

# JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

VOLUME 49

WINTER 2010

NUMBER 2



THE  
SINGLES  
GRAND  
SLAM OF  
TENNIS

DON BUDGE

Maureen Connolly

Rod Laver

Margaret Court

Steffi Graf





SPORTS  
PHILATELISTS  
INTERNATIONAL

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TENNIS

2

2010 FIFA WORLD  
CUP

14

GOLF

18

1936 OLYMPIC  
GAMES

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Winter 2010

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

I find it utterly unbelievable that another year has (nearly) passed! Where does time fly? Maybe it's because 2010 has been such a busy one.

February's Vancouver Olympics treated us to some spectacular athletics particularly from Canada's "home" team which walked away with an unprecedented 14 gold medals – the most by any country in a single Olympic Winter Games.

For a month this summer, we were captivated by the best competitors in the world's most popular sport – football – as the quadrennial FIFA World Cup went to the African continent for the very first time. South Africa, by all measures, was a wonderful host for the competition which was capped off with a victory by Spain whose team had never before been football world champions.

August provided the "youth of the world" with a new Olympic opportunity – the inaugural Youth Olympic Games – geared specifically for the world's best athletes between the ages of 14 and 18. For 13 days, the island nation of Singapore hosted 7,500 athletes from 140 nations who vied for 201 gold medals in all 29 Olympic summer sports.

What, then, do we have to look forward to in 2011, you may ask?

Of paramount importance to SPI is our next international convention which will be held from April 29 - May 1 at WESTPEX in San Francisco. If you've never been, WESTPEX is among the top two or three annual philatelic exhibitions in the U.S.

In addition to a great bourse which frequently draws dealers from outside the country, you can always count on an excellent array of exhibits. Of course I hope SPI will be well represented. While SPI has been guaranteed a certain number of frames until January 15, they fill up fast so don't delay! Applications are available at [westpex.com](http://westpex.com), or you may write me for a copy.

Andrew Urushima and I are busy planning the activities for the convention including a speaker for our general meeting and hopefully an outing.

The official auctioneer for WESTPEX will be Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions of San Francisco. In a quirk of fate, the auction will feature the medal winning exhibit and collection of SPI member, Victor T. Manikian of Anchorage, Alaska, who passed away on February 20, 2010 at the age of 81.

While Vic, who joined SPI in 1986, had a philatelic interest in track and field, it was his summer Olympic collection which won him international plaudits. His 8-frame thematic exhibit, "The Olympic Movement and Games, 1894-1948," was last shown in competition at Olympex, The Olympic Expo during the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games at which he won a Gold medal plus the Silver Champions medal awarded to the second best exhibit overall.

Those who cannot attend the WESTPEX show and auction in person can request a catalog through their website: [www.rumseyauctions.com](http://www.rumseyauctions.com).

The WESTPEX show will take place at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel in Burlingame, just south of San Francisco International Airport. The Marriott doubles as the show hotel with a special room rate of \$113 per night (single/double occupancy) plus taxes. The hotel provides complimentary shuttle service (4:30AM - 11PM) between the hotel and the airport.

This is going to be a great show and I hope to see many of you there. In the meantime, the officers and directors of SPI would like to wish you and your families

**Happy Holidays and a  
Healthy Prosperous 2011!**

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# The Singles Grand Slam, Measure of a Tennis Champion

by Norman F. Jacobs, Jr.

Every sport has at least one achievement that stands out as a rare and dramatic moment of greatness. In baseball, the perfect game (which we almost witnessed in the recent National League playoffs), or the setting of a new career home run record; in soccer the World Cup championship; in track the 100-meter and the mile records all become part of the cultural history of the era.

The Grand Slam represents the highest pinnacle of individual success in the sport of tennis. To sweep the four major worldwide tennis tournaments in a single calendar year is a rare and difficult achievement accomplished by only five players in singles competition – none since 1988.

Don Budge was the first player to complete the Grand Slam (Figure 1).

Five men and six women have won all four majors during their careers but not in the same year. In 2010 Rafael Nadal won three of the four major tournaments, completing his career Grand Slam in dramatic fashion. This is a good time to look at the story of the Grand Slam and the great players who have achieved it.



Figure 1. Donald Budge, the first Grand Slam winner in 1938.

The four major tennis tournaments include the Australian Open, French Championships, Wimbledon, and U.S. Open. Prior to 1925 only French nationals were eligible to play in the French Championships.

Over the years the surface of the Australian and U.S. Open changed from grass to hard courts. Wimbledon continues as the only major tournament played on grass (Figure 2) while the French Championships is contested on red clay (Figure 3). The rapid transition from clay to grass between May and June represents a huge challenge for the player trying to win a Grand Slam.



Figure 2. Wimbledon is the only major tennis tournament still played on grass. Pen, pencil and watercolor essay signed by Andrew Restall, designer of the stamp for the Centenary of the Championships.

In 1933, the Australian, Jack Crawford, won the first three majors. The New York *Times* sportswriter John Kieran was a frequent bridge player, and he wrote in the paper that if Crawford won the U.S. Open, “it would be something like scoring a Grand Slam on the courts, doubled and vulnerable” (Figure 4). But Crawford lost in 4 sets.



Figure 4. The “Grand Slam” is a bridge term, meaning to win all 13 tricks of a deal.



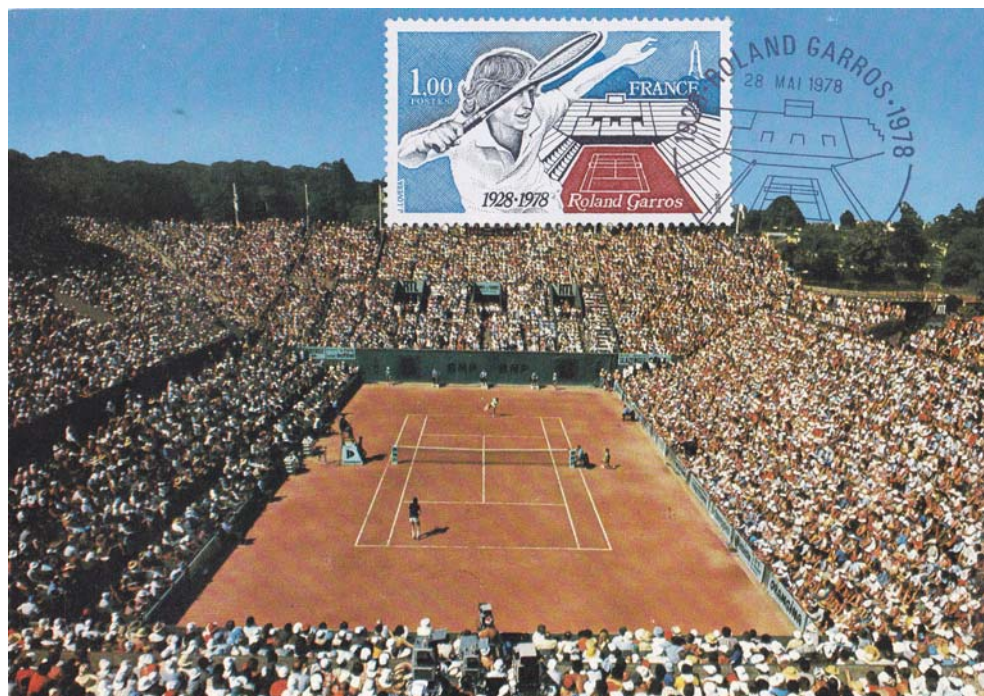


Figure 3. Maximum card showing the French Championships, played on red clay at Stade Roland Garros.

Don Budge, a 6-foot-1 red head from California, won three of the majors in 1937 and helped the U.S. defend its Davis Cup title. Despite the temptation to turn professional (which would disqualify him from the majors), he came back in 1938 for one more amateur season. He told only his doubles partner, Gene Mako, of his plan – he was gunning for the Grand Slam.

Budge won the finals of the first three majors in straight sets. On September 24, when he took the court for the finals of the U.S. Open, his opponent was his doubles partner and friend. While it took four sets, he completed the Grand Slam relying on his great backhand and powerful serve.

Remarkably, Budge had played mainly baseball as a child, not competing in tennis tournaments until age 15, but at age 23 he had achieved what no one before had accomplished (Figure 5). How many more majors might he have won if he had not turned professional in 1939?

The first woman to achieve the Grand Slam was Maureen

Connolly (little Mo) in 1953. Only 18 years old, she won each of the finals in straight sets (Figure 6). Tragically her career ended the next year due to a leg injury when the horse she was riding was hit by a truck.

In the entire history of tennis, only one person has ever achieved the Grand Slam twice: the Australian player, Rod Laver (Figure 7).

He did it first as an amateur in 1962. Then, after professionals were allowed to return to competition in 1968, he returned as winner of all four majors in 1969. That record of two calendar-year Grand Slams may well stand for 100 years, since now many more countries produce top-

notch players, and the four majors are played today on three different surfaces rather than just two.

A bit of trivia. Like Budge, Laver is red headed, and was born on August 9, 1938, during Budge's Grand Slam year. So we have a different version of the red-headed league, that Arthur Conan Doyle could not have foreseen.



Figure 5. The French Championships honored the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Grand Slam with this special handstamp during the tournament.





Figure 6. Maureen Connolly, the first female Grand Slam winner, 1953.

In 1962, Laver defeated his countryman Roy Emerson in three of the four finals of the majors. Emerson has his own place in history as the holder of 17 major titles, including a career Grand Slam, so Laver's task was not easy.

During the fourth set of his quarterfinal match in the French Championships, Laver was down a match point against Marty Mulligan before rallying to win.

I remember watching him play on the grass at Forest Hills in the U.S. Open. What was most memorable about him was his constant attacking play always fighting to take the net position, and his massive left forearm that he used to put incredible amounts of topspin on his strokes.

From 1963-67, Laver played on the pro tour and could not compete in the majors. He won several U.S. Pro singles titles playing against players like Ken Rosewall and Pancho Gonzalez.

When professionals were allowed to return to the majors in 1968, Laver won the first open Wimbledon, beating Tony Roche in the finals in straight sets.

The next year, 1969, Laver won 17 singles tournaments and had a 106-16 match record for the year, playing against all comers.

His second Grand Slam almost didn't happen, because in the semifinals of the Australian Open, Tony Roche took him to 90 games before Laver finally won, 7-5, 22-20, 9-11, 1-6, 6-3.

Laver had to defeat Ken Rosewall in the French Championships and John Newcombe at Wimbledon before meeting Roche again at the U.S. Open and winning in four sets after losing the first set. This second Grand Slam, against both amateurs and professionals, was the more difficult achievement.

Laver's Dunlop racket became even more popular with these great victories. Although the company was not an official supplier for Wimbledon in 1969, Dunlop took advantage of the publicity with a meter slogan reminder that Laver had used this racket to win Wimbledon in 1968 (Figure 8).

If Margaret Court Smith had retired before 1970, she would still have been a great champion, with 16 majors, a career Grand Slam, and three different

years in which she won three of the four majors, just missing a calendar-year Grand Slam all three times.

