

JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

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NUMBER 1



Salute to the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games

75th Birthday



TABLE OF CONTENTS



SPORTS
PHILATELISTS
INTERNATIONAL

President's Message	<i>Mark Maestroni</i>	1
75 Years Ago: the Los Angeles Olympic Games of 1932	<i>Thomas Lippert</i>	3
A.M. 33 and the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games	<i>Dale Lilljedahl</i>	19
Unknown No Longer – A 1932 Olympic Cachet Maker is Revealed	<i>Dale Lilljedahl</i>	24
U.S. Navy Ships Visit Los Angeles During the 1932 Olympic Games	<i>Mark Maestroni</i>	27
Mystery Cover: A 1932 Olympic Village Rarity ... Or a Fake?	<i>Conrad Klinkner</i>	30
13 th World Olympic Collectors Fair, Beijing	<i>Kwok-Yiu Kwan</i>	31
2007 SPI Convention at NAPEX	<i>Charlie Covell</i>	35
News of Our Members	<i>Margaret Jones</i>	37
New Stamp Issues	<i>John La Porta</i>	38
Commemorative Stamp Cancels	<i>Mark Maestroni</i>	40

1932 LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES

3

AIRMAIL & THE 1932 OLYMPIC GAMES

19

13TH OLYMPIC FAIR BEIJING

31

SPI CONVENTION AT NAPEX '07

35

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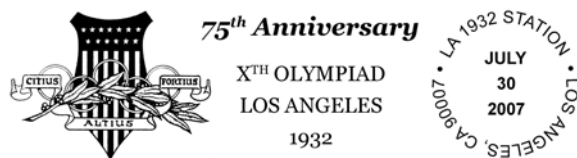
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

HAPPY 75TH BIRTHDAY LOS ANGELES!

On July 30, 2007, the Games of the Xth Olympiad celebrated their 75th anniversary. Sadly, this milestone in sporting history went largely unnoticed by everyone – except for SPI! This issue of the *Journal of Sports Philately* is dedicated to those wonderful Games held in the midst of the Great Depression which still managed to draw together over 1,300 athletes from 37 nations in international competition.

At the very last minute, I was able to arrange for a postmark honoring the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games. The postmark, reproducing the Games' logo, was available that day on a handback basis from the Dockweiler Post Office near the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (Olympic Stadium). There was a 30-day grace period for mailed requests.



2007 SPI INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

From the many members I've spoken with who were able to attend our biennial convention at NAPEX in suburban Washington, DC this past June, a good time was had by all. Many commented very positively about the banquet, and Morris Rosen's talk at our society meeting was a great hit – thanks, Morris!

Our convention also fielded an excellent variety of exhibits with golf exhibitor, Cora Collins, winning our SPI Best-of-Show Award. Congratulations, Cora! While the jury did receive a lot of criticism from our exhib-

itors because of the (sometimes severe) downgrading of nearly every exhibit, at least a couple of our members had the opportunity to avail themselves of an in-depth analysis of their exhibits at the frames with the thematic judge, Christine A. Earle, who helped point out new areas for improvement.

Speaking strictly for myself, I can accept a low(er) award for my exhibit as long as there are valid reasons. Too often, though, there have been occasions when jurors have downgraded an exhibit because they were either ill-prepared or were simply unqualified to judge thematic.

This does not appear to have been the case at NAPEX, although there may be some question as to whether Ms. Earle, a British national and FIP international judge, may not have been too stringent. Unlike in the United States, British national shows are judged to FIP international standards, so perhaps there was some confusion here.

For more, see the review by Charlie Covell on page 35. Finally, many thanks to all who attended!

NEW BOARD MEMBER ELECTED

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our SPI Board Member, Bernard McGovern, for his many years of service to SPI. For health reasons, Bernie asked to step down as soon as we found a replacement.

Beginning September 1, Norman Rushefsky will join the Board of Directors, filling the remainder of Bernie's two-year term. Readers will be familiar with his frequent baseball articles in our journal.

Welcome, Norman!

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

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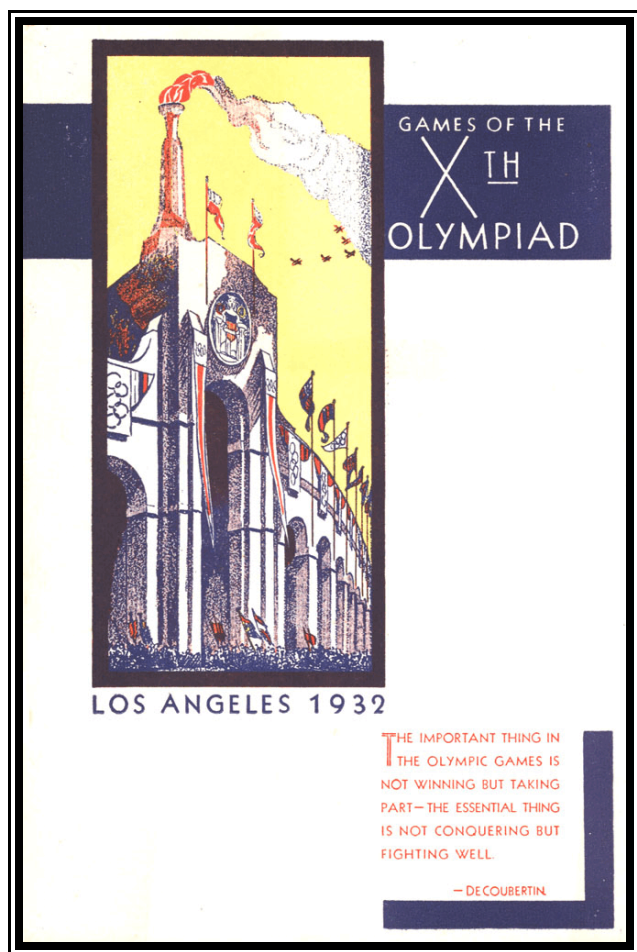
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75 Years Ago: The Los Angeles Olympic Games of 1932

by Thomas Lippert

(The following article was written from a German perspective for the author's fellow collectors in the OSPC Berlin and IMOS. It is not meant as a complete review of the history and philately of those Olympics, but rather as a panorama commemorating these often overlooked Games on their 75th anniversary. Much of the inspiration comes from items in the author's Olympic airmail collection. We thank the author and the OSPC Berlin for allowing us to publish this English translation of an article that appeared in the Volume 1, 2007 issue of their journal.)

THE WAY TO LA

The Olympic Games were awarded rather early to Los Angeles. This happened at the IOC Session in April 1923 in the Italian capital, Rome, where Los Angeles was the only candidate for hosting the Games of the Xth Olympiad.

The idea of celebrating the Games in California took shape as early as 1919. A decisive role was played in this context by Los Angeles businessman William May Garland who first appeared at the 1920 IOC Session where he impressed the IOC members with his speech. He returned in 1923 – as a member of the IOC (1922-1948) – where he presented Los Angeles' bid for the Games, this time reaping the rewards of his earlier labors by securing the Games for his city.

Although the selection of Los Angeles as the host city occurred nine years before the Games (seven years is the current lead time), the city needed some time to establish its organizing committee. The pressure increased, when in 1927 rumors circulated that the Games might be relocated to Washington. At that year's IOC Session in Monaco, the US delegate was not sure about the final status and was only saved when a telegram arrived confirming Los Angeles as the Host City.

Reasonable concerns were voiced in subsequent discussions about whether enough athletes would cross the Atlantic to participate in these Olympic Games. With this in mind, suggestions were put forth of ways to make the journey more comfortable (and financially feasible) for competitors from abroad. One such idea was to transport the European athletes from the East to the West Coast using chartered ships that would transit the Panama canal.

Also there were demands by the IOC that special discounts for the delegations be negotiated with the cruise lines and railway companies.

In consideration of the many details that were still



Figure 1. At the IOC Session held during the 1930 Congress at Berlin, Los Angeles' plans for the first Olympic Village were presented.

to be worked out, and to improve on what was until then less than adequate communication between the organizing committee and the IOC in general, a special 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games liaison office was established in Lausanne in 1929 as per an IOC decision taken at the Lausanne IOC Session some months earlier.

Incidentally, it was only at this 28th IOC Session in 1929 that the host city for the 1932 Olympic Winter Games was selected. In accordance with the rule that the host country of the Summer Games be given the first opportunity to host the winter events of the same year, there appeared seven candidates, among them Lake Tahoe, which 28 years later would indeed see the Olympic Winter Games come to town. As we know, the 1932 Olympic Winter Games were awarded (unanimously) to Lake Placid. The overwhelming support for Lake Placid was surely due in no small part to the city's promise to provide for both the accommodation and catering of athletes and officials (including families of the IOC members) and to establish a price level not higher than in Amsterdam four years earlier. Voting members also took into consideration Lake Placid's 25 years of experience as a ski resort and the financial guarantee of the State of New York.

At the 29th IOC Session in Berlin in 1930 – a kind of appendix to the Olympic Congress of 1930 – the IOC members were presented an enthusiastic report about the preparations in both Lake Placid and Los Angeles. This was probably the first time that filmed presentations of the on-going preparations were shown to the members. To these projects belonged the construction of an Olympic Village for minimizing team costs (Figure 1).

At least some National Olympic Committees (read: only some) sent a positive response, as reported one year later at the 1931 IOC Session in Barcelona. As it turned out, the Olympic Village project was one of the great successes of the Los Angeles Games.

THE 1932 LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC STAMPS

Let's first take a look at the stamps. The U.S. Postal Service has regularly honored the Olympic Games by issuing stamps. However, it was quite a novelty when, in 1932, a stamp was released for the Olympic Winter Games with an Alpine skiing design (although no Alpine skiing events were held at the 1932 Lake Placid Olympic Winter Games).

Even the Xth Olympiad Los Angeles 1932 Official Report speaks about the new issue for the Summer Games (Figure 2), but mentions a wrong first day of issue (June 30, 1932). In reality, as we of course know, the first day was actually June 15 – fifteen days earlier.

Often in the past there have been protests from collectors worldwide, when (expensive) special stamps were planned. It should be mentioned, however, that this did not occur when the impending release of two 1932 Olympic Games stamps were announced. There weren't even any objections over the 3¢ value which did not satisfy any specific current rate at the time of issue. It wasn't until July 6, 1932 that this became the correct rate for letters weighing up to one ounce.

The 5¢ value covered the U.S. airmail rate and additionally the first rate level for standard international mail. There's no denying that issuing such an "international" stamp made sense in order to accommodate the Olympic guests from overseas.

As occurs nowadays, first day ceremonies were held in a certain city. It is not surprising that the first day event for the Olympic stamps was in Los Angeles. One day later (Figure 10), the stamps were also made available in Washington, D.C. (second day of issue). [Editor's Note: recently, the U.S. Postal



Figure 2. Pair of stamps for the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games issued June 15, 1932.



Figure 3. Trouby FDC of the airmail variety with a machine postmark (LOS ANGELES, CALIF. / AIR MAIL). It's overpaid by three cents since the airmail rate on June 15, 1932 was still only 5¢.

