

V. 46 #4 111

# JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

VOLUME 46

SUMMER 2008

NUMBER 4

On the Road to Beijing:  
The 2008 Olympic Torch Relay Begins!





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	Mark Maestroni	1
USOC and SPI Develop Postmark Program For 2008 U.S. Olympic Trials	Mark Maestroni	2
On the Road to Beijing, Part 2: 100 Days To Go	Kwok-Yiu Kwan	3
A Controversial Olympic Torch Relay Begins	Mark Maestroni & Andrew Urushima	17
Beijing: Ready (almost) and Waiting!	Andrew Urushima	24
Baseball in Mexico	Norman Rushefsky	26
News of Our Members	Margaret Jones	32
New Stamp Issues	John La Porta	33
Commemorative Stamp Cancels	Mark Maestroni	35

## 2008 U.S. OLYMPIC TRIALS

2

## 2008 BEIJING OLYMPIC GAMES

3

## 2008 OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY

17

## BASEBALL

26

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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: \$29.00 U.S./Canada (first class mail), \$39.00 overseas (airmail).

## JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

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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): \$5.00 (US/Canada), \$7.50 (overseas).

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**Vol. 46, No. 4  
Summer 2008**

American Philatelic Society (APS) Affiliate #39

ISSN 0447-953X



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestroni

## Elections & Dues Renewal Time

If you're like me, you are probably more than fed up with the never ending election cycle here in the U.S. But unlike all those blowhard politicians, we here at SPI make life easy: no campaigns, no dialing-for-dollars by candidates, and no hanging chads. Just take pen in hand, mark the enclosed ballot, and mail it in. While no positions are being contested, I know that your officers and board members will appreciate your vote of confidence.

For those of you for whom it's renewal time (an envelope will be enclosed with this issue) we hope you will continue supporting your society and promptly mail in your dues.

As I mentioned in our last issue, we are raising dues this year – the first time since 2000! This has been occasioned by rising postage costs and our conversion to an all-color publication – a move which I believe adds an entirely new dimension to our already award-winning journal!

For US/Canadian members, dues are now \$29/year. Our overseas members will be paying \$39/year. As always, you save money by renewing for multiple years. Either way, I think you'll agree that our dues are still a bargain.

## New Auction Manager Still Needed

SPI is *still* looking for a new Auction Manager. As I mentioned in my last President's Message, our current manager, Dale Lilljedahl, must step aside for health reasons.

The job is not time-consuming requiring about 10 hours per month – a couple of evenings is all it takes. Dale will help ease the transition. And there's an added benefit to being Auction Manager: you

get to see all the lots first!

Won't one of you *please* come to the aid of our society and volunteer to be Auction Manager?

## SPI No Longer a FIPO Member

In March, SPI was informed by Maurizio Tecardi, Secretary General of FIPO (the International Federation of Olympic Philately) that SPI was no longer a member of the FIPO family. The reason: none of our U.S. exhibitors had submitted applications to exhibit at the Olympex Expo to be held concurrently with the Beijing Olympic Games.

[I should add that membership in FIPO is not now, nor has it ever been, predicated on participation in philatelic exhibitions.]

I mailed a response to Mr. Tecardi, with a copy to Manfred Bergman (the philatelic advisor to the IOC), citing the primary reasons why American exhibitors were declining to submit applications: insurance and security concerns, lack of preparation time, non-participation by the FIP.

A response came from Mr. Bergman: our exhibitors' reasons were "lame." So be it.

How does this affect SPI? Other than we cannot use the FIPO logo on our website or in our journal, there is little or no impact.

I foresee no changes in the good working relationship we maintain with our various sister societies overseas as well as with the U.S. Olympic Committee, American Philatelic Society, and American Topical Association.

Perhaps in the future, the world's sports and Olympic philatelists will form a truly democratic organization with representatives elected by the membership, a formal charter, and a proper set of rules and regulations by which it is governed.

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

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## USOC & SPI Develop Postmark Program For 2008 U.S. Olympic Trials

by Mark Maestrone

**T**his July, the U.S. Olympic Committee will announce the final team roster for the Beijing Olympic Games which open on August 8. For many athletes, the road to making the final cut in their sport has been a long, grueling process in which selection is based on past performance, in some cases for up to a year. Other sports rely on head-to-head Olympic trials.

During the spring and early summer of this year, working in close cooperation with the U.S. Olympic Committee and U.S. Postal Service, Sports Philatelists International has developed a postmark program commemorating many of the U.S. Olympic Trial events across the country.

The design of each postmark is based upon the logo of the U.S. Olympic Trials customized for each sport. Five events during the month of April were honored with postmarks. Another seven trials taking place in June and early July will also be commemorated with special pictorial cancellations.

All twelve trials postmarks are illustrated in the "Commemorative Cancellations" column on pages 35-36 of this issue (cancel size approximately 1½" x 3½"). While it is probably too late to back order the April cancels (post offices generally make the cancels available for only 30 days), there is still plenty of time to place your orders for the June/July events.

Remember that all covers or cards must bear proper first class postage of 42¢ (domestic letter rate) or 27¢ (postcards not over 6" x 4¼"). All international airmail (letters and cards) is now 94¢ (72¢ for Canada and Mexico) for up to 1 ounce.

The USPS will issue the 42¢ Summer Olympic Games stamp on June 19 in Philadelphia, PA. This coincides with the U.S. Olympic Trials in Artistic Gymnastics which runs from June 19-22 at the

Wachovia Center. The design of the stamp (shown at top) features a female gymnast.

A word of caution: do not use this Olympic stamp when requesting the postmarks for Rowing, Wrestling/Judo, and BMX Cycling as these events predate the first day of issue on June 19.

Make sure you indicate on each cover/card, either with a post-it note or lightly in pencil, which postmark date you wish to be used. Available dates are indicated in parentheses. The addresses for mailing your requests for trials postmarks are as follows (remember, there's a 30-day grace period):

Rowing (June 9-13): Postmaster, U.S. Olympic Trials Station, 331 N. Post Rd., Princeton Junction, NJ 08550-9998.

Wrestling & Judo (June 13-15): Postmaster, U.S. Olympic Trials Station, 1001 E. Sunset Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89199-9998.

BMX Cycling (June 14): Postmaster, U.S. Olympic Trials Station, 830 Kuhn Dr., Chula Vista, CA 91914

Diving (June 21-22): Postmaster, U.S. Olympic Trials Station, 125 W. South St. Indianapolis, IN 46206-9998.

Gymnastics (June 20-22): Postmaster, U.S. Olympic Trials Station, 3190 South 70th Street, Room 509, Philadelphia, PA 19153-9611. (Possibly also June 19)

Track & Field (June 27): Postmaster, U.S. Olympic Trials Station, 520 Willamette St., Eugene, OR 97401-9998.

Swimming (June 29 - July 6): Postmaster, U.S. Olympic Trials Station, 1124 Pacific St., Omaha, NE 68108-9998.



# On the Road to Beijing

## Part 2: 100 Days To Go

by Kwok-Yiu Kwan

With just 100 days to go until the Opening Ceremony on August 8, 2008 (at 8:08:08 p.m.), it's time to report on the latest philatelic materials concerning the Beijing Olympic Games. China Post will never be considered a lazy postal authority. Already this year they have issued two sets of stamps for the Beijing Olympics. There are new pieces of postal stationery with Olympic themes on which to report. And at long last there is finally news about the postmarks to be used at the various temporary post offices (TPO) at the Olympic venues.

### Stamp Issues

The first set of stamps [China Post # (2008 - 6) J\*] commemorates the Olympic flame and torch relay. Both were issued on 24 March 2008.

The 1.20 yuan value honors the "Lighting of the Torch" (Figure 1). The mascot Huanhuan is depicted as a Torch Bearer, with the Olympic Flame lighting ceremony at Ancient Olympia, Greece in the background.



**Figures 1 & 2. Torch Relay stamps showing a mascot with Olympic torch and Mt. Everest, visited by the relay on May 8.**



Commemorated on the 3.00 yuan stamp is "The Torch Relay" (Figure 2). The design features the Olympic Torch against the majesty of Mount Everest (in Chinese: Mt. Qomolangma), which has the highest peak in the world at an elevation of 29,035 feet above sea level. Plans for the 2008 Olympic Torch Relay route have always included a stop at Mount Everest on the Tibet/Nepal border. The relay reached the peak the morning of 8 May 2008.

Apart from the individual values, a miniature sheet containing one of each value was also issued (top of page). Despite a face value of 4.20 yuan, the miniature sheet sold for 6.30 yuan, a 50% mark-up.

Both stamps were issued with two types of gum, either moisture-activated or self-adhesive. Each stamp also is imprinted with a serial number in invisible ink.

The stamps with moisture-activated gum were also issued individually in two miniature panes of nine stamps each (Figures 4 and 5). A single self-adhesive pane (Figure 6) features four sets of each value (eight stamps in total). This was the only format in which the self-adhesive stamps were sold.

The second pair of stamps, issued 30 April 2008, are for the Olympic Expo Beijing 2008 [(2008 - 12) T\*] (Figure 7).

One 1.20 yuan stamp is "Inheriting Olympic Spirit" and features the logo of the Olympic Expo Beijing 2008. As stated on the official First Day Cover (FDC), "the logo displayed in the stamp is a round jade plate with a hole in the center that is surrounded by rising auspicious clouds, exhibiting typical Chinese characteristics and expressing the good wish for a successful expo."

A special feature of this value is that a series of perforations encircles the Expo logo (this is in addition to the usual perforations surrounding the stamp). In some cases a minor shift in the position of the logo and round perforations can be found.

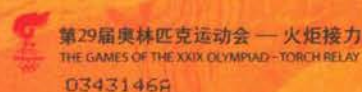


Figure 4. Mini-pane of nine Torch Lighting stamps with moisture-activated gum.



Figure 5. Torch Relay stamps with moisture-activated gum in mini-pane of nine.

Figure 6. Mini-pane of eight (four each of the Torch Lighting and Relay stamps) with self-adhesive gum.







**Figure 7.** Beijing Expo 2008 stamps issued 30 April 2008 (upper left). The stamps feature the Beijing Exhibition Center, the venue for the exposition, and the Olympic Expo logo. The card is from a new set called "Beijing 2008 My Dream," a portion of whose proceeds go to a youth educational program.

The second stamp in the set, also with a face value of 1.20 yuan, is "Inspiring Beijing City" and features the facade of the Beijing Exhibition Center, the venue for the Olympic Expo.

(\*Note: China Post uses the letter "J" – short for "Jinian" – in a stamp's identification number to indicate the stamp is a commemorative issue. "T", which stands for "Tebai" classifies a stamp as a special issue.)



**Figure 8.** A postal card from a set issued in August 2007 altered to include the logo (at upper left) of China Mobile, one of the corporate sponsors of the Beijing Olympic Games.

## Postal Cards

In the Spring 2008 issue of *JSP*, I reported how some of the Olympic postal cards issued on 8 August 2007 were commercially altered to create calendars. Since then, another commercial use of the postal cards has appeared.

This time, the picture side of the small cards was inscribed at the top left corner with the logo of one of the official partners, China Mobile (Figure 8). To date, this is the only alteration discovered on the small cards.

A new set of postal cards was issued on 28 February 2008. Comprising five different designs, each card is imprinted with the 80 fen Games logo stamp (Figures 9-13).

While these cards could be treated as part of the set of large cards issued on 8 August 2007, enough differences distinguish them from the earlier set.

The primary difference is that these postal cards are wider measuring approximately 183 mm x 100 mm, including the a roughly 35 mm wide perforated strip along the left edge. Text on the cards states that the extended portion must be removed before mailing.

It should be noted that mailed examples with strips attached exist (see Figure 7).





**Figures 9-13. “Beijing 2008 My Dream” postal cards, a new series issued 28 February 2008. The cards bear an 80 fen imprinted stamp showing the Beijing Olympic logo (the reverse of the stadium card at top right is reproduced in Figure 7). The cards include a perforated strip at left that was meant to be removed before mailing. Clockwise from top left, the designs symbolize the various themes of these Games: Green, High-tech, Participation, Dream, and People-oriented.**

This set is known as the “Beijing 2008 My Dream” postal cards. They were printed for a specific purpose with a certain portion of the 10 yuan selling price benefitting the China Youth Development Foundation and Hope Project, a fund for educational development in Mainland China.

### Olympic Torch Relay

With the lighting of the Olympic Flame at Ancient Olympia on 24 March 2008, the Torch Relay commenced. Various stamp issues, souvenirs and postmarks have appeared along the way. [Editor’s Note: a report on the overseas legs of the Torch Relay begins on page 17 of this issue.]

When the Flame arrived in Beijing on 31 March, a special serviced postcard was issued by the CNPC

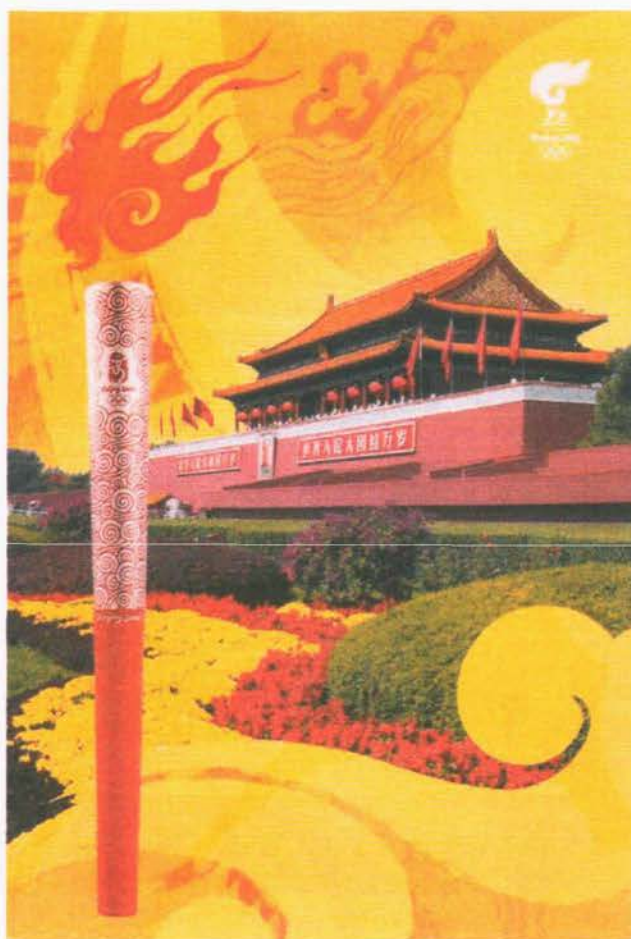
(Figure 14). Three personalized stamp sheets (Figure 15-17) were also issued in conjunction with luxuriously packaged souvenir albums. Consequently, the markup for these P-stamp sheets was high.

