

JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

VOLUME 43

SPRING 2005

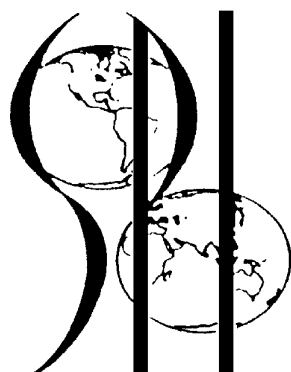
NUMBER 3

THE OLYMPIC GAMES RETURN TO ATHENS – PART 2



Prepaid Olympic express envelope to IBC with Caravel Hotel Olympic cancel.

TABLE OF CONTENTS



SPORTS
PHILATELISTS
INTERNATIONAL

President's Message	<i>Mark Maestrone</i>	1
The Olympic Games Return To Athens: Part 2	<i>Mark Maestrone</i>	3
Athens Olympic Games Postmarks	<i>Mark Maestrone</i>	10
Athens 2004 – Special Temporary Olympic Post Offices (Part 1)	<i>Thomas Lippert</i>	13
The "Definitive" Wilma Rudolph	<i>Mark Maestrone</i>	24
Reviews of Periodicals	<i>Mark Maestrone</i>	28
The Sports Arena	<i>Mark Maestrone</i>	30
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>	36

2004 OLYMPIC GAMES

3

2004 OLYMPIC GAMES PHILATELY

13

WILMA RUDOLPH

24

THE SPORTS ARENA

30

SPORTS PHILATELISTS INTERNATIONAL

President:	Mark C. Maestrone, 2824 Curie Place, San Diego, CA 92122
Vice-President:	Charles V. Covell, Jr., 207 NE 9th Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601
Secretary-Treasurer:	Andrew Urushima, 1510 Los Altos Dr., Burlingame, CA 94010
Directors:	Norman F. Jacobs, Jr., 2712 N. Decatur Rd., Decatur, GA 30033 John La Porta, P.O. Box 2286, La Grange, IL 60525 Dale Liljedahl, P.O. Box 543125, Dallas, TX 75354 Patricia Ann Loehr, 2603 Wauwatosa Ave., Apt 2, Wauwatosa, WI 53213 Bernard McGovern, 2107 Marianna Street, Tampa, FL 33612 Robert J. Wilcock, 24 Hamilton Cres., Brentwood, Essex, CM14 5ES, England Dale Liljedahl, P.O. Box 543125, Dallas, TX 75354
Auction Manager:	Margaret A. Jones, 5310 Lindenwood Ave., St. Louis, MO 63109
Membership:	Bernard McGovern, 2107 Marianna Street, Tampa, FL 33612
Public Affairs:	John La Porta, P.O. Box 2286, La Grange, IL 60525
Sales Department:	

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

Annual dues: \$20.00 U.S./Canada (first class mail), \$30.00 overseas (airmail).

JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

Publisher:	John La Porta, P.O. Box 2286, La Grange, IL 60525
Editor:	Mark C. Maestrone, 2824 Curie Place, San Diego, CA 92122
Columnists:	Glenn A. Estus, P.O. Box 451, Westport, NY 12993 Margaret A. Jones, 5310 Lindenwood Ave., St. Louis, MO 63109 John La Porta, P.O. Box 2286, La Grange, IL 60525
Ad Manager:	Norman F. Jacobs, Jr., 2712 N. Decatur Rd., Decatur, GA 30033
Circulation:	Margaret A. Jones, 5310 Lindenwood Ave., St. Louis, MO 63109

The Journal of Sports Philately is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December. Advertising Rates: Cover \$35.00; Full Page \$32.00; Half Page \$17.00; Quarter Page \$10.00. Advance payment required. Camera ready copy must be supplied by the advertiser. Publishing deadlines: January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15 for the following issue. Single copy price (postpaid): \$3.50 (US/Canada), \$5.50 (overseas).

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual authors and they do not necessarily represent those of the editor, the officers of SPI or the position of SPI itself. All catalogue numbers quoted in this publication are from Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue unless specifically stated otherwise. SPI and JSP do not guarantee advertisements, but accept copy in good faith, reserving the right to reject objectionable material.

Vol. 43, No. 3
Spring 2005

American Philatelic Society (APS) Affiliate #39
U.S. Chapter, Fédération Internationale de Philatélie Olympique (FIPO)

ISSN 0447-953X

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

TEXPEX 2005

Our next annual convention is just around the corner, so if you haven't made your hotel and travel reservations yet ... what are you waiting for? Pick up that phone now!

To update you on our plans, we have an interesting program of speakers, lots of fascinating exhibits and of course a bourse of dealers just chomping at the bit to entice you with their philatelic wares.

The SPI meeting on Saturday – which of course is open to everyone – will feature prolific U.S. stamp designer, Bart Forbes. A specialist in sports-related artwork, Forbes has designed over 20 U.S. stamps and cards including the 1988 Summer and Winter Olympics stamps, 1989 Lou Gehrig issue, and the five values of the 1990 U.S. Olympians set.

Forbes will be speaking on his experiences as a stamp designer as well as his long association with the Olympic Games.

In addition to showing some of Forbes' original stamp artwork, the TEXPEX committee hopes to display some rare material from the USPS archives including artwork for the 1932 Olympic Games stamps.

A seminar on the "World's First Baseball Stamp" (Philippines #380 from 1934) will be presented by Tom Koch, Chairman of TEXPEX 2005.

At least one Olympian will be attending, Eddie Southern, silver medalist in the 400-meter hurdles at the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games.

I'm sure that Bart Forbes and Eddie Southern will be happy to autograph items, so bring your first day covers and cards with you.

In another singular honor, Bart Forbes has agreed to design the cachets for the special show covers. There will be three sports cancels, one for each day of the exhibition, depicting baseball, track & field, and football.

For a more information, please see the inside back cover of this issue. I look forward to seeing many of you there!

WASHINGTON 2006

No doubt a number of our members, from both here in the U.S. and overseas, are planning to travel to Washington, DC next year for the big U.S. international philatelic exhibition, WASHINGTON 2006.

It has been suggested by some members that we consider having a get-together of some sort during the first week of the show. What are your thoughts?

If you plan to be at the exhibition that first week and would be interested in attending an SPI meeting or other function (a dinner, perhaps), please let me know by email (markspi@prodigy.net) or regular mail (2824 Curie Place, San Diego, CA 92122-4110, U.S.A.).

Correction

In the Winter 2004 issue of *JSP*, I inadvertently omitted an exhibit from the list of U.S. exhibitors at OLYMPHILEX 2004 at Athens.

Patricia Ann Loehr, in addition to her literature and multi-frame exhibits, also had a single-frame exhibit: "Golf Meter Stamps" which won a silver medal (78 points). Congratulations, Pat!

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

Mark Maestrone: markspi@prodigy.net

Charles Covell: covell@louisville.edu

Andrew Urushima: aurushima@yahoo.com

Norman Jacobs: nfjr@comcast.net

John La Porta: album@sbcglobal.net

Dale Lilljedahl: dalij@sbcglobal.net

Patricia Ann Loehr: patloehr@mcw.edu

Bernard McGovern: bmcgo10483@aol.com

Robert Wilcock: bob@towlard.freemove.co.uk

Margaret Jones: docj3@sportstamps.org

We Buy and Sell Topicals!

Tens of Thousands of
Illustrated Topical Items
can be found on our website:

<http://www.westminsterstamp.com>

For a printed list of your topical interest,
please contact us.

We are members of ASDA, APS, ATA.

Westminster Stamp Gallery, Ltd.

P.O. Box 456

Foxboro, MA 02035

1-508-384-6157 FAX 1-508-384-3130

E-mail: stamps@westmin.win.net



Figure 1. Harald Ambros (Austria) aboard Miss Ferrari takes the blind jump on the cross-country eventing course.

THE OLYMPIC GAMES RETURN TO ATHENS – PART 2 –

by Mark Maestroni

[The following is Part 2 of a two-part article on the 2004 Athens Olympic Games. Part 1 appeared in the Winter 2004 issue of JSP.]

Tuesday, Day 4 of the Games, dawned bright and sunny for our trek out to the Markopoulo Olympic Equestrian Centre to watch the cross-country portion of the Eventing competition. Norm, who has experience in things “horsey” since his wife Kathy is an avid equestrian, assured me that this was the most exciting of that sport’s events for the novice spectator.

Eventing, also known as the 3-Day Event, is something of an equine triathlon consisting of dressage the first day, a cross-country endurance event on day two, and finishing up with the jumping event the third day. The horse and rider with the

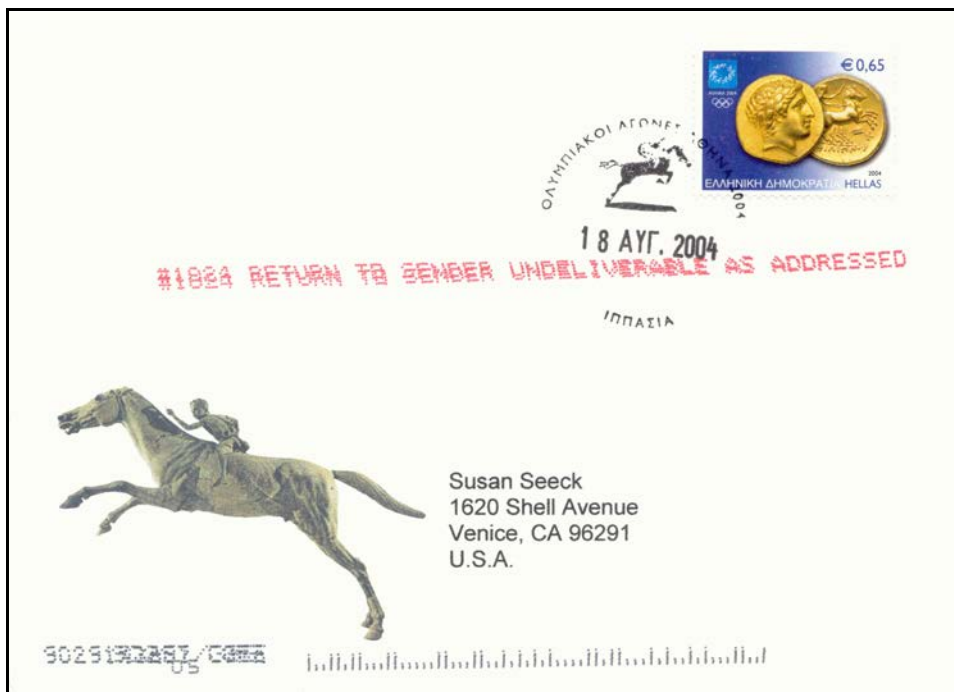


Figure 2. Nice use of the international airmail value in the Ancient Olympic Coins set with an auxiliary “return to sender” marking applied in the U.S. The Olympic Equestrian postmark from OLYMPHILEX is dated 18 August for the conclusion of the Eventing competition.

fewest penalty points win (Figure 2). The cross-country event takes place on a 5.7 km course consisting of 45 jumps with penalties assessed for refusing a jump, falling, or exceeding the 9 minute, 46 second time limit.

Unlike most other Summer Olympic sports where the spectator is stuck in his seat, here we could walk the entire turf course. The location in the countryside southeast of the new international airport proved a nice respite from the heat and humidity in downtown Athens as we enjoyed a refreshingly cool breeze.

Being unfamiliar with the individual riders and horses, I preferred soaking up the atmosphere of the competition. The obstacles ranged from a whimsical water feature complete with rowboats and light-house, to a downright treacherous hillside jump where the horses landed blindly on the downhill side (Figure 1)!

German spectators especially were out in force cheering on their team who are perennial favorites in this event. Particularly amusing, though, were the small clusters of “locals” who had drawn up folding chairs just outside the venue’s perimeter chainlink fencing to watch. I thought for sure that the military troops patrolling the area would chase them away,

but they seemed to take little or no notice of the nonpaying spectators. Possibly the €10 tickets (about \$12.50) were beyond their means.

With the conclusion of competition imminent, and our feet tired of standing and walking, we decided to head back to the bus staging area for the ride to the airport’s metro stop.

Now as a rule, Olympic philatelists – at least the serious ones – are strong believers in that American Express motto, “never leave home without it.” To catch us without a few postcards, envelopes, and stamps in our pockets is practically unheard of. Maybe we can blame it on Visa, being “the credit card of choice” at the Olympics, for our unpreparedness that day.

As we boarded the filled, but not overcrowded, metro car to head back into the city, we found ourselves standing next to two of the U.S. Olympic Equestrian team’s more prominent members. Norm recognized Guenter Seidel, a Dressage competitor who won bronze Olympic team medals at both Atlanta in 1996 and Sydney in 2000 (he went on to win his third team bronze three days later). With him was Steffen Peters, also a bronze medalist in 1996, who was one of two alternate/substitutes on the Dressage team to Athens.

During the metro ride, the Olympians discussed the competition and their impressions of the Games in general. In fact, that day they were being “tourists” with a visit to the Acropolis and Plaka. For security reasons, I was surprised that they were permitted to roam the city unescorted, however they seemed unconcerned. I did notice, though, that they were dressed like any other visitor even leaving their Olympic ID tags back at the villa that the equestrian team had rented for the duration of the Games.

The trip ended too soon. I’m sure that our new friends would happily have given us their autographs had we remembered to bring postcards or envelopes with us. Needless to say we never made that mistake again.



Figure 3. One of a handful of face different Olympic telephone cards.

A KING IS CROWNED

The better part of Wednesday was spent at OLYMPHILEX before heading over to OAKA about mid-afternoon. This was the one day when Norm and I had tickets to different events: he went to tennis while I attended the men's All-Around finals in gymnastics.

