

JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

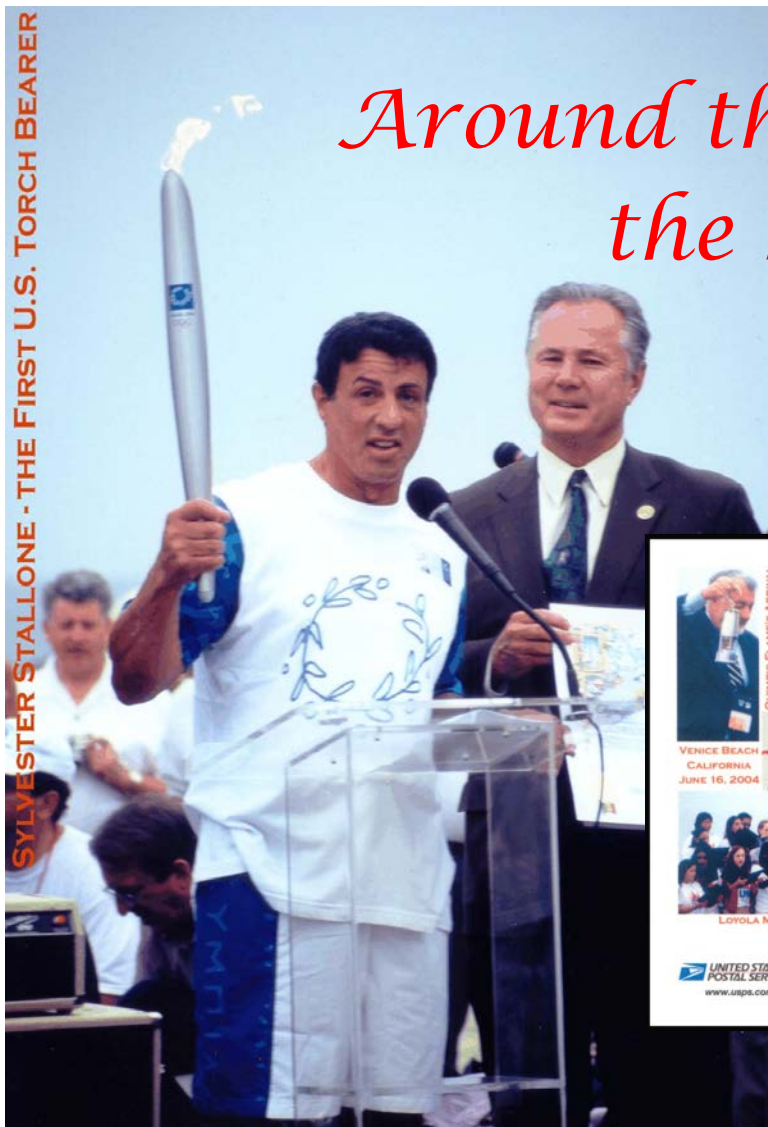
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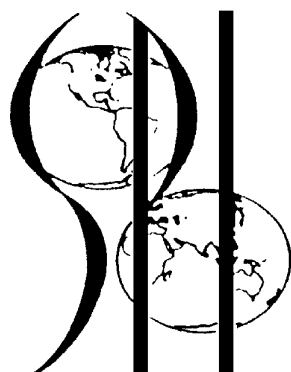
SYLVESTER STALLONE - THE FIRST U.S. TORCH BEARER

Around the World with the 2004 Olympic Torch Relay



USPS "Netpost" postcard from Venice Beach, CA where the Olympic flame began its journey across America, June 16, 2004.

TABLE OF CONTENTS



SPORTS
PHILATELISTS
INTERNATIONAL

President's Message	<i>Mark Maestrone</i>	1
World Series Cricket: The Kerry Packer Affair	<i>Peter Street</i>	3
Around the World With the 2004 Olympic Torch Relay	<i>Mark Maestrone</i>	10
Team Handball	<i>Marc Spitzer</i>	21
The 1924 French Olympic Stamps: Dates of Issue & Demonetization	<i>Manfred Bergman</i>	26
Reviews of Periodicals	<i>Mark Maestrone</i>	28
Book Reviews	<i>Robert Wilcock</i>	30
Postal Stationery Corner	<i>Glenn Estus</i>	31
News of Our Members	<i>Margaret Jones</i>	32
New Stamp Issues	<i>John La Porta</i>	33
Commemorative Stamp Cancels	<i>Mark Maestrone</i>	35

CRICKET

3

2004 OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY

10

TEAM HANDBALL

21

1924 OLYMPICS

26

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

Elections

I'm happy to report the election results for officers and members of the Board of Directors of SPI [the number of votes is in ()]:

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Norman Jacobs (39)

John La Porta (39)

Dale Lilljedahl (38)

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All officers and Board Members serve a 2-year term running September 1, 2004 through August 31, 2006.

Thanks to all who took a few moments to vote. And a special welcome to Pat Loehr who will be joining the board for the first time!

Do You "eBay"?

Checking eBay for goodies for our collections and exhibits has become almost a daily routine for many of us. But I'll bet you never thought how it might also benefit your society?

Consider this: I would bet that more often than not we purchase (or sell) to non-SPI members. Do you know if the person you are buying

Olympic and sports items from (or selling to) is a potential member who doesn't even know that SPI exists?

Here's what I've been doing: with every Olympic or sports lot mailed out to a buyer, I automatically include a copy of our SPI prospectus. It usually doesn't add much (or anything) to the postage costs, and it can yield big dividends if your fellow collector decides to join.

It's not as easy to do the same thing if you're the buyer, since much of the time we use PayPal. However for those occasions when you actually have to mail a payment, toss in a prospectus!

For your convenience, we've included a copy of our latest prospectus. All you need do is make some copies at your handy photocopy store for a few pennies each. You can also request extra copies from John La Porta if you don't have convenient access to a photocopier.

The Olympics Are Here!

As I write this President's Message we are just barely a week from the Opening Ceremonies of the Games of the XXVIIIth Olympiad. I must confess that I wasn't sure if the Greeks would get everything done in time, but it seems they have and are now ready to greet the world. So on that note, settle back in your easy chairs, turn on your televisions and enjoy ...

Let the Games Begin!

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SPI Rapid Notification Service

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British Torch Relay Postcard (Illustrated on Page 16)

The British Torch Relay postcard with 5 views is available from Robert J. Wilcock, 24 Hamilton Crescent, CM14 5ES Brentwood, U.K. at \$1 per card plus \$1 postage for up to 3 cards (\$2 for more than 3). Payment in cash or by PayPal (bob@towlard.freemove.co.uk). Five London 2012 postcards will be supplied free with all orders, while stocks last.

France and Colonies Proofs & Essays

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Activities: 40-dealer bourse; USPS; large and vibrant Youth Fun Center. The hotel is near shopping and fine restaurants in Dallas.

Societies: In addition to SPI, TEXPEX hosts the conventions of the Texas Philatelic Society; Texas Postal History Society; Texas Precancel Society; Nimitz Chapter of the Universal Ship Cancellation Society; Chapter #56, AFDCS.

TEXPEX organizers are busy developing an interesting lineup of seminars that draw from the local sports and philatelic community.

For more information, point your browser to:
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World Series Cricket: The Kerry Packer Affair

by Peter Street

In the spring of 1977, Australian media mogul Kerry Packer caused an uproar in the international cricketing establishment the likes of which had not been seen since the 1931-32 Bodyline controversy (*JSP*, March/April 1994) or the D'Oliveira Affair of 1970 (*JSP*, Sept./Oct. 1993).

What brought about this uproar and who the players involved were will be discussed at length in this article.

RECRUITMENT

The crux of the problem was that Kerry Packer could not obtain the rights to televise Test Cricket in Australia.

The Australian Board of Control for cricket had a contract with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation to televise these matches and would not allow Packer to televise them on his Channel 9.

Instead of accepting this as a *fait accompli* Mr. Packer decided to form his own cricket series and so World Series Cricket was born.

In order to do this he had to sign a number of the world's best players. In addition, he needed a person about whom these activities could revolve. Ideally he needed a top class player with sufficient charm and eloquence to convince these players that joining World Series Cricket would be to their advantage.

Such a man he found in Tony Greig. In the spring of 1977 when all this took place, Greig was captain of the English national team. Although born in South Africa, his Scottish parentage made him eligible to play for England. He commenced his first class career in 1967 at the tender age of 20 playing for the English county team of Sussex. Three years later he was a member of the English team and at the time of the World Series Cricket adventure he had captained it for two years. In 1977 Greig was considered one of world cricket's outstanding all-rounders, an aggressive batsman, a fast medium bowler and a brilliant fielder in any position.

In March 1977, Greig had led England in the Centenary Test match in Melbourne, Australia. Immediately afterwards, in the greatest secrecy, he flew to the Caribbean where Pakistan was touring the West Indies.

With the help of Clive Lloyd, the West Indian captain and Deryck Murray the vice-captain, Greig had little difficulty in signing nearly all the West Indian Test players and several members of the Pakistani team.

Australia was to tour England in the summer of 1977 under the captaincy of Greg Chappell. At the start of the English cricket season it is customary for the overseas touring team to play at the Duke of Norfolk's private cricket ground in Arundel, West Sussex.

A special cover was produced to honor this event. The cachet features photos of Tony Greig (left) and Greg Chappell (Figure 1).



Figure 1. 1977 Tour cover featuring England captain Tony Greig and Australian captain Greg Chappell.

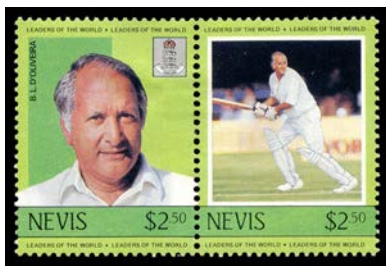


Figure 2. Basil D'Oliveira: his selection by England caused South Africa's sporting isolation.

By May 4, 1977, Chappell was able to sign 13 of the 17 members of the Australian touring team. Five days later Packer had 35 players under contract and by December 1 he had signed 55 of the world's best cricketers.

In order for World Series Cricket to succeed, the recruitment had to be done clandestinely. The players' contracts were for three years for up to £25,000 per year. Upon signing, each player received a down payment which would be forfeited if the arrangement was betrayed.

The original intention was to announce the formation of World Series Cricket the middle of June 1977. However the London (England) *Daily Mail* broke the story in mid-May.

Interestingly enough when Tony Greig learned of Kerry Packer's plan to create a professional cricket circuit he wrote a letter enumerating the pros and cons of such an arrangement. The principal *pro* was that the long-term security of the players would be assured; the principal *con* – he would become a short-term sporting pariah.

The *con* went into effect immediately; Greig was relieved of his English captaincy. This was the first time an English captain had lost his position for disciplinary reasons.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PLAYERS

In some respects players from South Africa were perhaps the easiest to recruit for World Series Cricket.

South Africa had been banned from international cricket since 1970. Readers of my previous cricket articles in *JSP* (September/October 1993 and Winter 2003) will recall the reason for South Africa's exclusion. Called the "D'Oliveira Affair," it involved Cape Colored player Basil D'Oliveira (Figure 2). He had been brought to England in 1960 and since 1964 had played for Worcestershire County Cricket Club. In 1968 he was selected to be a member of the English team that was to tour South Africa in 1968-69.

The South African government found this selection unacceptable and the English cricketing authorities cancelled the tour.

