

# JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

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SUMMER 2003

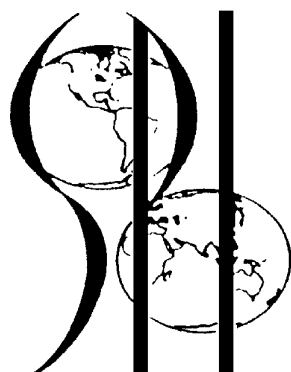
NUMBER 4

## THE ILL-FATED GAMES OF 1940 & HELSINKI'S PHILATELIC LEGACY



*Photomontage cover with 1939 slogan roller cancel promoting the 1940 Olympics.*

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PHILATELISTS  
INTERNATIONAL

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

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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by Mark Maestrone

## Elections & Dues Renewal Time

Once again, it's time to elect officers and board members of *your* society! While there are no contested positions this year, please show your support by taking a few moments to complete the ballot.

At this time we would like to thank Jeffrey Tishman for his service to the board over the past four years. Running for his seat on the Board of Directors is Patricia Ann (Pat) Loehr. Pat is an active golf enthusiast from Wisconsin who also exhibits and writes about her sport.

Readers will also note that enclosed with this issue are renewal envelopes for the 2004-2005 membership year. If you did not receive a renewal envelope, that means you are paid up for the upcoming year.

Please pay your dues promptly. And don't forget that you can now charge your dues to your credit card by using PayPal. The renewal envelope has instructions on how to do this.

Last but not least, those of you who would like a digital version of this past year's journal (much of it in full color) may add \$5 (postpaid worldwide) for the CD (mailed with your Fall 2004 issue).

## Special Olympic Supplement

This issue of *JSP* includes a special supplement on the 1936 Olympic "V" Labels written by Laurentz Jonker. It just didn't seem fair to relegate these colorful rarities to our black and white journal – so we printed a small-format booklet with a full color, four-page centerspread. We hope you'll enjoy it!

## OLYMPHILEX 2004 Update

OLYMPHILEX 2004 which will be held in Athens concurrently with the Olympic Games between 12-22 August 2004, is moving on with the efforts of the Organizing Committee accelerating.

To date 33 foreign commissioners have been appointed by their respective philatelic federations. The final date of submission of entry forms for the participants was May 20. The U.S. Commissioner, Nancy Clark, reports that she has submitted applications for 14 philatelic exhibits (which includes four one-frame exhibits), plus three literature exhibits. It looks like the U.S. will be well-represented.

An exhibition hotel, Anna-Maria, has finally been selected. Situated in Varkiza, 10 kms from the new Athens airport, it is a favorite summer resort of the Athenians on the Argosaronikos Gulf. The exhibition venue is no more than 35 minutes away.

Visitors and exhibitors seeking accommodation, are kindly requested to contact Alfred's Tours, appointed official accommodation agent for OLYMPHILEX 2004 (email: [alfreds@hellasnet.gr](mailto:alfreds@hellasnet.gr)).

Although the exhibition will open its doors to the public on August 12, the official opening is planned for August 16.

A bilingual Exhibition Catalogue will include all the relevant regulations governing the exhibition together with other material which, it is hoped, will be of permanent reference for any collector of Olympic and Sports Philately.

For further information regarding OLYMPHILEX 2004 you may contact: tel: (0030) 210 3353521, (0030) 210 3353528 Fax: (0030) 210 3353531 email: [olympi1@otenet.gr](mailto:olympi1@otenet.gr) or [olympi2@otenet.gr](mailto:olympi2@otenet.gr)

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# Olympic Torch Relay Postmarks

**J**ust in: the U.S. Olympic Committee has approved a series of pictorial postmarks honoring the journey of the 2004 Olympic Torch Relay across America. The torch is scheduled to make four stops: June 16 at Los Angeles; June 17 at St. Louis; June 18 at Atlanta; and June 19 at New York City (headquarters of the United Nations). Unfortunately, the USPS in New York City elected not to participate in the postmark program. (Cancel size: 2.75" x 1.5")



LOS ANGELES - HOST  
1932 & 1984  
OLYMPIC GAMES

OLYMPIC TORCH STATION  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
JUNE 16, 2004

**By mail/Walk-in: Postmaster, Olympic Torch Station, 760 N. Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012-9998.**



ST. LOUIS - HOST  
1904  
OLYMPIC GAMES

OLYMPIC TORCH STATION  
ST. LOUIS, MO 63155  
JUNE 17, 2004

**By mail/Walk-in: Postmaster, Olympic Torch Station, 1720 Market St., St. Louis, MO 63155-9998.**



ATLANTA - HOST  
1996 CENTENNIAL  
OLYMPIC GAMES

OLYMPIC TORCH STATION  
ATLANTA, GA 30303  
JUNE 18, 2004

**By mail: Postmaster, Olympic Torch Station, 3900 Crown Road, Atlanta, GA 30304-9998. Walk-in: (3 locations) Central City Finance PO, 183 Forsyth Street; CNN Center PO; Peachtree Center PO, 240 Peachtree Street NW.**

## OLYMPIC GAMES ALBUM PAGES

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- ▶ 19<sup>th</sup> Games - 1968 (Title & 319 pages) ..... 137.00 (13.00)
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**Figure 1. Examples of the “imperforate” stamps created from the proof sheets. The wide margins on all four sides are the deciding factor.**

## The 1924 French Olympic Imperforates: Real or Manufactured?

by Manfred Bergman

**C**ongratulations to Dale Lilljedahl on his article “Usage of the 1924 French Olympic Stamps” (*JSP*, Volume 42, No. 3 – Summer 2004). In particular, his gleaned study of the postal rates is of interest since this aspect of the 1924 Olympic stamps has been almost totally ignored.

Still, some clarifications and addenda are appropriate. Permit me to list them in the order they appear in the article.

1. (Page 4) The first day cancellation on the 25c and 30c stamps “PARIS /AFFRANCHISSEMENT” found on letters but mainly on the maximum cards (shown in Figure 2 in Dale’s article), is a forgery (see J. F. BRUN, France). Other covers with this forged postmark are known from other dates.\*
2. (Page 6) The German equivalent of the word “Specimen” is “Muster”, not “Muenster” (Münster), which is the name of a town in Germany where the 1648 peace treaty ending the 30-year war was signed.
3. (Page 7) The subject of “imperforate” stamps (actually in English, “imperforate” is an adjective,

\* Henri Trachtenberg (God bless his soul) was one of the best experts in aerophilately. His expertise in Olympic philately, unfortunately, was limited to what he gleaned from other experts. Henri bought up the inventory of Guy DEPOLIER, the editor of the first sport stamps catalogue (1947), when the latter passed away. The inventory also included some doubtful and fake material. And, Henri was a shrewd businessman and could explain away (almost) everything.

never a noun) demands a more detailed clarification. Sure, there exist imperforate stamps of all the stamps of the set, but none ever found their way to the post offices. They were “reference stamps” – from the proof sheet (in French, “Timbres temoin”). Samples of these stamps were sold by David Feldman (1980: lots 9833, 9845, 9846 and 9854). The description of these stamps definitely states that they were from the “proof sheet.” These stamps have wide margins on **all four sides** and were printed on gumless, slightly glazed paper (Figure 1).

The so-called imperforate stamps described in Dale’s article, were actually from sheets in which the perforating comb was displaced by one row (the sheets were always perforated horizontally). Thus, these stamps were **imperforate on three sides with perforations on only the fourth side** (Figure 2 shows a sampling of the 25c stamp). The perforations on the fourth side were trimmed away by either ignoramuses or manipulators who wanted to simulate a truly imperforate stamp. If one takes a careful look at these stamps it becomes clear that the **single narrow margin** is the trimmed-away one.

The sheets (of 150 stamps) were cut in two before perforating; five half sheets consisting of three panes of 25 stamps were perforated at a time. Given that there were five stamps in each row (column in the case of the 50c stamp), 75 examples (5 stamps x 3 panes x 5 half-sheets) should exist of this “perforate-tenant-to-imperforate” stamp. This of course is assuming that this mis/imperforation occurred only once. By the way, this **variety** exists only with the 25c and 50c stamps; until today no 10c or 30c stamps with this mis/imperforation variety have been found





**Figure 2 (left).** The top row of the 25c stamps is reconstructed along the right side of the illustration. Note the displacement of the comb by one row. To “simulate” a full imperforate stamp, the cut creates a narrow lower margin. Two stamps (A & B) were used. One stamp (C) is a real imperforate from the reference sheet. Note the wide lower margin.

**Figure 4 (below).** Two registered letters mailed July 4, 1924 from Epinal. It is believed that Mr. J. Bastid was the postal clerk at Epinal and that these two letter were among those he addressed to himself. Unfortunately, the addresses were cut out by some misguided person.

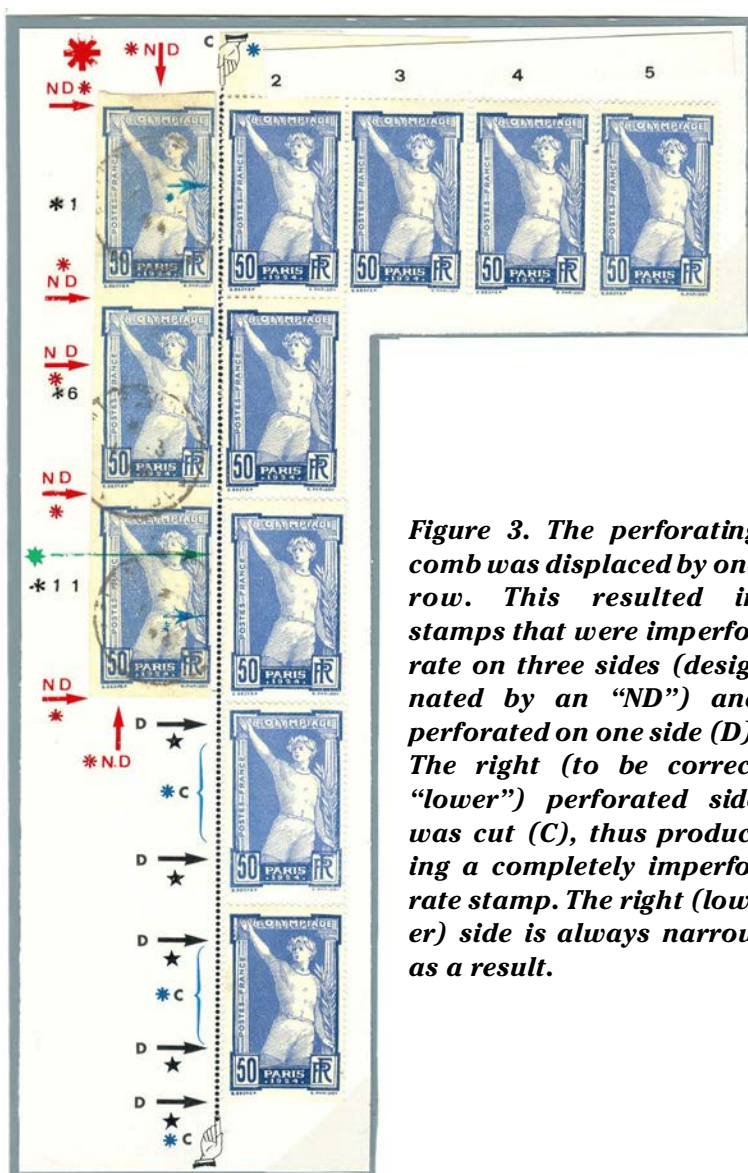


– but hope still exists. If one looks at the “created imperforate” stamps, for instance the 50c., one notes that it is always the left margin which is the narrow one, while the “proof” stamp has wide margins (Figure 1).

