

JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

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NUMBER 4

British Columbia Sports History Through Philately





**SPORTS
PHILATELISTS
INTERNATIONAL**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

SPI Auction Manager (Desperately) Needed

Yes, folks, as you may have noticed from the auction catalog mailed with your Spring issue, we are once again searching for a new auction manager. Andrew Urushima will serve as temporary manager for a couple of auctions only.

This is not a difficult job, nor will it take up much leisure time. Each quarterly auction typically takes 20-30 hours – that's over 3 months. The only requirement of the job is that the manager must have a computer on which to manage the auction and help ready the auction catalog for the printer.

If you've ever thought about volunteering your time for a worthwhile activity, here's a perfect opportunity! Please contact your editor or Andrew Urushima for more details.

SPI Convention at SESCOAL 2009

We are fast approaching our next convention at SESCOAL 2009 in Los Angeles (October 9-11) so it's time to start making your plans to:

Attend the convention: Reservations are now being accepted for rooms at the convention hotel, the Radisson Los Angeles Airport Hotel. SESCOAL room rates are \$120/night, single or double occupancy. Please phone the hotel directly at 310-670-9000.

Exhibit your collection: If you have a single- or multi-frame exhibit, please do consider submitting an application (available from the Exhibits Chairman, Howard P. Green, 15125 Arlette Dr., Victorville, CA 92394 or online at www.sescal.org). The jury is a good one and includes two very knowledgeable thematic judges – Darrell Ertzberger and Phillip Stager. And don't forget that every sport or Olympic exhibit competes for our SPI Best-of-Show award!

URGENT NOTICE!

Due to some issues encountered in running Auction #123 which closed on February 15, all lots have been relisted in Auction #125 which is enclosed with this issue of JSP. If you placed bids in Auction #123, we ask that you please submit your bids again. We apologize to our bidders and consignors for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding during this transition.

Participate in our SPI outing: as mentioned in the last issue of JSP, those interested in attending our special evening at the Magic Castle should contact me as soon as possible so we can reserve sufficient space for the group. The cost is \$25 for entry, plus dinner (\$20-\$50). Business attire must be worn.

Enroll in the APS course: Prior to SESCOAL (October 7-8) Rich Drews will present "Exhibiting for the Prize" exploring "how judging takes place in all the various exhibiting divisions. Students will learn what separates Silver and Vermeil from Gold, and what it takes to reach the sought-after Grand Award level." The cost is \$180 for APS members (\$280 for non-members). More information and a registration form are available at the APS website: stamps.org/education/edu_Courses.htm.

Hope to see many of you at the show!

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Figure 1. One of Canada's earliest slogan machine cancels with a sports theme promoted Vancouver's 1925 "Sports Celebration."

British Columbia Sports History Through Philately

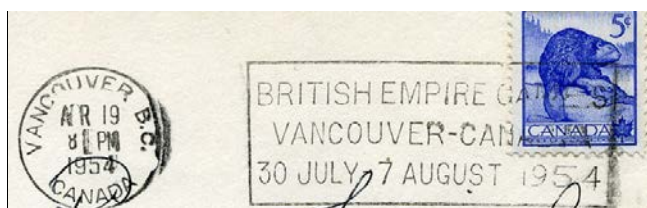
by Kon Sokolyk

Vancouver-Whistler, the site of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, is situated in Canada's most westerly province, British Columbia (B.C.). The picturesque province, with breathtaking landscapes from the rugged Pacific Ocean coast to the majestic Rocky Mountains, was established as a British Crown Colony only 150 years ago, in 1858. A few years later, in 1871, British Columbia joined Canada. Since that time, British Columbia has evolved into a vibrant cosmopolitan province while retaining much of its natural beauty, consistent with its motto, "Splendor sine occasu" ("Brightness without Setting" or more loosely "Splendor without Diminishment"). And in keeping with that principle, it has been coined as Canada's "outdoor playground," which has given rise to a renowned sporting tradition. Some of that tradition has been captured by philately.

Slogan cancels with sporting themes began to appear in Canada in the 1920's. Amongst the first

was the 1925 "Attend Vancouver B.C. Sports Celebration July 1st to 4th" (Figure 1). A year later it was followed by the "Canadian Tennis Championships, July 5-10, Victoria, B.C." (Figure 2). Subsequently, numerous slogan cancels promoted events and sports.

The slogan cancel "British Empire Games Vancouver-Canada 30 July- 7 August 1954" (Figure 3) and a vignette (Figure 4) helped usher in the 1954 British Empire and Commonwealth Games (forerunner of the Commonwealth Games). It was here that perhaps the greatest mile race of all time was contested.



Figures 3 & 4. Advertising for the 1954 British Empire Games included a slogan cancel (above) and attractive vignette, used on cover (below).



Figure 2. Another early British Columbian sports slogan noted the 1926 Canadian Tennis Championships.





Figure 5. Pin commemorating the famous Bannister/Landy race.

and Landy a day before the final while training barefoot on grass had stepped on a photographer's flashbulb tearing a two-inch gash from the instep to the heel. Refusing stitches and a doctor's advice not to run, he swore the doctor to secrecy and showed up at the starting line. It was indeed the "Miracle Mile" as the press and track fans had been predicting. Roger Bannister (now a doctor) won the thrilling race, and both men broke the four-minute barrier (Figure 5).

Earlier that year, in May, medical student Roger Bannister of England became the first to break the 4-minute mile barrier. A month later, Australia's Frank Landy improved on the record.

In Vancouver the two met face to face. Unknown to each other, Bannister was suffering from a chest cold,

The Commonwealth Games returned to British Columbia in 1994 when Victoria hosted the event (Figure 6). Amongst those showcasing their talents were two future Olympic sprinting greats: Australia's Cathy Freeman won the 200-meter and 400-meter gold medals, while Donovan Bailey was part of Canada's gold medal 4x100-meter relay team.

In 1967, the year of Canada's centennial celebrations, the first Canada Games were held to "emphasize the concept of a national amateur sports program." Held biennially, they have alternated between the winter and summer games.

British Columbia has hosted the Games on two occasions. In conjunction with the 1973 Canada Games Torch Relay, the Canada Games Society produced a cacheted cover mailed to the host city of New Westminster from each of the 15 "official" cities visited by the relay (Figure 7). The illustrated cover was mailed from Whitehorse, Yukon.

When the Games returned to British Columbia in 1993, one hundred cancels were designed honoring 100 former Canada Games athletes. These appeared in limited numbers on a special cacheted cover. The illustrated cancellation honors skier Rob Boyd, a BC native, who won gold at the 1983 Canada Games and subsequently three World Cup downhill races (Figure 8).



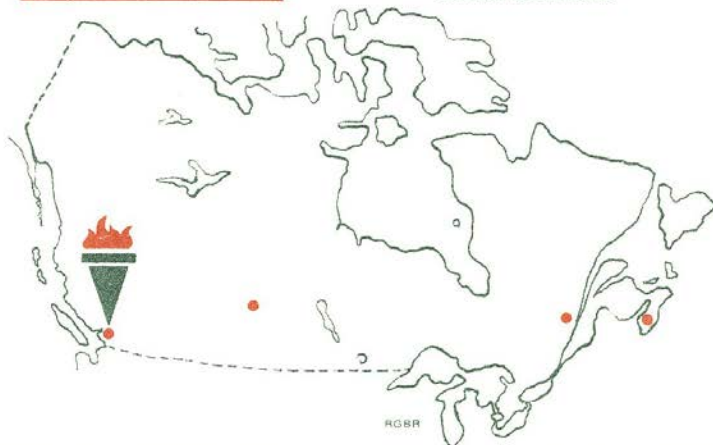
Figure 6. A first day cover for the stamps issued in honor of the 1994 Commonwealth Games.

1973 JEUX CANADA GAMES

New Westminster • Burnaby

August 3 – 12

- 1967 1st Winter Games
Quebec
- 1969 1st Summer Games
Nova Scotia
- 1971 2nd Winter Games
Saskatchewan
- 1973 2nd Summer Games
British Columbia



CANADA GAMES
BOX 1973
NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.

Figure 7. One of a series of 15 covers mailed during the trans-Canada torch relay for the 1973 Canada Games in New Westminster, BC. Whitehorse, Yukon was one of the official stops along the route.

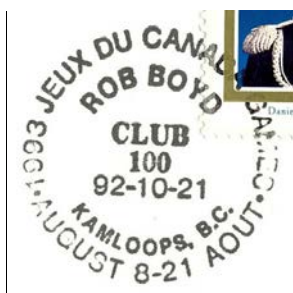


Figure 8. One of 100 cancels honoring Canadian Games athletes. Rob Boyd was skiing sensation from BC.

To bring the best young British Columbia athletes together, the BC Games were initiated in 1978. Held annually through 1998, they are now a biennial event. Slogan cancels have promoted at least two BC Winter Games and three BC Summer Games (Figure 9).

In 1955, the Penticton V's won the World Amateur Hockey Championship. Other clubs from

British Columbia to have attained this feat were the Kimberley Dynamiters (1937) and the Trail Smoke Eaters (1939 and 1961). Spearheading Penticton's

attack were the Warwick brothers – Bill, Dick and Grant. An advertising postcard (Figure 10) features the brothers, proprietors of the Warwick's Commodore Café, in hockey gear. On the flip side is a reference to the world title.

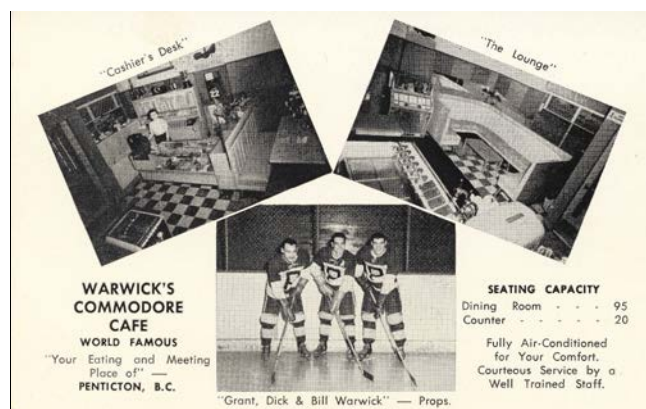


Figure 10. The hockey-playing Warwick brothers ran a café in Penticton, BC. Their hockey record was promoted on the bottom of their postcard.

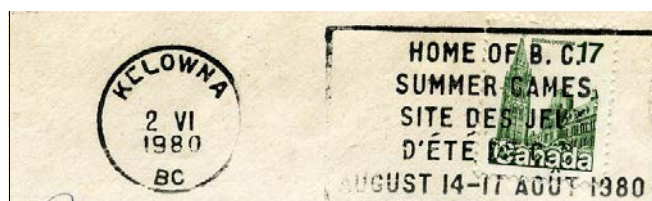
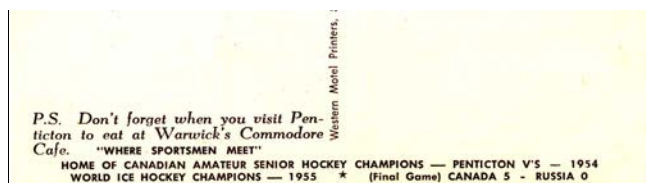
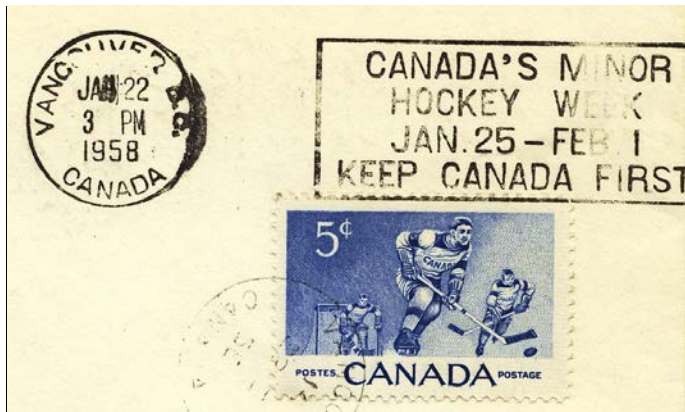


Figure 9. A BC Summer Games slogan cancel.



