

JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

VOLUME 44

SUMMER 2006

NUMBER 4

Torino 2006 A Philatelic Report

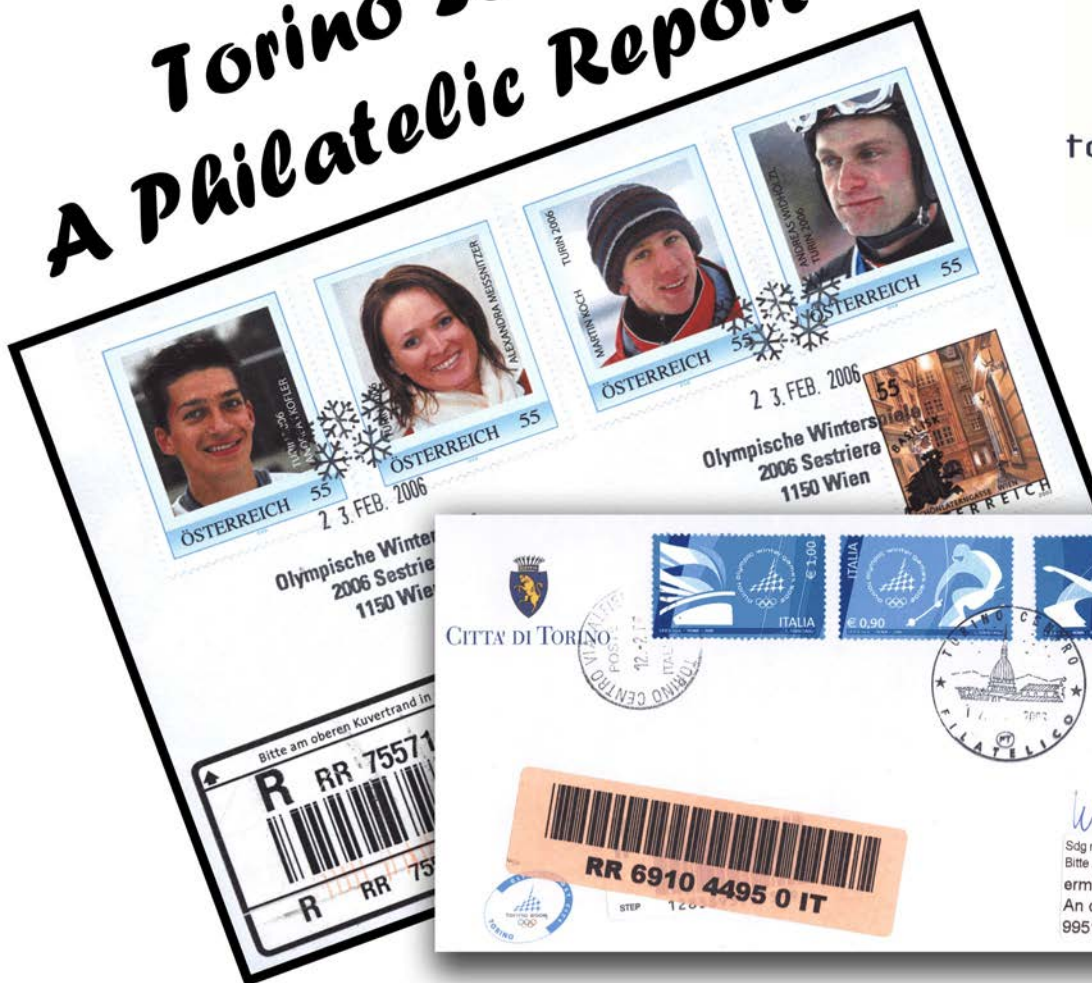
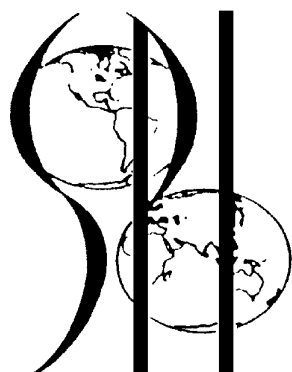


TABLE OF CONTENTS



SPORTS
PHILATELISTS
INTERNATIONAL

President's Message	<i>Mark Maestroni</i>	1
Torino 2006 – A Philatelic Report	<i>Thomas Lippert</i>	3
French Open Golf Tournament Centenary	<i>Jean-Pierre Picquot</i>	23
The 1939 Cuban Baseball Machine Postmark	<i>Norman Rushefsky</i>	24
Were there really on 96 pieces of registered 1936 torch relay mail?	<i>Zhuoyu Yuan</i>	26
Glory to Croatia: Davis Cup 2005 Victors	<i>Pascal Bedenes</i>	28
News of Our Members	<i>Margaret Jones</i>	33
New Stamp Issues	<i>John La Porta</i>	34
Commemorative Stamp Cancels	<i>Mark Maestroni</i>	36

2006 TORINO OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

3

GOLF

23

BASEBALL

24

TENNIS

28

SPORTS PHILATELISTS INTERNATIONAL

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

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

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

JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

Publisher:	John La Porta, P.O. Box 98, Orland Park, IL 60462
Editor:	Mark C. Maestroni, 2824 Curie Place, San Diego, CA 92122
Columnists:	Glenn A. Estus, P.O. Box 451, Westport, NY 12993
	Margaret A. Jones, 5310 Lindenwood Ave., St. Louis, MO 63109
	John La Porta, P.O. Box 98, Orland Park, IL 60462
Ad Manager:	Norman F. Jacobs, Jr., 2712 N. Decatur Rd., Decatur, GA 30033
Circulation:	Margaret A. Jones, 5310 Lindenwood Ave., St. Louis, MO 63109

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

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

Vol. 44, No. 4
Summer 2006

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

ISSN 0447-953X

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

If you didn't make it to Washington 2006, America's decennial stampfest, you missed a great show!

It was huge with hundreds of bourse dealers from the four corners of the globe and thousands of frames of philatelic exhibits.

Our own society was well-represented with a wonderful frame promoting sports and Olympic philately assembled by Pat Loehr with material from many SPI members.

On the competitive front, we had Norm Jacobs, Andrew Urushima and myself exhibiting (as well as this journal, which won a silver-bronze).

At the end of the opening day, a group of eleven SPI members met for an evening of good food, friendly company, and informal swapping of material at McCormick & Schmick's, a nice seafood restaurant a few blocks from the Washington Convention Center.

Jim and Marian Bowman, Conrad Klinkner and myself from the west coast were there along with Joe Lopreiato (thanks, Joe, for organizing this terrific evening!), Norm Jacobs and Charles Covell from the east. Flying in from the heartland were Pat Loehr (Wisconsin) and Dale Lilljedahl (Texas). Our international guests included Michael Berry (of



SPI dinner at Washington 2006 (l-r): Mark Maestrone, Nikolay Penev, Charles Covell, Michael Berry, Joe Lopreiato, Conrad Klinkner, Pat Loehr, Norm Jacobs, Jim and Marian Bowman, Dale Lilljedahl.

Healey & Wise in Great Britain) and – winning the distance award – Nikolay Penev from Bulgaria!

Judging from the crowds the first (Memorial Day) weekend and the elated comments of the dealers, attendance was excellent. The early bird certainly caught the proverbial worm at this show. By Day 4 a

familiar mantra along the bourse aisles was “sorry, I had some earlier but now I’m sold out.” With the variety of items available, I doubt anyone came away without a few pieces for their collections (some of us spending a bit more than others I should imagine).

It was a great show that certainly rivaled Pacific ‘97 in San Francisco. Let’s hope New York 2016 will be equally fantastic!

Before wrapping up my President’s Message in this late (sorry about that) issue of the *Journal of Sports Philately*, let me encourage you to vote in this SPI election, thereby showing support for your officers and directors.

And if you received a renewal envelope that means it’s time to send in your dues. We hope you’ll continue to be a part our Olympic and sports philatelic community.

