

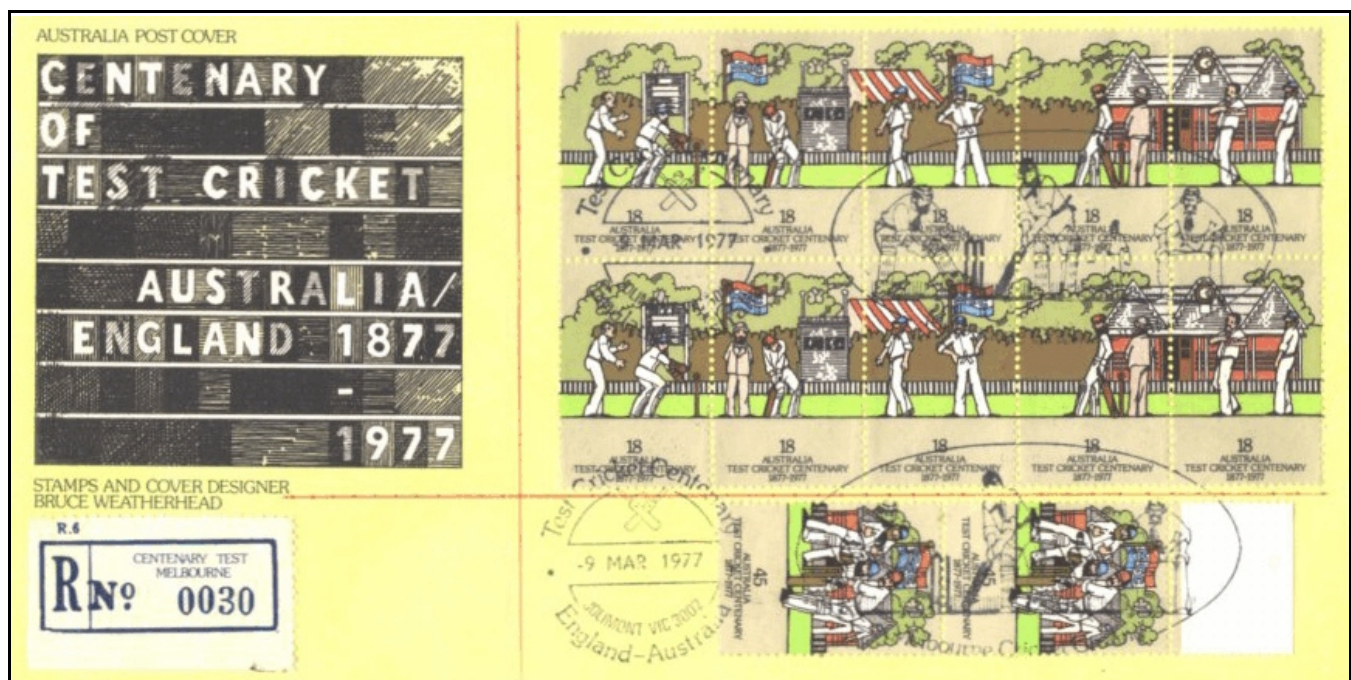
# JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

VOLUME 44

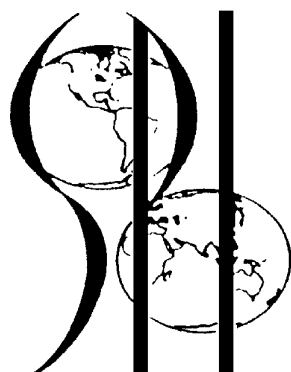
WINTER 2005

NUMBER 2

## Cricket & Philately



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PHILATELISTS  
INTERNATIONAL

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## SPORTS PHILATELISTS INTERNATIONAL

<b>President:</b>	Mark C. Maestroni, 2824 Curie Place, San Diego, CA 92122
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Charles V. Covell, Jr., 207 NE 9th Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601
<b>Secretary-Treasurer:</b>	Andrew Urushima, 1510 Los Altos Dr., Burlingame, CA 94010
<b>Directors:</b>	Norman F. Jacobs, Jr., 2712 N. Decatur Rd., Decatur, GA 30033
	John La Porta, P.O. Box 98, Orland Park, IL 60462
	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
<b>Auction Manager:</b>	Dale Liljedahl, P.O. Box 543125, Dallas, TX 75354
<b>Membership:</b>	Margaret A. Jones, 5310 Lindenwood Ave., St. Louis, MO 63109
<b>Public Affairs:</b>	Bernard McGovern, 2107 Marianna Street, Tampa, FL 33612
<b>Sales Department:</b>	John La Porta, P.O. Box 2286, La Grange, IL 60525

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<b>Publisher:</b>	John La Porta, P.O. Box 98, Orland Park, IL 60462
<b>Editor:</b>	Mark C. Maestroni, 2824 Curie Place, San Diego, CA 92122
<b>Columnists:</b>	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 98, Orland Park, IL 60462
<b>Ad Manager:</b>	Norman F. Jacobs, Jr., 2712 N. Decatur Rd., Decatur, GA 30033
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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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by Mark Maestrone

Another year has come and gone. And while this wasn't an Olympic Year, it nonetheless provided us with some excitement as we watched our British cousins across the Atlantic snatch the next big Olympic prize – the 2012 Summer Olympic Games – from a handful of equally worthy candidate cities. No doubt we will see a modest sprinkling of philatelic items over the ensuing seven years leading up to London's Games.

And of course 2006 looks to hold plenty of excitement for Olympic philately as Turin celebrates the next Winter Games from February 10-26. As I write this column, the Olympic Torch Relay has just begun to wend its way across Greece from Ancient Olympia to Athens, and then on to Rome where on December 8 an 11,000 km relay will kickoff a visit of the Olympic Flame to all corners of the Italian peninsula and nearby islands of Sardinia and Sicily.

Closer to home, philatelists of all stripes from around the world will descend on our nation's capital for the decennial U.S. international, Washington 2006. Exhibitor notifications have been mailed with SPI members well-represented. I know of at least three sport or Olympic philatelic exhibits and one literature exhibit that have been accepted for competition.

I would like to encourage all members to help publicize sport and Olympic philately to the thousands of exhibition visitors by participating in assembling our own Society Frame. There's no cost to you and very little effort involved. Board member Patricia Loehr is coordinating the pro-

ject. Please contact her directly by writing to: 2603 Wauwatosa Ave., #2, Wauwatosa, WI, 53213 or by email at [patloehr@mcw.edu](mailto:patloehr@mcw.edu).

I received very few replies to my invitation in the Fall issue to attend a more formal gathering of SPI members during Washington 2006. As a consequence, it isn't feasible to set up a society lunch or dinner. However, we do still intend on getting together informally for dinner at an area restaurant (I'm tentatively thinking in Georgetown) the first weekend of the show (either May 27 or 28). If you would like to join us, please let me know so we can arrange for enough tables. I'll have more information in the Spring issue of the journal.

With this issue of *JSP* we are pleased to include Part 3 of the Sherwin Podolsky auction. Those who have bid in the first two auctions of this wonderful collection have come away with some terrific material at prices well below those of the big auction houses (plus SPI has no buyer's premium). Take a few moments and peruse the offerings. I'm sure you'll find just the right gem for your collection or exhibit!

With the holidays upon us, the Officers and Board of Directors of Sports Philatelists International would like to extend best wishes to you and your family for

*A Beautiful Holiday Season  
and New Year of  
Peace and Happiness!*

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

**Mark Maestrone:** [markspi@prodigy.net](mailto:markspi@prodigy.net)

**Charles Covell:** [covell@louisville.edu](mailto:covell@louisville.edu)

**Andrew Urushima:** [aurushima@yahoo.com](mailto:aurushima@yahoo.com)

**Norman Jacobs:** [nfjr@comcast.net](mailto:nfjr@comcast.net)

**John La Porta:** [album@comcast.net](mailto:album@comcast.net)

**Dale Lilljedahl:** [dalij@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dalij@sbcglobal.net)

**Patricia Ann Loehr:** [patloehr@mcw.edu](mailto:patloehr@mcw.edu)

**Bernard McGovern:** [bmcgo10483@aol.com](mailto:bmcgo10483@aol.com)

**Robert Wilcock:** [bob@towlard.freemove.co.uk](mailto:bob@towlard.freemove.co.uk)

**Margaret Jones:** [docj3@sportstamps.org](mailto:docj3@sportstamps.org)

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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by Mark Maestrone

## London 2012 SmartStamps

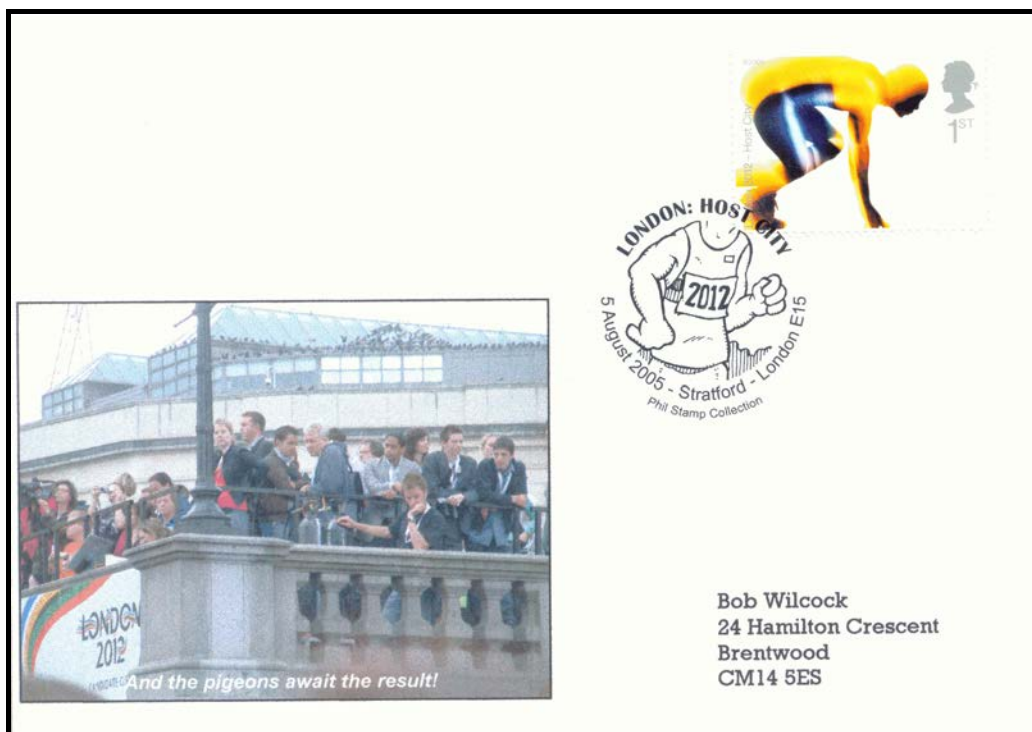
I should like to clarify some aspects of your explanation of SOC's "SmartStamps" on page 7 of the Fall 2005 issue of *JSP*. As you say, SmartStamps are an official Royal Mail service, similar to services offered by an increasing number of postal administrations. SOC established close relations with the London 2012 Bid Committee and as a result were able to obtain permission to use their logo (but excluding the Olympic Rings) and their official images. All SOC's London 2012 SmartStamps have been approved by London 2012, so they have an 'official' status in that respect. The full-color SmartStamp shown at Figure 8 of the article, and the envelope cachet were adapted by myself from the official images available on the London2012.com website. Bob Farley designed the 'Congratulations' SmartStamp at Figure 9.

The 'Congratulations' SmartStamp was not created in very limited quantities: SOC policy is to avoid exclusive 'specials' available only to a select few. All 14 issues have had a run of at least 50

examples up to over 200. Both examples illustrated are still available from SOC, but some earlier SmartStamps have sold out. What was limited was the number of 'Congratulations' SmartStamps bearing the date 6 July - the software required them to be printed on 5 July, the day before the decision was made. Just 10 were done 'in hope'. As soon as the decision was announced a large run was done, with the SmartStamp dated 7 July. The covers all received a circular date stamp to show that they were in fact mailed on 6 July. It is these latter that are readily available to buy.

Readers may be interested to know that in their haste, London 2012 and Royal Mail did not follow the usual procedures to obtain IOC permission to use the word 'Olympic' on the miniature sheet. Thus the word is missing from the stamps and publicity material, and from the many special postmarks (with the exception of two, one from Olympic Way, Wembley, London, and one from the Society of Olympic Collectors).

*Bob Wilcock, Vice-Chairman SOC*



***A First Day cancel of the London 2012 Host City stamp on August 5, 2005.***





**Figure 1.** Postcard showing an early nineteenth century cricket match in Antigua.

## Cricket & Philately

**“Cricket is first and foremost a dramatic spectacle”**  
**C.L.R. James in “Beyond a Boundary”**

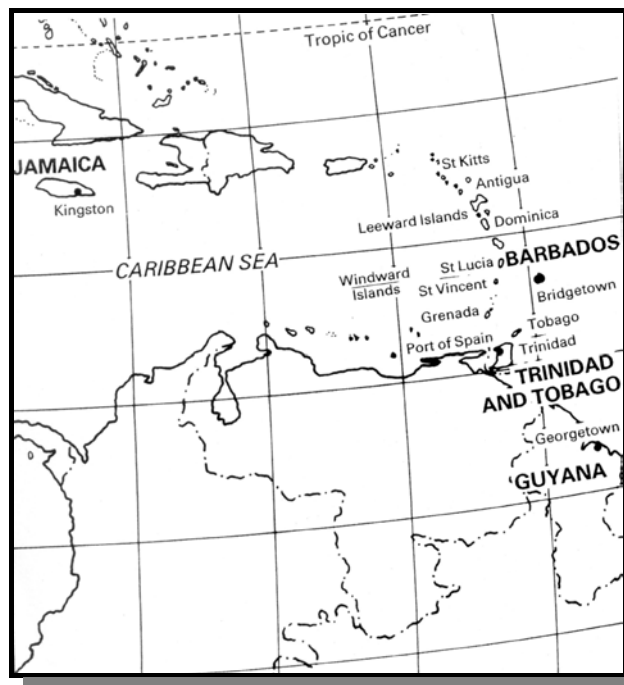
by Peter N. Street

**T**he West Indies as a cricketing entity is unusual in that all other Test playing nations are single countries. The West Indies Cricket Board of Control embraces some dozen or so countries, all islands except Belize and Guyana. These territories are creations of empire, conquest and colonization. They are almost unique in contemporary history in that not one of them is inhabited by indigenous people who were there before Columbus stumbled upon the Caribbean in 1492.