In 1970 she finally achieved what seemed to be her destiny, winning all four major tournaments for the elusive Grand Slam (Figure 9). It was not to be easy.

At Wimbledon, Court played the finals against Billie Jean King hobbled by a sprained ankle. After two hours and 28 minutes, and 46 games, Court prevailed 14-12, 11-9. She then beat Rosie Casals at the U.S. Open to complete the Grand Slam. When she retired after 18 years, she had won an amazing 62 major titles, 24 in singles.

The most recent Grand Slam is also the only Golden Slam, which includes not only the four major tournaments but also the Olympic Games gold medal all in the same year. This has been possible only since 1988, when tennis returned as a medal sport in the Olympic Games for the first time since 1924.

Steffi Graf, the 19-year old German with a powerful forehand and serve, jumped on this opportunity in a remarkable way. She had won only

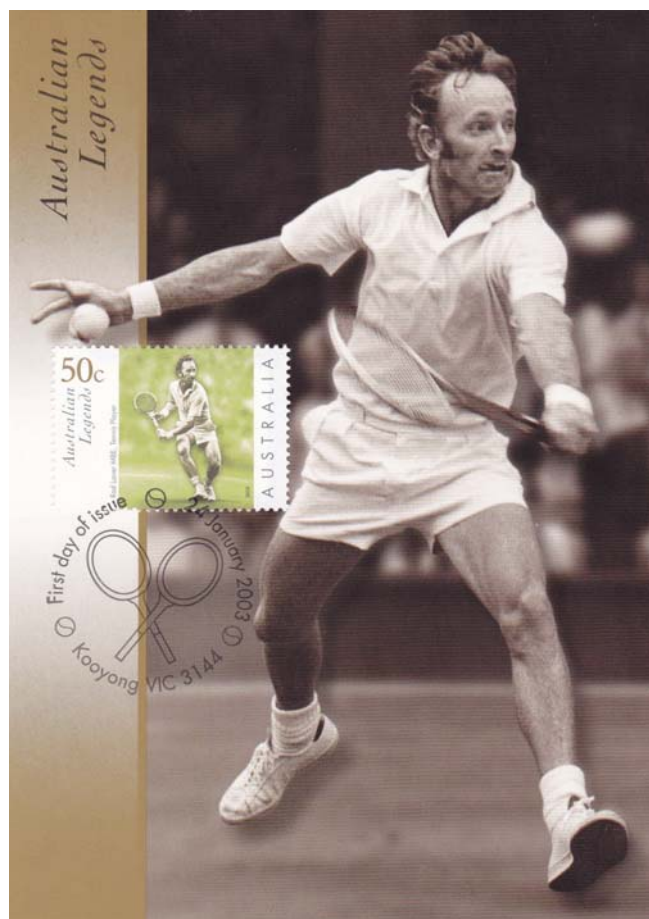


Figure 7. Rod Laver is the only person to achieve the Grand Slam twice. Australia Post issued these cards on the day of issue of their tennis legends stamps.

one major prior to 1988, the French Championships in 1987. But in 1988 she took eleven of the 14 tournaments she entered, with an overwhelming 73-3 match record for the year, perhaps the most dominating year in the Open era.

At the Australian Open, she defeated Chris Evert with a winning forehand volley in the second-set tiebreaker. In the French Championships she defeated Natalia Zvereva 6-0, 6-0 in 32 minutes.

Martina Navratilova led by a set and 2-0 at Wimbledon before Graf found her rhythm. From there Graf took 12 of the last 13 games for the victory.

The finals of the U.S. Open saw Graf defeat Gabriela Sabatini 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 to complete the Grand Slam.

Figure 8. Dunlop pointed out on this meter that Rod Laver used their Maxply racket to win his Wimbledon Championship in 1968.



Figure 9. Margaret Court shown holding her Wimbledon trophy. She won the Grand Slam in 1970.

Going into the Olympic Games, with tennis back as a medal sport after a 64-year absence, Graf was the favorite.

Figure 10 shows the original artwork for Tonga's Olympic Games \$3 stamp which bears an image of Graf. The stamp (Figure 11) issued on August 11, 1988, over a month prior to the tennis final on October 1, nicely predicts the final result of the Olympic tournament in which Steffi Graf once again defeated Gabriela Sabatini to win the gold medal and the almost-impossible Golden Slam.

Although no one has been able to complete a calendar-year Grand Slam since Steffi Graf in 1988, several tennis champions have put together a career Grand Slam. One of these, Andre Agassi, is Graf's husband (Figure 12).

Career Grand Slam winners, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, are among the current men's tennis competitors. These talented players have pushed each other to greater strength and skill through their head-to-head meetings in the major tournaments.

Federer holds a men's record 16 major singles titles, but for many years it appeared that he might not complete a career Grand Slam because of Rafael Nadal's dominance at the French Championships.

From his debut in May of 2005, Nadal won 31 straight matches at the French Championships, winning four straight titles.





Figure 10. Original artwork for Tonga's 1988 Olympic tennis stamp, text overlaid in position for production of stamp.





Figure 11. Tonga stamp, as issued, picturing Steffi Graf singles gold medalist.

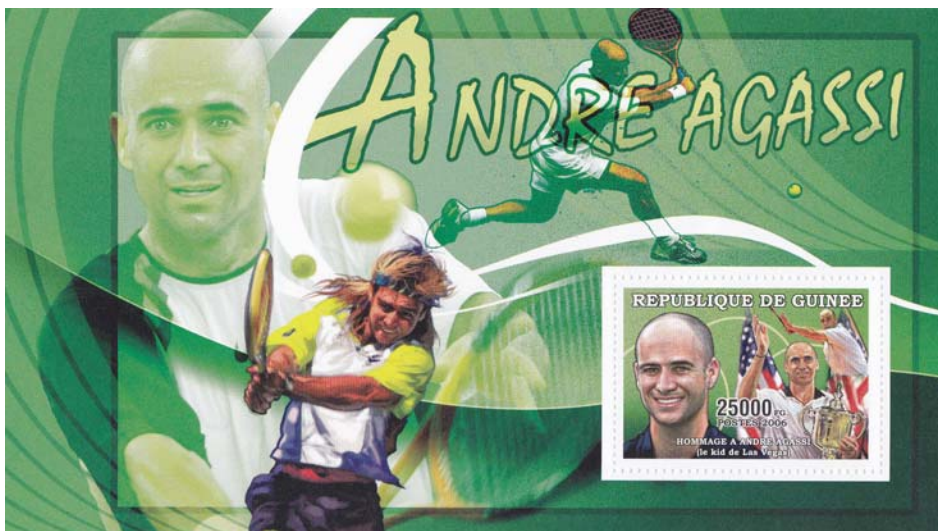


Figure 12. Andre Agassi completed his career Grand Slam with a French Championship in 1999.

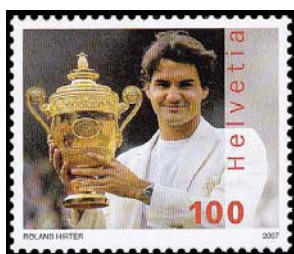


Figure 13. Switzerland honored Roger Federer's number 1 ranking for 161 consecutive weeks with this 2007 stamp. Later that year, he won his fifth straight Wimbledon trophy.

In 2009, Robin Soderling of Sweden, seeded 23<sup>rd</sup>, hit 61 winners and won 27 of 35 points at net in his fourth round match with Nadal. This was enough for a 6-2, 6-7, 6-4, 7-6 victory. Soderling made it to the finals, where Roger Federer defeated him in straight sets for his first French Championships and his career Grand Slam (Figure 13).

No one in the Open era has claimed ownership of the French Championships like Rafael Nadal. To win the tournament in his first appearance in 2005, then add three more consecutive trophies, 31 straight matches, would not have been believable in a work of fiction.

While Nadal was winning his first three French Championships, Roger Federer dominated in the other majors, winning eight majors during those three years. That's the kind of rivalry that makes the major tournaments, played on different surfaces, so compelling as a story.

Spain commemorated Nadal's ascendancy with a 2006 miniature sheet that also featured Spanish basketball star Pau Gasol (Figure 14).

In 2010, Nadal started on a bad note, pulling out of his quarterfinal match at the Australian Open with a knee injury after losing the first two sets. After several weeks rest, he stormed back, winning his fifth French Championship and second Wimbledon. With eight major titles, he lacked only the U.S. Open for a career Grand Slam.

Originally from Mallorca, "Rafa" has had only one coach in his career, his uncle Toni Nadal. Unlike most of his contemporaries, Nadal never left home to go to a tennis academy, but continued working with his uncle, a former professional player who first showed him the game at the age of three.



Figure 14. Spanish miniature sheet from 2006 honors Rafael Nadal and Pau Gasol, who both went on to even greater victories over the next several years.



Figure 15. It's fitting to end with both Federer and Nadal on the same stamp, as they have competed so many times in the finals of the major tournaments.

Nadal showed talent also in soccer. When he was only eight, he won a 12-and-under regional tennis title. Toni changed his game to left-handed at this point to give him an advantage on the court, and by the age of 12 Rafa had given up soccer in favor of tennis. Always looking for improvement, Toni even had Rafa change the grip on his serve a few days before the 2010 U.S. Open. To the surprise of everyone else, the result was a much faster serve, maxing out at 135 m.p.h., which contributed to Rafa's tremendous run at Flushing Meadows.

Commentator and former champion John McEnroe said of Nadal's transformation, "I completely underestimated his ability to improve."

The one-dimensional clay court retriever had now become a complete player, with a great serve, precision volley, and an aggressive starting position near the baseline rather than many feet behind the baseline as he had done even on hard courts during his first few years on the pro tour.

The 2010 U.S. Open presented challenges for Rafa not only across the net, but also from the heat wave during the first week. This was followed by hurricane warnings and strong winds, and finally by heavy rain that postponed the finals to Monday night under the lights. The noise of the New York crowd, and the historic opportunity to become the first player since Rod Laver in 1969 to win the French Championships, Wimbledon, and the U.S. Open consecutively also contributed to a pressure-cooker atmosphere on court.

The tense and dramatic five-set semifinal between Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic, in which Djokovic fought off two match points before finally winning 7-5 in the fifth may have been the

best match of the tournament, and its quality muted any disappointment over the lack of a Federer-Nadal final. Indeed, in the finals, Rafa needed all of his skill to defeat Djokovic, the often-humorous Serb who was all business on this night.

On the very first point, the ball crossed the net 21 times, and on many occasions Djokovic fought off break points. After a rain-delayed win by a score of 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, Rafa said, "I played my best match at the U.S. Open at the most important moment." Now Rafa (Olympic men's singles gold medal at the 2008 Beijing Games) joined Andre Agassi (singles gold medal at the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta) as the only male players ever to complete a lifetime Golden Slam.

