

# JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

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JULY-AUGUST 2002

NUMBER 6

## Printing the French 1924 Olympic Stamps



1924 Olympic Village Cover

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SPORTS  
PHILATELISTS  
INTERNATIONAL

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## SPORTS PHILATELISTS INTERNATIONAL

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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by Mark Maestrone

## We Have A New Auction Manager!

As I announced in my last President's Message, after 15 years at the helm as Auction Manager, Glenn Estus is moving on to greener pastures.

Fortunately, Dale Lilljedahl, a board member-elect, is stepping in as our new Auction Manager effective immediately. While the transition should be fairly seamless, Dale has requested a little breathing room to get up to speed. So saying, there will be no September auction; the next auction catalog (November 2002) will be distributed with the September issue of *JSP*. Current rules and regulations for the auction will, for the near future, continue unchanged.

Vendors may begin sending Dale their lots for the November 2002 auction:

Dale Lilljedahl  
4044 Williamsburg  
Dallas, TX 75220-6327  
U.S.A.

Dale's email address, in case anyone has a question, is [dalij@aol.com](mailto:dalij@aol.com).

Readers will note that included in this issue is a flyer announcing a new checklist service offered by our Membership Chairman, Peg Jones.

Called the "Sports-By-Country" checklist series, it is a response to the need for a thematic

list of sports and Olympic stamps organized by country rather than by sport or Olympic Games.

Peg has completed the listings for 15 countries. Reports are available in two ways: as a paper copy or as a computer file. While there is no charge for this service, requests are limited to a single paper report or a single country if a computer file is desired. A convenient order blank is provided at the bottom of the flyer.

Many of you will have seen – and no doubt bid in – the May 2002 auction of Franceska Rapkin's outstanding 1936 Olympic Games collection by the Köhler auction firm in Wiesbaden, Germany. By all accounts the prices realized far exceeded the expectations of the philatelic community!

In the interest of hands-across-the-sea, I'd like to announce that the Society of Olympic Collectors, our British-based sister society, will be auctioning much of Franceska's Olympic literature including many 1936 items and very rare pieces. Lots will also include a number of philatelic items that were not used in her exhibit. These will be divided between auctions over the next year beginning with their current auction.

For more information, please write John Crowther, 3 Hill Drive, Handforth, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 3AP Great Britain. He can also be contacted by email at [j-jscrowther@supanet.com](mailto:j-jscrowther@supanet.com)

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

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

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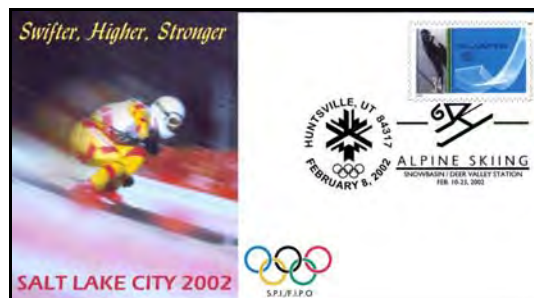
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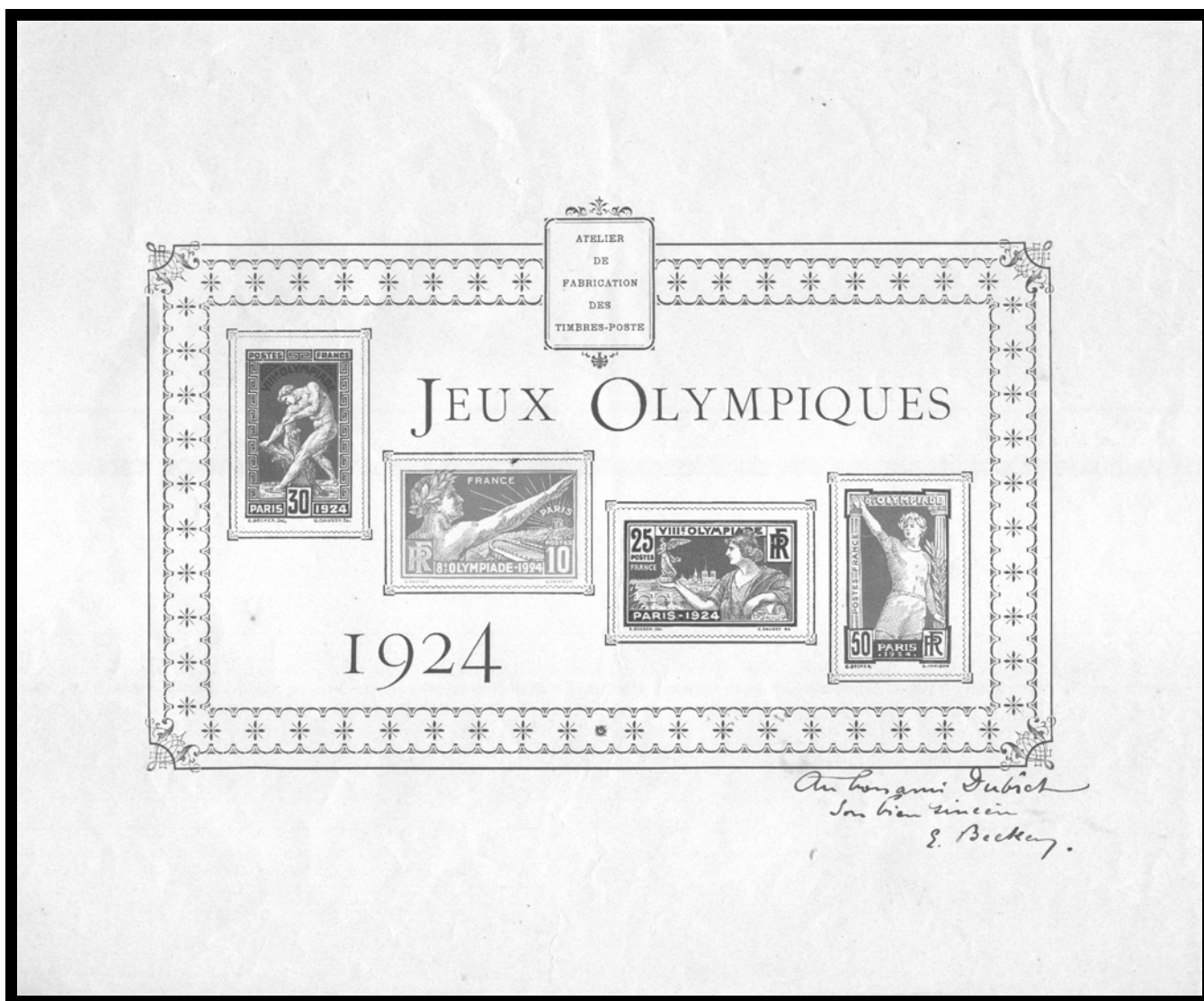


Figure 1. Presentation Proof of the 1924 Olympic Games stamps of France. The inscription, signed by the stamps' designer, reads (in French) "To my good friend, Dubrich, Sincerely E. Becker".

## Printing the French 1924 Olympic Stamps

by Dale Lilljedahl

One of the joys of collecting the French Olympics of 1924 is the wide range of philatelic items available to the collector. To celebrate the return of the Olympic Games to Paris, the French postal service issued a sizeable number of publicity cancellations, as well as four commemorative stamps. The stamps are especially interesting with their progressive proofs, essays, trial color proofs, major errors, and multitude

of printing errors. While the proofs make a fascinating study on their own, this article addresses the printing of the stamps and the resulting errors.

The information is presented in a catalog-listing format, and is divided into three sections. After describing the four stamps, we delve into the technical information about the printing process itself. The article concludes with a discussion and listing of the errors produced by that process.

## THE DESIGN

To commemorate the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris the French government issued four stamps depicting traditional Olympic themes and Parisian landmarks. Figure 1 shows all four stamps on one of the Presentation Proofs signed by E. Becker, the designer. These were given to government officials and International Olympic Committee (IOC) dignitaries.

**10c Gray-green/ yellow-green:** Athlete giving the Olympic salute with the Athens Olympic Stadium and Arc de Triomphe in the background.

**25c Red/ Carmine:** The allegorical figure of the French Revolution, Marianne, holding a small statue of Nike, the Goddess of Victory, with the Pont-Neuf and Notre Dame Cathedral in the background.

**30c Red/ Black:** The statue of the Olympic victor "Milo of Croton rending the oak" presently displayed in the Louvre Museum.

**50c Ultramarine/ Blue:** An Olympic athlete giving the Olympic salute, holding an olive branch in his left hand.

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

In order to understand the errors created during the printing process one must first be familiar with the process itself. The typography method of printing is described along with the format used to produce the Olympic stamps so the reader can easily trace

the mistakes in the process that created the errors listed below. The color shades are noted in this section since they are not considered errors, but merely natural changes during printing.

## Printing Statistics

1. Printer: Atelier de Fabrication des Timbres (French Government Printing Works) in Paris.
2. Designer: E. Becker
3. Engravers: 10c and 50c - C. Parison; 25c and 30c - G. Daussy
4. Materials: Printed on white paper with white gum.
5. Circulation: The exact quantities are unknown, but are believed to range from nine million for the 10c to 45,000 for the 50c.<sup>2, 9</sup> These figures were first mentioned by Ernest Trory, and have been much quoted since.
6. Date of Issue: April 1, 1924.

## Printing Method

The French Government Printing Works used typography to print the 1924 Olympic stamps. France was the first country to use this process when they issued the Ceres and Napoleon series in the mid 1800's, and it remained the mainstay of French stamp printing until the 1930's. It was the least expensive way to print stamps in that era which no doubt accounted for its popularity.

Typography is commonly called "letterpress," and is the process by which the design is raised in relief above the plate surface that does not print. Ink is applied to the raised surface and the pressure



Figure 2. Portion of the 50c value pane from the bottom right position of the sheet showing the three punch holes in the selvage adjacent to stamp #75. The sheet number (V 2404 16) appears to the right of the holes.

exerted by the press transfers the ink impression to the paper. The pressure combined with the elevated printing surface also leaves the line work slightly raised on the gummed side of the stamp. Typography is the opposite of recess printing, also called engraved or intaglio.

The initial image is engraved by hand onto soft metal. Once it is accepted, the die is replicated to form the printing plates. The plates are reproduced by stereotyping, using plaster or papier-mâché molds, or by electrotyping where a copper solution forms a new die. The dies are then assembled in the required number and format to create the printing plate. After the application of the ink the sheets are taken to the perforation machine to complete the procedure. The paper must have been gummed prior to the printing or the gum would have bled through the perforations when it was applied.

Heavysset thick lines in the design characterize typography. The raised surfaces wear down quickly if they are too thin, and the plate must be replaced too often. Making plates was expensive and time consuming, so the designs accommodated the limitations of the process. Bicolor stamps like the 1924 Olympic issues had the frame color printed first, and the middle design separately. This two-step process lead to many of the varieties listed below.

### **Printing Format**

1. Watermark: none
2. Perforation:
  - 10c and 25c horizontal format – 14 x 13.5 (horizontal x vertical)
  - 30c and 50c vertical format – 13.5 x 14 (horizontal x vertical)
3. Size: 21mm x 36mm
4. Plate Arrangement:<sup>3,5</sup>

a. Sheet Format: The stamps were printed in sheets of 150 that were cut in half for distribution at the post offices. The half sheets are distinguished from each other by margin width and the location of three irregularly shaped punch holes. A sheet number is located near the punched holes with a three-part format consisting of a letter, three or four numbers, and two numbers (Ex: U 2404 16 – see Figure 2). Different sheet numbers are imprinted in the same margin as the three punched holes. Each half sheet contains three panes of twenty-five stamps (5x5) with blank fields between each pane. A 3mm wide line the same color as the stamp frame is drawn through each blank field between the frames.

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25

26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50

51	52	53	54	55
56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65
66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75

*Figure 3. Horizontal format for printing sheets of the 10c and 25c Olympic stamps.*

b. Horizontal Format (Figure 3): The left half of the sheet has a wider margin on the left side and the three punched holes occur in the bottom margin beneath stamp number 71. The right half of the sheet has a wider margin on the right side and the three punch holes occur in the bottom margin beneath stamp number 75.

c. Vertical Format (Figure 4): The top half of the sheet has a wider margin on the top and the three punch holes occur to the right of stamp number 55.

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25

26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50

51	52	53	54	55
56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65
66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75

*Figure 4. Vertical format for printing sheets of the 30c and 50c Olympic stamps.*

The bottom half of the sheet has a wider margin on the bottom, and the three punch holes occur to the right of stamp number 75.

### Color Shades

The “Catalogue Descriptif des Variétés de France” (2nd edition, 1949) published by the Office Philatelique de Paris records the color shade varieties of the French 1924 Olympic issue. The color of the vignette is given first, and is followed by the frame. The large number of stamps printed probably required the mixing of several sets of ink that resulted in these shades.