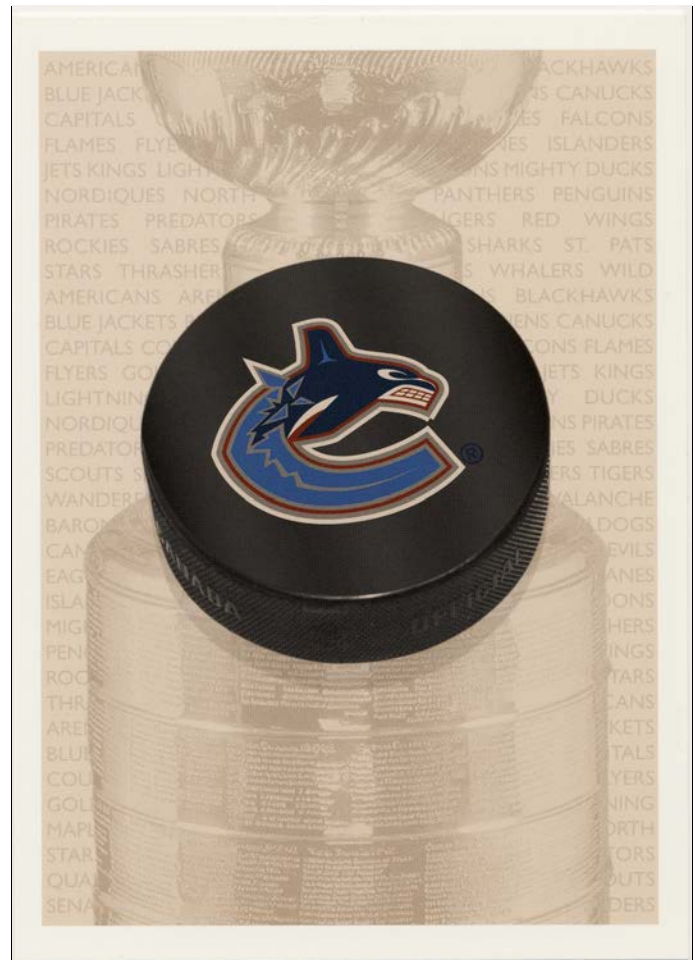


Figures 11 & 12. Though Canada's dominance in ice hockey has waned, youngsters are encouraged to join the amateur ranks, as noted on the "Canada Minor Hockey Week" slogan cancel (above). Ever optimistic, a Vancouver Canucks NHL team hockey puck is shown (right) with the Stanley Cup.

The 1950s, nevertheless, saw Canada's amateur hockey supremacy starting to wane. To encourage participation in hockey a number of cities, including Vancouver, used a slogan cancel in 1958: "Canada's Minor Hockey Week Jan. 25 – Feb. 1 Keep Canada First" (Figure 11).

Since the 1970-71 season, the professional franchise Vancouver Canucks has competed in the National Hockey League (NHL). While the card (Figure 12) superimposes a hockey puck with the Canucks' logo over the Stanley Cup, the team has yet to win the coveted hockey championship.

British Columbia teams which have accomplished the feat are the 1914-15 Vancouver Million-



aires and the 1924-25 Victoria Cougars. The home arena of the Vancouver Canucks will be used for the hockey competition during the 2010 Olympic Games.

Vancouver's other professional sports team, the BC Lions football club, was honored in 1987 with a cachet and cancel as part of the 75th anniversary celebrations of the Grey Cup, emblematic of supremacy in the Canadian Football League (Figure 13). BC Place, home of the Lions, will host the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the 2010 Games and will be the site for the medal presentations.

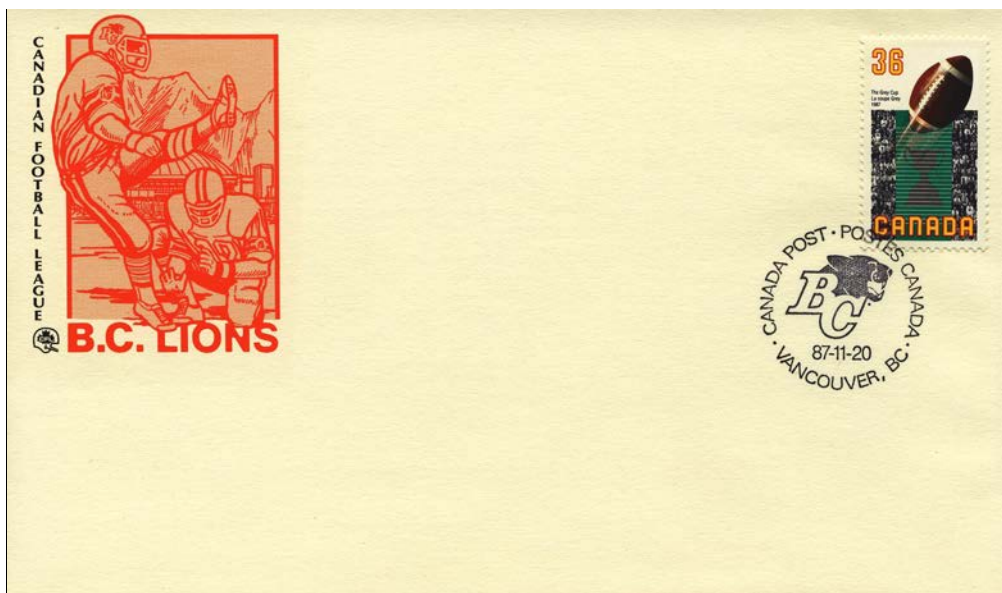


Figure 13. BC Lions football team cacheted cover for the first day of the stamp commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Grey Cup.



Figure 14. The other “big” sport in Canada is lacrosse, promoted on this 1969 slogan cancel.



Figure 15. Canadian sprint star, Percy Williams, a double gold medalist at the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics.

British Columbia has produced some of Canada’s finest athletes several of whom have been portrayed on stamps.

In 1969, a slogan cancel in Victoria was used to encourage participation in lacrosse (Figure 14). On eight occasions, Victoria teams have won the senior men's lacrosse championship of Canada that has been contested since 1901. And teams from British Columbia have won 52 times with the New Westminster Salmonbellies clinching the most titles with 26.



Figure 16. Steve Nash, an NBA favorite from BC.

Percy Williams, winner of the 100-meter and 200-meter sprints at the 1928 Olympics, was featured on a Canadian stamp in 1996 (Figure 15).

Steve Nash, who represented BC at the 1993 Canada Games and was twice the National Basketball Association’s “Most Valuable Player,” has been featured on stamps from a number of countries (Figure 16).

Terry Fox, whose leg was amputated above the knee because of cancer, embarked on a cross-Canada run in April 1980. Called the “Marathon of Hope,” the run raised money for cancer research. Averaging nearly 40km per day, the 21-year-old amputee covered 5,373km in 143 days before he was forced to stop his run outside of Thunder Bay after cancerous lumps were discovered in his lungs. He won the Lou Marsh Memorial Trophy that year as Canada’s top athlete, amateur or professional. A year later he died.

Terry Fox was honored on a commemorative stamp in 1982, the earliest such recognition after the death of an honoree at the time. The stamp was printed by Ashton-Potter Ltd. and for the 1982 International Philatelic Youth Exhibit the company prepared a souvenir card showing the color progression in the production of the stamp (Figure 17).

Canada’s first World Cup skiing event was held at Red Mountain near Rossland in March of 1968 (Figure 18).



Figure 17. Souvenir card illustrating the color progression in the production of the Terry Fox stamp.

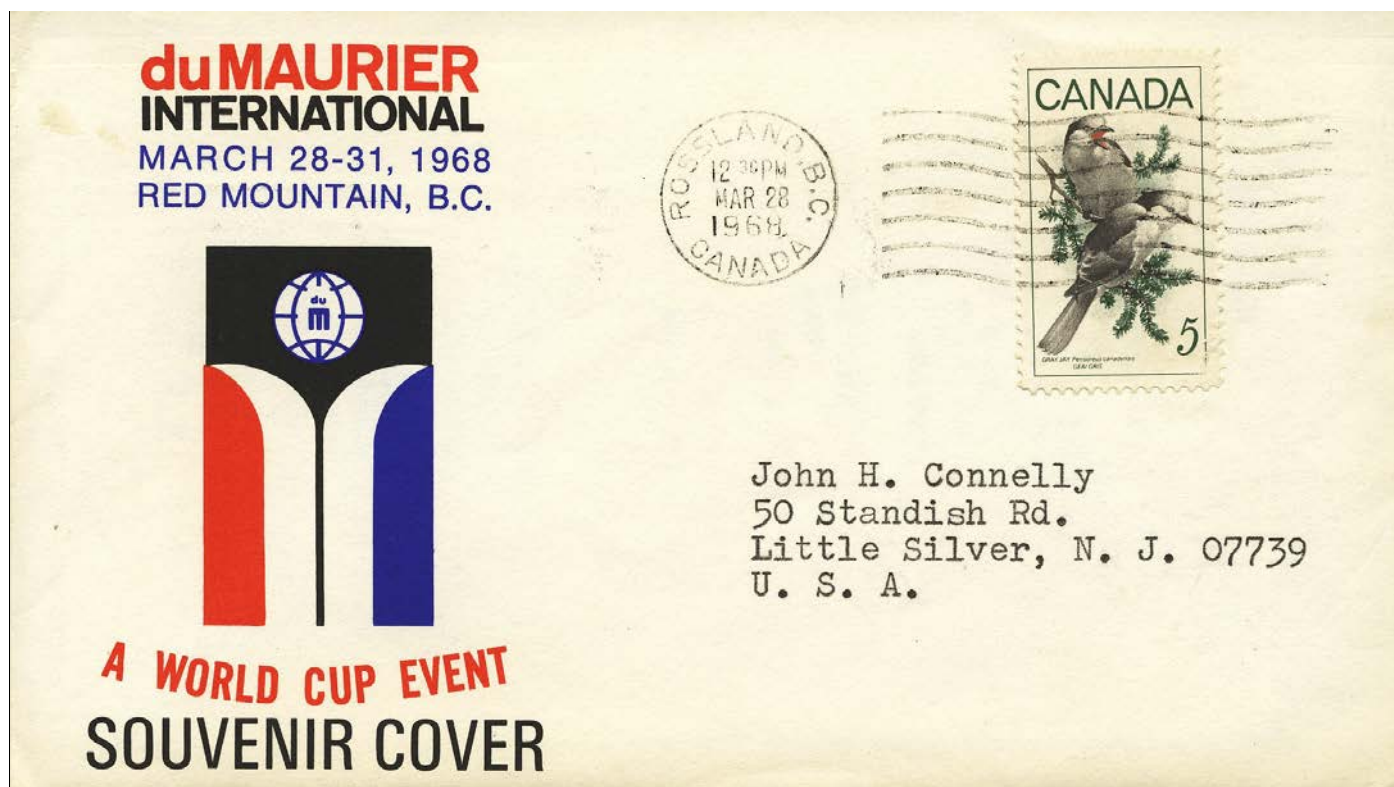
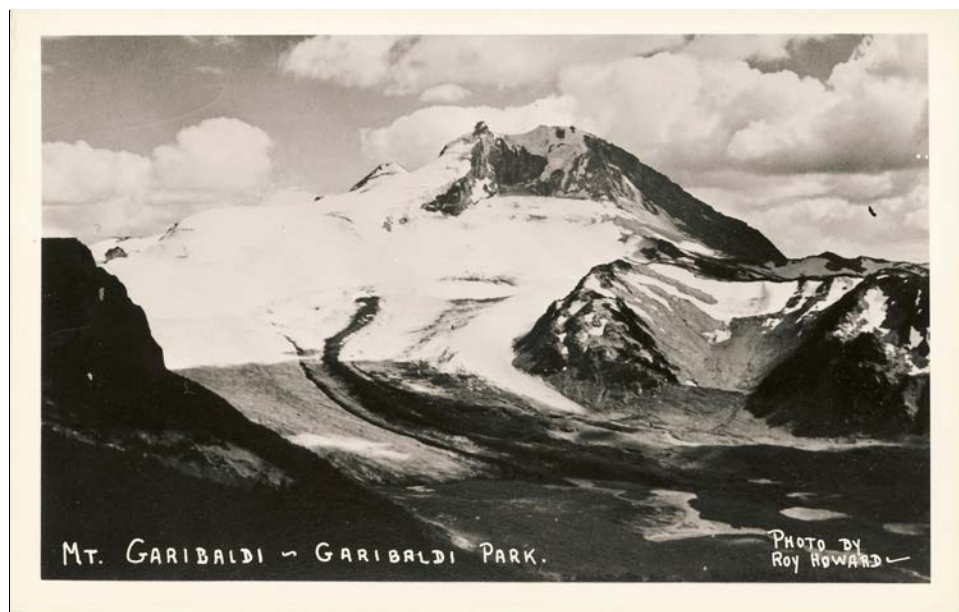