First, though, I had to find a solution to my problem: where to buy an Olympic prepaid telephone card. A perennial nuisance for those traveling overseas from the U.S. is how to stay in touch with friends and family back home. Our cell phones would not operate outside the U.S. and we didn't want to run up our hostess' phone bill so prepaid calling cards were the next best thing. On our first visit to OAKA the previous weekend, I had found two vending machines dispensing Olympic phone cards. Unfortunately, the machines were always out of order. It wasn't until this Wednesday that I actually found one operating, although it wouldn't accept bills, only €1 coins. I have no idea how rare these cards are (Figure 3), but in all of Athens this was the only place I found them for sale.

After a quick stop at the immense two-story McDon-

ald's conveniently positioned in the middle of the public concourse, I headed over to the Indoor Arena for my second gymnastics event.

Hands down, this was the most exciting event of the Games for me! In the All-Around, the top 24 men from the team competition (with a limit of two from the same nation) compete for the "best gymnast" crown. It's the only event in which each man must perform on all six apparatuses (Figure 4).

Still exuberant after winning the silver in the team event two days earlier, Americans Paul Hamm and Brett McClure faced stiff competition from Japan, China, Korea, and Romania. In the opening round, Hamm's nerves of steel catapulted him to first place on floor exercise, with a 9.725 – the highest score on the event that evening. With steady performances in the next two rounds on both the pommel horse and rings, Hamm was able to hold onto first place with a slim lead over Yang Wei of China, 29.012 to 28.974. Suddenly it actually seemed possible that for the first time in Olympic history an American man had a shot at winning an All-Around gold medal.

That night, though, the old adage "what goes up, must come down" couldn't have been more true. On his fourth event, the vault, Paul Hamm crashed and burned. With good speed on the runway he exe-



Figure 4. Registered envelope with gymnastics cancels on 18 August, the day of the All-Around finals. The additional circular date cancel from "Metamorphosi ATT." confirms this as having been mailed at OLYMPHILEX 2004.



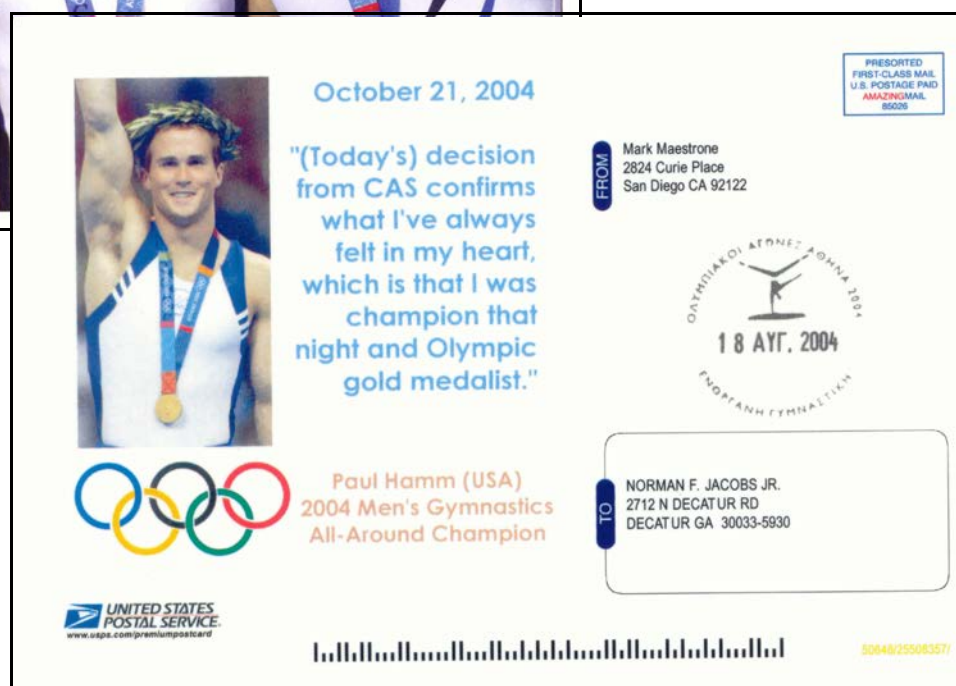
Figure 5. USPS “Netpost” postal card mailed October 21, 2004 following Paul Hamm’s confirmation as the winner of the All-Around gold medal at Athens. The front of the card features the 3 winners: Kim (silver), Hamm (gold), and Yang (bronze).

cuted a sound, high-value Kasamatsu with a 1½ twist off the vaulting horse. But then everything went very wrong as he lost his “air sense,” staggering sideways on his landing, and eventually ending up sitting on his rear on the podium. His score: a dismal 9.137. While the American contingent in the audience was not a large one, a unison of groans was clearly audible. Falling to 12th place, Hamm’s coach, Miles Avery, was quoted as having told him “that he would need to score a 9.8 on the last two events to possibly get the bronze,” and that “a gold ... was impossible.”

In the fifth round, Yang Wei experienced similar problems on the high bar, falling on one of his less risky maneuvers. The 8.987 he received effectively dropped him out of contention for a medal.

Romanian gymnast, Ioan Suciu, had been quietly advancing in the early rounds and actually had his teeth on at least a bronze medal. On his fifth round parallel bars routine, he too met with disaster, taking an intermediate swing (not allowed) after becoming unbalanced on a simple handstand. His 9.312 knocked him to fourth.

Paul, however, battled back from his disastrous vault with an amazing 9.837 on the parallel bars –



again a high-score.

With only one event to go, there was a three-way tie for fourth between Paul and the two Romanians. In third was the “other” American, Brett McClure who’d been having the meet of his life. First and second place were held respectively by the two gymnasts from South Korea, Yang Tae Young and Kim Dae Eun.

Remember what Hamm’s coach, Miles Avery, said about a gold being impossible? Well that night the impossible happened! In the sixth and final rotation, everyone made mistakes except for Paul who scored yet another 9.837 for his spectacular high bar routine. Kim and Yang swapped positions, finishing second and third, while Romanian Suciu held onto fourth. Bret McClure unfortunately fell back to ninth.

Never in my life had I been so surprised by a finish in gymnastics! While some grumbling could be heard in the audience (I had noticed a very definite anti-American undercurrent during both gymnastics events I attended), most everyone realized that they had witnessed one of the most incredible comebacks in gymnastics history. Combined with his 2003 World Championship All-Around title, Paul Hamm could not be denied his crown as the current “king” of gymnastics.

As we all know, this wasn’t really “the end” of the men’s Olympic All-Around as a major judging snafu was revealed by the press not two days later. It was around the Korean, Yang, that this 2004 Olympic Games’ biggest (and longest running) controversy would swirl. His parallel bars routine was underscored by 0.10 points because of a judging error. Had this not happened, he would have won the gold and Paul the silver. However, the rules of competition are very specific: the head judge on each apparatus has the final word. In this case, the head judge was apprised of the irregularity after the competition but deemed it “too late” to change the results. On October 21, 2004 – two months after the competition – the Court of Sports Arbitration, to which the Koreans eventually petitioned, upheld the results confirming Paul Hamm as the winner (Figure 5). Some may choose to place an asterisk next to Hamm’s name in the record books, but as far as I’m concerned he won fair and square.

A DAY AT THE BEACH

Two sports I had been looking forward to watching were white-water (slalom) canoe/kayak racing and beach volleyball.

White-water slalom racing is a very unusual sport in that it requires a fast-moving channel of water simulating a boulder-strewn mountain stream. Like a slalom snow skier, the competitor must negotiate a series of “gates” in the fastest possible time. Penalties are assessed for missing or hitting gates as well as going through them in the wrong direction – or

even upside down!

Of all the summer Olympic events, this sport requires perhaps the most unique venue. At the 1972 Munich Games, its Olympic debut, and at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, a natural mountain water course was used. However, at the other Games where this sport has been contested (1992 and 2000), a man-made facility had to be built.

The course constructed for the Athens event was located at the Helliniko Olympic Complex on the coast (Figure 6). It consisted of a magnificent ramped trough spiraling down a hillside through which millions of gallons of fresh water were pumped. The water was recycled back to the top of the run much like a water slide.

I can’t say that I knew the players – fortunately the Official Olympic Daily program helped us out with this (Figure 7) – but it was fun watching the kayaks (singles) and canoes (doubles) shooting down the channel. Sitting on the hillside baking in the hot Athenian sun, I envied the paddlers, spray drenching them in refreshingly cool water as they wove their way through the course.

That evening we took in another of the newer Olympic sports, beach volleyball. Unlike regular volleyball, the beach version is played with just two people per team. The “court” is composed entirely of sand. Needless to say, you have to be in tip-top condition to play this sport!



Figure 6. Special Olympic postmark from the Helliniko Olympic Complex post office. This was the first day of the Ilias Iliadis medalist stamp.

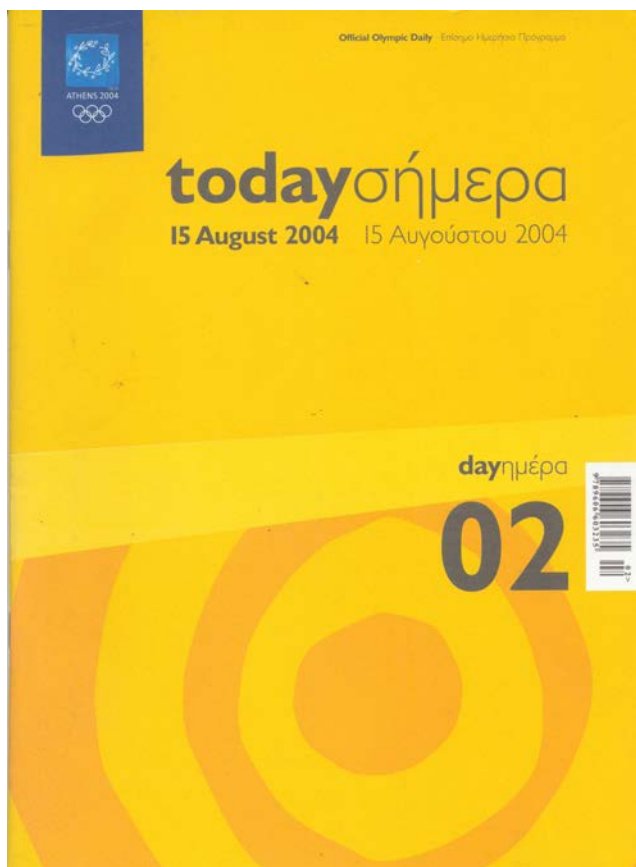


Figure 7. The “Official Olympic Daily” program was available (€5) at each venue, providing that day’s start lists for every event. Results from previous days events were not given.

Despite its name, the sport doesn’t require a nearby body of water. The London 2012 bid, for example, proposes a site near Buckingham Palace for their beach volleyball competition! At Athens, however, the sport was contested at a wonderful stadium on the sandy beach at Faliro. From our perch in the top row of the stands, we not only were able to enjoy the cool breezes and panoramic views of the seaside accompanied by a Mediterranean sunset splashed with the color of tangerines and blood oranges, but we had a darn good view of center court.

Through the luck of the draw, the first two of four matches that evening featured U.S. teams. On the men’s side, the U.S. lost to Brazil 17-21, 10-21. The U.S. women, Walsh and May, beat Celbova and Novakova of the Czech Republic 21-17, 21-17. In the third game, another Brazilian men’s team wasn’t so lucky, losing to the Germans 20-22 and 17-21 (Figure 8).

Besides being a rather colorful sport complete with scantily clad female cheerleaders performing

between matches, beach volleyball is very fast-paced. An aspect of the rules that I particularly favored over regular volleyball is that the side winning the action gets the point regardless of which team’s service it was.

The fourth and final match of the evening was the “big event” in which the Greek women’s team faced off against the Norwegians. Having noticed how the temporary grand stands swayed like “Little Egypt” whenever the spectators began cheering, neither of us was too keen on testing its stability when the Greek fans really got the stands rockin’ and rollin’. And from the results of the match, I imagine the crowd was very boisterous: the Greek’s beat the Norwegians in three sets, 21-11, 21-23, and 15-12 (the third set is played to 15 with a two-point lead).

ALL GOOD THINGS MUST COME TO AN END

Friday, August 20 was our final day of competition. It was also an “all-racquet sports” day with badminton in the morning and tennis at night.

Being a tennis buff, both on the court and philatelic exhibition floor, Norm decided he wanted to



Figure 8. The German player (in red) getting ready to block the Brazilian’s hit.

broaden his knowledge of racquet sports by viewing a badminton competition. So off we went that morning to the Gaudi Olympic Hall right in downtown Athens.

After watching some of the best players in the world that day, I can say that this is most certainly *not* the same game played on lazy summer evenings in Aunt Martha's back yard.

In a sport traditionally dominated by Asian nations, the first two singles matches featured players from Thailand, Indonesia and Korea. The final event of the morning was the bronze medal doubles match between Indonesia and Denmark. To me the court seemed small for singles competition, so it was interesting to see how doubles players arrayed themselves: one behind the other! In the end, Indonesia routed Denmark, 2-0.

As we were exiting the complex, two volunteers were handing out rather nice advertising cards for the Modern Pentathlon competition being held at the Gaudi Olympic Complex the second week of the Games. They made very nice vehicles for the special Modern Pentathlon sports cancels.

After a final visit to OLYMPHILEX for just "a few more postmarks" and to say "goodbye" to whoever was around, we headed out to OAKA for our final event of the Games.

The tennis complex, by necessity, included a nine satellite courts in addition to the prestigious Centre Court. We had a choice for our first match of the evening, electing to watch American Mardy Fish play Fernando Gonzalez of Chile. In Olympic tennis, both men and women play a best-of-three format (except for the men's singles gold medal match which is best-of-five). Losing the first set, 3-6, Mardy came back to win the next two sets decisively, 6-3, 6-4. Although he did advance from this semifinal round to the finals, he eventually lost to Nicolas Massu of Chile.

What our unreserved, view-obstructed seats in the first match lacked were more than made up for by our reserved seats at Centre Court – we couldn't believe we were sitting in the 5th row right on the netline for this women's semifinal match.