It is almost 100% certain that the 50c sheets were discovered by a postal clerk in the EPINAL post office, since all the known letters were posted in Epinal. I have found one strip of three, posted in Epinal but taken off the cover. I have used this strip to reconstruct part of a pane to show how the “imperforate” stamps were “created” (Figure 3).

The known created “imperforate” 50c stamps are:

- (1) One loose stamp.
- (2) One strip of three, posted in Epinal. (Figure 3, author’s collection).
- (4) One normal letter posted in Epinal (belonging to Mr. J. F. Brun, the French expert). The letter is the one shown in Dale’s article.
- (5,6) Two registered letters mailed in Epinal on July 4, 1924 (Figure 4). Unfortunately, the addressees were cut out, but it seems to me that they were also mailed to J. Bastid. The registered labels are 259 and 282, so can we presume that the postal clerk posted other, similar, ones? (author’s collection).
- (7) One registered letter posted in Epinal, sent to Nancy, on July 4, 1924. (Figure 5, belonging to Mr. H. Messmer in Germany).
- (8) One registered letter (overfranked), no. 496, posted on July 24, 1924 in Epinal and addressed to Mr. Bastid in Epinal. (Figure 6, author’s collection).



**Figure 3.** The perforating comb was displaced by one row. This resulted in stamps that were imperforate on three sides (designated by an “ND”) and perforated on one side (D). The right (to be correct “lower”) perforated side was cut (C), thus producing a completely imperforate stamp. The right (lower) side is always narrow as a result.

**Figure 5.** Another registered cover from Epinal, this time addressed to Nancy, France and postmarked July 4, 1924.







**Figure 6. Overfranked letter to J. Bastid in Epinal.**

(9) One registered letter (overfranked), no. 497!!!, posted on July 24, 1924 in Epinal and addressed to Mr. Bastid in St. Nicolas du Port. (Figure 7, author's collection)

(10) One registered letter, posted in Briey, on September 21, 1924, addressed to St. Nicolas du Port (Figure 8, author's collection). This letter was affixed with a vertical pair of "imperforate" stamps. One can note the ***narrow right margins***.

It seems reasonable to presume from most of these letters that Mr. J. Bastid was the postal clerk who "discovered" the sheets with the misplaced perforations.

We note as well that the majority of these letters were registered and the "regular" cover was the exception.

If my arithmetic is correct, we have so far found ***11 stamps of this variety***. Given that 75 of them exist(ed), there is still hope to find some others, though the chances are decreasing. Nevertheless, these stamps are some of the jewels of the 1924 Olympic stamps. The last two covers (with a single stamp) were sold at auction for around \$4500. I do not dare talk about the cover with the pair ...

I do not wish to take up too much space, so this paper is limited to the so-called imperforate stamps. I shall address the issue of the dates (first and last day) and the postal rates in other papers.

**Figure 8 (right). Registered letter to St. Nicolas du Port franked with a pair of the "imperforate" stamps.**



**Figure 7. Registered letter to Mr. Bastid at St. Nicolas du Port postmarked on July 24, 1924.**







## *23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Olympin Collector's Show Los Angeles*

The Olympin Collectors' Club was formed in 1981 and has over 600 active members. It is the oldest Olympic memorabilia collector club in the world and is recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The Olympin show has been held annually in Lake Placid since 1981. This is only the second time that it has been held outside of New York.

The Olympin Collectors' Show will begin on Friday, October 8, 2004, and conclude on Sunday, October 10, 2004. The show will commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the 1984 Los Angeles Summer Olympic Games. It is a great opportunity for Olympic memorabilia collectors from around the world to meet and share memories with fellow collectors. Our primary goal is to promote the hobby of collecting Olympic memorabilia while providing a means to help support the "Shea Family Foundation." The foundation is named after Jack Shea, grandfather of Jimmy Shea who won a gold medal in the sport of Skeleton at the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympic Games.

**For additional details about the show events or to order tickets for the banquet or tour, please look at our website at <http://hometown.aol.com/OLYMPIN2004SHOW/MYHOMEPAGE/CLUB.HTML>**

In order to have a table, you must be a current member of the Olympin Club. Please contact me at [OLYMPIN2004SHOW@aol.com](mailto:OLYMPIN2004SHOW@aol.com) for information on becoming a member.

### **SHOW LOCATION & SCHEDULE**

Wilshire Grand Hotel  
930 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90017 U.S.A.  
Phone: (213) 688-7777

### **Table Information**

\$75 per vendor table for *only* Olympin Club members.

### **October 6, 2004**

No Host Reception at 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

### **October 7, 2004**

Charter Bus Tour of the following sites: L.A. Coliseum, 1932 Swimming Stadium, breakfast at the Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles, NBC Studio tour and taping of the "Tonight Show with Jay Leno," and dinner at the Acapulco Restaurant.

### **October 8, 2004**

Show Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Banquet: 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

### **October 9, 2004**

Membership Meeting - 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.  
Show Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Charity Auction: 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

### **October 10, 2004**

Show Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## **Admission is free to the public!**



# ALTHEA GIBSON, AFRICAN-AMERICAN TENNIS PIONEER

by **Pascal Bedenes**

**A**lthea Gibson was born August 25, 1927 in South Carolina. Three years later, her family moved to New York City (Harlem). At the age of 14, she chose tennis after being interested in other sports. A musician, Buddy Walker, working in the recreation department of her city, introduced her to the Harlem Cosmopolitan Club where she began taking lessons. A year later, Althea entered her first important tournament the "New York State Championship."

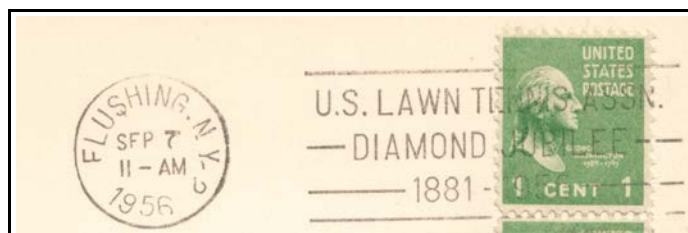
In 1943, she won the New York City ladies tournament for Negro athletes. In 1944 and 1945, she competed in the national tournaments reserved for young black women (due to segregation). She caught the attention of two important doctors, Hubert Eaton and Robert Johnson, who provided financial assistance for her studies and took charge of her tennis lessons. Her successive victories in the national championships reserved for blacks (National Negro Championship) ensured her the recognition of the white tennis players. Nevertheless Althea Gibson continued to

reject playing in major tournaments where the black athletes were denied entry.

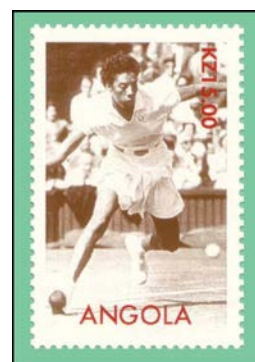
In 1950, she was invited to take part in the U.S. National at Forest Hills (later, the U.S. Open) thanks to a press campaign orchestrated by Alice Marble, one of the editors of the magazine American Lawn Tennis. Consequently, she received invitations from many tournaments around the country. Ranked 7th nationally in 1952, she fell down in the rankings in 1953.

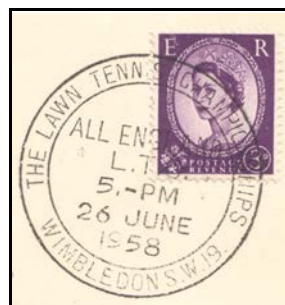
Having obtained her university diploma at Lincoln University in Missouri in 1955, she planned to withdraw from the world of tennis. Althea was selected for a "goodwill" tour with three others fellow players through Asia and Mexico. In the months that followed, she took part in European tournaments.

Turning 29 in 1956, Althea competed in her first Grand Slam tournament at Roland Garros. In the singles event, she beat Angela Mortimer. She also played in the ladies doubles event partnered with Angela Buxton. This was her only appearance at the French International.



*Althea Gibson, shown on the stamps of Lesotho and Angola, competed in her first U.S. National in 1956 where she lost to Shirley Fry in the women's singles.*





***1957 was a big year for Althea Gibson, winning the women's doubles at Wimbledon (above right), and defeating Louise Brough (above left) in the women's singles at the U.S. National.***

***The 1958 season was her last playing pro tennis. At Wimbledon (above left), Gibson won both the women's singles and doubles, the latter with Maria Bueno (above right).***

She and Angela Buxton won the Wimbledon ladies' doubles competition.

At the U.S. National in New York, Althea lost to Shirley Fry in the finals.

At the beginning of 1957 at the Australian Open, she was once again defeated by Shirley Fry, but her win in the ladies' doubles competition made up for her disappointment. This time at Wimbledon, Althea defeated Darlene Hard to take the singles title – then partnered with her to take the doubles competition. At that year's U.S. National, Gibson won the singles title against Louise Brough. She also won the mixed doubles competition playing with Nielsen and was selected "Athlete of the Year" by the Associated Press.

In 1958, Althea again won Wimbledon, beating Angela Mortimer, and for the third straight time took the ladies' doubles this time with Maria Bueno. At New York, she retained her singles title by defeating Darlene Hard.

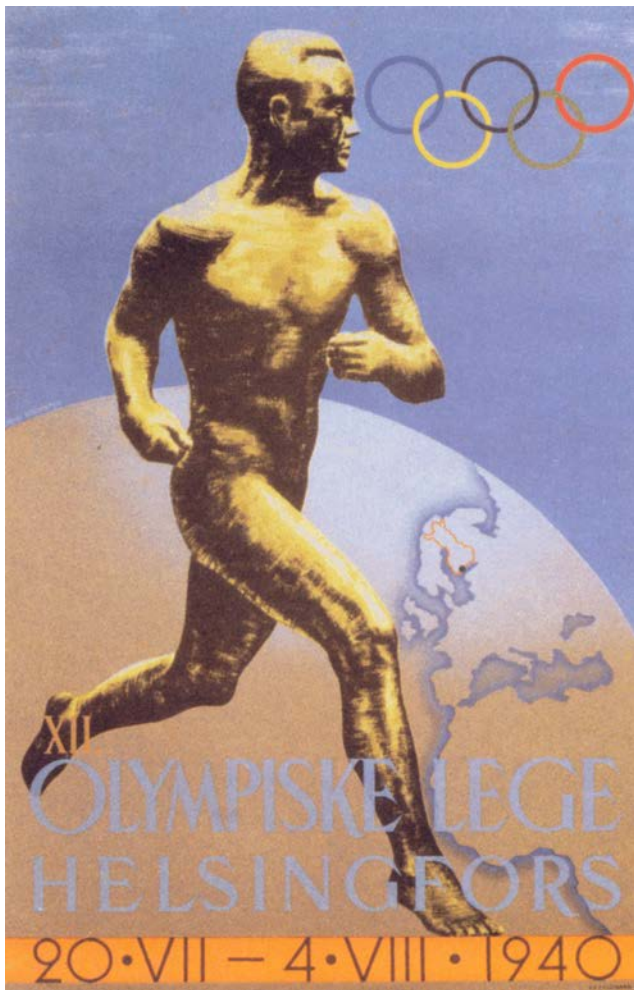
Althea Gibson decided to end her tennis career after the 1958 season. She began a new career as a singer, then traveled with the Harlem Globe Trotters basketball team. In 1963, Gibson found a new sports career as a professional golfer. She played in several major tournaments but without the success she had on the tennis court. In the 1970s and 1980s, Althea coached several athletes. Gibson retired from public life in 1992; she passed away September 28, 2003 in East Orange, New Jersey.

### **For the Record...**

- ❖ **Winner, Roland Garros, 1956**
- ❖ **Winner, Wimbledon, 1957 & 1958**
- ❖ **Winner, U.S. National, 1957 & 1958**
- ❖ **Ranked #1 in the World, 1957 & 1958**







**1940 Helsinki Games official poster featuring the image of the legendary Paavo Nurmi.**

# THE ILL-FATED GAMES OF 1940 AND HELSINKI'S PHILATELIC LEGACY

BY KEVIN GROBSKY

The awarding of the Games of the XII<sup>th</sup> Olympiad was made at the 35<sup>th</sup> IOC Session, July 30, 1936 at Berlin. The vote of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was close (36-27), with Tokyo winning the Games and Helsinki receiving the second most votes.