Figure 18. Canada's first World Cup skiing event was held in 1968 at Red Mountain, BC.



Figure 19. Nancy Greene is one of Canada's most famous winter sports and Olympic athletes.



Figures 20 & 21. Garibaldi Park (above) and Fernie (below) were two BC sites with aspirations of hosting the 1968 Olympic Winter Games.



Fittingly, it was also the home of Nancy Greene, the 1967 and 1968 women's World Cup champion and recently crowned Grenoble Olympic champion in the giant slalom and silver medallist in the slalom. The French 1968 Olympic First Day Cover featuring the skiing stamp was autographed by Nancy Greene (Figure 19).

In 1999, Nancy Greene was voted Canada's top female athlete of the 20th century. On December 22, 2008, Nancy Greene Raine was appointed to the Senate of Canada by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Vancouver's winning the right to host the 2010 Olympic Winter Games is not the first time that the city or the province have vied for the honor or for that matter have been offered an opportunity to stage the Olympic Games.

In the early 1960s, four British Columbia sites – Fernie, Garibaldi (Figure 20), Manning and Vernon – worked on bid proposals to stage the 1968 Olympic Winter Games.

Fernie, a small town looking to rediscover itself after the closing of the colliery in 1958, exerted much effort. To help promote the bid, a vignette featuring a skier was produced (Figure 21). The Canadian Olympic Association instead chose Banff in the neighboring province of Alberta as its entry.

In 1966, Vancouver-Garibaldi began its quest for the 1976 Olympic Winter Games. When the International Olympic Committee (IOC), at its May 12, 1970

session, announced that underdog Montreal had won the right to stage the 1976 Summer Olympics, it dealt a severe blow to the chances of the favorite Vancouver. It was highly unlikely that the IOC would award both Games to one nation. And so it was. A few hours later, the 1976 Winter Games were awarded to Denver, Colorado. A few years later, though, Denver pulled out leaving the IOC to find a replacement. Vancouver-Garibaldi was offered the Games, but limited preparation time and lack of political will saw the Games finally being staged by Innsbruck.

In 2003, British Columbia was once again on the Olympic

stage when Vancouver-Whistler were awarded the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. Just 11 days after the IOC decision, the first Canadian stamp (Figure 22) celebrating the Games was issued without much fanfare (see *JSP* Vol.42, No. 1).

Five years later, Canada Post has just issued its first wave of pre-Olympic stamps for the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games (see *JSP* Vol. 47, No. 3, and elsewhere in this issue).

I would like to thank Bob Thorne for his assistance with the slogan cancels.



Figure 22. After many tries, Vancouver will be the first BC host of the Olympic Winter Games.

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1976_Winter_Olympics



Canada Post's 2010 Olympic Stamp Program: Breaking With Tradition (Part 2)

by Mark Maestroni

In Part 1 of this article, I discussed the unusual formats in which Canada Post issued their first pre-Olympic batch of stamps, namely as definitives in coils, booklets, and souvenir sheets only. Also non-traditional was their decision to divide this first pre-Olympic release in two, with issue dates a month apart. The group of stamps released earliest was discussed in my prior article in the Spring 2009 issue of *JSP*. This article tackles the second part of that release.

Sumi Mascot Paralympic Stamps

The bulk of this debut set of Olympic stamps was issued on January 12, 2009, thirteen months in advance of the Olympic Winter Games. The remainder, however, were issued February 12. Why the split dates? The explanation seems to be that Canada Post wanted to also honor the Paralympic Games which will begin March 12. So in reality, all stamps were issued thirteen months in advance of their respective openings.

The Paralympic Games (March 12-21, 2009) will

utilize many of the same venues as the Olympics – but with fewer sports and events. Canada Post chose to honor the Paralympic Games with two stamps.

One stamp, issued January 12, features the Paralympic emblem. This was discussed in the prior article.

The second stamp, released February 12, shows one of the three Games mascots, Sumi, competing in sledge hockey.

With a face value of \$1.18, this definitive stamp pays the oversized mail rate.

Figure 2. A partial strip of the Sumi mascot coil stamp (enlarged). The Paralympic emblem is at upper right. An inscription appears after every 10th stamp.

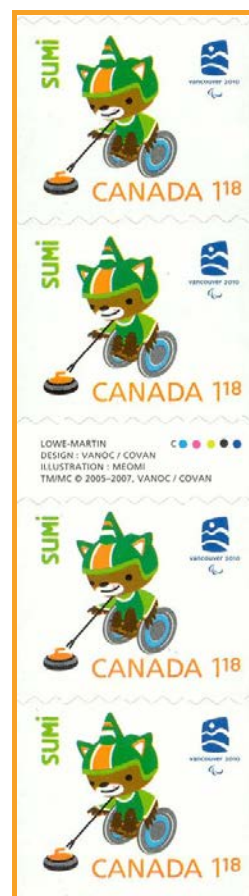




Figure 3. Both sides of the Sumi self-adhesive booklet.

According to Canada Post's explanation, Sumi is an animal spirit that "wears the hat of the orca whale, flies with the wings of the mighty thunderbird and runs on the strong furry legs of the black bear."

The Sumi stamp, like its companion pair of mascot stamps issued on January 12, was issued in three formats: as a coil of 50 stamps, a booklet of 6 stamps (both self-adhesive), and in a souvenir sheet with water-activated gum.

The souvenir sheet, shown at the top of the previous page, includes the two emblem stamps and the other two mascot stamps and was issued February 12. The matching self-adhesive versions of the two emblem stamps and the Quatchi and Miga mascot stamps were issued January 12. It will be interesting to see if any of these stamps from the souvenir sheet slip by Canada Post's scrutiny and receive January 12 first day cancels!

The official First Day Cover for the souvenir sheet was prepared by Canada Post and sold for CDN\$5.89 (Figure 4).

The coil version is identical in format to that used for the other mascot stamps with an inscription block after every tenth stamp (Figure 2).

The booklet (Figure 3) is two-sided with the stamps on one side, and text on the reverse. There is only one version of the booklet.

As all stamps are considered definitives, they will presumably continue to be printed as needed until the next rate change.



Figure 4. Official First Day Cover of the souvenir sheet issued February 12, 2009.

Cricket & Philately: Cricket Tales of the South Pacific (part 2)

by Peter N. Street

Tokelau



Figures 13a&b. Cricket, Tokelau style, is a village affair with everyone playing.

Three atolls form this small land mass of some 4 square miles in the central Pacific Ocean about 300 miles north of Samoa. The population in 2007 was 1,449.

Tokelau was discovered by British navigator John Byron in 1765. From 1850 to 1870, slave traders operated in the area. When it became a British Protectorate in 1877, this practice stopped. During World War I, Tokelau was incorporated into the Gilbert and Ellice Islands. Since 1948 it has been administered by New Zealand.

Cricket, Tokelau style, involves the whole community and is played for fun. On public holidays such as Christmas, entire villages play – men and women – so that 150-a-side teams are not uncommon. The team that bats first, stays until all its members have taken their turns. The second team bats until either it wins or all its players are dismissed.

The villagers play with great enthusiasm and mighty hits can send the ball up to half a mile. Players bat only once and a hit on the leg is an automatic out.

November 1979 saw the issuance of four stamps with a sports theme. Two feature cricket. The 15-cent issue shows a cricket scene with a round-arm bowling delivery to a batsman who has already raised his native club-like bat over his shoulder (Figure 13a). The 30-cent value depicts a batsman with raised bat and a wicketkeeper standing up to the stumps (Figure 13b).

The players are dressed in native colored skirts with bare feet and no protective gear. They are

wearing headbands or eyeshades. The pitch is a mat laid on a sandy beach. The three regulation stumps are without bails.

Tonga

This 500-mile long archipelago is located south of Samoa and east-southeast of Fiji. Only 48 of the 171 islands comprising the group are populated (114,000 in 2006).

Abel Tasman, the noted Dutch explorer who discovered Fiji, also was the first foreign visitor to the islands in 1642. Captain Cook, on his 1777 journey, named them the “Friendly Islands” [Editor’s Note: unbeknownst to him, he was very nearly killed by the chiefs]. Although an independent monarchy, Tonga accepted British Protectorate status in 1900. This status ended in 1970 with Tonga joining the Commonwealth of Nations.

British missionaries, along with visits by ships of the Royal Navy, were instrumental in introducing cricket to the Tongans. The local peoples’ enthusiasm quickly led to inter-village competition. With their naturally big builds, the islanders tended to be heavy hitters and fast bowlers.

The Tongan Cricket Association was formed in 1930. International matches did not start until 1979



Figure 14. “Bodyline” tour participants.



Figure 17. Clockwise from top left: Brian Close, Geoffrey Boycott, Godfrey Evans, David Bairstow.

(A) The painting “Cricket in the Artillery Ground 1743” by Francis Hayman and a statue of Fuller Pilch, a batsman who played for the English County of Kent from 1836 to 1854.

(B) Dr. W.G. Grace, the superstar English all rounder from the 19th century. [See *JSP*, November/ December 1990]

(C) Pages from the *Boys Own Paper* (1909) showing coaching tips from the stars of the day.

(D) The 1909 Australian cricket team is shown at top. Reproduced at bottom are five cigarette cards showing (left to right) English captain Douglas Jardine, Australian leg open bowler Bill O'Reilly, English captain and all rounder Wally Hammond, Australian batsman Arthur Chipperfield, and English batsman Jack Hobbs.

