

JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

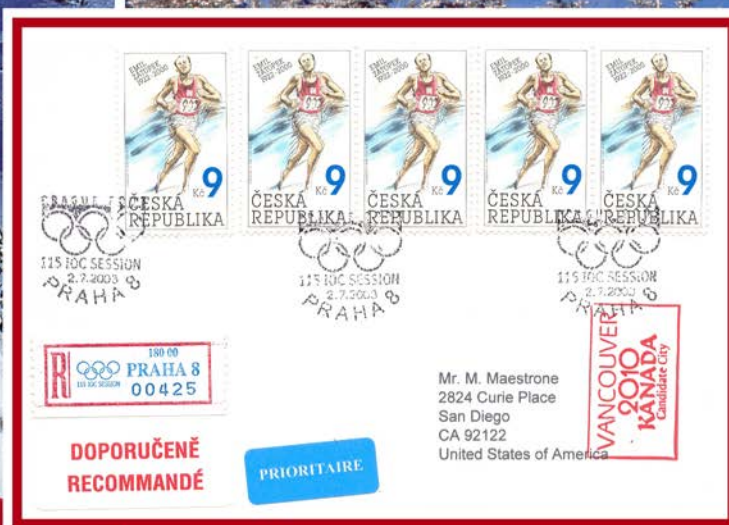
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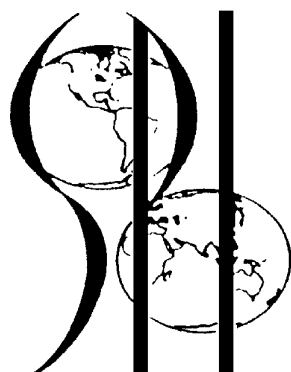


THE SEA TO SKY GAMES



OLYMPIANS WHISTLIN' TO VANCOUVER IN 2010

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2010 OLYMPICS

3

CYCLING

8

2003 WINTER UNIVERSIADE

10

BASEBALL

17

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

6TH SPI CONVENTION AT SESCAL 2003

The time is fast approaching for our next convention at SESCAL 2003 in Los Angeles. Looks as though we have an interesting display of Olympic and sports exhibits, many of them new or nearly so. SESCAL always has some good dealers at the bourse ready, willing and able to fill those holes in your collection.

As is customary, we will have an SPI Table which will need to be manned during show hours on Friday Oct. 3 (10 a.m. - 6 p.m.), Saturday Oct. 4 (10 a.m. - 6 p.m.) and Sunday Oct. 5 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.). A number of you have already volunteered. For the rest, we hope you'll drop by the table and sign up for a time slot. An hour of your time will be greatly appreciated and give your feet and fingers a rest from looking at exhibits or rifling through dealers boxes!

Special show hotel rates at the Radisson at LAX are still available: \$89 per night, single or double occupancy. Further details are on the inside back cover of *JSP*.

If you'd like to make a presentation at the SPI meeting, please let me (your President) know ASAP!

SPI SURVEY

The SPI Survey we circulated with the Summer issue of our journal was well received with some 52 members returning it with their suggestions. That's over 18%! We are compiling and analyzing your responses with a view toward implementing as many as we can.

CHALLENGE AUCTION

Members will notice that included with this issue are TWO auctions: one, our traditional auction and the other our special "Challenge Auction" where all proceeds go to benefit the *your* society. Bid generously!

For those that have not contributed an item or items for the Challenge Auction, don't worry. The auction will be an on-going feature with a frequency dependent on number of lots received.

Mail your item(s), along with a lot description and minimum bid to our auction manager, Dale Lilljedahl, PO Box 543125, Dallas, TX 75354. And don't forget to mark your package "Challenge Auction"! Remember: SPI is a non-profit organization so your donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. All contributions will be acknowledged.

37TH WORLD GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS CANCELS

Late word that two cancels are available for the World Gymnastics Championships now in full swing in Anaheim. The cancels are available for up to 30 days after the date from: World Gymnastics Championships Station, 701 N. Loara St., Anaheim, CA 92803-9998. The men's cancel is available for the dates of August 16, 17, 19, 21, and 23. The women's cancel is for August 18, 20, 22, and 24.

There will be a full report on this in the Winter issue of *JSP*.

See you in Los Angeles!

The NEW and improved SPI web site is located at:

<http://www.sportstamps.org>

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SPORTS TOPICAL CHECKLISTS WANTED



I have volunteered to help the American Topical Association (ATA) update their sports checklists. These sports topical lists are also available to SPI members. Available checklists may be viewed on the ATA checklist page at the SPI web site: www.sportstamps.org

Minimum information needed: country and catalogue number for each item. Please state the catalogue used (i.e., Scott, Michel, etc.), and if available the date of issue and purpose.

Information for new sport topical lists, as well as the current lists, are welcome. Paper copy or Excel, Word, text file formats are encouraged. I will try to convert other formats if necessary. In addition to topical checklists, volunteers are needed to help compile these lists. Please send your name, street and e-mail address if you have one, and topical(s) on which you prefer to work. Send checklists and/or volunteer information to:

Margaret A. Jones
5310 Lindenwood Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63109-1758

email: docj3@sportstamps.org



Figure 1. Vancouver 2010 bid committee cover mailed to the author on July 2, 2003 – “Decision Day” – franked with the committee’s red meter (Pitney Bowes #1554452) and over-cancelled with a Canada Post machine cancel later that same day.

Olympians Will Be “Whistlin’ ” In Vancouver In 2010

by Mark Maestrone

Ask anyone. When it comes to betting on winners I'm hopeless, which is why I stay out of office football pools and Las Vegas casinos. So who'd have thought that my Vancouver-Whistler pick for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games would actually finish in the money!

THE PRAGUE DECISION

The fact of the matter is, the combined Vancouver-Whistler bid quite nearly lost in the very first round of voting at the 115th IOC Session in Prague, Czech Republic on July 2, 2003 (Figures 1 & 2). With a clear majority of the 107 voting members needed to win, Pyeongchang, South Korea was just three shy with 51 votes. Vancouver was second garnering 40 votes, and Salzburg (Figure 2), sadly, carried just 16 (and was thus eliminated from the next round).

In the second (final) round, 109 members voted. Salzburg's supporters clearly threw their votes to the Vancouver bid giving the Canadians a two-vote majority of 56 to Pyeongchang's 53. Informed

opinion suggests that one reason Salzburg's "loose" votes went to Vancouver was to improve the chances for 2012 bid cities in Europe (currently Paris, London, Moscow, Madrid and Leipzig, Germany). A Vancouver Games in 2010 might weaken New York's bid in 2012 as the IOC tends not to award consecutive Games to nations on the same continent.

Whatever the reason, the Canadian delegation to Prague was thrilled with the outcome. Jack Poole, Chairman and CEO of the Vancouver 2010 Bid Corporation: “One of the secrets of Canada’s success was the partnership that was formed. From our government partners, First Nations [Canada’s Native Indian tribes], the Canadian Olympic Committee and the Paralympic Committee together we were able to put a winning bid together.”

Back at home, Canadian supporters, along with members of the bid corporation and media, gathered at a downtown indoor stadium for the early morning announcement. At news of the victory, carried live from Prague on the Jumbotron, Canadians, many with red and white maple leaves painted on their faces, let out a collective whoop of joy punctuated with an indoor fireworks display.



Figure 3. Postal card issued for the 115th IOC Session in Prague. The stamp imprint honors the first Czech gold medalist, Bedřich Šupčík.

115TH IOC SESSION PHILATELY

Česká Pošta, the postal administration of the Czech Republic, was well-prepared for the IOC Session, the first to take place in Prague since the 79th Session in 1977.

On June 25, 2003, a special postal stationery card was issued imprinted with a postage stamp bearing the portrait of Bedřich Šupčík, winner of Czechoslovakia's first gold medal – in gymnastics – at the 1924 Paris Olympic Games (Figure 3). A total of 14,000 postal cards were issued. Denominated at 9 Kč, they sold for 14 Kč. The card is valid for either domestic or international postage.

It has become traditional for rubber handstamped cachets honoring each of the candidate cities to be available. The Pyeongchang, Korea cachet was in black, Salzburg, Austria in green, and Vancouver, Canada in red. (Figure 4).

SALZBURG
2010
AUSTRIA
Candidate City

VANCOUVER
2010
KANADA
Candidate City



Figure 4. Postal card with special registration label for the IOC Session, IOC Session cancel, and Pyeongchang cachet in black. The Salzburg and Vancouver cachets are reproduced at top. All three were by Olymport.

Česká Pošta also offered an elegant registration label customized with the Olympic rings over the text “115 IOC SESSION” (Figure 4). As is customary, the “R” and box are in red. The remainder of the printing is in blue. A total of 2000 labels were printed. Of those, roughly 1600-1700 were applied at the IOC hotel where the temporary post office was set up. Remaining labels were used at the Prague 8 post office after July 4.

The post office also provided a special commemorative hand cancel in black depicting the session logo (Figure 4). The cancel was used July 1-4 from the “Praha 8” post office.



Figure 5. IOC Session commemorative meter in red from the headquarters in Lausanne and a handstamped cachet in violet announcing the “proclamation of the Olympic city” for 2010 on July 2, 2003.

The cancels were steel, however the means of application varied. When applied by hand, the cancels appear lighter and less evenly inked. The post office also operated a small press that yielded very crisp, clear imprints of the cancel (Figure 4).

The IOC Headquarters in Lausanne had prepared a special die for their meter machine announcing the IOC Session (Figure 5). In addition, a violet rectangular handcancel was created to publicize the most anticipated item on the Session’s agenda: the “Proclamation of the Olympic City” for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

Following the IOC’s announcement of its choice, the Czech post office in Prague began using a special meter honoring Vancouver’s selection. This meter was in use for only two days: July 3 and 4. Figure 6 shows a semi-private cacheted postal card (600 were printed) produced by Olympsport with approval of Česká Pošta bearing the meter and the special candidate city cachet in red.

VANCOUVER CELEBRATES

On July 11, just nine days after Vancouver’s victory, Canada Post paid tribute to the winning city by placing on sale a specially printed stamp and stamp booklet (Figures 7 & 8).

The 48¢ Canadian Flag stamp was reprinted by Canada Post with the words “Vancouver2010” in red added to the lower right corner of the design.



Figure 6. Olympsport cacheted postal stationery with Prague 8 post office meter in red celebrating Vancouver’s victory. The Vancouver candidate city cachet in red appears at bottom.