The IOC later voted Sapporo, Japan host of the Winter Games, making the 1940 Olympics an all-Japanese affair.

The selection of Japan as the site of both the Summer and Winter Olympics was an interesting choice for the IOC insofar as this represented the first time that the Games had been scheduled for Asia. However, the choice of host cities was also fraught with political danger since Japan had exhibited a significant amount of imperialistic tactics during the early 1930s. Some examples of Japanese imperialism included the seizure of Manchuria in 1932 and the occupation of Korea in 1935.

## JAPANESE AGGRESSION

Approximately one year after the award of the Games to Japan (July 1937), Japan invaded China and the Sino-Japanese war began. As a result of this aggression, the IOC became extremely concerned that staging of the Games would not happen. IOC members attempted to apply pressure on the Japanese Organizing Committee to give assurances that the Games would go on as scheduled.

Early in 1938, Japanese officials informed the IOC that many elaborate plans were already in motion for the Games and that money would be available to help subsidize travel of the Olympic teams to Tokyo. As a result of these assurances, the IOC officials initiated the planning of the torch relay from Olympia to Tokyo.

By the early summer of 1938, the conflict between Japan and China was essentially over except for some localized guerrilla-like fighting with Chinese insurgents led by Mao Tse Tung and Chang Kai Chiak.

Then, in early July 1938, Japan initiated hostilities in Manchuria. As a result of these on-going military initiatives, Count Michimasa Soyeshima, an IOC member as well as a member of the cabinet of Prime Minister Konoe, sent a telegram to the International Olympic Committee (on July 15, 1938) stating that Japan was withdrawing from hosting the Olympic Games. He blamed this decision on some "new" difficulties in Asia. The announcement sent to the IOC read, in part:

*“Although the Japanese Government has been desirous of holding the Olympic Games, there seems to be no alternative but to forfeit the right to celebrate the XII<sup>th</sup> Games to be held in Tokyo under the present circumstances. The nation is confronted with the necessity of requiring both spiritual and material mobilization in order to realize the ultimate objective of the present incident.”*

## IOC RESCHEDULES

The IOC had no choice but to hold an emergency session (in September 1938) in which they awarded the 1940 Games to Helsinki (summer) and selected St. Moritz as the next choice for the Winter Games.

Helsinki was picked because they had been the runner-up to Tokyo in the initial bidding for the 1940 Summer Games, whereas St. Moritz was selected because the city had previously hosted the 1928 Olympic Winter Games and could be ready on relatively short notice.

Unfortunately, soon after the awarding of the Games to St. Moritz, a controversy developed between the Swiss Olympic Committee and the IOC. The Swiss, siding with the *Fédération Internationale de Ski*, insisted that ski instructors should not be considered professionals and therefore should be allowed to participate in the Alpine skiing events at the Winter Olympics.

The IOC, which had reaffirmed at its meeting in 1925 in Prague that “trainers, sports instructors and coaches” must be denied amateur status, did not support the Swiss position. Consequently, the IOC withdrew its offer to have St. Moritz host the Games.

With the collapse of plans to hold the 1940 Winter Games in Switzerland, the IOC went into a “scrambling” mode to find another host city for the Winter Games.

Because so little time remained, the IOC had few choices for an Olympic site. The IOC members therefore decided to once again demonstrate their naiveté with respect to world political issues. They ignored the obvious and ominous signs of German aggression (Austria, Sudetanland annexation, massive army build up), and in June 1939 awarded the Winter Olympic Games of 1940 to Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, the site of the 1936 Winter Games. The IOC claimed the decision to award the Winter Games to Germany was made *“without any pretext of political considerations”*.



**Map of area between Finland & Russia  
(Karelian Isthmus)**

## IOC CANCELS WINTER GAMES

Less than three months later, in September 1939, Germany invaded Poland. Great Britain and France immediately declared war against Germany. In November 1939, Germany withdrew as host. The IOC, acknowledging that holding the Winter Games with Europe at war would be impossible, cancelled them altogether.

## RUSSIA ATTACKS FINLAND

The Summer Games of 1940 went through similar rescheduling issues. After Tokyo withdrew as host of the Games, the IOC selected Helsinki, Finland as the alternate host in September 1938. However, by the autumn of 1939, it was clear that significant issues also existed regarding the holding of the 1940 Summer Games. These issues included the on-going war between England, France, and Germany, as well as the fact that Russia began to flex her military might.

In the fall of 1939, Russia began demanding control of several disputed areas of Finland, including part of the Karelian Isthmus. This isthmus is a land bridge that provides access to St. Petersburg from Finland (see map above). Finland resisted the Soviet pressure. Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin responded by enacting the Molotov-Ribbentrop Nonaggression Pact that Russia had signed with Germany in August 1939. This agreement gave Russia free reign in its *“sphere of influence.”* Since the Russians wanted to secure access to the Gulf of Finland, they deemed the gulf to be in their sphere

of influence. Furthermore, the Russians also wanted to seize control of the Karelian Isthmus in order to increase the distance between Leningrad (St. Petersburg) and the Soviet-Finnish border.

Diplomatic negotiations between Finland and Russia began in October of 1939. These negotiations ostensibly dealt with the cession of, and compensation for, Finnish territory on the Karelian Isthmus and in other areas. However, Finland was determined not to yield any of its mainland territory. At most, the Finnish were willing to yield some islands in the Gulf of Finland to the Russians. Both sides continued to hold firm to their demands, and the attempts to resolve Russian territorial aims using diplomacy were suspended on November 13, 1939. The first Russian offensive against Finland began with artillery bombardments on November 30, 1939.

Although the Finns fought bravely, in the end their troops were simply no match for the overwhelming numerical superiority of the Russian troops. By March 1940, Finland had surrendered to Russia. Finland acquiesced to Russian demands for several pieces of land, including the Karelian Isthmus. Shortly thereafter, Finnish officials notified the IOC that Finland could no longer host the Summer Games.

By April 1940, Europe was immersed in a conflict that would last for another five years. All hopes of holding the Olympics were dashed. So, with the European continent at war on several fronts, the selected sites now either occupied or under marshal law, the IOC had no choice but to cancel the 1940 Olympic Games. The IOC formally cancelled the Summer Games in June 1940.

## PHILATELIC DISCUSSION

The cancelled Olympic Games of 1940 have an interesting philatelic history. Following the Japanese withdrawal as host of the 1940 Games, and after it was announced that Helsinki was awarded the Games, the Organizing Committee of Finland announced a contest for best special designs for Olympic stamps by Finnish artists.<sup>3</sup> These designs were required to be submitted prior to the middle of June 1939. Several designs were selected and proofs of the stamps made, but none of the stamps were issued for regular usage because of the Russian invasion in November 1939. Although these designs were not used in 1940, many were updated and issued when Finland hosted the 1952 Games.

Despite the lack of “official” stamps for the 1940 Olympic Games of Helsinki, there is a considerable amount of philatelic-related material that touches on the 1940 Helsinki Games. For example, photomontage covers issued by the Finnish Government were issued and used during the period from 1938 to 1945. In addition, mail entering or leaving Helsinki during the period June 1939 to April 1940 was postmarked with a roller cancel advertising the “upcoming” Games. There are at least six varieties of these roller cancels, some of which are quite scarce. Some meter cancels noting the upcoming Helsinki Games also exist. In addition, photomontage covers and covers with roller cancels can be found with a variety of markings such as censor stamps and field post usages. Although I am not an expert with respect to this philatelic material, I will try to highlight, illustrate, and explain some of these philatelic items.

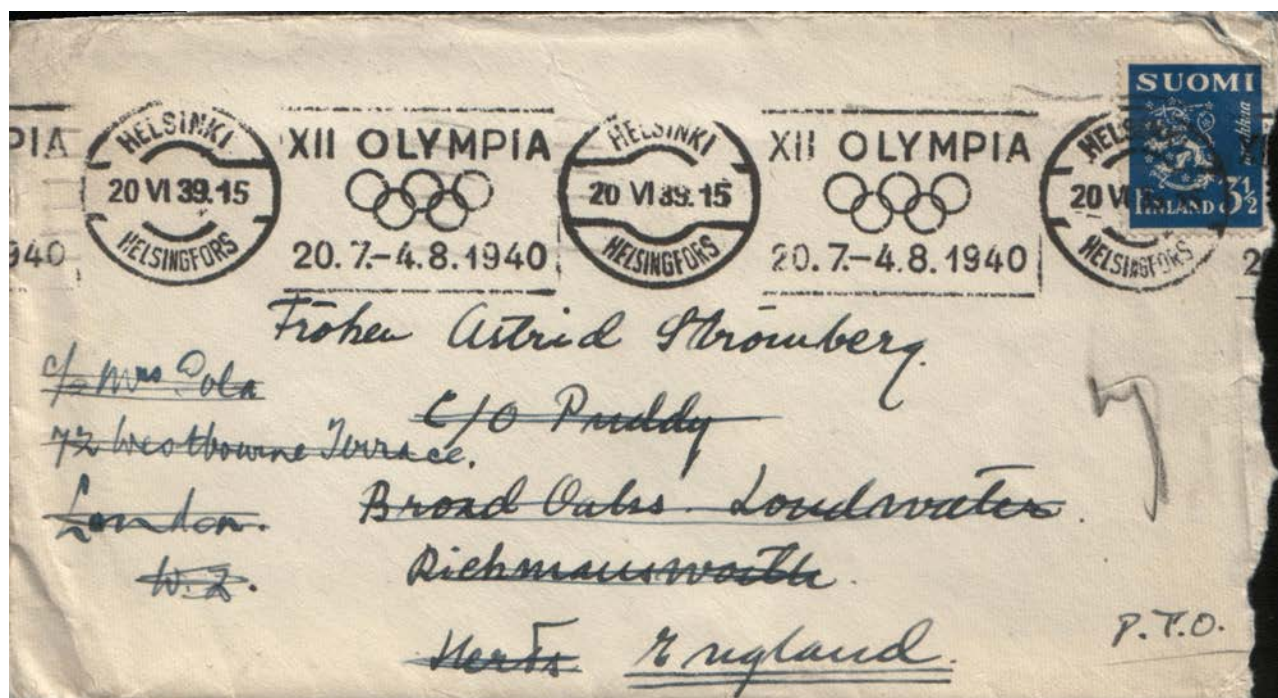


**Figure 3. Reverse side of a Type 1 photomontage cover illustrating the central post office, a clock tower, the university, and the river embankment.**



**Figure 4. Reverse of Type 2 cover: Market Square fountain, monument to Alexander II, sculpture group “The Blacksmiths”, Central Railway Station.**





**Figure 5. Type 1 roller cancel. This particular cover was postmarked June 20, 1939, a very early use of the roller cancel.**

## PHOTOMONTAGE COVERS

The first actual philatelic material issued for the 1940 Games by Finland were illustrated, unstamped covers. Photomontage covers were released starting in late 1938 to early 1939, and were used throughout World War II. These photomontage covers were issued under IOC patronage and were initially considered symbols of the upcoming Olympic Games. However, soon after their release, Finland and Russia went to war (November 1939). As a result, military censor marks such as "Krigscensuren" or "KENTTAPOSTIA" (field post) became commonplace appliqués to mail, including photomontage covers. The IOC apparently believed that such markings were not in the Olympic spirit, and declared that such covers were therefore not official Olympic philatelic items.