And what a match it was! Facing off against Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium was the equally able Russian, Anastasia Myskina. In the first set, Justine eked out a 7-5 win. The table was turned in the second set as Myskina evened the score, also winning 7-5. With one set each, the battle began for the third and final set. Myskina repeatedly broke Henin-Hardenne's serve, at one point racking up a



Figure 9. Belgian Justin Henin-Hardenne exultant after her nearly 3-hour semi-final match against Anastasia Myskina of Russia.

5-1 game advantage. I thought for sure that Justine couldn't possibly come back from that deficit. But just like Paul Hamm in the gymnastics competition two nights before, she seemed to accomplish the impossible, winning the final set 8-6 (Figure 9) and advancing to the women's singles finals where she defeated Amelie Mauresmo of France for the gold.

As our Olympic Games adventure in Athens drew to a close, I reflected on what an absolutely terrific Games these had been due in no small part to the warmth and hospitality of the Greek people.

Ευχαριστώ Αθήνα!

Thank you, Athens!

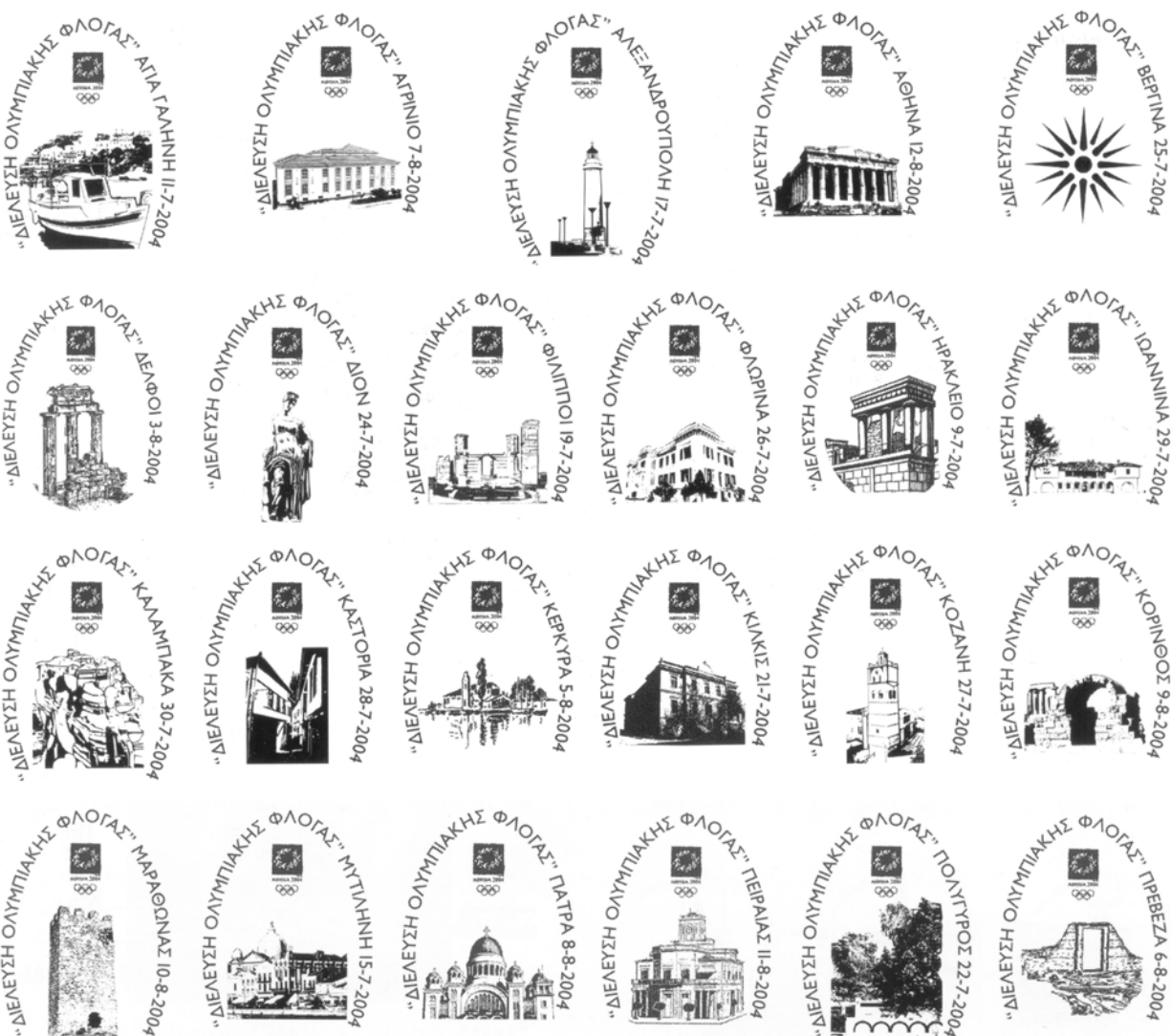


***Special Olympic
"Athens" postmark
from the Syntagma
Square post office
canceling the
Bimis/Siranidis
medalist stamp.***

GREEK TORCH RELAY 'A'



GREEK TORCH RELAY 'B'





TEMPORARY OLYMPIC POST OFFICES



Hilton Hotel
08.05 - 08.30



Divani Caravel Hotel
08.11 - 08.30



Zappeion
08.11 - 08.31



Ancient Olympia
08.16 - 08.18



Port of Piraeus
08.12 - 08.30



Helliniko Olympic Complex
07.29 - 08.29



Athens Olympic Sports
Complex 08.06 - 08.29



Sponsor Hospitality Center
O.A.K.A. 08.06 - 08.29



Olympic Village
07.29 - 09.01



Main Press Center
07.22 - 09.03



International Broadcast Center
07.22 - 09.03



OLYMPHILEX
08.12.2004



OLYMPHILEX
08.13.2004



OLYMPHILEX
08.16.2004



OLYMPHILEX
08.18.2004



OLYMPHILEX
08.21.2004

OLYMPIC SPORTS CANCELS

(AVAILABLE AT OLYMPHILEX 2004)



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΑΡΣΗ ΒΑΡΩΝ

August 14-16,
18-21, 23-25



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΑΝΤΙΠΤΕΡΙΣΗ

14-21



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΤΣΕΒΟΛΙΑ

15-21



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΜΠΕΙΖΜΠΟΛ

15-18, 20-22, 24, 25



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΠΥΓΜΑΧΙΑ

14-25, 27-29



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΚΑΝΟΕ/ΚΑΤΙΑΚ

23-28



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΠΟΔΗΛΑΣΙΑ

14, 15, 18, 20-25
27, 28



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΞΙΦΑΣΚΙΑ

14-22



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΠΟΔΟΣΦΑΙΡΟ

11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18,
20, 21, 23, 24, 26-28



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΡΥΘΜΙΚΗ ΓΥΜΝΑΣΤΙΚΗ

26-29



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΤΖΟΥΝΤΟ

14-20



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΠΕΤΟΣΦΑΙΡΙΣΗ

14-29



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΚΟΛΥΜΒΗΣΗ

14-21



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΕΠΙΣΤΡΑΤΕΥΣΙΑ ΑΝΤΙΣΦΑΙΡΙΣΗ

14-23



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΤΑΕΚΒΟΝΤΟ

26-29



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΧΟΚΕΪ

14-27



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΚΑΛΑΘΟΣΦΑΙΡΙΣΗ

14-29



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΧΕΙΡΟΣΦΑΙΡΙΣΗ

14-24, 26-29



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΚΑΤΑΔΥΣΕΙΣ

14, 16, 20-28



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΚΑΝΟΕ/ΚΑΤΙΑΚ ΣΛΑΛΟΜ

17-20



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΚΩΠΗΛΑΣΙΑ

14-19, 21, 22



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΑΝΤΙΣΦΑΙΡΙΣΗ

15-22



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΤΡΙΑΘΛΟ

25, 26



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΥΔΑΤΟΣΦΑΙΡΙΣΗ

15-27, 29



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΣΚΟΠΟΒΟΛΙΑ

14-22



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΙΣΤΙΟΠΛΟΙΑ

14-26, 28



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΣΥΓΧΡΟΝΙΣΜΕΝΗ ΚΟΛΥΜΒΗΣΗ

23-27



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΣΤΙΒΟΣ

18, 20-29



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΣΟΦΤΜΠΟΛ

14-20, 22, 23



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΜΠΙΤΣ ΒΟΛΕΪΜΠΟΛ

14-25



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΜΟΝΤΕΡΝΟ ΠΕΝΤΑΘΛΟ

26, 27



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΙΠΠΑΣΙΑ

15-18, 20-25, 27



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΕΡΩΤΑΓΗ ΓΥΜΝΑΣΤΙΚΗ

14-19, 22-24



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΠΑΛΗ

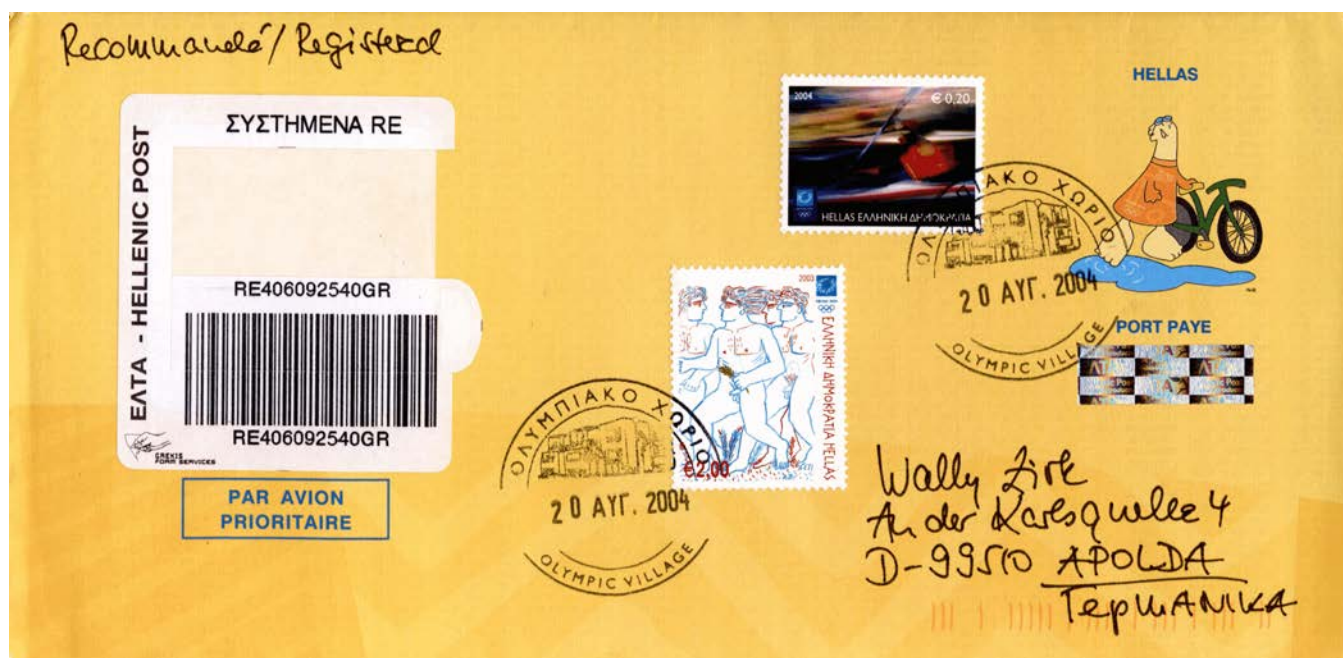
22-29



13 ΑΥΓ 2004

ΤΡΑΜΠΟΛΙΝΟ

20, 21



Greek registration label with number 406092540 from the Olympic Village TPO. More frequently, the registration label base number was 388985xxx.

Athens 2004 – Special Temporary Olympic Post Offices (Part 1)

by Thomas Lippert
edited by Mark Maestroni

As is typically the case at an event of this size, a network of special Temporary Olympic Post Offices (TPO) was established meeting the requirements of both Olympic participants and visitors. The departure of United Parcel Service (UPS) as a TOP sponsor, coupled with the signing on of the Greek postal administration (ELTA) as a so-called Grand National Sponsor of the 2004 Olympic Games, created the proper conditions for this to occur.

This network consisted of temporary post offices serving the Olympic infrastructure as well as some of the sports complexes (Table 1). Each TPO was equipped with a single postmark of uniform design featuring a subject related to the complex that facility served (Figure 1). While some of the TPO's were open before the Olympic Games began, typically the special postmark was not placed in service until 13 August, the day of the Opening Ceremonies. Prior to that date, a common circular date cancel from the post office responsible for the TPO was used.