Figure 7. The 48¢ Canadian flag stamp reprinted to include the text “Vancouver 2010” in the lower right corner. Stamp is self-adhesive.

Technically speaking, these are not overprints since an entirely new printing was made with the new text added directly to the printing plate. These “Flag over Canada Post Building” definitives were first issued January 2, 2002.

Like the original version, these self-adhesive Flag stamps were enclosed in booklets of 30 (10 rows of 3 stamps) with a single design on the cover. The booklets were designed to be sold either as a single unit, or split up into smaller booklets of 10 stamps. For this reason, the booklet covers were printed with the same red text in three places corresponding to the lower left corner of each booklet of 10.

According to Canada Post, there was no first day. The stamps were released in British Columbia on July 11, then nationwide on July 14. Of the total printing of 300,000 booklets of 10 (3 million stamps total), 60% (100,000 booklets) went to post offices in British Columbia, 7,000 to the National Philatelic Center for sale to collectors, and the remainder to major post offices across Canada.

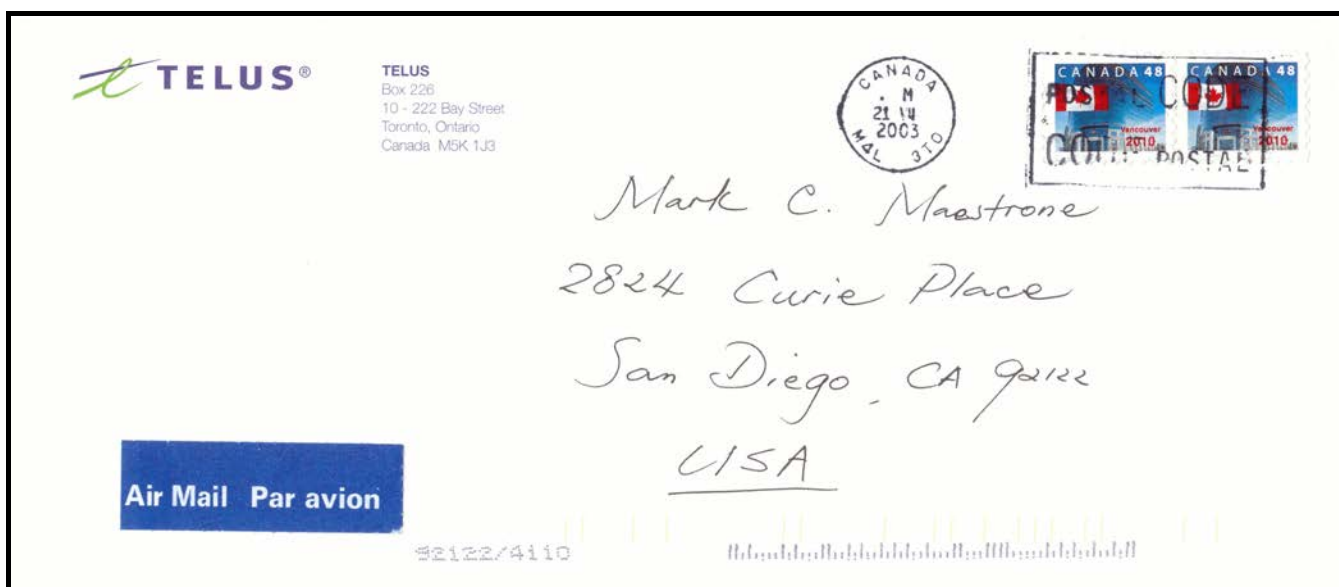
Since the sale of the stamps began, there have been reports of plate varieties consisting of a single dot of color, either red or blue, in the margin of the



Figure 8. Booklet of 30 Canadian Flag stamps reprinted with “Vancouver 2010”. Booklet can be split into 3 booklets of 10.

stamps (thanks to Paul Tissington for the report). To date, three varieties have been spotted:

- A. Red dot in the middle of the right margin on stamp 1/3 (row 1, column 3).
- B. Blue dot in the bottom margin below and just to the left of the “2” in “2010” on stamp 1/3.
- C. Blue dot in the top margin just above the last “A” in “Canada” on stamp 2/3. ☹



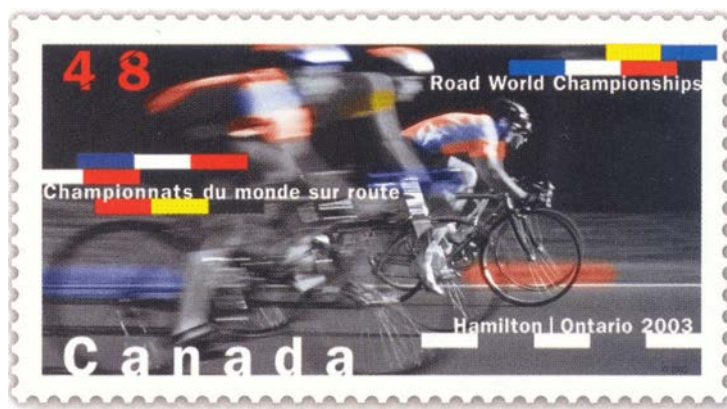
The new “Vancouver 2010” stamps on a Telus business envelope. Telus was the first Premier Founding Supporter of the Vancouver-Whistler 2010 Bid.

Canada Commemorates Cycling Championships

by Paul Tissington

An attractive stamp design featuring speeding cyclists has been revealed by Canada Post to commemorate the 2003 Road World Cycling Championships in Hamilton, Ontario, October 6-12, 2003 (above). The 48-cent domestic rate stamp will be issued in a booklet-of-eight format on September 10, along with a First Day Cover bearing a Hamilton cancellation. Four million stamps will be printed.

According to an article in Canada Post's *Details* magazine (Volume XII, #3, July - September 2003), the challenge for designer Doreen Colonello was "to capture the essence and the spirit of a cycling race, a combination of concentration, focus, speed, competition and internationalism." She explains that the "international spirit of the Road World Championships was achieved through the multicolored bands in the flags for the various nations participating in the event. Through the use of a blurred image, a dynamic feeling of competition and speed is created and global quality is conveyed by the design, since gender, race and age are not specified. The tight cropping on the image emphasizes the energy and immediacy of a racing competition."



It will be the first time "Hamilton, Ontario" has been printed on a Canadian stamp. Daily stamp cancellation events are being planned for collectors during the race. In addition to the stamp, Canada Post has announced plans to sell a variety of souvenirs showing the stamp image, including T-shirts, playing cards and a pre-paid postcard.

Mario Cipollini of Italy won the men's elite race at the 2002 Road World Championships held at Zolder, Belgium (Figure 1). The world championships were first held in Nürburgring, Germany in 1927 and there have been 67 championships since then. The event has been contested outside of Europe four times – the last time was in Colombia in 1995. Canada previously hosted the championships in Montreal in 1974 and an 8-cent domestic rate stamp, showing a portion of a bicycle wheel, was issued by Canada Post to commemorate the event (Figure 2).

San Marino is the first country known to have issued a stamp commemorating the Hamilton cycling championships. On June 7 it released 130,000, two-stamp souvenir sheets honoring the Tour de France and the races in Hamilton (Figure 3).

800 RACERS

About 800 men and women from more than 50 countries will compete in ten races during the week-long Hamilton event. Distances range from 15.4 km to 260.4 km. There are five categories of racers: Women Junior, Men Junior, Women Elite, Men Under 23, and Men Elite; and two events: Individual Time Trial and Road Races. The course leads up the Niagara Escarpment and through downtown Hamilton.

In late June the City hosted the three-day Canadian Cycling Championships to iron out "bugs" in preparation for the world event. There were the inevitable traffic and parking problems and an extra



Figure 1. Belgium hosted the last Road World Championships in 2002.



Figure 2. Canada played host to the 1974 World Cycling Championships in Montreal.

1,000 parking spots are being organized for people in some neighborhoods who will have no vehicle access during the week. All schools will be closed during race week and some businesses on the course are also planning to close.

The City of Hamilton, with a population of about 500,000 is located about a one-hour drive west of Toronto while Niagara Falls is slightly less than a one-hour drive eastward. The City has a strong tradition of hosting world championship sporting events – everything from judo to sailing and, of course, ice hockey. The first Commonwealth Games, then known as the British Empire Games, were held in Hamilton in 1930 and the City is bidding (against New Delhi, India) to host the 2010 Commonwealth Games, with a decision expected in mid-November this year. The Canadian Open Golf Championship, a PGA Tour event, returns to the Hamilton Golf and Country Club this September for the third time. The first was in 1919 and the second in 1930 (won by Tommy Armour of the United States).

CANADA'S CHAMPS

While cycling ranks well behind ice hockey in popularity, Canada has produced many top racers including Torchy Peden, Jocelyn Lovell, Steve Bauer and Curt Harnett. One of the most remarkable Canadian athletes, Clara Hughes, won two bronze medals in cycling at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta and a bronze medal in speed skating at the 2002 Winter Olympics at Salt Lake City. Hughes also won a gold medal in cycling at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, England.

Cycling is the third most popular recreational activity in Canada with an estimated 18 million active participants and the number of racers is growing each year. There are 450 organized cycling clubs and more than 800 organized cycling events held annually, including road, track, mountain bike and touring events. There are more than 7,000 licensed racers in Canada, some of whom have earned international honors, including four silver Olympic medals, four bronze Olympic medals and four World Championship titles.

Cycling fans with internet access can learn more about the Hamilton Championships at: www.hamilton2003.com



Figure 3. San Marino honored both major cycling competitions in 2003 – the Tour de France and the Road World Cycling Championships – with a handsome souvenir sheet of two round stamps.



2003 Winter Universiade Tarvisio, Italy

by Luciano Calenda

Finally, Tarvisio 2003 has arrived! After Turin '66, Livigno '75 and Belluno Nevegal '88, the worldwide Winter University Games, also known as Universiade, returned to Italy from January 16-26, 2003. For those of you that missed the opportunity of enjoying the competition, you don't have long to wait for them to take place once again in Italy. Following the 2005 competition in Austria, Turin will host the Games in 2007. This sixth Italian edition of the Winter Universiade occurs just one year after Turin's 2006 Olympic Winter Games.

EXTENSIVE PHILATELIC PROGRAM

From a philatelic point of view the 2003 Winter Universiade was a great success for three reasons.