### KING SUGAR

Little did Christopher Columbus know how he would shape the future of the Caribbean when he brought the first sugar cane plants from the Canary Islands on his second voyage in 1493.

In 1494 the Treaty of Tordesillas gave carte blanche for the Spanish to exploit the Caribbean resources. By the middle of the sixteenth century, sugar, and its by-products rum and molasses,



**Figure 2.** The British West Indies.

became the dominant agricultural product as it sought to replace honey for the sweet-toothed Europeans. In order to make the production of sugar economically viable vast quantities of cheap labor were required.

Initially the Spanish enslaved the indigenous peoples, the Arawak and Carib Indians. However by the mid-1500s these people had almost been destroyed by brutality and diseases brought by the European settlers. To replace these native peoples, the plantation owners started to import black slaves from West Africa.

### **BRITISH DOMINANCE**

The defeat of the Spanish Armada by Britain's Royal Navy in 1588 heralded the decline of Spanish sea power. By the early 1600s the other three great European powers, England, France and Holland, started to colonize the islands. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, there was almost continuous conflict between these European powers. However victories by the British insured their dominance in the region. The Napoleonic Wars in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and the eventual defeat of Napoleon in 1815 caused a major shift in control of many of the Caribbean colonies. Between 1782 and 1815, Trinidad, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent, all came under permanent British governance. Barbados and Antigua never changed hands.

In 1834 Britain abolished slavery in its Caribbean colonies and, quite naturally, the African slaves abandoned the sugar estates in droves. To replace them the plantation owners imported European immigrants and East Indians as indentured laborers. This explains why although many West Indian cricketers have English secondary names (Roberts, Richardson, Haynes, etc) some like 1950s spin bowler Sonny Ramadhin and current West Indian national captain Shivnarine Chanderpaul have East Indian names.

### **THE EVOLUTION OF CRICKET**

As the great sugar plantations on the territories of the British West Indies were formed they began to create the basis of a plantocracy.

At their head were the planters themselves and just below them were the support staff consisting of managers, lawyers, doctors, merchants and colonial

administrators. They were almost all white and most came from England. Schools were built for their children. Teachers were imported from England to ensure British values would be absorbed by the young. These values included sports and that most English of games, cricket.

In addition, each colony had its complement of the British Army and they introduced the game. It was very popular with the officer corps as a relief from the tedium of garrison life. The Royal Navy had bases in Antigua and Barbados and they too provided competition.

Bowling was more arduous than batting. The sons of the slaves would bowl to the sons of the slave owners in batting practice. Some of the slaves would practice batting in their spare time. In due course the Caribbean populations – black, brown and white – learned cricket.

In the early days of the sport in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, cricket was organized around schools to which the sons of the planters and middle class were sent. After graduation, these young men would join clubs. By the beginning of the nineteenth century there was competition between a network of clubs in each colony. The postcard illustrated in Figure 1 shows an early nineteenth century cricket match in Antigua. By the middle and late nineteenth century the first inter-colonial games were being played and tours outside the region were undertaken.

As we will see later, the quality of play had improved by the late nineteenth century to such an extent that the West Indians could compete with touring teams from England.

In the early twentieth century several successful tours of England ensured that the West Indies were granted Test match status in 1928.

Although their standard of play has diminished somewhat in recent years the West Indies have proved themselves worthy opponents especially in the 1970s and 1980s when they dominated world cricket.

If in fact C.L.R. James' statement noted at the beginning of this article is true, then a dramatic spectacle needs a stage. That stage in cricket is the cricket ground.

This article discusses some of the more famous cricket grounds in the British West Indies and gives brief biographies of some of the cricket heroes who have had stands and pavilions named in their honor. Figure 2 is a map of the various British Caribbean islands covered in the article.

## TRINIDAD: THE QUEEN'S PARK OVAL AND THE SAVANNAH

The Queen's Park Oval in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad has a spectacular setting. It is dominated by the Northern Range of mountains in the lee of the Belmont Hills which are heavy with luxurious tropical vegetation. It is considered one of the most beautiful grounds in the Caribbean and is the only one that can accommodate over 20,000 spectators.



**Figure 3. Sir Pelham Warner, an early tourist to the West Indies.**

In 1897 Lord Hawke's team from England visited the island and one of the team, Pelham Warner (later Sir Pelham and an English national Captain) (Figure 3) had a very favorable impression of the ground. He wrote in his reminiscences that "... the view from the ground was a perfect amphitheatre of wooded hills from the Laventille Hills to the mountains of the Maravelle Valley."

Alan Ross in his *Through the Caribbean* wrote "The enclosing mountains, densely wooded, of the Northern Range curve round ahead of the pavilion. The various stands are shaded by vast, scarlet flowering tulip trees or overhung by the top heavy filigree of Samans."

The Queen's Park Oval (QPO) is adjacent to the Queen's Park Savannah, a parkland which covers 200 acres on Port-of-Spain's northern edge. The Savannah includes a race course and numerous playing fields. It has been said that thirty cricket matches could be played simultaneously without crowding.

On a personal note, as part of a cruise, my wife and I visited Trinidad. Hoping to see a match at the Oval, I immediately went ashore and made my way through the city to the northwest corner of the Savannah where the Queen's Park Oval is located. On approaching the ground I saw that it was surrounded by a ten-foot high brick wall. Making my way round the perimeter I found several entrances but they were all closed. Despairing of not getting into the ground I at last found an entrance that was open. This gate was near the practice nets and as there was no match I made my way to the business offices of the Queen's Park Club.

There were several people in the offices. I explain that I was off the cruise ship and a big-time cricket fan. They were very helpful giving me several copies of their club magazine and a paperback entitled *Sixty Years of Cricket 1930-1990: Australia versus the West Indies*. I took some photographs and returned to the ship.

Cricket has been played in Trinidad since the early 1800s. In July 1842 the Trinidad Cricket Club was described as "being of very long standing." A representation team from Trinidad played its first inter-colonial match against Demerara (present day Guyana) in 1869. A year previously, in 1868, Queen's Park Cricket Club (QPCC) had taken possession of the St. Claire Oval, as the QPO was known in those days. No precise date for the formation of the QPCC is available but it is conjectured that the Club probably played on the Savannah prior to that date.

In his seminal book on Trinidad cricket *Beyond a Boundary*, C.L.R. James explains how cricket was organized on the island in the early 1900s. The various first-class clubs were organized by social status and color. The QPCC was the most important. It was in charge of cricketing relations with the other islands and visiting international teams. Most of the members were white and wealthy. Shamrock was for the old Catholic families and almost exclusively white, Stingo was for lower-class blacks, Maple for the brown-skinned middle-class and lastly Shannon was for the black lower middle-classes. There were some crossovers however. At that time, for instance, George John (Figure 4), black and a renowned fast bowler was the head grounds man at the QPO.



**Figure 4. George John, QPO's fast bowling groundsman.**

Until recently all Trinidadian cricket was run by the QPCC which owned and operated the QPO. All functions including team selection, umpiring, etc. was controlled by the QPCC Management Committee. In 1988 a Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Council was set up. This Council is run by a board which includes representatives from the various clubs and leagues in the whole country.

In 1928 the West Indies was granted Test status; the first Test match was played at the QPO in February 1930. The match was part of the fourth MCC tour captained by the Honorable F.S.C. Calthorpe.





**Figure 5. The Queen's Park Oval.**

For many years QPO had a coconut fiber matting wicket even when other West Indian grounds were converting to turf. In 1935 jute was used and it was not until 1954 that a turf wicket was installed.

Up until 1981 when the Recreation Ground in Antigua (see Leeward Islands below) was granted Test ground status, the QPO was given two Test matches in a five Test series. In modern times, in addition to Test matches and first-class matches against touring sides, the QPO is also used for domestic competitions like the Red Stripe and Carib Beer Cups.

In addition to cricket the QPO is also used for football (soccer). In February 2005 the ground hosted the Soccer World Cup Qualifying round between Trinidad and Tobago and the USA. The USA won 2-1.

Two famous Trinidadian cricket players, Jeff Stollmeyer and Learie Constantine, have spectator stands named after them.

The QPO was shown as the background on a souvenir sheet issued on October 4, 1976 by Trinidad and Tobago to commemorate the winning of the first Cricket World Cup (JSP, March-April 1989) (Figure 5). The Queen's Park Savannah has been featured

on a definitive stamp from three different British monarchs King George V (Figure 6a), King George VI (Figure 6b) and Queen Elizabeth II (Figure 6c).

### **Jeffrey Stollmeyer (1921-1989)**

Selected to play for the West Indian national team at the tender age of 18 years and 105 days, Jeffrey Baxter Stollmeyer was born in Santa Cruz, Trinidad on April 11, 1921.

Stollmeyer was a graceful, high scoring right hand opening batsman and occasional leg-spin bowler. He showed early promise at his school, Queen's Royal College, and made his Test match debut as a member of the 1939 West Indian tour to England. His selection was based mainly on a century he made on his maiden first-class innings for Rolf Grant's XI against British Guiana (now Guyana) at Bourdra a few months earlier.

Stollmeyer opened the innings in all three Test matches in England and finished the tour with a creditable average of 26 runs. His innings included the substantial partnerships with George Headley, at that time the West Indies leading batsman.

The advent of World War II in 1939 meant that West Indian cricket was restricted to regional goodwill tournaments. Stollmeyer's success in these matches meant he was an automatic choice for the West Indian national team when hostilities ceased. Thereafter he established a sound opening partnership with Jamaican left-hander Allan Rae.

Stollmeyer played for Trinidad in regional competition from 1938-39 to 1954-55. His Test match career included tours to England (1939 and 1950), Australia (1951-52), New Zealand (1951-52) and India (1948-49).

Stollmeyer was the vice-captain of the West Indians on their 1951-52 tour of Australia and led the



**Figure 7. Jeff Stollmeyer, West Indies captain and administrator.**



**Figure 6. The Queen's Park Savannah under three monarchs: (left to right) King George V, King George VI, and Queen Elizabeth II.**



team for the Sydney Test when his captain, John Goddard, was indisposed. He captained his national side when the Indians toured in 1953 and again against the English tourists in 1954.

Stollmeyer retired from Test cricket in 1955 and from first-class cricket in 1957. Stollmeyer played in 32 Test matches (13 as captain) and finished his 56 innings with a highest score of 160 and an average of 42.33. His first-class average was slightly higher at 45.13 and included 14 centuries.

Upon retirement, he managed his family's cocoa, coffee and citrus plantations in northern Trinidad. The expertise gained from these endeavors led to his appointment to the Trinidad and Tobago Senate between 1961-1971 and to the boards of several major Trinidadian companies.

On the cricketing side Stollmeyer became a selector for the national side, touring team manager and President of the West Indian Cricket Board of Control. When he retired from the Presidency in 1981, the game in the West Indies was thoroughly professional, open to all classes and players commanded fees comparable to the salary of the Prime Minister.

In the early 1970s, Stollmeyer sold his family estates and moved to Trinidad's capital, Port-of-Spain. He died in a Miami, Florida hospital on September 10, 1989 never having recovered from injuries suffered in an attack by armed bandits at his home in Port-of-Spain.

The stand at Queen's Park Oval was dedicated to his memory in February 1990.

Jeffrey Stollmeyer was one of Trinidad and Tobago's featured players on the 6 June 1988 omnibus issue for the Diamond Jubilee Test series (Figure 7).

### ***Learie Constantine (1901-1971)***

Representing the complete cricketer to those living outside the Caribbean, Learie Constantine was probably the best known West Indian of his generation. One of the most dynamic cricketers of all time he was the consummate all-rounder, a dazzling and unorthodox batsman, a dangerous attacking fast

bowler and a superb fielder – arguably the best ever.

Learie Nicholas Constantine was born in Diego Martin, Trinidad in 1901 and made his first-class debut for Trinidad in 1922. That same year he was selected for the West Indian tour of England. His early mentor was his father Lebrun (nicknamed “Old Cons”), a famous cricketer in his own right.

Learie Constantine played for Trinidad from 1921-22 to 1934-35 and for Barbados in 1938-39. His first-class career produced 4,451 runs (average 24.32), 424 wickets and 133 catches.

In those early days cricket for West Indian players was a strictly amateur business and in the 1930s Constantine played professionally in England for Nelson in the Lancashire League. During his tenure, Nelson won the Lancashire League eight times in ten seasons. In 1963 Nelson rewarded its cricket hero with the freedom of the Borough.

His playing of League cricket restricted his Test match appearances to eighteen although he did tour England in 1928 (the West Indies were granted Test Status in 1928), 1933 and 1939 and Australia in 1930-31.

Professional cricket also provided the means for Constantine to study law and in 1954 he was called to the English Bar by the



**Figure 8. Sir Learie Constantine – one of the West Indies' great all-rounders.**

Middle Temple.

He returned to Trinidad and became a Member of Parliament and Minister of Works in the Trinidad government.

His lifelong campaign against color prejudice brought him a knighthood in 1962. He returned to England as High Commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago and in 1969 he was created a Life Peer.

His tie between the Lancashire League and his home country were such that he took the name Baron of Maraval (Trinidad) and Nelson (Lancashire) into his title.

He died in England in 1971. Trinidad awarded him the country's highest honor, the Trinity Cross, posthumously.

Sir Learie has appeared on two stamps. The Leaders of the World series by Nevis on October 23, 1984 (Figure 8a) and the Diamond Jubilee Test series from Trinidad on June 6, 1988 (Figure 8b).



**Figure 9. Kensington Oval, Bridgetown, Barbados.**

#### BARBADOS: THE KENSINGTON OVAL

The Kensington Oval, spectator capacity about 15,000, is situated in the Fontebelle section of Bridgetown. It is dominated by palm trees and the gentle blue sea of the Caribbean.