Service has begun releasing new stamps nationwide on their first day although a First Day city where ceremonies are held is still designated for most commemorative issues.]

The great variety of privately produced First Day Covers (FDC) attest to the popularity of the stamps. The cachets are listed in catalogues with SPI's *Postal History and Vignettes of the 1932 Olympic Games* by

Sherwin Podolsky published in 1976 as a primary source.

Presented here are some interesting covers and cancellations from the first day of issue (Figures 3-8).

Combination First Day and First Flight covers were also possible as a new "night" service was inaugurated on existing contract airmail route 33 between Los Angeles and New York (Figure 5).



Figure 4. Airmail FDC with correct postage, mailed aboard the battleship U.S.S. Arizona, which was then anchored in Los Angeles Harbor.



Figure 5. Airmail FDC postmarked with the AIR MAIL FIELD balloon cancel and rubber hand-stamped cachet recognizing this as the first night flight of American Airlines' contract airmail route 33 (A.M. 33) from Los Angeles to New York. The flight cachet was sponsored by the Cham-ber of Commerce and is known in at least three colors (magenta, purple and black).

The extension of A.M. 33 from Phoenix to El Centro and San Diego offered additional opportunities for interesting FDCs (Figure 6). El Centro also marked the first flight with a special cachet. For more

detailed information on the A.M. 33 airmail contract route, please see Dale Lilljedahl's article, "A.M. 33 and the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games" elsewhere in this issue.



Figure 6. Airmail FDC with correct postage (5¢), postmarked with a San Diego publicity machine cancel reading "AIRMAIL SAVES TIME" along with the San Diego first flight cachet for the new A.M. 33 route between Phoenix, Arizona and San Diego via El Centro.



Figure 7. An even more rare first day postmark is the AIRMAIL cancel from the ARCADE ANNEX in downtown Los Angeles, seen here on an airmail cover with special delivery.

Figure 8. A favorite of the author's, this first day airmail cover traveled via the First Night Flight of American Airlines A.M. 33 from Los Angeles to New York (cachet on reverse). From there it was carried aboard the steamship "Bremen" to England where a catapult plane bridged the final few hundred miles from the ship to Southampton, significantly shortening delivery time.



One question remains: how did the Olympic stamps, which went on sale June 15 only in Los Angeles and its suburbs, reach San Diego and El

Centro, the latter a good 211 miles distant? [Editor's Note: for the answer, see the explanation at the end of this article.]

In a special category are the precancellations of the Olympic stamps which are known in many varieties (Figure 9). Ernest Trory in his study *A Philatelic History of the Olympic Games* published in the early 1960s lists precancels on the 3¢ and 5¢ stamps from some 687 towns in 44 states (plus D.C., Puerto Rico, and the Ryukus) that are recorded or in his own collection. More undoubtedly exist.

These are just a few examples of cancellations from the first (and second) day of issue. Especially in Los Angeles, there were many different post offices from which FDCs were mailed, including several post offices aboard U.S. Navy ships (see "U.S. Navy Ships Visit Los Angeles During the Olympics" elsewhere in this issue).



Figure 9. Precancelled stamps from WORCESTER, MASS., ULYSSES, PA., WESTFIELD, PA.; and KNOXVILLE, PA.

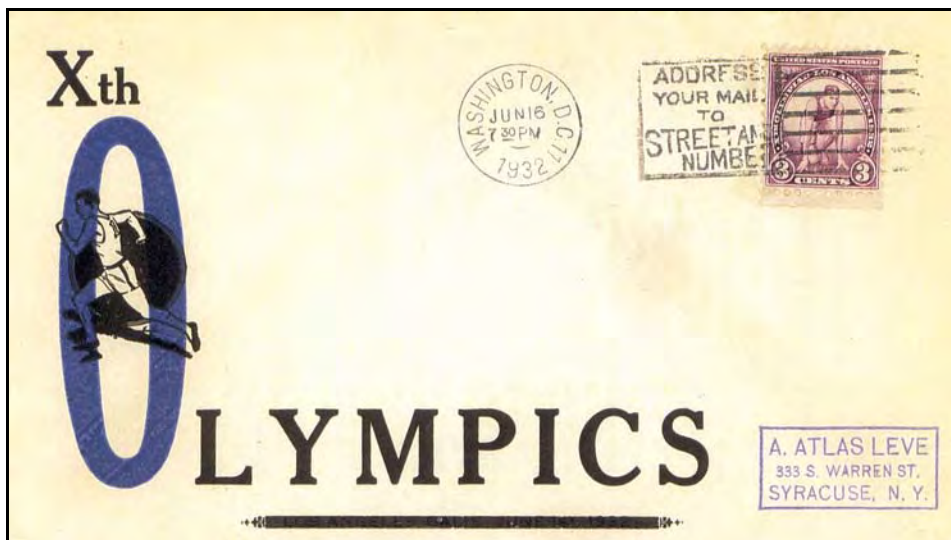


Figure 10. A June 16, 1932 "Second Day of Issue" cover of the 3¢ Olympic stamp from Washington, D.C.



Figure 11. The German delegation to the 1932 Olympic Games traveled on the S/S Europa of the North German Lloyd Lines from Bremerhaven to New York.

THE GAMES APPROACH

The formal opening of the Olympic Village was scheduled for July 1, 1932. Although all the teams had been informed of the date, a few delegations or individual sportsmen arrived earlier – some remarkably so. The Indian team arrived June 11, followed by a contingent of five Argentines and the entire Australian delegation ten days later. The early arrivals were accommodated without problem. When the single athlete from Columbia arrived on June 27, he found his Olympic hosts to be well-trained indeed.

The German delegation accomplished their trans-Atlantic trip from Bremerhaven to New York aboard what was then the world's fastest steamship, the S/S *Europa*. This journey provided us with some philatelic documents (Figures 11 & 12).



Figure 12. Ship postcard, mailed as catapult mail from the S/S Europa to New York. The fifth catapult flight (Schleuderflug) began on July 15, 1932 at 10 a.m. which caused Captain Blankenburg to arrive eight hours late in New York. Catapult mail saved approximately 20 hours in mail delivery time. The postage rate for printed matter (of which this piece qualified) was 5 Rpf up to 50 grams, plus a surcharge for the catapult flight of 50 Rpf for 20 grams = 55 Rpf. Reverse of the postcard shown in Figure 11.



Figure 13. The German Olympic Team arrives at the Los Angeles City Hall. (Source: The Official Report of the Games of the Xth Olympiad Los Angeles, 1932.)

The railways were very important partners in providing transportation for the delegations from the East Coast to the West. The Santa Fe Railroad's express service took just 4 days to traverse the country. While foreign delegations no doubt found the trip quite an experience, even U.S. athletes from the East Coast were said to have been excited because of the opportunity to appreciate the vastness and beauty of the American landscape.

Huge gatherings welcomed the foreign delegations arriving at the railway station and docks. In addition to the official flag ceremonies at the Olympic Village, which are still standard practice at each Olympic Games, the City of Los Angeles officially welcomed each delegation (Figure 13).



Figure 14. Postcard view of the Olympic Village Administration Building.

At the Olympic Village, the male athletes were accommodated in small bungalows of 336 square feet (including the porch) housing four sportsmen in two rooms. These were athletes-only facilities.

At 6:00 each morning, the Olympic Village slowly awakened. The night shift – among them four horse-mounted cowboys who patrolled the perimeter of the Village – finished their work. It was now time for the flags in front of the Administration Building (Figure 14) to be hoisted and for the gardeners to water the planting beds. Among the early birds were the postal clerks at the special Olympic Village Post Office (Figure 15) whose task it was to sort the mail for the 7:00 a.m. delivery.

Dinner service began each evening at 5:30 in the dining rooms, which remained open for two hours after meals to provide athletes an opportunity for reading or writing home. Closing time at the Olympic Village post office wasn't until 8:00 p.m.

Access to the Olympic Village was, even then, strictly controlled. The public was by and large prevented from entering the village. The press, however, received unfettered access. Nowadays, of course, a much higher level of security is needed to maintain the safety of the teams.

As previously mentioned, there was a special post office in the Olympic Village housed in a little bungalow. An additional handcancel can be found on mail originating there (Figures 16A & 16B).

The Chapman Park Hotel in downtown Los Angeles served as the residence for the female athletes who were accommodated separately from the men. Officially, 177 women lived there. Although cut off from the highly praised multi-cultural life of the Olympic Village in Baldwin Hills, the women still enjoyed a high standard of living.



Figure 15. The Olympic Village Post Office.



Figure 16A. Airmail letter to Austria from the Olympic Village on the opening day of the 1932 Olympics. Note the round "Mailed From The U.S. Temporary Post Office in Olympic Village" cachet in blue. Although the envelope is not specifically marked "airmail" the 16¢ in postage was sufficient. The transit postmarks confirm airmail was used in Europe. On the front there is a "WIEN FLUG-POST" (Vienna Airmail)

Figure 16B. The reverse of the cover in Figure 16A bears a Paris airport roller cancel reading "LE BOURGET / PORT-AERIEN".



Figure 17. The Village Radio Dispatch Station (above) and Telegraph Office (right).

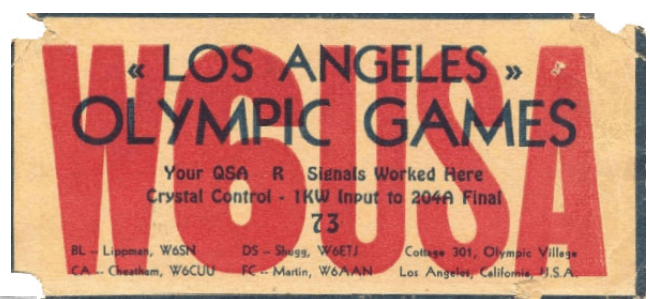


Figure 18. A so-called "QSL card" (above) mailed by the Village radio operator at station W6USA which broadcast from within the Olympic Village during the Games. (Note: QSL cards are exchanged by both communication partners to verify their contact.)

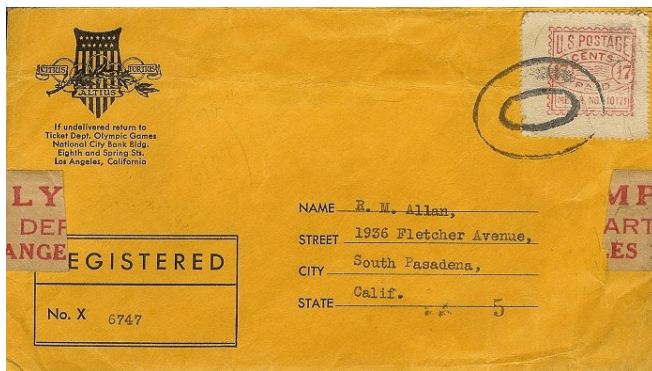


Figure 19. Front and back of a registered cover used by the Organizing Committee's Ticket Department to mail tickets. Note the special "Xth Olympiad" sealing tape used. (Source: Healey & Wise 2007 auction).

There was entertainment for them, too, for example an excursion to a baseball game in the evening or to a symphony concert in the famous Hollywood Bowl. The cost of their accommodation was on par with that of the Olympic Village: \$2 per night. These low prices were possible because the costs of housing the athletes were partially subsidized by the revenue from the Games, a total of \$2,536,000 of which the major portion (\$1,483,000) came from the sale of tickets (Figure 19).