1. 10c value (Gray-green and Yellow-green):
  - a. Gray green and Yellow-green.
  - b. Green and Yellow-green.
  - c. Green and Deep yellow-green.
  - d. Green and Pale green.
2. 25c value (Rose red and Deep carmine):
  - a. Rose red and Deep carmine.
  - b. Light rose and Deep carmine.
  - c. Carmine red and Bright carmine.
  - d. Pale rose and Rose.
3. 30c value (Dull red and black):
  - a. Dull red and Black.<sup>17</sup>
  - b. Brown red and Gray-black.
  - c. Light orange-brown and Black.<sup>27</sup>
4. 50c value (Ultramarine and Blue):
  - a. Ultramarine and Blue.
  - b. Pale ultramarine and Blue.
  - c. Bright ultramarine and Deep blue.
  - d. Ultramarine and Black-blue.

### PRINTING VARIETIES

Since proofs are an integral part of the development of the stamps, they were purposely created, and give us an insight into the creative process in designing the stamps. On the other hand, printing errors are a result of mistakes in the typography process, so their study teaches us about the mechanics of the production process. The printing flaws also have the added interest of determining the nature of the mistake that resulted in their existence.

The major philatelic catalogs mention the printing errors, but rarely give specific details on more than one or two. The general nature of these references prevents them from providing a comprehensive list. This omission is a loss to the philatelic world, because of the rich variety of these printing errors.

In his book, Heiko Volk<sup>7</sup> notes vertical, horizontal, and diagonal perforation errors for all four stamps, but he gives no specifics. He also tells of double printing, smeared printing, and shifted impressions, but admits the list is long. The *Yvert et Tellier* catalog mentions perforation errors and center-displaced varieties, but likewise gives no specifics. A few other books provide short lists, but a comparison shows them to be incomplete.

The following list is an attempt to provide the collector with a single source identifying the collection possibilities of the 1924 Olympic issues. Studying French philatelic references, Olympic reference books, society journals, and auction catalogs over the last 15 years resulted in the following lists. Except for the widely known varieties, the sources of all entries are identified. Some may be unique examples, but are listed anyway for the sake of completeness.

Since much of this study is a result of secondary research, it is restricted by the uncertainties resulting from not reviewing most of the material first hand. As such, the description of many of these varieties is taken directly from the reference's description or the auction catalog's verbiage. Whenever the items were illustrated in the source publication, an attempt has been made to describe the item in a manner that allows the reader to identify it through text alone.

### Major Errors

Major errors are changes in the major elements of the stamp design such as missing colors, missing perforations, or changes in the paper. While there are no known examples of missing colors, the other two types of errors exist for the 1924 French Olympic stamps.

The errors with both perforate and imperforate sides were the result of problems in the printing process, but are placed here since they lack some part of a major element. The shifting of the perforation crest far enough so that the top row of stamps was missed entirely caused the stamps with the perforation missing on the bottom.

The most rare and certainly most desirable of the French issues are the imperforates. Only two complete sets and a few singles are known to have survived, and all of these come from one half-sheet of 75.<sup>21</sup> There are also several examples on hard paper without gum in the original colors which also come from one half-sheet of 75.<sup>21</sup> At times, one of the die proofs in the issued colors is passed as an imperforate, so one should be careful when shopping.





Figure 5. Imperforate copy of the 10c value on gummed paper.

1. 10c value:
  - a. Imperforate on gummed paper. (Figure 5)
    1. Top margin copy.<sup>28</sup>
  - b. Printed on thin yellowish paper.<sup>2, 4, 6, 10, 16, 20</sup>
2. 25c value:
  - a. Imperforate on gummed paper.
    1. Upper left corner margin copy.<sup>22, 23</sup>
    2. Right side margin copy.<sup>26</sup>
    3. Lower right margin copy.<sup>28</sup>
  - b. Printed on thin yellowish paper.<sup>2, 6</sup>
  - c. Imperforate between two stamps.<sup>2</sup>
  - d. Imperforate on three sides.<sup>4, 7, 16, 18, 20</sup>
    1. Top margin copy with perforations only on the bottom.<sup>19, 24</sup> (Figure 6)
    2. Strip of five with top stamp imperforate on three sides.<sup>27</sup>
  - e. Imperforate attached to perforated stamp.<sup>4, 20</sup>
  - f. Imperforate on left and right sides, strip of two.<sup>28</sup>
3. 30c value:
  - a. Imperforate on gummed paper.
  - b. Printed on thin yellowish paper.<sup>2, 4, 20</sup>
  - c. Perforated on three sides.<sup>7</sup>
4. 50c value:
  - a. Imperforate on gummed paper. (Figure 7)
    1. Canceled vertical strip of three.<sup>23</sup>
  - b. Printed on thin grayish paper.<sup>2, 20</sup>
  - c. Perforated on three sides.<sup>7</sup>
  - d. Imperforate attached to a perforate.<sup>4, 17, 20</sup>

One of the 50c imperforate sheets found its way to a local post office, and four covers are known to have actually passed through the mail.<sup>21</sup> They were mailed from Epinal, a town east of Paris in the Vosges region that borders Germany; three are



Figure 6. Top margin copy of the 25c value, imperforate on three sides.

identified here. One is a locally addressed cover with a single 50c imperforate and a July 27, 1924 "EPINAL-R. THIERS / VOSGES" cancellation.<sup>22</sup> The second (Figure 7) is another local cover dated August 13, 1924 with a single 50c stamp tied by a "EPINAL-R. THIERS / VOSGES."<sup>19</sup> A third cover to Nancy, France has the 50c imperforate along with an additional 10c stamp with a July 4, 1924 "Epinal/ Vosges" cancellation.<sup>24</sup>



Figure 7. Imperforate 50c value used on cover.



Figure 8. "Ring on finger" plate flaw on 10c value.



Figure 9. Line under "Paris" plate flaw on 10c value.



Figure 10. Line in "RF" plate flaw on 25c value.

### Plate Flaws

Plate flaws are created when there are imperfections in the plates used to print the stamps. Such flaws produce lines and spaces not intended to be part of the final design, and they come in two basic types. First are the scratches on the printing plates that leave small lines or spots of missing color in the design like those noted as "b" for the 10-cent value, and "j" of the 25-cent stamp. The second major type of plate flaw is where the stamp exhibits lines of color that were not intended to appear in the original design. The "ring on finger" variety of the 10-cent value, and the 50-cent stamp's "lines in RF" are examples of these. An extra raised portion of the printing plate creates such lines when the ink is transferred to the paper. Though they are sometimes described as a break in a line, the opposite is true.

#### 1. 10c value:

- a. "Ring on finger" and "Broken 9" on stamp number 49 of the left hand sheet. Position by Trory.<sup>1, 2, 8, 9</sup> (Figure 8)
- b. White line under and white spot over the word "Paris" on stamp #70 of the right hand sheet. Position by Trory.<sup>1, 2</sup> (Figure 9)
- c. "Broken 9" and three ink smudges on the bottom of the vignette on stamp number 74.<sup>11</sup>

#### 2. 25c value:

- a. Vertical line of color to left of "F" in "RF".<sup>2, 20</sup>



Figure 12. "Muscular arm" plate flaw on 30c value.

Figure 11. Cleavage above head plate flaw on 25c value.



- b. Break in frame below "y" of "Olympiad" and small spot under the first "s" of "Postes".<sup>2, 20</sup>

- c. Bar of color joining "R" in "RF" to right frame in position number 44.<sup>2, 14, 20, 32</sup> (Figure 10)

- d. Break above "P" of "Paris".<sup>2, 20</sup>

- e. Break in frame at left of "P" in "Postes".<sup>2, 20</sup>

- f. Thin bar of color joining frame lines at left of "P" in "Postes".<sup>2, 20</sup>

- g. Printing flaw "2" of "25" with a deep crimson red color.<sup>23, 25</sup>

- h. Dot beside "RF" and vignette shifted down leaving a thin line below "Ville Olympiad" and cleavage above head.<sup>2, 12</sup> (Figure 11)

- i. "ERANCE" instead of "FRANCE".<sup>13</sup>

- j. Dot above "4" of "1924" in position #46.<sup>14</sup>

- k. "FRANCE" obscured.<sup>4, 20</sup> (could be same as "i" above).

#### 3. 30c value:

- a. Muscular arm. Volk specifies stamp number 17.<sup>8, 9, 14</sup> (Figure 12)

#### 4. 50c value:

- a. "5" of "50" joined to left frame by horizontal line of color; "R" in "RF" joined to right frame.<sup>2, 15, 20</sup> (Figure 13)



Figure 13. Line in left frame plate flaw on 50c value.

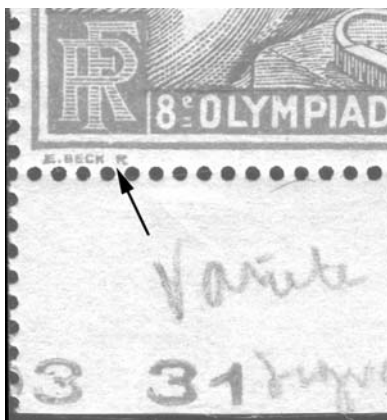


Figure 14. Missing "E" printing error on the 10c value.

### Printing Errors

Printing errors are mistakes in the printing process that alter the intended design of the stamp. The multi-stage printing process accounts for the many printing flaws of this issue. Each printing error can be directly attributed

to problems with the main stages of the printing process; gumming, inking, printing, or perforating. It is interesting that many stamps contain perforations touching the frame, or have the vignette slightly touching the frame, and yet these are just considered poor quality stamps instead of errors. It seems the mistake must be exaggerated before it reaches the status of a "variety."

#### 1. 10c value:

- a. Vignette shifted down and to the left. It



Figure 15. Perforation shift leaving signature above vignette on 25c value.

leaves a white rectangular space between the frame and the vignette on the right side, and a white triangular space of the top increasing in size from left to right.<sup>32</sup>

- b. Incomplete impression caused when the paper folded during printing.<sup>16</sup>
- c. Partially printed on gummed side.<sup>2, 20</sup>
- d. Perforation shift placing the signature on the top of the stamp.<sup>11</sup>
- e. Perforation shifted due to paper fold.<sup>20</sup>
- f. Vignette double printed.<sup>26, 27</sup>
- g. Missing "E" in Becker.<sup>1</sup> (Figure 14)
- h. Double printed.<sup>28</sup>
- i. Block of four, one with the "anneau" variety.<sup>28</sup>



Figure 16. Vignette shifted upward, covering part of the frame at top and creating blank lines at the bottom.





Figure 17. "Pique A' Cheval" perforation error cutting across top of 25c value.

2. 25c value:

- a. Pique A' Cheval (perforations cutting through the design), horizontal cutting the vignette across the bottom.<sup>1, 8, 19, 30</sup>
- b. Perforation shift placing the signature on the top of the stamp.<sup>4, 13, 25</sup> (Figure 15)
- c. Vignette unclear due to overinking.<sup>25</sup>
- d. Vignette displaced towards the top leaving a line between the bottom of the frame and the vignette.<sup>4, 12, 29, 33</sup>
  1. Sheet of 25.<sup>1, 12</sup> (Figure 16)
- e. Partially printed on the reverse (gummed) side.<sup>2, 20</sup>
- f. "1924I" instead of "1924".<sup>2, 4, 13, 16, 24</sup>
- g. Poorly inked plate leaving a "ghostly" appearance of the vignette.<sup>13, 16, 19, 34</sup>
- h. Frame double printed.<sup>13</sup>
- i. Pique A' Cheval horizontal across the bottom

of the vignette and vertical across the left.<sup>13</sup>

- j. Stamp printed with single color.<sup>12</sup>
  - k. Pique A' Cheval across the top cutting the "25", "FR", and the top of the figure's head.<sup>13</sup> (Figure 17)
  - l. Pique A' Cheval slanted across stamp.<sup>4</sup>
  - m. Stamp without signature.<sup>4</sup>
  - n. Dot beside "FR" and vignette shifted down leaving a thin line below "Ville Olympiad" and cleavage above head.<sup>2, 12</sup>
  - o. Irregular perforation at the bottom left of the sheet of 25 due to a paper fold.<sup>19, 28</sup> (Figure 18)
3. 30c value:
- a. White line due to folded sheet.<sup>4, 16, 20</sup>
  - b. Vignette displaced to the right leaving a white line between the left frame and the vignette.<sup>23, 31</sup>
  - c. Printed with a double vignette.<sup>2, 4, 9, 14, 19, 20, 24, 26</sup>
  - d. Gummed on the front and back.<sup>2, 14, 20</sup>
  - e. Poorly inked plate leaving a "ghostly" appearance of the vignette.<sup>4, 16</sup>
  - f. Frame printed on reverse (gummed) side.<sup>4</sup>