The “Light the Passion Share the Dream” Torch Relay stamp album, also produced by CNPC, included a pair of handsome P-stamp sheets honoring both Athens and Beijing (Figures 18-19).

Once the Torch Relay had finished its overseas legs, it began its nationwide relay with a visit to Hong Kong on 2 May 2008. The relay kicked off at 9 a.m. and didn’t finish until 5 p.m.

Although no stamp was issued for the occasion by Hong Kong Post, a series of souvenirs were produced for sale that day. Hong Kong Post created two P-stamp miniature panes, a souvenir cover (Figure 20), and a special postmark.





第29届奥林匹克运动会——竞赛场馆  
The Games of the XXIX Olympiad-Competition Venues



Figure 14. The Torch Relay was welcomed in Tiananmen Square on 31 March with a special CNPC postcard and cancel (left and above).



Figures 15-17. Three Torch Relay P-stamp sheets available only in special albums.







Figure 18. Torch Relay P-stamp sheets available only in special albums honoring Athens ...

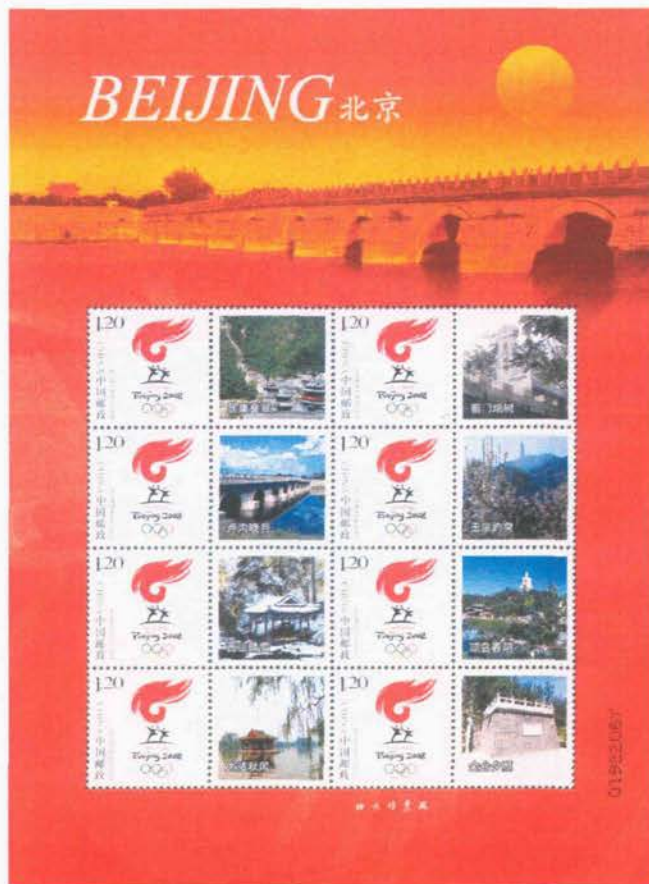


Figure 19. ... and Beijing.



Figure 20. Cover from Hong Kong Post commemorating the Torch Relay through Hong Kong on 2 May 2008. A pictorial postmark and P-stamp complete the special souvenir.





Figures 21 & 22. Mini-panes of 20 non-denominated stamps issued by Hong Kong Post to commemorate the Torch Relay on 2 May. The stamps paid the domestic letter rate (left) or international airmail letter rate (below).

One of the mini-panes contained 20 non-denominated P-stamps for local postage (Figure 21) each attached to a label with the Torch Relay logo. The other 20-stamp mini-pane was for airmail use (Figure 22). Both panes included a large label in the middle depicting the route of the relay through Hong Kong.

The special postmark was available in all of the post offices in Hong Kong on that day. The best impressions, however, were made by the canceling machines at the General Post Office (GPO) which rendered a more clear, finer image.

Also worth mentioning is that the markups for the mini-panes were very high. The pane of local postage P-stamps with a face value of HKD28 (about US\$3.60), cost a stamp collector HKD55 (US\$7.05). The airmail pane with postage of HKD60 (US\$7.70) was priced at HKD99 (US\$12.70).

Following the one-day relay in Hong Kong, the Olympic flame visited Macau on 3 May 2008. As the relay was to conclude with a fireworks display at 7 p.m., the torch run did not get under way until 4 p.m.



Macau Post issued two stamps and a souvenir sheet for the Torch Relay. The stamps were denominated MOP1.50 (Macau Petacas) and MOP3.50 (Figure 23) while the souvenir sheet was valued at MOP10 (Figure 24).

On the first day of issue, the queue at the GPO was so long that postal clerks remarked that they had not seen such a situation in the past 10 years. Collectors had to queue for at least one and a half hours before they could purchase the stamps. Swamped with business, the post office had no choice but to extend its hours of operation from a half-day (this was a Saturday, mind you) to a full day!





Figures 23 & 24. Macau's Torch Relay postal issues included two stamps (shown on a registered first day cover at top), and an attractive souvenir sheet (above).

Two different special postmarks were available: one for the first day of the stamps (Figure 23) and the other commemorating the relay (Figure 25). The latter resembles the relay postmark used in London and Canberra and were perhaps sponsored by the same organization.

To summarize, the Olympic Torch Relay in Hong Kong and Macau were the first and second legs of the Mainland China portion of the relay. Many people from China crossed into Hong Kong and Macau specifically to greet the Olympic Flame. Passions and happiness were easily found these two days in Hong Kong and Macau, with stamp collectors no doubt satisfied with the variety of material available for sale.

Figure 25. Special Torch Relay postmark used in Macau on 3 May, 2008.





**Table A**  
**Olympic Postmark Program for Venue TPOs**

<b>Stadium/Venue</b>	<b>Sports</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Beijing Olympic Green Tennis Court	Tennis	N/A
Beijing Shooting Range CTF	Shooting	N/A
Beijing Shooting Range Hall	Shooting	N/A
Beijing University of Technology Gym.	Rhythmic Gymnastics, Badminton	N/A
Beijing Workers' Stadium	Football	FD: 19/4/2008, #11, 13
Beijing Workers' Gymnasium	Boxing	N/A
Capital Indoor Stadium	Volleyball	N/A
Chaoyang Park Beach Volleyball Ground	Beach Volleyball	N/A
China Agricultural University	Wrestling	N/A
Fencing Hall of National Convention Ctr.	Fencing	FD: 18/4/2008
International Broadcast Center	IBC	N/A
Laoshan Bicycle Moto Cross (BMX) Venue	BMX Cycling	N/A
Laoshan Velodrome	Cycling	N/A
Main Press Center	MPC	N/A
Media Center		N/A
Media Villages		N/A
National Aquatic Center	Swimming, Diving, Synch. Swimming	FD: 16/4/2008, #1, 13
National Indoor Stadium	Gymnastics, Trampoline, Handball	N/A
National Stadium	Athletics, Football	FD: 18/4/2008, #1, 2, 11, 12
Non-Registered Media Center		N/A
Olympic Sports Center Stadium	Mod. Pentathlon (running & equest.)	N/A
Olympic Sports Center Gymnasium	Handball	N/A
Olympic Village		N/A
Wukesong Indoor Stadium	Basketball	FD: 19/4/2008, #3

FD = first day of operation; # = station/postmark no.; N/A = information not available or venue post office not yet in operation.

### Olympic Postmarks at the Venue TPOs

With no advance announcement, the first Olympic venue to open a Temporary Post Office (TPO) was the National Aquatic Center on 16 April 2008 (see Table A). This coincided with the "Good Luck Beijing" 2008 Olympic Games Synchronized Swimming Qualification Tournament held from 16-20 April. The circular date stamp reads "National

Aquatic Center (Temporary)" from stations 1 or 13.

The TPO at the National Stadium (Bird's Nest) began operating on 18 April in conjunction with the 2008 IAAF Race Walking Challenge taking place on 18-19 April. The author managed to find four cancels with different station numbers (1, 2, 11 and 12) reading "National Stadium (Temporary)" (Figure 27).





**Figure 26. Currently announced Olympic venue TPOs. Note that all postmarks show a date coinciding with the first day of the Olympic Games (8 August 2008).**

A cachet in red ink was also available at the stadium: "National Stadium Temporary Post Office / (1) / Beijing 2008" (Figure 27).

TPOs at three other venues began operations during this period. The 2008 Women's Basketball International Invitational Tournament was held from 19-26 April 2008 at the Wukesong Indoor Stadium (also referred to as the Beijing Olympic Basketball Gymnasium). The cancel reads "Wukesong Indoor Stadium (Temporary) 3."

Two additional cachets in black were used for the tournament, one depicting the stadium and the other depicting players jumping for the ball under

the net (Figure 28).

The other two TPO openings were the "Beijing Workers' Stadium (Temporary)" from stations 11 and 13 on April 19, and "Fencing Hall of National Convention Center (1)" on 18 April.

While exact opening dates of the other TPOs are not yet known, sample postmarks for some of them are shown in Figure 26. Note that in the illustrations, all postmarks are dated on opening day of the Olympic Games. Also, while the illustrated postmarks all bear a station #1 designation, it is too early to tell if this will be the case during the Olympic Games.





Figure 27. Cover from the National Stadium postmarked with the round dater from the stadium TPO. A cachet in red illustrates why the stadium has been nicknamed "The Birds Nest."

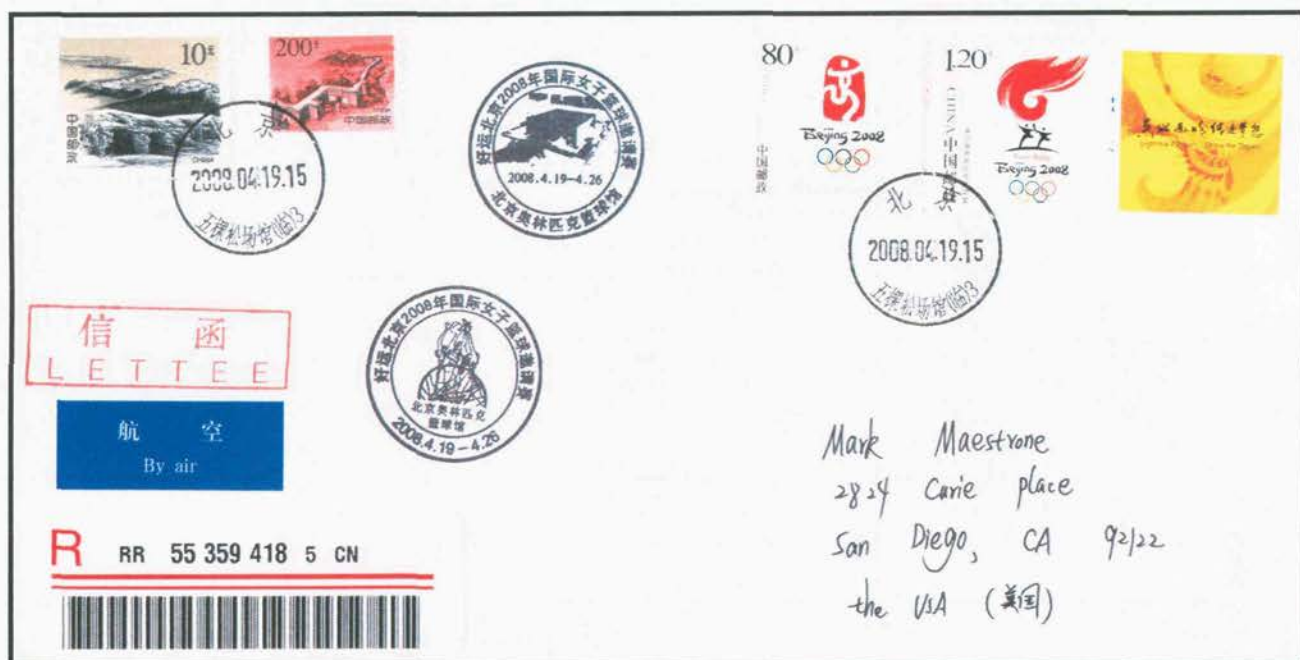


Figure 28. The Wukesong Indoor Stadium will play host to the Olympic basketball competition. The TPO opened for the 2008 Women's Basketball International Invitational Tournament held 19 to 26 April 2008. Two additional cachets in black commemorate the event.











### Special Postmarks

Collecting postmarks for the Beijing Olympics has been quite a challenging job. Hundreds of cancels have been produced for each stamp issue. Then on top of those you have the many postmarks

on 30 April 2008 commemorating the 100-Day countdown to the opening of the Beijing Olympic Games. Since individual localities have been allowed to produce their own special postmarks, a complete reference guide to them would be next to impossible to publish at this time. Table B provides a few examples for collectors.