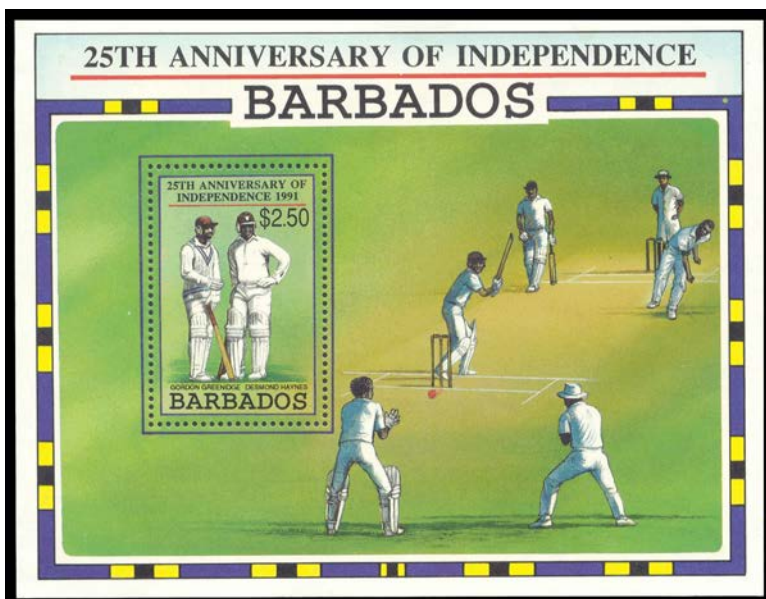


Figure 3. Members of the West Indian XI. (Above) opening batsmen Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes. (Right, clockwise from upper left) Clive Lloyd, Viv Richards, Deryck Murray, Michael Holding, and Andy Roberts.





Figure 4. English members of the World XI. (Clockwise from upper left) John Snow, Bob Woolmer, Derek Underwood, and Alan Knott.

As the South African cricketers were denied the opportunity for international competition, the better players offered their services to teams outside their own country. In 1977, players such as Eddie Barlow (Derbyshire), Mike Proctor (Gloucestershire), Barry Richards (Hampshire) and Clive Rice (Nottinghamshire) were playing for English County teams.

South African fast bowler Vintcent van der Bijl reports in his autobiography, *Cricket in the Shadows*, that when Mike Proctor was introduced to Kerry Packer the Australian magnate told Proctor he would have to lose ten pounds. Proctor retorted that maybe Packer would like to bat against his, Proctor's, bowling in the practice nets. Packer, not an accomplished cricketer, declined and laughed. The two subsequently developed a close friendship.

Barry Richards in his biography, *The Barry Richards' Story*, reports that he signed with Packer in the Parmelia Hotel in Perth, Australia. On this occasion the approach came through the JP Sports Agency. Interestingly the "P" stood for Paul Hogan, an Australian television personality who later played the character "Crocodile Dundee" in films.

Richards also stated that the chance to play "Test" matches against the world's best players, however unofficial, was one of the reasons he signed with Packer. The other, of course, was money.

The South African players became part of the World Series Cricket World XI.

THE WEST INDIAN PLAYERS

In the 1970s the West Indians were arguably the strongest team in international cricket.

However, the established players were faced with dual concerns, both financial. There was no professional full-time cricket in the Caribbean. The West Indian Cricket Board paid their players a nominal sum for Test matches but almost nothing else. Thus the players had to find a way of earning a living wage as cricketers and also how to survive once their playing days were over.

To overcome these problems the better players became mercenaries. At the time of World Series Cricket almost all the West Indian Test players played for either English County Clubs (England had allowed overseas players since 1968) or Australian State sides.

In 1977, the West Indian team was all-conquering. They won the inaugural Cricket World Cup in 1975 and in the intervening two years they had beaten the national sides of England, Australia, India and Pakistan.

Their captain was Clive Lloyd from Guyana. Figure 3b shows one of several stamps issued by Guyana to commemorate Lloyd's Testimonial Year in 1985. The West Indian opening batsmen, Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes, are shown on a souvenir sheet issued by Barbados in 1991 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the island's independence from direct British rule (Figure 3a).

The world's best batsman at the time was a West Indian, Viv Richards. He has appeared on a number of West Indian stamps. Typical is Figure 3c, one of three stamps issued by Antigua to celebrate Antiguanians who helped win the 1975 Cricket World Cup.

Much of the West Indian's success was based on their use of four fast bowlers often operating in tandem. Two of these fast bowlers, Andy Roberts and Michael Holding, have appeared on stamps. Roberts, an Antiguan, is featured on the 1975 Cricket World Cup commemorative (Figure 3d). Holding is



Figure 5. Pakistani members of the World XI. Imran Khan (left) and Asif Iqbal.

shown on one of the stamps issued by Jamaica in 1988 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of the West Indies being granted Test status (Figure 3f).

In 2002 Trinidad and Tobago issued four stamps featuring some of that country's cricketing legends. The \$2.50 value shows Deryck Murray, the West Indian batsman/wicket keeper and vice-captain (Figure 3e).

Thus when Kerry Packer offered them a chance to compete against some of the world's best players – and be paid handsomely – almost the entire West Indian Test team joined World Series Cricket. These players would form the West Indian XI.

THE ENGLISH PLAYERS

Tony Greig was only able to recruit a few English players. This was primarily because they were already professionals although not well paid by football (soccer) standards. In addition they were not sure of the reaction of the English cricketing authorities. Would it be the end of their County and Test careers? Only time would tell!

Eventually five other top caliber English players joined World Series Cricket. Greig signed his Sussex teammate, the temperamental fast bowler John Snow (Figure 4a). Snow was nearing the end of his first class and Test career. He joined World Series Cricket rather than become an umpire – a prospect he viewed with horror.

Three Kent players signed: Bob Woolmer (Figure 4b), a stylish right-hand batsman who was an established member of England's Test team; Alan Knott (Figure 4d), England's premier wicket keeper; and Derek Underwood (Figure 4c) who for two decades had been England's leading spin bowler. These four players all appear in the "Leaders of the World" series of stamps issued in 1984 by St. Vincent and Tuvalu.

Lastly Dennis Amiss, a determined opening batsman who had played for England in 50 Test matches was signed from Warwickshire.

These English signers would play for the World XI.

THE PAKISTANI PLAYERS

Five Pakistani Test players joined Kerry Packer: Mushtaq Mohammed, Zaheer Abbas, Imran Khan (Figure 5a), Asif Iqbal (Figure 5b), and Majid Khan. All had played for English County teams so Tony Greig was familiar with their capabilities. Each had also captained the Pakistani Test team at one time or another (Pakistan tended to change Test captains frequently in those days).

Imran Khan was to become a prominent all-rounder for World Series Cricket. He later paid World Series Cricket a compliment by stating that the experience made him a more complete bowler.

Imran Khan and Asif Iqbal are featured on 1988 cricket stamps from the Grenadines of St. Vincent.

The Pakistani players would be part of Packer's World XI.

THE AUSTRALIAN PLAYERS

Low pay was the primary reason Kerry Packer was able to sign so many Australian players.

The players were unhappy with their status and remuneration compared to other sports stars such as tennis players and footballers (soccer, rugby, and Australian Rules) and golfers. Rodney Marsh, then Australia's premier wicket keeper, is the brother of millionaire golfer Graham Marsh who is still, in 2004, earning substantial sums on the Senior Tour.

The former Australian cricket captain Ian Chappell had been campaigning for years for higher pay for Australian players. He and his brother Greg, the reigning Australian Test captain, immediately signed with Kerry Packer.

In all, no less than 17 Australian Test players joined World Series Cricket. This included their premier fast bowler, Dennis Lillee and the above-mentioned Rodney Marsh.

Greg Chappell, Rod Marsh and Dennis Lillee all retired from international cricket in 1984. AUSIPEX '84, the international stamp exhibition held in Melbourne that year issued a cinderella souvenir sheet to commemorate this event (Figure 6).

The Australian players formed one of the three World Series Cricket teams.

THE INDIAN AND NEW ZEALAND PLAYERS

In all the books and articles I read in preparation for this article no mention was made of the two other Test playing nations India and New Zealand.

Richie Benaud, the former Australian national team captain in the late 1950s and early 1960s, was in charge of cricket operations for World Series Cricket. He is now a distinguished author and the world's foremost radio and television cricket commentator.

Mr. Benaud is also the patron of our local (Florida) cricket club. By happenstance, for this article, he visited the club in mid-June 2004. I asked him about India and New Zealand. He said that enough Indian players signed to form a team but never played, as such. The only New Zealander of sufficient caliber was Richard Hadlee who played a few games for the World XI.

THE COURT CASE

The reaction of the cricket authorities to the formation of World Series Cricket was swift and far-reaching.

In 1977, the International Cricket Council (ICC) governed world cricket. At its annual meeting in the summer of 1977, the members unanimously passed a resolution which effectively banned all World Series Cricket players from playing in all authorized first class cricket including Test matches after October 1, 1977.

As a result of this resolution, Kerry Packer announced he would start legal proceedings against the ICC because he felt that this ban constituted "a restraint of trade."

Figure 7 shows Kerry Packer (left) and Tony Greig arriving at the London Law Courts for the September 26, 1977 opening of the case.

On November 25, 1977, after a six-week legal battle in the High Court, Mr. Justice Slade came down on the side of the World Series Cricket. He agreed with Packer that

the ban was, in fact, "an unreasonable restraint of trade." Slade also said that the challenge to the structure of first class cricket was bound to come sooner or later and the risk of this happening might have been reduced if official cricket had offered its more talented players a secure and more remunerative career structure. The ICC had to pay the court cost of £250,000.

The reaction of the four Test playing nations involved (England, Australia, West Indies and Pakistan) was varied. England and Australia decided to exclude World Series Cricket players from their Test teams for the foreseeable future. Pakistan tried to do without its Packer men. It excluded them for the tour to England in 1978. It recalled them for its tour of India in 1978-9, in the end, did not play them.

The West Indian cricket authorities wanted to compromise. The West Indian representatives to the ICC, former players Jeff Stollmeyer (Figure 8a) and Allan Rae (Figure 8b) failed to convert the ICC to their point of view. Both Stollmeyer and Rae are included in a series of stamps issued jointly by Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of the West Indies being granted Test status.

As their Test team had lost nearly all its best players to Packer, the West Indian Cricket Board



Figure 6. Members of the Australian XI: Greg Chappell (left), Rod Marsh (center) and Dennis Lillee.

decided to include these players in the first two Test matches when Australia, without its Packer players, toured the West Indies in 1978. However for the third Test in Trinidad three World Series Cricket players (Haynes, Austin and Murray) were dropped as a token gesture. Clive Lloyd, the West Indian captain, disagreed with the Board's decision and promptly resigned. Viv Richards and six other World Series Cricket players joined the walkout and the West Indies were forced to field a new team.

The reaction of the various English County teams was also varied. In most cases the counties fielded their Packer players because they were the stars and in some cases the captain of their sides.

The most devastating impact during the World Series Cricket period was that Australia and the West Indies could not field their best players and their teams were but shadows of their former selves. England and Pakistan lost fewer players but their teams were still undermanned.

THE MATCHES

In his biography of West Indian batsman Viv Richards, Trevor McDonald reports that Kerry Packer took the formation of World Series Cricket very seriously. Packer gave long talks to his players about behaving in a professional manner. He demanded fitness and that the players should play to the best of their ability. Incentives and prizes were offered to those that did well. One result was a win-at-all-costs attitude. This meant that even tail enders (those lower in the batting order) were attacked by the fast bowlers in full flight and batting helmets became mandatory.

Packer was always conscious of the player's family's needs. Wives were allowed to accompany their cricketing husbands. Baby-sitting was set up for their children.

As Frances Edmonds says in her book, *Another Bloody Tour*, Packer was much more astute than his counterparts in the cricket establishment. To quote her, "he (Packer) understood that most players, to perform at their very best, must be emotionally secure, content and happy and

this generally involves having the stability of a family environment."

Most of the matches were played in Australia. Because the established cricket grounds in that country were under the control of the Australian Cricket Board, they could not be used by World Series Cricket. This meant that Packer's teams had to use horse racing tracks, show grounds and Australian Rules football stadiums. Sod for the pitches was grown in greenhouses in concrete troughs and lifted by cranes into holes dug in the center of the grounds.

