

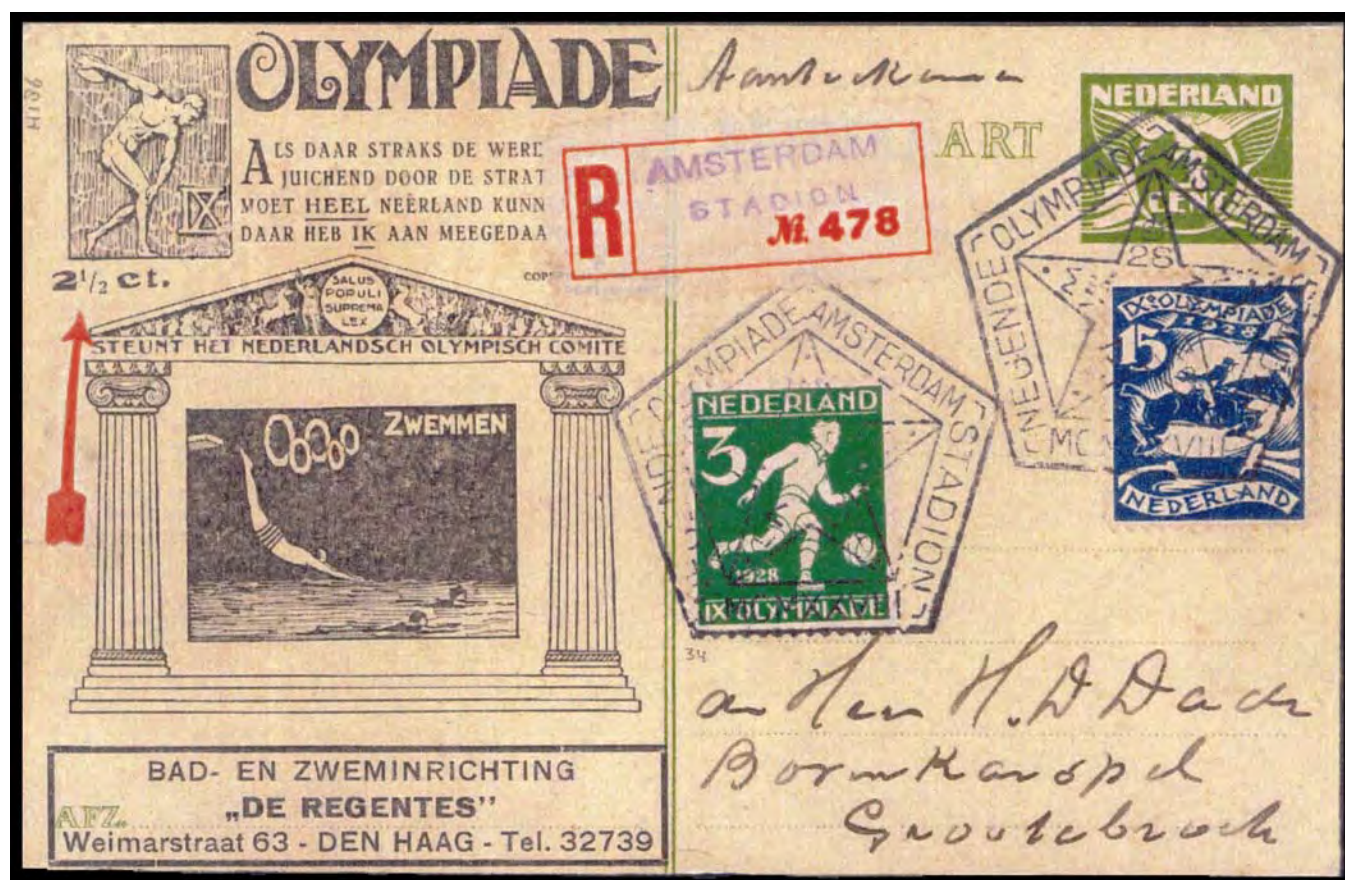
JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

VOLUME 46

WINTER 2007

NUMBER 2

The 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games: The Color Proofs In Private Hands



The 1928 Olympic football stamp, shown on this Amsterdam Olympic postal stationery card, was one of four stamps whose color proofs escaped into private hands.

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PHILATELISTS
INTERNATIONAL

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1928 AMSTERDAM OLYMPIC GAMES

3

CRICKET & PHILATELY

8

2008 BEIJING OLYMPIC GAMES

15 & 22

CURLING

28

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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
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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. 46, No. 2
Winter 2007

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

ISSN 0447-953X

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

Where Should We Go In 2009?

In an effort to reach as many members as possible, SPI tries to move its biennial convention around the country. This year, of course, we were in our nation's capital. Two years ago, Dallas, Texas played host to our group. Back in 2003 we "magically" appeared in Los Angeles where members spent an evening at the famous Magic Castle.

We've just received word that our application to hold our 2011 convention at WESTPEX in San Francisco has been accepted – but where should we go in 2009?

The suggestion has been made that we consider SESCAL in Los Angeles as 2009 will mark the 25th anniversary of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games. The SESCAL committee has extended an enthusiastic invitation. That would, however, mean we would have consecutive conventions on the West Coast.

What say you, the members? Let us hear from you by email or letter!

New Web Designer and Webmaster Needed

Over the past few years, our Membership Chairperson, Peg Jones, has done an admirable job of doubling as webmaster of our society's web site. The site has served us well by providing basic information on the society as well as augmenting our auction with color pictures of lots.

However the time has come to move beyond the "basics." We need to develop an entirely new site which more fully harnesses the power of the

'net. For this we need a new web design and a new webmaster to manage it. The designer and webmaster need not necessarily be one and the same.

While SPI has a very limited budget, we could afford to splurge a bit by paying for a designer. A professional web design firm is out of the question, but how about the talented son or daughter of an SPI member wishing to earn a little extra pocket money for school?

Please contact me (markspi@prodigy.net) if you have any suggestions or would like to help.

OLYMPEX 2008

Word recently arrived from the head of FIPO, Maurizio Tecardi, informing me that an OLYMPEX world exhibition of Olympic and sport philately is planned for Beijing which will coincide with the Olympic Games next year. We await more detailed information and an official invitation from China Post.

In the meantime, the Officers and Board of Directors of Sports Philatelists International would like to wish all of our members

*A Happy Holidays
& Healthy
Prosperous Olympic Year!*

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1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games: The Color Proofs in Private Hands

by Laurentz Jonker

One could easily write a book about the development of the Netherlands Olympic stamps of 1928 discussing such topics as design, typography, and the different printing processes used to produce the stamps.

The essays are of particular interest and were produced for a wide variety of sports. Unadopted subjects included swimming, diving, weightlifting, cycling, tennis, and even skating.

The post office settled on essays for eight stamps which were equally divided between two engravers: Fokko Mees would produce essays for the 1½c, 2c, 5c and 15c values while Ludwig Oswald Wenckebach would work on the 3c, 7½c, 10c and 30c values. Both designers produced their essays using wood cuts. The General Secretary of the Dutch Post & Telegraph, Mr. J.F. van Royen, had the final say over all aspects of this issue; in the end he decided to substitute a shot putter for the javelin thrower.

Each artist had his own distinctive style. Clichés were made from the wood cut essays. A variety of proofs in different colors were produced before final selection. All the wood cut essays and their color proofs remained in the archives of the printer, Enschedé & Sons and in the Dutch Museum of Communication. Some of the color proofs escaped into private hands. It is these that I discuss in this article.

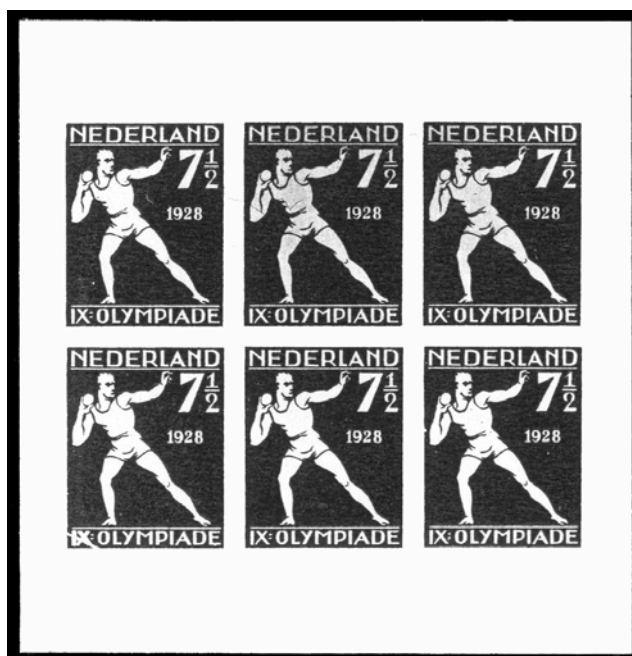
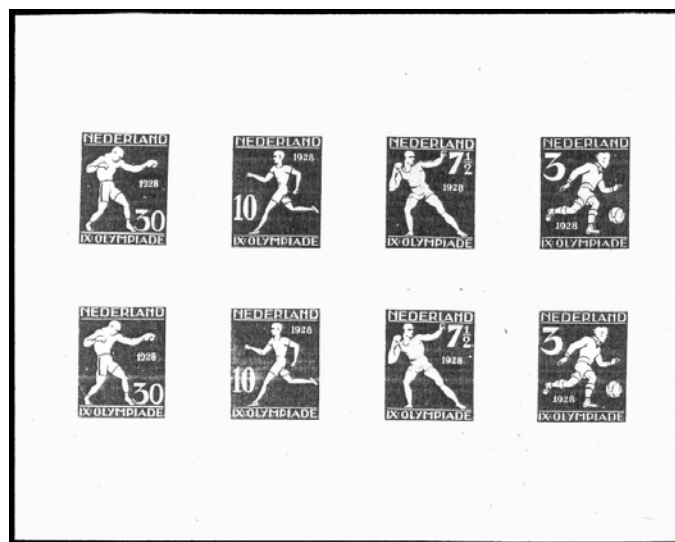
After a decade of study, which included visits to the top three Dutch auction houses to consult their

catalogs, I came to the following conclusion: only color proofs by Ludwig Oswald Wenckebach fell into private hands. Most likely what happened is that Wenckebach simply forgot to return the color proofs after examining them. The fact that his signature appears on the small sheets confirms my hypothesis.

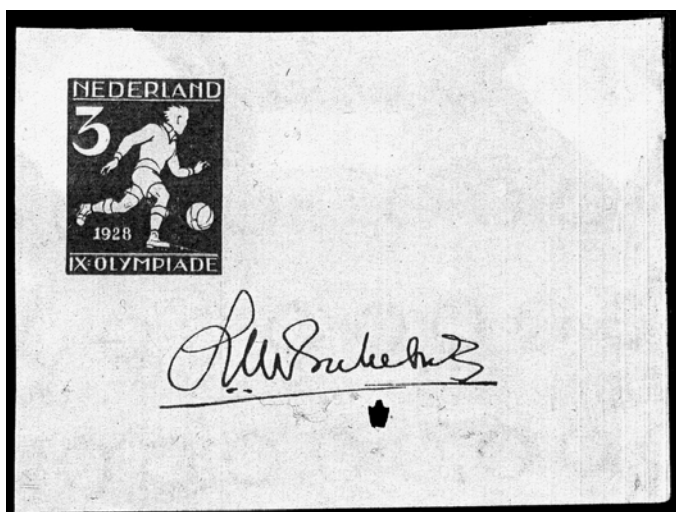
There exist in the hands of various collectors, dealers, or auction houses a total of 44 color proofs divided in two groups:

Group A: Four collective color proof sheets in which every value appears twice: 2 x 30c boxer, 2 x 10c runner, 2 x 7½c shot putter and 2 x 3c football player. Each of the four sheets is in a different color. In total there are 32 color proofs (four sheets of eight subjects each). These sheets measure 200 x 120 mm.

Group B: Two color proof sheets of six of the same value. In this group there are a total of twelve color proofs (two sheets of six subjects each). Sheet size is 235 x 130 mm. The 3c football player is in the issued shade of green.