First, the stamp. In a last minute surprise, the Italian postal administration issued a single €0.52 stamp on January 16. The stamp's design is, perhaps, the best ever created for a Universiade (Figure 1).

Second, commemorative cancellations were in abundance: at least 31 ... and possibly more. Compare this to the runner-up, Sapporo, in 1991 which provided just 17 postmarks.



Stamp issued January 16 honoring the 2003 Winter Universiade at Tarvisio, Italy.

Third, the stamp exhibition. It was limited to collections covering the Universiade theme as well as winter sports in general. So many exhibits on these two themes had never before been seen in a single exhibition. The success of the exhibition was due to the efforts of the local stamp club, the Circolo Filatelico Tarvisiano, which worked tirelessly and with great enthusiasm to organize so important a philatelic event.

The 16 exhibits on view were the best on these two subjects that Europe had to offer. All visitors were impressed including FISU President, George E. Killian, an SPI-member and Universiade collector himself.

Now let's begin a presentation of the cancellations prepared by the Italian postal service beginning with the route of the Torch Relay, and then continuing with the sport and non-sport event cancels for the games.

PRE-GAMES CANCELLATIONS

The first cancel was used on January 3 on the occasion of the start of the Torch Relay in Rome in front of "La Sapienza," the Italian capital's leading university.



Cancel #1: the start of the Torch Relay at Rome's La Sapienza, shown on the stamp at right.



Postcard showing torch relay route and venues.

The Italian postal service printed a special card (not postal stationery) depicting a map of northern Italy highlighting, in yellow, the towns which hosted the “university torch” along its route: Rome, Viterbo, Siena, Pisa, Parma, Bologna, Pavia, Milan, Brescia, Verona, Padova, Venice, Trieste, Udine and Tarvisio. Not all prepared cancels, although Milan overdid it with seven different torch relay postmarks.

An inset map on the postcard identifies the towns where the various Universiade sports events took place: Piancavallo, Claut, Pontebba, Forni Avoltri, Ravascletto and Tarvisio.

The second cancel was used the same day (January 3) from Viterbo.

Next came Milan’s seven cancels, each naming a different local university. All were used only on January 9, 2003:

3. Milan University “Bicocca”
4. State University
5. “IULM” University
6. Polytechnic Institute
7. Catholic University
8. Sport University Centre
9. Luigi Bocconi University

The last two cancels in this pre-games period were from Trieste (#10) and Udine (#11), both on January 15. Note that the Viterbo, Milan CUS and Trieste cancels were the only one not depicting the mascot, Debbie.

Pre-Games Cancellations (Torch Relay & Exhibition)



First Day & Games Period Cancellations



FIRST DAY AND GAMES PERIOD CANCELLATIONS

Opening Day of the Universiade on January 16 coincided with the first day of issue of the games' stamp. In an unusual move, there were two first-day cities, Aviano (#12) and Tarvisio (#13).

Three more cancels were used on January 16:

- 14. Torch Relay Arrival, Tarvisio
- 15. Opening Ceremony, Tarvisio
- 16. Stamp Exhibition, Aviano (this exhibition was of only marginal importance).

Cancel #17, from the town of Claut on January 17, honors curling. This is the only sports cancel which does not include the mascot.

The remaining ten cancels, listed by date used:

January 18

- 18. Tarvisio, opening of the stamp exhibition
- 19. Tarvisio, special ski jump and nordic combined
- 20. Tarvisio, cross-country skiing
- 21. Aviano, snowboarding
- 22. Pontebba, ice hockey

January 19

- 23. Aviano, figure skating
- 24. Forni Avoltri, biathlon
- 25. Tarvisio, alpine skiing events

January 25

- 26. Aviano, short track speed skating

January 26

- 27. Tarvisio, closing ceremony

MACHINE CANCELLATIONS

Special machine cancels (right) advertising the Universiade were in use in four different towns beginning as early as August 5, 2002. Gaps during each range of days represent holidays or other days on which the cancels were not used:

- 28. Lignano Sabbiadoro, used 11 days between August 5 and 17, 2002
- 29. Udine, used 14 days between October 15 and 30, 2002; then another 12 days between December 16 and 31, 2002
- 30. Udine (Pontebba), used 17 days between November 25 and December 14, 2002
- 31. Pordenone, used 12 days between January 13 and 25, 2003

A collector wishing an example of each hand and machine cancel from each day they were available would end up with 93 total cancellations: 27 handcancels and 66 machine cancels. This far surpassed Zagreb's record of 47 cancels in 1987!

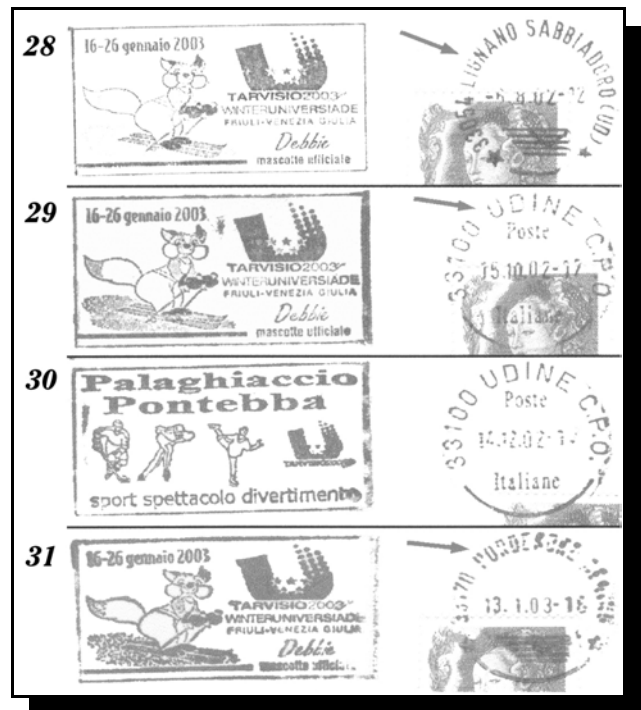
For those over-meticulous collectors (and who among us isn't one?) there is a final cancel to round out your 2003 Winter Universiade collection. On January 18, there was a Carving (Freestyle Moguls) contest which took place in the small town of Ravascletto/Zoncolan. While there was no special pictorial cancel for the event, there are cards cancelled with the normal post office postmark which documents the day.

That makes a grand total of 94 cancels! Which host country of a future Universiade will reach 100?

COMMEMORATIVE POSTCARDS

To complete this report about the Universiade,

Machine Cancellations



I would like to illustrate four commemorative postcards that were produced. The first was printed by the stamp exhibition organizing committee depicting the mascot, Debbie, engaging in the various Universiade sports (below). The other three cards were chosen the best of about 50 drawings submitted by children in elementary and primary schools in Tarvisio.



Those interested in getting the entire set of cancellations on either the official mascot card or the three children's art cards, contact the local stamp club. The approximate cost is US\$1.00 for each card with cancellation, or US\$0.50 for a mint card. Please contact the club before ordering to determine

availability and mailing costs (which are additional). The club's postal address is: Circolo Filatelico e Numismatico Tarvisiano, C.P. 106, 33018 Tarvisio, Italy. E-mail: montanarogiuseppe@libero.it



Figure 1. Postcard signed by three members of the German Olympic women's track & field team.

Participants at the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics

by Laurentz Jonker

Mail from Olympic participants is always interesting. In this article I will show three postcards with autographs of Olympic medalists.

POSTCARD "A"

The Olympic postcard shown in Figure 1 was #20 in a series of 121 postcards published by Weenenk & Snel in The Hague. Addressed to Leipzig, Germany, the card is franked with a pair of 5c yachting Olympic stamps and then postmarked with the Olympic pentagonal "N2" cancel from Amsterdam on 5. VIII. 1928. 10c was the correct postage rate for postcards mailed abroad.

August 5 was the final day of the Olympic athletics (track & field) competitions and featured relay races for both men and women as well as the women's high-jump and the marathon. More than likely, the German athletes who signed this card were at the Olympic Stadium as spectators rather than competitors. Their success at these Games varied. This was especially true for Mrs. A. Gerhardt (#1) for whom these Games left a rather bitter taste.

She was the alternate on the women's 4 x 100m relay for women. As an alternate, she never was afforded the opportunity to race and on this day she had to watch from the stands as her team received the bronze medal.

Grete Heublein (#2) was a finalist in the women's discus throw. She finished fifth behind the winner, Halina Konapacka of Poland.



Figure 2. The 1928 Olympic 800m race (left to right): Hitomi (Japan), Radke (Germany) Guyot (#119, France), Robinson (#604, Australia), and Pettersson (#871, Sweden). Weenenk & Snel postcard #81.



Figure 3. Commemorative cancel for Lina Radke and Japanese stamp honoring Kinue Hitomi.

The third autograph is of that of Karoline “Lina” Radke-Batschauer (#3), perhaps the most important female athlete on the German team. She was victorious in the 800m race over the Japanese athlete, Kinue Hitomi (Figures 2 and 3). The 1928 Olympics marked the debut of women’s participation in the track & field events. For years, many felt that races longer than 200 meters put too much of a strain on women. At the finish of the 800m, many women lay exhausted on the grass, lending ammunition to those with a wish to ban women from the athletics competitions altogether. In fact for 32 years – until the 1960 Rome Olympics – women were restricted to a ½ lap and no more. And now, women run the Marathon, a distance of over 42 km!

The fourth and final autograph belongs to either Jakob Schüller, sixth in the men’s 200m, or Julius Müller, who competed in the pole vault.



Figure 5. The victorious German Olympic water polo team with Erich Rademacher at front center. Weenk & Snel postcard #116.

POSTCARD “B”

Olympic postcard #0928 (Figure 4), published by Roukes & Erhart, traveled to Saarbrücken, Germany. It was correctly franked with a 10c red Queen Wilhelmina “Medaillon” stamp mailed at Zandvoort (The Netherlands) on 2. VIII. 1928.

The town of Zandvoort is a Dutch seaside resort that hosted the German Olympic team. Erich Rademacher, the goalkeeper of the German water polo team sent this card to Mrs. Linda Kolb. At the



Figure 4. Postcard featuring the autographs of the 1928 German Olympic gold medal winning water polo team.



Figure 6. Autographs of members of the German 1928 Olympic track & field team.

time the card was written, the German aquatic teams (swimming, diving & waterpolo) weren't as yet competing. Erich Rademacher was Germany's most famous breaststroke swimmer. At Amsterdam, he combined the 200m breaststroke with participation in the water polo matches. On August 8, 1928, Rademacher swam in the 200m breaststroke final coming in second behind Yoshiyuki Tsuruta of Japan.

