

# JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

VOLUME 48

SPRING 2010

NUMBER 3



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First  
Olympic Gold  
Première  
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pour le Canada



**Vancouver 2010, Canadians'  
Olympic Dreams Come True**



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

I hope that everyone enjoyed watching the Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, Canada this past month. I, along with SPI board member, Norm Jacobs and his wife Kathy, were lucky enough to have attended. Along the way, we linked up with fellow member Joe Lopreiato and his son Joey, as well as European members Bob Farley, his wife Brenda, Thomas Lippert and Klaus Fink.

This issue of the journal features a philatelic travelogue of our exploits during our week-long sojourn up in the not-so-cold Pacific Northwest.

I also want to direct your attention to the extensive 2010 resources we've mounted on our website which include a full listing of all event postmarks for both the Olympic and Paralympic Games, an (almost) complete worldwide checklist of stamps and postal stationery commemorating the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, and my daily blog (much of which is repeated in my article in this issue).

All the information is free to the public. Just go to our home page ([www.sportstamps.org](http://www.sportstamps.org)) and click on the "Vancouver Olympic Philately" icon at top.

I would also like to mention the added benefit of signing up for access to the "Members Only" area of our website (free to all paid members). This gives you the opportunity to download each issue of the journal as soon as its published along with the auction and any monographs. Just go to our home page and click on the "Members Only" icon.

Speaking of monographs, this spring we will be publishing a new full-color monograph on the 1928 Olympic postal cards published by Dutch bookseller, Huygens. To reserve your free copy, you must mail in the reply postcard enclosed with this issue by May 1. Alternatively, you may also e-mail me. If you'd like to help us save printing and postage costs, you'll be able to download this from our

website as soon as it's published – yet another good reason to sign up for our "Members Only" area of the website.

## ***SPI Election***

Yes, it's that time again for our biennial SPI elections. Nominations are now open for all officers and board of directors positions. All SPI members in good standing are eligible to run. Nominations must be received by our Nominations Chairman, Joe Lopreiato, no later than May 1, 2010. His address is: 1105 Betts Trail Way, Potomac, MD 20854 (e-mail: [jolopreiato@comcast.net](mailto:jolopreiato@comcast.net))

## ***SPI and FIPO***

While in Vancouver for the Games, Norm Jacobs and I met with Mr. David Maiden, the IOC's Philatelic Coordinator. Among the topics we discussed: the future of FIPO and how the organization will likely be structured, potential plans for a philatelic exhibition during the London 2012 Olympic Games, and the possibility of holding the 2011 Olympic Collectors Fair in the U.S. He also reiterated that SPI is a full member of FIPO.

## ***Publicity Manager Needed***

SPI continues to reposition itself to take advantage of the new electronic possibilities for promoting sports and Olympic philately.

To be truly effective, SPI needs a publicity manager to get the word out to the blogs and other social media from which, I believe, many of our future members will be recruited. This is a volunteer position. If interested, please contact me and we'll discuss it further ([markspi@prodigy.net](mailto:markspi@prodigy.net)).

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

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Figure 1. Giant fabric murals of Canadian athletes draped the Hudson's Bay Company facade.

## Vancouver 2010, Canadians' Olympic Dreams Come True

by Mark Maestroni

CAN-A-DA ... U-S-A ... CAN-A-DA ... U-S-A  
It's high noon on the final day of the XXI<sup>st</sup> Olympic Winter Games with these two powerhouse ice hockey nations facing off in the finals. If the enthusiasm of the chanting crowds filling Canada Hockey Place is a harbinger, this is going to be a real shoot-out! But I'm getting ahead of myself.

Looking back 7 years ago to 2 July 2003 when the Vancouver-Whistler bid won by a slim majority of votes at the 115<sup>th</sup> IOC Session in Prague, I was certain that I'd be there when our Canadian neighbors welcomed the Olympic flame to their country.

After all, the nexus of the quadrennial celebration of winter sports would be a mere 1,400 miles distant. I wouldn't even have to leave my own time zone!

Despite plenty of speed-bumps along the way, on 13 February I was winging my way to Seattle to meet up with Atlanta SPI member Norm Jacobs and his wife Kathy. While my trip was entirely uneventful (which is a *good* thing), they had to battle their way to the airport through a wicked winter snow and ice storm hitting the southeast. It was touch and go there for awhile whether I'd be driving up to Vancouver on my own. Everything worked out and by early evening we were happily ensconced in our home-away-from-home: a delightfully cozy penthouse apartment in East Vancouver ("East Van" to the locals) with a panoramic view of Vancouver's glittering skyline and the distant Coast Mountains (Figure 2). It was going to be a busy 7 days!

**Sunday, 14 February: Speed skaters take to the ice.  
Canada Post celebrates a Gold.**

This was our first full day at the Olympic Games. It began with a rousing good time at the Richmond Olympic Oval, home to Olympic speed skating.

An interesting side note for the architecture/environmentalists among you: the ceiling of the Oval was constructed entirely of salvaged pine-beetle-kill wood harvested from the forests of British Columbia where about one-third of the pine forests have been lost to the insect (Figure 3).

Now back to the action. Today's bill of fare offered a menu of the world's best women at 3,000 meters. This included the likes of Canadian's Kristina Groves and Clara Hughes, Nancy Swider-Peltz of the U.S., and Martina Sablikova of the Czech Republic. As each of the 14 pairs raced it was clear



Figure 2. Vancouver's skyline from our apartment.



Figure 3. Richmond Olympic Oval, venue for speed skating.

that the best were saved for last. In the end Sablikova, who raced in the 11th pair, managed to stay on top of the standings. Stephanie Beckert of Germany took the silver and Clara Hughes muscled her way in for a bronze, propelled on a wave of bleacher rockin', foot stompin' encouragement from the predominantly Canadian audience.

Where were the Dutch girls? Mysteriously they didn't perform up to par, doing no better than 7<sup>th</sup> despite the enthusiastic bell-ringing support of the many orange-clad Dutch spectators in the stands with the help of traditional Dutch band, Kleintje Pils.

Sunday also turned out to be one of those defining moments in Canadian sports history as Alexandre Bilodeau smashed through the bad karma that had been plaguing Team Canada for 34 years by winning the nation's first Olympic gold medal on home soil. His victory in the men's moguls event of freestyle skiing had the entire nation celebrating, but no more so than in downtown Vancouver where jubilant crowds poured into the streets!

Canada Post was certainly not caught unprepared. Within hours, a press release announced the immediate issuance of a booklet of 10 stamps and a souvenir sheet (Figure 4) depicting the Vancouver Olympic gold medal. The stamps, which had been prepared well in advance and distributed to Vancouver area post offices, were available the next morning (and across Canada on Tuesday). I'm still amazed at how well Canada Post kept this a secret.

It's worth noting that as this was a Sunday night with all post offices closed, there wouldn't have been any way for collectors to obtain a legitimate 14 February 2010 postmark on the stamps. Examples of the gold medalist stamp postmarked that day are most certainly the result of back-dating. An official first day of issue cancel (2010.01.14) wasn't available until Thursday, 18 February.

**Monday, 15 February:**  
**It's not over 'till the snowboarder sings.**

Our first snow event (well, kind of) was Men's Snowboard Cross at Cypress Mountain. Just as at Salt Lake City where we were introduced to Olympic snowboarding (Men's Halfpipe), this

turned out to be a very exciting competition despite the tediousness of the two qualifying rounds.

Competition began with 35 riders dropping one by one down the very long winding course with plenty of jumps along the way. Following two runs for each, the riders with the 32 best times passed through to the elimination heats.

Now it gets fun! Four riders, in rank order, rode at one time down the slope. You can believe that there was plenty of jostling for position and wipe-outs were a common occurrence. The top two from each heat passed through to the quarter finals, then to the semis. Eventually the final four best riders took the course together.

Figure 4. Olympic gold medal souvenir sheet and folder released immediately after Canada won its first gold medal in Men's Freestyle Moguls.





So it was that we had two U.S. men – Seth Wescott and Nate Holland – along with Canadian Mike Robertson and Tony Ramoin of France competing for the medals. For virtually the entire race, Mike Robertson led. The Canadian fans all round us set up a deafening roar, sure that another Canadian gold was soon to be theirs. But at the very end – and yes, I mean the *very* end – Seth Wescott nosed ahead to take the gold (Figure 5). Now how exciting is that!

As thrilling as the competition was, the Cypress Mountain venue left a great deal to be desired. First, the absurdly warm weather had the organizers scrambling to haul in sufficient snow for the course. In the end, they couldn't provide the areas for general admission spectators to safely stand (they were afraid they'd disappear between the hay bales used as a base) resulting in some 16,000 canceled tickets over four sessions. Australian Halfpipe competitor Ben Mates' mom, sitting next to me in the stands, said she had some very unhappy friends with invalidated Olympic snowboard tickets. I can imagine!

No pretty graphics could cover up the fact that the snowboard venue at Cypress Mountain was about as user-*un*friendly as Olympic venues go. The



Figure 6. It was no mean feat to climb to the top of the grandstand to watch the snowboarding at Cypress Mountain.

facility itself required totally unrealistic physical stamina by visitors who had to climb 200+ steps just to get to the lowest rows of the grandstand, not to mention another 100+ steps if you were in the nosebleeds (Figure 6)! And woe to those who wanted something from the concession stands or, worse, needed to visit "the facilities" ... they were all the way down the hill (yes, another round trip up and down those cursed stairs). Feeling cold? The single warming tent available held about 50 people.

How many spectators were slated to use this venue at any one time? 10,000!

VANOC (the Vancouver Olympic Organizing Committee), acknowledging the problems with the lack of snow at Cypress Mountain, characterized the venue as a "special needs child." I would have called it something quite different.

Figure 5. Snowboard Cross cover from the Vancouver Main Post Office. The two Olympic snowboard "Permanent" stamps (face value of 57¢ each) plus the \$12.81 meter correctly pay the \$12.95 registration fee and \$1 letter rate to the U.S. The circular Vancouver Olympic City postmark validates the cover as mailed on 16 February 2010.





Figure 7. Coffee and philately with (l-r) Thomas Lippert (IMOS), Brenda & Bob Farley (SOC) and Norm Jacobs (SPI).

**Tuesday, 16 February:  
Don't fence me in!**

Early that morning ... and I mean *really* early that morning ... we headed out in the dark, a driving rain storm buffeting our car as we made our way to a 5:50 a.m. rendezvous with our Olympic bus to Whistler for the Men's Alpine Super Combined Downhill event. The upside: we managed to make it to the bus stop with time to spare. The downside: no sooner had we alighted from the car, an Olympic volunteer informed us that the event had been postponed due to bad weather, not an unusual occurrence at a Winter Olympics.

All of a sudden, this unscheduled free day gave us the opportunity to start doing some serious philately. The first stop – Vancouver Main Post Office.



Figure 9. Everyone wanted to snap a picture of these French fans posing in front of the Olympic Rings at Whistler's town center.



Figure 8. The Olympic cauldron behind a 10' fence, inaccessible to the public during the Games.

A special Olympic area had been set up in the main lobby where one could purchase all the various Olympic stamps, souvenir sheets, and first day covers without having to stand in lines. And of course the brand spanking new Gold Medalist stamps were available. For those who knew to ask, there was a free handy decorative folder in which to protect them (Figure 4).