**Table B**  
**Olympic Related Postmarks**

		
China / 2008.3.24 / Games of the 29 <sup>th</sup> Olympiad – Torch Relay	Beijing / China / 2008.3.24 / Games of the 29 <sup>th</sup> Olympiad – Torch Relay	Beijing / China / 2008.3.24 / Games of the 29 <sup>th</sup> Olympiad – Torch Relay
		
Wenzhou, Zhejiang / 2008.3.24 / Games of the 29 <sup>th</sup> Olympiad – Torch Relay	Jiangsu / Suzhou / Youth Post Office / 2008.3.24 / Games of the 29 <sup>th</sup> Olympiad – Torch Relay	Jiangsu / Suzhou / Youth Post Office / 2008.3.24 / Games of the 29 <sup>th</sup> Olympiad – Torch Relay
		
Beijing / China / 2008.4.30 / 100 Day Countdown to the 2008 Beijing Olympics	Beijing / China / 2008.4.30 / 2008 Beijing Olympic Expo	
		
Victory Road / Anhui / 2008.3.24 - 08 / Light the Passion, Share the Dream	Hami / Xinjiang / 2008.3.24.19 / Urumqi – Kashi – Shihezi – Changji	





Stadium / Zhejiang / 2008.3.24 / Games of the 29<sup>th</sup> Olympiad – Torch Relay – Journey of Harmony



Urumqi / Beijing Road (Temporary) / 2008.3.24.19 / Games of the 29<sup>th</sup> Olympiad – Torch Relay – Light the Passion, Share the Dream, Olympic Flame would arrive Mt. Everest in May.



Figure 29. Mini-sheet of personalized stamps marking 1 year to go until the Beijing Olympic Games.

Figure 30. P-stamp mini-sheet honoring the 100 days until the start of the Games.







Figure 31. The post office in the Beijing Olympic Tower, which houses the offices of the Olympic organizing committee, began using this meter on 30 April 2008. Like the postage label in Figure 32, both are Olympic-related postal items.

### Other Materials

There were plenty of personalized stamp mini-sheets issued over the past few months. Two examples relating to the 1-Year and 100-Day countdowns to the Beijing Olympics are shown in Figures 29 and 30.

The post office in the Beijing Olympic Tower where the offices of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG) are located, introduced two interesting postal items on 30 April 2008 (100 days to go



Figure 32. Adhesive postage label introduced at the Beijing Olympic Tower on 30 April 2008. The bottom line of the text at left records the type of mail and weight of the item.

to the Beijing Olympics). The first item is a new meter (Figure 31). The date stamp reads "Olympic Tower 5-1 / Beijing / date". A new adhesive postage label (Figure 32) was also launched with text reading "Olympic Tower 6-81 / Beijing / date". The type of mail and weight are recorded on the bottom line at the left side of the label.

With less than 100 days to go to the Beijing Olympics, we shall prepare ourselves for the Games. As collectors, this also means budgeting for the many products that China Post will not hesitate to tempt us with!





*Figure 1. The traditional lighting of the Olympic Flame at Ancient Olympia took place on 24 March 2008. This cover, franked with a Zazzle P-stamp depicting the flame lighting ceremony, was mailed from the United States to Ancient Olympia. A Greek Torch Relay stamp was added, cancelled with the special torch lighting postmark, and forwarded to Germany.*



## A Controversial Olympic Torch Relay Begins

by Mark Maestroni  
and Andrew Urushima

A trio of French protesters, members of the media rights group Reporters Without Borders, unfurl a black banner depicting the Olympic rings as handcuffs and calling for a boycott of the Games just as the president of the Beijing Organizing Committee, Liu Qi, begins to speak at the torch lighting ceremony.

A Tibetan woman covered in red paint lays across the path of the torch relay, taunts of "Flame of Shame" emanating from fellow human rights activists.

Peaceful street protesters in Ancient Olympia plead for China to "Free Tibet."

So began what is certainly the most controversial Olympic Torch Relay ever held.



*Figure 2. The Torch Relay through Greece yielded a set of 6 intermediate postmarks (left to right): Mesolongion (24 March), Ioannina (25 March), Veroia (26 March), Thessalonika (27 March), Lamia (28 March), and Athens (29 March).*



## Greece: 24-30 March 2008

The traditional lighting of the Olympic flame took place on 24 March 2008 at Ancient Olympia in the western portion of the Greek Peloponnese (see map on previous page). Greek actress Maria Nafpliotou played the role of the high priestess as she kindled the flame from the rays of the sun. The Greek post office commemorated the event with a handsome oval-shaped postmark depicting the Beijing Olympic Games logo above a scene of the complex at Ancient Olympia (Figure 1).



Kicking off the relay was 2004 Greek Olympic silver medalist in taekwondo (80kg) Alexandros Nikolaidis (left). He, in turn, handed the torch off to 2004 Chinese Olympic swimming champion, Luo Xuejuan (100 meters backstroke).

For the next six days, the torch relay wound its way across Greece stopping for the night in the towns of Mesolongion (24 March), Ioannina (25 March), Veroia (26 March), Thessalonika (27 March), Lamia (28 March), and arriving in Athens on 29 March. Postmarks in each town mark the visit of the Olympic flame (Figure 2).

At 3 p.m. on 30 March in a ceremony at the Panathenaic Stadium in Athens, the Olympic flame was handed over to the Beijing Olympic organizers to begin its 85,000-mile trip around the world. A final Greek postmark honors the event (right).



## Asia & Europe: 31 March - 8 April 2008



Following a brief stop in Beijing, the Torch Relay began its whirlwind tour of 21 cities on six continents.

First stop: Almaty, Kazakhstan on April 2. This was the first time that the torch relay had visited the central Asian nation, occasioning the issuing of a torch relay stamp and special postmark (left).

The relay continued aboard its chartered Air China Airbus A330 to Istanbul, Turkey where it crossed the Bosphorus between Asia and Europe on 3 April. Protests, which were minor in both countries, primarily involved Uighur treatment at home and in China.



A postmark with similar design to the one used in Kazakhstan was applied to mail (above).

Following a stop on 5 April in St. Petersburg, Russia, the Olympic flame arrived in London – host of the 2012 Olympic Games – on 6 April. For the first time on its international tour, the relay met organized protests designed to disrupt the event and embarrass the Chinese. At one point, a protester tried to snatch the torch from a torchbearer. In a separate incident, an activist with a fire extinguisher attempted to douse the Olympic flame. Eventually, the Olympic Torch Relay boarded a bus to skirt protesters in downtown London.



As reported by Bob Farley of the Society of Olympic Collectors, there was a postmark used to commemorate the visit of the torch relay to London, as well as a SmartStamp imprint.

"As far as I am concerned," Bob writes, "none of the current GB commemorative handstamps are 'valid' because they are not available at any post office – only by mail order from a regional centre. They cannot be used for any enhanced service such as recorded (certified) or registered because the date has no meaning. Take the Torch relay cancel (above) – 'London' is hardly an indicator of where this was mailed."

"In this particular instance the only office open on a Sunday [6 April] is Heathrow. It could be that Heathrow is the only valid cancel now nationally on Sunday. All postal collections on Sunday were dropped last year, so with no mail collected, all mail should be cancelled Saturday or Monday even if machine cancelled."

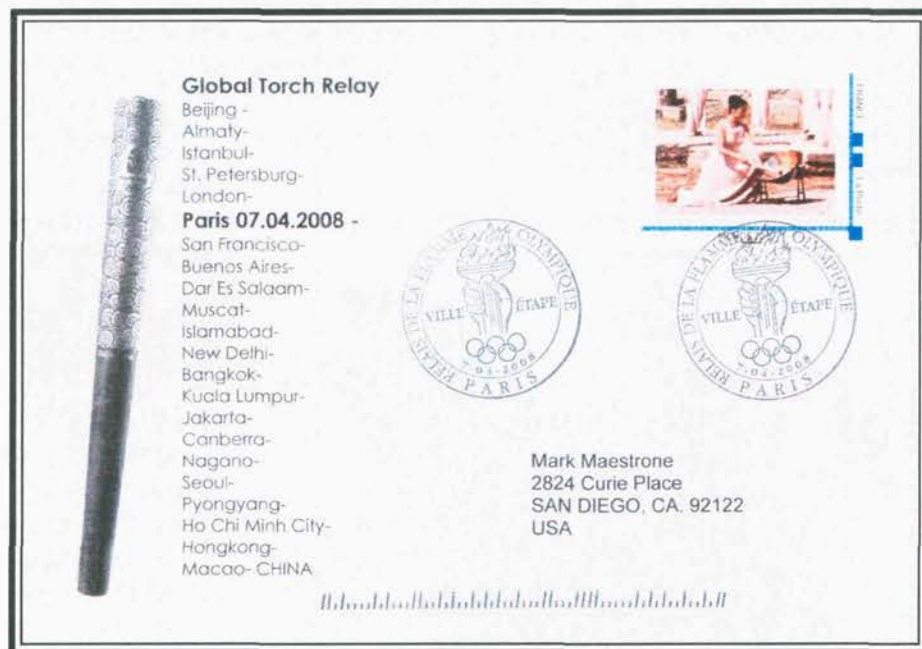
"The London SmartStamp [shown on a cover reproduced in Figure 3] is significant because of the Heathrow cancel date of 6 April ... Heathrow was the only post office open so it represents the only 'valid' postmark with that date."





*Figure 3. Cover with a Smart-Stamp imprint celebrating the Olympic Torch Relay's visit to London on Sunday, 6 April 2008. Heathrow Airport's post office is the only one open on Sundays in Great Britain, thus the circular date stamp confirms this as a valid postal document marking the event.*

*Figure 4. Cover postmarked in Paris on 7 April 2008 with a special cancel honoring the "Relais de la Flamme Olympique." A cachet on the left provides a handy reference to the 21 overseas cities visited by the Torch Relay.*



With the arrival of the Olympic Torch Relay in Paris on 7 April, the situation only became worse with pro-Tibet and human rights activists out in force. Multiple attempts were made to extinguish the torch with water or fire extinguishers, causing the relay to be rerouted aboard buses. One disabled torchbearer in a wheelchair, Jin Jing, was assaulted more than once by protesters trying to grab the torch. This low point in the torch relay prompted discussion about altering or even terminating the around-the-world event. A relay postmark depicting an Olympic torch was available (Figure 4).

#### ***San Francisco, Calif., USA: 9 April 2008 (Contributed by Andrew Urushima)***

As with prior Olympic Games, sport and politics clashed once again, this time in the streets of San Francisco. Mark Maestrone and I were on hand to witness the now famous "bait and switch" that redirected the Olympic Torch Relay out of the teeth of thousands of pro-Tibet and pro-China supporters alike at San Francisco's famed Ferry Building and Justin Herman Plaza, the proposed ending point of the relay.





**Figure 5.** Two postmarks with similar design incorporating the official Olympic Torch Relay logo were created for the San Francisco visit on 9 April. One bears the zip code “94102” for use at the temporary post office in the lobby of the State Office Building (above), while the other is for zip code “94111” (below) for use at a proposed (but never realized) temporary post office booth in Justin Herman Plaza where the torch relay was to have its closing ceremony. The cachet on the cover below was designed by Herby Lam & Jade Liang of the US Chinese Art Museum in a limited edition of 5000.



It was a postcard perfect day in San Francisco. Mark arrived a few minutes behind schedule on a relatively slow day at San Francisco International. With unserviced covers in hand we drove directly to the State of California Office Building near San Francisco’s City Hall rotunda, where California State Assembly Majority Whip, Fiona Ma, organized a special philatelic station in the lobby (Figure 6). [The western portion of downtown San Francisco

is Assemblywoman Ma’s district.] It was here that the Olympic Torch Relay postmark was applied (Figure 5).

The cancel was designed by Mark who, working through the U.S. Olympic Committee, obtained the necessary permission to use the official Beijing Olympic Torch Relay logo as an integral part of the design. The artwork also features the logo along with text arranged in a wavy line noting the Olympic Torch Relay Station.

There were actually two distinct cancels, each with a different zip code. As originally planned, there were to be two temporary postal stations: one at the State of California Office Building with zip code 94102, and a second at Justin Herman Plaza, the finish line for the Torch Relay, with zip code 94111. For security and logistical reasons, a postal station at the latter location was unworkable, so both postmarks were offered at the State Office Building.

Upon our arrival shortly after 10 a.m. when the postal station opened, Mark and I were both surprised to see a small crowd of Chinese collectors lined up to buy stamps and have covers cancelled, some with hundreds of covers in hand. After some brief introductions, we met Kelenia Olsen from Fiona Ma’s staff who was instrumental in arranging for the temporary USPS station in the lobby. Once Mark was introduced as the

designer of the cancel he was an instant celebrity and was asked to sign many autographs for the collectors and public there to celebrate the event.

Seeing that the line to have covers cancelled was long, Mark and I decided to check out the torch route. Passing through one of the City’s farmers markets we took the BART underground directly to the Embarcadero where the throngs of protesters, both for and against the relay, awaited us.





Figure 6 (left). Fiona Ma autographed card with Torch Relay P-stamp and cancel.

Figure 7 (below). A Global Human Rights Torch Relay brochure for the San Diego, Calif. event on May 3 with the San Francisco Olympic Torch Relay postmark.


Though "Team Tibet" was out in force we were also met by a multitude of Chinese flags, both big and small, from Chinese contingents and supporters bussed into town. The protestors were vocal and generally orderly but tensions were high with a heavy presence of San Francisco police officers on foot, motorcycle and horseback.

After a quick lunch, we headed away from the central protest area south along the parade route toward where the opening ceremony was taking place at McCovey Cove adjacent to AT&T Park (home of the San Francisco Giants baseball team). Though crowds continued to line the Embarcadero to gain a glimpse of the controversial torch (Figure 7), the police presence was becoming more sparse the further along the route we ventured. Though shortening the relay was a distinct possibility – even a probability – we thought that at least some of the original route would be kept. Little did we know what was about to happen.

Our adventure soon turned into to an information gathering escapade. We would speak to accredited media, protest coordinators, and basically anyone with a radio or a computer with an internet connection to find out in real time where the torch was. Periodically, I phoned my wife Lori at her office where she was monitoring the news sites for any information on what was going on.