Not only was there entertainment inside the Olympic Village, but outside as well. Viewed in a broader context, one event in the Southern California region should be considered as Olympic-related. In San Diego there was a "Mass Maneuver and Aerial Review," which focused on aeronautical skills. The

cachet (Figures 20 & 22) further describes the event as featuring "450 Army and Navy Planes." The aerial review was the largest yet seen in the country.

There is a connection to the Olympic Games as the cachet also welcomes both the "National Editorial Association" and "Xth Olympiad Officials."

This cachet, relatively unknown to the average Olympic collector, was ordered by the Chamber of Commerce to be used on mail posted July 28, 1932. The announcement of the cachet in the local media (*San Diego Union*, July 12, 1932) could be one reason for the high number of not less than 4000 letters and cards posted by visitors. The mail was later postmarked by either a "U.S. LIGHT TARGET NO. 10X35" cancel (a ship used for Navy target practice), or a non-specific ship cancel "(RECEIVING SHIP BR.)."



Figure 20. Cover with the cachet of the pre-Olympic air show in San Diego (cachet design by H.M. Brehm), mailed aboard the Navy target ship "U.S. LIGHT TARGET No. 10X35."



Figure 21. Photo taken of Amelia Earhart during the Olympic Games together with Duke Kahanamoku, Paavo Nurmi, Douglas Fairbanks and German athlete, Arthur Jonath.

The sole star of the air show was famed aviatrix, Amelia Earhart (Figure 21), the first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean solo. She was also welcomed in the cachet.

Aeronautical sportsmen didn't only gather at San Diego's Lindbergh Airfield. One day before the Olympic opening ceremony, a similar event in Los Angeles attracted aeronautical enthusiasts to the Army Review.

READY. SET. GO!

Medals were awarded in 14 sports, and are discussed briefly below.

The scheduled football (soccer) tournament was cancelled. Because FIFA (the Fédération Internationale de Football Association) allowed professionals



Figure 22. Airmail letter (1 ounce rate) correctly franked with 8¢ postage, mailed from the second "anonymous" ship with postmark "(RECEIVING SHIP BR.)."

Figure 23. Cover with cachet for the Army Review held at Los Angeles Airport on July 29, 1932, the day prior to the opening ceremony. The cover is signed by flying pioneer, Joe Blon-din, reverently referred to as an "Early Bird."





Figure 24. The arched peristyle entrance of the Olympic Stadium was featured on an IMOS meter commemorating the 75th anniversary of these Olympic Games. The new FRANKIT meter machines employ bidirectional computer graphics to create a unique code for each imprint.

to compete at the first World Championship in 1930, the IOC, which did not allow professionals to compete, had to remove this sport from the Olympic Games. Polo and tennis were also not held.

The Olympic Stadium (Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum) became the most famous of all Olympic arenas and competition sites (Figures 24 & 25), expensively enlarged to accommodate 105,000 visitors. For the first time in Olympic history, floodlights in the stadium allowed competitions in the evening hours. The three-level victory platform was

another novelty which has continued to the present.

The stadium, on a cacheted cover by Rice (Figure 26), has been signed by the Polish-American athlete Stanislaw Walasiewicz (better known as Stella Walsh), Gene Venzke and Hans Oldag.

Sprinter Stella Walsh was the most successful of the three Olympians having won a gold medal in 1932 and silver medal in 1936 (both for Poland).



Figure 26. Cacheted FD cover by Rice showing the Olympic Stadium. The cover has been autographed by Olympians Stella Walsh, Gene Venzke and Hans Oldag.



Figure 25. Postcard with an aerial view of the Coliseum inscribed at bottom: "Scene of 1932 Tenth Olympiad". What's interesting is that the card was mailed on June 24, six weeks before the Games opened! Most likely, this was an artist's rendering of how he imagined the stadium would appear during the ceremonies. The reverse of the card describes "The Los Angeles Games [as marking] the first time that this great international sports event has ever been held in the United States." The card's publishers no doubt conveniently forgot about the 1904 St. Louis Olympic Games!



Figure 27. First Day Cover with a cachet depicting the Olympic Fencing Pavilion at the California State Armory.

In 1980 her life ended tragically when she was accidentally shot during a robbery. An autopsy revealed that Stella possessed both male and female chromosomes, though only small male genitalia were present (a condition known as “mosaicism”). While she would probably be classified as male, neither the IOC nor the IAAF have chosen to rule on the issue.

Gene Venzke was a great middle-distance runner who set a world record in the mile in the winter preceding the 1932 Olympics. At the trials in Palo Alto, CA he surprised everyone by failing to qualify. His only Olympic participation was at the 1936 Berlin Games where he placed ninth in the 1500 meters.

American Hans Oldag, born in Mecklenburg, Germany, finish eleventh in the 1932 Marathon.

The Fencing Pavilion at the California State Armory (Figure 27) was the venue for six events for men and just one for women (foil). The fencing competitions of the Modern Pentathlon were also contested here. The French and Italian fencers (Figure 28) were especially successful.

The weightlifters shared their venue, the Olympic Auditorium, with the boxers and wrestlers. There is no specific philatelic item representing these competitions. However, luck was on the author’s side when he spotted a postcard from the Games (Figure 29). Although the card is non-Olympic, it does have an interesting postmark dated August 13 – an

Olympic date. Even more exciting was the attractive rubber cachet of the German Olympic Team of the DASV (Deutscher Athletik-Sport-Verband) 1891, the association for boxers, wrestlers and weightlifters.

The next step was to discover the identity of the writer, “Rudi.” The text did not refer to the Olympic Games, reading: “greetings from far away.” Checking Volker Kluge’s *Olympic Chronicle, Vol. I (1896-1936)*, I discovered that the only Rudi on the German team

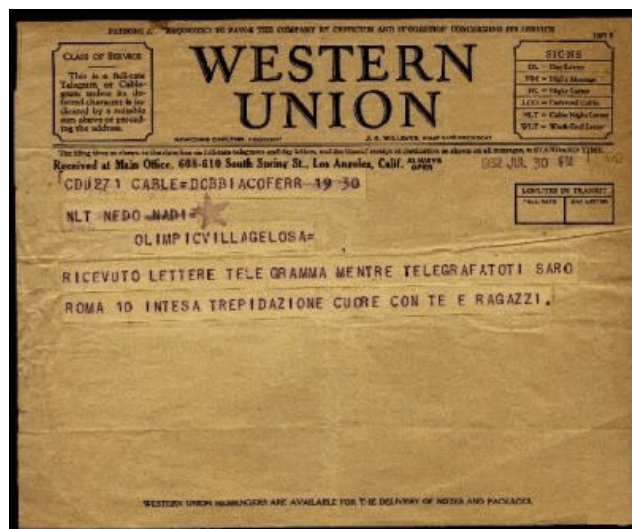


Figure 28. Telegram to Olympic fencing legend, Nedo Nadi, serving as an official on the 1932 Italian Olympic team. The Western Union telegram was received on opening day.

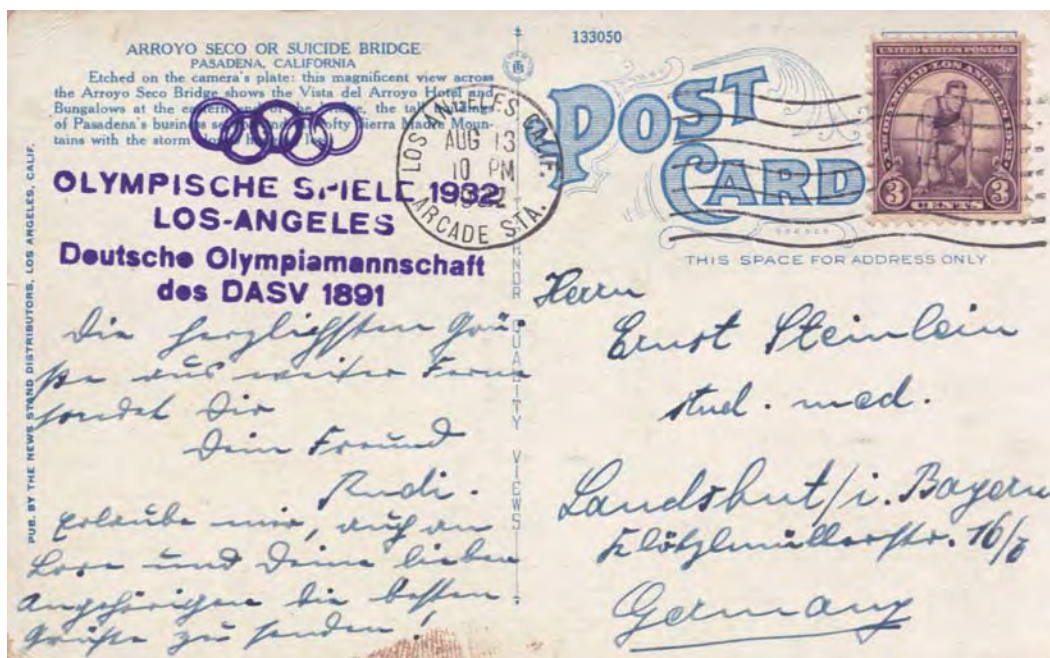


Figure 29. Postcard written by 1932 Olympic gold medalist in weightlifting, Rudolf Ismayr. In addition to being mailed during the Olympic Games, it also bears the eye-catching cachet of the German Olympic Team of the DASV.

involved in a "strength" event was weightlifter Rudolf Ismayr who won a gold medal in the 75 kg class on July 31, two weeks before the postcard was written. At a subsequent meeting of the Olympic and Sports Collectors Club of Berlin, I was able to verify with Volker Kluge himself that the card was indeed written by Rudi Ismayr.

The rowers held their regattas in Long Beach from August 9 - 13. There were seven boat classes in which medals were awarded. Cacheted covers

sponsored by the local collectors club with the support of the local tourism office, are the only philatelic records of this sport (Figures 30 & 31).

From a philatelic perspective, one can report only indirectly on the Olympic yachting regattas. The sailors raced in the Pacific Ocean just off the Port of Los Angeles, holding races in four classes. These regattas were made possible with help from ships of the *United States Navy (US Pacific Fleet)* and the *United States Coast Guard*. They not only provided



Figure 30. Airmail cover from the first competition day at Long Beach.



Figure 31. In April 1932, the same collectors club held a philatelic exhibition which was used to advertise the Olympic Games. The non-postal cachet refers to the Xth Olympiad and the rowing regattas. The 5¢ in postage covers the domestic airmail rate valid in April 1932.

security for the races, but also provided the viewing platform for officials, judges and guests, and set the race markers.

The postal clerks on some of these Navy ships were able to fulfill the requests of the collectors and philatelic dealers. Some cleverly incorporated an association with the Olympic Games in their postmarks.

While the majority mention only Los Angeles

Harbor or San Pedro, some refer to a specific day of the Games. In one case, the submarine U.S.S. *Nautilus* celebrated the “Olympic Games” (note: the misspelling).