Long tables were arranged nearby with all 24 event cancels freely available to the public. Most visitors appeared to be collecting the cancels on blank sheets of paper. The Canada Post officials who were present didn't seem to care that the cancels were not being used on stamps, which leads me to classify these "range date" event cancels more as cachets. Still, the event cancels were valid for postmarking mail.

In order to obtain the round Olympic City cancel for Vancouver, it was necessary to take your covers or cards to one of the clerks at the retail counter (not the Olympic counter in the lobby). In this case you had to have stamps on your item to use the Olympic City cancel (most people weren't even aware this existed). The retail counter was also the place to create a registered cover. The clerks were well aware of what serious philatelists were after and permitted registered covers to be taken out to the lobby so an event cancel could be applied, after which the cover had to be returned to the retail clerk for mailing.

"Birds of a feather flocked together" shortly after noon as philatelic friends from Europe showed up at the post office. Bob and Brenda Farley of the U.K.-based Society of Olympic Collectors arrived along with Thomas Lippert of IMOS, our German sister society. Already there was another IMOS



member, Klaus Fink, who was busily attending to philatelic pursuits. Norm and I joined them at a nearby coffee house (Figure 7) for some philatelic talk (hopefully without boring Brenda too much).

Now there's no denying that overall, VANOC did an admirable job of planning and executing these Games. But then there were those times when they really shot themselves in the foot. The siting of the Olympic cauldron was one of those instances.

Surely when a site for the cauldron was chosen, the basic Olympic security plan was already in place. Yet, somehow they managed to situate the Olympic cauldron – which according to the rules of the International Olympic Committee is to be prominently displayed in a public place during the Games – in a non-public plaza adjacent to the International Broadcast Center. Not only that, the entire plaza was cordoned off with a 10-foot high chain link fence *and* covered with opaque cloth.

By the time we visited that evening, the cloth had disappeared – but not the fence. We, along with

countless other Olympic visitors taking pictures through the barrier, could only feel a bit sad that the organizers felt it necessary to imprison the Olympic Flame. Despite the howls from the media, mayor of Vancouver and the public, that chain link fence never came down (Figure 8).

**Wednesday, 17 February:  
Let there be snow.**

After Tuesday's rains it was something of a relief to greet Wednesday with crystal clear blue skies. What did we get with those nice blue skies? Spring-like temperatures which lasted the remainder of the week. Totally crazy ... the Winter Olympics are supposed to be snowy and cold!

Bright and early it was off to Whistler for Men's Doubles Luge. Our bus trip up the Sea-to-Sky Highway took us past some of the most beautiful scenery on the west coast of North America. We passed Bowen and Gambier Islands rising up out of



Figure 10. One of three postcards promoting the rugged beauty of the Olympic Contributing Territories of Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. The Whistler biathlon postmark was an appropriate addition.



Figure 11. Whistler's Athletes Village post office, a contract facility, had available for use both the pictorial "Olympic Village" cancel as well as a special circular dater with text "WHISTLER VILLAGE". Combo cover correctly franked (\$1 to the U.S.) with the 2010 Olympic Whistler stamp and 1988 Calgary Olympics figure skating stamp postmarked on the closing day of the Olympics, 28 February 2010. Only a contract post office, such as at the Olympic Village, could have legitimately cancelled a cover on a Sunday.

the waters of Horseshoe Bay, before the road curved inland affording us breathtaking views of the snow-capped Coast Mountain range. What had been advertised as a 3-hour trip took us barely two – it seemed even shorter.

We had plenty of time to wander around bustling Whistler, a true winter resort town transformed into a mini-Vancouver with all the usual Olympic trappings. Residents walking their dogs melded seamlessly with the eclectic mix of Olympic visitors crowding the narrow streets and small plazas of town. A group of French fans fancifully toggled out in Gallic finery, some with horned helmets and blond pigtailed wigs, were an instant hit. Everyone (including me!) wanted a picture of them (Figure 9).

As this would be our only chance to visit the Whistler post office, Norm and I took advantage of the opportunity, leaving Kathy to bask in the sun with her book (hopefully for not too long).

Located adjacent to the Medals Plaza, the post office staff were prepared for those who wished to obtain the special Olympic event cancels (Figure 10). Contrary to published information, there were only 8 available cancels, the Whistler Olympic Village postmark was omitted (Figure 11). When asked, a senior postal clerk said they never received it because "this wasn't the Olympic Village." Well, I doubt that was the reason, but it didn't change the

fact that it wasn't there. No matter. It was quick and easy to get all the cancels. As at Vancouver Main, an Olympic City cancel for Whistler could be used in tandem with the event cancels.

Now down to the real reason for our visit to Whistler: some seriously dangerous sliding. Following the tragic death of the Georgian luger, Nodar Kumaritashvili, the start line for the event was moved forward in an effort to slow the track down. To my eye, watching these two-man teams flying down that icy chute, it still didn't seem particularly safe.

Sliding experts proclaimed the Whistler Sliding Centre as having the fastest course in the world. While that may be true, it wasn't a course particularly well-suited to spectators. I re-

member watching the bobsled events at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympic Winter Games. There, the track was laid out in such a way that a spectator standing in the middle of the complex could view many curves of the track at one time. This wasn't true at Whistler as spectators jostled with photographers along the perimeter for a view. Watching the sliders going some 90 m.p.h. through turn 16 to the finish line left no doubt that this would NOT be something I'd want to try. But I sure admired these daredevils for giving it a shot (Figure 12).



Figure 12. Canadian doubles luge team of brothers Chris and Mike Moffat negotiating the final turn before hitting the finish line. They placed 7<sup>th</sup> overall.



**Thursday, 18 February:  
Perfection rewarded.**

Some more serious philately today, followed by our big event in the evening: the long program (finals) of Men's Figure Skating.

Ever since the start of the Games, downtown Vancouver has been hoppin'! Everywhere we went, Vancouverites, especially younger ones, were having a ball. With ticket prices (Figure 13) beyond the reach of many, it was no surprise that free Olympic events drew enormous crowds. I had heard (though I wouldn't necessarily stake my reputation on the accuracy) that lines to enter the Sochi 2014 pavilion at times reached 10,000 during the first weekend!

Long lines virtually everywhere were the norm. The Olympic Superstore (Figure 1), located on the ground floor of the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC),



*Figure 14. The wildly popular mittens were on back order just days into the Games!*

Today's agenda included disposing of the remaining two of our three Alpine skiing tickets (we had already found a buyer for the third ticket in Whistler), as the event had been postponed to the



*Figure 13. At \$275 for a "B" level ticket, the finals of Men's Figure Skating, like many events, were not affordable for many younger Vancouverites.*

one of the Olympic sponsors, was "souvenir central." Open from 8 a.m. until midnight, the perpetual queues wrapped around the block. The hottest item in town: red Olympic mittens emblazoned with the rings on the top and Canadian maple leaf on the palm (Figure 14).

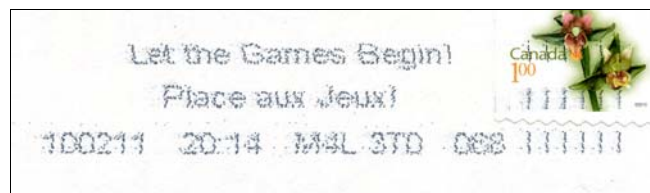
middle Sunday – after we had headed home. Fortunately, SPI member Joe Lopreiato and his son Joey were looking for Olympic tickets. We were happy to oblige and stopped by their B&B near the Richmond Olympic Oval to drop them off.

Now Joe, being the good Olympic philatelist that he is, had already checked out the Richmond post office where the speed skating event cancel was available. As it was tucked away in a small, out-of-the-way strip mall, he offered to show us the way after which we dropped him and Joey off at the Olympic Oval.

Norm and I managed to hit a second philatelic location at the Vancouver Station "D" post office on Pine Street. As with the Vancouver Main facility, the clerks were extremely helpful. There were no lines; I rather doubt the average person even knew special postmarks were available.

Something we hadn't noticed, until Thomas Lippert recently pointed it out, was that this post office had mistakenly placed the Paralympic Games Opening Ceremony event cancel into use instead of the Olympic Games Opening/Closing Ceremony cancel. As late as 20 February, they were still using the Paralympic cancel.

One more surprise. From 8-16 February, many mail processing facilities across Canada were using a special Olympic slogan in their ink-jet cancel machines (Figure 15). The slogan read: "Let the Games Begin! / Place aux Jeux!" in two lines. From reports I've been receiving from other collectors, the clarity of the imprint varies with portions of the slogan missing on occasion.



*Figure 15. "Let the Games Begin!" ink-jet cancel.*

As exciting as Monday's snowboard cross event was, it couldn't hold a candle to the finals of the men's Figure Skating competition at the Pacific Coliseum. Twenty-four competitors took to the ice in four flights, with the best six in the final group. The draw within each group was by lot. The top American, Evan Lysacek, skated first, while Russia's best, Evgeni Plushenko, skated last. I guess there are both pluses and minuses to being in either spot.

Based on what I saw, Evan's program, while not as complex as Plushenko's (Evan did not throw a



Figure 16. My favorite philatelic item from these Games: a registered cover from the Vancouver “D” post office postmarked on 18 February 2010 with the Figure Skating event cancel in anticipation that Evan Lysacek would win the men’s event later that evening. The cover is appropriately franked with the gold medal souvenir sheet issued earlier in the week.

“quad”), was technically much better. I don’t claim to be a figure skating expert, but to my untrained eye Plushenko’s more difficult skills were not executed to the same level as Lysacek’s. Plushenko clearly had to fight to land at least three out-of-kilter jumps. A less athletic skater would have ended up on his keister!

Despite this, I’d have bet money that Plushenko would manage to eke out a gold. But with the new scoring system where perfection is rewarded (as it should be), Evan captured the top spot on the podium by a convincing 1.31 points. As expected, the Russian media hollered “FOUL,” but I doubt they had much ammunition to justify the claim when the breakdown of technical marks were released showing that Lysacek outscored Plushenko by 1.86 points. In a subsequent interview, NBC’s Bob Costas asked Evan if he’d be back to compete in 2014 at the Sochi (Russia) Olympic Winter Games. Evan’s reply: “I don’t know if they’ll let me in the country.” What a comedian!

A registered envelope shown in Figure 16 commemorates Evan’s victory that night and is perhaps my favorite philatelic item from these Olympic Winter Games.

**Friday, 19 February:  
Halfway there ... but time to go.**

I can’t believe how fast the week passed and that our time in Vancouver was nearly over. This was our last full day to enjoy the Olympic atmosphere in Vancouver.

The Yaletown district with its funky shops and pubs was a center for Olympic crowds. I always find that an Olympic Games are as much about enjoying the colorful atmosphere swirling around you as the sports. One never knows just what might be around the next corner. One pedestrian thoroughfare bordered by cafes and boutiques became a stage for a troop of young Canadian girls putting on quite a display of their Double Dutch jump rope prowess.



