

JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

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SPRING 2009

NUMBER 3

*Canada Post's 2010
Olympic Stamp Program*



*Breaking With
Tradition*



SPORTS
PHILATELISTS
INTERNATIONAL

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2010 VANCOUVER
OLYMPIC GAMES

3

2008 BEIJING
OLYMPIC GAMES

8 & 11

CRICKET

16

BASEBALL

28

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

SPI Membership Challenge

Among the items included with this issue of the journal is something worth its weight in gold. Can you guess what it is?

No, it's not the SPI Membership Handbook, although that is certainly a valuable reference.

The SPI Auction Booklet, perhaps? Nope, that's not it either.

It's that single sheet of folded paper with the words "For the Olympic and Sports Collector" on the front – the SPI Membership Application!

Why, you may ask, is this so valuable? Simple. By increasing our membership, we keep per person production costs down, which means fewer dues increases. This also frees up capital for more handbooks, monographs, and special benefits for the members. And with a larger membership there is more participation which translates into new writers with a broader variety of collecting interests. Who knows, we might even uncover some new first-time exhibitors.

So here's my challenge to each and every member of SPI: between now and June 1 I would like to see you recruit at least one new member. He or she could be a past member who let their membership lapse (check the Membership Handbook) or a brand new collector of sports or the Olympics. Maybe it's the guy you just sold some Olympic stamps to on eBay? Or perhaps it's the gal sitting next to you at the local stamp show or club meeting. There is nothing like the personal approach to corral new members.

I believe that with a little effort on every member's part we can dramatically grow our society.

Or to take a page from the new man in the White House: *Yes We Can!*

SESCAL 2009

Our 2009 SPI Convention is just around the corner. This year we'll be holding our get-together at the SESCAL

exhibition from October 9-11 at the Radisson Hotel at Los Angeles International Airport.

The show theme is the 25th Anniversary of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games. In addition to a special postmark for the event, we hope to have some interesting speakers and programs. And of course there will be plenty of enlightening sport and Olympic exhibits to peruse and dealers to visit.

Many who attended our last gathering at SESCAL back in 2003 greatly enjoyed our SPI outing to the Magic Castle and have suggested we return. The Magic Castle is a famous Hollywood landmark and "showplace for some of the greatest magicians from around the globe". As a member-only club we must be invited. Fortunately, Norm Jacobs is well-acquainted with a Castle member who is happy to host our visit. We do, however, need an idea of how many will attend. The cost per person: there is a \$25 entrance fee, plus \$20-50 for dinner (depending on what you order). Business attire is required (men: coats and ties; women: cocktail dresses/pant suits). If you think you'd like to attend, please let me know.

Joan Bleakley (1932-2009)

Longtime SPI member and one of my closest friends, Joan Bleakley, passed away on February 7 after a lengthy illness. Not only was she a co-author with me of the *Olympians On Stamps* handbook, but a philatelic mentor who helped me and many others to get our feet wet in exhibiting.

A tireless worker, she devoted many hours to helping in the planning of Olymphilex 1996 in Atlanta as well as with the preparation of thousands of envelopes of stamps for the youth area.

While best known in thematic exhibiting circles for her "Frog and Toad Trivia," she also had a wonderful volleyball exhibit that competed internationally. Joan was also an excellent APS and ATA judge.

Joan's wry wit, sunny disposition, and guiding hand will be greatly missed.

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Canada Post's 2010 Olympic Stamp Program: Breaking With Tradition (Part 1)

by **Mark Maestroni**

What sounded initially like a rather modest stamp issuing program by Canada Post became a veritable avalanche of new issues for next year's Olympic Games.

When I first spoke with officials of Canada Post back in September 2008 they planned to break with tradition and build their Olympic stamp program around definitives rather than the traditional commemorative type of stamp. The result: stamps in the Olympic program would continue to be printed as needed, presumably until the next rate change (probably in January 2010).

Personally, I liked this idea as it meant the Olympic stamps were unlikely to sell out. And with each printing the probability of unintended varieties increased, making collecting the stamps far more challenging.

A second wrinkle, if you could characterize it so, was the novel format in which the stamps would be printed: coils. I can't recall any previous host nation having issued its Olympic stamps in coils! Readers are encouraged to set me straight on this, however.

With the announcement in December of Canada

Post's first wave of Olympic stamps, more surprises surfaced. Stamps would be issued only in booklets and coils, not in sheets. Souvenir sheets and postal stationery cards were also included.

This first philatelic wave was actually divided in two, with issue dates spaced a month apart. The majority of items were assigned a first day of January 12, while the remainder were held over to February 12 to coincide with the 1-year-until-the-Games countdown. Part 1 of this article will present those items released on January 12, 2009.

Olympic Sports Stamps

With just 13 months to go until the opening ceremonies of the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games, Canada Post issued the first two sets of stamps in its Olympic program: one for specific sports and the other portraying the Olympic mascots and emblems of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Four of the sports stamps depict freestyle skiing, bobsledding, curling, and snowboarding. The fifth stamp honors the Paralympic sport of ice sledge hockey. The five stamps, in their unusually-shaped souvenir sheet format, are reproduced at top.



These are definitive stamps. They are also, in Canada Post terminology, "Permanent" stamps that can be used for domestic postage at any time in the future – much as our "Forever" stamps here in the U.S. The current Canadian domestic letter rate is 54¢. Their status as Permanent stamps is designated by the letter "P" on the red Canadian Maple leaf.

In addition to the souvenir sheet, the sports stamps were also issued in booklets of 10 and 30 stamps (Figure 1). It's very easy to tell the difference between the souvenir sheet and booklet versions as the former are perforated on all four sides with standard water-activated gum on the reverse. The booklet stamps are self-adhesive with die-cut simulated perforations on all four sides.

The 10- and 30-stamp booklet versions have the same layout inside with the five different designs in each column. The order of arrangement in the left column is different than in the right.

Figure 1. Olympic sports stamps booklets of 10 (left) and 30 (below).



In a comparison of stamps from both sizes of booklets, the stamps appear identical in design and perforation. The only variation I could discern was that the images on the 10-stamp booklets were shifted slightly left. Without examining a number of booklets it is not possible to determine if this shift is constant or merely a minor production aberration.

Both booklets have all the stamps on one side with text on the reverse. The 30-stamp booklet is folded into thirds to roughly approximate the size of the 10-stamp booklet.

While I certainly commend Canada Post for thinking outside the box with respect to using new formats for their Olympic stamps, I do believe that they fell victim to that most insidious of maladies: Olympic greed.

The 10-stamp booklet is issued not with one text version on the back, nor even five text versions, which would be acceptable given that there are five different stamps. In all, there are 24 different back covers! For the philatelist who desires a truly complete host country collection, Canada Post has conveniently bundled together one of each different booklet version for the princely sum of CD\$129.60 (US\$103.66 at today's exchange rate).

Canada Post offered an official first day cover for the souvenir sheet, only. One could submit a cover franked with the booklet stamps for first day treatment.

Emblem & Mascot Stamps

The second part of the January 12 issue comprised a pair of emblem stamps and two (of three) stamps depicting the mascots.

The emblem stamps feature the official logos of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games. They are also "Permanent" stamps with a face value of 54¢.

Both stamps were issued in self-adhesive coils and as part of a water-activated gummed souvenir sheet (issued February 12). No booklet versions of the emblem stamps were produced.

The coils are in two varieties (Figure 2): 100-stamp coils with emblems alternating, and 5,000-stamp coils of each design (primarily for commercial users). The alternating designs on the 100-stamp coils are arranged head-to-toe with interlocking die-cut simulated perforations on top and bottom. An inscription



Figure 3. Enlargement of the inscription on coils.

on top and bottom. An inscription



Figure 2. Coil versions of the emblems and mascot issues. Above: cropped strips from the 100-stamp (emblems) and 50-stamp (mascots) rolls showing the inscriptions after every 10th stamp. Below: cropped strip of the Olympic emblem from the 5,000 stamp coil. Note the horizontal arrangement of stamps with space between.



tion follows every 10th stamp (Figure 3).

In the 5,000-stamp coils, the stamps are oriented horizontally with plenty of space between stamps (most likely to enable their use in postage-affixing machines for mass mailers). At first glance, the stamps in the two different sized coils may appear identical and thus difficult to differentiate on cover. Upon close examination, however, there is a dramatic difference!

Figure 4 compares enlarged scans of the smaller 100-stamp Olympic emblem coil (top) and large 5,000-stamp coil (bottom). Note, first that on the large coil, the stamp is ever so slightly wider. This may be difficult to measure.



Figure 4. A comparison of the 100-stamp (top) and 5,000-stamp coils. Note the perforation variation.



Figure 5. The \$1.65 Quatchi mascot stamp in a booklet pane of six. Both sides of the booklet are shown above. The 98¢ Miga booklet of six (not shown here) is similar.

However, when one compares the simulated perforations the difference is clear. The smaller coil stamps have shallower, more pointed peaks and valleys (almost like the letter “w”) than on the large coil varieties which are rounded and more closely spaced. The images appear identical on both versions.

Two of the three mascot stamps were also issued on January 12. Miga, a sea bear (part bear, part killer whale), is depicted as an aerial freestyle skier on the 98¢ definitive which pays the letter rate to the United States. The \$1.65 international rate stamp features Quatchi, a young sasquatch, playing ice hockey.

The mascot stamps were issued in two self-adhesive formats: as coils of 50 stamps (Figure 2) and in booklets of six (Figure 5). There are no apparent differences between the coil and booklet stamps. Both versions have straight sides and die-cut simulated perforations on top and bottom.

A third mascot stamp depicting Sumi, an animal spirit, was issued February 12, also as a coil and booklet stamp. A souvenir sheet of all 5 (emblem and mascot) stamps was also issued that day. These will be discussed and illustrated in Part 2 of this article in the Summer 2009 issue of *JSP*.

Two official first day covers were sold by Canada Post: one for the pair of emblem stamps and the other bearing the two mascot stamps.

An important side note: Canada Post made the coils available in smaller units for sale from their

philatelic department. One could order either strips of 4 or 10 stamps of any of the coils. However, in order to get an inscription block on the 100-stamp emblem and 50-stamp mascot coils, one had to order 10 stamps. There was no inscription block on the coils of 5,000 emblem stamps.

Postal Stationery Cards

Canada Post also created two sets of postal stationery cards for sale on January 12. A set of five cards features the sports stamps. A smaller three-card set depicts the three mascot stamps (Canada Post decided to include the card for Sumi with the set even though the stamp itself would not go on sale until February 12). No postal cards were created for the two emblem stamps.

The cards, which were available both individually and as sets, are postage paid for mailing in Canada for delivery worldwide. The face value of the cards is therefore \$1.65 (the international letter and postcard rate) with 4¢ added to cover production costs.

The indicium on each sport stamp card reproduces the exact image from the stamp (but without the “P” symbol). The picture side of the card closely resembles the stamp’s design, but is a bit wider (Figure 6). Most likely the postal cards portray the full original artwork which had to be cropped to fit the dimensions of the stamp.

The mascot cards also feature the matching stamp as an indicium, but without the value (Figure 7). The picture side depicts each mascot in its natural environment rather than duplicating the image on the stamp indicium.

While no sets of first day canceled cards were available, it was possible to submit cards for a special first day cancel (Figure 8).

Thanks to Kon Sokolyk for his help with this article.



Figure 8. A cropped image of the Quatchi postal card with first day cancel in blue.

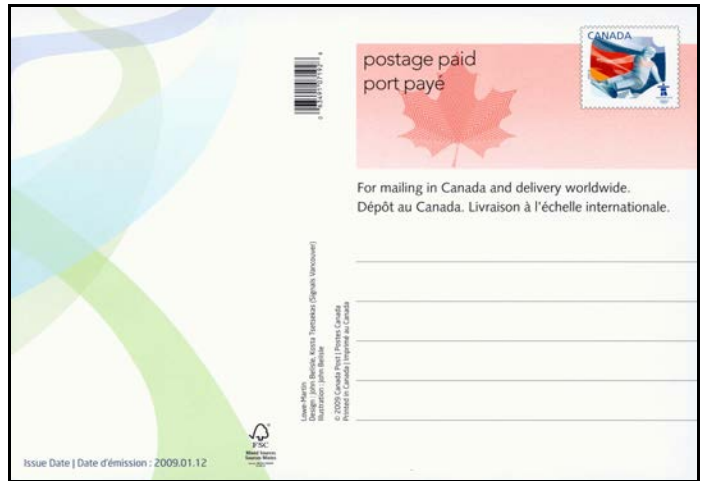


Figure 6. Front and reverse of the Snowboarding postal card, with the remaining 4 cards shown below.

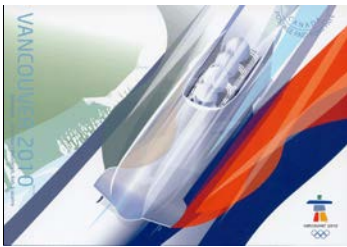


Figure 7. Picture sides of all three mascot postal cards: Quatchi, Miga and Sumi. The reverse of the Quatchi card is shown at lower right and is typical for all 3 cards. Only the indicium differs.