Alan Ross in his book *Through the Caribbean* describes the ground in the early 1960s "... the pavilion with its green balconies and white beaded back is latched onto various stands that are both gimcrack in appearance and of contrasting and undistinguished design ... tall palms curve round to the south studded here and there with flamboyants and tamarinds ..."

The first newspaper reference to cricket in Barbados was in 1806. The first inter-colonial match was played in 1865 against Demerara (present day Guyana) at the Garrison Savannah, the location of Sir Gary Sobers knighthood in 1975.

The Kensington Oval existed at the end of the

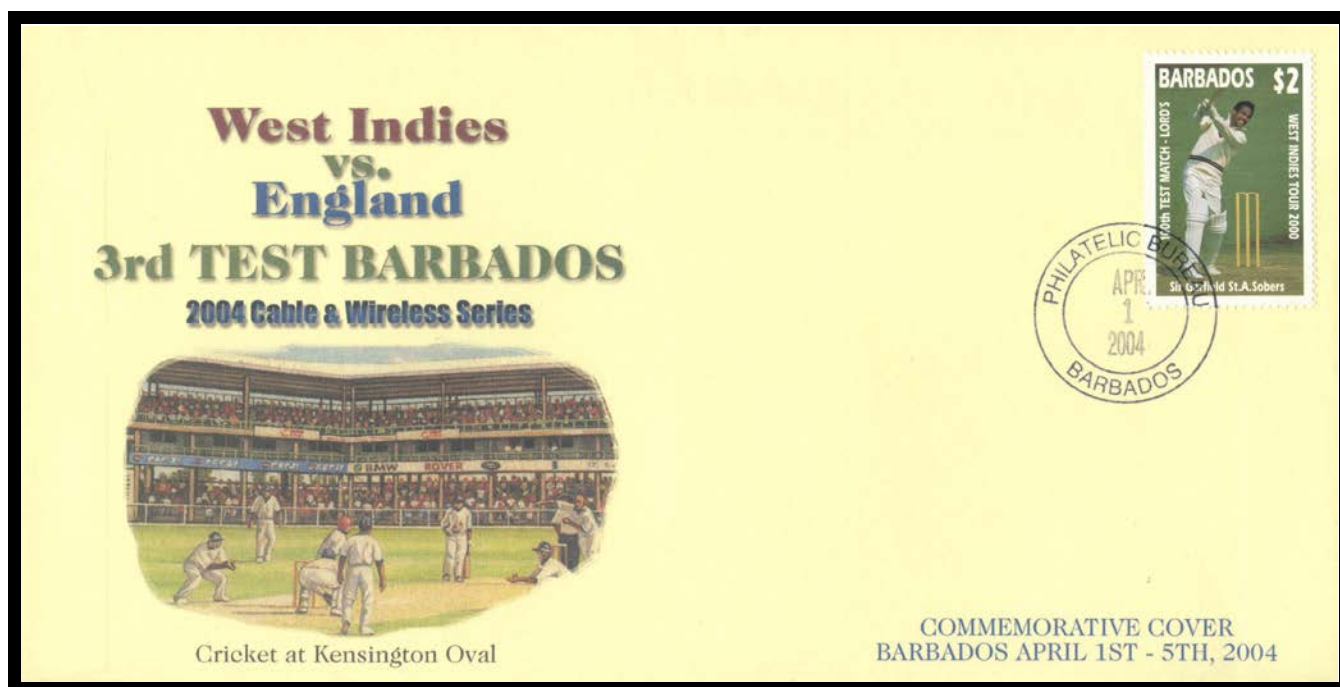
1800s The ground is the headquarters of the Pickwick Cricket Club which was founded in 1882. The club took possession of the ground in that year. When R. Slade Lucas's team from England toured the West Indies in 1895 and played at the Kensington Oval the ground was established as the primary center of the game in Barbados. When the Oval hosted a match in 1897 against Lord Hawke's touring English team, team member Pelham Warner wrote later that he was "suitably impressed with the ground."

As has been noted before, the West Indies was granted Test status in 1928. The first Test match against England was played at the Kensington Oval in 1930.

In the intervening years, in the latter half of the twentieth century, the Oval has become a regular Test and One Day International (ODI) venue. In addition, it is the primary ground for the Barbadian team's inter-island matches in domestic competitions such as the Red Stripe and Carib Cups.

In 2003 the Oval was considered to have the best pitch in the Caribbean. Currently (2005) there is a massive rebuilding program, due for completion in December 2006, in preparation for the final of the 2007 Cricket World Cup.

My wife and I have visited Barbados several times as Bridgetown is a favorite cruise port-of-call. Our first visit was in January 1986.



**Figure 10. Wisden Cricketer of the Twentieth Century, Sir Gary Sobers, on a cacheted cover showing the Kensington Oval.**

As soon as the ship docked, I went ashore and took a taxi to the ground. It was open because although there was no match, the West Indian team was practicing for the next day's ODI. The players, including Viv Richards, were already in the nets which were set up in the outfield. I stayed for a while, took some photographs and returned to the ship.

My second visit to the Oval was in October 2000. Luckily there was a match that day, Pickwick CC versus St. Catherines CC. I watched the first session, took some photographs and returned to the ship.

There are a number of structures on the ground named after famous Barbadian cricketers.

The first stand to be named was the one for George Challenor. This stand was mentioned in Alan Ross' 1960 book *Through the Caribbean*. Other stands are named after the three W's (Frank Worrell, Everton Weekes and Clyde Walcott) and Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Hughes, who also share a stand. The Sir Garfield Sobers Pavilion was opened by the cricketer himself on April 19, 1985 in a ceremony attended by the country's Prime Minister, Bernard St. John and past and present Test match players.

The Kensington Oval has appeared on two stamps. On March 14, 1983 Barbados issued four stamps to celebrate Commonwealth Day. The \$1 value shows some of the spectator stands and a cricket match in progress (Figure 9a). On May 22, 2000 Barbados issued its second stamp featuring the Kensington Oval. It is part of a five issue definitive set entitled "The Pride of Barbados" (Figure 9b).

In addition, a special cover was issued to commemorate the third Test match between England and the West Indies in April 2004. The cachet, entitled "Cricket at Kensington Oval," shows a cricket match in progress. The stamp features favorite son, Sir Garfield Sobers (Figure 10).

### ***George Challenor (1888-1947)***

George Challenor has been described as the "father" of West Indian batting. He was a superb example of cricket's "Golden Age." In his prime he was rated as one of the six best batsmen in the world.

George Challenor was an opening batsman of medium height and powerful build who had command of all the scoring strokes especially on the on-side.

Challenor made his first-class debut in 1905 as



**Figures 11-12. The "Father" of West Indian batting, George Challenor (above). Queen Elizabeth II knight-ing Gary Sobers (right).**



a teenager and made a number of significant scores for both his country, Barbados, and the West Indian national team. In domestic competition playing for Barbados against a strong English touring team in 1912-13 he scored 118 and 109. Seven years later, playing for his club, Wanderers, in two successive finals he made 261, 204 and 133. In the 1926-27 domestic season he hit the then highest score in inter-colonial cricket of 220.

Challenor toured England three times with the West Indian national team (1906, 1923 and 1928). He would certainly have toured more had it not been for the intervention of World War I.

On that 1923 tour he made 1556 runs (average 51.86), third in the first-class averages behind only Englishmen Patsy Hendren and Phil Mead. He was the first West Indian tourist to make 1000 runs in a first-class season. His batting on this tour undoubtedly helped the West Indies to be granted Test status in 1928. Even on the 1928 tour, as a 40-year-old and surely past his best he still exceeded 1000 runs. This included a dashing inning of 46 in the third Test at the Oval against Harold Larwood, England's dominant fast bowler (*JSP*, March/April 1944).

Challenor's Test career was limited to only three and he retired from first-class competition before Test cricket came to the region.

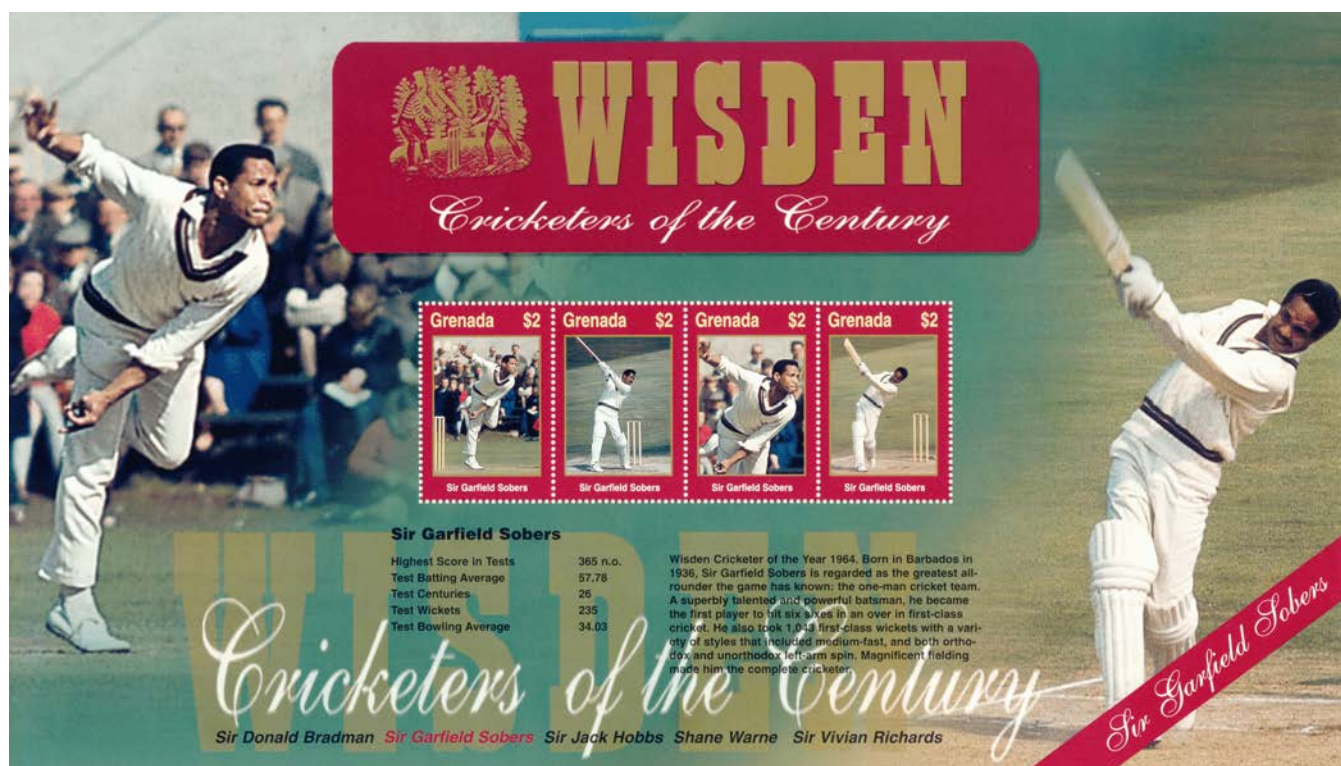
By occupation, Challenor was a school master at Cambermere School and was an early influence on a young Frank Worrell.

George Challenor was one of the five Barbadian cricketers featured in the Diamond Jubilee Test omnibus series issued on June 6, 1988. (Figure 11)

### ***Gary Sobers (b. 1936)***

Selected by *Wisden Cricket Monthly* as one of its Five Cricketers of the Twentieth Century, Gary Sobers is considered the greatest all-rounder the game of cricket has ever known (*JSP*, Sept./Oct. 2001).





**Figure 13. Sir Gary Sobers – cricket’s greatest all-rounder.**

Garfield St. Aubrun Sobers learned the game as a youngster in the streets of St. Michael’s parish in Barbados with his brothers and friends. His first club was Kent from Pennyhole in the parish of St. Phillips. Such was his promise as a bowler that by the age of twelve he was bowling in the nets at the fashionable Wanderer’s Cricket Club.

Sobers’ developing talent was noticed by a police captain and at age 14 he joined the police band as a bugler. This allowed him to play for the Barbados Police Cricket Team. Two years later he was playing for Barbados. At 17 years of age Sobers was playing for the West Indian national team as a spin-bowler. In his first match, playing against England he took 4 wickets for 75 runs. During the next four years his all-round ability was carefully nurtured by the West Indian cricket authorities. In 1957 his batting had developed to such an extent that his first century for the West Indian national side resulted in breaking the world record of 364 made by England’s Len Hutton twenty years earlier. As Sobers’ captain declared as soon as the record was broken with seven wickets in hand, his eventual score would surely have been much higher.

During this period in his development as an all-rounder he added the chinaman and googly to his bowling repertoire Sobers also became a fast bowler able to open the bowling with the new ball. Such

were his capabilities as a bowler that he often included all his styles in one session of play. Sobers’ ability to play the dual bowling role of left arm spinner and fast seam bowler allowed the West Indians to include an extra batsman on their national side.

For the next twenty years Sobers played cricket all over the world for the West Indians against all the Test playing nations. In 1965 he became the West Indian national team captain.

In the 1960s Sobers played for South Australia in the Sheffield Shield competition. In 1968 he became one of the first overseas players brought into the English Country Cricket system when he became captain of Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club.

One of his most famous cricketing exploits during his captaincy of Nottinghamshire was hitting six sixes in one over off Glamorgan bowler Malcolm Nash in September 1968. On a personal note my Florida cricket club made a trip to the San Francisco area in August and September 2003 to play several matches against Marin Cricket Club at their ground at Piper Park in Larkspur. The same Malcolm Nash was visiting the area as a coach for some of the local clubs. He and I umpired one of the matches.

All those years of international cricket took their toll and in 1974 Sobers retired from first-class cricket because of knee troubles.



After his retirement Sobers worked for CARICOM, the federation of Caribbean nations and in the 1980s he was employed by the Barbados Tourist Board.

He toured the world as a cricket ambassador playing in several representative matches. He was knighted in 1975 by Queen Elizabeth II in an open air ceremony in Barbados (Figure 12).

Sobers continues to play a role in the development of cricket in the Caribbean and in this year (2005) he was appointed a consultant by the West Indian Cricket Board.

Gary Sobers has appeared on a number of stamps and souvenir sheets. The one which captures his all-round capabilities the best is the Grenada Cricketers of the Century souvenir sheet which shows him both as a bowler and a batsman (Figure 13).

