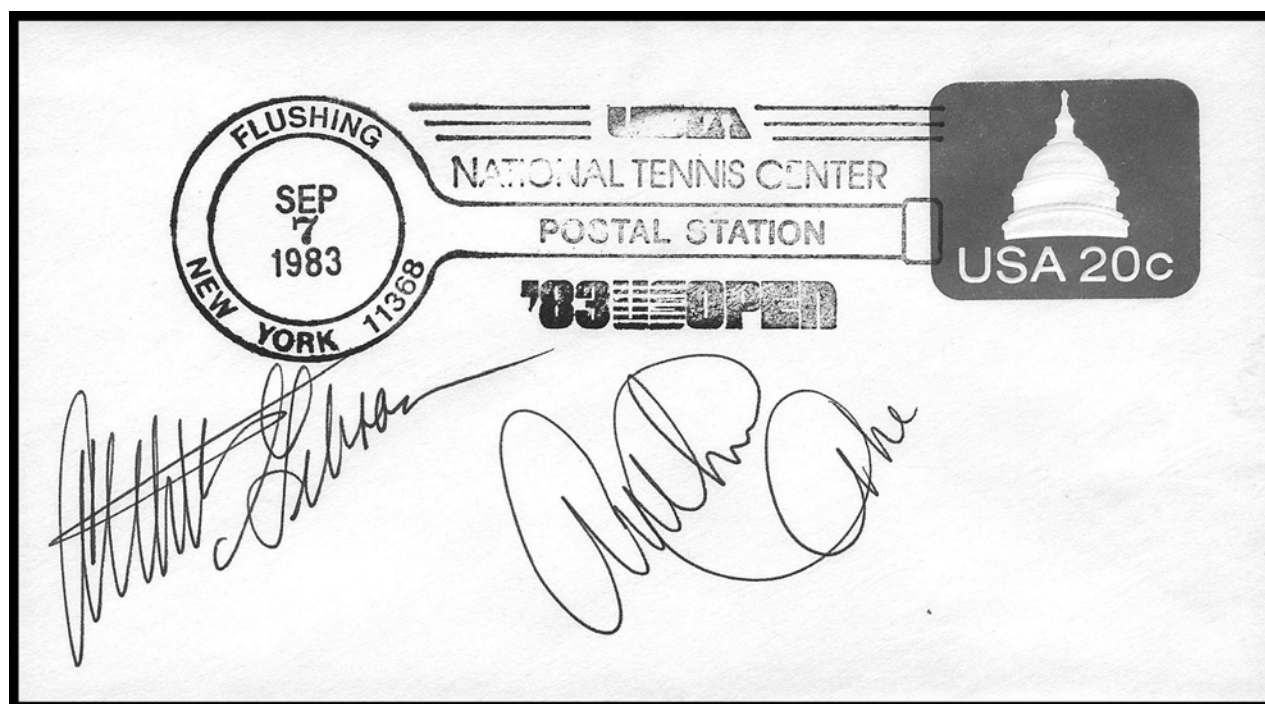


Figure 2. Legendary African-American players, Althea Gibson and Arthur Ashe



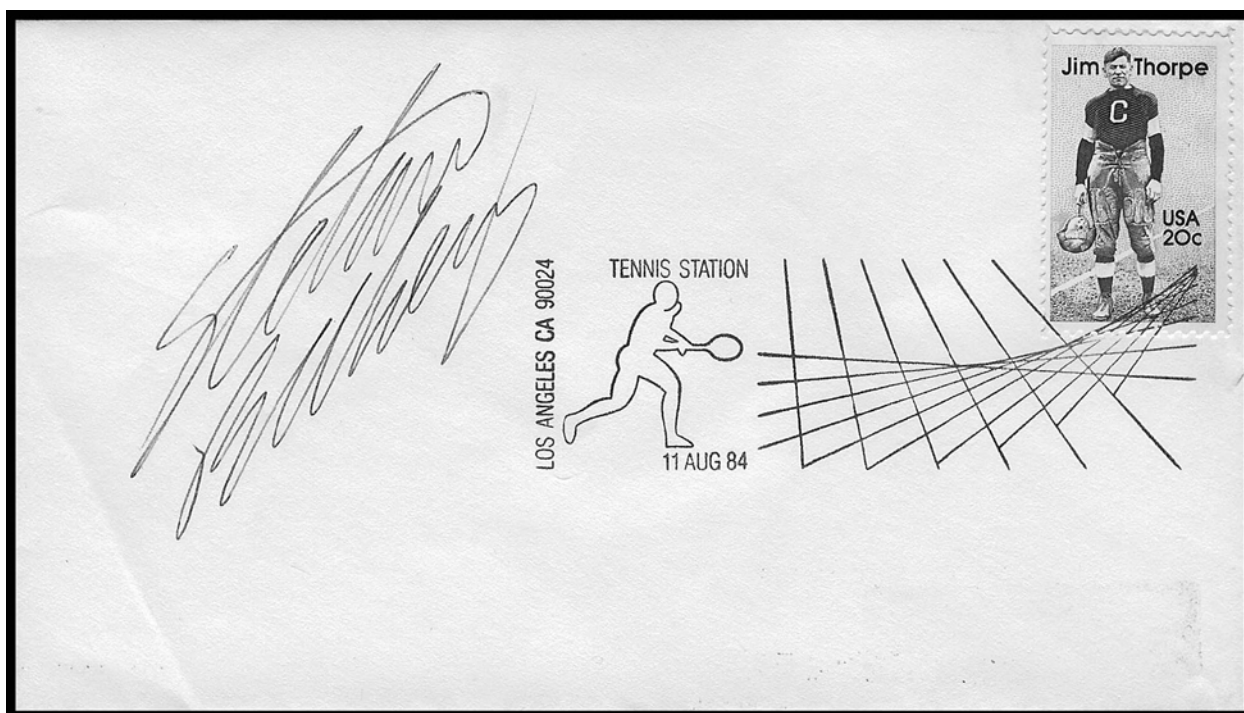


Figure 3. Stefan Edberg of Sweden, men's singles winner at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

of the past were also easily available. So, I bought up a large batch of the 1974 tennis centennial embossed envelope FDC's and went to work in the closed locker rooms of our tournaments.

On a US Envelope Private Cachet (Figure 1) I grouped Don Budge and Rod Laver, the only two men who have won the Grand Slam of Tennis (winning the French, English, U.S. and Australian championships in a calendar year).