The German water polo team beat the Hungarians in overtime (5-2) in the final match to win the gold on August 11, 1928 (Figure 5).

In addition to Erich Rademacher's autograph (#1) are those of members of the German water polo team: Joachim Rademacher (2), younger brother of Erich and also a very good long distance swimmer; Otto Cordes (#3); O. Kühne (#4); Emil Benecke (#5); and H. Protzke (#6). One or more additional autographs may be those of friends or coaches.

POSTCARD "C"

The final 1928 Olympic medalist postcard (Figure 6) is #12 published by Weenenk & Snel. The card bears a single copy of the Olympic 10c runner stamp

and is canceled by the special Olympic pentagonal cancel "N2" from Amsterdam, 31.7.1928. It was correctly franked for mailing to Nürnberg, Germany.

A number of German Olympic athletes autographed this card. The Olympic Athletics matches were held from 29 July till 5 August 1928.

The most well-known was Emil Hirschfeld (#1), third in the shot put on August 29. In later years Hirschfeld was one of the first successful coaches of East German teams.

Another name on the postcard is that of Wilhelm Uebler, 6th in the shot put. Other athletes who signed the card were: Joachim Büchner (#2), 3rd (bronze medal) in the 400m.; Josef Waitzer (#3), coach; H. Hoffmeister (#4), discus throw; Maria Dolliger (#5), 7th in the women's 800m; E. Huber (#6), 15th in the decathlon; and Richard Corts (#7), competed in the 100m and won a silver in the 4x100m relay. At the moment I haven't been able to decipher the other autographs, but they may be by friends or coaches.

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Official Olympic Report, Amsterdam 1928
Daily Olympic Program, Athletics, 29 July 1928
Daily Olympic Program, Aquatics, 11 August 1928
Olympia 1928, Reemtsma, Altona Bahrenfeld



Figure 1. RA55, the carmine baseball postal tax stamp of Nicaragua, used correctly on a domestic cover postmarked September 22, 1937.

The 1937 Nicaragua Baseball Postal Tax Stamps

by Norman Rushefsky

It has been over 50 years since anything substantial has been written about Nicaragua's baseball postal tax stamps. In researching the subject several articles from the 1930s and 1940s were consulted, but little was available in the way of illustrations. This article will incorporate subject matter from these previous articles and provide illustrations of the use of the stamps on covers.

First it should be understood that baseball, or as Nicaraguans call it, the "king sport," is the most popular sport in Nicaragua. It developed a following in the early 1900s, and Nicaragua's first international sports victory was on the diamond, when the country defeated Costa Rica and U.S. Marines stationed in Panama between 1924 and 1925. In 1939, Nicaragua

participated for the first time in the World Cup of Amateur Baseball, placing second. President Anastasio Somoza García (1937-56) promoted baseball on a national level by building stadiums. Although Nicaragua has never won a world baseball championship title, it has often placed second and third, and several Nicaraguan players have achieved international recognition, most notably pitcher Denis Martinez, who enjoyed a long career in the major leagues in the United States.

Perhaps the most authoritative article about the 1937 stamps entitled "Nicaragua's Baseball Stamps" by Ben Hamilton, Jr., appeared in the *Weekly Philatelic Gossip* of May 2, 1942 (page 186).

According to an executive decree, authorized by the Nicaraguan congress, dated February 4, 1937, the stamps were to be obligatory tax stamps, functioning



Figure 3. Label promoting the 1938 Central American and Caribbean Games. Some sources indicate that revenue from the sale of the Nicaraguan baseball postal tax stamps benefitted those games.

in a manner akin to previous Nicaraguan postal tax stamps. Article 1 of the decree stipulated that at least one stamp had to be affixed to each paid piece of mail destined for delivery to either an internal or a foreign address. Article 2 indicated that the stamps would be on sale for one year following the date of issue, and taxes accruing from such vending would be collected during the same period and applied to purposes later to be designated.

In Article 3 of the decree it was stated that the grand total of one million copies of the stamps would be issued in appropriate hues. Article 4 of the decree stated that the government of Nicaragua would control the sales of the stamps and such sales would be assisted by the National Athletic Association.

Hamilton reports that in a 1937 letter from the American vice-consul at Managua, mention is made of the numbers of each of the four colors of 1 centavo tax stamps issued. For the carmine stamp (Scott RA55) (Figure 1), 830,000 were issued; 50,000 each of the yellow, blue and green stamps (Scott RA56-58) were released. The souvenir sheet (Scott RA58b), which featured one each of the four differently colored stamps, saw a printing of 20,000. In my research, I noted that other sources indicated only 5000 souvenir sheets were issued, thus providing 20,000 separate stamps, so there is some confusion regarding this number in the published literature.

The Scott *Catalogue* reports issuance of the stamps for the benefit of the Central American Caribbean Games of 1937 – unfortunately no games were scheduled to be held in that year. Other sources report that the revenue from the sale of the tax stamps was to benefit the Fourth Central American and Caribbean Games of 1938 held in Panama. Figure 2 illustrates a label promoting the 1938 Games. Panama issued a very attractive set of sports stamps to commemorate the event.

Each of the four stamps were printed in sheets of 100, ten rows of ten stamps. The two center rows were printed tête bêche yielding ten pairs. The stamps, printed locally and without gum, feature a baseball player. On each stamp under the word “OLIMPICO” is a red control mark resembling an oval. Examples of the stamps without the control mark are known.



Figure 3. The blue stamp, RA57, used on cover May 24, 1937.

Reportedly, Nicaragua's National Athletic Association bought up all the stamps but were given the souvenir sheets.

At the end of May 1937 the Association was selling the full sheets of 100 of Nicaragua RA55-58 at US\$1 per sheet and the souvenir sheets of RA58b at US\$1 each. This provided a substantial profit to the Association as 4 Nicaraguan centavos were equal to 1 US cent.

Some reports indicate that only the 1 centavo red stamp was issued in the regular manner to the public for purchase at the post office. All of the other stamps were turned over to the sports association with a few of each color reserved for sale at the various post offices in an attempt to validate them as regular issues.

According to Hamilton, the Nicaraguan postal officials and the National Athletic Association admitted that the souvenir sheet (RA58b) was issued solely for philatelic purposes and as a means of raising funds for the Association.

Last minute permission was granted for some of the many sheets to be used on cover, Nicaraguan officials say, to appease irate philatelists who found that some of the Republic's postal officials would not accept the sheets.

The first day of issue of the souvenir sheet is reported to have been May 10, 1937.

The red stamp (RA55) is typically found on Nicaraguan covers in 1937 to pay the postal tax. The cover in Figure 1 was postmarked September 22, 1937. It is rare to find any of the stamps used in any other year on covers. Use of the stamps RA56-58 on covers is also rare.

An example of the blue stamp on cover is shown in Figure 3. It appears that in this example, postmarked May 24, 1937, the baseball stamp, RA57, is



Figure 4. Rare use of the souvenir sheet. Registered cover to Guatemala.

used to supplement the regular postage to make up the 3 centavo rate to the U.S. and that RA43, shown below the baseball stamp, was used to pay the postal tax.

It is also rare to find the souvenir sheet on cover. Figure 4 illustrates the souvenir sheet on a registered cover sent by the Ministry of Promotion. The cover is addressed to Guatemala and backstamped there on November 21, 1937.

The amount of postage found on this envelope raises many questions. The total postage on the cover is 4 centavos; I would assume that 3 centavos was used to pay the registration fee, leaving one centavo to pay the postage to Guatemala, plus one centavo postal tax. However, as this cover originated from a government agency it may well be that the agency was not charged postage for mail addressed to Central America. Further, government offices may have been exempt from paying the postal tax.

Although the blue, yellow, and green stamps, and the souvenir sheet of four stamps are of questionable validity as regularly issued postal tax stamps, they have received recognition in stamp catalogs and provide a challenge in obtaining them on cover. 🐞



Sonja Henie

AT THE LAKE PLACID OLYMPICS

by Dale Lilljedahl

At Salt Lake City, 2002, ice skating was once again the highlight at the Olympic Winter Games. The judging controversy in the pairs competition notwithstanding, all aspects of figure skating drew immense public interest. People who rarely watch the Games are otherwise glued to their television sets to see who carries away Olympic gold in the men's and women's contests. This fascination with the sport can be traced back to the first superstar of ice skating, Sonja Henie.

Everyone knows the story of the "Queen of the Ice." Growing up in a wealthy, athletic family, she was groomed from childhood to be a champion. As a twelve-year-old in 1924, she earned a last place finish at the inaugural Winter Olympic Games at Chamonix, France, but went on to win the next three Olympic gold medals. Add her ten consecutive World Championships, and you have an unsurpassed record of achievement.

Sonja left the amateur ranks to make several Hollywood movies and for three decades starred in ice shows across the United States. Before Henie, figure skating was virtually unknown outside of Europe; thanks to her, today it is one of the most popular sports spectacles in the world.

THE VENUE

Sonja, shown at left posing for the press, won her second gold medal at the 1932 Lake Placid Olympics. These were the first Winter Olympics held outside of Europe, and not a popular choice. Europeans objected to traveling such a great distance, especially to the "primitive" facilities in the mountains of New York State. The Great Depression added to the difficulty in financing teams, so participation was significantly down from the 1928 St. Moritz Olympics.

The figure skating facilities were anything but primitive. For the first time the competitions were held indoors and thus were not subject to the weather delays that plagued the first two Winter Olympics (Figure 2). Architect William G. Distin of Saranac, New York designed an arena capable of seating 2360 spectators with standing room for another 1000. It included a 30 x 60 meter frozen surface with nine miles of pipe carrying the freezing mixture. The ice temperature could be altered for maximum performance in both hockey and figure skating. Construction continued around the clock to finish in time, and it was not dedicated until January 16, 1932, little more than two weeks before the opening of the Games.