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

Mark Maestrone: markspi@prodigy.net

Charles Covell: covell@louisville.edu

Andrew Urushima: aurushima@yahoo.com

Norman Jacobs: nfjr@comcast.net

John La Porta: album@comcast.net

Dale Lilljedahl: dali@sbcbglobal.net

Patricia Ann Loehr: patloehr@mcw.edu

Bernard McGovern: bmcgo10483@aol.com

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

Margaret Jones: docj3@sportstamps.org

We Buy and Sell Topicals!

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

<http://www.westminsterstamp.com>

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

We are members of ASDA, APS, ATA.

Westminster Stamp Gallery, Ltd.

P.O. Box 456

Foxboro, MA 02035

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

E-mail: stamps@westmin.win.net



Torino 2006 - A Philatelic Report

by Thomas Lippert

After the excessive stamp issuing program of ELTA, the Greek postal administration, for the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, Poste Italiane's offering was a relief for collectors. Their program began with a single stamp issued back at the time of the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics featuring the logo of the Torino Games. Eventually the competition sites and the mascots were represented by one stamp each.

For a long time there were rumors of what stamps would be issued at the time of the Torino Olympic Winter Games, but the first designs weren't revealed to the public until 27 January 2006 on the TOROC (Torino Organizing Committee) website. At the post office website there was still nothing! Three days earlier, the postmark section of the post office's publication *Comunicato No. 62* has been available for download in which the Italian special cancellations were announced. This issue focused on the Olympic postmarks (though not exclusively) and – much to everyone's surprise since this was a

postmark bulletin – a verbal description of the entire Olympic stamp program.

For the philatelic public the 2006 Winter Games began on 8 February with the first day of the Olympic issues composed of nine different values plus a composite sheetlet of all nine stamps. The many face values were a surprise not only for foreign collectors; even the Italians asked themselves what the high denomination stamps were good for. Inexplicably, some common rates were overlooked. For example, a 0.60 € value for a priority letter delivered within Italy (*posta prioritaria*) was missing as was a 0.62 € stamp which represents the rate for a 20-gram letter within Europe (only the priority rate was available). Specialists had to use their imaginations to create covers correctly franked for a particular rate (Table 1).

The climate for issuing stamps for the Winter Olympics had improved considerably from earlier years when UPS (United Parcel Service) was a TOP (worldwide) Olympic sponsor. Back then, UPS with its aggressive – officially “very competitive” – behavior made life difficult for host country postal

Table 1. Denominations, Designs and Rates of the 2006 Olympic Issues.

Denom.	Design	Rate
0.23€	Biathlon	Satisfies no specific rate (fee for handback cancellations upon request)
0.45€	Speed Skating	Domestic rate up to 20 g., standard mail
0.65€	Ice Hockey	International rate up to 20 g., standard mail, Zone 2 (Asia, USA)
0.70€	Curling	International rate up to 20 g., standard mail, Zone 3 (Oceania)
0.85€	Bobsleigh	Domestic rate up to 50 g., standard mail (2nd weight level)
0.90€	Alpine Skiing	Domestic rate up to 100 g., standard mail (3rd weight level)
1.00€	Olympic Flame	International rate up to 20 g., priority mail, Zone 3 (Oceania) International rate up to 50 g., standard mail, Zone 2 (Asia, USA)
1.30€	Luge	International rate up to 100 g., standard mail, Zone 2 (Asia, USA)
1.70€	Medals	Domestic rate up to 250 g., standard mail (4th weight level) International rate up to 100 g., priority mail, Zone 1 (EU, Mediterranean)



Figure 1. Registered first day cover to Germany for the Olympic stamps, posted at the Torino Centro (main post office) and correctly franked with 2.80 €.

administrations. The USPS's problem at Salt Lake City involving another TOP sponsor, Visa, was not an issue in Torino as Poste Italiane did not accept credit cards.

The post office kicked off its official Olympic program on 23 January 2006. This was the announced opening date of the temporary post offices at the Torino Olympic Village and the Main Media Center/Main Press Center (MMC/MPC).

Table 2. Special Poste Italiane Post Offices & Planned Periods of Operation.	
Olympic Village 10127 Turin (Villaggio Olimpico Torino)	23.1 - 26.2.2006
Olympic Village 10052 Bardonecchia (Villaggio Olimpico Bardonecchia)	26.1. - end of March (includes Paralympics)
Olympic Village 10058 Sestriere (Villaggio Olimpico Sestriere)	24.1. - end of March (includes Paralympics)
Main Press Center 10127 Turin (Centro Stampa Torino)	23.1. - end of March (includes Paralympics)
IOC Hotel Meridien 10127 Turin (Sede dei CIO Torino)	08. - 26.2.2006

It should be noted that the dates of operation stated in Table 2 reflected the post office's initial plans. In reality, there were changes. For example, the author was told by the post office at the Main Press Center (MPC) that they hadn't opened until 25 January. All of the above-mentioned special post offices were located within the Olympic infrastructure and therefore not accessible to the general public. To fulfill the needs of collectors, all of the special cancels were provided at regular post offices in Torino (Main Post Office/Philatelic counter), Sestriere and Bardonecchia.

Pinerolo, the beautiful site for the curling competition, was not favored with a special postmark as there was no local satellite Olympic Village there, only a media subcenter. Pinerolo's post office did, however, play an important role for collectors: this was where the special postmarks from Sestriere and Bardonecchia could be obtained during the grace period lasting until the end of March.

Apart from the announced postal plans there were two mobile post offices. I discovered this while talking to the postal employee responsible for the Olympic program, Mr. Sgroi. These mobile post

offices should have been in operation from 10-26 February; the reality was quite different. The author, during his brief stay in Torino and Pinerolo, was unable to locate either of them. Bob Farley of the Society of Olympic Collectors (SOC) succeeded a short time later. The mobile post offices were supposed to have been full service facilities (including mailing of packages), but as Bob discovered they sold only Olympic postal products.

According to the original post office plans, the Torino 41 regular post office was to have played an Olympic role, even though it was not equipped with a special postmark. Torino 41 was located in the vicinity of the Olympic Village in the via Giordano Bruno. On 10 February, in anticipation of receiving guests from around the world, the post office completed its renovation.

In Italiane Poste's 24 January bulletin, TOROC was named as the sponsor of the Olympic postmarks. Italian collectors knew of the discussions with TOROC, hoping for a typically Italian last minute solution. The very late announcement that there would be a single freestyle skiing postmark, but without Olympic branding, increased hopes that more sports postmarks would be forthcoming.

Unfortunately, differing opinions between Poste Italiane and TOROC as to financing prevented additions to the postmark program. As the author discovered, that single "lonely" freestyle skiing postmark was sponsored by the community of Sauze d'Oulx.

Table 3 lists all the special postmarks for the 2006 Olympic Winter Games.

Torino Main Post Office (MPO)

Several special cancels were available at the MPO. Figure 4 illustrates an unintentional rarity whereby two different postmarks were used on the same cover on 10 February. On subsequent days, only one postmark was permitted per letter.

Barely visible on this cover is a small white registration label beneath the dark brown one. The white labels were for domestic use only. Thus when this cover was being processed, a large brown registration label for international mail was applied on top. Unfortunately, as shown in Figure 5, postal employees did not always take care in affixing the labels. Sometimes the stamps and postmarks were carelessly covered by the registration label.



Figure 2. Correctly franked with only Olympic stamps, this registered cover was mailed to Germany from the TORINO 41 regular post office.

Table 3. Special Olympic Postmarks.










		
First Day Cancel Torino	Olympic Village Torino	Main Press Center Torino
		
IOC Seat - Hotel Meridien	Universal Olympic Postmark	Freestyle Skiing
		
Olympic Village Bardonecchia	Olympic Village Sestriere	Austria House Sestriere



Figure 3. FIPO cachet used at the IOC headquarters at the Hotel Meridien.

Torino Olympic Village Temporary Post Office

The TPO at the Olympic Village of Torino-Lingotto was one of the first to open, beginning operation

on 23 January 2006. During the first few days, outgoing (and incoming “poste restante”) mail was cancelled with an ordinary postmark /circular date stamp from the Torino MPO (identifying letter: L). Beginning on 8 February, the first Olympic cancel was used (this was also the first day of the Olympic stamps).