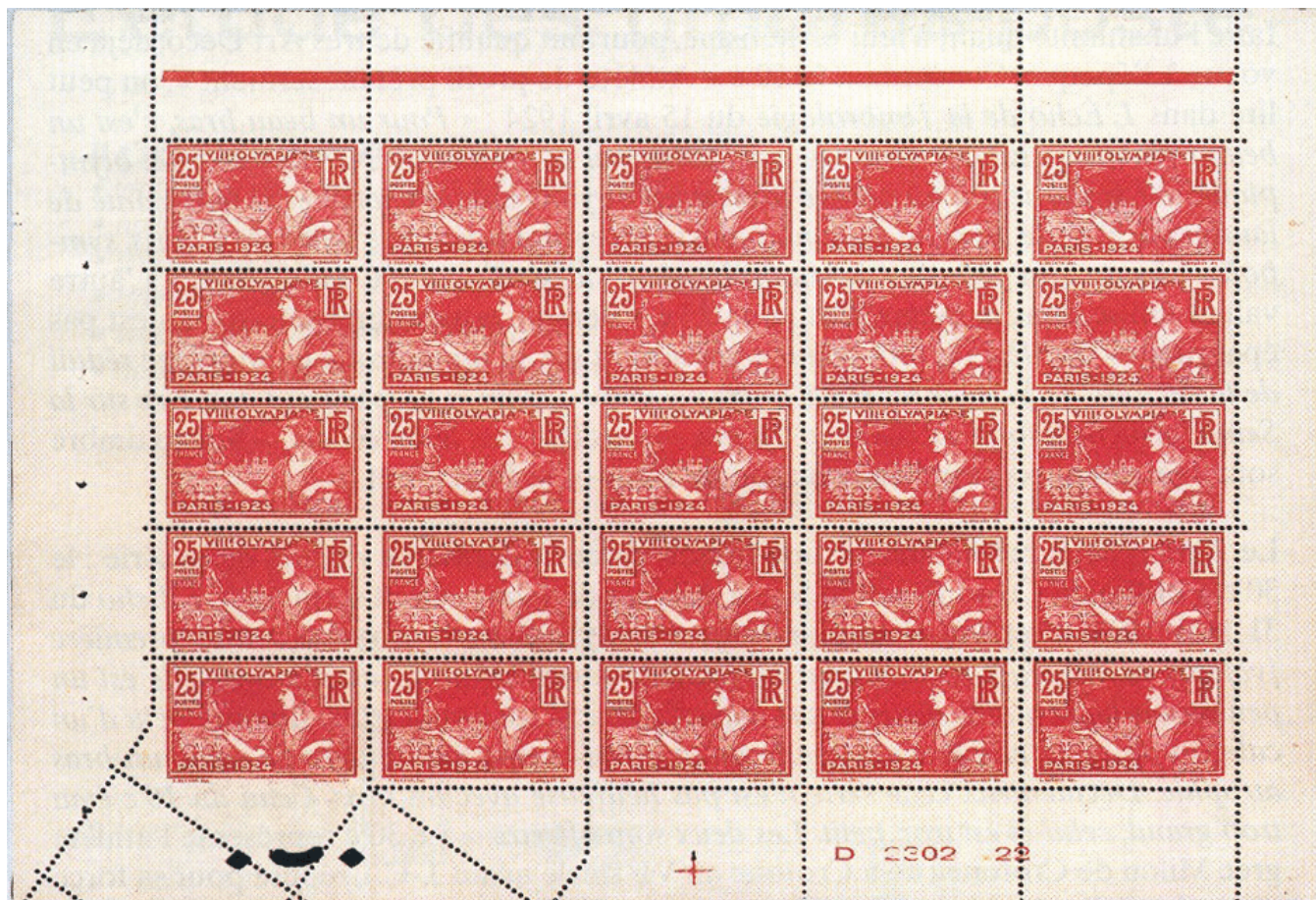


Figure 18. Irregular perforation resulting from a paper fold on the 25c value.



4. 50c value:
  - a. Pique A' Cheval vertical cutting the vignette in half.<sup>17, 20</sup>
  - b. Top margin perforation irregular.<sup>31</sup>
  - c. Partially printed on the reverse (gummed) side.<sup>2, 20</sup>
  - d. Vignette displaced to the right and the bottom leaving a white line between the frame and the vignette.<sup>15</sup>
  - e. Double perforation above and to the right with smeared ink across the vignette.<sup>15, 20</sup> (Figure 19)
  - f. Vignette displaced to left leaving a white line between the frame and the vignette.<sup>15, 34</sup>
  - g. Vignette shifted to the right leaving a white line between the frame and the vignette.<sup>34</sup> (Figure 20)
  - h. Slanted perforation.<sup>4, 20</sup>
  - i. Over inked blue color.<sup>4</sup>
  - j. Frame printed on back.<sup>4</sup>
  - k. Pique A' Cheval on the left side.<sup>15</sup>

The perforation varieties were created when the sheets were not properly aligned as the perforation pins struck the paper. Sometimes particles of paper from the perforation process dropped onto the plates during printing, and appear as dots on the stamps. Likewise, the offset vignette errors are caused by the misalignment of the sheets as the second color was applied over the first color (the frame). A survey of these printing varieties indicates the following types of mistakes:

#### Gumming:

- a. Gummed on the front and back when a sheet is accidentally reinserted into the stack. (See the 30c, type "d").

#### Inking:

- a. Too much ink applied to the plate. (See the 25c, type "c", and 50c, type "i").
- b. Too little ink applied to the plate. (See the 25c, type "g", and 30c, type "c").
- c. Wrong color of ink used for the vignette. (See the 25c, type "j").

#### Sheet Placement During Printing:

- a. Fault in the design due to the paper being folded when printed. (See the 10c, type "b", and 30c, type "a").
- b. Vignette is double printed when the sheet is accidentally reinserted into the press. (See the 10c, type "f", and 30c, type "c").



Figure 19. Double perforation printing error on 50c value.



Figure 20. Vignette shifted to right and upward on 50c value.

- c. Frame is double printed when the sheet is accidentally reinserted into the press. (See the 25c, type "h").
- d. Design is printed on the gummed side when the sheet is inserted upside down in the press. (See the 30c, type "f", and 50c, type "g").
- e. Vignette is printed across the frame leaving white spaces when the sheet is improperly inserted into the press. (See the 10c, type "a", and 50c, type "i").

#### Sheet Placement During Perforation:

- a. Irregular perforations due to the paper being folded when printed. (See the 10c, type "e", and 50c, type "b").
- b. Double perforation when the sheet is accidentally reinserted into the press. (See the 50c, type "e").
- c. Pique A' Cheval (perforation cutting across the stamp design) when the sheet is improperly inserted into the press. (See the 25c, type "a", and 50c, type "k").

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33. Heiko Volk mail auction #35-86, April 21, 1986.
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# PRC Marks First World Cup Appearance

Written by Mark Maestroni  
Contributed by Kwok-Yiu Kwan

The People's Republic of China is fielding its first World Cup Finals team this year. The PRC's national soccer team qualified for the finals on October 7, 2001. In honor of the accomplishment, China Post rushed out a pair of postal cards that very evening (Figure 1). The cards, with different colorful indicia, are inscribed "China Team is qualified for 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan."

More recently, the PRC and its two special administrative districts, Hong Kong and Macau, jointly issued stamps for World Cup 2002. All three sets were printed by the same printer in Beijing.

The set produced for Hong Kong consists of two different designs, each with values of HK\$1.40. Released on May 16, 2002, the stamps are sold in mini-panes of 10 (five pairs) with a label separating each pair. The labels record the PRC team's schedule in both Chinese and English (Figure 2):

Label 1: "Schedule of the / 2002 World Cup / Group C Matches"

Label 2: "Group C / Brazil Turkey / China Costa Rica"

Label 3: "4/6/2000 / China : Costa Rica / Gwangju"

Label 4: "8/6/2002 / Brazil : China / Seogwipo"

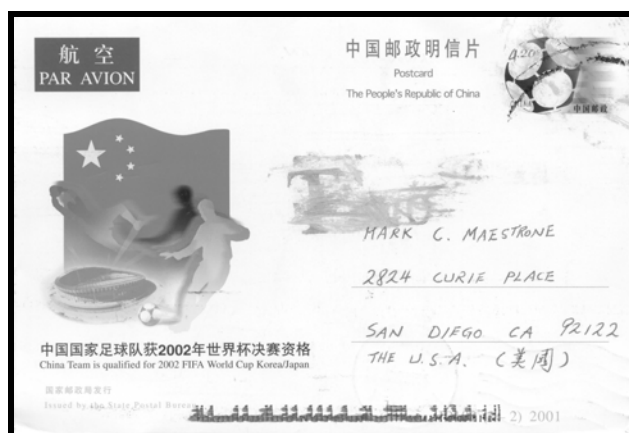
Label 5: "13/6/2002 / Turkey : China / Seoul"



Figure 2. FD of issue of the Hong Kong stamps, set-tenant with label for China vs. Costa Rica match.



Figure 1 (above and below). Two postal stationery cards issued by the PRC on October 7, 2001 – the date the PRC national team advanced to the World Cup Finals.



The first day cancel (Figure 3) features a soccer player kicking the ball.

Although all three entities issued two stamps each, the designs are different. A single souvenir sheet includes all six stamps. The PRC stamp is round, portraying two soccer players (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Hong Kong's FD cancel (above left); one of the PRC's two World Cup stamps (above right).

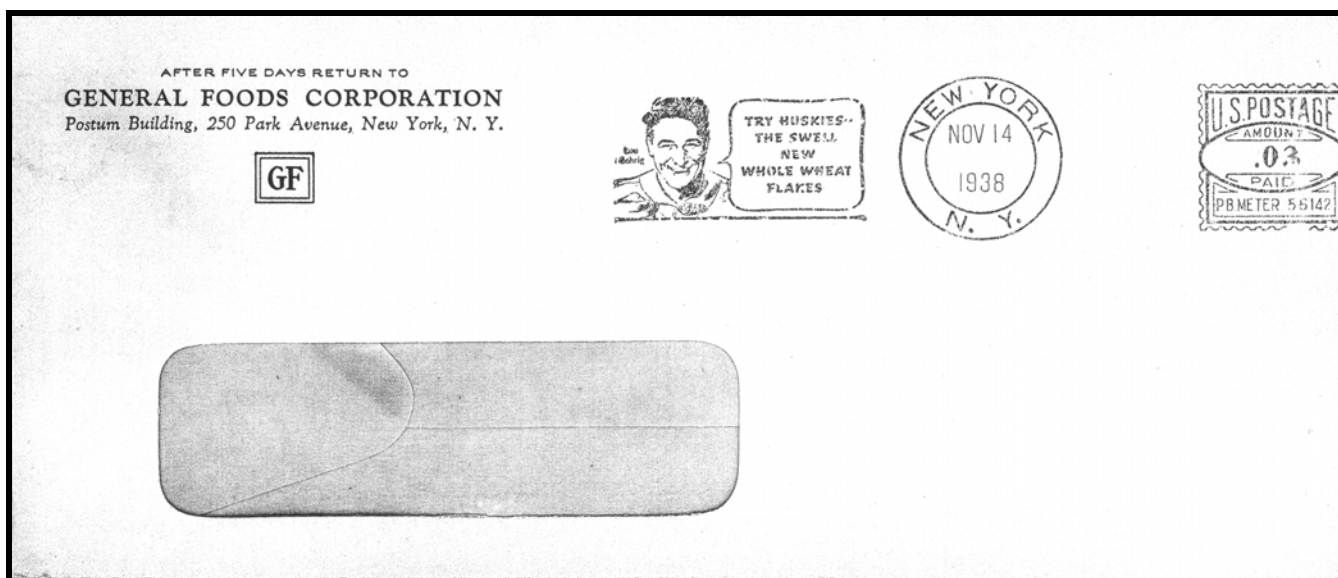


Figure 1. Baseball great, Lou Gehrig, pitching Huskies breakfast cereal on a hard-to-find General Foods metered cover from 1938.

## Lou Gehrig and General Foods Meter Slogans

by Norman Rushefsky

The envelope illustrated in Figure 1 features the desirable Lou Gehrig meter slogan on a General Foods corner ad cover. This meter was reported on in the January/February 2000 issue of *JSP* and in the monograph about baseball meters published in Italian by the Federazione Italiana Baseball Softball and entitled *Il Baseball Nelle Impronte Delle Affrancature Meccaniche Statunitensi, Fascicolo 2*. The meter is in violet and used with Pitney Bowes (PB) meter No. 56142. Complete covers with this meter are not easy to find but they do appear from time to time.

The meter slogan illustrates Lou Gehrig with spoon in hand extolling the virtues of a new cereal: "Try Huskies – the swell new whole wheat flakes." This meter is known used in both 1937 and 1938.

In 1939, Lou Gehrig was diagnosed with what is now known as Lou Gehrig's disease and this caused his dramatic retirement from baseball. Figure 2 illustrates an advertisement from the 1930s featuring various Yankees of the time in an ad for the Huskies cereal.