(E) “Ashes Urn” and a modern cricket batsman and wicketkeeper. [See *JSP*, Winter 2006 & Spring 2007]

Tuvalu

Tuvalu is a group of nine islands at the intersection of the international date line with the equator, approximately 2,500 miles northeast of Australia. The islands cover an area of about 10 square miles with a mostly Polynesian population of 12,000

(2006).

The islands became a protectorate in 1892 as the Ellice Islands. In 1916, the protectorate was expanded to include the Gilbert Islands. Tuvalu achieved independence in 1975, joining the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Introduced by missionaries in the late 19th century, the local population showed only limited interest in cricket. More recently, there have been occasional matches against Kiribati. A Tuvalu team participated in the 1979 South Pacific Games, but with limited success.

With the West Indian islands of Nevis and St. Vincent, Tuvalu issued a series of “Leaders of the World” stamps in 1984 and 1985.

Twenty-four of these se-tenant stamps featured portraits and action shots of famous cricket players. Included were contemporary players from the English County Cricket teams of Kent and Yorkshire as well as established stars from the past. The four stamps in Figure 17 are a representative sample:

(A) Brian Close: Yorkshire and Somerset all rounder and England national team captain in the 1960's.

(B) Geoffrey Boycott: England and Yorkshire opening batsman in the 1970's and 1980's.

(C) David Bairstow: England and Yorkshire wicketkeeper in the late 1970's and early 1980's.

(D) Godfrey Evans: Kent and England first choice wicketkeeper from 1946-1959.



Figures 18 & 19. Tuvalu's cricket stamps feature a modern batsman (left) and salute to scouting.

Tuvalu issued four stamps in July 1991 commemorating the 9th South Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea. The cricket stamp features a batsman in conventional uniform completing a stroke. The wicket is a regulation three stumps with bails (Figure 18).

August 2007 saw Tuvalu issue a stamp commemorating 100 Years of World Scouting. The illustration shows the Boy Scout badge and a cricket scene featuring a batsman and a bowler. The players are wearing shorts. The stumps appear regulation without bails (Figure 19).

Wallis and Futuna Islands

Wallis and Futuna consists of two groups of islands separated by 150 miles of open ocean. They are located between Fiji and Samoa. The total land area of the islands is 105 square miles with a population of about 15,000 (2008).

The Wallis island group is named after British navigator Samuel Wallis who circumnavigated the world in 1767. The Wallis and Futuna Islands were declared a French protectorate in 1842, administered from New Caledonia. In 1959, the inhabitants voted to become a French overseas territory.

The inhabitants of the islands play their traditional cricket as a cultural inter-village activity to capacity crowds. In 2007 the Wallis and Futuna Cricket Association, with the assistance of the New Caledonian Cricket Federation, attempted to promote the standard version of the game. Playing



Figure 20. Wallis & Futuna cricketer in native dress.

by ICC rules would allow Wallis and Futuna to participate in the South Pacific Games.

Wallis and Futuna have commemorated cricket on two stamps. The first, an airmail stamp issued in September 1998, is entitled “Le Cricket a Wallis.” A left-handed batsman is depicted making a pull shot with a native club-like bat.

The player is wearing colored shorts and a white shirt, competing barefoot without protective gear (Figure 20).

The second issue dating to May 2005, is a 190-franc stamp celebrating “Le Cricket Traditionnel.” Featured is a batsman in traditional skirted dress swinging a club-like native bat (Figure 21).

Conclusion

The ICC has recently established the World Cricket League. This is a one-day competition for countries with associate or affiliate membership. At present the only countries in the South Pacific that qualify and have issued cricket stamps are Fiji, Samoa, and Tonga.

As more of the island groups develop their cricket programs, they will join the World Cricket League. Hopefully this will lead to the issuing of more cricket stamps. 🍀

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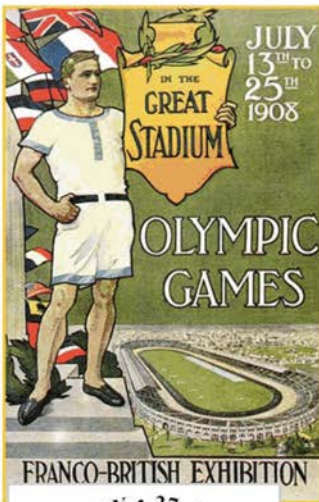
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Figure 21. FDC of the “le cricket traditionnel” stamp from Wallis & Futuna.

1908—2008 British Commemoration

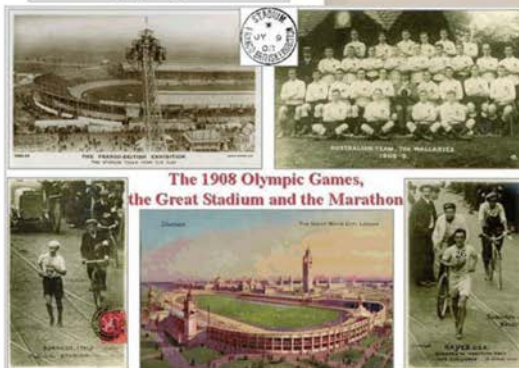


THE LONDON 1908 OLYMPIC GAMES

THE GREAT STADIUM at WHITE CITY



1908-2008 Centenary of the Marathon Distance
26 miles 385 yards



1908-2008 Centenary of the Marathon Distance—26 miles 385 yards



The 1908 London Olympic & Marathon Centenary

by Bob Wilcock

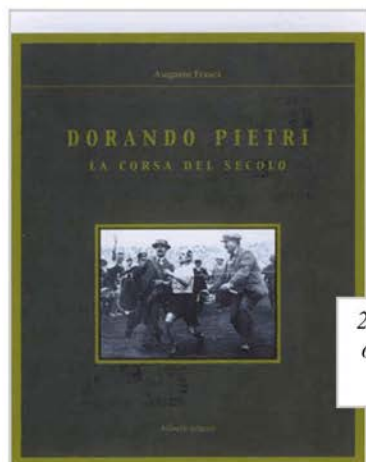
It was expected that the Centenary of the 1908 Olympic Games would be celebrated in Great Britain. Not surprisingly, the Italians celebrated the centenary of the most important Olympic marathon in history, and their champion, Dorando Pietri.

The philatelic programs for these two events

became intertwined as a result of links between Britain's Society of Olympic Collectors (SOC), and the Committee for the Celebration of the Centenary in Italy (www.dorandopietri.it), together with UICOS, the Italian sports and Olympic collectors' organization.

Dorando was born in Mandrio, a hamlet on the outskirts of Correggio near Modena, Italy. February 23, 2008 saw the opening of a large philatelic exhib-

Italian Cancels & Postcards



20 October 2007—launch of the book “The Race of the Century” - cancel & postcard of the book cover, plus two of 7 reproduction postcards.



23 February 2008—
Italian stamp and 4 first
day postmarks



SOC launched the book “The 1908 Olympic Games, the Great Stadium, and the Marathon—a Pictorial Record” at the exhibition, and issued a SmartStamp with Hayes and Dorando flanking the exhibition logo.

ition there, central to which were some of the finest collections of 1908 material from Britain and Italy.

The Italian Post Office used the occasion to launch their centenary stamp. There were 4 different postmarks – from Correggio, Carpi, San Remo, where Dorando died, and a second one from Correggio sponsored by UICOS.

SOC marked their participation with a computer-printed SmartStamp, all examples of which were mailed from England to Carpi.

The links were boosted by the organizers of today’s London Marathon who staged a major display relating to the 1908 Olympic marathon as part of the 2008 London Marathon Exhibition.

The “Queen’s Cup,” awarded to Dorando, left Italy for the first time in 100 years, and Johnny Hayes’ much cherished gold medal was also proudly on display.

Lookalike actors staged a mock interview between Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Hayes and Dorando, based on writings of the time.



SOC SmartStamps

Commencing in October 2007 and continuing through 2008, the Italian committee sponsored a series of special postmarks. The most significant of these coincided with the exact centenary of the race, July 24, 2008, when a statue of Dorando was unveiled in the beautiful main square of Carpi. It was to this town that Dorando's family moved when he was a boy. Dorando would return to Carpi to marry Teresa Dondi in 1909, and later open the Grand Hotel Dorando financed by the fortune he made as a professional marathon runner from late 1908 to 1911.

In all there are ten handcancels, including one for a philatelic exhibition at Ancona on the Adriatic, and another to mark a stage of the 91st Giro d'Italia cycle race (Dorando was a cycle racer before becoming a marathon runner).

SOC marked the centenary date with two SmartStamps in use only on that day. One of these depicts Canada's Tom Longboat, Dorando Pietri and the pack leaving Windsor Castle at the start of the marathon. The second reflects the respective finishes of Dorando and Hayes in the Olympic stadium.

Britain's Royal Mail issued a "Commemorative Sheet" with the patriotic Union Flag stamp flanked by vignettes of 1908 Olympians, including Ray Ewry and Martin Sheridan of the US, and Pierre de Coubertin (but not Dorando or Hayes!). There were three commemorative handcancels (one principally for a coin cover) used on that day.

Some 20 postcards were issued in Italy relating to the centenary, some of them being reproductions of 1908 cards. SOC issued four in the UK (one of them being a publicity card for the book).

Ireland produced two postcards of interest. Johnny Hayes was an Irish-American whose family came from Nenagh in County Tipperary. A statue has been erected to him there, alongside statues to Matt McGrath who won gold in the 16lb hammer in Stockholm in 1912, and Bob Tisdall, the 400-meter hurdles champion at Los Angeles in 1932. One postcard depicts all three statues, the other is centred on Hayes, and was a limited edition for the centenary.

Back in Italy, the municipal authorities in Carpi used a franking meter depicting Dorando.

Finally, mention must be made of a miniature sheet from Palau. One of an omnibus issue marking past Olympiads, Palau's sheet celebrates 1908, and has two interesting errors. One stamp depicts the fencing poster image taken from the official report. A second stamp uses the image that is commonly described as the official poster, but is in fact the daily Olympic programme cover. There is a stamp depicting Wyndham Halswelle, controversial winner of the 400-meter gold, and finally a stamp depicting Dorando. This appears to be taken from the 1936 German cigarette card image: the track is green instead of cinder-grey, and Dorando's shorts black instead of red.