In order to gain maximum audiences at night, floodlit cricket was introduced, necessitating use of a white ball with black sight screens.

The white ball also meant the players could not wear their traditional white uniforms and colored clothing was introduced.

Three teams competed in Kerry Packer's "circus." An Australian XI wearing green and yellow uniforms was usually captained by Greg Chappell or his brother Ian. The West Indies XI, in maroon, was captained by Clive Lloyd. The light blue clad World XI consisting of players from England, South Africa and Pakistan was usually captained by Tony Greig or Asif Iqbal.

The matches were played in two different formats, one-day matches and the longer several-day "Super Tests." The one-day matches proved more successful partially due to promotion and publicity but equally because a result could be achieved that day.

In addition to the innovations mentioned above, fielding restrictions were introduced for the one-day matches. Nine fielders including the bowler and wicket keeper (remember there are eleven players on a cricket team) must be within a 30-yard circle from the batsman for the first ten overs. Thereafter six players must remain in the circle.

The results and day-by-day descriptions of all the matches were carried in the cricketing press. However the magazine "The Cricketer International" editorialized on the whole Packer "Affair" as "depressing" and the "heaviest challenge to press on the first-class game."



Figure 7. Kerry Packer (left) and Tony Greig outside London's High Court.

The changes and innovations introduced by World Series Cricket appealed to a whole new generation of cricket watchers. Night cricket enabled people to watch the matches after work in the cool of the evening. Families organized barbecue nights at home to watch the games on Channel 9. Packer's channel used eight cameras instead of the usual two. The telecast included extensive video replays and interviews with the players.

Initially the matches were poorly attended, but eventually built up so that some games had as many as 50,000 spectators.

In another marketing ploy, Kerry Packer deliberately played his "Super Tests" at the same time as the official Tests between Australia and the touring side. Television viewers could select which game to watch. This was a little like having two Major League Baseball World Series or Super Bowls on competing channels for American viewers, or having a choice between two Football Association Cup finals for British viewers.

This all caused enormous pressure on the Australian Cricket Board. Eventually they had to capitulate and reach an agreement with Kerry Packer.

THE AFTERMATH

There were several reasons why World Series Cricket only lasted two years. One was that Kerry Packer lost a great deal of money. In its first year his organization lost more than two million pounds. Despite the publicity and gimmicks like free parking, attendance was well below expectations.

Also, the average patriotic Australian cricket fan did not view World Series Cricket's Australian XI as truly representative of their country but rather as a team playing an exhibition.

In April 1979 peace was restored. Kerry Packer got what he wanted all along, the exclusive rights for television coverage for all major games in Australia for the next three years. In addition, he obtained the sole rights for marketing Australian cricket for the next ten years.

The innovations that Packer introduced – day-night cricket, white balls with black sight screen, colored clothing and fielding restrictions – were all



Figure 8. West Indian representatives to the ICC: Jeff Stollmeyer (left) and Allan Rae.

retained for authorized One-Day Internationals and Cricket World Cups.

The positive side of World Series Cricket was twofold.

First, the game was popularized for the non-cricketing public. Australian immigrants, Italians, Greeks and even Vietnamese were introduced to this esoteric essentially Anglo-Saxon game.

The second reason was economic. In England the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) set up a working party to examine the long-term administrative structure of cricket. Almost immediately players' salaries in England were improved significantly. Test match fees went from £210 to £1,000 per playing. Fees for overseas tours went from £3,000 to £5,000 and the English County teams established a minimum wage of £4,500 for capped players. In addition a number of sponsors moved into traditional cricket enabling the cricketing authorities to pay the higher salaries.

In summary, what had originally been an Australian domestic dispute about television rights eventually embroiled the entire cricket world and changed the first-class structure on four continents.

As a result, World Series Cricket introduced a number of innovations. Cricket, especially the one-day game, won itself a new audience, and the player's remuneration was greatly improved. ♣

SOURCES

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Figure 1. Lighting the first torch at Venice Beach, CA (left to right): entrance of the Greek delegation carrying the Olympic Flame in a miner's lamp; the flame keeper lighting a wick from the Flame; lighting the Olympic Torch held by Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn.

Around the World with the 2004 Olympic Torch Relay

by Mark Maestroni

From March 31 until June 4, 2004, the Olympic Flame resided in a special cauldron at the foot of the Panathinaiko Stadium where the Olympic Games were reborn in 1896. Since its kindling at Ancient Olympia March 25, the Flame had cast its light only on Greek soil; now it was time to inspire the rest of the world.



Official 2004 Torch Relay Logo

For 35 days, the Olympic Torch Relay made a whirlwind global tour to all five major land masses represented by the Olympic Rings, visiting each of the 21 cities that had previously hosted an Olympic Summer Games. In the United States and Europe, the arrival of the torch was often celebrated through philately.

JUNE 16: LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A.

Day 13 of the relay brought the Olympic Flame to the United States – quite literally, to its shores!

Early on the morning of June 16, the Boeing 747 jet named Zeus carrying the Flame in a miner's lamp nestled safely inside the aircraft's nose cone landed at Los Angeles International Airport. The relay had just completed a visit to Mexico City, site of the 1968 Olympic Games.

Under overcast skies, a modest crowd gathered at world famous Venice Beach to kick-off the U.S. tour of the Torch Relay. Rocking to the sounds of *The Beach Toys*, a Beach Boys tribute band, Olympic fans eagerly awaited the igniting of the first U.S. torch (Figure 3).

The two "Proud Presenters" of the Torch Relay, Samsung and Coca-Cola, used the occasion to capitalize on their sponsorships. A leading electronics company, Samsung's booth offered visitors the opportunity to have their pictures taken holding an actual 2004 Olympic Torch (unlit) in front of a tasteful backdrop of Athens' skyline (Figure 3). Not only did each person receive a nice print of the digital photograph (produced with Samsung equipment, naturally), but they also came away with a free Samsung Torch Relay t-shirt. The long line of Olympic fans snaking across the grassy hill behind the booth attested to its popularity.

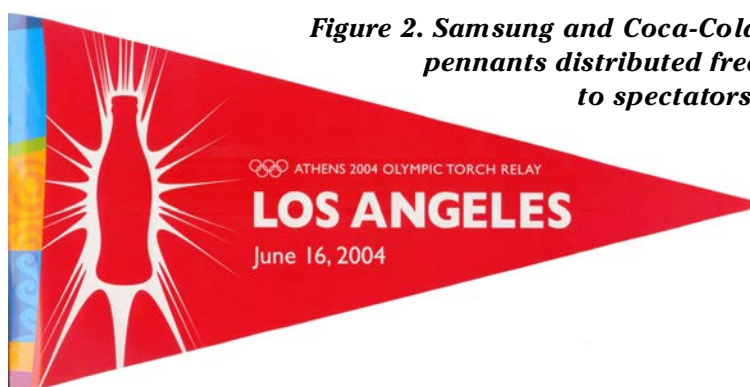


Figure 2. Samsung and Coca-Cola pennants distributed free to spectators.

Coca-Cola's contribution was limited to dispensing free cans of ice-cold Diet Coke.

Representatives of both Samsung and Coca-Cola wove through the crowd distributing small pennants emblazoned with their company's respective logos and touting their sponsorships (Figure 2). These pennants cropped up at many of the major stops along the Torch Relay's worldwide route.

The Samsung pennant measures approximately 12.5" x 8.75" and is manufactured of a tough synthetic canvas-like material with graphics imprinted

on both sides. One side shows the Torch Relay and Samsung logos, while the reverse reproduces the Samsung logo and one of their cell phones (Samsung is also the Worldwide Olympic Partner in the category of wireless communications equipment). To the best of my knowledge, the design of the pennant distributed internationally did not vary.

Coca-Cola also handed out a free triangular-shaped pennant (7" wide x 14" long) made of stiff plastic. "I saw the Flame" and the Coca-Cola Torch Relay logo appear on one side, while the other is



Figure 3 (clockwise, from top left): Beach Toys band entertaining the crowd; Venice Beach Plaza ready for the relay; Rafer Johnson lighting the Olympic cauldron at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles; Samsung booth.





Figure 4. June 16, 2004 Los Angeles postmark “Welcoming the 2004 Torch Relay”. Registered cover to San Diego with post office PVI label paying the registration fee of \$7.50.

customized with the city and date the torch visited. Figure 2 reproduces the pennant for “Los Angeles / June 16, 2004”.

The official program began at 9:00 a.m. with Mayor James Hahn of Los Angeles and other dignitaries briefly addressing the crowd. An official delegation from Greece mounted the podium bearing the miner’s lamp in which the Olympic Flame resided (Figure 1). With the lamp held high, a flame keeper removed a small plug from a hole near the base of the lamp through which he inserted a narrow wick. The lit wick was then used to ignite the torch held aloft by Mayor Hahn. Almost immediately, the first torch runner, Sylvester Stallone of “Rocky” fame, stepped forward to accept the torch (cover illustration).

Much to everyone’s surprise, Mr. Stallone did not immediately take off down the sidewalk, but instead turned and ran the Flame across the beach down to the Pacific Ocean, making this a true “sea to shining sea” relay across America. After a brief pause at the water’s edge, he returned to the pavement urged on by a phalanx of applauding spectators and students waving large flags of the nations through which the Olympic Flame would pass on its international journey.

For the next 9 hours, the Torch Relay moved through the streets of Santa Monica, past the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) where many of the 1984 Olympic events took place, through Beverly Hills and Hollywood. Turning south, the torch continued through Koreatown to Exposition Park, site of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum which served as the Olympic Stadium for both the 1932 and 1984 Olympic Games. Finally, the relay turned north once again through downtown Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, and up to Dodger Stadium.

I was fortunate enough to have been present at both the beginning and end of this inspiring relay through Los Angeles, as fellow SPI

member Conrad Klinkner was able to secure tickets to Dodger Stadium for that evening’s baseball game. As a pre-game treat for those of us who arrived early, we were able to view the Torch Relay’s celebration at the finish.

At 6:00 p.m., the gates behind center field opened, and famed Hollywood actor, Tom Cruise entered, torch held high. Mr. Cruise followed around the edge of the left outfield and down the foul line to third base where he handed off to quadruple Olympic gold medal-winning swimmer Janet Evans. She, in turn, followed the baseline around homeplate to first, handing off to WBC heavyweight champion Vitali Klitschko. Vitali continued up the foul line along the right field fence and back across to center field where the final torch bearer, Rafer Johnson waited. Johnson, winner of the Decathlon at the 1960 Rome Olympics and who had had the honor of lighting the Olympic cauldron at the 1984 Games, received the Olympic Flame bringing it straight down through center field and across the infield to home plate. A temporary cauldron erected behind home plate received the Olympic Flame for one last fleeting moment in Los Angeles (Figure 3).

By the way, the Dodgers beat the visiting Baltimore Orioles, 6-3.



Figure 5. This year's Lewis & Clark stamp and postcard are an appropriate vehicle for St. Louis' torch relay postmark which also honored the 1904 Olympic Games held in conjunction with the Louisiana Purchase Exposition commemorating the centennial of Lewis & Clark's expedition across America.

In honor of the Torch Relay's visit to the United States, and with the approval of the U.S. Olympic Committee, I designed and arranged for a series of special postmarks (Figure 4). Featured at left on each cancel is the official Athens Olympic Torch Relay logo. (I believe these are the only official postmarks outside Greece to carry this logo!) The text to the right on each postmark both welcomes the torch and recognizes the Olympic Games for which the city played host.

Originally I had contacted the U.S. Postal Service in all four U.S. cities hosting visits of the Olympic Flame; unfortunately, New York City decided to opt out of our program.

JUNE 17: ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, U.S.A.

Just as Los Angeles was celebrating an Olympic anniversary, so too was St. Louis: 2004 marks the centennial of the 1904 Olympic Games, the first to be held in the United States (Figure 5).