The date in the Olympic Village cancelling device was difficult to change, so for the first few days the Olympic Village postal personnel didn't bother. The problem was eventually remedied. There will certainly be Olympic Village postmarks with those missing dates, because these problems were not encountered at the central cancellation point at the MPO philatelic counter (Figures 6 & 7).



Figure 4. Registered letter with two special postmarks from the Main Press Center and IOC headquarters at the Hotel Meridien.



Figure 5. The special freestyle skiing postmark of Sauze d'Oulx was used on only four days.



Figure 6. Registered cover from Torino Olympic Village TPO with a generic Olympic postmark.



Figure 7. From 13 February on, the Olympic Village postmark with its changeable dates was again used. Registration labels from the OV start with RR 6903 04xx x (the last digit is a check number, i.e. it isn't part of the sequential numbering system).



Figure 8. Registered cover from the pre-Olympic period posted at the Bardonecchia Olympic Village. At that time, only a regular CDS from the Bardonecchia post office was used. Routing the cover through the UK to Germany was not standard practice.

Bardonecchia Olympic Village TPO

As with Torino, the Olympic Village TPO in this mountainous region opened before the Olympic Winter Games began. At first, an ordinary CDS from the regular post office at Bardonecchia (with the letter “A”) was used by itself (Figure 8). Eventually this was accompanied by the special Barconecchia Olympic Village postmark (Figure 9).

The ordinary CDS postmark (letter “A”) and the registration numbers (RR 121 34xx x) are the means for identifying the place of origin.

Sestriere Olympic Village TPO

Here, too, an ordinary CDS (Figure 10) – this time with the letter “E” – can be used for identifying the post office at which a cover was mailed (or received).

Typical for registered covers from this TPO, there is a problem with the registration labels. For some reason the post office that processed the registered

items applied a second label (perhaps the barcode couldn’t be read?). In any event, the supplementary registration label was slapped on with little regard for the stamps or special cancels, sometimes partially obliterating either or both (Figure 11). Collectors were probably less than pleased by this service. One of the author’s covers arrived completely uncanceled.

Main Press Center TPO (MMC- MPC / Centro Stampa)

This TPO was located in the so-called Main Media Center. This center included two areas which often have distinct postal facilities. From the main area in the Main Press Center the International TV and Broadcasting Center (IBC) was accessible through a second check point for IBC-accredited people only. Both areas were served by the single TPO in the MPC. The postal clerks confirmed that this TPO began operation on 25 January (the original plans called for a 23 January opening date).



Figure 9. Correctly franked registered cover ($5 \times 0,23 + 1,00 + 0,65 = 2,80$) from day 4 of the Winter Olympics.



Figure 10. Registered Sestriere cover from pre-Olympic period (9.2.2006) overpaid by 2c.



Figure 11. Unfortunately typical for mail from the Sestriere Olympic Village TPO were covers that either partially or entirely missed cancellation.

The Main Press Center TPO used two CDS postmarks from the Torino MPO with letters “D” and “S”. For at least the first few days, they also used a “common special” postmark from the philatelic counter (without a differentiating letter). This is the only TPO with a temporarily relocated postage meter machine which generated self-adhesive labels (Figures 12-16).



Figure 12. Not identifiable at first glance, this is a registered cover from the TPO at the Main Media Center/ Main Press Center.



Figure 13. Registered first day cover from the MPC for the same fee (as the registered cover to Germany in Figure 12) of €2,80. The small white label was used for registration inside Italy. None of the meter machine imprints make mention of the MPC.

Figure 14. The silence before the storm: an early view of the TPO at the Main Press Center.





Figure 15. The use of two different special postmarks on one cover was no problem for the postal clerks at the MPC.

Figure 16. Receipt for a registered cover from the MPC.

IOC Hotel "Le Meridien" TPO (Sede C.I.O.)

With the beginning of the 118th Session of the IOC, the TPO also began operations at the IOC hotel "Le Meridien" located in the Lingotto-Complex, very near both the MPC and the Olympic Village. It was here that the FIPO cachet (Figure 3) in blue or red was found.

Inside the hotel, on the way to the conference rooms where the session meetings were held, was a booth jointly used by philatelic dealer Bolaffi, the FIPO and Poste Italiane (Figure 17). As announced, the first day postmark was available at the hotel TPO on 8 February for the IOC members and their staff. We did not, however, expect early use of the special IOC hotel postmark (Sede CIO) that same day; the original plan was to introduce the cancel on 10 February (Figure 18).

We were later surprised when, at first, the IOC hotel postmark was not available for use at noon on 10 February, the date of the Opening Ceremony. After some discussion the reason became clear: the mechanism for changing the date in the postmarking devices was unbelievably difficult (Figure 19)!



Figure 17. Dr. Manfred Bergman surrounded by a table full of technical equipment in the FIPO area. What was being offered was a souvenir on which one's photo, taken by a web-cam, was imprinted on a FIPO cover or postcard.

Eventually, though, the clerk was able to correct the date. Perhaps this is the reason why, in the first few days, the clerks at the MPO and the OV didn't bother to change the dates in the cancels.

Although there was no special mailbox it was possible to hand mail to the FIPO staff for forwarding from Lausanne after the finishing of the Olympics (Figure 20).

Sestriere & Bardonecchia (Regular) Post Offices

Both regular "Olympic" post offices in the

mountain region used the same special postmark type as the special TPOs. It will be nearly impossible to differentiate the place of origin when comparing ordinary mail with a single Olympic postmark.

A good base for comparison are the registration labels with their identifying numbers, the letters in the ordinary postmarks (these may be either on the cover or as receiving marks), the postage meters for additional postage or the machine imprints applied as receiving marks (Figures 21 and 22).

Figure 18. FIPO postcard with imprinted web-cam photo of the author. The card was post-marked with the rare IOC hotel postmark dated 8 February.





Figure 19. Registered airmail cover from the IOC Hotel with both special postmarks dated 10 February.



Figure 20. The sender of the card erred by affixing the Italian stamp; the Swiss Post will not accept postal matter with a second, foreign franking. Consequently, this Swiss postal card was later "postmarked" with a FIPO cachet in Lausanne and then sent under cover to the addressee.



Figure 21. Mail from the first competition day in Sestriere with the postage meter label used only at this post office and not at the Sestriere Olympic Village TPO. The sequence of registration numbers is also different from the TPO.



Figure 22. First use of the special Bardonecchia Olympic Village postmark at the regular post office at Bardonecchia. Here the registration label (carefully affixed to the back so as not to obliterate the stamps) identifies the place of mailing.



Austria Post – Austria House Sponsor in Sestriere

While it was known that Austria Post was a sponsor of Austria House, it was still a surprise to see how prominent the postal service with its philatelic department was in the mountains of Sestriere.

The philatelic press reported shortly before the Games that two different personalized stamps would be issued: one for Austria House and the other for the Salzburg 2014 Olympic Winter Games bid (Figures 23 & 24). The latter's bid committee was also well represented during these Games. The postal report announced that a special post office would be open to collectors from 10-26 February 2006, but with undefined hours of operations (Figure 25).



Figures 23 & 24. Personalized stamps for Austria House and the Salzburg 2014 candidature.



Figure 25. Near the entrance to the temporary Austria Post office in Sestriere was this yellow Austria Post mailbox displaying examples of the personalized stamps in the window on the front.



It's interesting to see how Austria Post solved the problem of how to explain its presence in Italy in the text of the special postmark.

The nature of Austria Post's personalized stamp program must be touched upon. For some years the post office had made these stamps available to individuals as well as businesses. Austria Post soon realized that this was also a good way to increase the stamp output for collectors without enlarging their official stamp issuing program. In cooperation with the Austrian State Printer (ÖSD), Austria Post established a program of special issues of personalized stamps in composite sheetlets of 20 different stamps for certain popular occasions, for instance to celebrate victories of sportsmen or sports heroes. This program was aimed at developing new clients for its philatelic products.

During the past year the post office retracted its policy limiting the face value of personalized stamps to €0.55. Both of the stamps sold in Sestriere were



Figure 26. Only one hour after winning the silver medal in Pragelato, Felix Gottwald had been honored with his own stamp.



