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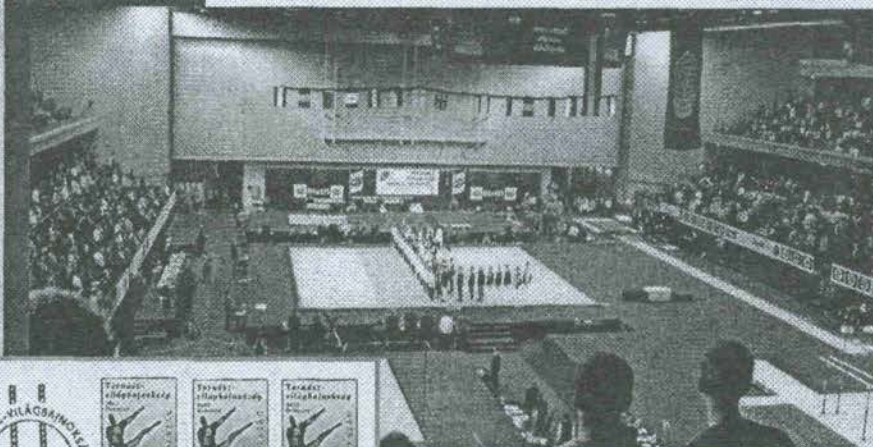
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**36th World Gymnastics
Championships**



**Debrecen, Hungary
November 19 - 24
2002**

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by Mark Maestrone

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Only The Best Are Commemorated On Stamps

by Paul Tissington

If you're an athlete, you strive to be the best that you can be, an all-star in your sport. Maybe some day you'll be voted into your sports Hall of Fame, and maybe even have your picture on a postage stamp!

Twenty-four National Hockey League all-star players have their images on stamps as a result of a Canada Post decision in 2000 to commemorate six players each year. The most recent six stamps were released January 18, 2003 (Figure 1).

Of these two dozen players, 15 are living and all but one was born in Canada – Stan Mikita of the Chicago Blackhawks. Mikita, shown on the current souvenir sheet, was born in Czechoslovakia, but came to Canada with his family at a young age and learned his hockey in St. Catharines, Ontario. No active players have been included.

Each of the four sets of six stamps are printed in souvenir sheet format. The first (Scott #1838a-f) was issued February 5, 2000 to coincide with the NHL's 50th All-Star Game at the Air Canada Centre (ACC) in Toronto the following day. The stamps had been unveiled a few days earlier at the ACC with Canada Post President and CEO Andre Ouellet joined at the ceremony by NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman, Toronto Maple Leafs President Ken Dryden and three of the players shown on the stamps, Bobby Orr, Gordie Howe and Maurice Richard.

The league's first official annual All-Star Game was also played in Toronto, at Maple Leaf Gardens, now closed, in 1947. Over the years, special international hockey events pre-empted two of the normal All-Star Games, while a third was cancelled due to a labor dispute. The 50th game was therefore played in 2000.

Starting in 1931, NHL All-Star teams were selected by the hockey media. Between then and 1947, a few benefit All-Star games were held to help injured players. Most notable was the 1934 game at Toronto for the benefit of Ace Bailey of the Leafs. Bailey had received a vicious check from behind from defenseman Eddie Shore of the Boston Bruins during a game at the Boston Garden, December 12, 1933. Bailey's head hit the ice and he hovered near death for several hours after surgery at a Boston

hospital. He recovered but never played again. Two months after the incident, Bailey shook Shore's hand at center ice prior to the benefit game at Maple Leaf Gardens with the Leafs defeating a team of All-Stars, 7-3. Interestingly, Shore is one of the six All-Stars included in the 2001 souvenir sheet. Shore was 82 when he died in 1985; Bailey was 88 when he died in 1992.

Each of the four souvenir sheets features three forwards, two defensemen and one goalie—in other words, a full on-ice lineup. However, only with the 2003 selections do the forwards form a proper line of centerman, left winger and right winger. For example, a center, Wayne Gretzky, in his Edmonton Oilers uniform, and two right wingers, Gordie Howe, in his Detroit Red Wings uniform and Maurice "The Rocket" Richard, Montreal Canadiens, appear on the first souvenir sheet.

Many of the All-Stars chosen for these stamps played for two or more teams during their NHL careers and several were selected as All-Stars while playing with different teams. But the images on the stamps show them in the uniforms of the teams with whom they are most readily identified.

BIG PRINTING

According to Canada Post, 36 million of the 2000 stamps were printed, six million of each player. A special folder referring to the 50th All-Star Game is also available to house the sheets. In the selvage at the top left is an image of Maple Leaf Gardens and at top right, an image of the Air Canada Centre. In between is the All-Star logo. There are five gold stars across the bottom of the selvage and each represents ten years of All-Star Games.

The size and design of the first souvenir sheet differs from the three that have followed. The sheet is eight inches high, about a quarter-inch more than the following three; all are six and a quarter inches wide. The six, 46¢ domestic rate stamps on the first sheet are grouped in three rows of pairs down the center. Each stamp is square (42mm or one and five eighths inches) and perforated 13 on all sides and shows the player in action, inside a silver circle, which resembles a puck. The names of the players are not printed on the stamps. On the outside of each

NHL ALL-STARS ÉTOILES DE LA LNH



Figure 1. Canada's 2003 salute to the NHL All-Stars was composed of a sheetlet of six 48¢ stamps oriented vertically along the left and right margins. Each stamp is perforated along three sides with the fourth side imperforate. At center were six labels featuring portraits of the players on the adjacent stamps.

stamp is a slightly smaller label showing a portrait of the player with his name printed underneath. The portraits on the first sheet are from paintings but on the following three sheets the portrait images are from photographs. These labels are perforated 13 on three sides only, with the outside edge, which is the edge of the souvenir sheet, cut straight.

The design of the slightly shorter second souvenir sheet, issued January 18, 2001, two weeks prior to the All-Star Game at Denver, Colorado, is quite different from the first. The six, 47¢ domestic rate stamps (Scott #1885a-f) are on the outside edges, three on each side, with the portrait labels located in pairs down the center. While this makes it easier to separate the stamps for postal use, some collectors are unhappy with the outside straight edges, preferring stamps perforated on all four sides. The

portrait labels are perforated horizontally but not vertically between the pairs. To include a portrait label along with its matching stamp on an envelope, one must use a pair of scissors to cut the labels apart. Again, as with all the sheets, the players' names are not printed on the stamps, just on the portrait labels. But the faces on the action images of the players on the stamps are clearly recognizable. Only 18 million stamps were printed, three million of each player, which is half the number printed in 2000.

The third souvenir sheet was released January 12, 2002, a few weeks prior to the All-Star Game in Los Angeles, California. The colors are different on every sheet but the layout of the 2002 sheet is the same as the 2001 sheet. The 48¢ domestic-rate stamps (Scott #1935a-f) are again located on the outside edges of the souvenir sheet, so one side is straight-edged. The

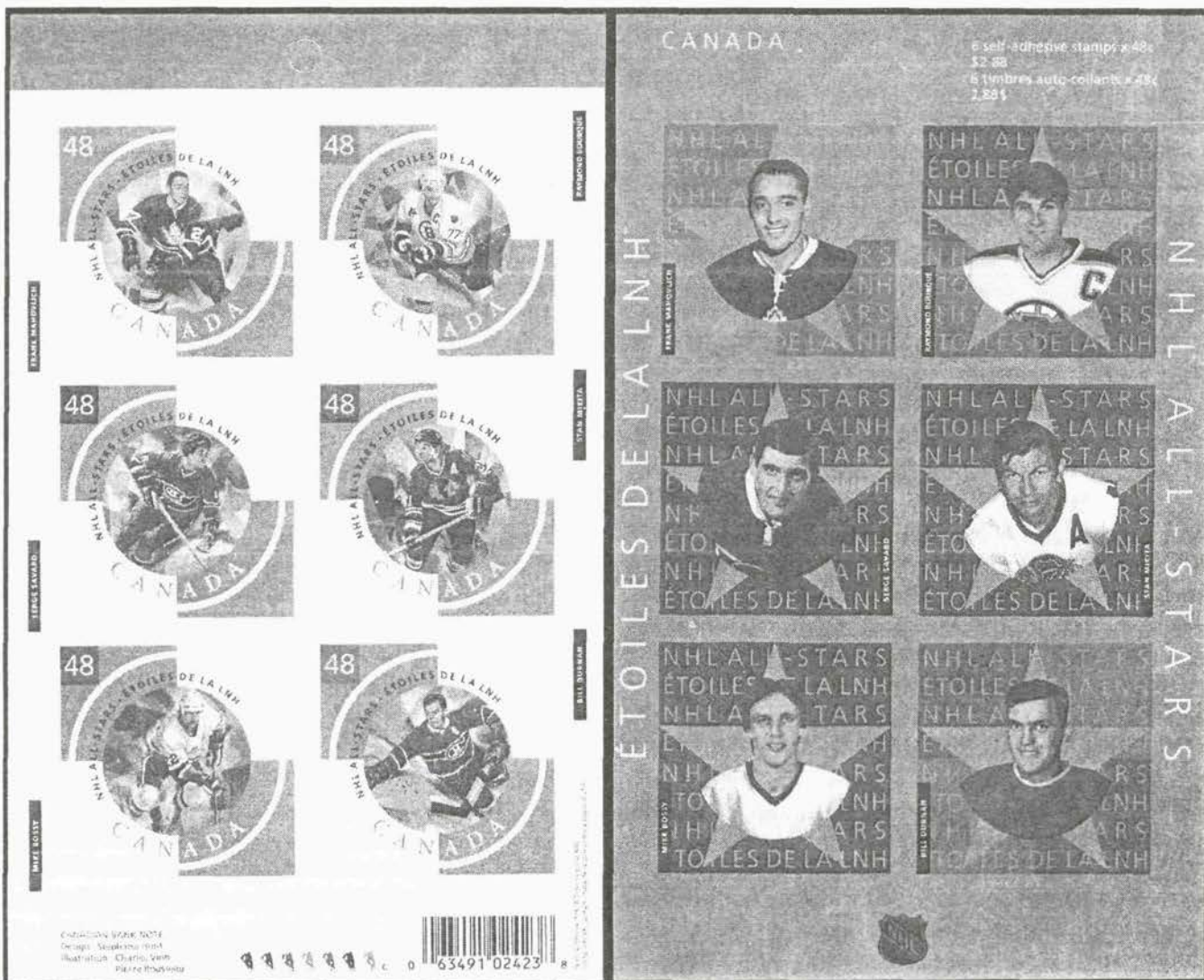


Figure 2. The six stamps were also available in self-adhesive diecut format on a booklet "panel". The portraits, which are gummed and partially perforated on the sheetlet version are printed on the reverse of the booklet panel. They are not diecut and therefore unusable as labels

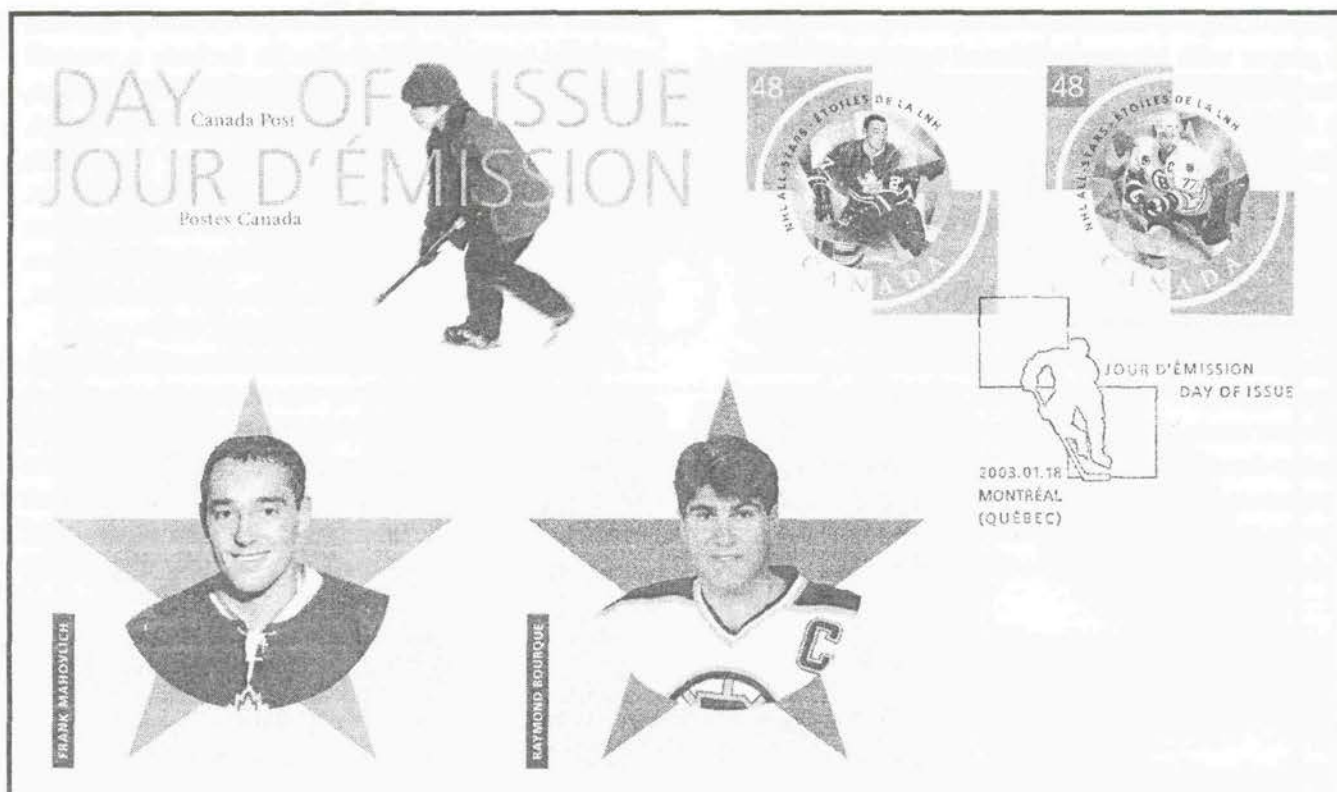


Figure 3. One of three First Day Covers created by Canada Post for the NHL All-Stars stamps. Two stamps are featured on each cover – in this case Frank Mahovlich and Raymond Bourque.

number of stamps printed dropped to nine million total (1.5 million for each player).