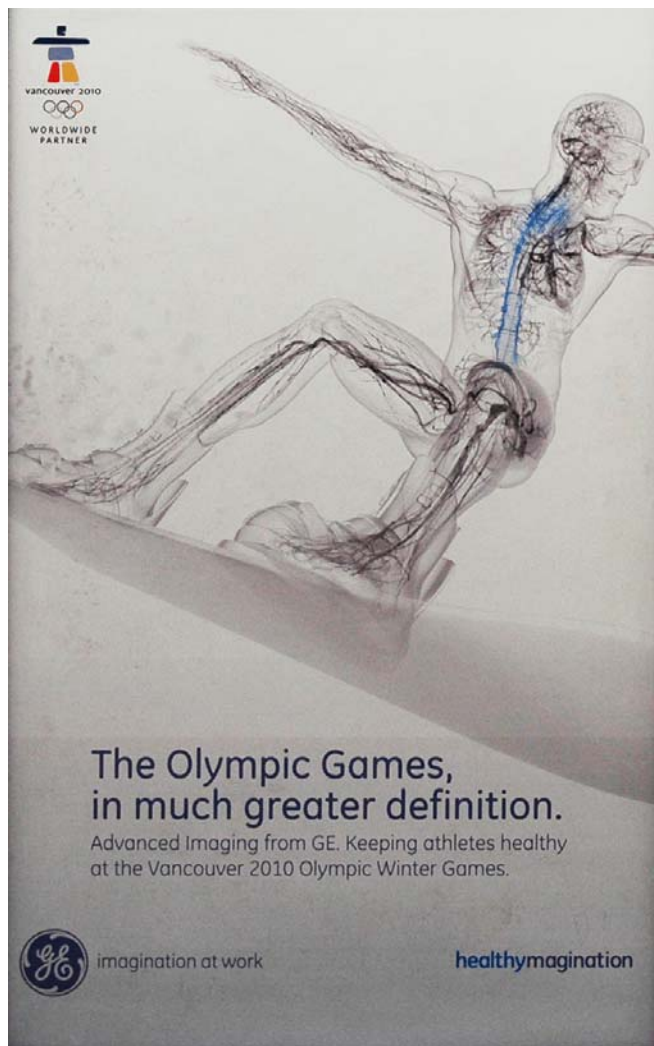


Figure 17. One of four General Electric Olympic ads which captured our attention – and imagination – in downtown Vancouver Skytrain stations.

One aspect of Vancouver's infrastructure that made these Games a delight was the ease with which we were able to get around using Skytrain, the city's urban rapid transit rail system. Public transit (including buses) was free with an Olympic ticket valid on the day of travel.

Even the stations provided Olympic distractions in the form of advertising. One of the more interesting campaigns we saw was General Electric's "healthymagination" series promoting its medical imaging equipment (Figure 17). Winter Olympic athletes in action (ice hockey, snowboarding, figure skating and skiing) were portrayed as if transparent, their circulatory systems and major bone groups on display. This was definitely whiz bang advertising at its best!

I would be remiss if I didn't mention Vancouver's cute and cuddly mascots which were just about everywhere (Figure 18).

Philatelically speaking, I had my doubts that we'd be able to visit all 5 Olympic post offices (4 in Vancouver, plus the one in Whistler), but we did! Friday was a perfect day to take a little drive to the West Vancouver post office which, despite its name, was actually located on the north shore of the Burrard Inlet. The drive through Stanley Park and over the Lions Gate Bridge was quite a treat, especially with the beautiful weather.

With the help of Norm's G.P.S. unit, which turned out to be a godsend on many occasions during the trip, we found the post office hidden on a small shopping street fronting the water. As at the other facilities we'd visited, the Canada Post clerks knew what we wanted (there were six cancels available) and let us go to it. In no time we were done and able to explore the nearby park complete with blue crocuses and bright yellow forsythia just coming into flower. The views across the inlet back to Vancouver were stunning!

Our final sport of these Games was ice hockey. When we bought our tickets many months ago, there was no way of knowing what teams we'd see compete. Our Salt Lake City experience included two rather dull matches involving the French team (both times). This time we hoped for a bit more from the Czech Republic vs. Latvia debacle.

Five minutes into the first period, the Czech team had already scored three goals. This wasn't looking good for the underdog Latvians. With the crowd behind them yelling "LAT-VI-A, LAT-VI-A" they actually seemed to gain some confidence, scoring two goals over the remaining two periods. In the end the Czechs won, 5-2 ... but at least we saw a very spirited Latvian team do their best.



Figure 18. Mascots Miga and Quatchi getting up close and personal with an Olympic visitor.



Figure 19. Canada's historic treasure trove of 14 gold medals in a single Olympic Winter Games is aptly saluted with the Canada Post gold-overprinted souvenir sheet for the combined Vancouver and Whistler stamps. 34,000 sets of the 3 overprinted souvenir sheets (gold, silver and bronze) were sold at face value in special Olympic Souvenir Packs.

So, readers, that brings us full circle back to the Olympic grand finale: the Canadian and U.S. men playing for the gold medal in ice hockey. Watching the game unfold on television, the Canadian team surely seemed destined to win as the third period

was drawing to a close with them ahead by a single goal. Then the unthinkable happened: with just 25 seconds left to play, Zach Parise scored for the U.S. I'm sure I heard a collective groan of disappointment from the Canadian fans thinking they had this one in the bag. However, that groan soon turned into one of total jubilation as the entire nation celebrated the tie-breaking goal by Canadian, Sidney Crosby.

In the end, Canada achieved so much with these Games. They finally won an Olympic gold medal at home – in fact a record 14 gold medals, the most by any country in a single Olympic Winter Games (Figure 19). The ice hockey gold, which certainly was the one most coveted by Canadians, was theirs.

And, they put on a very successful

Olympic Winter Games, no mean feat for any nation.

All Canadians can certainly stand proud as they deserve Olympic congratulations (Figure 20) for a job well done! 🇨🇦



Figure 20. The Olympic "Congratulations" souvenir sheet – the final stamps issued by Canada Post on 22 February – and gold medal stamp are fitting tributes to Canada's successful hosting of the XXI<sup>st</sup> Olympic Winter Games.





Figure 1. Set of four stamps issued 9 April for the 2009 World Championships in Athletics. The surcharge benefitted the German Sports Aid Foundation.

## 12<sup>th</sup> IAAF World Championships in Athletics, Berlin 2009: The Philatelic Aspects

by Thomas Lippert

Many sports philatelists had the opportunity to participate in the official presentation of the new German Sports Aid Stamps for 2009, which were dedicated to the 12<sup>th</sup> IAAF World Championships in Athletics in Berlin. The German Sports Aid foundation made certain that collectors, who support the foundation by buying the surcharged stamps, were well-represented at the Berlin ceremony.

This event took place on March 31 in the sports hall of the GutsMuths Turnverein (gymnastic club) in Berlin named after one of the founders of the German gymnastics movement.



Figures 2 & 3. The first day postmarks applied in Bonn (left) and Berlin (below).

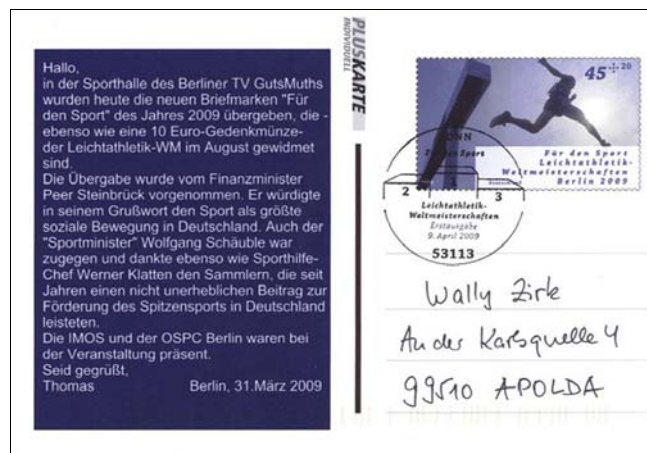


Figure 4. A new type of internet postal stationery called a "Pluskarte Individuell" being sold by German Post.

The four values in the set (Figure 1) were officially released on April 9, accompanied by two first day postmarks – one each in Berlin and Bonn (Figures 2 & 3).

One department of the German Post delivered a surprise. A new product was offered via the internet (and only there): stationery with the imprint of the new sports stamps.

The announcement of this new product was made in a newsletter emailed to a select list of clients who had accessed specific internet postal offers and agreed to receive the internet newsletter. In other words, a rather limited group of collectors received notification.

IMOS member, Peter Leinemann, who read this newsletter alerted others to these stationery items enabling us to be among the first ones to receive these new products and to spread the word to other stationery specialists.

Because there was no official announcement in the philatelic press it was our task to research the



Figure 5. Website screenshot for creating a piece of postal stationery.

background a bit more. We were surprised to learn that even other branches of the post office were unaware of these new items, as well as the German Sports Aid foundation which of course was entitled to the surcharge (which they eventually received).

Figure 4 reproduces one of these new types of postal stationery called a *Pluskarte Individuell*. The personalized sections of the cards are the obverse (picture side) and the left half of the reverse (address side). This example demonstrates use of the card in a “quick to be sent” mode carrying a personal report on the handover ceremony in the style of a hybrid card, which is not the common usage of this stationery.

Please pay attention to the postmark. The Bonn first day cancellation should not have been applied. According to German postal regulations, first day postmarks are only to be used on gummed stamps with a fixed first day. (Figure 7 shows a correct usage). The new stationery had no first day, however if they were ordered in time it was possible to have them ready to post on April 9, the first day of the stamps. This demonstrates the suddenness with which these stationery products were launched and how the cancellation rules were ignored.

What is new about this item? The last product released before this (also named “Plusbrief Individuell”) was an individualized cover with a personalized stamp-style franking imprint inscribed “DEUTSCHE POST” (instead of “DEUTSCHLAND,” as is typical for regular stamps). This had consequences for the collector, because these covers could not be used either for cancellation with special postmarks or for sending abroad.

With of this new product the rules had to be modified to allow use of special postmarks as well as make them valid for mailing abroad.

Some remarks about the “making of” of these

online-only items. The opening screen (Figure 5) offered a wide range of sizes; all four stamps were available for use on specific covers and cards.

One problem, as demonstrated by Figures 6a & 6b, is that the dimensions of uploaded images were automatically altered depending on the available space which differed from cover size to cover size. The result is not always what one expected.

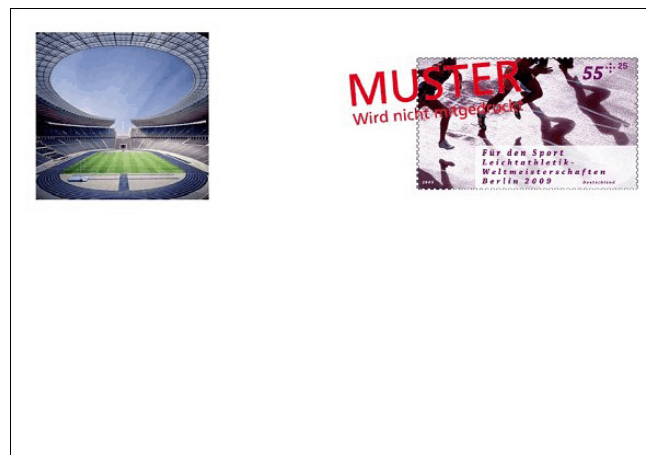
The two tables on the next page give an overview of all the stationery with the World Championships in Athletics stamp imprints. There are 29 (!) distinct items with different stamps, paper and envelope flap adhesive (e.g. self-adhesive or water-activated gum).

The minimum order was 20 pieces per item. If a collector's group wanted to order a complete set, this meant a total of €1274.06 (€63.70 per set).