Figure 1. The Hong Kong Jockey Club built the venues and supporting facilities which were loaned for the Olympic equestrian events in Hong Kong. They created this handsome cover with a birds-eye view of the Olympic equestrian complex.

Special Souvenirs of the Olympic Equestrian Events in Hong Kong

by Kwan Kwok-Yiu

The Equestrian Events of the 2008 Olympics held in Hong Kong were well commemorated by stamp issues and matching postal cards released on 9 August 2008. Although there was not much credit for the designs, a formal stamp issue did however meet the minimum standard of our Olympic Collectors.

Coverage of this equestrian philatelic journey would not be complete without a look at other philatelic collectibles. Back on 1 October 2007, a special cover was issued by the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) (Figures 1 & 2). It sold for HKD20 during a horse racing day in Shatin, Hong Kong. The HKJC deals with all the horse racing activities as well as all the legal gambling activi-

ties here in Hong Kong. And, it was also the organization that was responsible for building the equestrian complex for the 2008 Olympic Equestrian events. Unfortunately, the postmark was not Olympic related, but rather an ordinary philatelic bureau postmark.



Figure 2. Reverse of the cover in Figure 1 with text outlining the HKJC's contribution to the 2008 Olympic Games.



Figure 3. Postcard distributed free by the HKJC showing the Olympic equestrian complex.

Apart from that cover, the HKJC issued another postcard for the Games in 2008 (Figure 3). The postcard measured 102 mm x 203 mm. The picture side shows the equestrian venues adjacent to the Shatin Racecourse. These newly built facilities were for the Dressage and Jumping events, while the cross-country events took place in facilities situated in Beas River. The four square-shaped complexes were the air-conditioned stables. The open space directly behind the stables was the warm up area, with the competition arena immediately to the left. The reverse of the card is rather plain except for a stylized horse and the text "We are ready!"

This postcard was supposed to be distributed to the public free of charge. Collectors did not become aware of the card until after they were distributed at some media-only events, such as press conferences. Consequently, very few are in the hands of collectors.

The publisher of the second postcard (Figures 4 & 5) is not clear, but most likely it was issued by the officially licensed souvenir shops in Hong Kong. The postcard measures 108 mm x 180 mm. The picture side of the postcard shows various equestrian-related Olympic collectibles. On the address side, the map and photo of the flagship store was depicted. This postcard was also distributed to the public for promotional purpose free of charge. Although no details were released as to method or date of distribution, it was probably handed out at the official souvenir shops.

Because of the direct relationship of the publishers to the Olympic organization, these souvenirs could still be regarded as official collectibles of the Beijing Olympic Games.



Figures 4 & 5. Front and back of a post card produced by the official Olympic souvenir shops in Hong Kong promoting equestrian products.



France and Colonies Proofs & Essays

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archery | <input type="checkbox"/> High Jump | <input type="checkbox"/> Skating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball | <input type="checkbox"/> Hockey | <input type="checkbox"/> Skiing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball | <input type="checkbox"/> Hurdles | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boxing | <input type="checkbox"/> Javelin | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cycling | <input type="checkbox"/> Judo | <input type="checkbox"/> Track |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian | <input type="checkbox"/> Martial Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fencing | <input type="checkbox"/> Olympics | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Sports |
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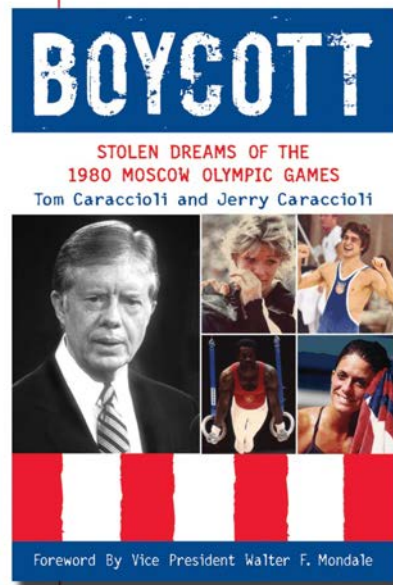
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A Day at the Beijing Olympic Shooting Range Hall

~
*Temporary
Post Offices,
Postmarks & Cachets*

by Kwan Kwok-Yiu

Attempting the shooting competitions was never a part of my schedule when I planned my Olympic journey in early 2008. The underlying reasons were two-fold. First, as it was not my favorite sport I would certainly not have spent any extra time on it, especially when my time in Beijing was limited. Second, tickets for the shooting range were unavailable in Hong Kong.

The Unexpected Visit

But life is full of the unexpected. Wandering around the outstanding stamp exhibits at the Olympic Expo on 8 August, the opening day, I met one of my collector friends from Hangzhou. He had also come to Beijing to attend the Olympic Expo as well as some of the Games. After exchanging news of the Expo, he made me an irresistible offer. He had one spare ticket for the shooting competition on 14 August (Figure 2). As I did not have anything scheduled that day, I gratefully accepted his offer.



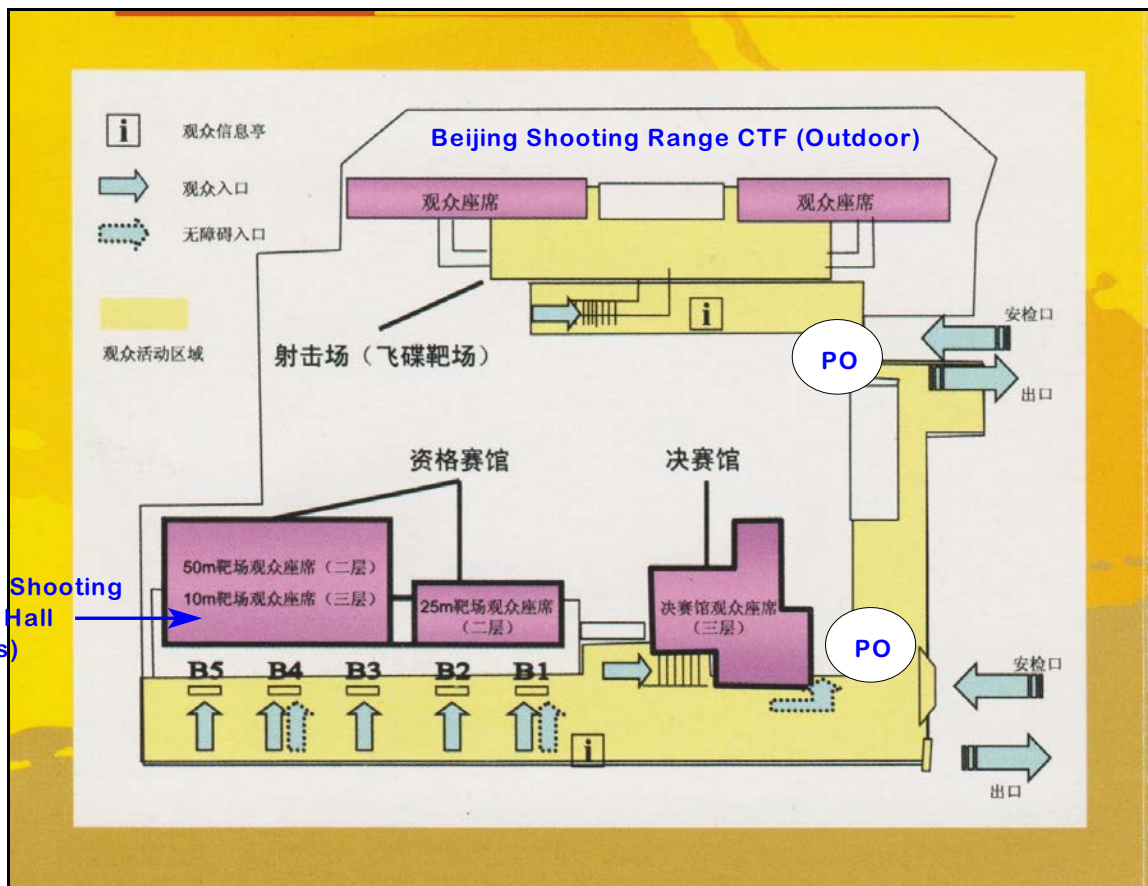
Figure 2. General admission ticket to the shooting events at the Beijing Shooting Range Hall and Shooting Range CTF on 14 August 2008.

Shooting has been a medal winning sport for China. On 9 August, China's Du Li, the defending Women's 10m Air Rifle champion and the local favorite had a good chance of becoming the first gold medalist of the Beijing Olympics (Figure 3). But, it was not her day – Katerina Emmons of the Czech Republic took the gold. Du Li had another opportunity for gold on 14 August in the Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions event. I was particularly excited, therefore, to have had a ticket to the Beijing Shooting Range Hall that day (shown on the venue postal card above).

Of course, another task while at the Shooting Range Hall was to look for the temporary venue post office (TPO). China Post established TPO's (or postal sales counters, to be more precise) at each of the competition venues. For a devoted Olympic collector like myself, obtaining the special postmarks was another fun activity.



Figure 3. Postal card sent from the TPO of the Beijing Shooting Range Hall on 9 August 2008 with the Range Hall red cachet & the pictorial postmark. The Range Hall produced the first gold medal for the Beijing Olympics that day.



The TPO at the Beijing Shooting Range Hall

The Beijing Shooting Range Hall and Beijing Shooting Range CTF were located side by side in the Shijingshan District of Beijing (map above).

There was no rain in the morning, though the preceding night had been a wet one. As I was staying in the eastern part of Beijing, I had to travel more than an hour to get to the Shooting Range located

in western Beijing. I took the underground line No.1 to Ping Guo Yuan station, arriving at the venue after a 15 yuan (currency in China) taxi ride.

After I entered the venue complex through the main entrance, I spotted a temporary post office (TPO) just in front of me (Figure 4). As usual, it sold primarily China Post souvenirs. The real philatelic counter was discovered on the left side of the stand (Figure 5). It was here that collectors could obtain the two red cachets for the Beijing Shooting Range CTF and Beijing Shooting Range Hall (Figure 6).

As this TPO was adjacent to the Shooting Range Hall, a pictorial postmark for that venue was also available (Figure 7). The postmark reads: Beijing Shooting Range / 2008.08.14.20 / (7) / Beijing / Shinjingshan. Please note that the die number was 7. Identifying all the die numbers from each venue on each day would be a challenging task for the serious collector.

Instead of using a traditional handcancel, the postal clerk used an electric postmarking machine (operated with a foot pedal) to cancel the mail (Figure 8). A wooden Letter Box sat nearby (Figure 9). The four Chinese characters on the box translate as "temporary post office" even though the English version reads just "post office."



Figure 4. Temporary Post Office (TPO) adjacent to the Beijing Shooting Range Hall.



Figure 5. The left side of the TPO showing the postal service counter.



Figures 7 & 11. Pictorial postmarks for the Shooting Range Hall (left) and Shooting Range CTF (right).

The TPO at the Beijing Shooting Range CTF

When I arrived at the venue for the shooting events it was almost 11 o'clock and the preliminary rounds of the Air Rifle competition had already finished. As mine was a general admission ticket good for both venues (the Shooting Range Hall and CTF), I decided to attend the preliminary rounds at the latter. Both of the venues were actually situated within the same ticketed area. As I walked to the right to enter the Shooting Range CTF I was surprised to discover another TPO in front of the visitor services area (which also included concession stands, volunteer service point, and an information booth). This was truly a "temporary" post office: a mini-van (Figure 10).

The postal clerk served philatelic customers through the window of the van. So as not to miss the opportunity to make additional sales, China Post

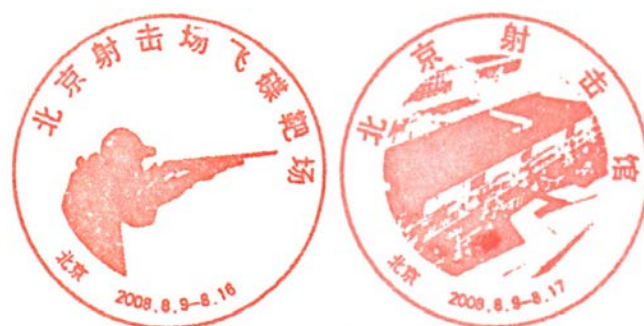


Figure 6. Red post office cachets: (left) Beijing Shooting Range CTF / Beijing / 2008.8.9 - 8.16; (right) Beijing Shooting Range Hall / Beijing / 2008.8.9 - 8.17.



Figures 8 & 9. The electric postmarking machine used at the Shooting Range Hall post office (left) and the TPO's postbox (right).

had set up two tables adjacent to the van staffed with clerks selling souvenirs. At this TPO, the only red cachet available was for the Beijing Shooting Range CTF. The pictorial postmark for the Beijing Shooting Range CTF was also provided (Figure 11). The postmark read: Beijing Shooting Range CTF / 2008.08.14.20 / (7) / Beijing Shinjingshan. Again, die



Figure 10: The mini-van TPO at the Beijing Shooting Range CTF.



