

JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

VOLUME 43

WINTER 2004

NUMBER 2



THE OLYMPIC
GAMES RETURN
TO ATHENS



Α' ΠΡΟΤΕΡΑΙΟΤΗΤΑΣ
ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΟΥ

MARK MAESTRONE

ATHENS 10673
GREECE



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PHILATELISTS
INTERNATIONAL

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SPORTS PHILATELISTS INTERNATIONAL

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

William Fraleigh Passing

I have the sad duty to notify our members that William Fraleigh, the driving force behind SPI's Rapid Notification Service, passed away very suddenly on July 13, 2004, from a brain aneurism.

It was Bill who originally conceived of the idea of offering this service to SPI members a number of years ago in order to provide more timely information on commemorative pictorial postmarks. Bill had a small but loyal group of subscribers who will, along with the rest of the membership, miss his quiet dedication.

While the Board of Directors has not discussed the matter, I'm certain they would like to honor Bill's memory by having the RNS continue in operation. The question, of course, is if there is a self-motivated individual with the time and interest to step into Bill's shoes and take over the task. If you think you'd like to volunteer as the RNS coordinator, please contact me.

SPI Annual Financial Report

Our treasurer, Andrew Urushima, offers his annual financial report for SPI covering the period from September 1, 2003 through August 31, 2004 (please see page 2). Briefly, SPI showed a small profit of just over \$450 for the year which is certainly respectable.

OLYMPHILEX 2004/OLYMPEX 2006

Despite it's out-of-the-way location off the main public transportation lines, OLYMPHILEX 2004 was certainly one of the best displays of Olympic and sports exhibits I've seen. The General Commissioner of the show, Anthony Virvilis, deserves congratulations from all who exhibited or attended the show.

Congratulations also go to the dozen U.S. exhibitors who submitted one or more exhibits. Let's face it, without them the frames would have been empty! A special "thank you" goes to our U.S. Commissioner, Nancy Z. Clark for schlepping our "prides and joys" there and back, not to mention going to bat for us during the judging (Nancy also served on the jury).

There is word that an OLYMPEX 2006 will hopefully be organized in Turin, Italy during the upcoming 2006 Olympic Winter Games. While nothing concrete has been decided, this philatelic exhibition of winter sports and Olympics may be competitive, but by invitation only. I'll keep readers apprised of any new developments.

TEXPEX 2005

Our SPI convention at TEXPEX 2005 is just around the corner (April 8-10). Spring is a beautiful time of year in Dallas, Texas, so why not make your reservations now and come celebrate with us!

For the exhibitors among you, prospectuses and applications are available from: Dick Phelps, P.O. Box 867373, Plano TX 75086. They may also be downloaded online from users.waymark.net/texpex/index.html.

The show hotel is the Double Tree Hotel Dallas (formerly the Renaissance Dallas North Hotel). To reserve your room at the special show rates, please call them directly at 972-385-9000 (the Double Tree toll free number is 1-800-468-3571).

The Officers and Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a joyous holiday season and healthy prosperous New Year!

The SPI web site is located at: <http://www.sportstamps.org>

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SPI Annual Financial Statement: FY 2004 & 2003

| | August 31, 2004 | August 31, 2003 |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| <u>Income</u> | | |
| Dues | 4,304.00 | 5,338.00 |
| Interest | 97.23 | 136.48 |
| Publications/Advertising | 652.54 | 514.90 |
| Total | 5,053.77 | 5,989.38 |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | |
| Printing | 2,308.89 | 2,180.22 |
| Postage | 2,770.17 | 2,869.43 |
| F. Shorter Honorarium | | |
| Salt Lake Covers | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Other (supplies, etc) | 354.44 | 340.44 |
| Total | 5,433.50 | 5,390.09 |
| <u>Auction activity</u> | | |
| Receipts | 4,778.69 | 2,440.67 |
| Disbursements | (3,940.47) | (2,002.53) |
| Total | 838.22 | 438.14 |
| Net Income (loss) | 458.49 | 1,037.43 |
| Beginning Fund Balance | 15,683.62 | 14,646.19 |
| Ending Fund Balance | 16,142.11 | 15,683.62 |
| Cash and Investments: | | |
| Bank of America | | |
| Checking | 4,637.02 | 3,318.10 |
| PayPal Account | 695.48 | 630.52 |
| Union Bank | 250.00 | |
| Morgan Stanley Money | | |
| Market | 12,069.61 | 12,089.01 |
| | 17,652.11 | 16,037.63 |
| Payable to Consignors, net of manager acct | (1,510.00) | (354.01) |
| Fund Balance | 16,142.11 | 15,683.62 |



THE OLYMPIC GAMES RETURN TO ATHENS

by Mark Maestroni

Mythology tells us that the Ancient Olympic Games were born of hard work and sacrifice. Herakles (Hercules to the Romans among you) for the fifth of his twelve labors scoured clean the notoriously filthy stables of King Augeas of Elis (Figure 1) by diverting the Alpheus and Cladeus Rivers. Reneging on his deal to turn over one-tenth of his cattle in payment, Augeas suffered the wrath of Herakles who promptly waged war on the miserly king and sacked the city. As a paean to Zeus, the demigod founded the Olympic Games on the site of his conquest.

Jump ahead nearly 28 centuries where organizing the Games of the XXVIIIth Olympiad must have seemed at times no less a Herculean task to today's Greeks! Following a brief burst of activity when the 2004 Games were awarded to Athens, preparations soon bogged down in endless discussions and negotiations between government and industry. Like modern day Cassandra many in the media began predicting nothing but doom and gloom for Athens' Games. "The venues will never be done," many said. Like the Oracle at Delphi, others divined that the transportation system would be a nightmare. And as if that weren't enough to scare off Olympic fans from around the world, pundits insisted that if the foul Athenian air didn't kill you, the terrorists would!

Not only, dear readers, did I return with body and sanity intact, but I'm happy to say that these Games were a blast – er, perhaps "loads of fun" would be a better choice of words.



Figure 1. Olympic souvenir sheet showing ancient Greek coins. The €2.00 value at bottom right depicts a silver two-drachma coin from Elis dating back to 460 B.C.

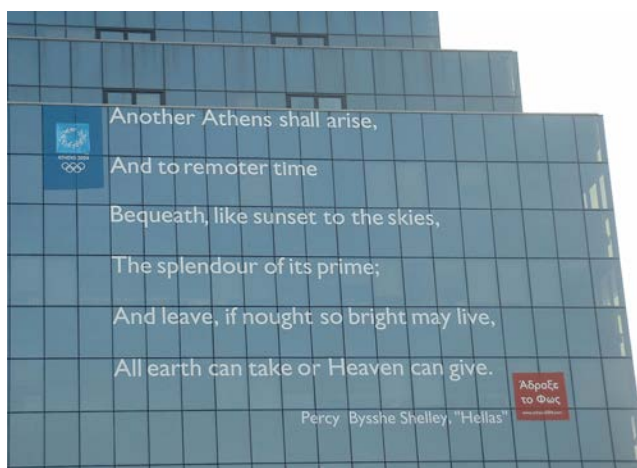


Figure 2. The “look” of the Games took many forms including giant murals on buildings.

DOING THE TOURISM THING

My sidekick for this Olympian adventure, as at Salt Lake City in 2002, was fellow SPI member Norm Jacobs from Atlanta. (Unfortunately his wife, Kathy, wasn't able to join us this time.) Through an arrangement with a friend of my family's, we were able to rent a charming old-world apartment in the Kolonaki section of downtown Athens. The location couldn't have been more favorable as it was no more than a leisurely 15-minute walk to Syntagma (Constitution) Square, the heart of Athens.

Arriving the day before the Opening Ceremonies gave us time to settle in and do a bit of exploring around the neighborhood. As we soon discovered there is surprisingly little climate control in public buildings (except for the most modern) no doubt a contributing factor in the Athenians' mass exodus to the islands in August. During each of our 10 days in Greece the mercury easily reached 35°C (95°F) with comparably uncomfortable humidity.

Quite by chance this first day, we happened upon The Academy of Athens bathed in the golden glow of the late afternoon sun. A successor to the ancient school of philoso-

phy founded by Plato in 387 B.C., the current Academy is dedicated to the “promotion of science, letters, fine arts and scholarship.” Within the 19th century neoclassic structure was presented a fascinating exhibition “In Praise of the Olive” illuminating “the historical relation of the olive tree to Greek culture from prehistory to the present.” One section – The Olive and Athletics – discussed the use of olive oil in anointing the athletes at the Olympics and as awards at the Panathenaic Games.

The few electric fans around the perimeter of the floor were no match for the oppressive conditions, sending us racing prematurely for the exit. Glancing back, we both wondered as to the condition of the 200,000 volumes in the library, fungi running rampant as the tomes baked in the moist heat.

Circling back to Syntagma Square, we arrived just in time for the twice daily changing of the guard in front of Parliament. The *evzones* (guards), clad in their odd uniforms of tan kilts, red berets, and wooden shoes crowned with black pom-poms, marched into the small plaza in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier from their nearby bivouac. I found it particularly interesting that before assuming their posts, the new guard presented themselves for inspection by a superior who adjusted their berets, belts and any other item of clothing that appeared out of kilter (no pun intended).



Figure 3. Registered cover from the Hilton Hotel in Athens, headquarters of the International Olympic Committee during the Games. Stamps are cancelled with the special Olympic postmark for the Hilton.

Syntagma Square is where all Athens, it seems, comes to watch and be watched walking around the tree-lined perimeter or sitting in the shade of the sweetly-scented orange, oleander and cypress trees. No matter the time of day – or night – the square buzzed with human activity.

Back in 1896 when the Games of the First (Modern) Olympiad occurred, the magnificent Hotel Grande Bretagne on the northeastern corner of the square was the domicile for the members of the International Olympic Committee and other well-heeled dignitaries. After more than a century, the hotel still played an Olympic role, though not as the headquarters hotel for the IOC (that distinction went to the larger Athens Hilton [Figure 3] about one mile to the east). It was rare, though, not to see limousines lined up outside with squads of vigilant plain-clothed security people and uniformed policemen milling about.

Throughout Athens, banners were hung from light posts and colorful murals of fabric draped the sides of buildings. As if anyone doubted Athens' readiness for the next day's Olympic Opening Ceremonies, a quotation from Percy Bysshe Shelley's 1822 lyrical drama, "Hellas," was displayed on the side of a modern glass-and-steel office tower for all to read (Figure 2):

*Another Athens shall arise,
And to remoter time
Bequeath, like sunset to the skies,
The splendour of its prime;
And leave, if nought so bright may live,
All earth can take or Heaven can give.*

OLYMPHILEX 2004

Friday, August 13, the day of the Opening Ceremonies, was our one day without a sporting event, so Norm and I decided to spend a good portion of it at OLYMPHILEX 2004 (Figure 4).

Held from August 12-22, this quadrennial edition of the now traditional "World Olympic and Sports Stamp, Coins, and Memorabilia Exhibition" was very much a last minute affair.

With no support from the Athens Olympic Organizing Committee and very little from the Greek Philatelic Federation, it was a miracle it got off the ground. Through the dedicated and tireless efforts of a few philatelists, most especially the General Commissioner, Anthony Virvilis, the exhibition turned out to be one of the finest displays of Olympic and sports philately held at an Olympic Games. 231 individuals and organizations from 34 countries fielded 265 exhibits comprising more than 1,200 (16-page) frames! Unfortunately, the exhibition catalog was not available until the final day of the show making it very difficult to find specific exhibits. A single photocopy of the list of exhibits pinned to a bulletin board near the entrance was the only available reference for show attendees.

A record 15 gold medals were awarded, two of which were large golds. Three of the gold medals were awarded to U.S. exhibits.

Much to the chagrin of many of the western European exhibitors, all three top awards went to Greeks. The Gold Medal was won by Georgios Sparis for "Commemorative Issue of the First Olympic Games - Athens 1896." Emmanuel Mavrides won the Silver Medal for "Olympic Games 1896." Both of these exhibits received large golds. The Bronze Medal was awarded to "Postmarks on 1896 and 1906 Greek Olympic Issues and Control Obliterations" by Yako Doyou which also received a gold medal. The results of all 17 U.S. exhibits are summarized in the nearby table on page 6 (Figure 5).

Our U.S. Commissioner, Nancy Z. Clark, deserves top marks for safely shepherding our philatelic exhibits halfway around the world and back. Her skills as an international judge were also employed, making her one busy lady at the show. Thanks from all of us, Nancy!