Tennis fans thrive on great rivalries, like McEnroe/Connors, Sampras/Agassi, Evert/Navratilova, or Rosewall/Laver. For the last few years we have been privileged to watch the current great rivalry, Federer/Nadal.

These two champions share a miniature sheet honoring their 2007 Wimbledon final (Figure 15), and perhaps they will again share the court in a major final. If not, we'll have to wait until Nadal stops winning majors in order to fully compare their careers.

Right now, Federer has 16 major titles to Nadal's nine. But Nadal has won five of their seven major finals (three of the five on Nadal's favorite surface, clay); Nadal leads 14-7 in head-to-head matches (10-2 on clay, 1-2 on grass, 3-3 on hard courts). Perhaps the judgment on who is the greater player will hinge on Nadal's future record on hard courts.

At any rate, all the players who have completed a calendar-year or lifetime Grand Slam have shown great skill, endurance, and focus and deserve to be considered tennis champions. 🍀

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## A 1928 Olympic “Double-Dip” Cover

by Mark Maestroni  
submitted by Laurentz Jonker

**L**aurentz Jonker wrote me about this recent “find” of his purchased at the annual Postex show in Apeldoorn, one of the best philatelic shows in the Netherlands.

Because the cover is exciting on two different levels (philatelically and thematically) it reminds me of a “double-dip” ice cream cone!

First, let’s examine the philatelic aspects.

There is a clear Olympic connection as a full set of 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games stamps (a total of 89c postage) have been affixed and then post-marked with the Olympic “Stadion” cancel dated 9 August 1928 (a gymnastics event day).

The cover is also registered and insured (the meaning of the “Chargé” inscription at upper left). In the absence of a notation specifying the amount this was insured for, the item would seem to be overfranked by 15c.

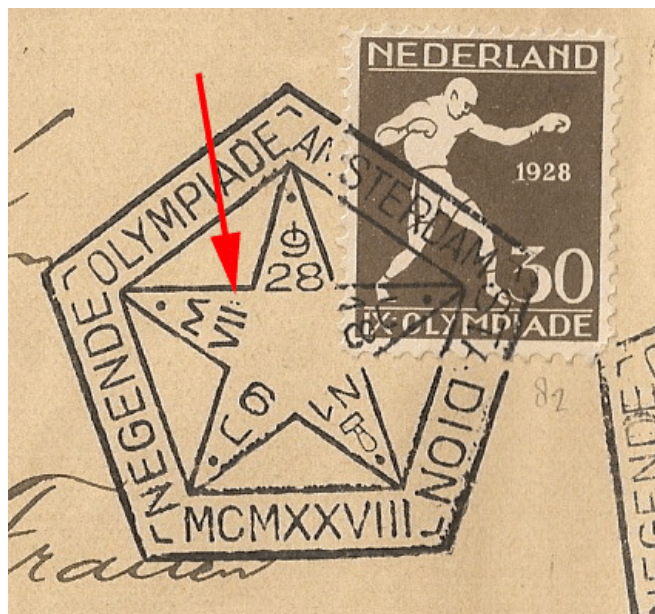
If we look more closely at the stamps themselves one discovers five of them exhibit plate flaws, based on Dirk Wolthuis’ book, *Plaatfouten en Kenmerken de Olympische Spelen 1928* (review in the Summer 2010 issue of JSP):

- 1½c rowing: plate flaw 39 (white dot above rower’s right elbow and above “D” in “OLYMPIADE”).
- 3c football: plate flaw 39 (white dot to left of numeral “3”).
- 5c sailing: dramatic example of plate flaw 162 (large white dot on edge of banner beneath year “1928” located between the “9” and “2”).



Plate flaw 162.





The postmark month appears to read July (VII) but actually is August – a small portion of the third “I” is just visible.

- 15c equestrian: plate flaw 53 (white dot above the “X” in “IX”).
- 30c boxing: plate flaw 82 (white dot near boxer’s right leg calf muscle).

Of equal philatelic interest on this cover are the postmarks.

At first glance, it appears that the date reads 9 July 1928 (the “VII” beneath the letter “M”). However, as Laurentz points out, the month is really August!

The first clue is the receiving mark on the rear which is from Thalwil, Switzerland on 11 August

1928. It surely didn’t take this registered letter more than a month to arrive at its destination.

Further proof is evidenced by the postmark on the boxing stamp (left). It clearly shows traces of the third “I” in the month designation.

Laurentz explains it thus: these cancels (also true for N2 as N3) have three parts which the postal clerk changed from time to time. They are: “U” (uur/hour), “D” (dag/day), and “M” (maand/month).

The clerk had a small box containing the steel characters. Using tweezers, he would replace the date and hour designations in the device.

Occasionally the clerk made mistakes. We know, for example, that the “M” designation on the N3 postmark exists with an Arabic numeral “7” rather than Roman numeral “VII”. After 28 July, the hour was not changed, always reading “18” (6 p.m.).

Postmarks also exist without a day numeral or with numbers reversed.

Sometimes, as in the case of this cover, the month designation “VIII” appears as “VII”. This may be due to a bad impression of the hand cancel. It’s also possible that the clerk did not properly seat the character(s) in the device. With constant use, it would not be unusual for a character to become worn or partially damaged.

An extreme example of this variation in postmarks is shown below. On this (photographically cropped) N1 cover we have examples of what appear to be two different months: June (VI) and July (VII). In reality, though, this is a 9 August 1928 cover. The cover bears a Rotterdam 10 August 1928 backstamp.

We’ll probably never know what caused the different strikes of the same postmark device.



On this cover (photographically cropped) the month (“M”) designation appears as (left postmark) “VIII” with just a small trace of the third “I”; (center postmark) “VII” with a small trace of the second “I” and none of the third “I”; and (right postmark) “VII” with no trace of the third “I”. These variations may be caused by uneven pressure on the device while cancelling, worn characters, or improper seating of the characters in the cancel device.



This cover is also interesting from a thematic perspective. The corner card in the lower left of the envelope reveals that the sender was Eugen Zehnder, the editor (?) of the Swiss gymnastics magazine *Schweizerische Turnzeitung*.

The cover was mailed to Anna Zehnder Keller – perhaps his wife? – in Thalwil, Switzerland, about 10 km south of Zürich. A backstamp indicates the cover arrived on 11 August 1928.

We can only guess that Zehnder was in Amsterdam to view and perhaps report on the Olympic gymnastics competition.

The Swiss men's team (a ladies team representing Switzerland was not entered), according to issue #70 of the Dutch Olympic newspaper *De Olympiade* (11 July 1928), arrived in Amsterdam on 6 August, remaining through 12 August.

As a central Olympic Village housing athletes was not available at the 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games, teams were scattered in private lodgings around the city. The eight-member Swiss gymnastics team was housed at the Café Neutraal on Amstelveenscheweg (now spelled: *Amstelveenseweg*) not far from the Olympic Stadium. The team consisted of: Georges Miez, Hermann Hänggi, Eugen Mack, Melchior Wetzler, Edi Steinemann, August Guttinger, Hans Brieder, and Otto Pfister. There are indications that four alternates also traveled to Amsterdam: Hunziger, Gutwenger, Stauffer and Guidici.

The Swiss team members were certainly the stars of these Games walking away with the gold

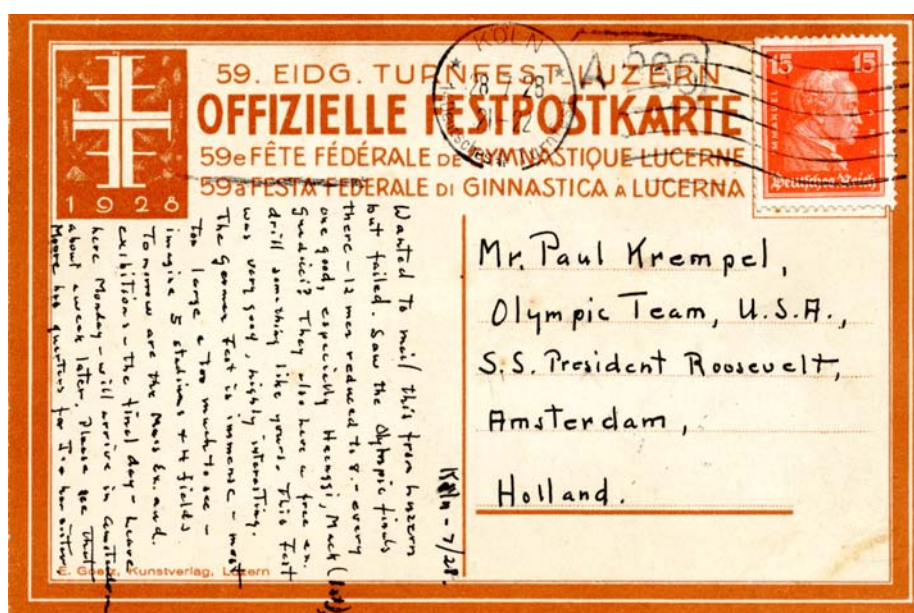


Entrance ticket for 9 August 1928 Olympic Games men's gymnastics competition – day 2 of the team event.

medal in the team event, the gold and silver in the men's all-around (Miez and Hänggi, respectively), and five individual event medals.

The excellence of the Swiss team is also noted in a report from Los Angeles, California gymnastics coach, Martin Trieb, who attended the Swiss national championships held in July 1928. In a postcard (below) to the captain of the U.S. men's gymnastics team, Paul Krempel, aboard the S.S. President Roosevelt moored in Amsterdam's harbor, Trieb notes that "every [Swiss is] good, especially Haenggi, Mack (1<sup>st</sup>) and Guidicci".

And what about the other Swiss sports teams? The same issue of *De Olympiade* notes that the 13 members of their wrestling team along with four weightlifters and one weightlifting official, were hosted by Mrs. Homan Holborn, 1e Helmerstraat 93 – the same address as handwritten beneath the corner card on our cover!



1928 Swiss national gymnastics championships postcard (above and left) from an American gymnastics coach (Martin Trieb) to the captain of the U.S. Olympic gymnastics team at the 1928 Olympic Games.



Figure 1. 2009 miniature sheet (Scott #3156a) honoring Japanese poets. Haiku master, Masaoka Shiki, is shown at bottom right of the selvedge.

## Baseball and the Master of Haiku

by Norman Rushefsky

Haiku is one of the most important forms of traditional Japanese verse. It is characterized by a very short poetic form which counts sound units (moras), known as “on”. Traditional haiku consist of 17 on, in three phrases of 5, 7 and 5 on respectively.

The haiku poet writes about a moment in time, a brief experience that stands out. Traditionally, the focus is on nature although modern poets have the urban setting as their venue. Haiku should register or indicate a moment, sensation, impression or drama of a specific fact of nature. The term *haiku* was created by the modern critic and haiku-maker Masaoka Shiki (Figures 1 & 2).