With the helicopters now less visible, we knew the gig was up and the route had been changed. But where? With my wife still providing updates via

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**May 3, 2008, San Diego  
Balboa Park, Spreckels Organ Pavilion**





**Figure 8.** *San Francisco's protesters were generally peaceful with pro-Tibet and pro-China supporters standing side-by-side (left), while others cautioned not to interfere with the relay: "Don't Touch The Torch" (right).*



email, we learned the torch relay had moved to Van Ness Street on a path that was to lead it through San Francisco's Marina district and toward the Golden Gate Bridge. At this point Mark and I agreed that seeing the torch would be difficult so we hopped in a cab and headed back to the State Office Building to service some covers.

To our surprise, the temporary post office was still doing a brisk business, though somewhat less than in the morning, with a few collectors still engaged in postmarking large lots of covers. When queried about how many covers had been processed so far that day, the USPS manager guessed some 3,600 postmarks had been applied as that was how many 41¢ Chinese New Year stamps had been sold.

After having our lot of covers cancelled and saying our goodbyes to the USPS staff, we decided to once again give chase to the Olympic flame. With my wife, still guiding us via news reports and the internet from her office, we headed off by car toward the Presidio of San Francisco at the foot of the Golden Gate Bridge. It was rumored that the torch was going to cross the Golden Gate. While following the lead of helicopters and TV crew vans, we made it to a vantage point at the Presidio where we saw the Torch Relay entourage stopped on an overhead freeway bridge. Unfortunately, by that time it had been decided to extinguish the torch and terminate the relay. While we got close, we never did get to see the Olympic flame.

Our day ended by chasing the flame back to the San Francisco International Airport where we saw the charter plane that carried the Chinese Olympic Torch Relay delegation sitting on the tarmac. In the nearby hangar, a brief closing ceremony was held out of sight of the general public.

All in all, I would say we got an "A" for effort,

especially with respect to the special Torch Relay postmark which was a huge success. Though we never got to see the Olympic Torch while chasing the relay around the city of San Francisco, we did experience first hand the anger and pride that will be forever ingrained in the persona of the Beijing Games (Figure 8).

#### ***Buenos Aires, Argentina: 10-11 April 2008***

Arriving in Buenos Aires, Argentina in the late afternoon of 10 April after an overnight flight from San Francisco, the torch was kept under wraps until the next day. The Argentines were ecstatic that they were the only city in South America selected to host the Olympic flame, and they showed their appreciation with a relatively trouble-free relay on 11 April.

In honor of the event, the Argentina postal administration issued a colorful \$1 postal stationery card bearing an indicium showing the top of the flaming torch. The card displayed images of Buenos Aires and a torchbearer against a background map of the torch relay (below). A special first day postmark on 10 April reproduces the official relay logo.





Following a tour of seven countries in Africa and South/Southeast Asia, the relay visited three more nations that had previously hosted the Olympic Games.



Canberra, the capital city of Australia (Olympic hosts in 1956 at Melbourne and 2000 at Sydney) provided a secure 16 km route for the Olympic Torch Relay 24 April. Thousands of pro-Beijing Chinese turned out to cheer on the torchbearers.

A smaller crowd of pro-Tibet and other human rights activists were on hand to peacefully protest the relay.

Canberra made available a special postmark (above) similar in design to those offered in some of the other countries along the torch relay route.

The relay's next stop was Japan on 26 April. The city chosen for this honor was Nagano, host of the 1998 Olympic Winter Games.

Original plans were for the relay to begin at the renowned Zenko-ji Buddhist temple built in the 7<sup>th</sup> century and today one of Japan's "National Treasures."

The temple withdrew from the relay because, it is speculated, the temple's monks sided with pro-Tibet and human rights activists. A Torch Relay cacheted cover with stamp and postmark dated 24 April 2008 depict the temple (Figure 9).

Our last stop in this review of the 2008 Olympic Torch Relay is Seoul, South Korea on 27 April. Unfortunately, the torch's visit was again marred by violence, though this time from pro-Chinese students who gathered in the thousands along the relay route, fighting with pro-Tibet activists and throwing rocks and bottles.

A pair of postmarks in English and Korean honor the relay (right).



Seoul hosted the 1988

Olympic Games which served as the nation's "coming out party." The Chinese, expecting a similar result, certainly during the Torch Relay, clearly did not foresee the extensive and widespread condemnation of their record on human rights.

Divorcing sport – and particularly the Olympic Games – from politics is a fine ideal, but sadly easier said than done.



Figure 9. Cacheted Olympic Torch Relay cover with stamp and pictorial (tourist) cancel of 26 April 2008 depicting the Zenko-ji Temple in Nagano. The temple eventually withdrew its participation in the relay.





**Figure 1. Inside of the Beijing Airport Post Office – ready and waiting for customers!**



**Figure 2. Beijing 2008 Olympic Flagship Store on Wangfujing shopping street in central Beijing.**

## Beijing: Ready (almost) and Waiting!

by Andrew Urushima

**B**y the time this article is printed, the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games will be just around the corner. This past March my professional life took me on a whirlwind trip through China. I was fortunate to have a 1½ days in Beijing where Olympic fever is taking hold.

From a readiness point of view, Beijing is almost there. The brand new Terminal 3 at the Beijing Capital Airport was in full service beginning March 26. Nicknamed the “Dragon Terminal” it is an architectural marvel. As you approach the terminal, the subtle curvature of the roof is accentuated with flaps that resemble a dragon’s back. The terminal has all the modern conveniences to accommodate the throngs of tourists and athletes to come to the Games. The international terminal also boasts two Olympic-dedicated souvenir shops which were bustling with activity when I passed through.

As I arrived at the Beijing airport, signs in the arrival hall pointed to a post office which I was quick to explore. The small post office (Figure 1) was fully appointed with all of the latest Olympic stamp products that were currently being offered. Having just opened a few days prior, the staff of four did not have much to do and were quite helpful though they spoke little English.

The rest of the city is poised to be a gracious host. Everywhere you look there is something with

an Olympic theme. There is a flagship Olympic souvenir shop on the famed Wangfujing shopping street near Tiananmen Square (Figure 2). The shop was doing a brisk business in pins, coins, clothing and children’s items (Figure 3). The five Olympic mascots – the Friendlies – were clearly a hit with buyers. The few philatelic items seemed lost in the shuffle.

The Wangfujing shopping street is partially blocked off to car traffic and boasts a number of large outdoor video screens currently playing Olympic-themed videos (Figure 4). There are also “countdown” signs at various places in the city showing how many days/hours/minutes until the Opening Ceremonies. If you are a Beijing resident and don’t know how long it is to the Olympics, it is certainly not the fault of the organizing committee!

As for the venues, the famed “Bird’s Nest” Olympic Stadium (about 30-40 minutes north of Tianamen Square) was still under construction during my trip and was scheduled to be completed sometime in May. The main infrastructure of the stadium is in place and can be viewed from a distance.

Though I was unable to visit, there is a post office at the Olympic Tower that is already functioning.

Despite the general appearance of readiness, I remain concerned about Beijing’s transportation system and weather.





**Figure 3.** A sampling of souvenirs inside the Flagship Store.

Those of you who have visited Beijing have certainly experienced the almost constant bumper to bumper maze of cars, taxis, buses and bicycles. Based on my latest trip, nothing has changed. The subway system was still not complete including one of the key lines linking the Olympic Park with the line connecting the airport to the center of the city. To Beijing's credit, the completed lines are modern, clean and efficient, yet already overcrowded with the masses of riders. At a price of 2 yuan (a little less than 25¢) it is quite a bargain and will reward the adventurous visitor to the Games.

Then there is the weather. As frequently reported, pollution in China is some of the world's worst. Though I didn't detect the smell of the coal-fired power plants when I arrived, the air quality has definitely deteriorated since my last trips to China and it is everything the press has touted. Hopefully,

**Figure 5.** The new Olympic Torch Relay souvenir sheet issued March 24 as the Olympic flame was lit in Ancient Olympia, Greece.



**Figure 4.** One of the large video screens outside the Flagship Store.

Beijing will have that magical blessing that the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games had with good weather and lighter than normal traffic.

There was a keen sense among my Chinese colleagues that the Olympics were nearing. I was fortunate to be there on the day the Olympic Flame was lit in Greece. Boastfully, one my colleagues said in her best Chinglish, "You know we collected the flame today!"

China Post issued two stamps (Figure 5), in varying formats (singles, minisheets, souvenir sheets, etc.) commemorating the lighting of the flame on March 24. These stamps in their commemorative folders were readily available at the main Beijing post office a few days following their release.

In the end Beijing is poised and anxious to host a successful Games!





Figure 1. First Day cover honoring the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mexico's first baseball league.

## Baseball in Mexico

by Norman Rushefsky

**I**n 1847, if you go to the history books, that is the time where the U.S. is trying to take control of Mexico and this is the time the armed forces from the United States were in Mexico," said Magdalena Rosales Ortiz, director of Monterrey's Salon de la Fama, the Hall of Fame of Professional Baseball of Mexico. "All during the 1840s and later there were different parts of Mexico where the Americans tried to take control. These dates coincide with the origin of baseball in each area. The American troops played baseball and shared the game."

The laying of track for the railroad, specifically the Monterrey-Tampico railway, played a large part in spreading baseball throughout the country, particularly in northern Mexico. Colonel Joseph Robertson, a Tennessean who once served under General Robert E. Lee, introduced the game in Nuevo Leon when he granted his railroad workers a holiday on the 4th of July 1889. Robertson and his workers celebrated by playing baseball.

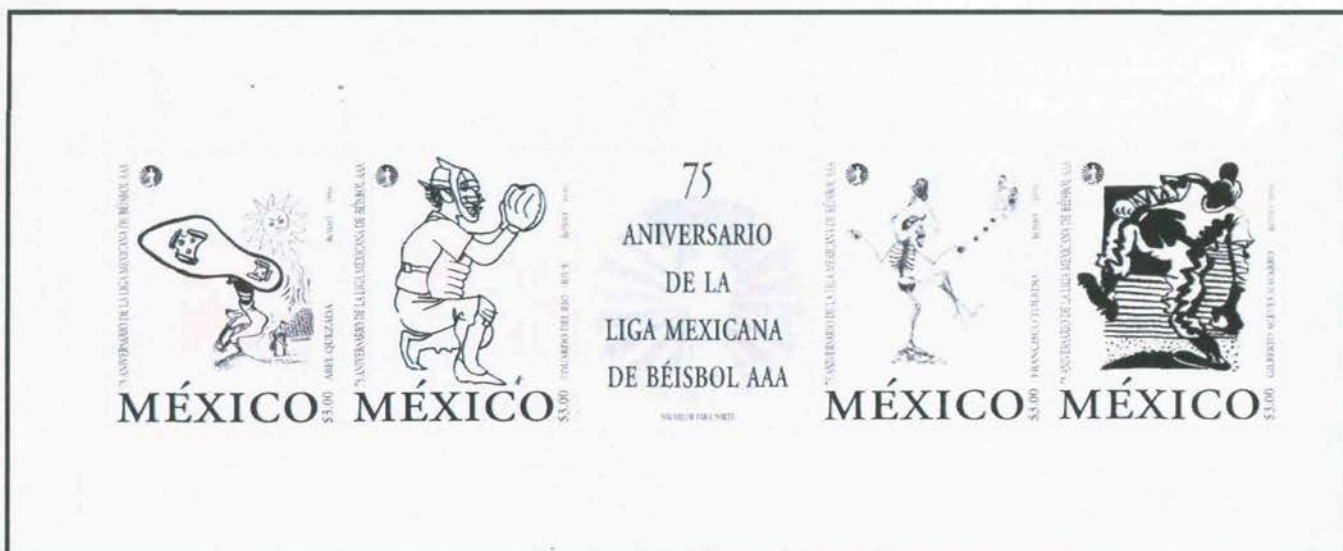
The Mexican League began in 1924, when

Mexico's famous sportswriter, Alejandro Aguilar Reyes "Fray Nano," along with baseball manager Ernesto Carmona, founded the Mexican Professional Baseball League comprising six teams. In 1974 Mexico recognized the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the league by issuing a stamp (Figure 1).

From 1925 to approximately 1940, games were almost exclusively played in Mexico City and featured the performances of imported Cuban players. During the 1940s, the Pasquel brothers attempted to create a league in Mexico similar to the U.S. Major Leagues. They sought first to hire players from the Negro Leagues and by the mid-1940s they hired players away from the Major Leagues. However, by the end of the 1940s, they were forced to decrease salaries and soon the imported players departed.

In 1955, the Mexican League was near death when Anuar Canavati, president of the Monterrey Sultanes, restored the league primarily by reaching working agreements with Major League teams for players. The league now includes a total of 16 summer league teams divided into North and South zones in the summer Mexican League and 8 teams





**Figure 2.** 1999 sheetlet of four stamps for baseball. The central label references the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mexican baseball AAA league.