### ***The Three “W’s”***

In the 1947-48 Test match series between England and the West Indies three outstanding players from Barbados made their Test debuts.

They would become the middle order batsmen for the West Indian national side for several years and remain major figures in world cricket.

Their names were Frank Worrell, Everton Weekes and Clyde Walcott. To cricket lovers throughout the world they would be known simply as “The Three ‘W’s’.”

### ***Frank Worrell (1924-1967)***

The first black man to captain the West Indian national team Frank Mortimer Maglinne Worrell was born on August 1, 1924 at Bridgetown, Barbados.

As a youth Worrell attended Cambermere School which in those days played first-class cricket; both masters and pupils were allowed to play. It was not unusual to have one or more former first-class players on the staff.

Worrell first played for Barbados in 1942 as a slow left arm bowler and later developed into a medium fast bowler. He also established himself as a high scoring batsman. In early 1944, not yet 20 years old, he scored 308 against Trinidad and in partnership with John Goddard made an unbroken fourth wicket partnership of 502 runs.

In 1946 he joined Clyde Walcott in an unbroken stand of 574 runs. Thus while still not quite 21 years old he held two remarkable records: youngest

batsman to score a triple century, and the only batsman in cricket history to be involved in two partnerships of over 500 runs.

Worrell made his Test debut in 1947. After playing for Barbados in the 1941-42 to 1945-46 seasons he moved to Jamaica and played there until the 1961-62 season. In 1948 he signed with the Central Lancashire League Club, Radcliffe in England and played there for several years.

Worrell missed three first-class seasons while studying sociology at Manchester University in England but returned to the national side in 1960 for its tour of England.

Worrell was appointed to the captaincy of his national side for the 1960-61 tour to Australia. It was a most successful tour and, with the co-operation of the Australian captain Richie Benaud, the teams were able to play bright, attractive cricket. When the West Indian team was due to return home from Melbourne it was given a ticker-tape parade.

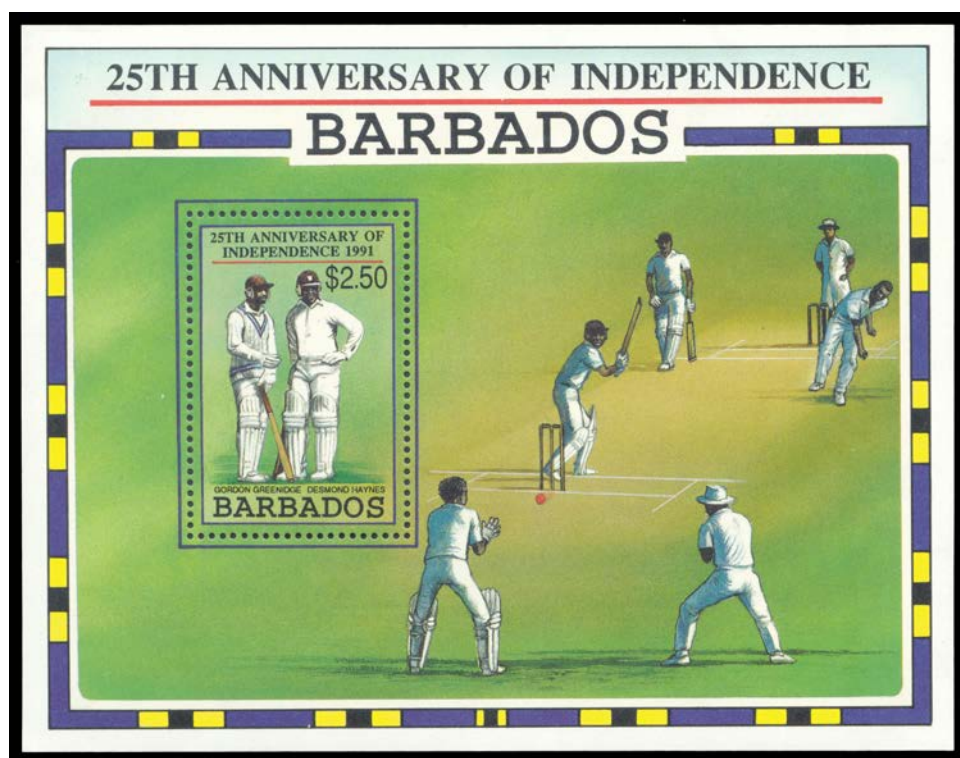
As the captain of the West Indian team Frank Worrell was able to harness the enthusiasm of the players. He was a realist and an idealist and he transferred these qualities to his players. It was the start of a new era for West Indian cricket.

Worrell retired from first-class cricket in 1963. He became a cricket administrator, Warden of the University of the West Indies, a Jamaican senator and a staunch campaigner for civil rights.

He died of leukemia in 1967. There was a state funeral in his native Barbados and he was also given a memorial service in London’s Westminster Abbey. In 1964 Frank Worrell was knighted for his services to cricket.



***Figure 14. Sir Frank Worrell, the West Indies’ first black captain.***



**Figure 16 (above).** Gordon Greenidge, West Indies' opening batsman.

**Figure 15 (left).** Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes conferring at the wicket (illustrated on the stamp with the souvenir sheet).

Sir Frank has appeared on a number of stamps. He was one of the five Barbadian cricketers featured in the Diamond Jubilee Test issue of June 6, 1988 (Figure 14a).

Barbados issued a stamp to commemorate the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Worrell's alma mater, Cambermere School, on July 5, 1995 which featured Sir Frank (Figure 14b).

Worrell's Human Rights contributions were recognized by the Turks and Caicos Islands on December 2, 1980. Unfortunately his surname is spelled incorrectly and the birth date is wrong (Figure 14c).

### ***Everton Weekes (b. 1925)***

An attacking batsman that reminded some cricket followers of the immortal Don Bradman, Everton De Courcy Weekes was born in Bridgetown, Barbados on February 26, 1925.

He came to the fore as a cricketer during service with the Barbados battalion of the Caribbean Regiment. Weekes first played for Barbados in the 1947-48 season and played for them regularly until the 1963-64 season. He replaced Frank Worrell in the Barbadian batting order when the latter moved to Jamaica.

In 1948, Weekes made his Test match debut against the English tourists. From that time on he

was one of the mainstays of the middle batting order. Able to play all types of bowling he passed the true test of a cricket batsman – his Test average was higher than his first-class average. In his 48 Tests he averaged 58.61 runs.

From 1947 until he retired from Test cricket in 1958 he played against all the major cricketing nations both at home and on tour. He also played League cricket in England and toured with various Commonwealth teams. In the late 1960s he even made a goodwill tour to the U.S.A.

After his retirement from Test cricket he continued to play for Barbados captaining the team with considerable success. Upon his retirement from first-class cricket he became the cricket coach for his native Barbados.

In 1995 Weekes was awarded an OBE by Great Britain and knighthood by the West Indies.

### ***Clyde Walcott (b. 1926)***

Tall, powerful and a mighty striker of the ball off the back foot, Clyde Leopold Walcott was born in Bridgetown, Barbados on January 17, 1926.

He was a contemporary of Frank Worrell's at Cambermere School where he was coached by former first-class Barbadian players Derek Sealy and Stan Gittins who were on the staff. Walcott later transferred to Harrison College.

Walcott first played for Barbados as a sixteen-year-old schoolboy in the 1941-42 season. He continued to play for Barbados until the 1953-54 season when he moved to British Guiana (now Guyana) and continued to play there until he retired from first-class cricket in 1963. His role in British Guianian cricket was as organizer and coach on the estates of the British Guiana Sugar Producers' Association.

Walcott made his Test match debut in the 1959-60 season. In this 44 Test matches he scored at an average of 56.88 which included 15 centuries and a highest score of 220.

In the West Indian tour of England in 1957 he was appointed vice-captain. From 1951 to 1954 he played in Lancashire League cricket in England.

At the start of his Test career he was a middle order batsman and a superior wicket keeper able to cope with the spin bowlers of his Test side. A back injury in 1951 caused him to give up keeping and concentrate on his batting.

After his retirement from first-class cricket he managed several West Indian touring sides and held several important positions in public relations in both British Guiana and Barbados. Other honors included an OBE from Great Britain and West Indian knighthood.

### ***Gordon Greenidge (b. 1951)***

Gordon Greenidge and his opening partner Desmond Haynes formed one of the most formidable opening partnerships in West Indian cricket history.

Cuthbert Gordon Greenidge was born in Black Bess, St. Peter, Barbados on May 1, 1951 and lived on the island for the first 14 years of his life. In 1965 his parents moved to England to the small provincial town of Reading in Berkshire where he attended Sutton Secondary School. Within two years he was playing for the English Schools team. In that same year he played several matches for the Berkshire Bantams, essentially the County's youth team. Soon thereafter his cricketing prowess caught the attention of first-class county Hampshire who offered him a contract.

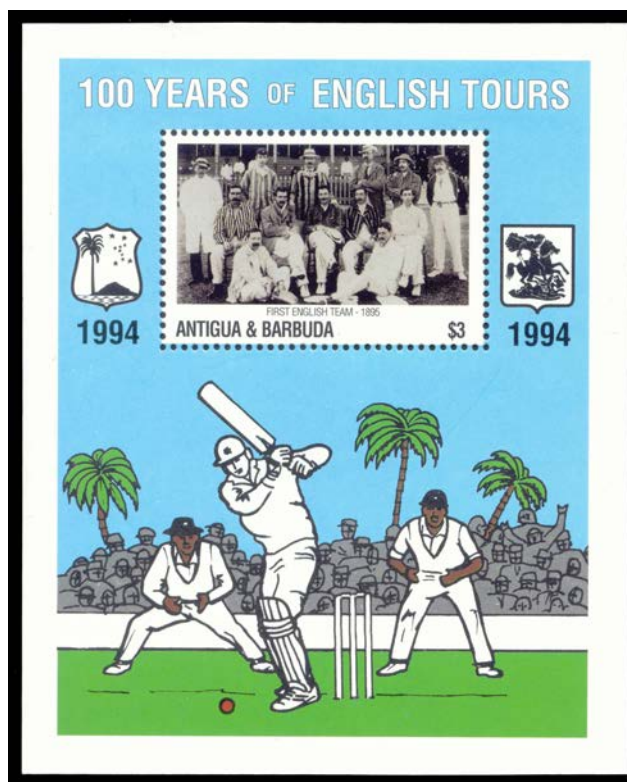
In 1968 and 1969 he refined his craft playing for the Deanery Club and the Hampshire second XI. Greenidge's batting developed to such an extent that in 1970, at the age of 19 he was brought into Hampshire's senior side to open the batting with South African, Barry Richards. At that time Richards was

considered the best batsman of his generation.

In 1972 Greenidge was approached by the English cricketing authorities to make himself available for their Test match side. After much consideration his loyalty of birth won out and he returned to Barbados during the next two English winters to test his future for the West Indies national side. He first played for the West Indies in the domestic 1974-75 season in opening partnership with Roy Fredericks, the dashing left-handed stroke player from Guyana. When Fredericks retired from the international scene, Greenidge found an even more reliable partner in Desmond Haynes. For the next twelve years, from 1978-90 they were the most successful opening partnership in Test match history.

At his physical peak, 5'10½" and 190 lbs., Greenidge tended to attack the bowling from the beginning of the innings. His main scoring strength was the "V" between cover point and mid-wicket and he was capable of scoring from any style of bowling.

On the English domestic scene he continued to play for Hampshire in both its three-day and one-day competitions and by 1979 he held the batting records for every one of the one-day competitions. On the international front, in partnership with Desmond Haynes, he set a number of record partnerships



***Figure 17. R. Slade Lucas's 1895 English Touring side.***





**Figure 18. Photograph of the Richie Richardson Stand, Recreation Ground, St. John's, Antigua.**

against England (298), Australia (250), New Zealand (255) and India (296). In the summer of 1984, touring England, he was top of the West Indian batting with 572 runs at an average of 81.71.

Greenidge continued to play for Barbados and was made captain in the 1982-83 season. In 1991, just a couple of months short of his fortieth birthday he still managed a Test double century (226 not out) against Australia.

He retired from the international scene that same year and from first-class cricket in 1992. During his cricketing career Greenidge has received a number of accolades including being named Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 1977.

He continues to be part of the cricketing scene. In 1999 he was the coach for the Bangladesh team in the Cricket World Cup and in 2002 he was named a West Indian selector.

On November 20, 1991 Barbados issued a souvenir sheet to celebrate its quarter century of independence. The sheet shows a cricket match in progress and Greenidge and Haynes conferring at the wicket (Figure 15).

Gordon Greenidge is also shown on St Vincent's Cricket issue of July 29, 1981 (Figure 16).

### ***Desmond Haynes (b. 1956)***

When Gordon Greenidge retired from Test cricket in 1991, Desmond Haynes paid tribute to his long standing opening partner. He said, in part "Gordon was an influence on me ... just watching from the other end was a lesson in itself ... Gordon taught me an enormous amount about batting as well as professionalism."

Desmond Leo Haynes was born in Holders Hill, St. James, Barbados on February 15, 1956. He made his domestic debut for Barbados in their 1976-77 season. The next season he replaced Roy Fredericks as Gordon Greenidge's opening Test match partner. Haynes was the more cheerful of the two and often wore a broad smile. He wore a gold pendant on his necklace which aptly summed up his life philosophy "Live, Love, Laugh." Haynes played regularly for the West Indies team ending with 116 caps, scoring 7487 runs at 42.49 average with 18 centuries.

He was even more dominant in one-day cricket and upon his retirement from that level he had played in 238 such matches and was the record holder for runs (8648) and centuries (17).

In the 1991 West Indies tour of England, Haynes was vice-captain to Viv Richards and captained the team in Pakistan when Richards was indisposed.

Haynes made his debut in English Country cricket in 1989 when he was signed by Middlesex at the relatively advanced age of 33. It was an impressive debut. He made 1500 championship runs at an average of 45.18. He continued to play for Middlesex until 1994. In 1990 he scored 2346 runs for them with a career best 255 not out at Lords against Sussex. As a member of the Middlesex XI he was able to play on some of the out-of-the-way grounds which he would not see as a West Indian tourist.