The reaction in the German philatelic press was moderate as the typical German collector is not that internet savvy and thus not particularly interested in this type of postal stationery. Nevertheless, these items are official stationery and will appear in the catalogs. (By the way: the covers and cards are pre-printed with the stamp indicium, then stored. When an order is submitted, the stationery is then personalized. Although the postal stationery exists in an unprinted or “mint” state, they may not be purchased in that fashion.)



Figures 6a & b. The process of creating the postal stationery involved uploading a personal image. Sometimes (above) the image was distorted to fit the preset template for the postal stationery. Below is how the image should look.





**TABLE 1: LIST OF AVAILABLE STATIONERY (BY SIZE)**

ID #	Format DIN	Design	Cover Size		Face Value €	Selling Price per 20 pieces €	Proportions of Personalized Picture
			width mm	height mm			
1	C4 with window	discus	229	324	145+55	72.84	2.21:1
2	C5	discus	229	162	145+55	69.99	2.21:1
3	C6	pole vault	162	114	55+25	41.23	1.00:1
4	C6	running	162	114	55+25	41.23	1.00:1
5	C6/5 with window	pole vault	229	114	55+25	41.47	2.62:1
6	C6/5 with window	running	229	114	55+25	41.47	2.62:1
7	C6/5	pole vault	229	114	55+25	41.47	2.62:1
8	C6/5	running	229	114	55+25	41.47	2.62:1
9	Long with window	pole vault	220	110	55+25	41.47	2.62:1
10	Long with window	running	220	110	55+25	41.47	2.62:1
11	Long without window	pole vault	220	110	55+25	41.23	2.62:1
12	Long without window	running	220	110	55+25	41.23	2.62:1
13	C6 Pluskarte	steeplechase	162	114	45+20	33.94	0.75:1
14	Pluskarte special size	steeplechase	220	125	45+20	34.90	1.28:1

**TABLE 2: LIST OF AVAILABLE VARIETIES**

ID #	Format DIN	Paper Color			Flap Adhesive		Varieties
		Cream White	Pearl White	White	Gum	Self	
1	C4 with window			X		X	1
2	C5	X		X		X	2
3	C6	X	X	X		X	3
4	C6	X	X	X		X	3
5	C6/5 with window			X	X	X	2
6	C6/5 with window			X	X	X	2
7	C6/5	X		X		X	2
8	C6/5	X		X		X	2
9	Long with window			X	X	X	2
10	Long with window			X	X	X	2
11a	Long without window		X		X		1
11b	Long without window	X		X		X	2
12a	Long without window		X		X		1
12b	Long without window	X		X		X	2
13	C6 Pluskarte			X			1
14	Pluskarte special size			X			1



Figure 7. Postal stationery cover that has been handled correctly in accordance with postal regulations. The First Day cancellation is used on the gummed stamp that has been affixed to the upper left corner of the cover. The indicium at upper right has been postmarked with the standard philatelic office cancel.

For the regular collector, a so-called “Marken-Set” (stamp set) was issued on 3 July 2009 (Figures 8a & b). This was a small sheetlet of eight stamps contained in a booklet which sold for €5.80 (the face value plus German Sports Aid Foundation surcharge). This type of German Post product is not typical. It has been produced only twice before – one of those times was for the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympic Winter Games.

Upon the release of this stamp set, a promotional campaign was set in motion. A Road Show tour by truck visited 60 cities beginning 7 May in Bonn and finishing up in Berlin on 5 August. The German Post participated as a National Partner.



Figures 8a & b. “Marken-Set,” booklet-style sheetlet of 8 stamps.

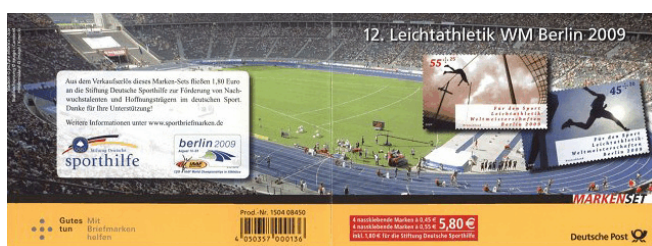


Figure 9. The Road Show publicity truck and tent at the market place in front of Rostock's Town Hall. German Post was a National Partner of the World Championships in Athletics and conducted a special drawing for free tickets to the championships.

The Road Show tour truck visited the author's home town of Rostock (Figure 9). At one of the booths visitors could send their “best wishes” to the championships as well as add a webcam photograph of themselves to the “world's biggest postcard” (Figure 12). The effort was successful resulting in a huge postcard delivered to the Mayor of Berlin, Klaus Wowereit, on 10 August. The postcard was placed on public display at the Berlin Olympic Stadium during the championships.

The author can't confirm that there was extensive pre-publicity of the Road Show visit to Rostock which probably explains why public participation was, shall we say, limited. Of course this increased the author's chances of winning a free ticket to the championships (Figure 10)!

Out front of the Olympic Stadium, the sponsors and the partners were provided space to publicize themselves.



Figure 10. Ticket to the World Championships in Athletics.





Figure 11. The German Post tent in the sponsor area at the Olympic Stadium complex during the World Championships in Athletics.

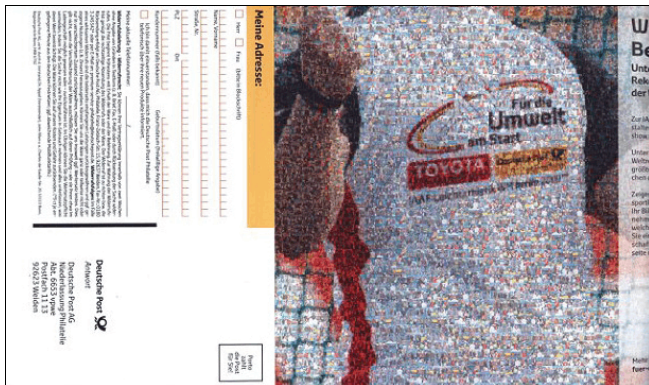


Figure 12. Postal business reply mail documenting the Road Show and reproducing the collage of images making up the "world's biggest postcard."

As mentioned, German Post belonged to a group of National Partners of the championships. In attendance was their mobile "Stamp Event Team" [Erlebnis-Team Briefmarken (ETB)].

Their booth -- a yellow tent -- saw its share of visitors though it was virtually silent during the competitions (Figure 11).

Figures 12a & b show an OSPC cover and detail of the personalized stamp created for the world

championships using *Plusbrief Individuell*, the online product line of the German Post (note that the stamp indicium reads "DEUTSCHE POST" rather than "DEUTSCHLAND"). The cancellation date, 15 August, was opening day.

All philatelic products were available including a special postmark featuring *Berlino*, the bear mascot of the championships. What's interesting is that this postmark would normally have been available only at the Berlin Uhlandstrasse philatelic center.

Another unusual item offered at the German Post booth was a specially cacheted postal cover (not postal stationery!) for the Berlin event (Figure 14). Only 1000 were produced and were sold out very quickly.

Additional information can be uncovered if other postal documents are examined. Figure 16 shows a receipt -- in this case for registered mail -- provided to the sender. The ordinary postmark of the *DP Philatelie-Shop* was been used with a date of 18 August. At first there appears a conflict with the two special postmarks dated 15 August used on the cover (Figure 15). However, what this indicates is that the two special postmarks were used with a fixed date of 15 August throughout the period of the championships from August 15 to 23. (Comment: This fixed date cancel was available at regular philatelic counters for a few days after the competition. At the central Berlin Uhlandstrasse philatelic center, it was available for a grace period of 4 weeks).

The payment receipt (Figure 16b) is also interesting in that it indicates that the German Post booth at the championships was subordinate to the German Post Philately Department center, Weiden 92637. Because the receipt is so detailed listing the stamps purchased (*Stabhochsprung* = pole vault, and *Kurzstreckenlauf* = dash), it opens the possibility that the receipt itself could be included (if one wishes) in a thematic collection, although this is not a philatelic document, but rather a postal one.



Figures 12a & b. *Plusbrief Individuell* personalized stamp and cover.





Figure 14. Special cacheted cover of the German Post with the mascot Berlino imprint.

Figure 17 demonstrates that there are color differences between the stamp imprinted on postal stationery and the gummed stamps.

Another use of the special championships postmark is to document the introduction of a new vending machine stamp showing the Brandenburg Gate, the finish line for both the Marathon and race walking events (Figure 18).

In summary, both special postmarks have been used at two locations: the philatelic center at Uhlandstrasse and the Stamp Event Team booth in front of the stadium.

Additionally the stadium postmark was available at the philatelic counters at the following post



Figure 15. Personalized cover (created on the internet using Plusbrief Individuell).

offices: Goethestrasse, Rathausstrasse, Caussee-strasse, Friedrichstrasse, Lübecker Strasse, and Joachimsthaler Strasse. These special counters (except the existing one in the Goethestrasse) were opened just a few months before the championships "because of the specific philatelic landscape in Berlin," as post office officials explained. It is unusual for so many philatelic counters to be opened in one city.

Visitors to the Olympic Stadium also had the opportunity to become acquainted with the candidate cities for the 2016 Olympic Games. Rio de Janeiro, Madrid, Tokyo and Chicago were each represented with a booth (Figure 19). Memorabilia

collectors could pick up some items for their enjoyment, but there was nothing for philatelists.

**Einlieferungsbeleg** Deutsche Post

Postvermerk  
RF 37 736 485 8DE

Informationen zum Sendungsstatus erhalten Sie unter:  
National Telefon: 0 18 05 / 29 06 90  
(14 ct je angefangene 60 Sek. im Festnetz) - Mo.-Fr. 8-18h  
www.deutschepost.de/briefstatus  
International Telefon: 0 18 01 / 80 55 55  
(4 ct je angefangene 60 Sek. im Festnetz) - Mo.-Fr. 8-18h, Sa. 8-14h  
Angaben des Kunden: Bitte füllen Sie die nachstehenden Felder aus.

Ggf. Empfänger, Postleitzahl, Bestimmungsort oder andere kundenbezogene Angaben:  
Th. Lippert  
PF 10 2067  
18003 Rostock

Wichtige Hinweise auf der Rückseite!

☐ EINSCHREIBEN NATIONAL / INTERNATIONAL ☐ RÜCKSCHEIN ☐ EIGENHÄNDIG  
☒ EINSCHREIBEN EINWURF NATIONAL ☐ EIL INTERNATIONAL  
☐ NACHNAHME INTERNATIONAL NACHNAHME-Betrag: Euro, Cent

**Deutsche Post**  
PHILATELIE  
Deutsche Post AG  
Niederlassung Philatelie  
Franz-Zebisch-Str. 15  
92637 Weiden  
Tel. 01803 246800

RECHNUNG : 52029021  
Kasse : 52 18.08.2009 10:35

2 x Sport 2009 "Stabhochsprung" (5	005228	Ust. 0%	1,10
Dt. Sporthilfe		Ust. 0%	0,50
2 x Sport 2009 "Kurzstreckenlauf" (	005227	Ust. 0%	1,10
Dt. Sporthilfe		Ust. 0%	0,50
Summe:			4,35€
Bargeld			5,00€
Rückgeld			-0,65€
Mehrwertsteuer:			
Steuerfrei	: aus	4,35€	
Gesamt Nettobetrag	:	4,35€	
Steuernummer der Deutschen Post AG:	5205/5777/1510		

Es bediente Sie Frau Ristau.