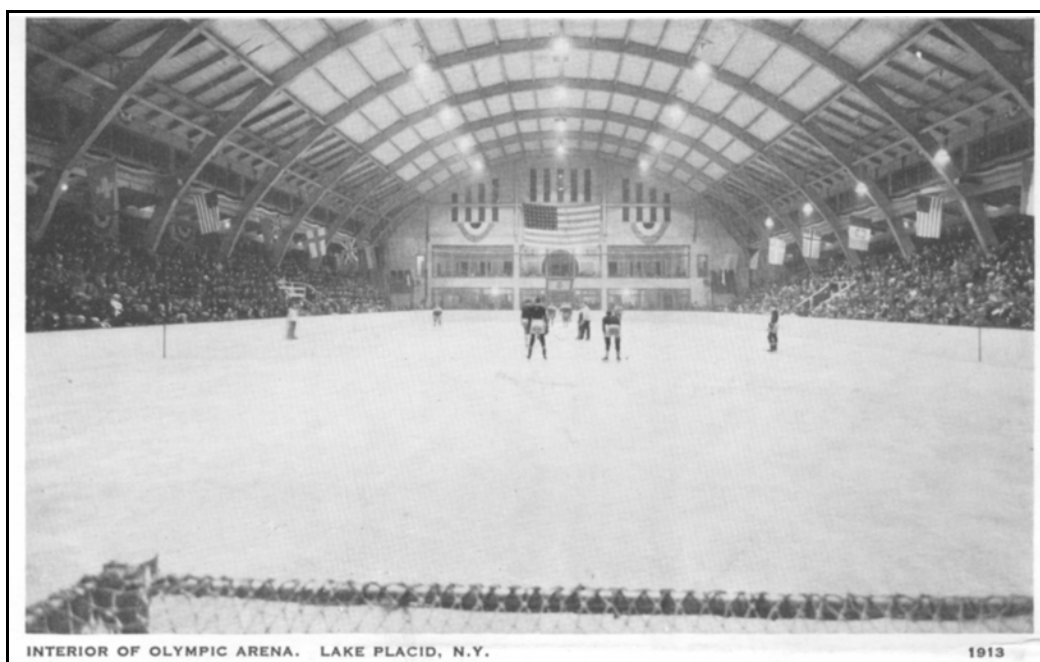


Figure 2. Postcard of the Lake Placid Olympic Arena that hosted the figure skating in 1932.

THE COMPETITORS

A total of 15 women vied for figure skating medals in 1932 with four ladies from Great Britain and four from the United States. Among the Britains were two eleven-year-olds, Megan Taylor and Cecilia Colledge.

Figure 3 is a cover from Lake Placid bearing Cecelia's signature who, at eleven years, 74 days, remains the youngest female to ever participate in the Olympic Games, Summer or Winter. Four years later she placed a close second to Henie at Garmisch-Partenkirchen.



Figure 3. Eleven-year-old British figure skater Cecilia Colledge's autograph on Edgerly FDC along with those of competitors Vivi-Anne Hulten (Sweden) and Fritzi Burger (Austria).

After her five straight World Championships, Sonja was highly favored to repeat as Olympic Champion even though she was only 19 years old. Hilda Holowsky of Austria, aged 13, seriously challenged her at the 1931 World Championships, but Miss Holowsky died suddenly before the Lake Placid Games. Henie still had to contend with Fritzi Burger, the Austrian champion who won the silver at St. Moritz in 1928, and Maribel Vinson of the United States who finished fourth in Berlin.

SONJA AT LAKE PLACID

Sonja was a little distracted upon arriving in New York. The death of Miss Holowsky unsettled her since she had grown fond of the young star while competing against her. Also, her father made unauthorized statements to the press. He stated she was going to turn professional immediately after the Games, a statement she publicly denied until she discovered it came from him.

She was also not thrilled about Lake Placid. After the glamour of the European figure skating circuit, the “unsophisticated” spectators of America paled in comparison. She also felt the New York mountains were in the sticks, and too far removed from her familiar “ice world.” Even so, once the competition began, she focused on her skating, overwhelming everyone.

The morning of February 9 saw the start of compulsories which accounted for 60% of the total points. Even though Canadian Constance Samuel was supposed to give Henie a run for her money in

the compulsories, it was not to be. Her elegant and precise figures earned 1370.5 points from the judges placing her in first. Vinson was in second with 1298 points, and Burger a close third with 1291.6.

The women’s figure skating event snatched the spotlight in the American press. In the fashion of the day, the newspapers created another competition by debating whether Sonja or Belgian Yvonne de Ligne was the prettiest. Tickets for the finals on the evening of February 10 commanded \$50 a considerable sum in 1932. Henie took the ice in her white satin dress flecked with rhinestones and performed a flawless free-skate. Her routine of axels, lutzes and spins garnered 2302.5 points and won first place by every single judge. Burger mounted a charge for second with 2167.1 while Vinson dropped to third with 2158.5 points. The two youngsters, Taylor and Colledge finished 7th and 8th respectively.

EPILOGUE

From Lake Placid the competition moved to Montreal, Canada for the 1932 World Figure Skating Championships. Sonja earned her sixth straight title as easily as she had won the Olympic gold medal. She and her family took a train back to New York City where she boarded the ship, *Ile de France*, for the journey back to Europe and international acclaim. Figure 4 shows a cover posted on March 2 in Grand Central (train) Station in New York, and signed by Miss Henie. Apparently she was stopped at the station by a fan and graciously signed the envelope with her blotting ink pen.

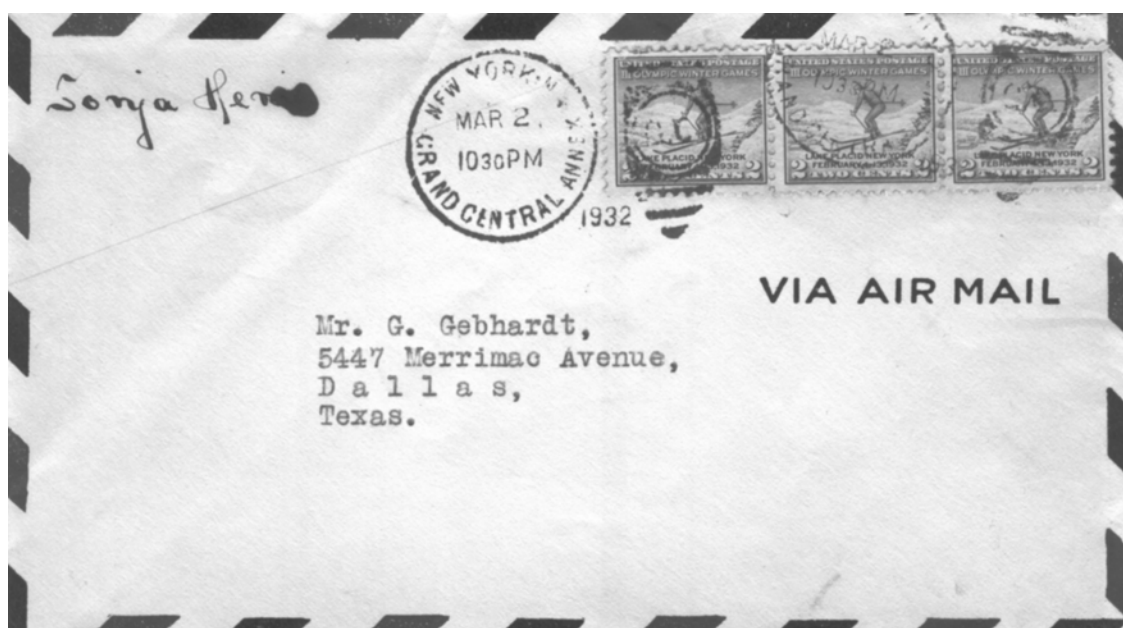


Figure 4. Sonja Henie signature on New York cover shortly after the Olympics.

Chris Evert, The Queen of Roland Garros

by Pascal Bedenes

Le Tennisium, 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 one of the greatest clay court tennis players of all time: Chris Evert.

Christine Marie Evert was born on December 21, 1954 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, U.S.A. Her father, a tennis instructor, taught her the sport beginning at age 6. She entered the professional ranks in 1972, twelve years later.



In **1973**, in her first appearance on the clay courts of Roland Garros, nervousness gets the better of her. She bows out in three sets (6-7, 7-6, 6-4) playing against the great Australian Margaret Court, who dominated tennis during the previous decade.

In **1974**, the American is awarded her first Roland Garros title against the Soviet Olga Morozova, without conceding a single set during the entire competition.



In **1975**, she triumphs again in Paris after a superb final against the Czech, Martina Navratilova, despite losing the first set.



1976-1978: Chris Evert, like the majority of the world's best players, does not take part in the French Open. Dissatisfied at having to play in front of deserted stands, the players prefer to take part in more lucrative competitions like those played in major metropolitan areas of the U.S.A. These women's tournaments were the saddest in the history of Roland Garros.

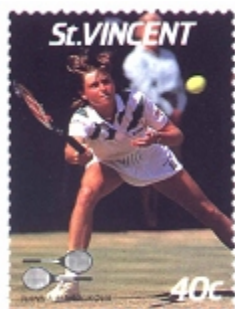


1979: Chris Evert returns to Roland Garros as a 24-year-old. The best clay court player in the world is present; the stands are full. Despite the loss of a set in the first round, she crushes all her adversaries, letting only two games slip by against Australian Wendy Turnbull in front of 12,000 spectators. The ladies' tournament makes the big time. From now on, the ladies' final will take place on the second Saturday of the tournament and not as an opening match for the men's final on Sunday.

1980: Chris Evert has pleasant memories of her previous final and retains her title against Romanian Virginia Ruzici, the winner in 1978, losing only three games. She errs just twice during this tournament, conceding one set to Germany's Bettina Bunge and a second to the young Czech, Hana Mandikova. The most beautiful victory is not perhaps to have triumphed for a fourth time at Paris, but rather that nearly 12,000 spectators, as in the previous year's final, were moved to applaud the achievement.



1981: The sensation of Roland Garros, Chris Evert, is eliminated in the semifinal by Hana Mandikova. Hana, 19 years old, plays an offensive game, not hesitating to use her service volley.



1982: Chris is again swept aside in the semifinal, 6-3, 6-1, this time by an American youngster, 17-year-old Andrea Jaeger. This defeat is historical for Chris Evert; the queen of the clay court had never taken so few games in a match. Martina Navratilova makes her mark for the first time in this tournament, showing that one year after Mandikova's victory, it is possible to win Roland Garros using an attack game.

1983: A Chris Evert/Martina Navratilova final is expected for this edition. But a young American, Katy Horvath, creates a sensation by eliminating Navratilova in the 1/8 final round. The road is left free for Chris Evert who, at 28 years of age, grabs her fifth crown in this tournament by crushing 6-1, 6-2 the Yugoslav, Mima Jausovec, who was victorious in 1977.



