

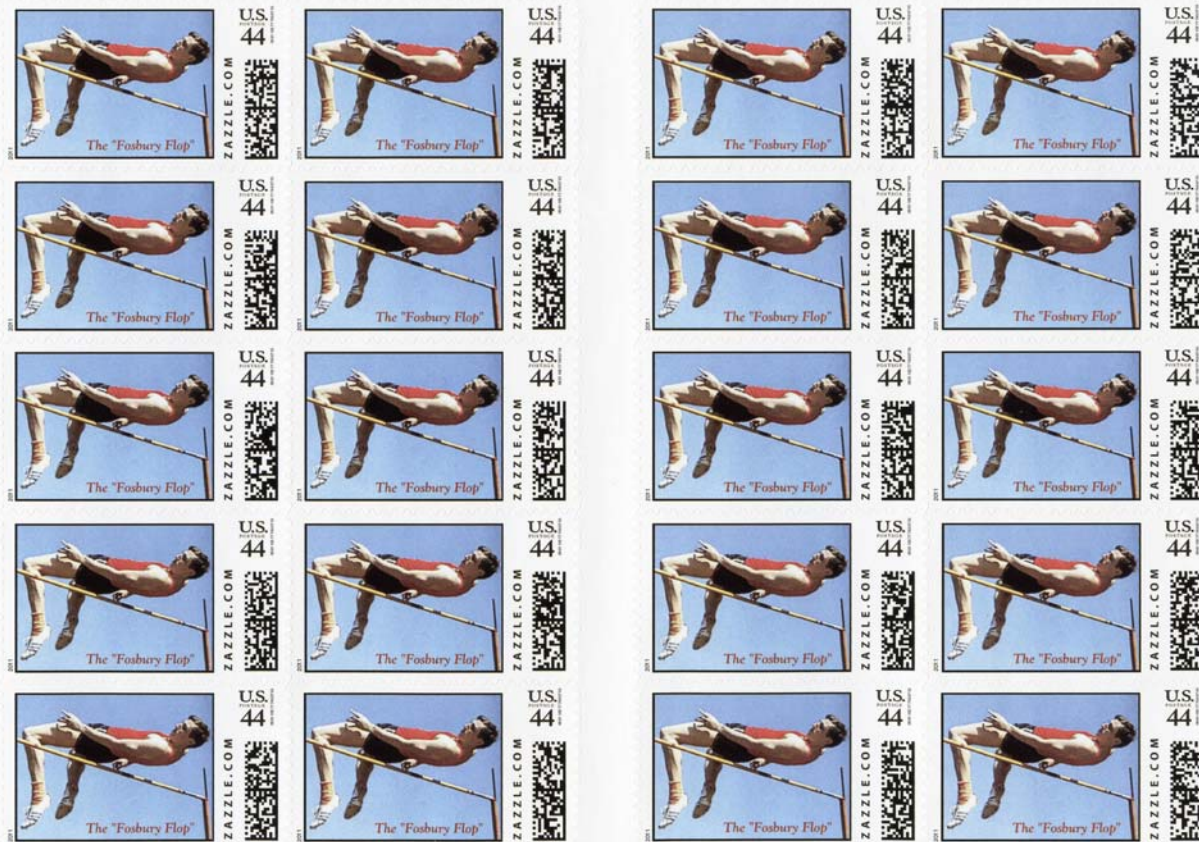
JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

VOLUME 50

FALL 2011

NUMBER 1

The 17th World Olympic Collectors Fair





SPORTS
PHILATELISTS
INTERNATIONAL

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17TH WORLD OLYMPIC COLLECTORS FAIR

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Sports Philatelists International is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to the study and collecting of postage stamps and related collateral material dealing with sports (including Olympics) and recreation and to the promotion of international understanding and goodwill through mutual interest in philately and sports. Its activities are planned and carried on entirely by the unpaid, volunteer services of its members.