The presence of the U.S. Navy’s flagship, the battleship *Pennsylvania* (Figure 32), can be documented by four special postmarks during the Olympic Games on covers with related inserts.

Ships postmarks during the Olympic Games are known from the following vessels: *Bass*, *Brant*, *Brooks*, *Maryland*, *Medusa*, *Narwhal* (Figure 33), *Nautilus*, *Neches*, *Northampton*, *Oklahoma*, *Pennsylvania*, *Relief* (Figure

34), *Texas*, and *Utah*. Even a foreign ship, *H.M.S. Delhi*, provided a special cachet on a ship cover (Figure 35).

Other ships provided cancellations on the first day of issue of the Olympic stamps (June 15, 1932). For a complete list of ships visiting the port during the pre-Olympic and Olympic periods, please see the article “U.S. Navy Ships Visit Los Angeles During the Olympics” elsewhere in this issue.



Figure 32. Airmail cover mailed on the first day of the Olympic Games aboard the flagship U.S.S. *Pennsylvania*.

Figure 33. Airmail cover mailed the last day of the Olympic Games aboard the submarine U.S.S. Narwhal. The ship's cancel includes the standard designation "U.S. FLEET / SUBMARINE."

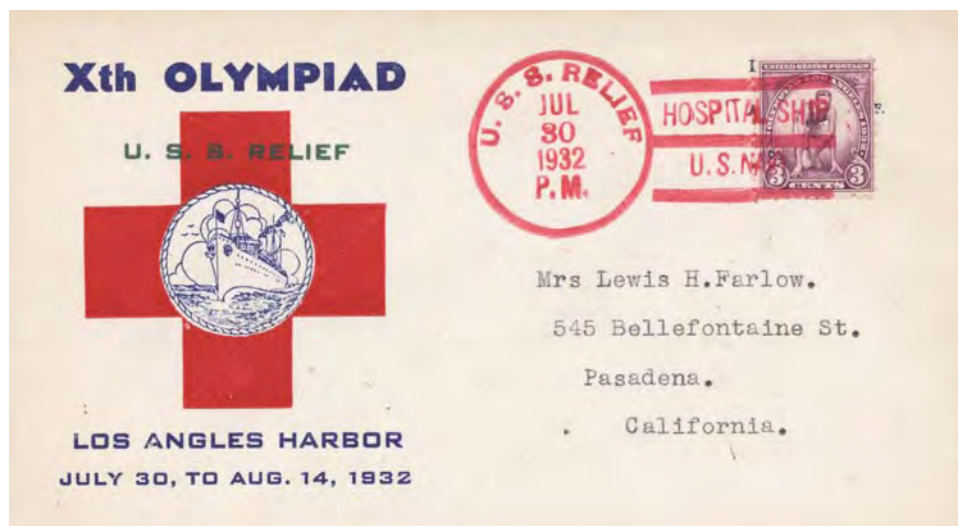
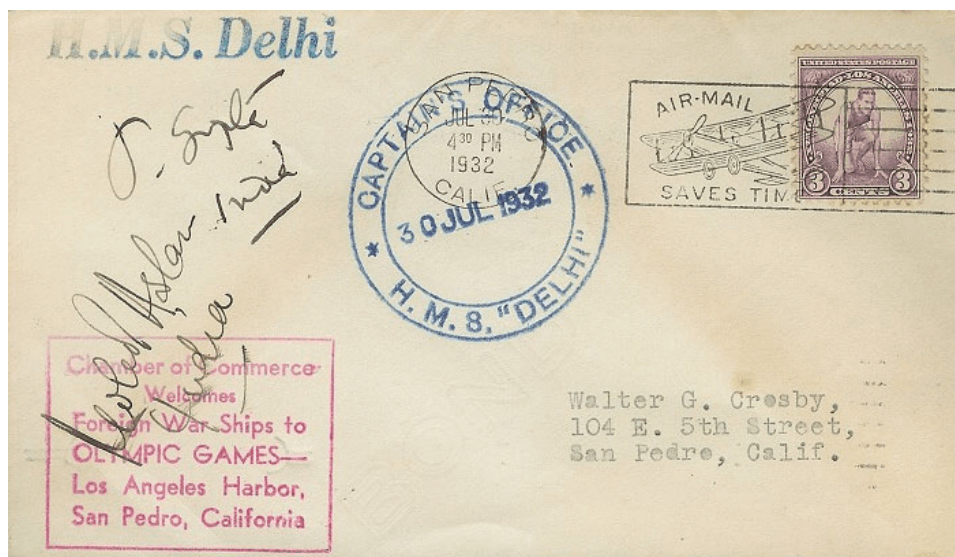


Figure 34. The Navy's hospital ship, U.S.S. Relief, was on duty during the Olympic Games.

Figure 35. Postmarked on Opening Day of the Olympic Games, this cover bears the H.M.S. Delhi shipboard cancel and the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce cachet which "Welcomes Foreign War Ships to OLYMPIC GAMES."



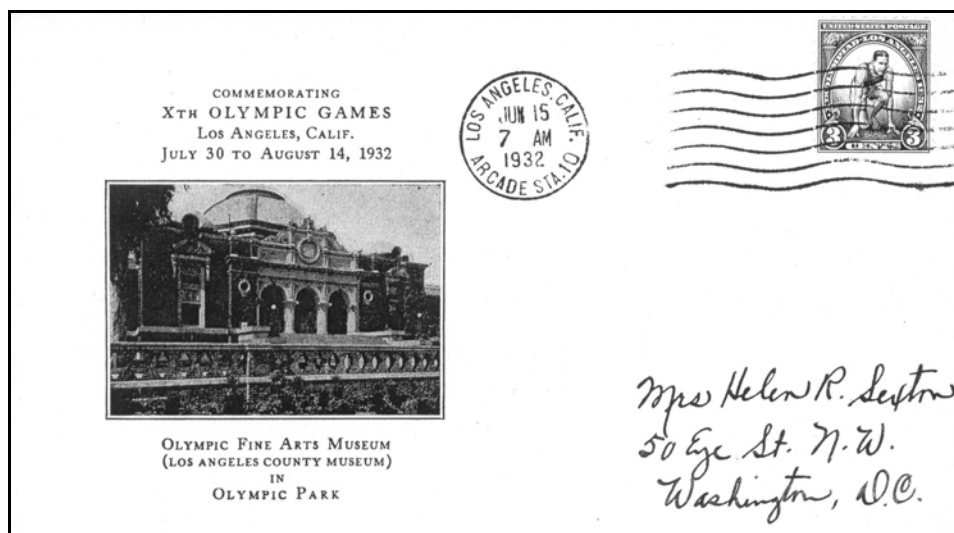


Figure 36. A cacheted first day cover showing the Los Angeles County Museum, the venue for the Olympic Arts competition.

OLYMPIC ARTS COMPETITIONS

The Olympic Arts Competitions belonged to the official program of the Los Angeles Olympic Games. Medals were awarded in the categories of Painting, Sculpture, Architecture and the Graphic Arts, as well as in Literature and Music.

The Los Angeles County Museum was the venue for the Olympic Arts competition. It was referred to as the "Olympic Fine Arts Museum" during the Games. The building is reproduced on a cacheted first day cover (Figure 36).



Figure 37. The Lindbergh Medal won a second place award for Frederic MacMonnies, the artist.

In the category "Medals and Reliefs" a second place medal was awarded to Frederic MacMonnies of the United States for his medal honoring Charles Lindbergh, the first man to fly solo over the Atlantic (Figure 37). In those days, aeronautical achievements still had a sporting

aspect to them and thus received worldwide (and IOC) attention. The reception of Amelia Earhart at the Aerial Review in San Diego on July 28, 1932 underscores the importance placed on accomplishments in flight.

The foregoing article was meant as a short overview of the Los Angeles Olympic Games of 1932, which frequently are overshadowed by other Olympiads. These Games were noteworthy for

exciting competitions and races, the first truly multi-cultural Olympic Village, the generally high standard (despite the worldwide financial Depression), and other novel additions that are now customarily included at every Modern Olympic Games. ☺

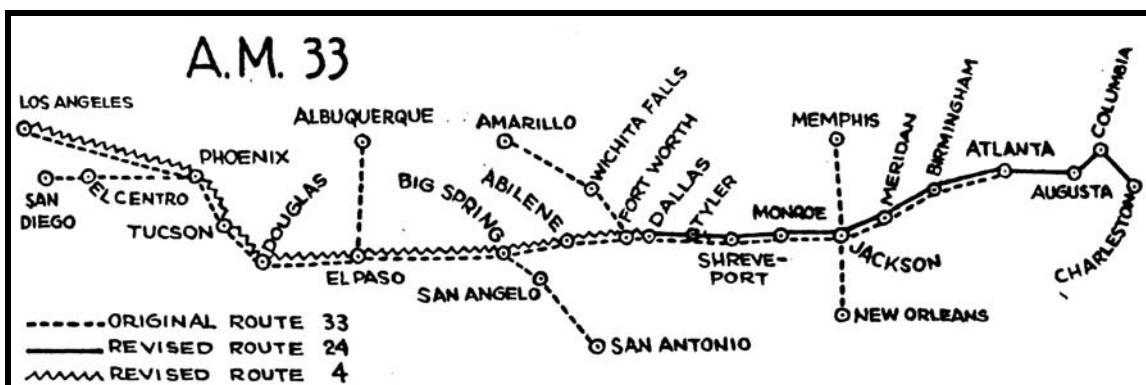
HOW THE OLYMPIC STAMPS MADE IT TO SAN DIEGO ON THE DAY OF ISSUE

Frank Wong, the creator (and addressee) of the cover in Figure 6 wrote about his adventures that day, a copy of which was unearthed by Conrad Klinkner in Sherwin Podolsky's archives.

According to Frank, after purchasing the stamps at midnight on June 14 from the main post office in Los Angeles, he "slapped" them on 200 covers and took off at about 5 a.m. for El Centro in his Model A Ford. Averaging about 45 miles per hour on the "open road" he covered the 211-mile trip in about 5½ hours. He was so happy to have made it that when he handed over 100 covers to the postmaster he "forgot to separate them for eastbound or westbound" flights on CAM 33. All were addressed to Frank in Los Angeles and are postmarked 8:30 p.m. for the westbound trip to San Diego. None received arrival markings.

Hopping back in his car, Frank raced westward to San Diego – about 121 miles over the mountains – arriving at about 3:30 p.m. The remaining 100 covers were handed over to the postmaster just in time to receive the 4:30 p.m. San Diego postmark. While there, he met the pilot of the eastbound flight, 'Hap' Russell who autographed a cover (in exchange for three others). All were addressed to Los Angeles, with the exception of 33 which were addressed to Douglas, AZ (none received backstamps).

Frank Wong concludes: "Although miscues were made compared to today's requirements, the fine cooperation from the postmasters and the honor of meeting the pilot H.B. 'Hap' Russell and sharing an FDC with a new stamp for his own FFC was most gratifying."