Shiki was born in Matsuyama in 1867. His father served the Matsuyama domain in the lower rank of samurai. Up to this time western sports had not yet been introduced into Japan and physical recreation was limited to the martial arts. Shiki was a sportsman in his youth and was absorbed by baseball. He wrote in one essay, published in 1887: “*There is no war filled with pleasure but baseball.*”

Haiku poets, under the leadership of Shiki, resided in Matsuyama consequently dubbed the “Town of Haiku.” Well over 480 literature monuments exist in this city.

One of these monuments features a picture taken in 1890 when Shiki was a baseball player at the Preliminary School of Tokyo (Imperial) University at the age of 22. A stamp issued September 12, 2001 reproduces this image of Shiki with a baseball and bat in his hands. A first day cover (Figure 3) with the scenic postmark of Matsuyama Chuo indicates this is one of the prefecture stamps of Matsuyama.

Japan has 47 prefectures (political subdivisions) under 12 postal regions. Since 1989, the national postal ministry has issued stamps to publicize each prefecture. These prefecture stamps are valid throughout Japan and are issued not only in the prefecture named on the stamp but in all other prefectures under all the 12 postal regions. Prefecture stamps are distinguishable from other Japanese stamps by the style of ideographic characters of “Nippon yubin” on each stamp.

In 1895 Shiki explained the rules of baseball in the newspaper *Nippon* using his own Japanese equivalent for the baseball terms. Three years later, the same newspaper published nine of Shiki’s short poems about baseball written in tanka form (a Japanese poem of thirty-one on).



Figure 2. Masaoka Shiki (1867-1902) on a 1951 stamp from Japan (Scott #490).





Figure 3. 2001 stamp showing Shiki holding a baseball bat and ball based on a photograph taken in 1890 (below) when the poet was 22. FDC (left) with scenic postmark of Matsuyama Chuo includes this stamp and a second prefecture stamp of Matsuyama, Ehime Prefecture.

Three examples (translated from Japanese to English) are:

*"The ball failed to hit have been in catcher's mitt and the runner can't advance"*

*"Players filled the three bases just now, I feel uneasy in spite of myself"*

*"Far away under the skies of America they began baseball – ah, I could watch it forever!"*

Tanka consists of five units usually with the 5-7-5-7-7 pattern of *on*. Tanka is a much older form of Japanese poetry than haiku and Shiki created the term *tanka* in the early twentieth century.

Shiki lived to be only 35 years old, succumbing to tuberculosis in 1902. During the last seven years of his life, although confined to his bed, Shiki succeeded in three major contributions to modern

literature: haiku reform, tanka reform and advocating sketch-from-life-prose.



Figure 4. Shiki was honored on a 2002 stamp (Scott #2839) as part of a series commemorating Cultural Pioneers. The November 5, 2002 first day cancel also depicts Shiki.



For his baseball-related literary accomplishments he was inducted into the Japan Baseball Hall of Fame in 2002.

Shiki was commemorated with a stamp as part of a 2002 series of renowned Japanese cultural notables (Figure 4).

A miniature sheet of stamps was issued in 2009 honoring famous Japanese haiku poets. Their likenesses, including that of Masaoka Shiki, are featured in the sheet's selvedge (Figure 1).

# 2010 FIFA WORLD CUP SOUTH AFRICA

## STADIA STAMPS & POSTMARKS

by Mark Maestroni

**S**outh Africa Post Office (SAPO) surprised me with a series of 14 postmarks used during the World Cup competition from June 11 to July 11. News of these was reported in the September-December 2010 issue of *Setempe*, the magazine of SAPO.

The 14 postmarks, illustrated below, honored the 10 stadia used for competition, plus three airport post offices and the Post Office Museum.

My inquiries immediately prior to the start of the competition revealed no plan for special postmarks, so I again contacted the post office for more details.

According to Mr. Sandile Keswa of SAPO, no special temporary post offices were provided at venues. Instead, a corresponding stadium postmark was available from a nearby post office. Mr. Keswa added that "in each area where these games were played we had a Business Development Officer (Sales Representatives) who also made these postmarks available to customers. The logistics around this was massive, some customers either visited our regional office to have their items cancelled with specific postmarks or kindly requested our Business Development Officers to collect their items, cancel them with a postmark and then return them at their hotel."

Every postmark was available each day of the competition (June 11 - July 11). Whether or not a particular stadium had a match that day was irrelevant. It was not clear, though, if postmarks were applied on Sundays. Mr. Keswa did say that post offices were not kept open on Sundays just for postmarks.

Following the end of the World Cup, SAPO collected all the postmarks from the various post offices. These will still be available until December 31, 2010.

Requests for postmarks may be sent to: Mr. Sandile Keswa, Manager: Business Development – Philately, Private Bag x 505, Pretoria 0001, South Africa.

Collectors may send either pre-stamped covers or buy covers from SAPO with stamps applied. For under 50 covers, there is no charge for applying postmarks. Over 50 covers, the fee is ZAR1.00 per cover (e.g. if a customer sends 75 covers the cost to cancel these covers will be ZAR75.00). For larger quantities the handling fee is adjusted accordingly.

Also depending on where the customer is located, there may be a charge for returning the processed covers in a single package. There is no charge to return smaller quantities to collectors.

Mr. Keswa added that despite taking great care in processing cancellation requests, human errors do occur. He recommends that a few extra covers be included.





As news of these postmarks seemed not to be widespread – particularly internationally – I wondered if there were significant quantities of covers or cards bearing the special cancels.

In early October (three months after the conclusion of the World Cup) I decided to check the online auction sites. Barely a handful of postmarks on cover were being sold on the Delcampe site. Most were on covers dated 19 July bearing the new South African Sport Stadium stamps issued that day (shown at right). This was eight days after the conclusion of the World Cup. There were no stadium postmarks found on eBay.

The 10 stadia stamps, designed by Thea Clemens, was requested by the Minister of Communications of South Africa to “thank South Africans for hosting a successful event.”

The stamps were issued in a pane of ten (right) and depict a birds-eye view of each stadium. There is no indication either on the stamps or the selvedge that these were World Cup stadia, probably to circumvent any requirement to obtain permission from FIFA who own the World Cup brand.

The stamps, issued on 19 July, are printed on yellow-green phosphor paper with PVA gum and printed by offset lithography by Cartor Security Printing of France. The stamps measure 48 mm x 30.53 mm; the sheet is 183 mm x 126 mm. 🇷🇺



Sheet of 10 stadium stamps issued 19 July 2010.



South African Post Office cover with World Cup Soccer City Stadium postmark on the day of the finals, 11 July 2010.

# What is an Olympic Stamp?

## The Vancouver Experience

by Alain Hébert

With, hopefully, the release of the final stamp issue on 25 September by Austria, the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games philatelic odyssey has come to a close after nearly 21 months of activity. Considering the proliferation of material produced by philatelic administrations around the world, this raises an interesting question: what, exactly, constitutes an Olympic stamp?

Should it bear the official logo of the Games? Must it show the five Olympic rings?

Do the words "Vancouver 2010" have to appear on the stamp, or should it say "Games of the XXI Olympic Winter Games"?

What if the stamp displays an Olympic medal and its ribbon?

Is one of the above sufficient to qualify as an Olympic stamp? Two? Or something completely different?

Should stamps honoring the Paralympic Games, which immediately follow the Olympics, be included in an Olympic collection or is that a different theme altogether?

Today, the situation is more complex than ever and one must ask himself what makes a simple piece of paper an Olympic philatelic item.

The Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) tried to simplify things for everyone with an official logo comprising the colorful inukshuk, the Olympic rings and the words "VANCOUVER 2010." Twenty-six countries used this emblem on their stamps, souvenir sheets and booklets, making Olympic philatelic items readily identifiable.

So far, so good.

But then Canada Post, which paid \$3 million to become an official sponsor, issued an ice sledge hockey stamp with the Paralympic logo (Scott



Figure 1. How should one classify a host country souvenir sheet mixing four Olympic with one Paralympic stamp?

Catalog #2299e). Taken on its own, the stamp is a Paralympic stamp. However, since it appears on a souvenir sheet with four Olympic stamps (Figure 1) and bears both the Vancouver Olympic logo and Vancouver Paralympic logo in the selvage, the souvenir sheet could be classified as an Olympic entity.

A self-adhesive version of the same stamp (Sc. #2301) in combination with other Olympic stamps can be found in booklets #2304a and #2304b.

In similar fashion, stamp #2312 (a Paralympic curler) also appears in #2305, a souvenir sheet with Olympic stamps.

Some countries, such as the United States, Liechtenstein (Figure 2), France and Switzerland, preferred to use the traditional Olympic logo (5 rings) and words "Vancouver 2010." Australia's pair of stamps featured just the Olympic rings, while the German issue had the Olympic rings and words Olympic Winter Games 2010.

Some countries issued stamps in recognition of their Olympic athletes on which the only visible Olympic connection is the oddly-shaped medal and the blue ribbon with "Vancouver 2010" in fine print.



Figure 2. Liechtenstein's stamp was inscribed with the basics: the Olympic rings and "Vancouver 2010."





Figure 3. An excellent example of what an Olympic item should look like. Slovenia included labels with the official emblems of the IOC, 2010 Vancouver Games, and Slovenian Olympic Committee along with trilingual Olympic marginal inscriptions.

Still others went to great trouble to make sure that their stamps reflected the Olympic theme. Slovenia, for example, issued an excellent souvenir sheet comprised of six stamps and three labels with different emblems: one for the Olympic movement, one for the Vancouver Olympics and the third for the Slovenian Olympic Committee (Figure 3). On top of that, it had “XXI Olympic Winter Games” in English and French (the two official languages of the host nation) and Slovenian in the margins.

Unfortunately, North Korea, as Mark Maestroni pointed out in the 2010 Fall issue of *JSP*, issued stamps containing glaring mistakes. For political reasons – certainly contrary to the Olympic spirit – it refused to recognize the accomplishments of South Korean athletes.

For those with a love of statistics, 19 stamps depict alpine skiing (clearly the favorite subject). Short-track speed skating was second with 15, while skeleton came dead last with but a single issue from Romania.

At least 30 issues debuted on the opening date of the Olympics, 12 February. Twenty-four stamps were issued after the conclusion of the Games.

Bogus or real – how can a collector protect himself? With modern technology, it is rather simple to print bits of papers that look like stamps. Some

of these are actually fetching over \$40 on eBay!

A collector should first determine if the stamp was actually issued by an official postal administration. I have found what looked like an Israeli souvenir sheet for sale on eBay bearing the Vancouver emblem but without the words “Vancouver 2010” or the Olympic rings. It is dated 1 December 2004. This is interesting, especially when one considers that the official logo wasn’t unveiled until 23 April 2005.

Four more items supposedly issued by Israel Post were found on eBay.

One souvenir sheet from Benin features Dalmatians with the Olympic rings and text “Vancouver 2010” and “London 2012.” Mali followed suit with two cartoon

stamps of its own. Please be careful.

Of course, Guinea, a postal administration with a dubious stamp issuing policy, will probably soon flood the market as it did following the 2008 Beijing Games. They have already released two overprinted versions of their 1988 Calgary Olympic souvenir sheets (Figure 4). Happy hunting!