Figure 4. OLYMPHILEX 2004 banner stretching across the road adjacent to the exhibition hall.

| RESULTS OF U.S. EXHIBITORS AT OLYMPHILEX 2004 | | | | |
|---|--|-------|-------|-------|
| Exhibitor | Title | Class | Award | Score |
| Bowman, James | 1936 Olympischen Spiele | C | G | 92/SP |
| Manikian, Vic | The Olympic Movement and Games 1894 - 1948 | C | G | 91/SP |
| Ekstrom, Charles | U.S. Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamps | C | G | 90/SP |
| Jacobs, Norman | Tennis: From Courtyard to Backyard, For Fun and Fame | C | LV | 85/SP |
| Urushima, Andrew | Spoiled By War: The Games of the XIIth Olympiad | CS* | S | 83/SP |
| Klinkner, Conrad | Games of the Xth Olympiad - Los Angeles 1932 | C | V | 82 |
| Luster, Devin | Basketball | Y | LS | 79/SP |
| Estus, Glenn | Lake Placid 1932 | C | LS | 78/SP |
| Maestroni, Mark | Journal of Sports Philately International | L | LS | 78 |
| Maestroni, Mark | Men's Gymnastics: Dressed to Win | CS* | S | 76 |
| Estus, Glenn | Olympic Machine Canceled | P | S | 74 |
| Loehr, Patricia | The World of Golf | C | S | 72 |
| Loehr, Patricia | Handbook of Slogan Golf Meter Stamps | L | S | 70 |
| Lu, David | Olympic Issue of 1896 | CS | S | 70 |
| Johnson, Alice J. | Figure Skating | C | B | 64 |
| Pautz, Maurice | XIX Winter Olympiad | CS | B | 56 |
| Herndon, Myrtis | The Sporting Spirit | L | ? | ? |
| Class: C (competitive); L (literature); P (promotion); S (single frame); Y (youth) Award: G (gold); LV (large vermeil); V (vermeil); LS (large silver); S (silver); B (bronze) Score: SP (special prize) * Single frame exhibits received no higher than silver medals | | | | |



Figure 5. Norm Jacobs at his frames (left); OLYMPHILEX 2004 award medal (above) and diploma (right).





Figure 6. The ELTA cancellation area at OLYMPHILEX 2004 during a quiet spell.

The well-equipped venue, the modern EKEP Exhibition Centre in the Athens suburb of Metamorphosi, lacked only one critical requirement – a convenient location. Situated away from public transportation it was difficult to find (even taxi drivers had to be given exact directions). Not knowing the best way to get there on our first visit, Norm and I took a bus to the center of Metamorphosi, and then, following rather imprecise directions from the bus driver, walked the rest of the way. Fortunately our meanderings along small dusty lanes and back alleys in the midday heat took us past a very modern pastry shop. Norm, hoping for a fresh croissant, insisted we stop. However, when we spotted the display of homemade ice cream in a rainbow of flavors, neither of us could resist. Savoring every spoonful, we trudged the final few hundred yards to the venue. We subsequently discovered an easier way to the center: take the subway part way and then a cab the final distance. In the reverse direction, a coach ran between the center and subway stop once each hour.

Despite the fact that the exhibition was free, the out-of-the-way location and nonexistent publicity made for very poor attendance. On our many visits to OLYMPHILEX I never saw more than a handful of visitors, most of whom were fellow collectors canceling their mail or checking out the exhibits.

And this was a shame for the EKEP Centre was an otherwise excellent venue. There was sufficient floor space for the exhibits. A seating area and stage for lectures and presentations were available on the ground floor, as was a snack bar for quick breaks. When a more substantial meal was in order, a restaurant on the second floor balcony provided



Figure 7. Olympic torches from the Summer Olympic Games were displayed at OLYMPHILEX.

cafeteria-style service with at least two selections of hot entrees. Most importantly: the entire facility was comfortably air-conditioned!

Although initial problems delayed participation of the Greek post office, ELTA, they eventually hopped on board the OLYMPHILEX band wagon. Their super booth was situated near the entry area. On one side, a single, often harried, postal clerk sold Greek Olympic stamps (of which there really were far too many face different sets and souvenir sheets). Clerks on the other side serviced covers and postcards (Figure 6). Registration of mail was available, although there were no special Olympic-inscribed registration labels.

In all, 35 sports cancellations were available only at OLYMPHILEX along with five additional day-specific “OLYMPHILEX 2004” cancels. The philately of these Games will be covered in depth in separate articles.

Twelve dealers booths – mostly postal administrations – were also situated at the front of the exhibition hall. Near the entrance, torches for each summer Olympic Games relay from 1936 to the present were on display (Figure 7).

On the plus side, OLYMPHILEX provided a wonderful opportunity to meet up with fellow collectors, especially those from Europe. Almost immediately upon arrival, I spotted Jean-Pierre Piquot, head of AFCOS, our sister society in France. I hadn’t seen Jean-Pierre for some years so it was enjoyable catching up on news. I was also introduced to the wonderful book published by AFCOS on the “AN” postcards of the 1924 Olympic Games (please see the special order blank enclosed with this issue).



Figure 8. Registered cover with the special cancel marking the Opening Ceremonies (13 August) and ELTA circular date stamp from OLYMPHILEX. This was also the first day of issue for the Olympic rings over the Acropolis stamp.

In the snack bar area we encountered a number of fellow SPI members: Bob Farley of the Great Britain-based Society of Olympic Collectors, Thomas Lippert from the Berlin Olympic & Sport Philatelic Club, and, much to my surprise, Laurentz Jonker of the Netherlands. Laurentz and I have been corresponding for many years but have never had an opportunity to meet, so this was quite a treat. Unfortunately with all of us going in different directions over the next week, it was impossible to find time to get together again for a more leisurely visit. Thomas also introduced me to some other Olympic collectors from Europe including Manfred Winternheimer from our German sister society, IMOS.

One of the more odd occurrences at this exhibition was the manner in which the awards were posted – or rather *not* posted. By Wednesday, those of us who were exhibitors were wondering why awards hadn't been placed on the frames. Could it be that the jury was still deliberating? Buttonholing U.S. Commissioner and Judge, Nancy Clark, we asked if the results were available. To our dismay she told us that the organizing committee, in order to boost attendance at the awards banquet on Saturday, August 21, decided to keep all awards secret until then. No amount of cajoling on Nancy's part could sway them. For those of us departing before the end of the exhibition, making us wait until

our exhibits were returned to us back home smacked of rather cruel and unusual punishment! Note to future OLYMPHILEX committees: your exhibitors don't appreciate being railroaded into attending an awards banquet.

One of the topics of discussion was where to watch the Opening Ceremonies (Figure 8) since none of us had felt particularly inclined to spend a minimum of \$468 to attend. That day's news had reported that "Jumbotron" televisions were being installed at various outdoor facilities, including the 1896 Panathinaiko Stadium, to which the public was invited free of charge. This sounded like a reasonable option, so late in the afternoon Norm and I headed down to the stadium which was about a 20-minute walk south of Syntagma Square. The tree-lined Irodou Attikou with the National

Gardens on one side and neoclassic villas on the other reminded me of so many other European capitals. On the way, we passed the splendid homes of the Greek President and Prime Minister, both of whom were getting ready to depart for the Olympic Stadium.

Upon reaching the Panathinaiko Stadium, the lack of any crowds was a clear indication that we had been sent on a wild goose chase. One of the many Olympic volunteers on duty was able to enlighten us. Apparently there had been a plan earlier in the day to invite the public to an open-air telecast of the Opening Ceremonies, but out of concern for security the gathering was cancelled.

In lieu of this we decided to go to one of the local tavernas (outdoor restaurant/bar), many of which were ready for the event with wide-screen TV's. This turned out to be a capital idea as we enjoyed a simple, yet tasty, dinner accompanied by an excellent Greek wine while experiencing the pageantry of the Opening Ceremonies with the locals. We were certainly swept up in the exuberant cheering for the Greek and Cypriot teams as they entered the stadium (and some booing at British P.M. Tony Blair when his visage appeared on the screen). By the time the last of the fireworks had shot from the top of the Olympic Stadium it was well after midnight and time for some well-earned rest.

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

Finally it was time to get on with the serious business at hand: being Olympic spectators. Our first (and only) event Saturday was an early afternoon session of team handball at the Sports Pavilion in the Faliro Coastal Zone Olympic Complex.

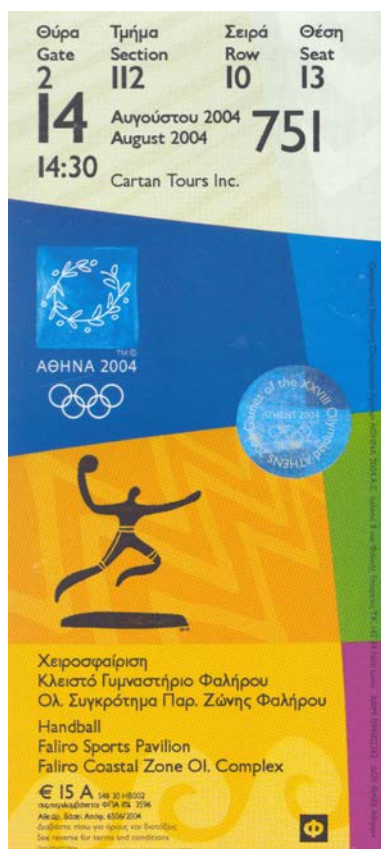
Unsure as to how the crowds might affect the transportation network and security checks at the venue this first day of Olympic competition, we decided to give ourselves plenty of time. As it turned out, we had nothing to worry about. Hopping the M2 subway at Syntagma Square, we traveled two stops to the south, then boarded an Olympic bus which took us directly to the Faliro Olympic Complex. Walking and travel time: perhaps 45 minutes at most. In fact, our longest walk – about 1 km – was from the bus drop-off area at Faliro to the venue (wide security perimeters around venues were the rule).

This positive experience riding the transit system was to repeat itself throughout the Games. As we quickly discovered, the relatively new subway cars were *not* air-conditioned, but the special Olympic buses were. Needless to say, we rode the buses whenever practicable. Additionally, they also proved

to be less crowded than the subway system. As is customary, an Olympic event ticket (Figure 9) permitted free access to the entire Olympic Transit system for that day.

With lots of time to spare, we decided to explore an “Olympic Experience” area sponsored by Alpha Bank, a primary sponsor of the Olympic Games. A wide area on the sandy beach below the venue featured hands-on displays where visitors could go one-on-one with an athlete in various sports. At a fencing booth, we watched as a young man was taught a few basic moves with an epee by a fencing instructor. A trampoline attracted the attention of some teens in another booth. My favorite, however, was the taekwondo exhibit where a cute little tyke (Figure 10) tried to imitate the moves of the teacher.

Wending our way back to the venue, we passed through security for the customary “mag & bag” (walk through a magnetometer and have your bag x-rayed). At the coastal venues, Greek naval personnel dressed in their crisp summer whites handled security in an efficient orderly manner. In fact, I don’t recall that we ever had a wait of more than a couple of minutes at any venue during these Games! Sparse Olympic crowds and plenty of checkpoints at every venue gate made security a breeze.



Figures 9 & 10. Ticket to team handball (left). The taekwondo area at Alpha Bank’s “Olympic Experience” (above).



Figure 11. The Athens Olympic Sports Complex (OAKA).

In the first handball match of the session, it was Russia over Slovenia in a close-fought contest, 28-23. Then, host country Greece played its first game against Germany, losing 18-28 to the more experienced team. Both were exciting matches, only confirming my impression from the 1996 Atlanta Games that this is a great spectator sport.

As with soccer, handball attracts quite a cast of characters. My favorite was a 24-year-old German, Pascal Hens, who sported an eye-catching blond Mohawk haircut. He managed a 40% average, scoring two goals in five shots.

Sometimes the audience can be almost as entertaining as the game. Seated in the section next to us were flamboyantly-costumed Slovenian supporters who seemed to spend much of the time on their feet rooting for their team (much to the consternation of the ushers who tried valiantly to get them to sit down). Mysteriously, the seats were occupied by German fans for the second match. Only slightly less colorful than the Slovenes, they certainly gave them a run for their money in the cheering department. As one can imagine, there was never a dull moment at team handball that afternoon.

Sunday marked our first doubleheader event day as well as our first visit to the Athens Olympic Sports Complex (OAKA) where the Olympic Stadium and many of the other venues were located (Figure 11). The extra travel/security check time we allowed

ourselves was, once again, unnecessary. The entry gates for the Olympic bus drop-off area (gates for the subway stop were on the opposite end of the complex) were literally empty. There were more volunteers on hand than spectators!