A.M. 33 and the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games

by Dale Lilljedahl

Most collections of the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles include a flight cover from the A.M. 33 airmail route. Some information about these covers can be uncovered in *Planty's Photo Encyclopedia of Cacheted FDC's* or SPI's publication, *Postal History and Vignettes of the 1932 Olympic Games* by Sherwin Podolsky. Neither publication delves deeply into the subject since flight

covers were not their primary topic. My curiosity led me to the Wineburgh Philatelic Library to do a little research and discovered that there were three different connections between A.M. 33 and the Olympics.

The term "A.M. 33" refers to the "AirMail" contract between commercial airlines and the United States Post Office to carry mail aboard regularly scheduled flights. This contract was awarded by competitive bid and was an official government service.



Figure 1. June 15, 1932 El Centro, California cachet and machine postmark on a first flight cover for the A.M. 33 spur line from Phoenix, Arizona to San Diego. The cover is also of interest to Olympic collectors because June 15 was the first day of issue for the pair of Los Angeles Olympic Games stamps.

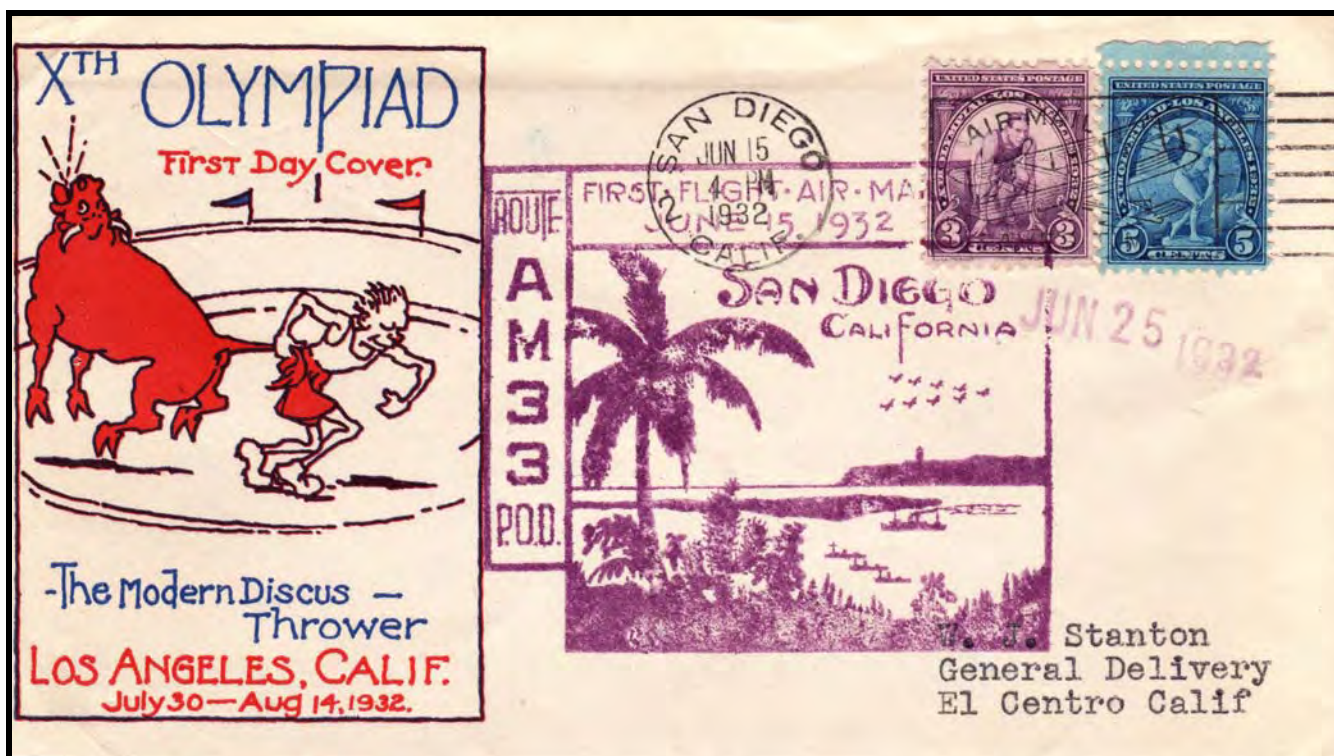


Figure 2. Combination First Day (unofficial) of the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games stamps and First Flight of A.M. 33 from San Diego, California.

Airmail Route 33 was christened by the Post Office Department as the "Southern Transcontinental Route," delivering mail from Charleston, South Carolina to Los Angeles, California. The route visited fourteen additional cities along the way with an overnight layover in Fort Worth, Texas. There were also several "spur" routes where mail delivered by the transcontinental route was transferred to another plane for delivery to southern U.S. cities not on the direct route.

The original A.M. 33 contract was awarded to the Southern Air Fast Express on October 15, 1930; by June of 1932 the contract had been transferred to American Airlines.

FIRST FLIGHT COVER

Although flying seems commonplace to us today, it was still considered a marvel of modern technology in the 1930's. Inaugural flights of any type were commemorated with special cachets on covers flown aboard the planes and canceled in the cities along the way. Whenever there was an alteration to the route, or a spur added, a new set of cachets was issued to commemorate the event. It is the addition of a new spur which prompted the creation of the first set of Olympic related items explored below.

In June 1932 the Post Office Department decided to create a new spur off A.M. 33 from Phoenix to San Diego, California via El Centro.

The inaugural flight was scheduled for June 15 which happened to coincide with the first day of issue of the two Los Angeles Olympic Games stamps. Philatelists, being enterprising people, decided to unite the two events. The Olympic stamps were affixed to covers, and transported to San Diego in time for the return flight to Phoenix.

How the covers got to San Diego is a mystery since there was no A.M. 33 flight between Los Angeles and San Diego (Ed. Note: see page 18).

The first flight rubber stamp cachet for each city along the spur was added and the cover postmarked in that city.

While no official first flight cachet was prepared for Phoenix, both El Centro and San Diego had their unique cachets to celebrate the flight.

The El Centro cachet was used on both the east and west flights, and comes in two colors, purple and green. It pictures a fruit grove in the southern California hills (Figure 1).

The San Diego cachet (Figure 2) shows a view of the United States Navy fleet anchored in San Diego's harbor. It was used on the layover and only comes in magenta.



Figure 3. Cacheted cover honoring the "Xth Olympiad Officials" during the armed forces Mass Maneuver and Aerial Review in San Diego, California, July 28, 1932 – two days before the opening of the Games.

The first day covers can be found in a variety of ways. All are unofficial since Los Angeles was the official first day of issue city. Both the El Centro and San Diego cachets are known on covers franked with

the Olympic stamps and postmarked June 15 from their respective cities. The San Diego first flight rubberstamp was placed on a humorous "bull fighting" cachet that W.J. Stanton prepared creating a combination cover that is quite scarce (Figure 2).

SAN DIEGO AIRLETTER

The previously mentioned SPI handbook on the philately of the 1932 Olympic Games notes that several cities around Los Angeles tried to lure tourist revenue by linking themselves to the Games.

San Diego, for example, advertised itself on publicity labels, and issued a number of cacheted covers. They hosted the armed forces "Maneuvers and Aerial Review" on July 28, 1932 to honor the Olympic officials. The event was commemorated with a rubberstamp cachet in black (Figure 3). Similarly, San Diego printed several promotional envelopes for the A.M. 33 first flight in addition to the first day covers examined above.



Figure 4. Flaps on reverse of a San Diego Exchange Club cacheted cover promoting the Olympic Games and first flight of A.M. 33.



Figure 5. Airletter with A.M. 33 first flight cachet from San Diego bearing the signatures of both the pilot, Hap Russell, and San Diego postmaster, Erv Dash.

Twenty years ago I acquired several of the envelopes printed for the San Diego Exchange Club which were posted as first flight covers on June 15 and have the American Airlines cachet for A.M. 33. On this envelope (Figure 4) the right side flap publicizes the flight while the left flap encourages people to attend the July 28 aerial show. The Olympic connection occurs on this second flap ("On Your way to the OLYMPIC GAMES ...").

The airletters come with either the San Diego or El Centro rubberstamp cachets canceled from the correct city making them first flight covers. On the front of some of the covers is the signature of the pilot of the flight, Hap Russell, as well as, the postmaster of San Diego, Erv Dash (Figure 5). These covers are rarely seen, especially unused.

FIRST NIGHT FLIGHT

When A.M. 33 service was initiated in 1930 there was no night flying by the mail-carrying commercial planes. Since the transcontinental flight took more than a day using the planes of the early 1930s, the route had a layover in either Fort Worth or Dallas depending on whether it traveled east or west. The rapid advance in aviation soon allowed for night travel, and the inaugural night flight heading east from Los Angeles also happened to occur on June 15, 1932. To commemorate the event American Airlines prepared a rubberstamp cachet, and it can

be found on first day covers of the Olympic stamps.

The cachet is a 75mm circle with the inscription "Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce / Los Angeles, Calif." around the perimeter. In the center is a seven line inscription reading "FIRST / Night Flight / American Airlines / LOS ANGELES / NEW YORK / A.M. 33 / June 15, 1932." The most common color is purple, but it can be found in magenta (Ed. Note: and black). The reference to New York is curious, since A.M. 33 did not travel there. Perhaps this flight connected to another route that did go to New York.

The Inaugural Night Flight cachet is usually found on the reverse of a commercial FDC cachet (Figure 6). The Los Angeles cancellations accompanying this cachet have evening times of 7 PM to 10:30 PM. It occasionally appears on covers with the Olympic Games poster cachet attributed to R.E. Bennet (Figure 7), but these are quite scarce. Scarce also are the Night Flight covers with the Los Angeles "Air Mail Field" balloon cancel favored by airmail collectors.

CONCLUSION


A.M. 33 has added some interesting varieties to the first day covers for the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics. Together with the naval first day covers, they offer a glimpse into a bygone era when planes and ships were considered technological wonders. Such insights into our past are one of the most compelling aspects of our hobby. 



Figure 6. On June 15, 1932, American Airways inaugurated its Night Flight of A.M. 33 from Los Angeles. The large first flight cachet (shown here in purple) is most often found on commercial Olympic Games first day covers.



Figure 7. A rare usage of the first flight cachet (in magenta) on a first day cover featuring the official poster of the Olympic Games. This cacheted cover is attributed to R.E. Bennet.



Figure 1. Who was the First Day Cover cachet maker for this Veterans of Foreign Wars tribute to the 1932 Olympic Games? The cachet is printed in black on this cover.

Unknown No Longer – A 1932 Olympic Cachet Maker is Revealed

by Dale Lilljedahl

It has taken a long time. I bought the covers that started me on this adventure in the mid-1980s and have thought about it off and on ever since. Finally about two years ago, I pulled the information together reviewed it all, and came to the conclusion presented in this article. It is my firm belief that the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) rubberstamp cachet for the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games was produced, or at least sponsored by, Aaron A. D. Jensen.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars cachet is a rubberstamp with the VFW emblem in the middle and border reading: "BELLEAU WOOD / XTH OLYMPIAD / POST NO. 1035 / LOS ANGELES, CAL." (Figure 1). The emblem is flanked by facsimiles of signatures of government officials. On the bottom is the Los Angeles mayor, John C. Porter, and at top is R.R. O'Brien, P.M. (possibly the postmaster of Los Angeles?). To the left is the name of R. Bricher, President of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce,

while on the right is Curtis A. Parker, Commander.