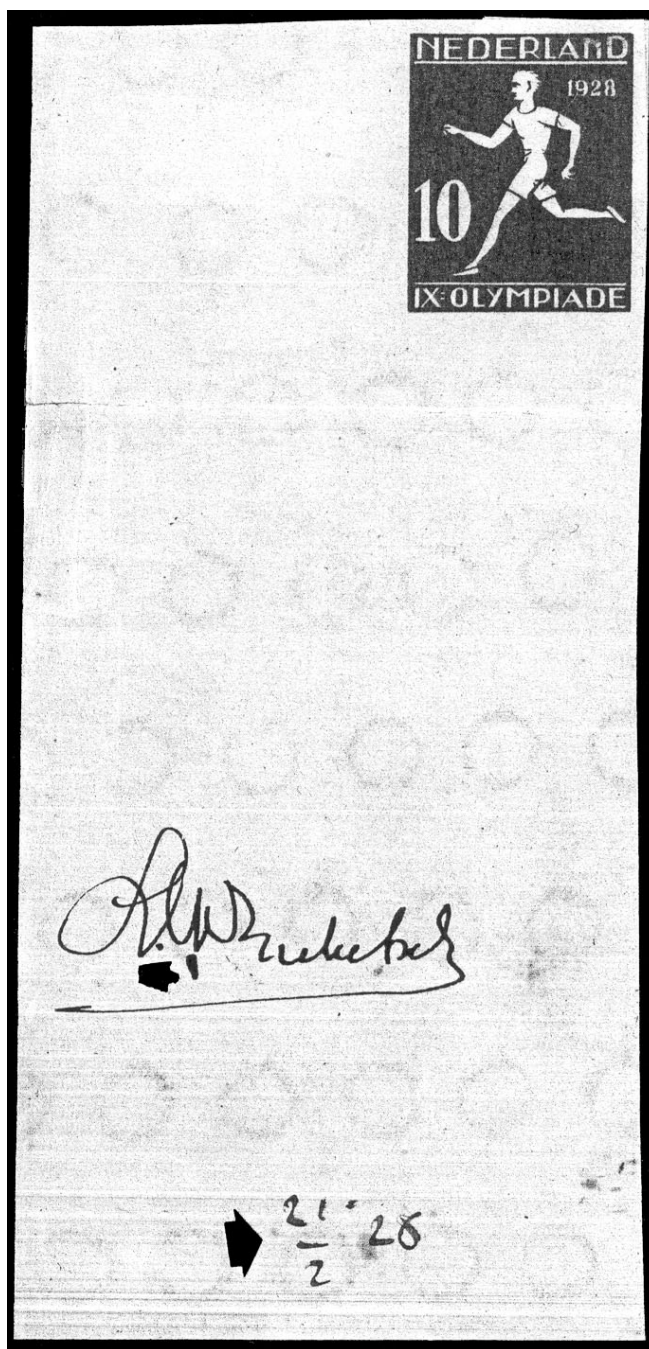
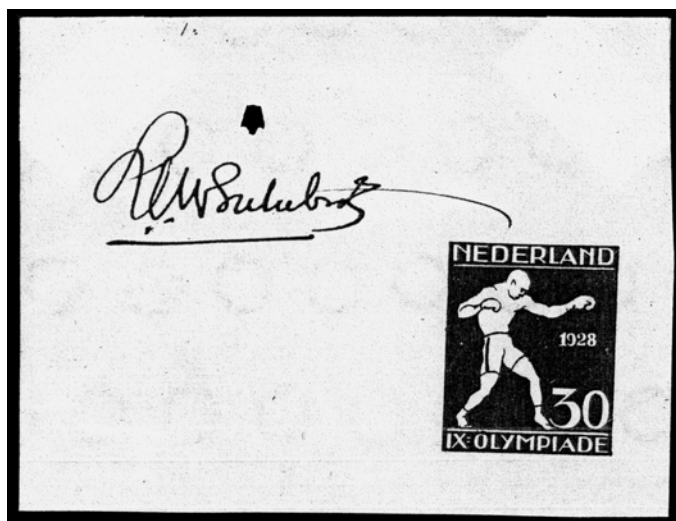


Examples of a Group "A" collective color proof (left) and one of the Group "B" single-subject color proof sheets of six (above). Reproduced from original sheets in the archives of the Dutch Museum of Communication.



(Above) Group "A" color proof in red with printer's crown punch hole and signed by the engraver, Wenckebach (from position A.3.h listed in Table 1). All color proofs are on gummed paper with circle water-marks.

(Below) Upper left position (A.4.a) Group "A" reddish-brown color proof of the 30c boxer. Proof bears crown punch hole and engraver's signature.



(Above) Group "B" color proof in green with crown mark and engraver's signature. Inscription at bottom (see arrow) refers to the date of the proof: 21.2.1928 (from position B.2.b in Table 2).



(Far left) Group "A" 7½c shot putter color proof in red (A.3.f).

(Near left) The Group "A" collective color proof version of the 10c runner, in red-brown (A.4.c). Compare to the Group "B" version from the single-subject proof sheet shown at top right.

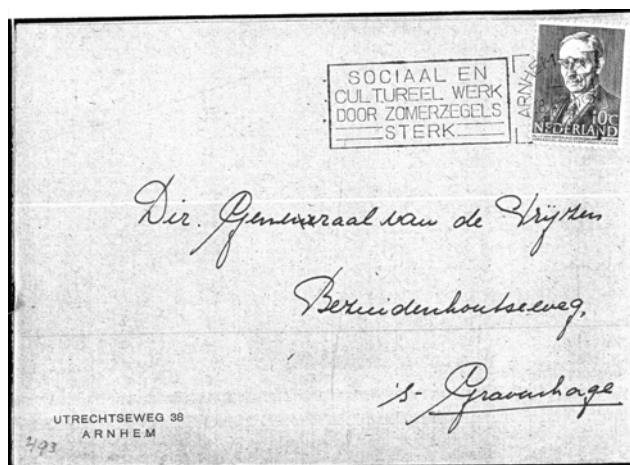
Table 1: Current or Last Known Location of Collective Color Proofs				
<i>Color</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Location</i>
Green	A.1.a	30c Boxer	top	ex-Bouscher (dealer) sold to Dutch collector
Green	A.1.b	30c Boxer	bottom	Jonker (Netherlands)
Green	A.1.c	10c Runner	top	Jonker (Netherlands)
Green	A.1.d	10c Runner	bottom	Feldman Auction, Nov. 1999
Green	A.1.e	7½c Shot Putter	top	Messmer (Germany)
Green	A.1.f	7½c Shot Putter	bottom	Jonker (Netherlands)
Green	A.1.g	3c Football Player	top	Unknown (author has a copy)
Green	A.1.h	3c Football Player	bottom	Jonker (Netherlands)
Blue-Green	A.2.a	30c Boxer	top	Jonker (Netherlands)
Blue-Green	A.2.b	30c Boxer	bottom	Messmer (Germany)
Blue-Green	A.2.c	10c Runner	top	ex-Urakami (Japan) sold to ?
Blue-Green	A.2.d	10c Runner	bottom	Jonker (Netherlands)
Blue-Green	A.2.e	7½c Shot Putter	top	ex-Urakami (Japan) sold to ?
Blue-Green	A.2.f	7½c Shot Putter	bottom	Jonker (Netherlands)
Blue-Green	A.2.g	3c Football Player	top	Loaring (Canada)
Blue-Green	A.2.h	3c Football Player	bottom	Jonker (Netherlands)
Red	A.3.a	30c Boxer	top	Jonker (Netherlands)
Red	A.3.b	30c Boxer	bottom	Loaring (Canada)
Red	A.3.c	10c Runner	top	Jonker (Netherlands)
Red	A.3.d	10c Runner	bottom	ex-Bouscher (dealer) sold to Dutch collector
Red	A.3.e	7½c Shot Putter	top	ex-Opscholtens (Netherlands dealer) to USA?
Red	A.3.f	7½c Shot Putter	bottom	Jonker (Netherlands)
Red	A.3.g	3c Football Player	top	Unknown (author has a copy)
Red	A.3.h	3c Football Player	bottom	Jonker (Netherlands)
Red-Brown	A.4.a	30c Boxer	top	Jonker (Netherlands)
Red-Brown	A.4.b	30c Boxer	bottom	Messmer (Germany)
Red-Brown	A.4.c	10c Runner	top	Jonker (Netherlands)
Red-Brown	A.4.d	10c Runner	bottom	Messmer (Germany)
Red-Brown	A.4.e	7½c Shot Putter	top	Jonker (Netherlands)
Red-Brown	A.4.f	7½c Shot Putter	bottom	Loaring (Canada)
Red-Brown	A.4.g	3c Football Player	top	Jonker (Netherlands)
Red-Brown	A.4.h	3c Football Player	bottom	Ichimura (Japan) right margin trimmed

Table 2: Current or Last Known Location of Color Proof Sheets of Six				
Color	Number	Value	Position	Location
Green	B.1.a	3c Football Player	top left	Messmer (Germany)
Green	B.1.b	3c Football Player	bottom left	ex-Opscholtens (Netherlands dealer) to USA
Green	B.1.c	3c Football Player	top center	Unknown
Green	B.1.d	3c Football Player	bottom center	ex-Urakami (Japan) sold to ?
Green	B.1.e	3c Football Player	top right	Unknown
Green	B.1.f	3c Football Player	bottom right	Feldman Auction, Nov. 1999
Green	B.2.a	10c Runner	top left	ex-Opscholtens (Netherlands dealer) to USA
Green	B.2.b	10c Runner	bottom left	Jonker (Netherlands)
Green	B.2.c	10c Runner	top center	Messmer (Germany)
Green	B.2.d	10c Runner	bottom center	ex-Urakami (Japan) sold to ?
Green	B.2.e	10c Runner	top right	Loaring (Canada)
Green	B.2.f	10c Runner	bottom right	Ichimura (Japan)

Mr. J. F. Van Royen (1878-1942) Secretary General



Ludwig Oswald Wenckebach (1895-1962) designer of the 3c, 7½c, 10c and 30c 1928 Olympic stamps.



of the Dutch P&T was responsible for the selection and final approval of the 1928 Olympic stamps. A stamp with his portrait (above) was sold with a surtax of 5c for the benefit of social and cultural works (noted at the bottom of the stamp as well as in this machine cancel from Arnhem). An unofficial proof of the stamp is at right. A building in the background does not appear in the stamp as issued.





Color Proof Group "A"



Color Proof Group "B"



Stamp as issued

All color proof sheets have been cut into individual subjects. After checking the originals or reproductions of the known pieces, they can be assembled into a sheet. Small differences between color proofs "A", "B" and the issued stamp exist:

3c football player, color proof "A" compared to "B":

(1) top left seam in football is continuous; (2) right shoe without sole; (3) "1928" shifted to the right; (4) left collar without stripe; (5) heel of the left shoe is wider.

3c football player, issued stamp compared to color proof "B":

(1) type face is thicker, especially the "8" of "1928" (rounder) and the crossbar in "A" of "OLYMPIADE"; (2) "1928" shifted to the left.

10c runner, color proof "A" compared to "B": (1) sprig of hair at front of head is missing; (2) "I" in

"OLYMPIADE" is wider; (3) 1928 shifted to the left; (4) thumb of left hand shorter; (5) thumb of right hand has line and is shorter; (6) eyebrow is longer.

10c runner, as issued compared to proof "B": (1) type face is thicker, especially the "8" of "1928" (rounder) and the crossbar in "A" of "OLYMPIADE"; (2) right hand resembles a fist; (3) shoes are more sharply rendered; (4) "1928" shifted to the left.

The author welcomes additional/new information on the color proofs (a color photocopy is appreciated) mailed to Laurentz Jonker, Wibergstraat 20, NL-8017 GA Zwolle, Netherlands.

Sources: Archives of the Dutch Museum of Communication, and the printers, Enschedé & Sons. Thanks also to collectors Ichimura, Loaring, and Messmer, as well as dealers Bouscher and Opscholten.