*Editor’s Note: see page 21 in this issue for IOC requirements for licensing Olympic stamps.*



Figure 4. The same souvenir sheet 22 years later with an overprint!



## Golf Stamps – Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles

by Patricia Loehr

When a beginning golf philatelist, it didn't take long for me to learn that stamps with golf themes abound from around the world. Soon after, I became acquainted with the variety of ways in which the stamps might be issued. Some are released as a single stamp while others are in sets of two or more with different designs. One may add to those the numerous formats in which the stamps appear: booklet, coil, imperforate, overprinted and so on.

Golf philately's breadth of variety can satisfy almost any collector. This introduction presents a selection of stamps issued as a single, pair of golf stamps, or mixed double – a golf stamp issued with a non-golf stamp. Plucked from countries spanning the globe, these examples depict a variety of themes within golf including a golf course, equipment, the swing, and golfers. They honor the sport and its competitions, organizations and champion golfers.

### Singles

The first golf stamp issued as a single was by Morocco on February 8, 1974. The event it commemorated was the International Golf Grand Prix for the Hassan II Morocco Trophy.



The year 1980 saw three countries each issue a single golf stamp. April 28, Luxembourg released a "Sports for All" stamp. France honored its Golf Federation with a stamp on October 18. The host for the 28th World Golf Cup competition – Colombia – commemorated the event with a single stamp on December 9. The design was described as a "green silhouette of the course against a blue sky, framing a swing in the shape of a rainbow pointing up the tropical characteristics of our country."

To continue their sports series begun in 1981, the United States issued a stamp honoring champion golfer Francis Ouimet on June 13, 1988 at the United States Open Championship in Brookline, Massachusetts.

### Doubles

The first two-stamp golf set was issued by French Polynesia February 27, 1974. A dark-haired Polynesian beauty in native dress is seen in mid-swing on the 16F stamp. The Atimaono Golf Course on the 24F stamp was the venue for golf when French Polynesia hosted the regional South Pacific Games in September 1971.

In 1975 on June 16 Ireland issued two stamps for the 9th European Amateur Golf Team Championships. The 6p stamp depicts chipping from the fringe







next to the putting green while the 9p stamp is putting on the green.

Christmas Island, located in the Indian Ocean and administered by Australia, issued a pair of golf stamps February 12, 1980 for "25 Years of Golf" on the island.

The next year on September 22 the United States began a sports series by issuing two stamps on the

same day at the World Golf Hall of Fame in Pinehurst, North Carolina. The stamps honored two of the great legends of the sport, Bobby Jones and Babe Zaharias.



## Mixed Doubles

Japan issued the first golf adhesive postage stamp November 20, 1953. Its "mixed double" portrayed the Unzen National Park. The red stamp is a view of Mt. Unzen from the golf course and the blue stamp is Mt. Unzen from Chijiwa Beach.

In 1988 Italy issued a golf stamp with a soccer stamp on May 16.

Iceland paired golf with Icelandic wrestling when it issued those stamps August 14, 1991. They were part of a series of ten sport stamps issued in pairs.

With golf's universal popularity, it's not hard to find a course somewhere in your vicinity. And where there's golf, you might just find a golf stamp or two!



# FIRST SUMMER YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES: STAMP CHECKLIST UPDATE

by Mark Maestroni

**T**hanks to Jean-Louis Emmenegger of the Philatelic Department of the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, I have some additions to the list of stamp issues for the First Youth Olympic Games held this past August in Singapore.

Five additional nations issued stamps or souvenir sheets: Iceland, Indonesia, Serbia, United Arab Emirates, and Vanuatu. The table on the facing page provides details (as known).

Emmenegger also pointed out that one stamp, that of Sri Lanka, was not authorized by the IOC. Monaco apparently “forgot” to apply for a license. Does that mean it too is “unauthorized”?

In his article “Singapore 2010: Les 1ers Jeux olympiques de la jeunesse” published in the October 2010 issue of the Swiss philatelic journal *SBZ*, he provides some interesting details on the Youth Olympic Village post office which was operational from August 4 through 28 (the village was opened to athletes on August 8). Although the games officially ended on August 26, the post office remained open for two additional days, closing late on the afternoon of the 28<sup>th</sup>. Emmenegger added that mail postmarked from the village on August 27 and 28 should be considered “unusual.”





# CHECKLIST OF WORLDWIDE ISSUES - SUPPLEMENT

Country	DOI	Format	FV
Bolivia: football & cycling	08 Sept 2010	panes of 100	2 Bs
Bolivia: swimming & athletics	08 Sept 2010	panes of 100	9 Bs
Iceland: high jumper clearing a pile of books	16 Sept 2010	panes of 10	165 ISK
Indonesia: 2 se-tenant stamps depicting badminton	15 July 2010	panes of 20 (10 pairs)	1500r
Serbia: basketball, gymnastics, running, volleyball, tennis, judo	14 Aug 2010	panes of 8 + 1 label	51 RSD
Tunisia: pictographs depicting athletics, wrestling, taekwondo, weightlifting, tennis, rowing, sailing, diving, and swimming	14 Aug 2010		700 TND
Uzbekistan: rhythmic gymnast	12 Jul 2010	panes of 36	800 soms
United Arab Emirates: hand holding torch; sports in margin	26 Aug 2010	one stamp in souvenir sheet	475 fils
Vanuatu: basketball, football; sports in margin	14 Aug 2010	one stamp in souvenir sheet	500 vatu



First day postmarks for Bolivia (above left), Tunisia (above right) and Iceland (left).

As Jean-Louis Emmenegger mentioned, postal administrations were required to submit designs to the IOC for approval, I consulted Jocelyn Bernhard in the philately section of the IOC Television & Marketing Services for an explanation:

1. An agreement should be signed by the Postal Administration and the National Olympic Committee of the territory and sent to the IOC.
2. The stamp or any other philatelic items should be submitted to IOC for approval.
3. The Postal administration agrees to provide to the IOC 1500 sets of all Olympic Postage Stamps, either mint or cancelled on IOC official covers. In addition, they should provide to the IOC, for the Organising Committee of the Games, 200 mint sets of all Olympic Postage stamps bearing the Organising Committee marks.

*Day 7 of the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games. India's Avik Das returns the ball against Belgium's Emilien Vanrossomme during the boys' singles 1st stage.*



Photo: XINHUA/  
SYOGOC-Pool/  
Fan Jun



Figure 1. V-Berlin Olympisches Dorf, Nr. 011.

## 1936 Olympic Value (Insured) Mail Covers – An Update

by Mark Maestroni & Laurentz Jonker

The Summer 2004 issue of *JSP* included a supplement, a translation of Laurentz Jonker's monograph on the value (insured) mail of the 1936 Olympic Games. In all, less than two dozen covers with the red "V" labels and cancelled with an Olympic postmark are known. On rare occasions, new ones surface, usually at auction. This update presents 3 covers that have appeared since publication of the monograph.

Figure 1. V-Berlin Olympisches Dorf Nr. 11, continuous cancel "Berlin Olympisches Dorf, t". Date: 21.7.36 - 10. Weight: 25.5 grams. Insured: 2000 RM. Postage: 114pf = letter 24pf + handling fee 50pf + insurance fee 40pf.

Figure 2. V-Berlin-Charlottenburg 9 Nr. 055, cancel "Berlin, Deutschlandhalle, a". Date: 14.8.36 - 14.

Weight: 73 grams. Insured: 2000 RM. Postage: 154pf = letter 24pf + handling fee 50pf + insurance fee 40pf + express fee 40pf. (Collection of Zhuoyu Yuan)

Figure 3. V-Berlin Olympisches Dorf Nr. 15, cancel "Berlin Olympisches Dorf, o". Date: 14.8.36 - 10". Weight: 37 grams. Insured: 2000 RM. Postage: 114pf = letter 24pf + handling fee 50pf + insurance fee 40pf.

In June 2010, the V-mail covers from the Fritz Karpinski collection (all were included in the 2004 monograph) were auctioned by Felzmann of Düsseldorf, Germany. Including the 20% premium, the covers yielded the following prices: Kiel Nr. 006: €650; Berlin Olympia Stadion (Presse) Nr. 001: €1400; Berlin Deutschlandhalle Nr. 002: €865; Berlin Charlottenburg 9 Nr. 063: €985; Berlin Olympia Schwimmstadion Nr. 001: €985.







# The Daguin Sports Postmarks

by René Geslin  
translated by Mark Maestrone



What Olympic collector doesn't know this very beautiful postmark from Reims (above)? It was placed into service at the "Reims-Principal" post office, announcing the 27<sup>th</sup> Shooting Competition from 7-22 June 1924. The majority of the competing teams were national Olympic teams; the contest was in fact a true pre-Olympic test. The Olympic competition debuted near Reims at Chalons-sur-Marne, continuing later at Versailles.

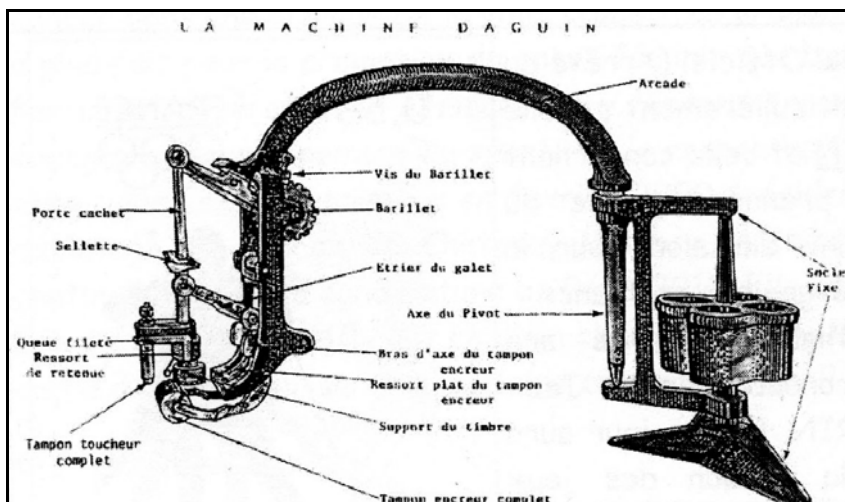


The second postmark (left) is a "rare pearl." Prepared for the two post offices of the Olympic Stadium and the Olympic Village, it was not used in the proper manner on the Daguin machine. It was manually applied to certain correspondence to the left of the date stamp

from these post offices. Why wasn't it placed in the machine? The question is still being asked today! So one classifies it as a "Daguin imitation" (there are other similar cases).

Daguin? Where did this name come from? Quite simply from its inventor, Eugène Daguin (1849-1888). This student of the Imperial School of Arts and Trades at Chalons-sur-Marne (1865-1868) became an engineer and settled in Paris in September 1881. He filed patent #143668 for a "franking machine and letter canceler." Adopted by the Administration of Posts, this machine also drew the interest of foreign postal administrations.