OAKA was the crown jewel of the Athens Olympic Games. Though most of the sports facilities were existing, ATHOC (the Athens Olympic Organizing Committee) resolved to improve and harmonize the existing 250-acre complex, its surrounding area, and its access routes to meet program needs as well as provide a legacy for the citizens of Athens. Renowned Spanish architect and engineer, Santiago Calatrava, was selected to produce the master plan and design.

The Complex is arranged in a roughly hemispherical shape. Most of the venues front the paved "Boulevard," a central east-west axis along the southern edge extending from the Olympic Stadium to the Olympic Velodrome. The Agora runs almost 1,600 feet along the northern arc of the site and offers a shady, curving promenade of 99 tubular steel arches. Two post offices (more about those later), restaurants, the Olympic Superstore and other sponsor facilities were arrayed along this pedestrian thoroughfare.

Two of the most prominent new architectural features were Calatrava's signature roofs for the two largest venues: the Olympic Stadium, location of the



Figure 12. Nations Wall.

opening and closing ceremonies, track and field events, and men's soccer final, and the Velodrome, locale for indoor bicycling events.

Even more spectacular, to my mind, was Cala trava's magnificent Nations Wall (Figure 12), an 856-foot-long monumental sculpture made of 960 tubular steel elements, which helped define the Boulevard. "A battery of motors permits the elements of the Nations Wall to move in a wavelike motion, creating a pleasing effect of light and shadow over the central pedestrian route," the architect explains. At night, images of the flags of participating nations were projected on the moving Wall along with video of athletes in action. During the day, an otherworldly



Figure 13. One of the post offices at OAKA.

hum was audible as you walked along it.

This was an all-aquatics day for us beginning with water polo in the morning and ending with swimming in the evening.

The Indoor Pool at the Olympic Aquatic Center was the venue for both water polo (preliminaries) and diving. At our session that morning, we began with a rather lopsided game in which aquatics powerhouse Australia easily bested Egypt, 14-8. The second game was far closer with Russia edging the team from Kazakhstan, 5-2. What particularly impressed me about these guys was their size: enormous upper bodies and powerful legs. Needless to say, you wouldn't want to get on their wrong side!



Figure 14. ELTA prepaid publicity piece reused to U.S.A. Since prepaid indicia was no longer valid, €0.65 postage was added for airmail rate and postmarked with Olympic cancel from OAKA.



Figure 15. Registered swimming cover from OLYMPHILEX. 15 August marked Michael Phelps' second of seven medals won at these Games.

We had an opportunity that day to visit two ELTA post offices (Figure 13) located at OAKA. The first was across from the Olympic Stadium near the entrance to the Olympic Tennis Centre while the second was situated at the opposite end of the complex with the restaurants and other spectator services (a third was located in the Sponsor Hospital-ity Centre and thus not open to the general public). Both were staffed with at least three postal employees and were constantly busy. The full panoply of Olympic stamps and souvenir sheets was available along with special gift items produced by ELTA.

A popular souvenir were personalized stamps. The "victim" (in some cases a whole family) posed for a digital web camera operated by a postal clerk. Once the cropped photo was approved (retakes were permitted), a color laser printer generated a sheet of 10 stamps with labels bearing the digital image.

An identical double ring handcancel was used at both OAKA post offices featuring the Olympic Stadium (Figure 14). Text inside the ring read

| ΑΠΟΔΕΙΞΗ ΚΑΤΑΘΕΣΗΣ ασφαλισμένου ή συστημένου | | | ΕΛΤΑ Hellenic Post |
|--|--|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Παραλήπτης: MARK MAESTRONE | Αριθμός κατάθεσης: RE467106830GR | | |
| 2824 CURIE PL. | | | |
| SAN DIEGO, CA 92122 USA | | | |
| 15 ΑΥΓ. 2004 | | | |
| Τοιχ. Κώδικας (για αντικείμενα εξωτερικού πλήρη διεύθυνση προορισμού) | Χρονολογικά στοιχεία (ημέρα, μήνας, έτος) | ΚΟΛΥΜΒΗΣΗ | |
| Ποσό ασφάλισης 1 | Ποσό αντικαταβολής | Ειδικές σημειώσεις 1 | |
| Τοιχ. τίτλος 2 | Χώρος για σημειώσεις του αποστολέα | | |
| <small>Σε κάθε αναζήτηση χρειάζεται η απόδειξη αυτή. Η απόδειξη για ασφαλισμένο ή συστημένο εσωτερικού, που έχει χαθεί ή έχει πάθει βλάβη όλο ή μέρος του περιεχομένου του, δίνεται σύμφωνα με τα παρακάτω: - Για ασφαλισμένο (Δ.Α.) το ποσό που απαιτείται στην απόδειξη ή τη ζήτηση του αντικείμενου. Μεγαλύτερη αποζημίωση από το ποσό ασφάλισης δε δίνεται. - Για συστημένο το ανώτερο ποσό των 35,22 ΕΥΡΩ. - Για το ασφαλισμένο (Δ.Α.) και συστημένο εξωτερικού ισχύουν ειδικές διατάξεις. Τα Ταχ. Γραφεία δίνουν πληροφορίες για το ποσό και τον τρόπο πληρωμής της αποζημίωσης. 1. Όταν δεν αναγράφεται ποσό ασφάλισης το αντικείμενο είναι συστημένο. 2. V = Ασφαλισμένο (Δ.Α.), ΑΠ = Απόδειξη Παραλαβής, ΕΑ = Αντικαταβολή, ΚΔ = Κατεπείγουσα Διαβίβαση, ΚΕ = Κατεπείγουσα Επίδοση, ΠΕ = Προσωπική Επίδοση. 3. Το αναπεμφμένο ποσό δεν αποτελεί απόδειξη ταχυδρομικού τέλους.</small> | | | |

Figure 16. Standard receipt for registered mail. One of the numbered stickers is peeled off the self-adhesive registration label (see Figure 15) and pasted to the receipt (arrow). Another numbered sticker is retained by ELTA.

"Athens Olympic Sports Complex" (in Greek) at top and the acronym "OAKA" at bottom. Complete



Figure 17. *The archery competition was held at the Panathinaiko Stadium, venue for the 1896 Olympics. The famous Hermes head stelae are visible on either side of the infield.*

services were available, including registered mail, and the handcancel could be used on all items including receipts.

Despite the uncomfortable conditions inside the post offices which only intensified over the course of the day, the clerks remained surprisingly congenial and patient. Those at the post office nearest the tennis center got to know us quite well and would enthusiastically welcome us each time we visited.

As mentioned at the outset, we expected the temperatures in Athens to be very hot each day and therefore dressed accordingly. Imagine our surprise that evening when a cold wind blew in from the northwest setting great clouds of sand and dust swirling through the OAKA complex and chilling those of us in the open-air main swimming stadium. Thus were revealed the two shortcomings caused by the years of delays in Olympic construction: the lack of a roof on the swimming stadium which had been abandoned for lack of time, and the general absence of landscaping at Olympic venues. I hope that now that the Games are over, the Greek sports authority undertakes to rectify these problems as this is a wonderful sports complex that will benefit the Athenians for many years to come.

Weather notwithstanding, the swimming events were as electrifying as we expected (Figures 15 & 16). Naturally the highlight of the evening was the showdown between the two phenoms, Michael Phelps of the U.S.A. and Ian Thorpe of Australia in the 4 x 100-

meter freestyle relay. What we couldn't possibly have foreseen, however, was the outcome: who'd have imagined that the Americans would land in third with the OZ team in sixth! No wonder the champions from South Africa were jumping for joy on the pool deck.

Monday dawned – what else – bright and sunny. Our destination this morning was the Panathinaiko Stadium for archery (Figure 17). With all due respect to the archers among you, this sport is about as exciting as watching grass grow. Nevertheless we had decided that this time around it was a must since it was our only opportunity to explore what had been the main stadium for the Games of the First (Modern) Olympiad in 1896.

Faced entirely in Pentelic marble, the original stadium dates back to 143 B.C. Over the centuries the conquering armies that pillaged Greece did not spare the stadium, its magnificence being reduced to a pile of rubble. George Averoff, a wealthy Greek merchant, paid for the reconstruction of the stadium for the 1896 Games. It remains, today, much as it looked over a century ago, affording dramatic views of the Acropolis and Athens from its horseshoe-shaped tiers.

And what of the archery competition? To tell the truth it turned out to be more entertaining than we expected. Unfortunately the young man we were cheering on, 29-year-old Jeff Henckels of Luxembourg, lost his single-elimination round against Chen Szu Yuan of Chinese Taipei, 136-132.

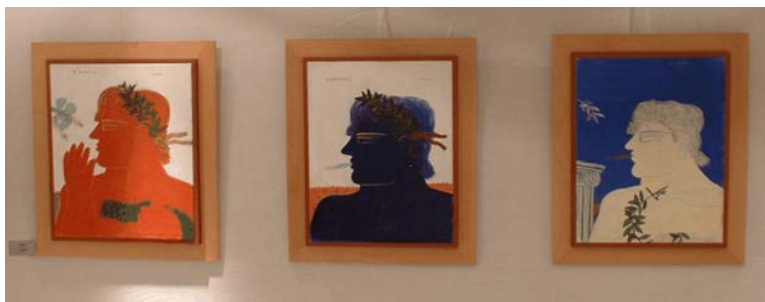


Figure 18. *Original artwork for the Olympic Victors set of stamps on display at the Philatelic Museum (above) and the stamps as issued (from the souvenir sheet of 8).*



As we were leaving the stadium we happened upon a small philatelic jewel nestled just around the corner: the Postal & Philatelic Museum.

Inside this very modern climate-controlled facility in the basement of an apartment building was an eye-opening exhibit, "1896-2004, Olympic Stamps & Works of Art". In the main hall was displayed original artwork by the many artists who contributed to the 2004 Olympic stamp program (Figure 18). Past Olympic Games' philately was available for viewing in pull-out wall frames in the adjacent museum archive area. Here was where the true rarities were housed including full press sheets of the 1896 Olympic stamp issues. Sadly, the exhibit's existence was not publicized at the one place where collectors were likely to learn of it: OLYMPHILEX 2004!

That evening it was back to OAKA for an event I'd long been awaiting: the finals of the team event in men's gymnastics. For the first time since the Los Angeles Olympics of 1984 (when the best men's teams from Eastern Europe didn't compete), the U.S. team actually stood a great chance of going home with a medal. Some in the gymnastics community predicted even a gold was possible.

Settling into our seats in the Olympic Indoor Hall we were nearly close enough to the action to enable us to reach out and touch the athletes as they competed on the pommel horse and rings. I had been concerned when we originally ordered our tickets over a year earlier that we'd end up in a corner with no view. We needn't have worried; the arena was easily half-empty. Realizing how this would play on television, the venue manager directed volunteers to move spectators from the back rows of our section toward the front. Even so, we were able to move to virtually anywhere in the lower sections during competition to get a better view of our U.S. team as they progressed from apparatus to apparatus.

With the top eight teams competing in the finals we were seeing the cream of the crop. The new format rules adopted in 2001 kept things moving right along as each team fielded just three men per apparatus. There was no room for error; each score counted.

The U.S. men dominated the first two rotations competing on floor and pommel horse. Their 58.187 placed them ahead of both the second place Romanians and third place Japanese. It was on the third and fourth rotations (rings and vault) that they faltered – not a lot, but just enough to slip to third. It was nail-biting time in the ranks.

The U.S. roared back in the fifth rotation as Jason Gatson's 9.825, which was the highest score of the evening on the parallel bars, won that event for the U.S. team. But it still wasn't enough to pull them past

the Romanians in first place and the Japanese in second.

Then the unthinkable happened. The Romanian men, who had been awesome through three rotations, hit the wall. Two of their three men had sub-9.30 scores, sinking them to third (172.384) and boosting the U.S. men to second (172.933).

So who won the gold? The Japanese men (173.821) who had been quietly and methodically working their way through each event. Their lowest score, a 9.312 on floor, was their only sub-9.50 in the competition. They deserved the championship which had eluded them since the previous generation of Japanese gymnasts relinquished the Olympic team title in 1980.

Watching the members of the U.S. team receive their silver medals after a 20-year drought was inspiring and I couldn't have been more proud – or could I? After all, we still had four more days of Olympic events to go!

- TO BE CONTINUED -



Figure 19. The U.S. men's gymnastics team celebrating their silver medals in the team competition.

Athens 2004 – Greek Olympic Medalists Honored With Instant Stamps

by Thomas Lippert
edited by Mark Maestroni

At the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia Post had the idea of philatelically honoring its Olympic medal winners with special stamps digitally printed overnight and made available at post offices across the country. These stamps were so popular that at the 2004 Games in Athens, ELTA, the Greek postal administration, implemented a similar program for Greek medalists, including silver and bronze medal winners along with the gold. That's why it was no real surprise to find Australian David Maiden, the manager in 2000 of the Australia Post/Philatelic Group in Ferntree Gully, as an advisor to ELTA in 2004.