Another cover (Figure 2) features the autographs of legendary American black players, Arthur Ashe and Althea Gibson.

A 1983 cover with the WCT logo and a downtown Dallas cancel features the McEnroe clan: John, who was appearing in the WCT Finals tournament; Patrick, playing in the WCT Future Stars event; and father John P., a New York attorney who served as their agent.

A two-cover set featuring the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games tennis cancellation bears the signatures of the "gold medal" winners – singles champ Stefan Edberg of Sweden (Figure 3) and doubles champs Emilio Sanchez and Sergio Casal of Spain. Tennis was an Olympic demonstration sport that year after being excluded for 60 years.

An Artcraft cachet (Figure 4) of the 1974 first day of issue from Forest Hills shows Jimmy Connors' signature. Connors won the U.S. Open singles championship at Forest Hills that year.

Most of the remainder of autographed tennis

covers feature Grand Slam event or major tournament champions. There are a few pieces that have signatures of non-players who were significant tennis personalities. One is that of Ted Tinling who designed the controversial frilly lace pants for player Gussie Moran as well as Billie Jean King's sequined outfit for the 1970's "Battle of the Sexes" event against Bobby Riggs. Another is that of Allison Danzig, the dean of American tennis writers who covered the sport for 50 years for the *New York Times*.

#### WCT PICTORIAL CANCELLATIONS AND CACHET SERIES

During my period with World Championship Tennis (WCT) I decided to additionally promote our major tournament in Dallas by having a special U.S. Postal Service pictorial cancel and cacheted covers.

The first in 1985 featured a cancel noting the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the WCT Finals and showed the famous WCT Cup. The cachet included both the WCT logo and a hawk representing the new title sponsor, Buick. This was a decent first effort, but it needed more pizzazz. I commissioned an artist, Sabra Smith, to make line drawings from photographs of the eight finalists. After the event the cancel was available for a full month. So we printed new cachets featuring the line drawing of the new champion. In this case it was Ivan Lendl who appears in a green cachet. The cancel bore the date of this championship victory.

We repeated this over the next two years in a "WCT Champions Series" of cachets. In 1986 Anders Jarryd of Sweden took the championship when injuries limited the effectiveness of the leading players. Jarryd appeared in blue and the cancellation featured a tennis court in the shape of Texas flags to note the state's sesquicentennial celebration. The following year, Czechoslovakian Miloslav Mecir upset German Boris Becker to win the crown. Mecir is featured in red with a cancellation showing a large tennis racquet. My collection includes that set autographed by the respective champions.

The 1988 cancellation celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WCT's original group of players who were called "The Handsome Eight." The cachet was a photo of the eight and the cancellation featured eight tennis balls surrounding the WCT logo. Becker won the tournament but unfortunately we did not have a staff artist to produce a line drawing of him to keep the Champions Series going. It would have lasted only a year longer anyway.

John McEnroe (Figure 5) came back to win his fourth WCT Finals crown in 1989, but that was the last championship in Dallas. The winds of change were blowing in the men's tennis world and the player's union was taking over the primary tour. Faced with exorbitant fees to keep the Dallas event going, owners Lamar Hunt and Al Hill Jr. decided to

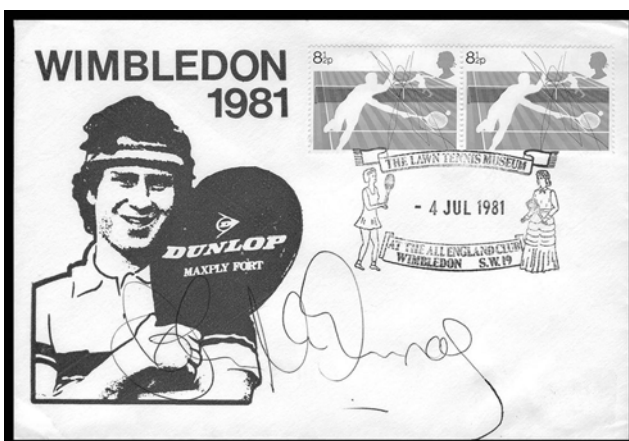


Figure 5. John McEnroe, one of the dominant men's players in the 1980's, won the prestigious British Open at Wimbledon in 1981.

close WCT in 1990. It had operated since 1967 and changed the game by forcing open tennis in 1968 and bringing a professional, structured approach to the tour with sponsorships and promotions.

After WCT I became the national Director of Public Relations for the National Cutting Horse Association based in Fort Worth, Texas. One of the first moves I made for the major cutting Futurity was to order a USPS pictorial cancellation and cachet. But that is another story ...