Figure 12 & 13. At the Beijing Shooting Range CTF TPO, the staff used the traditional way to cancel the mails (left). The result (right), on a postal card sent to Shanghai.

number 7 was being used. Instead of an electric postmarking device, this clerk used the traditional postmarking device – a steel die hand cancel and a hammer (Figure 12).

Obtaining this pictorial postmark was not as easy as at the nearby TPO at the Shooting Range Hall. The staff here refused to provide the cancel-to-order service. They were also reluctant to accept outgoing

mail for the requested pictorial postmarks. Having already experienced this problem elsewhere in Beijing over the prior week (I arrived on 7 August), I realized the best way to deal with stubborn postal clerks was to purchase a souvenir from them. After selecting the least expensive philatelic product available, my request for the pictorial postmark was finally granted (Figure 13).



Figure 14. The Beijing Shooting Range CTF.



Figure 15.
Special
cancellation
celebrating Du
Li winning the
gold medal in
the Women's
50m Rifle 3
Positions event.

The weather eventually turned unfriendly. By the time I had finished my philatelic task, the rain had begun. Since the Shooting Range CTF was an open air venue (Figure 14), raincoats had been provided by the organizers. Unfortunately, this wasn't just a drizzle but a thunderstorm. I got soaking wet.

Finishing the preliminary rounds at the Shooting Range CTF, I rushed to the Shooting Range Hall to attend the final of the Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions event in the afternoon. While queuing in front of the hall, I discovered that my so-called general admission ticket was good for only the preliminary rounds, *not* the finals. Talk about squeezing every yuan from Olympic visitors! I was so disappointed not to see Du Li win her gold medal (Figure 15).


I had to leave at about three in the afternoon to return to the Olympic Expo (located in the Beijing Exhibition Center) in time to apply for a personalized postal card, so my one-day experience at the shooting range venues concluded early.

Additional Souvenir

As advised by our fellow SPI member Thomas Lippert, apart from the traditional philatelic items, the VISA receipt of the Beijing Olympics would also make an interesting collectable. The names of the TPOs were printed on the receipts (Figures 16 & 17).

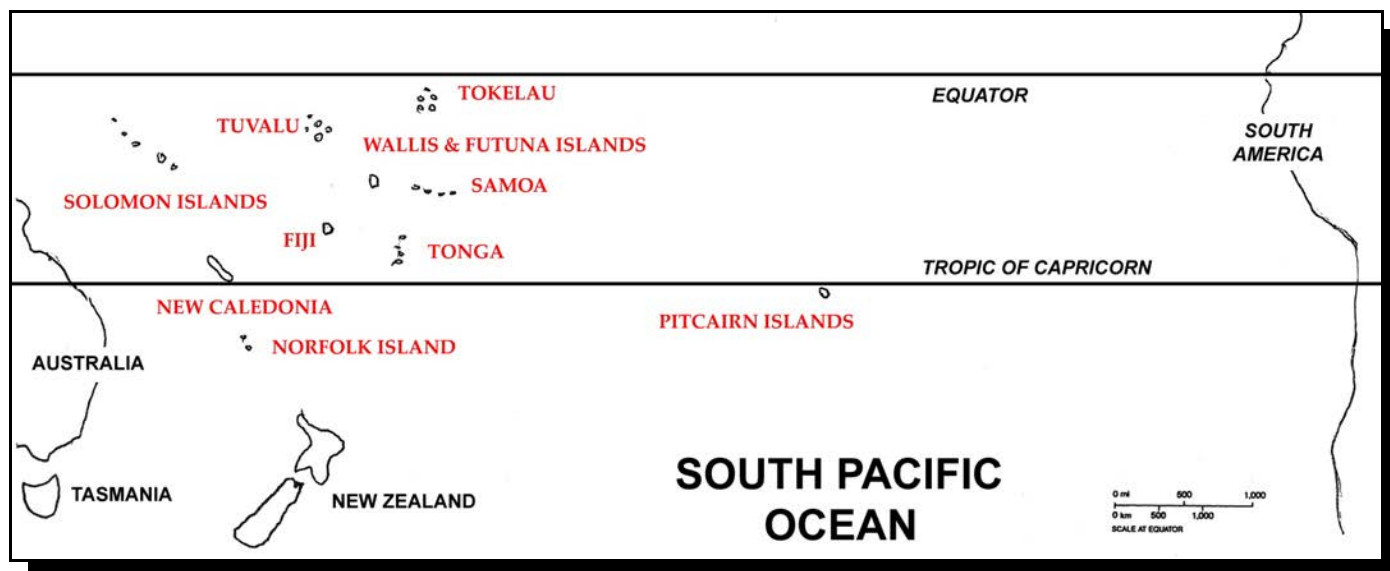
Postscript

My experience at the shooting range could have been better. I should have: (1) gotten up earlier to arrive in time for the preliminary rounds of the Air Rifle events; (2) prepared more Beijing Shooting Range Hall postal cards to produce extra maximum cards; (3) bought a ticket for the finals to cheer on Du Li; and (4) acquired more information on the event's rules and regulations. But I was very pleased with my success in locating the two TPO's and sending mail with the pictorial postmarks.

I've made up my mind to be better prepared for the 2012 London Olympics. Let's go for it! 

Figures 16 & 17 (below). VISA receipts from the
TPO's at the Beijing Shooting Range Hall (left)
and Beijing Shooting Range CTF (right).





Cricket & Philately: Cricket Tales of the South Pacific (Part 1)

by Peter N. Street

It is doubtful that when James A. Michener sat down to write his "Tales of the South Pacific" he considered the game of cricket to be part of the narrative.

However, the game is played extensively in the South Pacific both in the traditional (i.e. using local or regional rules) and standard (International Cricket Council rules) versions.

Although none of the islands play Test cricket, one, Fiji, is an Associate Member of the International Cricket Council (ICC) and since 2000 Samoa and Tonga have been granted Affiliate Membership.

No less than ten of these islands have issued stamps with a cricket theme. Eight are associated with Great Britain and two with France – perhaps strengthening the claim by some French historians that the game was invented in France.

In most cases the game was introduced by either European missionaries or by visits of Royal Navy ships..

Many of the countries have their own brand of the game called traditional cricket played with great enthusiasm and involving whole villages.

Some of the islands have adapted the game to follow ICC rules which allows them to enter competitions such as the ICC Trophy and the South Pacific Games.

In recent years the ICC has initiated the East Asia

and Pacific Development Program. This allows island teams to participate in the Pacifica Championship, the East Asia Pacific Challenge and the East Asia Pacific Cup.

For each island or island group, this article provides a brief geographical description and political history, an overview of the islands' cricket history and a detailed illustrated examination of the cricket stamps that have been issued.

A map of the South Pacific (at top) shows the geographical relationship between the cricket stamp issuing islands, Australia/New Zealand and the west coast of South America.

Fiji

Fiji is a group of islands in the western part of the South Pacific Ocean between New Hebrides and Tonga, some 1,200 miles north of New Zealand. Fiji covers an area of 7,000 square miles. Its two main islands are Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. In 2006 the population numbered about 9,000 mostly indigenous Fijians, Indo-Fijians and a few Europeans.

Fiji was discovered by Dutch navigator, Abel Tasman, in 1642-3. In 1789 Captain William Bligh of "Mutiny on the Bounty" fame sailed through the island group and mapped them. In the early 1800's European settlers arrived to harvest sandalwood, later copra and subsequently sugar and cotton.



Figure 1. Albert Park, Suva's cricket and sports grounds.

In 1840 the first British Methodist missionaries arrived from Tonga. In 1874 Fiji became a British colony. Fiji declared independence in 1970, establishing a parliamentary style government.

Cricket was introduced to Fiji by the Royal Navy. The first recorded match, in 1874, was between teams from HMS Pearl. In the late 1800's a cricket club was formed in Levuka which included some Fijians.

Much of the progress in the game was due to the enthusiasm of J.S. Udal, Fiji's Attorney General and a former English first class cricketer. In 1894-5 Udal took a team of British expatriates and Fijians on a cricket tour to New Zealand.

The game continued to advance and the main characteristics of the Fijian game, fast bowling and hard hitting, began to develop.

In 1938, Philip Snow, the Administrator of the Island and a noted cricketer helped form the Suva Cricket Association. This was followed by the creation of the Fijian Cricket Association in 1941.

In the late 20th century Fijian teams toured New Zealand and Australia and Test teams began to include Fiji in their touring itineraries.

The improvement in Fijian cricket was such that in 1965 Fiji was elected as an Associate Member of the ICC.

Fiji's international cricket has been confined to the ICC Trophy, the South Pacific Games and regional competitions.

Figure 2. Fijian cricketers wearing native calf-length skirts or sulus, as well as standard cricket uniforms (below right).



The George VI definitive issues of 1938-1955 feature a number of Fijian scenes. The 2d stamp (Figure 1) shows Government Buildings in Suva, the Fijian capital. In the foreground is Albert Park named after Prince Albert, consort of Queen Victoria of England. The park is the center of sporting events in the capital including cricket.

Fiji's first cricket stamps were issued in February 1974 to celebrate the centennial of cricket. The three stamp set (Figure 2) was designed by Philip Snow. The 3 cents value shows a bowler with a fielder in the background. Both are barefoot and wearing sulus, the traditional calf-length skirt. The 25 cents stamp shows a left-handed batsman making an off-drive with the wicketkeeper standing up to the wicket. Both are wearing standard cricket uniforms.

A fielder throwing the ball towards the wicket is featured on the 40 cents denomination. He is wearing a sulu, but the other players near the pitch appear to be dressed in regular cricket attire.

New Caledonia (Nouvelle-Caledonie)

New Caledonia is a Southwest Pacific Melanesian group of islands approximately 750 miles east of Australia and covering an area of 7,218 square miles. The population of about 222,000 is comprised of a mixture of French, Asian and Polynesian minorities.

New Caledonia was discovered and named by Captain Cook on his second voyage of discovery in 1774. French missionaries established a mission in 1843. Ten years later French emperor Napoleon III annexed the islands for use as a penal colony which operated from 1864-1894.

In 1946 New Caledonia became a French overseas territory. A referendum on whether to seek independence from France is scheduled for 2014.

The game was introduced to New Caledonia by Anglican missionaries in the late 1800's. Described as "cricket traditionnel" or "Le Cricket", the game was until recently regarded as entertainment or a leisure activity played on festive occasions such as Christmas or New Year's.

"Le Cricket" is played primarily by women wearing colorful Mother Hubbard dresses, straw hats and frangipani flowers over an ear. The men act as umpires.

The Caledonian Cricket League was formed in 1969 with 17 women's teams. In 1982 the Fédération Française de Cricket Nouvelle-Caledonie (FFCNC)

was formed in the capital, Nouméa, and was accepted by the French cricket authorities. The Laws, which differ substantially from those of the ICC, are written in French with local terminology in pidgin English. In 2000 the FFCNC boasted some 4,465 players (two-thirds women) with 130 clubs and 169 teams.

The FFCNC also plays the standard version of cricket (ICC rules) and participates in the South Pacific Games and the Pacifica Championship.

On May 24, 1975, New Caledonia issued a three-stamp airmail series publicizing tourism. The 3 francs value shows women playing “Le Cricket.” Note they are playing in colorful dresses and bare feet. The umpire, a man, is holding a bat and there are no bails on the stumps (Figure 3).

New Caledonia’s second cricket stamp went on sale November 25, 1987. A single 94-franc airmail stamp, it commemorates the French Cricket Federation. Depicted are five male players representing the development of the sport in New Caledonia from a holiday recreational game to a competitive international sport. The players range from one dressed in white shirt and shorts holding a crude bat and wearing no protective gear, to one with a V-necked red shirt, long white trousers, cap, gloves and pads, wielding a modern cricket bat complete with a logo on the splice (Figure 4).

A December 1991 stamp with a value of 130 francs reproduces a painting called “New Caledonian Cricket Players” by Marcel Moutouh. Depicted is a traditional cricket match. Spectators in the foreground wear national dress (Figure 5).

1996 saw the issue of the postal card entitled “Le Cricket.” Cricketing figures are portrayed in the style of local art. A miniature stamp-like version of the overall design is reproduced on the right side of the card (Figure 7).

The most recent cricket stamp issued by New Caledonia in March 2002 shows a woman bowler in action. As a former umpire, she would almost certainly be “no-balled” (illegal delivery). Also note that the stumps have no bails (Figure 6).