One possible explanation for the relative rarity of the Lou Gehrig meter is that during this period the

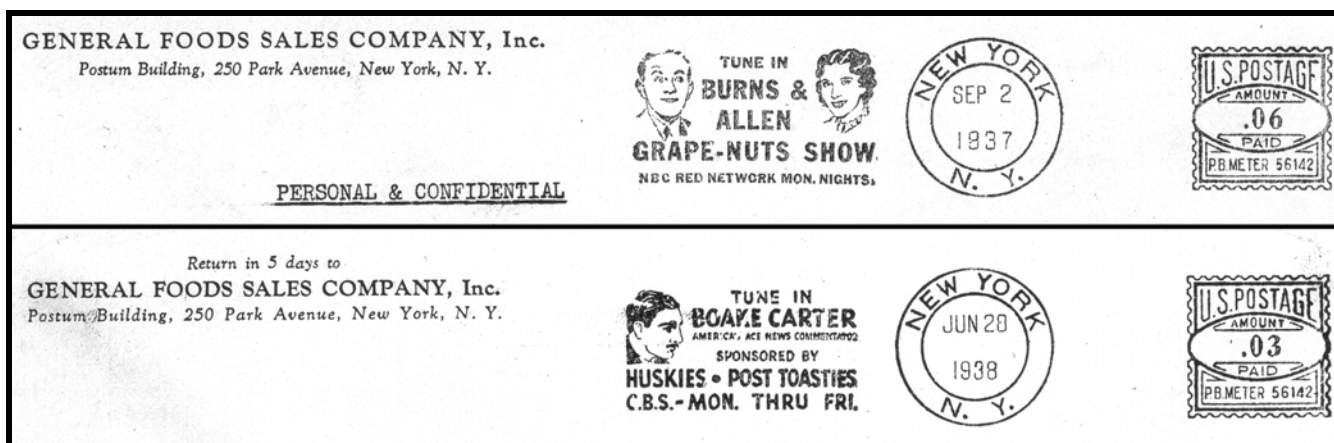
same meter machine was apparently used with other slogan dies. In 1937, a slogan advertising the "Burns and Allen Grape-Nuts (radio) Show" appeared (Figure 3). The following year saw a slogan advertising the "Boake Carter" radio show (Figure 4). I have also seen the same meter number used to advertise the "Ripley's Believe It Or Not" radio show all sponsored by General Foods.

Lou Gehrig's fascination with cereal apparently extended to other brands. A 1937 baseball card (Figure 5) cut from the back of a box of Wheaties features Gehrig as one of the devotees of the "Breakfast of Champions." Wheaties is manufac-



Figure 2. Other Yankees players got into the act in this 1930s advertisement for Huskies.





Figures 3 & 4. General Foods rotated their meter slogans allowing other well-known stars such as George Burns, Gracie Allen and Boake Carter to endorse their products while, in turn, promoting the stars' radio shows.

tured by General Mills, a competitor of General Foods.

A registered envelope from General Foods (Figure 6) features the Lou Gehrig slogan with a different meter design. This meter is in red and was used in March 1938 with PB meter number 91124. Apparently, while shifting around the various General Foods slogan dies it was moved to a machine which was used to print out on meter tape. An unfortunate casualty of limited space on the envelope resulted in a second meter tape strip of three cents being torn apart so that the presence of the Lou Gehrig slogan portion would not cover up the address on the envelope. I have not seen any other examples of this Lou Gehrig slogan used with the eagle design meter.

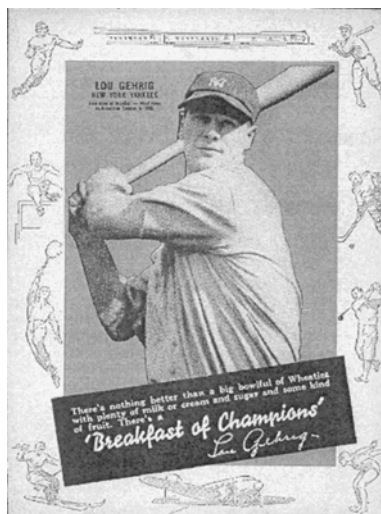


Figure 5. Gehrig's penchant for promoting breakfast cereals extended to Wheaties manufactured by General Foods' competitor, General Mills. Shown is a Lou Gehrig baseball card cut from the back of a Wheaties' box.

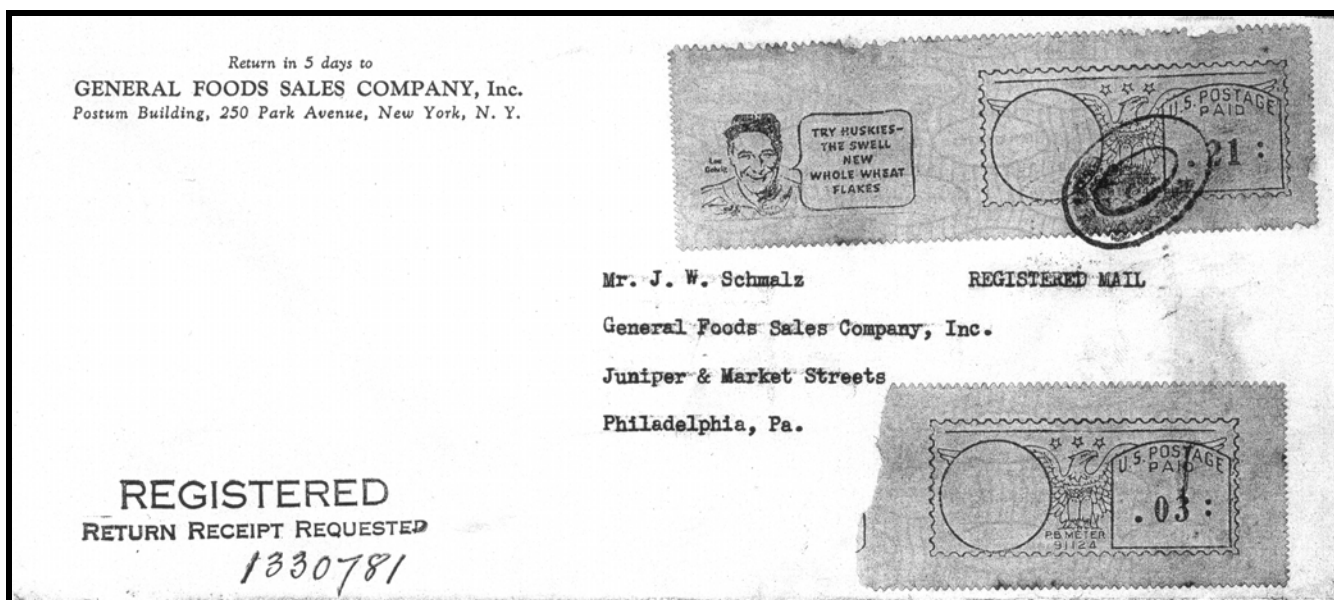


Figure 6. The slogan shown in Figure 1 also appeared for a time on tape from meter machine #PB 91124.



THE VICTOR HUGO, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Figure 1. The Victor Hugo Restaurant at 619½ South Grand at the time of the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

## LA 1932 – 70 Years Later: The Victor Hugo Restaurant Vignette

by Bob Wilcock

**V**ictor Hugo Restaurant: it looks a smart establishment from the postcard (Figure 1).

For many years the card has lain in a postal history collection until the collector passed away. It was left to the grand-daughter in Tucson to dispose of the collection. Until quite recently she would perhaps have had little choice but to sell the collection locally in Arizona, to a stamp dealer, or even just at a garage sale.

Enter eBay. Now the collection is propelled into the international market. The modest \$5 starting price reflects today's common strategy

– start at half the price you hope to realize. But this was no garden variety item for on the address side, beautifully tied by the postmark, is a label advertising the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games, and bearing the Victor Hugo Restaurant invitation to visit LA (Figure 2).

SPI's *Postal History and Vignettes of the X<sup>th</sup> Olympiad Los Angeles 1932* lists seven "civic" labels (Vignettes 10 and 10A-F) and 48 "private advertising" labels in the series. Robert du Bois' *Catalog of Olympic Labels* published in 1986 adds another civic label and five private advertising; an article in JSP added four more, bringing the total to 66. But Victor Hugo Restaurant is not among those catalogued!

A \$25 bid was put in just hours after the card was listed. Over the next few days three other bidders came in, all below \$25, then with seven hours to go there was a flurry. One bidder failed below \$25, so a few hours later came back to head the list at \$26. His top bid was \$31.45 and he obviously decided this was not enough and put in a higher limit of \$41.56. Twenty minutes later one of the early bidders came dramatically back with a “power” bid of \$83. He headed the list for just 10 seconds for I had put in my absolute top bid before intending to go to bed, just that little bit higher, and it stood at \$84. I refreshed anxiously for 20 minutes, but the underbidder never came back. I went to bed with still nearly two hours to closure (something we Europeans have to get used to!). I never expected to hold the lot, but the usual final seconds flurry never took place, and I woke up to find it was mine. I was pleased, and the grand-daughter will have been pleased – the power of eBay!

So what of the Victor Hugo Restaurant? Conrad Klinkner stopped by 619 S. Grand in Los Angeles to see what was there. It's now an office building with a sandwich and espresso bar on the ground floor. No sign of 619-1/2, so sadly the restaurant is no more.

As for the labels, they date from an era when the IOC and Organizing Committee did not have such a tight grip on advertising. Both the SPI handbook and du Bois indicate that the labels were printed in sheets of 40 (4x10), imperforate, and three different sheets seen “show indiscriminate arrangement of black inscriptions.” Did the Victor Hugo label come from such a se-tenant sheet? Its place on a card perhaps handed free to the diner with the bill makes one wonder if the restaurant did not have its “own” sheet. After 70 years, perhaps we shall never know.

And are there other labels out there waiting to be discovered?!

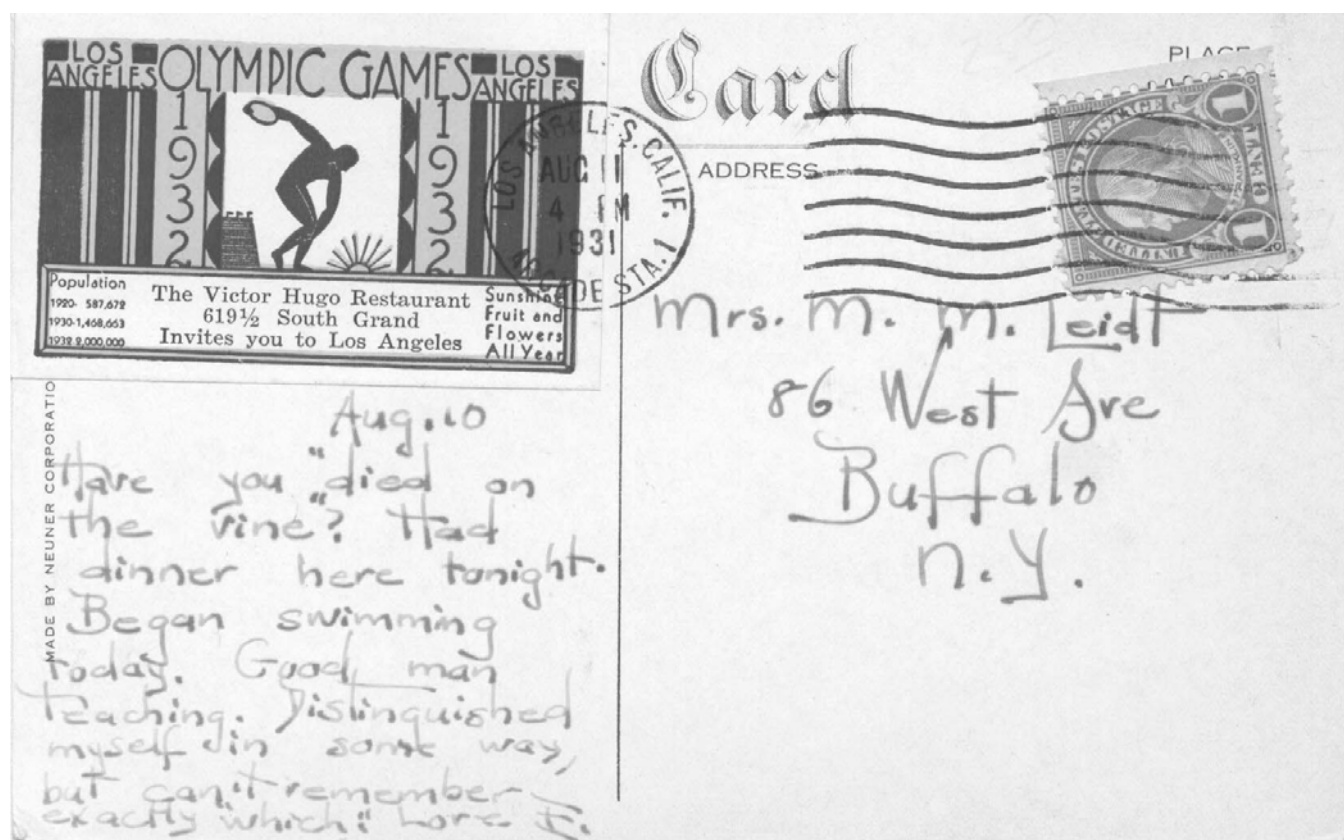


Figure 2. The reverse of the postcard features a so-far uncataloged 1932 Olympic vignette promoting the Victor Hugo Restaurant.



# 1944 Olympic Games in the Polish Prisoner of War Camps of World War II

by Luciano Calenda

**W**hen Pierre Lehoux, from France, asked me if basketball was on the agenda of the Olympic Games organized by the Polish prisoners [of war] during World War II, my answer was "NO" but I was too hasty (see page 37 of *Filabasket Review* n. 3).