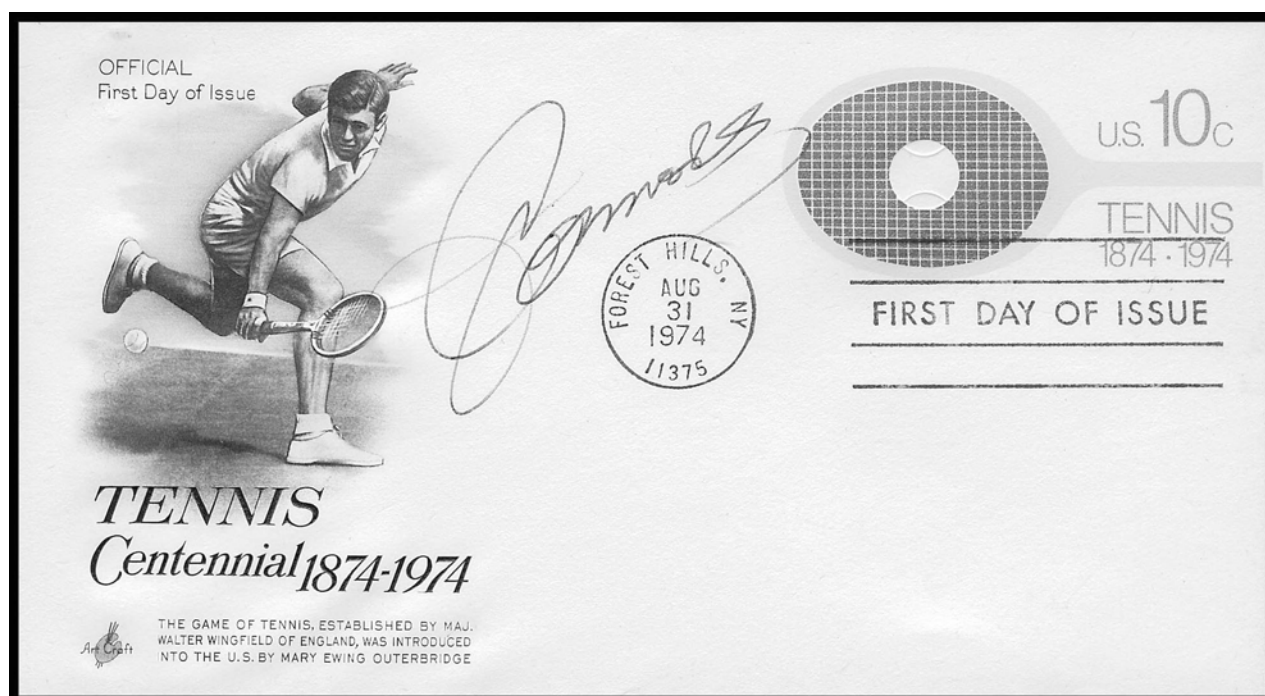


Figure 4. Jimmy Connors, U.S. Open winner in 1974.

# Hannes Margreiter, Stamp Designer

by Andy Taylor

**H**annes Margreiter was born on November 10, 1954 in Wörgl, Tirol, and lived for 19 years in the nearby town of Kundl. At the age of 5 years he decided to become an artist. He attended the innovative Werkschulheim at Felbertal, near Salzburg, from 1965 till 1974. In summer 1973 he won a scholarship to the International Summer Academy in Salzburg. In 1974, after his High School Exam and Journeymen's Examination (as a carpenter), he came to Vienna and started to study History of Arts and took lessons at the School of Applied Arts. He joined the Academy of Fine Arts in 1976 and continued with his creative activities. Since 1980 he has worked as a freelance painter and illustrator for numerous companies and magazines, and on private commissions. His personal creative areas are portraits, landscapes, animal paintings and humorous-critical analysis of people.

His philosophy could be summed up as "Art is as important as one's daily bread." Hannes Margreiter opposes in a friendly but confident manner the opinion of those who think that art, while desirable, is basically dispensable, and certainly not vital to life. "Art defines quality of life" and "the more artists the superior the civilization," he explains, and he regrets very much that art does not yet have its well-earned place in our time. Nowadays the mass media, apart from their unbalanced preference for bad news, deal with communication and information in so pompous a way that life is made to seem serious and hard.

Hannes asserts: "I want to point out the humorous side of life which does exist as well" and "joy and serenity are the most important things in life, I want people to smile in the first place and then to look at things in a very new way – as if they had been landed on this planet just a minute ago. I want to give help by leaving the ingrained way of mood and thinking, taking new ways in viewing trivial things and experiencing life."

Since 1986 he has shown his works in several exhibitions in Vienna and other parts of Austria and Germany, and pictures in Moscow, the Bahamas and Milan. He has also designed many stamps and other philatelic items for the Austrian Federal Postal Administration since 1988, as well as envelopes, cards and designs for cancellations for the UNPA. In 1996 he did four stamps for the Republic of Congo with animal representations.

Over the years he became known for his representations of animals by doing a whole series of stamps showing endangered species, paintings for WWF and the zoo of Vienna. As a stamp artist, Margreiter is acknowledged worldwide, and always operates with the highest artistic quality in the interests of his clients.

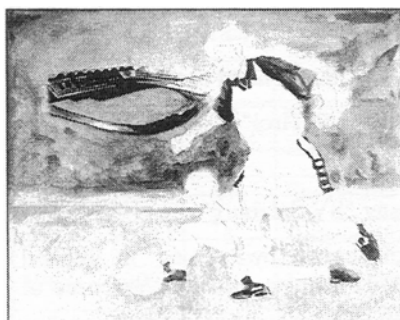
His Austrian postal items include commemorative stamps for Austrian football champions: SK Rapid Wien (1997), FK Austria (1998), SK Sturm Graz (1999), FC Tirol (2000) and SV Salzburg (2001).

## FROM CONCEPT TO STAMP

Hannes has provided me with specimens of the various stages in the design of a postage stamp. Perhaps the most detailed is the artwork for the 2001 Football Champions stamp which shows SV Salzburg. This was done in gouache (a type of watercolor), and the final artwork executed on a thick card and handed over to the Österreichische Staatsdruckerei (ÖSD) who carry out all the necessary color separations and print the stamps. An accompanying illustration shows them where to add the lettering, which the ÖSD generate themselves.

The former soccer clubs "FC Hertha" and "FC Rapid" merged in 1933 to become "SV Austria Salzburg" bearing purple-white colors. The name was changed into "SV Casino Salzburg" in 1978, and finally in 1997, "SV Wüstenrot Salzburg" after its

*The development of the design is illustrated by these gouaches. Near right: This is the "first draft" of the design. Far right: Here, more detail has been added.*







*Top left: Further detail, and the layout of the lettering and logo. (I suspect the reversed shirt is a Hannesism!)*

*Top right: Would white letters look better? Changed hair style?*



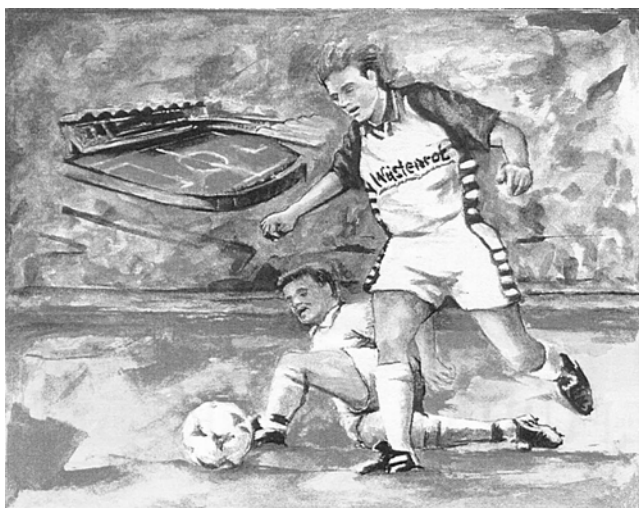
*Bottom left: Here is the final artwork, as handed to the printers. The club asked that their stand be shown from the front as it's part of their brand image.*

*Bottom right: And this is the accompanying layout, to show the printers where to add the letters and logo.*

major sponsor (Wüstenrot is a financial organization similar to a building society). Salzburg first came to the national division A in 1953, and, after a very difficult period, in 1989 entered again the first national division. In 1992 the club was second in the Austrian championship, and in 1993, 1994, and 1997 Austrian champion. In 1993 and 1994 the Salzburg soccer club also won the Austrian super-cup. In 1994 the team was the first Austrian representative in the

Champions League in which it also participated in 1995 and 1997. In 1997 the club took part in the UEFA cup.