1984: The Evert/Navratilova duel will take place. The stadium is full when the divas are announced. Nine years have passed since their last face-off at Roland Garros. In the meantime, Martina obtained her American citizenship and triumphed over the Parisian clay courts in 1982. Martina is the favorite with ten consecutive victories against her opponent. She humiliates Chris, 6-3, 6-1, playing beautiful offensive tennis.



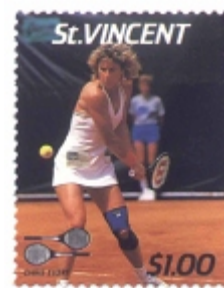
1985: Evert/Navratilova – the masterpiece of Roland Garros. Martina has beaten Chris 15 out of their last 16 meetings. One does not give Chris Evert much of a chance. The prize appearing to be in doubt from her very first ball, Martina con-

cedes the first set, 3-6. Leading 4-2 in the second, then 5-4 and 6-5 with service to follow, Evert believes she can carry off the decision in two sets, but her grasp of the title is torn away in a tie breaker, losing the second set to Martina, 6-7. Chris surges to 5-3 in the third set. Martina rebounds 5-5 and goes 40-0 on her opponents service. Chris manages to save these 3 break points as well as 3 match points and gains the service.



With the following play, a final miss gives Chris her sixth Roland Garros title. Chris Evert leaps for joy; in a rare image Martina does not embrace her opponent. The two players were pushed to their limits. The match lasted 2 hours, 52 minutes. Chris Evert's career is restarted at the age of 30.

1986: Transcending her previous victory, Chris again takes the title against Martina on scores of 2-6,



6-3, 6-3 for the seventh time. With seven titles, Chris Evert holds the record of the most Ladies Singles victories at the France Open.

1987: German Steffi Graf is ranked first in the world. The eternal rivals Chris and Martina meet in the semifinals, a first for these two competitors. This is perhaps Chris' worst showing against Martina. She goes down without glory, 6-2, 6-2.



1988: Chris is injured in the third round against the Spanish youngster, Arantxa Sanchez who is just 16 years old. Chris, who is defeated 6-3, 7-6, offers no excuses. For the first time since her debut

in Paris in 1973, she does not reach the semifinals. At 33 years of age, the hour for retirement has arrived.

Technically, Chris plays a traditional short game and delivers two-handed backhand shots. She possesses the uncommon ability to anticipate her opponents giving them the impression that she doesn't move. She effortlessly places the ball to cause the most inconvenience for her opponents.

If percentages are significant, Chris Evert provides a perfect example of the importance of never missing an easy ball. Chris is described as "a consistent player, mentally strong who does not succumb to pressure." She attracts the attention of both the public and media with her femininity, elegance and grace. Chris Evert is an uncommonly fair player in professional tennis: "the true talent is to react the same way in the face of victory or defeat."

CHRIS EVERT'S ACHIEVEMENTS AT ROLAND GARROS

Record number of victories in Ladies' Singles: 7
Record between first & last titles: 12 years ('74-'86)
Record of consecutively won matches: 29 (1974-81)
She took part in 9 finals in 13 appearances
Won 72 matches out of 78
A clay court record (all tournaments included): won 125 consecutive matches from 1973 to 1979. 🏆

This article first appeared in Esprit: Sports et Olympisme (Number 27 – March 2003). It 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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NATIONAL “OLYMPIA” GAMES OF GERMANY, 1912

by Laurentz Jonker

These National Olympic Games were held on 18 August 1912 in Duisburg. These weren't qualification competitions for the Stockholm Olympic Games as those were held in July. Nevertheless, German Olympic collector Karl-Heinz Koller tells me that they did serve as the National Athletic Games of Germany.

The word “Olympia,” with its connotations of the quadrennial Olympic Games, had impact and thus was frequently used for non-Olympic sports meetings. In 1913, for example, the University of Leipzig billed its sports competitions for German students the “Deutsch-Akademisches Olympia.” An attractive post card in black and gold commemorates the event.

The post card produced for the 1912 “Deutsche Nationale-Olympia” event is in cream and black with reddish-brown and green designs (above right).

The reverse is also quite interesting (Figure 2). Franked with a 5pf green Germania stamp, the card was posted from another big town in the Ruhrgebiet, Dusseldorf. The postmark date is not clear but does read “...-8-1912”. The destination was the island of Norderney off the northwestern coast of Germany. The sender was most likely just a spectator at the sports competition.

Although posted in Dusseldorf, the text reads: “Many regards from Duisburg! Some results: 100m Rau 11.4 sec., 200m Rau 23.5 sec., 400m Braun 51.5 sec., 800m Lehmann, 1500m Von Siegel 4 min. 08 sec., pole vault Fleiter von A.s. C Munster 4.48m [probably incorrect and should read 3.48m]. Kind regards to you all: A. Velber” etc.

Four of the five athletes had an Olympic past;



Otto Fleiter never competed in an Olympic Games. It's important to note that Germany was not invited to participate in the Olympics of Antwerp 1920 and Paris 1924.



Figure 2. Reverse of the Deutsche-Nationale-Olympia card shown above.



Figure 3. Applegarth of Great Britain (left) edging out Rau at the finish line of the 1912 Olympic 400m relay. Germany was disqualified, however, because their #2 man, Herrman, did not hand off the baton to a nervous Kern within the required 20-meter passing zone.

RICHARD RAU

The fastest sprinter in Germany at that time was Richard Rau, a member of s.C Charlottenburg (Berlin). He was six times German champion in the 100m. His personal best was 10.7 seconds. Rau participated in the 1912 Stockholm Olympics where he competed in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay race. His results were as follows:

100m: first race (heat 6): 1st; second race (heat 4): 4th and eliminated
 200m: first race (heat 6): 1st; second race (heat 5): 1st; final: 4th
 4x100m relay: first race (heat 5): 1st; second race (heat 3): 1st; final (Figure 3): Great Britain crossed the finish line first just ahead of Germany, which was disqualified for a faulty hand-off.

HANNS BRAUN

The most successful athlete before WWI was Hanns Braun. A middle distance runner in the 400m and 800m, he participated in both the 1908 London and 1912 Stockholm Olympics.

1908: 800m: first race (heat 7): 1st; final: BRONZE
 1912: 400m.: first race (heat 3): 1st; second race (heat 5): 1st; final (Figure 4): SILVER
 1912: 800m: first race (heat 9): 2nd; second race (heat 1): 2nd; final: 4th (Note: In the final, Braun raced against six Americans!)
 1912: 4x400m relay: eliminated in the first race: 2nd behind the US team. Only the winning team in each heat advanced to the finals.

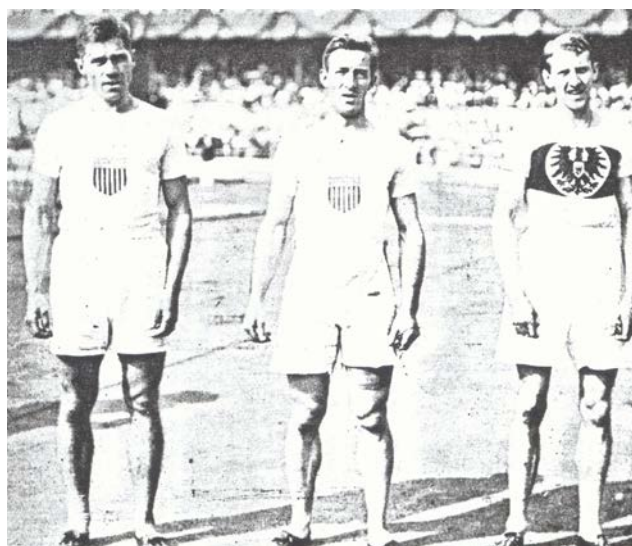


Figure 4. 1912 Olympic 400m.: Lindberg (USA) 2nd; Reidpath (USA) 1st; Braun (Germany) 3rd.

ERICH LEHMANN

Erich Lehmann participated in only the Stockholm Olympics of 1912.

400m (Figure 5): eliminated in first race (heat 12)
 800m: eliminated in first race (heat 7): 3rd
 4x400m relay: eliminated in the first race.

ERWIN VON SIEGEL

Erwin von Siegel's sole Olympic participation was in Stockholm in 1912. His only event was the 1500m: first race (heat 6): 1st; final: 9th 🏆

REFERENCES: Official Olympic Reports of 1908 and 1912; Beckmann's Sport Lexicon, 1933; "Die Olympische Spiele, 1912" by Carl Diem.



Figure 5. First round, 12th heat, 1912 Olympic 400m. Nicol (GB) 1st, advanced to next round; Davenport (USA); Lehmann (Germany).

Unusual Error On NHL All-Stars Hockey Stamp Card

by Paul Tissington

Errors in stamp printing are common, so it should come as no surprise that an error has been discovered in one of Canada Post's newest products – the hockey All-Star stamp cards.

First, look at the top card in the illustration at right. A color action photo of Guy Lafleur is on the right and the stamp showing his image (Scott #1935b) is at the left. Correct.

Now examine the middle card showing a black and white photo of Howie Morenz on the right side and the stamp with his image (Scott #1935c) is on the left. This is also correct.

Finally, compare the bottom card with the other two. If you notice, this card combines the color photo of Lafleur on the right side with the stamp of Morenz on the left ... oops!

At a quick glance the two stamp images look similar because of the distinctive Montreal Canadiens uniforms worn by both players. But there are obvious differences such as Morenz appearing older (which he was) and holding his stick as a left-handed shooter, while Lafleur is a right-handed shot. And the blue half-circle beside the image is on the right, when looking at the Lafleur card, and on the left when looking at the Morenz card.

Someone, presumably during the production process, didn't take more than a quick glance when matching the Morenz stamp with the Lafleur card prior to the lamination process.

Earlier this year Canada Post issued the stamp cards featuring all 24 players from Canada Post's four-year NHL All-Star stamp series. They were sized to match other hockey cards on the collectibles market. The cards are randomly inserted in packs of six, plus a checklist, for \$9.99, taxes extra. As a bonus, a total of 100 cards autographed by Jean Beliveau, Guy Lafleur, Bobby Hull and Glenn Hall have been randomly inserted into the packs.