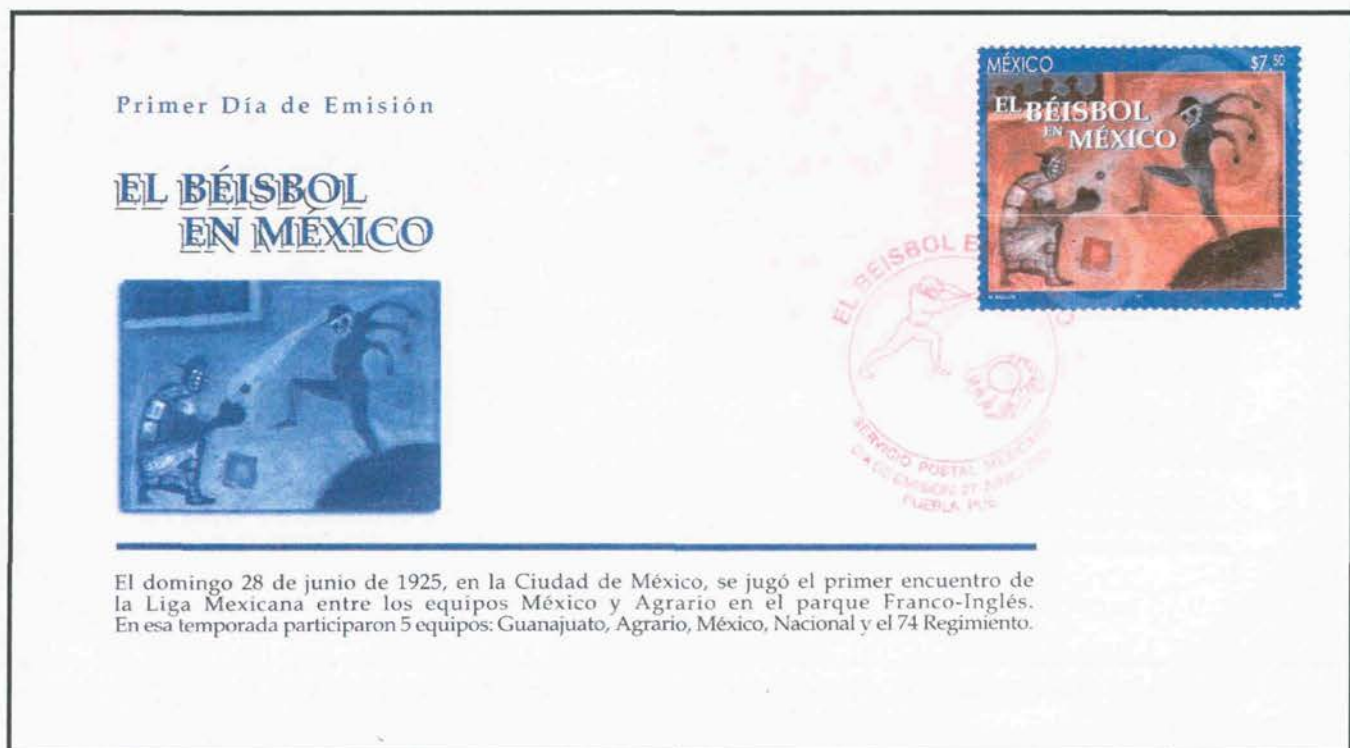
in the winter Mexican League. The Liga Mexicana de Beisbol is a summer AAA-level baseball minor league. The Liga Mexicana del Pacífico is a high-level winter league whose champion plays each year in the Caribbean World Series.

In 1999 Mexico noted the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the league with a set of four se-tenant stamps of unique designs contributed by four different Mexican artists. As demonstrated in Figure

2, an illustrated tab separates each pair of designs.

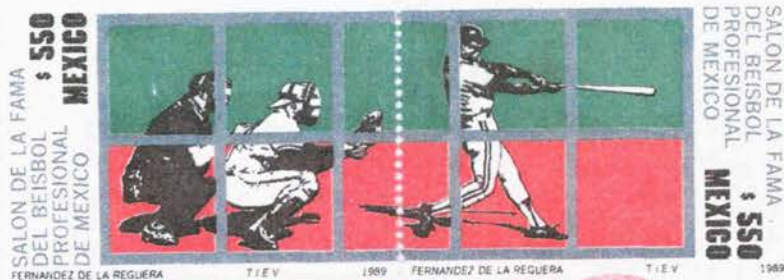
Mexico celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Mexican league game played June 28, 1925. Figure 3 shows a 2005 first day cover of this stamp.

The Hall of Fame of Professional Baseball of Mexico was opened in 1973 in Monterrey; in 1989 Mexico issued a composite se-tenant pair of stamps also featuring an illustrated tab to honor the Hall. A FDC of this issue is shown in Figure 4.



**Figure 3.** 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Mexican baseball league game played June 28, 1925.





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Figure 4. Mexico's Baseball Hall of Fame was inaugurated in 1973. A se-tenant pair of stamps and special first day cancel celebrated the anniversary in 1989.



Figure 5. A special stamp and first day postmark honored the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hall of Fame in 2003.





Figure 6. An envelope with the corner card of the Indios Juarez baseball club includes a pair of the 1974 stamps issued for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mexico's first baseball league.

A 2003 Mexico stamp notes the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hall of Fame (Figure 5).

A collection of Mexican baseball philately is enhanced by the inclusion of baseball club envelopes. Figure 6 reproduces a registered cover used in 1975 by the Indios Juarez team, while the cover in Figure 7 is from the Petroleros of Poza Rica de Hidalgo and addressed to the well-known president of the Chicago National League team.

More than 100 Mexican nationals who participated in the Mexican Leagues have gone on to play in the Major Leagues since Baldomero Almada, the first Mexican to play in the Major Leagues, made his debut with Boston in 1933.

Reference: [http://www.mlb.com/news/article.jsp?ymd=20040107&content\\_id=626058&vkey=news\\_mlb&fext=.jsp&c\\_id=null](http://www.mlb.com/news/article.jsp?ymd=20040107&content_id=626058&vkey=news_mlb&fext=.jsp&c_id=null) (May 2, 2008)



Figure 7. Colorful airmail envelope for the Petroleros baseball club in Poza Rica de Hidalgo.



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# NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Margaret Jones

## NEW MEMBERS

2259 Pavel Nikiforovitch, 2844 Danube Way, St. Charles, Missouri 63301-0380 USA. He is a computer programmer. Olympics, soccer, hockey, chess. Volunteers to translate articles from Russian into English.

2260 Alan E. Amundsen, 1111 La Zanja Drive, Glendale, California 91207-1245 USA. Track and field. aamundsen@sbcglobal.net

2261 Martin Schepers, Althoeseltweg 1A, B-3740 Bilzen, Belgium. Martin is retired and will write for journal. Playing card games. schepers.m@pandora.be

2262 Gino J. Malattia, 301 Wagonmaster Court, Roseville, California 95747-8050 USA. He is retired. American football, baseball, boxing.

## RENEWALS

1847 William D. Cox, 338 Santa Helena, Solana Beach California 92075-1509 USA. billcox338@yahoo.com

## NEW ADDRESSES

Clark Bensen, Polidata, 1303 Hayward Road, PO Box 530, Corinth, Vermont 05039-0530 USA.  
Steffen Eckstein, Bernhard-Plettner-Ring 58, 91052 Erlangen, Germany.  
Alain Hebert, 364 Montclair, Rosemere, Quebec, Canada J7A 2V6.

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**Total Membership, March 31, 2008 = 216**

## EXHIBIT AWARDS

FILATELIC FIESTA (San Jose, California). Andrew Urushima won single frame grand, gold and APS 1940-80 Medal of Excellence awards for "1944 POW Olympics: Gross Born and Woldenberg."

SUNPEX (Sunnyvale, California). Richard Woodward received ATA first award for "The World Cup of Soccer."

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SPI member Gunter Pilz is looking to establish contact with other collectors interested in the sport of Sepak Takraw. If interested, please write Gunter at 444 Brickell Ave, Suite 53-3348, Miami FL 33131 or email him at: gunter.pilz@gmail.com



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# NEW STAMP ISSUES

by John La Porta

**Algeria:** April 12, 2008. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of National Soccer Team. 38dh logo, the team.

**Australia:** March 24, 2008. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rugby League. Four blocks of four se-tenant 50¢ stamps depicting players. 17 booklets, one contains 20 self-adhesive stamps, including all 16 designs; the other 16 booklets contains 10 - 50¢ stamps each.

**Austria:** January 22, 2008. European Soccer Championships. 0.55e self-adhesive, mascots Trix and Flix with cup; 0.65e emblem. Printed in coils of 100 & 25.

February 4, 2008. European Soccer Championships. Two 0.55e stamps, soccer balls and shoe forming map of Europe; Map of Austria and Switzerland.

February 19, 2008. European Soccer Championships. 0.55e stamps, map of Europe, soccer balls.

February 21, 2008. European Soccer Championships. 0.55e painting of two soccer players.

March 12, 2008. European Soccer Championships. 3.75e circular stamp made from synthetic mixture, the same as used in soccer balls.

March 20, 2008. European Soccer Championships. 0.55e soccer ball, field.

April 2, 2008. European Soccer Championships. 1.25e dragon, soccer ball, Karawanken Mountains.

April 18, 2008. European Soccer Championships. 1e soccer ball wearing lederhosen and Tyrolean hat.

**Azerbaijan:** February 25, 2008. Beijing Olympics. Four se-tenant stamps showing symbolic athletes, 20g judo; 30g weight lifting; 40g wrestling; 60g boxing.

**Bangladesh:** September 24, 2007. World International Cricket Council. Se-tenant pair of 4t stamps, cricket players in action; player, map.

**Bulgaria:** December 17, 2007. Sport Champions. 10st Rumyana Neykova, rowing; 35st Stanka Zlateva wrestling; 1lev Stefka Kostadinova high jump.

February 25, 2008. Beijing Olympics. S/s se-tenant pair of stamps, 55s and 1 lev, design of volleyball match.

**Canada:** April 3, 2008. International Ice Hockey Federation Championship Games. 52¢ stamp depicts a Canadian player in red slapping a puck. Printed in self-adhesive booklets of 10, with two different covers. One for Quebec City and one for Halifax.

**China:** September 10, 2007. Women's Soccer World Cup. Souvenir sheet with circular \$1.20 stamp, emblem.

October 2, 2007. Beijing Olympics. \$1.20 diamond shaped stamp, emblem with symbolic athletes.

December 20, 2008. Beijing Olympics/Sport Venues. 80y China Agricultural University Gymnasium; Four \$1.20 stamps (available moisture activated gum and as self-adhesives) Laoshan mountain bike course; National Indoor Stadium; Peking University Gymnasium; National Aquatics Center; \$3 Qingdao Olympic Sailing Center; s/s with pentagonal stamp, National Stadium.

March 24, 2008. Beijing Olympics. Torch Relay issue. Two designs for a \$1.20 mascot and lighting of the torch and one for \$3 torch and Mount Everest. Printed in sheets of 8 self-adhesive stamps, water activated sheets of 9 and souvenir sheet of 2.

**Costa Rica:** September 20, 2007. Special Olympics/Shanghai. Three 240col stamps, each showing actual and symbolic athlete, cyclist; swimmer; runner.

**Croatia:** March 11, 2008. Beijing Olympics. 5k logo, pictograms of athletes representing gymnastics, basketball, water polo, soccer, weight lifting and archery.

**Dominican Republic:** July 6, 2007. Pan-American Games. 15p high jump; 20p weightlifter.

**Finland:** January 12, 2008. Alpine Skiing. Four nondenominated first class stamps, freestyle skier Matti Raty; freestyle skier Tapio Arska Saarimäke; snowboarder Antti Autti; salmon skier Tanja Poutiainen.

**France:** January 28, 2008. 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Stadium in St. Denis. 0.54e diagram on the national stadium.

**The Gambia:** November 29, 2007. Beijing Olympics. 40dal gold foil stamp, five mascots, Olympic rings.

December 28, 2007. NBA Basketball, pane of nine se-tenant 10d stamps, NBA players and team emblems.



**Germany:** March 13, 2008. Sports. 0.45e+0.20e glider, World Gliding Championships; two 0.55e+0.25e stamps, soccer players in action, European Soccer Championships, chess board and pieces, Chess Olympiad; 1.45e+0.55e rower, Beijing Olympics.

April 10, 2008. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Germany's National Soccer Team First International Match. 1.70e photograph of the 1908 team.

**Greece:** November 2, 2007. Historic Sports Clubs. 0.02e Ergotelis, soccer; 0.04e OFI Crete, soccer; 0.54e Olympiakos Piraeus, soccer; 2.29e Doxa Dramas, soccer; 5e Nautical Club of Mytilini.

**Grenada:** January 14, 2008. Muhammad Ali. Two panes of four se-tenant \$2 stamps each with a different photo of the boxer. Two souvenir sheets each with \$6 stamp.

February 6, 2008. Beijing Olympics. Pane of four se-tenant \$3 stamps, stamp-on-stamp designs.

**Guernsey:** January 18, 2008. Andy Priaulx Triple World Touring Car Champion. Souvenir sheet with three £1 stamps, three cars.

**Hungary:** April 16, 2008. Beijing Olympics. 70ft water polo; 100ft wrestling; 170ft fencing.

**Indonesia:** December 3, 2007. 24<sup>th</sup> Sea Games. Four 2,500rp round stamps, bowling; indoor soccer; kempo, martial arts; hammer throw.

**Italy:** February 23, 2008. Italian Sports/Dorando Pietri. 0.60e marathon runner at finish line 1908 London Oly.

**Japan:** September 3, 2007. Prefecture Akita, 62<sup>nd</sup> National Athletic Meet. 50y rugby players.

**Jersey:** May 23, 2008. World Cricket League Division 15 Tournament. S/s with £2 stamp cricket scene.

**Kazakhstan:** December 28, 2007. Olympic Champions of Kazakhstan. Souvenir sheet with four se-tenant 1.50t stamps. Athletes, medal and action scene, cross-country skier Vladimir Smirnov; wrestler Yuriy Melnichenko; hurdler Olga Shishigina; boxer Erman Ibrahimov.

**Kyrgyzstan:** March 1, 2008. Beijing Olympics. Four 20s stamps, soccer; wrestling; javelin throw; basketball.

**Madagascar:** June 27, 2007. Seventh Games of Indian Ocean Islands. 300 ariary, emblem.

**Maldives:** January 8, 2008. History of the Olympics/1936 Berlin Games. Four se-tenant 7r stamps, Rie Mastbroek, swimming; Jesse Owens, track; Jack Beresford, rowing; poster. Souvenir sheet contains the four stamps.