Table 1: Special Temporary Olympic Post Offices

Cancel*	Temporary Post Office
A1	Olympic Village (OV)
A2	International Broadcast Center (IBC)
A3	Main Press Center (MPC)
A4	Zappeion Press Center (ZPC)
A5a	Hilton Hotel - main lobby (OFH)
A5b	Hilton Hotel Annex - ground floor (OFH)
A6	Divani Caravel Hotel (OFH/ISF)
A7a	Athens Olympic Sports Complex (OAKA 1)
A7b	Athens Olympic Sports Complex (OAKA 1)
A8	Athens Olympic Sports Complex (OAKA 2)
A9	Sponsor Hospitality Centre (OAKA-SHC)
A10a	Helliniko Olympic Complex
A10b	Helliniko Olympic Complex
A11a	Port of Piraeus (OLP 1)
A11b	Port of Piraeus - Nähe, Queen Mary II (OLP 2)
A12a	Olympic Academy, Olympia - Athletes Village
A12b	Olympic Academy, Olympia - Press Center

* See Figure 1 for illustrations of cancels

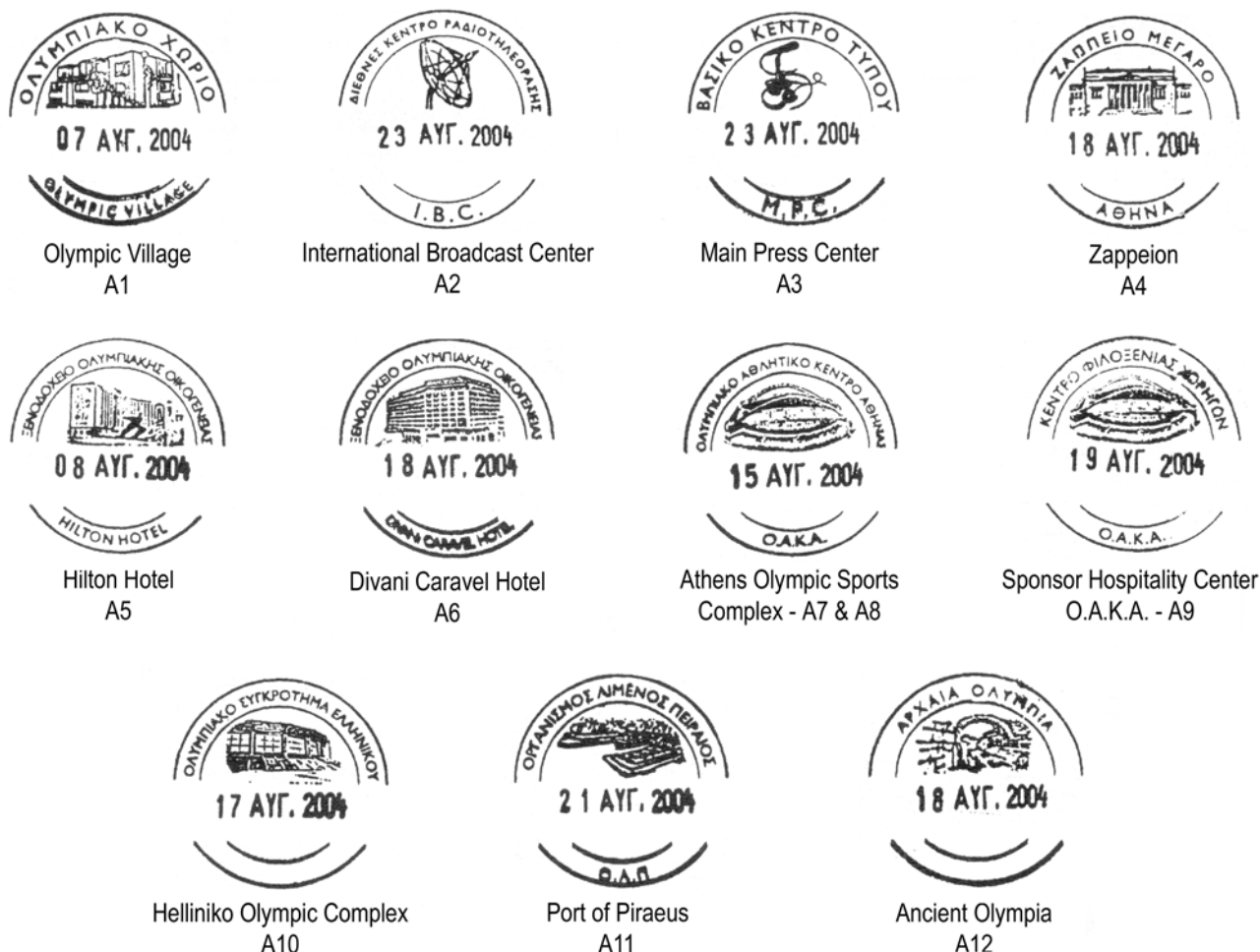


Figure 1. The eleven different postmarks used at the various Temporary Olympic Post Offices (TPO), excluding OLYMPHILEX 2004.

Often untrained postal employees from other departments were assigned duty at the TPO's which sometimes resulted in poorly applied postmarks or torn stamps. On one occasion when an unfortunate philatelic *faux pas* was made, the clerk tried to compensate for the misfortune with friendliness. There were some problems at the International Broadcast Center (IBC) post office during the Games. As can be seen in Figure 2, the clerk didn't recognize that the letter was already correctly franked. All that Olympic collector Klaus Juergen Alde (the sender of the letter who was at the Games as a reporter for Germany's ARD radio network) could do was stand helplessly by as this philatelic "gem" was created.

Even worse was the miserable treatment given to the processing of 50 letters specially created by IMOS. The end result was suitable only for the trash basket.

After the Olympic Games, the IBC post office staff was changed. According to IMOS member Klaus Fink, who returned to Athens for the Paralympic Games, this post office functioned well with a competent and attentive team at work.

At many of the TPO's it was possible to have personalized stamps, or "P-stamps", created (Figure 3). ELTA's marketing department supplied various stamp sheets for this purpose. Adjacent to each of the ten pre-printed stamps was a blank label. A digital photo of the subject was captured with a webcam (in a few cases, printed photos were scanned into the computer) and then printed directly on the stamp sheet labels using a color laser printer.

As the TPO at the Main Press Center (MPC) was not accessible to the public, P-stamps were generated using the "Olympic sponsor sheet" which was reserved for companies in the inner circle (Figures 4 and 5).



Figure 2. Registered letter from the TPO at the IBC with a registration label base number of 245702xxx. The letter was originally correctly franked with €2.85 (€0.65 for the 20 gram letter and €2.20 for the registration fee). Oddly, a postal employee affixed an additional €0.21 in postage obviously not accepting the PRIMETECH AT machine label for that amount!



Figure 3. Berlin OSPC member Klaus Juergen Alde immortalized on a P-stamp from the IBC.



Figure 5. A final exception for use of the Olympic sponsor sheets by non-sponsors was at the Olympic Village. Again post office employees posed for the webcam.

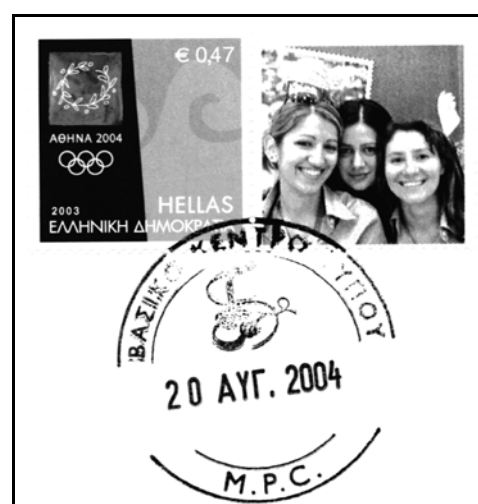


Figure 4. The MPC temporary post office functioned as a regular postal facility during the Games. The friendly post office team at the MPC posed in front of the webcam. The special MPC postmark was also applied.



Figure 6. Registered letter mailed from the Zappeion TPO on 13 August, the first day that the special cancel “Zappeio Megaro” was used. This Olympic TPO was one of the few to also use a circular date stamp from the responsible post office; in this case, the post office at Syntagma Square furnished the cancels, equipment and staff .

A secondary press facility was established at the Zappeion. For some time it has been customary for journalists from non-sports publications to be granted some form of official status at an Olympic Games. Often it is from their background reporting of the Games that the host country profits in the long term. At Athens, a headquarters for these journalists was selected which truly reflected the historical importance of the Olympics: the Zappeion located in the heart of the city. It was here in 1896 and 1906 that the Olympic fencing competitions took place. At the intercalated Games of 1906 the Zappeion also functioned as an Olympic Village where many of the athletes were accommodated. One of the first three

Olympic postmarks (from 1906) features the Zappeion, as does the special postmark at the Zappeion TPO in 2004 (Figure 6).

Personalized stamps were not among the items offered at the Zappeion TPO. However it was the only temporary post office – other than the one at the Olympic Village – equipped with a PRIMETECH Automat (AT) stamp machine (Figure 7). If one takes into account that the AT machine at the Olympic Village was non-functioning from the outset, it is clear that those with access to the Zappeion TPO were quite privileged. Unlike FRAMA labels which are imprinted with a unique machine number, it is usually impossible to identify the source of PRIMETECH AT machines by inspecting the imprints. This was true with the Acropolis AT machines.

Although non-philatelic in nature, there is nevertheless a postal receipt documenting the AT transaction (Figure 8). The receipt also indicates that the AT machine had been brought over from the Aigaleo Post Office.

Figure 7. The new PRIMETECH AT stamp placed in service in May 2004.



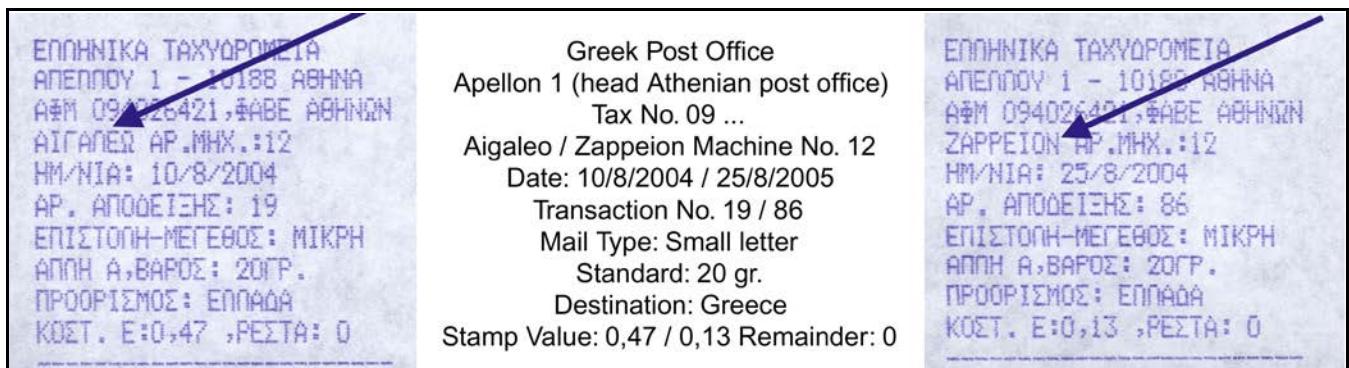


Figure 8. PRIMETECH AT machine receipts from the Zappeio Megaro TPO. This was the only functioning AT machine at a TPO. The receipt on the left is from one of the first days the machine was in operation; the arrow points to the name “Aigaleo,” the post office from which the machine had been borrowed. The corrected receipt at right now reads “Zappeion.” It’s surprising that the name “Zappeion” appears in Latin characters while the remainder of the receipt is in Greek. Also of interest: in the 15 days since the receipt at left was generated, the number of transactions had only reached 86 proving that the AT machine was not being extensively used. At center is a line-by-line translation of the receipt.

The Olympic Games were the cause of another “revolution”: ELTA began to accept credit cards (Figure 9)! This payment method was implemented slowly and was not available everywhere. In accordance with the sponsor contracts, only Visa cards were accepted. The credit processing machines were provided by Alpha Bank, the official bank of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.

As an aside, Bob Farley (SOC) and I missed the beginning of the Olympic Opening Ceremony due to intense discussions with a postal clerk at the Zappeion TPO. While she was always friendly and willing to serve collectors’ needs, she was very stubborn in her observation of the (wrong) postal regulations and procedures dictated by the head of the Syntagma post office. She refused to use the Zappeion special postmark on any postal stationery including the interesting postcards with the Athens and Olympia designs issued some months before, and the beautiful new Olympic postal stationery items issued in large numbers for the Games! Only the ordinary circular date stamp for the Syntagma post office could be used on these pieces of postal stationery. Her reasoning: the imprinted stamps were not “stamps” and thus one must add an additional €0.47 stamp which was the minimum required for obtaining a special postmark (this increased after the Olympic Games ended and before the Paralympic Games opened). We were unsuccessful in convincing her otherwise even after showing her evidence to the contrary from other TPO’s.

To wrap up this side discussion: we talked to the clerk at the ELTA counter at OLYMPHILEX about this



Figure 9. Both sides of the credit card receipt from the Zappeion temporary post office: “ELTA SA / ZAPPIO /ATHENS”. This was a technological leap forward for the Greek post office which had not been accepting credit cards as payment.

subject. She immediately picked up the phone to call her superior. She was informed that the special postmarks *with changeable dates* (such as the sports cancels and TPO Olympic cancels) could be used on postal stationery. The ones with fixed dates (for example, the five OLYMPHILEX cancels) were not permitted for postmarking postal stationery. Different country, different customs ...



Figure 11. The ELTA temporary post office at the Hilton Hotel also accepted Visa cards for purchases. The receipt from the machine indicated the governing body, “ELTA SA / STADIUM 60 / ATHENS,” along with the local designation, “HILTON HOTEL.”

Figure 10. As is customary, one or more special post cards were issued during the Games by the IOC in recognition of the Worldwide Olympic Partners. These free post cards were generally available only to accredited individuals with access to the Olympic Family hotels. An honorary member of the IOC (and OSPC), Dr. Günter Heinze attended the Games and visited the hotel temporary post offices on the first day of use of the special postmarks (13 August).



Figure 12. P-stamps were also available at the Hilton Hotel TPO. Due to variables in printing the photographs on the stamps, the digital photographs didn’t always fall properly into the blank spaces on the pre-printed sheets of stamps.

Figure 13 (right). As indicated by this stamp and postmark (photographically cropped from a letter), the first medalist digital stamp sheets arrived at the Hilton Hotel on 17 August, their first day of availability. It should be noted that this is the spectacular Sampanis stamp, which was withdrawn from sale four days later.



Figure 14 (below). Another kind of First Day document, this ELTA receipt dated 17 August confirms purchase of one pane of 10 each of the Leonidas Sampanis stamps and those picturing Thomas Bimis and Nikolaos Siranidis who won the gold in the men's synchro springboard diving competition. The number 02004 designates this as a special Olympic post office.