After purchasing five packs from Canada Post's ordering center in Antigonish, N.S. at the time of issue and four more packs at the Canada Post booth at the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada



convention at Hanover, Ont., May 31, I've only been able to complete one of the four sets of six. And none of the autographed cards were in the packs purchased. But one of the packs bought at the Hanover event yielded the Lafleur/Morenz error card. And as a bonus, all the Hanover-purchased packs were sold at a 15% discount! 🐼

REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS

by Mark Maestroni

Esprit: Sports et Olympisme **July 2003 (#28)**

In celebration of the Centennial running of the Tour de France, our French sister society's publication features an overview of the event along with philatelic details – including a veritable avalanche of no fewer than 43 different pictorial postmarks! Also highlighted in this issue is a philatelic history of the World Championships in Athletics by Rene Christin. The 9th edition will take place in Paris from August 23-31, 2003.

Other articles in this issue cover: French Olympic athletics champion, Jean Bouin; the European Youth Olympic Festival held in Paris in July; and updates on the sports of handball, ice hockey, rhythmic gymnastics, and table tennis. A report of the society's annual meeting in Bordeaux is also provided.

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

Filabasket Review **August 2003 (#11)**

Luciano Calenda presents the "little mystery" surrounding Peru's 1948 Olympic basketball stamp overprinted for the 1956 Games. Originally declared postally invalid, the postal authorities relented and allowed the set's use on one day: April 15, 1957. So how did a cover to Mexico bearing two values from this set receive not only Peruvian cancels on December 13, 1956, but also legitimate receiving cancels in Mexico five days later?

Other articles in this issue cover the sport of "Streetball" (a variation of basketball); what is perhaps the first basketball cancel, a Chinese postmark dating back to 1933; a discussion of EFO's on Italy's 1991 basketball stamp; and a look at the basketball competitions of the many multi-sport Games played in the Americas (Pan American Games, Central American & Caribbean Games, Bolivarian Games, etc.).

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

Torch Bearer **May 2003 (Vol. 20, #2)**

Vic Manikian's article on the 1940 Olympics opens this issue of the British Society of Olympic Collector's journal, *Torch Bearer*. Vic provides illustrations of the many labels promoting the aborted Tokyo Games, plus a neat listing of the various Japanese NYK Lines ship covers bearing the "XII Olympiad" cachet. David Buxton concludes his travelogue of the 2002 Salt Lake Olympics with a trip to Bryce Canyon and the final few days of the Games. Also included in this issue are an extensive update of philatelic items related to the Athens 2004 Games, and a history of the Olympic Triathlon at Sydney and Ironman Triathlon at Lake Placid.

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

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NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Margaret Jones

New Members

2226 Richard T. Potchynok, 41496 Waterfall Road, Northville, MI 48167-2245 USA. Richard is an operations manager and volunteers to help with publicity/promotion. **Olympics.**
potch@umich.edu

2227 Todd A. Bourerot, 45 Wilbur Road, Bergenfield, NJ 07621-4017 USA. Todd is an environmental technician. **General Sports, Olympics, Ice Hockey, Baseball.**
krandoc2@aol.com

DECEASED

1670 Donald K. MacDougall, San Leandro, CA.

POSTAL & E-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGES

Benoit Carrier, 306-3311 Boul. Gouin Est, Montreal-Nord, QC, Canada H1H 5M8.

Francisco Gil Duran, c/o Damaso Calvet N=19, E-07011 Palma de Mallorca, Balears, Spain.

Ronald A. Greene, 695 Balfour Place, Melville, NY 11747-5251 USA.

Norman Jacobs, Jr. (E-mail) nfjir@comcast.net

Agustin Mujica, PO Box 2119, Caparra Heights Station, San Juan, PR 00922-2119.

Jack W. Ryan, 1739 San Silvestro Drive, Venice, FL 34292-4575 USA.

Total Membership, June 30, 2003 = 287

Exhibit Awards

APEX (Anchorage, Alaska). Kellene Cooper obtained youth silver for "Baseball."

NATIONAL TOPICAL STAMP SHOW (Aurora, Colorado). Charles Covell, Jr. won gold and SPI Best of Show award for "Soccer Just for Kicks"; Conrad Klinkner received gold for "Games of the Tenth Olympiad, Los Angeles"; Gary Gibson obtained gold for "The Dimensions of Gymnastics"; Richard D. Woodward was awarded vermeil for "Jules Rimet Trophy: Soccer's World Championship."

POSTAGE STAMP MEGA EVENT (New York, New York). Edward Tricomi won one-frame grand and American Philatelic Congress award for "1894 'On Hand' Playing Card Revenue" as well as one-frame silver, AAPE award of honor and ATA merit awards for "Art and History of Playing Cards".

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POSTAL STATIONERY CORNER

by Glenn Estus

This column will complete the story of postal stationery honoring the 2002 Olympic Winter Games held in Salt Lake City. The first installment appeared in the May 2002 issue of the *Journal of Sports Philately*.

The International Olympic Committee has tried to appeal more and more to a youthful audience, especially for the Olympic Winter Games. In 1998 the IOC added snowboarding, curling and women's hockey to the official program. 2002 saw the return of skeleton and the addition of women's bobsleigh. Skeleton had previously been part of the 1928 and 1948 Olympic programs at St. Moritz, Switzerland.

The Turkish PTT issued a wonderful prepaid postal card in 2002 (Figure 1). The indicium (postage imprint) shows a male skeleton competitor and a male snowboarder. The cachet part of the card shows an enlarged version of the snowboarder with a female ice dancer in the background. However, no Turkish athlete won in these sports.

The snowboarding competition consists of men's and women's events in parallel giant slalom and halfpipe. The parallel giant slalom is a one-on-one dash for speed. The halfpipe involves performing aerial acrobatic tricks while snowboarding down a half-cylinder shaped course. The tables below list the medal winners:



Figure 1. Turkish postal stationery card issued for the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympic Winter Games featuring the popular sport of snowboarding, and the newly reintroduced Olympic skeleton competition.

Women's Snowboard Parallel Giant Slalom

Gold	Isabelle Blanc	France
Silver	Karine Ruby	France
Bronze	Lidia Trettel	Italy

Men's Snowboard Parallel Giant Slalom

Gold	Philipp Schoch	Switzerland
Silver	Richard Richardsson	Sweden
Bronze	Chris Klug	USA

Women's Snowboard Halfpipe

Gold	Kelly Clark	USA
Silver	Doriane Vidal	France
Bronze	Fabienne Reuteler	Switzerland

Men's Snowboard Halfpipe

Gold	Ross Powers	USA
Silver	Danny Kass	USA
Bronze	Jarret Thomas	USA

Skeleton consists of a rider sliding head first down a course on a metal sled. The fastest sled after two runs wins. The winner of the Men's Individual Skeleton competition, Jim Shea, was a third generation Olympian. His grandfather, John "Jack" Shea won two gold medals at the 1932 Lake Placid Games and his father, James Shea, was a cross-country skier at the 1964 Innsbruck Games.

Women's Individual Skeleton

Gold	Tristan Gale	USA
Silver	Lea Ann Parsley	USA
Bronze	Alex Coomber	Great Britain



Figure 2. Doriane Vidal, silver medalist in the women's snowboard halfpipe event at the Salt Lake City Olympics, was honored with a postal stationery envelope issued by her hometown of Perpignan, France.

Men's Individual Skeleton		
Gold	Jim Shea	USA
Silver	Martin Rettl	Austria
Bronze	Gregor Staehli	Switzerland

postal envelope (Figure 3). The cachet on the envelope shows the Olympic flame burning in a cauldron. Beneath the flame are listed – in time line fashion – all the cities that have hosted the Olympic Winter Games since Chamonix, France in 1924.

In France local post offices issue prepaid postal envelopes to commemorate special events.

The post office in Perpignan honored native daughter, Doriane Vidal, on the occasion of her silver medal in the women's snowboard halfpipe (Figure 2). Her family owns and operates a vineyard in the area to which she returns in the off-season.

The final postal stationery item is from Germany which issued a set of semi-postal stamps showing biathlon, ski jumping, speed skating and luge. The speed skating stamp (56c + 26c) was also reproduced on a

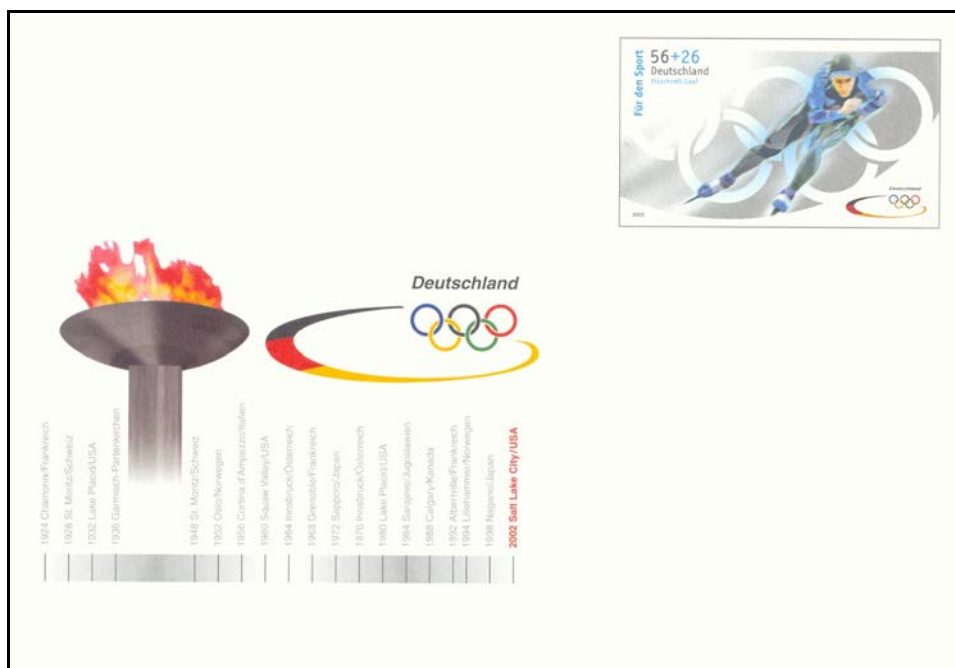


Figure 3. German postal stationery envelope featuring a speed skater along with a helpful listing of all 19 host cities of Olympic Winter Games.

NEW STAMP ISSUES

by John La Porta

Andorra, French: July 5, 2003. 100th Anniversary Tour de France. 0.50e, Maurice Garvin first winner of race.

Antigua & Barbuda: April 30, 2003. Art of Raoul Dufy. 1 stamp in set of 4: \$1.80, sailboats in port of Le Havre.