He gave high praise to the Uxbridge (Middlesex) ground – hard and bouncy – very much like a West Indian pitch. He described Abergavenny (Glamorgan, Wales) as beautiful and Hastings (Sussex) as also very attractive.

In addition to his batting he was a good fielder close to the wicket, adept at snapping up difficult catches.



**Figure 19. Team photo taken at Nevis' Charles-town Ground.**



In 1981, along with many of his West Indian contemporaries he signed with World Series Cricket (JSP, Fall 2004) and played with them for a year. In the early 1990s he captained Barbados in the Red Stripe Cup series. Upon his retirement from first-class cricket in 1997 he was installed as the head coach of the English County side Sussex. In 1998, at the beginning of the English domestic season he helped Hampshire County Cricket Club and later that season, in August, he joined Northhamptonshire County Cricket Club as a specialist batting coach.

As we have seen from above, Figure 15 shows Desmond Haynes with his long time Test partner Gordon Greenidge.

### THE LEEWARD ISLANDS

The Leeward Islands in the eastern Caribbean extend from Anguilla in the north to Montserrat in the south. From a cricketing viewpoint the Leeward Island Cricket Association (LICA) includes Anguilla, Antigua, Montserrat, Nevis and St. Kitts. The British Virgin Islands' team was added in 1988.

Cricket has been played in the Leeward Islands since at least the late nineteenth century. The first visit by an English team to the West Indies in 1896 included a match at the Recreation Ground, Antigua. The English team was captained by Middlesex amateur R. Slade Lucas (Figure 17). A year later Lord Hawke's team, also from England, included Antigua and St. Kitts in its match itinerary.

In 1914, the Governor of the Leeward Islands, Sir Hesketh Bell, donated the Hesketh Bell Shield for a competition among the various Leeward Islands teams.

From 1966 to 1970 the Leeward Islands joined with the Windward Islands to form the Combined Islands cricket group for several matches. From 1970 to 1982 the Combined Islands entered cricket competition on a full-time basis. In 1982, the Combined Islands separated once again into the Leeward Islands and the Windward Islands.



**Figure 20. Sir Thomas Warner landing on St. Kitts.**

### Anguilla

This small island of only 35 square miles was formerly linked to St. Kitts. In 1979 it participated in the Leeward Islands tournament as a separate team. Anguilla's main ground is Webster Park.

### Antigua

Antigua's main cricket stadium is the Recreation Ground in the capital of St John's. When Pelham Warner visited Antigua with Lord Hawke's team in 1897, he considered the wicket "one of the best we played on in the West Indies." The two main cricket clubs in Antigua are St. John's Cricket Club (home club of Richie Richardson) and the Rising Sun Cricket Club (home club for Viv Richards and Andy Roberts). In 1981, the Recreation Ground was granted Test status primarily based on the cricketing exploits of Richards and Roberts. The inaugural Test at that ground in 1981 was against the English tourists.

Prior to 1981 the Recreation Ground was used for intra and inter island competitions, and matches between the LICA and touring teams including ODIs. Currently the ground is also used for inter island competitions such as the Red Stripe Cup and the Geddes Grant Shield. In 2001 Antigua entered inter-island competition as a separate entity.

The granting of Test status allowed extensive modernization of the Recreation Ground including the addition of two new concrete stands. Currently there are stands in honor of Viv Richards, Andy Roberts and Richie Richardson (Figure 18). The ground staff includes trusted inmates from the island's main prison which is located nearby.

### Montserrat

Teams From Montserrat have played regularly in Leeward Island tournaments since 1913. Montserrat's main ground is at Sturges Park in the capital



**Figure 21. Warner Park, St. Kitts.**



**Figure 22. Cricket pavilion at Warner Park, St. Kitts.**

Plymouth. In 1996 the eruption of the Soufrière volcano caused extensive damage to the island and cricket ground. In 2001 the island enjoyed its first full cricket season since that event and participated in the Red Stripe Bowl domestic one-day competition.

The ground in Salem was granted first-class status in 2001 and hosted the South African touring team in April of that year.

### **Nevis**

Nevis, birthplace of American founding father Alexander Hamilton, was originally part of the St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla Cricket Association. Nevis entered Leeward Islands tournaments in its own right in 1949. Its main ground is at Grove Park where inter-country matches are played in addition to those against overseas touring teams.

On May 1, 1997 Nevis issued a souvenir sheet honoring cricket. The view on the sheet was taken at the Charlestown Ground (Figure 19).

### **St. Kitts**

The island was originally part of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla but became a separate entity in 1979. The main cricket ground, founded in 1928, is Warner Park in the capital of Basseterre. The Park is situated high above the town and commands an extensive view of the harbor and bay. The Park is named after Sir Thomas Warner who founded the colony in 1623. The island was originally named St. Christopher, but is now popularly known as St. Kitts. On January 28, 1973 St. Christopher issued four stamps to commemorate the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landing. Figure 20 shows the actual landing. Sir Thomas is a distant ancestor of Sir Pelham Warner.

Warner Park was included in the itinerary of Lord Hawke's team in 1897. The ground was relaid

in 1961 when a new pavilion was erected for the visit of E.W. Swanton's XI from England. Since then it has been a venue for visits by touring teams from Australia and India as well as inter-island competition.

Warner Park has been featured on two definitive issues noting two monarchs, King George VI (Figure 21b) and Queen Elizabeth II (Figure 21a).

Two recent issues have featured the pavilion. Figure 22a commemorates the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the LICA and Figure 22b celebrates the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II to the British throne.

### **Viv Richards (b. 1952)**

Acknowledged by most as the foremost batsman of his era and another of Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Twentieth Century (*JSP*, November/December 2001), Isaac Vivian Alexander Richards was born on March 7, 1952 at St. John's, Antigua. His cricket pedigree was secure in that his father, Malcolm, was one of the leading fast bowlers of his generation.

His exploits with his home club, The Rising Sun Cricket Club, led to his being selected to play for the Combined Islands (a team composed of the leading players from the Leeward and Windward Islands) against the touring New Zealanders in the 1972 season.

In 1973 Richards was sent to Alf Gover's indoor coaching school in England on public subscription. The next year he was offered a contract by the English County Somerset.

Richards was a surprise choice for the West Indian tour to India and Pakistan in 1973-74. His success on that tour established his position at number three in the formidable West Indian batting order directly behind Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes.

He played for the West Indies in the inaugural Cricket World Cup in 1975. Although his run output was below expectations, his close-to-the-wicket fielding was magnificent.

His efforts helped the West Indies to win the Cup beating Australia in the Final by 17 runs.

He continued to play for Somerset until 1986, often acting as a fifth bowler in their one-day matches.

Richards' run making for the West Indies national team from 1974 to 1976 was not up to his lofty expectations. However in 1976 on the West Indies tour of England, he scored 232 in the first Test at



Trent Bridge, Nottingham and 291 in the fifth Test at the Oval in Surrey. These performances established him as one of the world's leading batsmen.

He was vice-captain to Clive Lloyd's all conquering West Indies team in the late 1970s and early 1980s. In 1982 he became his national team's captain for the home series against New Zealand when Lloyd retired. He led the West Indies on 50 occasions and never lost a series. In 1979 he played a major role in the West Indian retention of the Cricket World Cup beating England in the final by 92 runs.

Richards retired from first-class cricket in 1991. He was the first West Indian to score over one hundred centuries (125).

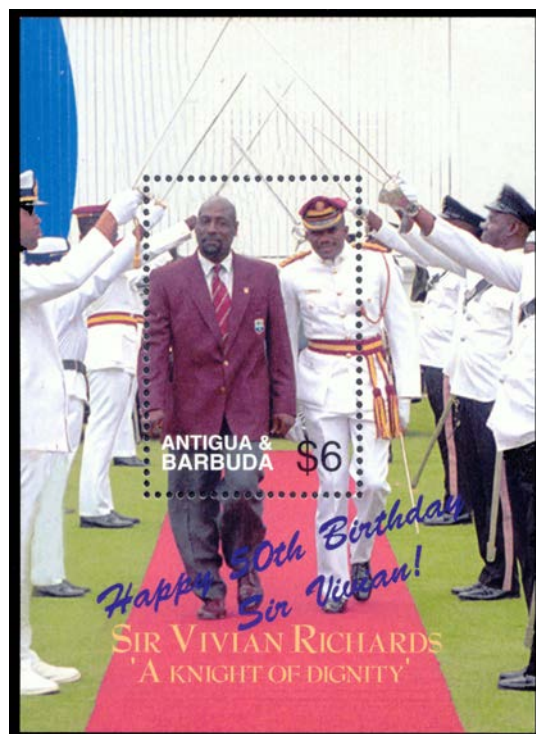
In addition to his cricketing exploits he has always been conscious of civil rights and the problems of the black man. He refused to play in South Africa during the apartheid era even though he was offered a great deal of money. For these activities he was given an OBE in the Queen's honors list and awarded a West Indian knighthood in 1994. The venue he selected for his investiture was his home ground, the Recreation Ground in St. John's, Antigua, where in the 1985-86 season he made the fastest hundred in Test cricket (56 balls).

Sir Vivian continues to play a role in West Indian cricket. From 2002 to 2004 he was the chairman of Selectors for the West Indian national team and in 2004 he set up the Sir Vivian Richards Foundation to help underprivileged youth in Antigua and Barbados. In August 2004 he was a commentator for BBC Television for the West Indian tour of England.

Sir Vivian has appeared on a number of stamps and souvenir sheets. His home club, Rising Sun, issued a souvenir sheet on December 5, 1974 to commemorate its fiftieth anniversary (Figure 23). On his fiftieth birthday, Antigua issued no less than two souvenir sheets and six stamps. Figures 24a, 24b and 24c are representative of this March 7, 2002 issue.



**Figure 23. Rising Sun Cricket Club, home club of Viv Richards and Andy Roberts.**



**Figure 24 (left & above). Viv Richards' 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.**



**Figure 25. Andy Roberts, dominant fast bowler.**

### **Andy Roberts (b. 1951)**

The first Antiguan fast bowler to gain international acclaim Anderson Montgomery Everton Roberts was born on 29 January 1951 in the small fishing village of Urlings in Antigua.

Although he played in his home village with a tennis ball, he did not play representative cricket until he left school at sixteen. He then joined the Rising Sun Cricket Club. His progress was such that the Antiguan Volunteers Cricket Committee sponsored him for coaching at Alf Gover's indoor cricket school in London, England.

The English County Cricket Club, Hampshire, invited him for a trial and he was retained as their one permitted overseas player. He played for Hampshire from 1973 to 1978.

In the 1972-74 West Indian domestic season he made his first-class debut for the Leeward Islands taking 4 for 75 against the English tourists.

In the 1974 English domestic season, playing for Hampshire, Roberts quickly established himself as a premier fast bowler. Initially he relied on sheer speed and, in fact, he was the forerunner of a group of outstanding fast bowlers which enabled the West Indian Test team to carry all before them in 1970s and 1980s. In later years his experience enabled him to add additional dimensions to his bowling. He was adept at breaking through the early batting and would come back after a rest in the outfield to break a persistent partnership and turn the game around in his side's favor.

Roberts made his Test debut against the English tourists at Bridgetown, Barbados in March 1974. He played consistently for the West Indies in

the late 1970s and early 1980s often in tandem with Michael Holding where his cool demeanor and even temperament on the playing field offset some of the more volatile members of his team. He took his 100<sup>th</sup> Test wicket after only two years 144 days – the fastest at that time.

In the West Indian domestic season Roberts helped Viv Richards make the Leeward Islands a force in the region. He was a Wisden's Cricketer of the Year in 1975 and played for New South Wales (Australia) in their 1976-77 season. He also played for the English county team, Leicestershire, from 1981 through 1984.

Roberts retired from first-class and Test cricket in the 1984 season. He took 202 Test wickets in his 47 Tests at an average of 25.61. His first-class average was slightly lower (21.01) for his 889 wickets.

In 1985 Roberts was awarded the CBE in a public investiture by Queen Elizabeth II on her state visit to Antigua.

In 1995 he became a coach for the West Indian national team although he lost that position when the West Indian team's performance in the 1996 Cricket World Cup did not meet expectations.

He is currently the head grounds man for his home ground, the Recreational Ground in St. John's where he has produced an excellent pitch with pace. In the summer of 2005 Roberts was brought



**Figure 26. Special events includes winning 1975 Cricket World Cup.**



in by Bangladesh to coach their fast bowlers in preparation for their September tour of Sri Lanka.

Andy Roberts has appeared on one stamp and a souvenir sheet. Antigua issued three stamps on December 15, 1975 to celebrate the winning of the inaugural Cricket World Cup in 1975. Roberts is shown on the 35 cent value (Figure 25). Thirteen days later a special events souvenir sheet included Roberts (Figure 26).



**Figure 27. Richie Richardson, West Indies' 1990s Test captain.**

### **Richie Richardson (b. 1962)**

A fellow Antiguan and successor to Viv Richards as the West Indian national team captain, Richard Benjamin Richardson was born in Five Islands Village on January 12, 1962.

He was considered by many as the most exciting West Indian batsman to develop exclusively in the 1980s. Richardson decided on a cricket career after touring England with an Antiguan school's side in 1979. That same year he progressed to the West Indian represented youth side.

He made his first-class debut for the Leeward Islands in 1982 against Barbados at St. Kitts. He proved his capabilities as a middle order batsman when he faced the cream of West Indian fast bowling during play in inter-island competition. In 1990 he captained the Leeward Islands team in several such matches.

Richardson was chosen for the West Indian tour to India in 1983 making his international debut in the fourth Test match at Bombay. He made his first Test century at Bridgetown, Barbados during the Australian tour in the 1983-84 season. He continued to represent his national side against all the leading Test nations. In 1991 when Viv Richards retired as West Indian captain, Richardson was selected as his replacement. In 1994 when Richardson was playing for the Yorkshire (England) County Cricket Club he left the team citing tiredness as the reason. Under those circumstances he was not selected as captain for the West Indian tour of India.

In 1995 Richardson was reappointed as West Indian captain for the Australian tour of the Caribbean and for the following summer tour of England. He was also captain of the 1996 Cricket World Cup West Indian team. That summer he announced his retirement from international cricket. He appeared in 86 Test matches (24 as captain) scoring 5949 runs with an average of 44.30.