With the city's famous landmark, the Gateway Arch, looming in the background, Mayor Francis Slay welcomed the Olympic Flame to this Midwestern city. "The eyes of the world are on St. Louis today," the mayor told hundreds gathered to witness the second leg of the relay through the U.S.

The lead-off torch bearer was actor-comedian Joe Torry, who at the end of his quarter-mile run proclaimed this "the proudest moment of my life."

A total of 125 torchbearers were needed to cover the entire 34-mile route through the city which included a pass by Washington University's Francis Field, rededicated July 16 as the site of the main athletic events at the 1904 Games.

St. Louis' celebration reached its climax at Forest Park, where the final torchbearer, local Olympic gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey, lit the temporary Olympic cauldron.

JUNE 18: ATLANTA, GEORGIA, U.S.A.

The next stop was Atlanta (postmark shown below) where festivities got under way at noon on the steps of the Coca-Cola headquarters.

The lead-off runner was Rafael San Miguel, a deaf Coca-Cola employee, nominated for his work in the community with the disabled as well as volunteering time with the Boundless Playgrounds program which creates barrier-free areas where children can play.

Also present at the kick-off celebrations were 1984 Olympic gold medal gymnast, Mary Lou Retton, Decathlete Bruce Jenner, Gail Devers, Bart Conner, Nadia Comeneci and Mark Spitz, along with current Olympic weightlifter Shane Hamman.

The relay through Atlanta included stops at Turner Field and the Martin Luther King Center. Centennial Olympic Park, a legacy of the 1996 Olympic Games in downtown Atlanta, was the finish point for the relay at 9:00 p.m. that evening.



**ATLANTA - HOST
1996 CENTENNIAL
OLYMPIC GAMES**

**WELCOMES THE 2004
TORCH RELAY**

**OLYMPIC TORCH STATION
ATLANTA, GA 30303
JUNE 18, 2004**

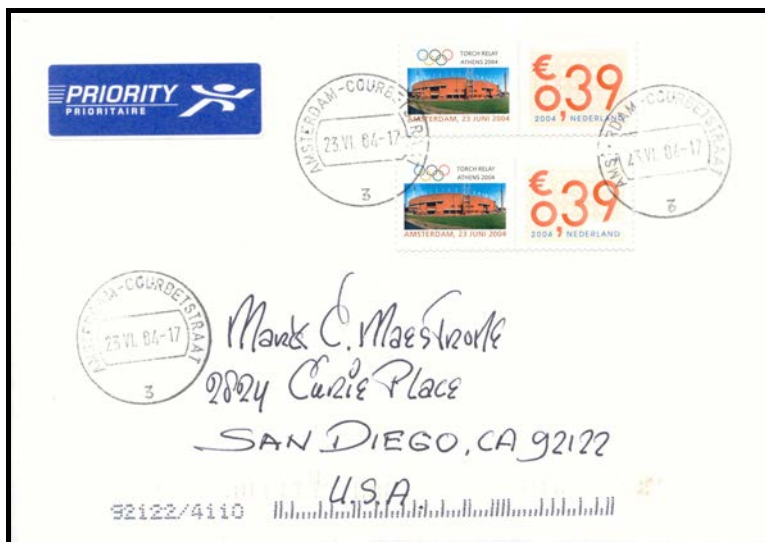


Figure 6. On June 23, a “business stamp” with attached label was issued commemorating the Torch Relay through Amsterdam. Due to the limited availability of the stamp on its first day of use, examples such as that shown postmarked June 23 at the Courbetstraat post office near the Olympic Stadium (at left), will be rare.

JUNE 23: AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

On June 23, 1896, the International Olympic Committee was born at the Sorbonne University in Paris making this a propitious anniversary for the Olympic Flame’s visit to Amsterdam.

Unfortunately, the weather that day was most uncooperative with the Royal National Weather Institute posting a nationwide alert warning of danger for road traffic and predicting “severe damage from flying objects.”

Because of the poor weather, the original route was shortened to avoid Vondel Park “for fear of falling tree branches, and the boat ride along the Amstel River was reduced to a few hundred yards.”

Having arrived from Brussels by plane, the Torch Relay began from the Amsterdam Arena, continued along the canals of central Amsterdam and ended at the Olympic Stadium where the 1928 Olympics were held. Some 131 runners had the honor of bearing the torch through the streets of Amsterdam.

Dutch Olympic swimmer Inge de Bruin fought her way through the rain and wind the final few hundred yards to light the Olympic cauldron. Only some 200 people, including Crown Prince Willem-Alexander, braved the weather.

While it is generally known that the tradition of the Torch Relay began in 1936 for the Berlin Olympic Games, it was actually in 1928 that an Olympic cauldron was first lit at the main stadium. This time, a gas burner was used to kindle the bowl from the 1928 Olympics.

The Dutch post office was, I believe, the only postal administration to issue a stamp for the Torch Relay (Figure 6). To be more precise, this was

actually a variety of P-stamp (personalized stamp) called a “Business Stamp” which can be customized by businesses for publicity purposes.

The €0.39 self-adhesive numeral stamp has an attached label depicting the 1928 Olympic Stadium and Olympic Rings in full color. The text at top reads: “TORCH RELAY / ATHENS 2004” in two lines. In a single line at bottom is “AMSTERDAM, 23 JUNI 2004.”

Laurentz Jonker, who provided the information on this stamp, notes that it was produced in panes of 50 (50 stamps with attached labels) and only available by mail order from the Collectors Club. As the issue date was June 23, it would have been impossible to receive the stamps in time to use them on their first day. For the record, a total of 13,000 panes were printed yielding 650,000 stamps.

Through persistence, Laurentz discovered an alternative: larger post offices could order and sell over the counter on the first day, special folders containing four stamps with labels. Of course there was a premium to pay – €0.50 per folder.

Scouring the post offices in Zwolle where he lives, Laurentz managed to locate some 35 folders yielding 140 stamps. At home he quickly made up cards and letters, then made a mad dash for Amsterdam where he “parked on the edge of town, and took a tram with two changes” to get to the Stadium area.

The Courbetstraat post office (named after the painter, *Courbet*, not *de Coubertin*, founder of the Modern Olympic Games, despite the coincidental similarity) is located between Stadionweg (Stadium Road) and Stadionkade (Stadium Quay) just outside Olympiaplein (Olympia Square). By pre-arrangement with the post office, Laurentz was able to do the cancellations himself.

JUNE 24: LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND

Not since the St. Moritz Olympic Winter Games of 1948 – 56 years ago – has the Olympic Flame visited Switzerland. So it was with great excitement for the Swiss when the Olympic Torch Relay caravan arrived in Geneva.

A huge crowd greeted the Olympic Flame upon its arrival at Geneva Airport. The welcoming ceremony included the “Old Grenadiers” (Les Vieux Grenadiers), for over 250 years the traditional sleepless guard of the city, and young Greek priestesses.

Two of the torch bearers were IOC President Jacques Rogge and IOC Coordination Commission Chairman for the Athens 2004 Olympics, Denis Oswald.

In separate interviews after running their respective legs, each expressed full confidence that the Greek organizers would be ready when the Games opened on August 13.

It took 139 torchbearers to cover the route of the relay which followed the Lac Lemman shoreline from Geneva to Lausanne. Along the way, the torch stopped briefly at points of special cultural and Olympic significance where events were held in the Flame's honor: the UN European headquarters, Geneva's famous 140-meter-tall fountain, and the Olympic Museum and the IOC headquarters in Lausanne.

In addition to Messrs. Rogge and Oswald, other prominent bearers included: Bertrand Piccard, the first person to circumnavigate the globe in a hot-air balloon; Olympic gold medalists Marc Rosset and Yang Xilan; and Christian Gobe for many years Switzerland's leading disabled athlete.

The Torch Relay concluded with festivities held in Lausanne's Place De La Navigation.

A special rectangular handcancel in violet ink was applied at the IOC Museum in Lausanne (Figure 7). The cancel depicts a hand holding a flaming torch above the Olympic Rings. The text around three sides of the perimeter reads: “24.06.2004 LAUSANNE / VILLE ETAPE / FLAMME OLYMPIQUE.”

JUNE 25: PARIS, FRANCE

From Lausanne, the Olympic Flame was flown to Paris on Friday, June 25. Paris, it will be recalled, played host to the Second Olympic Games in 1900 as well as the 1924 Olympics. The “City of Light” is also a leading candidate for the 2012 Games to be awarded by the IOC in 2005.

Paris' relay set off from the Stade de France at noon in the hands of the first French torch bearer, judo champion David Douillet. In perhaps the most dramatic start to a relay thus far, Douillet literally dropped from the sky as he was lowered on a rope from the roof of the stadium. From there, he set out on his leg of the relay through the northern suburbs.

Figure 7. Lausanne and Paris used similar designs as the central feature of their commemorative cancels – a hand holding a lit torch with the Olympic Rings below.





Figure 8. Above, a Royal Mail postmark for the start of the Torch Relay at Wimbledon. At right, a so-called “SmartStamp” created by Bob Farley of the SOC featuring Andrew Lindsay, a 2000 gold medalist and 2004 torch bearer.



Many of Paris’ most famous monuments played supporting roles to the relay with stops at Montmartre’s Sacre Coeur, along the Champs Elysees, and at Paris’ Hôtel de Ville (Town Hall). Mirroring Amsterdam, the Olympic Flame journeyed up the Seine by boat to the Louvre Museum.

To underscore the Olympic Torch Relay as a symbol of peace and brotherhood, a special ceremony was arranged at the UNESCO building where a young Israeli girl passed the torch to a Palestinian boy.

The most famous Parisian landmark of all, the Eiffel Tower, was the terminus of the day’s relay where a festive celebration took place complete

with Can-Can dancers from the Moulin Rouge.

The Paris post office created a handsome circular postmark to commemorate the event dated 25 June 2004 (Figure 7). The central design is much the same as used on the Lausanne handcancel.

JUNE 26: LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

The Olympic Flame’s visit to London had a decidedly “tennis” flavor with Wimbledon’s famed Centre Court the starting point for the 31-mile relay.

Sir Roger Bannister, first man to run a sub-4-minute mile, was on hand to light the first torch on this rain-soaked Saturday morning. Tim Henman



Figure 9. Bob Wilcock created a colorful souvenir postcard featuring memorable scenes of the Torch Relay’s visit to London (left). A second “SmartStamp” from the SOC depicts the society logo and text honoring the torch relay on June 26 (below).



then carried it around the All England Club before passing it to 1977 women's singles champion, Virginia Wade.

The crowds were not deterred from attending by the wet weather, lining The Mall six and ten deep, according to Olympic five-time gold medalist in rowing, Sir Steve Redgrave. Sir Steve, who characterized the experience as "unbelievable" was the final torch bearer as he lit the Olympic cauldron at Trafalgar Square. A strong proponent of London's bid to host the 2012 Games, he added, "What we've got on here today has been very, very special and if we get the chance to do it again in 2012 this country will not know what's hit it – what we can show the world."

Anne, the Princess Royal, an Olympic equestrian in her right, was on hand to welcome Redgrave, telling the crowd that "the Olympic Flame will burn for a short time in this city as it continues its journey back to Athens. Now that it is lit, let us ensure the Olympic Flame burns in the hearts of our youth just as it burned in the hearts of all those it has inspired in the past."

Following the end of the relay, an enormous crowd of some 70,000 people stayed to celebrate with a free concert on The Mall.

Our sister society in the UK, the Society of Olympic Collectors, was instrumental in the creation of some interesting philatelic items to celebrate the occasion.

SOC sponsored a special Royal Mail postmark commemorating both the Torch Relay and the 2004 Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championship. Applied at Wimbledon on 26 June, the postmark features the SOC logo and a tennis racket and ball (Figure 8).