23 February 2008—Exhibition postcard by Nani Tedeschi & Poste Italiane maximum card

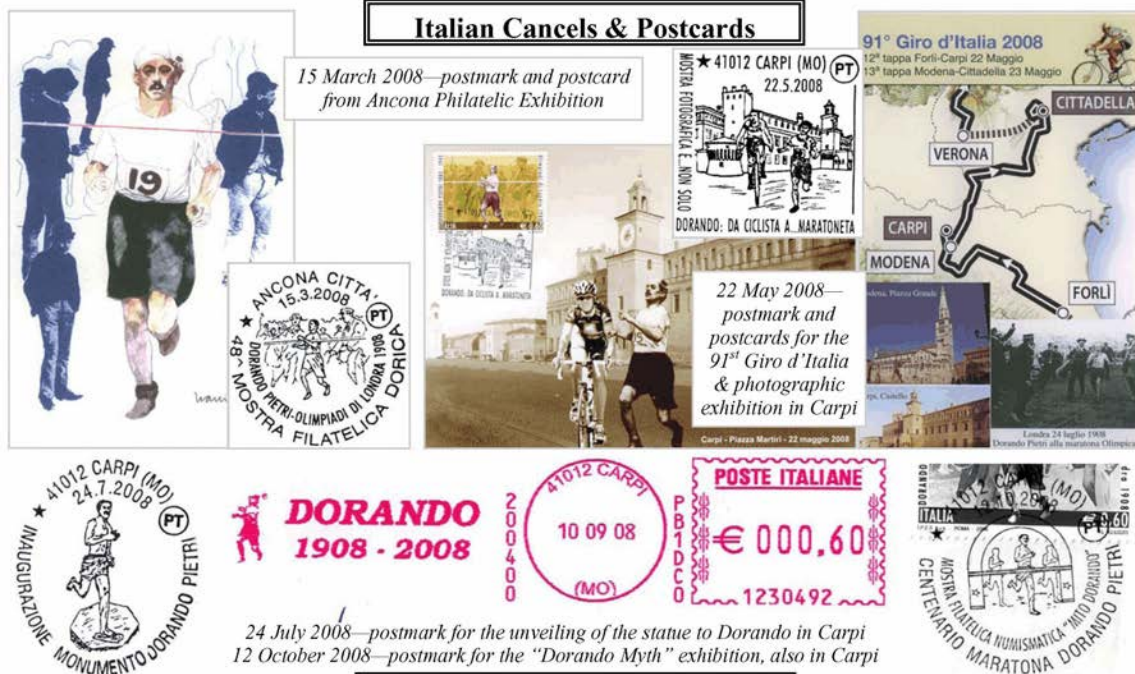


23 February 2008—Exhibition postcard showing medallions issued.

15 March 2008—'UNASCI' expo cancel and postal card



Italian Cancels & Postcards



Palau & Ireland



The following items are available from SOC:

"The 1908 Olympic Games, the Great Stadium, and the Marathon—a Pictorial Record," \$28

The 4 SOC postcards, \$5

The 2 Irish postcards, \$5

SmartStamp set (4), \$15

Poste Italiana FD cancels 23.2.08 Carpi, Correggio, San Remo (3) on SOC postcards, \$10

1908 Olympic poster card with 27.4.08 cancel, \$3

Beijing Torch in London - SmartStamp & handstamp (2 covers), \$5

Parade for British Olympic & Paralympic Medal

Winners 16.10.08 – SmartStamp cover, \$3

London 2012 Cultural Olympiad SmartStamp on cover, \$3

All prices are postpaid world-wide. Orders may be placed by e-mail and payment made by **PayPal** to marathon@societyofolympiccollectors.org or by letter to **SOC, 24 Hamilton Crescent Brentwood, Essex CM14 5ES, England**. If you are not able to pay by PayPal you may need to pay in dollar bills – unfortunately SOC are not able to accept US checks for these items due to high bank charges.



Figure 1. Sinclair Oil Company promotional display for its Babe Ruth Baseball Contest.

Sinclair - Babe Ruth Baseball Contest Meters

by Norman Rushefsky

By the mid 1930's Babe Ruth was ending his baseball playing career but was still one of the most popular sports celebrities of that decade. In order to capitalize on his popularity the relatively new medium of radio hired him to host various radio programs.

In 1934 Quaker Oats sponsored his programs on the NBC network which were called "Play Ball" and "The Adventures of Babe Ruth." Sinclair Refining Company sponsored "The Sinclair Babe Ruth Program" on the CBS network in 1937.

These twice weekly, 15-minute programs had Ruth describe highlights of his playing career such as the "called shot." This was the home run Ruth hit in the 1932 World Series in which he is said to have pointed to where his home run would be hit – a legend Ruth perpetuated.

Ruth also played the part of a baseball dopest, providing predictions of who would win the pennants. He correctly predicted the Yankees would take the 1937 pennant.

The Sinclair program heavily promoted an essay contest for kids. Each week's prizes included two Nash Ambassador Eight sedans, 20 RCA Victor auto radios and 500 Spaulding Official National League baseballs that "Babe Ruth autographed." In reality, it seems that due to the sheer numbers of baseballs awarded, Babe Ruth never personally autograph any

of them. His "Sincerely Babe Ruth" was signed by others.

Figure 1 is a display available to participating Sinclair gas stations promoting the company's Babe Ruth Baseball Contest. The display features dinosaurs symbolic of fossil fuels that were to become part of the logo for the Sinclair Refining Company. Contest entry blanks were available from any participating Sinclair gas station.

Figure 2 is a promotional photo of Ruth before a microphone for the CBS 1937 program.

Figures 3 through 6 are examples of the meters with slogans used by Sinclair Refining Company in 1937 to promote the contest.

The 1937 Sinclair program was short-lived lasting from April 14 through July 9. Even though retired as a player, Ruth continued to be extremely popular until his death in 1948.



Figure 2. Sinclair Oil sponsored Ruth's twice weekly baseball radio shows tied into a contest.

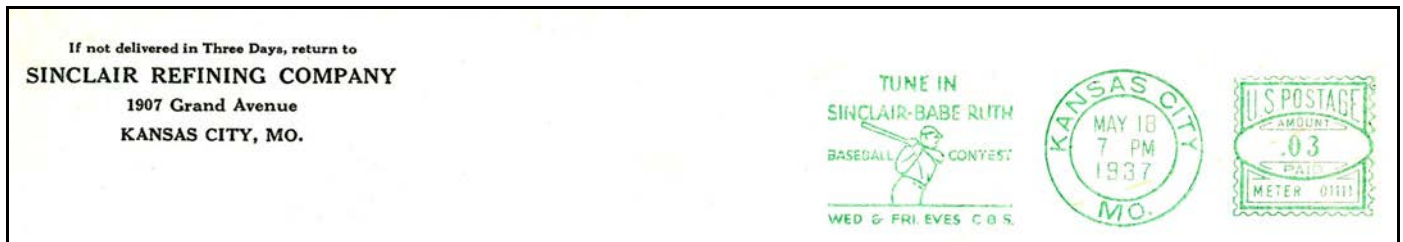


Figure 3. The Kansas City, MO meter in green.

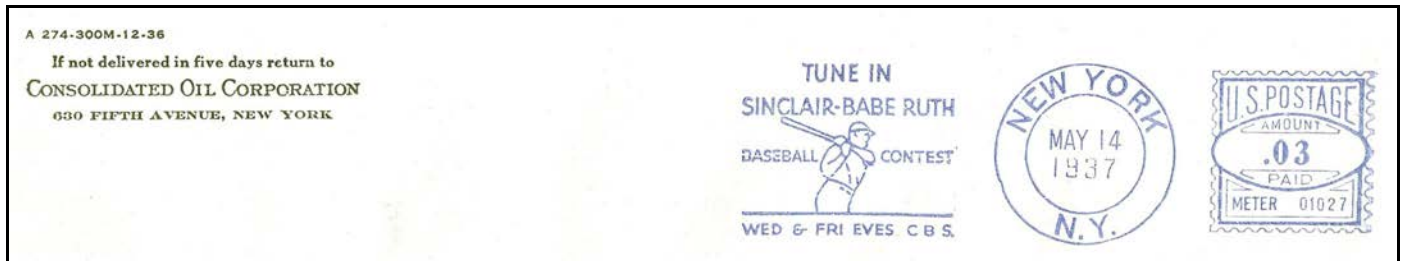


Figure 4. This blue meter was used in New York by Consolidated Oil, probably a subsidiary of Sinclair.



Figure 5. Sinclair's offices in Fort Worth, TX used this newly-discovered version in purple ink.

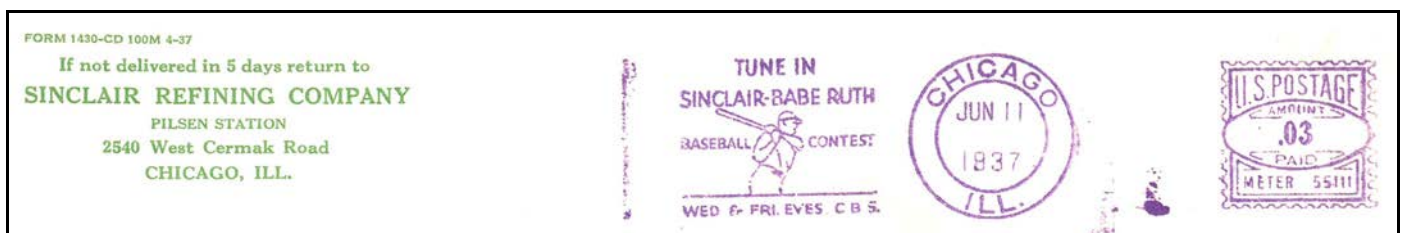
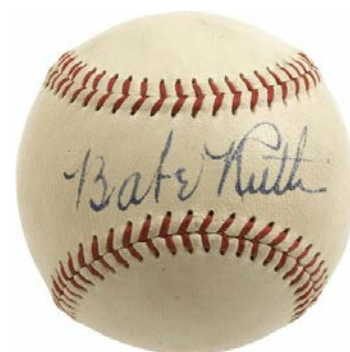
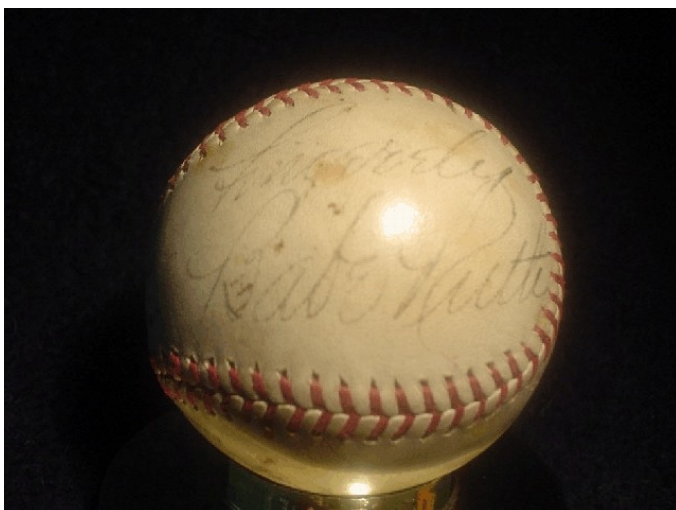


Figure 6. The Chicago offices of Sinclair Refining also used purple ink for its meter imprints promoting the Sinclair-Babe Ruth Baseball Contest on Wednesday and Friday evenings on CBS.



A "secretarial" signed Babe Ruth Baseball Contest ball (left) is easily differentiated from one with an authentic Babe Ruth autograph, above.

A Centennial Salute To a Bygone Era



by Mark Maestroni

A recent column on mourning covers by John Hotchner published in *Linn's Stamp News* reminded me of just such a gem lurking in my own collection.

Mourning covers, to quote Ernest A. Mosher, a leading authority on the subject, "may be simply defined as black-edged, posted letters used in many countries during the 19th and early 20th centuries as harbingers of death and messengers of grief." Not a terribly pleasant subject, I'll grant you, but they sure are philatelic eye-catchers (above).