Figure 7 (right). *New Caledonian postal card featuring cricket players drawn in the local art form.*



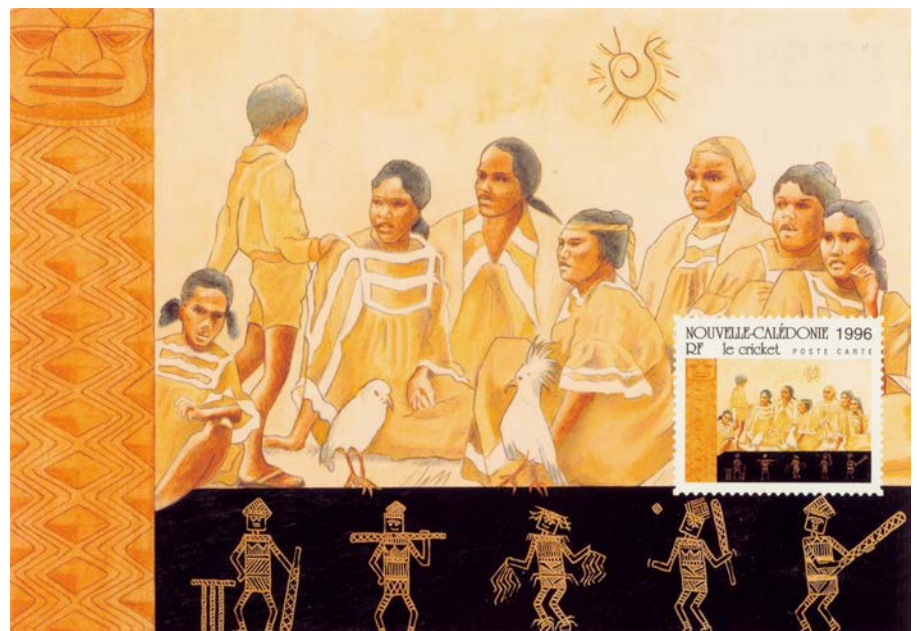
Figures 3-6. *New Caledonian stamps depict both men and women cricket players, the latter frequently in traditional dress.*

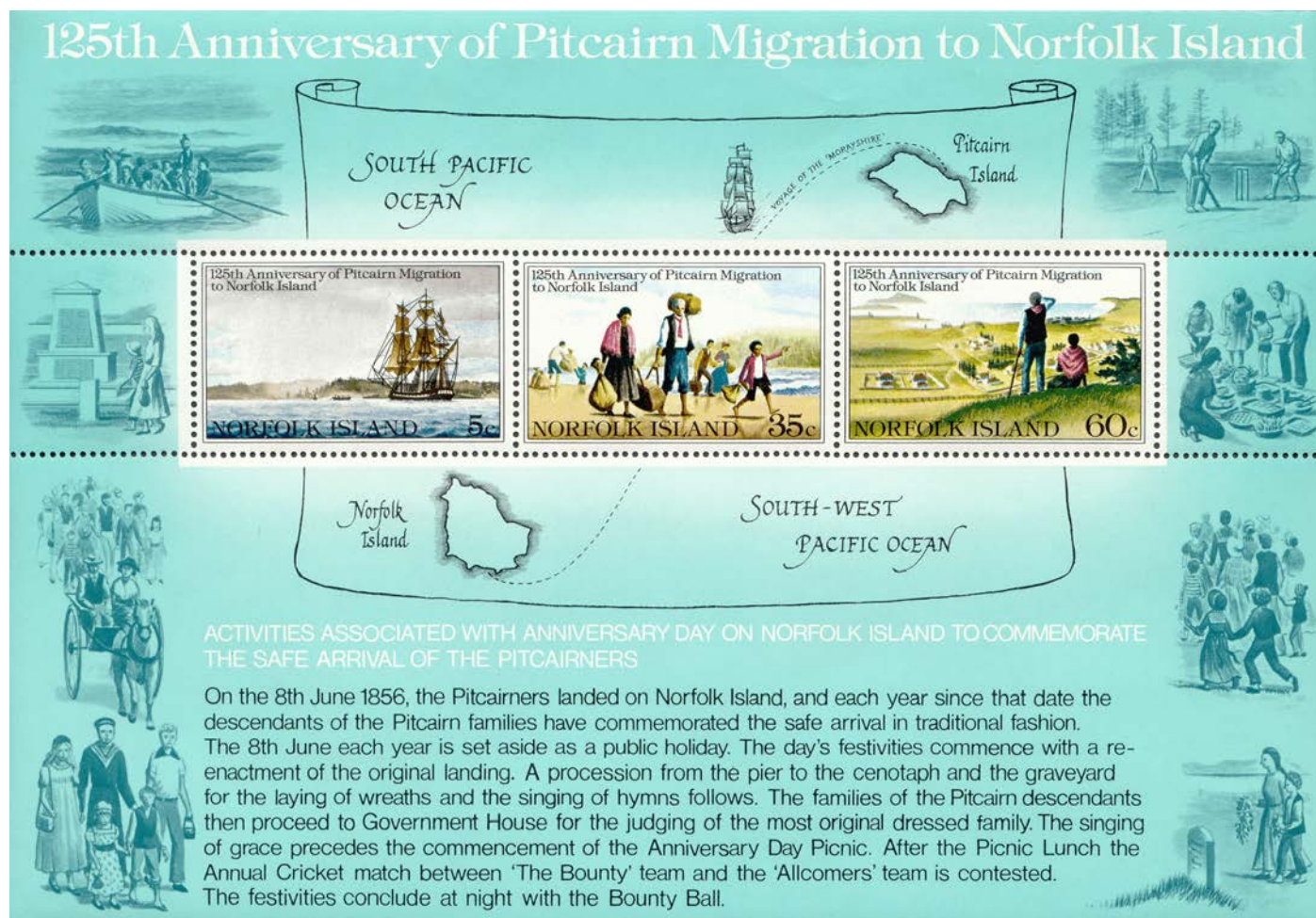
Norfolk Island

Located some 950 miles northeast of Sydney, Australia, Norfolk Island comprises an area of roughly 13 square miles and has an estimated (2008) population of 2,128.

Norfolk Island was another of Captain James Cook’s discoveries on his 1774 voyage. The Island was named after the Duke of Norfolk and claimed by New South Wales (Australia) in 1778. It was a penal colony from 1788 to 1813 and again from 1825 to 1855.

In 1856 a group of Pitcairn Islanders, as a result of famine and water shortage in their homeland, decided to emigrate to Norfolk Island where there





was fertile land, roads and domesticated animals. However after three years some of the Pitcairn Islanders became homesick and returned to Pitcairn.

The current population is composed of the remaining Pitcairn Islanders augmented by Australian settlers. The island group has been a self-governing territory administered by Australia since 1913.

The soldiers headquartered at the penal settlement established the Kingston Oval where cricket has been played since 1838. In 1857 a Melanesian mission was established and the missionaries introduced cricket to the native population.

The arrival of the Pitcairn Islanders in 1856 is remembered annually on Bounty Day, the island's national holiday. It is traditional to celebrate the event with a cricket match between the descendants of the Bounty mutineers and the "Allcomers" team. The first recorded match was in 1876.

Since that time cricket has fluctuated somewhat. In the 1920's and 1930's there were as many as six

teams, but by the late 20th century this was reduced to two and even the annual Bounty match was cancelled for several years.

The Norfolk Island Cricket Association (NICA) set about reviving the sport in 1997. With Australia's help, a coaching program has been initiated. As of 2007, the NICA is seeking ICC Affiliate status so that the Island can participate in South Pacific competition.

In 1981 Norfolk Island issued a souvenir sheet to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Pitcairn migration. There is a cricket scene in the top right corner featuring a left-handed batsman, a wicket-keeper standing up to the wicket, and a leg side fielder. They are all wearing conventional cricket uniforms (Figure 8).

Pitcairn Islands

The Pitcairn Islands are a remote British colony in the central South Pacific Ocean approximately 1,400 miles southeast of Tahiti. Just 1.75 square

miles in size, Pitcairn Island is the only populated island in the five-island group with under 50 inhabitants (2007).

Pitcairn Island was first sighted in 1767 by HMS Swallow and named after a member of the ship's company. First settled in 1790 by mutineers from the HMS Bounty, the island remained relatively isolated until 1808 when the group was discovered by an American whaling vessel.

As previously described, the entire Pitcairn population moved to Norfolk Island in 1856. Many, however, returned to Pitcairn in 1859. The island was annexed in 1839, becoming a British colony. In the summer of 1952, administration was transferred to the Governor of Fiji. Since 1970, New Zealand has administered the colony.

During the Pitcairn Islanders' stay on Norfolk Island (1856-59) they were introduced to cricket by the missionaries. When some returned home they took cricket with them.

The cricket ground is thought to be a grassy meadow in front of the school which is located a half-mile northwest of Adamstown, the only settlement.

When the Pitcairners do play, usually when visited by Europeans, it is an all-island event. With a shortage of males between 15 and 45 years of age, the game is in serious jeopardy.

Pitcairn issued a souvenir sheet in March 1991 celebrating the bicentenary of the landing of the Bounty mutineers. The celebrations included a cricket match. The bottom left stamp features such a match. The players are all wearing shorts and colored shirts. The batsmen appear to be wearing pads and the bats are regulation. The ability of the islanders to carve wood means they can produce their own bats, stumps and bails (balls must be imported). That notwithstanding, the wicket on the stamp appears to be a gasoline can (Figure 9)!



Figure 9. With just under 50 inhabitants, Pitcairn can barely muster enough players for a cricket match. Nevertheless, they were still able to field two teams for their bicentennial in 1990 (bottom left).

Samoa

A mountainous archipelago in the central Pacific 1,700 miles northeast of New Zealand, Samoa has a land area of 1,097 square miles. Its population of 177,000 (2007) consists primarily of full-blooded Samoans.

The Samoan islands were first sighted by Dutch explorer Jacob Roggeveen in 1722. The 1890 Treaty of Berlin ceded Western Samoa to Germany and Eastern Samoa to the U.S.A. In 1914 a New Zealand expeditionary force seized Western Samoa and in 1920 the League of Nations established it as a New Zealand trusteeship. Samoa was granted independence in 1962. Eight years later it became a member of the British Commonwealth. Western Samoa changed its name to Samoa in 1997.

Cricket was introduced to Samoa by William Churchward who was the British consul from 1881 to 1885. The first match was played in 1884 against the crew of HMS Diamond.

The game was taken up enthusiastically by the local people who quickly adapted it to their own unique version.

This version embraces entire villages playing each other with teams as large as 200 people. The game became such an obsession that it was temporarily banned in 1890. The ban was periodically reimposed, especially after natural disasters when the inhabitants preferred playing cricket to rebuilding their ruined homes.

The Samoan Cricket Association (SCA) was formed in 1916. By the latter half of the 20th century cricket was being played along conventional lines which meant that Samoan teams could tour overseas and play in Pacific competitions.

Since the 1990's the SCA has enthusiastically promoted the game establishing a local league with a dedicated cricket ground.

Samoa issued a set of four tourism stamps in August 1971. The 7-sene value shows a cricket match. Decked out in their colorful wrap-around native skirts (known as a *lava-lava*), the batsman, wicketkeeper and fielders are all barefoot. The batsman is wielding a native club bat and there are no bails on the stumps (Figure 10).



Figure 10. Native Samoan cricketers dressed in traditional lava-lavas.

A June 2002 stamp issued to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Independence shows a cricket batsman with native bat wearing shorts and a blue shirt (Figure 11).



Figure 11. Cricket in Samoa.

Solomon Islands

Formerly the British Solomon Islands, this archipelago in the western Pacific Ocean is 1,200 miles northeast of Australia. Primarily Melanesian, the population of some half-million people lives on a land area of approximately 11,500 square miles.

The first European to visit the islands was Spanish navigator Álvaro de Mendaña de Neira in 1568. During the last decade of the 19th century, the islands were a British Protectorate. World War II saw occupation of the islands by the Japanese. Heavy fighting ensued between the Japanese and Allied Forces, most notably at Guadalcanal. The Solomon Islands achieved self-governance in 1976 followed two years later by independence and membership in the British Commonwealth.

As with many South Pacific island groups cricket was introduced by British missionaries. Since the 1870's, the game was played intermittently mainly due to the islands' isolation and the varying enthusiasm of the Solomon Islanders. Played in a traditional manner, cricket matches were generally contested on a national holiday such as Christmas.

The Solomon Islanders did, however, play a match against Fiji in 1977 and participated in the 1991 South Pacific Games. The Solomon Islands Cricket Association was formed in 2000.

An issue of four Christmas stamps in October 1997 featured a cricket match on the \$2 value. The players are shirtless, wearing only shorts and without protective gear of any kind. The stumps appear to be regulation without bails (Figure 12).

Figure 12. Solomon Island cricketers have participated in international play including the 1991 South Pacific Games.



To be continued



News From Amsterdam

by Dale Lilljedahl

Before the advent of the Olympic Village at Los Angeles in 1932, Olympic teams were forced to search the local hotels and villas to find suitable housing for their athletes during the competition. The 1928 Olympic Games in Amsterdam found the United States team residing on the ocean liner that carried them across the Atlantic; a situation unique in the American Olympic experience. I discovered this fact after purchasing three letters written home by one of the water polo team members, and became curious about the circumstances surrounding this situation. Fortunately the American Olympic Committee (AOC) report told the story.