"SmartStamps," a service of Royal Mail, allows one to print stamps (which resemble a meter imprint) directly onto envelopes or labels using a PC and printer. One may also customize the SmartStamp with a logo and message.

Bob Farley created two such special imprints. The first features one of the torch bearers, Andrew Lindsay, who won a gold medal in rowing at the 2000 Sydney Olympics (Figure 8). The

second imprint honors both SOC and the visit of the "Athens 2004 Global Torch Relay" to London on 26 June (Figure 9).

The final item, designed by SPI member Bob Wilcock, is a postcard displaying five photographs he snapped during the relay (Figure 9).

JUNE 29: MUNICH, GERMANY

The 1972 Olympics in Munich, the first in that country since before World War II, will unfortunately be remembered by many for the terrorism that for the first time tainted the Olympic Games. On this Tuesday in June, thirty-two years after those Games, the focus was instead on the joyful expression of peace fostered by the Olympic Torch Relay.

The relay began from the city's Olympic Stadium, with the Flame passing a number of Munich's landmarks on its 40-mile trip including the Englischer Garten and the Nymphenburger Schloss.

The Olympic Flame was carried by 124 people, including many of Germany's best-known athletes. Among these were Guenter Zahn, a runner who was the final torchbearer in the Olympic relay in 1972, middleweight boxing champion Sven Ottke, and rower Johann Faerber. Joked Faerber, "I can do it even without a boat."

Deutsche Post provided a special postmark for the torch's visit to Munich on June 29 reproducing a birds-eye view of the distinctive Olympic stadium and a torch (Figure 10).



Figure 10. Munich's postmark for the visit of the Torch Relay, June 29.



Figure 11. Berlin's postmark for the Torch Relay on June 30 continued the theme of honoring both the Olympic Flame and Olympic stadium in the host city.

JUNE 30: BERLIN, GERMANY

One of the longest lasting contributions of the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games was the institution of a Torch Relay from Ancient Olympia to the host city. It was fitting, then, that Berlin was visited by the first truly global Olympic Torch Relay.

Thousands of spectators turned out to see former ice skating gold medalist Katarina Witt, one of the 130 Germans who carried the torch along its 32-mile route through Berlin.

Said German Interior Minister Otto Schily as the torch headed out toward the Brandenburg Gate, "The idea behind the worldwide Torch Relay is to unite people in the friendly spirit of the Olympic Games."

A special postmark for the event, courtesy of Deutsche Post, shows a view of the Berlin Olympic Stadium and famous bell towers at the entrance, flanked by an Olympic torch (Figure 11).

JULY 6: ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Istanbul, a city straddling two continents, welcomed the Olympic Torch Relay to both sides of

the Bosphorus on Tuesday, July 6. A cancel from the Turkish post office depicting a torch bearer honors the relay through Istanbul (Figure 12).

The ancient hippodrome on the city's European side was the launching point for the 40-mile relay, carried by Turkey's first female FIFA (soccer) referee, Lale Orta.

The course of the relay included a yacht trip across the strait from the European side to Asia, cheered on by throngs of spectators waving Turkey's red and white flag. Triple Olympic gold medal weightlifter Naim Suleymanoglu, nicknamed the "Pocket Hercules" because of his great strength and short stature, ran the final leg of the relay, carrying the Olympic Flame to the Ottoman Dolmabahce Palace.

Figure 12. The Olympic Flame visited Turkey for the first time on July 6. The special cancellation portrays a torch bearer.





Figure 13. The final international stop on the 2004 global Torch Relay was Cyprus on July 8 and 9.

JULY 8-9: NICOSIA, CYPRUS

It seems appropriate that the Olympic Flame's final stop on its worldwide journey to "Unite the World" was in Cyprus. This island nation has for decades been divided by war between the Turkish northern half and the Greek southern. Recently, though, the factional animosity has begun to recede as the nation moves toward a more unified government.

It was with that spirit in mind that the Olympic Flame crisscrossed the island on its two-day visit. The Cyprus post office provided a special postmark marking the relay. It features a torch, the Olympic Rings, and an outline of the nation (Figure 13).

The relay began in the 2,300-year-old city of Paphos on the southwest coast. From the environs of the ancient castle, hundreds gathered to watch as the first torchbearer, a football player named Andreas Stylianou, ran the opening leg. From there, the relay followed a route "covering literally all the government-controlled areas of Cyprus, through many communities and past many of the island's great landmarks and locations, before arriving at its final destination in the center of Nicosia."

A great public celebration took place that evening in Nicosia's D'Avilla Moat, which included the lighting of a cauldron by the final torchbearer Anninos Markoullides.

The festivities included a concert by Cypriot composer Marios Tokas, accompanied by Greek singers and choirs from all over Cyprus.

The next day, July 9, the Olympic Flame set out once again journeying through Paralimni, in the Famagusta region on the eastern side of the island, and ending at Larnaca Airport where the Olympic Flame departed for Crete, first stop on the Greek portion of the relay. 🇮🇹

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TEAM HANDBALL

Sports on Stamps

by Marc Spitzer



If you were hoping for a glimpse of the sport of team handball at the summer Olympics in Athens, Greece, that is exactly what you got while watching television coverage on NBC.

Hopefully, you did not blink, turn your head, get up for a drink or spend too much time in the bathroom or you will have to wait another four years to catch that glimpse in Beijing, China.

Such is the state of the sport as it relates to the American television audience though there are pockets of interest for team handball within the country. Those pockets include Garden City on Long Island in New York and the Atlanta, Georgia metro area whose two club teams met at the 2004 Team Handball National Championships in Houston, Texas May 7-9 in what is called the Elite Division. The victory went to the Atlanta Metro Condors by a score of 26-15 for the gold medal. Bronze medal winner New York City Club defeated Cal Heat, 32-29.

The governing body of the sport in America, USA Team Handball, decided to hold next year's national championships in Houston, April 29-May 1, 2005.

Host city Houston, also a pocket of interest, won a silver medal in the Division One final, losing the title game to the Air Force Academy, 23-22, on a goal in the final seconds.

This year's European Championship went to Germany as it defeated host country Slovenia by a score of 30-25 in the gold medal game. The Germans, long a powerhouse in handball, finished second to Croatia at the 2003 World Handball Championships in Portugal with France taking the bronze medal. The world tournament is now held every two years.

The United States won a bronze medal at the Pan Am Games in 2003.

Croatia issued a stamp this winter celebrating the 16th Handball World Championship (the Handball-World Championships website lists 18 men's championships dating back to 1938 when Nazi Germany took the initial title. The Germans also won the outdoor title that year.)

The Croatian stamp is a cropped black and white photo showing an offensive player with the ball trying to get by a defender. The motion slightly blurs the players, neither of whose heads are shown. A small red square attached to a smaller red square appears in the upper right corner and is the only color on the stamp. This could be a basketball stamp except for the 32-panel ball which looks like a miniature soccer ball easily held in one hand like a melon by the offensive player.

Men play with a ball that is 23-24 inches in circumference, weighing 15-17 ounces. Women use a 12-14 ounce ball that is 21-22 inches in circumference.

While the ball is smaller than a basketball, the handball playing court is 12 meters longer and five meters wider (over 36 feet longer and over 15 feet wider for those with metric impairments!) than a basketball court.

Team handball has elements of basketball, soccer, and to a lesser extent, ice hockey and lacrosse. The object of the game is to move the ball down the court by virtue of passing and dribbling and to throw it past the goalkeeper into the net which measures 6 feet 7 inches high by 9 feet 10 inches wide.

Like ice hockey, two minute suspensions (penalties) are given out in handball for serious violations of the rules, unsportsmanlike conduct and illegal substitution. A player with three two-minute suspensions in a game is issued a red card and disqualified.

One aspect of handball that is similar to lacrosse is in the area around the goal which belongs to the goalkeeper. No one other than the goalkeeper may enter the "circle," called the six-meter line in handball, but, as with the circle around the lacrosse net, players may jump or dive into the circle and shoot as long as they are in the air when they release the ball. Many goals in both sports are scored this way.

Handball is a game of passing, catching, shooting and dribbling, all on the run. Handball players (six on the court with one goalkeeper per side) use the jump pass, the bounce pass, the overhand pass and the wrist pass. They employ shots like the bounce shot, the set shot and the jump shot. Does any of this sound familiar?

Defenders cannot pull or hit the ball out of an opponent's hands but can use their upper bodies to obstruct an opponent with or without the ball. If this "checking" becomes too aggressive, a free-throw is called. Free throws are taken outside the nine-meter line and can go directly on goal.

There is also a seven-meter penalty shot which is awarded when a foul interferes with a clear

chance to score and when the goalie either carries the ball back into the goalie area or touches it on an intentional back pass from a teammate in the goal area (unlike in soccer where back passes to the keeper are a regular part of the game).

Offensively, passing, catching and shooting is the essence of the game. Players can also dribble and are allowed three steps before and after dribbling. Dribbling, however, can slow the game down and is used strategically as when a player is on a fast break with no one to pass to.

There are a number of set plays in handball, which include setting picks, the pick and roll and crossing players on the run to confuse the defenders.

Obviously, these and similar strategies work very well because there is a lot of offensive production packed into each 30-minute half, which is on running time like the National Football League.

The outdoor version of handball, also called field ball, utilizing 10 field players and a goalkeeper per side, is the subject of two out of three of the first- ever handball stamps issued in 1959.

Austria hosted the 1959 World Outdoor Handball Championships in Vienna and issued a stamp (Scott number 647) showing a player on the run with the ball raised, ready to shoot. Romania put out a nine-value sports set (Scott 1288-1295, C72) that same year which included number 1291, picturing a goal throw in an outdoor game.

The other 1959 handball issue, from Yugoslavia, celebrated the Partisan Games and shows handball players in action with basketball players in the background in an indoor game.

Austria also issued a multicolor World Indoor Handball Championships stamp, Scott 1053 in 1977, showing a player in the air with his arm in the cocked position, ready to shoot.

Romania, the four-time men's indoor world handball champion (1961, 1964, 1970, and 1974) and a bronze medalist in 1967 and 1990, has issued a number of handball stamps since being one of the first to do so in 1959. The Romanian women have also done well, winning an indoor world championship in 1962 as host country and finishing second to



Yugoslavia in 1973. The women won two outdoor world championships (1956 and 1960) while the men took the silver medal in 1959.

Romania issued a set of three stamps honoring the World University Field Ball Championships in 1975. The low value (2529-2531), 55b, shows a player jumping between defenders, ready to throw for a goal. One year later Romania released a set of seven stamps (2650-2656) celebrating its medal winners at the 1976 Olympics in Montreal which included a silver for its handball team (2654). In that same set is a stamp of the young gymnast Nadia Comaneci.

Romania also put out handball stamps in sets celebrating the Olympics in 1984 (Los Angeles) and 1992 (Barcelona). The 1984 set had eight values (3202-3209, with 3204 being the handball stamp) while the 1992 set had a vertical handball stamp (3752) among seven other values (3749-3756). The men's world championships were the subject of a six-stamp set (3444-3449) from 1987 showing various plays.

The Russians, quite prolific in their release of sports stamps, have done relatively little in handball. Their concentration is in ice hockey, figure skating, soccer, track and field and basketball.

Like the Romanians, the Russians issued a set for the Barcelona Olympics with a vertical team handball stamp as the low value (1r) among three (6084-6086). The set, which includes fencing and judo, also features miniature sheets of eight for all three values.

The Russians also issued a number of semi-postal sets prior to the 1980 Moscow Olympic games. Among these, handball appears as the second highest value (B94, 16k+6k) in a set of five (B91-B95) released in 1979. The Russians put out a youth sports set of five (3487-3491) in 1968 with the low value picturing a goal throw in a girl's field ball game.