Ελληνικά Ταχυδρομεία
Απελλού 1 - 101 88 ΑΘΗΝΑ
Α.Φ.Μ. 094026421 ΦΑΒΕ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ

No 45 ΣΕΙΡΑ

Ημερομηνία 17/08/04 Η-αριθμός 02004 569

ΥΠΟΚΑΤΑΣΤΗΜΑ
HILTON

ΑΠΟΔΕΙΞΗ ΛΙΑΝΙΚΗΣ ΠΩΛΗΣΗΣ
ΑΘΕΩΡΗΤΑ ΒΑΣΕΙ ΤΗΣ Α.Υ.Ο. ΠΟΛ 1166/2002

ΕΠΩΝΥΜΙΑ
ΕΠΑΓΓΕΛΜΑ Δ.Ο.Υ.
ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ Α.Φ.Μ.

ΚΩΔΙΚΟΣ	ΠΕΡΙΓΡΑΦΗ ΕΙΔΩΝ	ΣΥΝΤΕΛΕΣΤΗΣ Φ.Π.Α. %	ΠΟΣΟΤΗΤΑ	ΤΙΜΗ ΜΟΝΑΔΟΣ	ΕΚΠΤΩΣΗ %	ΤΕΛΙΚΗ ΤΙΜΗ
	<u>ΟΛΥΜΠΙΟΝΙΚΕΣ</u>					
	<u>Leonidas</u>		<u>1</u>	<u>6,50</u>		<u>6,50</u>
	<u>Συνχρ. Καρμυλ.</u>		<u>1</u>	<u>6,50</u>		<u>6,50</u>

Ποσό ολογράφως Δέκα ευρώ 6

ΣΥΝΟΛΟ ΠΟΣΟ ΣΕ ΕΥΡΩ 13,00

ΥΠΟΔ. 4031 ΚΑΥ 25/01/02 0073 ΕΓΟΣ ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΙΑΣ 2002 ΜΠΣ για τον Πύλο, ΚΟΚΚΙΝΟ για το Ελεγκτή, ΠΡΑΣΙΝΟ Στάλκος

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) had selected the Athens Olympic Committee (AOC) (Figures 10-15). The neighboring Divani Caravel Hotel housed the IF's (International Sports Federations) and NOC's (National Olympic Committees). ELTA was present in both hotels.

Adjacent to the temporary post office in the Hilton Hotel lobby was the stand for FIPO, the IOC

philatelic organization. While Olympic philately certainly benefitted from this exposure to IOC members and other Olympic officials, philatelists lost out because they could not access this secure facility to purchase FIPO and IOC items that were only available at this booth. As a collector organization, a FIPO stand should also have been located at OLYMPHILEX 2004.

It would not have gone unnoticed by observant hotel guests that there was an annex of the temporary post office located on the ground floor. It was here that for safety reasons, larger pieces of mail and packages were handled by a post office employee. This small office also used the special Olympic cancel, but it did not differ from the one used in the main lobby TPO.

Not far from the IOC Hilton Hotel was the Divani Caravel Hotel which also had a temporary Olympic post office (Figure 16).

The Olympic Stadium was part of a large complex with many sports venues. These were collectively commemorated with a postmark for OAKA (Athens Olympic Sports Complex). The design includes an illustration of the Olympic Stadium.



Figure 18. The OAKA 1 TPO.



Figure 17. Registered letter from the opening day of the 2004 Summer Olympic. This was also the first day of the joint issue stamps between Greece and China. As the same postmark was used at both OAKA post offices, it is not possible to determine from which this was mailed.

Altogether three TPO's were opened at OAKA. The first two were officially designated OAKA 1 and OAKA 2. They were situated in the Common Domain area of OAKA which was accessible to all ticketed individuals. The OAKA 1 TPO consisted of two attractively furnished permanent stalls adjacent to each other (Figures 17-18). While each one could operated independently of the other, they were generally regarded as a single unit. The OAKA 2 post office consisted of one larger stall located near the Olympic Tennis Centre (Figures 20).

Each temporary post office in the "02004" group was equipped with rubber handstamps for internal use. Imprints were also applied to receipts without a customer's request at OAKA 2 (Figure 19). At the parallel OAKA 1 TPO, imprints of their handstamp were not used on receipts, nor were specific requests honored.



Figure 19. Imprint of the OAKA 2 rubber handstamp used on receipts.



Figure 20. Registered letter from the OAKA 2 TPO. Although the same special postmark was used at all the OAKA post offices, we know that registration labels with the base number 510775xxx come from this temporary post office.



Figure 21. Temporary OAKA post office in a tent at the Sponsor Hospitality Centre.

The use of the words “COMMON DOMAIN” in the handstamp suggests that there was yet another post office not open to the general public. In fact the third TPO at OAKA was located in the Sponsor Hospitality Centre (SHC) at the west end of the complex which was only accessible by persons with special accreditation from selected Olympic sponsors (Figure 21).

Officially, this third OAKA TPO should have been using an Olympic postmark identical to those at the other two OAKA post offices. For this reason, it seemed unnecessary to try to get an example of the postmark. However, the desire to document the operation of each TPO resulted in a surprise (Figure 23). On closer inspection of the postmark from the SHC post office, it appears that the line of text in the upper portion of the postmark (see cancel A9 in Figure 1) refers specifically to the Sponsor Hospitality Centre (ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΦΙΛΟΞΕΝΙΑΣ ΧΟΡΗΓΩΝ) rather than to the spelling out of the acronym OAKA (ΟΛΥΜΠΙΑΚΟ ΑΘΛΗΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΑΘΗΝΑΣ) which appears on the postmarks used at the other two post offices in the Common Domain (cancel A7&8 in Figure 1).



Figure 22. P-stamp from the SHC using a photograph of a northern German volunteer.

The fact that we are able to document this post office at all is due to the assistance of a volunteer from Schleswig (a region in Northern Germany) who we must thank. His picture is illustrated on the label of the P-stamp in Figure 22. He belonged to a large group of unpaid volunteers who made the 2004 Olympics possible by giving up their summer holidays.

This concludes Part 1 on the Temporary Olympic Post Offices in which we briefly introduced TPO's A1-A9 in Table 1. In Part 2, we shall discuss the remaining TPO's.

Some data, particularly the range of dates that a post office was open is still incomplete. It is already clear that initial information is not entirely accurate. Also for certain post offices, namely those at the Olympic/Paralympic Village, IBC and Zappeion, we are missing the dates during the Paralympics that the offices were open.

I would like to thank the following individuals for providing information for this article: Klaus Juergen Alde, Robert Farley, Klaus Fink, Dr. Günter Heinze, Horst Rosenstock, and Manfred Winternheimer.



Figure 23. Registered letter from the Sponsor Hospitality Centre at OAKA. The base number of the registration labels from this TPO is 510520xxx. The low sequence number – 018 – indicates that few guests mailed registered letters from here. The limited number of registered letters mailed from here may also be due to the fact that philatelists had no access to this TPO and/or that they assumed that the postmark would be the same as at OAKA 1 & 2. (See also caption for Figure 16.)

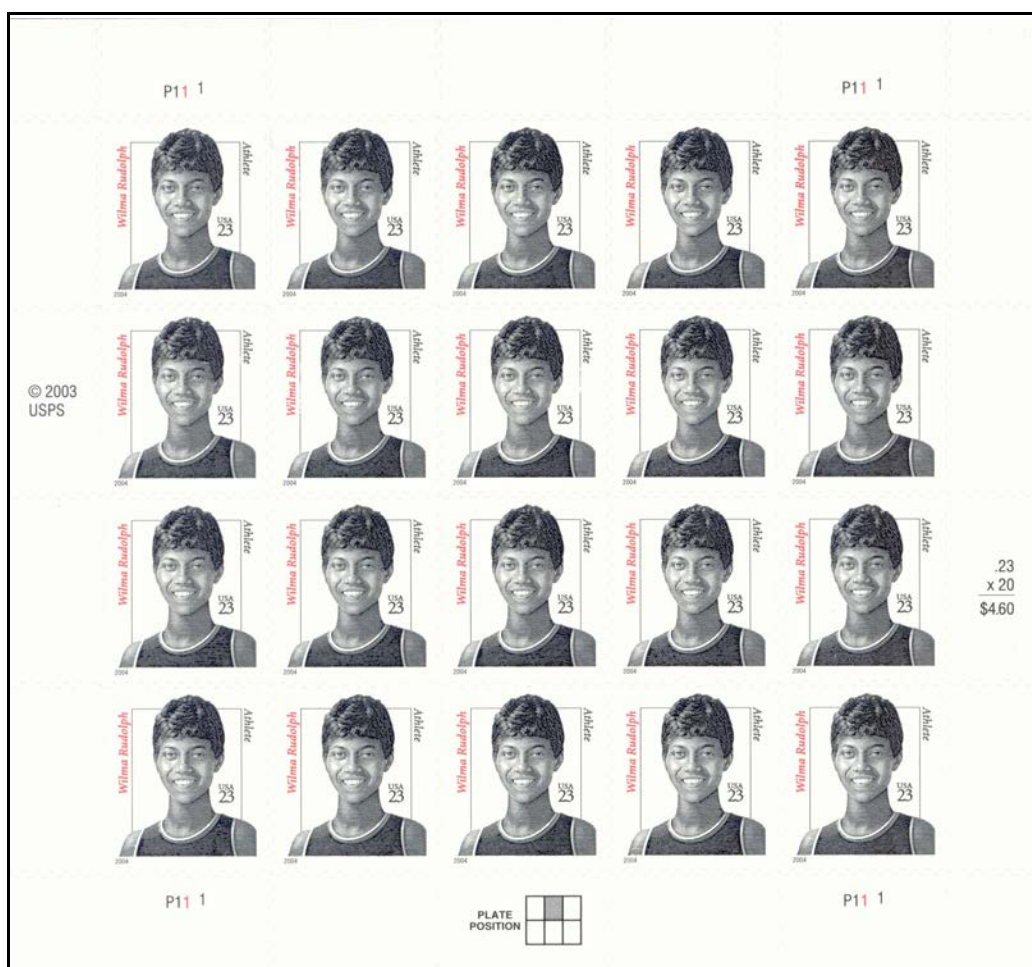


Figure 1. Full pane of 20 Wilma Rudolph stamps. Note that this pane comes from the lower right plate position on the printing sheet.

The “Definitive” Wilma Rudolph

by Mark Maestroni

Wilma Rudolph, one of America’s greatest female track & field athletes has been accorded the fitting honor of being the first Olympian commemorated on a U.S. definitive stamp. Her appearance on the 23¢ value in the Distinguished Americans series – which is the domestic post card rate as well as the additional-ounce rate for domestic first class letters up to 13 ounces – means that her visage will appear frequently on mail.

This stamp replaces the 23¢ George Washington issue that has been in use for many years. As a definitive used to pay a popular rate, the Rudolph stamp can be expected to be reprinted as stocks are depleted. Coupled with the fact that the stamp was

issued in three formats – sheets of 20, and two types of booklet panes of 10 – it is likely that even more collectible varieties will appear over time.

WILMA RUDOLPH

Wilma Glodean Rudolph was born in St. Bethlehem, Tennessee on June 23, 1940. During her childhood in Clarksville, Tennessee, where they soon moved, Wilma fell victim to numerous illnesses including polio which affected her left leg and foot.

Living in the segregated south, she was unable to get proper treatment at the local hospital which was “for whites only.” Her mother persevered, seeking treatment at Fisk University in Nashville.

For two years, Wilma underwent twice-per-week physical therapy sessions at the university’s medical



Figure 2. The Wilma Rudolph stamps were issued in two formats: panes (above left) and booklets (above right). Three major differences are readily apparent: (1) the pane stamp has wavy-line die cuts on all four sides while the booklet stamp has only three – either left or right side are straight-line die cuts; (2) the intaglio-printed pane stamp exhibits more subtle shading on the face and hair while the offset booklet version appears more blotchy; (3) the booklet stamps bear a microprinted “USPS” in the piping of the sleeve (see arrow).

college, followed by many years of home therapy from her family. Confounding the original prognosis by the doctor in Clarksville, Wilma was able to walk normally by the age of 12.

Her talent in running track as a sophomore in high school was discovered by Ed Temple, coach of the Tennessee State University track team. With his guidance, Wilma made the 1956 U.S. Olympic team, garnering a bronze in the 4 x 100-meter relay.

Four years later at the 1960 Rome Olympic Games, Rudolph became the first U.S. woman to win three gold medals in a single Games. To her victory in the 4 x 100-meter relay, she added golds in the 100- and 200-meter dashes.

After a year making appearances on the track & field circuit, she returned to Tennessee State to complete her degree in education.

During her lifetime, Rudolph continued to give back to her community in Clarksville as an elementary school teacher and track & field coach at her old high school. She was married and had four children.

Wilma joined Vice President Hubert Humphrey’s “Operation Champion” in 1967 which established

athletic programs for underprivileged children across the country. The Wilma Rudolph Foundation, established in 1982, continues that legacy. Wilma Rudolph died November 12, 1994 from brain cancer.