Planty's Photo Encyclopedia of Cacheted FDCs notes the cachet's color as violet, while the SPI handbook, *Postal History and Vignettes of the 1932 Olympic Games* by Sherwin Podolsky, lists the colors as light blue and purple.

The violet and purple references probably refer to the same color as the two are similar in nature. To the list I would add a third color, black. This means the cachet was printed in three colors: violet, light blue and black.

The cover in Figure 2 sparked my curiosity. It is a registered first day cover with a block of four 5¢ Discobolus stamps issued for the 1932 Los Angeles Games. It is addressed to Mr. Jensen in care of Fred Sanders of Long Island City, New York, a known First Day Cover (FDC) collector. The oddity was that Jensen's name and address appears vertically to the left of the cachet as a rubber stamp in the same color as the cachet itself. This suggests that the same person placed both the cachet and the address, prompting me on my quest to slowly gather information.

Figure 2. A second VFW cacheted cover – this time with in violet – also mailed to A.D. Jensen in care of Fred Sanders.



Figure 3. Another design, this time of the Los Angeles Coliseum (Olympic Stadium) bears an unusual border of stars and the letters "USA" in circles.



Figure 4. The reverse of the Figure 3 cover includes the VFW cachet, a frequent occurrence as noted by Planty's Encyclopedia.



Figure 5. Yet another cachet design, this time of gladiators, repeats the unusual "alternating stars and USA" border of the cover in Figure 3.

First, I consulted SPI's 1932 Olympic handbook to see what it had to say about the cachet (SPI #F10). There was no mention of a cachet maker, which it always listed when known. Not much help. I then grabbed my copy of the 1977 edition of *Planty's Encyclopedia*. Cachet #20 for the Scott #718-19 issues did not name a cachet maker either, so I concluded that the maker was unknown. I still had one ace to play, and decided to write the dealer who sold me the covers.

A few weeks later I received a response from Lee's FDCs. He did not know definitively whether or not Jensen was a dealer, but he suspected so. Lee had bought the collection of Mr. Jensen and found substantially more duplication than one would expect of a collector. There were cachets addressed to Jensen in the collection ranging from Scott #702, issued in 1930, all the way to Scott #794, issued in 1940. Mr. Lee knew of no direct connection between Jensen and the VFW. Again, not a lot of help, but it strengthened my conviction that Jensen was a cachet dealer/creator.

That ended my search for a few years, until I once again had my 1932 FDCs out for examination. I noticed that the colorful Los Angeles Coliseum cachet (Planty #24A) in Figure 3 was also addressed to Aaron Jensen. When I looked on the back I was

surprised to find a copy of the VFW cachet (Figure 4). Going back to the 1977 Planty reference I discovered that it is often found with the VFW cachet on the back, but does not list a maker. The SPI handbook also did not note a printer, but it added that this cachet (SPI #114) was very similar to the Gladiator cachet (SPI #C7) shown in Figure 5. Lo and behold, my copy of the Gladiator cover was also addressed to Aaron Jensen, and had a VFW cachet on the back. Once again I had found a connection between Jensen and the VFW cachet.

By now I had gotten a copy of the revised *Planty's Encyclopedia* published by Andrew Mellon. While it no longer referenced the connection between the VFW and Coliseum cachets, it now listed both the Coliseum and Gladiator cachets as being produced by "Jensen." Apparently since 1977 Jensen's participation had been confirmed. The evidence was mounting. In my mind it was cemented when I noticed that a cover addressed to Jensen with the light blue cachet (Figure 6) had the same "alternating stars and USA" border as the two cachets noted above (Figures 3 and 5).

With all of these indicators, I felt I finally had my answer: Mr. Aaron A.D. Jensen was the author of the 1932 Olympic VFW cachet.



Figure 6. The cover that clinched it! The VFW cachet in light blue, combined with the "alternating stars and USA" border had the author convinced that Aaron Jensen was at least the sponsor, if not the cachet maker, of the VFW tribute to the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games.



Battleship U.S.S. Texas cover postmarked on the Opening Day of the 1932 Olympic Games. Type 1 cachet in orange and blue.

U.S. Navy Ships Visit Los Angeles During the 1932 Olympic Games

by Mark Maestroni

During the two-month period from the day before the issuance of the Los Angeles Olympic stamps until the end of the Games in mid-August, no fewer than 56 U.S. Navy ships visited Los Angeles Harbor.

Many of the ships' postal clerks seized the opportunity to create souvenirs of the Olympic Games. Some produced special Olympic-related cachets for covers while others used custom made

postmarks celebrating the Games. At least 26 cancels on the first day of issue of the Olympic stamps (June 15, 1932) are known.

The following table reproduces information compiled by Sherwin Podolsky from the Los Angeles *Times* shipping news. Ships known to have been in port, but not listed in the shipping news, are designated as unlisted (UNL). The final two columns indicate which ships are known to have first day covers as well as postmarks from other days during this period.

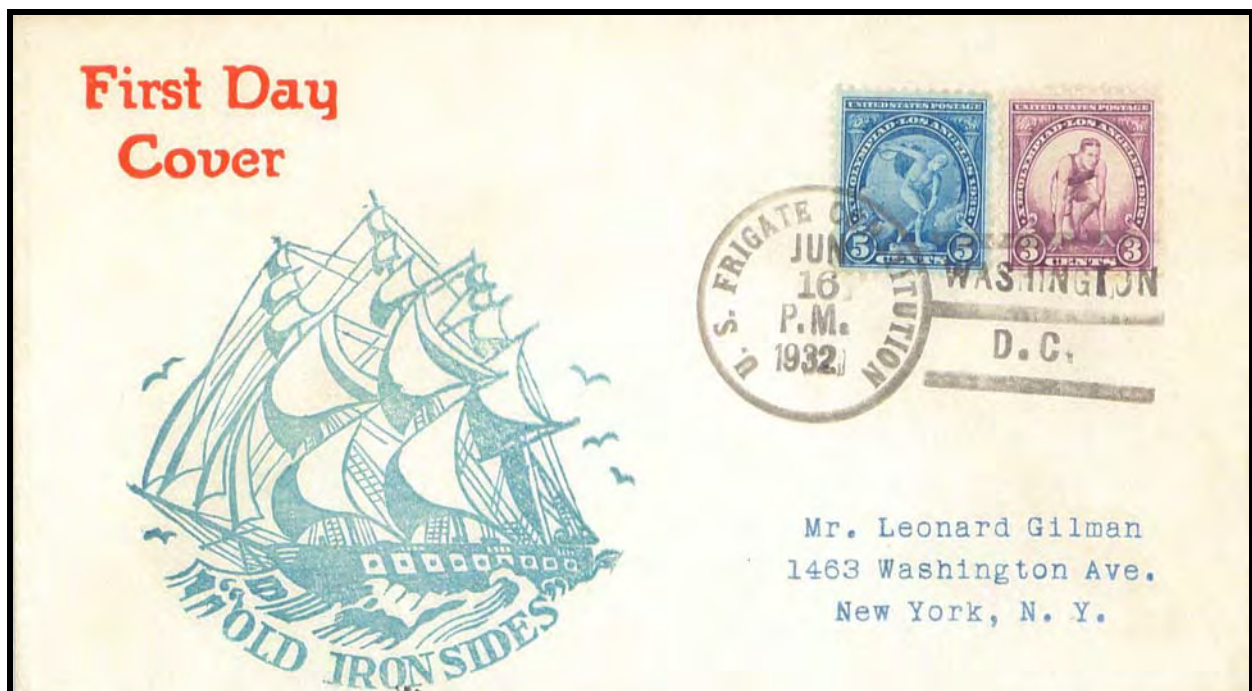
SHIP	06/14	07/28	08/01	08/14	Due to Arrive	Due to Sail	FDC	Other Dates
Anetic					08/06/32			
Antares	x	x	x	x			x	
Argonne	x			x			x	
Arizona	x						x	
Arkansas	x	x	x	x			x	
Augusta	x	x	x	x				
Bass			x	x			x	8/9, 8/14
Bobolink	x			x			x	
Brant	x	x	x	x			x	08/01

SHIP	06/14	07/28	08/01	08/14	Due to Arrive	Due to Sail	FDC	Other Dates
Brooks (UNL)							x	7/30, 8/6, 8/8, 8/11, 8/14
California	x		x				x	
Chaumont					08/05/32	08/06/32		
Chicago	x	x	x				x	06/17
Cincinnati	x	x	x					
Colorado	x	x	x	x			x	
Concord	x	x	x					
Hendersson		x				07/30/32		
Holland			x	x				
Huron (UNL)								
Lexington		x	x	x				
Louisville	x	x	x					
Marblehead			x	x				
Maryland	x	x	x	x			x	7/30, 8/14
Medusa	x	x	x	x			x	08/11
Milwaukee		x	x	x				
Narwhal			x	x			x	08/09
Nautilus			x	x			x	8/14, 8/14
Nebraska	x							
Neches (UNL)								07/30
Nevada	x		x				x	07/04
New York	x		x				x	
Nitro					08/03/32	08/06/32		
Northampton	x	x	x	x			x	08/14
Oklahoma	x		x	x				7/4, 8/15
Omaha	x	x	x					
Ortolan			x	x				
Partridge				x			x	
Patoka					06/15/32			
Pennsylvania	x	x	x	x			x	7/30, 8/6, 8/9, 8/14
Pensacola	x	x	x	x				
Rail	x	x	x	x				
Raleigh (UNL)								
Rathburne (UNL)								
Relief	x	x	x	x			x	7/2, 7/4, 7/30, 8/11
Richmond	x	x	x	x				07/04
Robin	x		x	x			x	
Salt Lake City	x	x	x	x				06/16
Saratoga			x	x	07/30/32			
Tennessee	x		x				x	
Tern		x	x	x				
Texas	x		x				x	07/30

SHIP	06/14	07/28	08/01	08/14	Due to Arrive	Due to Sail	FDC	Other Dates
Trenton	x	x	x	x				
Utah		x	x	x				7/30, 8/9, 8/14
Vesta	x	x	x	x			x	
Vireo	x	x	x	x				
W. Virginia	x						x	