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Internet-Only Member: \$15.00 (worldwide)**

JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

Publisher:	John La Porta, P.O. Box 98, Orland Park, IL 60462
Editor:	Mark C. Maestroni, 2824 Curie Place, San Diego, CA 92122
Columnists:	John La Porta, P.O. Box 98, Orland Park, IL 60462
Ad Manager:	Norman F. Jacobs, Jr., 2712 N. Decatur Rd., Decatur, GA 30033
Circulation (Temporary):	Mark C. Maestroni, 2824 Curie Place, San Diego, CA 92122

The Journal of Sports Philately is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December. Advertising Rates: Covers \$50.00; Full Page \$45.00; Half Page \$25.00; Quarter Page \$15.00. Advance payment required. Camera ready copy must be supplied by the advertiser. Publishing deadlines: January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15 for the following issue. Single copy price (postpaid): \$5.00 (US/Canada), \$7.50 (overseas).

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**Vol. 50, No. 1
Fall 2011**

American Philatelic Society (APS) Affiliate #39
U.S. Chapter, Fédération Internationale de Philatélie Olympique (FIPO)

ISSN 0447-953X

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

Chicago – That Toddlin' Town

I've been to some big collector shows – Pacific '97 and Washington 2006 come to mind – but none was as bustling as the National Sports Collectors Convention (NSCC) in Chicago in early August.

Within the NSCC, the Olympic Pavilion, home to the 4-day 17th World Olympic Collectors Fair, was buzzing with memorabilia and pin collectors – and a few philatelists too. The 24 frames of exhibits that SPI presented were well-received by visitors. It was particularly nice to have the participation of three European exhibitors!

Although the Fair was organized by the Olympian Collectors Club, many SPI members attended. In particular, I wanted to single out SPI Board member and printer of our journal, John La Porta, for helping shlep frames and work the SPI booth with me for the duration of the show. Thanks also to Conrad Klinkner and his nephew Adam for taking time out from managing their own booth to assist in setting up frames and mounting/dismounting exhibits.

The next fair is scheduled for Athens, Greece next May to coincide with the lighting of the Olympic flame for London 2012. Perhaps we'll see some SPI members there as well! In the meantime, I hope you enjoy the report on the Chicago show in this issue. We also have some great souvenirs still available, though they're going fast (see page 9 for details)!

Articles of Distinction

The APS recently announced a program to honor authors by creating a "Philatelic Articles of Distinction" archive on their website. In addition to giving well-deserved recognition to authors, this opportunity provides publicity and a link to groups, encourages philatelic writing, and benefits the APS membership by sharing their articles.

Norman Rushefsky, upon hearing about this program, spearheaded efforts to find a jury of SPI members to sift through this past year's articles and select three for the membership's consideration.

A big thank-you to Norman and the three judges – Peter Laimins, Clem Reiss and Bruce Tomkins – who chose the following finalists (in order of publication date):

"The Singles Grand Slam, Measure of a Tennis Champion" by Norman Jacobs. (Vol. 49, No. 2)
"Cricket & Philately: Cricket Tales of Southeast Asia" by Peter Street (Vol. 49, No. 3)
"Olympic Accommodations, 1928 Amsterdam Games" by Laurentz Jonker (Volume 49, No.3)

I encourage all members to take a minute to read (or reread) these three articles and vote for a favorite. Send your choice to Norman Rushefsky, 9215 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20910, or drop him an e-mail (normanrush@yahoo.com). Deadline is November 15!

"Like" an Advertiser

As those who use Facebook understand, electronically "liking" an entry is an easy way to acknowledge a post. Unfortunately in the print media no such expeditious luxury is afforded readers.

Advertisers in *JSP* help defray the cost of publishing and mailing the journal. However, they're not doing this out of the goodness of their hearts. They expect a response to their ads! And if they don't receive one they will shift their business elsewhere.

My request to every member is simple: take a moment to e-mail or write an advertiser with a request for a catalog, to provide them with a want list, or to place an order for a product. You – and they – will be glad you did!

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Figure 1. A view of the Olympic Pavilion.



Figure 2. The USPS Booth and philatelic exhibits.