THREE FORMATS

The 23¢ Wilma Rudolph stamp was issued July 14, 2004 in three formats: a pane of 20 self-adhesive stamps (Figure 1); a pane of 10 in a convertible booklet; and a pane of 10 in a vending machine booklet. The characteristics of the three types are summarized in the following table:

Format	Type	Qty.	Scott #
Pane of 20, 4 rows of 5	intaglio & offset	100M stamps	3422 (single)
Bklt. of 10, Convertible	offset	300M stamps	3436 (single) 3436c (pane of 10)
Bklt. of 10, Vending Machine	offset	40.495M stamps	3436 (single) 3436a (pane of 4) 3436b (pane of 6) BK279A (entire)

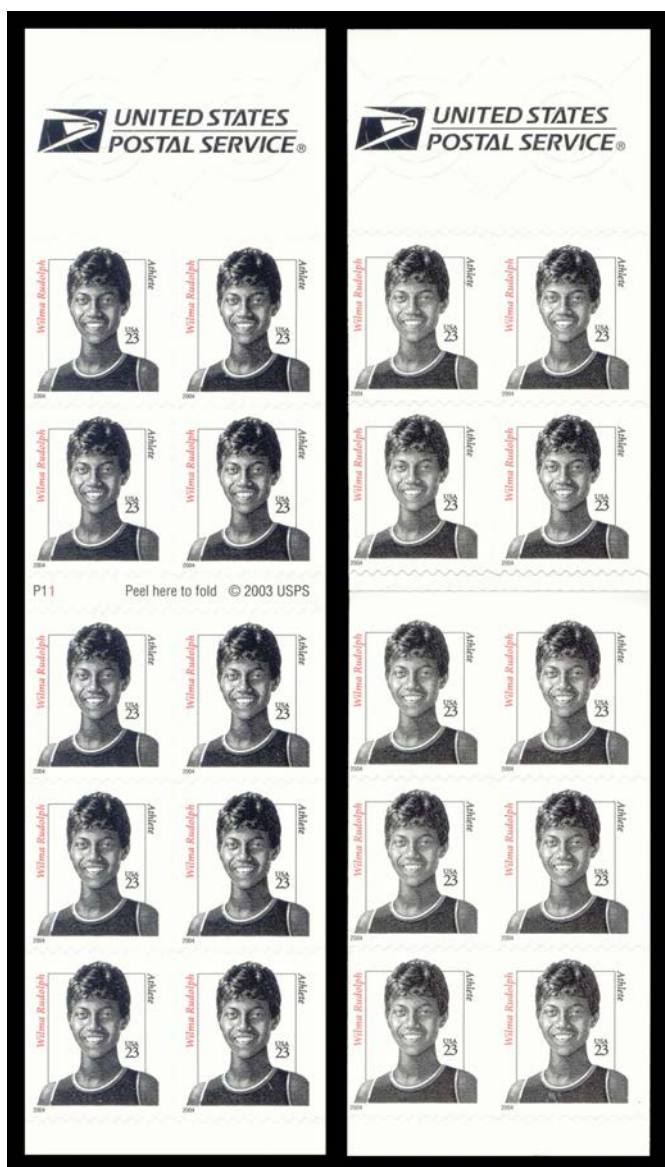


Figure 3. Intact booklets can be told apart by the absence of the “Peel here to fold” strip across the middle of the vending machine booklet (above right). The latter comes folded and sealed with a clear circular tab. The convertible booklet sold over the counter is shown above left.

Stamps in all three formats are self-adhesive with wavy-line die cut edges. The size of three stamps (both image and overall) is the same size; all are printed in black with Wilma Rudolph’s name in red.

Printing types differ. The pane stamps both are intaglio (black ink) and offset (red ink) printed. However the three-digit plate number (P111) indicates that both intaglio and offset black were used – why? The marginal markings (“© 2003 USPS”; “.23 x 20 / \$4.60”; “plate position”) were printed in offset black.

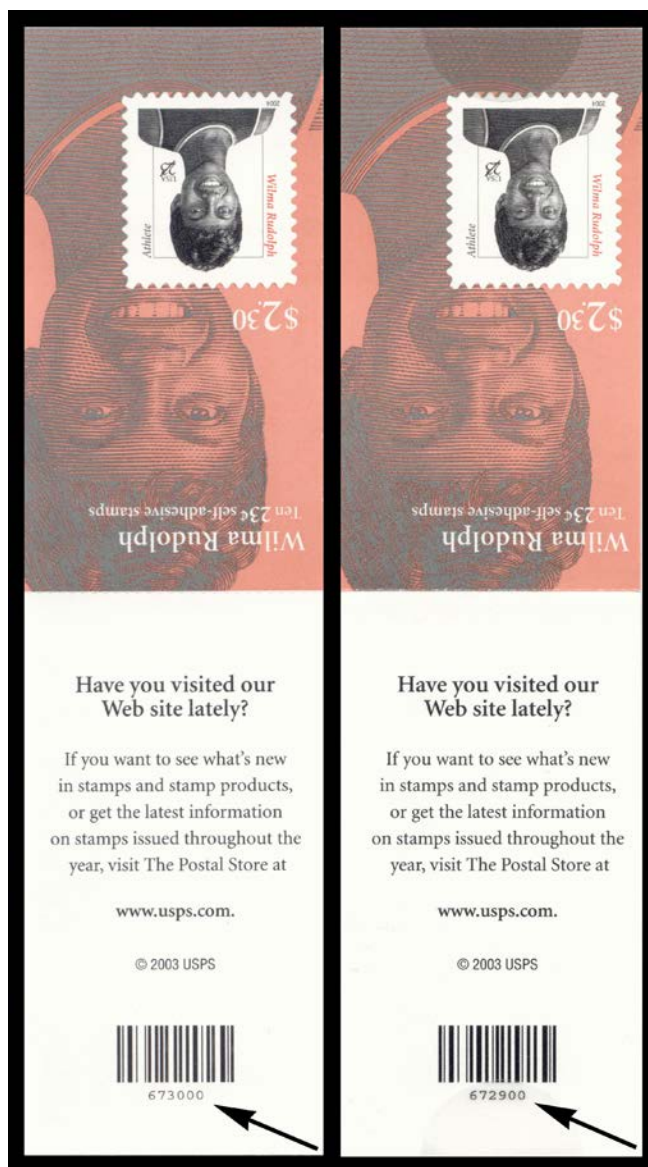


Figure 4. Booklet covers. The primary difference is the USPS item number (arrow): 673000 for the convertible booklet (left) and 672900 for the vending machine version. Half of the clear round adhesive tab used to seal the vending booklet is barely visible at the bottom.

Both booklet stamps, on the other hand, were printed entirely by offset. For security reasons (offset printing is notoriously easy to counterfeit) micro-printing has been added. The acronym “USPS” has been inserted vertically in the white piping along the right arm of Wilma’s jersey where it meets the bottom margin of the stamp.

On cover, telling apart the stamps issued in panes from the booklet versions is easy (Figure 2): the pane stamps have wavy-line die cuts on all four sides, while the booklet stamps have one straight



Figures 5 & 6. First Day cancel on a post card mailed during the U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials (above). Second Day postmark from Wilma's hometown of Clarksville, TN, right.

edge (either right or left). And of course the existence of microprinting confirms the stamp is from a booklet.

Lacking discernable differences between the two booklet versions of the stamps, it's extremely unlikely that they can be told apart.

The complete booklets themselves are nearly identical. There are, however, a couple of ways to differentiate the two types:

1. The convertible booklet is sold unfolded with the "peel here to fold" strip (separating the top 4 stamps from the bottom 6) intact. On the vending machine booklet, this strip has been removed. The booklet has then been folded and sealed with a clear circular adhesive tab (Figure 3).
2. The booklet covers (Figure 4) appear identical except for the USPS barcoded item numbers at the bottom. The convertible booklet is #673000 while the vending machine bears #672900.

By my own observation, the stamps in the vending machine booklet appear darker with fine details sometimes missing. As I have only examined a very few booklets, this variation in the density of the printing may be attributable to normal parameters in the offset printing process.

FIRST- AND SECOND-DAY POSTMARKS

The first day of issue of the Wilma Rudolph stamp was held July 14, 2004 in Sacramento, CA. At the time, Sacramento was hosting the 2004 U.S. Olympic Trials in Track & Field. The postmark used that day features an athlete breaking the tape (Figure 5).

A second day postmark was offered on July 15 in Wilma's hometown of Clarksville, TN (Figure 6).

Have you made your reservations for TEXPEX 2005 yet?

REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS

by Mark Maestrone

***Esprit: Sports et Olympisme* Sept. (#33) & Dec. 2004 (#34)**

Issue #33 of *Esprit* presents a brief overview of the philately of the Athens 2004 Olympics, as well as articles by Alain Arvin-Berod on the "Olympic tour" of Père Didon to the 1896 Olympic Games, and some thoughts on the 2004 Games by Christophe Ait-Braham. René Christin writes on the switch from red to blue meters in France as a result of new directives from the UPU. Canoe-kayak philately at both the 2004 World Championships in France and the Athens Olympics are discussed by René. Brief articles on the 2004 Olympic Torch Relay, Centennial of FIFA and the 2012 London and Paris bids are also presented.

December's issue covers lots of territory including updates on Paris' 2012 Olympic bid, an overview of the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens, and the World Games for Women which were conceived of by Mme. Alice Milliat in 1917 and held periodically until 1934.

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

***Filabasket Review* Aug. (#14) & Dec. 2004 (#15)**

Editor Luciano Calenda always seems to come up with interesting articles for the journal of I.F.I.S. (International Filibasket Society). The issue opens with Pietro Vasconi's examination of the sport of Minibasketball which is designed for boys and girls under 12 years of age. A smaller ball and shorter periods are major differences between this "junior" version and regular basketball. Surprisingly, there are also quite a few meters and cancels publicizing the sport.

Calenda continues his series of articles illustrating, in chronological order of issuance, basketball stamps used on "Old Envelopes". Also discussed are the contributions of Lithuanian Civil Flight Commander, Steponas Darius who introduced basketball to his native country in the early part of the 20th century.

The 5th International Meeting of I.F.I.S. at Reus, Spain begins the final issue of 2004. By all accounts, it was a success.

The first article in this issue, the "Charity Stamps of Croatia," discusses and illustrates the many stamps issued by that country which benefit various sports organizations, including the national Olympic committee. Unlike their counterparts in other countries, however, the Croatian stamps can only be used domestically and can not be used to pay postage costs.

Being an Olympic year, of course the philatelic events from a basketball perspective surrounding the Athens 2004 Olympics are discussed in detail.

Additional articles in this issue include a review of the meters of the International Basketball Federation which begin in the late 1970's and continue through the present day; and the final part of the "Old Envelopes" series which ends in 1960.

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

***IMOS Journal* August 2004 (#123)**

This issue of the *IMOS Journal* concentrates on updating the many checklists and catalogues produced by the society.

The soccer booklets list finishes Sweden's issues from 1958 to 2004, plus those of Slovenia and Thailand. A series on Olympilex continues with the 1990 edition in Varna, Bulgaria. New sport and Olympic stamps and postmarks are also identified and illustrated.

Articles are limited in this issue. Thomas Lippert presents a detailed examination of the 2004 Torch Relay on both its Greek and worldwide travels.

As usual, a separate booklet includes society news and reproductions of articles from the German press of sport and Olympic interest.

This issue also includes 8th IMOS Auction with a whopping 1137 lots which closed on December 5, 2004.

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

Olimpiafila
Dec. 2004 (Vol. VII, #2)

This issue of *Olimpiafila* opens with an article by Zoltan Klein on the Hungarian athletes at the St. Louis 1904 Olympics which consisted of just four competitors and one attendant. Michalis Tsironis of Greece follows with a review of the philately of the 1906 Athens Olympics.

The 1940 Helsinki Olympics are presented from an "open class" standpoint by Manfred Bergman. In addition to the customary philatelic items such as meters, machine cancels and essays for the stamps, he delves into the labels, lottery certificates, and coins for these ill-fated Games.

Finally, Varhelyi Lazslo presents the second part of his study on the 6th International University Games held in Budapest in 1935.

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

Phila-Sport
July (#51) & October 2004 (#52)

July's issue features articles by the editor, Maurizio Tecardi, on the Olympic flag and Italy's participation at the 1906 Intercalated Olympic Games at Athens.

As this was an Olympic year, many articles deal with various facets of summer Olympic sports. In one article, Mauro Gilardi provides an overview of the Olympics from ancient times, while in another he tackles the Olympic Marathon event. Nino Barberis rediscovers the 1952 Helsinki Olympics. Olympic fencing and related philately is discussed by Massimo Menzio, while Olympic baseball is examined by Cesare Ravaldi. Finally, Alvaro Trucchi looks at wrestling at the Olympic Games.

The October issue reviews the philately of the Athens Olympic Games and OLYMPHILEX 2004. Gian Piero Ventura Mazzucca discusses the journey of the Olympic torch through Rome on 28 June 2004, while Maurizio Tecardi looks ahead to the Beijing Olympic Games of 2008 showing the publicity post cards handed out by their organizing committee representatives.

For soccer collectors, Andrea Trongono and Pierangelo Brivio review Euro 2004 in Portugal and the upcoming FIFA World Cup in Germany in 2006.

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

Torch Bearer
August 2004 (Vol. 21, #3)
November 2004 (Vol. 21, #4)

The preponderance of August's issue is consumed by two articles. Bob Wilcock takes on "The Marathon 1908 – That Infamous Distance" in which he examines various sources to determine, once and for all, why the strange distance of 26 miles, 385 yards was chosen for the Marathon race.

The remainder of this issue is Vic Manikian's article on the Paris Olympics of 1924.

With the IOC decision on the host country for 2012 just around the corner, bid cities are gearing up their respective publicity machines. London's bid committee has seen the philatelic light, so to speak, and is using a nice publicity meter on their mail along with distributing colorful labels urging everyone to "Back the Bid" (illustrated below).

Like most other philatelic journals, *Torch Bearer* devoted much of its final issue of the year to reviewing the 2004 Athens Olympics. Included are a look at some of the stamp issues from around the world; the domestic portion of the Greek torch relay; official postcards of the Games; the sports postmarks, postal stationery, and commemorative handcancels; and lastly the Olympic medalist stamps.

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



THE SPORTS ARENA

by Mark Maestrone

Perhaps the Athens Olympic Games were sparsely attended by spectators, especially from North America, but at least for Canadians there was a way to cheer on their athletes from back home.

Courtesy of the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), fans could send their best wishes to a favorite athlete or the entire Canadian Olympic/Paralympic teams by completing a post card (shown front and back, at right). The 4" x 6" cards are printed on rather thin card stock and were available free of charge at RBC branches across the country.