After cricket he turned to politics and in 2002 he was a Labor Party candidate for the Antiguan Parliament.

Richie Richardson has appeared on several stamps. In 1994-95 an omnibus issue by several West Indian countries commemorated 100 years of English tours. Richardson was featured on the \$1.20 value for Antigua and Barbuda (Figure 27a) and the 35 cent value from Grenada (Figure 27b). Another omnibus issue, the 100<sup>th</sup> Test match at Lords shows him on the 90 cent value from Antigua (Figure 27c).

### **THE WINDWARD ISLANDS**

The Windward Islands, located in the southeastern Caribbean, stretch from Dominica in the north to Grenada in the south. The Windward Island Cricket Association (WICA) includes teams from Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

As with its sister group, the Leeward Islands, cricket has been played in the Windward Islands on a competitive basis since at least the late nineteenth century. Inter-island cricket dates from 1894 when St. Vincent played St. Kitts. The first West Indian tour by an English team was in 1896 under the captaincy of R. Slade Lucas and included matches against Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent. Lord Hawke's team, visiting the next year, included a game against St. Vincent on a matting wicket.

In 1910 the Cork Cup was instituted to encourage competition between the various cricketing islands of the Windward chain. In 1927 the West Indian Cricket Board of Control felt it was impractical for touring sides to visit any islands in the Leeward or Windward chains. However matches for teams from those Island Cricket Associations were arranged to be played in Barbados and Trinidad.

Dominica, originally part of the LICA, became a member of the WICA in 1938.



**Figure 28. Botanical Gardens, Dominica.**

The neglect of the Windward Island Cricket Association by the West Indian cricket administrators persisted until 1954 when a St. Vincent team played against the tour visitors from England.

As we have already seen the Windward Islands became a separate team again in 1982. Since that time the WICA has competed in inter-island competitions such as the Shell Shield and the Red Stripe Cup.

### **Dominica**

At one time Dominica's main cricket ground was at Windsor Park in the capital of Roseau. In recent years the important matches have been played at the nearby Botanical Gardens. The first recorded match with a visiting team was against the Duke of Norfolk's team from England in 1972.

Dominica has played regularly in the Windward Island Tournament and in inter-island competitions.

On March 30, 1992 Dominica issued two stamps commemorating the Centenary of the Botanical Gardens and featuring cricket scenes (Figures 28a & 28b).

### **Grenada**

Grenada's main cricket ground is Queen's Park in the capital of St. George's. The first recorded match was in 1887 when Grenada hosted "The Gentlemen of the USA." Pelham Warner mentioned the ground in his book *Cricket in Many Climes* and described it "as one of the prettiest he had seen."

In 1902 a side from England under the leadership of R.A. Bennett played there against a combined team from Grenada and St. Vincent.

In 1953-54, an MCC touring side from England

under the captaincy of Len Hutton played the Windward Island at Queen's Park. This match was considered the initial first-class match played at the ground. Since that time Queen's Park has regularly hosted matches between the WICA and the tourists in addition to regular matches in the Windward Island Tournament and other domestic competitions.

In the early twenty-first century Queen's Park made a number of structural changes and was renamed the National Stadium.

It was considered to be one of the most up-to-date stadiums in the West Indies. It was also the home of the West Indian Cricket Academy. Unfortunately the Stadium was badly damaged by hurricane Ivan on September 7, 2004. No date has been set for its restoration as the rebuilding of homes and businesses will surely take precedence. On August 8, 2000 Grenada issued a souvenir sheet featuring the National Stadium (Figure 29).

### **St. Lucia**

The game has been played here since the late nineteenth century. Records exist that indicate matches against Dominica and St. Vincent were played in 1894. St. Lucia was included in the itinerary of both R. Slade Lucas' team in 1895 and Lord Hawke's XI in 1897. And 1905 Lord Brackley's team from England played a match here. In the late twentieth century St. Lucia has been a regular stop for touring sides from other Test nations as well as a regular participant in the Windward Islands Tournament since its inception.

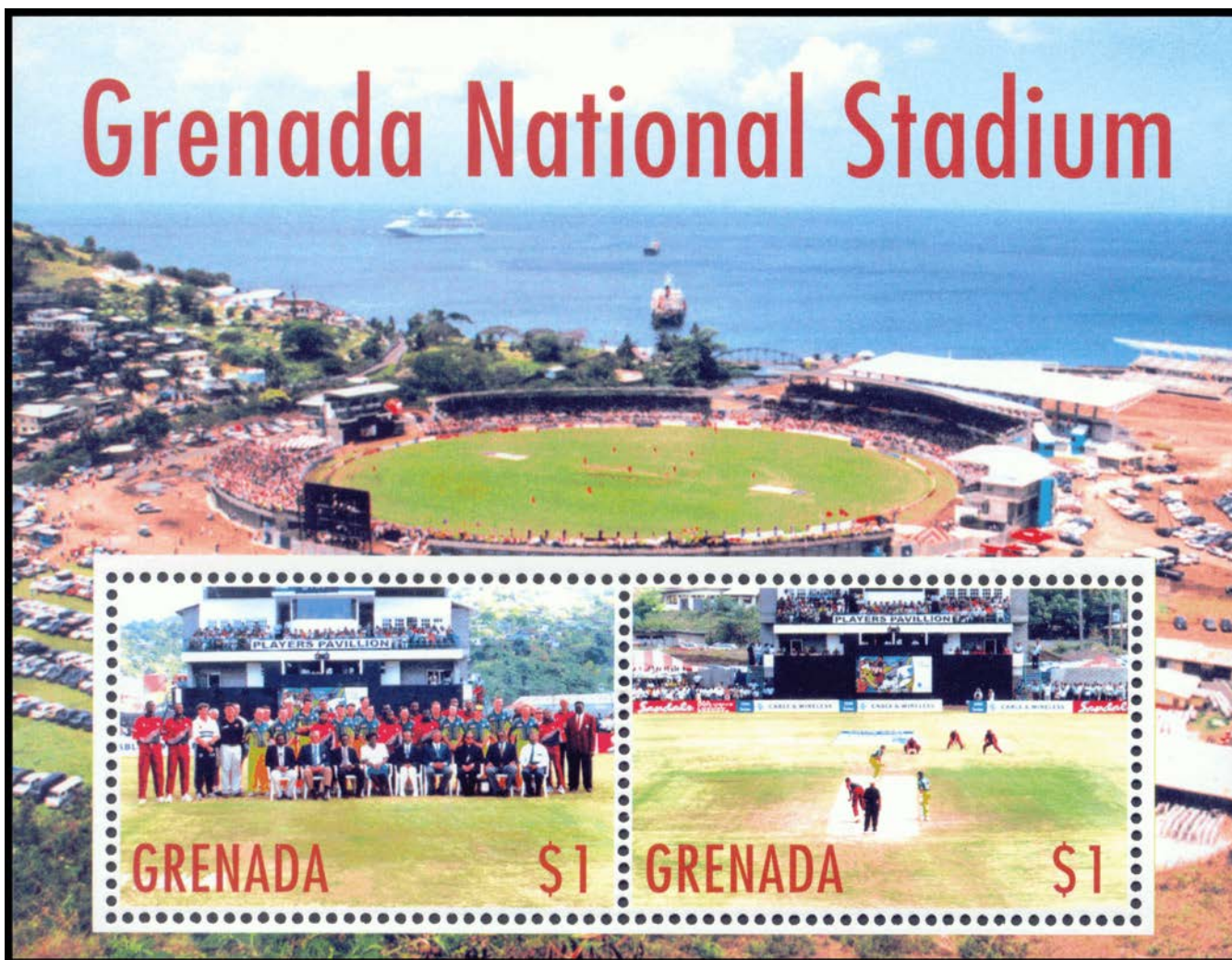
Until recently, the main ground was at Mindoo Phillips Park in the capital Castries. This ground was substantially remodeled in the 1980s and 1990s. In 2002 a new stadium was built in the northern part of the island. It will host a semi-final for the 2007 Cricket World Cup.

### **St Vincent**

Inter-island matches by teams from St. Vincent date from 1888 when a team toured Barbados. Six years later a St. Vincent team toured St. Lucia. As we have already noted, St Vincent was included in the itineraries of both R. Slade Lucas (1895) and Lord Hawke (1897).

St. Vincent is a regular participant in the Windward Island Tournaments and inter-island competitions.



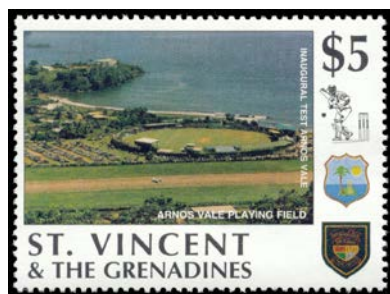


**Figure 29. Grenada's National Cricket Stadium.**

The main ground is at Arnos Vale in the capital Kingstown. In 1981 a One-Day International was played there between the West Indies and England.

In 1997 Arnos Vale was designated a Test Match Venue. The inaugural Test was the second between the West Indies and Sri Lanka on June 20-24.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines issued a souvenir sheet on June 20, 1997 to commemorate that Test match (Figure 30).



**Figure 30. St. Vincent's Arnos Vale Cricket Stadium.**

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*Wisden Cricket Monthly*.

Don't forget to place your bids in the SPI Auction featuring Sherwin Podolsky's Olympic collection!

# Arthur Ashe: the Most Prestigious African-American Tennis Player

by Pascal Bedenes

**T**he United States Postal Service recently paid homage to Arthur Ashe by issuing a stamp depicting him on 27 August 2005 (Scott #3936).

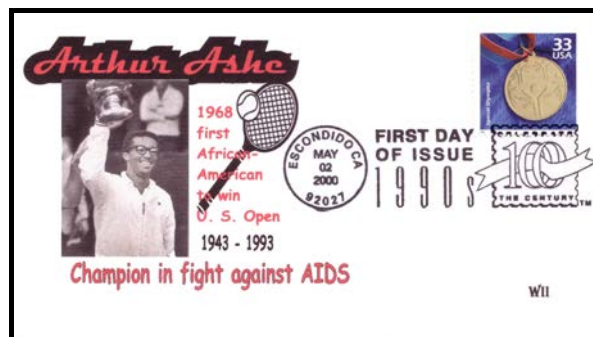
Born July 10, 1943 in a segregated neighborhood of Richmond, Virginia, Arthur Robert Ashe was confronted with a difficult childhood. Losing his mother at just six years of age, he was raised by his father. When he was eight years old he began playing tennis, but tournaments prohibited him from participating because of the color of his skin. This segregation deeply wounded Arthur Ashe. To improve his tennis, Ashe spent a summer with Doctor Robert Johnson, who had coached Althea Gibson (the first black player to win a Grand Slam tournament: 1956 Roland Garros or French Open). In 1957, he went on to win his first big victory – the Maryland state boys' singles championship. He spent his senior year in high school in St. Louis with his tennis coach, Richard Hudlin.



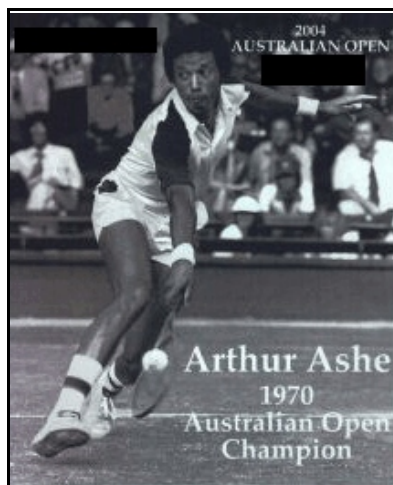
Ashe won a tennis scholarship to well-known UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles). In 1963 he won the U.S. hardcourt singles tennis championship. Soon after he was selected as the first black player on the U.S. Davis Cup team. He eventually went on to win the 1965 NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) men's singles championship.

## 1968: HIS FIRST GREAT VICTORY

Tennis experienced a revolution that year. The leaders of the International Federation voted in favor of creating "open" tournaments in which both amateurs and professionals would compete at the same time. Arthur Ashe strode onto the international scene at the U.S. Open in Forest Hills, eventually triumphing over the Dutchman, Tom Okker, and becoming the first male player of color to win a Grand Slam tournament. By the next day, Arthur Ashe had become a symbol for black people everywhere.







### 1970: THE AUSTRALIAN CONFIRMATION

In the absence of certain regulars on the circuit (Laver, Rosewall, ...) who preferred the better paid American tournaments, Arthur Ashe triumphed at the Australian Open, the second Grand Slam tournament of his career, by beating the youngster, Dick Crealy. Ashe had twice been in the finals of this championship back when it was still reserved for amateurs (1966 and 1967) bowing both times to the Australian, Roy Emerson. In 1971, he lost to another Australian, Ken Rosewall.

knew this was the most beautiful day of his life when he beat his fellow American, Jimmy Connors, in 4 sets to take the Wimbledon men's championship and become the No. 1 player in the world. This surprising victory remains in the annals of international tennis in England because of the strategy developed by Ashe to reach the final.

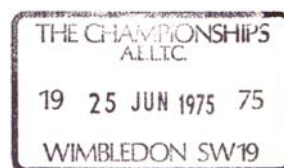
### 1972: NEW YORK DISAPPOINTMENT

Ashe returned to Forest Hills for the U.S. Open playing against Romanian Ilie Nastase. He eventually succumbed in five sets after being ahead 2 sets to 1, and 4 games to 2 in the fourth set.