Color Proof Group "A"



Color Proof Group "B"



Stamp as issued

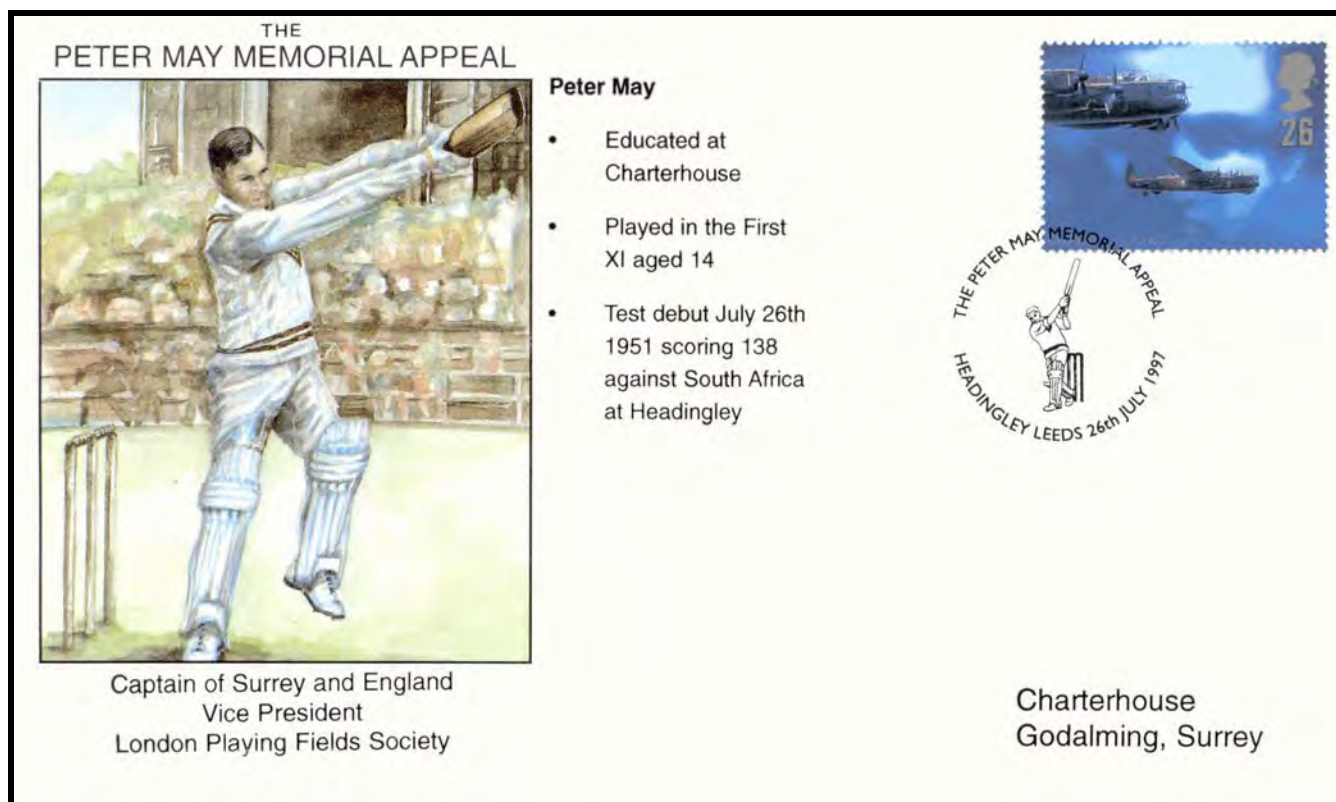


Figure 35. Captain of the England team and batsman, Peter May.

Cricket and Philately: The Ashes – An Australian Perspective, 1946 – Present (Part 1)

by Peter N. Street

THE POST-WAR YEARS: 1946-1975

The World War II years were not kind to English cricket. The first-class game was suspended and several of the pre-war team had been killed in action. Hedley Verity, England's premier spin bowler died of wounds in a prisoner of war camp in Italy in 1943 and fast bowler Ken Farnes was killed in a plane crash in 1941 while serving with the Royal Air Force. In addition, Len Hutton, England's hero in the last pre-war Ashes match broke his arm while serving in the Armed Services and was forced to modify his batting style.

It was not surprising, then, that the first three Ashes series (1946-47, 1948, and 1950-51) were won decisively by Australia.

Their 1948 tour of England was to be Don Bradman's last. The team, named the "Invincibles" by the press was unbeaten that summer.

In the fifth Test at the Oval, Bradman was applauded by the English team all the way to the wicket. He needed but four runs for a Test average of 100 but was bowled for zero by Eric Hollies. For the non-cricketing reader it should be noted that in modern-day cricket a Test average of between 50 and 60 runs is considered exemplary.

In 1953 Australia again visited England. England was now captained by Len Hutton, the first professional cricketer to do so on a regular basis.

Yorkshire, Hutton's county cricket club, still insisted on an amateur captain so we have the interesting situation of the English captain playing as a senior professional under an amateur captain.

The highlight of the series was during the second Test at Lord's. England needed 343 runs to win on the last day. At one stage they were 20 runs for three wickets and victory for Australia seemed assured. But Willie Watson played a remarkable defensive innings of 107 and he and Trevor Bailey added 163 runs in 248 minutes to force a draw.



Figure 36. Fast bowler, Brian Statham, competed on the England team in the 1950's.

The fifth Test at the Oval would be the deciding one as the previous four had been drawn. England won by eight wickets and regained the Ashes after nearly 19 years.

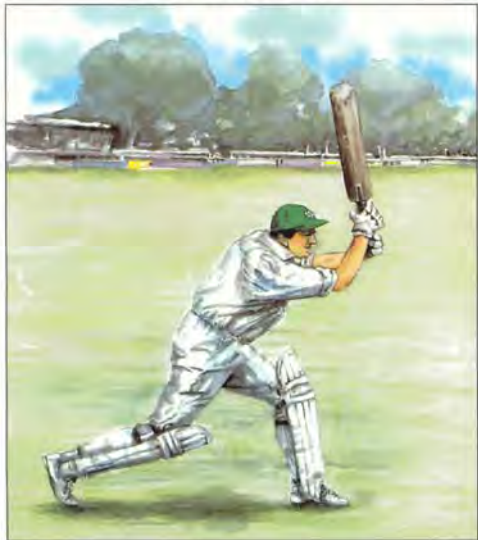
I remember that summer well. I was working for an engineering company in the south of England. One of my co-workers lived close to the plant and had a television set (not everyone had one in those days). We would go to his house at lunch time and watch the Test matches for an hour or so.



Figure 37. England captain and batsman, Colin Cowdrey.

England was able to send a strong team to Australia for the 1954-55 series. Still under the leadership of Len Hutton the combination of the fast bowling of Brian Statham and Frank Tyson and the batting of Colin Cowdrey, Tom Graveney and Peter May ensured a comprehensive 3-1 win with one drawn. Statham and Cowdrey are featured Leaders of the World (LOW) cricketers (Figures 36 and 37). May and Graveney are shown on cachets for commemorative covers in 1997 and 1998 (Figures 35 and 38).

TOM GRAVENEY




GLOUCESTERSHIRE
WORCESTERSHIRE **ENGLAND**
QUEENSLAND


FIRST CLASS CAREER

RUNS	47793
AVERAGE	44.91
CENTURIES	122

TEST MATCHES

TESTS	79
RUNS	4882
AVERAGE	44.38
CENTURIES	11



WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY
CRICKET CLUB
COUNTY GROUND
WORCESTER

Figure 38. England batsman, Tom Graveney.



Figures 39-42. England's 1970-71 Ashes team: captain and all-rounder, Ray Illingworth (top left); fast bowler, John Snow (top right); fast bowler, Bob Willis (bottom left); and opening batsman, Geoff Boycott (bottom right).

The visit of Australia to England in 1956 produced another well contested series. Peter May was now captain of England. The highlight of the series was the remarkable performance of Jim Laker, the Surrey spin bowler who in the fourth Test at Old Trafford took 19 wickets (that is 19 out of a possible 20) for 90 runs in the match. England retained the Ashes.

England returned to Australia for the 1958-59 series but were decisively beaten 4-1 and thus Australia regained the Ashes. They retained them through the 1968 series.

The 1970-71 series, in Australia, proved significant for England as they were able to win the series 2-0 (four drawn) and regain the Ashes after 16 years.

Led by captain Ray Illingworth, England players headed the bowling and batting averages. John Snow (31 wickets) and Bob Willis (12 wickets) were the two top bowlers and Geoffrey Boycott (94 runs) was the top batsman. All four of the players are featured LOW cricketers (Figures 39-42).

During the series Colin Cowdrey, who by then had played in more than 100 Test matches, established a new Test record aggregate by passing Wally Hammond's 7,249 runs.

Another member of the English team was Basil D'Oliveira. You may recall from a previous article (*JSP*, Sept./Oct. 1993) that he was the Cape Colored player who was deemed unacceptable by the South African government for the English tour of 1968-69. England cancelled the tour and South Africa was isolated from international sport for many years. D'Oliveira is featured on a Nevis LOW stamp (Figure 43). [Editor's Note: Because of their apartheid policies, the International Olympic Committee barred South Africa from competing in the Olympic Games beginning with the 1964 Tokyo Olympics (South Africa's invitation to the 1964 Innsbruck Olympic Winter Games had earlier been withdrawn). The ban was lifted in time for the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games following South Africa's repeal of all apartheid laws the previous year.]

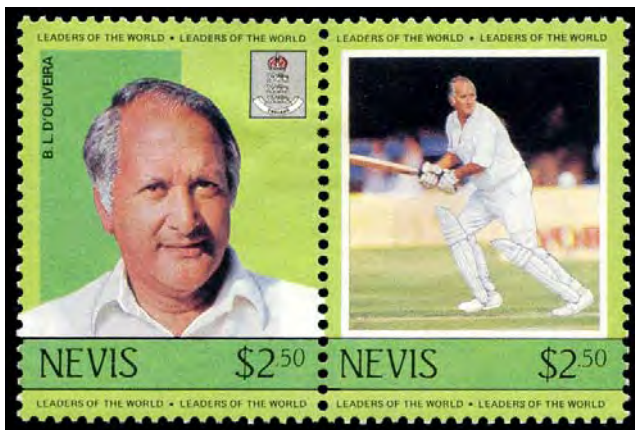


Figure 43. England all-rounder, Basil D'Oliveira.

For the 1972 tour Australia sent a strong side to England under the leadership of Ian Chappell. Illingworth retained the captaincy for England. The series resulted in a stalemate at 2-2 with one drawn enabling England to retain the Ashes. Tony Greig, a South African born all rounder who had qualified for England, made his debut in the first Test at Manchester's Old Trafford and was top scorer in both innings. More on Mr. Greig later.

The Australian team in the 1974-75 series for the English tour was dominated by the fast bowling of Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson. Dubbed "Lillian Thomson" by the press they took 58 wickets between them and enabled Australia to win the series 4-1 and regain the Ashes. Lillee is one of the featured cricketers in a 1988 issue by St. Vincent (Figure 44).

Australia's visit to England in 1975 resulted in a single victory by them thus retaining the Ashes. "Lillian Thomson" again headed the bowling averages.



Figure 45. England batsman, Bob Woolmer. Woolmer would eventually die under mysterious circumstances in Jamaica while coaching the 2007 Pakistani team.



Figure 44. Australian fast bowler, Dennis Lillee.

Bob Woolmer, another LOW cricketer (Figure 45) in only his second Test match ensured a draw in the last Test by staying at the wicket for 499 minutes for his 149 runs. Woolmer was the cricket coach for the Pakistani team who died under mysterious circumstances in Jamaica during the recent 2007 Cricket World Cup.

THE MODERN ERA: 1976 - PRESENT

On their return from a tour of India and Sri Lanka, the England team played a single match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) to commemorate the centenary of the first Test match there (*JSP*, Winter 2006). The match proved to be an exciting win for the Australians. By coincidence the winning margin of 45 runs was exactly the same as in that first Test 100 years ago.

To celebrate the occasion, Australia issued a set-tenant strip of five stamps showing a period cricket match at the MCG (Figure 46). The Australian win ensured their retention of the Ashes.