Figure 27. A collector's joy: even such a well-known printer as the ÖSD sometimes makes small errors (note the white "blob" on Felix Gottwald's nose on the third stamp from left).

available in four different denominations. The €0.55 stamp were sold for €1 with a certain discount for the sportsmen. These stamps were later sold in Vienna at the philatelic counter for €2 per stamp.

Having just enjoyed watching his country win a gold medal in the Nordic Combined (one of the first finals of these Olympic Games), this reporter decided to stop by the Austria Post office on the way back. Surprisingly, the office was now open (it had been closed that morning). And there was even a new face staring back from the counter: a stamp (Figures 26 & 27) with the portrait of Austrian Olympic Team member, Felix Gottwald, who I had just seen take the silver (he later became the hero of the Nordic combination).

Dr. Haas, Chief of the Philatelic Department explained the Austria Post program. After he had seen what his Australian and Greek colleagues had created for the last Olympic Games, he planned with the ÖSD the issuance of personalized stamps for all the Austrian medal winners. Dr. Haas said that

they prepared sheetlets ahead of time for every expected medal winner, which he had brought with him to the hotel. In the event of an unexpected winner they would still be able to react quickly. Accepting the fact that Dr. Haas could not know every winner in advance, the list of all the medalists immortalized on stamps was eventually published



Figures 28. The wide black "mourning" margins on the special postcards for the personalized stamps doesn't do justice to the great successes of the Austrian team. Shown here is the stamp for Benjamin Raich (20 February, gold in the giant slalom; 25 February, gold in the slalom).

in the postal bulletin as well as on the internet. Each athlete was shown receiving his or her sheetlet. At Sestriere, all Austrian team members were given two personal sheetlets with their pictures as a souvenir, however only the medalists stamps were sold to the public in Sestriere and later in Vienna (Figure 28).

The Olympic medalist personalized stamp program began on 11 February with information released that day to the public. The first stamps (for Felix Gottwald) were sold that day at Sestriere and two days later in Vienna.

Reflecting upon the dates of issue of the stamps one question may be of interest. Probably the personalized stamps given to all the team members were not kept secure until the last day to enable the athletes to use them during the Games. This would mean that there were really two issue dates: a non-official “first” day when a team member received his two sheets of personalized stamps, and then a second issue date after an athlete won a medal whereupon the personalized stamps took on an official character. Mikhail Botwinov, the former Soviet skier now in Austria's service, would certainly have already seen his stamp by the time he won the bronze medal in the 50 km cross-country race on the last day of the Games, at which point his stamp would have gone on sale to the public.

The complete list of the Austrian medal winner stamps available in Sestriere:

- 11 February, Felix Gottwald (Nordic Combined: 2 x Gold, 1x Silver)
- 12 February, Michael Walchhofer (Alpine skiing: Silver)



Figure 29. A special postcard with a scene from Sestriere was offered at the Austrian Post counter. There were two types: with and without a space for affixing a stamp on the front side.

- 14 February, Rainer Schoenfelder (Alpine skiing: 2 x Bronze)
- 15 February, Michaela Dorfmeister (Alpine skiing: 2 x Gold)
- 15 February, Andreas Linger/ Wolfgang Linger (luge: Gold)
- 16 February, Christoph Bieler (Nordic Combined: Gold)
- 16 February, Michael Gruber (Nordic Combined: Gold)
- 16 February, Mario Stecher (Nordic Combined: Gold)
- 18 February, Hermann Maier (Alpine skiing: 1 x Silver, 1 x Bronze)
- 18 February, Marlies Schild (Alpine skiing: 2 x Silver, 1 x Bronze)
- 18 February, Thomas Morgenstern (ski jumping: 2 x Gold)
- 18 February, Andreas Kofler (ski jumping: 1 x Gold, 1 x Silver)
- 20 February, Benjamin Raich (Alpine skiing: 2 x Gold)
- 20 February, Alexandra Meissnitzer (Alpine skiing: Bronze)
- 20 February, Andreas Widhölzl (ski jumping: Gold)
- 20 February, Martin Koch (ski jumping: Gold)
- 22 February, Siegfried Grabner (snowboard: Bronze)
- 22 February, Nicole Hosp (Alpine skiing: Silver)
- 25 February, Reinfried Herbst (Alpine skiing: Silver)
- 26 February, Mikhail Botwinov (Cross-country: Bronze).

Eventually, all the stamps were printed in a single composite sheetlet, but not until after the Games.

One composite sheetlet, however, did have a first day on 11 February. That evening, skiing legend, Toni Sailer, who was celebrating his 70th birthday, announced he was coming to Austria House. Dr. Haas was well prepared for that event with a sheetlet of personalized stamps portraying different milestones in Sailer's sporting life including his successes 50 years earlier at the 1956 Cortina d'Ampezzo Olympics. (The issuance of the sheet had been more or less announced in the Austrian philatelic press, but without an exact date.)

At least one gap in the information remained, as the author had to catch his bus back to Torino. Bob Farley of the SOC was able to fill this gap on a visit 12 days later: it was possible to mail registered covers. Bob was the first one to ask for this service. With just three days before the end of the Games, there couldn't have been many registered covers mailed (Figure 31).

Bestätigung		Post.at
<input type="checkbox"/>	Entrichtete Postentgelte	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nachnahmebeträge	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Bestellbetrag</i>	
Gesamtbetrag		11 FEB. 2006
Datum	11. FEB. 2006	
Unterschrift	<i>[Signature]</i>	
Olympische Winterspiele 2006 Sestriere 1150 Wien		
<small>Österreichische Post AG, Firmenbuchnummer: 180 219d, Firmenbuchgericht: 190 Wien Es gelten die für das jeweilige Produkt anwendbaren Allgemeinen Geschäftsbedingungen der Österreichischen Post AG in ihrer jeweils gültigen Fassung. DVR: 1008803 UID-Nr.: ATU 48624503 7 661 101 701 GZ: DK/18-414731/04</small>		

Figure 30. Receipt for buying a sheetlet at the discounted Sestriere price of €20 (11 February, first day of the Gottwald stamp).

Without a doubt Austria Post received a great response from Austrian sports fans. Because most of this story happened in the host country of the 2006 Winter Olympics it is an important part of its postal history.

TNT – New Courier and Express Services Partner

After UPS decided not to renew its TOP sponsorship, the IOC saw an opportunity for the Netherlands-based TNT to take its place. The negotiations with TOROC were successfully con-



Figure 31. Registered cover mailed from Austria Post's post office at Sestriere via Vienna. The cover is franked with €2.75 (overpaid by 10 cents). This is one of the very rare registered items from this special post office.

cluded in May 2004 with TNT being named "Official Supplier of Logistic Services" and "Express Delivery Partner." TNT assumed tremendous logistic tasks including, for example, delivering everything from equipment to the Olympic Villages and the media centers as well as the event tickets from the Portuguese printers to the main distribution centers.

Our interest, as philatelists, should be directed to their task as the Express Delivery Partner. In this position TNT maintained several so-called shops at the primary venues of the Olympic infrastructure: Olympic Villages and the media center (Figure 32).



Figure 32. Photo of the TNT shop at the MPC (used as the image for a hybrid card). The hybrid card (product name "Wishou"), was ordered and designed through the web and sent to Italy via the Netherlands' TPG Post. TPG and TNT are owned by the same corporate parent.

WE BUY AND SELL

Sports and Olympic philatelic material from every country around the world

If you collect a specific sport such as:

Archery, Basketball, Baseball, Hockey, Skating, Tennis, Cycling, Soccer,
Football, Wrestling, Weight Lifting, Track & Field, Gymnastics, etc.

Well, you get the picture – we probably have something for you. We have stamps, mint and used, souvenir sheets, deluxe sheets, proofs and more than 5,000 different covers for every Olympic Games and sport as well as books, tickets and some Olympic memorabilia for sale.

Please give us a try and send us your "want list" and let us know how we can help you build your sports or Olympic collection. We have many satisfied customers and hope to hear from you soon.