Figures 16a & b. Additional postal documents, such as this registered mail receipt (far left) and payment receipt (left), convey interesting philatelic aspects. In particular, the payment receipt might be included in a thematic collection as it specifically mentions the design on the stamps purchased.





Figure 17. The color differences between the sheet and imprinted stamps is obvious. The postage difference is made up with a label that combines both the postage and registration number. Note that the fixed postmark date (15 August) and date on the postage label (19 August) differ. The place of mailing can be documented only with the receipt.



Figure 18. Self-registered special postal stationery issued for the introduction of the new vending machine stamp showing the Brandenburg Gate. The Gate was the finish line for the marathon and race walking events.

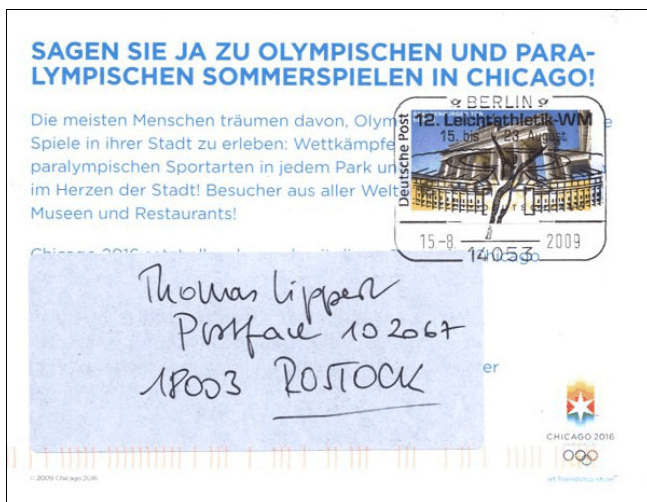


Figure 19. Advertising card of the Chicago 2016 bid committee, sent from Berlin Olympic Stadium. According to exhibiting rules, only the special postmark could be used to convey the thematic message.



Figures 20a & b. Biber-Post, one of the many private postal services in Germany, created a stamp for the championships. Each stamp has a unique serial number.



This philatelic overview – and that of course is the purpose of this article -- can't be concluded without a look at the offers from the private postal services in Germany.

A private service based in Magdeburg, *biber-post*, offered personalized stamps as well (Figure 20a). Note that each stamp has a unique bar code! This particular example was ordered by the Austrian airmail collectors group (ÖFSV) and connects the athletics championships with an advertising airship.

This stamp, on a real mailed cover (Figure 20b), also exhibits actual postal history. In this case it demonstrates the cooperation between *biber-post* and PIN Berlin which was necessary in order for them to deliver mail outside of their local region. This is important for a private post if it wants to compete with German Post which is now also a private enterprise (with the state as shareholders).

At this point philatelists must realize that there are two different categories of material. On one side



Figure 21. A new type of personalized stamp was introduced by German Post just in time for the championships. Javelin thrower Steffi Nerius and discus thrower Robert Harting are featured on this pair of stamps. Both won gold medals in their respective events at the 2009 Championships.

you have what are considered “official” German Post postal products released by the Ministry of Finance (Finanzministerium). These would include, for example, regular postage stamps imprinted with the word DEUTSCHLAND, as explained earlier.

On the other side you have a wide variety of products which fall into the category of private post items. Examples would include prepaid labels for packages and parcels for DHL, and personalized items (like the OSPC Berlin cover) with the DEUTSCHE POST imprint (misinterpreted as indicating an “official” postal item). It remains to be seen how catalog editors will treat the 29 new stationery items described in this article.

A very new product was released for business clients just in time for the championships. It is a personalized stamp previously only available as an indicium printed on a cover. Following the competitions, businesses ordered two stamps (Figure 21) with images of two of the German world champions, javelin thrower Steffi Nerius (who successfully wrapped her sports career) and discus thrower Robert Harting. The stamps were sold by stamp

dealer Sieger for the German Sports Aid foundation. These stamps are similar to those offered by USPS partners Zazzle and Stamps.com

Harting was also the subject of an additional imprint on a sports aid stationery cover like those introduced at the beginning of this article. If you look closely, you'll notice that the figure on the discus thrower stamp is he -- the only identifiable sportsmen in the stamp set.

A final offering from the internet department of the German Post is a rare item falling into the private post category. This is the so-called “internet-post” stamp. For a brief period, the selection of possible themes was expanded to include *Berlino*, the mascot of the championships. No personal designs could be used for these internet stamps.

The stamps (Figure 22), intended for printing at home on one's own computer, can be stored for later use. If the internet stamp is affixed to a cover – either as a label or printed directly on the cover – it is not usually machine cancelled during the mail sorting process. Because each stamp has a unique barcoding, it is virtually “cancelled” by the software.

It was the task of this report to present only those philatelic items directly related to the IAAF World Championships in Athletics. Each person has his or her own heroes from those nine day in Berlin. For this author, whenever I see *Berlino* the mascot it brings back memories of one the event's super-stars, sprinter Usain Bolt, who couldn't resist wearing a t-shirt with the line “I am a BERLINO!”

Lastly, thanks to my collector friends Peter Leinemann and Wolfgang Marx from the IMOS and the OSPC Berlin who kindly shared their knowledge with me.

*This article first appeared (in German) in the July 2009 issue of the IMOS Journal and is reprinted with the kind permission of the author.*



Figure 22. An internetpost stamp featuring Berlino, the bear mascot. These could be printed out on a customer's computer. When correctly printed, the mascot's colors should appear as in Figure 14.





*Nine Caribbean nations played host to the 2007 Cricket World Cup: St. Kitts, Antigua, St. Lucia, Barbados, St. Vincent, Guyana, Trinidad, Grenada, and Jamaica.*

## Cricket & Philately: The Ninth Cricket World Cup (2007), Part 1

by Peter N. Street

### The ICC Trophy 2006

In March 2007, the ten Test playing nations, plus Kenya and the five winners of the ICC Trophy assembled in the British West Indies to contest the Cricket World Cup (CWC) 2007.

By the end of the tournament on April 28, there had been attractive cricket play, several very close matches, some surprises, the retirement of a West Indian superstar, and a final that finished in near darkness.

The ICC Trophy is a one-day, 50 overs competition to determine which five teams would join the Test playing nations and Kenya in the 2007 CWC.

This version of the ICC Trophy was limited to two groups of six teams all of which had to qualify through a series of structured regional competitions.

Ireland hosted the competition which took place from 1-15 July 2005. The group matches in which



Figures 1-3. Venues for the CWC 2007 included (left to right): Jamaica's Trelawny Multi-Purpose Sports Complex which hosted the opening ceremonies, and the Old and New Kensington Ovals in Bridgetown, Barbados.

each team played the other five teams took place in Northern Ireland. The play-offs, semi-finals and final were all played in the Dublin area of the Republic of Ireland.

The top two teams in each group contested the semi-finals with all four teams qualifying for the 2007 World Cup. The teams in third and fourth place played a separate knockout phase to determine the fifth qualifier.

The teams in each group were:

Group A: Bermuda, Denmark, Ireland, Uganda, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the USA.

Group B: Canada, Namibia, the Netherlands, Oman, Papua/New Guinea and Scotland.

Ireland and Scotland were heavy favorites to win their respective groups as their teams boasted several English County players.

True to form, Ireland and Scotland won their groups and were undefeated. In Group A, Bermuda were runners-up losing only once. Canada, in Group B, also earned second place with only one defeat.

Once the semi-finalists had been determined, the interest turned to who would be the fifth team. UAE bested Namibia by 4 wickets and Netherlands beat Denmark by 89 runs.

The battle for fifth place turned out to be a one-sided affair with the Netherlands coached by former Australia Test player, Bob Simpson, completely outplaying UAE winning the match by 145 runs.

In the two semi-finals, Scotland beat Bermuda by 6 wickets and Ireland won over Canada by 4 wickets. The final between Scotland and Ireland was a high scoring affair with Scotland being the eventual winner by 47 runs.

Overall the organization by the International Cricket Council (ICC) was superb with great support from the local cricket and commercial authorities. The Bermudians even got a ticker tape parade on their return home.

### Format

As has been explained in previous "Cricket and Philately" articles, the British West Indies cricket entity consists of ten independent countries (all former British colonies) each with its own government, flag, and anthem (see *JSP*, March/April 1992 and *JSP*, Winter 2005).

Each country was desirous of staging matches and at one stage even Canada, Bermuda and the USA were being considered.

My local Florida newspaper reported in its 5 August 2003 issue that a 35,000-seat cricket-only stadium was being built in a suburb of Ft. Lauderdale with a view to staging a CWC 2007 match. Although this endeavor was backed by West Indian cricket legend Lance Gibbs, visa problems among other difficulties meant that, in the end, the USA was unable to stage a match.

Eventually matches were restricted to Antigua (Sir Vivian Richards Stadium), Barbados (Kensington Oval), Grenada (National Stadium), Guyana (Providence Stadium), Jamaica (Sabina Park), St. Kitts (Warner Park), St. Lucia (Beausejour Cricket Ground), St. Vincent (Arnos Vale) and Trinidad (Queen's Park Oval).

Each participating team was accorded a "home ground." England had St. Lucia which allowed *The Wisden Cricketer* magazine to offer a supplement to its regular monthly issue extolling the virtues of that beautiful island.

West Indian cricket legend Sir Gary Sobers presided over the opening ceremonies held at the Trelawny Multi-Purpose Sports Complex (Figure 1) in northern Jamaica.

Unfortunately the ICC and the tournament sponsors placed a number of restrictions on the spectators (no food or drink brought into the ground, registration of musical instruments, and no



exit or re-entry passes). These limitations on the naturally exuberant West Indian spectators meant that many of the preliminary matches were poorly attended.

After a series of warm-up matches to allow the teams to become acclimated to West Indian conditions, the sixteen teams were seeded (in parentheses below) and divided into four groups.

Group A (matches played at St. Kitts): Australia (1), South Africa (5), Scotland (12) and Holland (16).

Group B (at Trinidad): Sri Lanka (2), India (6), Bangladesh (11) and Bermuda (15).

Group C (at St. Lucia): New Zealand (3), England (7), Kenya (10) and Canada (14).

Group D (at Jamaica): Pakistan (4), West Indies (8), Zimbabwe (9) and Ireland (13).

Each team played the other three in its group with the top two advancing to the Super 8 stage. In the Super 8, each team played the top two from the other three groups.

The top four teams in the Super 8 stage moved on to the semi-finals in Jamaica and St. Lucia. The two winners of the semi-finals then met in the final played in Jamaica.

### **Cricket Grounds**

When the West Indies were granted the 2007 Cricket World Cup, one of the major problems was the condition of many of the grounds selected for the competition.