The Australian centenary tour of England in 1977 proved a triumph for England. They regained the Ashes with an impressive three wins and two draws. England was led by Tony Greig while Greg Chappell was captain for Australia. Both men are shown on the cachet of a special cover produced for the traditional opening tour match at Arundel (Figure 47). Geoff Boycott returned to Test cricket after missing 30 matches. He scored his hundredth century in the fourth Test at Headingley. Boycott batted for all five days of the Test and was on the field for the entire time of the match. His eventual series batting average was 147.33 runs – a record for Ashes matches. The third Test at Trent Bridge marked the debut of Ian Botham who was to become a force in English cricket.

The 1978-79 England tour of Australia was in opposition to World Series Cricket (WSC) (*JSP*, Fall 2004). Cricketers who played for WSC were not considered for the Test series. Australia was forced

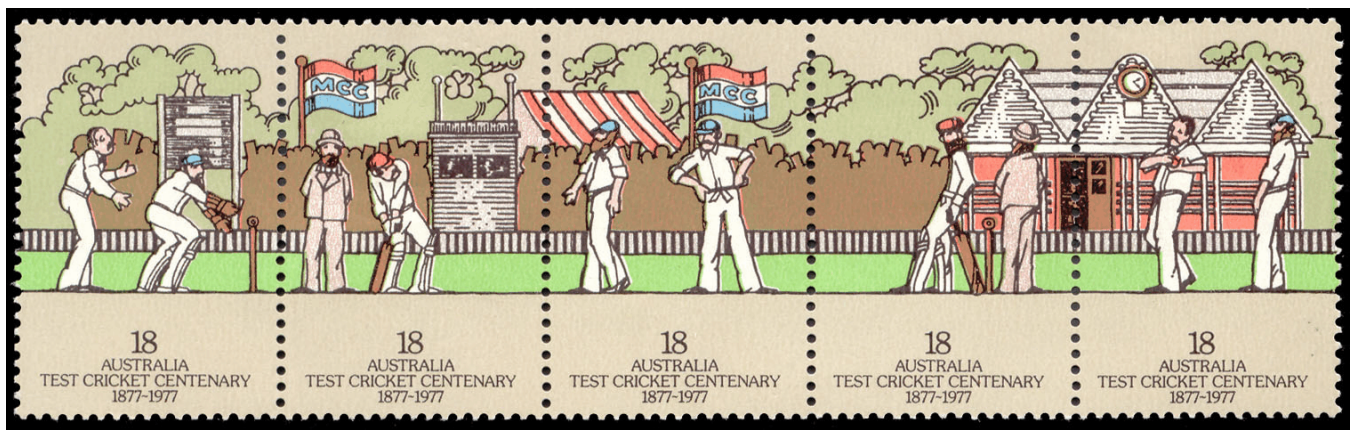


Figure 46. Period cricket match at Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

to field almost a whole new team whereas England only lost four of its best players. Needless to say Australia was at an enormous disadvantage which was reflected in the 5-1 series win for England and the retention of the Ashes. England's David Gower headed the batting averages at 42. He was one the cricketers featured in a series issued by Dominica in 1994 to commemorate the centenary of English cricket tours in the Caribbean (Figure 48). Allan Border, a future Australian captain, made his Ashes

debut. The 1988 cricketer series by the Grenadines of St. Vincent features Border but misspells his name Boarder (Figure 49).

By the start of the 1979-80 England tour to Australia, WSC was defunct and both teams were at full strength. Naturally Australia was primed to regain the Ashes which they did convincingly with a 3-0 series win.

The 1980 Australian tour to England was a single match to commemorate the centenary of the first



Figure 47. Opening cricket match between England and Australia. Captains were Tony Greig for England (left in the cachet) and Greg Chappell for Australia (right).



Figures 48 & 49. Opposing captains and batsmen: David Gower for England (left) and Allan Border for Australia (right). Note the misspelling of “Boarder” on the St. Vincent stamp.

Test match in England. Unfortunately rain shortened the match and the inevitable draw meant there was no change in the status of the Ashes.

The 1981 series was one of the most exciting of modern times. The end result of the six match series was 3-1 in England’s favor (2 drawn) which meant they regained the Ashes. The third Test at Headingley was a personal triumph for the English captain, Ian Botham.

Australia scored 401 for 9 declared in their first innings (Botham 6 wickets for 95 runs). England replied with 174 and were forced to follow-on.



Figure 52. Australia retirees: Greg Chappell, Rod Marsh and Dennis Lillee.



Figure 50. England fast bowler, Graham Dilley.

England seemed destined to lose the match when Botham came in at 105 for 5 which soon became 135 for 7. At this stage England needed 92 runs to avoid an innings defeat. With fast bowler Graham Dilley in support, Botham reached his century in 87 balls. With further support from fast bowler Bob Willis, England eventually made 356 runs with Botham at 149 not out and England 129 ahead.

What seemed a simple task for Australia was thwarted by some inspired fast bowling by Willis (8-43). England gained the victory by 18 runs. Dilley is featured on an LOW stamp of St. Vincent (Figure 50).

Botham produced some more heroics in the fourth Test with his bowling (4-11), in the fifth with his batting (118 runs), and in the sixth once again with his bowling (10 wickets in the match). Mainly due to his efforts, England secured a 3-1 series victory and regained the Ashes.

Botham, who was recently knighted by Queen Elizabeth II, was featured in the 1988 St. Vincent cricketer series (Figure 51).

An unauthorized tour of South Africa by some of England’s Test cricketers meant England sent a weakened team to Australia for the 1982-83 series. Captained by Bob Willis, England lost the series 2-1 (2 drawn) and once again the Ashes changed hands.

At the conclusion of the series three of Australia’s greatest players retired from the international scene: Captain Greg Chappell, wicket-keeper Rod Marsh, and fast bowler Dennis Lillee.

In 1984, Australia, in conjunction with AUSIPEX ‘84, produced a cinderella souvenir sheet featuring these three champions (Figure 52).



Figures 51, 53 & 54. England captains: Ian Botham (far left), Mike Gatting (center) and Graham Gooch (near left).

England was at full strength for Australia's 1985 tour of England. David Gower was now England's captain and Allan Border his counterpart for Australia. The series hinged on the fifth Test at Edgbaston. Australia batted first and made 335 runs. Notwithstanding some rain delays England amassed the huge total of 595-5 declared. Gower scored 215 and Mike Gatting, another future English captain, made an even 100. Gatting is one of the cricketers of the 1988 St. Vincent issue (Figure 53). England dismissed Australia for 142 in their second innings and won the match decisively by an innings and 118 runs.

Australia needed to win the sixth Test at the Oval to save the series and the Ashes. However some brilliant batting by Gower (157) and Graham Gooch (196) enabled England to win by an innings and 94 runs and thus regain the Ashes. Gooch, yet another future English captain, is another 1988 St. Vincent issue cricketer (Figure 54).

England's touring team to Australia for the 1986-87 series contained two former captains, Botham and Gower, and was led by Mike Gatting. Although early season matches suggested otherwise, England was able to win the first and fourth Tests and retained the Ashes.

England broke its tour of New Zealand in 1988 to play a single Ashes match as part of Australia's Bicentennial celebrations. Although England seemed poised to win on the third day, poor light reduced playing time on the fourth day and Australia made a draw certain on the last day. England thus retained the Ashes.

Allan Border led Australia for their 1989 tour of England and David Gower was again captain of England. Australia won the series 4-0 (2 draws) and started a string of series wins that lasted until 2005.

The highlight of the series was the batting of Australian Steve Waugh (177 not out in the first Test, 152 in the second, 43 in the third, and 92 in the fourth). Although Steve Waugh has not appeared on a stamp, he was one of the cricketers shown on a PPI (Postal Paid Impression, a postally valid label) produced by British stamp dealer, Stamp Publicity (Worthing) Ltd., under a 2000 contract with the British Post Office (Figure 55). During that series Australia's captain Allan Border became the fourth player to make 8000 Test runs. Mike Atherton – another future English captain – made his debut in the fifth Test. He has appeared on several stamps including Antigua in 1994 (Figure 56) and Grenada Grenadines in 1995 (Figure 57).



Figure 55. Australia captain, Steve Waugh.



Figures 56 & 57. England captain and opening batsman, Mike Atherton.

To be concluded in the Spring 2008 issue of the Journal of Sports Philately



Olympic sailing trials for the Finn Class of boats was held October 3-14 in Newport Beach, Calif., hosted by the Newport Harbor Yacht Club. A special Olympic Trials postmark was applied. The auxiliary round dater in red ink certifies the cover as having been canceled on October 3, opening day.

Sailing Toward Qingdao

by Mark Maestrone

Nominations to the 2008 U.S. Olympic Team have begun in earnest as 21 seamen and women outsailed the competition to capture berths to Qingdao, host city of the 2008 Olympic sailing competition.

Qingdao is located about 430 miles east of Beijing. From August 9-24, 2008, the city will host the Olympic sailing events, followed by the Paralympic competition September 6-17.

Trials in eleven Olympic sailing classes were hosted by six yacht clubs on both coasts of the United States. The Laser (men) and Laser Radial (women) Classes, as well as three classes for Paralympic competitors were conducted in Newport, Rhode Island. The remaining six classes were held in southern California. All trials were conducted during the period of October 3-14, 2008.

Age certainly wasn't a hindrance as competitors ranged from their teens on up to 72.

The youngest winner was 19-year-old Nancy Rios

in the women's RS:X sailboard. Rios nearly lost this, her first attempt to qualify for an Olympic team, when her sail tore in a collision, which in turn affected her point total. However on appeal the jury reconsidered the accident (which was not Rios' fault), giving her a one-point advantage over nearest rival, Farrah Hall, the eventual second place finisher.

Rios' place on the team is not yet secure; the U.S. as a country must still qualify for the Olympic RS:X competition. Rios hopes to accomplish this at the Women's World Championships in New Zealand in January 2008.

The rest of the trials winners have no such problem as the U.S. has qualified in all other classes.

On the other end of the age spectrum is John Dane III who, at 57, is the oldest winner at these trials. His crew consists of his 29-year-old son-in-law, Austin Sperry.

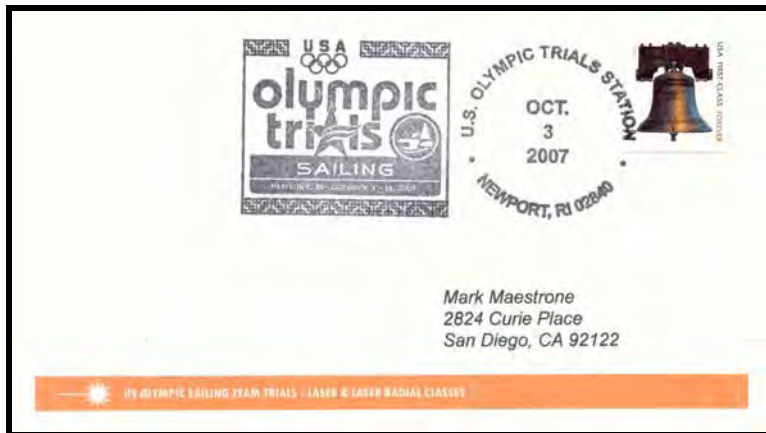
Experience also plays a key role in the sport of sailing as John Lovell and Charlie Ogletree can surely attest to. With their win in the Tornado Class, the two will team up for a fourth Olympic Games!



Long Beach, Calif. postmark for the 470 and RS:X Classes hosted by the Alamitos Bay Yacht Club.



The California Yacht Club at Marina del Rey, Calif. hosted the Star Class competitions.



Newport, RI was the venue for the Laser Class events as well as all three Paralympic Classes.



The 49er and Tornado Class events were conducted off the coast of San Diego, Calif.