Jeff Armitage
3978 Vanstone Drive
Commerce Twp., MI 48382
E-mail: corarm45@aol.com



OLYMPIC GAMES ALBUM PAGES

SALE FOR SPI MEMBERS ONLY

60% DISCOUNT FROM RETAIL PRICES

23rd Games 1984 (Title & 386 pages) \$175.00 retail - your price **\$70.00** plus shipping.

23rd Games 1984 (Imperfs 143 pages) \$65.00 retail - your price **\$30.00** plus shipping

24th Games 1988 (Title & 375 pages) \$175.00 retail - your price **\$70.00** plus shipping

24th Games 1988 (Imperfs 104 pages) \$48.00 retail - your price **\$19.00** plus shipping

Credit cards accepted: Visa - MasterCard
Binders, Dust Cases, Blank Pages also
available at our usual prices

Phone: (708) 590-6257

Web Site: www.albumpublisher.com

Email: album@comcast.net



CUSTOM IMPRESSIONS

P.O. BOX 98
ORLAND PARK, IL 60462-0098

French Open Golf Tournament Centenary

by Jean-Pierre Picquot

This year the French Open celebrates its centennial on the Golf National course of Guyancourt at Yvelines. This prestigious tournament is older than the golf opens of the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and South Africa. Two milestones in the history of golf occurred in France: the birth at Pau in 1856 of the first club outside the British Isles, and the creation of the first "open" tournament in continental Europe.

Arnaud Massy began writing his legend by carrying off the first open title in 1906 on the Golf de La Bouille course, known under the name Golf de Paris. In 1907, he accomplished a historic "double" by winning both the British Open and French Open.

To merit a place in history, a tournament must value its longevity and its champions. With a century of existence, the first criterion is satisfied. By reading the important names on the celebrated cup of the French Open, one discovers the victories of the best champions of both yesterday and today: Massy, Taylor, Braid, Duncan, Hagen, De Vincenzo, Locke, Dallemagne (who accomplished a unique triple win from 1936 to 1938), and Cotton. The most celebrated of the modern winners have added their names to the trophy: Norman, Ballesteros, Faldo, Montgomerie and Olazabal.

Since Jean Garaïalde's victory in 1969, no Frenchman had won the open until Jean-Francois Remesy's extraordinary double wins in 2004 and 2005. The repercussion in the sporting world of these French successes coincided with the ambitious plans of the Fédération Française de Golf to place the French Open among the greatest tournaments while at the same time serving to promote golf in France.

To celebrate the event, La Poste, France's postal administration, will issue a €0.53 stamp on June 24.

The first day event is to be held during a two-day Paris stamp show (June 24-25). A special first day cancel will be available.

During the 2006 French Open, which is being contested from June 29 - July 2, a second pictorial postmark will be used for all four days of the tournament.

AFCOS, the French Olympic and sports philatelic society will be issuing covers and cards. 🇫🇷



Stamp to be issued for the French Open Golf Tournament Centenary on June 24, 2006. The first day will take place at Paris stamp show.



First day cancel available at the Paris stamps show on June 24, 2006.

Postmark commemorating the centennial edition of the French Open to be used at the Golf National course from June 29 - July 2, 2006.





Figure 1. Early use of a machine cancel promoting the second Amateur Baseball World Championship held in Havana, Cuba in August 1939.

The 1939 Cuban Baseball Machine Postmark

by Norman Rushefsky

The first World Cup (or World Championships) in baseball was held in England in 1938. Two teams competed that first year; the United States and Great Britain played a series of five games. Britain won four, becoming the first amateur baseball world champions.

In fact when the US Olympic baseball team arrived in Plymouth, England for what was billed as a five-game "Test Series," there was no talk of a world championships. The US squad was preparing for the Olympic Games that were planned for Tokyo in 1940. The team was a combination of high school and college players picked the month before at the USA National Amateur Baseball Trials held in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The bulk of the British team came from the Yorkshire-Lancashire league, a partially professional circuit. Before the Second World War, baseball was thriving in England, attracting upwards of 10,000 spectators a game. While all the players on the British team competed in England, the side was

made up almost entirely of players born in Canada.

After this "championship," the International Baseball Federation (IBF) was founded. In subsequent years World Cups have been played at irregular intervals.

The 36th took place in The Netherlands in September 2005. Professional players usually do not participate in the World Cup as the tournament invariably coincides with the regular competition season.

The second Amateur Baseball World Championship was held in Havana, Cuba in 1939 and is of philatelic interest because of the use of a machine postmark promoting this series. As noted in the postmark, the series was to be played from August 12 through August 27. Figure 1 illustrates the earliest use I have noted of this machine postmark. I believe this date to be July 23, 1939, however the "23" may read either "28" or "29". Examples of this machine cancel exist during both July and August of 1939. That year three teams competed for the world championship with the Cuban team winning.

The world championship series was again held in Havana in 1940 and 1941. I have noted that the



Figure 2. Both sides of a 1940 Havana, Cuba cover addressed to the U.S. Reverse of the cover shows the Amateur World Baseball Championship machine cancel from 1939.

machine cancel was also used in both those years. However, as slogan postmarks were very scarce at that time, I believe this to have been the older 1939 postmark that was inadvertently reused. In addition, the one example found of the 1940 postmark shows its use on December 31, 1940, a date far removed from the period August 12-27 noted in the postmark.

Figure 2 is an airmail cover mailed from Havana to New York City. The front bears the common slogan postmark honoring the birth centenary of Dr. Finlay, the physician and scientist. A rubberstamp marking indicates that the cover was returned to the sender for failure to include the required semi-postal stamp. The back of the cover includes a December 31, 1940 machine cancel with the Amateur Baseball World Series slogan. Apparently the cover was returned to the sender, the semi-postal stamp was applied, and the envelope remailed.

Figure 3 illustrates use of the postmark in 1941. The exact date of the postmark is unclear, however

the year is 1941. The stamp honoring the Rotary International Convention was issued in 1940 so this could not be a use of the slogan in 1939 with an incorrect year date.



Figure 3. Use of the championship machine cancel in 1941. This is not likely an error in the year date as the Rotary International stamp was not issued until 1940.



Were there really only 96 pieces of registered 1936 torch relay mail?

by Zhuoyu Yuan

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the 1936 Olympic Games, which inaugurated many Olympic traditions that have continued through the years. Among these was the very first Olympic torch relay which served as both a symbolic link between the ancient Greek games and modern times as well as an event celebrated by thousands of Olympic fans through which the torch relay passed.

There are many philatelic examples of this historic event. Some, like the special postmark

shown above, are well documented. This one was used in Olympia, Greece on July 20, 1936 to commemorate the lightening of the Olympic flame. Ernest Trory in his "Philatelic History of the Olympic Games: Part Six" offers this description:

5,000 pieces of mail received this postmark, of which only 96 were registered. Souvenir cards posted before and after the 20th July received the ordinary Olympia handstamp.

Being relatively common, the average Olympic collector probably would not pay undue attention to



Figure 1. How many pieces of registered mail were actually processed at Ancient Olympia on July 20, 1936 when the flame for the first Olympic Torch Relay was lit?

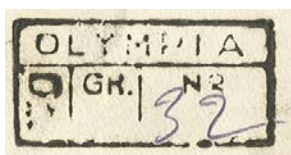


Figure 2. The registration marking stamped on the front of the cover.

the 5,000 regular pieces. Of far more interest are the very limited 96 registered mail items.

I have seen very few registered mail items that received this special postmark since focusing my Olympic collecting interest on the XIth Olympiad over ten years ago. The two examples I possess are #32 (Figures 1 & 3) and #166. Both bear identical registration marks (Figure 2).

I am not sure how the number of registered mail items was determined? If one assumes that these two were the first and last registered items, then shouldn't there be at least 135 registered in all? Or perhaps the numbering is not continuous?

The plea for articles from our editor, Mark Maestrone, forced me to take a closer look at my collection. I hope my fellow SPI members will do the same and submit their questions for publication.