## *I was completely wrong!*

Later on, thanks to Pierre, who sent me a copy of an article on the subject written by a French sport collector, A. Deal, and thanks to my friend Roman Babut, the most important sport stamp collector of Poland who sent me very detailed documentation, I was able to compile the article which follows. It is the first time that the 1944 Polish Prisoner of War Camps Olympic Games are examined from the point of view of one single sport and I am particularly pleased that the single sport is basketball!

Let me start by explaining that there were two camps both located in Germany, in Gross Born and Woldenberg to be exact, where Polish officers were imprisoned and where the Sports contests were organized. Then, let me add right away that basketball was on the agenda of the "Games" in both camps.

Before talking about the sport activities in these camps, I would like to report a brief story of the origin of the camps.

After the invasion of Poland in 1939 the Polish officers who were imprisoned were transferred to Germany in two camps very close to the little towns of Gross Born and Woldenberg. The approximately thousand prisoners, more numerous than the inhabitants of both towns, tried to overcome the problems of their detention by performing various social, cultural and sport activities, like choruses, bands, sport games and, what is more interesting for us, an internal postal service for distributing mail in the barracks.

The service, authorised by the camp Commander who was a philatelist (!), and tolerated by the Wehrmacht, was limited to:

- collecting, forwarding and distribution of mail within the camp, under payment of a tax; and,

- issuing of stamps valid for internal service only.

Stamps were made with primitive tools:

- Paper: margins of newspaper or recycled envelopes (before that, the Red Cross provided some unused paper)
- Colors: one color only for each stamp, chosen by a special commission
- Seals: made from soldiers' old boots or unusable gas masks.

All stamps made in both camps are imperforate only; some of those produced in Gross Born were perforated by the cogwheels of a watch.

In the sequence of the modern Olympic Games, 1944 should have been the year of the 13<sup>th</sup> Games (the last Olympiad before WW II was the 11<sup>th</sup>, held in Berlin in 1936) and Polish prisoners, in spite of the war, decided to honor the Olympic year by celebrating some sport games. This was the occasion for issuing the stamps shown in Figure 1. Now, it's time to present the total philatelic output of both camps.



Figure 1. The three stamps issued in Gross Born.



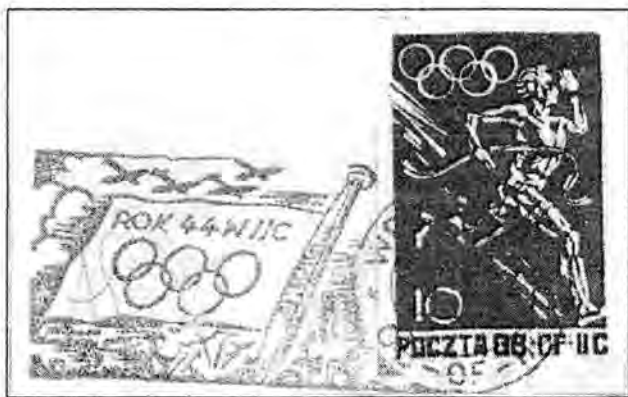


Figure 2. The only stamp issued at Woldenberg, first day cancelled on August 13, 1944.

### WOLDENBERG

The internal postal service was active from May 7, 1942 through January 25, 1945 when the camp was closed.

Only one stamp (17,850 copies printed) was issued for the sport games. Its face value was 10c, it was red (proofs were black) and it was valid from August 13, the first day of issue, through October 13, 1944.

The first day cancellation is shown in Figure 2. The date was "13 VIII 44" and the other words are: "Woldenberg OB-OF C/ROK 44 W II/C".

In addition, there was a postal stationery card. Its indicium shows the same stamp while an allegoric drawing with the five Olympic rings is on the left side of the card (Figure 11).

The cards were printed in the same color as the Olympic rings, but due to the scarcity of red, there are also some cards in "dark pink."

Below are the sport competitions on the agenda of the Games: 100 meters, relay 4 x 100 meters, high and long jump, 10 km. walk, shot put, soccer, basketball, volleyball, handball and boxing.

This list can be seen in the "program" of the sport disciplines which was a large souvenir folder with three vignettes on the one side, and two stamps cancelled with the first day of issue on the other. This folder was given to the winners of the different sport contests.

Figure 3 (facing page) reproduces both sides of this folder with the enlargement of one of its sections where the Polish words "mecz(e) koszykowki" can be read: the meaning is basketball match(es)!

The Games in Woldenberg took place from July 23 through August 13 and below is the complete schedule of the basketball tournament:

Jul 24: 6.00 p.m. = 2 matches

SKRA vs. LWOW and WARTA vs. WAWEL

July 26: SKRA vs. KRESY

Jul 31: 10.00 a.m. = 2 matches

ORLE vs. WAWEL and KRESY vs. LWOW

Aug 1: 10.00 a.m. = WARTA vs. ORLE

Aug 7: 10.00 a.m. = match 5th and 6th place

Aug 9: 6.00 p.m. Final 3rd and 4th place and Final 1st and 2nd place

Since the only stamp issued in Woldenberg was issued on August 13, which was the last day of the Games in that camp, and the basketball tournament, as per schedule, took place from July 24 through August 9, it is evident that there is no possibility to have had philatelic documentation originating during the days of the basketball tournament! However, any piece from Woldenberg would be acceptable and would find the right place in any basketball exhibit.

### Gross Born

The internal postal service started in this camp on March 22, 1944 and was active until January 28, 1945 when it was shut down.

The activities of the so-called "Olympic Committee" operating in Woldenberg were well known in Gross Born, a few miles away. For that reason, the prisoners of the latter decided to follow their colleagues' initiative and immediately started the organization of their own Olympic Games. The opening day was July 30 and the three-stamp set, shown on the previous page, was issued on the same day. There were 1,200 complete sets.

Another postal stationery card was issued in Gross Born. The indicium reproduces the 10c stamp in red. Figure 4 reproduces the fragment of this card showing the indicium and the cancels used in this camp on August 10.



Figure 4. Fragment of the Gross Born postal stationery card with August 10, 1944 cancel.

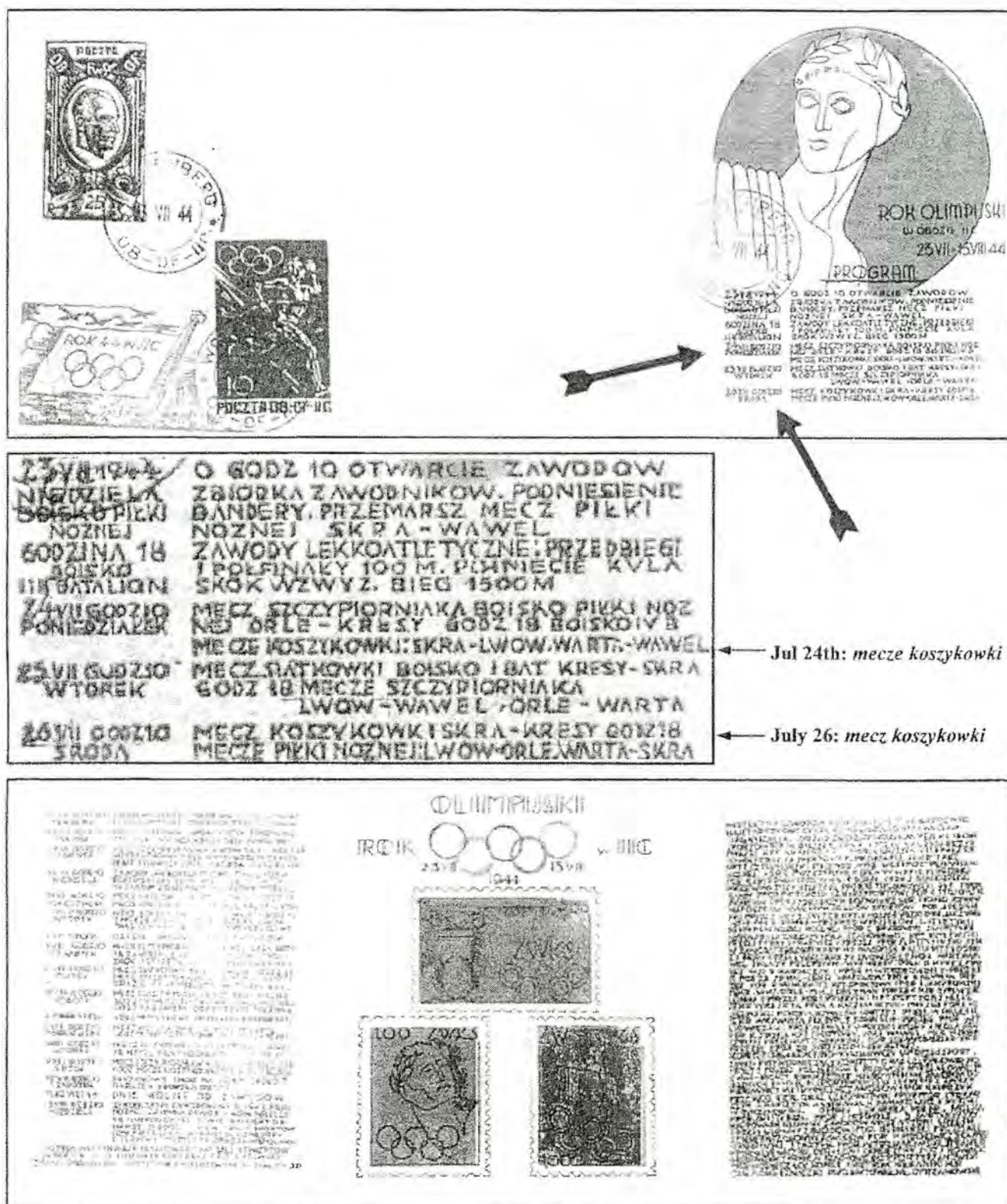


Figure 3. The souvenir program folder given to winners of the sports events. The schedule of events is noted to the left of the three vignettes shown directly above. At middle is an enlargement of the section noting the basketball matches that occurred on July 24 and 26.





Figure 5. Gross Born postal stationery card cancelled on August 12, 1944 – the day of the basketball exhibition! The circular cachet at left commemorates a Stamp Exhibition held August 12-15.

The [rectangular] cachet and the round cancel were used from July 30 through August 15, 1944, respectively the first and last days of the Games.

These two dates are reproduced on the flag comprising the cachet. The text on the round cancel reads: Gross Born / [date] / OB. OF. II D

In Gross Born there was another unbelievable initiative, considering the circumstances. On the last three days of the Games, August 12-15, there was a Stamp Exhibition in the camp! This philatelic event was commemorated by a special round cachet that can be seen in the pieces reproduced in Figures 5 and 6.

Figures 6 and 8 present, in addition, a rectangular handstamp for registered letters!

On the third day of the Stamp Exhibition an ungummed souvenir sheet was issued (1155 copies). It groups the three stamps of different colors and its dimensions are 143 x 91 millimeters (Figure 7).



Figure 6. The rectangular "registration" stamp at bottom reflects the number of pieces of registered mail – at least 775 items on that day (August 13) alone! I believe that 99% of these items have been lost. Another peculiarity of this postal stationery card is the addition of a stamp to match the registration fees.



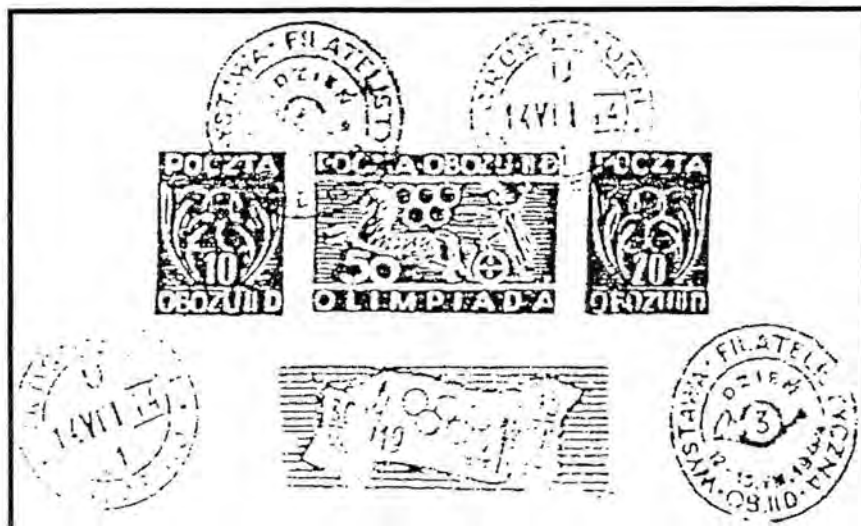


Figure 7. The un gummed souvenir sheet of all three stamps was issued in very limited quantities (just 1155 copies) on the third day of the Stamp Exhibition – August 14. The quality of the reproduction is very poor because it comes from an old photocopy in another philatelic publication (the French AFPT Sport Supplement).

Three different cancellations are generally known to have been used in Gross Born: the flag, the round cancel with the date and the cachet of the Exhibition.

Now, let me talk about Basketball in this camp. As opposed to what happened in Woldenberg, in Gross Born there was no tournament – just an exhibition match of the sport on August 12, 1944.

There is a unique document showing the schedule of these Games. Figure 9 reproduces a photocopy in Mr. Babut's collection.