*[This article, slightly abbreviated here for length, originally appeared in the Autumn 2001 issue of Austria, the journal of the Austrian Philatelic Society. It is reprinted with the kind permission of the editor and author.]*



*Salzburg: Stage 2*



*Salzburg: Final artwork for the printers*

# SPI Mourns Passing of Francesca Rapkin

by James Bowman

Sports Philatelists International has received word of the passing of Francesca Rapkin of Great Britain on December 13, 2001. Her husband, Leon, preceded her in death. She is survived by her daughter Sarah, her son and daughter-in-law, Simon and Joanna, and their son Kaspar.

Francesca was widely known as a staunch supporter of both traditional and thematic philately, especially sports philately, and in particular, that of the 1936 Olympics. Many thematic exhibitors will remember her outstanding award-winning exhibit on the 1936 Olympics at Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Berlin and Kiel that included several one-of-a-kind examples of the philately of those Games. It has been shown both nationally and internationally including at OLYMPHILEX '88 at Seoul and OLYMPHILEX 2000 at Sydney, held concurrently with the Olympic Games in those cities.

At Sydney's OLYMPHILEX 2000, Francesca's "1936 Olympics" received a Gold together with the Grand Prix International presented by the International Olympic Committee.

In 1984, she organized the Society of Olympic Collectors and was the editor of the society's journal, *The Torch Bearer*. In introducing the first issue of *The Torch Bearer*, Francesca wrote: "The start of a new project is always exciting. We have an opportunity to begin a worthwhile venture, something that has not been previously attempted in Great Britain. Although Ernest Trory's shop in Brighton was a mecca for Olympic Collectors in the 1950's and '60's, he never attempted to start a club where like-minded collectors could exchange news and views."

Her vision of the society and its publication remains alive today.

Francesca's other philatelic activities included judging at national and international exhibitions, serving on the organizing committees for Stamp World London '90 and The Stamp Show 2000, participation as a speaker at various philatelic functions, and willingness to mentor

fellow sports philatelists.

Among the many recognitions bestowed upon SPI member, Francesca Rapkin, was a special award for her contributions to sports philately by Sports Philatelists International at their Second International Convention at World Columbian Stamp Exposition in 1992. Her keynote address at that meeting was entitled "Britain's Olympic Role."

In 1999, she was named Distinguished Philatelist by the American Topical Association. She held memberships in many other philatelic organizations including The Royal Philatelic Society of London, the Internationale Motivgruppen "Olympiaden und Sport (IMOS), and many others.

A tireless worker for philately, Francesca will certainly be missed. As noted by a fellow member of The Royal Philatelic Society of London, it was fitting that she passed away on the day that she had organized the meeting of the "Ladies of the Royal," the Christmas meeting of the RPS. 🐣



*Francesca Rapkin, Bob Lamb (APS Executive Director), and Marian Bowman at the 1999 ATA Convention in Milwaukee at which Francesca was honored as the ATA's Distinguished Philatelist.*

# 2008 BEIJING OLYMPICS

by Kwan Kwok-Yiu

On July 14, 2001, the day following the International Olympic Committee's announcement that Beijing would host the 2008 Olympic Games, the postal authorities of the PR of China, Hong Kong, and Macau jointly issued stamps featuring the Beijing 2008 bid committee logo. According to the Postmaster General of Hongkong Post, the agreement between the three postal agencies had been concluded in early 2001. Each would issue a single stamp with the same design. It was also understood that if Beijing's bid was unsuccessful, all the stamps would be destroyed.

The stamps for all three issuing entities were printed by the same printer in Beijing. There were two formats for these stamps. The first was a mini-pane of twelve stamps (Figures 1-3) with a horizontal gutter dividing the mini-pane in half (three rows of two stamps above and below). Each stamp also had a small tab attached to the right side depicting a flower representative of the entity which issued the stamp. The second printed format was as a large sheet with one of each of the three mini-panes printed side-by-side with selvedge between each (Figure 4). The accompanying table summarizes the differences between the two formats.

The most dramatic differences between the

formats are exhibited by the stamps from Hong Kong. The background colors of the tabs and gutters vary from lilac to lavender. The text on the mini-pane's tabs omits the English version. The design of the Bauhinia, the city flower of Hong Kong, is distinctive on the tabs of each format. A windsurfer is included in the gutter of the large sheet, but not the mini-pane. I believe the windsurfer symbolizes Hong Kong's only Olympic gold medal which was awarded at the 1996 Atlanta Games to Ms. Lee Lai-shan who won the women's sailboard event.

The design of the Chinese issue is the most consistent with a slight change in the grey background of the tab, and a minor shift in the blue color of the gutter. The flower depicted on the Chinese tab is the peony, the national flower of the PRC.

On the Macau issue, the stamp tabs are also different for the two formats. First, the flower on these tabs (a lotus, the city flower of Macau) is rendered differently, one being significantly larger than the other. The background color – green on both tabs – is decidedly darker on the mini-pane version. Lastly, the font size and spacing of the text in the gutter is very different. A red box behind the first Chinese character on the mini-pane does not appear on the large sheet version.

COMPARISON OF MINI-PANE & SHEET FORMAT "BEIJING 2008 SUCCESS" STAMPS						
	<i>Hong Kong Mini-Pane</i>	<i>Hong Kong Sheet</i>	<i>PR of China Mini-Pane</i>	<i>PR of China Sheet</i>	<i>Macau Mini-Pane</i>	<i>Macau Sheet</i>
Tab: Background	Lilac	Lavender	Lighter Grey	Darker Grey	Deep Green	Light Green
Tab: Top Text	White/Chinese	Black/Chinese & English	Black/Chinese		Black/Chinese & English	
Tab: Bottom Text	Lilac/Sans-serif	Black/Serif	Black/Serif		Black/Serif	
Tab: Design	Large Bauhinia	Large Bauhinia (diff. petals)	Large Peony		Smaller Lotus	Larger Lotus
Tab: Design Color	Rose		Rose		Rose	
Gutter: Background	Lilac	Blue	Lighter Blue	Darker Blue	Various	
Gutter: Add Design	None	Windsurfer	Volleyball		Cyclists	
Gutter: Text	Small/White	Large/White	Large/Black		Lemon/ Small Black	Lemon/ Large Black