In the meantime, if anyone can answer the

following questions about the 1936 registered torch relay covers from Greece, I'd be grateful:

- 1) What was the registration rate for foreign and domestic mails in Greece at that time?
- 2) Other than the "Berlin Olympisches Dorf" cachet in Figure 1, were there other cachets applied to these mail pieces?
- 3) Are there further details on the sender of the cover in Figures 1 & 3
- 4) What is the translation/significance of the Greek marking (in red) on the reverse of the cover (Figure 3)?

And information would be most appreciated. My email address is: yuanz2001@yahoo.com

**Don't forget to place
your bids in the auction!**



Figure 3. I'd like to know more about the sender of the cover in Figure 2 who was clearly a stamp collector/dealer in Athens. And what does the Greek marking (in red) at center right indicate?



Figure 1. Team Croatia with the Davis Cup

On December 4, 2005 at the end of a breathless final in Slovakia, Croatia, for the first time, captured this 93rd edition of the Davis Cup (Figure 1).

Croatia, a country of 4.5 million inhabitants born in 1991 after the breakup of the former Yugoslavia, had never reached the semi-finals of the competition before 2005. Croatia joined Cup play in 1993, playing its first match against Zimbabwe (Figure 2). For nearly a decade, Goran Ivanisevic, winner of Wimbledon in 2001, was the team's pillar (Figure 3).

Croatia's Davis Cup Results (1993-2004)

1993: 1st Division
 1994: Reached World Group play
 1995: 1st Division
 1996: 1st Division
 1997: 1st Division
 1998: 1st Division
 1999: 2nd Division
 2000: 1st Division
 2001: Reached World Group play
 2002: Quarterfinal
 2003: Quarterfinal
 2004: First Round

Glory to Croatia: Davis Cup 2005 Victors

by Pascal Bedenes

2005 Davis Cup, 1st Round: Croatia beats the USA 3-2, Los Angeles, California (March 4-6)

The First Round: USA-Croatia at Los Angeles. The Croatian team caused quite a sensation when, for the first time in US David Cup play, the US team was eliminated during a first round played at home. The Croat, Ljubicic, picked up three victories in three days. On Friday he beat André Agassi in a men's



Figure 2. Croatia played its first Davis Cup match in 1993 against Zimbabwe. A special Zagreb cancel on April 30 honors the event.



Figure 3. Goran Ivanisevic, Croatia's most decorated tennis player, won Wimbledon in 2001. He also served as the fourth player and an adviser on the Croatian 2005 Davis Cup team.

singles match (Figure 4). Agassi was returning to the Davis Cup after a five-year absence. With his partner Mario Ancic, Ljubicic won the men's doubles match on Saturday against brothers Mike and Bob Bryan, one of the best pair of doubles players in the world. This was the Bryan brothers' first defeat in six Davis Cup matches. Finally, at the end of a match which lasted nearly four hours, Ljubicic scored the third decisive point by knocking off the No. 3 ranked player in the world, Andy Roddick.

This was the second time the two nations had met in Davis Cup competition. Ljubicic had already won three Cup matches against the Americans in first round play in 2003 at Zagreb where he beat James Blake and Mardy (Figure 5).

Ljubicic (CRO) beats Agassi (USA) 6-3, 7-6, 6-3
 Roddick (USA) beats Ancic (CRO) 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-4
 Ancic and Ljubicic (CRO) beat Mike and Bob Bryan (USA) 6-3, 6-7, 6-4, 6-4



Figure 5. Croatia advanced to the quarterfinals in 2003 after beating the Americans in Zagreb (left). In 2005, Croatia beat Romania in the quarterfinal matches in Split.



Figure 4. Andre Agassi was the first American to fall to the 2005 Croatian Davis Cup team.

Ljubicic (CRO) beats Roddick (USA) 4-6, 6-3, 7-6, 6-7, 6-2

Bryan (USA) beats Karanusic(CRO) 6-2, 3-6, 6-1

2005 Davis Cup, Quarterfinal: Croatia beats Romania 4-1, Split, Croatia (July 15-17)

Energized by the win over the Americans in the first round, Ivan Ljubicic's talents were on display against Romania. In the first match, Pavel scored the first point for the Romanians defeating Mario Ancic. In the second singles match, Ljubicic restored hope to his teammates at the expense of Victor Hanesu.

The doubles match proved decisive as is often the case in Davis Cup competition. The Croatian pair of Ancic and Ljubicic triumphed over Pavel and Trifu in five fiercely fought sets.

Although Ljubicic had just played ten sets in two days, Pavel was not a threat. Ljubicic won in three sets, scoring the third and final point for Croatia (Figure 5).

Pavel (ROU) beats Ancic (CRO) 1-6, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4
 Ljubicic (CRO) beats Hanesu (ROU) 6-2, 6-3, 7-6
 Ancic and Ljubicic (CRO) beat Pavel and Trifu (ROU) 5-7, 6-4, 6-7, 6-4, 6-4
 Ljubicic (CRO) beats Pavel (ROU) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3
 Ancic (CRO) beats Hanesu (ROU) 7-6, 7-6

2005 Davis Cup, Semifinal: Croatia beats Russia 3-2, Split, Croatia (September 23-25)

This was the first time Croatia had reached this stage of the competition. Marat Safin, the number



Figure 6. Croatia beat Russia in their first semifinal Davis Cup appearance in Split.

one ranked Russian who won the Australian Open earlier in the season, was sidelined with an injury. Despite his absence, Russia took an early lead in the competition thanks to Davydenko's victory over the Croat, Ancic, in four sets. Davydenko had been a surprise that year, reaching the semifinals of the French Open at Roland Garros.

Ljubicic, the Croatian giant, evened the score in five tight sets against Youzhny, who dug France's grave in the 2002 Davis Cup final (Figure 6).

The doubles match on Saturday was a determining factor in the competition. The Croats, Ancic and Ljubicic, intent on making it to the finals, won the match in five sets against the Russian doubles team of Andeev and Tursunov.

While his first two matches went to five sets, Ljubicic thrashed Davydenko in their singles match in three sets. Croatia was in the finals!

In the last singles match, with nothing at stake, the substitutes took to the court with the Russian, Tursunov, dominating Karlovic in two sets.

Davydenko (RUS) beats Ancic (CRO) 7-6, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4
Ljubicic (CRO) beats Youzhny (RUS) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4

Ancic and Ljubicic (CRO) beats Andeev and Tursunov (RUS) 6-2, 4-6, 7-6, 3-6, 6-4

Ljubicic (CRO) - Davydenko (RUS) 6-3, 7-6, 6-4
Tursunov (RUS) beats Karlovic (CRO) 6-4, 6-4

2005 Davis Cup, Final: Croatia beats Slovakia 3-2, Bratislava, Slovakia (December 2-4)

The number two player on the Slovak team, Karol Beck, was injured. At the last moment, he was replaced by Karol Kucera. Goran Ivanisevic, who had been retired for a year, served on the Croatian team as a fourth player and an adviser.



Figure 7. Slovakian postal stationery card marking the opening of the 2005 Davis Cup finals on December 2 in Bratislava.



Figure 8. Special Croatian postal card and cancel depicting both the Croatian and Slovakian teams with the Davis Cup.



Figure 9. Croatian postal card and cancel honoring the Croatian team's victory in the finals of the 2005 Davis Cup.

At the end of the first day of play, the teams were equal with one point apiece as the best players on each team won easily (Figures 7 & 8). In the first singles match, Ljubicic crushed Kucera in three lopsided sets that took just two hours. The Slovak, Hrbaty, triumphed over Ancic in the second match of the day in four sets.

The following day, Croatia scored the always-important doubles point, with Ancic and Ljubicic victorious over the Slovaks, Hrbaty and Mertinak, in three sets.

In the reverse singles matches, Hrbaty upsets a tired Ljubicic in five sets. With each team at two points the entire competition hinges on the fifth and final match. To the great relief of his nation, the Croat, Ancic, triumphed in three sets over Mertinak who replaced Karol Kucera at the last moment. Croatia was jubilant (Figure 9)!