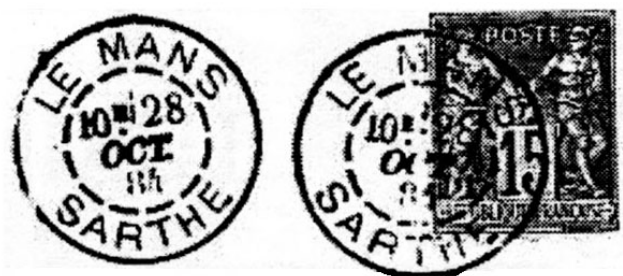
A regulation from the Ministry of the Posts in March 1876 ordered post office clerks to apply to each letter two "date stamps" (cancels) one on the stamp, the other on the left side of the envelope. Thus was the Administration of Posts encouraged to mechanize the operation. On May 4, 1884, the Minister of Posts, Adolphe Cochery, announced the activation of an apparatus named for its inventor.



The original patent design for the Daguin postmark machine (left). A French semi-postal stamp of 1985 commemorates the machine (right).







(Above) Daguin postmark known as “jumelé” from the first year, 1884. (Below) First slogan cancellation (for a temporary cancel) in 1923 (Fair of Chambéry).



More than 3,000 “Daguins” were created praising festivals, places, or sports. This last has not been forgotten: here is a selection – incomplete to be sure – but representative of the variety of messages delivered.

The slogan portion is normally at left, but it is possible to place it at the right.



(Left) Velodrome Cavaillon with slogan on left. (Right) Sought after, but few found. Slogan on right.



(Left) Daguin postmark used in Hungary to publicize a sports festival in 1925. (Right) A typical postmark promoting tourism including canoeing and fishing.

In addition to announcing events, the Daguin slogans were frequently used to promote tourism.

They acquainted one with the interesting aspects of a place, an area and in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, more often than not, sport.



(Above) Nautical tourism, difficult or easy, you choose.



(Above & Below) Mountain locations (the Jura, the Alps, the Pyrenees) developed for winter sports or summer stays.



After the mountains, the coasts: the Côte d’Azur offered upscale leisure activities fashionable at the time like other tourist areas (tennis, golf).



The post office decided to change this type of cancel in 1963, but certain machines were still in service ten years later!

This article was first published in issue #37 of the French philatelic journal “Esprit: Sports et Olympisme” and is reprinted with their and the author’s kind permission. Some illustrations have been changed or eliminated.

# Vancouver 2010 Olympic Medalists: Update #2

by Mark Maestroni

Postal authorities never seem to tire of honoring their Olympic medalists. Surely, I thought, by the time I put the Fall issue of the journal to bed, that would be the conclusion to our Vancouver Olympic Winter Games story. I guess I was a bit premature!

Belarus decided on 23 July to issue a set of three stamps portraying their three medal winners.

Alexei Grishin brought home their only gold medal won in the Men's Aerials event of Freestyle Skiing on 25 February.

In a tie on 18 February, silvers in the Men's 20 km Individual Biathlon event went to Sergey Novikov of Belarus and Ole Einar Bjoerndalen of Norway.

Also on 18 February, a bronze medal was won by Darya Domracheva for the Biathlon Women's 15 km Individual race.

Each of the three stamps, shown above right, bears a letter rather than numerical denomination:

P = International airmail letter up to 20 grams

H = International surface letter up to 20 grams

A = Domestic letter up to 20 grams

At the time the stamps were issued, the rates were 1420 rubles (P), 920 r (H), and 290 r (A).

Each stamp was issued in a pane of 8 plus matching label. A composite sheet was also released featuring a pair of stamps plus matching label for each athlete.

Austria, which netted a cool 16 medals in these Games (4 gold, 6 silver, 6 bronze) was particularly proud of its Doubles Lugers, brothers Andreas and Wolfgang Linger.



Stamp and pictorial postmark honoring the Linger brothers.

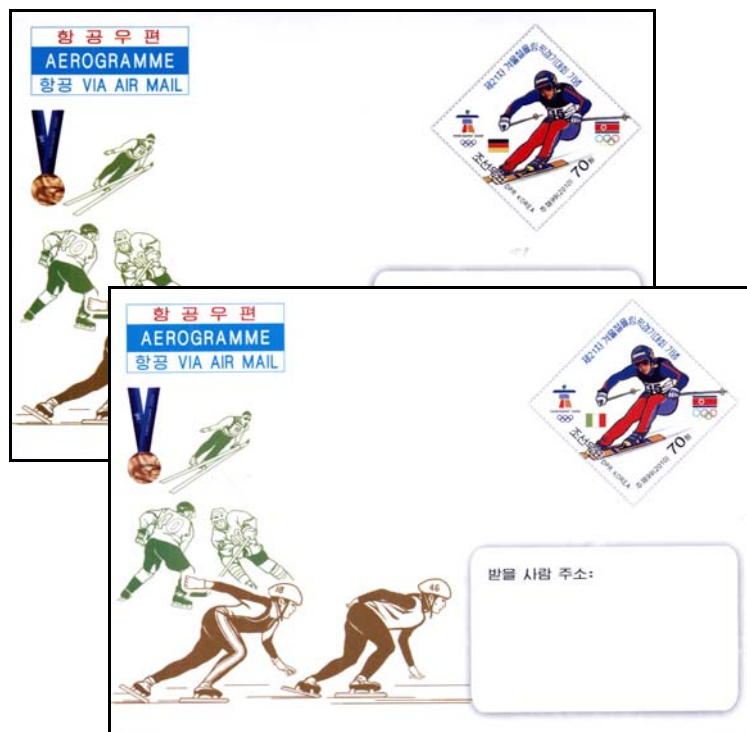


In celebration of the annual Day of Sports on 25 September in Vienna, Austria Post honored the pair with a €1 stamp portraying the brothers on their luge as well as



Each of three medalist stamps released by Belarus in honor of, respectively, Alexei Grishin, Sergey Novikov, and Darya Domracheva.

standing in the background proudly displaying their Vancouver Olympic gold medals. As repeat gold medalists in their event (they also won at the 2006 Turin Olympic Winter Games), the Linger brothers are true sports heroes in their country.



Finally, North Korea overprinted their postal stationery envelope with the flags of Germany and Italy. While I can't be certain which events are being commemorated, the cover with the German flag probably honors the gold medals won by Maria Riesch (Ladies' Slalom) and/or Viktoria Rebensburg (Ladies' Giant Slalom). The cover with the Italian flag is certainly for Giuliano Razzoli, winner of the Men's Slalom event.



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# THE SPORTS ARENA

by Mark Maestrone



It was a party in South Beach on Friday night as LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh, donned Miami Heat jerseys at a welcoming celebration.



**NORMAN RUSHEFSKY**  
9215 COLESVILLE ROAD  
SILVER SPRING, MD 20910

## YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR

Norman Rushefsky contributed an interesting explanation of the July 9, 2010 basketball postmark “YES. WE. DID.” from Miami already reported in the “Commemorative Cancel” column in the Fall *JSP*.

As shown in his cachet in the above cover, it relates to the signing of new Miami Heat teammates LeBron James and Chris Bosh to 6-year, \$110 million dollar contracts and Chris Wade to a \$107 million, 6-year contract. The words seem to be a play on Obama's “Yes we can” speech of 2008. Obama's supporters, upon his election, cheered “Yes we can, yes we did.”

While not highest on the NBA salary scale – top earner Kobe Bryant of the LA Lakers pulls in a cool \$24,806,250 a year (according to hoopshype.com) – James and Bosh are still in the top 25. Clearly, the Heat are intent on bringing NBA championships to Miami for years to come.

This postmark is the first U.S. basketball postmark in two years. The reduced frequency can be attributed to a lack of recent basketball stamp issues by the USPS as well as the retirement of SPI member George Killian as Executive Director of the National Junior College Athletic Association. While George was at the NJCAA we could count on basketball postmarks for the various junior college championships.

## GOOD THINGS IN SMALL PACKAGES

Sometimes really cool items just fall into your lap totally unexpectedly.

Remembering my particular love of gymnastics philately, Hungarian SPI member Zoltan Klein recently mailed me this terrific postcard (shown on the facing page, at top).

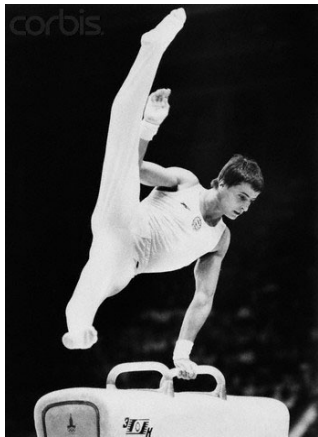
The focus is of course on the pair of gymnastics stamps issued 26 September 2010 and commemorating the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hungarian Gymnastics Federation which was founded in 1885. The design features a male gymnast performing what appear to be double leg circles on the pommel horse. Below him are pictograms symbolizing the other five events in men's gymnastics, plus the four women's apparatus.

The fancy cancel, which also serves as a first day postmark, reproduces the original emblem of the federation.

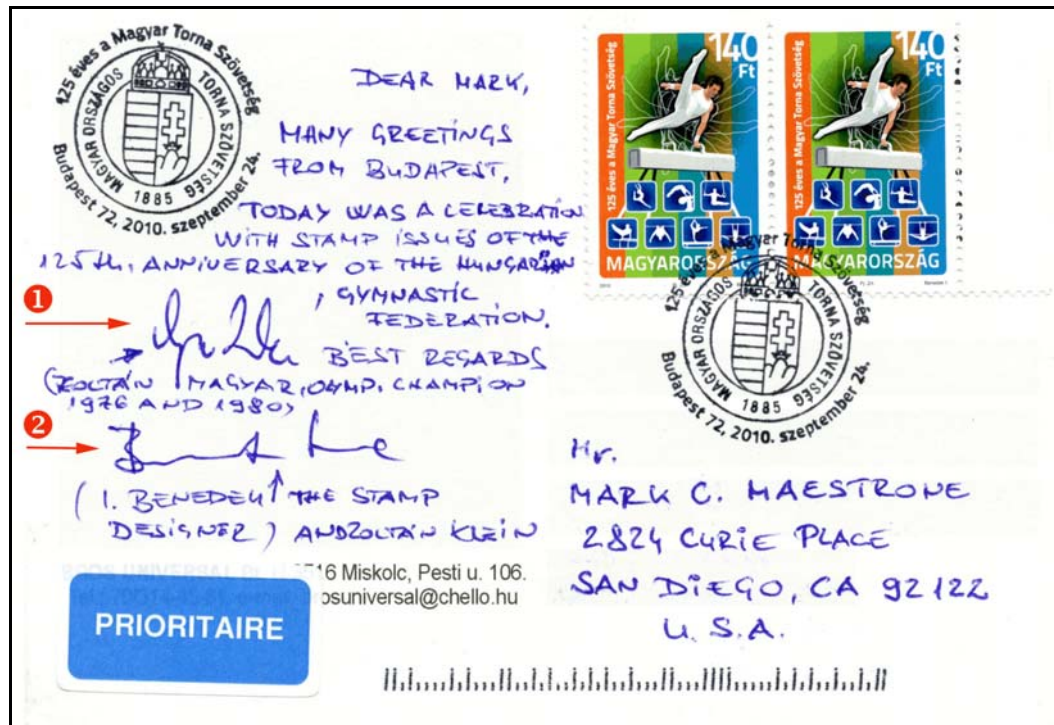
The real treats, however, are the autographs at left from two attendees at the first day ceremony.