Figure 1. Hong Kong Mini-Pane

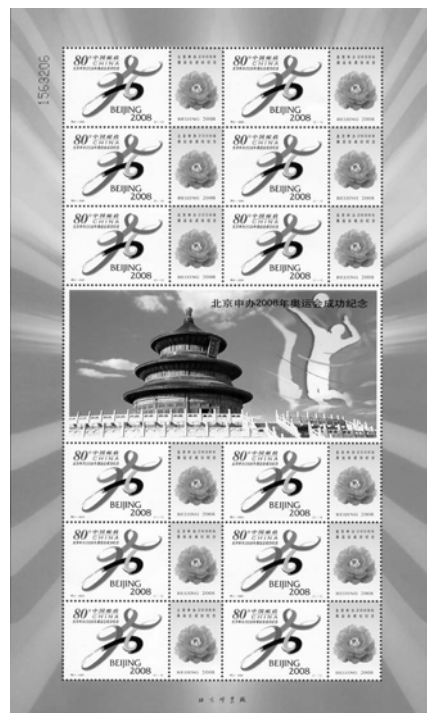


Figure 2. Beijing Mini-Pane

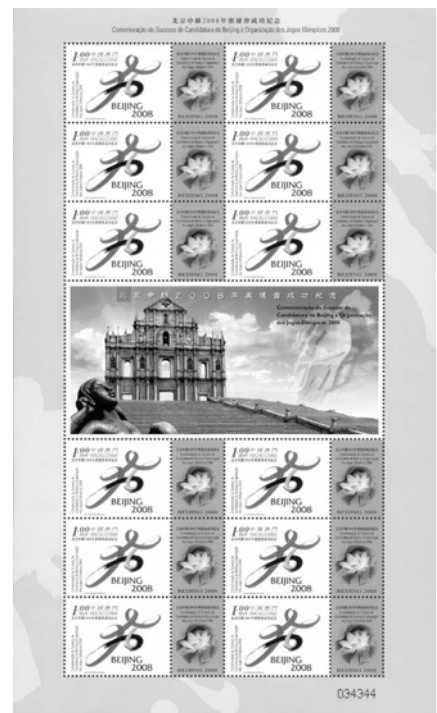


Figure 3. Macao Mini-Pane



Figure 4. Sheet format version containing all three mini-panes, but with significant design differences between the stamp labels, central gutter and surrounding selvage. The serial number below each mini-pane in the sheet is the same, in this case "B 080619". The "B" prefix identifies this sheet as having been for sale in Hong Kong. Those sold in China have an "A" prefix, while the sheets available in Macau bear a "C" prefix. While no official count of the number of each sheet version has been released, it is believed that the Macau-vended sheets are the fewest in number, and thus the rarest.

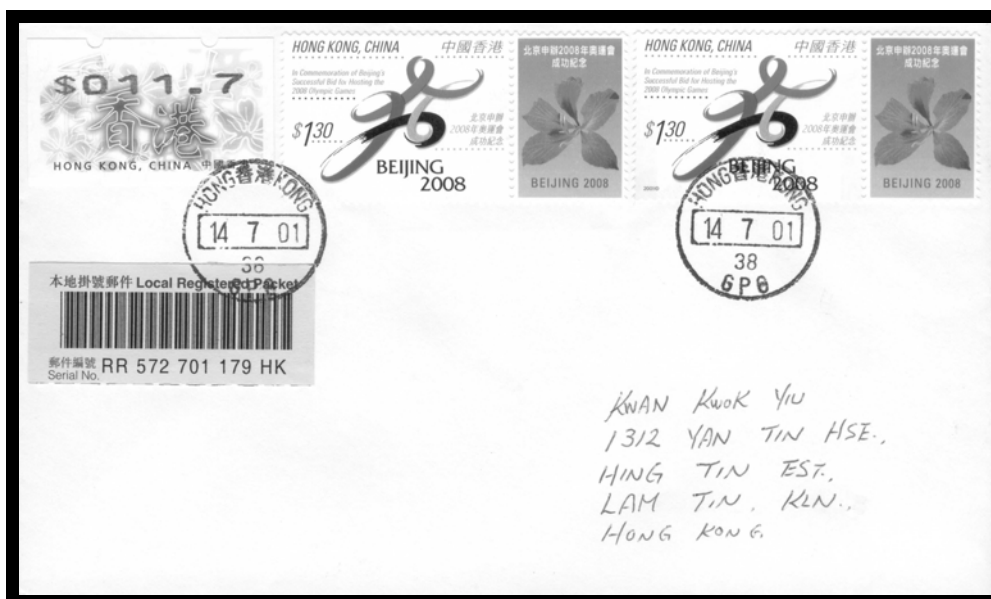


Figure 5. Registered first day use of the Hong Kong "Beijing 2008 Success" stamp on July 14, 2001. The special FD cancel (shown in Figure 6) could not be used on registered covers.

The mini-panes of 12 stamps were sold at face value: HK\$15.60 for the Hong Kong issue; 12 PTC (the currency of Macau is called the pataca, or "PTC" for short) for the Macau issue; and RMB 9.60 for the mini-pane from the PRC. Since the issues were released on a Saturday, the respective post offices were opened for only a half day. Whether or not you were lucky in getting a mini-pane depended on if you got a spot in the queue!

All the mini-panes and large sheets have unique serial numbers. The Macau and Hong Kong mini-panes bear six-digit numbers printed in black in the selvedge below the tab of the stamp in the lower right corner. On the PRC mini-panes, the serial number which is seven digits long is printed vertically in black in the selvedge adjacent to the top left stamp.

The large sheets were sold at a premium. The face value of the large sheets was approximately HK\$37 (about US\$4.75), but the retail price was roughly double that: HK\$75. The additional cost might be explained, at least in part, by the way the large sheets were packaged. Each sheet, which measures 19" wide by 10.6" high, is enclosed in a colorful cardboard folder which in turn fits into a die-cut slip case. Nevertheless, it's my opinion that the premium is too high, thus discouraging collectors.