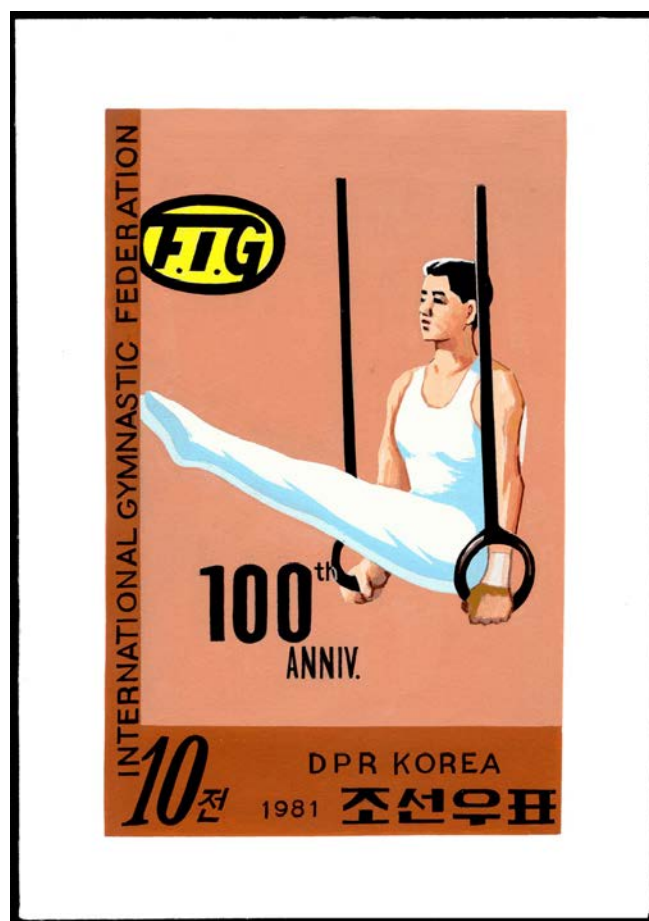
More often than not, mourning covers find their way into a collection or exhibit because of the franking or perhaps the letter was mailed at an unusual rate to an exotic destination.

Thematic collectors, particularly those in the sport or Olympic fields, rarely find mourning covers that fit their interests. On those rare occasions when they do pop up, they are even more desirable. Just such a cover fell into my hands.

First, some background. In the late 19th century – 1881 to be exact – the very first international sports federation was founded: the European Gymnastics Federation (FEG), later to become the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Centennial of the FIG in 1981. Preliminary artwork from N. Korean printer archives; watercolor on posterboard.

In its early days, the federation held meetings on an irregular basis, usually in conjunction with a national competition in one of its member countries. At their 4th meeting in Antwerp in 1903, the FEG



inaugurated the First International (later, World) Gymnastics Championships, albeit on a much reduced scale being that only four countries competed! These were men-only events; a women's championship wasn't introduced until 1934.

At the meeting of the FEG in Prague in 1907, it was decided that Luxembourg, a charter member of the federation, would hold the next International Gymnastics Championships two years hence.

It was in Luxembourg City on July 31, 1909 that the gymnastics community gathered for the 8th FEG Congress followed by the 4th International Gymnastics Championships. In their honor, the Luxembourg post office caused a special commemorative cancellation to be used August 1 and 2. This is believed to be the first sports *world championship* postmark!

The mourning cover (facing page) bears the championship cancel dated August 2. It was addressed to Lausanne, Switzerland than rerouted to Mollie-Margot, a small town about 13 km. northeast of the city. The pair of 12½ centimes Grand Duke William IV stamps (Scott #83) correctly pay the 25c rate to a UPU country, effective October 1, 1907.

By 1909, the FEG had grown to 14 member societies. Two notable exceptions were Germany and Switzerland.

The Deutsche Turnerschaft (German gymnastics federation), the oldest gymnastics organization in the world (Figure 3), refused repeated invitations to join, claiming that the FEG included members with political tendencies (it is likely they meant the Czech, Croat and Sloven Sokols).

The Swiss, who boasted some 60,000 active gymnasts, felt that the FEG's competitions had strayed too far from pure artistic gymnastics by including such events as weightlifting, rope climbing and high jumping. They were content with their national competitions (Figure 4).

The Swiss eventually joined the FEG (by then renamed "FIG") in 1923. The Germans would not become members until after WWII in 1951.

Returning to the 1909 event: in addition to host Luxembourg, teams from France, Belgium, Italy, and the Czech and Sloven Sokols entered.



Figure 3. Germany did not join the FIG until 1951 despite being the oldest gymnastics association, dating back to 1816.



Figure 4. Even in 1909, the Swiss gymnastics societies were still not members of FEG. Their 1909 national championships were held barely two weeks before the Luxembourg event as advertised on this Swiss event postcard.

France dominated, winning the team competition, high bar, parallel bars and tying Italy for first place on rings. The French gymnast, Marcos Torres, won the Combined (All-Around) Event.

Torres, born in 1888 in Algeria (then a French colony) had a long gymnastics career spanning both the 1912 Stockholm and 1920 Antwerp Olympics. At the latter, he won the silver All-Around medal – the last time a Frenchman won an Olympic All-Around medal until Benoît Caranobe's bronze at the 2008 Beijing Olympics – an 88-year drought!

Gymnastics has come a long way since those early days a century ago. And thanks to the Luxembourg post office – and some unfortunate soul mourning a loved one or friend – we have a wonderful remembrance of that bygone era.

Thanks to Gary Little of the Luxembourg Collectors Club for the rate information.

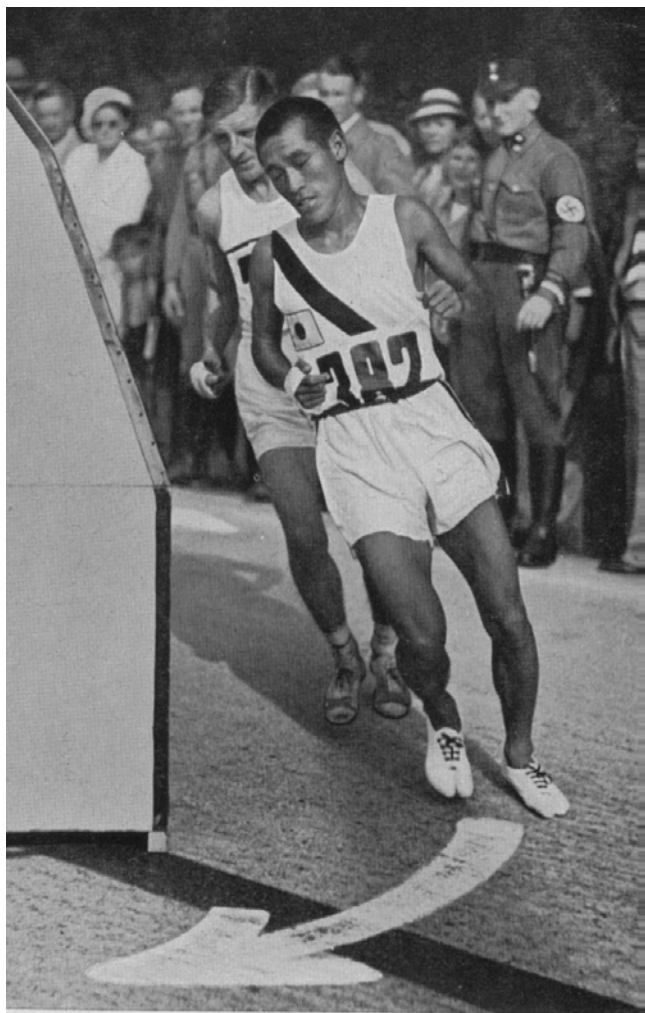


Figure 1. German cigarette card showing Sohn Kee-chung and Ernie Harper from Great Britain at the 21-km mark. The Japanese flag is clearly visible on his jersey.

OLYMPIAN PROFILE: Sohn Kee-chung

by Andrew Urushima



As an American of Japanese ancestry I grew up being proud of my ancestry and admiring athletes and famous personalities from my ancestral home.

In reading the Olympic record books as a teenager, I saw the name of Kitei Son from Japan as the gold medalist at the 1936 Olympic Games in, of all events, the marathon. I was proud that someone of my nationality had won such a prestigious race. As I grew older, I began to understand the political intricacies of Japan and Korea during the 1930s and also learned that Kitei Son, was not a Japanese athlete but an athlete named Sohn Kee-chung, of Korean descent who was forced to run under an occupying nation's flag (Figure 1).

Sohn was born on August 29, 1914, in a small village of Sinuiju in what is now North Korea. Sohn was an energetic young runner. Between 1933 and 1936 he ran 13 marathons in which he came away with 10 victories. At the age of 21, Sohn set a world record time of 2:26:42 in Tokyo. This world record would stand until 1947 when, coincidentally, another Korean, Suh Yun-bok would better his time.

As Korea in the 1930s was occupied by Japanese forces, Sohn's only hope to qualify for the 1936 Olympics depended on his ability to make the Japanese team. Sohn qualified by winning one of the two marathon trial races and coming in second in the other trial race. He was named to the team along with fellow countrymen, Nam Seung-yong and Yoo Chang-chun. As Korea was under Japanese rule, all three of these athletes were forced to adopt Japanese names. In the official Olympic records his participation is recorded under the Japanese name Son Kitei. Sohn, a fervent nationalist, always signed his Korean name in Berlin, and whenever he was asked where he was from, he made it a point to explain that Korea was a separate nation.



Figure 2. Olympic Stadium cancellation of August 9, 1936, the date of the Olympic marathon race.



Figure 3. German cigarette card showing Sohn and Ernie Harper from Great Britain early in the race.

On August 9, 1936, the marathon was held, beginning at Berlin's Olympic Stadium (Figure 2). Defending 1932 marathon champion Juan Carlos Zabala of Argentina took the early lead, followed by Sohn and Ernie Harper of Great Britain. After 17 miles, Sohn and Harper passed Zabala. It wasn't long before Sohn pulled away from Harper, winning the race by more than two minutes while countryman Nam finished third behind Harper. Sohn's winning time was 2 hours, 29 minutes, 19.2 seconds, a new Olympic record (Figure 3).

As Sohn officially represented Japan, the medal ceremony was celebrated by the raising of the Japanese flag and by the playing of the Japanese national anthem. On the medal stand both Sohn and Nam bowed their heads in silent protest. As for the race itself, Sohn is quoted as having said "The human body can do so much. Then the heart and spirit must take over."

Back in Korea, Sohn was crowned a national

hero. One newspaper, *Dong-a-Ilbo*, published a wire-service photograph of Sohn on the victory platform, but with one alteration: they painted over the Japanese flag on his sweatshirt. In swift reaction to this, the local Japanese-controlled government jailed those responsible and suspended the paper's publication for months.

After retiring from competitive running, Sohn spent the remainder of his career coaching other notable runners such as:

- Suh Yun-bok, the winner of the Boston marathon in 1947, who broke his world record with a time of 2:25:39.
- Ham Kee-yong, winner of the Boston marathon in 1950.
- Hwang Young-cho, the gold medalist in the marathon at the 1992 Summer Olympics. Sohn Kee-chung went to Barcelona especially to watch this race.

In 1948, Korea, now independent from Japan, participated in the London Summer Olympics where Sohn was selected to carry the South Korean flag at the Opening Ceremony. In what some would call Sohn's crowning Olympic achievement, he was accorded the honor of being one of the final torchbearers at the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games. Now 78 years of age, Sohn rounded the Seoul Olympic Stadium track bearing the Olympic torch with the pride and support of an adoring nation.

Continuing to be active in Korea's sports movement, he became the Chairman of the Korean Sporting Association as well as a member of the Korean Olympic Committee.

Sohn passed away at the age of 88 in 2002 and is buried at the Daejeon National Cemetery.

Philatelic Recognition

As a result of his athletic accomplishments, Sohn has been commemorated on two stamps.

In 1957 the Dominican Republic issued a set honoring past Olympic champions including other track greats Fanny Blankers-Koen and Emil Zatopek. The Dominican Republic issue shows Sohn breaking the tape in his 1936 marathon victory in Berlin (Figure 4).