The accommodations for the United States team in 1924 were far from ideal, and the American Olympic Committee was determined to improve the situation for the 1928 Games in Amsterdam. AOC President, Major General Douglas MacArthur, appointed a Transportation Committee to organize both the transport and the housing for the 1928 team. The chairman of the committee, Murray Hulbert, made a survey of possible housing in Amsterdam in 1925, and the whole committee followed in 1926. After these visits the committee decided the best option for housing the United

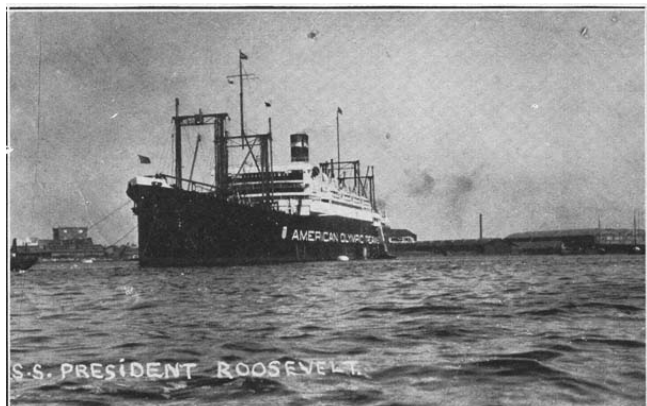
States 1928 Olympic team was to stay on the ocean liner used for their trips across the Atlantic.

Everyone wanted the team to sail on a United States ship, but finding one available was not easy. The *S.S. America* that carried the 1924 team to Paris was undergoing repairs from a fire, and would not be available in time. The only ship to be had was the *S.S. President Roosevelt*, but it was small and there were concerns about overcrowding. Fortunately all the regular team members and most of the substitutes could be berthed in first class, with the remainder in third class. The cabins not used by the team were sold to the public to offset the costs of commandeering the ship for 42 days.

Adequate facilities were set up on the ship to aid in training during the Atlantic journey. On the Sun Deck was a boxing ring; stripes painted on the wood



The S.S. President Roosevelt set to depart New York harbor, "American Olympic Team" painted on her side.



While moored in Amsterdam's Amstel Canal, U.S. team members made their way back and forth to Central Station aboard ferries.

deck served as fencing pistes. The Promenade Deck held a 160-yard track for athletics and cycling, while mats were placed at the back for wrestling. "C" Deck was crowded with the gymnastics apparatus and rowing machines, while "D" deck was equipped with a treadmill to exercise the horses. Finally, the Main Deck sported a canvas pool for swimming and diving, and targets for the Modern Pentathlon. There was not a shooting competition in 1928.

The S.S. *President Roosevelt* left Pier 86 on the Hudson River in New York City on July 11, 1928 for its journey to Holland. They had calm seas for the entire trip, and all arrived in Holland in good health on July 20. She anchored in the middle of the Amstel Canal where a ferry hauled team members on the 20-minute trip to Central Station. For the last week the *President Roosevelt* was moved to a spot on the Holland-America Lines dock making it much more convenient for the athletes.

Mr. A.C. Gilbert, a member of the AOC's Executive Committee, was assigned the job of providing entertainment for the athletes to offset the drudgery of the sea voyage. Accordingly he organized the following amusements for both legs of the trip.

July 12 (Thursday): M.G.M. movie on the Promenade Deck; Evening Dance in the Social Hall

July 13 (Friday): Bridge Tournament; Evening Dance in the Social Hall

July 14 (Saturday): Medal Play Golf Tournament using the Angel Deck Golf game that was standard on the United States Lines; Monte Carlo night in the Social Hall

July 15 (Sunday): Divine Services in the Social Hall in the morning; Golf Tournament resumed at 2:30; Evening Songfest in the Social Hall

July 16 (Monday): Golf Tournament finished; Evening Vaudeville show in the Social Hall

July 17 (Tuesday): Matched Play Golf Tournament; Evening Masquerade Ball in the Social Hall

Two receptions were held on board the ship during the Games to enable the United States team to become acquainted with the people of other nations: one for the people of Amsterdam, and one for the athletes of the other competing nations.

The S.S. *President Roosevelt* left Amsterdam after the completion of the Games on August 13. It stopped at Southampton, England and Cherbourg, France the next day to board team members touring Europe after the finish of their competitions. Unfortunately they had two days of rough weather on the trip back during which many team members and even some of the horses became seasick. Luckily they recovered in time to enjoy their colossal reception on arrival in New York on August 22.

The financial section of the American Olympic Committee Report notes a bill totaling \$64.84 for printing letterheads and envelopes for the Amsterdam team.

The illustration on the next page shows the letterhead and envelope used by team members for their correspondence home. Both name the American Olympic Team, and give the address of "13 Rokin, Amsterdam." This was the address of the temporary office of the American Olympic Committee for the duration of the Amsterdam Games. One of the office's functions was the receipt and delivery of the team's mail. From the cancellations on the two covers it appears the mail went through the Amsterdam Central Station after it left the Rokin office.

It is the letterhead that points us to the unique feature of these Games. The second line confirms that stationary comes from the Ninth Olympiad, and even gives us the dates of competition. The third line reminds us that the ship S.S. *President Roosevelt* played a prominent role for the team, since the AOC would hardly have gone to the expense of printing special stationary for a ship used on the sea voyages alone.

This third line is the one that started me on the journey of discovery.

American Olympic Team

Ninth Olympiad, July 28th to August 12th, 1928

S.S. President Roosevelt

Amsterdam

July 25, 1928

Address all communications
care of American Olympic Team
13 Rokin, Amsterdam, Holland

To Water Polo Team
President Roosevelt.
Dear Pop,

Amsterdam
Holland

Tell Sis I received
her letter and it was very welcome.
I am sure she will be to the

From

Joe Farley
AMERICAN OLYMPIC TEAM
13 ROKIN
AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND



Mr. Joe A. Farley
338 East 24th St
Box 196 City
U.S.A.

Send me some news of the
city and also some swimming

The stationery used by the members of the American Olympic Team aboard ship included matching letterhead writing paper and envelopes with the return address of the American Olympic Team's headquarters in Amsterdam. This is one of the letters written by water polo player Joe Farley back home to his family in New York City.

Letters of Joseph P. Farley

This story would not be complete without examining the three letters Joe wrote home to his family. They are a touching testimony to the feelings of a young man far from home who misses his family and friends, and yet desperately wants to make them proud of his accomplishments. Some of his words bear out the prejudice of his era, and would not be considered appropriate today. Still, it is fun to see his wonder at the sights around him, and his competitive spirit. The text of the letters is duplicated exactly with its misspellings and occasional poor grammar. The words highlighted in bold in the text are amplified in the addendum following the letters.

First Letter. Joe wrote this first letter to his mother three days after the S.S. *President Roosevelt* arrived in Amsterdam. He starts with the salute given to the Olympic team by the U.S.S. *Detroit*, and continues by describing his observations of Amsterdam and her citizens. No mention is made of the fierce competition he is enduring for a spot on the water polo team, but he does talk about the poor practice facilities the team used early in their stay.

July 23, 1928
Dear Mother,

I have been kept pretty busy lately so that I was unable to do any writing.

*We arrived safe and sound on Friday about 12:30 noon. Everyone was darn glad to get near land once again. But the greatest thrill that I got all the way over was when we were coming in the **canal**. You see to get to Amsterdam from the ocean you have to come up a canal about 20 miles. Just as we started up the canal the **cruiser Detroit** from the navy was coming out and she had all the sailors, and officers at attention on the deck and they had the navy band playing the "Star Spangle Banner" and that was the greatest kick the whole team received on the entire trip. Everyone cheered and whistled for about 10 minutes.*

The two [town] of Amsterdam is very clean and nice. The people can't understand the Americans and when we walk through the main streets we always have a big crowd following.

They get a big kick out of seeing us where our knickers. They call our knickers "pants filled with wind," and they laugh and joke about them whenever they see us.

We still eat and sleep on the boat and everything is very comfortable. The ship is anchored out in bay a bit and we have small launches take us back and forth. The trip from the ship to the land is only five minutes.

*We worked out the first day in a very dirty place but our coach changed it the next day. We then tried another one that was still dirty so we traveled about 20 minutes in a bus to a town named **Harlem** and swam there in nice clean cold water.*

I think before you receive this I will send a telegram. Tell Sis and Pop that I will write tomorrow but tell them I send my love. Tell Dan and Joe, RitaAnn etc. and all the people I was asking for them.

I will close now sending my love and kisses. Don't worry for we are training very seriously.

Goodbye for awhile,
Joe

Second Letter. In two days Joe had grown tired and a little cynical about the attention shown to the American team. The second letter (reproduced on the previous page) was to his father, and was filled with news about other athletes from the New York Athletic Club. America's famous swimmer, Johnny Weismuller, boosts his hopes for inclusion on the water polo team.

July 25, 1928
Dear Pop,

Tell Sis I received her letter and it was very welcome. You see everyone rushes to the mailbox when that mail comes in and it is a darn good feeling to be able to grab off a letter.

The town of Amsterdam is a very picturesque town but outside of that there is nothing to it. These Dutch are pretty dumb and all they do is follow the Americans around when we walk through town.

Send me some news of the city and also some swimming news. So I can see how the boys are going.

*I think I have been picked to play regular guard on the water polo team. The team hasn't been selected officially yet but **Weismuller**, and a couple of the boys who played last time told me that I was all set. I have been going pretty well and having no trouble holding my own. If I get it there are going to be some surprised boys on that team, some of them don't even consider me in it. They all come from Chicago who think that way anyhow.*

Ray Ruddy has been pretty sick lately and yesterday he couldn't finish a 200 yard swim. You see, these were the relay trials, they enter 6 men and out of these six, four only swim. **Dave Young** was one of the ones to qualify. So if he continues to go good he might be swimming in the relay.

Joe Ruddy is having a great time here. He can get all the Champagne, Wine etc he wants and it is not very expensive so he has been having one fine time. I don't mean that he has been drunk at all but he has two or three glasses with all the meals. The beer here is very good. Pilsner, Munich etc can be obtained for 25c Dutch money. We are allowed two glasses a meal when we eat in town after swimming and it is very good.

The weather is very funny, one moment it looks like rain and the next the sun is shining [sic]. The air is always cool.

If you see any of the boys tell them to drop me a line for news from the big city is always welcome. I will close for now for I have to get ready to leave. To-day we have a practice game with Argentina at 12 noon and it is just ten AM now. Love to Sis, Mother and yourself. My regards to all the neighbors, and say hello to Laddie. I will close

Your loving and obedient son (ahem)
Jos. Peter James, John Oscar, Claudia, OX.

Third Letter. The last letter home was addressed to both parents and expressed Joe's disappointment in being selected as an alternate on the water polo team. He shows his anti-Semitic attitude, but seeks consolation with the thought that the selection was based on regional prejudices. He attends the track competition each day, but like most Americans is let down by the team's poor showing. He did manage to get Ray Barbuti, the American 400-meter gold medalist to sign the envelope he used for this letter (Figure 5). Philatelists will enjoy the postscript.

August 3, 1928
Dear Pop and Mother,

*I just came back from the track stadium where **Ray Barbutti** [sic] won the 400-meter race and it was some race. He just managed to win from the Canadian and a German and he fell over the line. You ought to hear those Yanks cheer, it was our first win in the track races and everyone was very glad.*

I have been working out every morning and each afternoon we go out to the stadium to watch the games. They have been pretty disappointing so far. The Americans seem to be over trained and

*have no pep. **Hahn** choked very bad in the 800 and didn't finish in the 1500 meter race.*

*I [heard] that I am not on the first team. A Jew by the name of **Greenberg** beat me out. I am on the squad which is composed of seven regulars and four subs and we play **Hungary** in our first game and this team is the Champion of Europe. I think I can still play better than this Jew but I guess you have to come from Chicago to make the team. There are five Chicago men and two Coast players and a **Chicago coach**.*

You know those pals of mine haven't even sent me a post card and I am pretty sore at them. I got a letter from Cozy and he's a great kid. All he wrote was a lot of wise cracks.

Ray Ruddy is feeling pretty good now and is beginning to swim well again. The swimming starts to-morrow in the swimming stadium. Ray sends his regards to the whole family.

The training over here gets pretty tiresome. You see we swim every morning and then dash back to the ship to eat and go out to the stadium. Come back have dinner and then have to be in bed by nine. We generally go to our rooms but set up and read. The other night **Bachrach** came in and caught everyone up. So he gave us a lecture and then everything was o.k.

Give my regards to the Honlikas children and all the neighbors. I wrote a lot of cards but if I write any more I will be back so you spread my tokens of good cheer about. I will close sending my love to each of you, Sis, Marie, Laddie and everyone home.

Your loving Son,
Joe

P.S. If you write anymore letters put 2- two cent stamps, one is not enough. We sail on the 13. from Amsterdam and will be in Cherbourg the next day. Southampton later and then home. Joe

Addendum

Bachrach: William Bachrach of the Illinois Athletic Club in Chicago was the head coach of the American Swimming Team.

Canal: To reach Amsterdam ships must travel down the Amstel or North Sea canal. The S.S. *President Roosevelt* was anchored in the canal until the last week of competition when it was moved to the dock of the Holland-America Line. Although Joe says the ferry to shore was a five-minute ride, the *Official Report* called it a 20-minute trip.