Long before the tournament began, Chris Dehring, a Jamaican investment banker and the chief executive of West Indies World Cup admitted that the Kensington Oval (Bridgetown, Barbados) and Sabina Park (Kingston, Jamaica) – selected, respectively, to host a semi-final and the final – were

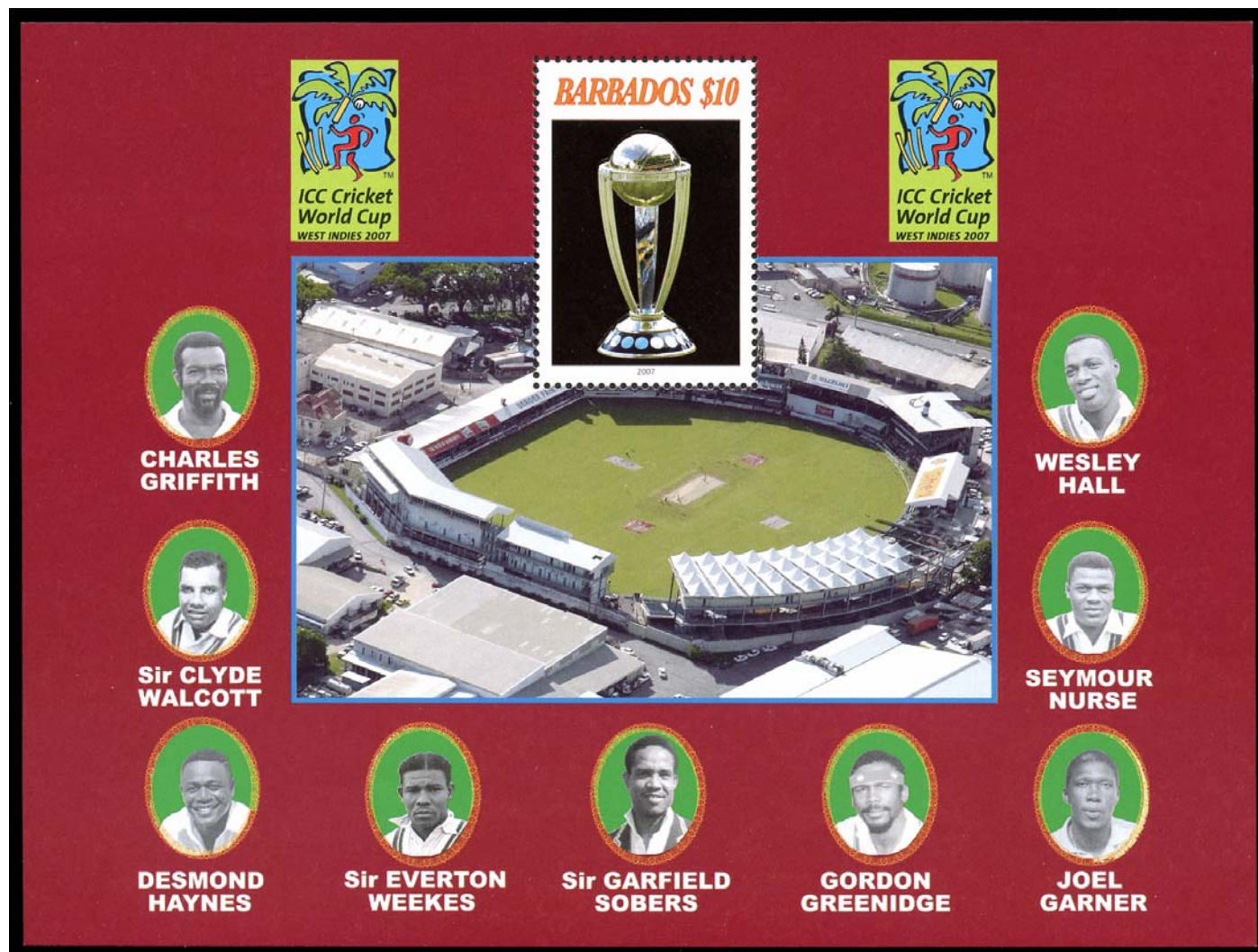
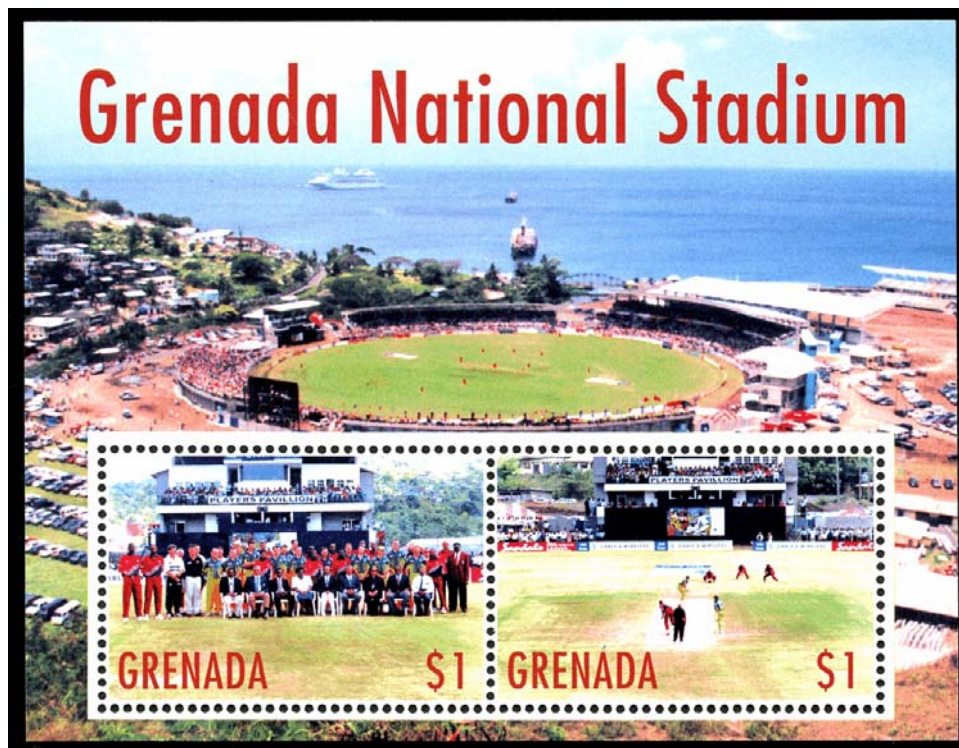


Figure 4. Another view of Barbados' Old Kensington Oval along with portraits of some of Jamaica's most famous cricketers.



Figures 5-7. Grenada's National Stadium (left and top) originally named "Queen's Park". The new Sabina Park in Jamaica (below).



unfit to stage World Cup matches. He further stated that both had suffered from years of under-development and several million dollars would be needed to make them ready.

Thus a massive building and rebuilding program was needed. *The Wisden Cricketer* magazine reported in its January 2004 issue that stadiums in Grenada (National Stadium), St. Lucia (Beausejour Stadium) and the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad were the only facilities that could be considered up to ICC standards. On-site practice facilities were confined to the Queen's Park Oval and Beausejour Stadium.

Major modifications to some stadiums were needed and in some cases brand new arenas were erected.

It was necessary for the ICC to monitor progress on a regular basis and with usual West Indian elan every facility made the deadline – just!

It was later found that many of the new pitches that were laid for the CWC 2007 were satisfactory for One Day Internationals and Twenty/20 matches but would deteriorate rapidly and would not be suitable for five-day Test matches.

On a personal note, over the last few years I have visited several of the grounds. In general, the pitches and outfield were usually satisfactory but in many cases the stands and pavilions were often ramshackle and in need of major upgrade.

### Antigua

The old Test match stadium, the Recreation Ground, had been retired as an international venue and a brand new one was to be built, literally from scratch as it started life as a cow pasture on reclaimed swamp land.

Named the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium after Antigua's favorite native son (*JSP*, Sept./Oct. 2001) it was to be the site for Group A and Super 8 matches. Unfortunately it immediately caused problems for the cricket-going public as they had to pay to park and walk a considerable distance to the ground.

Originally financed by the People's Republic of China (PRC) it turned out to be something of a white elephant.

It is interesting to note that in February 2009 in the second Test match between the West Indies and England the outfield became a sandpit. The bowlers were unable to get traction for their run up and the match was abandoned. Subsequently the ICC banned the stadium from hosting international matches for at least a year.

### Barbados

As mentioned earlier, the Kensington Oval, site for the Super 8 matches and the final, needed a



major refurbishing. Among the changes were new stands, practice pitches, and a new pavilion. In addition, a new drainage system was installed to allow the outfield to dry quickly in the event of a rain delay.

The short boundaries were retained and the capacity was increased to 32,000. Temporary stands were erected at the east end of the stadium. At the conclusion of the tournament these stands were to be dismantled and replaced with trees and a grassy bank.

Many of the participating countries of CWC 2007 issued stamps and souvenir sheets to commemorate this event. In March 2007, Barbados issued two stamps showing the Old Kensington Oval (Figure 2) and the New Kensington Oval (Figure 3). The associated souvenir sheet featured the “old” oval surrounded by portraits of some of Jamaica’s most famous cricketers (Figure 4).

### Grenada

Grenada’s National Stadium, site for Super 8 matches was badly damaged by Hurricane Ivan in September 2004. To accommodate the CWC 2007 matches a massive rebuilding program was financed by the People’s Republic of China.

I visited the stadium in January 2006 and work was proceeding at a rapid pace. To the casual observer it seemed that the stadium would not be ready in time. However I was assured by a West Indian truck driver that my fears were unfounded.

*The Wisden Cricketer* reported in its January 2007 issue that 500 mostly Chinese laborers were working in shifts, round-the-clock, to meet the 13 March 2007 deadline. The project was completed with five weeks to spare at a cost of £20 million and an eventual capacity of 16,000 seats.

In June 2007 Grenada issued three stamps for CWC 2007. One of them showed Queen’s Park which was the original name of the National Stadium (Figure 5). Previously, in August 2000, Grenada issued a souvenir sheet featuring the National Stadium (Figure 6).

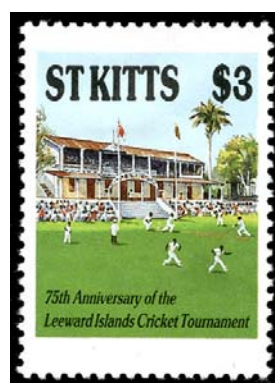
### Guyana

A new ground was built, Providence Stadium, with the financial assistance of the Indian government. It was the site of some of the Super 8 matches.

### Jamaica

Sabina Park, site for Group D matches and one semi-final needed major refurbishing. The famous mound was gone. As with many other West Indian grounds, the stands and ends were named after famous Jamaican players. In Sabina Park’s case, one end was named after Jamaica’s world-renowned Blue Mountain coffee.

In conjunction with CWC 2007, Jamaica issued 5 stamps and a souvenir sheet in February 2007. The \$40 value shows the new Sabina Park (Figure 7).



Figures 8-10.  
Warner Park  
Pavilion (left  
and below).  
At right, St.  
Lucia’s  
Beausejour  
Cricket  
Grounds.





Figure 12. Trinidad's venue for the CWC 2007 was Queen's Park Oval, shown in the top margin of this souvenir sheet.

### St. Kitts

St. Kitts did not issue any stamps to commemorate CWC 2007. However, its cricket ground, Warner Park, the site of Group A matches, had been featured on two previously issued stamps.

In July 1988, St. Kitts issued two stamps honoring the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Leeward Islands Cricket Tournament. One value featured the Warner Park pavilion and ground with a cricket match in progress (Figure 8). Four years later, in 1992, the Warner Park pavilion was again shown, this time on a 40¢ stamp marking the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II to the British throne (Figure 9).