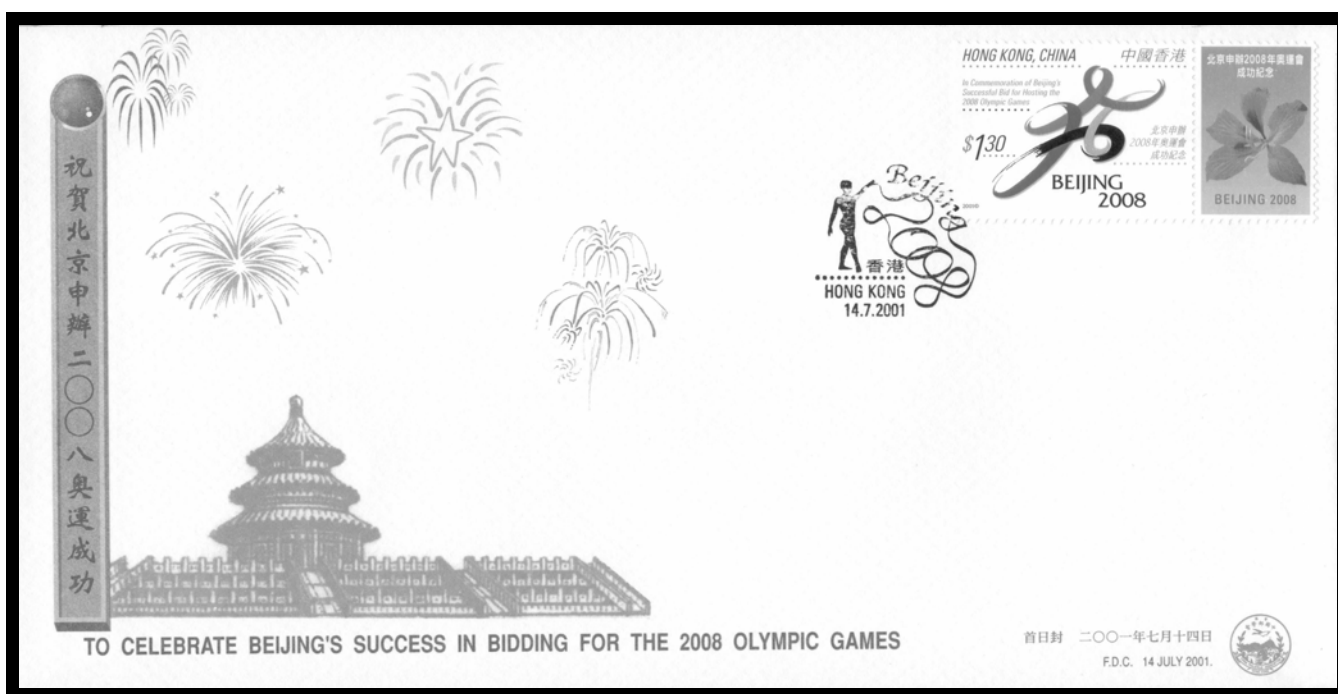


Figure 6. First Day Cover of the China Philatelic Association for the Hong Kong stamp.





Figure 7. Macao's official First Day Cover for the "Beijing 2008 Success" stamp.

Although all the large sheets were printed by the same printing house in Beijing, the six-digit serial numbers printed in black differ depending on where the sheets were destined to be sold. The sheets sold in China had serial numbers prefixed by the letter "A". Those sold in Hong Kong and Macau were designated by the letters "B" and "C," respectively. There are no official figures for the numbers of each large sheet printed, but it is believed that the fewest number were printed for distribution in Macau (bearing a "C" serial number). The serial numbers appear three times on each large.

Figure 5 shows a registered first day of use of the issue from Hong Kong prepared by me. The inland letter rate is HK\$1.30; registration is an additional HK\$13. The total postage of HK\$14.30 is paid by two Hong Kong stamps and a frama label.

Hong Kong did have a special FD cancellation (see Figure 6) available, but according to postal regulations it could not be used on a registered cover. The "38" circular date stamp used to cancel this cover is from the General Post Office and is usually applied to bulk mailing of registered packets. Since this is a "local registered packet" it bears no arrival marks – standard practice in Hong Kong.

The First Day Cover shown in Figure 6 (2000 issued) was prepared by the China Philatelic Association, one of the philatelic groups in Hong Kong. The first day cancel features a rhythmic gymnast holding her ribbon spelling the name "Beijing."

The China Philatelic Association has produced FDC's for every new Hong Kong issue since 1949. I am one of the active members of this association which, despite its name, is an exclusively Hong Kong philatelic group. Figures 7, 8 and 9 are the official FDC's from Macau, Hong Kong and China.

#### SPECIAL COVERS

Figures 10a & 10b show a pair of special covers issued by the China National Philatelic Corporation. The first cover, which exhibits a distinctly Russian cachet, was posted at Moscow. The special cancellation of the 112<sup>th</sup> I.O.C. Session at which Beijing was selected cancels the stamps. A secondary cancel in blue is dated 13 July 2001, the day Beijing was awarded the Games. The cover is pre-addressed to the China National Philatelic Corporation in Beijing. An arrival postmark (July 25, 2001) was applied on the back.

Figure 8. Official FDC from Hong Kong.

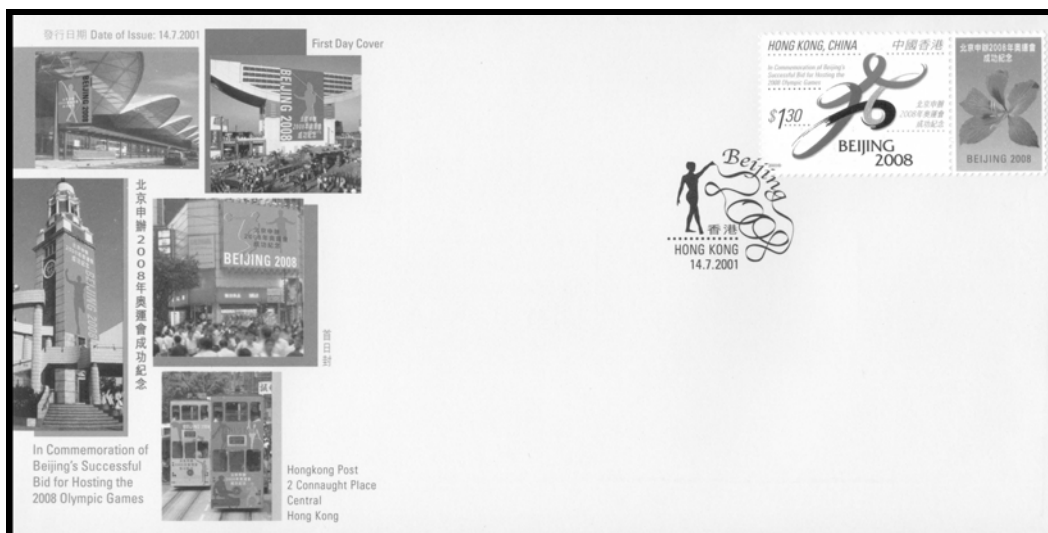


Figure 9. Two official FD covers from the PR of China.