### 1975: FOR ETERNITY

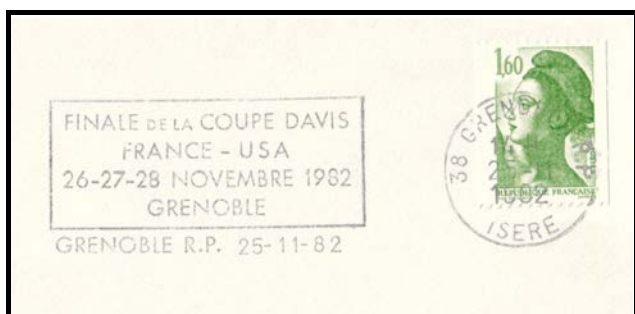
At 32, Arthur Ashe reached the finals of Wimbledon for the first time in his career. He



### ARTHUR ASHE AND THE DAVIS CUP

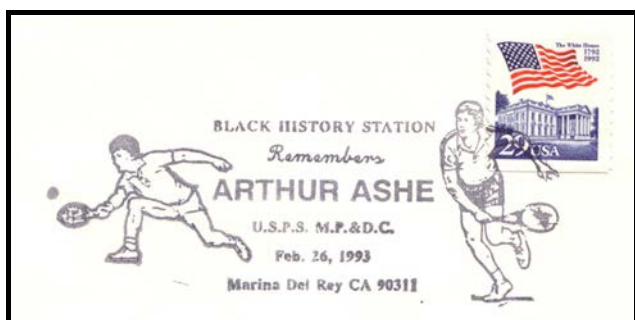
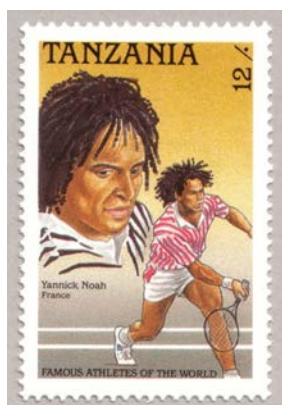
Ashe was named to the Davis Cup three times as a player (1968, 1969, 1970) and twice as its captain in 1981 and 1982.





### ARTHUR ASHE AND HIS CHARITABLE WORKS

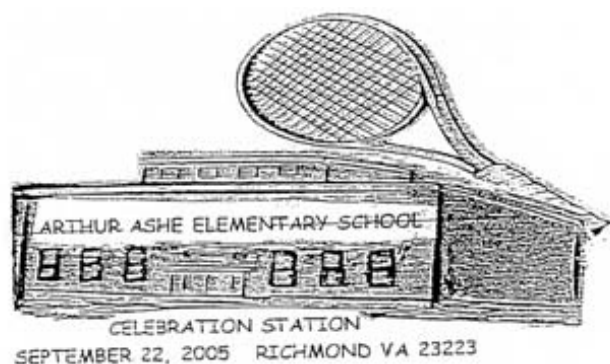
As a victim of racism in his youth, Ashe never ceased to help young underprivileged blacks of the large American cities through special programs, fund raising, and tennis exhibitions. During one of his tennis tours in Africa in 1971, he discovered a promising young talent by the name of Yannick Noah at a tennis clinic in Yaounde, Cameroon. In 1981 Noah won a tournament in Richmond, Arthur Ashe's hometown. Two years later he won Roland Garros, the only Grand Slam tournament title that had eluded Ashe.



Arthur Ashe suffered his first heart attack in 1979. He underwent his first heart surgery shortly thereafter, and became an outspoken supporter of information campaigns to educate the public about cardiac disease. Following a heart bypass operation in 1983, he developed HIV as a consequence of a transfusion of tainted blood. He went public with his disease in 1992, announcing the creation of the Arthur Ashe Foundation to fight AIDS. That same year, he was named sportsman of the year by *Sports Illustrated* magazine. The image on the new stamp is based on the cover photograph from that magazine issue.



Arthur Ashe died February 6, 1993, at the age of 49. In 1997, the U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) named its new U.S. Open tennis facility Arthur Ashe Stadium in his memory.





**Seattle Pilots**



Sicks' Stadium  
2700 Rainier Avenue S.  
Seattle, Wash. 98144

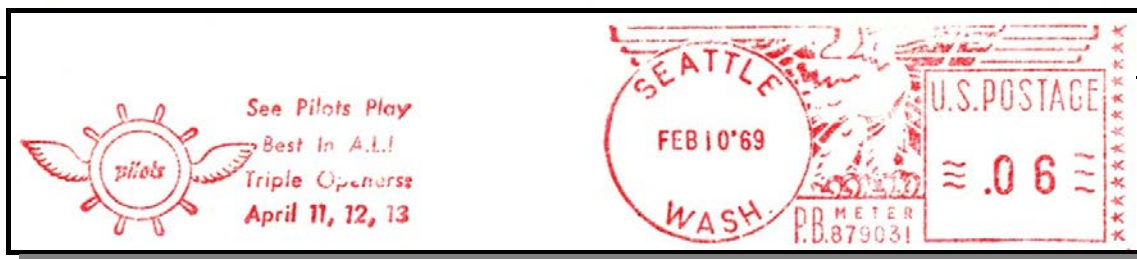


See Pilots Play  
Best in A.L.  
Triple Openers  
April 11, 12, 13



Mr. Burt Hawkins  
Director of Public Relations  
WASHINGTON SENATORS  
22nd & E. Capitol Sts.  
Washington, D. C. 20003

**Figure 1.**



## Here Today, Gone Tomorrow: Seattle Pilots Major League Baseball Team

by Norman Rushefsky

**I**n the history of modern Major League Baseball, teams pack up and move to other cities or are created as new franchises. Rarely, though, does a team exist for but one year.

This improbable distinction is part of the legacy of the Seattle Pilots Baseball Club. Formed in 1969 and posting a mediocre record of wins and losses the team would otherwise rest in obscurity were it not for the publication of the "tell-all" diary of Pilots' struggling pitcher, Jim Bouton. Bouton's bestseller, "Ball Four," provides perhaps the first unexpurgated account of the daily machinations in the life of a Major League player.

The story of the formation of the Seattle Pilots and their short history is an interesting one that is typical of many teams – but in a compressed time frame. Various books have documented the Pilots' story and excellent accounts are provided at several websites devoted to the team. In short, lack of adequate financing and commitment by team

management, perceived lack of fan support, a mediocre team, and promises of a new stadium that were not forthcoming all contributed to its demise.

After the end of the 1969 season the franchise was purchased by Bud Selig, the current commissioner of Major League Baseball, and moved to Milwaukee where it became the present-day Milwaukee Brewers.

The removal of the team from Seattle caused the City of Seattle to sue Major League Baseball. The lawsuit was eventually recessed upon extraction of a promise of a future Major League Baseball franchise for Seattle. The suit was settled in 1977 with the creation of the Seattle Mariners.

Because of the brief existence of the Pilots, team memorabilia are relatively few but actively sought after.

Two philatelic items are meter slogans used by the team. The first (Figure 1) features the Pilots' logo and the dates of the first home opener series with the Chicago White Sox. Interestingly, for the first game of this series the seats for many fans were still



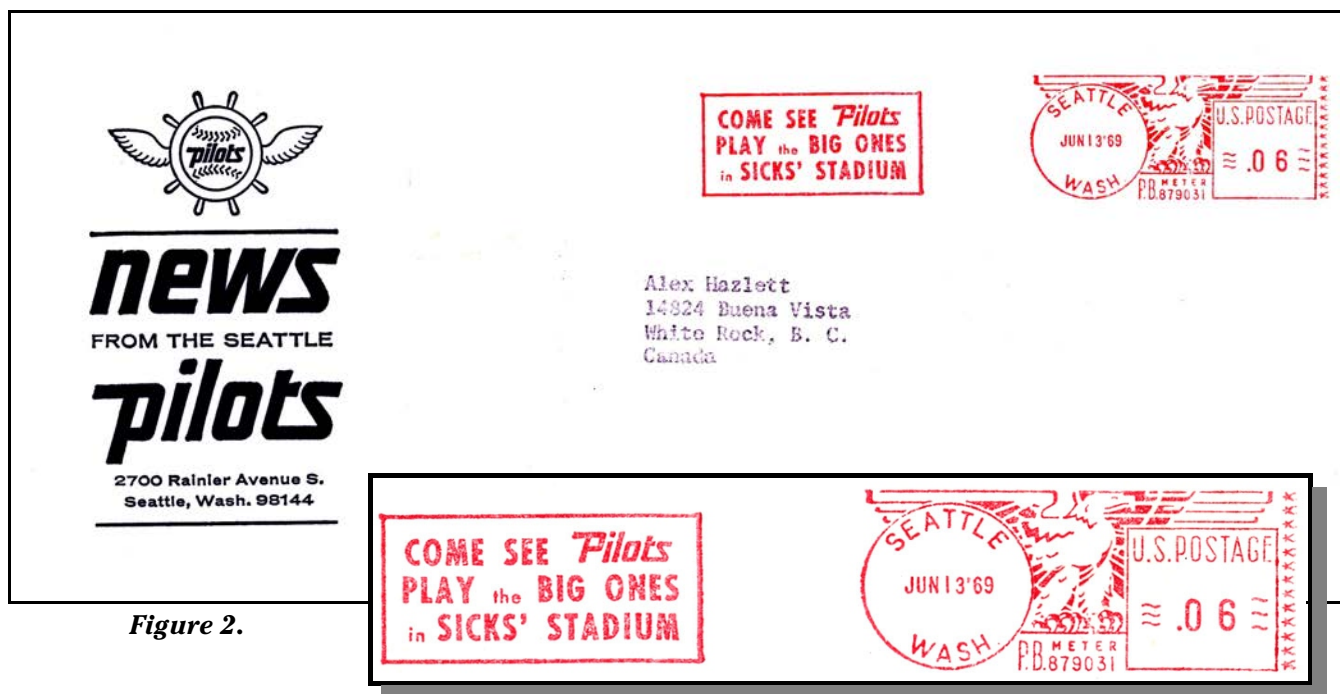


Figure 2.

being constructed and they could not be seated until after the third inning!

The second meter (Figure 2), used after the baseball season started, urged fans to come see the

Pilots play the big ones in Sicks' Stadium. Unfortunately, because of too many Pilots losses there were no big ones to be played as the team finished in last place in the American League. 🐻

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# THE SPORTS ARENA

by Mark Maestroni

If there's one thing I've learned during my forays onto eBay's online auction site, it's to look beyond the titles and lot descriptions as one never knows what may be lurking in the shadows.

On one recent expedition searching for "gymnastics" items within the "stamps" category, I ran across an item entitled "1999 Tianjin Artistic Gymnastics World Championships" (shown at right). My interest having been piqued, I took a closer look at the item up for sale.

Upon first inspection, the lot appeared very straightforward: a nicely used postal stationery card produced for the 1999 championships complete with an indium, cachet and postmark all related to men's gymnastics. But wait – why did the postmark have a date of 2004.8.23?

My suspicions aroused, I immediately emailed SPI member Kwok-Yiu Kwan in Hong Kong a copy of the illustration hoping that he could provide a translation of the cancel. His response confirmed my guess: the postmark had nothing to do with the world championships. Rather, it commemorated the Chinese gold medal on the men's pommel horse won at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.

Checking my records I discovered that on 22 August 2004, Teng Haibin of China did indeed beat out Marius Urzica of Romania and Takehiro Kashiima of Japan for the gold. I must commend China Post for getting out a special postmark within 24 hours of the event.

Reviewing the various periodicals from our sister societies, only the *IMOS Journal* from Ger-



many made mention of Chinese medalist postmarks of 2004 – and their design differed. Nevertheless, I believe the postmark on my card to be legitimate as it cancels the indicium, unlike the many privately created Chinese "cachets" being passed off as postmarks. A plain 2004.8.23 circular date stamp from Tianjin in black is on the front and a similar receiving cancel in red appears on the reverse dated 2004.8.24. Taking an educated guess, I believe there are similar postmarks to mine out there for all 32 Chinese gold medalists at Athens.

Anyone with further details on this postmark, please drop me a letter or email.

In addition to my men's gymnastics collection, I've been delving into another thematic sports arena – snowboarding. The sport is still, comparatively speaking, very much in its infancy and therefore a minimal amount of philatelic material currently exists. Because of its popularity, particularly with young people, postal administrations are depicting the sport much more frequently.





With the Chinese Communist government's embrace of a market economy and a rapidly developing middle class with increasing amounts of disposable income, recreation in China is fast becoming a growth industry. Influenced by western culture (a Hong Kong Disneyland recently opened) China's youth are gravitating to "hot" sports including snowboarding. Chinese companies, pursuing the youth market, are featuring these so-called "extreme sports" in their advertising campaigns.

Shown here are popular "New Years Lottery" postal cards issued by China Post. According to Kwok-Yiu, private industry is permitted to purchase advertising space on the front of the postal cards. China Post, either through approved private printers or using their own printing house, produce the cards.

At top is a 2001 card from "The People's Insurance Company of China" (PICC) showing a brightly

clad "goofy" (right foot forward) boarder catching some air as he shoots out of a halfpipe. To the right is the indicium and lottery stub on the reverse.

The card at bottom is of a snowboarder riding what is known as a "carving board" because it's designed for lighting-fast edge changes enabling high-speed carved turns.

The sponsor of this card is the Shandong Shanda Wit Science and Technology Company, Ltd.

These advertising postal cards are not dissimilar to those printed in many other countries – Belgium's "Publibel" cards come immediately to mind – and are thus equally collectible and exhibitable.

There appear to be a handful of dealers, primarily in Asia, selling a wide variety of these cards. Collectors of recreational sports should check the listings on eBay (both at auction and in the eBay storefronts). Look for postally used examples which are more difficult to come by.



# POSTAL STATIONERY CORNER

by Glenn Estus

In a few weeks we will turn our attention to the Winter Olympics at Torino, Italy. But in the meantime, let's look back at the Athens 2004 Games.

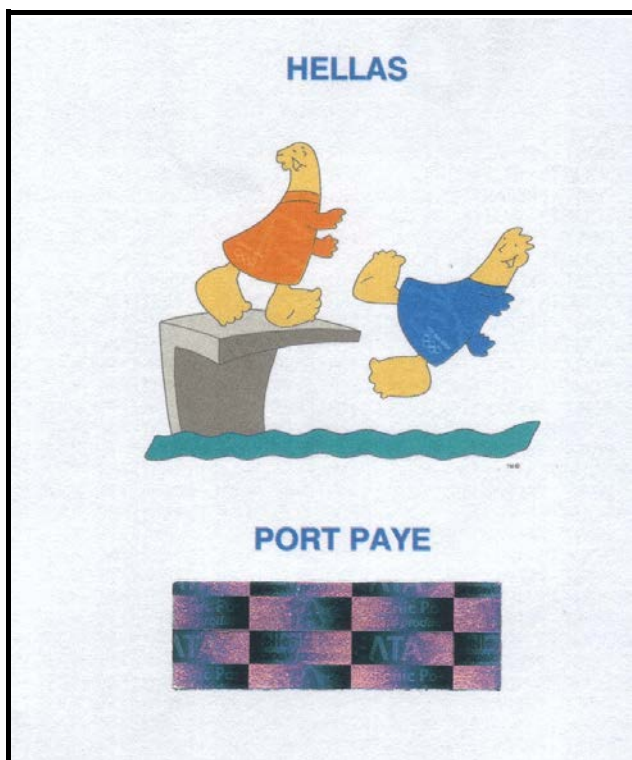
Earlier this year, the Society of Olympic Collectors in the United Kingdom reported on a set of 36 postal stationery envelopes that had been issued in Greece during the summer of 2004. The envelopes are divided into four sets: two sets of 12 envelopes and two sets of six envelopes.