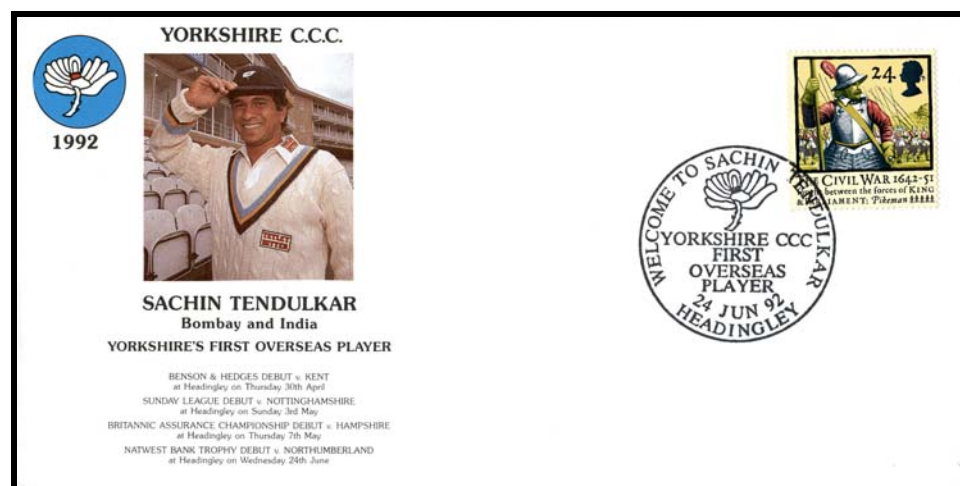


Figure 13. Even revered Indian cricketer, Sachin Tendulkar, wasn't spared condemnation when his team was eliminated after losing to Bangladesh.

### St. Lucia

St. Lucia hosted the Group C matches and one of the semi-finals. Beausejour Cricket Grounds is one of the finest cricket grounds in the Caribbean. Built in 2002, it is located in the northern part of the island near Rodney Bay.

St. Lucia issued three stamps and a souvenir sheet in March 2007 for CWC 2007. The souvenir sheet depicts Beausejour (Figure 10).

### St. Vincent

Four warm-up matches prior to the start of the tournament proper were held at St. Vincent's primary ground, Arnos Vale. St. Vincent issued eight stamps and a souvenir sheet in honor of CWC 2007. Arnos Vale, which had been designated a Test match venue in 1997, appears on the souvenir sheet (reproduced at the beginning of this article).

### Trinidad

Another famous ground, the Queen's Park Oval, hosted warm-up and Group B matches. Prior to the start of the tournament, the Oval was one of the few Caribbean grounds up to ICC standards for a World Cup. It was also the only ground to have a seating capacity greater than 15,000. Improvements to the ground for CWC 2007 included three new stands and a media center.

For CWC 2007, Trinidad issued five stamps and a souvenir sheet but none featured the Oval. However a souvenir sheet was issued in October 1976 to acknowledge the West Indies cricket team winning the first Cricket World Cup. The background shows the Queen's Park Oval (Figure 12).

### Group A Matches

The only match of consequence was between Australia (seeded first) and South Africa (5). Australia won comfortably by 83 runs.

The matches were held at Warner Park in St. Kitts. By international standards the Park is a small ground which meant that some high team scores and individual performances were to be expected. The most noteworthy



thy of these was by South African batsman, Herschelle Gibbs who hit six sixes off an over by Dutch leg spinner Daan Van Bunge, only the third time this has been done in first class cricket. Slightly less noteworthy was Australian Matthew Hayden's 66 ball century, the fastest in World Cup history. Both batsmen were awarded honorary citizenship by the St. Kitts and Nevis authorities.

Thus Australia (3 wins) and South Africa (2 wins, 1 loss) advanced to the Super 8 stage.

### **Group B Matches**

The predictions were that the Group B matches would be the most interesting of the four. Although Bermuda was not considered to have a chance of advancing, what of the other three?

Previous World Cup winners (1996) Sri Lanka won its three matches and finished at the top of the group. The big surprise was Bangladesh. Although Bangladesh had been granted Test status in 2000, wins against the other Test playing countries were few and far between and they were not expected to advance to the Super 8's.

They beat India by 5 wickets which was by far the biggest upset of the tournament to date. The reaction in India was immediate. Commercial endorsements were reconsidered and major players were burned in effigy. Even the universally revered Sachin Tendulkar was included in the condemnation. Tendulkar, then only 19 years old, is shown on the cachet of a special cover issued in June 1992 when he was welcomed by Yorkshire County Cricket Club as the first overseas player to join that county (Figure 13).

Bangladesh also beat Bermuda so their final position in the table was second with two wins and one loss. Hence, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh moved into the Super 8's.

### **Group C Matches**

Although Kenya seeded 10<sup>th</sup>, they were not expected to advance. New Zealand beat England by 6 wickets and with expected wins over Kenya and Canada they topped Group C.

The games were played at England's "home" ground, Beausejour Stadium. For England's games their fan base, the so-called Barmy Army, were out in full force. (For American readers, the word "barmy" is British slang for silly or idiotic). England did manage second place beating Canada by 51 runs and Kenya by 7 wickets, but were unconvinc-

*Figure 14. Pakistan's coach, Bob Woolmer, died suddenly during match play in Jamaica adding a touch of intrigue to the tournament.*



ing, a fact emphasized by their 6 wicket loss to New Zealand.

### **Group D Matches**

For the second time in the tournament there was a surprise result. Pakistan (4) and the West Indies (8) were expected to win the group.

The West Indies were able to beat Pakistan by 54 runs, Zimbabwe by 6 wickets and Ireland by 8 wickets to finish at the top of the table with 6 points.

However there was a huge upset in the making when Ireland, only an Association Member of the ICC since 1993, beat Pakistan by 3 wickets – and on St. Patrick's Day, no less! Although the Irish team fielded several first class cricketers, qualifications for team membership could be extended to an Irish grandparent. The Irish captain, Trent Johnston, hailed from Australia.

The reaction of the Pakistan cricket authorities was immediate: the selection committee and board chairman were fired and the captain, Inzamam-ul-Haq was blamed for the defeat. He promptly resigned and retired from One Day Internationals (ODI's).

As Ireland were also able to tie Zimbabwe they achieved second place and advanced to the Super 8's. Pakistan went home!

However the match results in Group D were overshadowed by the sudden and mysterious death of Bob Woolmer, the former England batsman and the popular coach of Pakistan.

Initially Woolmer's death, in Jamaica, was determined to be by strangulation. English police authorities said they would help the Jamaicans to determine the actual cause of death. Even our local Florida paper, not usually noted for its coverage of cricket, had several columns devoted to the investigation. Eventually the death was determined to be due to natural causes.

Woolmer was one of St. Vincent's "Leaders of the World" cricketers featured in its series issued in August 1984 (Figure 14).

***[To be continued]***

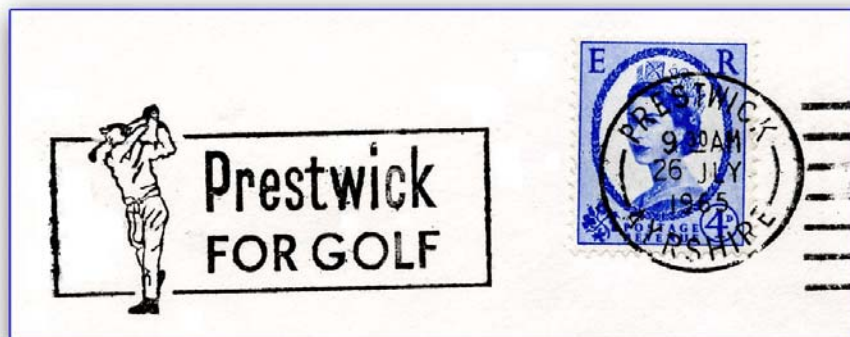


Figure 1. The course at Prestwick, Scotland was the birthplace of championship golf. Shown here, a 1965 "Prestwick FOR GOLF" machine cancellation.

## When Championship Golf Began

by Patricia A. Loehr

**J**ust as Scotland is known for nurturing the sport of golf in its early years, succeeding generations of golfers began championship golf in the middle of the 19th century. Prestwick (Figure 1) formed a golf club in 1851 on the Ayrshire coast of Scotland and in the following years decided to initiate a competition of golfers from several golf clubs. They began their championship competition efforts in 1857 by inviting amateur

golfers from other clubs to compete at their twelve-hole golf course. Invitations were accepted, the competition held, and a championship prize awarded.

Until then competitions were limited to town, city or club. Following their success in organizing a competition for amateur golfers, the

Prestwick Club then held a similar event for professional golfers in 1860. The following year the competition became known as The Open when both amateur and professional golfers were invited to compete for the trophy prize of a championship belt crafted of Moroccan leather and silver.

Less is more when the winner is decided at the Open Championship. In 1860 eight competitors representing their clubs played the twelve-hole Prestwick course three times and the competitor with the lowest total score became the champion



Figure 2. Commemorative cover depicting Open champions from competitions held at the Carnoustie Golf Links.





Figure 3. The Silver Claret Jug trophy illustrated on this Muirfield 2002 Open Championship cancel, became the permanent British Open prize beginning in 1872.

and received the prize. A rule was established that should a competitor win three consecutive competitions then that competitor would keep the event trophy belt and not relinquish it to the next champion. The first eleven Open championships were held at Prestwick.

What was golf like in 1860-61 when championship golf began? As already noted a regulation round of golf did not yet consist of eighteen holes. In 1883 Prestwick added six holes to its original twelve. Although no standard number of holes for a golf course existed, there was a set of rules known as Thirteen Articles. Because golf bags or club covers did not exist, golfers or their caddy assistants carried a few clubs by hand or under their arm. Many golfers would have played in everyday clothes. The designation and selection of golf competitions as major tournaments would eventually happen in the 20th century. The Open has been designated a major championship and won by golfers from many countries (Figure 2).

The Open championship belt stayed with Tom Morris, Jr. after he won three consecutive championships from 1868 to 1870. Because the Open organizers from Prestwick were then without a trophy for their championship they did not hold the event in 1871 while they acquired a new trophy. Their new trophy would be a Silver Claret Jug (Figure 3) and it is the Open trophy to the present

day. When the championship was reorganized a rotation for hosting the championship was established with two other golf clubs.

Harry Vardon from the Channel Island of Jersey (Figure 4) won his first Open Championship in 1896 and would go on to win the competition a record six times with his last win at Prestwick in 1914. During the Vardon era James Braid and J.H. Taylor each won five Open Championships with the first by Taylor in 1894 and the last by Braid in 1910.

Before the Open championship years of Vardon, Braid, and Taylor who are often described as "The



Figure 4. Jersey 1978 stamp set, each about Harry Vardon with first day cancel reproducing the Vardon Grip, a style of holding a golf club.



Figure 5. Ladies' Golf Union meter stamp.

Great Triumvirate," the first championship competition for women was held in 1893. Organized by the Ladies' Golf Union, the Ladies' British Amateur Championship was held at Royal Lytham & St. Annes (Figure 5).

Prestwick Golf Club continued in the rotation of Open Championship courses until 1925 when it hosted the event for the twenty-fourth and last time. In 1919, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews assumed responsibility for organizing the championship (Figure 6).

From the golf championship originated by the Prestwick Club, organizations in many countries throughout the world have organized similar events. Those championships increased interest in the sport and enabled it to grow by offering competition opportunities. In the first decade of the 21st century the countries in Figure 7 celebrated their open golf championships.