Hungary, winner of the silver medal at the men's indoor championships in 1986, and women's world champion in 1965, printed a set of seven stamps (C418-C424) celebrating the Moscow Games. The low value in the set (40f) pictures a woman handball player in the air ready to throw the ball at the goal with the Olympic rings in the background. The

Hungarian women have had good success with three silver and three bronze medals at the world indoor championships. The women won the outdoor title in 1949 and finished third in 1956. The men were third to the Germans in the first outdoor Handball championship in 1938.

Poland, third in the 1982 world indoor championships, put out an Olympic set two years later with the low value (5z) showing a player in the air ready to shoot with a defender moving in for the block. There are five other values in the set (2617-2622).

Even the Japanese, with their love of kendo (the art of Japanese Samurai swordsmanship), baseball, horse racing, figure skating, Sumo and archery, all the subjects of multiple releases, have issued handball stamps. Scott 1665 (40y) from 1985 shows

a player in the air, ready to shoot on a stamp celebrating the 40th National Athletic Meet. Nine years later, celebrating the same event, came Scott 2432 (50y) with a photo of another airborne player ready for a throw at the goal.

The German Democratic Republic (DDR) issued a set of three (1528-30) in 1974 celebrating the 8th Field Ball Championships. The three values show a player in blue with the ball (5pf), defenders in white with their arms raised (10pf) and the goalkeeper in red with his arms raised in front of the goal while an offensive player without the ball looks on (35pf). The

stamps, all part of the same picture, have a green background.

The DDR also put out a six-value set in 1987 (2622-2627) honoring the 8th Sports Festival and the 11th Youth Sports Championships which included a handball stamp (2623).

Norway issued a miniature sheet in 1988 which says "Ball sport" on top in the white selvage and "Frimerkets Dag" 1988 on the bottom selvage with four stamps in between. The handball stamp is in the upper-left position, next to a soccer stamp (the ball going past the outstretched hands of the keeper). Below the handball stamp is one showing a basketball on the rim about to go in. A volleyball issue with women from both sides at the net is in the lower right position.



The handball stamp on the miniature sheet shows a woman player who has jumped between two defenders into the circle for a throw at the net.

It is a typical handball stamp in that it captures some of the speed and excitement of the game.

The next, best time for the sport to get exposure in the United States will be at the 2012 Olympics if New York City is awarded the Games. Don't hold your breath regarding exposure. And don't blink. Definitely don't blink.

HANDBALL ON STAMPS (PARTIAL LIST BY SCOTT #)

Austria	641	1959, field ball
Austria	1053	1977 World Indoor Ch.
Belgium	B1143	
Berlin	9N126	1976 Montreal Olympics
DDR	1528-1530	1974 8th Field Ball Ch.
DDR	2623	1987, youth sports
Hungary	C418	1980 Moscow Olympics
Japan	816	1964 National Ath. Meet
Japan	1665	1985 National Ath. Meet
Japan	2432	1994 National Ath. Meet
Korea	B76	1988 Seoul Olympics
Monaco	1222	1980 Moscow Olympics
Norway	934	1988

Norway	1040	1993
Poland	2611	1984 Los Angeles Olympics
Portugal	2502	2002
Romania	1291	1959, field ball
Romania	2326	1972 Munich Olympics
Romania	2529-31	1975 World Univ. Games
Romania	2654	1976 Montreal Olympics
Romania	3204	1984 Los Angeles Olympics
Romania	3444-49	1981 Men's World Ch.
Romania	3152	1992 Barcelona Olympics
Russia	3481	1968, girl's field ball
Russia	B94	1980 Moscow Olympics
Russia	6084	1992 Barcelona Olympics
Yugoslavia	1310	1976 Montreal Olympics

REFERENCES

1. Handball-World Championships website.
2. USA Team Handball website.
3. Euro Handball Slovenia 2004 website.
4. Team Handball: Steps to Success by Reita E. Clanton and Mary Phyl Dwight.
5. Sports Stamps by Carl-Olof Enhagen (Stanley Paul and Co., London 1961).
6. Scott Stamp Catalogs, 2004 editions.



An example of handball stamps – the miniature sheet of four issued by Korea for the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games – used on a registered cover from the Games with the handball postmark.



23rd Annual Olympin Collectors' 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 reserve a table, you *must* be a current member of the Olympin Club. Please contact me at 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: 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!

The 1924 French Olympic Stamps: Dates of Issue & Demonetization

by Manfred Bergman

[This is Part 2 of Manfred Bergman's response to Dale Lilljedahl's article "Usage of the 1924 French Olympic Stamps" which appeared in the Spring 2004 issue of this journal. Part 1 of Dr. Bergman's response was printed in the Summer 2004 issue.]

Let us turn now to the first and last day of validity of the 1924 set.

1. All reliable and competent sources confirm that the first day of issue was April 1, 1924 for the 10c and 25c stamps (domestic rates for cards and letters, respectively) and May 23 for the 30c and 50c stamps (international rates for cards and letters).

The "early use" on March 31 that was mentioned by Dale was not a true early use because of lack of control; the clerks in those places just forgot to turn the dater to April 1. The same thing happened in 1906 at the special post office at the Stadium of Athens: the clerk forgot to turn the dater and the cards posted on April 19 (testified to by the date written by the sender) all showed a date of April 18.

2. I cannot verify if the President of the French Republic asked the Chamber of Deputies to pass legislation (rather than "authorization") for the issue of the Olympic stamps. We can, however, turn to the documents at hand. It seems that the Government proposed a law on June 26, 1923 to issue these stamps. This was necessary since stamps with limited postal validity had to be legislated by Parliament. (Stamps for long-term or permanent use could be created by the Minister of Post on his own initiative). The proposal was sent to the Commission for Public Works.

3. The second step was the report of the Commission for Public Works and Means of Communication to the Chamber of Deputies, December 7, 1923 (Figure 1 and 1A). The proposed law specifies December 31, 1924 as the last day of validity.

4. The next step was the "Opinion" ('Avis' in French) given by the Finance Commission to the Chamber of Deputies on December 13, 1923. The

postal administration believed that two months after the end of the Games all stamps would be sold; consequently, the Post proposed the end of sales on July 31 and demonetization on September 30, 1924. The law was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies.

5. The legislation was then presented to the Senate on December 22, 1923 for ratification by the Commission for Commerce, Industry, Work and Post. To avoid speculation, the Chamber's limitation of validity to September 30, 1924 was accepted.

6. The law was finally voted on and adopted by the Chamber of Deputies on December 28, 1923. Demonetization was fixed at September 30, 1924.

These are the facts, as proven by the official documents printed by the Parliament. So, at the end of 1923 there was no confusion whatsoever about the last day of validity, namely September 30 1924.

Dale proposes January 17, 1924 as the date when the final bill was passed. I have no documents for this date, but am ready to accept it when shown such a document. Possibly, the ministerial decree determining the conditions of issue were published on January 17, 1924.

What happened later? Very simple, the rates changed in March 1924 with the result that the face value of the individual Olympic stamps no longer satisfied the postal rates for which they were issued. The Post, afraid that the stamps would not sell-out (as had been anticipated back in 1923), prolonged the validity date to December 31 1924 with the last day of sale on October 31 1924.

The extension didn't help very much; a tremendous inventory remained following the last day of sale!

Facing page: Page 3 from the published minutes of the Chamber of Deputies session of 7 December 1923 (#6730) setting out the proposed legislation to create a set of Olympic stamps which would be valid until 31 December 1924. At bottom is a handsome registered cover showing each of the 4 Olympic stamps postmarked from La Poueze on 17 June 1924.

facilement et partout se procurer ces timbres ; s'il est fait par l'Administration une présentation suffisante, le Trésor trouvera dans leur vente un excédent de recettes appréciable.

Votre Commission des travaux publics vous propose donc d'adopter le projet de loi qui vous est soumis et dont la teneur suit :

PROJET DE LOI

Article premier.

A l'occasion des Jeux olympiques de 1924, est autorisée l'émission de timbres-poste spéciaux de 0 fr. 10, 0 fr. 25, 0 fr. 30 et 0 fr. 50 et de cartes postales à 0 fr. 30. Leur durée de validité est limitée au 31 décembre 1924, tout le stock existant à cette date devant être officiellement détruit.

Art. 2.

Un arrêté ministériel déterminera les conditions dans lesquelles sera effectuée l'émission des timbres-poste spéciaux des Jeux olympiques.



REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS

by Mark Maestrone

Esprit: Sports et Olympisme **March (#31) & July 2004 (#32)**

The March issue celebrates anniversaries: the 10th of AFCOS, our French sister society, and the 80th of the 1924 Paris and Chamonix Games. In honor of the former, the journal features individual items submitted by members that are “dear to their hearts”. One in particular certainly caught my eye – a beautiful registered official organizing committee cover from Rene Christin’s collection honoring the 1937 FIS World Skiing Championships at Chamonix. As Rene admitted, the cover by itself is a thematic collectors dream; the fact that it also bears the skiing stamp issued for the event with a matching machine cancel and even the vignette for the championships is “like the cherry on the cake”!

Also included are short articles on the 2003 World Championships in Table Tennis, Handball and Rugby; and a biography of Père Didon.

July’s issue continues with part 2 of the article on Père Didon; a colorful article on Euro Football 2004 by Rene Christin; and a lengthy article by Henri Deparis on the legendary French yachtsman, Alain Gerbault.

Contact: Jean-Pierre Picquot, 172 Bd. Berthier, 75017 Paris, France. **[In French]**

Filabasket Review **April 2004 (#13)**

In the issue, *Filabasket Review* acquaints its readers with a new, but important, aspect of philately that is becoming more common as postal administrations are deregulated: local or city posts. Using Holland’s SelectPost as an example, Henk Knijnenburg explains some of the laws governing local posts and the types of stamps they issue.

Also in this issue, the editor continues the series “Old Envelopes” exhibiting use of basketball stamps on cover in the chronological sequence in which they were issued. Basketball in the “African Games” is examined in depth.

Contact: Luciano Calenda, PO Box 17126 - Grottarossa, 00189 Rome, Italy. **[In English]**

IMOS Journal **Feb. (#121) & May 2004 (#122)**

The 2004 IMOS special booklet distributed with the regular issue of the journal commemorates the 2003 IMOS trip to Ancient Olympia, Greece. In addition to a retrospective of the gathering, a number of interesting articles related to the trip’s destination are included. Gerhard Henking writes on “Olympia and its Games,” a summary of the Ancient Olympics told through philately. A history of the discus and the discus thrower is shown by Dieter Germann, while Karl Rathjen delves into a little-discussed topic: what happened to the Olympic ideal from the end of the Ancient Games until the 19th century.

The February issue of the journal concentrates on updating the various IMOS catalogues: sport postal stationery; football (soccer) stamp booklets; and new stamp issues and cancels for sports and Olympics. A continuation of the article on mountain climbing brings up the rear.

In March, more new stamp issues and cancels are presented.

Contact: Dieter Germann, PB 1128, D-63524 Grosskrotzenburg, Germany. **[In German]**

Olimpiafila **May 2004 (Vol. VII, #1)**

On the 100th anniversary of our own St. Louis 1904 Games, Szekeres Sandor provides an interesting philatelic review of those first U.S. Olympics. Included are the various machine cancels and stamps honoring the St. Louis World’s Fair as well as stamp and cancels recognizing the achievements of many of the athletes who competed there.

Varhelyi Laszlo brings us Part 4 in his series on the cancelled 1940 Olympic Games. In this installment, he discusses the gliding events that were to have taken place. This author also presents Part 1 of a two-part article on the philately of the 1935 University Games in Budapest.

Contact: MOSFIT, Vorosmarty u. 65, 1064 Budapest, Hungary **[In Hungarian; English synopses]**

Phila-Sport

January (#49) & April 2004 (#50)

Riccardo Belli leads off the January issue with a look at the sport of boxing – primarily the European Championships which began in 1925 in Stockholm.