U.S. Olympic Team Trials - Sailing (October 3-14, 2007)			
<i>Class</i>	<i>Host Organization</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Winner (Home Town)</i>
2.4mR*	Rhode Island Sailing Foundation	Newport, RI	John Ruf (Pewaukee, Wisc.)
470	Alamitos Bay Yacht Club	Long Beach, CA	470 Women: Amanda Clark (Shelter Island, N.Y.), Sarah Mergenthaler (New York, N.Y.) 470 Men: Stuart McNay (Lincoln, Mass.), Graham Biehl (San Diego, Calif.)
49er	Southwestern Yacht Club	San Diego, CA	Tim Wadlow (Beverly, Mass.), Chris Rast (San Diego, Calif.)
Finn	Newport Harbor Yacht Club	Newport Beach, CA	Zach Railey (Clearwater, Fla.)
Laser (Men)	Rhode Island Sailing Foundation	Newport, RI	Andrew Campbell (San Diego, Calif.)
Laser Radial (Women)	Rhode Island Sailing Foundation	Newport, RI	Anna Tunnicliffe (Plantation, Fla.)
RS:X	Alamitos Bay Yacht Club	Long Beach, CA	RS:X Men: Ben Barger (Tampa, Fla.) RS:X Women: Nancy Rios (Miami, Fla.)
SKUD-18*	Rhode Island Sailing Foundation	Newport, RI	Nick Scandone (Fountain Valley, Calif.), Maureen McKinnon-Tucker (Marblehead, Mass.)
Sonar*	Rhode Island Sailing Foundation	Newport, RI	Rick Doerr (Clifton, N.J.), Tim Angle (Marblehead, Mass.), Bill Donohue (Brick, N.J.)
Star	California Yacht Club	Marina del Rey, CA	John Dane III, Austin Sperry (both of Gulfport, Miss.)
Tornado	San Diego Yacht Club	San Diego, CA	John Lovell (New Orleans, La.), Charlie Ogletree (Kemah, Tex.)

* Paralympic Classes

The table, above, provides details of the competition. Men and women compete together in most Olympic sailing classes. The exceptions are the 470 and RS:X. In the Laser Class, men sail in a standard Laser rig, while women compete in a slightly different boat, the Laser Radial, which has a shorter, more flexible mast and smaller sail area.

SPI, in cooperation with the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC), created postmarks for each of the five cities hosting the sailing trials: Newport, RI; Marina del Rey, CA; Long Beach, CA; Newport Beach, CA; and San Diego, CA.

The postmarks use the USOC's official logo for the sailing trials as the pictorial portion of the cancel. The generic 2008 trials logo is combined with a sport

pictograph and appropriate text to create a customized logo for each trials.

The postmarks are dated October 3, the opening day of the trials, and were available for the customary 30 days.

Future Olympic trials postmarks are expected to include: (January 2008) table tennis; (February 2008) race walking; (April 2008) canoe/kayak (both flatwater and slalom events), marathon (women's), taekwondo, triathlon; (May 2008) archery, weightlifting; (June 2008) cycling (BMX), diving, judo, gymnastics (artistic), rowing (small boats), swimming, track and field, and wrestling. 

Sources: U.S. Sailing's website (www.ussailing.org)



“The Stratton Story” and the New Jimmy Stewart Stamp

by Norman Rushefsky

The film, “The Stratton Story,” presents the real-life saga of courageous sports hero Monty Stratton. In this film, famed actor Jimmy Stewart provides a career-defining performance as the young Chicago White Sox pitcher who loses a leg in a tragic hunting accident. De-

pressed, Stratton at first refuses to walk with his new artificial limb, but under the encouragement of his wife, played by June Allyson, he relearns to walk just as his young son takes his own first steps. With courage and determination, Stratton builds his strength and returns to the sport at which he excelled, becoming a minor league baseball star. This uplifting story features a truly wonderful performance from Jimmy Stewart, an Academy Award winning script by Douglas Morrow, and the very real chemistry between Stewart and actress Allyson.

The poster for the film, “The Stratton Story,” released in 1949, is reproduced at left.

The recently issued stamp honoring actor Jimmy Stewart (Figure 1) shows Stewart in a business suit. The information provided by the USPS indicates that the design for the stamp is taken from a publicity photo of Jimmy Stewart that was used in conjunction with the publicity for “The Stratton Story.” I believe this photo would have been used in the theater lobby entrances for publicizing this film.

“The Stratton Story” film is also noted in the selvage of a souvenir sheet from Gambia (Figure 2). Gambia has issued a number of stamps featuring baseball related movies.

In 2000, Greenville, Texas honored Stratton and several others of its favorite sons with a postmark noting the 150th anniversary of the town (Figures 3 and 4).

Monty Stratton played three seasons for the Chicago White Sox, 1936-1938. He won 37 games and lost only 19. His professional baseball career came to a tragic end in the fall of 1938 when, at just 25 years of age, he lost his right leg in a hunting accident. The 6'-5" tall righthander was determined not to give up. He returned the following year as pitching coach for the White Sox where he stayed until 1941. During World War II Monty returned home to his farm with his wife and two small sons.

Figure 1. The USPS honored James (Jimmy) Stewart on its 2007 “Legends of Hollywood” issue. The self-adhesive stamp was printed in panes of twenty.



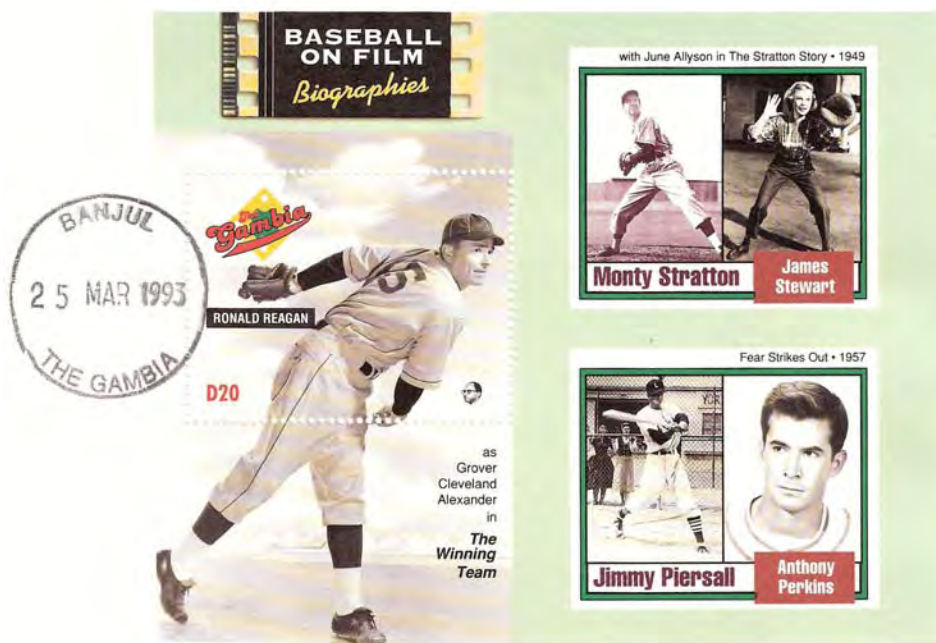


Figure 2. 1993 Gambian souvenir sheet featuring “The Stratton Story” in the seldge.

After World War II Stratton received a letter asking if he would be interested in participating in a semi-pro baseball tournament. His wife, Ethel, intercepted the letter and replied that he would be interested and convinced Monty he should try. He pitched a four-hitter to the surprise of everyone but Ethel. The following year he pitched with the East Texas League and had 18 wins and was awarded The Most Courageous Athlete award by the Philadelphia Press Club.

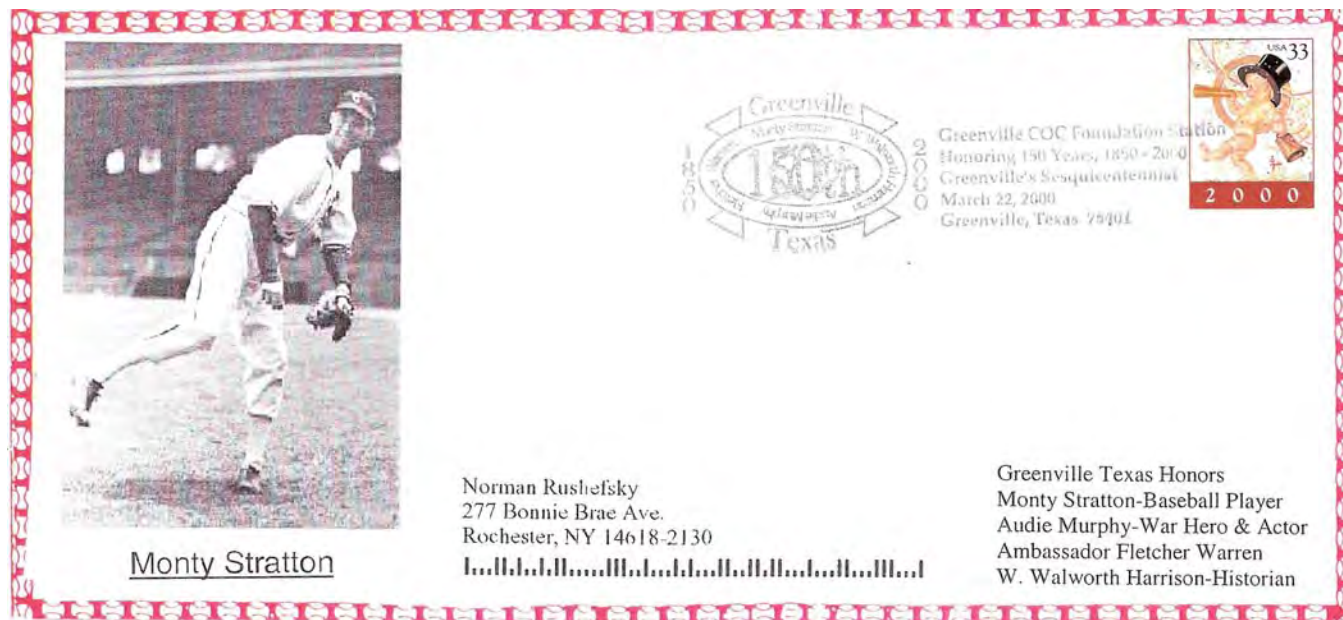
In 1948, the Strattons were approached by MGM to do a life story of the couple. At first the two felt there was nothing unusual about their story. But the

screenwriters convinced Monty and Ethel that the story would have a tremendous impact on World War II amputees trying to reenter civilian life. At last, the couple agreed and they were taken to Hollywood along with their two sons and treated like royalty. Stratton acted as technical adviser and assisted Jimmy Stewart with his pitching technique.

As was noted by W. Walworth Harrison, local historian of Greenville, Texas (who was also honored on the aforementioned Greenville postmark) “with remarkable courage, perseverance and the help of a faithful wife, Monty Stratton mastered the problem of balancing and pivoting on an arti-

ficial leg, and returned to the mound as a successful pitcher.”

Figures 3 & 4. Special Greenville, Texas postmark honoring its favorite sons, including Monty Stratton.



The Heartaches and Joys of Exhibiting

by Cora Collins

[Cora Collins, an active golf exhibitor and past OLYMPHILEX commissioner, won the SPI Best-of-Show award at the recent NAPEX 2007 philatelic exhibition.]

Past History of One “Golf” Exhibit

After collecting a topical for about five years, I decided to enter the exhibiting arena in the early to mid-1980s. At that time two methods of exhibiting thematic material existed—a presentation by subject matter and a geographical presentation by country. The latter geographical system was soon dispensed with in the next edition of the American Philatelic Society’s criteria for exhibiting.

Not knowing of the proposed change, I started with the geographical presentation but was soon forced to change my approach if I wanted to be competitive with other thematic exhibits. After a few exhibits and silver bronze awards, a “topical” judge reviewed my exhibit with me at the frames. His conclusion was that the thematic I had chosen to exhibit, golf, could never get above a silver award as the material to make it a higher award simply did not exist.

That didn’t stop me from pursuing the exhibit. Sometime later I sent a photocopy of my exhibit to Mary Ann Owens for a critique. It came back with many pages that had a large “X” through the material, not suitable for exhibiting. If it started with five frames, I was probably down to three. Consequently, the exhibit cycle had to begin again.

One of the most helpful critiques I got early on was when a judge took the time to help me work on my outline. He had actually made some notes on how one might approach the subject matter and then discussed it with me at the frames. That was really the beginning of many improvements.

Preparing a Thematic Exhibit

There are two essential references for preparing a thematic exhibit.

The first, of course, is the APS *Manual of Philatelic Judging* which lays out the criteria for exhibiting by category, one of which is thematic.