**Malta:** March 7, 2008. Beijing Olympics. 0.05e/2¢ shooter; 0.12e/5¢ swimmer; 1.57e/67¢ runner.

**Micronesia:** December 12, 2007. 32<sup>nd</sup> America's Cup. Four se-tenant stamps, 26¢, 80¢, \$1.14, \$2, yachts.

**Monaco:** April 8, 2008. Beijing Olympics. Se-tenant pair of 0.55e stamps, pagoda, silhouettes of athletes playing basketball, playing tennis, throwing javelin, Beijing 2008 emblem, baseball, fencing, shooting.

**Mongolia:** October 5, 2007. Olympic cheerleader. Pane of 6 se-tenant 700t: Naotoshi Yamada with athletes.

**Morocco:** December 28, 2007. Morocco Sports Championships. 7.80dh oval shaped stamps, symbols of sports, gymnastics, cycling, judo, soccer, gold, basketball, track and field events.

January 31, 2008. African Soccer Cup. 7.80dh circular stamp, soccer ball, map.

**Nicaragua:** 2007. Central American Student Games. 3col judo, karate; 5col soccer, baseball; 6.50col high jump, swimming.

**Norway:** March 14, 2008. 100<sup>th</sup> Ann. Norwegian Ski Assn. Four nondenominated stamps inscribed "A" cross country skier Thorleif Haug, ski jumper Espen Bredesen; two children on skis, alpine skier Kjetil Andre Aamodt.

**Palau:** January 8, 2008. History of Olympics. London 1908, pane of four se-tenant 50¢ stamps, fencing poster; poster showing high jumper; Wyndham Halswell, track gold medalist; Dorando Pietri marathon runner.

**Qatar:** October 25, 2007. Doha 2016 Olympic/Paralympic Games bid. Four 50d: boy preparing to run, girl preparing to run; two views of three girls, arms raised.

**St. Vincent:** January 8, 2008. History of the Olympic Games/Helsinki. Pane of four se-tenant \$1.40 stamps, Bob Mathias, Josy Barthel, Lis Hartel.

**Seychelles:** April 30, 2008. Beijing Olympics. 1re bamboo, kayaking; 1.50re swimming, dragon's head; 2re sailing, paper lanterns; 3.50re javelin throw, fish.

**Spain:** April 16, 2008. Traditional Sports and Games. Two 0.43e stamps, Valencia ball played in street; Basque ball. Printed in sheets of 25 with 25 labels.

**Sri Lanka:** April 30, 2007. Cricket World Cup. Two 15re: team, stadium, flag, emblems; player flag, emblems.

November 7, 2007. Commonwealth Games Federation General Assembly. 5re man blowing shell horn; 45re people with wings, emblem.



# COMMEMORATIVE CANCELS

by Mark Maestroni

## THE NUMBERING SYSTEM

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

## SPORTS CROSS INDEX FEBRUARY-JUNE 2008

Archery: 08405-919.  
Auto Racing: 08525-462.  
Baseball: 08308-189, 08329-490,  
08330-200, 08419-151.  
Basketball: 08321-574, 08506-790,  
08507-790.  
Canoe/Kayak: 08418-731, 08425-282.  
Equestrian: 08321-273A, 08321-273B.  
Figure Skating: 08422-128.  
Golf: 08509-160.  
Horse Racing: 08502-402, 08503-402.  
Ice Hockey: 08222-100, 08422-128.  
Marathon: 08420-021, 08524-999.  
Motorboat Racing: 08329-344.  
Olympics: 08405-919, 08409-94102,  
08409-94111, 08418-731,  
08419-354, 08420-021,  
08425-282.  
Ski Jumping: 08531-053.  
Triathlon: 08419-354.



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08222-100 New York, NY 22



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08308-189 Warminster, PA 8-9



08321-273A Oak Ridge, TN 21-22



08321-273B Oak Ridge, TN 21-22



Langford, SD  
57454  
State "B"  
Station  
March 21, 2008

08321-574 Langford, SD 21



08329-344 Hernando, FL 29-30



1908 World Series  
Cubs defeat  
the  
Tigers  
4 games to 1  
100th Anniversary



08329-490 Kalamazoo, MI 29-30



08330-200 Washington, DC 30



08405-919 Chula Vista, CA 5-6



OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY STATION  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102  
APRIL 9, 2008

08409-94102 San Francisco, CA 9



OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY STATION  
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APRIL 9, 2008

08409-94111 San Francisco, CA 9



08418-731 Oklahoma C., OK 18-20





08419-151 Monroeville, PA 19-20



08419-354 Tuscaloosa, AL 19



08420-021 Boston, MA 20



08422-128 Champlain, NY 22



08425-282 Charlotte, NC 25-27



08502-402 Louisville, KY 2



08503-402 Louisville, KY 3



08506-790 White Deer, TX 6



08507-790 White Deer, TX 7



08509-160 Butler, PA 9



08524-999 Craig, AK 24



08525-462 Indianapolis, IN 25



08531-053 Brattleboro, VT 31



08609-085 Princeton Jct., NJ 9-13



08613-891 Las Vegas, NV 13-15



08614-919 Chula Vista, CA 14



08621-462 Indianapolis, IN 21-22



08619-191 Philadelphia, PA 19-22



08627-974 Eugene, OR 6/27-7/6



08629-681 Omaha, NE 6/29-7/6



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Index v.46  
2007/08

# Journal of Sports Philately: Index to Volume 46

## Fall 2007 - Summer 2008

compiled by Mark Maestroni

### SUBJECTS

- ANGLE, TIM (USA - SAILING)**  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 15-17
- ANNUS, ADRIAN (HUNGARY - TRACK & FIELD)**  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE) J46 (3), 30
- ARIPGADJIEV, MAGOMED (BELARUS - BOXING)**  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE) J46 (3), 30
- ATHERTON, MIKE (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27
- ATHLETICS (SEE TRACK & FIELD))**
- BABKA, RICHARD "RINK" (USA - TRACK & FIELD)**  
AL OERTER, AN OLYMPIC JOURNEY (1936-2007) (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 24-25
- BADMINTON**  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16
- BAILEY TREVOR (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14
- BARGER, BEN (USA - SAILING)**  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 15-17
- BASEBALL**  
BASEBALL IN MEXICO (RUSHEFSKY) J46 (4), 26-29  
DONUTS & SPORTS (RUSHEFSKY) J46 (2), 26-27  
"THE STRATTON STORY" AND THE NEW JIMMY STEWART STAMP (RUSHEFSKY) J46 (2), 18-19
- BASKETBALL**  
RUSSIAN WOMEN'S B-BALL TEAM QUALIFIES FOR BEIJING (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 22-23  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (3), 3-19  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16
- BATSUSHKA, HANNA (BELARUS - WEIGHTLIFTING)**  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE) J46 (3), 30
- BICHYK, YULIYA (BELARUS - ROWING)**  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE) J46 (3), 30
- BIEHL, GRAHAM (USA - SAILING)**  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 15-17
- BORDER, ALLAN (AUSTRALIA - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27
- BOTHAM, IAN (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14
- BOXING**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46 (1), 3-18  
1928 AMSTERDAM OLYMPIC GAMES: THE COLOR PROOFS IN PRIVATE HANDS (JONKER) J46 (2), 3-7  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE) J46 (3), 30  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (3), 3-19  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16
- BOYCOTT, GEOFF (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14
- BRADMAN, DON (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14
- BURGHLEY, LORD DAVID (GREAT BRITAIN - ATHLETICS & IOC MEMBER)**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46 (1), 3-18
- CAMPBELL, ANDREW (USA - SAILING)**  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 15-17
- CANAVATI, ANUAR (MEXICO - BASEBALL)**  
BASEBALL IN MEXICO (RUSHEFSKY) J46 (4), 26-29
- CANOEING/KAYAKING**  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE) J46 (3), 30
- CARMONA, ERNESTO (MEXICO - BASEBALL)**  
BASEBALL IN MEXICO (RUSHEFSKY) J46 (4), 26-29
- CHAPPELL, GREG (AUSTRALIA - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14
- CHAPPELL, IAN (AUSTRALIA - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14
- CLARK, AMANDA (USA - SAILING)**  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 15-17
- CLARKE, MICHAEL (AUSTRALIA - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27
- COWDREY, COLIN (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14
- CRICKET**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27
- CURLING**  
CURLING: A JOURNEY THROUGH CANADIAN PHILATELY (SOKOLYK) J46 (2), 28-30
- CYCLING**  
1928 AMSTERDAM OLYMPIC GAMES: THE COLOR PROOFS IN PRIVATE HANDS (JONKER) J46 (2), 3-7  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE) J46 (3), 30  
DONUTS & SPORTS (RUSHEFSKY) J46 (2), 26-27  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (3), 3-19  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16  
USOC & SPI DEVELOP POSTMARK PROGRAM FOR 2008 U.S. OLYMPIC TRIALS (MAESTRONE) J46 (4), 2
- DANE, JOHN, III (USA - SAILING)**  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 15-17
- DE COUBERTIN, BARON PIERRE (FRANCE - MODERN OLYMPIC GAMES FOUNDER)**  
SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE OF PIERRE DE COUBERTIN, A (SOKOLYK) J46 (3), 28-29
- DILLEY, GRAHAM (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14
- DISCUS**  
AL OERTER, AN OLYMPIC JOURNEY (1936-2007) (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 24-25  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE) J46 (3), 30
- DIVING**  
1928 AMSTERDAM OLYMPIC GAMES: THE COLOR PROOFS IN PRIVATE HANDS (JONKER) J46 (2), 3-7  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (3), 3-19  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16  
USOC & SPI DEVELOP POSTMARK PROGRAM FOR 2008 U.S. OLYMPIC TRIALS (MAESTRONE) J46 (4), 2



- DOERR, RICK (USA - SAILING)**  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 15-17
- D'OLIVEIRA, BASIL (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14
- DONOHUE, BILL (USA - SAILING)**  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 15-17
- ESPRIT: SPORTS ET OLIMPISME (PUBLICATION)**  
#44, JUNE 2007, REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 31  
#45, OCTOBER 2007, REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 31  
#46, DECEMBER 2007, REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS (MAESTRONE) J46 (3), 33
- EXHIBITING, PHILATELIC**  
HEARTACHES AND JOYS OF EXHIBITING, THE (COLLINS) J46 (2), 20-21
- FARNES, KEN (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14
- FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (FIFA)**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46 (1), 3-18
- FENCING**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46 (1), 3-18  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16
- FILABASKET REVIEW (PUBLICATION)**  
#23, AUGUST 2007, REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 31  
#24, DECEMBER 2007, REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS (MAESTRONE) J46 (3), 33
- FLINTOFF, ANDREW (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27
- GARLAND, WILLIAM MAY (USA - IOC MEMBER)**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46 (1), 3-18
- GATTING, MIKE (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27
- GILCHRIST, ADAM (AUSTRALIA - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27
- GILES, ASHLEY (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27
- GOLF**  
2007 SPI CONVENTION AT NAPEX (COVELL) J46 (1), 35-36  
DONUTS & SPORTS (RUSHEFSKY) J46 (2), 26-27  
HEARTACHES AND JOYS OF EXHIBITING, THE (COLLINS) J46 (2), 20-21
- GOOCH, GRAHAM (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27
- GORDIEN, FORTUNE (USA - TRACK & FIELD)**  
AL OERTER, AN OLYMPIC JOURNEY (1936-2007) (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 24-25
- GOUGH, DARREN (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27
- GOWER, DAVID (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14
- GRAVENEY, TOM (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14
- GREIG, TONY (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14
- GYMNASTICS**  
2007 SPI CONVENTION AT NAPEX (COVELL) J46 (1), 35-36  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (3), 3-19  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16  
USOC & SPI DEVELOP POSTMARK PROGRAM FOR 2008 U.S. OLYMPIC TRIALS (MAESTRONE) J46 (4), 2
- HAMMER THROW**  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE) J46 (3), 30
- HANDBALL**  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (3), 3-19  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16
- HALL, FARRAH (USA - SAILING)**  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 15-17
- HARMISON, STEVE (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27
- HAYDEN, MATTHEW (AUSTRALIA - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27
- HELAKH, NATALLIA (BELARUS - ROWING)**  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE) J46 (3), 30
- HICK, GRAEME (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27
- HOLLIES, ERIC (AUSTRALIA - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14
- HUSSAIN, NASSER (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27
- HUSSEY, MIKE (AUSTRALIA - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27
- HUTTON, LEN (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14
- ILLINGWORTH, RAY (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14
- IMOS JOURNAL (PUBLICATION)**  
#134, APRIL 2007, REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 31  
#135, AUGUST 2007, REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 31  
#136, NOVEMBER 2007, REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS (MAESTRONE) J46 (3), 33
- INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (IOC)**  
13<sup>th</sup> WORLD OLYMPIC COLLECTOR'S FAIR, BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (1), 31-34  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46 (1), 3-18  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14
- INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE SESSION - 1923 - 22ND (ROME, ITALY)**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46 (1), 3-18
- INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE SESSION - 1927 - 26TH (MONTE CARLO, MONACO)**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46 (1), 3-18
- INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE SESSION - 1928 - 27TH (AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS)**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46 (1), 3-18
- INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE SESSION - 1930 - 29TH (BERLIN, GERMANY)**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46 (1), 3-18
- ISMAYR, RUDOLF (GERMANY - WEIGHTLIFTING)**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46 (1), 3-18
- JAVELIN**  
1928 AMSTERDAM OLYMPIC GAMES: THE COLOR PROOFS IN PRIVATE HANDS (JONKER) J46 (2), 3-7
- JUDO**  
USOC & SPI DEVELOP POSTMARK PROGRAM FOR 2008 U.S. OLYMPIC TRIALS (MAESTRONE) J46 (4), 2
- KAHANAMOKU, DUKE (USA - SWIMMER)**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46 (1), 3-18
- KARSTEN, EKATERINA (BELARUS - ROWING)**  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE) J46 (3), 30
- KAYAKING (SEE CANOEING/KAYAKING)**