Ljubicic (CRO) beats Kucera (SVK) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3
 Hrbaty (SVK) beats Ljubicic (CRO) 7-6, 6-3, 6-7, 6-4
 Ancic and Ljubicic (CRO) beats Hrbaty and Mertinak (SVK) 7-6, 6-3, 7-6
 Hrbaty (SVK) beats Ljubicic (CRO) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4
 Ancic (CRO) beats Mertinak (SVK) 7-6, 6-3, 6-4

For the History Books

For the third time in six years (first by Spain in 2000 and then Russia in 2002), the Davis Cup was carried off by a team which had never before won. Croatia thus became the twelfth nation to win the Davis Cup. With just 4.5 million inhabitants, it is by far the smallest country to have succeeded. For the first time in thirty years, the final was contested by two nations which had never before reached this level. The best previous finish of both Croatia and Slovakia had been in the quarterfinals.

Ljubicic will remain the hero of the 2005 Davis Cup with 11 victories in 12 matches. His record stops just short of John McEnroe's who, in 1982, became the only player to make it through a Davis Cup competition without a single loss (Figure 10). However, McEnroe had competed in three other competitions without much success.

The Croatian captain, Niki Pilic, is the first captain victorious under the banner of two different nations. He directed the triumphant German team in Davis Cup play in 1988, 1989 and 1993 (Figure 10).

From 1900, when the Davis Cup was inaugurated, through 1974, only four countries had won the title. In the last five years, five different nations have won: France, Russia, Australia, Spain, and Croatia. 🇨🇷

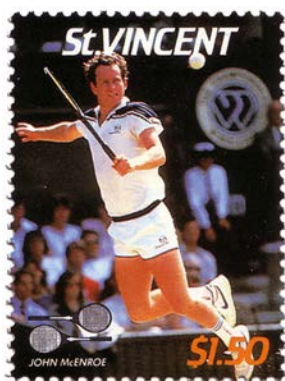


Figure 10. John McEnroe is the only Davis Cup player to have won every match in a single tournament (upper left and right). Niki Pilic has captained winning Davis Cup teams from two countries: Germany in 1988, 1989 and 1993 (bottom left and right), and Croatia in 2005.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Margaret Jones

New Members

2246 Sherrie-Lynn Hollomon, 8 Willard Street, #2, Hagerstown, Maryland, 21740-5024 USA. Miss Hollomon is an office manager. ***Roller Skating, Olympics.*** ducky996sps@yahoo.com

RENEWALS

433 Michael Berry, Healey & Wise, PO Box 3, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, England TN2 5YE.

918 Brian Bjorgo, 3220 Forest Drive, Bremerton, Washington, 98310-4718 USA.

1326 Leslie D. Gailey, PO Box 1063, Sandy, Utah, 84091-1063 USA.

2118 Kwok-Yiu Kwan, 1312, Yan Tin Hse., Hing Tin Est., Lam Tin, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Francis Gervais, 873 Place des Rapides, Laval, QC, Canada H7Y 2E6.

Total Membership, March 31, 2006 = 237

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 the e-mail address as "for office use only," or you may give permission for its publication in the journal and membership handbook. Please send to docj3@sportstamps.org

Exhibit Awards

THAMESPEX (Waterford, Connecticut). Obediah P. Hill earned silver for "U.S. Hunting Permit Stamps (1934-2005)".

WASHINGTON 2006 (FIP International). Norman Jacobs won a Vermeil (81 pts.) for his 8-frame exhibit in the Thematic Class entitled "Tennis – Courtyard to Backyard, for Fun and for Fame." Andrew Urushima's "Spoiled by War: The Games of

the XIIth Olympiad" received a Silver (75 pts.) in the One-Frame Class as did Mark Maestrone's "Men's Gymnastics: Dressed to Win" (78 pts.). In the Literature Class, the *Journal of Sports Philately* (editor, Mark Maestrone) received a Silver-Bronze (68 pts.).

From the Webmaster

Send in exhibit news to the webmaster and Exhibit Awards column. Send your adlets to the webmaster, docj3@sportstamps.org

If you have received a renewal envelope with this issue, please return it with your payment by July 15 to allow time for processing. Don't forget that multiple year memberships save you money and time!

France and Colonies Proofs & Essays

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

Topicals in Award Winning Varieties & Approvals

Look for us on the web at
<http://www.ejmcconnell.com>

Credit cards accepted Mastercard, VISA, AMEX



E. J. McConnell, Inc.
P.O. Box 683 • Monroe, NY 10949
FAX (845) 782-0347 • ejstamps@gmail.com



NEW STAMP ISSUES

by John La Porta

Algeria: March 21, 2006. World Soccer Cup, Germany. 30d soccer ball, with half as earth.

French Andorra: February 4, 2006. Turin Winter Olympics. Triptych of two stamps and a central label 0.55e alpine skier; 0.75e cross country skier.

Spanish Andorra: February 15, 2006. Turin Winter Olympics. 0.29e skiers.

Australia: March 16, 2006. Australian Commonwealth Champions. Pane of five se-tenant 50¢ stamps. Opening ceremonies.

March 17, 2006. Australian Commonwealth Champions. Pane of five se-tenant 50¢ stamps. Winners.

March 18, 2006. Australian Commonwealth Champions. Pane of 10 se-tenant 50¢ stamps. Winners.

March 19, 2006. Australian Commonwealth Champions. Pane of five se-tenant 50¢ stamps. Pane of 10 se-tenant 50¢ stamps. Winners.

March 20, 2006. Australian Commonwealth Champions. Pane of five se-tenant 50¢ stamps. Winners.

March 21, 2006. Australian Commonwealth Champions. Pane of five se-tenant 50¢ stamps. Pane of 10 se-tenant 50¢ stamps. Winners.

March 22, 2006. Australian Commonwealth Champions. Pane of five se-tenant 50¢ stamps. Pane of 10 se-tenant 50¢ stamps. Winners.

March 23, 2006. Australian Commonwealth Champions. Pane of five se-tenant 50¢ stamps. Winners.

March 24, 2006. Australian Commonwealth Champions. Pane of five se-tenant 50¢ stamps. Winners.

March 25, 2006. Australian Commonwealth Champions. Pane of 10 se-tenant 50¢ stamps. Winners.

March 26, 2006. Australian Commonwealth Champions. Pane of 10 se-tenant 50¢ stamps. Winners.

March 27, 2006. Australian Commonwealth Champions. Pane of five se-tenant 50¢ stamps. Winners. Pane

2 closing ceremonies.

March 28, 2006. Australian Commonwealth Champions/. Most memorable moment. Pane of 10 se-tenant 50¢ stamps. Marathon runner Kerry McCann.

Austria: January 14, 2006. Muhammad Ali, 1.25e.

Azerbaijan: March 2006. World Soccer Cup. Se-tenant pair, 20g emblem, symbolic smiling faces, two soccer scenes; 60g legs kicking ball over map of Germany.

Belarus: January 9, 2006. Turin Winter Olympics. 5run snowboarders; souvenir sheet with 2,000rub stamp freestyle skating.

Bosnian Serb Administration: February 10, 2006. Turin Winter Olympics. 50p biathlon; 1m alpine skier.

Costa Rica: December 6, 2005. Int. Year of Sports and Physical Education. 5col man in racing wheelchair.

Cyprus: March 30, 2006. Anniversaries and Events. 2006 World Cup, 50¢ soccer player and ball.

Czech Republic: February 8, 2006. Turin Winter Olympics. 9kc cross-country skiing.

February 8, 2006. Turin Winter Paralympics. 7.50kc two sledge-hockey players.

Dominica: February 14, 2006. NBA Basketball Players. Six 90¢ stamps.

March 29, 2006. Turin Winter Olympics. 75¢, 90¢, \$2, \$3.

Ecuador: August 4, 2005 75th Ann. University Sports League of Quito. Five se-tenant 40¢ stamps, stadium; 1969 soccer team; emblem; children playing at school; emblem statue; s/a with \$2 stamp, soccer shirt.

August 8, 2005. 15th Bolivarian Games. 25¢ emblem.

August 8, 2005. First Ecuadoran Victory in International Sports Competition. Trophy, swimming fed. emblem.