A second reference is entitled, *Handbook of Thematic Philately* by W.E.J. van den Bold. The book was published by the British Thematic Association. While available in Dutch in 1990, the English version was not available until 1994. If you don’t have a copy or can’t easily borrow one, you should attempt to buy a copy. It will serve you well.

A very unusual element: a postage due bill of Oct. 1, 1981 using Babe Zaharias stamps. The stamp was issued Sept. 18, 1981 and the rate changed in October – all this happened as postage due bills were being phased out and post offices were allowed to put stamps of their choosing on the bill as opposed to postage due stamps.

From the *Handbook of Thematic Philately*, develop a list of philatelic elements which can be used as a checklist when you rework your exhibit. As you decide which items to mount, annotate your list and keep a count of how many different elements you have included. Sometimes you may want to swap out some elements in order to include more different ones. My goal is to have between 45 and 50 when I am done reorganizing.

Eliminate Illegal or Spurious Issues

During the process of selecting items for an exhibit, check the issues against the Scott *Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*. If Scott identifies it as an illegal stamp or doesn't recognize it at all, remove it from your exhibit. There are catalogs which list items not included by Scott, however, unless you know the cataloguer's policy in identifying legal postage versus gummed paper seals, it is better not to include these items. These are often referred to as spurious issues. My policy has always been if it doesn't have a Scott number, don't include it.

In this respect, those of you who have responsibility for developing topical checklists, you are really doing your fellow collectors a disservice if you do not identify the illegal or "spurious" issues – they are nothing more than "gummed and perforated pictures." You could probably make your own by cutting out magazine pictures with a pair of pinking sheers. The individuals producing these images are performing a scam on the public and by purchasing them we are promoting the scam.

Learn the Basic Rules of Exhibiting

One way to learn the rules is to attend a thematic judging seminar. All of the judging seminars are held annually at the APS show in August. Otherwise, it is up to the show committee to schedule them on an as-needed basis. Perhaps when SPI holds their next convention, the show committee might be asked to provide such a seminar.

A second way to learn the rules is to attend the judges' critique and listen to how the judges have evaluated all of the thematic exhibits, not just yours. Study the exhibits and attend the critiques even if you are not exhibiting. Or, as an extreme measure, become a philatelic judge and sit on the other side of the table!

SPI at NAPEX 2007

The recent NAPEX 2007 had some of the best thematic judging I have observed in many years. Seeing my exhibit up in the frames again and hearing the judges' critique, I realized there were a number of improvements which could and should be made. There is no such thing as a perfect exhibit and we all need to strive to improve the elements as well as arrangement and presentation. The individual designated to respond to many of the thematic exhibits was especially astute in identifying weaknesses in the exhibits.

When a thematic group is meeting at a show, one is provided with the opportunity to observe numerous thematic exhibits. I saw a couple items I would love to have in my exhibit. We are also provided the opportunity to meet with collectors of similar material and discuss new finds. In addition, we can continue shopping for that elusive item we haven't been able to find or upgrade elements currently in our exhibits.

Finally, Experiencing the Joys of Exhibiting

While it appears some may think the award is the only important factor in exhibiting, I have found joy in the realization that it is now ready to be shown again. All the pieces are in place on the pages. I feel reasonably good about the arrangement and I have been able to add some new items. Even though I know there are some weak spots where the subject matter should be expanded or the material should be upgraded, I am prepared to exhibit again.

NAPEX has not always been a good experience for me. The last time I exhibited there was before London 2000. I was given a vermeil and another thematic was given a gold award. That didn't sit too well. However at London 2000 my award was two or three levels above the one which had received the gold just a few months earlier.

At NAPEX 2007 one of the highlights was when a stranger walked up to me and said how much he had enjoyed seeing my exhibit again. He said he had seen it before but always found it to be of interest. Being caught off guard, I didn't even think to ask his name. Just knowing that your exhibit made a favorable impression on a bystander helps to justify the effort which goes into the process of exhibiting.



Russian Women's B-Ball Team Qualifies For Beijing

by Mark Maestroni

By dint of its win at the recent 2007 European Women's Basketball Championship – more familiarly called EuroBasket Women 2007 – the Russian women's team secured a spot in the Olympic basketball tournament in Beijing next year.

Held from September 24 - October 7, EuroBasket 2007 was hosted by the Italian cities of Chieti, Lanciano, Ortona, and Vasto. All the championship bracket games were contested in Chieti October 4-7.

In the final, Russia defeated Spain, 74-68, while in the third place game, Belarus bested Latvia, 72-63. Spain, Belarus, Latvia, and the Czech Republic (5th) all advanced to the Olympic qualifying tournament.

Most valuable player of the tournament was Spain's Amaya Valdemoro.

Each of the four host cities, which are located along Italy's Adriatic coast, provided special post-

marks commemorating the championships. By agreement, a certain number of postcards and covers from each city would be flown aboard a special "fire" balloon to the Republic of San Marino.

The "balloon" postmarks – a different one was used in each of the four cities – and collection schedules were as follows:

Chieti: Special cancellation on Thursday, September 20 at the local philatelic post office which operated from 9:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m. At 2:00 p.m., all mail destined for transport aboard the balloon was sealed in a special postal bag for dispatch.

Ortona: A similar procedure was used on September 20 with the philatelic post office active from 10:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m.

Lanciano: In the third town the post office was open from 4:00 p.m. through 8:00 p.m. on September 20.



As an added attraction, Lanciano also hosted a regional philatelic exhibition (Filanxanum 2007) on various themes. One special section was devoted to single-frame basketball exhibits.

(It should be noted that in the cases of the three post offices listed above (Chieti, Ortona, and Lanciano) mail was physically canceled and collected on September 20, yet postmarks are dated September 21, the actual day of the balloon mail flight.)

Vasto: This town hosted the National Stamp Exhibition (Vastophil 2007) with a special section reserved for I.F.I.S. (the International Filabasket Society) for multi-frame basketball exhibits. On September 21, the special post office was operational from 9:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. when all mail posted in Vasto was sealed in a postal bag.

The bags from the other three cities were brought to Vasto, whereupon Mr. Maurizio Proserpi, the official in charge, gathered together all bags of special balloon mail. According to information received by Luciano Calenda, there were "a few more than 1,000 items from each town carried on the balloon (total a bit more than 4,000 pieces)."

The fire balloon began its trip from in front of Vasto's Sport Hall at 6:00 p.m. on Friday September 21. The balloon landed in the Republic of San Marino, a journey of some 200 miles, at 9:00 a.m. the following day, September 22. A normal postal cancel backstamped the items carried on the balloon.

Some of the items display private handstamps (there were two different ones):



1. A two-line blue handstamp (above) reads: "DA AVVIARSI CON DISPACCIO STRAORDINARIO DEL 21 SETTEMBRE 2007" (To be delivered through extraordinary dispatch on 21 September 2007).

2. Another private handstamp – customized with each town's name – referred to this special dispatch. The design is the same, but the colors are different for each town: Chieti (blue); Ortona (green); Lanciano (red); and Vasto (lilac).



Thanks to SPI members Valentino Vannelli, who submitted the covers, and Luciano Calenda, who provided all the details on the postmarks and balloon mail.

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Al Oerter, An Olympic Journey (1936-2007)

by Mark Maestroni

The world lost one of the greatest athletes of the 20th century when famed discus thrower Alfred “Al” Oerter, Jr. passed away on Oct. 1, 2007 in Fort Myers, Fla. at the age of 71. According to his wife, Cathy, the cause was either a heart attack or a blood clot. Oerter had suffered from high blood pressure since his youth and had a history of heart problems, though he never let that slow him down.

When asked, following his unsuccessful attempt to make the 1980 Olympic track & field team, what he had to prove at his age (he was 43 at the time), Oerter replied: “You don’t understand. It’s not whether you get there. It’s about the journey.”

And what a journey it was!

All of 20 years old, he made his Olympic debut at the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games where he literally blew away the field which included the World Record holder, Fortune Gordien of the U.S.A. His gold medal throw went more than 4 feet beyond Gordien’s runner-up effort.

An Associated Press photo of Oerter (right) captured during one of his Melbourne throws was used as a model for a handsome stamp issued by the Dominican Republic as part of a 1957 set honoring Olympic champions (top).

Four years later at Rome, Oerter was back, again competing against the best – in this case American Richard “Rink” Babka. Oerter walked away with his second Olympic gold medal, setting another Olympic Record in the process.

Oerter’s next Olympic appearance was at the Tokyo Games of 1964. Six days before the start of competition, he slipped on the wet concrete discus circle, tearing rib cartilage on his right side which resulted in internal bleeding and severe pain.

When doctors suggested he forget competing for six weeks, he refused, saying: “These are the Olympics. You die before you quit.”

Oerter fought through the pain to win his third gold medal, and in the process set a world record with the first ever throw beyond 200 feet!

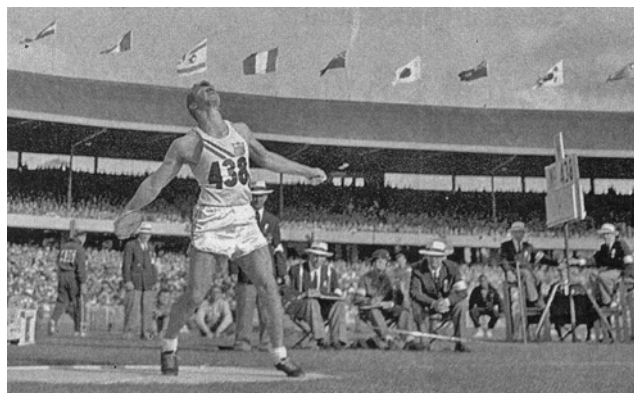
His fourth, and final, Olympic appearance was in Mexico City in 1968 where he bested the then-World Record holder, L. Jay Silvester.

Al Oerter’s achievement – winning four consecutive Olympic gold medals in the same event – has been matched only once, by Carl Lewis in the 100-meter race. What’s more, he set an Olympic Record each time.

I had never seen Oerter throw the discus, except in old newsreels aired during the Olympic Games. Nevertheless, I can’t help but appreciate his accomplishments in the sport.

In 1991, I had the rare opportunity to meet him when he participated in the first day ceremony for the Barcelona Olympic stamps. When I greeted him as “Mr. Oerter” he said “call me Al. Mr. Oerter is my father.”

So long, Al!



AP photo of Al Oerter competing at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. This image was later used as a model for a Dominican Republic stamp.

Presiding Charles W. King
General Manager/Postmaster
Los Angeles Division

National Anthem Freddie Gorman

Welcome Charles E. Young
Chancellor
University of California, Los Angeles

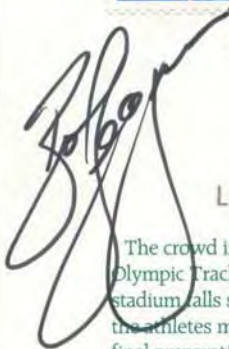
Remarks John Krinsky, Jr.
Deputy Secretary General
United States Olympic Committee

Olympians
Al Oerter
Greg Steward



Dedication of Stamps Kenneth J. Hunter
Associate Postmaster General

Honored Guest Joni Carter
Designer of Stamps



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
JULY 12, 1991
LOS ANGELES, CA 90052

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
JULY 12, 1991
LOS ANGELES, CA 90052

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
JULY 12, 1991
LOS ANGELES, CA 90052

The crowd in the Olympic Track and Field stadium falls silent as the athletes make their final preparations.

The **pole vaulter** stands at the end of the runway and tests his grip on the slender pole that will help propel him to over three times his own height.

The **discus thrower** adjusts the small, flat object in his hand and twists his body in preparation for a mighty toss.

The **sprinter** surveys her competition as she places her feet against the starting blocks, her hands behind the chalk line, waiting for the crack of the starting gun.

The **javelin thrower** picks up the thin metal shaft that will soon leave his hand in a flash, arching its way into the blue sky.

The **hurdler** looks down her lane at the slender obstacles looming ahead, counting in her mind the number of strides she must take between hurdles to maintain a winning pace.

In just a few, brief seconds, the vaulter floats over the bar with inches to spare. The discus leaves a divot in the ground almost 200 feet from its starting point. The sprinter feels the finish-line tape tighten and break as she lunges forward. The javelin plunges into the grass and stands in

tribute to a record throw. The hurdler clears the last barrier and streaks into gold medal territory.