The enlargement will not help read the words, but I can assure you that [the line of text] where the arrow is reads exactly as follows:

12.8.44. = 9.00-10.00 =  
Koszykowka (pokaz)

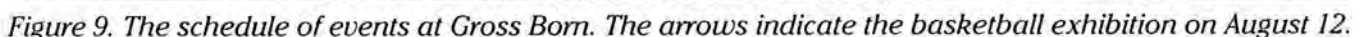


Figure 8. The last item presented is a postal card with an additional stamp, both cancelled with the latest date, August 14, and the rectangular cancel for "registered" items. The handwritten number indicates that on that date at least 974 items were accepted by the internal post office as "registered" mail! Again, how many of them survived to the end of the war?



Conversely in Gross Born, where basketball was just a one-hour exhibition on August 12, it is possible to find a cancel with the exact date!

If you do not have enough money for some of these items there are less expensive alternatives.



## ROK OLIMPIJSKI 1944



MOTYW OLIMPIJSKI - WOLDENBERG

MEDAL PAPIEROWY - GROSS BORN



POLSKA · 1ZŁ

KARTKA POCZTOWA

P.P.T. IV 79. 150.000



Figure 10. A very acceptable alternative to an original piece of camp mail is this 1978 Polish postal stationery card. The stamp indicium bears the text "Gross Born" above, while the cachet at left duplicates that found on the original postal stationery from Woldenberg.

Poland, in 1978, issued a postal stationery card of 1 ZŁ (Figure 10) depicting the same cachet from the original postal stationery card (Figure 11) used in Woldenberg. In addition to the citation of this camp at the bottom left, the name of the other camp, Gross Born, is mentioned in the indicium. So for a few cents, or certainly no more than a couple of dollars, we can document the basketball matches in the so-called Olympic Games in the Polish Officer's POW camps of WW II!

I would like to mention that the overall quality of the reproductions accompanying this article is not terribly good because they came via e-mail or are photocopies of photocopies published in other magazines.

In spite of that I decided to publish them anyway because the main goal was to give everyone the opportunity to view these items. Even in specialized auction catalogues they are very difficult to find. I have no idea of their value, but will probably dis-

cover that if one day such an item is offered for sale.

I would like to again thank Mr. A. Deal since most of the historical information is from his article, and my friend Roman Babut who sent me scanner images of all the items of his important collection (stamps, envelopes and cancellations). Roman also helped me a lot by providing all the basketball information.

Finally, I hope that when my dear friend Pierre reads this article, he will excuse me for my hasty initial wrong answer!

### ANOTHER MATTER CONCERNING PHILATELIC OUTPUT

This was the first time in my philatelic activity that I have had the opportunity to thoroughly examine the story and the philatelic items concerning this subject. Although the whole matter is fascinating, I was curious to learn more about their "validity" and their "official character." I asked an Italian friend of



mine, one of the top experts in the world in overall philately and in particular in thematic philately, to share his knowledge with me.

He told me that many years ago he had the chance to meet a Polish officer who was a prisoner in Gross Born. This gentleman told him more or less the same story I reported at the beginning of this article, adding details about the 'effective' mailing of items within the barracks (why somebody should have to write a letter or a card to somebody else 200 meters away?) and about the 'effective' payment or tax (what money?).

According to this officer, the whole organization was allowed by the Commander of the camps for two main reasons:

- to keep people engaged in any kind of activity;
- the Commander was a philatelist himself, with some personal interest in the production of these postal (?) items.

The opinion of my friend, the expert, is that the extent of the "official character" of these issues is very limited, mainly because of the following question and answer: Who had the authority, in those years, to authorize the issuing of official stamps? Certainly not the Commander of the camp!

However, my friend is aware that these items are circulating normally on the philatelic market. They

are accepted by philatelic exhibition juries. They are also listed in some Polish catalogues (but not by the international ones such as Yvert & Tellier or Scott). After all, they are like so many other "postal" items produced in so many countries or regions of the world during peculiar circumstances, mainly in times of war. Their origins are always very doubtful but they gain a certain degree of authenticity after many years and because, in any case, they are the documentation of a particular moment in history and can be considered local issues.

Now, if I came across one or more of these items, what would I do? I believe that I would try to buy just one of these items to document a very particular aspect of the story of basketball. However, since I am now aware of the real authenticity of these items, I can freely decide how much money I want to spend on an item that, from a strictly postal and philatelic point of view, might legitimately be contested by a jury. As usual, the final decision is up to each of us.

*[This article originally appeared in the December 2001 issue of the **Filabasket Review**, the English-language journal published three times per year by the International Filabasket Society. It is reprinted here with their kind permission. For more information on the society, please contact Luciano Calenda, at P.O. Box 17126 - Grottarossa, 00189 Rome, Italy, or via email at: lcalenda@yahoo.it]*

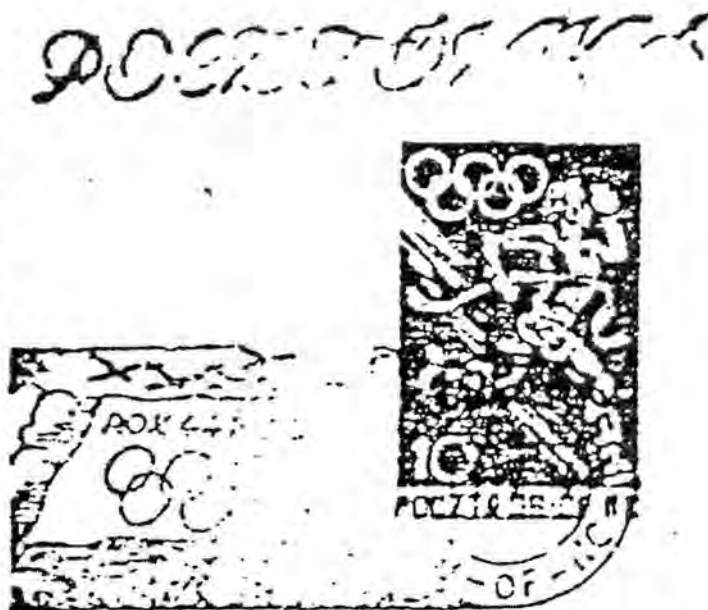


Figure 11. The original postal stationery card issued at Woldenberg bore a very distinctive cachet complete with the Olympic rings. The cachet's design was reproduced on a 1978 postal stationery card from Poland (Figure 10).



# Toronto Maple Leafs 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Envelope

by Kon Sokolyk

The Toronto Maple Leafs are undoubtedly one of the most celebrated professional sport franchises in Canadian sporting history. Founded in 1917 as the Arenas, and subsequently known as the St. Patricks, the team's name was changed in 1927 to the Maple Leafs. As the Leafs, the club won the Stanley Cup, emblematic of the National Hockey League (NHL) championship, on eleven occasions. They also won once as the St. Patricks and in their inaugural season as the Arenas.

In 1927, the St. Patricks were purchased by Hugh Aird and Conn Smythe. Almost immediately, the new owners decided that the team required a more patriotic name with national appeal. Smythe, a decorated veteran of the First World War, selected the name Maple Leafs, a symbol that was on badges and insignia of the Canadian uniform he had worn in battle. The team colors were also changed, from green and white to blue and white, to reflect the colors of Smythe's alma mater, the University of Toronto. Thus on February 17, 1927, the team played its first game as the Toronto Maple Leafs.

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Toronto Maple Leafs, Canada Post issued a commemorative envelope in January 2002 (Figure 1) which is steeped with Maple Leafs' memories. [Neither the envelope, nor the cancel are considered "first day" by Canada Post.] It features a domestic rate (48¢) self-adhesive



Figure 1. 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Toronto Maple Leafs cover with self-adhesive stamp printed for use only on this commemorative cover.

stamp bearing the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo, which is also portrayed on the envelope. The stamp only appeared on the envelope; mint copies were not made available. The pictorial cancel features the current logo of the Toronto Maple Leafs while the envelope depicts a crest on a jersey from an era gone by. The photograph captures Bill Barilko's memorable 1951 Stanley Cup winning goal. A few months later, Barilko died in a plane crash.

A total of 30,000 envelopes were printed; 10,000 for general distribution and 20,000 for special promotions.

During the past 75 years, many of hockey's greatest stars have played for the Leafs. The likenesses of some have been featured on Canadian stamps. Starting with the 50<sup>th</sup> NHL All-Star Game set issued in 2000, and in subsequent years continuing as the NHL All-Stars set, a pane of six commemorative stamps has been issued annually. One of the players appearing on the stamps in a Maple Leafs' uniform (Figure 2) was Syl (Sylvanus) Apps, team captain in the 1940's, and an outstanding all-round athlete who had won the Canadian and British Empire pole vault championships and placed sixth at the Berlin Olympics in 1936. Others include defenseman Tim Horton, and Red Kelly, who excelled both on defense and at center. Goaltenders Jacques Plante and Terry Sawchuk also saw action with the Leafs, but are featured in uniforms of other teams.

A sincere thanks to Micheline Montreuil, Director, Stamp Products at Canada Post, for providing some of the background information.

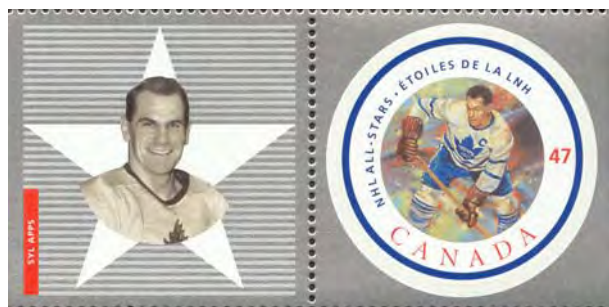


Figure 2. Before joining the Maple Leafs, Syl Apps was a world class pole vaulter who competed in the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games.



Figure 3. Tim Horton (left) and Red Kelly, honored on the 2002 NHL All-Stars set (photographically cropped from the sheet of 6 stamps).

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# REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS

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by Mark Maestrone

## *Phila-Sport* January-March 2002 (#41)

Pasquale Polo opens this issue of the Italian-language journal *Phila-Sport* with an article on "Olympic Rugby." Lavishly-illustrated with philatelic items, Polo discusses the four Olympic Games at which rugby was contested: 1900, 1908, 1920 and 1924.

Maurizio Tecardi reports on the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics. Included is an overview of the various USPS cancels offered. Tecardi also notes that a fantasy stamp and cancel were created by an American or Australian commercial outfit and marketed on eBay (see nearby illustration). The IOC has taken legal action against the business. Collectors beware!

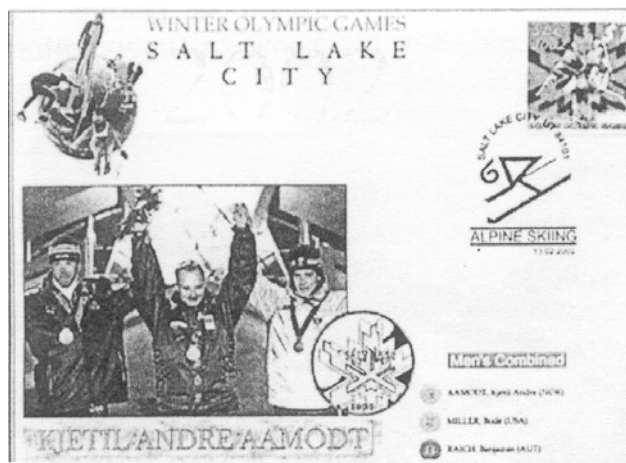
In other articles, Andrea Francesconi reviews the recent Feldman Auction held February 20 which included a number of Olympic lots; Massimo Menzio updates readers on Torino 2006 news; and Andrea Trongone provides soccer-related highlights.

Also included with this issue was a 32-page addenda to Alvaro Trucchi's "Olympic Medalists" book of 2000 cataloging stamps, postal stationery, and cancels honoring winners of Olympic medals from 1896 through 1984.

And lastly, just in time for the World Cup comes a wonderful 136-page softbound booklet entitled, simply, "Il Calcio" ("Soccer"). This is actually Pierangelo Brivio's 8-frame soccer exhibit that won an FIP Gold and the Olympilex Silver at Olympilex 2000 at Sydney. Each page of his exhibit is reproduced on its own page at about 85% of original size. Reproduction quality, in black and white, is superb. I would highly recommend this booklet to any collector/exhibitor of soccer.

The soccer booklet may be ordered directly from the author: Pierangelo Brivio, Via Tiziano n. 19, 20043 Arcore, Italy. The price is US\$5.00, plus postage (\$2 surface, \$4 airmail, \$5 registered airmail).

Contact: UIFOS, C.P. 14327 Roma Trullo-via Lenin, 00149 Rome, Italy.



*Beware of this fake stamp and cancel on a 2002 Salt Lake Olympic cover sold recently on eBay.*

## *Olympiafila* May 2002 (Vol. 5, #1)

Our Hungarian sister society's journal, written in Hungarian with synopses in English, opens this issue with a story on the new IOC President, Jacques Rogge. The 35<sup>th</sup> Chess Olympics held in Bled, Slovenia in 2002 is reported on in a brief article by Ferenc Czizmadia, while Sandor Kurdics reviews past Olympic Winter Games (illustrated in color).