After purchasing one set of six of the international envelopes on eBay, the seller emailed me and asked if I would like to purchase the rest of the envelopes. The final cost was about \$2.50 each.

Each envelope shows one of the mascots, Phevos or Athena, participating in one of the sports of the Athens Games.

According to the Greek seller the set of 12 international prepaid envelopes showed swimming, diving (below), fencing, canoeing, baseball, soccer, volleyball, table tennis, taekwando, equestrian, softball, and badminton.

A second set of 12 envelopes for domestic use showed (right): synchronized swimming, windsurf-



ing, water polo, beach volleyball (above), tennis, cycling, basketball, shooting, weightlifting, track and field, gymnastics, and judo.

The two sets of six envelopes are: (a) domestic rate: rhythmic gymnastics, kayaking, archery, soccer, equestrian, wrestling, and (b) international rate: mascots sitting on a globe, boxing, trampoline, dirt biking, field hockey, and rowing.

The envelopes all conform to a general design with the stamp indicium (postage area) showing the mascot playing the sport. Under this picture is a hologram security feature with the logo of ELTA, the Greek post office. At the bottom left is Greek text on the domestic envelope and Latin text (Par Avion / Prioritaire) on the international airmail envelope.

The reverse on all the envelopes is the same: Athens 2004 and the ELTA logo plus a copyright symbol ELTA 04/2004. Greek text is on the domestic envelopes while the international envelopes have "Prepaid envelope. This envelope is used for dispatches abroad."

## SPI Annual Financial Statement: FY 2005 & 2004

	Fiscal Year Ending August 31, 2005	Fiscal Year Ending August 31, 2004
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Dues	4,074.10	4,304.00
Interest	321.04	97.23
Publications/Advertising	540.63	652.54
Total	4,935.77	5,053.77
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
Printing	1,940.00	2,308.89
Postage	1,610.72	2,770.17
Other (supplies, etc)	418.08	354.44
Total	3,968.80	5,433.50
<b><u>Auction activity</u></b>		
Receipts	5,905.90	4,778.69
Disbursements	(5,075.04)	(3,940.47)
Total	830.86	838.22
<b>Net Income (loss)</b>	1,797.83	458.49
<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	16,142.11	15,683.62
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	17,939.94	16,142.11
<b>Cash and Investments:</b>		
Bank of Amer. Checking	168.98	4,637.02
PayPal Account	1,007.34	695.48
House Account	1,598.14	0.00
Union Bank	4,176.81	250.00
Dean Witter MM	12,384.65	12,069.61
	19,335.92	17,652.11
Payable to Consignors, net of manager acct	(1,395.98)	(1,510.00)
<b>Fund Balance</b>	17,939.94	16,142.11



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# NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

---

by Margaret Jones

## New Members

2244 Robert Pearson, 485 SE St. Lucie Blvd., Stuart, Florida 34996-1370 USA. He is retired. *Olympics*. Email: bob\_lv@bellsouth.net

2245 Clark Bensen, 3112 Cave Court, Suite I, Lake Ridge, Virginia 22192-1167 USA. Clark is a data analyst/attorney. *Tennis, skiing, sailing, auto racing (FI), cycling*. Email: clark@woodtennisrackets.com

## Renewals

1492 Roman Babut, PO Box 913, 00-950 Warsaw 1, Poland.

1975 Musee Olympique, 1 Quai D'Ouchy, 1001 Lausanne, Switzerland.

## Address Changes

Paul C. Bosco, 45 Quarry Road, Grandby, Connecticut 06035-1129 USA. Email: W166@cox.net

Sport Information Resource Centre, 180 Elgin Street, Suite 1400, Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 2K3 Canada.

Jack Treutle, new email: jtreutle@verizon.net

**Total Membership, September 30, 2005 = 257.**

If you have an e-mail address, it would help the office, if you would send us this address and keep it updated. You may designate it as "for office use only" or permit it to be published in the membership column and handbook. Please send email addresses to: docj3@sportstamps.org

## Exhibit Awards

AMERICOVER 2005 (Tysons Corner, Virginia). Charles J. O'Brien III earned a gold for "Roberto Clemente"; Lorraine E. Bailey received silver for "The Centennial of Baseball."

NAPEX (McLean, Virginia). Andrew Urushima, won a one-frame gold for "The Olympic Jubilee – Lausanne 1944"; Andrew Hodge was awarded a youth silver for "Baseball."

ROCKY MOUNTAIN STAMP SHOW (Aurora, Colorado). Michael Jaffe received a gold for "Waterfowl Hunting Permit Stamps: Federal, State, Tribal"; Andrew Hodge earned a silver for "Baseball"; Andrew Urushima achieved a one-frame gold and Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library one-frame grand for "The Olympic Jubilee – Lausanne 1944."

## From the Webmaster

Have you checked SPI Auction lots, some pictured, on our website lately? [www.sportstamps.org](http://www.sportstamps.org)

Send in exhibit news for this column as well as adlets for the website to the webmaster at: [docj3@sportstamps.org](mailto:docj3@sportstamps.org)

## Need Checklists By Country?

Checklist formats are available in IBM-formatted disks, e-mail and paper copy using Excel, Word, or Access. Information choices are 1. Sport activities w/date, catalog number and event noted; 2. Olympic competitions; 3. Non-Olympic competitions; 4. Persons noted where available; 5. Gender/age where discernable; or 6 One sport only for a given country.

For more information and list of countries available, write: Margaret Jones, 5310 Lindenwood Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63109-1758, USA. Email: [docj3@sportstamps.org](mailto:docj3@sportstamps.org)

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# NEW STAMP ISSUES

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by John La Porta

**Algeria:** May 28, 2005. Mediterranean Games. 15d medal; 30d emblem over ocean.

**Antigua & Barbuda:** June 15, 2005. 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary World Soccer Championship. Pane of four \$2.50 stamps. Souvenir sheet with \$6 stamp.

**Bhutan:** August 24, 2005. 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1<sup>st</sup> World Soccer Cup. Pane of three 40nu stamps, showing German players. Souvenir sheet with 85nu stamp.

**Belarus:** August 14, 2005. Int. Year of Sport & Physical Ed. 5.70rub runner, ice hockey players, stadium.

**Bosnia-Herzegovina:** May 30, 2005. Mediterranean Games. 1m wind surfer; basketball players, cyclist.

**Bosnian Serb Administration:** September 16, 2005. European Basketball Championship. Four 50pf stamps, basketball, net, arena, stamps have a different color background.

**Czech Republic:** October 12, 2005. Curling. 17kc player lying on the ice watching the stone.

**Dominica:** September 7, 2005. 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1<sup>st</sup> World Soccer Cup. Pane of four \$2 stamps depicting 1934 Italy-Czechoslovakia match. Souvenir sheet with \$6 stamp, Italian team.

**Ecuador:** June 20, 2005. 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Olympic Academy of Ecuador. \$1.25 emblem, souvenir sheet with \$2 stamp, symbolic figures.

**Estonia:** October 19, 2005. Hunting Dogs. Two 6.50kr stamps, Estonian house; Kazakh hound.

**Fiji:** July 27, 2005. Game Fishing. 41¢ barracuda; 58¢ Mackerel; \$1.07 Trevally; \$3 Pacific sailfish.

**French Andorra:** May 28, 2005. Small States Games. 0.53e shooting; 0.55e runners; 0.82e swimming; 1e basketball. S/s containing the four stamps.

**Germany:** September 8, 2005. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Max Schmeling. 0.55e heavyweight boxing champion.

**Great Britain:** August 5, 2005. London Wins Bid to Host 2012 Summer Olympics. Six se-tenant non-denominated stamps with five designs from 1996 Atlanta Olympics and Paralympics.

October 4, 2005. Ashes Cricket Victory. S/s with four stamps: two non-denominated, two 68 p stamps.

**Honduras:** September 3, 2005. 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ficosa Bank Sponsorship of National Soccer Championship. Souvenir sheet with four 4.30 lempiras stamps showing soccer scenes.

**Ireland:** September 27, 2005. Ryder Cup in Ireland. Pair of 0.48e stamps showing golfers; 0.60e; 0.65e both showing golfers. £9.50 prestige booklet.

**Israel:** July 11, 2005. 17<sup>th</sup> Maccabiah Games. 3.30 shekalim, emblem.

**Italy:** September 28, 2005. 32<sup>nd</sup> America's Cup and Luis Vuitton Acts 8 and 9, Trapani. Souvenir sheet with 2.80e stamp showing sailing yacht.

**Korea, North:** April 23, 2005. 48<sup>th</sup> World Table Tennis Championships. Pane of stamps showing table tennis. Also booklet.

**Kyrgyzstan:** August 6, 2005. Nations Games 3s men on horseback.

**Lesotho:** August 22, 2005. 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1<sup>st</sup> World Soccer Cup. Pane of three 8 loti stamps, souvenir sheet with 15m stamp.

**Liberia:** August 22, 2005. 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1<sup>st</sup> World Soccer Cup. Pane of three \$60 stamps showing German players. Souvenir sheet with \$100 stamp.

**Liechtenstein:** November 21, 2005. Turin 2006 Winter Olympics. 1.20fr ski jumping; 1.30fr biathlon; 1.40fr slalom.

**Macau:** August 30, 2005. Fourth East Asian Games. 1pa; 1.50pa; 2pa; 2.50pa; 4pa; souvenir sheet with 8pa stamp, sports facilities and symbolic athletes.

**Nevis:** July 26, 2005. NBA Basketball Players. Five \$1 stamps.

**Palau:** July 19, 2005. 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary First World Soccer Cup. Pane of three \$1 stamps depicting Brazil-German match of 2002. S/s with \$2 stamp.

**Poland:** August 8, 2005. World Track and Field Championships. Souvenir sheet with four stamp, two 1.30zl stamps, hurdler, shot put; two 2zl stamps, athlete jumping; athlete.

**Saudi Arabia:** April 2, 2005. First Islamic Solidarity Games. 1r diamond shaped stamp, emblem with map, rings.

**Serbia & Montenegro:** September 2, 2005. European Volleyball Championships. 16.50d/0.25e ball and hands at net. Stamp is se-tenant with label.

September 16, 2005. European Basketball Championship. 16.50d/0.25e. Ball in net.

**Tajikistan:** 2005. National Hunting. Souvenir sheet with three stamps; 1s; 1.70s; 2.30s hunter on horseback.

## France and Colonies Proofs & Essays

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# COMMEMORATIVE STAMP CANCELS

by Mark Maestrone

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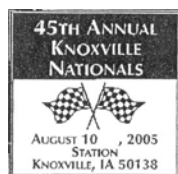
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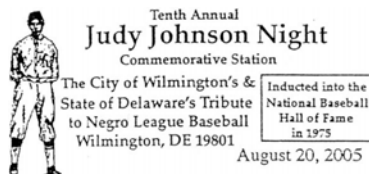
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05X22-273.  
Baseball: 05712-482, 05820-198,  
05903-439, 05X04-133.  
Body Building: 05827-958.  
Football: 05909-712.  
Golf: 05920-201, 05X17-760  
Horse Racing: 05826-628, 05827-128.  
Running: 05924-135.  
Skateboarding: 05902-958.  
Skating: 05Z01-612.  
Tennis: 05828-300, 05916-956,  
05922-232, 05X29-234.  
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05712-482 Detroit, MI 12



05810-501 Knoxville, IA 10-13



05820-198 Wilmington, DE 20



05826-628 DuQuoin, IL 8/26-9/5



05826-958 Sacramento, CA 26



05827-128 Saratoga Spr., NY 27



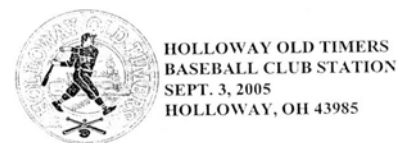
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05828-300 Marietta, GA 28



05902-958 Sacramento, CA 2



05903-439 Holloway, OH 3



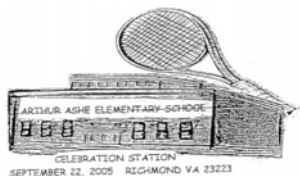
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05916-956 Citrus Heights, CA 16



05920-201 Gainesville, VA 20-24



05922-232 Richmond, VA 22



05924-135 Utica, NY 24

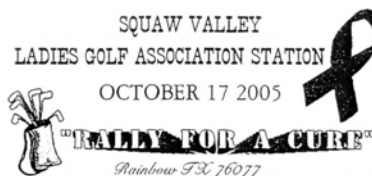


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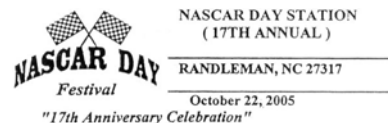
05929-501 Knoxville, IA 9/29-10/1



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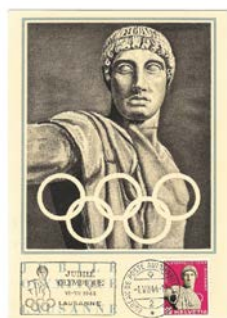
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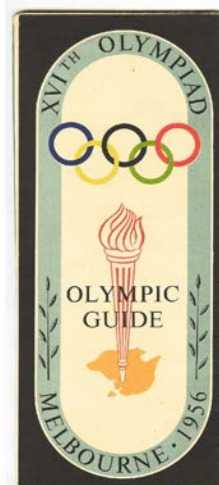
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