The fourth souvenir sheet was just released on January 18, with a special stamp unveiling ceremony at the Bell Centre in Montreal prior to a game between the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Montreal Canadiens. The All-Star Game was held February 2 at Sunrise, Florida with the West Conference All-Stars defeating the East Conference All-Stars 6-5 in the first-ever, All-Star Game overtime shootout. The teams were tied 5-5 after regular play and five minutes of sudden death overtime. A shootout followed, won 3 goals to 1 by the West. The East versus West Conference lineups replaces the format used during the last few years of North American players playing against a team of NHL All-Star players born outside North America. When the All-Star Game was first played it was always the defending Stanley Cup championship team playing a team of All-Stars. This format changed to the East versus West in 1969 after NHL expansion.

The MVP of the Florida game was Danny Heatley of the East Conference Atlanta Thrashers, in his first All-Star Game, who scored four goals, plus one in the shootout. The four goals tied the All-Star Game record held by four others, including Gretzky. While

it will be many years before this 22-year-old is ready for retirement, he'll undoubtedly be a strong candidate for selection to the Hockey Hall of Fame (located in Toronto) – and perhaps even for commemoration on a postage stamp!

The 2003 sheet layout is the same as in 2001 and 2002 with the 48¢ stamps again located on the outside, resulting in one straight edge on each stamp, and the portrait labels located down the center. One design difference is in the phosphor tagging, used to trigger canceling machines at postal sorting centers. The green tagging, detected only with the aid of an ultraviolet light, formed a circle around the action image of each player on the stamps in the first three souvenir sheets. However, the tagging on stamps comprising the fourth sheet is positioned along each outside edge.

SELF-ADHESIVES

For the first time, a panel of six self-adhesive stamps has been issued this year, containing identical players-in-action stamps but with straight edges on all sides (Figure 2). The portraits are printed on the reverse side of the panel, but not, however, on peelable labels. Canada Post, in the January 2003

issue of its philatelic catalog *Stamp Details*, refers to this as a "booklet" panel but since there is no cover it should probably just be called a self-adhesive panel of stamps. The square stamps are the same size as those on the souvenir sheet, 40mm or nine-sixteenth of an inch. The panel is three and five-eighths inches wide and five and seven-eighths inches high, with a small hole at top center so it can be hung on a peg at postal outlets. According to Canada Post, 2,379,000 of the regular stamps and 3,621,000 of the self-adhesive stamps were printed, for a total of 6 million stamps – 1 million of each player. Quite a drop from the 36 million printed in 2000!

Three Canada Post First Day Covers have been issued for each set of six All-Star stamps each year and in 2000, the layout allowed for joined pairs on each of the covers. Two different singles are on each of the three FDC's released in subsequent years, resulting from the altered layout which placed the stamps on the outside edges of the sheets (Figure 3).

Canada Post, in an apparent attempt to attract young collectors, also issues hockey stamp cards. Starting in 2000 and for the following two years, the stamp and label of each player was enclosed in a laminated card, 4¾" wide x 3⅛" high. A larger picture of the player appears on the back of the card along with career highlights and statistics. The cards fit into a special three-ring plastic holder with space for the souvenir sheet in the center. A special black All-Star binder with the NHL logo on front, to hold the plastic stamp-card holders, is also sold by Canada Post.

However, this year there has been a big change. All 24 All-Star stamps issued to date are incorporated into standard sports card-size hockey cards (3½" x 2½"). Packs of six randomly selected cards, plus a checklist, are sold for \$9.99 Canadian. (One Canadian dollar approximately equals 65¢ U.S.) This compares with the C\$12.99 charged for a set of six of the larger stamp cards issued in 2000 and C\$15.99 for a set in 2002. Compared to other sports cards, these are quite expensive – even if they do contain an actual stamp – which may deter young fans from collecting them. In addition, Canada Post has produced a variety of other All-Star stamp items including drink coasters, stamp and medallion sets and limited edition lithographs. Undoubtedly the NHL and the Players Association share in the profits.

PLAYER SELECTIONS

Of the 24 All-Stars selected, 21 are from what are known as Original Six teams from the pre-expansion

era (Montreal, Toronto, Boston, Chicago, Detroit and New York Rangers) although no All-Star wearing a Rangers' sweater has been shown on a stamp. Six teams were added to the NHL in the 1967-68 season. Of the 21 Original Six All-Stars on stamps, eight are Montreal Canadiens, four are Toronto Maple Leafs and four are Boston Bruins, three are Chicago Blackhawks and two are Detroit Red Wings. In addition, two are New York Islanders and one is, of course known as "The Great One", Wayne Gretzky, shown in his Edmonton Oilers uniform. As noted earlier, many of the All-Stars played with more than one team and a few were even selected as All-Stars representing different teams. In fact, Gretzky was MVP of the All-Star Game in 1983 when he was with the Oilers, MVP in 1989 when he was a Los Angeles King, and MVP in 1999, his last of 18 All-Star Games, when he was a New York Ranger.

The names of the All-Stars and the teams whose uniforms they are shown wearing on the stamps are as follows:

2000: Wayne Gretzky, Edmonton, Gordie Howe, Detroit, Maurice (Rocket) Richard, Doug Harvey and Jacques Plante all of Montreal and Bobby Orr, Boston.

2001: Jean Beliveau, Montreal, Terry Sawchuk, Detroit, Eddie Shore, Boston, Denis Potvin, New York Islanders, Bobby Hull, Chicago, Syl Apps, Toronto.

2002: Tim Horton and Red Kelly, Toronto, Guy Lafleur and Howie Morenz, Montreal, Glenn Hall, Chicago and Phil Esposito, Boston.

2003: Frank Mahovlich, Toronto, Ray Bourque, Boston, Serge Savard and Bill Durnan, Montreal, Stan Mikita, Chicago, and Mike Bossy, New York Islanders.

How were these players selected for such an honor? Naturally, they had to have been selected by fans, media and/or coaches to participate in an NHL All-Star Game. And they had to be outstanding All-Stars!

Most hockey experts and fans (of course they're all experts too!) agree with five of the six All-Stars chosen for the first souvenir sheet: Gretzky, Howe and Richard as the forwards and Orr and Harvey as the defensemen. However, the inclusion of goalie Jacques Plante, in his Montreal Canadiens uniform, is questioned by many experts, who believe that if the six best-ever All-Stars were to be shown on this first sheet, Terry Sawchuk, in his Detroit Red Wings uniform, and not Plante, should be the goalie honored first. However, Sawchuk is the goalie featured on the 2001 souvenir sheet.

The Hockey News, the self-described "Bible of Hockey" and "North America's number one hockey

publication for 55 years" celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1998. It contacted a wide panel of hockey experts to select the "Top 50" all-time hockey players, including active ones. Gretzky emerged, no surprise, as No. 1 followed by Orr and Howe. Mario Lemieux of the Pittsburgh Penguins was ranked fourth but as a currently active player he is apparently not eligible for the All-Star stamp program. Richard and Harvey were ranked fifth and sixth, so the top five retired players on the list were included on the first souvenir sheet. Sawchuk was ranked as the top goalie and ninth overall while Plante was the second highest ranked goalie, 13th on the overall list.

The second souvenir sheet features Beliveau, one of the few who only played for one team, the Montreal Canadiens. He is ranked seventh on the Top 50 list followed by Hull in eighth place, Shore in 10th and Potvin, in 19th place but he's the fifth highest defenseman on the list. The only surprise was Apps, an Olympic pole vaulter at the 1936 Berlin Olympics and following his hockey retirement, a provincial cabinet minister. He played center and was a popular captain of the Maple Leafs during the late 1930's and 1940's. As good as he was, most experts believe other players are more deserving of second sheet selection – he was ranked 33rd in the Top 50 list.

With the third souvenir sheet, the main surprise (for the experts!) was the selection of Tim Horton, ahead of several defenders with better records. He is ranked 43rd on the Top 50 list. Horton died in 1974 when he crashed his car, at high speed, early one morning on the main highway from Toronto to Buffalo. Horton had played for his team, the Buffalo Sabres, at Maple Leaf Gardens the previous evening, against his former team, the Maple Leafs. His name is still highly visible in Canada and the northeastern United States as he was the co-founder of the popular, and ever-expanding, Tim Hortons donut chain of fast food restaurants, which is now owned by Wendy's. Other players on the third sheet had high Top 50 rankings: Lafleur, 11th; Morenz, 15th; Hall, 16th; Esposito, 18th; and Kelly, 19th.

Five of the six players on the fourth sheet had Top 50 rankings: Bourque, 14th; Mikita, 17th; Bossy, 20th; and Mahovlich, 26th. Mahovlich, known as "The Big M" during his playing days, was appointed to the Canadian Senate in 1998. The big surprise on the current sheet is the inclusion of Savard, not ranked in the Hockey News' Top 50 list, and while certainly a worthy All-Star, not considered as good (by most experts!) as Larry Robinson, his former Canadiens teammate, who is ranked 24th. Robinson was selected three times as a first-team All-Star and three

more as a second-team All-Star, while Savard was selected to the second team once. Both were added to several more All-Star Game lineups by coaches. Besides Robinson, other highly ranked retired All-Star players who have not made a stamp appearance, include: Ted Lindsay, Detroit Red Wings, 21st; Bobby Clarke, Philadelphia Flyers, 23rd; Ken Dryden, Montreal Canadiens goalie, 25th; Milt Schmidt, Boston Bruins, 27th; and Paul Coffey, Edmonton Oilers, 28th. In fact, these six will undoubtedly be the leading candidates to appear on the 2004 All-Star sheet, assuming Canada Post continues the program.

As noted, no All-Star wearing a New York Rangers' uniform has been shown on a stamp, although several players, including Gretzky and Harvey, have been selected to All-Star teams while playing for the Rangers. The top-ranked candidate is right-winger Bill Cook, 44th on the Top 50 list who played his entire NHL career with the Rangers and was selected to the first three, first All-Star teams, 1931-33 and the second team in 1934. He retired in 1937.

Another candidate on the Top 50 list is defenseman Brad Park, ranked 49th, who started his NHL career with the Rangers and was a first-team All-Star for three years and a second-team All-Star twice before being traded during the 1975-76 season to the Boston Bruins where he was also successful, with a first-team selection in 1976 and 1978. Park played his final two years with the Red Wings, retiring after the 1984-85 season.

Along with Syl Apps, two other players on stamps have represented Canada at the Olympics – Gretzky and Bourque, were both members of the 4th place Canadian hockey team at the 1998 Nagano, Japan Winter Olympics. Gretzky, who retired after the 1998-99 season, was the main organizer and leader of the victorious Canadian hockey team at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games.

How much of a say did NHL officials have in the selection of the All-Stars to be shown on stamps? Perhaps this will be revealed at some time in the future, but my emailed questions about this and other matters to Canada Post's communication department were not answered.

When the first six stamps were unveiled in 2000, a Canada Post spokesman said the stamps were not commemorating individual players but were commemorating the All-Star Game. This was said to justify the Canada Post policy that does not allow stamps to be issued to commemorate people who are still alive. And presumably this is why the names of the players are not on the stamps, just on the adjacent portrait labels.



Björn Borg, the Legend of Roland Garros

by Pascal Bedenes

Le Tenniseum, the museum of French tennis, will open its doors at the dawn of the 2003 French Open at Roland Garros Stadium. It is an occasion to pay homage to the greatest clay court tennis player of all time: Björn Borg.

Björn Borg was born June 6, 1956 in Sodertalje (near Stockholm) in Sweden. His father won a table tennis tournament in his hometown; first prize was a tennis racket. He gave it to his son and thus, at the age of 9, Borg began tennis.

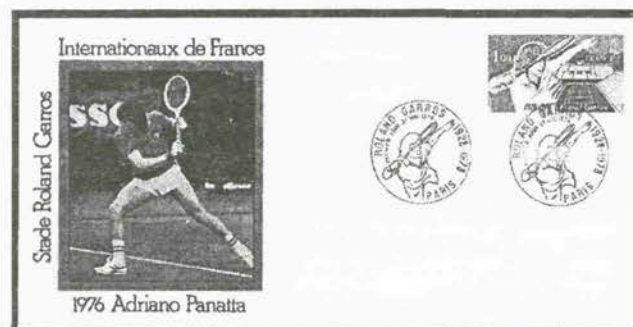
It wasn't until 1973 that Borg first appeared on the international scene. The crowd was immediately taken by this young Swede with the charm of a rock 'n' roll star. For his first Roland Garros tournament, he rose to eighth place against the Italian, Adriano Panatta.