Photographs of the Greek medal winners taken during their awards ceremonies were transmitted electronically to the ELTA design studio where the images were prepared for printing. The edited image

was graphically inserted into a sheet template composed of two vertical panes of ten stamps (Figure 2). The completed sheet layouts were then sent electronically to the locations where printing took place. The sheets were printed on color laser printers by regular post office employees at six locations in and around Athens, as well as in the cities of Volos, Patras, Heraklion and Thessaloniki (please see Note 2 at the end of this article). The value of each stamp was €0.65 (roughly US\$0.80) which paid the international postcard and letter rate.

In Athens, the printing of the digital stamps took place at the post office at Syntagma Square, the Philatelic Service post office on Vyssis Road, Matsoukis Graphic Arts, and in Piraeus, Maroussi and Glyfada.

The medalist sheets were to be available the day following an athlete's award ceremony (Figure 1). The goal was to make this first digital printing available at 65 post offices. From my own experi-



Figure 1. August 17, 2004 was the first day of issue of the Sampanis and Bimis/Siranidis stamps. The Greek post office had probably not intended for this prepaid folded advertising sheet – available free at post office counters – promoting its Olympic postal stationery envelopes to be reused, however that is precisely what happened. Instead of requiring the sender to pay the full €2.85 for a registered airmail letter to Germany (€2.20 registration fee + €0.65 airmail letter rate), a postal employee at Piraeus credited €0.65 (the value of the mascot indicium) toward the total. (Other clerks wondered why the designer did not invalidate the indicium with a bar if this sheet was not meant to be used by the public.)

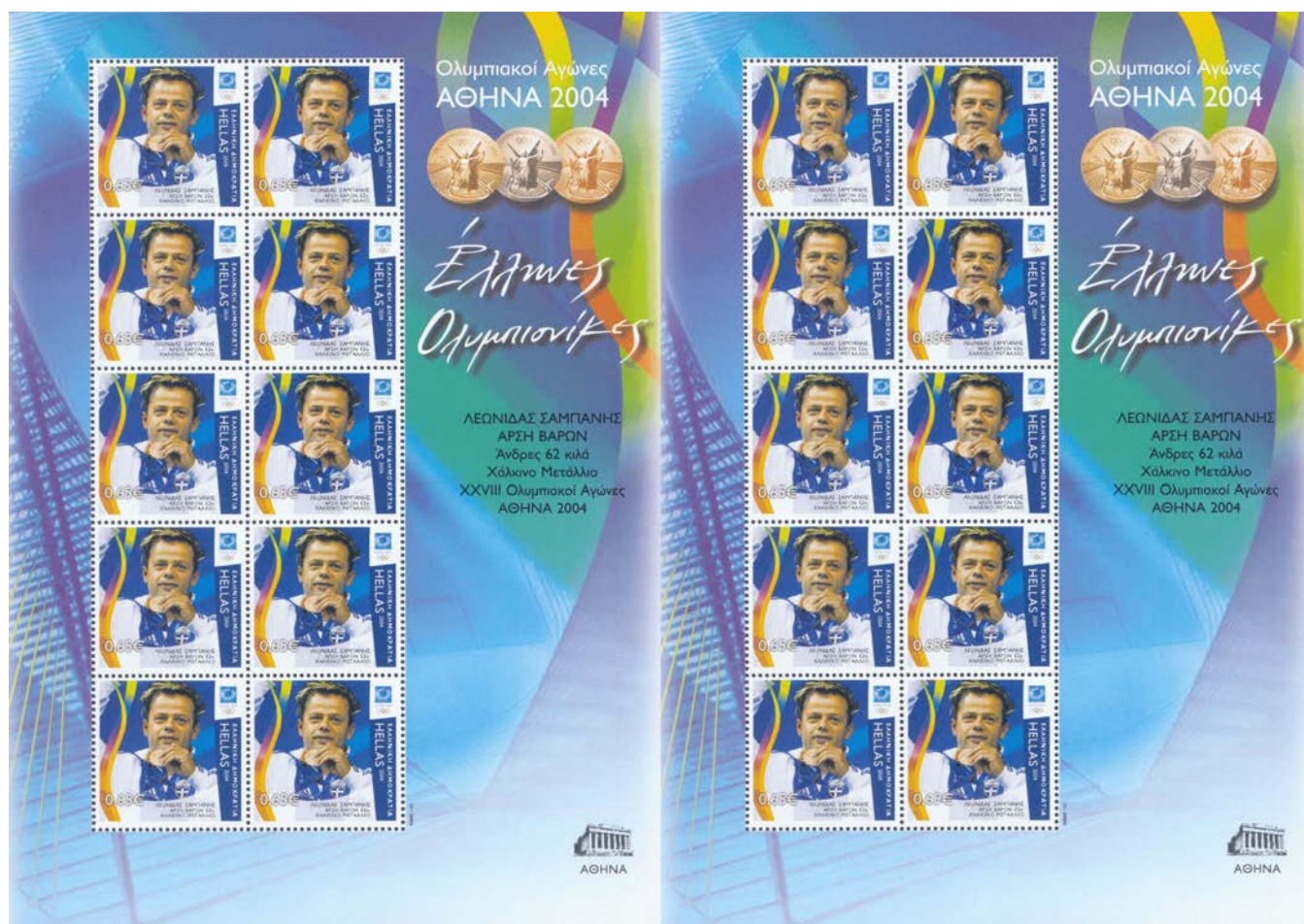


Figure 2. A full sheet of the medalist stamps (A4 size) was composed of two identical panes (A5 size) separated by a vertical row of microperforations down the center. Shown above is the Sampanis sheet which was withdrawn from sale after only a few days.

ence I can confirm that the plan operated as intended, at least early in the program – the digital stamps were on sale the next day. At the special Olympic post office at the Port of Piraeus (OLP), for example, they were delivered by courier precisely at 13:08. As late as 7:00 a.m., employees from the OLP had been working at the Piraeus Main Post Office where they tried to print digital sheets with their own city logo, but instead had to settle for using the Athens logo. It is surprising that Piraeus – a city of some 2 million people – wasn't among those Olympic cities with their own medalist sheets.

Two panes of ten – each in A5 format – formed a single A4 sheet. The sheet was printed in a single step in a laser printer and later separated, if desired, into two panes by tearing along the vertical microperforations down the center of each sheet. Thus, there are panes with a separation edge on either the left or right side. Retail sale of the stamps did not take place during Olympic hours.

| Table 1 Digital Medalist Sheets Print Run | | | |
|--|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| City | PO ¹ | Matsoukis Graphic Arts | |
| | | #1-17 | #1 & 2 #3-17 |
| Athens | 5,000 | 24,500 | 19,700 |
| Thessaloniki | 1,000 | 0 | 2,000 |
| Heraklion | 800 | 0 | 1,000 |
| Patras | 800 | 0 | 900 |
| Volos | 800 | 0 | 900 |
| Totals | 8,400 | 24,500 | 24,500 |

¹ ELTA wished for an additional 1000 sheets to be printed by each post office. Only Athens is known to have done this. See Note 1 at end of article.

The original goal was for 36,000 digital panes of ten of each stamp to be printed. According to Lazaros Kanxidis, *who has worked hard to determine the printing quantities* and provided the numbers to the author, that goal was nearly met. But the problem lies in the details.

While it was originally intended that Matsoukis Graphic Arts (represented by the abbreviation "AMAE") would print the digital stamps, there had been no plan for them to mark the sheets to indicate that fact. Since they did just that (Figure 3), we now have ten digital varieties of each stamp rather than just five.

Table 1 tabulates the digital print run for each of the 17 medalist stamps. A total of five cities – each with at least one million inhabitants that hosted one or more Olympic events – were locations for printing digital stamps. In each case, a logo identifying the city was printed on the sheet.

Column 2 indicates the number of digital sheets of all 17 medalist stamps printed by post offices in each of the five cities.

Columns 3 and 4 show the digital print runs by Matsoukis Graphic Arts for each city. Column 3 indicates the number of sheets for the first two medalist stamps (Sampanis [Figure 3]; Bimis/Siranidis). Column 4 is the print run for each of the remaining medalist stamps (3-17 [Figures 4-5]). As is clear, the first two digital issues printed by Matsoukis Graphic Arts bear only the logo for Athens (also see Table 2 and the notes at the end).

In effect, then, philatelic specialists can't complete their collections with just two panes per medal winner (one digital and one offset), but must multiply that number considerably.

As any computer user knows, it is practically impossible to obtain the same result from different laser



Figure 3. Digital Matsoukis sheet (inscribed “AMAE • DI”) with the Athens logo postmarked with a standard circular date stamp on 18 August at Ancient Olympia. While the Ancient Olympia post office fell within the scope of responsibility of Patras, it was instead supplied with Athens sheets since Matsoukis only printed Athens-inscribed sheets for the first two medalist issues (Table 1).



Figure 4. Digital version printed at the Central Post Office in Patras. Only the special Patras logo appears in the bottom right corner of the sheet.



Figure 5. Digital version from the Thessaloniki post office; again only the city logo appears on the sheet.



Figure 6. Offset variety printed by Matsoukis without a specific city logo, and imprinted with the abbreviation “AMAE • OF”.

printers, especially when trying to match colors. Indeed, there were variations between digital stamps from different printers. Further differences continue to come to light.

In addition to the digital varieties, an offset version of each stamp was printed by Matsoukis Graphic Arts and distributed nationwide some three days later. In place of the “AMAE • DI” it used on its digital printings, Matsoukis printed “AMAE • OF” (Figure 6). The offset version was printed in quantities of 100,000 panes. Of these, 78,000 were for retail counter sales and 20,000 for special albums (which also included the test sheet and composite sheet).

If one has a complete pane (Figure 2), it is relatively simple to determine whether the stamp is a digital or offset variety and the source of the printing. With single stamps, a close inspection is necessary to tell the difference between digital and offset versions. The easiest way is to examine the text at the bottom of the stamp. Breaks in the text are very clear on the digitally-printed version (Figure 7). However, this is not so simple with the “AMAE” digital stamps printed by Matsoukis. The first two issues printed on 17 August exhibit the same poor quality in the printing of the text. This changed for the remaining “AMAE • DI” digital issues, where the quality improved dramatically (Figure 8).

As with the medalist stamps produced by Australia Post for the Sydney 2000 Olympics, ELTA also printed a test stamp (Figure 9). The model for the illustration on the Greek test stamp is Aris Karageorgos, a participant in the 20km walk race at the Moscow 1980 Olympics and an employee of the Greek post office. The stamp is denominated “€0.00” and includes an inscription in red at the bottom left corner reading “Diagrafete” which translates as “cancelled” or “specimen”. This sheet has been included in the folder (or album) sent to subscribers after the conclusion of the Olympics.

The real philatelic sensation of these Games resulted not from a sports achievement, but rather from an instance of unsportsmanlike conduct!

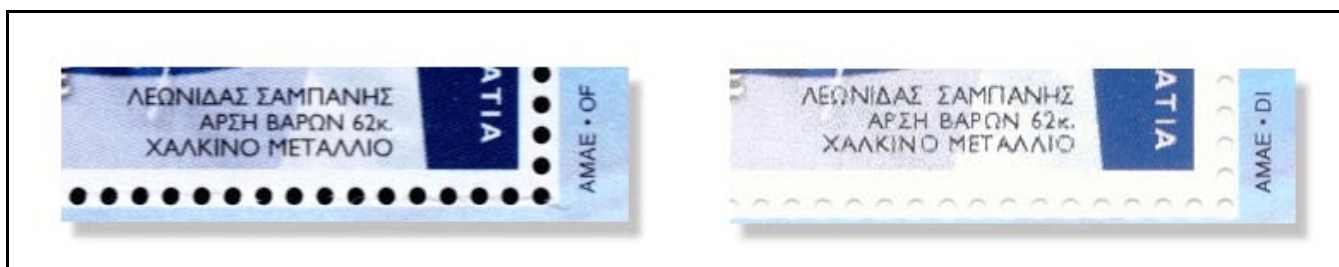


Figure 7. Clear differences arise in the clarity of the printing between the offset-printed stamps (left) and the digitally-printed stamps (right).