Other winter Olympic themed articles in this issue include a discussion by Dr. Laszlo Molnar of the first Hungarian stamps honoring a Winter Olympics: a seven-stamp set for the 1960 Squaw Valley Games. Janos Mester briefly describes Hungarian flight covers for Nagano 1998, Sydney 2000, and Salt Lake City 2002.

Fencing enthusiasts would be interested in an article on Magda Zsabka whose career included participation on three world championship Hungarian women's foil teams. Congratulatory telegrams to Magda provide an unusual philatelic connection.

Just in time for World Cup 2002, Sandor Szekeres looks at "Football on Hungarian Postage Stamps".

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

# BOOK REVIEW

by James Bentley

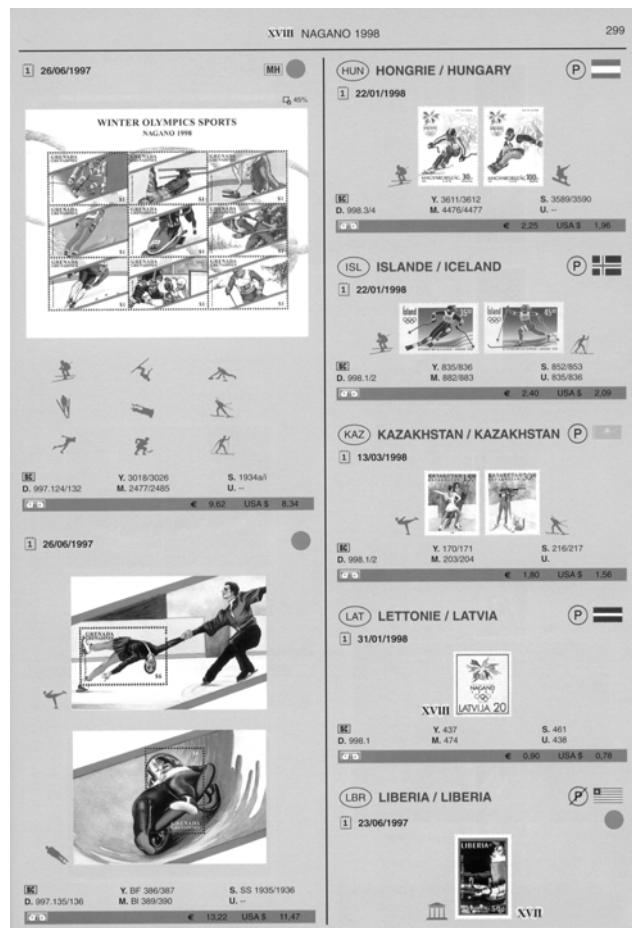
**DOMFIL Sports/Olympic Winter Games Thematic Stamp Catalogue**, 338 pages, full color, softcover, A5 size. Published by DOMFIL, Barcelona, Spain. Available in the U.S. from Amos Press for \$36.99 (\$31.99 if you join Amos Advantage), plus s/h. Telephone orders: 1-800-572-6885. Website: [www.amosadvantage.com](http://www.amosadvantage.com).

DOMFIL publish a large number of topical catalogues and this 338-page effort is a worthy addition to the range. They seem to have improved their editing and, considering the amount of detail, the accuracy of the catalogue is on a par with Scott. With virtually every issue illustrated in color, it also replaces Michel as the best source to help identify issues from the "Dune States" and the prolific African and South American countries. The quality of the illustrations is excellent and you can use a magnifying glass to see more detail.

The catalogue has been prepared with the help of some leading Olympic stamp and postal stationery collectors including Manfred Bergman, the IOC's Philatelic Department Director, Manfred Winternheimer and Joan Borguno. Bergman states that it is not intended for specialist philatelists, but it does signpost a whole range of collecting opportunities including imperforate issues, deluxe sheets and overprint/surcharge varieties. If I had had access to this catalogue when I started collecting skiing stamps, it would have saved me many hours. Whether I would have had so much fun is another matter ...

What's new? DOMFIL have made extensive use of pictograms to get around the language issues. Each sport has its own pictogram though the list is incomplete. In alpine skiing, for instance, there are only pictograms for downhill, slalom and alpine combined. Stamps featuring giant slalom or Super-G (the other two Olympic events) are classified as slalom. As well as the event pictograms, DOMFIL use various icons and miniature country flags to cut down on the need to have text in several languages.

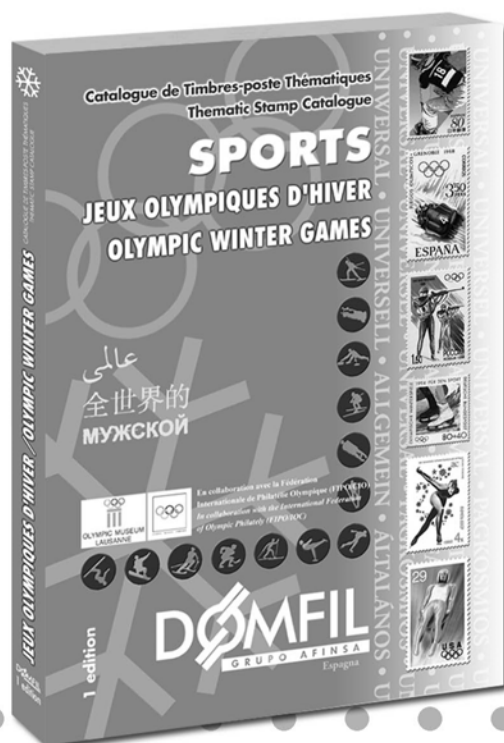
What's missing? DOMFIL features Scott, Yvert, Michel and Unificato catalogue numbers as well as their own numbering system, which I could manage without. Gibbons numbers are not included. There are a number of illustrations missing and the editors could have cast their net a little wider to get copies for reproduction. I know it's not targeted at specialists, but the format would make it easy to signpost printing varieties, for instance.



What's poor? Not a lot. I've found over a hundred errors, but most of these are nitpicks (wrong pictograms, spelling mistakes) or missing varieties like imperforate issues. To be fair to DOMFIL, I found quite a few errors in my own ATA alpine skiing checklist, so we can all help each other get closer to a definitive record. DOMFIL are also a little inconsistent in naming medalists. Where more than one medalist is featured, the names are omitted.

What would I change? I think this catalogue does a great job, so well done, DOMFIL. I prefer to see issues listed by country, and therefore found the DOMFIL layout – which lists issues under the relevant Olympics – didn't suit me. It would also be nice to be able to have the catalogue on CD and pay for an upgrade every year or two. DOMFIL's web site is very basic, but it does offer a CD version of the Scouting catalogue. This new Winter Olympics catalogue isn't yet listed.

# Thematic Stamp Catalogue

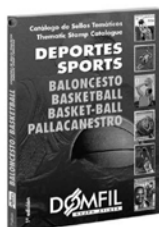


# Olympic Winter Games

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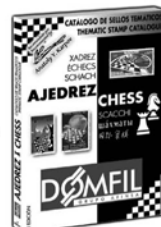
## Basketball

Pages: 160  
Stamps: 1.081



## Chess

Pages: 137  
Stamps: 1.012



## Games of the Olympiad. Host Cities

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Stamps: 702



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# THE SPORTS ARENA

by Mark Maestrone

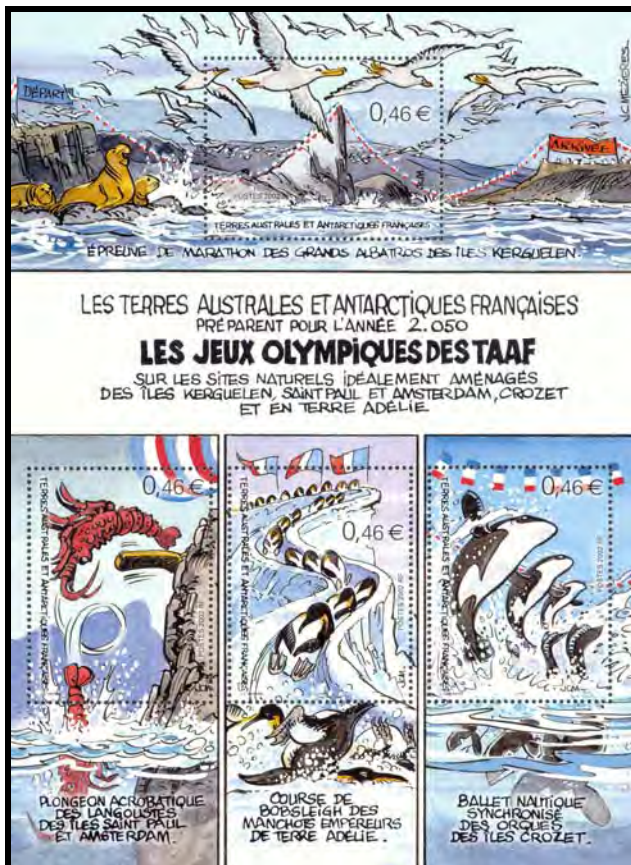
One just never knows what one may find at a stamp show!

While hunting for new issues honoring the Salt Lake City Olympic Winter Games, I happened upon the tongue-in-cheek souvenir sheet issued by the French Australian & Antarctic Territories (TAAF, in French) shown below.

At first glance, it looked more like an advertisement for Sea World. But then, I noticed the bold "Olympiques" at center and investigated further.

This comical issue purports to promote a bid by the territories to host the 2050 ... **YES, 2050!** ... Olympic Games. The banner at center reads:

**"The French Australian & Antarctic Territories  
prepare for the year 2050  
Olympic Games of the TAAF  
on the ideally suited sites  
of the islands of Kerguelen, Saint Paul and Amsterdam,  
Crozet and at the Adélie Territory."**



The four stamps, each valued at €0.46, depict suggested Olympic events which the "residents" of the host country would no doubt win hands down.

The first event, shown at top, features a well-ordered group of birds flying between a start and finish line with seals cheering on the competitors. Naturally, this is the "marathon event of giant albatrosses on Kerguelen Island."

The next Olympic event, shown at lower left, is "acrobatic diving by lobsters on the Islands of Saint Paul and Amsterdam."

I'd certainly pay to see the event at bottom center – the three-Emperor penguin bobsled at the Adélie Territory. Call out the medical team, looks like we have a crash at the bottom!

And last, but not least, is "Orca whale synchronized swimming on the Crozet Islands." Now this event really does remind me of a recent trip to Sea World here in San Diego.

True, the sheet does not bear the Olympic rings, but it's such a fun issue that it deserves to be included in an Olympic collection.

It never fails to amaze me what odd and interesting things turn up on eBay, the internet auction house.

A recent offering featured a lot of three postal cards from the People's Republic of China. Two of the cards (shown on the next page), both postally used, commemorate the 1999 World Gymnastics Championships held at Tianjin, China. I was completely unaware of the existence of these cards and had to bid against a fellow collector for them.

Both cards are valued at 60 fen. The first features an indicium depicting a male gymnast dismounting the parallel bars. The cachet at lower left reveals a men's pommel horse routine in progress.

The second card honors the women's events. The cachet is of a female gymnast executing a release move on the uneven parallel bars. The indicium shows a women's floor exercise performance.

The 34<sup>th</sup> Artistic World Gymnastics Championships were conducted October 9-16, 1999 in Tianjin, China.





*Postal card issued by the PRC in honor of the 1999 Artistic World Gymnastics Championships. The card depicts men's pommel horse and parallel bars.*

The competition was doubly important for it served as the trials for the 2000 Olympic Games at Sydney, Australia. It was at Tianjin that the top 12 teams in the men's and women's events were selected which would advance to the Games. Teams placing 13<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup> were offered two individual places at the Olympics.

The third PRC card turned out to be just as interesting. This is a postal stationery card since it carries the indicium honoring the "Beijing 2008" Olympics. The value of the card is 60 fen.

Thanks to SPI member "Joey" Yuan of Canada, we have a translation.

The inscription adjacent to the Beijing 2008 logo reads: "Wanfeng Autocar supports Beijing 2008 bid!"

At bottom is additional text relating to Wanfeng Autocar's operations. The company manufactures aluminum alloy wheels and has its headquarters in Zhejiang province with a branch office in

Shanghai. I attempt-



*The companion card honors the women's events in the World Championships. Uneven parallel bars and floor exercise are featured.*

ed to uncover additional information on the company, as did Joey, but without success.

What I found of particular interest was that this appears to be the first post-award corporate tie-in, from a philatelic point of view, with the Beijing Olympics. Is Wanfeng Autocar a sponsor at some level? It's impossible to say. I anticipate that we will begin seeing further official and unofficial philatelic items appear as Chinese businesses, to quote Joey, "ride the Olympic bidding success wave." Your editor welcomes news of other sponsor items.



# POSTAL STATIONERY CORNER

by Glenn Estus



Port Payé - Postage Paid - Porte Pagado

Figure 1. "Postage Paid" indicium on France '98 PAP's.

As I write this Postal Stationery column on June 1, the world's greatest sporting event is just beginning in South Korea and Japan. Probably more people watch with more fanaticism the World Cup tournaments than the Olympics.

Football, or soccer as it is known in North America, is played in every country of the world.