Cards were collected by RBC and shipped to Athens where they were displayed at Canada House, headquarters of the Canadian athletes.

Best wishes could also be conveyed electronically at www.rbc.com/olympics.

It is not known how many cards were sent to Athens nor what became of them after the Games.

Thanks to both Kon Sokolyk and Paul Tissington for submitting details on these interesting cards. Paul has kindly supplied me with a limited number of cards for distribution. Interested members should send me a self-addressed stamped (37¢) envelope – only one per customer until the supply runs dry.



In 2004, the Games are returning to Greece, their ancient birthplace. Between August 13-29, over 10,500 athletes will compete in Athens. Approximately 300 will proudly represent Team Canada. From September 17-28, 144 Canadian athletes will do the same in the Paralympic Games, against competitors from 143 countries.

Send your best wishes to Canadian Olympic athletes.

Dear _____,

Postcards will be delivered to Canadian athletes in Athens.
Visit rbc.com/olympic to send your best wishes online.

Yours truly,

Hometown: _____

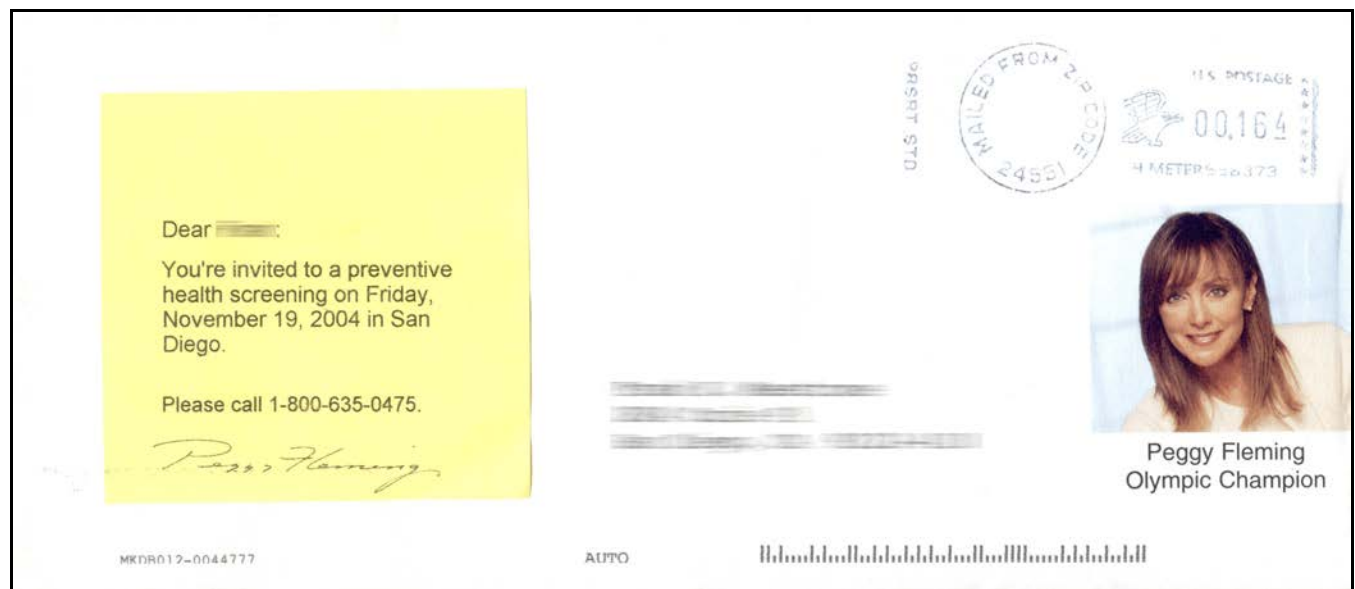
FIRST > FOR YOU™

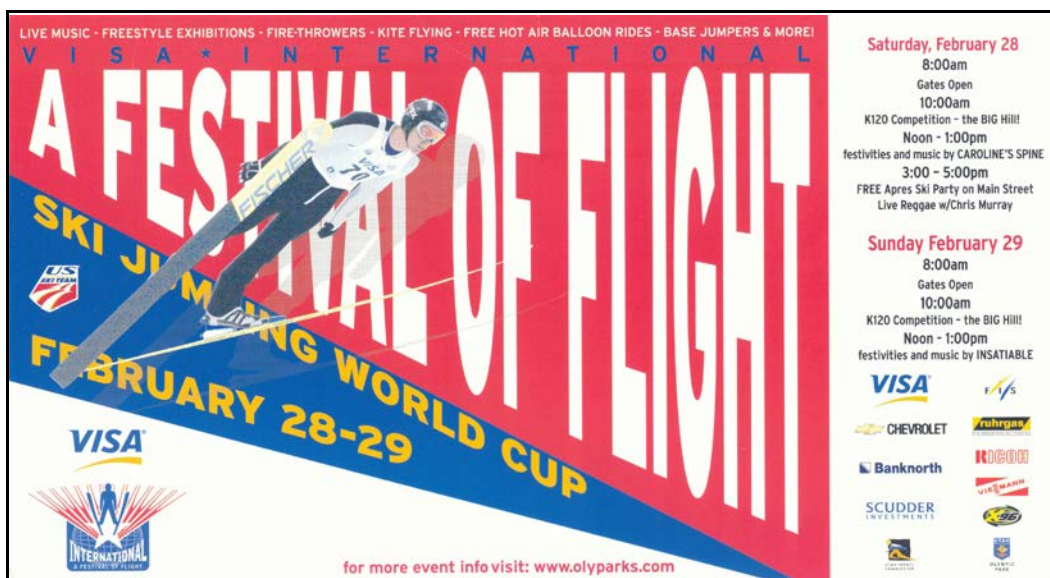
™ Trademark of Royal Bank of Canada. * Official mark of the Canadian Olympic Committee. Used under license. Promotion period ends August 31st 2004. ** Postcards received after August 31st, 2004 will be delivered to the Canadian Olympic Committee. By completing and submitting this postcard you agree that Royal Bank of Canada ("RBC") may use the content of your personal message for promotional and advertising purposes. RBC reserves the right not to forward any postcard that RBC's standards determine contains objectionable content.

RBC **Putting athletes first since 1947**

Modern postal history can be just as fascinating as older material – and a lot less expensive! Take

for example the piece of “junk mail” (shown below) from Olympic figure skater Peggy Fleming.





Arguably the most important legacy of the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympic Games is the Utah Olympic Park. With two ski jumping hills and a wonderful refrigerated track for bobsleigh, luge and skeleton, the complex continues to play host to major world competitions during the winter sports season.

Peggy, who won the gold in the Women's Singles Figure Skating event at Grenoble, France in 1968, is well-known for her many charitable causes, particularly women's breast cancer. In this case, though, she is a spokesperson for Life Line Screening, a for-profit provider of ultrasound scanning for early detection of strokes and osteoporosis.

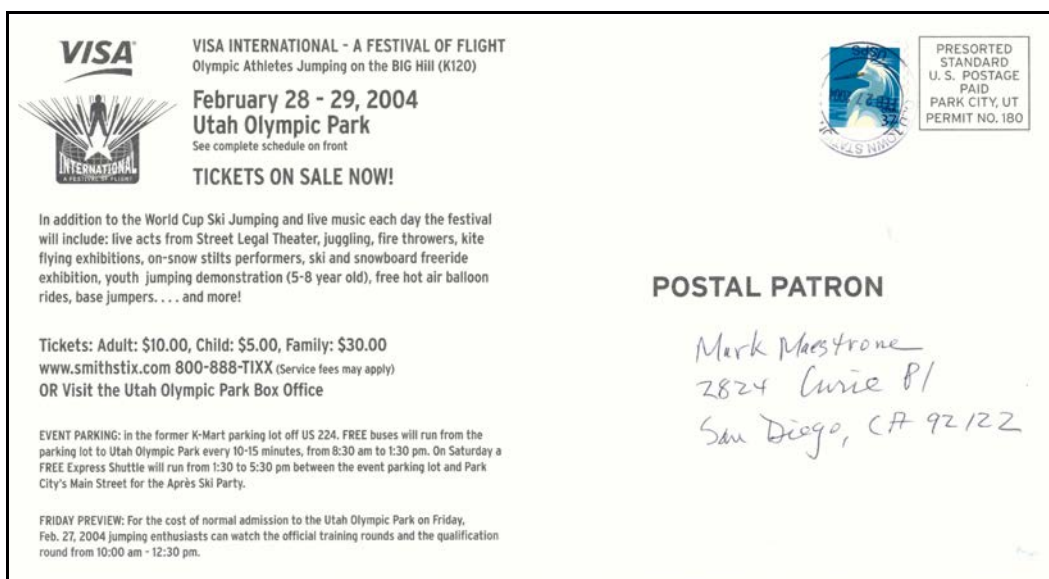
This envelope, which bears Peggy's color image right on the envelope, is also interesting for another reason – the personalized Post-It Note stuck to the outside of the envelope. This is a relatively new advertising gimmick designed to draw a recipient's attention, enticing them to open that piece of mail.

Referred to by the U.S. Postal Service as "Repositionable Notes," or RPN's for short, they were sanctioned for use beginning April 2, 2003. Since there is no additional mailing cost to direct mailers when enhancing their envelopes with RPN's, this cover doesn't fall into a special rate category. Nevertheless, it is a different kind of sport and Olympic-related postal history.

The moral of this story: check your junk mail for gems as you never know what you may find!

While on a skiing pilgrimage to Salt Lake City in 2004, Norm Jacobs discovered the interesting oversized post card shown above and below (it measures a whopping 11" wide by 6" high). Advertising the Visa International "Festival of Flight" – a stop on the Ski Jumping World Cup circuit – the card was evidently mailed to all postal patrons in the area. Norm managed to secure a few and remail them from the Old Town branch post office in nearby Park City, Utah on February 27, the day prior to the start of the competition. A 37¢ stamp was necessary since the preprinted indicium paid postage only for the original mailing.

In a thematic collection on the 2002 Olympics this piece provides a fitting epilogue to the central story of the Games.



NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Margaret Jones

New Members

2238 Orval F. Hart, 406 Grand Canyon Drive, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544-3646, USA. **General Sports; Olympics.** Email: thebigoh@aol.com

ADDRESS CHANGES

Charles Covell, 207 NE 9th Avenue, Gainesville, Florida 32601-4378, USA.

Larry Langen, 921 Woodland Drive, Moose Lake, Minnesota 55767-9408, USA.

Peter A. Laimins; Ice Hockey web site:

<http://www.laimins.com/stamps>

George Killian (email) gkillian7@aol.com

Dalene Thomas (email) dalene1@champmail.com

Total Membership, December 31, 2004 = 240.

If you have a new or changed e-mail address, please send to: docj3@sportstamps.org

Exhibit Awards

MILCOPEX (Milwaukee, Wisconsin). Claude Giralte obtained vermeil, ATA bronze and American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors award of honor for "Swimming Pool Water Sports".

PENPEX (Redwood City, California). Andrew Urushima won single-frame reserve grand and gold for "The Olympic Jubilee—Lausanne 1944".

STAMPSHOW (Sacramento, California). Michael Jaffe obtained gold for "Waterfowl Hunting Permit Stamps: Federal-State-Tribal".

OLYMPIC GAMES ALBUM PAGES

SPRING SALE - 50% DISCOUNT

- ▶ 1st - 15th Games (Title & 37 pages) \$17.50 (5.00)
- ▶ 16th Games - 1956 (Title & 39 pages) 18.40 (5.00)
- ▶ 17th Games - 1960 (Title & 61 pages) 27.60 (5.50)
- ▶ 18th Games - 1964 (Title & 198 pages) 85.20 (9.50)
- ▶ 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)
- ▶ 23rd Games - 1984 (Title & 386 pages) 164.15 (13.00)
- ▶ 23rd Games - 1984 (Imperfs 143 pages) 65.00 (8.00)

Shipping in (). Visa, MasterCard accepted.
Binders, Dust Cases, Blank Pages also
Available.

Phone: (708) 579-1447 Fax: (708) 579-1473
Web Site: www.albumpublisher.com
E-Mail: album@albumpublisher.com



CUSTOM IMPRESSIONS

P.O. BOX 2286
La Grange, IL 60525-8386

NEW STAMP ISSUES

by John La Porta

Albania: 2004. Athens Oly. 10 lek, Greek statue; 200 lek, ancient Olympian. 350 lek S/S, Olympian & torch.

2004. Euro Soccer Cup. 20, 40, 50 & 200 lek. 350 lek S/S, various soccer scenes.

Algeria: May 21, 2004. 100th Anniversary of FIFA. 5d, soccer player; 24d, "100" with two soccer balls.

Angola: September 30, 2004. Athens Olympics. Two 27kz stamps, basketball player, athlete with ball; two 45kz stamps, runner, volleyball player.

Antigua & Barbuda: November 8, 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. Pane of four \$2, famous players.

November 8, 2004. NBA Basketball. Pane of six showing NBA players.

November 22, 2004. Babe Ruth. Pane of four \$1.80.

November 22, 2004. The Family Circle comic strip. Pane 3, \$2, Billy playing football, Billy in football uniform; Pane 5, Billy and friends playing football.

Australia: October 12, 2004. Australian Heroes of Grand Prix Racing. Five 50¢ stamps, Mick Doohan; Troy Bayliss; Wayne Gardner; Daryl Beattie; Garry McCoy. Booklets of 10, 20, coil of 100 self-adhesive.

January 11, 2005. 100th Anniversary Australian Open. 50¢ male tennis player; \$1.80 female tennis player. Prestige booklet contains four panes of stamps.

Austria: January 25, 2005. Provisional. 0.55e and ski jumpers overprinted on 2002 0.73e Austrian scenes stamps, Scott #1872.

Belarus: October 7, 2004. Athens Olympics. S/S of two 500 ruble stamps, gold medal winners.