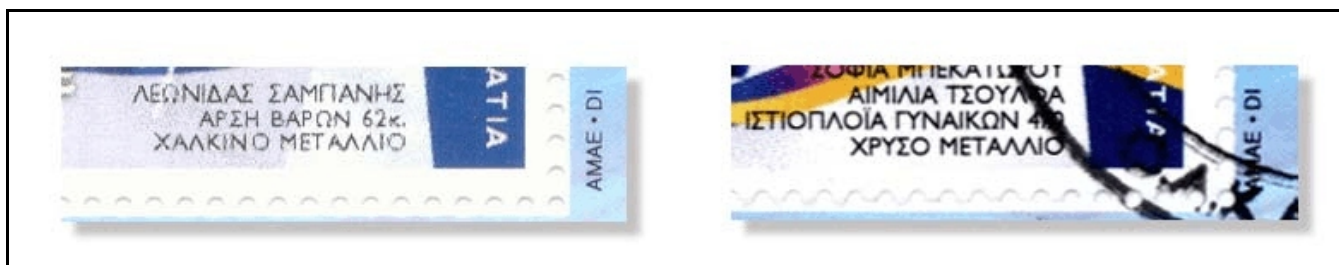


Figure 8. With regard to the digital stamps produced by Matsoukis, clear improvements were made in the digital printing process over time. Shown at left is the first issue (Sampanis); the fourth issue (Bekatorou/Tsoulfia) is at right. In the later issues, because of the clarity of the text, it is not as easy to differentiate single digital stamps from the offset versions.



Figure 9. Bottom pair of test stamps photographically cropped from the sheet of 10.

With the speed in which awards ceremonies were held, followed within 24 hours by the release of a medalist stamp, it was impossible for Olympic Doping Control to stay ahead. Thus, this rather inglorious chapter in Olympic sports can be illustrated by a medalist stamp.

No sooner was the offset stamp for Leonidas Sampanis delivered to post offices, then it was withdrawn from sale. Perhaps there were instances of post office employees, thinking themselves better doping control experts, continuing to quietly sell the stamps, but genuinely processed covers with this stamp are still likely to be infrequent. Eventually ELTA strongly enforced the sales ban, demanding all unsold Sampanis stamps be returned immediately.

ELTA behaved quite differently when Hrysopiya Devetzi of Greece won the silver medal in the women's triple jump on August 23. It waited until the winner, Mbango Etone of Cameroon, who came under suspicion for doping violations, was cleared and awarded the gold. In any event, had Etone been found guilty after ELTA printed the stamp, the error would only have been with the inscription as Devetzi would have gone from silver to gold.

These cases illustrate how difficult it was to make quick decisions based on immediate results rather than the final "official" results. In the end, as we've learned, the final "official" results may change weeks – or even months – later.

According to a report in the local English-language newspaper *Kathimerini* of 24 August, the Sampanis issue was officially withdrawn on 23 August via an ELTA memorandum to all post offices (Figure 12).

For most of the medalist stamps, the offset versions are roughly three times more plentiful than the digital variety, making the latter more desirable. With the Sampanis stamp, however, the reverse is probably true since the digital printing was available for about five days, while the offset version was only on sale for two.

From 23 August on, ELTA, having learned from its experience with the Sampanis stamp, waited for the doping control results before printing and selling the medalist stamps. This led to substantial delays between the time an athlete won a medal and when his or her stamp was placed on sale. For example, on 26 August only stamps of those medalists who had won medals by 23 August were available.

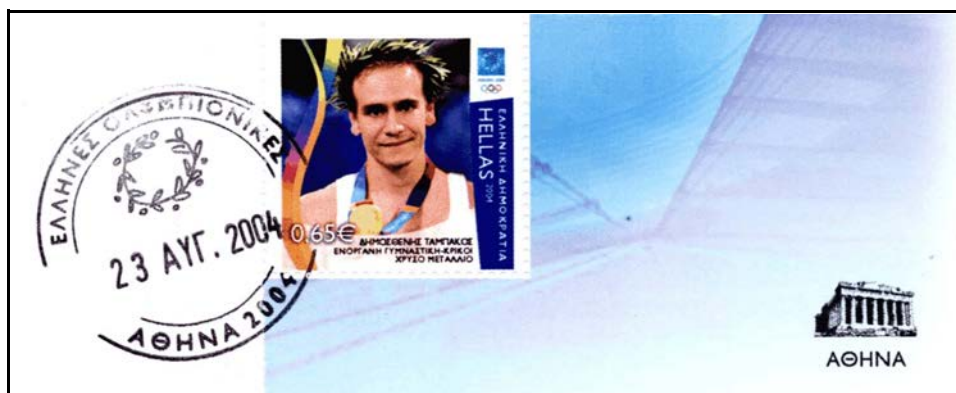


Figure 10. Digital stamp issued in honor of Dimosthenis Tampakos' gold in the Rings individual event finals in men's gymnastics on 22 August. The FDC shows the stamp as being issued the next day.

Table 2
Greek Medalist Stamps

| Day/Hour Won | Athlete | Sport | Event | Rank |
|--------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 16 Aug 21:40 | Leonidas Sampanis | Men's Weightlifting | 62 kg. | Bronze ¹ |
| 16 Aug 22:14 | Nikolaos Siranidis & Thomas Bimis | Men's Diving | Synchronized 3 m. Springboard | Gold |
| 17 Aug 16:40 | Ilias Iliadis | Men's Judo | Under 81 kg. | Gold |
| 21 Aug | Sophia Bekatorou & Emilia Tsoulfa | Women's Sailing | 470 Class | Gold |
| 21 Aug 20:00 | Pyrros Dimas | Men's Weightlifting | 85 kg. | Bronze |
| 21 Aug 21:10 | Anastasia Kelesidou | Women's Athletics | Discus | Silver |
| 22 Aug 8:50 | Nikolaos Skiathitis & Vasileios Polymeros | Men's Rowing | Lightweight Double Sculls | Bronze |
| 22 Aug 22:14 | Dimosthenis Tampakos | Men's Gymnastics | Rings | Gold |
| 23 Aug 9:00 | Athanasia Tsoumeleka | Women's Athletics | 20 km. Walk | Gold |
| 23 Aug 18:45 | Hrysopiya Devetzi | Women's Athletics | Triple Jump | Silver |
| 25 Aug 17:30 | Artiom Kiouregkian | Men's Wrestling (Greco-Roman) | 55 kg. | Bronze |
| 25 Aug 21:55 | Fani Kalkia | Women's Athletics | 400 m. Hurdles | Gold |
| 25 Aug | Nikos Kaklamanakis | Sailing | Mistral Class | Silver |
| 26 Aug | Greece | Women's Water Polo | Team | Silver |
| 27 Aug 20:55 | Mirela Manjani | Women's Athletics | Javelin | Bronze |
| 28 Aug 18:53 | Elisavet Mystakidou | Taekwondo | Under 67 kg. | Silver |
| 29 Aug 18:35 | Alexandros Nikolaidis | Taekwondo | Over 80 kg. | Silver |

¹ Following his positive drug test, Sampanis was expelled from the Games and had to return his medal. His panes of stamps were withdrawn from sale and were not included in complete sets offered for sale in folders or to subscribers.

A uniform first day handcancel was used for all medalist stamps, but not provided until some days later. A list with the stamp data for each medalist stamp was provided at the Philatelic Service, the only place where the cancels were available. Because the medalist first day cancel device had a changeable date, it was a challenge to try to obtain the correct first day for a particular medalist stamp – especially given the busy atmosphere there. A wrong “first day” date should not be given too much credence; it should still be accepted as a first day cancel. Under any circumstance, the date of the first day of issue will never match the actual day the medalist won his or her award since drug testing delayed issue for several days after an event final took place.

While the first day for the digitally-printed medalist stamps was actually the day the stamp was issued, this isn't true for the offset versions which weren't issued until usually 3 days later. It was, however, the offset versions which were affixed to the official ELTA First Day Covers and postmarked with the earlier first day for the digital stamps. Strictly speaking, this is incorrect. Further, the official first day covers weren't even available at retail counters until 12 October 2004 which is long after the first days of either the digital or offset versions.

One other point is worth mentioning: there was a temporary misinterpretation of the vague postal regulations regarding first day cancellations in which some postal clerks allowed a 16 August first day cancel on the Sampanis stamp even though the

| Table 3: Printing Locations of the 17 Medalist Sheets | | Digital Printing Local Post Office | | | | | Digital Printing AMAE • DI | | | | | Offset Printing AMAE • OF |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--------|--------------|-------|-----------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|-------|-----------|---------------------------|
| Nr. | Medalist | Athens | Patras | Thessaloniki | Volos | Heraklion | Athens | Patras | Thessaloniki | Volos | Heraklion | Athens |
| 1 | Sampanis | X | X | X | X | X | X | No printings for these locations | | | | X |
| 2 | Bimis/Siranidis | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | X |
| 3 | Iliadis | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 4 | Bekatorou/Tsoufpa | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 5 | Kelesidou | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 6 | Dimas | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 7 | Skiathitis/Polymeros | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 8 | Tampakos | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 9 | Devetzi | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 10 | Tsoumeleka | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 11 | Kiouregkian | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 12 | Halkia | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 13 | Kaklamanakis | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 14 | Greek Water Polo Team | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 15 | Manjani | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 16 | Mystakidou | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 17 | Nikolaidis | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |

Some interesting side issues arise from a language perspective. First is the inconsistency in how the medalists' names were inscribed on the stamps. In most cases, the medalists are identified by their first name then family name (in that order). On the final stamp in the series, that custom changed. In Greek, either way is acceptable, but why change the format within a stamp set?

Second, some differences appear in how medalist's names were phonetically rendered. Transliterating letter by letter, all of the names but one are correct: Sofia Mpekatorou became Sofia Bekatorou. Phonetically this is correct, however the names on

two other stamps don't follow the same rule: Dimosthenis Tampakos should be written D. Tabakos and L. Sampanis should be L. Sabanis. Both ways are correct, but why the inconsistency?

The third point is related to the second: if one searches for "Sampanis" in Olympic records, his results and escapades for 2004 Athens are found. This is not true, however, for 1996 Atlanta and 2000 Sydney. In both those cases, Leonidas "Sabanis" is listed as having won medals in weightlifting.

[Editor's Note: ELTA obviously followed the "official" spelling used by the 2004 Athens Olympic Committee: "Bekatorou", "Sampanis", and "Tam-

pakos". It does appear that "Tampakos" is the accepted spelling of this athlete's name (based on official records of the Sydney 2000 Olympics and 2003 World Gymnastics Championships).]

In conclusion, let us perform a small calculation. If one only collects a single pane of 10 of each version of each medalist stamp ignoring which side (right or left) that the microperforations are on, the cost will be €1163.50 (179 panes x €6.50), approximately US\$1512 at today's exchange rate. This total is comprised of six digital panes plus one offset pane for the Sampanis and Bimis/Siranidis issues, and ten digital panes plus one offset pane for the other 15 issues. And of course if one is truly a specialized philatelist, he will want full sheets of each, which doubles that figure to €2327 (US\$3024). Let's not forget that these are face value figures when purchased directly from the post office. Since these are sold out there is no way of calculating what the cost is in the philatelic marketplace!

ELTA announced that it would give each medalist part of the proceeds from sales of his or her stamp based on the medal level. Gold medal winners would receive €100,000, silver medalists would be awarded €50,000, and €25,000 would be given to bronze medalists. Assuming that all 136,000 panes (1.36 million stamps) of each medalist stamp were sold, the gross revenue from each stamp would be €884,000. Were these sums paid out? ♥

Notes:

1. In order to bring the digital version printing totals more in line with the original 36,000 figure, ELTA decided that each of the five cities that printed the medalist stamps (Athens, Patras, Thessaloniki, Volos and Heraklion) should reprint an additional 1000 panes of each medalist stamp. We do know that Athens printed an additional 1000 sheets (as already reflected in Table 1). However, as of last month there is no confirmation that any of the other four cities reprinted an additional 1000 sheets. So at this time, we can say for sure that at least 32,900 digital sheets were printed – and possibly up to 36,900.

2. In addition to the Athenian printing locations, the main post offices of Thessaloniki, Heraklion, Patras and Volos also printed digital stamps. These stamps which included the city logo at the bottom right corner of the panes – but without the "AMAE • DI" imprint – were sold **only** at the main post offices. The surrounding post offices sold the versions printed by Matsoukis which included both the city logo and the "AMAE • DI" imprint. These sheets were brought up by courier from Athens.

Acknowledgments: My thanks to Bob Farley of the SOC and especially to Lazaros Kanxidis in Greece for help in developing the tables.