The Postal Service, as a worldwide sponsor of the 1992 Olympic Games, is pleased to share the drama of Olympic track and field competition by issuing these five stamps, designed by Joni Carter of Los Angeles.

The author met Al Oerter at the 1991 First Day Ceremony for the Barcelona Olympic stamps held at Drake Stadium at UCLA. Shown here is the autographed first day ceremony program.

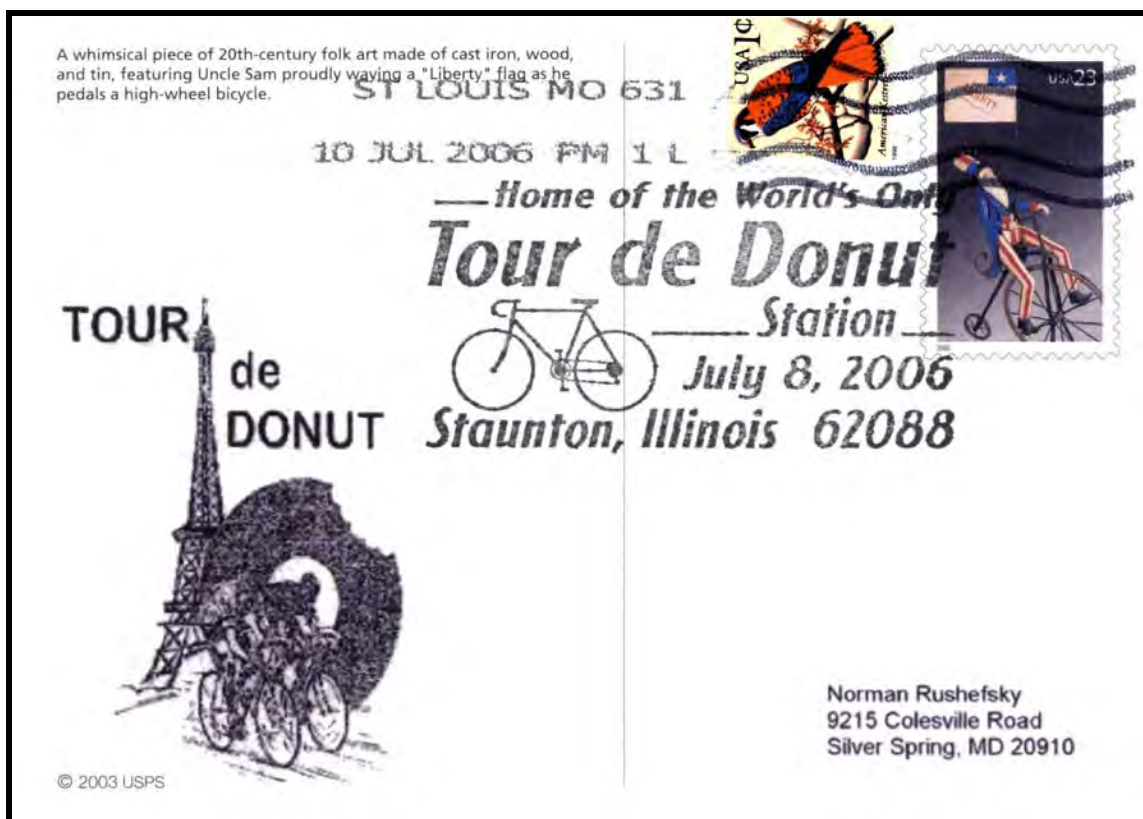


Figure 1. The Tour de Donut competition in Staunton, Illinois combines the seemingly contradictory activities of cycling and eating donuts.

Donuts & Sports

by Norman Rushefsky

In topical philately, two topical collecting interests may, at times, intersect. In the case of the author the diverse philatelic interests of donuts and sports topical collecting has intersected with two philatelic items and a third one intentionally made.

Figure 1 shows a postmark noting the Tour de Donut held each year in Staunton, Illinois. The Tour de Donut is a spoof of the Tour de France. The ride consists of three sections, each about ten miles in length, interspersed by two donut stops. Cyclists get five minutes taken off their time for each donut eaten. Some racers have mastered the art of smashing and eating three donuts at a time to get more bonus time.

The registered letter in Figure 2 features a decorative corner card for the National Hol'n-One Donut Co. The company name naturally brings to mind the game of golf. Sure enough, the reverse of the envelope bears an amusing depiction of a golf

ball popping from the center of a donut inscribed with the company name (Figure 3).

Last, but not least, Figure 4 reproduces a photo stamp designed by this author and produced by Zazzle.com. The illustrated portion of the stamp features a woman frying up donuts for children playing baseball.

For the author these three items are like having your cake and eating it too!



Figure 4. Baseball and donuts, what could be more American?



Figures 3 & 4. The National Hol'n-One Donut Company, capitalizing on their golf-related name, used an illustration on their envelopes featuring a golf ball popping from a donut hole.

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Figure 1. Canada's first stamp honoring curling was issued in 1969.

Curling: A Journey Through Canadian Philately

by Kon Sokolyk

Whereas lacrosse and hockey are generally considered Canada's sports, it is curling that has had the longest history of structured organized participation. In fact, 2007 marks the bi-centennial of the Royal Montreal Curling Club, the oldest continuously operating sports club in North America. The idea of a structured club was conceived of by Scottish immigrants while curling on a frozen St. Lawrence River two centuries ago.

"Under the original rules of the club in 1807, membership was limited to 20 (men only) and all members were expected to play in weekly matches on Wednesdays at noon. That was Article I of the original constitution. Article VI read: 'The Losing Party of the day shall pay for a Bowl of Whisky Toddy, to be placed in the middle of the table, for those who may choose it.'" (source: *Harvie*, p. 1)

Over the years, during the long Canadian winters, curling became a sport of great appeal across the nation. It is not surprising, therefore, that curling was among the first sports to be featured in Canadian philately.

Curling slogan cancels date back to the 1920s.

Two of the earliest were "36th Annual Bonspiel Winnipeg Feb 5 – 15, 1924" and "Toronto Bonspiel Feb 17 – 21, 1930" (Figure 2). A "bonspiel" is a curling tournament traditionally of at least two days duration. Other slogan cancels promoted, for example, "Curling Amid the Roses Summer Bonspiel" in Nelson during the early 1960s, or Ottawa's "Postal Bonspiel" in 1970.

Slogan cancels also promoted national championships such as the 1960 Port Arthur / Fort William (now Thunder Bay) event, Kitchener in 1962 (Figure 3), and Brandon in 1963, or world championships such as the 1978 event at Winnipeg or the 1980 competition at Moncton (Figure 4).

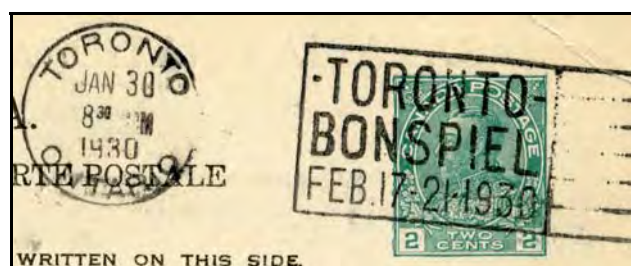


Figure 2. An early Canadian slogan machine cancel promoting Toronto's 1930 Bonspiel (curling tournament).



Figures 3 & 4. Canadian slogan cancels marked the occasions of national (above) as well as world championships (right).



Figure 5. 1976 “Keeping Fit” stamp depicting curling. When held at an angle, the stamp revealed the Olympic Rings – Montreal played host that year to the Summer Olympic Games.

Most likely the first cachet to depict curling is from January 1935. The cachet commemorates the opening of the Winnipeg to Norway House air mail service (see *JSP*, Summer 2007).

The first Canadian stamp to feature curling was issued in 1969 (Figure 1). The six-cent domestic rate stamp was part of the “Canadian Sports Series.” At least three different First Day of Issue cachets exist depicting various curling scenes.

A few years later, on the eve of the 1976 Olympics, Canada issued two sets of stamps to promote physical exercise: “1976 Olympic Games Keeping Fit.” The first set featured four summer sports while the second featured four winter sports, including curling (Figure 5). According to a 1974 Canada Post flyer promoting the stamps: “These new issues are being produced with the latent image technique, a first on stamps in Canada and the world. Viewed straight on, one of the four recreational activities will be seen, but when observed at an oblique angle, the Montreal Olympics symbol will appear.”



Figures 6 & 7. Recent Canadian curling stamps honor Olympic competition: 1988 Calgary (left) and 2002 Salt Lake City (right). The latter stamp, when viewed at an angle, reveals the Olympic Rings.




Canada's other two curling stamps were issued in conjunction with the Winter Olympic Games. When curling returned to the Olympics as an exhibition sport in 1988 after an absence of more than fifty years (the sport appeared at Chamonix in 1924 and Lake Placid in 1932) Canada post celebrated by issuing a stamp (Figure 6). At the Olympics, a special curling event postmark was available February 14-17 and 19-20 when curling was contested. The most recent curling stamp was issued in conjunction with the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympic Games (Figure 7).

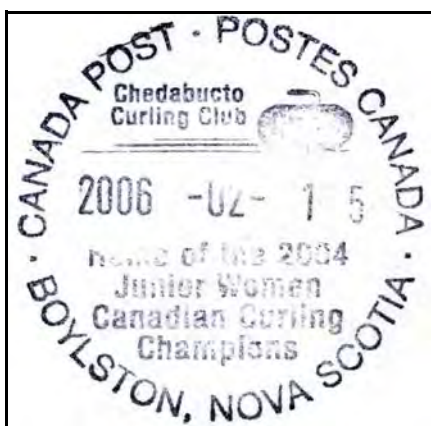
Canada Post in recent years has been promoting philatelic pictorial cancels. Many towns and cities now offer cancels depicting local history, culture, home town heroes or events. In 2004, the town of Boylston introduced a cancel identifying it as the

"Home of the 2004 Junior Women Canadian Curling Champions" (Figure 8).

Curling was also featured on at least one Canadian poster stamp. Between the 1920s and 1948, the Manitoba Telephone System owned and operated radio stations CKX in Brandon and CKY in Winnipeg. Among the sporting activities depicted on a set of Manitoba Telephone System "Manitoba Calling" poster stamps were curling (Figure 9), skiing and hockey.

Last year, the Royal Montreal Curling Club lobbied Canada Post to celebrate the club's bi-centennial with a commemorative stamp in 2007. Unfortunately, a stamp did not materialize.

A thank you to Gord Payne for helping out with the material. 



Figures 8 & 9. A pictorial postmark (above left) commemorates the 2004 Junior Women Canadian Curling Champions. A radio station vignette features curling (above right).

References:

Conrad, Nick. "Historic Montreal Club Older Than Canada."

Curling-stamps.com

Harvie, Ronald T. "Rocks of Ages."

Proulx, David. *Slogan Postal Cancels of Canada*. (1978)

REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS

by Mark Maestrone

Esprit: Sports et Olympisme: Jean-Pierre Picquot, 172 Bd. Berthier, 75017 Paris, France. [In French]

June 2007 (#44). Reviews of recent sporting events include the centennial of the International Sailing Federation, World Swimming Championships, European Table Tennis Championships, World Championship of Women's Handball, and a preview of the World Cup of Rugby including France's stamp issue and postmarks for the event. The recent AFCOS annual general assembly is fully covered (in color).

October 2007 (#45). Printed entirely in color, this issue concentrates on the sport of rugby in celebration of the recent 2007 World Cup of Rugby held in France. Other brief reports look at the sports of surfing, canoeing-kayaking, sailing, modern pentathlon, as well as the naming of Sochi, Russia as host of the 2014 Olympics.

Filabasket Review: Luciano Calenda, POB 17126 - Grottarossa, 00189 Rome, Italy. [Color, in English]

August 2007 (#23). This issue's cover story is on WWII V-Mail with basketball themes. Chapters one and two of a multi-part article on computer-generated postage is discussed. Other articles report on new (and newly discovered) basketball stamps, cancels, meters and other philatelic elements.