Belgium: November 22, 2004. Belgian International Sport Champions/Motocross. Pane of 12, 0.50e.

Bhutan: 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. Two 10n stamps, 2002 Brazil team; 10\998 French team.

British Virgin Islands: December 30, 2004. Athens Oly./100th Ann. FIFA. 75¢ Women's soccer; \$1 sprinter.

Canada: January 29, 2005. National Hockey League. Pane of six 50¢ stamps (self adhesive) and souvenir sheet of six 50¢ water activated stamps.

Cape Verde: August 13, 2004. Athens Oly. 10esc, taekwondo; 60esc, gymnastics; 100esc, boxing.

Chinese - Taiwan: October 22, 2004. Athens Olympics. Medal winners. Two \$5 stamps, Chen Shih-hsin Gold; Chu Mu-yen. Gold; \$9 men's team silver, women's team bronze in archery; \$12 award ceremony.

Colombia: December 10, 2004. 17th National Games. 7,000p stamps depicting mascot, balls.

Cook Islands: September 29, 2004. Athens Olympics. 40¢ art poster Barcelona Games; 60¢ Greek art Pancration; \$1 cycling; \$2 medal, Berlin Games.

Costa Rica: July 1, 2004. Athens Olympics. Strip of four 120c stamps: boxing, soccer; javelin throw, long jump, cycling; fencing, gymnastics; taekwondo, archery.

Dominica: November 8, 2004. 100th Ann. FIFA. Pane of four \$2, famous players. 90¢ national team.

Egypt: August 13, 2004. Athens Olympics. 30p, 150p emblem, Olympic Rings.

December 13, 2004. 100th Ann. FIFA. 150p, emblem.

January 22, 2005. Treasures of Egypt booklet, 30p sailboat on Nile; swimming pool.

Ethiopia: September 27, 2004. Athens Olympics. 20¢ runners; 35¢ hammer throw; 45¢ boxers; 3b cycling.

Gambia: October 27, 2004. 100th Ann. FIFA. Pane of four.

November 2, 2004. NBA Basketball. 10d Darko Milici.

November 3, 2004. NBA Basketball Players. Two 10d stamps, Chris Kaman, Andrei Kirilenko.

Greece: 2004. Athens Olympics. Athens Medalists, pane of 16 se-tenant 0.65e stamps.

Grenada: November 1, 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. Pane of four \$2 stamps showing famous players.

November 3, 2004. NBA Basketball Players. 75¢ Pau Gasol.

November 5, 2004. NBA Basketball Players. 75¢ Allen Iverson.

November 6, 2004. NBA Basketball Players. 75¢ Stephon Marbury.

2004. Babe Ruth. Two panes of four \$2 stamps.

Grenada Carriacou & Petite Martinique: October 11, 2004. Carriacou Regatta Festival. Set of three, 90¢ two sailboats; \$1 sailboats in regatta.

November 1, 2004. 100th Anniversary of FIFA. Pane of four \$2 stamps showing famous players.

November 29, 2004. Babe Ruth. Pane of 16 50¢ stamps; pane of four \$2 stamps.

Guyana: September 27, 2004. Euro Cup Soccer. Pane of 4 \$150. Stamps; s/s with \$400 stamp.

September 27, 2004. Athens Olympics. \$60 Stockholm poster; \$80 high jump; \$100 medal; \$200 race.

September 27, 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. Pane of four \$150 stamps depicting famous players.

Iran: August 12, 2004. Athens Olympics. Four 650 riyal: taekwondo; judo; wrestling; weightlifting.

September 17, 2004. 12th Paralympic Games. 650r volleyball.

Ivory Coast: August 13, 2004. Athens Olympics. 50fr runners; 100fr wrestling; 250fr torch runner; 825fr discus thrower.

Jamaica: August 24, 2004. Athens Olympics. \$30 hurdler; \$60 runners; \$70 swimmer; \$90 shooting, badminton.

Korea, North: August 10, 2004. Athens Olympics. Pane of 8 with four designs, 3w boxing; 12w soccer; 85w track & field; 140w gymnastics. Booklet of four stamps.

Kyrgyzstan: December 4, 2004. Basketball. 1.50s, 3.60s basketball scenes.

Lebanon: 2004. Fagra Ski Resort. \$500 resort.

Liberia: December 13, 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. Pane of four \$30: famous players. S/S with \$90 stamp.

Luxembourg: December 7, 2004. Sports. 0.50+.05e skiing; 0.60+0.10e running; 0.70+0.10e swimming; 1e+0.25e soccer.

Maldives: September 30, 2004. Athens Olympics. 2rf Gold medal from 1904; 5rf Greek vase showing athletes; 17rf Jean de Beaumont, IOC member 1951-90; 12rf gymnast.

Mexico: August 12, 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. 11.50p boys with soccer ball.

August 13, 2004. Athens Olympics. 10.50p Greek athletes.

Micronesia: 2004. Euro Cup Soccer. Pane of four se-tenant 80¢: 1992 Denmark-Germany, Lars Olsen; Peter Schmeichel; Nya Ullevi Stadium.

November 1, 2004. Athens Oly. 37¢ equestrian statue; 55¢ pin and label; 80¢ Pierre de Coubertin; \$1 poster.

November 1, 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. Four 80¢ stamps showing famous players.

November 2, 2004. NBA Basketball. 20¢ Nowitzki.

November 3, 2004. NBA Basketball Players. 20¢ Carter.

Monaco: December 3, 2004. Louis II Stadium. 0.50e view of stadium.

December 3, 2004. 75th Anniversary World Soccer Cup. Se-tenant pair of 1e stamps.

Mongolia: August 13, 2004. Athens Olympics. 100t judo; 200t wrestling; 300t boxing; 400t shooting.

October 4, 2004. 100th Ann. FIFA. Two 50t stamps, two 100t, two 150t, two 200t, various soccer scenes.

Montserrat: December 24, 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. \$6 national soccer team.

New Zealand: December 1, 2004. Extreme Sports. 45¢ whitewater rafting; 90¢ snowboarding and skiing; \$1.35 skydiving; \$1.50 jet boating; \$2 bungee jumping. Booklet contains six s/s each containing one different stamp.

Nevis: November 29, 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. Pane of four \$2 stamps showing famous players.

November 29, 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. Souvenir sheet with \$6 stamp.

Nigeria: August 2004. Athens Olympics. 50n runners; 120n basketball.

Nepal: September 24, 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. 20re soccer scene.

Palau: October 27, 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. Pane of four 80¢ stamps showing famous players.

Philippines: August 13, 2004. Athens Olympics. 6p shooting; 17p taekwondo; 21p swimming; 22p archery; s/s with 22p stamp, boxing.

Qatar: December 10, 2004. 17th Arabian Gulf Cup. Five 1.50r stamps, various soccer scenes.

December 31, 2004. 15th Asian Games. Booklet of six.

St. Kitts: 2004. Euro Cup Soccer. Pane of four \$2 stamps; s/s with \$5 stamp.

November 8, 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. Pane of four \$2 stamps showing famous players. S/S with \$6 stamp.

St. Pierre & Miquelon: November 25, 2004. Soccer Jubilee. 0.44e soccer scene.

St. Vincent: October 27, 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. Pane of four \$2 stamps; s/s with \$5 stamp. 70¢ national soccer team.

November 2, 2004. NBA Basketball Players. 75¢ Gary Payton.

November 3, 2004. NBA Basketball Players. Two 75¢ stamps. LeBron James; Adonal Foyle.

November 9, 2004. NBA Basketball Players. 75¢ Peja Stojakovic.

Sierra Leone: November 2, 2004. NBA Basketball Players. 700 L Kobe Bryant.

November 4, 2004. NBA Basketball Players. 700 L Carmelo Anthony.

November 6, 2004. NBA Basketball Players. 700 L Yao Ming, Jermaine O'Neal.

Slovakia: October 20, 2004. Athens Olympics. Medalists Two s/s of 8sk stamps; two s/s of 14sk stamps; two s/s of 20sk stamps.

South Africa: May 15, 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. Souvenir sheet with 4.35r stamp, soccer player, ball.

August 13, 2004. Sports. 10 non-denominated stamps, equestrian sports; boxing; cycling; canoeing; running; archery; swimming; rhythmic gymnastics; soccer; tennis.

Switzerland: November 23, 2004. International Year of Sport. 1.80f athletes in action.

Tajikistan: September 15, 2004. Athens Olympics. Pane of eight se-tenant stamps (perf and imperf) 30d wrestling; 45d running; 55d basketball; 60d shooting; 75d equestrian events; 80d archery; 1.50s soccer; 2.50s gymnastics.

Togo: August 25, 2004. Athens Olympics. 50fr equestrian race; 300fr 1960 Rome medal; 450fr 1960 Squaw Valley Games; 500fr diver.

Turkey: August 13, 2004. Athens Olympics. 600,000 liras wrestling; two 700,000 liras weightlifting, running; 800,000 liras wrestling.

Turkish Rep. Of Northern Cyprus: August 20, 2004. European Soccer Championship. 300,000 liras; 1,000,000 liras stadium scenes.

September 24, 2004. Athens Olympics. Se-tenant pair 300,000 liras basketball, yachting; boxing, equestrian; 500,000 lira pair, weightlifting; gymnastics; kayaking; tennis.

Tuvalu: November 8, 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. Pane of four \$1 stamps showing famous players.

Union Island: November 25, 2004. Babe Ruth 75¢ Babe Ruth in uniform.

Uruguay: October 5, 2004. 100th Anniversary FIFA. 37p emblem, stadium.

France and Colonies Proofs & Essays

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archery | <input type="checkbox"/> High Jump | <input type="checkbox"/> Skating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball | <input type="checkbox"/> Hockey | <input type="checkbox"/> Skiing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball | <input type="checkbox"/> Hurdles | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boxing | <input type="checkbox"/> Javelin | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cycling | <input type="checkbox"/> Judo | <input type="checkbox"/> Track |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian | <input type="checkbox"/> Martial Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fencing | <input type="checkbox"/> Olympics | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Sports |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golf | <input type="checkbox"/> Sailing | <input type="checkbox"/> Weightlifting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gymnastics | <input type="checkbox"/> Scuba | <input type="checkbox"/> Wrestling |

Topicals in Award Winning Varieties & Approvals

<http://www.ejmcconnell.com>

Credit cards accepted Mastercard, VISA, AMEX



E. J. McConnell, Inc.

P.O. Box 683 • Monroe, NY 10950

FAX (845) 782-0347 • mcconn1@warwick.net



COMMEMORATIVE STAMP CANCELS

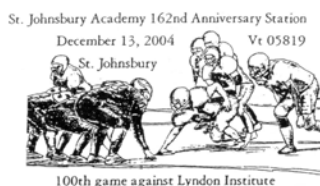
by Mark Maestrone

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 DEC. 2004 - FEB. 2005

Baseball: 05114-530
Football: 04Z13-058, 05206-322.
Ice Hockey: 05102-582, 05222-129
Olympics, Special: 05131-049.
Olympics, Winter: 05212-129,
05222-129, 05223-129.
Skating, Speed: 05223-129.



04Z13-058 St. Johnsbury, VT 13



HOCKEY STATION
GRAND FORKS ND 58201
JANUARY 2, 2005

05102-582 Grand Forks, ND 2-4



05114-530 Lannon, WI 14



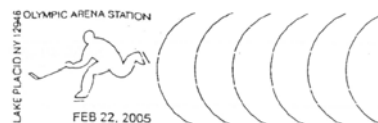
05131-049 Carrabassett Vy., ME 31



05206-322 Jacksonville, FL 6



05212-129 Lake Placid, NY 12



05222-129 Lake Placid, NY 22



05223-129 Lake Placid, NY 23-24



2005 SPI Convention

TEXPEX 2005

Dallas, Texas ~ April 8-10

Schedule of Events*

Friday, April 8



TEXPEX 2005
BEST STAMP SHOW IN TEXAS
EXHIBITION STATION
APRIL 8, 2005
DALLAS TEXAS 75244

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 11:00 AM | Show Opens |
| 2:00 PM | Seminar: "World's First Baseball Stamp" with Tom Koch |
| 6:00 PM | Show Closes |
| Evening | TBD (SPI Dinner and/or Event) |



Saturday, April 9



TEXPEX 2005
BEST STAMP SHOW IN TEXAS
EXHIBITION STATION
APRIL 9, 2005
DALLAS TEXAS 75244

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 10:00 AM | Show Opens |
| 11:00 AM | "Conversation With An Olympian" featuring 1956 Olympic Silver Medalist, Eddie Southern |
| 2:00 PM | SPI Seminar: Stamp Designer, Bart Forbes |
| 3:00 PM | Critique of Exhibits |
| 6:00 PM | Show Closes |
| 7:00 PM | Awards Banquet (\$35 per person, reservations at show) |



Sunday, April 10



TEXPEX 2005
BEST STAMP SHOW IN TEXAS
EXHIBITION STATION
APRIL 10, 2005
DALLAS TEXAS 75244

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 10:00 AM | Show Opens |
| 1:00 PM | ATA Meeting/Seminar with Ray Cartier, Executive Director |
| 4:00 PM | Show Closes |

* Times subject to change



Doubletree Hotel Dallas Near the Galleria
(formerly the Renaissance Dallas North Hotel)
4099 Valley View Lane, Dallas, TX 75244
Tel: 972-385-9000; Fax: 972-458-8260
Show rates are \$89 single/double





Olympic Games Memorabilia

Auctions

Want List Service

Appraisal Service

Exhibit Service

Always buying and selling
Torches, Winners' and Participation Medals,
Pins, Badges, Diplomas, Posters, Official Reports,
Programs, Tickets, Souvenirs.
Three Auctions per Year - Catalogs available.

Ingrid O'Neil

Sports & Olympic Memorabilia

PO Box 872048
Vancouver WA 98687 USA
www.ioneil.com

Tel. 360.834.5202
Fax 360.834.2853
ingrid@ioneil.com