Chicago coach: The 1928 water polo coach was Perry McGillivray of Chicago's Illinois Athletic Club.

Cruiser U.S.S. Detroit: The *U.S.S. Detroit* (CL-8) was an Omaha class light cruiser which served with distinction in the Pacific in World War II. In July 1928 she was the flagship for the Commander of the U.S. Naval Forces in Europe.

David Young: David was one of Farley's fellow swimmers from the New York Athletic Club. He was an alternate on the 4x100-meter relay in 1928.

Greenberg: R.J. Greenberg was a member of the Chicago Athletic Association.

Harlem: Properly spelled Haarlem, this town was located about 16 miles west of Amsterdam in 1928. The team manager, John T. Taylor, agreed with Farley about the poor quality of the first two practice pools. Only divers were allowed to practice in the Olympic pool, and the Organizers' suggestion of practice in the Amsterdam harbor was summarily rejected. Mr. Taylor and the coaches spent two days finding the Haarlem pool, and in their report pleaded with the American Olympic Committee to lease proper facilities prior to the start of the competition at future Games.

Hahn: Joe probably singled out Lloyd Hahn to illustrate the collapse of America's track team. Competing for the Boston Athletic Association, he qualified to run in both the 800 and 1500-meter races, and had generated huge expectations when he set a world record in the 800 earlier in the year. Hahn actually had a good Olympics winning both of his early heats in the 800 meters, but the finals included three former world record holders. Lloyd was leading at the final curve, but faded in the stretch to finish fifth. Unfortunately he was unable to finish his first heat in the 1500.

Hungary: The water polo competition at these Games was a single elimination format. The United States had a bye in the first round but faced the European Champion in the second round. Hungary defeated Argentina 14-0 in the first round, and continued that success by blasting the American team 5-0. They were beaten in the final by Germany to receive the silver medal.

Joe Ruddy: This probably refers to Joseph Ruddy, Jr., brother of Ray Ruddy (see below) and son of

Joseph A. Ruddy, Sr., who won a gold medal in swimming in 1904, and was a water polo player for the New York A.C. The 1928 American Olympic Committee Report does not list Joe Ruddy as a member of the team so it's not known why he was along. At the time of the Games, Joe was attending the U.S. Naval Academy (class of 1930) and competing on their water polo team.

Ray Barbuti: Competing for the New York Athletic Club, Raymond J. Barbuti became the only American to win gold in the Amsterdam track and field competition. After he finished second in his semifinal heat to Canadian James Ball, Barbuti decided to start his kick at the 300-meter mark, and pulled out in front of the pack. Ball was quickly catching up to Barbuti near the finish line, but made the fatal error of looking at his opponent. Ray lunged for the tape, fell headlong onto the track, and won the gold. His victory earned him a last minute spot on the relay team picking up his second gold medal and a world record.

Ray Ruddy: Raymond Ruddy was one of Farley's fellow swimmers from the New York Athletic Club. In 1928 Ruddy had the misfortune to compete against three of the world's best in the long distance races, Arne Borg of Sweden, Clarence "Buster" Crabbe of the United States, and Andrew "Boy" Charlton of Australia. Despite the illness described by Joe Farley he finished fourth in the 1500 and sixth in the 400 a few days later.

Weismuller: Although he is famous for his Olympic medals and world records in swimming, many forget that Johnny was a member of the 1924 Olympic water polo team that took home the bronze medal in Paris.

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Mallon, Bill & Buchanon, Ian. Quest for Gold. 1984. Leisure Press, New York.

Wallechinsky, David. The Complete Book of the Summer Olympics. 1996. Little, Brown & Company, Toronto.

Baseball in Puerto Ríco

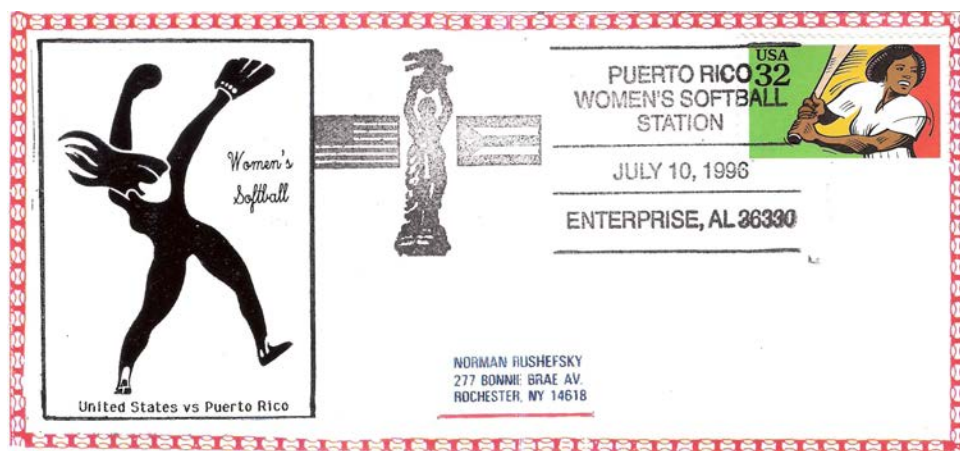


Figure 1. 1996 pre-Olympic softball competition between the U.S. and Puerto Rican women's teams which took place in Enterprise, Alabama.

by Norman Rushefsky

Sports in Puerto Rico can be traced from the ceremonial competitions amongst the pre-Columbian Native Americans of the Arawak, also known as Taíno, tribes which inhabited the island to the modern era. In one of the Taíno ball games the winners were deemed heroes and the losers were sacrificed. Puerto Ricans still take their sports seriously.

Puerto Rico participates in the Olympics as an independent nation and therefore Puerto Rican athletes have the option of either representing Puerto Rico or the United States in the Games.

The 1948 Summer Olympics celebrated in London was a historical one for Puerto Rico because it was the first time that the island participated as a nation in a major international sporting event. At regional competitions the Puerto Ricans carried the United States flag. The United States protested, claiming that two nations could not use the same flag at the same time. The decree of Commonwealth status in 1952 gave the Puerto Rican delegation a flag of its own.

The cover in Figure 1 shows a postmark from Alabama featuring the flags of the U.S. and Puerto Rico and relates to a pre-Olympic (Atlanta 1996) tune-up game between the two women's softball teams. Women's softball has enjoyed some popularity in Puerto Rico. Their wo-

men's national softball teams have won many international events and participated at many Olympics. Women of Puerto Rican ancestry have contributed greatly to U.S. Olympic softball teams.

During the late 19th century Puerto Rico witnessed the introduction of organized team sports. The game of baseball was first introduced to the island by a group of Puerto Ricans and Cubans who learned the game in the United States.

At first the sport was not well received by the local press and general public; it was looked upon as a silly game. Puerto Rico became an American territory when the United States defeated Spain in the Spanish-American War. The American soldiers stationed in Puerto Rico were permitted to organize a baseball club to play against the local clubs.



Figure 2. Puerto Rican teams are regular competitors in the Caribbean World Series. This cover marks the 1995 event.

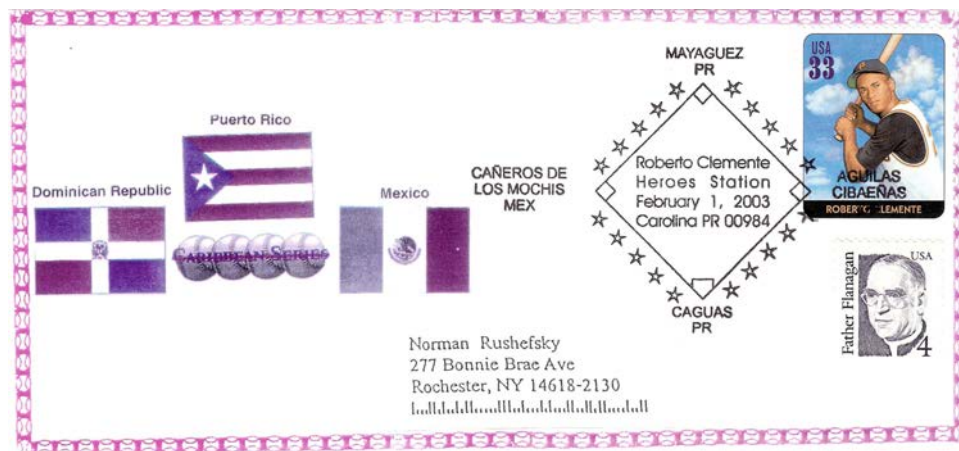


Figure 3. The 2003 Caribbean World Series included two teams from Puerto Rico as the Venezuelan team was excluded for political reasons.

Puerto Rico has a winter baseball league named the Puerto Rican Professional Baseball League that has operated since the early 20th century. The champion of this league represents Puerto Rico in the annual Caribbean World Series (Serie Del Caribe). Figure 2 shows a cover with a 1995 San Juan, PR postmark noting the four teams that participate in the Series: Mexico, Venezuela, Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.

The Series is affiliated with the Winter League programs of Major League Baseball and features prospects from the Dominican Winter League, Mexican Pacific League, Puerto Rican Professional Baseball League and the Venezuelan Professional Baseball League. A cover shown in Figure 3 includes a 2003 postmark from Carolina, PR noting the four teams competing in the Series. In 2003 Venezuela

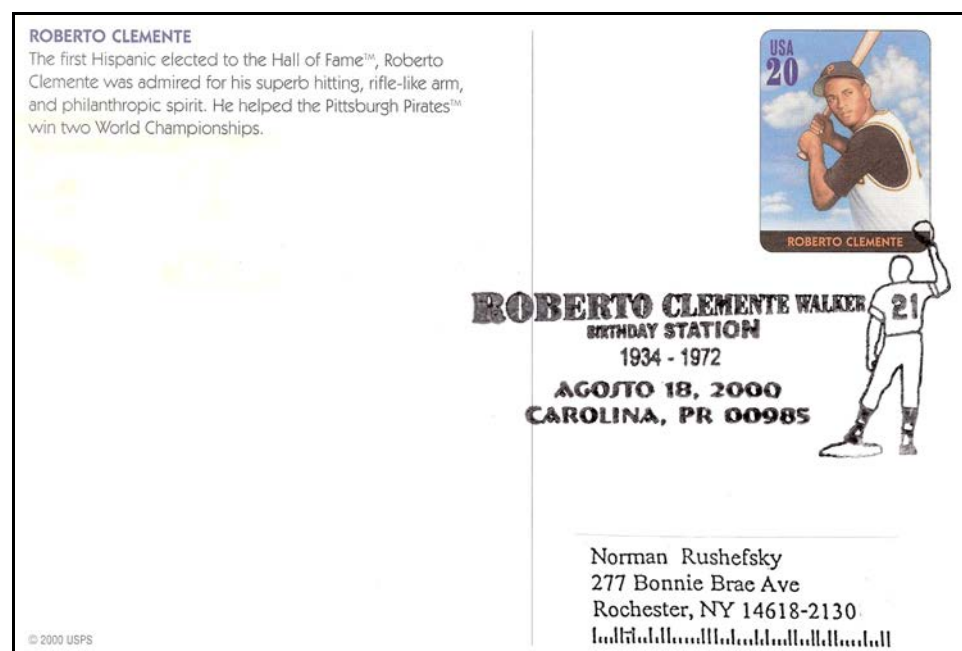
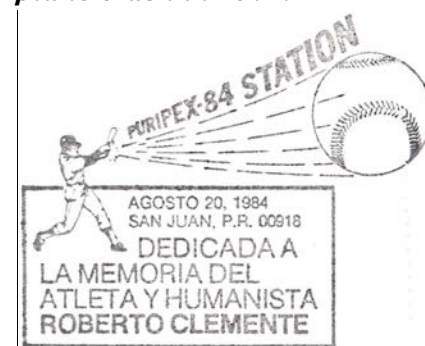


Figure 4. One of Puerto Rico's best known major league baseball stars was Roberto Clemente who was killed in an airplane crash in 1972.



was excluded because of objections to some of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's political and economic policies. In that year two teams from Puerto Rico participated. The stamp on the envelope is one of two stamps issued by the U.S. to honor Roberto Clemente, Puerto Rico's greatest sports hero.

Puerto Rico has over 100 Major League Baseball players who are currently active, in addition to the hundreds of others who have participated in the past. These facts combine to make baseball one of the most popular sports on the island.

The most famous baseball players from Puerto Rico are Hall of Famers Roberto Clemente (1934 - 1972) and Orlando Cepeda (1937 -).

Clemente has been honored by Puerto Rico on a number of postmarks. A 1984 postmark (Figure 4) at the PURIPEX-84 stamp show in San Juan is dedicated to his memory as an athlete and humanitarian. The postmark cancels a 1982 U.S. stamp commemorating Clemente.

Figures 5 & 6. In addition to many cancellations, Clemente was honored on the U.S. Legends of Baseball stamps and accompanying postal cards issued in 2000.