1974: Borg triumphed at the French Open eventually beating the Spaniard, Manuel Orantes, after being down two sets to nothing. "It is the most beautiful day of my life," declared the Scandinavian who, at the age of 18, became the youngest winner at Roland Garros.

1975: Borg returned as the favorite in the French Open, and achieved his goal by crushing his friend, Argentine, Guillermo Vilas (left), in three sets and in only 90 minutes. He lost only one set to Panatta in a semi-final match, which remained

the best in the tournament. The Swede became the sixth player to preserve his title in the history of the France Open, after Franck Parker (1948-49), Jaroslav Drobný (1951-52, right), Tony Trabert (1954-55), Nicola Pietrangeli (1959-60) and Jan Kodes (1970-71).

1976: Borg was dethroned by Panatta (below) in the quarterfinals due, in part, because Björn had had insufficient time to recover from his preceding match against François Jauffret. That duel between the Frenchman and the Swede was a great upset at Roland Garros. The Frenchman was up by just 10-8 in the fifth set after 4 hours, 30 minutes of play. The Italian asserted himself at the French Open, thereby becoming the only player to ever beat Borg at Roland Garros.



1978: Borg returned to Roland Garros Stadium (which was celebrating its 50th anniversary) after having missed 1977. The Scandinavian was unbeatable there that year. He humiliated Vilas in three unexciting sets by losing only five games in the entire match. All his opponents were pulverized. Like Nastase in 1973, Borg did not lose a single set in the entire tournament.



1979: Borg was in Paris seeking a fourth victory to equal the record of Frenchman Henri Cochet in

1926, 1928, 1930 and 1932. The Swede appeared a little withdrawn at the beginning of the tournament. He conceded a set in the first two matches, marching on to the final where he met the surprising Paraguayan, Victor Pecci. Björn took a staggering lead two sets to nothing and was up 5/2 in the third set. Borg eased up, allowing the South American to carry off the set with a tie breaker, 8 points to 6. The Swede tightened up his play by keeping his opponent in the back court while serving 100% of his first balls. Borg triumphed 6/4 in the fourth set.



1980: The question that everyone asked was who would lose to Borg in the final. Borg was at the top of his form. He finished off his American friend, Vitas Gerulaitis, in three short sets. The Swede, as in 1978, played without conceding a set. At twenty-four, Borg triumphed again on Parisian ground for the fifth time. He beat the record for total number of victories overall, and was the first to win 3 in a row (1978-80).



1981: Even as seen from the back in Spanish artist Eduardo Arroyo's very stylized poster for Roland Garros in 1981, Borg is easily recognized by one and all (below). That year's tournament was relatively open since the Swede arrived at Roland Garros following a forced five week rest resulting from a shoulder injury. In the early matches, Borg seemed in great form confounding his detractors. He rose to the finals without losing a set. It was there that he encountered the young Czechoslovak, Ivan Lendl. It was only after three hours and five sets that the Swede acknowledged this to have been "my hardest final." With his sixth success in eight appearances, Borg improved on his two records: the most consecutive victories (4), and the greatest total number of victories (6). Who could have imagined that Borg had just played his last French Open? Borg ended his career in the Grand Slam tournaments of 1981.





Technically, Borg quickly made followers of clay court players. Inventor of the top spin, or at least its most powerful version, Borg's domination resulted from following the fundamental rule of tennis: return the ball once more than your opponent. Against the strongest adversaries, it is thus necessary at the same time to run quickly, for a long time, and to never commit faults. To achieve this result, the Swede knew only one way – hard work. Physically, Borg watched his diet and engaged in long training sessions with one goal in mind: to win.

BORG'S REMARKABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT ROLAND GARROS

- Lost only two matches out of the fifty, with one disputed
- Beaten by only one man, the Italian Adriano Panatta (1973 and 1976)
- Lost only 24 sets out of 168 total played
- Won two tournaments without losing a set (1978 and 1980)
- Never lost a final
- Came in first 6 times in 8 appearances

This article first appeared in Esprit: Sports et Olympisme (Number 26 – December 2002) the journal of AFCOS, the French Association of Olympic and Sports Collectors, and is reprinted with the kind permission of the author. The article was translated from the original French and edited by Mark Maestroni.

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13—Augusta National Golf Club House, Augusta, Ga.

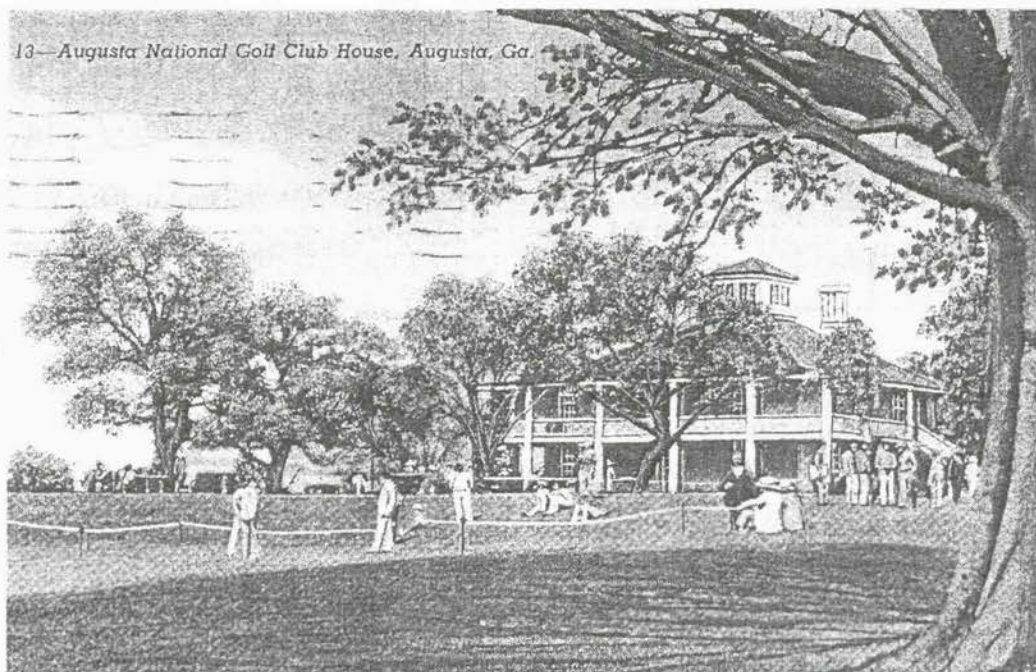


Figure 1. The Masters course at the Augusta National Golf Club, 1932.

Grand Slam Golf 2003

by Patricia Ann Loehr

Throughout the 20th century and into the 21st, the sport of golf has grown from organized weekly tournaments held at various sites around the world. Four of those tournaments are regarded as the “Grand Slam” of golf, an expression borrowed in the 1930s from baseball, another outdoor ball and stick game, and the indoor pastime of contract bridge. Today, the Grand Slam events are: The Masters, United States Open Championship, British Open Championship, and Professional Golfers Association (PGA) Championship.

The Grand Slam season begins with The Masters, which is the youngest of these four major tournaments. First played in March of 1934, and known then as The Augusta National Invitation Tournament, The Masters has been held the first full week in April since 1940. Unlike the other three tournaments that change locations each year, The Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia is the permanent site for The Masters, often referred to as a “rite of spring.” The colorful, linen postcard in Figure 1 pictures people casually gathering around the Augusta National clubhouse. It is postmarked April 14, 1945, a year The Masters was not held because of World War II, and

the printed information states:

“The Augusta National Golf Club was completed in 1932 and is considered one of the greatest golf courses ever built. Its holes have been fashioned after holes on famous courses – from St. Andrews to Pebble Beach. This world famous course is the result of the work and planning of Robert T. (Bobby) Jones, Jr. and Dr. Alister McKenzie.”

This year it is expected there will be an even greater interest in the tournament because the administrators have announced that it will be televised without advertising, the first major sporting event to be telecast commercial-free. To maximize the visibility of the tournament and the game of golf, the organizers of The Masters make limiting commercialism a priority.

By agreement with CBS, the 1956 Masters was the first that was televised and CBS has continued to broadcast the tournament each year since then. As the message states in the Figure 2 slogan meter stamp, viewers will be watching The Masters on CBS-TV, this year from April 12 - 13.



Figure 2. The CBS television network has carried The Masters tournament since 1956. This year for the first time, the tournament will be broadcast without commercials.

Because of scheduling, The Masters is separated by eight weeks from the other three Grand Slam tournaments. They will be held within an eleven-week period that begins with the 103rd United States Open Championship set for June 12-15 at the Olympia Fields Country Club in Illinois. The club's massive clubhouse and famous four-faced clock is pictured on the white border, linen postcard in Figure 3. That clubhouse opened in 1925, and three years later the club hosted its first U.S. Open Championship.

Since the first U.S. Open Championship of 1895, over forty different courses have been selected to host the championship. Often, United States Open venues will host other tournaments. For example, in 1925 and 1961 Olympia Fields hosted the PGA Championship, and most recently the United States Senior Championship of 1997. The commemorative cancel for that championship in Figure 4 showcases the trademark clock tower.

The Grand Slam events continue in July with the British Open Championship, the oldest of all golf

championships and first played in 1860. This is the only Grand Slam tournament outside the United States. The Royal St. George's Golf Club, a links course in England, will host the 2003 Championship July 17 – 20. Royal St. George's is a regular venue in the British Open rotation having last hosted the championship in 1993 (Figure 5). That year Australian golfer Greg Norman won the Open (Figure 6). The 2003 British Open will be the thirteenth Open held at Royal St. George's which was the first non-Scottish course chosen to host the open championship in 1894. The Centenary of that first championship played in England is commemorated on the cover in Figure 7.



Figure 4. The four-faced clock tower is a well-known landmark of the Olympia Fields club.



Figure 3. Olympia Fields Country Club will play host to the 2003 U.S. Open.



Figure 5. The Royal St. George's Golf Club is host to the 2003 Open, just as it was in 1993.

Because the British Open is regarded as the first and original open championship of the world it is usually referred to as simply The Open Championship. The cancellation of 1993 deviated from the norm with the wording of British Open Championship. The cancel for the 1994 Open returned to the usual format which omitted "British" (Figure 8).

The PGA Championship will be the last opportunity for the players to win a 2003 Grand Slam tournament. Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, New York will host the 85th PGA Championship August 14 – 17. Oak Hill was founded in 1901 and the original course

is pictured on the white border postcard in Figure 9. Although this card is not postmarked, the message written on the back is dated May 27, 1920. In 1926 the members moved to their present location. In addition to the U.S. Open Championships of 1956, 1968, and 1989, Oak Hill has hosted a variety of major golf tournaments, such as the United States Amateur and Senior Championships and the biennial Ryder Cup competition of 1995. The commemorative cover for that Ryder Cup in Figure 10 features the present Tudor-style clubhouse and a portion of the surrounding landscape famous for its numerous oaktrees.



Figure 6. Greg Norman, honored by his native Australia on these two meter imprints, won the Open in 1993.

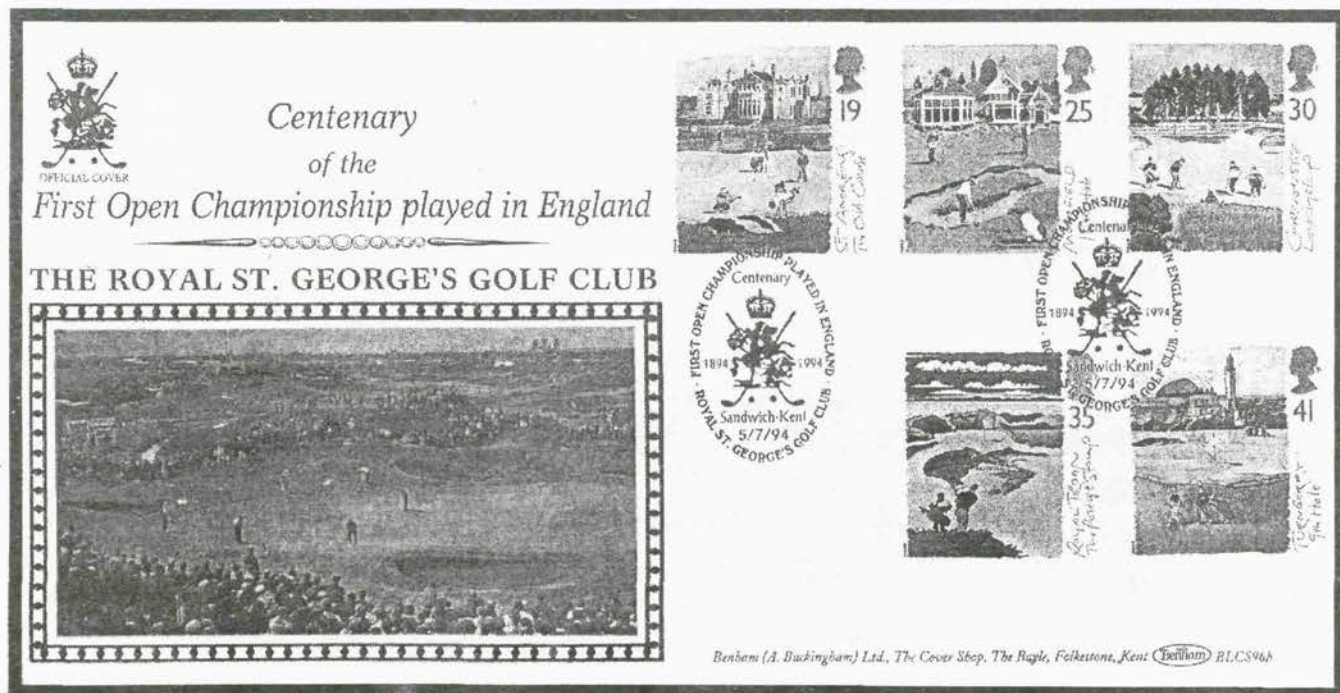


Figure 7. In 1994, Royal St. George's celebrated the centenary of its first hosting of the Open.