Although the use of photomontage covers is known to have occurred throughout World War II, most of the covers that I have come across were used during the period 1939-1940. Of the fifteen covers I have managed to locate and procure for my collection, the earliest example I have found was postmarked March 6, 1939 and the latest example was postmarked April 8, 1940. Moreover, I have yet to locate a photomontage cover with a roller cancel (see next section).

There were at least three types of these photomontage covers issued, all on a patent grant basis (PAT. HAET. 9840/38). Two of these covers were quite similar. Both show a photo reproduction of the Olympic stadium motif on the front. Various architectural and town planning sights of Helsinki are illustrated on the back of the cover. There are some variations in color shading, shadows, and images presented on these covers. Some of the sights depicted on the reverse include a fountain on market square, a monument to Alexander II, St. Nicolas Cathedral, and the Central Railway Station. These covers were printed in dark-blue color. The reverse side of the Type 1 photomontage cover (PC) is shown in Figure 3, whereas the back of the Type 2 PC is shown in Figure 4.

The third style of cover was greenish-gray in color, and the images on the reverse side of the PC consisted of athletes in action (steeplechase, javelin, hammer throw, discus). The obverse side of the cover illustrated two runners approaching the finish line in a race with interested spectators and race officials watching. This Type 3 PC is, I believe, scarcer than the first two types of photomontage covers.

I have heard about the existence of a fourth type of photomontage cover but have not seen a copy. This fourth style of PC is described in reference 4.

This author indicates that the front of the Type 4 cover exhibited a birds-eye view of the Olympic stadium, but the text only indicated that the illustration was a stadium (i.e., no mention of "Olympic"). The reverse of the Type 4 cover apparently does not display anything. These various photomontage cover varieties are summarized in Table 1.

## ROLLER CANCELS

The Central Post Office of Helsinki used special roller cancellations to promote the upcoming 1940 Olympic Games. These machine-applied cancellations were in use from June 19, 1939 to April 11, 1940. The roller cancel promoted the upcoming Games by identifying Helsinki as the host city of the "XII Olympia" along with the duration of the upcoming Games (20.7-4.8.1940).

An example of the most common variety of this roller cancel is shown in Figure 5. This Type RC1 cancel is identified by the absence of points on either side of the date cancel. It was applied to a letter sent from Helsinki to England. The postmark date for this example was June 20, 1939, making this a very early example of the roller cancel (start date was June 19).

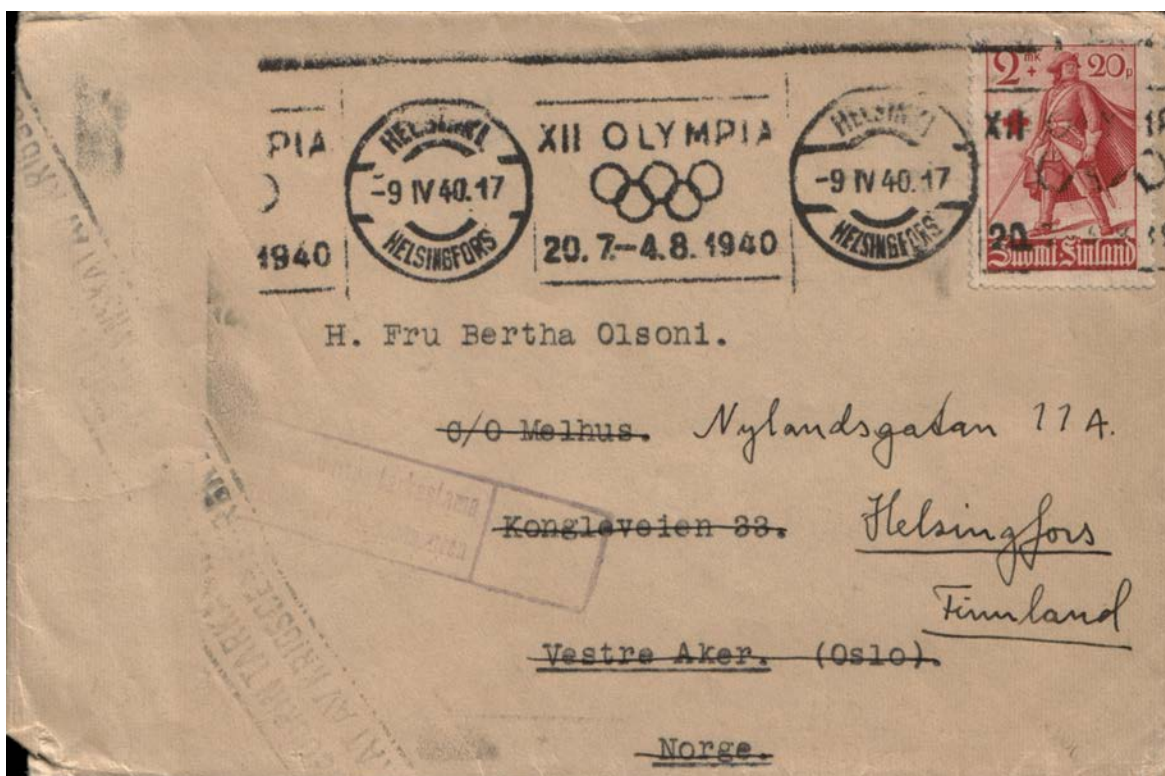
There are six known varieties of this Olympic roller cancel (see Table 2). Three of the cancel types

(Types RC1, RC2, and RC4) were used for outbound mail leaving Helsinki, while the other three (Types RC3, RC5 and RC6) were used as arrival cancels on mail addressed to Helsinki. Minor shading variations are known to exist for most of these roller cancels.

The relative scarcity of each type is presented in Table 2. I have seen only one example of the "V" type roller cancel (RC4) for sale in an auction (eBay), so I suspect that it is quite rare. I have yet to see covers exhibiting either a type "II" (RC5) or slash (RC6) roller cancel for sale at any auction during the past five years. Perhaps some source with which I am not familiar can identify the quantities of the various types of roller cancels in existence (approximate) as well as the rationale behind these variations. All input would be welcome.

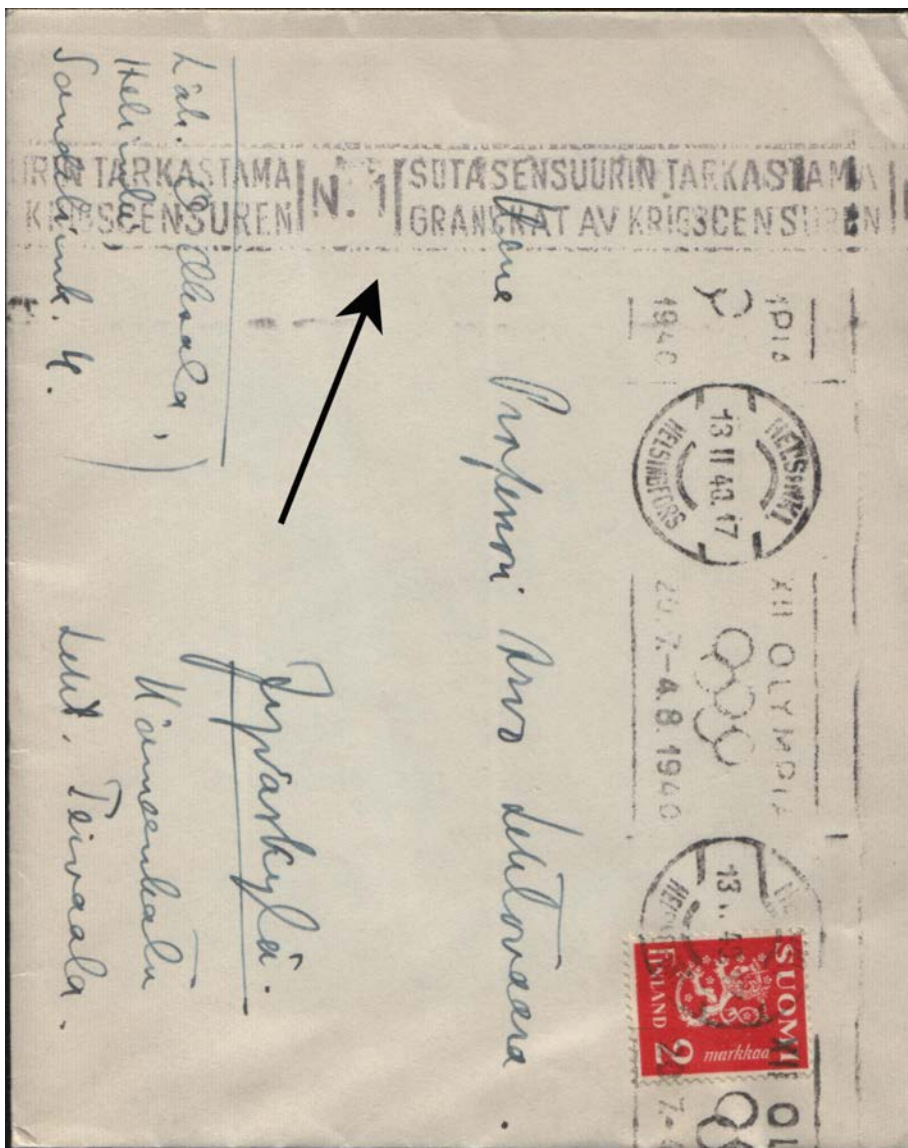
The relative scarcity of the more common varieties of the roller cancel (RC 1-3) is also influenced by the cancellation date. Thus, roller cancels applied close to either the first day of use (June 19, 1939) or the last day of use (April 11, 1940) are worth more than cancels applied on other dates.

The earliest example of a roller cancel that I have in my collection is June 20, 1939, the second day of use. My latest example is from April 9, 1940, a mere two days before the Olympic roller cancel was discontinued (Figure 6). Interestingly, this April 9



**Figure 6.** Example of a cover showing a roller cancel at departure, but bearing no roller cancel on the reverse upon its return.





**Figure 7. An example of a cover with both a roller cancel and Type 3 censor marking reading “Sotasensuurin tarkastama / Granskat av krigscensuren” enclosed in a large black box.**

cover was mailed to Norway and then was returned to the original sender in Helsinki, Finland. The mail passage took about a month. The particular significance exhibited by this cover is that when it left Finland, the Olympic roller cancel was applied, but upon its return a month later, the Olympic roller cancel had been discontinued. Thus, the postmarks on this particular cover exhibit both a period when the roller cancel was being used and when it was not.

## CENSORED MAIL MARKINGS

Covers and postcards exhibiting a roller cancel (as well as photomontage covers) may also exhibit

other markings. For example, some covers were censored during the preparation for, and the actual war, with Russia. A hand stamp, usually in purple ink, will identify such a censored cover. These markings usually consist of some derivative of the phrase “Sotasensuurin tarkastama Granskat av krigscensuren”. This phrase is a combination of Swedish and Finnish and essentially means that the mail has been censored. An example of a cover showing both a roller cancel and a censor marking is shown in Figure 9.

There are at least six distinct censor markings that I have observed (summarized in Table 3). Typically, these censor markings were applied to the front of the cover, but I have observed some covers where the censor marking was applied on the back. I have also seen postcards marked with Type 1 or Type 2 censor markings.

Based upon the covers I have collected (about 125), it appears that the mail censoring started sometime between November 11, 1939 and November 21, 1939. If this observation can be validated from other sources, it would indicate that the censor markings were initiated when the negotiations regarding the

Karelian Isthmus annexation between the Finns and Russians broke down (early November 1939). Covers postmarked with a roller cancel dated after November 21, 1939 often exhibit some type of censor marking. I have not been able to make a determination as to the relative scarcity of the various censor markings.

## FIELD POST CANCELLATIONS

Another example of a special marking, which was applied just prior to and during the Winter War, was for field post (army mail). Field post regulations required that all mail be marked with one of two rubber-stamped cachets. The special markings were



*Kenttapostia* in violet ink for personal mail, and *Sotilasasia* (Figure 8) in red ink for official mail. In practice, mail was struck in whatever ink was available.