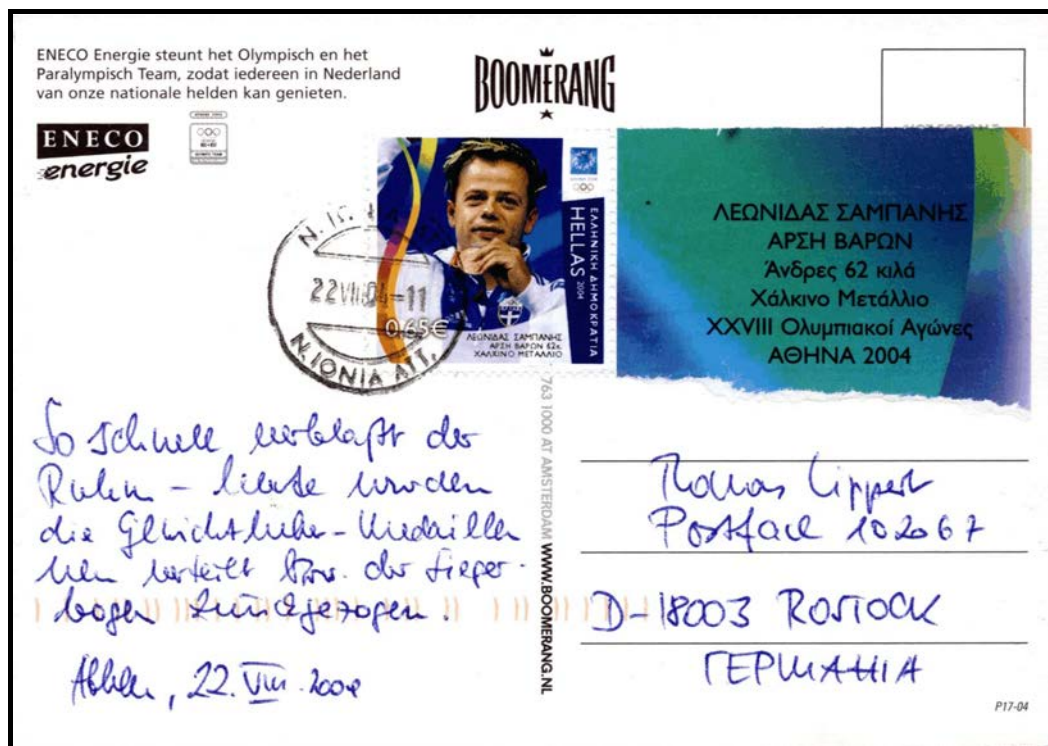


Figure 12. Last day of sale of the Sampanis stamp: 22 August 2004.

“Take Me Out To The Ball Game”

by Norman Rushefsky

In attending a sporting event the game itself is just a part of the total experience. One gets caught up in the excitement of the crowd and breaks in the action allow an opportunity to sample some of the various foods and snacks available.

With regard to baseball, one song particularly evokes all of these aspects of the game. The first known baseball song, “The Base Ball Polka!”, was written in 1858 but the song that endears itself to baseball fans is “Take Me Out To The Ballgame.”

The song was written in 1908 by Jack Norworth. One day, when he was riding a New York City subway train, he spotted a sign that said “Ballgame Today at the Polo Grounds.” He scribbled some lyrics for a baseball song while on the train and later submitted them to Albert Von Tilzer who composed the music.

Norworth was a very successful vaudeville entertainer and songwriter but none of his songs were as popular as this one written in just 15 minutes. The song title was also used as the title for the 1949 movie about baseball starring Frank Sinatra, Gene Kelly and Esther Williams (Figure 1).

The tradition of singing this song at the ballpark began with the Chicago White Sox announcer, Harry Caray. Caray would sing this song in his broadcast booth at the stadium. Those within earshot would sing along with him. However, on opening day in 1976 Bill Veeck, the Sox owner, as the legend goes placed a secret microphone in the broadcast booth to allow all the fans to hear Caray. Years later Veeck’s son would reveal that a reluctant Caray was cajoled by Veeck into allowing the microphone in the booth.

The original song published in 1908 has several stanzas, the first two of which are as follows:

Katie Casey was base ball mad.
Had the fever and had it bad;
Just to root for the home town crew,
Ev’ry sou Katie blew.
On a Saturday, her young beau
Called to see if she’d like to go,
To see a show but Miss Kate said,
“No, I’ll tell you what you can do.”

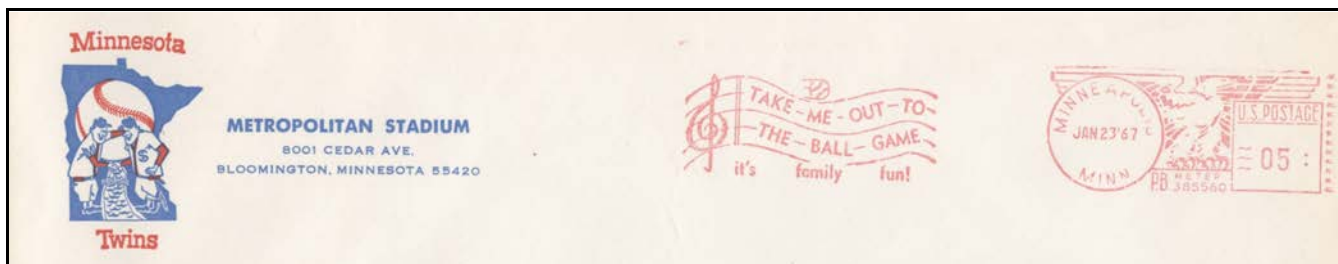


Figure 1. Movie poster advertising the 1949 musical, “Take Me Out To The Ball Game” with Frank Sinatra, Gene Kelly and Ester Williams.

“Take me out to the ball game,
Take me out with the crowd.
Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack,
I don’t care if I never get back,
Let me root, root, root for the home team,
If they don’t win it’s a shame.
For it’s one, two, three strikes, you’re out,
At the old ball game.”



Figures 2 & 3. Cracker Jack's slogan meter (above) capitalizing on reference to the candy corn sold at ball parks and immortalized in the song, "Take Me Out To The Ball Game" (below).



The second stanza is obviously the one baseball fans are most familiar with. It captures all the various aspects of the baseball game experience including mentioning that popular confection, Cracker Jack.

Figure 2 is a meter used by the Cracker Jack Company bearing the slogan "The most talked about Confection in America." Obviously this is a reference to the candy corn confection in the song.

The song title itself has been the subject of several meter slogan cancels. A notable example used by the Minnesota Twins baseball club is illustrated in Figure 3. The Omaha Royals baseball club, a minor-league affiliate of the Kansas City Royals, used a meter slogan identifying the title of the song (Figure 4) as did a meter slogan used in Chicago in the 1960s by the "American and National Leagues of Professional Baseball Clubs."

A variation of the song title was used in a meter slogan by the Arkansas Travelers minor-league baseball team from Little Rock, Arkansas (Figure 5).

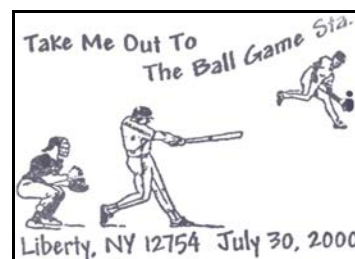
I have noted only one postmark – a July 2000 pictorial cancel from Liberty, New York – that makes reference to the song title (Figure 6).

Interestingly, while the song is one of the most widely sung songs in America, neither Norworth nor Von Tilzer had ever been to a baseball game at the time the song was written. On the 50th anniversary of the song Major League Baseball presented Norworth with a gold lifetime ballpark pass.

The singing of this song at the ballpark has been questioned by some as making no sense since all the people singing it are already there. Nevertheless, the song has certainly become an integral part of attending a baseball game. 🏆



Figures 4, 5 & 6. Meters and pictorial cancel encouraging the recipient to "Take Me Out To the Ballgame"



Addendum: 1936 Olympic Value (Insured) Mail Covers

by Mark Maestroni
contributed by Laurentz Jonker

Since the publication of Laurentz Jonker's article on the special Olympic "V" mail covers during the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games, an additional cover has come to light which is being presented here. At the same time, Laurentz would like to update some of the information in the original article.

Shown below is a new "V" mail insured cover, a color photocopy of which was sent to Laurentz by a German colleague. The name of the actual owner of the cover was not revealed to Laurentz.

The cover itself bears an Olympic Village cachet predominantly in green and red. The Olympic Rings appear below it in full color. The condition is not great; the cover exhibits toning and foxing as well as other faults.

The cover was mailed from the Olympic Village post office as evidenced by the "Berlin Olympisches Dorf" "V" label (no. 015) to Hildesheim, Germany. The Berlin Olympisches Dorf "o" postmark is dated 14.8.36 – 10. The Hildesheim "e" receiving cancel on the reverse reads 15.8.36 – 6.7.

Correct postage, predominantly Olympic, is affixed to the cover totaling 114pf. The rate calculation is as follows:

Insured Mail for 2000 RM

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Letter (37g - second weight step) | 24pf |
| Handling Fee (over 100RM) | 50pf |
| Insurance Fee (10pf per 500 RM) | 40pf |
| Total Postage | 114pf |

Checking the date (10.7.36) on the only other Olympic Village "V" mail cover (#004) that has been reported, we note that just twelve "V" mail covers were posted over the intervening 36-day period – in other words, very few.

Some of the covers reported in the article have since changed hands. Konrad Wärtgen sold a major portion of his marvelous collection to the Heinrich Köhler auction house. His Kiel V-008 sold for €900 (plus about 20% in commission and fees). The Kiel V-005 cover, priced at €1,000, did not sell. The proceeds were disappointing. In comparison, the Kiel V-315 cover (ex-Biernat) was sold last year by the same auction house for €1,500 + 20% commission and fees.



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POSTAL STATIONERY CORNER

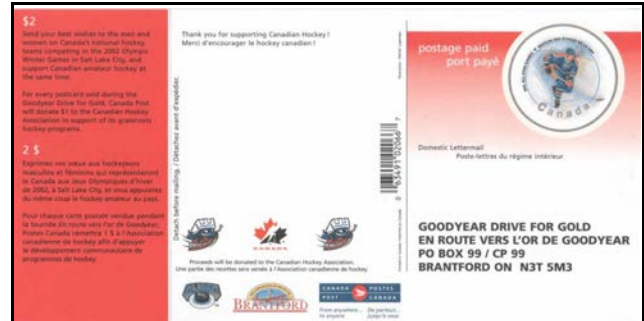
by Glenn Estus

It's winter here in the northern hemisphere. The cold weather is upon us, especially those of us who live in the northern United States and in Canada. For some of us it will be well into April before the snow and ice is truly gone. Let's turn our attention to some winter sports postal stationery.

Personally, I love cross-country skiing. Here in the Adirondack Mountains of northern New York State, there is plenty of snow and lots of open space to cross-country. In 2001, Andrus Veerpalu became the first Estonian to win a world championship in skiing. Estonia issued a world-wide postage paid airmail postal card (below). The stamp portion of the card shows Veerpalu skiing while the cachet shows Veerpalu with his Federation International de Ski (FIS) gold medal.

Lembit Lohmus designed the card which was printed by Vaba Maa in an edition of 10,000 examples.

In a little more than 12 months, winter sports will again take center stage in the Olympic movement. Hockey was featured on a special postal card



as part of the Goodyear Drive for the Gold program (above). According to a tab affixed to the prepaid domestic postal card, the cost of the cards was \$2.00. Canada Post donated \$1 to the Canadian Hockey Association for each card sold.

The card were used to send greeting to Canada's athletes at the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Games. The stamp portion of the card shows a National Hockey League player and honors the NHL All Star Games. The reverse of the cards shows a hockey game on a frozen lake.



NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Margaret Jones

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MINNESOTA STAMP EXPO (Crystal). Rog Beals obtained silver-bronze for "Fish and Game Stamps Related to Minnesota".

NATIONAL TOPICAL STAMP SHOW (Memphis, Tennessee). Richard Woodward won vermeil and SPI Certificate for "The World Cup of Soccer"; Claude D. Gilralte received silver for "Swimming Pool Water Sports"; Tony Quinn obtained bronze for "Soccer Stamps of the World".

WESTPEX (Burlingame, California). Michael Jaffe won gold for "Waterfowl Hunting Permit Stamps: Federal-State-Tribal"; Robert Gould received bronze for "Mountaineering—Around the World".

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NEW STAMP ISSUES

by John La Porta

Algeria: February 29, 2004. Athens Olympics. 5d, hurdles, Olympic Rings; 10d, torch bearer, Rings.

Argentina: August 7, 2004. Athens Olympics. Block of 4 se-tenant 75¢: judo; cycling; swimming; tennis.

Australia: August 3, 2004. Athens Olympics. 50¢, swimming; \$1.65, running; \$1.65, cycling, Paralympics.

Athens Olympics, Australian Gold Medalists

August 16, 2004 (DOI): 50¢, Ian Thorpe (swimming).