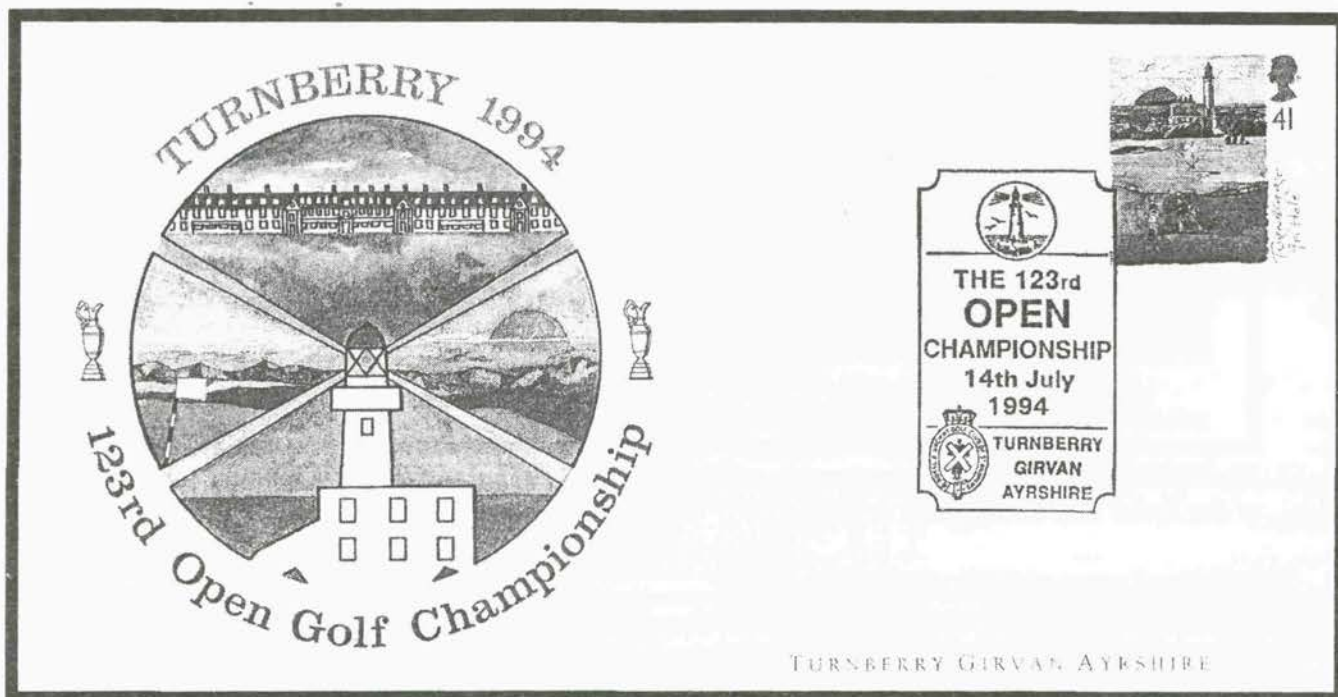


Figure 8. After a break with tradition in 1993 (Figure 5), the 1994 postmark once again referred to this stop on the Grand Slam of Golf tour as, simply, "The Open".

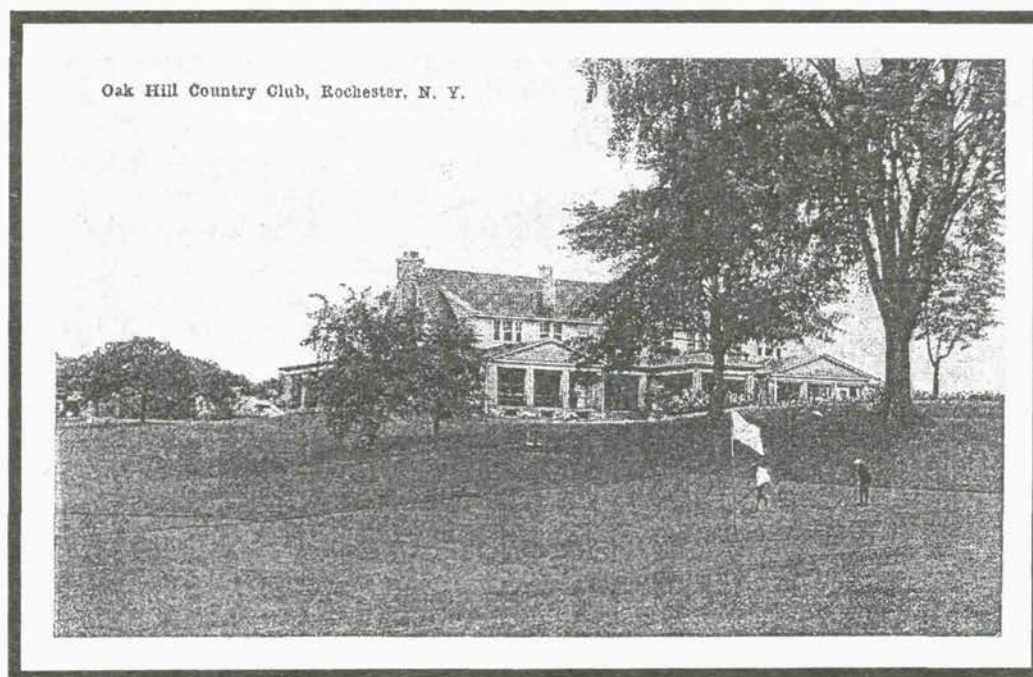
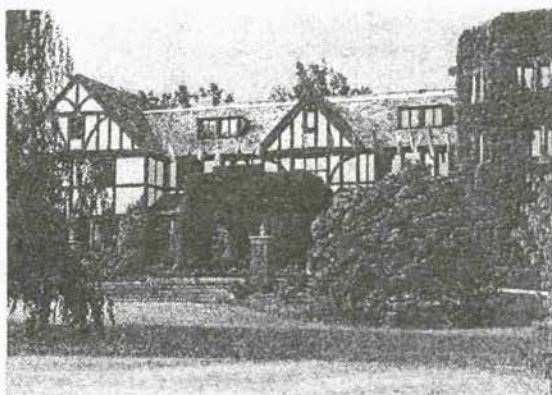


Figure 9. The "old" Oak Hill Country Club course in Rochester, NY. The inscription on the back of this unpostmarked card dates the card from 1920, well before the club relocated in 1926.



"The 31st Match"

1995 Ryder Cup • Oak Hill Country Club • Rochester, NY

Figure 10. The 2003 PGA Championship will take place at the current Oak Hill Country Club, site of the Ryder Cup tournament in 1995.

The postcard craze of the first half of the twentieth century provides reminders of the 2003 Grand Slam courses from years ago. Since then progress has brought many changes. Today we are able to communicate with cell phones and email; information is available via the worldwide web (Internet).

It is somewhat reassuring, therefore, to realize that the championships and the courses have (stayed or lasted) the test of time, and together they offer the top golfers opportunities to test their abilities while contributing to the history and traditions of this great sport.

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Figure 1. Registered first day cover from Debrecen's Főnix Hall, site of the 2002 World Gymnastics Championships. The first day coincided with the opening day of competition (November 20).

2002 World Gymnastics Championships

by Mark Maestroni
with Zoltan Klein

For Hungarian gymnast, Szilveszter Csollany, the World Championships have consistently cast him as a groomsman, but never a groom. Five times over the last decade, the rings specialist has managed only a silver at the Worlds – that is until now. With a home team advantage, the 32-year-old finally broke through to add a World Championship gold medal to his rings title from the 2000 Olympic Games at Sydney!

Csollany's win was but one example of the excitement at Főnix Hall in Debrecen, Hungary during the 36th World Gymnastics Championships (November 19-24, 2002).

For awhile it was touch and go as to where or when the competition for men and women artistic gymnasts would take place as the Budapest Sports Hall – the original venue – burned down in December 1999. Not wishing to cede the honor of holding the championships which they had been awarded in the autumn of 1999, the Hungarian city of Debrecen stepped forward and constructed a brand new 7,000-seat indoor sports arena for the Champion-

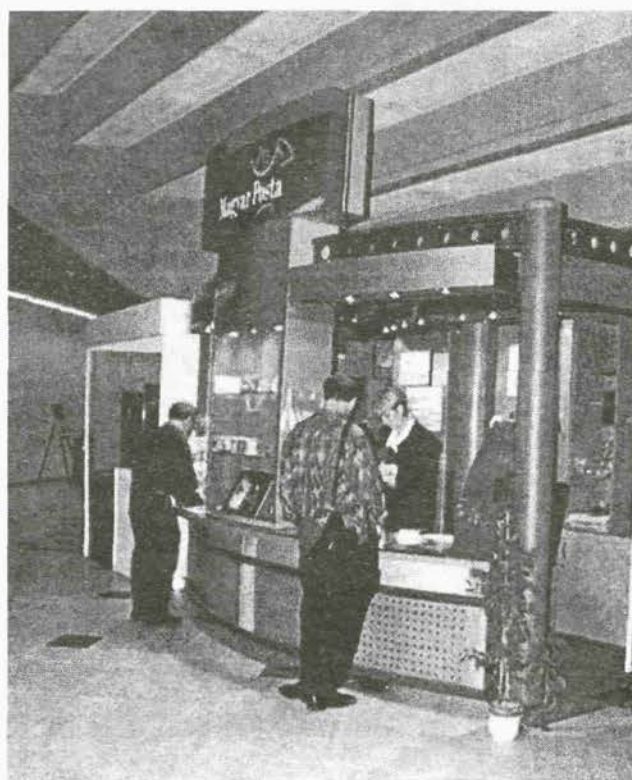


Figure 2. The temporary Magyar Posta (Hungarian Post Office) booth at Főnix Hall.

ships in just 223 days! The competition's schedule of events was as follows:

- Nov. 19: Opening Ceremonies
- Nov. 20: Qualifying round, women
- Nov. 21: Qualifying round, men
- Nov. 22: Semi-finals, women (afternoon)
Semi-finals, men (evening)
- Nov. 23: Finals, women's vault & uneven bars
Finals, men's floor, rings & pommel horse
- Nov. 24: Finals, women's beam & floor
Finals, men's vault, parallel bars & high bar

Coinciding with the first day of competition on November 20th, Magyar Posta, the Hungarian postal administration, issued a stamp in commemoration of the event. The 160-forint value features a colorfully rendered male gymnast performing on the pommel horse.

Magyar Posta offered first day cancels from both the Budapest 4 and Debrecen 1 post offices. A registered first day from the competition city is shown in Figure 1, while Budapest's "official" first day cover is illustrated in Figure 3. The cancel

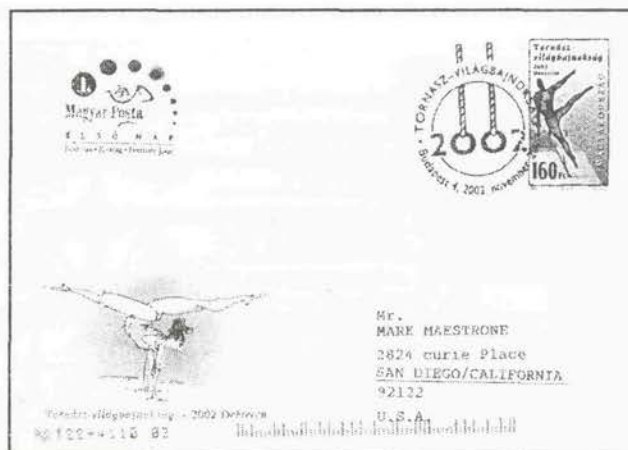


Figure 3. Official first day cover from Budapest.

features the year "2002" in the center with the double zeroes rendered as rings suspended from straps. The text at top, Tornász Világbajnokság, translates as World Gymnastics Championships.

A temporary post office erected in Főnix Hall was open from November 20 through 24 (Figure 2). A special hand cancel with moveable date was used each day of the competition (Figure 4). The design was identical to the first day cancel.



Figure 4. Special hand cancel available at the temporary venue post office dated the final day of the championships and applied to an organizing committee cover.

1948 DISPLACED PERSONS OLYMPIAD

by K.W. Sokolyk



Poster advertising the 1948 Displaced Persons Olympiad, referred to simply as the "Sportsfestival."

At the conclusion of World War II, more than twelve million displaced persons (DP) and refugees found themselves in Central Europe (West Germany, Austria and Italy). Most were forced laborers, prisoners-of-war, concentration camp prisoners, and those uprooted by war. The Western Allies military authority designated assembly centers throughout Central Europe, where these individuals could be temporarily housed, processed and repatriated. Such centers included military barracks or compounds, forced labor camps, schools, etc. By September 1945, the overwhelming majority of displaced persons and refugees had been returned to their homelands. The use of force in repatriating former Soviet nationals had been agreed to by the Allies at the Yalta Conference in 1944.