The size of these markings varied and can be found either boxed or unboxed. Sometimes, if ink was not available, the *Kenttapostia* marking was simply handwritten or typed.

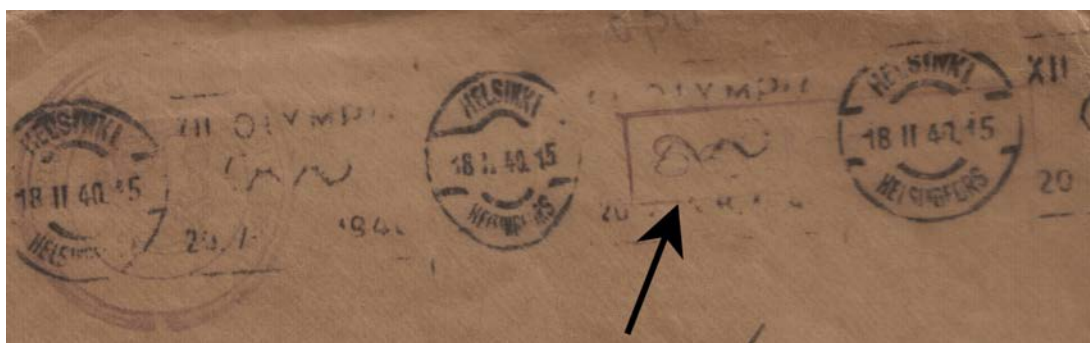
As the war preparations progressed, the use of hand stamps with town or city names was deemed a security risk since the hand stamp identified the location of the operational units. To overcome this issue but still allow mail to be sent to and from the Finnish soldiers, thirty Field Post Offices (*Kenttapostikonttori*, or *Kpk*)<sup>4</sup> were established to help keep the mail moving and yet not identify the army field post location. The earliest *Kpk* office was established in September 1939. The mail from the border towns was handled by the army logistics centers in the town. Typically, the mail handled by the field post office was postmarked with a black, double-ring circular date cancel reading *Kpk* (Figure 9).

Although the *Kpk* system was established in September, the earliest cover that I have found with the military marking is dated December 23, 1939. Covers can be found with both the military *Kpk* marking and the Olympic roller cancel. I have found numerous examples of such covers dated between January-April 1940. Covers and cards sent via the field post system exist both with or without franking.

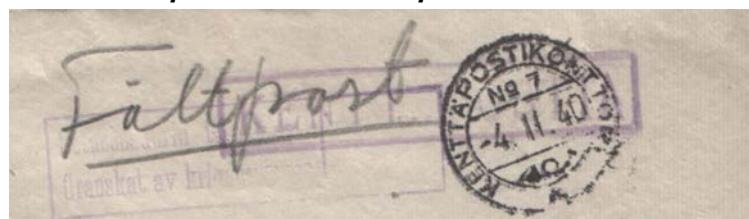
It is clear that many different varieties of field post markings can be found on covers exhibiting a 1940 Olympic roller cancel. A few of those that I have found are shown in Table 4.

## SUMMARY

Collecting philatelic material related to the cancelled 1940 Olympic Games can be a very interesting and challenging endeavor. As I have attempted to describe, a significant number of photomontage covers, roller cancels, as well as a variety of censor and field post markings exist. Because of the unique historical backdrop of this



**Figures 8 & 9. Above, an example of a hand stamp inscribed “Sotilasasia” used to identify official mail from a field post. A circular date cancel used by a Field Post Office is shown below. A handwritten “Faltpost” as well as a “Kenttapostia” hand-stamp can also be observed.**



material, collecting 1940 Olympic-related material offers the collector a wonderful opportunity to develop a better understanding of these cancelled Games. Moreover, the diversity of readily available material presents many opportunities for a variety of specialized collections and/or additional study. 🐼

## REFERENCES

1. M. Polley, “Olympic Diplomacy: The British Government and the Projected 1940 Olympic Games”, *International Journal of the History of Sport*, Vol. 9, No. 2, August 1992, p. 169.
2. J. Tahara, “Count Michimasa Soyeshima and the Cancellation of the XII Olympiad in Tokyo: A footnote to Olympic History”, *International Journal of the History of Sport*, Vol. 9, No. 3, December 1992, p. 466.
3. Source unknown reference, pp. 16-28, text contains Finnish & English translation. It is Chapter II, and is titled “If there had not been the World War II.”
4. Text & author unknown (supplied to me by friend from Finland) – Listing of the fieldpost offices used during Winter War (pp. 3-5), text in Finnish.
5. George Constable, “The XI, XII & XIII Olympiads: Berlin 1936, St. Moritz 1948.” *The Olympic Century Project*, Volume 11, pp. 108-114.

**Table 1 – Identification of the 3 (or 4) Types of Photomontage Covers**

<i>Type</i>	<i>Obverse</i>	<i>Reverse</i>	<i>Relative Scarcity</i>
PC1	Olympic stadium frontage	Helsinki scenes, including clock tower	Common
PC2	Olympic stadium frontage	Helsinki scenes, including "The Blacksmiths"	Common
PC3	Runners approaching finish line	Athletes in action	Scarce
PC4	Stadium (no Olympic motif)	blank	Not observed

**Table 2 – Identification of the 6 Types of Roller Cancels**


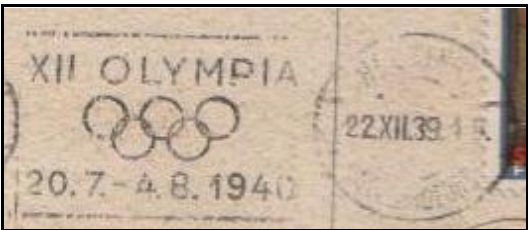
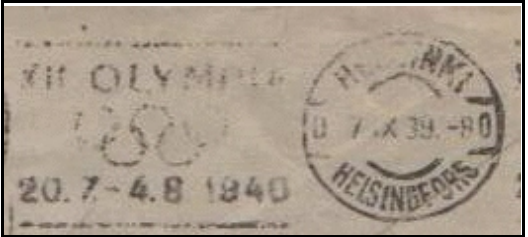


<i>Type</i>	<i>Use (in/out)</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Image</i>	<i>Relative Scarcity</i>
RC1	Out	No points (decimals) on either side of the cancellation date		Common
RC2	Out	A decimal point after the date		Less common
RC3	In	With the number "0" before and after the date		Scarce
RC4	Out	With the letter "V" before and after the date		Rare
RC5	In	With the Roman numerals "II" before & after the date		Very rare
RC6	In	Slashes above and below date	No examples found	Extremely rare

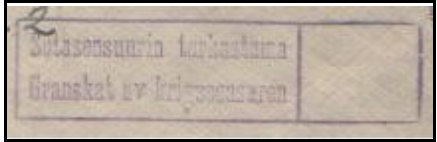
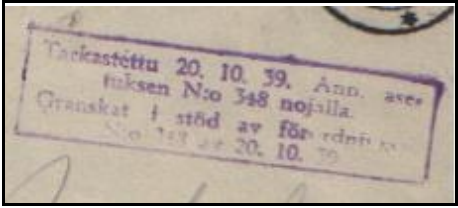

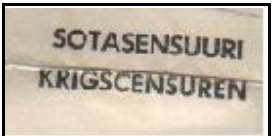
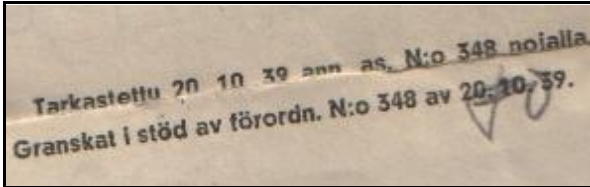
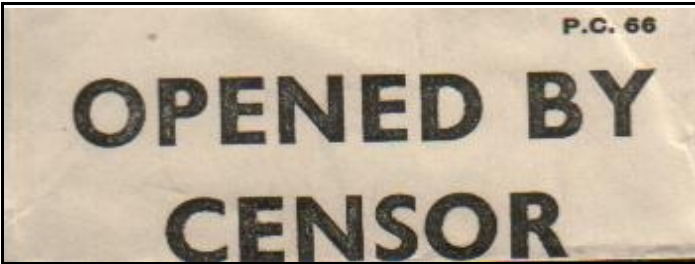

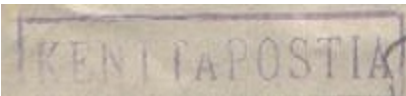


Table 3 – Identification of the 6 Types of Censor Markings		
Type	Description & Image	
Censor 1	Sotasensuurin tarkastama Granskat av krigscensuren (usually in small purple box)	
Censor 2	Tarkastettu 20.10.39 Ann. avec tuksen N:o 348 nojalla Granskat i stöd av förordn N:o 363 av 20.10.39 (small purple box)	
Censor 3	Sotasensuurin tarkastama Granskat av krigscensuren (in large black box)	
Censor 4	Sotasensuurin krigscensuren (usually in black, wrapped around edge of cover)	
Censor 5	Tarkastettu 20.1.39 ann as N:o 348 nojalla Granskat i stöd av förordn N:o 348 av 20.20.39 (white label wrapped around edge)	
Censor 6	Other (e.g., in English)	

Table 4 – Field Post Markings	
   	
<p>A number of field post, or <i>Kenttäpostia</i>, markings exist as both handwritten inscriptions and as handstamps. A few different varieties are shown here.</p>	





**Figure 1.** FD cover of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of baseball in Canada, postmarked at Beachville, Ontario, September 14, 1988.

## Canadian Baseball Philately

by Norman Rushefsky

The common understanding that baseball was invented in Cooperstown, New York in 1839 by Abner Doubleday is just one of several myths associated with the creation of baseball. Our friends in Canada have their own creation story regarding an earlier possession of baseball in 1838 in Beachville, Ontario where allegedly the first recorded game of baseball in North America took place. As is typical of such legends, the report of the incident was made many years after the fact. Nonetheless, the stories take on a life of their own generating a degree of local pride and thus developing into a "history." There is an expression with regard to history that it is "lies agreed upon." When it comes to the history of baseball's origins, that certainly seems true. Figure 1 is an illustration of a first day cover from Canada celebrating the 150th anniversary of baseball in North America.

While hockey remains the national sport of Canada there are enough baseball enthusiasts to provide for two Major League professional baseball teams. One of these teams, the Expos, plays at the Montréal Olympic Stadium where the opening ceremonies of the 1976 Olympic Games were held. Figure 2 shows a postmark depicting the stadium used as a first day cancel on the 150<sup>th</sup> baseball anniversary stamp. The Expos have provided us with a number of other baseball philately items such as slogan meters (Figures 3 and 4).



**Figure 2.** Montréal's Major League team, the Expos, plays at the '76 Olympic Stadium.



**Figures 3 & 4. Publicity meters used by the Montreal Expos. Both are in red ink and date to the early 1970s.**

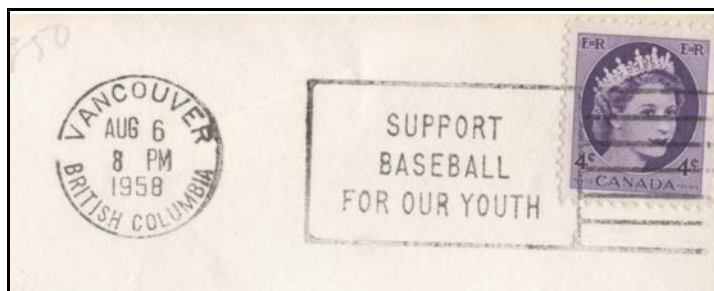
The other Canadian Major League professional baseball team is the Toronto Blue Jays. Canada issued a stamp honoring the team's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2001 with a booklet of eight stamps. Figure 5 illustrates the front cover of the booklet and Figure 6 illustrates the open booklet with the eight stamps.