Figures 10a & b. Two covers issued by the PRC in honor of Beijing's victory. The first (above) was cancelled in Moscow on July 13 following the vote, while the second (below) was for sale the following day in Beijing.



The FD cover shown in Figure 10b celebrates Beijing as the host city of the 2008 Olympic Games. The cancellation reads "Success of Beijing's Bid for the 2008 Olympic Games." The illustration in the cancel shows a traditional Chinese decorative knot. The cover, which was posted in Beijing, was ad-

ressed to Beijing's 2008 Olympic Games Bid Committee.

The arrival mark on the reverse (dated July 15, 2001) was applied at the post office in the hotel where the bid committee was located. A total of 60,000 sets of the two covers was created.





Figure 11. Cover with cancel from the special temporary post office of the Beijing Bid Committee.

Figure 11 is another special cover issued by the China National Philatelic Corporation. The most interesting feature is the postmark cancelling the stamp. It was one of the circular date stamps used by the temporary post office of the Beijing 2008 Bid Committee. This particular cancel bears the numeral "5"; I believe there should also be cancels 1, 2, 3, and 4.

The additional 80 fen (equal to 80 cents in the currency of the PRC) is for the postage of an inland surface letter. This cover was most likely created for purely philatelic purposes, hence the addition of the 80 fen stamp. It's a strange cover, indeed! The total number of covers issued was 20,000.

Figure 12 is yet another special cover produced by the China National Philatelic Corporation. The stamps themselves were not cancelled, but the

cover did receive an imprinted special cancellation. The text in the cancel: "Cheer on Beijing in its Bidding for the 2008 Olympics." The cover and cancel celebrate the Dragon Boat Races, a traditional Chinese rowing competition.

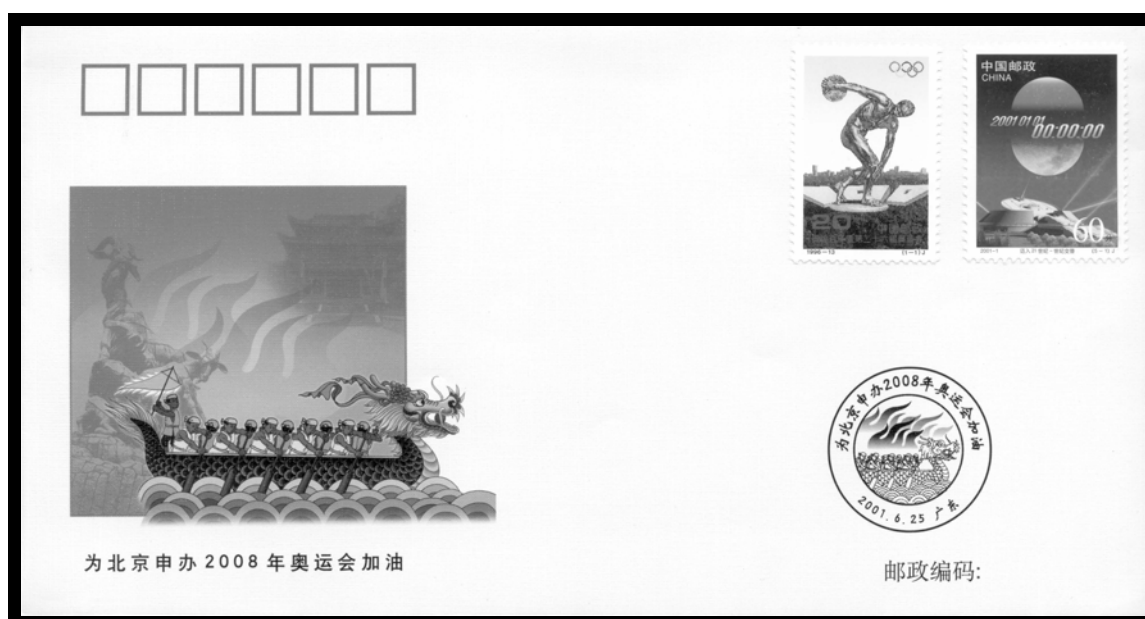
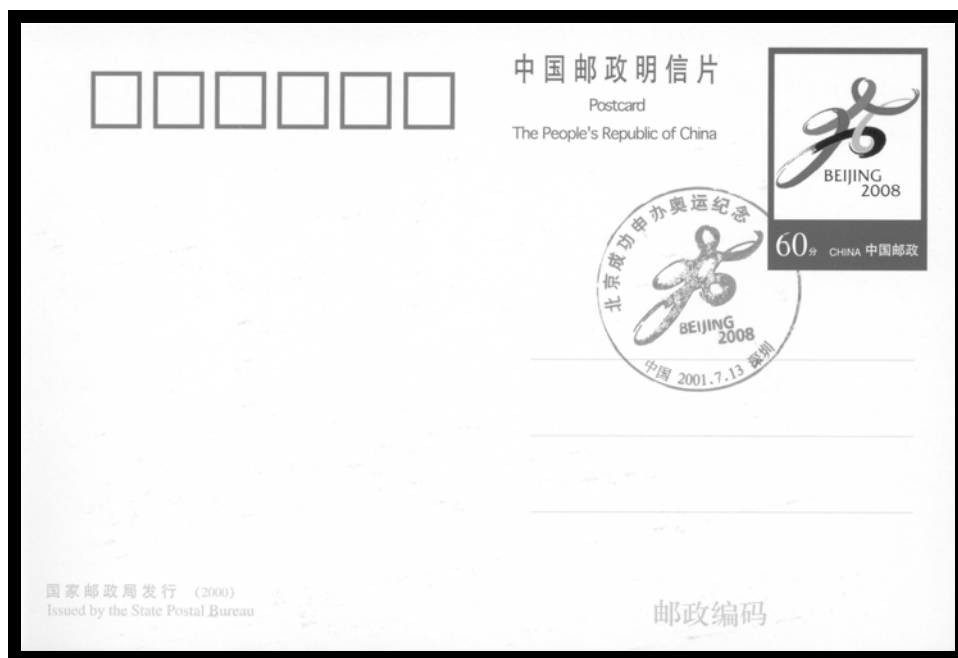


Figure 12. Another special cover, this one with an imprinted cancel "cheering on Beijing."