By the summer of 1945, the assembly centers began to transform into communities that became known as displaced persons camps, and which often evolved to house homogeneous national groups. Organized by their community leaders, but also to collectively protect themselves from repatriation to the Soviet Union, the helplessness of shaping their own fate, and the lethargy and monotony of daily life, the refugees and displaced persons began establishing self-help organizations, churches, schools, libraries, youth associations, theater groups, sport clubs and many other aspects of religious, cultural and recreational life. In many cases these were re-creations of organizations which had existed in their homelands prior to the war. At first, the occupying powers viewed this development with apprehension: the more hopeless the immediate situation, the quicker the repatriation process. Subsequently, it was tolerated, and then as the policy of repatriation was replaced with a policy of resettlement, structured community life was encouraged, although not uniformly. In time, even varying degrees of self-government and self-policing came into being. In some camps an internal postal service was established, including the issuance of stamps. In 1946, there were nearly 500 such camps housing approximately one million people, mostly from Eastern Europe.

In a short period of time, sports participation became one of the most popular camp activities. While at some camps it was practiced on an ad hoc basis, at many camps structured sport clubs were established. A variety of sports were available including athletics, basketball, boxing, chess, hockey, alpine and nordic skiing, soccer, table tennis and volleyball. In addition to regular training sessions

Internationale Volley-Ball Games
of the DPs at Mittenwald.

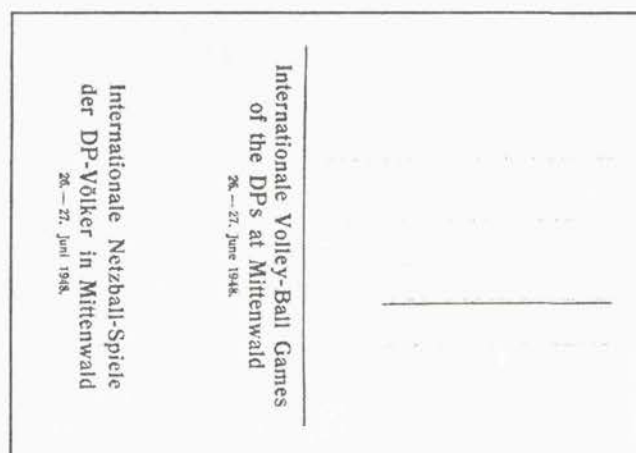
26. — 27. June 1948.



Internationale Netzbball-Spiele
der DP-Völker in Mittenwald

26. — 27. Juni 1948.

Souvenir sheet (above) with a single IRM stamp was issued at the Mittenwald Displaced Persons Camp in honor of the men's volleyball competition, one of the events associated with the 1948 Displaced Persons Olympiad. Postcard (right) reproducing the stamp image from the souvenir sheet. The reverse of the card is shown below.



and scrimmages, competitions were held with neighboring DP camp clubs, local German or Austrian clubs, or military units.

The dramatic growth in organized sport was manifested, for example, by the Ukrainians. Their Council of Physical Culture was, by the fall of 1946, coordinating the activities of 39 sports clubs in the American Zone and twelve in the British Zone of West Germany. Another group, the Baltic peoples, held an annual Baltic Olympics.

In early 1948, within the framework of the International Committee for Political Refugees and Displaced Persons in Germany (INCOPF), a sports section was established. At the urging of the Ukrainian Council of Physical Culture, the body approved the organization of a summer-long sports festival in the American Zone – the Displaced Persons Olympiad – which in its own way would celebrate the ideals of the Olympic movement in an Olympic year. Representatives from the Belarus, Czech, Estonian, Hungarian, Yugoslav, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Slovak, Russian and Ukrainian DP communities took part in the preparatory work, which also included the participation of the Preparatory Commission of the International Refugee Organization (PCIRO) and the YMCA and YWCA.

The organization of the games was no easy task. Funds were lacking and restrictive monetary reform was in progress. Access to transportation was limited. Accommodations were hard to come by and daily food rations were being reduced. Nevertheless, the organizers overcame the many impediments to mobilize their communities, find host sites, organize events, finalize team rosters and launch the games.



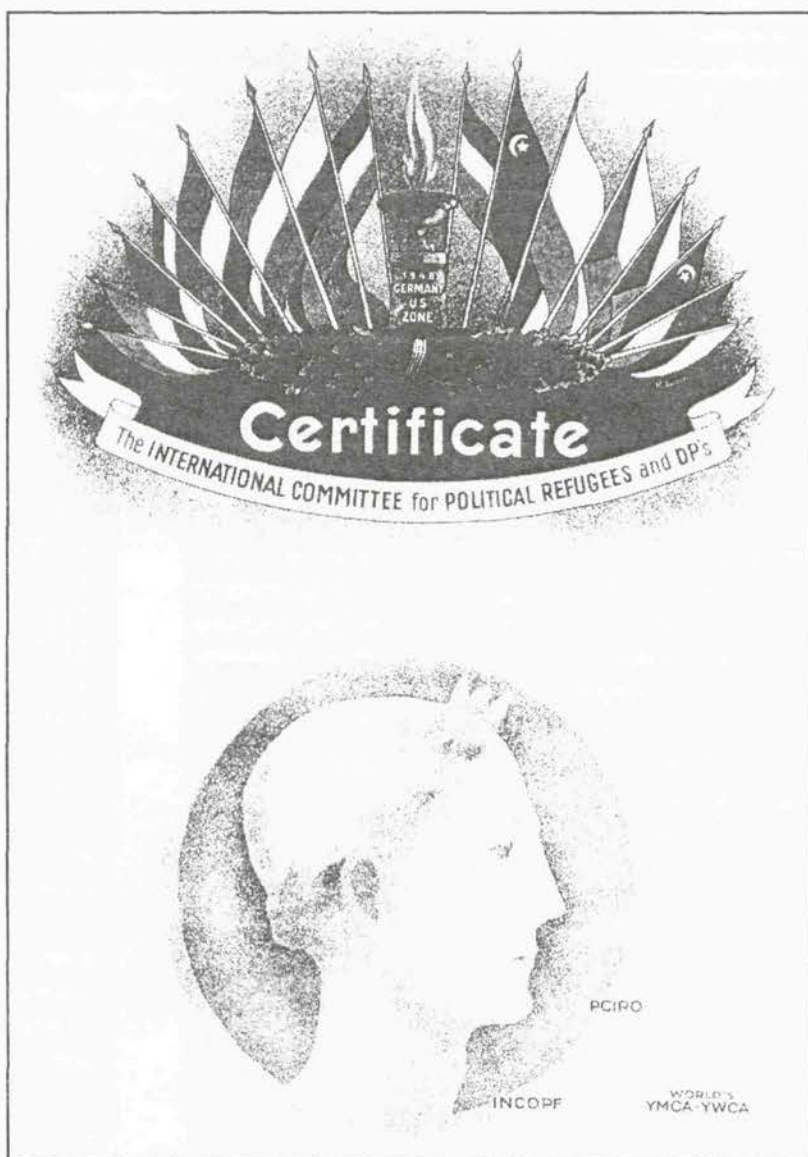
Commemorative hand cancel used during for the two days of the volleyball event at Mittenwald.

The Displaced Persons Olympiad began with the men's volleyball tournament on June 26-27, 1948, at Mittenwald hosted by the Ukrainians. The highlight of the Olympiad was the track and field competition held July 31 and August 1 at Nürnberg's renowned stadium. The event was hosted by the YMCA and YWCA, and organized by Ukrainians. Other events included men's and women's basketball hosted by the Lithuanians; women's volleyball hosted by the Estonians; women's table tennis hosted by the Ukrainians; men's boxing and men's table tennis hosted by the Poles; and men's soccer. The events were held throughout the American Zone: Augsburg, Mannheim, Nürnberg, Mittenwald, Ingolstadt, Würzburg, Landshut, etc.

To celebrate the men's volleyball tournament, the Ukrainian Council of Physical Culture, with the assistance of the host Lions Sport Club of the Mittenwald Displaced Persons Camp, issued a souvenir sheet. The 100 mm x 107 mm ungummed sheet features a small stamp, sepia on off-white, portraying two opposing volleyball players at the net. In the background is one of the camp's buildings and further back are the Alps. Olympic rings can be found at the top of the stamp. The noted value on the stamp is 1 RM (Reichsmark). The text on the stamp is in Ukrainian, and is repeated both in English and in German on the



Championship medal awarded for first place in the 4 x 60-meter relay. The profile of an athlete wearing a laurel wreath became an insignia of the 1948 Displaced Persons Olympiad.



A blank certificate (use unknown).

sheet. In total, 1500 souvenir sheets were printed. Both perforated and imperforate versions exist.

A postcard was also printed featuring the same design found on the stamp, but without the 1 RM value indicator. At least two variants of the postcard exist: one with a plain obverse and the other with printed English and German text similar to that found on the souvenir sheet.

During the two-day tournament, a round commemorative hand cancel measuring roughly 34 mm. in diameter was in use. Available only in German, it also reproduced the text found on the souvenir sheet. Neither the souvenir sheet nor the cancel had postal validity.

Interestingly, none of the items produced for the volleyball tournament incorporated the image of a man's head wearing a wreath of olive leaves which came to symbolize the 1948 DP Olympiad. This image was found on publicity posters, medals, certificates, and related ephemera.

A sincere thanks to Myroslaw Welyhorskyj, co-organizer of the DP Olympiad's volleyball tournament for men and the designated chef de mission of the Ukrainian team to the track and field competition (immigration to Canada prevented him from fulfilling this task), for his kind assistance with information and illustrations.

References:

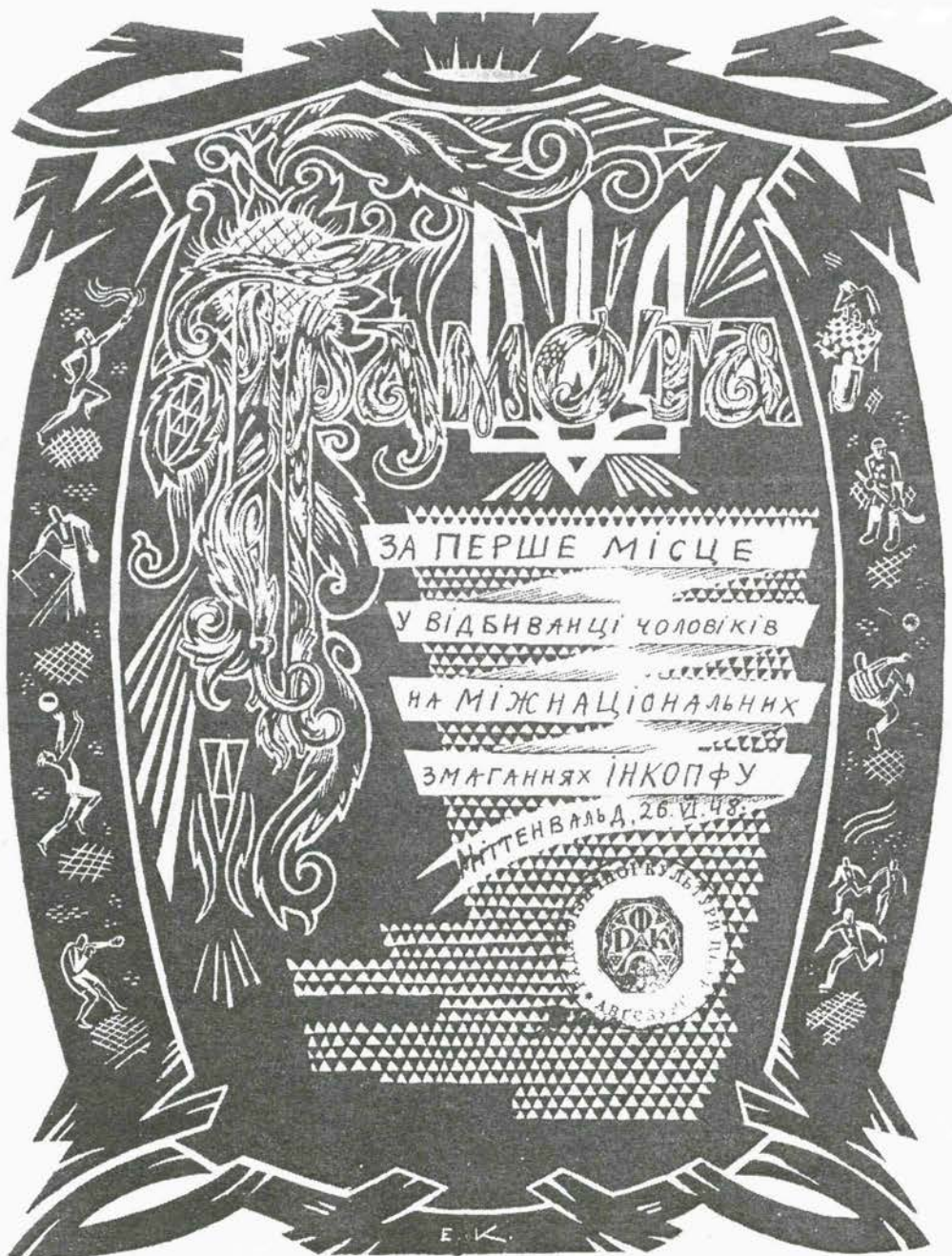
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Volleyball tournament Certificate of Participation.