Sohn's image at the tape is also included on a meter cancellation honoring the 50th Anniversary of this victory in Berlin (Figure 5).



Figure 4. Dominican Republic issue from 1956 depicting Sohn breaking the tape at the 1936 Olympic Games (left) and the actual photo from which the stamp design was taken. The stamp is a “red color missing” error.



Figure 5. Korean meter commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Sohn's victory.

Sohn's greatest philatelic honor was bestowed on him by his home country of South Korea. In 1992, after the Barcelona Olympics, Korea paid tribute to its two Olympic marathon champions, Sohn and his pupil, Hwang Young-cho (Figure 6).

Figure 6. (Right) Souvenir sheet issued in 1992 depicting Korea's winning marathon champions Sohn Kee-chung (left) and Hwang Young-cho (right).



Chinese Postal Stationery: Stop It!



One of the earliest Chinese postal stationery cards issued in 1995.

by Luciano Calenda

[The following article first appeared in the April 2009 issue of Filabasket Review, the journal of the International Filabasket Society. It is reprinted with their, and the author's, kind permission.]

I am firmly convinced that we all must say “STOP” buying any kind of new postal stationery cards (and envelopes) from the P. R. of China once and for all ! Let me explain why ...

Because of the uncontrolled landscape of postal stationery cards issued by the P.R. of China, some time ago we [International Filabasket Society] decided to no longer catalogue these items, unless they were issued directly by the National Postal Authorities and regard important sports events. In fact, in the past we tried to understand the origin and the typology of these items and we discovered that 99% of the recent stationery cards are printed “on demand” by private organizations, such as universities and colleges, manufacturing firms, mobile telephone and insurance companies, national lotteries and even basketball clubs. Furthermore, in most cases, the basketball element that makes an item of interest for our collections is really very, very marginal and is not the main subject of the card. We also discovered that 500 pieces was the minimum quantity of postcards to be accepted, and printed, by the postal authorities; very recently we checked again and were told that the minimum quantity had been reduced to 100 pieces costing \$90USD.

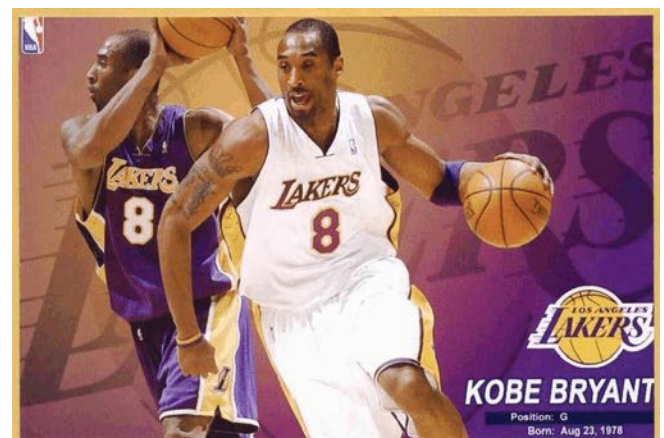
It is clear that anybody, at very little cost, can create his own unique postal stationery cards, perfectly legitimate from a postal and philatelic point of view because they are controlled, printed

and sold directly by the national postal authorities. The consequence of this situation is that these postcards cannot be refused in an official exhibition, although their use is not “recommended” by juries and experts, mainly in the area of thematic philately.

In conclusion, a collector can buy such items for his personal pleasure only because he knows that they are not important from a philatelic point of view. As always I repeat, *everybody is free to collect what he wants and spend his money as he likes.*

But recently the situation changed drastically! What until a few months ago could be considered “acceptable,” although not “recommended,” now must be refused and considered absolutely invalid from a philatelic point of view! Here is the whole story ...

At the beginning of this year several Chinese dealers offered on eBay a “new generation” of basketball postcards. They were very attractive and colorful, depicting very interesting subjects such as NBA players or action shots of the games. Last, but not least, they were cheap: \$2.00USD each.



It is really difficult to resist this sort of thing.



Three types of indicia on the Chinese postcards: (1) red bull (top left); (2) rat (top right), and (3) lotus flower (above). The lotus flower card has a bar code and serial number at lower left.

Everything seemed to be okay, although the previous concerns were still valid. However, in scrolling down the eBay screen, one was confronted with the shocking announcement accompanying the offers of these postcards:

"This prepaid postcard with a special indicium (red bull head, 1), which is different from other stamps, moreover the postcard with a unique bar code. The backside of this kind of prepaid postcard is blank, you can print pictures you like with a printer, so it is a great gift for your friends and family.

Attention: We can only offer this kind of prepaid postcard, now only this kind of prepaid postcard is personalized postcard you can print pictures on it. Other Chinese prepaid postcards/covers/lettercards cannot be used in this way. Other Chinese prepaid postcards/covers/lettercards should be applied and approved by China Post. Now we can offer following service:*

A) 2 dollars per piece (airmail postage included). You give us your photo/picture, we printed it, then mailed the prepaid postcard direct to you by airmail.

B) 1 dollar per piece (postage excluded). You give us your photo/picture, we print it, then packed it well and mailed to you by registered letter, the postage is 4 dollars for each time.

If you have other requirement, please contact us."

* It is not exactly so: this personalized service for postcards currently applies also to other postcards having two more types of indicia: the rat (2) and the lotus flower (3). Furthermore, this kind of postcard is printed on slightly thinner paper.

If you read this offer carefully you'll realize that it is an enormous trick!

To demonstrate what I am talking about, let me use a normal "official" postal stationery card issued by Italy (bottom): it has a blank side and an address side with an indicium prepaying postage (exactly as the Chinese postcards).

If I print something with my printer (as suggested by the Chinese dealers) on the reverse of this postcard (which is completely blank just like the "basic" Chinese cards) what is the difference with those offered on eBay?

None, none at all!

While these items can be mailed they have no validity from a philatelic point of view, because the drawings (or words, or pictures) printed on them are privately created by individuals or organizations. For this reason they cannot be used in official exhibitions.

By the way, everyone can do what they wish with their printers for their own pleasure – but not for exhibition purposes.

In conclusion:

- This kind of postcard, offered on eBay, does not have any philatelic or thematic validity!
- The money you spend on these items is wasted for exhibition purposes.
- These postcards have the same value as labels or "Cinderella" items!
- I stopped even downloading the images from the internet.



Standard Italian postal stationery card with blank reverse side.

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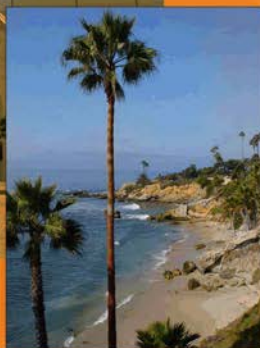
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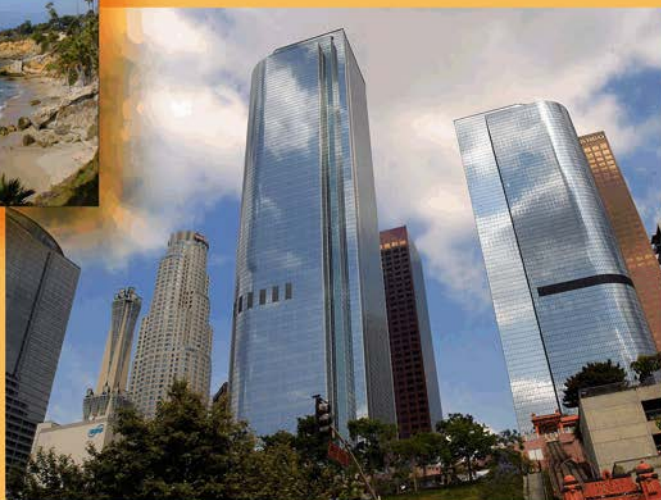
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THE SPORTS ARENA

by Mark Maestrone

USPS To Designate Unique ZIP Code to Dodgertown, CA 90090

[From the official press release, May 1, 2009]

"The Los Angeles Dodgers announced today that the United States Postal Service will designate Dodger Stadium and the associated property with a new signature Zip-90090. The unveiling at Dodger Stadium is scheduled to take place Saturday, June 6, before the Dodgers play the Philadelphia Phillies at 1:10 p.m. on national television."

"The Los Angeles City Council designated the property as "Dodgertown" in October, 2008."

"We welcome letters in any language, from any person, anywhere in the world," said Dodgers CEO Jamie McCourt. "Baseball is a universal language; baseball is a unifying language."

"The official unveiling June 6 will allow special stamp cancellation opportunities for fans and collectors alike."

Collectors wishing to obtain the special postmark on June 6 may send their stamped covers with a SASE to: Kathy Clements, 3976 Olmsted Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90008-2626.

Mysterious "Penguins" Postmark

Regular contributor, Kon Sokolyk, recently contacted me with this rather interesting color postmark on what appears to be a USPS-produced cacheted cover from Pittsburgh, PA dated January 20, 1996, honoring the NHL Penguins. Kon hadn't seen this before, nor had I. Can any of our ice hockey or winter sports fans out there provide a little background on this "cool" item?



3-Volume Catalog of Olympic Games Stamps

A full-color catalogue of Olympic Games stamps has been published in China by China Philatelic Publishing House. Printed in 3 volumes, the full set comprises 1,816 pages measuring 142 x 211 mm. The set weighs in at about 3 kg. An introduction and titles of each entry are in English.

Our Membership Chairman, Peg Jones, purchased the set. She noted that it did indeed cover both summer and winter Olympic Games stamps and seemed to be current to about 2006. She also noted some Paralympic issues and spotted both Scott and a few Michel catalog numbers as she thumbed through the volumes.

The price in June 2008 when she ordered the set was \$107 which included registered surface mail.

Those interested may contact the publisher's representative, Mr. Xu Gang, Fang Cheng Yuan 2-4-1805, Fang Zhuang, Feng Tai District, Beijing 100078 P. R. China. He may be contacted by email at: francoxg8000@yahoo.com.cn



REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS

by Mark Maestroni

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

March 2009 (#51). Rudolph Roger opens this issue with a tribute to Jean Bouin, famed French distance runner in the early 1900s. René Christin reviews philatelic commemoration of the Globe Challenge around-the-world sailing event from its inception in 1989 to its current 6th competition. If you thought it was too early to consider the 2018 Olympic Winter Games, think again as René presents items for the Grenoble/Isère bid.

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

April 2009 (#28). Editor Luciano Calenda draws back the curtain on the recent flood of so-called postal stationery cards from China being sold on the internet (particularly eBay). For a \$2 investment, anyone can purchase a postal card with a blank back that is designed to be printed on a home laser or inkjet printer. The result is a privately-produced item akin to a label or vignette that is not acceptable in the exhibiting arena. His advise? Stop buying them!

As an architect and someone interested in sports venues, I was also attracted to the article on "The 'Houses' of Basketball, Worldwide ..." The author illustrates many philatelic items (stamps, stationery, meters and postmarks) depicting buildings in which basketball is/was played. Regular features include updates on new basketball issues and interesting items from recent auctions.

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

February 2009 (#141). Olympic themes predominate in this issue. Armin Haug presents coins issued for various Olympic Games. The philately of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games is discussed in great depth by Thomas Lippert and Robert Farley. Thomas also reviews new issues from Canada Post for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. Wolfgang Marx takes a different tack, examining German private post issues with a sports theme

(primarily cycling and football). This issue includes new stamp issues and sport/Olympic postmarks.