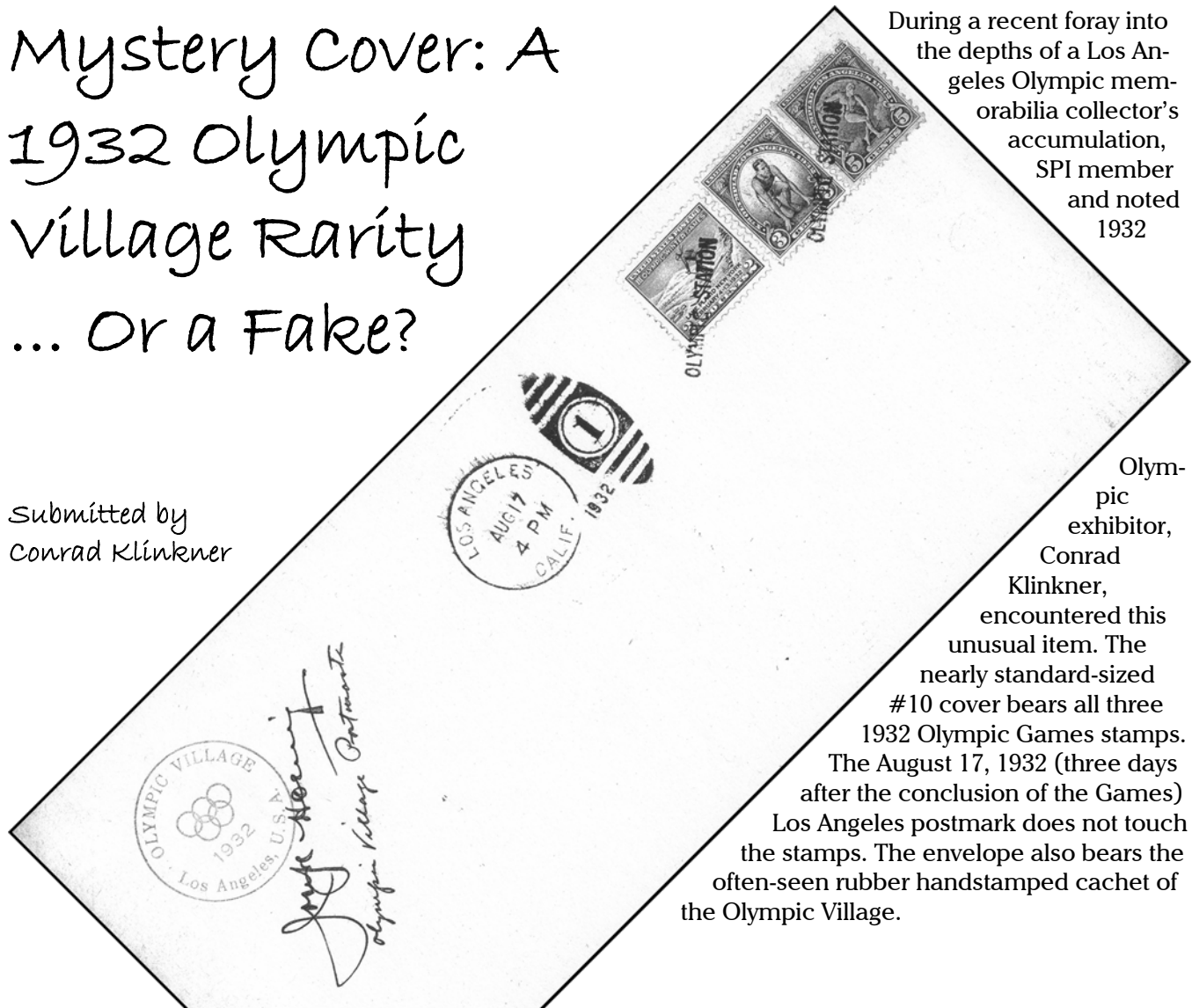
(Above) Hospital Ship U.S.S. Relief postmark on August 11 (a previously unlisted day).
 (Below) U.S. Frigate Constitution "second day" postmark from Washington, DC.



Mystery Cover: A 1932 Olympic Village Rarity ... Or a Fake?

Submitted by
Conrad Klinkner

During a recent foray into the depths of a Los Angeles Olympic memorabilia collector's accumulation, SPI member and noted 1932



Olympic exhibitor, Conrad Klinkner,

encountered this unusual item. The nearly standard-sized #10 cover bears all three 1932 Olympic Games stamps. The August 17, 1932 (three days after the conclusion of the Games) Los Angeles postmark does not touch the stamps. The envelope also bears the often-seen rubber handstamped cachet of the Olympic Village.



Two elements make this piece truly unusual. First, we discover the name of the Olympic Village Postmaster whose name appears to be "Joseph Hoening." Second, a rubber handstamp reading "OLYMPIC STATION" has been applied diagonally across the stamps. Questions abound. Did "Olympic Station" refer to the Olympic Village Post Office? Does this handstamp appear on any other covers or cards in collector hands? Does anyone have more information on Olympic Village Postmaster Hoening?



Figure 1. The DeSheng International Cultural Exchange Center (left), venue for the 13th World Olympic Collectors' Fair. The exhibition entrance is at right.

13th World Olympic Collectors' Fair, Beijing

by Kwok-Yiu Kwan

Under the hot summer sun in Beijing with an average temperature over 30°C (86°F), collectors from around China queued up outside the temporary post office to purchase new Olympic philatelic items and cancel their self-prepared covers and cards with the special cachets and postmarks. Inside the exhibition hall it was a different story as only a handful of diehard Olympic collectors browsed the extensive and well-organized display of valuable stamp exhibits.

In the bourse area, stamp dealers who brought boxes and boxes of Olympic related philatelic material were surrounded by a never ending stream of enthusiastic local collectors. The lonely pin collectors had to occupy themselves trading with each other.

These were the everyday scenes at the 13th Olympic Collectors' Fair held in the DeSheng International Culture Exchange Center (Figure 1) in Beijing from June 22-28, 2007.

Figure 2 (right). Program for the national exhibition held in conjunction with the Fair. This served as a qualifying competition for Olympex 2008.





Figure 3. P-stamp sheetlet with the 2008 Olympic Games logo and labels for the Fair and FIPO.

This was the first time the Olympic Collector's Fair had been held in Beijing, being a prelude to the upcoming Beijing Olympic Games in 2008. The Fair was co-sponsored by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG), the

Chinese Olympic Committee, and the national postal administration, China Post. While the Fair opened its doors to visitors on June 22, the official opening took place the next day. The opening ceremony at outside the entrance to the exhibition venue was presided over by Juan Antonio Samaranch, Honorary President of the IOC and Chairman of the Olympic Philately, Numismatic & Memorabilia Commission.

Accompanying the Fair, the Chinese Sport Stamps Collectors' Association held a special national level stamp exhibition to qualify Chinese exhibits for Olympex 2008 in Beijing. Qualification exhibitions of this sort have been held in China over the past two years providing a pool of potential entries from which exhibits will be selected. A special program booklet was printed for the exhibition (Figure 2). The class with the largest number of exhibits was the thematic group with 45 entries. In all, there were 70 exhibits totaling 309 standard size frames.

There were numerous philatelic items produced for sale at the Fair by China Post. Most were deluxe packages containing personalized stamps ("P-stamps"). One of the P-stamp sheetlets was printed with labels reproducing the Fair's logo (Figure 3).

A more affordable commemorative cover was available affixed with the Torch Relay stamp and attached P-stamp Fair label (Figure 4). A special 13th Olympic Collectors' Fair cachet is also shown on this cover. The cachet was not available at the Fair.



Figure 4. Commemorative Fair cover with postage to Germany partially paid by the new Torch Relay stamp with attached Fair logo label. The special cachet for the Fair, which appears to have been printed rather than handstamped on the cover, is at bottom right.



Figure 5. Torch Relay Route Unveiling Ceremony postcard released on April 26, 2007. The card is franked with the Olympic Games logo stamp (right).

Because of the clarity of the impression it appears to have been printed on the cover rather than hand-stamped.

A Torch Relay postcard (Figure 5) was sold with the Beijing Olympic Games logo stamp postmarked April 26, 2007 – the day of the Torch Relay Route Unveiling Ceremony.

Apart from the products from China Post, a special IOC cover was available from the Olympic Museum booth (Figure 6). The illustrated cover displays two additional cachets used exclusively by the Olympic Museum.



Figure 6. Cover sold at the Olympic Museum booth. The rectangular cachet (in green) at upper left and round blue cachet at center were used only at this booth.



Figure 7. The temporary post office for the Fair was set up in an empty office with an outside entrance.

A temporary post office (TPO) was set up for the Fair. The TPO was located at the right hand corner of the venue (Figure 7). Strictly speaking, it was only a room temporarily being used as a post office. It is not clear what types of postal services were provided by the TPO. A special postmark was introduced reading “Desheng Zhi Ye (Temporary)” (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Postmark used at the temporary post office at the 13th World Olympic Collectors’ Fair.



The designation “temporary” may mean that there was a permanent post office in the complex.

During the Fair period, the staff were very generous in applying the postmark on whatever was presented as long as valid postage was affixed. Registered service might have been possible, however such items would have to be brought to the permanent post office for processing.

The Fair was widely mentioned in the local media. A free special issue of *China Philately News* was printed for the Fair. How to collect Olympic material was also a talking point in some radio programs.

With the Olympic Games barely one year away, Beijing’s collectors had the Olympics on their minds!

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The White House, picture-perfect on a Washington summer's day; Morris Rosen (at left), the honored speaker at SPI's General Meeting with SPI Vice President, Charles Covell.



2007 SPI Convention At NAPEX

by Charles Covell
photographs by Norman Jacobs

The 2007 SPI Convention was held at NAPEX (National Philatelic Exhibitions of Washington DC) June 1 - 3, 2007 at the McLean Hilton Hotel at Tyson's Corner, Virginia. Our activities there included a board meeting, excellent participation by members exhibiting their sports and Olympic collections, a talk by esteemed Olympics collector/exhibitor Morris Rosen on "Gems of the Olympic Games," a society table staffed by our members, and an awards banquet attended by many in SPI.

The winner of the special SPI Best of Show award was Cora Collins with her exhibit "The Sport of Golf." Her exhibit, which has been shown many times nationally and internationally, also won a NAPEX Gold Medal, as well as the ATA First Place Medal. Mark Maestrone won a NAPEX Gold Medal for his single frame exhibit "Men's Gymnastics: Dressed to Win" which also received an ATA One Frame Merit Award. Complete results of all sports and Olympics exhibits are reproduced at the end of this summary.

The Saturday morning (closed) meeting of the SPI Board of Directors, was chaired by myself in Mark's absence. Andrew Urushima, Secretary-Treasurer, and Directors Norman Jacobs and Pat Loehr attended, with Mark considered "present by proxy."

Andrew presented a detailed financial report showing that SPI is holding steady. Consequently, dues will remain unchanged. A primary goal is to increase membership and forge closer ties with the American



Cora Collins receiving her NAPEX gold medal along with the SPI Best of Show award for her golf exhibit.



Charlie Covell, Pat Loehr, and Conrad Klinkner enjoying the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening.

Topical Society. Look for another color monograph in 2008.

The SPI General Meeting on Saturday morning featured a talk by Morris Rosen of Baltimore, Maryland. Morris is a charter member of SPI and has won top awards in Olympics exhibiting. He told spellbinding tales of his purchase of rare Olympic stamps and other philatelic items, such as proofs of early issues. He gave sage advice: "You have to know what you are buying. That's the secret of collecting." Also "You have to look for hours and hours, days and days, to find nice items." And, finally, "I had a hard life; but collecting made me happy."

The awards banquet, with unusually tasty food, was well-attended by SPI members. We reserved two tables of eight for our members, families and friends.

The society's table welcomed several new SPI members, while providing a place to relax and visit with one another. We look forward to seeing more of our members at our next gathering in 2009. 🐾

NAPEX 2007 Exhibition Results

(Exhibits are General Class unless otherwise indicated; they are listed alphabetically within levels.)