Celebrity Baseball Owners

by Norman Rushefsky

The media attention to baseball and other major sports has attracted people of wealth to seek ownership of teams as a means for gaining instant celebrity status. However, for many years a number of performing arts celebrities, not content to merely be recognized at the ballpark, have sought ownership in baseball teams. As many of these artists have been philatelically recognized one might consider including such material in a thematic or topical sports collection.

As many of the performing artists lived and worked in Hollywood one of the places to be "seen" was Gilmore Field, home of the Hollywood Stars baseball team of the Pacific Coast League. Before 1957 Major League Baseball was limited to 16 teams playing in just ten cities, only one of which was west of the Mississippi River. All the professional baseball in the western part of the United States was of the minor league variety and the Pacific Coast League was a Triple A League of relatively high-quality. Great players like



Figure 1. The baseball team Hollywood Stars attracted many celebrities to their games.

Joe DiMaggio played in this league during the early 1930s.

The Hollywood Stars were owned by numerous celebrities including Gary Cooper, Bing Crosby, William Powell, George Raft, Barbara Stanwyk, Robert Taylor, Gene Autry, George Burns and Gracie Allen and even the great director Cecil B. DeMille. Figure 1 shows an illustration of a score book for the Hollywood Stars. General Foods used a meter in the 1930s with a slogan promoting the radio show for Burns and Allen which was sponsored by the food company (Figure 2).

Gene Autry, known as the Singing Cowboy, had other significant baseball interests after retiring from making movies and records. Autry became very successful as a radio station owner in California and as

the story goes attended a meeting of Major League Baseball executives for purposes of obtaining broadcast rights to the California Angels baseball games. He left the meeting with an opportunity to buy the team outright. The team was later sold to the Disney Company and called the Anaheim Angels, the 2002 World Series champions. The World Series of

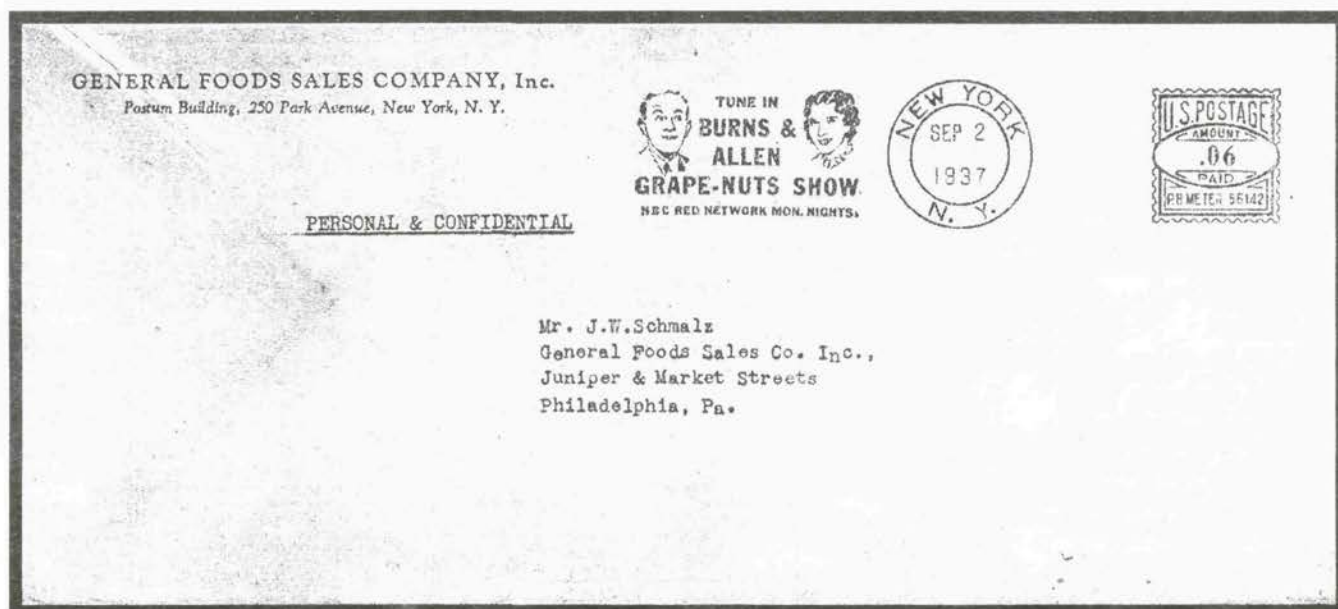


Figure 2. Burns and Allen were just two of many celebrity owners of the Hollywood Stars.

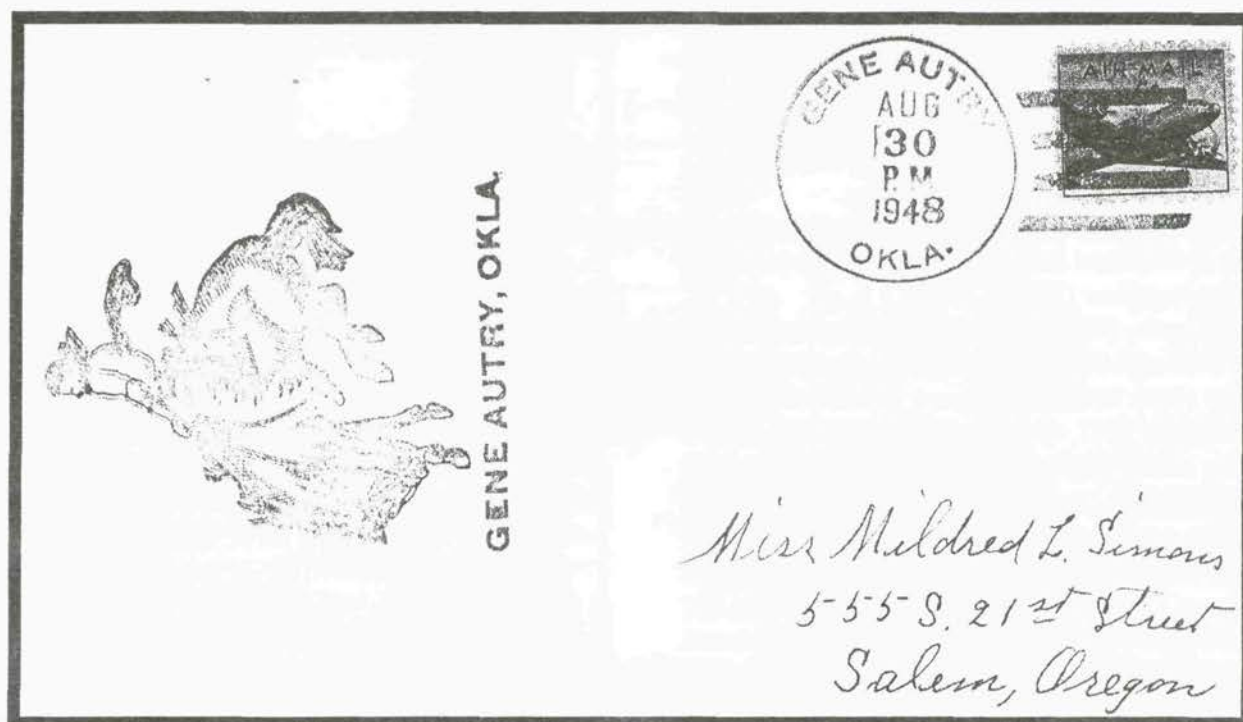


Figure 3. A cover from Gene Autry, Oklahoma.



Figure 4. First day cover of the Lucille Ball stamp. The cachet features a baseball theme.

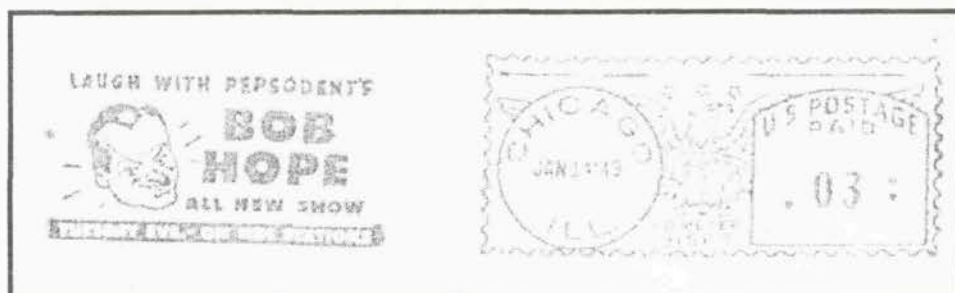


Figure 5. A meter featuring Bob Hope.

2002 was the first World Series opportunity for the Angels and they didn't squander it. Throughout the televised version of the World Series, tribute was made to Autry. He's philatelically commemorated on a cover postmarked at Gene Autry, Oklahoma bearing a cowboy rubber stamp cachet (Figure 3).

Bob Hope and Bing Crosby, celebrities better known as golf tournament sponsors, were also owners of Major League Baseball teams. A first day cover of the Lucille Ball stamp displays a cachet of Lucy and Hope (Figure 4) reproducing a still from an "I Love Lucy" show from 1956-57. In that episode Lucy, wearing the uniform of a Cleveland Indians player, tried to persuade Bob to appear at her husband, Ricky's, new nightclub. In reality, Bob was one of the owners of the Cleveland Indians team.



Figure 6. A meter featuring Bing Crosby.

Hope also appeared on a meter used by Pepsodent, a toothpaste manufacturer and sponsor of Hope's radio show (Figure 5).

Bing Crosby (Figure 6) had an ownership interest in the Pittsburgh Pirates and was involved in having the great Hank Greenberg leave Detroit to play for the Pirates. In 1947, Greenberg and the Tigers had a lengthy salary dispute and Greenberg decided to retire rather than play for less. Detroit traded him to the Pirates, and to persuade him not to retire Greenberg was made the first player to earn over \$100,000 in a season. Crosby recorded a song, "Goodbye, Mr. Ball, Goodbye" with comedian Groucho Marx and Greenberg, to celebrate Greenberg's arrival. Crosby was honored with a U.S. stamp in 1994 (Figure 7).

Lastly, we have famous musician Louis Armstrong (Figure 8) who had an ownership interest in a baseball team in New Orleans. The team (Figure 9), known as the Armstrongs, played in one of the numerous Negro Leagues before Negroes gained admittance to the major leagues in the 1950's.



Figure 7. A first day cover of the Bing Crosby and Nat King Cole stamps.



Figure 8. A first day cover of the Louis Armstrong stamp.



Figure 9. A team photo of the Armstrongs.

THE SPORTS ARENA

by Mark Maestrone



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Special IOC meter imprint publicizing the 114th IOC Session in Mexico City. November 29 was the final day of the Session, and final day of use of the meter.

The International Olympic Committee held its 114th Session in Mexico City, November 28-29, 2002. This was considered an extraordinary session of the governing body for the Olympics as the 113th Session took place just prior to the opening of the Salt Lake City Olympic Winter Games in February 2002.

Two of the most important decisions taken at this session directly impact the size and composition of future Olympic Games. Concerned with the consequences resulting from runaway growth since 1980, the 117 IOC members in attendance elected to "cap the number of sports at 28, the number of events at 300, and the number of athletes at 10,500."

A more contentious issue before the members was whether or not to accept the recommendation of the Olympic Programme Commission to eliminate the sports of softball, a women-only sport, and the men-only sports of baseball and modern pentathlon. A decision was postponed until after Athens 2004 to allow the International Federations an opportunity to implement changes.

Surprisingly, considering the enormous amount of negative publicity generated by the so-called Salt Lake City Olympic Bribery Scandal, some members of the IOC wanted to overturn the ban on member visits to cities bidding on future Games, a reform implemented at the 110th IOC Session in 1999. The vote: 108 to 6 to uphold the no-visit rule.

The IOC Headquarters used a special meter imprint (in blue) to publicize the 114th Session. The earliest example of this meter that I've seen is dated September 10, 2002.

Beneath the location name "Lausanne 2 / Saint-Francois" are a pair of numbers. The one on the left is evidently the machine's identification number (152039). Because the number to the right changes, I would guess this to be the number of this piece (00002288). The number of the piece dated September 10 is 00001849 meaning that at least 439 pieces of mail had been franked using this meter imprint. My guess is that very few of these covers found their way into collectors hands.



Egyptian Olympic weightlifting gold medalists Ibrahim Hassan Shams (left) and Khadr Sayed El Touni.

Since its debut at the 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games, Egypt has won a total of 20 medals – 6 gold, 7 silver, and 7 bronze. By far its greatest success has been in the sport of weightlifting in which all of its gold medals have been won.

Two of Egypt's more prominent lifters have been immortalized on a se-tenant pair of stamps issued in 2002. Twenty-one-year-old Khadr Sayed El Touni stunned spectators at the 1936 Berlin Olympics with his performance. In fact, his final lift in the Middleweight Class (75 kg.) surpassed the winning lift in the Light Heavyweight Class (82.5 kg.)! El Touni died on September 25, 1956 from electrocution while making repairs at his home.

El Touni's teammate at the 1936 Berlin Games was Ibrahim Hassan Shams who walked away with a bronze medal in the Featherweight Class (60 kg.). Twelve years later at the 1948 London Olympics, Shams – now lifting in the next heaviest class – won the Lightweight gold over his teammate, Attia Hamouda. While both men lifted the same total

weight of 360.0 kg. to set new Olympic records, Shams' lighter body weight gave him the win.