### Postscript

In 1960 when the Open Championship celebrated its centennial, professional golfer Arnold Palmer played in his first British Open held at the Old Course in St. Andrews. In an article entitled "Thirty Years of British Open Memories," Palmer



Figure 6. R&A slogan meter stamp of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, successor to the Prestwick club as organizer of the Open.

writes that Tip Anderson, a caddie from St. Andrews, caddied for him at the 1960 Open and from then on whenever he played in Scotland and England. The following year Palmer returned and won the Open. Then in 1962 he defended at the Royal Troon Golf Club and again won.

The famous partnership of Arnold Palmer and Tip Anderson may have inspired the design of the stamp and souvenir card in Figure 8 depicting a golfer and his caddy at the famous Royal Troon "Postage Stamp" hole. Arnold Palmer's success at the British Open did much to invigorate interest in the championship.

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Figure 7. Canada (2004), France (2006), and, on the facing page, Australia (2004) all recently celebrated their golf open championships with stamp issues.







Figure 8. Souvenir card showing a golfer and caddy at the "Postage Stamp" hole at the Royal Troon golf course. Arnold Palmer and his caddy Tip Anderson, were, some believe, the inspiration for the design of the stamp.



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# NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Margaret Jones

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2269 Arthur S. Keith, P.O. Box 4369, Culver City, CA 90231-4369 USA. A sports dealer, Arthur is interest in all sports, postcards, trade cards, books and autographed covers.

2270 Randall Sherman, 5136 N. Monitor Avenue, Chicago, IL 60630-4617 USA. Randall is a general collector of stamps and FDC's.

E-mail: shermanrandall@hotmail.com

2271 Jean-Pierre Caravan, 845 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Allentown, PA 18103-3103 USA. He is interested in **Olympic villages**.

E-Mail: jpc.olympique@laposte.net

## RENEWALS

1499 William P. Stahl, 7260 West 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033-8034 USA. Bill's specific interests are **track and field, marathon** and **soccer goalkeepers**. E-mail: silly\_billy@msn.com

2162 Ronald A. Greene, 695 Balfour Place, Melville, NY 11747-5251 USA. He has an interest in **golf**.

E-mail: ragslou@aol.com

2222 Juan Barcelo, CC14-Sucursal 85 (1054) Av Cordoba 663, Buenos Aires, Argentina. His interest is **soccer (football)**.

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## EXHIBIT AWARDS

AMERICOVER 2009 (Boxborough, Massachusetts). Glenn A. Estus obtained vermeil for "III Olympic Winter Games Issue (1932) and its First Day Covers."

ITALIA 2009. Andrew Urushima won silver for single-frame, "The Olympic Jubilee - Lausanne 1944."

MILCOPEX 2009 (Milwaukee, Wisconsin). Sherri Biendarra received youth silver bronze for "The Olympics - Let the Games Begin."

NATIONAL TOPICAL STAMP SHOW (Dayton, Ohio). Sherri Biendarra won American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors youth reserve champion for "The Olympics-Let the Games Begin."

OLYMPEX 2008 (Beijing, China) Victor Manikian won gold for "The Olympic Movement and Games, 1894-1948."

PIPEX 2009 (Portland, Oregon.). Andrew Urushima received vermeil for "The Olympic Jubilee - Lausanne 1944."

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# NEW STAMP ISSUES

by John La Porta

**Algeria:** June 3, 2009. 16<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Games. 15d windsurfing; 20d horse jumping.

**Belarus:** November 30, 2009. Modern Sports Buildings. Two se-tenant 1,500r stamps, soccer stadium, Minsk; Minsk arena.

**Bolivia:** August 28, 2009. Conquest of Mount Everest. 50c, 70b views of climber and mountain.

**Bosnia-Herzegovina:** September 10, 2009. Berlin 2009 World Track and Field Competitions. 1.50m runners; 2m three athletes. Souvenir sheet contains the two stamps.

**Brazil:** October 12, 2009. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Coritiba Soccer Club. 1.05r emblem, flag of Coritiba Club.

November 5, 2009. Soccer. Four se-tenant 1.05r stamps, views of players, Brazilian flag; player Hong Kong flag; \$2.50 goalie, Hong Kong flag.

**Canada:** January 12, 2010. Vancouver Olympic Games. Two 57¢ stamps, Vancouver night time skyline; Whistler mountain, both stamps have the games logo and Olympic rings. A souvenir sheet contains both stamps. Also a booklet which contains 10 57¢ stamps.

**China:** October 1, 2009. 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Founding of the People's Republic. One stamp from a set of four \$1.20 depicts Olympic Rings, Chinese flag, 2008 Beijing Olympics. Printed in sheets of 12 and in miniature sheets of eight with the designs being se-tenant.

October 16, 2009. 11<sup>th</sup> National Games. Souvenir sheet with two 1.20y stamps, emblem; mascot.

**Colombia:** October 6, 2009. Traditional Games. A se-tenant pair of 5,000p stamps different views of la Chaza, similar to tennis. Offset in sheets of six.

**Cook Islands:** September 21, 2009. Pacific Mini Games. 20¢ shot put and discus; 80¢ high jump; 90¢ weight lifting; \$3 runners. A souvenir sheet contains the four stamps. In sheets of 10 stamps.

October 21, 2009. Pacific Mini Games Winners. The set issued September 21, 2009 was overprinted with the following winners: 20¢ Daniel Kilama, shot put and discus throw; 80¢ Johanna Sui high jump; 90¢ Yuko Peter weightlifting; \$3 Niko Vereakuta running.

**Ecuador:** October 17, 2009. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ecuador's Olympic Committee. Two 25¢ symbolic athletes representing shooting, wrestling, archery, cycling, track and field, equestrian, diving, running, weight lifting, soccer, tennis, boxing.

**The Gambia:** August 2, 2009. National Basketball Association All-Stars. Two panes of 12 se-tenant \$30 stamps. Pane 1 depicts western conference players. Pane 2 depicts eastern conference players.

**Ghana:** March 31, 2009. Old Soccer Stars. Five 1c stamps Edward Acquah; Aggrey Flnn; Nana Gyamfi II; Robert Mensah; Baba Yara.

**Great Britain:** January 7, 2010. London Olympics. Booklet with nondenominated stamps, judo and archery.

February 25, 2010: London Olympics. Booklet

**Guinea-Bissau:** November 27, 2009. Table Tennis champions. Sheet of five values, 450, 550, 650, 750, 900 FCFA and one 3300 stamp in a souvenir sheet.

**Guyana:** October 9, 2009. National Basketball Association Finals. Two panes of nine se-tenant \$90 stamps. Pane 1 depicts Orlando Magic players; Pane 2 depicts Los Angeles Lakers players.

**Hong Kong:** October 1, 2009. 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Founding of the People's Republic. One stamp is a set of six, \$2.40 value depicts the Bird's Nest Olympic stadium. Sheets of 25 and a s/s of 6.

November 5, 2009. Soccer. \$1.40 player, Hong Kong flag; \$2.50 goalie; \$3, \$5 different views of soccer players, flag of Brazil. S/s contains the four values.

December 5, 2009. East Asian Games. Two \$1.40 stamps, judo, rowing, rugby sevens; track and field, badminton, wushu, shooting; two \$2.40 stamps,

basketball, hockey, squash, aquatics; cycling, weight lifting, tennis; two \$3 stamps, windsurfing, soccer, bowling, tae kwon do; table tennis, volleyball, dance sport, cue sports. S/s contains the six stamps.

**Iraq:** June 13, 2009. Soccer Confederations Cup. 100d, 250d, 500d designs with emblem, soccer player. A souvenir sheet with 750d stamp, emblem.

**Italy:** October 22, 2009. Italia 2009/Sports Day. €0.65 cyclist Gino Bartali; €0.65 soccer player Valentino Mazzola, crowd in stadium; €1.40 race card driver Michele Alboreto, Ferrari FA 156/85 race track.

**Japan:** March 17, 2009. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Boy's Weekly Comics. Two panes 10 se-tenant 80y stamps. Pane 1: boxer; monkey boy playing tennis. Pane 2: wrestler, baseball pitcher, karate master.

May 22, 2009. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Boy's Weekly Comics. Two panes 10 se-tenant 80y stamps. Pane 1: baseball player. Pane 2: martial artist, muscular boxer, two girl karate experts, baseball player.

**Korea, North:** May 2, 2009. Sports. 12w baseball; 90w bowling; 160w fencing; 200w golf. Printed in sheets of nine and booklets.

**Lebanon:** September 17, 2009. Cultural Events. £1,000 stamp, Francophone Games in Beirut.

**Libya:** June 26, 2009. 16<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Games. 500dh emblem, three rings, symbolic athletes, hurdler, water polo cycling, kayaking, karate, swimming, basketball, soccer, equestrian, tennis, archery, judo, paralympic sports, golf, weight lifting.

**Macedonia:** September 2, 2009. Italia Cycling Race. Two 18d stamps, cyclist, colors of Italian flag; bicycle pedal. Offset in sheets of nine with label.

**Monaco:** February 8, 2010. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary First Five Nations Rugby Championship. €0.70 rugby players, flags, stadium. Printed in sheets of 10.

December 4, 2009. Vancouver Olympics. Se-tenant pair of €0.90 stamps. Skier; snowboard, figure skater.

December 4, 2009. 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Automobile Club of Monaco. Souvenir sheet with two stamps; €1.30 & €1.70 different racing cars.

**New Caledonia:** November 6, 2009. Pacific Games. 75fr Joemy, bat mascot. Offset in sheets of 10.

**New Zealand:** November 25, 2009. Peter Blake. 50¢ photograph of the yachtsman; \$1 Steinlager 2 yacht, Whitebread Round the World Race; \$1.80 winning the Jules Verne challenge; \$2.30 with America's Cup Trophy; \$2.80 working as environmentalist, ship, penguin. S/s contains the five stamps se-tenant.

**Palau:** October 5, 2009. Palau Pacific Resort Receives Best Diving Resort Hotel Award. Pane of six 26¢ stamps, umbrellas and chairs on beach; dust; night scene; cabanas on beach; swimming pool; sunrise, palm tree.

**Poland:** September 7, 2009. European Championship in Men's Basketball. 3zl hand putting ball in basket.

September 25, 2009. European Volleyball Championship. 3zl players.

**Serbia:** October 9, 2009. Swimming Championships. Two 46d stamps, Milorad Cavic; Nadja Higi; 50d national team. Offset in sheets of eight with label.

**Sierra Leone:** July 6, 2009. Ferrari Racing Cars. Pane of four se-tenant 3,000 leone stamps. 1977 312 T2; 1982 126 C2; 1983 126 C3; 2007 F2007.

**Slovakia:** January 15, 2010. Vancouver Olympics. €1, four-man bobsled, emblem.

**South Africa:** June 14, 2009. 2010 World Soccer Cup. Souvenir sheet with nondenominated, boy blowing horn.

**Switzerland:** November 13, 2009. Vancouver Olympics. 1fr bobsled, Olympic Rings; 1.30fr Paralympic alpine skiing.

**Tuvalu:** August 25, 2009. Prince Harry Visits New York. Pane of four se-tenant \$1.50 stamps, one stamp depicts Prince Harry competing in polo classic.

**United States:** January 22, 2010. Vancouver Olympics. 44¢ stamp depicting a snowboarder.

**Uzbekistan:** July 1, 2009. Youth Games. 450s basketball; 750s soccer.

**Zimbabwe:** January 20, 2009. Beijing Olympics. Four nondenominated stamps "Z" Water Cube; "A" Bird's Nest Stadium; "E" Olympic pool, camera crew; "R" Zimbabwe flag, star, medals.



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