*Figure 13. The main post office in the city of Shenzhen seems to have remained open until midnight on July 13 in order to use this special cancel in red (shown enlarged above) noting Beijing's victory in Moscow at 10:05 p.m. that evening.*

### SPECIAL CANCELLATION

Figure 13 is a special cancellation in red ink used in Shenzhen, the nearest mainland Chinese city to Hong Kong. The cancellation wishes "Success of Beijing's Bid for the 2008 Olympic Games."

Of particular interest is the date of the cancel: July 13, 2001. When the announcement was made in Moscow that the Games had been awarded to Beijing, the time was 10:05 p.m. in China. I have been told that the Shenzhen post office remained open for two hour after the announcement, although I haven't been able to corroborate that information. It's more likely that the items were backdated.

If anyone has more precise information, I would appreciate learning of it.

### POSTAL CARD

Figure 14 is a special postal card issued following Beijing's win on July 13, 2001. It is rather difficult to find examples used on the first day.

As regional post offices produced their own special cancellations and covers, new discoveries will be made for years to come. I will report about the special cancels later.

In the meantime, I hope that future Beijing 2008 philatelic plans are centralized so that collectors know what to search for.



*Figure 14. "V" for "Victory": Beijing celebrates the awarding of the 2008 Games with this colorful postal card.*

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by Margaret Jones

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MM McAtee, 1975 Wesley Drive, Folsom, CA  
95630-6113 USA.

Alan R. Polsky, 306 Amalfi Drive, Santa Monica, CA  
90402-1128 USA.

Paul Tissington (new email): patiss@cogeco.ca

**Total Membership, October 31, 2001 = 346**

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ROMPEX 2001 (Aurora, Colorado). See July/August  
2001 issue for complete results.

STAMPSHOW 2001 (Rosemont, Illinois). James A  
Bowman received Prix d'Honneur Award for "1936  
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WISCOPEX 2001 (Sheboygan, Wisconsin). Robert  
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01818-153, 01818-198, 01818-490,  
01818-956, 01830-826, 01901-216,  
01902-135, 01914-772, 01923-212,  
01X03-079, 01X13-477, 01X20-441,  
01X27-024, 01Y17-440.

Basketball: 01X05-011.

Cycling: 01805-326, 01819-606,  
01824-154, 01825-139, 01909-941,  
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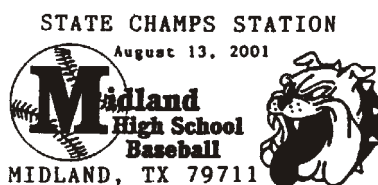
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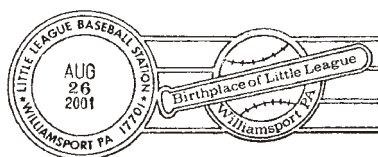
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01817-177 Williamsport, PA

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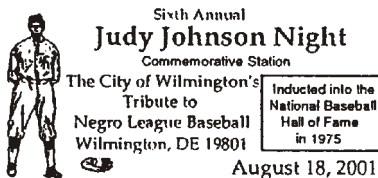
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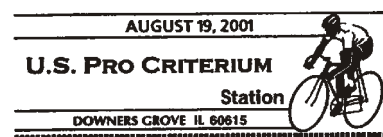
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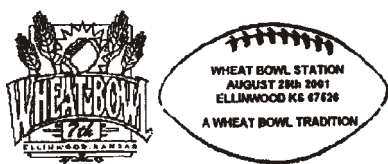
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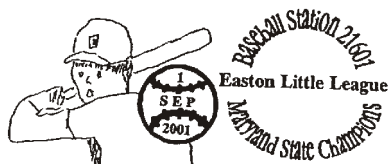
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01830-826 Casper, WY 30



01901-216 Easton, MD 1



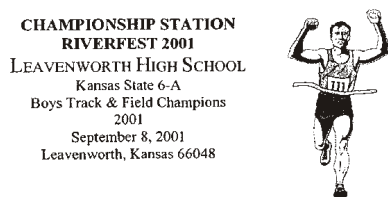
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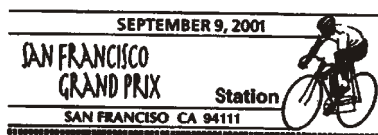
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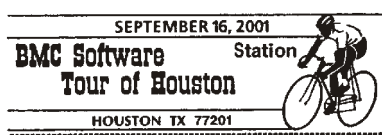
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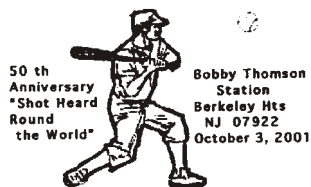
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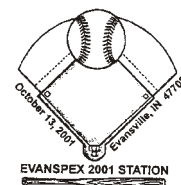
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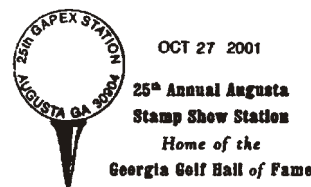
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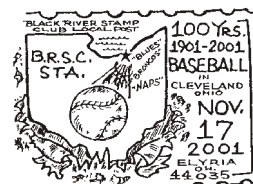
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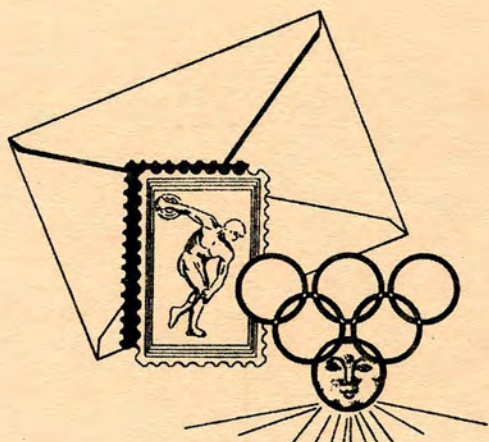
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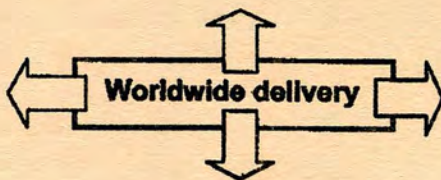
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