On November 3, 2002, the U.S. Olympic Committee's Board of Directors selected New York City over San Francisco as the official U.S. candidate to compete for the 2012 Olympic Games.

At some point during 2002, a series of four advertising cards were produced promoting the New York City bid. Each card combined an athlete from a specific sport with a familiar visual image typical of New York City: a gymnast utilizing a subway turnstile as a makeshift pommel horse; a pole vaulter clearing a suspended traffic light; a pair of wrestlers grappling as a New York taxi cab bears down on them (I can hear the honking now!); and a cyclist wearing a bicycle messenger's backpack.

The 4¼" x 6" cards are printed in brown (background), black (athletes), and chrome yellow (visual image). The reverse is the same on all four cards, featuring the bid motto, "We've Been Training For This Forever." Wall displays or carousels of these free cards are often seen in retail shops, bars and other public places.



REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS

by Mark Maestrone

Esprit: Sports et Olimpisme **October 2002 (#25)** **December 2002 (#26)**

The October issue of the AFCOS (French) journal introduces color for the first time with 20 of the 24 pages printed on a color photo-copier. This lends additional interest to articles on "Waldi," the striped dachshund mascot of the 1972 Munich Games (Christophe Ait-Braham), and rugby at the early Olympics of 1900 and 1924 (René Christin). Also included in this issue: a retrospective of the World Cup (Jean-Yves Guillain), and conserving national treasures (René Geslin).

The December issue returns to all black & white printing. Featured are an article on Bjorn Borg (which also appears in English in this issue of *JSP*) by Pascal Bedenes, French rugby philately (Dominique Didier), and a look at the meters of the national and regional offices of the French national Olympic committee (René Christin).

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

Filabasket Review **December 2002 (#9)**

This English-language journal devoted to basketball philately opens with a review by Mauro Gilardi of "European tournaments for Women's Club Teams." Included are the European Cup championships, Euroleague competitions, and the Ronchetti Cup. Pietro Vasconi and Pierre Lehoux team up to present "Netball – a typical team game for women but no longer so." This being the 9th issue of *Filabasket Review*, the ninth basketball stamp, issued in 1950, is featured in depth. Editor Luciano Calenda also provides a lengthy examination of basketball cancellations from the PRC. As with all issues, color pages are judiciously sprinkled throughout. If you collect basketball philately, you should be receiving this excellent journal!

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

IMOS Journal **September 2002 (#115)** **December 2002 (#116)**

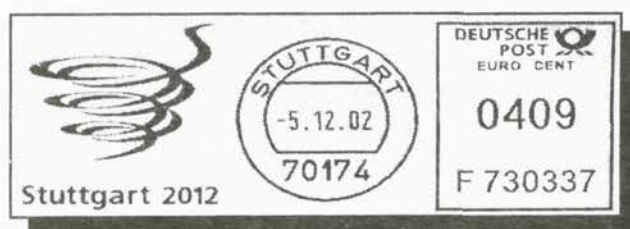
The September issue of the *IMOS Journal* from our German sister society arrived with the handsome meter in blue (shown at bottom) publicizing Stuttgart's 2012 Olympic Games bid. This is the first legitimate postal item I've seen promoting an applicant city.

In addition to the customary supplement with news of the society and sports/Olympic philately in Germany, a special 84-page volume produced on the occasion of the 2002 IMOS Congress at Rostock is included.

While the subject matter of the articles ranges widely, there is a common thread as the focus is always on the Mecklenburg region of Germany (where Rostock is located). Volker Kluge looks at Olympic equestrian champions from Mecklenburg. The sport of motorcycle racing – specifically the Bergring track at Teterow – is examined by Christian Kunz. Dieter Germann reviews the work of gymnastics pioneer, F.L. Jahn, at Mecklenburg, while our own Thomas Lippert provides an extensive overview of that region's successes at the Olympics, with a special focus on Rostock's involvement, dating back to 1956. Lastly, Wolfgang Marx reviews Mecklenburg's Olympians.

December's issue concentrates on updating the various catalogues and listings of sports and Olympic stamps, postal stationery, cancels, and meters. For collectors of Olympilex philately, the Seoul 1988 edition is reviewed. Lastly, an update of Torino 2006 news and collectibles is provided.

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



Phila-Sport
July-Sept. 2002 (#43)
Oct.-Dec. 2002 (#44)

July's issue of the Italian-language journal of UICOS provides a wide array of articles on sports and Olympics. Riccardo Belli contributes an essay on "The Joys of Thematics", while Alvaro Trucchi discusses "Ukraine at the Olympic Games." Additional pieces touch on San Marino's meters honoring the 2001 Games of the Small States of Europe; Valeriano Genovese provides brief biographies of tennis greats, Rod Laver and Goran Ivanisevic; Maurizio Tecardi reviews the PHILAKOREA 2002 exhibition; and Massimo Menzio updates readers on the progress of Turin's 2006 Olympics venues.

Included with this issue were various supplements: the latest society auction, a second addenda to Alvaro Trucchi's "Olympic Medalists" catalog (summer Olympics, only), plus Volume 3 of that same catalog (Atlanta 1996). For those that aren't familiar with this series, Trucchi lists every Olympic medalist commemorated on a stamp, cancel or postal stationery item. He organizes his catalogs chronologically by Games (Volume 1: 1896-1988; Volume 2: 1992), then alphabetically by sport (in Italian) and athlete's name. Every item is pictured in black & white. The original catalog costs €13 (I assume it includes the 2 addenda), while Volumes 2 and 3 are each €5. Postage outside of Europe is €4.80 surface/€10.80 airmail for Volume 1; €3.10 surface/€4.90 airmail each for Volumes 2 and 3. For more information, write UICOS (address at bottom).

Issue 44 is devoted primarily to the 2002 World Cup. Mauro Gilardi opens with an extensive article on the philately of this quadrennial event. Gilardi discusses and illustrates not only the stamps and cancels of the dual host nations (Japan and South Korea), but also the emissions of other nations. A second article on the same subject by Park Jeong-kye concentrates on the issues of South Korea (duplicating some of what is discussed by Gilardi). A shorter article in this issue covers the 2002 U.S. stamp honoring Olympic swimmer and father of surfing, Duke Kahanamoku.

A supplement was included with this issue as well: "Catalog of Meter Imprints of the Olympic Winter Games" by Alvaro Trucchi. This 180-page softbound reference lists and illustrates every meter imprint with a publicity die hub having to do with an Olympic Winter Games. The catalog, which

covers the period from 1924 - 2002, is organized chronologically by Games, then alphabetically by nation (host nation first). Beginning with the 1992 Games, Trucchi separates candidate cities' meters, listing those first. A special section at the end lists meters honoring Olympic Winter Games medalists.

This publication was jointly sponsored by UICOS and AICAM (the Italian Association of Meter Collectors). For ordering information, contact either UICOS (below), or AICAM (www.aicam.org).

Contact: UICOS, CP 14327 Roma Trullo - via Lenin, 00149 Rome, Italy.

Torch Bearer
November 2002 (Vol. 19, #4)

The November issue of *Torch Bearer* begins on a somber note with a touching eulogy to Francesca Rapkin by John Osbourne, first secretary of the Society of Collectors which Francesca was instrumental in setting up.

Jean-Pierre Caravan provides an amusing and informative insiders' look at the Salt Lake City Olympics. Jean-Pierre served as a volunteer at the Olympic Village as he did at Atlanta and hopes to do again in Athens. Keeping on the Salt Lake theme, Thomas Lippert contributes an interesting review of Olympic airmail for those Games beginning with the torch relay from Greece. Looking ahead, Masao Ichimura supplies a variety of postmarks devoted to the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Constantinos Varotsis explains the artistic and cultural background that went into the development of the mascots, Athena and Phevos, of the Athens 2004 Games. Lastly, the U.S. Duke Kahanamoku stamp of 2002 is featured along with the many first day covers produced in his honor.

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

SPI Rapid Notification Service

Do you collect new U.S. sport and Olympic commemorative postmarks? If so, then you need to take advantage of SPI's Rapid Notification Service. For more information send a self-addressed stamped envelope to William E. Fraleigh, 5 Rose Hill Farm, Red Hook, NY 12571-9418, U.S.A.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Margaret Jones

New Members

2218 Loic Marchat, 7 Rue Dediev, F-69100 Villeurbanne, France. Mr. Marchat is a secretary.
Meters; Postmarks. topicals@fcsport.com

2219 Alexandr Sokurenko, Str. Radugnaya 65-121, 02218 Kyiv, Ukraine.

RENEWED MEMBERS

1622 G.R. John Loaring
2133 Hideo Hioki
2199 Susan M. Haack, haackster@earthlink.net
2209 Walter Hoving

ADDRESS CHANGES

Jim McDevitt, 955 South Grove Blvd., Camden Point 65, Kingsland, GA 31548-5263.
Ing. Jaroslav Petrsek, Zborovska 1025, 282 23 Cesky Brod, Czech Republic.
Alan Polsky, 911 16th Street, Unit #2, Santa Monica, CA 90403 USA. olyarp@aol.com
Bill Stahl, 7260 West 28th Avenue, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033-8034.

Dropped: 36.

Total Membership, December 31, 2002 = 279

Exhibit Awards

BALPEX (Hunt Valley, Maryland). Justin Maisel received youth bronze for "Sports Illustrated on Stamps."

MILCOPEX (Milwaukee, Wisconsin). Patricia Loehr won bronze for "The Wonderful World of Golf Meter Stamps."

NAPEX (Washington, D.C.). Edward Tricomi received grand award for "Playing Card Revenues"; Charles J. Ekstrom obtained gold and American Revenue Association gold for "Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamps."

ROCKY MOUNTAIN STAMP SHOW (Aurora, Colorado). David R. Torre was awarded gold and ARA gold for "U.S. Fish and Game Stamps – 1960-1979"; Maurice E. Pautz won a single-frame bronze for "XIX Winter Olympiad – Salt Lake City 2002."

STAMPSHOW (Atlantic City, New Jersey). Jeffrey F. Bishop obtained silver for "The Politics Behind the Summer Games 1896-1956"; Edward Tricomi received silver for "Playing Cards"; Cheryl Ganz won a single-frame vermeil for "Ballooning: Higher, Farther, But Not Necessarily Faster."

From the Webmaster

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Worldwide soccer covers (commercial and FDCs) to sell or exchange

Charlie Covell
2333 Brighton Dr.,
Louisville, KY 40205-3023 USA
email: covell@louisville.edu

POSTAL STATIONERY CORNER

by Glenn Estus

As mentioned in previous columns, the Eastern European countries have a long tradition of printing postal stationery with topical subjects. Romania is no exception.

In February 1980, the Romanian Olympic team participated in the Olympic Winter Games held at Lake Placid, New York, USA. Romania was one of 37 nations which together sent a total of 1,072 athletes (233 women and 839 men) to compete in 38 events. Unfortunately, no Romanian athlete reached the medal level.

However, Romania did have a full postal program honoring the Lake Placid Olympic Winter Games. It issued six postage stamps (Scott #2626-31; Michel 3666-71) and two souvenir sheets (Sc. #2932 and the other unlisted; Mi BL 164-5). Each of the stamp designs is also reproduced on a postal envelope (Figure 1). A hockey player (envelope code #68), bobsled team (#69), downhill skier (#70), speed skater (#71), female figure skater (#72), and biathlete (#73) are shown on the individual stamps and envelopes. The hockey player

OLIMPIADA DE IARNĂ 1980 – S.U.A.



OLIMPIADA DE IARNĂ 1980 – S.U.A.



OLIMPIADA DE IARNĂ 1980 – S.U.A.



OLIMPIADA DE IARNĂ 1980 – S.U.A.



OLIMPIADA DE IARNĂ 1980 – S.U.A.



OLIMPIADA DE IARNĂ 1980 – S.U.A.



Figure 1. Cachet portions of the six postal envelopes issued by Romania for the 1980 Winter Olympics.