August 16, 2004: 50¢, Jodie Henry, Lisbeth Lenton, Petria Thomas and Alice Mills (swimming).

August 17, 2004: 50¢, Sara Carrigan (cycling).

August 17, 2004: 50¢, Petria Thomas (swimming).

August 18, 2004: 50¢, Suzanne Balogh (shooting).

August 18, 2004: 50¢, Ian Thorpe (swimming).

August 23, 2004: 50¢, Jodie Henry (swimming).

August 23, 2004: 50¢, Anna Meares (cycling).

August 23, 2004: 50¢, James Tomkins, Drew Ginn (rowing).

August 23, 2004: 50¢, Grant Hackett (swimming).

August 23, 2004: 50¢, Petria Thomas, Jodie Henry, Giaan Rooney and Leisel Jones (swimming).

August 24, 2004: 50¢, Chantelle Newbery (diving).

August 25, 2004: 50¢, Graeme Brown, Brett Lancaster, Luke Roberts and Bradley McGee (cycling).

August 26, 2004: 50¢, Ryan Bayley (cycling).

August 27, 2004: 50¢: Graeme Brown, Stuart O'Grady (cycling).

August 27, 2004: 50¢: Ryan Bayley (cycling).

August 30, 2004: 50¢, men's field hockey team.

French Andorra: August 7, 2004. Athens Olympics. 0.90e, swimmer, runner.

Antigua & Barbuda: June 17, 2004. Euro Soccer Cup. 4 se-ten. \$2: Russia-Yugoslav match; s/s, \$6 Russian Team.

June 17, 2004. Athens Olympics. \$1, poster 1964 Tokyo; \$1.65, 1964 Tokyo medal; \$1.80, fencing; \$2, wrestling.

Austria: August 17, 2004. Ernst Happel. 1e, soccer player.

September 25, 2004. Hermann Maier. 0.55e, skier.

Bahrain: August 13, 2004. Athens Oly. 100f, runner; 150f, swimmer; 200f, windsurfing; 250f, shooting.

Bangladesh: January 10, 2004. Sports. 10t, runner with torch, dead tree, emblems and Olympic Rings.

Barbados: August 16, 2004: Athens Olympics. 10¢, swimming; 70¢, shooting; \$1.15, running; \$2, judo.

October 20, 2004. 100th Anniversary of FIFA. 5¢, 90¢, \$1.40, \$2.50 soccer scenes.

Belarus: July 13, 2004. Athens Olympics. 320r, cycling; 505r, hammer throw; 850r, tennis.

Bequia: July 1, 2004. Babe Ruth/100th World Series. 70¢.

August 16, 2004. Athens Olympics. 30¢, Palace of Minos, Crete; 70¢, Apollo's Temple, Delphi; \$1, statue of Zeus, Olympia; \$1.40, Aphrodite; \$2, Socrates; \$3, Parthenon; \$5 s/s, Panathenaic Stadium, Athens.

Bosnia-Herzegovina: July 5, 2004. Athens Olympics. 2m s/s, horses.

Bosnia (Croat): June 12, 2004. European Soccer Championships. 2m, soccer ball, shoes.

Bosnia (Serb): July 12, 2004. Athens Olympics. Two 50m: ancient Greek & modern athletes; s/s of three 1m: horses.

Brazil: May 21, 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. Circular 1.60r stamp, emblem, soccer field.

June 12, 2004. Athens Oly. Block of 4 se-tenant 1.60r: athlete & torch; logo of Games; yachting; track and field.

Bulgaria: May 27, 2004. Europa/Vacations. 45st, skiing; 80st, parasailing. Booklet contains two sets of stamps.

June 2, 2004. Bulgarian Soccer Players. Se-ten. block of 4.

June 11, 2004. European Soccer Cup. 80st s/s, player.

Aug. 5, 2004. Athens Oly. Torch Routes. 10st, 1936 Berlin; 20st, 1972 Munich; 45st, 1980 Moscow; 80st, 2004 Athens.

Canada: July 28, 2004. Athens Olympics. 2 se-tenant 49¢ stamps: Marathon; soccer.

Croatia: August 13, 2004. 3.50k, discus thrower, label.

Cayman Islands: August 23, 2004. Athens Olympics. 15¢, swimmers; 40¢, male runner; 80¢, swimmer.

China: August 13, 2004. Athens and Beijing Oly. Two 80f: Hall for Good Harvest, Beijing; Parthenon, Athens.

Colombia: August 5, 2004. Athens Olympics. 4,400p, Olympic Flame, rings.

August 25, 2004. 100th Ann. of FIFA. 3,500p, soccer balls.

Cuba: October 17, 2003. 35th World Baseball Cup. 5c, Antonio Munoz; 10c, Lourdes Girl; two 15c stamps: Jorge L. Valdez; Lazar Vargas; 65c, Lazar Valle; 75c, Javier Mendez. S/s, 1p, players celebrating.

January 6, 2004. Athens Olympics 10c, baseball; 65c, boxing; 75c, equestrian.

Dominica: August 18, 2004. Babe Ruth. Pane of four \$2.

June 21, 2004. Euro Cup 2004 Soccer. Pane of four se-tenant \$2 stamps. S/s, \$6 stamp.

Ecuador: May 27, 2004. Volleyball Fed. 75¢ emblems.

August 13, 2004. Athens Oly. \$1.05 se-ten. pair: mascots.

Estonia: July 17, 2004. Athens Oly. 8K, athlete & torch.

Fiji: July 28, 2004. Athens Olympics. 41¢, swimming; 58¢, judo; \$1.41, weightlifting; \$2, running.

September 18, 2004. Musket Cove to Port Villa Yacht Race. 83¢, \$1.07, \$1.15, \$2, yachts. \$2 s/s: yacht with white sails.

August 17, 2004. European Championships in Dragon Class Yachting. 6kr, sailboat.

Gibraltar: June 6, 2004. European Soccer. 30p, Italy; two 40p, France and Denmark; £1, Germany. £1.50 s/s, player.

Greece: June 15, 2004. Athens Oly. Ancient Coins. 0.47e, Cos 3 Dr. coin; 0.65e, Philip II gold starter; 2e, Philip II silver 4dr coin; 2.17e, Elis silver 3dr coin; s/s of four.

June 23, 2004. Athens Oly. Modern Art. Three s/s: #1, 0.50e and 2.50e stamps; #2, two 1e stamps; #3, all four.

August 13, 2004. Athens Oly. Joint issue with China. 0.50e Hall for Good Harvest, Beijing; 0.65e, Parthenon; s/s of two.

August 13, 2004. Olympihlex. 6e s/s: logo and mascot.

August 2004: Athens Olympic Medalists. Seventeen 0.65e. Leonidas Sampanis withdrawn. Digital and offset versions.

2004. Paralympics. 0.20e, equestrian; 0.49e, race walk 2e, wheelchair basketball; 2.24e, wheelchair archery.

Guernsey: July 29, 2004. Athens Olympics. 32p, discus; 36p, javelin throw; 45p, runners; 65p, wrestlers. S/s of £1 stamps, symbolic athletes. Prestige booklet: 5 panes of stamps and the s/s.

Hong Kong: July 20, 2004. Sports. Pane of 20 se-tenant \$1.40 stamps in strips of four showing progressive scenes of a sporting event: volleyball; high board diving; relay race; badminton; cycling.

August 13, 2004. Athens Olympics. S/s of two \$5 stamps: ancient Greek runner; modern runner.

Hungary: July 13, 2004. Athens Olympics. 90ft, rowers; 130ft, ball game; 150ft, runners.

India: August 13, 2004. Athens Olympics. Two 5r: wrestling, long jump; two 15re: field hockey, shooting.

Indonesia: September 2, 2004. National Games. Two circular 1,500rp stamps: volleyball, soccer.

Iran: May 21, 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. 600r, teams.

Isle of Man: July 1, 2004. Athens Olympics. 25p, Johnny Weismullerswimmer; 28p, Jesse Owens; 43p, John Mark; 55p, Fanny Blankers-Koen; 91p, Steve Redgrave.

Israel: July 6, 2004. Athens Summer Olympic Games. 1.50s, judo, medal; 2.40s, wind surfing, 1996 medal; 6.90s, kayaking, medal.

Italy: June 5, 2004. Achille Varzi. 45e, auto racer.

July 7, 2004. 50th Anniversary Conquest of K2. 0.65e, the summit, climbing tools.

Jamaica: October. 100th Anniversary of FIFA. \$10, \$30, \$45, \$50 soccer scenes.

August 24, 2004. Athens Olympics. \$30, hurdler; \$60, runners; \$70, swimmers; \$90, badminton and shooting.

Japan: August 6, 2004. Athens Olympics. Se-tenant pair of 80y stamps: emblem, Olympic Flame.

September 10, 2004. Prefecture Saitama. 59th Athletic Meet. 50y, gymnast.

Kazakhstan: May 21, 2004. 100th Anniversary of FIFA. Two 100t stamps: soccer scenes, emblems.

July 28, 2004. Athens Olympics. S/s of two stamps: 70t, boxing; 115t, shooting.

Kiribati: July 12, 2004. Athens Olympics. 25¢, male runners; 50¢, taekwondo; 60¢, weightlifting; 75¢, female runners; s/s of two \$2.50 stamps: independence celebrations; training before Games.

South Korea: August 13, 2004. Athens Olympics. 190w, Acropolis, silhouettes of athletes.

Kyrgyzstan: May 21, 2004. 100th Anniversary of FIFA. Se-tenant block of 4 stamps with soccer ball, flags: 5s, soccer ball; 6s, ball and shoes; 7s, player with ball; 10s, player heading ball.

Laos: May 21, 2004. 100th Anniversary of FIFA. Two 12,000k round stamps: soccer players, flags.

Latvia: August 14, 2004. Athens Oly. 30s, wrestlers.

Liberia: May 19, 2004. Athens Olympics. \$20, Olympic wrestling 1912; \$30, Samaranch, IOC President 1980-2001; \$40, competition badge; \$50, ancient Greek bronze showing foot race.

Lithuania: July 31, 2004. 2 litas, equestrian; 3l, rowing.

Macau: July 30, 2004. Athens Olympics. 1pa, runners; 1.50pa, long jump; 2pa, discus; 3.50pa, javelin.

Macedonia: June 16, 2004. Athens Oly. Two 50d rings. July 3, 2004. 100th Ann. FIFA. 100d, feet, soccer ball.

Maldives: 2004. Babe Ruth. Pane of 4 se-tenant 10rf..

Malta: May 19, 2004. Vacations. 16¢, swimming.

Moldova: August 14, 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. Triptych, 2 lei and 4.40 lei stamps and label: soccer.

Montserrat: June 30, 2004. Athens Olympics. 90¢, LA poster; \$1.15, 1972 Munich pin; \$1.50, Montreal poster and label; \$5, Greek art showing athletes.

Monaco: August 2, 2004. 100th Ann of FIFA. 1.60e.

Myanmar: May 5, 2004. 100th Ann of FIFA. 2k.

Malta: August 13, 2004. Athens Olympics. 11¢, discus; 16¢, column, laurel leaves; 76¢, javelin thrower.

Namibia: August 23, 2004. Athens Olympics. Non-denominated stamp, wrestling; \$2.90, boxing; \$3.40, pistol shooting; \$3.70, mountain biking.

Nevis: September 7, 2004. Athens Oly. 30¢, 1968 medal; 90¢, pentathlon; \$1.80, Avery Brundage; \$3, tennis.

New Caledonia: August 5, 2004. Athens Oly. Three 70fr: beach volleyball; women's relay; rhythmic gymnastics.

New Zealand: August 2, 2004. Athens Oly. 45¢, John Walker 300m run 1976; 90¢, Yvette Williams long jump 1952; \$1.50, Ian Ferguson & Paul MacDonald 500m pairs kayaking 1988; \$2, Peter Snell 300m running 1960.

Nicaragua: August 13, 2004. Athens Olympics. 7.50cor, hurdles; 10cor, swimming; 12cor, shooting.

September 17, 2004. Central American Student Games. 3cor, martial arts; 5cor, soccer; 6.50cor, high jump, swimming.

Pakistan: May 21, 2004. 100th Anniversary of FIFA. Three se-tenant 5re stamps: emblem, soccer players.

August 13, 2004. Athens Olympics. 4 se-tenant 5re: runner; boxing; field hockey; wrestling.

Palau: June 18, 2004. Athens Olympics. 37¢, Greek art; 55¢, Atlanta gold medals; 80¢, Sigfried Edstrom, IOC president 1942-52; \$1, women's soccer, Atlanta.

September 3, 2004. Babe Ruth. Two 37¢ stamps.