**LAKER, JIM (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES – AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE,  
1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14

**LANGER, JUSTIN (AUSTRALIA - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES – AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE,  
1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27

**LEE, BRETT (AUSTRALIA - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES – AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE,  
1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27

**LEWIS, CARL (USA - TRACK & FIELD)**  
AL OERTER, AN OLYMPIC JOURNEY (1936-2007) (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 24-25

**LILLEE, DENNIS (AUSTRALIA - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES – AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE,  
1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14

**LOVELL, JOHN (USA - SAILING)**  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 15-17

**LUO XUEJUAN (CHINA - SWIMMING)**  
CONTROVERSIAL OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY BEGINS, A (MAESTRONE &  
URUSHIMA) J46 (4), 17-23

**MAKARANKA, VIACHASLAU (BELARUS - WRESTLING)**  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE)  
J46 (3), 30

**MAKARAU, IHAR (BELARUS - JUDO)**  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE)  
J46 (3), 30

**MARATHON**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46  
(1), 3-18

**MAKHNEU, VADZIM (BELARUS - CANOE/KAYAK)**  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE)  
J46 (3), 30

**MARSH, ROD (AUSTRALIA - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES – AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE,  
1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14

**MARTYN, DAMIEN (AUSTRALIA - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES – AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE,  
1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27

**MARTYNOV, SERGEI (BELARUS - SHOOTING)**  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE)  
J46 (3), 30

**MAY, PETER (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES – AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE,  
1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14

**MCGRATH, GLENN (AUSTRALIA - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES – AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE,  
1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27

**MCNAY, STUART (USA - SAILING)**  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 15-17

**MCKINNON-TUCKER, MAUREEN (USA - SAILING)**  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 15-17

**MERGENTHALER, SARAH (USA - SAILING)**  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 15-17

**NADI, NEDO (ITALY - FENCING)**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46  
(1), 3-18

**NESTERENKO, YULIYA (BELARUS - TRACK & FIELD)**  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE)  
J46 (3), 30

**NIKOLAIDIS, ALEXANDROS (GREECE - TAEKWONDO)**  
CONTROVERSIAL OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY BEGINS, A (MAESTRONE &  
URUSHIMA) J46 (4), 17-23

**NURMI, PAAVO (FINLAND - TRACK & FIELD)**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46  
(1), 3-18

**OERTER, ALFRED "AL", JR. (USA - TRACK & FIELD)**  
AL OERTER, AN OLYMPIC JOURNEY (1936-2007) (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 24-25

**OGLETTREE, CHARLIE (USA - SAILING)**  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 15-17

**OLDAG, HANS (USA - TRACK & FIELD)**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46  
(1), 3-18

**OLYMPEX 2008**  
13<sup>TH</sup> WORLD OLYMPIC COLLECTOR'S FAIR, BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (1), 31-34  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16

**OLYMPIA, ANCIENT**  
SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE OF PIERRE DE COUBERTIN, A (SOKOLYK)  
J46 (3), 28-29

**OLYMPIC ARTS FESTIVAL (SEE ALSO OLYMPHILEX)**  
13<sup>TH</sup> WORLD OLYMPIC COLLECTOR'S FAIR, BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (1), 31-34  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46  
(1), 3-18  
CALIFORNIA TENTH OLYMPIAD BOND ACT OF 1927 (MAESTRONE/KLINKNER)  
J46 (3), 20-22  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16

**OLYMPIC GAMES - 1928 SUMMER - 9<sup>TH</sup> (AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS)**  
1928 AMSTERDAM OLYMPIC GAMES: THE COLOR PROOFS IN PRIVATE  
HANDS (JONKER) J46 (2), 3-7

**OLYMPIC GAMES - 1932 SUMMER - 10<sup>TH</sup> (LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, USA)**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46  
(1), 3-18  
A.M. 33 AND THE 1932 LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES (LILLJEDAHL) J46 (1),  
19-23  
CALIFORNIA TENTH OLYMPIAD BOND ACT OF 1927 (MAESTRONE/KLINKNER)  
J46 (3), 20-22  
MYSTERY COVER: A 1932 OLYMPIC VILLAGE RARITY ... OR A FAKE?  
(KLINKNER) J46 (1), 30  
UNKNOWN NO LONGER – A 1932 OLYMPIC CACHET MAKER IS REVEALED  
(LILLJEDAHL) J46 (1), 24-26  
US NAVY SHIPS VISIT LOS ANGELES DURING THE 1932 OLYMPIC GAMES  
(MAESTRONE) J46 (1), 27-29

**OLYMPIC GAMES - 1936 SUMMER - 11<sup>TH</sup> (BERLIN, GERMANY)**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46  
(1), 3-18  
SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE OF PIERRE DE COUBERTIN, A (SOKOLYK)  
J46 (3), 28-29

**OLYMPIC GAMES - 1956 SUMMER - 16<sup>TH</sup> (MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA)**  
AL OERTER, AN OLYMPIC JOURNEY (1936-2007) (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 24-25

**OLYMPIC GAMES - 1960 SUMMER - 17<sup>TH</sup> (ROME, ITALY)**  
AL OERTER, AN OLYMPIC JOURNEY (1936-2007) (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 24-25

**OLYMPIC GAMES - 1964 SUMMER - 18<sup>TH</sup> (TOKYO, JAPAN)**  
AL OERTER, AN OLYMPIC JOURNEY (1936-2007) (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 24-25  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES – AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE,  
1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14  
SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE OF PIERRE DE COUBERTIN, A (SOKOLYK)  
J46 (3), 28-29

**OLYMPIC GAMES - 1968 SUMMER - 19<sup>TH</sup> (MEXICO CITY, MEXICO)**  
AL OERTER, AN OLYMPIC JOURNEY (1936-2007) (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 24-25

**OLYMPIC GAMES - 1976 SUMMER - 21<sup>ST</sup> (MONTREAL, CANADA)**  
CURLING: A JOURNEY THROUGH CANADIAN PHILATELY (SOKOLYK)  
J46 (2), 28-30

**OLYMPIC GAMES - 1992 SUMMER - 25<sup>TH</sup> (BARCELONA, SPAIN)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES – AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE,  
1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14

**OLYMPIC GAMES - 2004 SUMMER - 28<sup>TH</sup> (ATHENS, GREECE)**  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE)  
J46 (3), 30  
CONTROVERSIAL OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY BEGINS, A (MAESTRONE &  
URUSHIMA) J46 (4), 17-23  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16

**OLYMPIC GAMES - 2008 SUMMER - 29<sup>TH</sup> (BEIJING, CHINA)**  
13<sup>TH</sup> WORLD OLYMPIC COLLECTOR'S FAIR, BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (1), 31-34  
BEIJING: READY (ALMOST) AND WAITING! (URUSHIMA) J46 (4), 24-25  
CONTROVERSIAL OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY BEGINS, A (MAESTRONE &  
URUSHIMA) J46 (4), 17-23  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (3), 3-19  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16  
RUSSIAN WOMEN'S B-BALL TEAM QUALIFIES FOR BEIJING (MAESTRONE)  
J46 (2), 22-23  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 15-17  
USOC & SPI DEVELOP POSTMARK PROGRAM FOR 2008 U.S. OLYMPIC  
TRIALS (MAESTRONE) J46 (4), 2

**OLYMPIC GAMES - 1924 WINTER - 1<sup>ST</sup> (CHAMONIX, FRANCE)**  
CURLING: A JOURNEY THROUGH CANADIAN PHILATELY (SOKOLYK)  
J46 (2), 28-30

**OLYMPIC GAMES - 1932 WINTER - 3<sup>RD</sup> (LAKE PLACID, NEW YORK, USA)**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46  
(1), 3-18  
CURLING: A JOURNEY THROUGH CANADIAN PHILATELY (SOKOLYK)  
J46 (2), 28-30

**OLYMPIC GAMES - 1964 WINTER - 9<sup>TH</sup> (INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES – AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE,  
1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14



**OLYMPIC GAMES - 1988 WINTER - 15<sup>TH</sup> (CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA)**  
CURLING: A JOURNEY THROUGH CANADIAN PHILATELY (SOKOLYK)  
J46 (2), 28-30

**OLYMPIC GAMES - 2002 WINTER - 19<sup>TH</sup> (SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, USA)**  
CURLING: A JOURNEY THROUGH CANADIAN PHILATELY (SOKOLYK)  
J46 (2), 28-30

**OLYMPIC MASCOTS**  
BEIJING: READY (ALMOST) AND WAITING! (URUSHIMA) J46 (4), 24-25  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (3), 3-19  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16

**OLYMPIC MEMORABILIA**  
13<sup>TH</sup> WORLD OLYMPIC COLLECTOR'S FAIR, BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (1), 31-34  
CALIFORNIA TENTH OLYMPIAD BOND ACT OF 1927 (MAESTRONE/KLINKNER)  
J46 (3), 20-22  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (3), 3-19  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16

**OLYMPIC MUSEUM**  
13<sup>TH</sup> WORLD OLYMPIC COLLECTOR'S FAIR, BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (1), 31-34

**OLYMPIC OPENING CEREMONY**  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16

**OLYMPIC TORCH & RELAY**  
13<sup>TH</sup> WORLD OLYMPIC COLLECTOR'S FAIR, BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (1), 31-34  
BEIJING: READY (ALMOST) AND WAITING! (URUSHIMA) J46 (4), 24-25  
CONTROVERSIAL OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY BEGINS, A (MAESTRONE & URUSHIMA) J46 (4), 17-23  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (3), 3-19  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16  
SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE OF PIERRE DE COUBERTIN, A (SOKOLYK)  
J46 (3), 28-29

**OLYMPIC VENUES**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46 (1), 3-18  
BEIJING: READY (ALMOST) AND WAITING! (URUSHIMA) J46 (4), 24-25  
CALIFORNIA TENTH OLYMPIAD BOND ACT OF 1927 (MAESTRONE/KLINKNER)  
J46 (3), 20-22  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (3), 3-19  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16

**OLYMPIC VILLAGE**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46 (1), 3-18  
CALIFORNIA TENTH OLYMPIAD BOND ACT OF 1927 (MAESTRONE/KLINKNER)  
J46 (3), 20-22  
MYSTERY COVER: A 1932 OLYMPIC VILLAGE RARITY ... OR A FAKE?  
(KLINKNER) J46 (1), 30  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16

**OLYMPICS**  
13<sup>TH</sup> WORLD OLYMPIC COLLECTOR'S FAIR, BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (1), 31-34  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46 (1), 3-18  
1928 AMSTERDAM OLYMPIC GAMES: THE COLOR PROOFS IN PRIVATE HANDS (JONKER) J46 (2), 3-7  
2007 SPI CONVENTION AT NAEPEX (COVELL) J46 (1), 35-36  
AL OERTER, AN OLYMPIC JOURNEY (1936-2007) (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 24-25  
A.M. 33 AND THE 1932 LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES (LILLJEDAHL) J46 (1), 19-23  
BEIJING: READY (ALMOST) AND WAITING! (URUSHIMA) J46 (4), 24-25  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE)  
J46 (3), 30  
CALIFORNIA TENTH OLYMPIAD BOND ACT OF 1927 (MAESTRONE/KLINKNER)  
J46 (3), 20-22  
CONTROVERSIAL OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY BEGINS, A (MAESTRONE & URUSHIMA) J46 (4), 17-23  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14  
CURLING: A JOURNEY THROUGH CANADIAN PHILATELY (SOKOLYK)  
J46 (2), 28-30  
MYSTERY COVER: A 1932 OLYMPIC VILLAGE RARITY ... OR A FAKE?  
(KLINKNER) J46 (1), 30  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (3), 3-19  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16  
RUSSIAN WOMEN'S B-BALL TEAM QUALIFIES FOR BEIJING (MAESTRONE)  
J46 (2), 22-23  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 15-17  
SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE OF PIERRE DE COUBERTIN, A (SOKOLYK)  
J46 (3), 28-29  
UNKNOWN NO LONGER - A 1932 OLYMPIC CACHET MAKER IS REVEALED (LILLJEDAHL) J46 (1), 24-26  
US NAVY SHIPS VISIT LOS ANGELES DURING THE 1932 OLYMPIC GAMES (MAESTRONE) J46 (1), 27-29  
USOC & SPI DEVELOP POSTMARK PROGRAM FOR 2008 U.S. OLYMPIC TRIALS (MAESTRONE) J46 (4), 2

**PENTATHLON**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46 (1), 3-18  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16

**PHILA-SPORT (PUBLICATION)**

#61, JANUARY 2007, REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 31  
#62, APRIL 2007, REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 31  
#63, JULY 2007, REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS (MAESTRONE) J46 (3), 33

**PIATRUSHENKA, RAMAN (BELARUS - CANOE/KAYAK)**  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE)  
J46 (3), 30

**PIETERSEN, KEVIN (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27

**POLE VAULT**  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (3), 3-19

**POLO (EQUESTRIAN)**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46 (1), 3-18

**PONTING, RICKY (AUSTRALIA - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27

**RAILEY, ZACH (USA - SAILING)**  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 15-17

**RAMPRAKASH, MARK (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27

**RAST, CHRIS (USA - SAILING)**  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 15-17

**RIOS, NANCY (USA - SAILING)**  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 15-17

**ROWING**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46 (1), 3-18  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE)  
J46 (3), 30  
USOC & SPI DEVELOP POSTMARK PROGRAM FOR 2008 U.S. OLYMPIC TRIALS (MAESTRONE) J46 (4), 2

**RUF, JOHN (USA - SAILING)**  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 15-17

**RYBAKOU, ANDREI (BELARUS - WEIGHTLIFTING)**  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE)  
J46 (3), 30

**SAILING**  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (3), 3-19  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 15-17

**SAMARANCH, JUAN ANTONIO (SPAIN - 7<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENT, IOC)**  
13<sup>TH</sup> WORLD OLYMPIC COLLECTOR'S FAIR, BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (1), 31-34