The third Canadian stamp of interest was issued in 1987 and honors volunteers (Figure 7). If you look carefully near the center of the stamp (above the arrow) is what appears to be a baseball coach holding a baseball bat and an accompanying youngster with a baseball glove.



**Figures 5 & 6. Canada Post honored the Toronto Blue Jays on their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a booklet of 8 colorful die-cut stamps.**



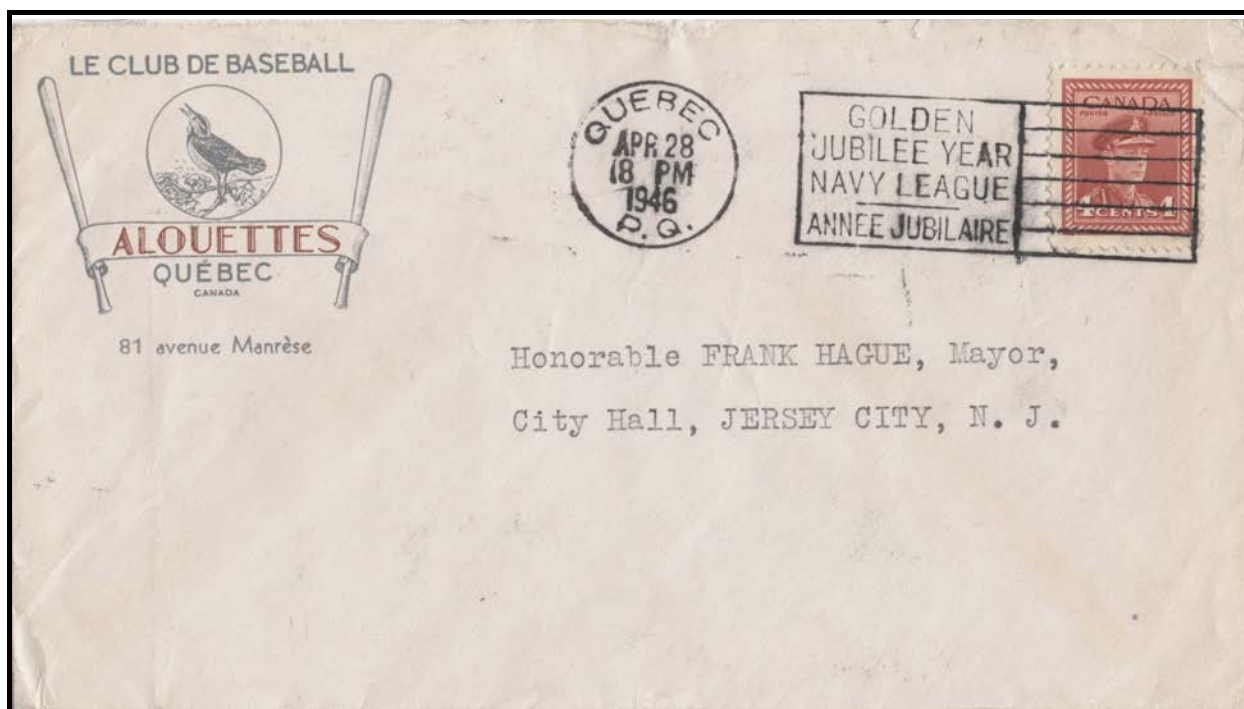


**Figures 7 & 8. The 1987 stamp honoring volunteers (left) features a man carrying a baseball bat accompanied by a youngster with a glove (indicated by the arrow). Another youth baseball theme is reflected in the 1958 Vancouver, BC machine cancel (above).**

Another philatelic item relating to youth baseball is a machine cancel used in Vancouver in 1958 (Figure 8).

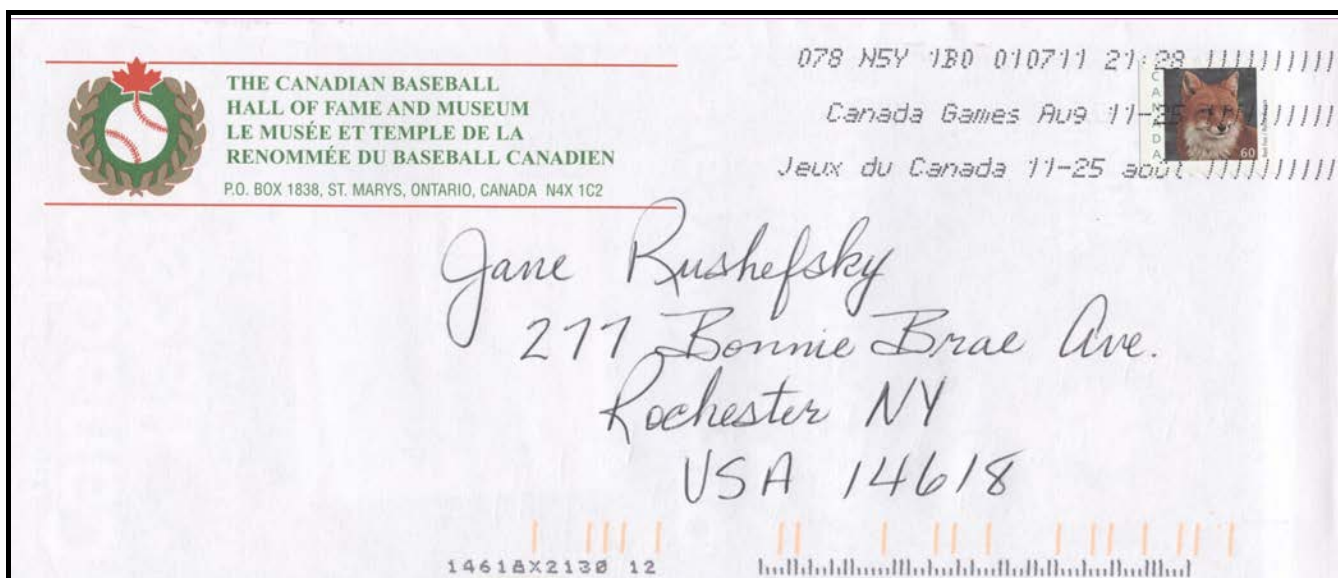
Still other philatelic items for the baseball philatelist are the envelopes from the various teams and baseball organizations. Figure 9 is an envelope from 1946 from the Québec Alouettes Baseball Club. The other cover illustrated in Figure 10 is from the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in St. Marys, Ontario. An interesting addition to this envelope is a sprayed-on postal marking honoring the Canada Games, which I believe is a non-baseball sports event.

One interesting thing to note about Canadian philately is that the government supplies cacheted first day covers of their stamps. What has been noted in the philatelic press is that this typically drives out the commercial first day cachet makers and thus there is not as great a diversity of cachets for each stamp as there is in those countries where the government does not provide such cachets. When looking for cacheted first day covers of baseball stamps there are only a few commercially produced cachets that one may find. However, I have noted first day covers using the stationery of the various baseball teams including minor-league teams.



**Figure 9. 1946 cover with the corner marking of the Québec Alouettes Baseball Club.**





**Figure 10.** Cover with the corner card of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in St. Marys, Ontario. An interesting sprayed-on marking promotes the Canada Games.



**Figure 11.** Coming full circle, this pictorial cancel from Beachville, Ontario commemorates the “Earliest Recorded Baseball Game” played there in 1838.

Lastly, Canada has encouraged the use by localities of commemorative postmarks on an everyday basis. A number of localities have adopted special commemorative postmarks and a list of these is maintained on the Canada Post web site. Some of these have a sports theme and are available

from the local postmaster assuming you can provide an envelope with the appropriate Canadian postage for mailing back to yourself. The postmark shown in Figure 11 is used in Beachville, Ontario and features a baseball player with the year 1838 and noting “Earliest Recorded Baseball Game.”



## Fanny Blankers-Koen, the “Flying Housewife”

by Laurentz Jonker

**R**egarded by many as the best female athlete of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Fanny Blankers-Koen passed away on January 25, 2004 at the age of 85.

Born Fanny Koen, she lived a simple life in which family and sports took center stage. As a young girl she excelled in swimming, track and field and gymnastics. One day when her father asked the superintendent of the swimming pool which sport he thought his daughter would be best at, the superintendent's answer was athletics, so Fanny concentrated on that sport. In the beginning she was a high jumper and ran the 800 meters (her first national record!). As the Dutch national high jump champion in 1936, she not surprisingly earned a ticket to the Berlin Olympics. The result for the 18-year-old: sixth place. Koen also participated on the Dutch 4 x 100-meter relay team which placed fifth in the finals. Unfortunately the Dutch national Olympic committee had forgotten to enter her in the 100-meter sprint. During her sojourn at the 1936 Berlin Games she was very impressed by Jesse Owens' performances and asked for his autograph. Naturally she got it!

Following the Games, Jan Blankers became Fanny's coach at the club they both belonged to – A.D.A. Eventually Blankers founded his own track & field club which Fanny also joined. The new club, Sagitta, lay on Olympiaweg just a few hundred meters from the 1928 Olympic Stadium.

### Fanny (Francina Elsje) Blankers-Koen

Born: Baarn, 26.4.1918

Died: Hoofddorp, 25.1.2004



- ◆ 58 National Titles
  - ◆ 26 National Records
  - ◆ 21 World Records
  - ◆ 5 European Titles
  - ◆ 4 Olympic Titles

Jan Blankers was born in 1904. A triple jump specialist, he participated in the 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games. Despite being the reigning Dutch national champion in the event in both 1931 and 1932, Blankers did not go to the 1932 Olympic



*Apeldoorn (The Netherlands) local post stamp featuring Fanny competing hurdles. Fanny later autographed the cover.*



**The Blankers-Koen Family – Jan; Jan, Jr.; Fanny; and young Fanny – at the Ouwehands Zoo in Rhenen.**

Games in Los Angeles. Instead, Wim Peters attended those Games (see “An Olympic and Sports History of Zwolle, The Netherlands” by Laurentz Jonker, *Journal of Sports Philately*, Vol. 34, No. 2, pp. 7-8). Jan Blankers later worked as a sports journalist for the Dutch newspaper *De Telegraaf*.

The coach-athlete friendship between Blankers and Koen eventually blossomed into love despite the 14-year difference in their ages. The two were wed in 1940. With no Olympics in either 1940 or 1944 because of World War II, there was time to start a family; two children – named Jan and Fanny after their parents – soon followed.

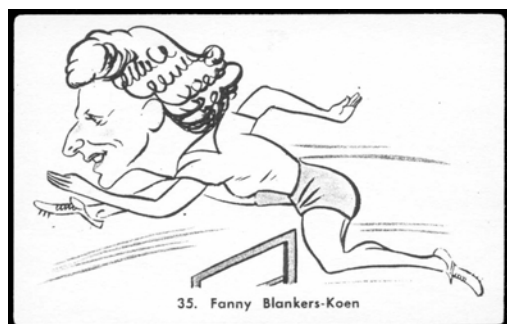
Although both a mother and housewife, Fanny found time to continue sports. This generated significant criticism from many corners of Dutch society as the emancipation of women was still only



**1946 European Champions in the women's 4 x 100-meter relay: Gerda van der Kade-Koudijs, Netty Witziers-Timmer, Maieth Adema, & Fanny Blankers-Koen. Maieth would be replaced by Xenia de Jong at the 1948 Olympics.**

a dream. But when Blankers-Koen returned from the London Olympic Games with four gold medals, her critics were quickly silenced. In recognition of her achievements, the “Flying Housewife,” as she was affectionately nicknamed, received a bicycle from her neighbors and a nice book from the town hall – a far cry from the millions of dollars earned by today's Olympic and professional sports stars many of whom owe their success to steroids and human growth hormones rather than hard work and natural talent! What was Fanny's secret? Brown beans and two spoons of cod-liver oil each day.