IMOS Journal: Diethard Hensel, Dorfstrasse. 15, OT Koselitz, D-01609 Röderau, Germany. [In German]

April 2007 (#134). In addition to the usual IMOS news, this issue includes the volume produced for the annual IMOS Congress which contains a wide variety of articles. This issue includes reports on the history of fencing with a separate article on fencing at the upcoming Beijing Olympics. Articles also include early 20th century postmarks from the Kiel Yacht Club; the sport of swimming, especially in Germany; 2006 Ice Hockey World Championships in Riga, Latvia; an overview of the Beijing Olympic Games; and finally a "History of the Olympic Rings."

August 2007 (#135). Updates to ongoing catalogs of philatelic material are the primary focus of this issue including new stamps and cancels. The next chapter in the philatelic history of Olymphillex – this time on 1992 Barcelona – concludes this issue.

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

January 2007 (#61). The bulk of this issue is a very thorough review of the 2006 World Cup of Soccer in Germany including stamps, commemorative cancels and 130+ slogan meters used by host cities, partners, and national sponsors. Italy's modest mix of World Cup related postmarks are also presented. An interesting review of the World Championships of Skiing is included. With this issue, the society introduces a separate auction booklet of some 200+ lots of sport and Olympic material.

April 2007 (#62). An addendum to the World Cup 2006 article printed in the previous issue presents a bumper crop of yet more slogan meters, special postal cards, and picture post cards devoted to the competition. A wide variety of short articles appears in this issue including: 23rd Winter Universiade held in Torino in 2007; Yuri Chechi, the Italian gymnast who has dominated the rings event for over a decade; and a report on "ball sports" including rugby, soccer, baseball and tennis.

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

May 2007 (Vol. 24, #2). This issue opens with a response and further information on the Women's Olympics presented in the last issue of *Torch Bearer*. More on the publicity slogans for the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games is presented. With the Beijing Olympics just a year away, an outline of the impending Torch Relay schedule is provided along with an extensive itemization of the many postal stationery cards publicizing those Games that have been issued over the past few years.

August 2007 (Vol. 24, #3). Starting off this issue is part 2 of an article on the W.P. Brookes and Much Wenlock covers. Bob Wilcock and Tom D'Arcy follow up with another installment of their look at the philately of the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. Additional articles include: F.D. Roosevelt's stamp collection which included 1932 Olympic proofs; more Beijing Olympic mascot stamps; a review of the 13th Olympic Collectors Fair in Beijing and the schedule of tune-up events in Beijing.

SPI Annual Financial Statement: FY 2007 & 2006

	Fiscal Year Ending August 31, 2007	Fiscal Year Ending August 31, 2006
<u>Income</u>		
Dues	3,564.42	3,266.79
Interest	504.05	395.34
Publications/Advertising	355.23	571.83
Total	4,423.70	4,233.96
<u>Expenses</u>		
Printing	1,940.00	2,040.00
Postage	2,452.48	2,714.80
1928 Olympic Monograph	0.00	887.86
Other (supplies, etc)	404.08	803.85
Total	4,796.56	6,446.51
<u>Auction activity</u>		
Receipts	6,847.87	19,649.01
Disbursements	(6,316.55)	(17,940.19)
Total	531.32	1,708.82
Net Income (loss)	158.46	(503.73)
Beginning Fund Balance	17,436.21	17,939.94
Ending Fund Balance	17,594.67	17,436.21
Cash and Investments:		
Total Cash and Investments	19,572.03	17,813.22
Payable to Consignors	(1,977.36)	(377.01)
Fund Balance	17,594.67	17,436.21

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Margaret Jones

NEW MEMBERS

2257 Kathleen A. Clements, 3976 Olmsted Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90008-2626 USA. She is a bookkeeper. *Olympics 1932 Los Angeles.* curfmeistr@aol.com

2258 Elena Cornejo, PO Box 1461, Santa Ana, California 92702-1461 USA. Elena is a letter carrier. *Olympics, tennis, archery, golf, baseball.*

NEW ADDRESSES

Larry K. Elliott, PO Box 1125, Anderson, California 96007-1125 USA.

Myrtis Herndon, PO Box 173, Allons, Tennessee 38541-0173 USA.

Harry Johnson, 20220 Swalley Road, Bend Oregon 97701-8906 USA. harryj@bendbroadband.com

Jorge Casalia, jcasalia@infovia.com.ar

Total Membership, September 30, 2007 = 226

EXHIBIT AWARDS

GREATER RENO STAMP & COVER SHOW (Nevada). Jim Leatherberry received one frame vermeil and AAPE award of honor for "Lawn Bowling."

NATIONAL TOPICAL STAMP SHOW (Irving, Texas). Richard Woodward received vermeil and **SPI Adult Certificate** for "The World of Soccer"; Trevor Thomas won youth grand and silver as well as **SPI Youth Certificate** for "The Game of Soccer"; Sherri Biendarra was awarded silver and AAPE youth grand for "The Olympics – Let the Games Begin."

STAMPSHOW (Portland, Oregon). Roger Beals received vermeil for "Fish and Game Stamps of the U.S."

SYDNEY STAMP EXPO 2007 (Australia). Alyssah Alcala of the Philippines was awarded the **SPI Youth Certificate** for her youth class exhibit "Soccer."

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France and Colonies Proofs & Essays

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NEW STAMP ISSUES

by John La Porta

Austria: September 29, 2007. Day of Sport/Niki Hosp. 0.55e, skier in action.

Bosnia: July 2, 2007. Sports. 1m, karate.

Bosnia Croat Admin: September 24, 2007. World Bowling Championships. 5m, symbolic bowler.

Bosnia Serb Admin: September 14, 2007. 100th Anniversary Tennis in Banjaluka. Souvenir sheet with two 1m stamps, old tennis balls and racquets.

Bulgaria: July 21, 2007. Junior World Sailing Championships. 1 lev, sailboats.

September 5, 2007. Sports. 55 st, rugby.

China: August 8, 2007. Beijing Olympics. Six \$1.20 stamps showing the Games mascot as a track & field athlete, diver, shooter, pole vaulter, volleyball player, BMX cyclist, and weightlifter. Printed in sheets of 10. Also sheets of 12 (self-adhesive).

Finland: November 2, 2007. Memories of Finland. Pane of eight 0.70e stamps showing photographs. 1943 photo by Kerttu Sorsa, twins and other boys skiing, young ski jumper by Vironlahti.

France: September 5, 2007. Rugby World Cup. 3e lenticular stamp, player throwing rugby ball.

Ireland: August 20, 2007. Rugby World Cup. 0.55e, Paul O'Connell; 0.78e Irish players stretching to catch the ball. Two souvenir sheets, one for each stamp.

Italy: July 13, 2007. Italian Sports/Primo Carnera. 0.60e, portrait of the boxer, Camera in the ring.

North Korea: April 13, 2006. Belgica 2006. Set of ten 140w stamps. Two are sport related: soccer ball, table tennis paddle and ball.

June 9, 2006. World Cup Soccer. 3w, 130w, 160w, 210w, various soccer scenes.

Latvia: September 8, 2007. Professional Soccer. Circular 45s stamp, player, ball.

Lebanon: July 2007. International Sports Year. £500, statue of discus thrower.

July 2007. Mount Everest Expedition. Souvenir sheet with £3,000 stamp, climber Maxime Chaya.

Niue: February 4, 2007. NBA All Stars. Six panes of two \$4.50 stamps.

Portugal: June 12, 2007. World Sailing Championships. Two 0.61e stamps, two 0.75e, 2.95e different stylized race scenes.

Romania: June 7, 2007. 60th Anniversary Army Sports Club Steaua. 7.70, lei team shield. Sheets of ten with label.

Serbia: March 30, 2007. European Table Tennis Championships. 46D hand, ball & paddle. Souvenir sheet with 112D stamp, silhouette playing table tennis.

Slovenia: September 26, 2007. Sport. 0.48e climbing. Printed in sheets of six stamps and three labels.

Spain: July 12, 2007. Extreme sports. Pane of six set-tenant stamps and labels. 0.30e, diving in the Antarctic ocean; 0.39e, mountain climbing in the Antarctic; 0.42e, crossing Antarctic with no mechanical means; 0.58e, sailing in the Antarctic; 0.78e, canoeing around Patagonia; 2.43e, dog sled in Alaska's Iditarod.

Sri Lanka: February 23, 2007. ICC Cricket World Cup. Two diamond shaped stamps. 5re, cricket players.

Wallis & Futuna: July 30, 2007. Lolesia Tuita, 330f, the champion javelin thrower in action.

Western Samoa: 2007. South Pacific Games. Four \$1 stamps: Ele Opeloge female weight lifter, Apia Park Aquatic Center, mascot Mana. Souvenir sheet with \$1 stamp, Mana.

Tunisia: June 28, 2007. National Tourism Day. Two 250m stamps, one with sport, beach tourism, sailboats; two 600m stamps, one sport, golf.

Venezuela: June 18, 2007. America Cup Soccer. Two panes of ten set-tenant stamps depicting various soccer scenes.

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP CANCELS

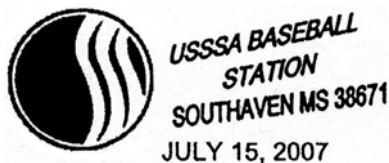
by Mark Maestrone

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 JULY-OCTOBER 2007

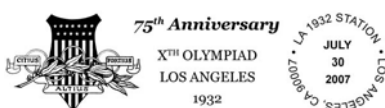
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07X20-273.
Baseball: 07715-386; 07805-532;
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07830-794; 07901-548; 07902-124;
07917-148; 07922-194.
Boxing: 07819-958.
Canoeing/Kayaking: 07804-128;
07818-128.
Cycling: 07908-683.
Horse Racing: 07728-128; 07824-628;
07825-128; 07830-958; 07914-038
Ice Hockey: 07811-133.
Olympics: 07730-900; 07X03-028;
07X03-902; 07X03-908; 07X03-921;
07X03-926.
Rowing: 07818-128.
Running: 07920-837; 07929-135.
Sailing/Yachting: 07809-961;
07818-128; 07X03-028; 07X03-902;
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Water Skiing: 07818-128.



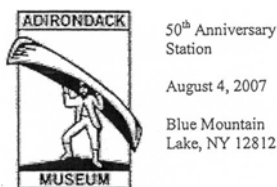
07715-386 Southaven, MS 15-17



07728-128 Saratoga Springs, NY 28



07730-900 Los Angeles, CA 30



07804-128 Blue Mountain, NY 4



07805-532 Milwaukee, WI 5



07808-501 Knoxville, IA 8/8, 8/11



07809-729 Van Buren, AR 9-16



07809-961 Carnelian Bay, CA 9



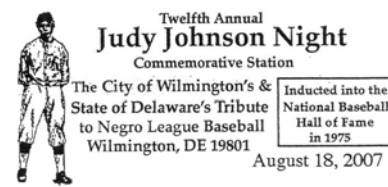
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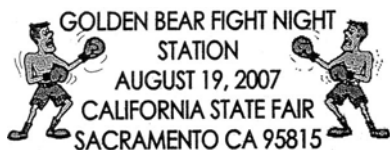
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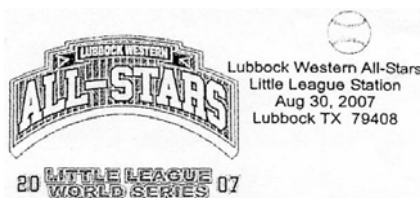
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07824-628 DuQuoin, IL 8/24-9/3



07825-128 Saratoga Springs, NY 25



07830-794 Lubbock, TX 30



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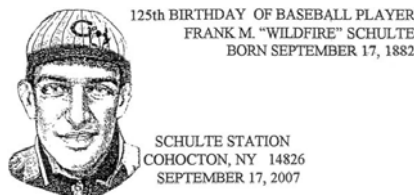
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07908-683 Elmwood, NE 8



07914-038 Rochester, NH 14



07917-148 Cohocton, NY 17



07920-837 Boise, ID 20



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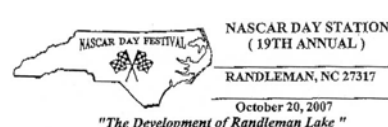
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