**SCANDONE, NICK (USA - SAILING)**  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 15-17

**SHOOTING**  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE)  
J46 (3), 30  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (3), 3-19  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16

**SHOT PUT**  
1928 AMSTERDAM OLYMPIC GAMES: THE COLOR PROOFS IN PRIVATE HANDS (JONKER) J46 (2), 3-7

**SILVESTER, L. JAY (USA - TRACK & FIELD)**  
AL OERTER, AN OLYMPIC JOURNEY (1936-2007) (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 24-25

**SKATING, ICE**  
1928 AMSTERDAM OLYMPIC GAMES: THE COLOR PROOFS IN PRIVATE HANDS (JONKER) J46 (2), 3-7

**SKIING**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46 (1), 3-18

**SNOW, JOHN (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14

**SOCCER**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46 (1), 3-18  
1928 AMSTERDAM OLYMPIC GAMES: THE COLOR PROOFS IN PRIVATE HANDS (JONKER) J46 (2), 3-7  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (3), 3-19  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16

**SPERRY, AUSTIN (USA - SAILING)**  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 15-17

**STATHAM, BRIAN (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE,  
1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14

**STEWART, ALEC (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE,  
1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27

**STEWART, JIMMY (USA - ACTOR)**  
"THE STRATTON STORY" AND THE NEW JIMMY STEWART STAMP  
(RUSHEFSKY) J46 (2), 18-19

**STRATTON, MONTY (USA - BASEBALL)**  
"THE STRATTON STORY" AND THE NEW JIMMY STEWART STAMP  
(RUSHEFSKY) J46 (2), 18-19

**STRAUSS, ANDREW (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE,  
1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27

**STUKALAVA, TATSIANA (BELARUS - WEIGHTLIFTING)**  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE)  
J46 (3), 30

**SWIMMING**  
1928 AMSTERDAM OLYMPIC GAMES: THE COLOR PROOFS IN PRIVATE  
HANDS (JONKER) J46 (2), 3-7  
CONTROVERSIAL OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY BEGINS, A (MAESTRONE &  
URUSHIMA) J46 (4), 17-23  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (3), 3-19  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16  
USOC & SPI DEVELOP POSTMARK PROGRAM FOR 2008 U.S. OLYMPIC  
TRIALS (MAESTRONE) J46 (4), 2

**TABLE TENNIS**  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (3), 3-19

**TAEKWONDO**  
CONTROVERSIAL OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY BEGINS, A (MAESTRONE &  
URUSHIMA) J46 (4), 17-23

**TAYLOR, MARK (AUSTRALIA - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE,  
1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27

**TENNIS**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46  
(1), 3-18  
1928 AMSTERDAM OLYMPIC GAMES: THE COLOR PROOFS IN PRIVATE  
HANDS (JONKER) J46 (2), 3-7  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (3), 3-19  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16

**THOMSON, JEFF (AUSTRALIA - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE,  
1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14

**THORPE, GRAHAM (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE,  
1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27

**TIKHON, IVAN (BELARUS - TRACK & FIELD)**  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE)  
J46 (3), 30

**TORCH BEARER (PUBLICATION)**  
VOL. 24, #2, MAY 2007, REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 31  
VOL. 24, #3, AUG. 2007, REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 31  
VOL. 24, #4, NOV. 2007, REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS (MAESTRONE) J46 (3), 33

**TRACK & FIELD (SEE ALSO INDIVIDUAL TRACK & FIELD EVENTS)**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46  
(1), 3-18  
AL OERTER, AN OLYMPIC JOURNEY (1936-2007) (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 24-25  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE)  
J46 (3), 30  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (3), 3-19  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16  
USOC & SPI DEVELOP POSTMARK PROGRAM FOR 2008 U.S. OLYMPIC  
TRIALS (MAESTRONE) J46 (4), 2

**TRAMPOLINE**  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (3), 3-19  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16

**TRESCOTTHICK, MARCUS (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE,  
1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27

**TUNNICLIFFE, ANNA (USA - SAILING)**  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 15-17

**TSYLINSKAYA, NATALLIA (BELARUS - CYCLING)**  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE)  
J46 (3), 30

**TYSON, FRANK (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE,  
1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14

**VALDEMORO, AMAYA (SPAIN - BASKETBALL)**  
RUSSIAN WOMEN'S B-BALL TEAM QUALIFIES FOR BEIJING (MAESTRONE)  
J46 (2), 22-23

**VAUGHAN, MICHAEL (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE,  
1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27

**VENZKE, GENE (USA - TRACK & FIELD)**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46  
(1), 3-18

**VERITY, HEDLEY (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE,  
1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14

**VOLLEYBALL**  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (3), 3-19  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16

**WADLOW, TIM (USA - SAILING)**  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 15-17

**WALASIEWICZ, STANISLAWA (AKA STELLA WALSH) - (US/POLAND - TRACK & FIELD)**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46  
(1), 3-18

**WARNE, SHANE (AUSTRALIA - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE,  
1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27

**WATSON, WILLIE (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE,  
1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14

**WAUGH, STEVE (AUSTRALIA - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE,  
1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14

**WEIGHTLIFTING**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT)  
J46 (1), 3-18  
1928 AMSTERDAM OLYMPIC GAMES: THE COLOR PROOFS IN PRIVATE  
HANDS (JONKER) J46 (2), 3-7  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE)  
J46 (3), 30  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (3), 3-19

**WENCKEBACH, LUDWIG OSWALD (NETHERLANDS - STAMP DESIGNER)**  
1928 AMSTERDAM OLYMPIC GAMES: THE COLOR PROOFS IN PRIVATE  
HANDS (JONKER) J46 (2), 3-7

**WILLIS, BOB (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE,  
1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14

**WOOLMER, BOB (GREAT BRITAIN - CRICKET)**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE,  
1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14

**WORLD OLYMPIC COLLECTORS FAIR (2007), BEIJING**  
13TH WORLD OLYMPIC COLLECTOR'S FAIR, BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (1), 31-34

**WRESTLING**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPETT) J46  
(1), 3-18  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE)  
J46 (3), 30  
CALIFORNIA TENTH OLYMPIAD BOND ACT OF 1927 (MAESTRONE/KLINKNER)  
J46 (3), 20-22  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (3), 3-19  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16  
USOC & SPI DEVELOP POSTMARK PROGRAM FOR 2008 U.S. OLYMPIC  
TRIALS (MAESTRONE) J46 (4), 2

**YATCHENKO, IRINA (BELARUS - TRACK & FIELD)**  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE)  
J46 (3), 30

**ZAHARIAS, BAE**  
HEARTACHES AND JOYS OF EXHIBITING, THE (COLLINS) J46 (2), 20-21

**ZUYEV, VIKTOR (BELARUS - BOXING)**  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE)  
J46 (3), 30



## AUTHORS

- COLLINS, CORA**  
HEARTACHES AND JOYS OF EXHIBITING, THE J46 (2), 20-21
- COVELL, CHARLES**  
2007 SPI CONVENTION AT NAPEX J46 (1), (35-36)
- JONES, MARGARET**  
NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS J46 (1), 37; J46 (2), 33; J46 (4), 32
- JONKER, LAURENTZ**  
1928 AMSTERDAM OLYMPIC GAMES: THE COLOR PROOFS IN PRIVATE HANDS J46 (2), 3-7
- KLINKNER, CONRAD**  
CALIFORNIA TENTH OLYMPIAD BOND ACT OF 1927 J46 (3), 20-22  
MYSTERY COVER: A 1932 OLYMPIC VILLAGE RARITY ... OR A FAKE? J46 (1), 30
- KWAN KWOK-YIU**  
13<sup>TH</sup> WORLD OLYMPIC COLLECTOR'S FAIR, BEIJING J46 (1), 31-34  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING J46 (3), 3-19  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO J46 (4), 3-16
- LA PORTA, JOHN**  
NEW STAMP ISSUES J46 (1), 38-39; J46 (2), 34; J46 (3), 34-35; J46 (4), 33-34
- LILLJEDAHL, DALE**  
A.M. 33 AND THE 1932 LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES J46 (1), 19-23  
UNKNOWN NO LONGER – A 1932 OLYMPIC CACHET MAKER IS REVEALED J46 (1), 24-26
- LIPPERT, THOMAS**  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 J46 (1), 3-18
- MAESTRONE, MARK**  
AL OERTER, AN OLYMPIC JOURNEY (1936-2007) J46 (2), 24-25  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS J46 (3), 30  
CALIFORNIA TENTH OLYMPIAD BOND ACT OF 1927 J46 (3), 20-22  
COMMEMORATIVE STAMP CANCELS J46 (1), 36; J46 (2), 35-36; J46 (3), 36; J46 (4), 35-36  
CONTROVERSIAL OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY BEGINS, A J46 (4), 17-23  
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE J46 (1), 1; J46 (2), 1; J46 (3), 1-2; J46 (4), 1  
REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS J46 (2), 31; J46 (3), 33  
RUSSIAN WOMEN'S B-BALL TEAM QUALIFIES FOR BEIJING J46 (2), 22-23  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO J46 (2), 15-17  
US NAVY SHIPS VISIT LOS ANGELES DURING THE 1932 OLYMPIC GAMES J46 (1), 27-29  
USOC & SPI DEVELOP POSTMARK PROGRAM FOR 2008 U.S. OLYMPIC TRIALS J46 (4), 2
- RUSHEFSKY, NORMAN**  
BASEBALL IN MEXICO J46 (4), 26-29  
DONUTS & SPORTS J46 (2), 26-27  
"THE STRATTON STORY" AND THE NEW JIMMY STEWART STAMP J46 (2), 18-19
- SOKOLYK, KON**  
CURLING: A JOURNEY THROUGH CANADIAN PHILATELY J46 (2), 28-30  
SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE OF PIERRE DE COUBERTIN, A J46 (3), 28-29
- STREET, PETER**  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES – AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) J46 (2), 8-14  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES – AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) J46 (3), 23-27
- URUSHIMA, ANDREW**  
BEIJING: READY (ALMOST) AND WAITING! J46 (4), 24-25  
CONTROVERSIAL OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY BEGINS, A J46 (4), 17-23  
SPI ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT: FY 2007 & 2006 J46 (2), 32

## TITLES

- 13<sup>TH</sup> WORLD OLYMPIC COLLECTOR'S FAIR, BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (1), 31-34  
75 YEARS AGO: THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1932 (LIPPERT) J46 (1), 3-18  
1928 AMSTERDAM OLYMPIC GAMES: THE COLOR PROOFS IN PRIVATE HANDS (JONKER) J46 (2), 3-7  
2007 SPI CONVENTION AT NAPEX (COVELL) J46 (1), 35-36  
AL OERTER, AN OLYMPIC JOURNEY (1936-2007) (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 24-25  
A.M. 33 AND THE 1932 LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES (LILLJEDAHL) J46 (1), 19-23  
BASEBALL IN MEXICO (RUSHEFSKY) J46 (4), 26-29  
BEIJING: READY (ALMOST) AND WAITING! (URUSHIMA) J46 (4), 24-25  
BELARUS CELEBRATES ITS 2004 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS (MAESTRONE) J46 (3), 30  
CALIFORNIA TENTH OLYMPIAD BOND ACT OF 1927 (MAESTRONE/KLINKNER) J46 (3), 20-22  
COMMEMORATIVE STAMP CANCELS (MAESTRONE) J46 (1), 36; J46 (2), 35-36; J46 (3), 36; J46 (4), 35-36  
CONTROVERSIAL OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY BEGINS, A (MAESTRONE & URUSHIMA) J46 (4), 17-23  
CURLING: A JOURNEY THROUGH CANADIAN PHILATELY. (SOKOLYK) J46 (2), 28-30  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES – AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 1) (STREET) J46 (2), 8-14  
CRICKET AND PHILATELY: THE ASHES – AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE, 1946 - PRESENT (PART 2) (STREET) J46 (3), 23-27  
DONUTS & SPORTS (RUSHEFSKY) J46 (2), 26-27  
HEARTACHES AND JOYS OF EXHIBITING, THE (COLLINS) J46 (2), 20-21  
MYSTERY COVER: A 1932 OLYMPIC VILLAGE RARITY ... OR A FAKE? (KLINKNER) J46 (1), 30  
NEW STAMP ISSUES (LA PORTA) J46 (1) 38-39; J46 (2), 34; J46 (3), 33-34; J46 (4), 33-34  
NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS (JONES) J46 (1), 37; J46 (2), 33; J46 (4), 32  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING (KWAN) J46 (3), 3-19  
ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING, PART 2: 100 DAYS TO GO (KWAN) J46 (4), 3-16  
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (MAESTRONE) J46 (1), 1; J46 (2), 1; J46 (3), 1-2; J46 (4), 1  
REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 31; J46 (3), 33  
RUSSIAN WOMEN'S B-BALL TEAM QUALIFIES FOR BEIJING (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 22-23  
SAILING TOWARD QINGDAO (MAESTRONE) J46 (2), 15-17  
SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE OF PIERRE DE COUBERTIN, A (SOKOLYK) J46 (3), 28-29  
SPI ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT: FY 2007 & 2006 (URUSHIMA) J46 (2), 32  
"THE STRATTON STORY" AND THE NEW JIMMY STEWART STAMP (RUSHEFSKY) J46 (2), 18-19  
UNKNOWN NO LONGER – A 1932 OLYMPIC CACHET MAKER IS REVEALED (LILLJEDAHL) J46 (1), 24-26  
US NAVY SHIPS VISIT LOS ANGELES DURING THE 1932 OLYMPIC GAMES (MAESTRONE) J46 (1), 27-29  
USOC & SPI DEVELOP POSTMARK PROGRAM FOR 2008 U.S. OLYMPIC TRIALS (MAESTRONE) J46 (4), 2