The philately of the 1960 Rome Olympic Games is discussed by Tiberio Moro, while Nino Barberis examines the topic of specimen meter stamps.

Other topics discussed in this issue include canoeing, soccer (especially the 2004 European Championships), and the upcoming Torino 2006 Games.

Mountaineering takes center stage in the April issue. Glauco Granatelli provides a detailed history of climbing in the Himalayas including a great many cards and other supporting documents.

Massimo Menzio reports on the latest involving Torino 2006. Mauro Gilardi brings members “up to speed” on the world of auto racing, while Tiberio Moro continues with Part 2 of his review of the philately of the Rome Olympic Games.

As always, both issues provide the latest news on stamps and cancels from around the world as well as snippets of information on various topics.

A special booklet also arrived as part of one of these mailings. “Run, Horse, Run!” (“Corri, Cavallo, Corri!”) by Paolo Padova is a presentation of the author’s thematic exhibit on the “sporting” horse. Page by page, the full 96-page exhibit is shown covering horse racing (both galloping and trotting), equestrian sports such as dressage and jumping, polo and, finally, rodeo.

Printed in black and white on slick stock, the quality of the publication is excellent. Although written entirely in Italian, even the collector not conversant in the language can appreciate the quality of this thematic exhibit. For the collector/exhibitor of anything equestrian, I would strongly recommend obtaining a copy of this publication.

Pricing was not included, but those interested should write to the address below, or email UICOS at: philasport@tin.it for details.

Contact: UICOS, CP 14327 Roma Trullo - via Lenin, 00149 Rome, Italy. **[In Italian]**

SPI Auction

Don't forget to dispose of your duplicate material through the SPI Auction: Dale Lilljedahl, PO Box 543125, Dallas, Texas 75354.

Torch Bearer

February 2004 (Vol. 21, #1)

May 2004 (Vol. 21, #2)

February’s issue opens with a fascinating pair of covers from 1862 with ties to William Penny Brookes, founder of the Wenlock Olympian Society. Brookes, it will be called, was one of the strongest proponents of a revival of the Olympic Games.

Vic Manikian writes on Olympic Basketball and the Canadian stamp issued for the 2010 Vancouver Games.

Bob Wilcock presents some interesting picture postcards from 1908 asking the question “1908 Olympic Postcards – Or Not?”.

Bob Farley reports on his trip to Greece, including Olympia, with David Buxton and their wives on the hunt for Olympic postcards. From the looks of it, they were pretty successful!

Also covered in this issue were new Greek Olympic stamp issues, remembering the 10th anniversary of the Lillehammer Opening Ceremony with a special cancel from Norway, and unidentified Japanese Olympic labels.

May’s issue begins with a reprinting of an earlier article on the correspondence of Rusty Wailles, a rower at the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. It seems that the editor inadvertently omitted parts of the article when it first appeared in Volume 20.

Next, Bob Wilcock continues with Part 2 of his presentation on postcards that may or may not be related to the 1908 Olympics.

Plans for the visit of the Olympic Torch Relay to London on 26 June are discussed along with a preview of the cancellations commemorating the event.

The minutes of the 2003 society meetings at Henley Rowing Museum are presented. The schedule for the 119th Wenlock Olympic Games is provided along with the festivities surrounding the 20th anniversary celebration of SOC. In other society business, the first circuit of the new “International Exchange Packet” is underway. For more information, please contact the packet manager, Brian Hammond, 6 Lanark Road, Ipswich IP4 3EH, UK – or email him: brian.hammond57@ntlworld.com

The latter part of this issue is devoted to updates on the new 2004 Greece and 2006 Turin Olympic issues, and a review of the AFCOS general meeting.

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

BOOK REVIEWS

by Robert Wilcock

CHAMONIX 1924 : THE STORY OF THE FIRST OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES by Pierre Vitalien

Pierre Vitalien, a member of SPI's sister society in France, AFCOS, has produced a stunning record of the first Olympic Winter Games.

All the factual and statistical information is there, from organization and construction of the facilities and arenas, to pre-Olympic trials, Opening Ceremony, every event, Closing Ceremony and post-Games activity. It is far from just a dry record, though. There are background stories and anecdotes throughout, and the whole book is lavishly illustrated with postcards and photographs including eight superb color plates.

The book concludes with a biographical table covering every competitor, members of the jury and other key personalities.

The list of acknowledgments is long, but even without it one can see this is a thoroughly researched book; it has been a ten-year labor of love for the author.

To get the fullest of value it does help to be able to read French, but with illustrations, plans or tables on virtually every page, anyone can follow the basic story. If you collect the Olympic Winter Games, this book is a must.

The book is 172 pages in length and printed on high quality, A4 size (8.3" x 11.7") paper.

Mail orders to: **Pierre Vitalien**, Chemin des Jardins, 84830 Serignan du Comtat, France (email: vitalien@club-internet.fr). The postpaid cost to the US (in cash) is 60€ paperback, or 70€ hardback. If paying by US\$ check, add 5€ bank charge.

THE OLYMPIC GAMES OF PARIS 1924: THE POSTCARDS OF ARMAND NOYER

This is another impressive publication from AFCOS to mark the 80th anniversary of the Games, and, an advantage over the Chamonix book, is in both French and English. It is not just a simple listing of the "AN" postcards, but the story of the Paris Games, as depicted on the postcards.

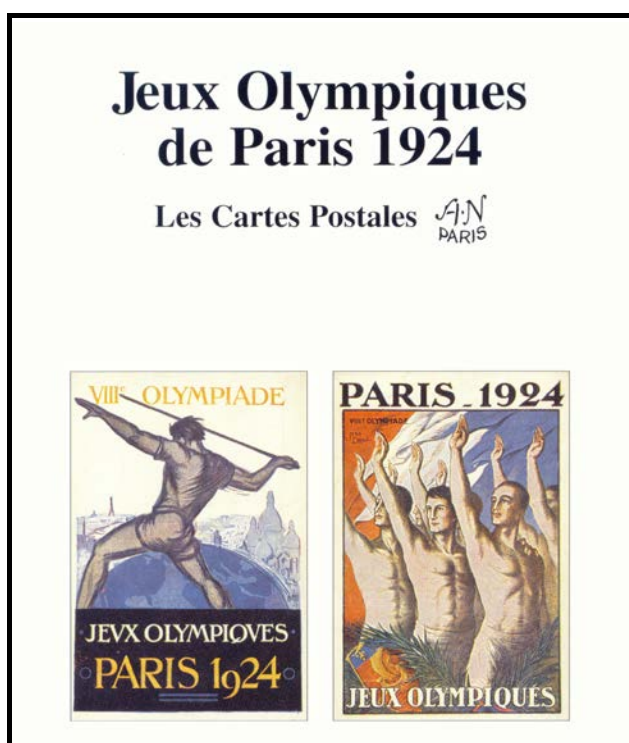
The AN cards form a comprehensive record of the Games, taken from official photos, covering virtually every sport; only for Stockholm 1912 is there anything comparable.

Some 250 cards are illustrated, and for each section there is an introduction by an Olympic competitor. The date, venue and medal winners are given for each event beside the appropriate postcard(s). It is a very pleasing and easy to follow format. There is a preface by former IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch.

The book is a must for every collector interested in the 1924 Games, and the author has issued a challenge: a free copy of the book for anyone who comes up with an Olympic AN postcard not listed in the book! (There are many other AN sporting postcards, but they are not Olympic!)

High quality photo paper has been used throughout. The 160-page book measures about 9½" x 13½", enabling the cards to be reproduced at approximately full size.

Mail orders to: **AFCOS**, Maison du Sport Français, 1 avenue Pierre de Coubertin, 75013 Paris, France; hardback \$60, paperback \$50, postage & packing \$20.



POSTAL STATIONERY CORNER

by Glenn Estus

As this column is being written in mid-July, we are not yet able to discuss the results of the Games of the XXVIIIth Olympiad to be held in August 2004, in Athens, Greece. However, let's keep our attention focused on the Olympic Games by looking at the first Olympic aerogramme (air letter).

London was the site of the Games of the XIVth Olympiad. These were the first Olympics since 1936 because of World War II. Much of the information that follows comes from articles written for *Torch Bearer*, the journal of our sister society in the U.K., the Society of Olympic Collectors. A detailed article by Douglas Muir about both the stamps and the air letter was published in May 1989, with a follow-up by Alan Sabey in February 1992.

The design shows "the King's head superimposed on the five interlaced rings. Formalised laurel branches on the left and right, each with 14 leaves, are indicative of the fourteenth Olympiad." (from the Post Office press release)

The same design was used for the 6d value in the set of four stamps. Stanley D. Scott produced the design.

The air letter was printed by two companies: McCorquodales produced the basic air letter design, while the indicia portion was printed by Harrison and Sons. Ltd.

According to the above-mentioned article by Alan Sabey, two varieties exist: (1) a "dropped value" showing the indicia printed about half way down the face of the air letter, and (2) an air letter with the indicia completely missing.

The accompanying illustration is postally used to the United States and is postmarked with the commemorative machine cancel used from Wembley, the site of the Olympic Games. The cancel was in use from July 29 to August 14, 1948. This is the first day of use of the air letter as well as the first day of use of the cancel.



July 29, 1948 marked the first day of issue of the London Olympic Games air letter as well as the first day of use of the Olympic machine cancel.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Margaret Jones

New Members

2236 Kevin D. Grobsky, 58 Schwink Dr., Meriden, CT
06450-6914, USA. Kevin is a teacher. *Olympics*.
kdgrobsky@cox.net

RENEWAL

724 Tony J. Quinn, 3 Melbourne Ave., Silver Spring,
MD 20901-4906, USA. Tony is a photographer.
Soccer.

ADDRESS CHANGES

American Philatelic Research Library, 100 Match
Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823-1367 USA.
John Everett, PO Box 131309, Ann Arbor, MI 48113-
1309 USA.

Gudni Gunnarsson, Vallaras 3, 110 Reykjavik, Island.
Total Membership, March 31, 2004 = 265

Exhibit Awards

AMERISTAMP EXPO (Norfolk, Virginia). Andrew
Urushima obtained single frame platinum, reserve
grand, ATA one frame for "Spoiled by War: The
Games of the XIIth Olympiad."

MEGA EVENT (Madison Square Garden, New York).
Conrad Klinkner won gold for "Games of the Xth
Olympiad, Los Angeles 1932."

NAPEX 2004 (Washington, DC). Andrew Urushima
received single frame vermeil, ATA one frame merit
award, AAPE award of honor for "Spoiled by War:
The Games of the XIIth Olympiad."

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- ▶ 19th Games - 1968 (Title & 319 pages) 137.00 (13.00)
- ▶ 20th Games - 1972 (Title & 329 pages) 142.20 (13.00)
- ▶ 21st Games - 1976 (Title & 182 pages) 78.50 (9.50)
- ▶ 22nd Games - 1980 (Title & 201 pages) 86.50 (10.50)
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NEW STAMP ISSUES

by John La Porta

Albania: November 11, 2003. 100th Anniversary Tour de France. 50 lek, 100 lek, stylized cyclists.

Argentina: April 17, 2004. Landscapes. 75c, sailboat.

May 22, 2004. 100th Anniversary of FIFA. Two 75c stamps: oil paintings of soccer, "Pick up Game" by Ruben Ramonda; "The Tunnel" by Ramonda.

Azerbaijan: April 15, 2004. 2004 Olympic Games. Block of four 500m se-tenant: ancient Greek athletes and architecture, jumper with pole; wrestlers; runner; vase with pictures of runners.

April 15, 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. 500m block of four: stadium, trophy, players in action.

Bahrain: April 4, 2004. Formula 1 Bahrain Grand Prix. 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f portrait of King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa, views of race cars; 500f, diamond shaped stamp, the King and tower.

Belarus: April 16, 2004. World Under-18 Ice Hockey Championships. 320 rub, hockey player, emblem.