June 18, 2004. European Soccer Cup. 4 of four 80¢ se-tenant stamps: 1998 Netherlands-Russia match. \$2 s/s, Netherlands team.

Papua New Guinea: August 11, 2004. Athens Olympics. 70t, Ryan Pini; 2.65k, Dika Toua; 2.70k, portrait "The Torch Race"; 4.60k, Helsinki Olympic poster.

September 8, 2004. 100th FIFA Ann. 70t, 2.65k, 2.70k, 4.60k, matches. Pane of four 2.50k, players.. 10k s/s, Robby Robson.

Peru: July 9, 2004. Copa America Soccer. 5c soccer ball-shaped s/s, mascot.

Poland: August 2, 2004. Athens Olympics. S/s of four se-tenant 1.25zl stamps: ancient Greek and modern athletes: boxers; hurdler; equestrian event; wrestling.

September 11, 2004. Motor Sports. 4 se-tenant 1.25zl: track racing; car racing; carting; motorcycle racing.

Portugal: April 6, 2004. Euro 2004 Soccer Cup. Pane of 16, 0.30e: mascot and flags of participating nations.

April 20, 2004. Euro 2004 Soccer Cup. Eight 0.30e: soccer scenes of host cities, sculpture of knight, sword.

April 28, 2004. Euro 2004 Soccer Cup. Ten 0.30 stamps: stadiums of host cities.

May 27, 2004. Euro 2004 Soccer Cup. 1e s/s for final match: trophy, stadium.

May 27, 2004. Euro 2004 Soccer Cup. Official Match Ball round self-adhesive stamps: 0.10e, foot meeting ball; 0.20e, fall in air; 0.50e, ball in net; circular s/s contains the four stamps.

July 29, 2004. 50th Anniversary European Union of Soccer Federations. 1e s/s, old and new soccer scenes.

August 13, 2004. Athens Olympics. 0.30e, hurdler; 0.45e, high jumper.

September 2, 2004. Athens Paralympics. 0.30e, swimmer; 0.45e, wheelchair racer; 0.72e, runner.

Qatar: August 13, 2004. Athens Olympics. S/s of two 3r.

Romania: June 15, 2004 100th Anniversary FIFA. 31,000 leu, player, ball and emblem.

Russia: July 15, 2004. Women's Jockeyship. Three 4r stamps: women's riding habits.

July 20, 2004. Athens Olympics. Triptych of two stamps and central label: 3r, ancient and modern runners; 8r, ancient and modern wrestlers; label shows torch.

St. Kitts: Sept. 21, 2004. Athens Oly. 50¢, Guth Jarkovsky; 90¢, 1972 poster; \$1, Eiffel Tower; \$3, wrestlers.

St. Vincent: June 17, 2004. Athens Olympics. 70¢, Pierre de Coubertin; \$1, 1904 St. Louis Olympic pin; \$1.40, water polo; \$3, vase with Greek gods.

Solomon Islands: November, 2004. 100th Anniversary of FIFA. Two se-tenant pairs of \$2.10 stamps, soccer.

July 1, 2004. 100th World Series, Babe Ruth. Four \$2.

Sierra Leone: June 1, 2004. Athens Olympics. 250 leones, 1908 marathon; 300l, Dimitris Vikelas President of the IOC 1894-96; 1,500l, Athens 1896 gold medal; 2,000l, bronze sculpture *The Discus Thrower*.

Singapore: August 13, 2004. Athens Oly. Non-denom., running; 30¢, swimming; \$1, weightlifting; \$2, sailing.

Serbia & Montenegro: May 5, 2004. Vacations. 16d/0.25e, parasailing; 56d/0.80e, sailing. S/s with pair.

May 21, 2004. 100th Ann. of FIFA. 70d/0.50e, soccer field.

2004: Athens Olympics. 8d, athletes, ancient columns.

June 24, 2004. Athens Olympics. Ancient & modern athletes: 16d/0.25e, runners; 28.70d/0.50e, athletes; 32d/0.25e, jumpers; 57.40d/0.80e, hurdlers.

Slovakia: May 31, 2004. Athens Olympics. 34sk, runner.

Slovenia: May 21, 2004. Athens Olympics. Se-tenant pair of non-denom. stamps: "C" stamp, discus thrower, gymnast; "D" stamp, long jumper, pole vaulter.

Solomon Islands: August 13, 2004. Athens Olympics. \$1.10, runner; \$1.90, runner; \$2, runner crossing tape; \$10, Solomon Islands flag, Olympic Rings.

Spain: 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. 0.77e, soccer ball.

May 27, 2004. Espana 2004 Sports. Pane of 3 stamps/labels: 0.35e, tennis; 0.52e, motorcycling; 1.90e, golf.

May 28, 2004 Espana 2004 Valencia, City of the Sea. Triptych of two stamps and central label: 0.52e, sailing yacht *Bravo Espana*; 0.77e, view of Valencia, boats.

Sri Lanka: August 6, 2004. Athens Olympics. 4.50r; 16.50r; 17r; 20r Olympic sports.

Suriname: July 1, 2004. Athens Olympics. Two each 5¢, 15¢, 20¢, 45¢, 80¢, non-denominated "M" stamps: Greek vases, designs of athletes.

Syria: May 21, 2004. 100th Anniversary of FIFA. £5, £10, £25 players, emblem.

Tanzania: June 25, 2004. Dhow Events in Zanzibar. 3.50sh, cheer of paddle winners; 400sh, punting race; 600sh, dhow race.

Turkey: May 9, 2004. Europa/Vacations. 700,000 liras, downhill skiing, windsurfing; 800,000 liras sailboats.

Ukraine: April 20, 2004. European Weightlifting Championships. 65k, weightlifter.

June 26, 2004. Athens Olympics. 2.61h, chariot racer.

May 17, 2004. 50 Anniversary Union of European Soccer Associations UEFA. 3.52h, players.

May 17, 2004. 100th Anniversary of FIFA. Block of 4 se-tenant stamps: 45k, two players; 75k, one player; 90k, fan with painted face; 2.61h, women with players.

United Arab Emirates: May 21, 2004. 100th Anniversary of FIFA. 3.75dh, emblem.

Vanuatu: September 18, 2004. Musket Cove to Port Villa Yacht Race. 35v, 80v, 90v, 200v: yachts.

Vietnam: May 21, 2004. 100th FIFA Ann. 800d, emblem.

August 1, 2004. Athens Olympics. 800d, hurdles; 1,000d, swimming; 6,000d, shooting; 7,000d, taekwondo.

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COMMEMORATIVE STAMP CANCELS

by Mark Maestroni

THE NUMBERING SYSTEM

Catalogue numbers are shown at left, such as 88101-911. In this example: 88=Year [1988]; 1=Month [January]; 01=First day of use; 911=First 3 ZIP code digits. The months of October, November and December are 2-digit months, and are expressed as X, Y, and Z. The place of use is listed next, followed by the dates of use. All cancels are in black unless otherwise indicated.

SPORTS CROSS INDEX JUNE-OCTOBER 2004

Auto Racing: 04808-462, 04X23-273.
Baseball: 04611-007, 04709-772,
04713-772, 04714-028, 04714-207,
04725-133, 04814-729, 04819-973,
04820-973, 04821-198, 04823-724
04X26-631, 04X30-021.
Cycling: 04806-135, 04826-763.
Golf: 04809-530, 04914-483, 04X04-760.
Hiking: 04723-532.
Horse Racing: 04728-128, 04807-128,
04828-128, 04904-134.
Olympics: 04715-370, 04716-908
04X29-007.
Rodeo: 04724-820.
Running: 04711-135, 04730-041,
04925-135.
Skiing: 04925-058.
Track & Field: 04715-370, 04925-135.
Water Polo: 04716-908.



04611-007 Gurabo, PR

11



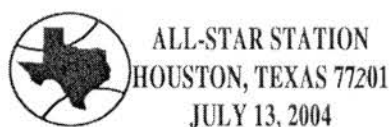
04709-772 Houston, TX

9-13



04711-135 Utica, NY

11



04713-772 Houston, TX

13



04714-028 Pawtucket, RI

14



04714-207 Bowie, MD

14



04715-370 Clarksville, TN

15



04716-908 Long Beach, CA

16-18



04723-532 Milwaukee, WI

23-25



04724-820 Cheyenne, WY

7/24-8/1



04725-133 Cooperstown, NY

25



04728-128 Saratoga Sp., NY

7/28-9/6

EXPO STATION
CAPE ELIZABETH
ME 04107
JULY 30, 2004



04730-041 Cape Elizabeth, ME 30



INTERNATIONAL BICYCLING HALL OF FAME
INDUCTION STATION
AUGUST 6, 2004
UTICA, NY 13501

04806-135 Utica, NY 6



04807-128 Saratoga Springs, NY 7



AUGUST 8, 2004
BRICKYARD 400 STATION
AUGUST 8, 2004
INDIANAPOLIS IN 46206

04808-462 Indianapolis, IN 8



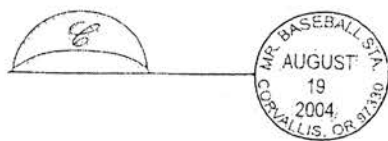
The
2004 PGA
CHAMPIONSHIP
AUGUST 9-15, 2004
WHISTLING STRAITS STATION
Kobler, Wisconsin

04809-530 Sheboygan, WI 9-15

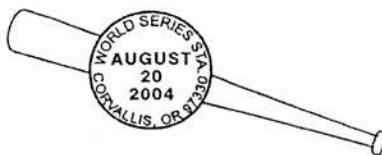


FIELD OF DREAMS
STATION
VAN BUREN, AR
72956
AUGUST 14, 2004

04814-729 Van Buren, AR 14-21



04819-973 Corvallis, OR 19



04820-973 Corvallis, OR 20-24



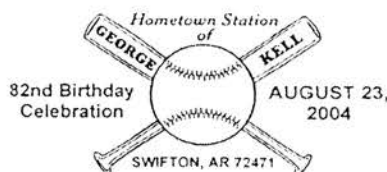
Ninth Annual
Judy Johnson Night
Commemorative Station

The City of Wilmington's
Tribute to
Negro League Baseball
Wilmington, DE 19801

Inducted into the
National Baseball
Hall of Fame
in 1975

AUGUST 21, 2004

04821-198 Wilmington, DE 21



32nd Birthday
Celebration

AUGUST 23,
2004

SWIFTON, AR 72471

04823-724 Swifton, AR 23



HOTTER N HELL STATION
WICHITA FALLS TX 76307

HOTTER N HELL HUNDRED
AUGUST 28, 2004 • WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS

04826-763 Wichita Falls, TX 26-28



04828-128 Saratoga Spr., NY 28



VERNON DOWNS STATION
SEPTEMBER 4, 2004

VERNON DOWNS RACEWAY
CELEBRATING AS
HOME OF THE MIRACLE MILE
VERNON, NY 13475

04904-134 Vernon, NY 4



RYDER CUP STATION
September 19, 2004
Bloomfield Hills MI 48301

04914-483 Bloomf'd Hills, MI 14-19

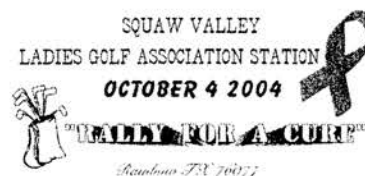


04925-058 East Burke, VT 25

CROSS COUNTRY STATION
SEPTEMBER 25, 2004
UTICA, NY 13501



04925-135 Utica, NY 25



SQUAW VALLEY
LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION STATION
OCTOBER 4 2004

RAINBOW FOR A CURE
Rainbow TV 70077

04X04-760 Rainbow, TX 4



NASCAR DAY STATION
(16TH ANNUAL)

RANDLEMAN, NC 27317

October 23, 2004

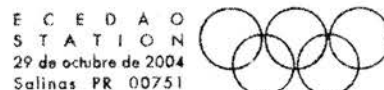
"Feel Your Heart Race in Randleman"

04X23-273 Randleman, NC 23



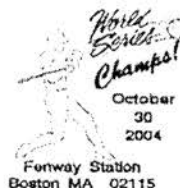
2004 World
Championship
STATION
BOSTON RED SOX VS SAINT LOUIS CARDINALS
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63102
OCTOBER 26, 2004

04X26-631 St. Louis, MO 26-28



ECEDA O
STATION
29 de octubre de 2004
Salinas PR 00751

04X29-007 Salinas, PR 29



World Series
Champs!
October
30
2004
Fenway Station
Boston MA 02115

04X30-021 Boston, MA 30

ATA- SPI

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SPORTS-BY-COUNTRY

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1 2 3 4 5 6(Sport: _____)



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