Arrow 1 points to the signature of Zoltán Magyar, one of the preeminent male gymnasts of the 1970s. His specialty was the pommel horse on which he won back-to-back Olympic gold medals in 1976 and 1980 as well as numerous World Championship and other titles. His two eponymous gymnastics moves are the Magyar spindle and Magyar travel.





Hungarian gymnast, Zoltán Magyar (above) winning the pommel horse event at the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games. The image on the stamps (right) bear a striking resemblance to the photo.



The autograph adjacent to arrow **2** is that of the stamp's artist, Imre Benedek, a noted Hungarian graphic designer.

## SPANISH POST CELEBRATES "LA ROJA"

On October 21, the Spanish postal administration finally issued the much anticipated souvenir sheet honoring Spain's beloved national football team, *La Roja* – the Red One – for their 2010 World Cup victory.

The souvenir sheet measuring 150 x 105.6 mm and with a face value of €2 features a group picture of all 23 players plus their coach. The sheet contains a single stamp perforated 13 ¼ (horizontal) x 13 ¾ (vertical) and reproduces the World Cup Trophy. The stamps are "hot stamped" in gold relief. A total of 310,000 sheets were issued. No doubt this sheet will be enormously popular and difficult to find.

The announcement on the Spanish Post website includes some of the remarks made by King Juan Carlos I when the team was received at the Hall of Columns at the Palacio Real de Madrid. He thanked them for making dreams come true and said (roughly translated from the original Spanish): "You are an example of sportsmanship, nobility, playing well and teamwork; and you are an example of

effort and the spirit of excellence for future generations."

This was Spain's first World Cup win. The final, was played July 11 at Johannesburg, South Africa's Soccer City Stadium against the team from The Netherlands. Spain won 1-0 in the 116<sup>th</sup> minute of play with a goal by Andres Iniesta (#6 on the souvenir sheet). Not surprisingly, he was named "Man of the Match."

Full coverage of the 2010 World Cup was provided in the Summer and Fall 2010 issues of *JSP*.



Souvenir sheet with €2 stamp honoring Spain's 2010 World Cup victory.



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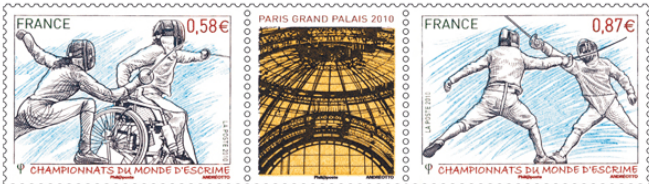
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## REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS

by Mark Maestroni



*French issue for 2010 World Fencing Championships.*

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

September 2010 (#57). Fencing, a very popular sport in Europe, celebrated its 2010 World Championships in Paris from 4-13 November. It's not surprising, therefore, that this issue of *Esprit* focused coverage on the sport. Jacques Castanet looks back at the historical aspects of World Championships of fencing dating back to the first in Paris in 1937. René Christin follows with a philatelic review of the championships, particularly those contested in France.

Additional subjects covered in this issue include the 2010 Youth Olympic Games in Singapore, 2010 World Championships in Basque Pelota, and the International Olympic Day celebrations in Annecy, a candidate for the 2018 Winter Olympics.

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

August 2010 (#32). In addition to the regular columns covering new (and newly-discovered) basketball related philately, this issue provides a couple of very interesting articles. The first concerns U.S. track and field star, Wilma Rudolph who is best known for her stellar performance at the 1960 Rome Olympic Games where she won three gold medals. Less well known is that she also was quite a good high school basketball player!

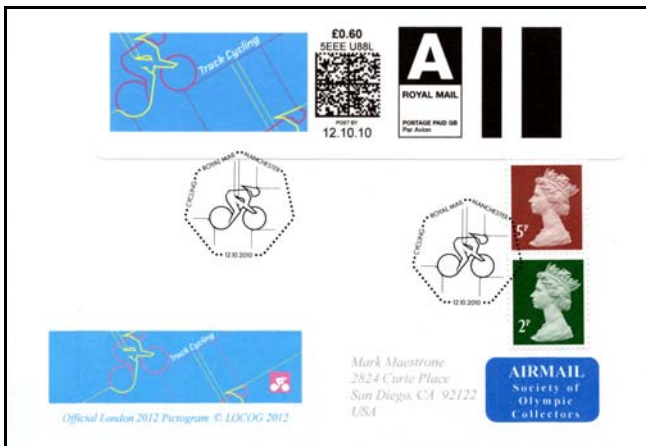
The second interesting article discussed the “The Women’s Olympics” which were conducted in Europe between 1921 and 1934 by the Federation Sportive Feminine Internationale (FSFI). In all, four “Olympic Games” strictly for women were held before the organization was absorbed into the IAAF (International Amateur Athletic Federation) in 1936.

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

September 2010 (Vol. 27, #3). As we approach the 2012 Games in London, *Torch Bearer* will be covering another facet of Olympic collectibles: pins. In a series to be published over the next two years, pin specialists, Sid Marantz and Bud King, will discuss how to build an Olympic pin collection.

Also covered in this issue is the 1<sup>st</sup> Youth Olympic Games held in Singapore in August. Thomas Lippert reviews the so-called “Journey of the Youth Olympic Flame” with particular emphasis on the visit of the flame to Berlin. Ellis Kwan follows with a presentation of Singapore Post’s philatelic program for the Games.

Other articles in this issue include Part 3 of Brian Hammond's "Philatelic History of the International Olympic Committee" (covering the 92<sup>nd</sup> through 103<sup>rd</sup> IOC Sessions) and new Royal Mail issues for the 2012 London Olympics.



(Above) New SOC Smartstamp and cycling postmark.  
(Below) French PAP for basketball.



# NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Margaret Jones

## NEW MEMBERS

2276 Jukka Junttila, Kirsikatu 9, Tampere, Pirkanmaa, FIN-33710, Finland. He is interested in **soccer, ice hockey, motor sports, ski jumping, figure skating**. (jukka@hiljaiset.sci.fi)

2277 Jose R Buergo, Diamantes 123, Joyas del Pedregal, Mexico D.F. 04660, Mexico. Mr Buergo is an airline pilot and is interested in **soccer and international games**. (jrbt58@prodigy.net.mx)

## RENEWALS

Valy Lev, 880 Wedgewood Court, Buffalo Grove, Illinois, 60089-6666 USA., Valy is interested in **Olympics**. (valylev@hotmail.com)

## ADDRESS CHANGE

Roberto Gluckmann, 4742 West Cypress Avenue, Visalia, CA 93277-1568 USA.

Günter Pilz, 444 Brickell Avenue, Suite 55-8024, Miami, FL 33131 USA.

*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.*

## EXHIBIT AWARDS

Minnesota Stamp Expo (Crystal). Trevor Thomas won youth Westpex Exhibitors award for Excellence in Presentation skills and Entertainment with "The Game of Soccer" while representing Rompex 2009.

NAPEX 2010 (McLean, Virginia). Elizabeth Hisey obtained silver for "The Javelin at the Summer Olympics, 1908-2008"; Mark Maestroni won silver Literature Exhibition award for *Journal of Sports Philately*.

National Topical Stamp Show (Denver, Colorado).

Conrad Klinkner was awarded vermeil for "Games of the Xth Olympiad, Los Angeles, 1932"; Andrew Urushima achieved single frame gold, APS 1940-80 medal and SPI certificate for "Spoiled By War: The Games of the XII Olympiad"; Elizabeth Hisey obtained single frame silver for "The Javelin at the Summer Olympics, 1908-2008"; Trevor Dean Thomas won youth silver and SPI youth award for "The Game of Soccer".

Stampshow 2010 (Richmond, VA). John La Porta won a literature bronze for *Tee Time*, the journal of the International Golf Philatelic Society.

*If you attend an exhibition, please take along some Membership Prospectuses to share and/or ask the exhibition chairperson for permission to place them near the check-in area at the exhibition.*





# NEW STAMP ISSUES

by John La Porta

**Argentina:** April 10, 2008. Beijing Olympics. \$1 postcard. Olympic Torch, relay race.

August 2, 2008. Beijing Olympics. \$4 postcard, Lantern, flowers.

November 22, 2008. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Club Atletico Indendiente. \$1 postcard, club emblem, stadium.

November 27, 2009. Club Gimnasia y Esgrima La Plata. \$1 postcard. Team emblem, picture of team.

December 11, 2009. Velez Sarfield Football Team. \$1 postcard. Emblem, picture of team.

June 19, 2010. World Junior rugby Championship. 1.50p collage design, two players.

August 28, 2010. World Women's Field Hockey Championship. 1.50p shadow of player.

August 28, 2010. Traditional Games. Two 1.50p stamps, trucco card game, bowls.

**Austria:** September 25, 2010. Vancouver Olympics. €1 Andreas and Wolfgang Linger, luge, medals.

**Australia:** September 22, 2010. Long Weekend. Five se-tenant 60 ¢ stamps, two have sport themes, 1980's houseboat and fishing; 1990's skiing, sledding. Offset in sheets of 50, booklets of 10 and 20, a prestige booklet, and coils of 100.

**Bahrain:** June 11, 2010. World Cup Soccer. 100f emblem; 200f Zakumi, leopard mascot with ball; 250f ball, Earth, emblem. Offset in sheets of 16.

**Bangladesh:** July 11, 2010. World Cup Soccer. Strip of three se-tenant stamps, two 10t stamps, soccer scenes; 20t Zakumi mascot with ball.

**Barbados:** April 23, 2010. Fireball International World Championships/Sailing Boats. 10¢, 50¢, 90¢, \$1.75, \$2 emblem, various boats.

**Belarus:** June 28, 2010. Sport Sailboats. 920r Optimist Class sailboat; 1,420r Luch Class sailboat.

July 23, 2010. Vancouver Olympics. Medalists. Nondenominated A stamp, Darya Domracheva, bronze biathlon; nondenominated E stamp, Sergei Novikov silver biathlon; nondenominated P stamps, Aleksei Grishin gold men's freestyle aerial skiing. Offset in sheets of eight stamps and a label and in sheets of six stamps and three labels.

July 24, 2010. Beijing Olympics. Medalists. Four se-tenant 1,000r stamps, women's rowing and canoeing: Aksana Miakova, women's hammer throw; Andrei Aramnau weightlifting; men's rowing and canoeing.