April 2009 (#142). Each year, IMOS produces a special issue of its journal coinciding with its annual convention. This year's convention was in Willingen, located midway between Cologne and Frankfurt in the western portion of Germany. Many articles deal with winter sports in the Willingen region (skiing, ski jumping, biathlon and cross country skiing). In addition, Thomas Lippert writes about the torch relay connected with the 1994 Lillehammer Olympic Winter Games. Karl Lennartz looks at the many special trophies awarded at the early Olympic Games (1896-1920). The relatively new sport of mountain biking is examined by H.-Gerd Treschnak.

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

January 2009 (#69). A brief biography of Italian sprinter and five-time Mediterranean Games gold medalist, Pietro Mennea, is presented by Gianni Galeotti. Vic Manikian looks at the 1924 Paris Olympic Games. More philately – mostly postmarks and covers/cards – of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games is reviewed by Pasquale Polo.

Also enclosed with this issue of *Phila-Sport* was a new publication on "The Rimet Cup" which reproduces the exhibit of Andrea Francesconi.

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

March 2009 (Vol. 26, #1). Thomas Lippert provides a very interesting examination of the early years of Olympic airmail in this opening issue of 2009. The first Olympics with an aeronautical connection were the 1900 Paris Games in which sportsmen in balloons and planes exhibited their skills. Continuing the discussion of the philately of the Beijing Olympics, Bob Farley examines the temporary post office at the Beijing International Media Center. In the winter sports category, Vic Manikian looks at bobsledding and the new issues of the Vancouver 2010 Games are introduced.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Margaret Jones

NEW MEMBERS

2265 Gideon H. Nieman, PO Box 12998, Hatfield Pretoria 0028, South Africa. Professor. **Rugby**.
Email: ghnieman@up.ac.za

2266 John P. O'Hara, 3317 150th Place, Flushing, New York 11354-3207 USA. Retired teacher. **Baseball**.

RENEWALS

1423 George Pollack, 466 Wilson Avenue, Sunnyvale, California 94086-6355 USA.

2235 Pierre Godin, 528 Acadian Blvd, Bertrand N.B. E1W 1G6 Canada.

DECEASED

Reginald E. Ausimus III
Joan R. Bleakley
Dewey Langston

EXHIBIT AWARDS

FLOREX 2008 (Orlando, Florida). Clemens Reiss received a silver, an AAPE Creativity Award, and an ATA First Award for "Sailing Races."

Sarasota National Stamp Expo. Clemens Reiss won a gold and the ATA 1st Medal for "Sailing Races." Andrew Urushima received a single-frame vermeil for "The 1944 POW Olympics: Gross Born & Woldenberg."

Updates to your membership information and email address (indicate whether email address is for publication or "office use only") should be sent to docj3@doverplacecc.org. Exhibit awards information may be sent to the same email address. Are you attending a philatelic exhibition? Please take along some Membership Prospectuses to leave on the club/society table. If in doubt, ask an exhibition official where you may place them. Prospectuses are available from me or John La Porta (album@comcast.net).

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NEW STAMP ISSUES

by John La Porta

Albania: August 8, 2008. Beijing Olympics. Four se-tenant stamps showing symbolic athletes. 20 lek soccer player; 30 lek water polo; 40 lek runner; 50 lek cyclist.

Angola: September 20, 2008. Beijing Olympics. Four 30kz stamps depicting symbolic athletes, basketball; volleyball; running; canoeing.

Antigua & Barbuda: January 5, 2009. Sports of the Summer Games. Pane of four se-tenant \$1.40 stamps, baseball; beach volleyball; artistic gymnastics; judo.

Austria: March 7, 2009. Formula 1 Legends. €1 Lewis Hamilton, race car.

Bosnia-Herzegovina: April 10, 2008. 60th Anniversary Shooting Club of Sarajevo. 1.50m target, rifle.

May 5, 2008. Beijing Olympics. 1m judo; 1.50m shot putter, runner. Offset in sheets of 8 with center label.

Canada: January 12, 2009. Vancouver Olympics. Update. The five nondenominated stamps were issued in booklets of 10 and booklets of 30. The stamps were issued in souvenir sheets of 5. Five international rate postal cards issued on the same date.

January 12, 2009. Vancouver Olympics. Two nondenominated (54¢) permanent stamps in coils of 100, one stamp depicts logo of the XXI Winter Games, the other logo of the X Winter Paralympic Games. 98¢ Olympic Mascot Miga in booklets of six and coils of 50. \$1.65 Olympic Mascot Quatchi, booklets of six and coils of 50; set of three international rate postcards depicting logos, Miga, Quatchi and Sumi.

February 12, 2009. \$1.18 Paralympic Mascot Sumi, booklets of six and coils of 50. A souvenir sheet of five logos and mascot stamps.

China: December 18, 2008. 30th Ann. of Reform. 1.20y stamp has the Bird's Nest Stadium depicted.

February 18, 2009. 24th World University Winter Games. Two \$1.20 diamond-shaped stamps, logo, stars, snowflakes; Dong Dong mascot with goggles, scarf.

Colombia: November 23, 2008. National Games. 1,500p emblem, mascot with torch.

Dominican Republic: 2008. Beijing Olympics. Four se-tenant 10p stamps, taekwondo; boxing; table tennis; judo.

Equatorial Guinea: 2008. African Cup of Nations Soccer Championship. Four se-tenant stamps, 400fr soccer ball and show; 450fr gloves, ball; 500fr, 600fr different scenes of players, net.

France: January 31, 2009. Alpine World Ski Championships. Held at Val d'Isère, pane of five se-tenant €0.55 stamps. Super combined; slalom; downhill; giant slalom; spectators at Val d'Isère.



January 31, 2009. Vendée Globe Race. €0.55 sailboats, Vendée.

Georgia: December 5, 2008. Beijing Olympics. 10t shooting; 30t wrestling; 60t weightlifting; 80t judo, offset in sheets of 10.

Greece: October 19, 2008. Sports Club. €0.40 club's coat of arms, two athletes; €0.57 double headed eagle; €0.70 star; €2 lion; €3 discus thrower.

Honduras: July 30, 2008. Beijing Olympics. 3 lep hand with torch; two 5-lep stamps running, martial arts; 25 lep soccer players.

Isle of Man: January 15, 2009. Lewis Hamilton's 2008 Formula One World Championship. Se-tenant pair of stamps; 30p race car; 31p Hamilton celebrating; se-tenant pair of stamps, 56p car crossing finish line; 85p aerial view of Hamilton in car; se-tenant pair of stamp, 98p car, crowd; £1.42 Hamilton with arms upraised.

Israel: February 17, 2009. Extreme Sports. 4.40s mountain biking; 5.40s free fall skydiving; 5.60s surfing. Sheets of 15 and 5 tabs.

Jordan: July 16, 2008. Aqaba. Set of four, two sport stamps, 15pi scuba diver, sailboat; 30pi large double masted sailboat.

Kenya: August 21, 2008. Beijing Olympics. 25sh three runners with the flag; 65sh women's volleyball; 75sh three women runners from Kenya, one from Jamaica; 95sh boxers.

Kyrgyzstan: November 22, 2008. Beijing Olympics. Overprint honoring Olympic Medalists K. Begaliev and R. Tyumenbaev on Beijing Olympic miniature sheet of eight issued March 1, 2008.

Moldova: November 21, 2008. Beijing Olympics. Overprint on 6.20 leu Beijing Olympics boxing stamp, honoring boxing bronze medalist Vyacheslav Gozhan.



Monaco: February 16, 2009. 100th Anniversary Monaco Fencing and Handgun Club. €0.55 fencer, emblem.

February 16, 2009. 100th Anniversary Tour of Italy. €0.70 cyclists (shown at left).

Netherlands: March 10, 2009. Dutch Golf Federation. Personalized self-adhesive €0.44 stamp. Frame with country name and denomination in gray, central design can be personalized. Generic version shows golfer, emblem of the Dutch Golf Federation. Offset in sheets of ten.

New Caledonia: December 15, 2008. Pacific Games. 110fr symbolic people, flame.

New Zealand: February 4, 2009. Champions of World Motor Sport. 50¢ stamp Scott Dixon; two \$1 stamps, Bruce McLaren; \$1.50 Ivan Mauger; \$2 Denny Hulme; \$2.50 Hugh Anderson; souvenir sheet contains the five stamps. Two booklets, one contains 10 50¢ self-adhesive stamps the other contains 10 \$1 self-adhesive stamps. Offset in sheets of 25 and coils of 100.

Russia: December 5, 2008. Shuvalov Swimming School. 8r swimmer.

December 5, 2008. World Hockey Champions. 8r hockey player, trophy. Offset in sheets of 12 with four central labels.

December 11, 2008. Bicycles. Four 7r stamps, 1917 Leitner; 1938 racing bicycle; 1946 bicycle; 1954 B-22 bicycle. Offset in sheets of nine and in miniature sheets of eight stamps and a central label with the designs being se-tenant.

San Marino: February 20, 2009. 50th Anniversary of National Olympic Committee. €1.80 emblem, ribbons in Olympic colors, flame. Offset in sheets of 12, metallic gold.

Switzerland: March 5, 2009. International Ice Hockey Federation World Championships. 1fr hockey, skate.

Tokelau: November 5, 2008. Edmund Hillary. 50¢, \$1, \$2, \$2.50, photographs of the mountaineer and explorer through the years. Souvenir sheet with \$5 stamps, Tenzing Norgay.

United Arab Emirates: August 4, 2008. Beijing Olympics. 1dh; 4.0dh; 4.75dh; 5.50dh, all stamps show symbolic athletes for martial arts, running, shooting, swimming, equestrian. A souvenir sheet contains the four stamps.

COMMEMORATIVE CANCELS

by Mark Maestroni

THE NUMBERING SYSTEM

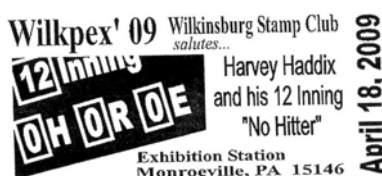
Catalogue numbers are shown at left, such as 05101-911. In this example: 05=Year [2005]; 1=Month [January]; 01=First day of use; 911=First 3 ZIP code digits. The months of October, November and December are 2-digit months, and are expressed as X, Y, and Z. The place of use is listed next, followed by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

SPORTS CROSS INDEX APRIL - MAY 2009

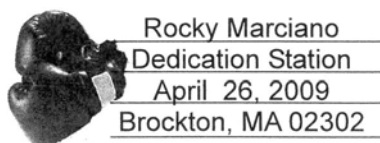
Baseball: 09418-151, 09530-455.
Bowling: 09507-051, 09507-197,
09507-462, 09507-221,
09507-531, 09507-560,
09507-658, 09507-680.
Boxing: 09426-023.
Equestrian: 09410-273.
Fishing: 09505-795.
Football: 09522-790.



09410-273 Oak Ridge, NC 10



09418-151 Monroeville, PA 18-19



09426-023 Brockton, MA 26

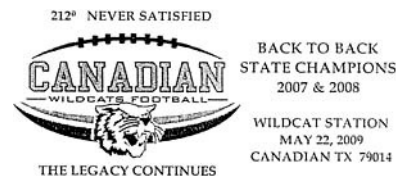
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09507-051 Springfield, VT 7
09507-197 Montchanin, DE 7
09507-462 Indianapolis, IN 7
09507-221 Springfield, VA 7
09507-531 Springfield, WI 7
09507-560 Springfield, MN 7
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The following Sports are often listed
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and other disciplines.

*Illustrations shown here are of imperforate printers proofs of the Min Sheets from the
Nicaragua 1949 Baseball issue. Only four of each value of these proofs are known to exist.*

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