Belgium: July 10, 2004. 2004 Olympic Games. 0.50e, women's basketball; 0.55e, mountain biking; 0.60e, pole vaulting; 0.80e s/s, Olympic Flame in Belgium.

Bosnia-Herzegovina: March 31, 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. 2m, emblem, soccer ball with map.

Bosnian Serb Administration: March 2, 2004. 2004 Olympic Games. S/s se-tenant pair of 1.50m, scene from Ancient Olympics with horse.

May 5, 2004. 1m, rafting, 1.50m, paragliding.

June 8, 2004. Portugal hosts European Soccer Cup. 1.50m, ball and map of Europe showing Portugal.

Canada: June 18, 2004. Lake Saint-Jean International Swimming Marathon. 49¢, start of race.

August 12, 2004. Centennial of Open Gold Championship of Canada. Two 49¢ die cut golf ball stamps.

Christmas Island: July 13, 2004. Deep-sea diving.

Croatia: May 9, 2004. Two 3.50k: ice skater, sled, ski poles and boots; bicycle.

May 21, 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. 2.50k, ball.

Cyprus: June 10, 2004. 2004 Olympic Games. Set of 4 ancient Olympians: 13¢, equestrians; 20¢, runners; 30¢, swimmers, divers, fish; 40¢, two athletes, man in robe.

Czech Republic: June 23, 2004. 2004 Paralympic Games. 6.50kc, seated athlete throwing a javelin.

June 23, 2004. 2004 Olympic Games. 9kc, cyclist.

Denmark: June 9, 2004. 6kr, cycling, 9kr, sailing.

Dominica: April 12, 2004. 2004 Olympics.. Past Olympians: 20¢, runner Betty Robinson 1928; 25¢, shooter Karoly Takacs 1948; 55¢, Bob Beamon long jump 1968; 65¢, "Babe" Didrikson, hurdles 1932; \$1, runner Ville Ritola 1924; \$1.65, swimmer A. Hajos Guttmann 1896; \$2, runner Paavo Nurmi 1920; \$4, Nedo Nadi, fencing, 1920.

Estonia: May 4, 2004. 6.50kr sailing.

Faeroes: May 24, 2004. Soccer Centennials/100th Anniversary of FIFA. 5kr soccer scene, club emblems; 6.50kr soccer scene, FIFA Emblem.

May 24, 2004. 6.50kr, sailing trip.

France: June 4, 2004. 0.50e booklet, sailboats.

June 28, 2004. 2004 Olympic Games. 0.50e se-tenant pair: ancient Greek runners handing torch; modern athletes, kayak, tennis, equestrian.

July 3, 2004. Sports. Pane of 10 se-tenant stamps, five 0.20e: skateboarding, sky diving, windsurfing, surfing, luge; five 0.30e: BMX cycling, parasailing, jet skiing, snowboarding, roller skating.

Gambia: March 26, 2004. Euro Cup Soccer, Portugal. Pane of 16, 16dai: Bulgaria; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; England; France; Germany; Italy; Latvia; Netherlands; Portugal; Russia; Spain. Pane of 4, 25dai: Angelo Domenghini; Dragan Dzajic; Juigi Riva; Olympic Stadium; 65dai s/s, 1968 Italian Team.

April 19, 2004. 2004 Olympic Games. 10dai, swimming; 15d, Henri Baillet-Latour; 20d, 1896 medal; 30d, pentathlon from ancient Greek art.

Greece: March 24, 2004. 2004 Olympics. 0.05e, swimming; 0.10e, weightlifting; 0.20e kayaking; 0.47e, relay; 2e, rhythmic gymnastics; 5e, rings. S/s of five. Stamps printed in sheets of 25 & m/s of 6.

May 4, 2004. 2004 Olympic Games. S/s of 2: 0.47e, 2.50e, Olympic Truce.

May 4, 2004. 2004 Olympic Games. Olympic Flame: 0.47e; s/s of two: 0.47e, 2.50e.

May 4, 2004. Se-tenant pair: 0.65e sailboat, 2.85e hot air balloon. Printed in sheets of 16; booklets of 4.

Grenada: April 8, 2004. 2004 Olympic Games. 75¢, Lord Killanin; \$1, 1928 Olympics 10,000 meter run; \$1.25, 1900 Paris Olympics plaque; \$3 olive wreath.

May 3, 2004. European Soccer Cup. 4 se-tenant \$2: 1976 Czechoslovakia-German match; three stamps show players and cup; stadium, cup.

Grenada Carriacou & Petite Martinique: April 8, 2004. 2004 Olympics Games. 25¢, long jump, 1924 Olympics; 50¢, Avery Brundage; \$1, 1972 Olympics medal; \$4, ancient Greek art, the Paidotribai.

Guernsey: May 12, 2004. 36p, yachts.

Hungary: May 21, 2004. 100th Anniversary of FIFA. 100ft, birthday cake, soccer field and ball on top.

Indonesia: May 4, 2004. 2004 Olympic Games. 3 circular 2,500r: hurdler; high jumper; swimmer.

Ireland: July 19, 2004. 2004 Olympics. 0.48e, javelin thrower, Olympic Flame; 0.60e, discus thrower.

Israel: May 3, 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. 2.10s soccer ball, 1948 soccer match between Israeli and United States teams.

Italy: May 22, 2004. Italian Soccer Championship. 0.45e, soccer player, Milan team coat of arms.

May 3, 2004. 50th Anniversary European Soccer Association, UEFA. 6.20s, soccer ball, stadium.

Latvia: April 17, 2004. Ice Hockey World Championship. 30s, fans celebrating, flag.

June 3, 2004. European Soccer Championship. 30s.

Lithuania: May 15, 2004. 100th Ann. FIFA. 3 litai, ball.

Luxembourg: May 9, 2004. 0.60e, canoeing, swimming.

May 9, 2004. 2004 Olympics. 0.50e, girl and Olympic Torch; 0.60e, man and boy playing basketball.

Macedonia: May 7, 2004. 50d pair, sailboat.

Morocco: April 16, 2004. 16th World Ch. of Military Equestrian Sports. 6.50d, horse and rider.

May 15, 2004. 20th Anniversary Hassan II Tennis Grand Prix. 6.50d, symbolic tennis player.

Peru: January 5, 2004. 1.20s, swimmer.

February 4, 2004. Japan-Korea World Cup Soccer Ch. 4.80s, soccer scene (stamp is dated 2002).

February 4, 2004. 50th Anniversary National Stadium. 4.80s, the stadium (stamp is dated 2002).

Poland: May 5, 2004. 2.10zl, sailing.

Qatar: May 21, 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. 50d, hexagonal stamp, emblem, soccer field.

Romania: March 25, 2004. 90th Ann. Romanian Oly. Com. S/s of 3 se-tenant 16,000+5,000 lea: Pierre de Coubertin; Greek 1896 1 drachma Olympic stamp; Prince George Valentin Bibescu.

Russia: April 15, 2004. 4 rubles, sailing ship.

St. Vincent: May 17, 2004. Euro Cup Soccer. Pane of 4 \$2: 2000 France-Italy match, Roger Lemmere; Marco Delvecchio; David Trezeguet; De Kuip Stadium; s/s \$5 stamp, France's 2000 team.

San Marino: May 21, 2004. 2004 Olympic Games. 4 se-tenant 0.90e: chariot race; runner with torch and discus thrower; runner and cyclist; tennis player.

Singapore: May 21, 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. 30¢, field; 60¢, ball; \$1 jersey; \$2, world map.

Switzerland: May 6, 2004. 2004 Olympic Games. Two 1 f: symbolic runner, stadium, Olympic Rings; 1896 marathon, symbolic runner, Olympic Games.

United States: June 9, 2004. 2004 Olympic Games. 37¢, ancient Greek runner.

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP CANCELS

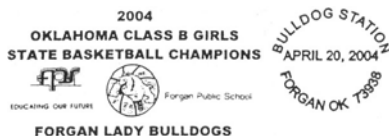
by Mark Maestrone

THE NUMBERING SYSTEM

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SPORTS CROSS INDEX APRIL-JULY 2004

Auto Racing: 04530-462, 04620-462.
Baseball: 04528-141.
Basketball: 04420-739, 04506-793.
Boxing: 04613-130.
Canoe/Kayak: 04501-394.
Cycling: 04422-301, 04423-305,
04424-306, 04425-300, 04425-305,
04619-793, 04623-446; 04626-129,
04703-135.
Fishing: 04615-76048.
Football: 04615-074.
Golf: 04630-010.
Hiking: 04615-76049.
Horse Racing: 04515-212.
Olympics, Special: 04612-044.
Olympics, Summer: 04616-900,
04617-631, 04618-303, 04623-908,
04707-908.
Rowing: 04520-586.
Running: 04501-070, 04529-999,
04709-13501, 04709-13502,
04710-135.
Sports, General: 04523-135.
Swimming: 04626-129, 04707-908.
Track & Field: 04501-070, 04715-370.
Triathlon: 04626-129.
Water Polo: 04623-908.
Wrestling: 04508-123.



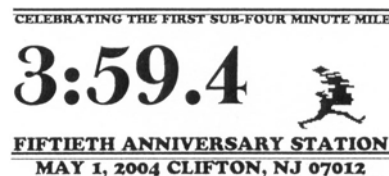
04420-739 Forgan, OK 20



04422-301 Rome, GA 22
04423-305 Dahlonega, GA 23
04425-300 Alpharetta, GA 25
04425-305 Dawsonville, GA 25



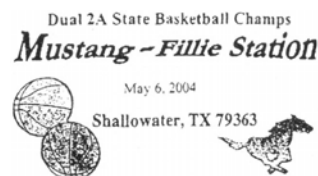
04424-306 Athens, GA 24



04502-070 Clifton, NJ 1-5



04501-394 Collins, MS 1



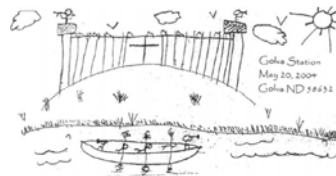
04506-793 Shallowater, TX 6



04508-123 Schenectady, NY 8



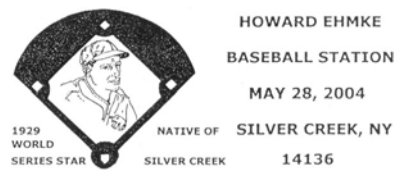
04515-212 Baltimore, MD 15



04520-586 Golva, ND 20



04523-135 Utica, NY 23



04528-141 Silver Creek, NY 28



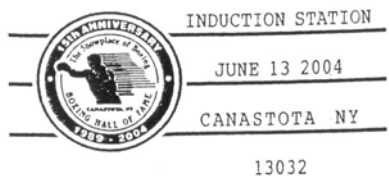
04529-999 Craig, AK 29



04530-462 Indianapolis, IN 30



04612-044 Orono, ME 12



04613-130 Canastota, NY 13



04615-074 Ridgewood, NY 15



04615-76048 Granbury, TX 15



04615-76049 Granbury, TX 15



04616-900 Los Angeles, CA 16



04617-631 St. Louis, MO 17



04618-303 Atlanta, GA 18



04619-793 Muleshoe, TX 19



04620-462 Indianapolis, IN 20



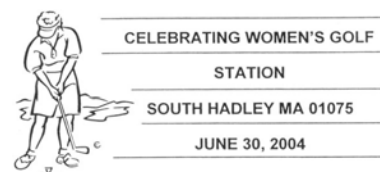
04623-446 Zoar, OH 23



04623-908 Long Beach, CA 23-27



04626-129 Tupper Lake, NY 26



04630-010 South Hadley, MA 30



04703-135 Utica, NY 3



04707-908 Long Beach, CA 7-14



04709-13501 Utica, NY 9



04709-13502 Utica, NY 9



04710-135 Utica, NY 10

ATA- SPI

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