Gold Medal

Cora B. Collins, "The Sport of Golf." Also: American Topical Association First Place Medal; Sports Philatelists International Best of Show Award.

Mark Maestroni, "Men's Gymnastics: Dressed to Win." Also American Topical Association One Frame Merit Award. *(Single Frame Class)*

Vermeil Medal

Glenn A. Estus, "III Olympic Winter Games Stamp." Also American First Day Cover Society Award.

Norman F. Jacobs, "Tennis - Courtyard to Backyard, for Fun and for Fame"; ATA Second Place Medal.

Mark Maestroni, The Journal of Sports Philately (Volume 44). *(Literature Class)*

Andrew Urushima, "The 1944 POW Olympics: Gross Born and Woldenberg." *(Single Frame Class)*

Andrew Urushima, "Spoiled by War: The Games of the XIIIth Olympiad." *(Single Frame Class)*

Silver Medal

Charles V. Covell, "Soccer (Just for Kicks!)."

Conrad Klinkner, "Games of the Xth Olympiad, Los Angeles." Also ATA Third Place Medal.

Patricia A. Loehr, "The World of Golf."

Patricia A. Loehr, "Golfing Out of the Rough and Through the Green."

Bronze Medal

Tony Quinn, "The World of F.I.F.A."



Norm Jacobs accepting his vermeil medal for his tennis exhibit. Get a load of that great 1948 London Olympic Games necktie!

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Margaret Jones

NEW MEMBERS

2254 David A. Lampen, 6002 Oxpen Court #101, Alexandria, VA 22315-5616 USA. He is a consultant. **Rowing (Crew).** davidlampen@aol.com

2255 Alec J. Schwartz, 6 Redtree Lane, Reistertown, Maryland 21136-5539 USA. Alec is a youth member of SPI. **Baseball, soccer, football, basketball.**

1105HA IMOS. Gerd Treschank, Funkestr. 14, D-58675 Hemer, Germany.

2256 Weidong Jiang, 5051 Bradley Blvd. #3, Chevy Chase, DC 20815. He is scientist and is willing to translate Chinese. **Pre-1940 Olympics, table tennis.** waynejmd@gmail.com

RENEWALS

0119C Morris Rosen, 7013 Pheasant Cross Dr., Baltimore, MD 21209-1021. **Olympics.**

1399A Shlomo Vurgan, 31/22 Bernstein St., Rishon Le Zion 75503, Israel. **Olympics, summer, basketball, tennis, volleyball, soccer.**

1860R Robert L Eddy, PO Box 5008, Garden Grove, CA 92846-0008. **Wrestling, weightlifting, boxing, and judo.** butcheddy@aol.com

NEW ADDRESSES

Shawn D. Carney, 3310 Lake Canyon Court, Sugar Land, Texas 77478-7467 USA. sdc485@hotmail.com

John E. Sawhill Jr., 8 Longley Court, Topsham ME 04086-2102 USA.

Total Membership, June 30, 2007 = 226

EXHIBIT AWARDS

NAPEX 2007 (McLean, Virginia). *See complete list of winners elsewhere in this issue.*

ST. LOUIS STAMP EXPO (Missouri). Richard Wood-

ward obtained silver and ATA first award for "The World Cup of Soccer."

VICTOPICAL (Victoria, British Columbia, Canada). Henry Niezen won bronze for "Bicycles"; Zach Manns was awarded youth bronze for "Australian Motorbike Stamps"; and, Logan Chester earned youth bronze for "I Like Motorbike Stamps."

Please keep your membership information and email address updated by sending changes to docj3@sportstamps.org. 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. Exhibitor news for this column and adlets for the website may also be sent to the above email address.

France and Colonies Proofs & Essays

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NEW STAMP ISSUES

by John La Porta

Algeria: May 18, 2007. Ninth All-African Games. 15dh map of Africa with emblem.

May 18, 2007. Second Afro-Asian Games. 15dh map of Africa and Asia, symbolic athletes.

Antigua & Barbuda: April 5, 2007. Cricket World Cup in the Caribbean. West Indian cricket players: 25¢ Kenneth Benjamin; 30¢ Anderson Roberts; 90¢ Ridley Jacobs; \$1 Curtly Ambrose; \$1.50 Richard Richardson; souvenir sheet with \$5 stamp, Vivian Richards.

Austria: May 29, 2007. Formula 1 Legends. Pane of eight se-tenant 0.55e stamps showing race car drivers, cars and autographs, Phil Hill; Clay Regazzoni; Gerhard Berger; Juan Manuel Fangio; John Surtees; Mika Hakkinen; Graham Hill; Emerson Fittipaldi.

Barbados: March 19, 2007. Cricket World Cup. \$1.75 Joel "Big Bird" Garner; \$2.10 old Kensington oval; \$3 new Kensington oval; souvenir sheet contains a \$10 stamp, trophy, border shows Barbadian cricket legends.

Brazil: March 25, 2007. Soccer stadiums. 60c Mangueira; 90c Serra Dourada; 2.60r stamps, Maracana; Pacembu.

Canada: June 26, 2007. FIFA U-20 World Cup. 52¢ stamp depicting grass covered soccer field, five players and official championship ball.

Croatia: May 3, 2007. World Championships in Water Polo. Souvenir sheet with three se-tenant 5k stamps with continuous design, photo of 2007 team and flag.

May 21, 2007. World Table Tennis Championship. 3.50k table and ball.

Djibouti: World Soccer Cup. 100f trophy, soccer players, globe.

Dominica: April 11, 2007. Cricket World Cup in the Caribbean. 90¢ emblem of the event; \$1 cricket umpire Billy Doctrove; souvenir sheet with \$5 stamp emblem.

Ecuador: 2006. Olympic Committee. 30¢ symbolic athletes, coat of arms.

2006. Bullfighting. Five 50¢ stamps, two se-tenant stamps showing the arena of the Jesus of the Greater Power Bullfighting Festival, the other three stamps show matadors, Manolo Cadena; Sebastian Castella; El Juli.

France: April 7, 2007. World Rugby Cup. 0.54e two rugby players.

May 4, 2007. 10th Anniversary International Sailing Federation. 0.85e sailboats, souvenir sheet contains the stamp.

Great Britain: May 17, 2007. Wembley Stadium. Self-adhesive nondenominated first-class stamp, crowned lion printed in sheets of 20 with preprinted se-tenant labels or labels that can be personalized.

Greece: November 29, 2006. Soccer Team Emblems. 0.02e Apollon Kalamaria; 0.03e Atromitos Athinon; 0.52e Aris Thessaloniki; 2.27e Ethnikos Piraeus; 3.20e Apollon Smyrnis.

Grenada: January 15, 2007. Arsenal Soccer Club/Emirates Stadium. Pane of eight \$2 stamps, three stamps show different photographs of team members; five stamps show views of the stadium and fans.

Guernsey: May 24, 2007. British F1 Racing World Champions. Two 32p stamps, Mike Hawthorn 1958; Jackie Stewart 1971; two 37p, Graham Hill 1962; James Hunt 1976; 45p Jim Clark 1963; 48p Nigel Mansell 1992; 50p John Surtees 1964; 71p Damon Hill 1996.

Guyana: March 28, 2007. Cricket World Cup of the Caribbean. \$100 emblem of the event, map and flag; \$200 Guyana team Stanford 20/20; Souvenir sheet with \$500 stamp, emblem.

Honduras: January 24, 2006. Turin Winter Olympics. 20 lempiras Turin Olympic emblem, skier; 50 lempiras skier, Olympic Rings.

Jamaica: February 18, 2007. Cricket World Cup. Two \$30 stamps, Courtney Walsh; Collie Smith; \$40 New Sabina Park; \$50 Walsh; \$60 Trelawny multipurpose complex; souvenir sheet with \$100 stamp, map of the Caribbean.

Jersey: June 22, 2007. Yachting/Part 2/Gorey Regatta. Souvenir sheet with £2 stamp, scene from regatta.

Montserrat: March 30, 2007. Cricket World Cup. \$3 map of Montserrat, flag emblems; \$5 cricket team; souvenir sheet with \$8 stamp, emblem of the Cricket World Cup.

New Caledonia: June 14, 2007. 13th South Pacific Games. 75fr swimmer, emblems.

Nevis: May 1, 2007. Cricket Cup in the Caribbean. 90¢ emblem of the event, map and flag; \$2 cricket player Runako Morton; souvenir sheet with \$6 stamp, emblem.

Norfolk Island: April 3, 2007. Adventure Sports. Two 50¢ stamps, wind surfing; sea kayaking; \$1.20 mountain biking; \$1.80 surfing.

Peru: December 22, 2006. World Soccer Cup. 8.50s soccer ball, flags of participating countries.

St. Lucia: March 13, 2007. Cricket World Cup. 30¢ Mindoo Philip; 75¢ map; 90¢ Beausejour Cricket Grounds. Souvenir sheet with \$5 stamp, Beausejour Cricket Grounds.

Senegal: January 14, 2006. 28th Paris-Dakar Rally. 500fr vehicle in rally, tents; 1,000fr vehicle broken down in sand, helicopter.

July 10, 2006. Traditional Wrestling. 100fr, 200fr different views of two wrestlers; 250fr wrestler, houses, 500fr wrestler making preparations.

Serbia: December 1, 2006. European Youth Olympic Festival. 8d water polo player, gymnast and volleyball player.

January 22, 2007. Judo Championship. Judo.

Sudan: February 11, 2007. 50th Anniversary African Soccer Club. 2d, 3.5d, 4.5d emblem, white tower.

Switzerland: April 10, 2007. Roger Federer. 1 franc, the tennis player holding Wimbledon trophy.

Turkey: May 13, 2007. 100th Anniversary Feberbahce Sports Club. 60k men wearing business suits; 70k documents; souvenir sheet with four stamps, 60k aerial view of stadium, 70k men sitting around table, 80k stadium, 90k aerial view of stadium; pane of eight se-tenant, imperf 60k stamps, soccer players; swimmer; athletes; runner; yachting; boxer; person in skull; athletes.

United Arab Emirates: January 31, 2007. Gulf Soccer Cup Victory. 1d, 3d, souvenir sheet with 10d stamps.

Uruguay: February 5, 2007. Youth Soccer/Jose Nasazzi. 15p Nasazzi, young soccer player.

March 12, 2007. 100th Anniversary Colon Soccer Club. 15p soccer player, club emblem.

Uzbekistan: August 25, 2006. 15th Anniversary. Parts of a very long issue - Strip of three se-tenant stamps, 410s, 580s and 720s and a label, International Kurash Association medal; FILA wrestling medal; National Olympic Committee medal. Se-tenant strip of three stamps, 90s, 100s, and 430s and a label, different scenes of kurash, a type of wrestling. Pane of nine stamps and a central label featuring sports, 45s stadium; 55s swimming; 90s athletes with medal; 100s synchronized swimming; 200s karate; 250s soccer; 290s equestrian event; 580s president and athletes.

2007. Winter Games. 250s emblems, figure skating; 350s emblems, skier.

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by Mark Maestrone

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