Since 1930, countries have competed for the World Cup every four years. Of course, as with the Olympics, no competitions were held in the 1940's because of World War II. In 1998, France hosted and eventually won the World Cup.

La Poste, the French Post Office, issued many pieces of postal stationery, including pre-paid envelopes and postal cards. The pre-paid envelopes are known as PAP's, short for "Prets-a-Poster" (ready to mail).

One set of pre-paid envelopes that struck my fancy shows cartoons from various French cartoonists. These large-sized envelopes reproduce in the postage area the circular France '98 football stamp

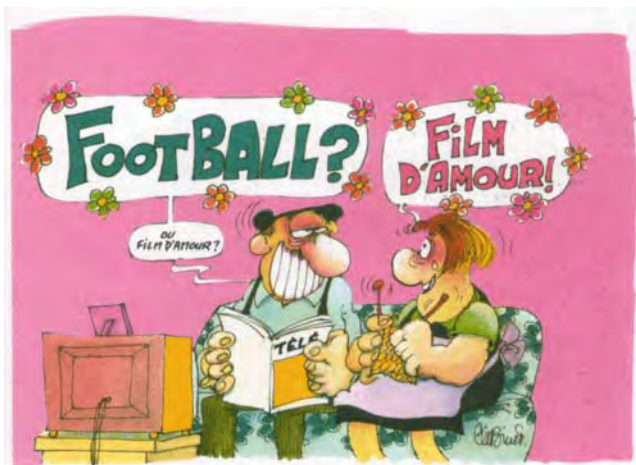


Figure 2. One of five humorous cachets on French postal envelopes honoring France '98 World Cup.

minus a value (Figure 1). Adjacent to the stamp area are the words "Port Payé - Postage Paid - Porte Pagado."

In the cachet area is a humorous cartoon designed by various French cartoonists. Figure 2 shows a cartoon by Christian Binet. How many readers can identify with this cartoon?

The complete set of five cartoons used in the series are reproduced on the reverse. The cartoon by Walinski shows a husband talking to his wife and asking when supper will be ready and the wife, sitting watching the TV, yelling "GOAL!!!!"

The PAP's are just the tip of the iceberg. According to an article in *L'Esprit Sport et Olympisme*, the quarterly journal of our sister society in France, there are postal cards which reproduce the vignettes of stamps issued for cities where the competitions took place (Figure 3). Also, La Poste printed a number of special envelopes for various businesses.

I have been asked where I find information about postal stationery. One good source is the journal, *Topical Time*, published bimonthly by the American Topical Association.

Dalene Thomas writes a column which lists new postal stationery. She also indexes the material according to subject matter. The March-April 2002 issue lists a Canadian picture postal card showing Wayne Gretzky issued for the 2002 Winter Olympics, a Chinese postal card for the 2001 Winter University Games, and an Australian postal envelope for the 2001 Goodwill Games.

The May-June 2002 *Topical Time* reports the following: five Danish prepaid postal cards showing a skate boarder in the stamp design, and a picture postal card from New Caledonia showing a man on a raft. Also listed are two Chinese postal cards for the 2002 World Cup showing a player and stadium.



Figure 3. One of a number of city-specific France '98 indicia used on French postal cards.



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# NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

---

by Margaret Jones

## New Members

2211 Alvin M. Seale, PO Box 924, Cleveland, GA 30528-0018, USA. He is a banker. *General Sports; Olympics.* ALSeale@yahoo.com (Jones)

2212 Richard E. Macke, 2210 Greenup Street, Covington, KY 41014-1255, USA. Richard is a retired sports editor. *Sports & Olympics prior to 1965.* (Jones)

2213 Reginald E. Ausmus III, 4095 Fruit Street #860, La Verne, CA 91750-2937, USA. Regi is a journalist and volunteers to write for journal and help with publicity. *General Sports; Olympics; Baseball; Frisbee.* (Jones)

## RENEWED MEMBERS:

724 Tony J. Quinn, 3 Melbourne Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20901-4906, USA. He is a photographer. *Soccer.* socpix99@cs.com (WWW)

2158 University of Texas-Dallas; Materials Acquisitions, PO Box 830643, Richardson, TX 75083-0643, USA.

2185 Maurice Baskin, 11621 Hitching Post Lane, Rockville, MD 20852-4403, USA. He is an attorney. *Olympics.*

## NEW ADDRESS:

Clem Reiss, PO Box 1052, Chautauqua, NY 14722  
Brian Hammond (new e-mail address):  
brian.hammond57@ntlworld.com

**Total Membership, April 30, 2002 = 311**

## Exhibit Awards

CHICAGOPEX (Rosemont, Illinois). Edward Tricomi was reserve grand winner among United States exhibits for "Playing Card Revenues"; David R. Torre received gold for "U.S. Fish and Game Stamps, 1960-1979"; Mikey Christianson obtained a youth bronze for "Sports."

SARASOTA NATIONAL (Florida). Peter Street won bronze for "English Cricket, the First 600 Years."

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# NEW STAMP ISSUES

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by John La Porta

**Azerbaijan:** March 6, 2002. 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Olympic Committee. One 3,000m stamp: Olympic Rings, flag, athletes.

**Belarus:** April 10, 2002. Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. Souvenir sheet with 2,000r stamp: ice hockey goal keeper Andrej Mezin.

**Bosnian Serb Administration:** September 5, 2001. Karate Championships. One 1.50m stamp: karate.

**Bulgaria:** February 5, 2002. Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. 25st, figure skater; 65st, speed skater.

**Cayman Islands:** May 2002. World Soccer Cup/Cayman Islands Soccer Association. Two stamps: 30¢ and 40¢, soccer scenes.

**Czech Republic:** March 8, 2002. Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. "Ales Valenta" overprinted on 12kc Salt Lake City Olympic stamp honoring for his gold medal in free style skiing.

**Ecuador:** 2001. Yahuarococha Race Track. Se-tenant pair of 68¢ stamps: track and lake.

**Estonia:** April 12, 2002. Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. 4.40 kr stamp, Andrus Veerpalu, cross-country skiing gold and silver medalist.

**France:** May 18, 2002. World Soccer Cup. A se-tenant pair of €0.46 circular stamps. Soccer ball and flags.

June 15, 2002. Handisport World Championships. €0.46 racing in wheelchairs.

Gambia: March 18, 2002. Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. Two 20d stamps: curling and ski jumping; one souvenir sheet with 40d curling and ski jumping stamp.

Germany: May 2, 2002. Soccer World Championships in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. A se-tenant pair of €0.56 stamps: flags, soccer scene.

February 7, 2002. Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. A souvenir sheet containing the four stamps issued February 7, 2002.

**Ghana:** March 4, 2002. 2002 World Cup Soccer. 100c, Jay Jay Okacha; 150c, South African player; 300c, Pele; 400c, Roger Mila; 500c, Bobby Charlton; 800c, Michel Platini; 1,000c, Franz Beckenbauer; 1,500c, Ulsan Munsu Stadium, Korea; 2,000c, German player; 3,000c, Brazilian player; 4,000c, Korean player; 5,000c, Yokohama Stadium, Japan; 6,000c, Italian player; 11,000c, 1950 World Cup poster; 12,000c, 1934 World Cup poster; one souvenir sheet with two 15,000c, stamps, Gordon Banks, Geoff Hurst.

**Great Britain:** May 21, 2002. World Soccer Cup. Non-denominated first class stamp: crowned lion St. George; souvenir sheet of four.

July 17, 2002. Commonwealth Games. Non-denominated second-class stamp swimming; nondenominated European "E" stamp, cycling; 47p, long jump; 68p, wheelchair racing.

**Greece:** December 5, 2001. Athens 2004 Summer Olympic Games. Souvenir sheet with 1,200dr/€3.52 stamp: ancient Greek athletes.

**Grenada:** September 12, 2001. English Soccer Teams. Eight panes of six se-tenant \$1.50 stamps. Pane 1 Arsenal, Highbury Stadium; Pane 2 Aston Villa; Pane 3 Bolton Wanderers, Reebok Stadium; Pane 4 Everton, 2000-01 team; Pane 5 Ipswich Town; Pane 6 Liverpool, Anfield; Pane 7 Manchester United; Pane 8 Rangers, Ibrox Stadium.

**Hungary:** February 8, 2002. Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. 160f stamp: hockey player.

**Indonesia:** April 1, 2002. 2002 World Soccer Cup. Three stamps, 1,000r; 1,500r; 2,000r soccer scenes. One souvenir sheet, 5,000r stamp depicting soccer victory.



**Ireland:** March 12, 2002. 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of first Irish Steeplechase. Four €0.38 stamps showing famous horses: Istabraq; Dawn Run; Arkle; L'Escargot.

**Isle of Man:** March 11, 2002. Commonwealth Games. 22p, cyclists; 26p, runners; 29p, javelin thrower and pole vaulter; 34p, swimmers; 40p, decathlon; 45p, wheelchair athletes.

May 1, 2002. World Cup Soccer. 22p, 26p, 39p, 40p, 66p, 68p, photos of soccer matches.

**Japan:** March 8, 2002. World Figure Skating Championships. Two 80y stamps: men's singles skating; pairs skating.

**Kazakhstan:** February 14, 2002. Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. Two stamps: 50t women's hockey; 150t freestyle skiing.

**Kyrgyzstan:** February 23, 2002. Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. 50t, speed skating; 1.50, som biathlon; 7s, hockey; 10s, ski jumping; souvenir sheet with 50s, stamp alpine skiing.

**Latvia:** February 9, 2002. Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. 40s, biathlon.

March 5, 2002. Paralympic Games. 15s, skier.

**Liechtenstein:** June 3, 2002. World Soccer Cup 2002. 1.80fr, legs, soccer ball.

**Mayotte:** March 23, 2002. Track and field. €0.41 stamp, runners and map.

**Micronesia:** March 18, 2002. Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. Two \$1 stamps, luge racer and ice hockey player. S/s contains both stamps.

**Moldova:** February 8, 2002. Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. 40b, cross country skiing; 5 lei, biathlon.

**Montserrat:** March 12, 2002. Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. \$3, alpine skiing; \$5, four-man bobsled.

**Norway:** April 12, 2002. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Norwegian Soccer Association. Four round self-adhesive 5.50kr stamps: three soccer scenes with children, one stamp depicts referee.

**Palau:** March 18, 2002. Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. Two \$1 stamps: male Super G skier; female Super G skier. Souvenir sheet contains both stamps.

**Poland:** February 22, 2002. Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. Medalist, 1.10z Olympic stamp issued February 8, 2002 printed se-tenant with label listing two medals won by ski jumper, Adam Malysz.

**Russia:** January 24, 2002. Salt Lake Winter Olympics. 3r, skiing; 4r, figure skating; 5r, ski jumping.

**San Marino:** March 22, 2002. 2002 World Soccer Championship. Souvenir sheet with six se-tenant €0.41 stamps showing matches between Italy and: Czechoslovakia 1943; Hungary 1988; Germany 1970; Brazil 1982; England 1990; Nigeria 1994.

**Slovakia:** February 8, 2002. European Sled Dog Race Championship. 6k stamp, sled dogs and racer.

March 20, 2002. First Slovak Gymnasium Schools. 12sk, Martin; 13sk, Revuca; 15sk, Klastor pod Znievom, book, flowers.

**Slovenia:** January 23, 2002. Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. Se-tenant pair, 95t, sledder; 107t, skier.

**Spain:** March 22, 2002. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Real Union Soccer Club of Irun. €0.50 flag and coat of arms.

**Ukraine:** February 15, 2002. Sporting Achievements. Two 40kop stamps: Zhanna Ppintusevich-Block wins gold in 1000 meters at 2001 World Track and Field Championships; Henadyi Kuznetsov swimmer at Sydney Summer Olympics.

**Yugoslavia:** January 5, 2002. World Junior Ice Hockey Championship. 14d, hockey scene.

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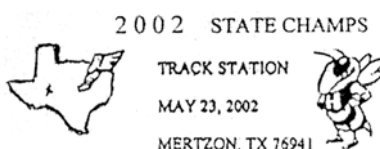
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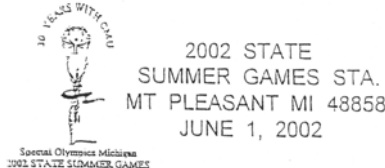
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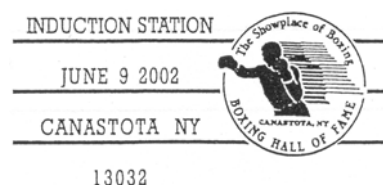
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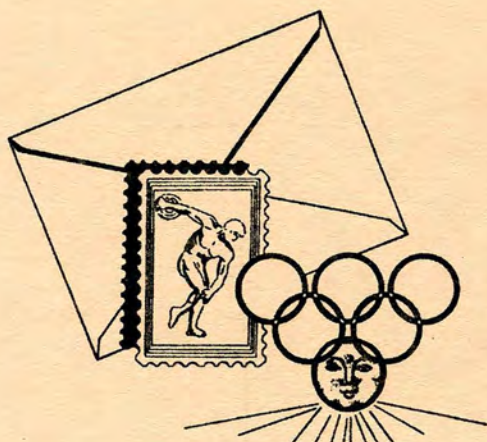
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