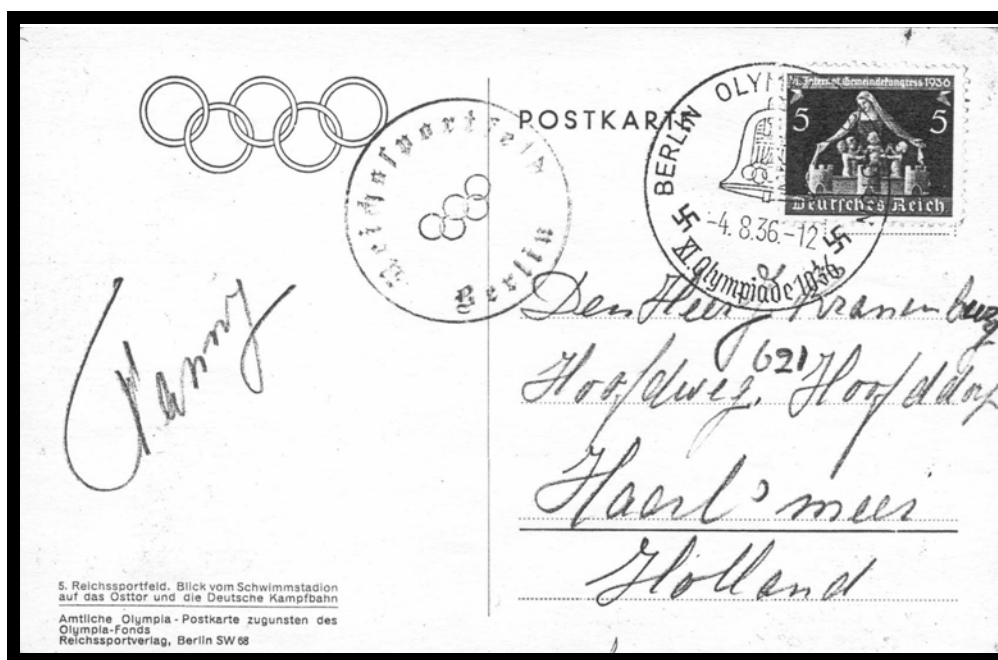
Fanny's four Olympic gold medals in 1948 were won in the 100-meter dash, 200 meters, 80-meter hurdles and the 4 x 100-meter relay running the anchor leg. She nearly missed the finals of the relay race as she had gone to the center of London to buy



**Fanny's second gold medal of the 1948 Olympics was in the 80-meter hurdles where she barely edged out Maureen Gardner of Great Britain at the tape. Two days later (August 6) she took the gold in the 200-meters (right).**







**1936 Olympic postcard signed by Fanny and mailed to a friend of her father's.**

a good raincoat (the 1948 Olympics were plagued by rain) and got caught in a traffic jam. Fortunately for her and her relay colleagues, she entered the Empire Stadium just in time.

Fanny Blankers-Koen wrote history in London, winning gold in four of the nine events for women. Had the program of events permitted it she could have entered – and probably won – the long jump and possibly the high jump as well.

At the 1952 Olympics, Fanny was injured preventing her from any further competition in Helsinki. Her third Olympic Games proved to be her last. Finally she had more time for her family. She was not completely lost to athletics, serving in various positions and delegations for the IAAF (International Amateur Athletic Federation) and the Royal Dutch Athletics Union (KNAU). She was a good ambassador for the Netherlands. In her later years, Fanny took pleasure in playing tennis and swimming in the Amstel.

Tributes to this remarkable athlete include a bronze statue of her in Blijdorp, an annual athletics games in Hengelo are held in the FBK (Fanny Blankers-Koen) Stadium, and an arena in Hoofddorp is named the FB Koen Sporthall.

On Thursday, January 29, 2004 Fanny was laid to rest at Hoofddorp, not far from Schiphol International Airport. Many well-known sportsmen and -women attended the funeral. Two of Fanny's three fellow runners on the winning 1948 Olympic 4 x 100-meter

relay team were there to pay their last respects: Xenia de Jong and Netty Witziers-Timmer. Gerda van der Kade-Koudijs refused to go. In spite of the fact that Fanny had to make up 3 to 5 meters running anchor in order to cross the finish line first, van der Kade-Koudijs was still furious about the raincoat incident and how it nearly cost them the race. Xenia van Bijleveld-de Jong spoke for all members of the relay team about how four housewives came together to win the Olympic gold medal. Xenia, at 81, lives in a retirement

home where she is called the "Flying Aunt".

On the few occasions that I met Fanny, I found her a friendly and spontaneous woman. I showed her the 1936 postcard illustrated above; she told me that a good friend of her father's had asked her to send a postcard. She confirmed to me that she had written the card and signed it "Fanny".

The second brief chat I had with her was during the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. I visited the Biltmore Hotel (the official IOC Hotel during the Games) where the Dutch were promoting Amsterdam's bid for the 1992 Olympics (which Barcelona eventually won) and had set up a "Heineken House Beer Bar". It was there I again encountered Fanny and told her about OLYMPHILEX '84 and my special exhibit which included memorabilia of all living Dutch Olympic participants from the 1932 Los Angeles Games. I can't say if she visited the exhibition in Pasadena – probably not. Although I created two displays for the "friends of the KNAU", I didn't meet Mrs. Blankers-Koen at either event. My Olympic friend from Zwolle, Wim Peters, helped me obtain her autograph on some items. 🐾

#### **SOURCES:**

100 Jaar Topsport FBK by Ruud Paauw

Fanny by Jan Blankers & Aad van Leeuwen

Recent newspaper articles from De Telegraaf and De Volkskrant

Collection of Laurentz Jonker

# THE SPORTS ARENA

by Mark Maestrone



**Stamp honoring 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of “Nemzeti Sport”, Hungary’s first sports journal. Stamp reproduces cover of publication’s first issue, also shown on postcard below. Cancel depicts Olympic fencer, Ödön Tersztyánsky.**



Hungarian SPI-member Zoltan Klein sent me a cover and postcard this past fall which at first glance appeared relatively straightforward – in other words, a nice sports/Olympic stamp and a couple of interesting cancels. After more careful inspection, however, I discovered some very cool aspects that will intrigue collectors of many sports!



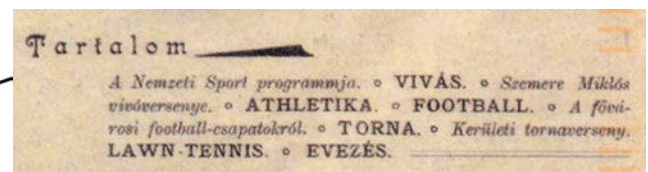
**March 14, 2003 First Day cancel for the “Nemzeti Sport” stamp.**

On March 14, 2003, Magyar Posta issued a 150Ft stamp commemorating the centennial of Hungary’s first sports journal, *Nemzeti Sport* (National Sport). The first day cancel is shown above right.

The stamp (top left) depicts the cover of issue No. 1. Due to the stamp’s size, the text on the cover is not legible. However, at lower left is a postcard reproducing that same cover. It clearly shows the table of contents (enlarged below) indicating that this inaugural issue covered the sports of fencing, athletics, football (soccer), gymnastics, lawn-tennis and rowing, a fact that makes this stamp collectible for many sports. Imagine a philatelic jury’s reaction when you point out this bit of research!

As an added benefit, the stamp comes with an attached label portraying the great Hungarian swimmer, Alfréd Hajós, winner of two of the three events at the inaugural 1896 Olympics in Athens.

The May 16 cancel, shown on the stamps at top left, honors another Hungarian Olympian. Ödön Tersztyánsky, a fencer, won two gold medals at the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics in sabre fencing (individual and team).



**The premier issue of “Nemzeti Sport” featured fencing, athletics, football, gymnastics, lawn-tennis and rowing.**

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# POSTAL STATIONERY CORNER

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by Glenn Estus

In a few weeks, the Athens Olympic Games will begin. Since 1936, the Olympic Torch Relay has been an integral part of the ceremonial aspect of the Games. The symbolic Olympic flame is lit at Olympia, Greece, site of the Games in ancient times and then conveyed to the host city.

As mentioned in the last issue of *JSP* (pages 20-21), the 2004 Torch Relay began on March 25 at Ancient Olympia, arriving in Athens March 31. The torch was scheduled to remain there until June 4 when it would be flown to Sydney and Melbourne, Australia.

At the present time, I have heard of no current postal stationery that commemorates the 2004 Olympic Torch Relay. But let's return to the Millennium Games four years ago in Sydney. The Sydney 2000 Committee and the Australian Government sponsored the Torch Relay through the thirteen member states of Oceania represented on the International Olympic Committee: Guam, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Papua and

New Guinea, Vanuatu, American Samoa, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Cook Islands, Tonga, Fiji, and New Zealand.

I know of only one postal emission for the Oceania portion of the Torch Relay: a postal envelope from Nauru (shown below), a self-governing nation in free association with New Zealand. The island has a population of 2200 people. Nauru is also the smallest nation affiliated with the Olympic movement joining the International Olympic Committee in 1994, the "Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal."

One-hundred Nauruans were selected to carry the torch around the island led by Marcus Stephen a gold medal weightlifter at the Commonwealth Games in 1990 and a silver medalist at the 1999 World Championships. Stephen was one of two Nauruans who would participate in the upcoming Sydney Games. He lifted 285 kilograms in the men's 62kg division.

Much of this information came from the website of the National Olympic Committees of Oceania found at: [www.oceania-olympic.org](http://www.oceania-olympic.org).



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# NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

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by Margaret Jones

## New Members

2235 Pierre Godin, 528 Acadian Blvd., Bertrand, N.B., E1W 1G6, Canada. Pierre is a welder and volunteers to translate articles from French into English. **Ice Hockey**.

1114H MOSFIT, c/o Csaba Toth, Vorosmarty u. 65, 1064 Budapest, Hungary.

## RENEWALS

2178 Manuel A.V. Ribeiro da Silva, Rua Eng Carlos Amarante, 149, PT-4250-090 Porto, Portugal.

1187 Jeffrey K. Armitage, 3978 Vanstone Dr., Commerce Township, MI 48382-1972. USA.  
corarm45@aol.com

## ADDRESS CHANGE

Sherwin Podolsky (new email):  
sapphires@sbcglobal.net  
Leonardo Svarzbein, PMB #371, 2626 N. Mesa Street, El Paso, TX 79902-3130 USA.

**Total Membership, March 31, 2004 = 263**

## Exhibit Awards

AMERISTAMP EXPO (Norfolk, Virginia). Charles J. Ekstrom III, received gold for "Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Certificate Form 3333"; Conrad Klinkner, won vermeil and ATA 2<sup>nd</sup> for "Games of the Xth Olympiad, Los Angeles 1932".

ARIPEX (Mesa, Arizona). Michael Jaffe obtained gold for "Waterfowl Hunting Permit Stamps: Federal-State-Indian"; Mark Meaney achieved gold for "First U.S. Migratory Bird Hunting Stamps".

MID-CITIES STAMP EXPO (Grapevine, Texas). Tom Koch received bronze and ATA 3<sup>rd</sup> for "Serve & Volley: Tennis Covers, Cancells and Cachets".

SPRINGPEX (Springfield, Virginia). Andrew Hodge won youth silver and ATA bronze for "Baseball".  
ST LOUIS STAMP EXPO (Missouri). Richard Woodward obtained vermeil for "The World Cup of Soccer".

STEPEX (Horseheads, New York). Bill Howden achieved silver for "Collecting Cycles: Motorcycles on Stamps".

THAMESPEX (Waterford, Connecticut). Edward Tricomi received gold for "The Wonderful World of Playing Cards."

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# NEW STAMP ISSUES

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by John La Porta

**Algeria:** October 18, 2003. 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Algerian Olympic Committee. 5d emblem.