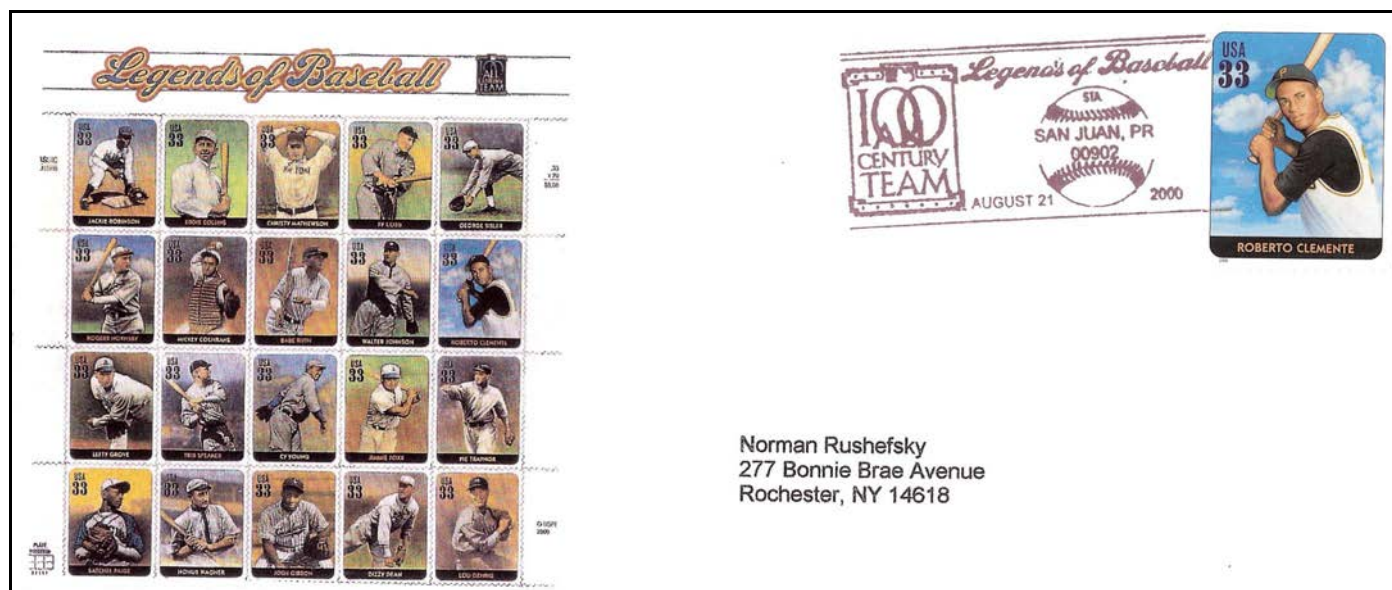
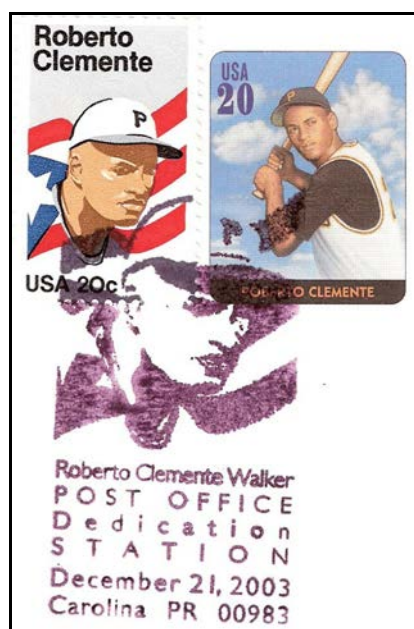


Figure 7. Cover reproducing the *Legends of Baseball* sheet as a cachet. The special postmark for the issue was used at San Juan, Puerto Rico to cancel the Roberto Clemente stamp.



Figures 8 (above). A post office in Carolina, PR named after Clemente in 2003, used a special postmark for the dedication. It is shown here applied to both U.S. stamps honoring the player.

Figure 9 (right). Major League Baseball opened its 2001 season at San Juan, Puerto Rico's Hiram Bithorn Stadium on April 1.

Clemente was killed in 1972 in an airplane crash just off the coast of Puerto Rico while on a trip to provide emergency aid to earthquake victims in Nicaragua.

Two postmarks from 2000 honoring Clemente (Figures 5 and 6) were applied to

the U.S. *Legends of Baseball* postal card featuring the baseball player. Elaborate postmarks created for this series were applied in many cities. The one used in San Juan, PR, is applied to a cover which a cachet reproducing the full pane of 20 self-adhesive stamps (Figure 7).

In 2003 a post office in Carolina, PR, Clemente's birthplace, was named for him. A postmark noting the post office dedication is shown in Figure 8.

In 2001, Major League Baseball's Opening Day was in San Juan at the Hiram Bithorn Stadium with a game between the Texas Rangers and the Toronto Blue Jays (Figure 9).

The stadium also played host to the (former) Montreal Expos which played 22 home games there in both 2003 and 2004 before moving to Washington, DC to become the Washington Nationals.

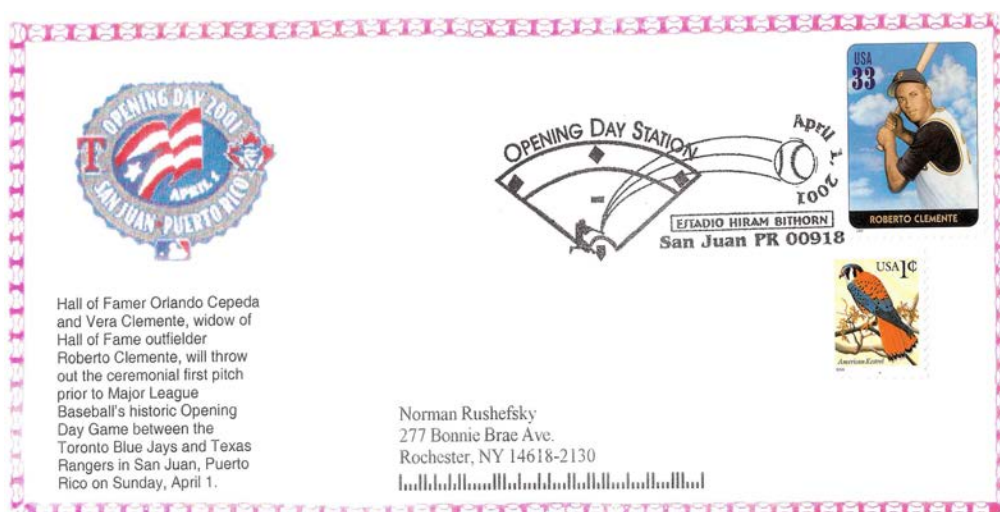




Figure 10. Pedrin Zorrilla, an early organizer of professional baseball in Puerto Rico.

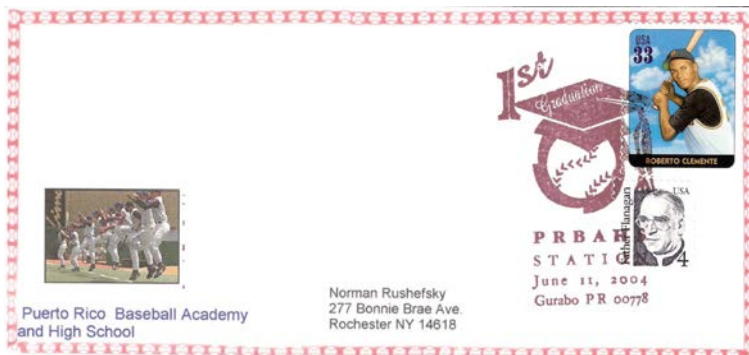


Figure 11. PRBAHS is the only high school in the U.S. devoted to preparing students for baseball careers.



Figure 12. An “Old Timers” postmark from Coamo, PR.

Pedrin Zorrilla helped found the professional baseball team known as Los Cangrejeros (Crabbers) de Santruce in 1939. The team was made up of local players and joined the Puerto Rican professional league. A postmark honoring him is shown in Figure 10. Interestingly, the Los Cangrejeros was Clemente’s first professional team. Santruce is a district or barrio of San Juan.

The Puerto Rico Baseball Academy and High School (PRBAHS) is a non-profit organization combining academics and sports programs into one curriculum. Its goal is to prepare its students for higher education, competitive college scholarship opportunities and the Major League Baseball Draft. The PRBAHS is the only high school in Puerto Rico or the United States with this type of learning environment. The first graduating class graduated in 2004 (Figure 11).

A baseball postmark (Figure 12) was used in Coamo, PR in 2004 to note the 30th anniversary of the “Old Timers.”

The PURIPEX 2008 stamp show also featured a baseball theme in a postmark noting the 35th anniversary of Clemente’s death (Figure 13). The U.S. stamps honoring Clemente are also depicted on the show’s “P” (personal) stamp (Figure 14) and cachet produced by the Puerto Rico Philatelic Society.

This article illustrates mostly philatelic items originating from Puerto Rico. Many more items, including postmarks, can be found on philatelic

items from the mainland U.S. as well as from other countries.

Acknowledgment is made of the online encyclopedia Wikipedia for information relative to the sports history of Puerto Rico.

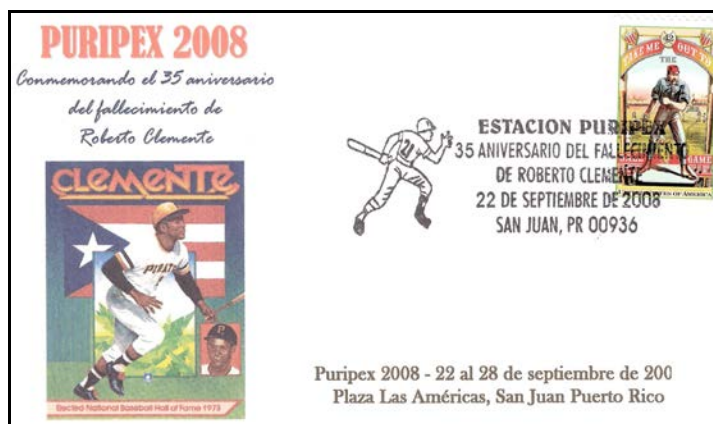


Figure 13. PURIPEX 2008 featured a show cancel marking the 35th anniversary of Roberto Clemente’s death in 1972.

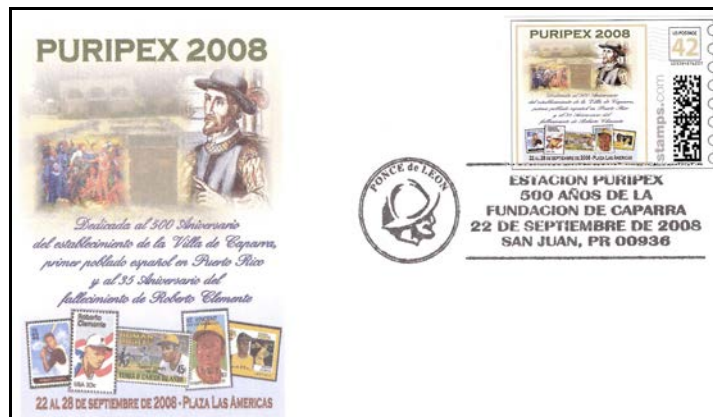


Figure 14. A special show committee “P” stamp reproduces the Clemente issue among other U.S. baseball stamps.

REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS

by Mark Maestroni



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

December 2008 (#50). This issue is dedicated to a very colorful and wide-ranging look at the philately of the “World Championships of Alpine Skiing: 1931-2009” by René Christin. The 2009 competition was held February 2-15 at Val d’Isère, France. An organizing committee cover from the 1933 FIS championships is shown above.

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

December 2008 (#27). A thorough review of basketball philately at the Beijing Olympic Games dominates this issue. A short, but interesting, article by Pierre Lehoux reports on an exhibition in Tours, France celebrating the 90th anniversary of the arrival of U.S. forces following World War I. Among other things, the soldiers introduced a number of sports, including basketball.

IMOS Journal: Diethard Hensel, Dorfstr. 15, OT Koselitz, D-01609 Röderaue, Germany. [In Ger.]

December 2008 (#140). A lengthy report on the Beijing Olympic Games is featured in this issue along with a look at EURO 2008 soccer, and Biber Post (a private mailer in Germany). Catalogue updates include Olympic and sports postmarks along with new stamp issues from the around the world. The auction catalogue for the 12th IMOS Auction (closing March 29, 2009) is also enclosed.

Olimpiafila: MOSFIT, Vorosmarty u. 65, 1064 Budapest, Hungary. [Hungarian; Eng. synopses]

November 2008 (Vol. XI, No. 1-2). The Beijing Olympic Games take center stage in this issue with a look at the philately of the Games, Olympex, and the torch relay through China. The Olympic team flight to Beijing is covered. Sándor Szekeres honors the centennial of the 1908 London Olympic Games with an article on their philately. In a second article, he examines the seal stamps (vignettes) of the 1932 Olympic Games. For the sports collector, László Várhelyi discusses and illustrates Hungarian sports machine cancels from 1945-2008.