**Bolivia:** September 8, 2010. Singapore Youth Olympics. 2b emblem, soccer player, cyclist; 9b emblem, swimmer, runner.

**Bulgaria:** June 10, 2010. World Cup Soccer. S/s with a 2.10 leva stamps, Jules Rimet trophy.

**Brazil:** September 1, 2010. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Corinthians Paulists Sport Club. 1.05r the club's logo, rope, flag.

**Croatia:** June 11, 2010. World Cup Soccer. 4.50k legs and soccer ball.

**Czech Republic:** June 23, 2010. World Ice Hockey Championship. 10kc player kissing trophy.

**France:** June 10, 2010. Soccer. Souvenir sheet with € silver-foil stamp, soccer players.

June 13, 2010. Soccer. Two €1.12 stamps, both showing soccer ball, net with different inscriptions.

June 13, 2010. World Cup Soccer. Souvenir sheet with four €0.85 stamps, player with ball; players; Parliament, Pretoria; Cape Town.

June 16, 2010. Youth Olympics. €0.85 young athletics, view of Singapore.

**Gambia:** May 24, 2010. World Cup Soccer. 32 - 20d stamps Each showing a soccer ball and national flags. Offset in sheets of six.

June 8, 2010. NASCAR. Pane of four se-tenant 25d stamps showing race car drivers.

**Great Britain:** July 27, 2010. London Olympics. 10 nondenominated "1<sup>st</sup>" stamps. Paralympic rowing; target for shooting; modern pentathlon; taekwondo; BMX cycling; paddle, Paralympic table tennis; field hockey; soccer; bell, players, Paralympic goal ball; boxing. Booklet contains the Rowing and Table Tennis stamps, plus four nondenominated "1<sup>st</sup>" Queen Elizabeth II definitives. Offset in sheets of 50 and in sheets of 10 with all 10 stamps and se-tenant labels.

**Guinea:** February 2, 2009. Beetles. A souvenir sheet with a 25,000fg stamps showing a soccer player.

February 2, 2009. Spiders. A souvenir sheet with a 25,000fg stamps showing a soccer player.

February 9, 2009. Magic Johnson Basketball. A sheet with 3 900fg stamps depicting Magic Johnson and Larry Bird. One souvenir sheet with a 29,000fg value stamp.

February 9, 2009. John McEnroe Lawn Tennis. Sheet of four values with various tennis players. One souvenir sheet with a 29,000fg value stamp McEnroe etc.

**Guinea-Bissau:** July 12, 2010. World Soccer Cup. A set of eight souvenir sheets each containing two 2,000f stamps. A sheet for Spain, Netherlands, Germany, Argentina, Brazil, Japan, Portugal, United States.

July 12, 2010. Soccer Champions of Europe. One s/s with a 3,000f stamp showing the soccer team.

**Hungary:** July 2, 2010. Triathlon World Ch. 280ft cycling, swimming and running.

July 2, 2010. European Aquatics Championships. 300ft swimmers, diver, synchronized swimmers.

**India:** June 14, 2010. XIX Commonwealth Games. 5re Shera Bengal tiger mascot, holding baton; 20re hand holding baton, Shera running. Souvenir sheet contains the two stamps.

August 1, 2010. XIX Commonwealth Games. Two 5r stamps, Nehru Stadium, Delhi; Talkatora indoor stadium, New Delhi. S/s contains 2 stamps.

**Italy:** June 24, 2010. Italian Soccer Championships. €0.60 soccer player with ball, medal.

**Japan:** September 24, 2010. 65<sup>th</sup> National Sports Festival. Pane of 10 50y stamps with five designs, Chiba stadium; hammer throw; equestrian; rock climbing; pole vault.

**Kazakhstan:** July 12, 2010. World Soccer Cup. 240s symbolic soccer player, ball.

**North Korea:** January 2010. New Year. Pane of nine se-tenant stamps; 80w shows soccer players.

**Kyrgyzstan:** June 16, 2010. World Cup Soccer. 24s player receiving the ball; 30s player passing; 42s players fighting for the ball; 60s player penalty. Offset in sheets of six.

**Latvia:** July 16, 2010. Modern Architecture. 1.50s Talsos sports hall.

**Lithuania:** July 31, 2010. Youth Olympic Games. 2.90 Litai, basketball players, emblem. Offset in sheets of 10.

**Macedonia:** June 11, 2010. World Cup Soccer. 50d ball in net, emblem; 100d ball midfield. Souvenir sheet with 150d stamp, outline map of South Africa, ball, emblem. Offset in sheets of nine.

**Malta:** June 11, 2010. World Cup Soccer. €0.63 map of Africa, flags; €2.50 Zakumi, mascot with ball. Souvenir sheets contains the two stamps. Printed in sheets of 10.

**Moldova:** June 11, 2010. World Cup Soccer. 1.20 lei soccer player, ball, Zakumi mascot with ball; 8.50 lei goalkeeper and ball, emblem.

**Mongolia:** July 9, 2010. World Soccer Cup. Triptych of two 80t stamps and a central label, logo; Zakumi mascot.

**Montenegro:** June 11, 2010. World Cup Soccer. €1.50 soccer ball. Offset in sheets of eight stamps and a label.

**Netherlands:** July 1, 2010. Tour de France Hits Rotterdam. Pane of 10 nondenominated "1" stamps. Six of the stamps show a continuous design of a cyclist. The other four stamps show cyclists.



**New Caledonia:** August 6, 2010. Singapore 2010 youth Olympic Games. 75fr various track and field athletes. Offset in sheets of ten.

August. Flags of the Pacific Games. 75fr flags of 22 island nations, mascot. Offset in sheets of 10.

**New Zealand:** August 4, 2010. All Blacks Rugby Team. Two 60¢ stamps, two 90¢ stamps (one large, one small), silver fern on black background. Souvenir sheet contains the four stamps. Offset in sheets of ten, large stamps. Sheets of 20 with labels that can be personalized.

September 9, 2010. Rugby World Cup 2011. 60¢, \$1.90 emblem. A souvenir sheet contains four stamps, 60¢ small and large stamps, \$1.90 small and large stamps. Offset in sheets of 10 and 20 with se-tenant labels that can be personalized.

**Paraguay:** July 30, 2010. World Cup Soccer. 700g, se-tenant with a label, 6,000g photographs of team.

**Pakistan:** August 14, 2010. Singapore Youth Olympics. 8re symbolic athletes, emblem.

**Portugal:** May 31, 2010. World Cup Soccer. Circular €0.80 stamp, soccer ball with cheetah skin. Circular souvenir sheet with €2.50 stamp, soccer player, cheetah running.

**Romania:** August 12, 2010. Singapore Youth Olympics. Souvenir sheet with 8.10 leu stamp, emblem, medal.

**St. Helena:** June 1, 2010. World Cup Soccer. Pane of three se-tenant 40p stamps, young women playing soccer; Earth; two young men playing soccer. Also in separate sheets.

**St. Pierre & Miquelon:** July 7, 2010. Swimming. €1.05 Swimmer.

**San Marino:** July 26, 2010. Italian Soccer Championship. Three se-tenant €1 stamps. Soccer ball, ball, shield; "18"; Council of Europe flag.

**Singapore:** August 14, 2010. Singapore Youth Olympics. Four se-tenant stamps showing mascots Lyo and Merly, nondenominated "1<sup>st</sup> local", sitting on globe, birds; 65¢ on tropical island with drink; \$2 basketball.

**Slovenia:** June 24, 2010. Vancouver Olympic Games. Medal Winners. Souvenir sheet with a pair of €0.70 se-tenant stamps. Alpine skier Tina Maze; cross-country skier Petra Majdic.

June 28, 2010. World Soccer Cup. Circular €0.92 stamp, foot and soccer ball.

June 28, 2010. World Basketball Championships. €0.92 Circular stamp, arm and basketball.

**South Africa:** June 17, 2010. World Cup Soccer. Pane of 10 2.40r stamps with five designs showing the mascot Zakumi, one with flag. Round pane with six round 4.90r stamps with three designs, emblem; trophy; match ball.

**Sri Lanka:** August 12, 2010. Singapore Youth Olympics. 10r emblem, mascots, symbolic athletes.

April 9, 2010. World Cup Soccer. Pane of nine 3.75r stamps, Zakumi leopard mascot ball, flags.

**Swaziland:** June 10, 2010. World Cup Soccer. Pane of nine circular stamps showing Zakumi mascot. 1e Zimbabwe; 1.25e South Africa; 1.50e Mauritius; 1.90e Namibia; 2.50e Zambia; 3.40e Swaziland; 3.80e Malawi; 4.60e Botswana; 4.90e Lesotho.

**Tunisia:** August 14, 2010. Singapore Youth Olympics. 700m emblem, runner, wrestlers, gymnast, weightlifter, tennis, rowing, sailing, diving, swimming.

**Turkey:** August 4, 2010. World Championship International Basketball Federation. Two 80k stamps, two 110k different basketball scenes.

**Uzbekistan:** August 12, 2010. Singapore Youth Olympics. 800s gymnast with ball.

**Vanuatu:** August 14, 2010. Singapore youth Olympics. Souvenir sheet with 500v stamp, basketball player, athlete.

**Zimbabwe:** June 10, 2010. World Cup Soccer. Pane of nine circular stamps showing Zakumi leopard mascot, ball, silhouettes of soccer players, different flags. Nondenominated "A" stamps, Mauritius; nondenominated "E" Lesotho; nondenominated "R" Zambia; nondenominated "Z" Botswana; 10¢ Namibia; 15¢ South Africa; 25¢ Zimbabwe; 50¢ Malawi; 75¢ Swaziland.

# COMMEMORATIVE CANCELS

by Mark Maestrone

## THE NUMBERING SYSTEM

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

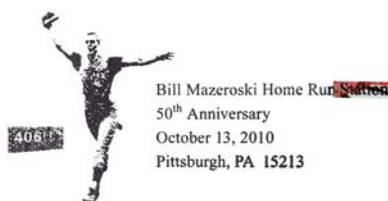
## SPORTS CROSS INDEX

### SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2010

Auto Racing: 10X23-152.  
Baseball: 10X13-152, 10X16-481.  
Boxing: 10X29-212.  
Football: 10904-730, 10Y26-354.  
Ice Hockey: 10Y06-150.



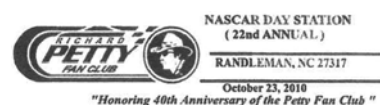
10904-730 Norman, OK 4



10X13-152 Pittsburgh, PA 13



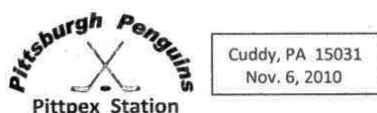
10X16-481 Dearborn Hgts., MI 16-17



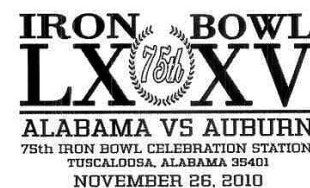
10X23-152 Randleman, NC 23



10X29-212 Baltimore, MD 29



10Y06-150 Cuddy, PA 6-7



10Y26-354 Tuscaloosa, AL 26



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