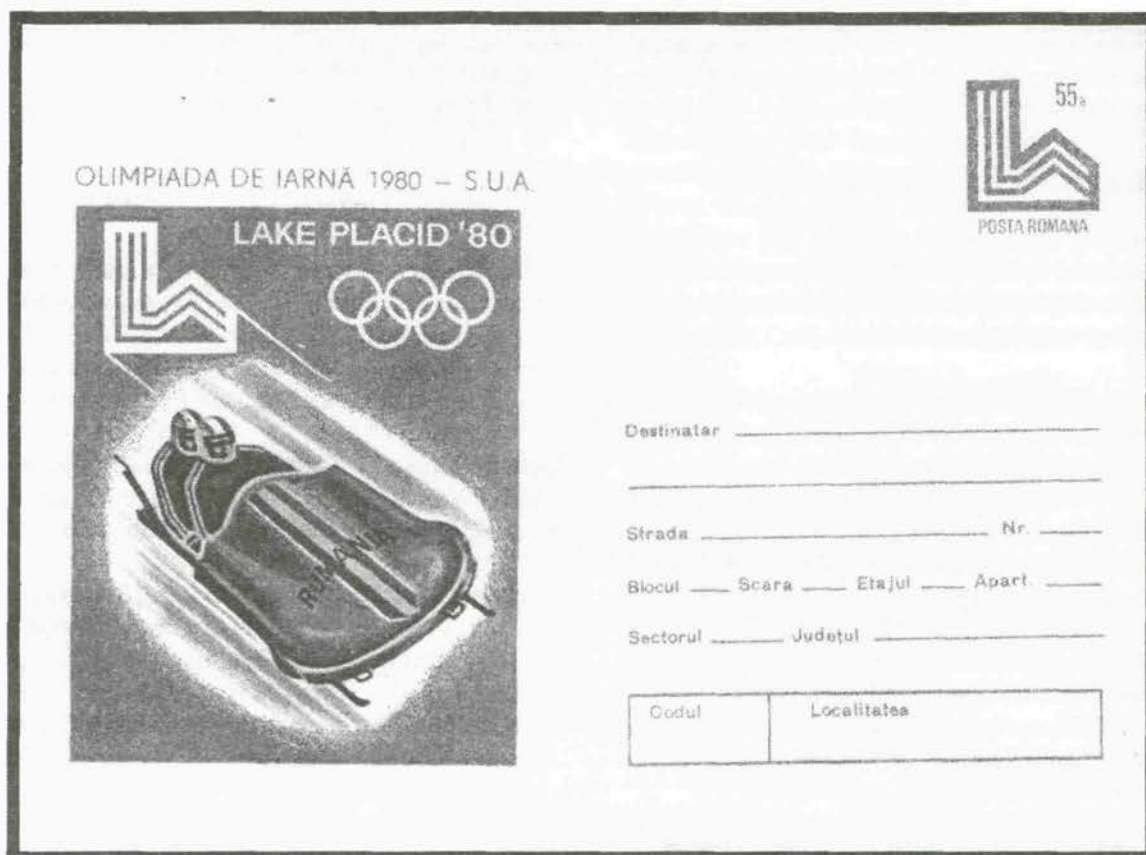


Figure 2. An example of the postal stationery envelope complete with the indicium depicting a modified version of the official Lake Placid Olympic Winter Games logo.

and bobsled designs are also reproduced on the two souvenir sheets.

The 55 bani postage imprint on each envelope shows a modified example of the Lake Placid games logo (Figure 3). According to the International Olympic Committee website, the chevrons on the right of the logo represent the Adirondack Mountains of northern New York State, the vertical lines at the left form an Ionic column reminiscent of Ancient Greece. On the official version of the logo

there are also two serrated half circles at the top of the vertical lines suggesting the bottom of the Olympics Rings as well as the fact that Lake Placid hosted the Olympic Winter Games twice: in 1932 and in 1980.

This set of postal envelopes must have been in demand. There were two printings of this issue (Figure 4). On the back of

the first printing is the printing code: "Cod 0069/80 Cd. 15005". This printing also has a gray security tinting inside the envelope. On the back of the second printing is the code "Cod 0069/81 Cd. 15001". On this printing the security tinting is pink. The impressions on the second printing seem to be finer, and the paper of better quality.

These items along with the rest of the author's Lake Placid collections will be displayed at a six-month exhibition of stamps honoring the Lake Placid Olympic Winter Games at the 1932 and 1980 Olympic Museum in Lake Placid beginning in January 2003.



Figure 3. Detail of the indicium used on all six postal stationery envelopes.



Cod 0069/80 Cd. 15005



Cod 0069/81 Cd. 15001

Figure 4. Codes on the reverse of the postal stationery envelopes identify the two printings: first (1980) at top, and second (1981) at bottom.

NEW STAMP ISSUES

by John La Porta

Aland: November 1, 2002. Janne Holmen, gold medalist, Eur. Track and Field Champ. Nondenom. 1st class stamp, Holmen running marathon.

Albania: June 1, 2002. World Cup Soccer. 20l, 30l, 90l, 120l symbolic designs. S/s with 360l stamp.

July 3, 2002. Famous Athletes. Three 50 lek stamps, Naim Kryezi, soccer player; Riza Lushta, soccer player; Ymer Pampuri, weightlifter. Souvenir sheet with 300 lek stamp, Loro Borici, soccer player.

Algeria: May 15, 2002. World Basketball Championships. 5d Earth as basketball, US flag.

Angola: June 28, 2002. World Cup Soccer. 35k & 37k soccer scenes, s/s contains the two stamps.

Argentina: September 28, 2002. Men's World Volleyball Championship. Four 75c stamps. Volleyball attack and blocks.

Australia: October 15, 2002. Champions of the Turf. Five 45c stamps showing horses inducted into Australia's Racing Hall of Fame in 2002. Wakeful; Rising Fast; Manikato: Might and Power; Sunline.

Azerbaijan: October 16, 2002. World Cup Soccer. Turkey wins bronze medal. Souvenir sheet with 5,000m stamp, illustration of Turkey's team.

Bhutan: September 16, 2002. World Cup Soccer. S/s of six 40nu: two stamps show stadiums; four stamps depict soccer. All stamps have trophy in background.

September 16, 2002. Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. Two 50nu stamps, skier in air; cross country skiing. One souvenir sheet contains the two stamps.

Bosnia Croatia: October 8, 2002. European Bowling Championships. 1.5m stamp, bowler in design.

Brazil: September 28, 2002. Famous Brazilians. 40c Adhemar Ferreira Da Silver, Olympic gold medalist in triple jump, 1952, 1956 Games.

Ecuador: 2002. South American Soccer Confederation. 25c Nicolas Leoz confederation president; 40c, emblem, soccer players; 70c, Emelec team emblem.

2002. Cuenca Soccer Team. Se-tenant pair of 25c stamps showing team photo, player and emblem.

French Polynesia: October 21, 2002. Surfing in Polynesia - Taapuna Master. 120f, symbolic surfer.

Ghana: August 15, 2002. Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. Two 7,000c stamps, freestyle skiing and ice skating. One s/s containing the two stamps.

Greece: March 15, 2002. Athens 2004 Summer Olympic Games. Five stamps showing ancient Olympians. 0.41e, runners; 0.59e, chariot race; 0.80e, javelin thrower; 2.05e, Doryphoros of Polycleitos; 2.35e, weightlifter. Souvenir sheet with one 5.00e stamp showing stadium archway.

Grenada: September 23, 2002. Popeye and Friends Playing Soccer. A pane of four se-tenant \$2 stamps. Sweet Pea; Jeep; Popeye; Brutus. Two souvenir sheet each with \$6 stamp, Popeye and Brutus.

Hong Kong: October 14, 2002. Definitive Issue with sport themes. \$3 sailboats; a souvenir sheet containing the \$3 stamp with other values; one booklet contains 10 of the \$3 stamp; a prestige booklet contains a s/s with 10c through \$5 denominations.

Israel: November 26, 2002. Philately Day - Children's Games. Four 2.20s stamps, spinning top; yo-yo; five stones; marbles.

Ivory Coast: June 6, 2002. World Cup Soccer. 180fr+20fr; 300fr+20fr; 400fr+20fr; 600fr+20fr circular stamps depicting soccer balls and emblem. Booklet containing 10 each of 400fr+20fr stamp.

Japan: July 23, 2002. Letter Writing Day. Two sports stamps from a set of ten: 80y, Boy with soccer ball; 80y, girl with tennis racket and ball.

South Korea: September 28, 2002. 14th Busan Asian Games. 190w stamp depicting a stadium, runner diver. S/s contains two of the same stamp.

October 26, 2002. 14th Busan Asian Games. 190w wings symbolizing harmony and flight.

Kyrgyzstan: August 28, 2002. History of Summer Olympic Games. 4 s/s with six se-tenant stamps: athletes, stamp on stamps designs, and three labels.

Liberia: August 26, 2002. 100th Anniversary of the Teddy Bear. One \$35 stamp in sheet of four depicting Teddy Bear as a race car driver.

Maldives: November 12, 2002. World Cup Soccer. Two panes of six 7rf stamps. Pane 1: South Korea - Turkey match. Pane 2: Germany-Brazil match. Four souvenir sheets each with two 15rf stamps.

November 18, 2002. 100th Anniversary of Teddy Bear. Three s/s each with a 30rf stamps showing a sporty bear; golfer; snow boarder; soccer player.

Mongolia: April 1, 2001. Mongolian Mountaineers in the Himalayas. Souvenir sheet with se-tenant pair of 400t stamps, mountaineer, mountain.

September 1, 2001. Children and Sports. Three se-tenant 500t stamps showing animals, baseball, chess, bicycling. Pane of nine se-tenant stamps: 100t, riding horses; 150t, soccer; 200t, riding horses; 250t, golf; 300t, riding horses; 350t, ice hockey; 400t, riding horses; 450t, soccer; 500t, riding horses. Deluxe s/s for each value with different borders.

May 31, 2002. World Cup Soccer. Two 300t stamps: stadiums in Seoul and Yokohama; two 400t stamps: 1966 English team and 1998 French team.

New Zealand: October 2, 2002. Leading the Waves-Boats. 40¢, KZ1; 80¢, High 5; 90¢, Gentle Spirit; \$1.50, Oceanrunner; \$2, Salperton. Souvenir sheet containing the five stamps.

October 4, 2002. Stampshow Melbourne 2002. S/s with \$1.30, \$1.50 and \$2 American's Cup stamps.

Paraguay: July 19, 2002. Brazil's Soccer Cup Win. Overprinted on 3,000g World Cup Soccer stamp issued May 18, 2002.

July 24, 2002. 100th Anniversary of Olimpia Soccer Cup of Asuncion. 700g players with 1990 Soccer Cup Trophy.

Qatar: September 29, 2002. Asian Games. Souvenir sheet with two stamps 1r and 3r symbolic designs.

St. Vincent: November 4, 2002. Semifinals Matches of 2002 World Cup Soccer Championship. Two panes of six se-tenant \$1.40 stamps. Pane 1: German-South Korea semifinal match; Ji Sung and Dietmar Hamann;

Miroslav Klose and Tae Young Kim; Chong Gug Sone and Christoph Metzelder; Tae Young Kim and Gerald Asamoah; Torsten Frings and Ji Sung Park; Oliver Neuville and Tae Young Kim; Pane 2: Brazil-Turkey semifinal match; Kleberson and Emre Belozoglu; Cafu; Robert Carlos; Yildray Basturk and Rivaldo; Tugay Kerimoglu and Rivaldo; Bulent. Four souvenir sheets each with two \$3 stamps. Sheet 1: Michael Ballack; Oliver Kahn. Sheet 2: Tae Young Kim; Du Ri Cha. Sheet 3: Ronaldo; Café. Sheet 4: Bulent; Yildray Basturk.

South Africa: September 23, 2002. International Cricket Council Cricket World Cup. Two non-denominated stamps, different scenes of Dazzler, the zebra mascot playing cricket.

November 1, 2002. International Cricket Council Cricket World Cup. Two non-denominated stamps, scenes of Dazzler the zebra mascot playing cricket.

December 21, 2002. International Cricket Council Cricket World Cup. Two non-denominated stamps, scenes of Dazzler the zebra mascot playing cricket.

Spain: November 17, 2002. Espana 2002 World Youth Exhibition. Souvenir sheets with 0.75e stamp. Skier and another athlete representing sports, border shows volleyball, sports figures.

Sri Lanka: August 8, 2002. 14th Asian Games. 4.50re, discus thrower; 16.50re, runner; 23re, hurdler; 26re, long jumper.

Switzerland: November 19, 2002. International Ski Federation Alpine World Ski Championships. 90c, skier.

Tajikistan: October 2002. Year of the Horse. Eight se-tenant stamps: 2d, thoroughbred racing; 3d, harness racing; two 50d, dressage, fox hunting; two 95d, troika, polo; two 1s, steeple chase, show jumping.

Turkey: July 29, 2002. Turkey Wins Bronze Medal at World Soccer Championship. 400,000l soccer; 700,000l team photo.

Uzbekistan: July 26, 2002. National Sports. 45s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 85s various horse sports; 90s, wrestling; 145s, people on horses. 175s s/s, horse and rider.

Yemen: May 31, 2002. World Cup Soccer. 30r; 70r; 100r; 120r various soccer scenes. S/s of two 160r circular stamps: soccer ball and trophy.

Yugoslavia: September 20, 2002. World Basketball Championship. 30d s/s, basketball with world map.

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP CANCELS

by Mark Maestroni

THE NUMBERING SYSTEM

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

SPORTS CROSS INDEX NOVEMBER 2002 - FEBRUARY 2003

Baseball: 02X05-604, 02X19-928,
02X27-928, 03116-730.
Football: 02Z06-212, 03126-921.
Hunting: 02Y30-367.
Olympics, Winter: 03222-129.
Snowboarding: 03215-054.



Professional Baseball
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02X05-604 Joliet, IL

5



02X19-928 Anaheim, CA

19



02X27-928 Anaheim, CA

27



02Y30-367 Pine Apple, AL

30



02Z06-212 Baltimore, MD

6



03116-730 Guthrie, OK

16



03126-921 San Diego, CA

26



03215-054 Burlington, VT

15



03222-129 Lake Placid, NY

22



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The Radisson at LAX is the closest hotel to Los Angeles International Airport, with shuttle busses running every ten minutes. See the location map on the SESCAL Web site.

Check the SESCAL Web site for the latest information about the show, including hotel reservation information, dealer lists, meeting schedules, etc. All this and more will be posted there as soon as it becomes available. SESCAL General Chairman: Wallace Craig, P.O. Box 3391, Fullerton, CA 92834-3391; e-mail: wamcraig@aol.com.

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