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

October 2008 (#68). Gianni Galeotti starts off this issue with a review of the big celebration in Italy for favorite son, Dorando Pietri, on the anniversary of his Olympic Marathon run at the 1908 London Olympics. Pasquale Polo takes a look at the 1960 Olympic velodrome in Rome. Mauro Gilardi catches up readers on motor sports (both cycles and cars), while Ferruccio Calegari covers rowing events in Trieste. Other sports briefs from a variety of contributors include softball, volleyball, and soccer.

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

December 2008 (Vol. 25, #4). This is a two-part issue. Part 4a provides coverage of the Olympics from a report on the handover from Beijing to London, to an update on Vancouver 2010 happenings. The latter includes a report on the Olympic Spirit Train across Canada in the fall of 2008.

Part 4b is a separate booklet devoted entirely to the 1948 London Olympic Games. The booklet – in full color – thoroughly covers the philatelic aspects of the Games from their conception through their completion. Britain’s stamp issues are extensively examined, as are philatelic materials from other countries. Stamps and cancels portraying medalists of those Games are also presented.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Margaret Jones

NEW MEMBER

2264 Lappe Laubscher, PO Box 36870, Menlo Park, Gauteng 0102, South Africa. Journalist. **Olympics, Rugby, Tennis, Cricket.**

RENEWALS

1187 Jeffery K. Armitage, 3978 Vanstone, Commerce Township, Michigan 48382-1972 USA. **Olympics.** Email: corarm45@aol.com

1399 Shlomo Vurgan, 31/22 Bernstein Street, Rishon Le-Zion 75503, Israel.

788 Robert E. J. Van Tuyl, Bartokhof 16, 2402 GE Alphen Aan Den Rijn, Netherlands.

NEW ADDRESS

LA84 Foundation Sports library (old AAF Library), 2141 W. Adams Blvd, Los Angeles, California 90018 USA.

EXHIBIT AWARDS

MILCOPEX 2008 (Milwaukee, Wisconsin). Sherri Biendarra won a silver, AAPE Youth Grand Award, and ATA Youth Award for "The Olympics – Let the Games Begin."

SOUTHEASTERN STAMP SHOW (Marietta, Georgia). [Omitted from column in the Winter 2008 issue] John R. Phillips was awarded a vermeil, Youth Grand Award, AAPE Youth Grand, and ATA Youth Award for "The Game of Chess."

SANDICAL 2009 (San Diego, California). Mark Maestrone won a gold and the Outstanding One Frame Exhibit (One-Frame Grand) award for "Men's Gymnastics: Dressed to Win"; Conrad Klinkner garnered a vermeil and the AAPE Excellence in Exhibiting – Honor Award for "Games of the Xth Olympiad, Los Angeles – 1932."

AMERISTAMP EXPO & TEXPEX 2009 (Arlington, TX). Both Andrew Urushima ("The 1944 POW Olympics: Gross Born & Woldenberg") and Mark Maestrone ("Men's Gymnastics: Dressed to Win") received the Single Frame Prix d'Honneur for their entries in the Single Frame Champion of Champions competition. In the Single Frame Open competition, Richard Woodward received a silver for "The Rimet World Cups of Soccer – 1930, 1934 and 1938." Patricia Ann Loehr's "Golf Greens and Putting on Picture Postcards" won a single frame silver bronze. Charles J. O'Brien, III garnered a gold for "Roberto Clemente."

Please keep your membership information and email address updated by sending changes to docj3@doverplacecc.org. Exhibitor news for this column may also be sent to me.

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NEW STAMP ISSUES

by John La Porta

Albania: June 16, 2008. European Soccer Cup Championships. Se-tenant pair of 50 lek stamps, white cross, map of Switzerland; 250 lek map of Austria in white & red. S/s 200 lek stamps, Trix and Flix mascots.

Argentina: September 20, 2008. Immigrants in Argentina. Four 1p stamps, one stamp *The Two Swimmers* by Kobayashi Katshurio.

October 11, 2008. Argentine Sport Idols. Four souvenir sheets each with 5p stamps. Roberto De Vincenzo golfer; Juan Manuel Fangio race car driver; Hugo Porta rugby player; Emanuel Ginobili basketball player.

Austria: September 27, 2008. Two €1 stamps, swimmer Markus Rogan; ski jumper Thomas Mogenstern.

September 27, 2008. European Soccer Championships. €0.65 Spanish team captain Iker Casillas with trophy.

Belarus: August 15, 2008. Beijing Oly. 1,000rub rowing.

Belgium: July 14, 2008. Beijing Oly. Nondenominated "1" stamp, BMX cycling; €0.90 passing baton in relay. S/s with nondenominated "2" stamp, tennis racket.

Bequia: November 20, 2008. National Basketball Association. Two panes of six \$2 stamps.

Bosnian Croat Administration: December 12, 2008. 60th Anniversary Siroki Brijeg Soccer Club. 70pf soccer scenes. S/s with 2.10m stamp, two soccer players.

Botswana: August 8, 2008. Beijing Olympics. 1.10p runners; 2.60p boxing.

Brazil: July 4, 2008. Beijing Olympics. Four se-tenant 65c stamps, gymnast; equestrian; swimmer.

British Virgin Islands: August 1, 2008. Beijing Oly. 15c runner Tahesia Harrigan; 18c Robbie Hirst, sailing crew; 20c Harrigan; \$1 John Shirley sailing relay.

Burundi: August 1, 2008. Beijing Olympics. 500fr runners, Olympic rings.

Canada: January 12, 2009. Vancouver Olympics. Five permanent first class stamps. Freestyle skiing, snowboarding, hockey, luge, curling.

February 12, 2009: Vancouver Olympics/Paralympics. Two nondenom. permanent stamps, logos; three denominated stamps curling, freestyle skiing, hockey.

Cayman Islands: August 8, 2008. Beijing Olympics. 20c swimmer; 25c swimmer; 50c runner; 75c hurdler.

China: September 6, 2008. Beijing Olympics. Two \$1.20 stamp, emblem, cow mascot.

Colombia: August 1, 2008. Beijing Olympics. 10,000p Bird's Nest stadium, Olympic Flag.

Czech Republic: November 5, 2008. Children in Win-ter. 10kc children sledding, skating, building snowman.

Dominica: July 7, 2008. Muhammad Ali, two panes of four se-tenant \$2 stamps, different photographs of Ali.

El Salvador: July 3, 2008. Beijing Olympics. Four 20c stamps, weightlifting; running; tennis; cycling. Souvenir sheet with 50c stamp, martial arts.

Estonia: September 25, 2008. Gerd Kanter, Olympic Gold Medalist. 5.50k/€0.35 discus thrower, gold medal.

Egypt: October 15, 2008. 50th Anniversary Faculty of Sports Education for Men. 30pi discus thrower.

France: October 5, 2008. Sport. €0.55 symbolic people.

Grenada: June 17, 2008. NBA Finals. Two panes of nine se-tenant \$1 stamps. Pane 1 features the Boston Celtics, Pane 2 features the Los Angeles Lakers.

Hungary: October 28, 2008. Olympic History/Helsinki 1952. S/s 600ft, soccer player/coach Ferenc Puskas. Margin: Hungarian gold medalists of Helsinki Games.

India: October 12, 2008. Third Commonwealth youth Games. Four se-tenant 5re stamps, hurdler; tennis player; wrestler; Jigrr tiger cub mascot with torch.

October 18, 2008. 2010 Commonwealth Games.

Isle of Man: August 8, 2008. Beijing Olympex. S/s of four Beijing Olympic stamps issued April 21.

August 9, 2008. Olympics/Cyclists. Souvenir sheet with two Beijing Olympic stamps issued April 21.

Italy: September 22, 2008. Street Cycling Road World Championship. €0.60 logos of championship in Varese, International Cycling Union.

Jordan: September 22, 2008. Beijing Olympics. 20pi taekwondo; 30pi equestrian event; 40pi table tennis; 50pi runners.

Kuwait: 2008. Women's Sports Competition. Five 25 fils stamps, five 1.50d stamps.

Latvia: October 24, 2008. Beijing Olympics. Champion Maris Strombergs, 22s the BMX racer with gold medals.

Lesotho: August 18, 2008. Beijing Olympics. Pane of four se-tenant 3.50 loti stamps, rowing; woman's softball; wrestling; volleyball.

Luxembourg: September 30, 2008. Happy self-adhesives. Booklet of 12 nondenominated "A" stamps, one design depicts bowling pins.

Macau: August 5, 2008. Beijing Olympics. 5pa National Aquatics Center water cube; souvenir sheet with 10pa stamp, Bird's Nest National Stadium.

Macedonia: October 15, 2008. European Women's Handball Championship. 30d two players.

Mayreau: November 30, 2008. NBA. 2 panes of 6, \$2.

Mexico: August 8, 2008. Beijing Olympics. Three se-tenant 6.50p stamps, gymnast; weightlifter; sculler.

Micronesia: September 9, 2008. Muhammad Ali. Pane of six se-tenant 75¢ stamps and pane of four se-tenant 94¢ stamps: different photographs of the boxer.

Moldova: June 28, 2008. European Soccer Championships. 4.50lei soccer ball, stadium, emblem.

Montenegro: September 15, 2008. European Water Polo Championship. €0.50 emblem, coat of arms.

Morocco: August 8, 2008. Beijing Olympics. 3.25dh stamps, different designs of runners; hurdlers; boxing.

New Zealand: November 5, 2008. Edmund Hillary. 50¢ photo of explorer; \$1 sherpa Tenzing Norgay, Mount Everest; \$1.50 snow tractor; \$2 establishment of Trust.

Nigeria: August 8, 2008. Beijing Olympics. 20n runners; 50n soccer player; 100n wrestlers.

Norfolk Island: September 22, 2008. Muhammad Ali. Pane of six se-tenant 75¢ stamps and pane of four se-tenant 94¢ stamps: different photographs of the boxer.

Poland: Sept. 30, 2008. 100th Ann. Lodz Sports Club. 1.45zl soccer, basketball, ice hockey, tennis, volleyball.

Portugal: June 5, 2008. European Soccer Cup. €0.30, €0.61, s/s two stamps, €1.20, €1.66 various scenes.

Qatar: Oct. 14, 2008. Arab Police Sports Federations. Two 50dh stamps, wreath, Olympic rings, eye.

Sept. 11, 2008. 50th Ann. Formula 1 Racing in Portugal. €0.30 Stirling Moss, Vanwall 1958, €0.67 Jack Brabham, Cooper 1960; €0.80 Mark Hawyood Cooper 2005; €2 Bobby Vernon-Roe McLaren M26 2007. S/s €2.45.

St. Pierre & Miquelon: Oct. 6, 2008. Taekwondo. 55c.

St. Vincent: December 3, 2007. Shane Warne Cricket Player. Two panes of six se-tenant \$2 stamps. Four panes of eight se-tenant \$2 stamps with four designs.

August 1, 2008. European Soccer Cup. Pane of 16 se-tenant 65¢ stamps, team photographs; Sixteen (16) panes of six \$1.40 stamps each, four stamps in each pane, team photograph, two stamps, stadiums.

Slovenia: October 14, 2008. Beijing Olympics. €0.45 Primož Kozmus in hammer throw, gold medal.

Spain: October 27, 2008. Traditional Games. Pane of three €0.43 stamps, different scenes of bowling games.

Sweden: November 13, 2008. Children's Winter Games. Three se-tenant 11kr. Booklets of six.

Togo: August 18, 2008. Beijing Oly. Pane of 4 se-tenant 240fr, swimmer, soccer player, runner, windsurfing.

Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus: July 24, 2008. Beijing Olympics. S/s of two 65k, diver; gymnast.

Uruguay: July 22, 2008. Beijing Oly. 4 se-tenant stamps: 2p pole vault; 5p cycling; 10p swimming; 20p rowing.

July 22, 2008. 100th Anniversary International Swimming Federation. 37p swimmer.

Nov. 20, 2008. Jose Pepe Sasia. 12p, soccer player.

Uzbekistan: August 1, 2008. Beijing Olympics. 150s judo; 200s boxing; 250s running; 310s gymnastics.

August 1, 2008. International Swimming Federation. Pane of four se-tenant, 310s water polo; 450s synchronized swimming; 620s diving; 750s swimmers.

Wallis & Futuna: October 28, 2008. Loesio Tuita Stadium. 55fr stadium, runner.

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 NOVEMBER 2008 - FEBRUARY 2009

Football: 08Y01-109, 08Y07-024,
08Z28-212, 09201-336.

Running: 08Y09-480.

Sled Dog Racing: 09117-544.

Special Olympics: 09208-837.



08Y01-109 West Point, NY 1



08Y07-024 Boston, MA 7



08Y09-480 Roseville, MI 9



08Z28-212 Baltimore, MD 28



09117-544 Merrill, WI 17



09208-837 Boise, ID 8-12



09201-336 Tampa, FL 1

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OLYMPICS 1900'S-1956

1908 London, 1912 Stockholm,
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