Argentina: May 3, 2003. Sports. Two 75c stamps: women's field hockey; blind soccer world champions.

September 6, 2002. Sports. 10c, cycling; 25c, tennis; 50c, auto racing; 75c, parapenting (hang gliding and parachuting); 1p, horse racing; 2p, golf; 5p, sailing.

Ascension Island: June 21, 2003. Prince William's 21st Birthday. One sport stamp in pair of 75p stamps: sports fun day at Tidworth Polo Club & ski vacation.

Azerbaijan: March 12, 2003. Europa/Poster Art. 3,000m, wrestlers, boxers etc.. Booklet contains four stamps, one has sport stamp.

Belarus: March 32, 2003. Children's Sports. Two 300rub stamps: rollerblading; riding on scooter.

Bermuda: July 4, 2003. Associate Membership of Caricom. Two 35¢ stamps: cricket matches.

Bosnia-Herzegovina: June 28, 2002. Regatta on the River Una. 1.30m, rafting through white water.

Bosnian Rep. of Serbia: April 6, 2003. 50th Ann. Conquest of Mt. Everest. S/s of two 1.50m stamps: mountain; magnifying glass showing climber on Everest.

February 20, 2003. European Forester's Competition in Nordic Skiing. 1m, skier and snow covered trees.

March 31, 2003. Sitting Volleyball. 1m, team photo.

British Indian Ocean Territory: June 21, 2003. Prince William's 21st Birthday. Se-tenant pair of 50p stamps: Circencester Polo Club; £1, skiing with Prince Charles.

Cayman Islands: May 27, 2003. Children's Games. 15¢, jumping rope; 20¢, maypole; 25¢, gig; 30¢, hopscotch; \$1, marbles.

Croatia: April 16, 2003. Janica and Ivica Kostelic's Victories at the World Cup in Alpine Skiing. Se-tenant

pair of 3.50k stamps: Janica Kostelic skiing, two medals; Ivica Kostelic skiing, one medal.

Czech Republic: June 25, 2003. European Championship in Marksmanship. 9k stamp, marksman with gun.

Egypt: February 3, 2003. World Table Tennis Championships. 30p, 125p: emblem, paddle, ball and net.

Fiji: May 26, 2003. South Pacific Games 2003. 10¢, Fijian runner; 14¢, baseball; 20¢, netball; Merewai Turukawa's gold medal winning shot put 1963.

France: June 28, 2003. 100th Ann. of Tour de France. Two 0.50e stamps, Maurice Garvin; modern cyclist.

July 19, 2003. World Track and Field Championships. 0.50e stamp, javelin thrower, runner, high jumper.

Georgia: April 2003. World Soccer Cup. One souvenir sheet with one 1lari stamp depicting team photograph.

Greece: October 30, 2002. Ancient Olympians. 0.45e, 0.60e, 2.15e, ancient Olympic Winners with laurel wreaths. One s/s with .60e stamp, 1st Olympic stadium.

February 11, 2003. Athens2004 Summer Olympics. 0.02e, discus; 0.05e, hammer; 0.47e, javelin; 0.75e, pole vault pole and bar; 2.17e, hurdles; 2.85e, weights. S/s of two: 2.50e, mascot wearing red shirt; 2.85e, mascot wearing blue shirt.

February 11, 2003. Athens 2004 Summer Olympics. 0.02e, discus; 0.05e, hammer throw; 0.47e, javelin; 0.65e, pole vault; 2.17e, hurdles; 2.85e, weights. One s/s contains the six stamps.

Grenada Carriacou & Petite Martinique: 2002. Dale Earnhardt. NASCAR auto racer, pane of seven \$2 stamps and one \$4 stamp, various photos.

Guatemala: November 22, 2002. Ascent of Mt. Everest by Jaime Vinals in 2001. 3q climber, mountain.

Guernsey: June 21, 2003. Prince William's 21st birthday. One 27p stamp: Prince skiing with Princess Diana. Prestige booklet contains the stamps.

Hungary: March 20, 2003. For Youth-Extreme Sports. One s/s consisting of four 100ft+1ft se-tenant stamps: freestyle BMX Cycling; snowboarding; parachuting; whitewater canoeing.

April 10, 2003. Budapest Sports Area. 120f, the arena, se-tenant label showing swimmer, Zoltan Halmay.

April 10, 2003. Division One Ice Hockey World Championship. 110ft emblem with dog mascot playing hockey, se-tenant label shows Rudolf Bauer.

India: May 29, 2003. 50th Anniversary Conquest of Mount Everest. 15re stamp, Mount Everest.

Indonesia: May 12, 2003. Sea Games. 1,000r, billiards; 1,500r, canoeing; 2,500r, gymnastics.

Ireland: May 20, 2003. 11th Special Oly. World Summer Games. 0.50e, swimming; 0.57e, running; 1e, shot put.

June 30, 2003. 100th Anniversary Gordon Bennett Race. Strip of four 0.41e stamps: cars used by four national teams in 1903 and map, Napier, England; Mercedes, Germany; Mors, France; Winton, United States.

Italy: April 4, 2003. Italian Sport. 0.41e, fencing, emblem of World Juniors and Cadets Fencing Champ.

April 5, 2003. 100th Anniversary Roman Acquisanta Golf Course. 0.77e golfer.

Malta: May 21, 2002. Games of the Small European States. 20¢, javelin; 50¢, rifle; 75¢, volleyball; 3liras, life preserver, pool.

Monaco: May 5, 2003. Europa/Poster Art. 0.50e stamp, young girl on diving board by Jean-Gabriel Domergue.

New Zealand: May 29, 2003. 50th Ann. Conq. of Mount Everest. Two 40¢: Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay.

July 4, 2003. Test Rugby. 40¢, Terei Reid chasing ball; 40¢, Colin Meads; \$1.30, David Kirk; \$1.30, Buck Sheldford and Murray Piece; \$1.50, All Blacks Jersey with silver fern; \$2, 1997 match with England and Manchester. One s/s contains the six stamps se-tenant.

Papua New Guinea: June 18, 2003. Prince William's 21st Birthday. Two 4k stamp: William playing polo.

Portugal: May 28, 2003. UEFA Euro 2004 Soccer. 0.30e, 0.43e, 0.47e, 0.55e, 0.57e: heart around soccer ball. S/s of four 0.55e: design of heart around soccer ball.

St. Pierre & Miquelon: August 7, 2003. 100th Anniver-

sary ASSP Soccer Club. 0.50e player, soccer ball.

St. Helena: April 18, 2003. Tourism. Pane of 12, 25p: St. Helena Yacht Club; sport fishing; divers, St. Helena Diving Club emblem; St. Helena golf course; yacht.

Solomon Islands: June 21, 2003. Prince William's 21st Birthday. \$3: sports fun day at Tidworth Polo Club 2002.

San Marino: March 18, 2003. Champion Racehorses. 0.11e, Molvedo; 0.15e, Tornese; 0.26e, Ribot; 1.55e, Varenne and sulkie cart.

June 7, 2003. Bicycle Racing. S/s of two 0.77e round stamps that look like the wheels of a racing bike, emblem of 100th Tour de France; emblem of Hamilton, Canada Bicycle Road Racing Championship.

Slovenia: May 22, 2003. Eur. Water Polo Championship. 180t, Phoenician Princess Europa riding ball.

Spain: April 25, 2003. 100th Anniversary Madrid Soccer Club. 0.26e, logo of the club's anniversary.

May 25, 2003. 10th World Swimming Championships Barcelona. S/s of 5 stamps and a label: 0.26e, swimmer; 0.51e, diver; 0.76e, synchronized swimmers; 1.85e, open water swimming; 2.15e, water polo.

South Africa: February 28, 2003. ICC Cricket World Cup. 6 non-denominated stamps, participating nations: England, Australia, India, Kenya, Canada, Netherlands.

Tajikistan: 2004 Summer Olympic Games. Pane of 4 se-tenant stamps and two labels: 53d, archery; women archers; 1s, runners, discus thrower; 1.23d, soccer players; 2s, gymnastics.

Trinidad & Tobago: 2002. Cricket Players. \$1, Ian Raphael Bishop; \$2.50, Deryck Lance Murray; \$4.50, Augustine Lawrence Logie; \$5.25, Anne Browne John.

Tristan Da Cunha: June 21, 2003. Prince William's 21st Birthday. Pair of 50p stamps, one sport: Prince at Cirencester Polo Club.

Turkey: March 3, 2003. 100th Anniversary Besiktas Gymnastics Club. Set of 4 stamps, 500,000l, Turkish flag, club flag; 700,000l, eagle emblem, stadium; 750,000l, emblem, soccerplayers; 1,000,000l, emblem.

Vanuatu: May 28, 2003. Snorkeling: S/s of 5 stamps: 35v; 80v; 90v; 110v & 135v all depicting snorkeling scenes.

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP CANCELS

by Mark Maestrone

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Basketball: 03407-132
Boxing: 03704-594
Canoe/Kayaking: 03614-932, 03627-802A, 03627-802B
Cycling: 03427-303, 03624-034, 03705-135
Football: 03426-152, 03606-352
Golf: 03702-972
Horse Racing: 03517-212, 03723-128
Marathon: 03524-999
Marksmanship: 03614-470
Motor Cycling: 03607-032
Olympics, Special: 03510-134, 03531-100
Running: 03524-999, 03711-135, 03712-13501A, 03712-13501B, 03713-13501, 03713-13502
Sports, General: 03518-135, 03531-840, 03613-021
Wrestling: 03517-123



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Special Olympics

03510-134 Rome, NY

10



03517-123 Schenectady, NY

17



03517-212 Baltimore, MD

17



03518-135 Utica, NY

18



03524-999 Craig, AK

24



INDIANAPOLIS 500
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03525-462 Indianapolis, IN

25



03531-100 New York NY

31



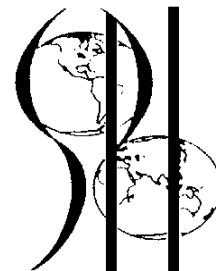
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03531-840 Orem, UT

31

	03606-352 Birmingham, AL 6		03627-802B Denver, CO 27-29		03713-13501 Utica, NY 13
	03607-032 Laconia, NH 7, 9-14		03702-972 North Plains, OR 2-3		03713-13502 Utica, NY 13
	03613-021 Boston, MA 13		03704-594 Shelby, MT 4		03721-056 Montpelier, VT 21
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