Equatorial Guinea: 2005. Anniversaries in 2004. Strip of three, one stamp 100th Anniversary FIFA. 450f soccer ball, emblem.

Estonia: January 18, 2006. Turin Winter Olympics. 8kr/0.51e cross-country skiers.

France: February 4, 2006. Turin Winter Olympics. 0.53e skier and shooter in biathlon.

Georgia: December 29, 2005. German World Soccer Club. 1 tetru, smiling face emblems.

December 29, 2005. Turin Winter Olympic Games. 10 laris speed skater; 20 laris biathlon athlete; 30 laris ski jumper; 40 laris figure skater; 80 laris slalom skier.

December 29, 2005. Beijing Summer Olympics. 80 laris symbolic wrestlers.

Germany: February 9, 2006. Sport semi-postals. 0.45e+0.20e (all the stamps pay tribute to the World Soccer Cup) light and flag; two 0.55e+0.25e stamps, stadium, interior scene of stadium; horses running, World Equestrian Games; 1.44e+0.56e poster showing soccer ball in night sky.

Greece: November 30, 2005. Historic Soccer and Sports Clubs. 0.30e Ethnikos; three 0.50e stamps, clover leaf for Panathinakikos; Panionios; Iraklis; two 0.65e two headed snake for Paok; statue of discus thrower for Panelinios; 4e Omilos.

Grenada: March 29, 2006. World Soccer Cup. 32 \$1.50 stamps showing team photographs.

Hungary: February 10, 2006. Turin Winter Olympics. 200ft Italy as boot skiing, Italian national colors.

Italy: February 8, 2006. Turin Winter Olympics. 0.23e biathlon; 0.45e figure skating; 0.65e hockey; 0.70e curling; 0.85e bobsled; 0.90e alpine skiing; 1e Olympic Flame; 1.30e luge; 1.70e medals.

Kazakhstan: February 20, 2006. Turin Winter Olympics. 138t curling.

Kyrgyzstan: March 11, 2006. Turin Winter Olympics. 5 som alpine skier.

Latvia: February 4, 2006. Turin Winter Olympics. 45s snowboarder.

Lithuania: January 28, 2006. Turin Winter Olympics. 1.70 litas athletes in biathlon.

Monaco: March 8, 2006. 100th Tennis Tournament. 0.55e tennis player.

April 18, 2006. World Soccer Cup Championships. Se-

tenant pair of 0.90e stamps, continuous design of stadium, trophy, emblem.

Netherlands: February 2, 2006. Going for the Gold. Souvenir sheet with two 0.39e stamps, speed skater, speed skaters Ard Schenk and Yvonne van Gennip in action.

New Caledonia: March 9, 2006. Nokanhoui. 110fr sailboats at the atoll.

Norfolk Island: March 14, 2006. Commonwealth Games. 50¢, \$1.50, \$2, three different athletes.

Norway: February 3, 2006. Turin Winter Olympics. 6 krone freestyle skier Kari Traa; 22kr biathlete Ole Einar Bjørndalen.

Poland: February 7, 2006. Turin Winter Olympics. 2.40zl biathlon. In sheets of 10 with 10 labels.

Romania: February 1, 2006. Turin Winter Olympics. Souvenir sheet with four 1.60 leu stamps, figure skater, Roman statue; downhill skier, building; bobsled; biathlon.

St. Vincent: January 31, 2006. 80th Birthday Queen Elizabeth II. \$2 stamp depicting Queen awarding the 1966 Soccer World Cup to England.

Slovakia: February 3, 2006. Turin Winter Olympics. 21sk slalom skier.

Slovenia: January 20, 2006. Turin Winter Olympics. January 20, 2006. Se-tenant pair of stamps, 95t ski jumper, 107t snowboarder

Spain: March 22, 2006. Sports. Pane of 6 se-tenant stamp and six labels showing scenes from the television show On The Verge of the Impossible, 0.29e mountain biding in the Pyrenees; 0.38e crossing the desert; 0.41e paragliding in Antofagasta region, Chile; 0.573 kayaking around Iberian peninsula; 0.78e rafting the Bio Bio, Chile; 2.39e climbing down ravine, Reunion Island.

Switzerland: March 7, 2006. Youth Soccer. 85c young soccer player.

Tajikistan: December 1, 2005. National Hunting. Souvenir sheet with two 2.50s stamps with label in middle, hunting scenes.

United States: April 7, 2006. Boxing. 39¢ Sugar Ray Robinson.

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP CANCELS

by Mark Maestrone

THE NUMBERING SYSTEM

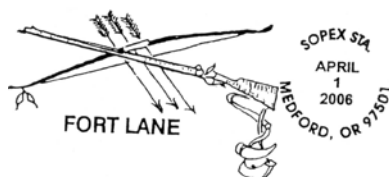
Catalogue numbers are shown at left, such as 05101-911. In this example: 05=Year [2005]; 1=Month [January]; 01=First day of use; 911=First 3 ZIP code digits. The months of October, November and December are 2-digit months, and are expressed as X, Y, and Z. The place of use is listed next, followed by the dates of use. All cancels are in black unless otherwise indicated.

SPORTS CROSS INDEX FEBRUARY-JUNE 2006

Archery: 06506-170
Auto Racing: 06427-410
Baseball: 06515-133
Basketball: 06407-220
Boxing: 06421-304
Cycling: 06506-470
Equestrian: 06414-273A, 06414-273B
Football: 06205-482
Hang Gliding: 06520-347
Horse Racing: 06520-212
Hunting: 06401-975
Surfing: 06503-920
Wrestling: 06520-120



06205-482 Detroit, MI 5



06401-975 Medford, OR 1



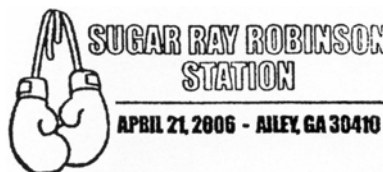
06407-220 Fairfax, VA 7



06414-273A Oak Ridge, NC 14-15



06414-273B Oak Ridge, NC 14-15



06421-304 Ailey, GA 21



06427-410 Sparta, KY 27



06503-920 Carlsbad, CA 3

2006 Boy Scout Sportsman Camporee Station



06506-170 Loysville, PA 6



06506-470 Aurora, IN 6



06515-133 Cooperstown, NY 15



06520-120 Amsterdam, NY 12010



06520-212 Baltimore, MD 20



06520-347 Groveland, FL 20

**We would be pleased to send you free
copies of our next two**

Profusely and clearly illustrated 28 (approx) page

OLYMPIC & SPORTS MAIL BID AUCTION CATALOGUES.

***The next edition, #36,
to be published October 2006!***

**The catalogues include Covers, Postmarks, Postcards,
Varieties, Proofs and Vignettes (Poster Stamps/Seals)
as well as paper memorabilia such as tickets & programmes.**

LISTED HERE ARE SOME OF THE HEADINGS

Olympics 1900s-1956

**and almost always include
CYCLING, SOCCER, GOLF, SWIMMING,
TENNIS, WINTER GAMES
and many other sports.**

WRITE, PHONE, E-MAIL or FAX TO ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY
Overseas clients will receive the catalogue by airmail post.

Be sure to visit our website. There you can see our gallery
of priced offers of illustrated single items shown
under the same headings as those listed above.
You may also check the prices of lots realised in our
last three auctions.

Website: www.healeyandwise.com

HEALEY & WISE

(Inga-Britt and Michael Berry)

PO Box 3 Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5YE, U.K.

Tele: 01892 533 270 Fax: 01892 512 777

From abroad:- Tele +0044 1892 533 270: Fax +0044 1892 512 777(24 hours)

E-mail: berry@healeyandwise.com

Established 1885. Member: P.T.S. (GB); A.P.S. (USA)
S.P.I. (USA); S.O.C (GB); A.F.C.O.S (F); I.M.O.S. (D); N.O.S.F.(N)



Olympic Games Memorabilia

Auctions

Want List Service

Appraisal Service

Exhibit Service

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

Ingrid O'Neil

Sports & Olympic Memorabilia

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

Tel. 360.834.5202
Fax 360.834.2853
ingrid@ioneil.com