**Armenia:** November 28, 2003. 3<sup>rd</sup> Pan-Armenian Games. 350dr s/s, sports complex, border shows athletes.

**Austria:** March 18, 2004. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Austrian Soccer Federation. Pane of 10 se-tenant 0.55e stamps showing players Gerhard Hanappi; Mathias Sindelar; emblem for 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; Bruno Pezzey; Ernst Ocwirk; Walter Zeman; Herbert Prohaska; Hans Krankl; Andreas Herzog; Anton Polster.

**Australia:** March 2004. Australian Football League. Sixteen booklets: twenty 50¢ Australia & Globe stamps plus twenty labels honoring different teams.

**Belgium:** November 21, 2003. Tennis. Two 0.49e: Kim Clijsters winner of 2002 Master Cup, first in 2003 WTA ratings; Justine Henin-Hardenne winner, 2003 US Open & French Open.

February 14, 2004. This is Belgium. Pane of ten 0.57e stamps. One stamp depicts Jacques Rogge president of the International Olympic Committee.

**Bosnia-Herzegovina:** February 7, 2004. 20<sup>th</sup> Ann. of Sarajevo 1984 Winter Olympics. Hand holding torch.

**Brazil:** December 6, 2003. Adventure Sports. 75c paragliding over city and beach.

**Bulgaria:** October 27, 2003. 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bulgarian Olympic Committee. 20st martial arts; 36st mountain biking; 50st baseball; 65st kayaking.

December 12, 2003. 100<sup>th</sup> Ann. FIFA. 20st emblem; 25st & 36st soccer scenes; 50st & 65st, trophy.

**Croatia:** February 19, 2004. European Boxing Championships. 2.80k, European gold star in boxing ring.

**Cyprus:** March 11, 2004. Soccer Anniversaries. Two 30¢ stamps, different symbolic soccer player. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary FIFA, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary European Soccer Union.

**Czech Republic:** April 14, 2004. World Ice Hockey Championship. 12kc hockey scene.

**Dominican Republic:** February 25, 2003. Pan American Games. 4p, 6p, 12p: symbolic designs.

**France:** May 20, 2004. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FIFA. 0.50e stamp depicts soccer ball.

**Gambia:** February 16, 2004. Arthur the Aardvark. Pane of sixteen 200 dai stamps, one depicts Binky reading book about football.

February 16, 2004. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FIFA. nine 10d stamps depicting different FIFA Trophy cups.

**Greece:** January 15, 2004. Athens 2004 Summer Games. Greek Olympians 1896/1912. 0.30e Spiros Louis; 0.10e Aristides Konstaninides; 2e Ioannia Fokianos; 2.17e Ioannia Mitropoulos; 3.60e Konstantinos Tsiklitis.

January 15, 2004. Athens 2004 Summer Games/Views of Olympic cities. 0.01e Volos; 0.02e Patra; 0.05e Iraklia Crete; 0.47e Athens; 1.40e Thessalonika; 4e Athens.

**Guyana:** 2004. International Soccer Federation. Nine 80¢ stamps: championship teams. Uruguay 1930; Italy 1943; Italy 1938; Uruguay 1950; Germany 1954; Brazil 1958; Brazil 1962; England 1966; Brazil 1970.

**Hong Kong:** February 3, 2004. Hong Kong Attractions, two sport related stamps in pane of 21: \$1.40 stamps. Hong Kong Stadium; Happy Valley Racecourse.

February 25, 2004. Rugby Sevens (joint issue with New Zealand). Set of four: \$1.40 Hong Kong Sevens; \$2.40, New Zealand players; \$3, Hong Kong Stadium; \$5 Wellington Stadium.

**Hungary:** March 5, 2004. 10<sup>th</sup> World Indoor Track and Field Championships. 120ft runners, pole vaulter.

March 18, 2004. Tourism/Spa Hotels. 120ft Therma and Sports Hotel Buk, Bukfurdo.

**Indonesia:** October 4, 2003. Bangkok 2003. 8,000r s/s, people playing soccer while riding elephants.

**Italy:** March 9, 2004. Turin 2006 Olympic Games. 0.23e Church of the Assumed St. Mary, Pragalata; 0.45e Church of St. Peter the Apostle, Bardonecchia; 0.62e with se-tenant Priority Mail label, Mole Antonelliana, Turin; 0.65e fountain of Sauze d'Oulx.

**Ireland:** March 31, 2004. 100<sup>th</sup> Ann. FIFA. 0.60e soccer ball, earth, flags.



**Liberia:** 2003. 100<sup>th</sup> Ann. Tour de France. 3 panes of 4 se-tenant \$40 stamps. #1, champions of 1956-59; #2, champions of 1980-83; #3, champions of 1984-87. Three \$120 s/s, Anquetil 1964; Pedro Delgado 1988; LeMond 1989.

**Liechtenstein:** June 1, 2004. Athens 2004 Summer Olympic Games. 85r hand and Olympic Torch.

**Macau:** March 1, 2004. Ching/Pa Kua IV. Pane of eight 2p: two are sports related, rock climbing; sailing.

**Malawi:** February 6, 2004. 100<sup>th</sup> Ann. Tour de France. Four se-tenant 75k stamps, champions of 1980-83.

**Maldives:** March 8, 2004. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FIFA. Ten 5rf stamps depicting different soccer teams. 1974 Germany; 1978 Argentina; 1982 Italy; 1986 Argentina; 1990 Germany, 1994 Brazil; 1998 France; 2002 Brazil.

**Monaco:** May 3, 2004. Athens Oly. Se-tenant 0.45e pair: stadium, runners; stadium, ancient Greek runners.

April 14, 2004. 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Monaco Grand Prix . 1.20e Antony Noghes, Prince Louis II, early race car.

**Mongolia:** 2003. Children & Sports. Pane of 9. 100t horses; 150t soccer; 200t horses; 250t golf; 300t horses; 350t hockey; 400t horses; 450t soccer; 500t horses.

2003. Children and Sports. Pane of nine 500t stamps with three different designs, baseball; chess; bicycling.

**New Zealand:** February 25, 2004. Rugby Sevens. 40¢ & 90¢ action scenes, \$1.50 and \$2 different stadium views. A souvenir sheet contains the four stamps.

**Norway:** March 26, 2004. Europa/Holidays. 6k cycling; 7.50k paddling; 9.50k cross-country skiing on glacier.

**Pakistan:** March 29, 2004. Ninth South Asian Federation Games. 16 se-tenant 2r stamps: medal; remaining stamps: bear mascot, Bholu, and a sport (running; squash; boxing; wrestling; rowing; judo; shooting; shot-put; badminton; weightlifting; volleyball; table tennis; swimming).

**Paraguay:** November 24, 2003. Soccer World Cup/Paraguay 2003. 4,000g, 5,000g soccer scenes.

**Romania:** December 12, 2003. Soccer & history of FIFA. 3,000 lei woman playing soccer; 4,000 lei filming game for television; 6,000 lei newspaper, seven founders of the federation; 10,000 lei early equipment; 34,000 lei laws of the game, diagram.

**San Marino:** February 6, 2004. Manuel Poggiali, 2<sup>nd</sup> World Motorcycling Championship. 1,55e, Poggiali.

April 16, 2004. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FIFA. 2.80e FIFA logo.

**Senegal:** January 14, 2004. 26<sup>th</sup> Paris-Dakar Rally. 390f motorcycles; 500f motorcycle.

**Serbia & Montenegro:** February 27, 2004. Athens 2004 Summer Olympic Games. 32d/0.50e ancient & modern runners; 56d/0.80e ancient & modern wrestlers.

**Sierra Leone:** Nov. 17, 2003. Oly. Gold Medalists. 300 l Forrest Smithson; 400 l Hannes Kolehmainen; 500 l Larissa Latynina; 800 l Klaus Dibiasi; 1,000 l Archie Hahn; 1,500 l Marcus Hurley; 2,000 l Ray Ewry; 3,000 l Henry Taylor.

**Slovenia:** January 22, 2004. Sixth Men's European Handball Championships. 221t, handball players.

March 24, 2004. European Championships in Men's Gymnastics. Triangular "D" stamp, gymnast on rings.

**South Africa:** September 26, 2003. World Cup Soccer 2010 Bid. 2 nondenom.: boys playing soccer, man with face painted in South Africa's colors; man with face painted in South Africa's colors, African map, emblem.

**Spain:** February 9, 2004. World Rowing Championships. 0.77e symbolic outrigger.

**Sri Lanka:** January 30, 2004. Royal Thomian Cricket Match. 4.50re match scenes.

**Sweden:** March 26, 2004. Swedish Soccer. Booklet of 6 nonden.: Nils Liedholm; Hanna Ljunberg; Fredrik Ljunberg; Henik Larsson; Viktoria Svensson; Thomas Ravelli.

**Switzerland:** March 9, 2004. 100<sup>th</sup> Ann. FIFA. 1fr triangular stamp, FIFA logo.

March 9, 2004. 50<sup>th</sup> Ann. Union of European Soccer Associations. 2.30fr old and new soccer scenes.

March 9, 2004. Cycling in Switzerland. S/s of two 1fr stamps: family cycling; two cyclists reading map.

**Tunisia:** March 18, 2004. January 24, 2004. African National Soccer Cup. Circular 250m, map, symbolic soccer player; circular 600m, emblem holding trophy with soccer ball.

**United Arab Emirates:** September 7, 2003. World Youth Soccer Champ. 3.75dh, logo and soccer ball.

**Uruguay:** October 31, 2003. Germany 2006 World Soccer Cup. S/s with se-tenant pair of 12p stamps.

**Wallis and Futuna:** March 12, 2004. Badminton. 55fr racket, shuttlecock and map.

**Yemen:** August 13, 2003. Under 17 World Soccer Cup Championship. 30r; 50r; 70r; 100r: Soccer scenes. S/s with 250r stamp showing team and stadium.

# COMMEMORATIVE STAMP CANCELS

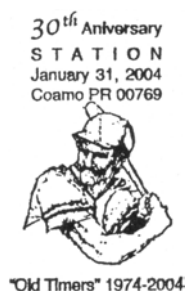
by Mark Maestrone

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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 unless otherwise indicated.

## SPORTS CROSS INDEX JANUARY-APRIL 2004

Baseball: 04131-007, 04321-341, 04415-165, 04417-152.  
Basketball: 04312-148, 04313-137, 04316-674, 04316-675, 04317-662, 04417-152.  
Biathlon: 04303-047.  
Cycling: 04327-923.  
Football: 04327-253, 04410-031.  
Olympics, Summer: 04403-604.



04131-007 Coamo, PR 1/31



04303-047 Fort Kent, ME 3-6



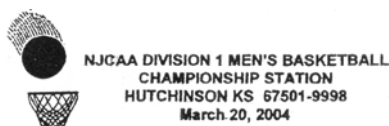
04312-148 Corning, NY 12



04313-137 Delhi, NY 13



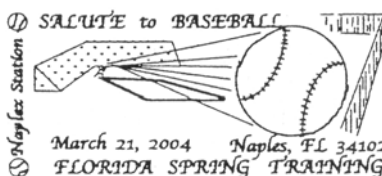
04316-674 Salina, KS 16



04316-675 Hutchinson, KS 16-20



04317-662 Overland Park, KS 17-20



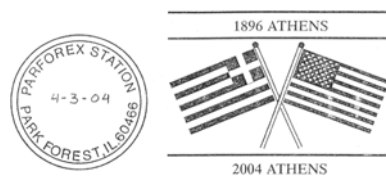
04321-341 Naples, FL 20-21



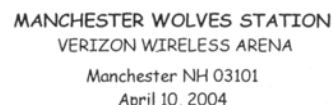
04327-253 So. Charleston, WV 27



04327-923 Redlands, CA 27



04403-604 Park Forest, IL 3-4



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