The World Olympic Collectors Fair Comes to Chicago

by Mark Maestroni

The 17th edition of the annual World Olympic Collectors Fair arrived in Chicago, Illinois from August 4-7, 2011. Held in the spacious Donald E. Stephen Convention Center in Rosemont (near O'Hare International Airport), this was the show's debut in the U.S. Famously dubbed the "city of the big shoulders" by American poet Carl Sandburg, it proved a wonderful host at which to expose American sports collectors to Olympic philately, memorabilia and numismatics.

As part of the gigantic National Sports Collectors Convention (NSCC), which attracted around 45,000

buyers and sellers of primarily baseball, football and basketball memorabilia, the Fair was accorded its own Olympic Pavilion adjacent to the main convention floor (Figure 1). The Olympian Collectors Club, as organizers of the Fair, rounded up some 100 Olympic pin and memorabilia dealers from the U.S., Canada, Europe and Asia.

SPI helped contribute a philatelic flavor to the Fair by assembling eight philatelic exhibits from the U.S. and Europe (Figure 2). Our thanks to Charles Berg and COMPEX for providing the frames.

The importance of holding this World Olympic Collectors Fair in the U.S. for the first time was not lost on the hierarchy at the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC). In attendance were top officials of both organizations.

Gerhard Heiberg, an IOC member from Norway as well as the Chairman of the IOC Marketing Commission, cut the decorative gold ribbon to officially open the Olympic Pavilion on Thursday afternoon (Figure 3).

Assisting him were the USOC's Managing Director of Consumer Products & Licensing, Peter Zeytoonjian; James Greensfelder, Chairman of the 2011 World Olympic Collectors Fair; and Dick Fosbury, 1968 Olympic high jump gold medalist.

The Olympic Pavilion could easily have been overshadowed by the primarily sports-oriented visitors to the NSCC who were most interested in sports trading cards, uniforms and autographs from their favorite sports stars of past and present. To



Figure 3. The official opening of the Olympic Pavilion: (left to right) Dick Fosbury, Gerhard Heiberg, James Greensfelder, and Peter Zeytoonjian.



Figure 4. The colorful ballot helped drive visitors to the Olympic Pavilion.

help drive traffic to the Olympic dealers in the Pavilion, SPI tantalized the crowds with an offer of a free Olympic pin. To claim their prize, an attendee was required to vote for his or her favorite philatelic exhibit from the showcase of 24 frames on display.

Ballots (Figure 4) were distributed in 1,000 VIP gift bags and at the show entrance. As an added incentive, a door prize, donated by the IOC, was awarded each day. The handsome pens emblazoned with the Olympic Rings in silver were very much appreciated by the four winners.

Over the course of the show, some 300 collectors cast ballots – probably the first time most had ever seen a stamp exhibit! The ballots also provided contact information that will prove useful as SPI and Olympin do a joint mailing to each voter.

After tabulating the votes, the winner of the most popular exhibit was Patricia Ann Loehr with her colorfully appealing four-frame exhibit “On Course For Golf.” A very nice prize – a book on the Olympic Winter Games – was presented by the IOC.

Also participating with philatelic exhibits were (in alphabetical order):

Glenn Estus (USA): “1980 Lake Placid Olympic Winter Games”

Mark Maestroni (USA): “Olympic Retrospective: The 1984 Games of Los Angeles” & “Men’s Gymnastics: Dressed to Win”

Pasquale Polo (Italy): “It’s Football? Yes it’s American Football”

Karl Rathjen (Germany): “Olympic Games 1896-1932”

Andrew Urushima (USA): “Spoiled by War: The Games of the XIIth Olympiad”

Valentino Vannelli (Italy): “Baseball & Softball Meters”



Figure 5. 44¢ Zazzle stamps available at the show: the official logo from the Olympin club (left) and the “Fosbury Flop” stamp by SPI (above).

An important innovation at this Fair was a multilateral collaboration that enhanced attendance while helping to offset the costs of the show to both organizers and participants.

SPI initially contacted the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to invite them to take a booth at the show, which they readily agreed to. Next, a special pictorial cancel was created to be applied during the show at the USPS booth. Designed by SPI, the cancel features the Fair logo along with the highly-collectible Olympic rings.

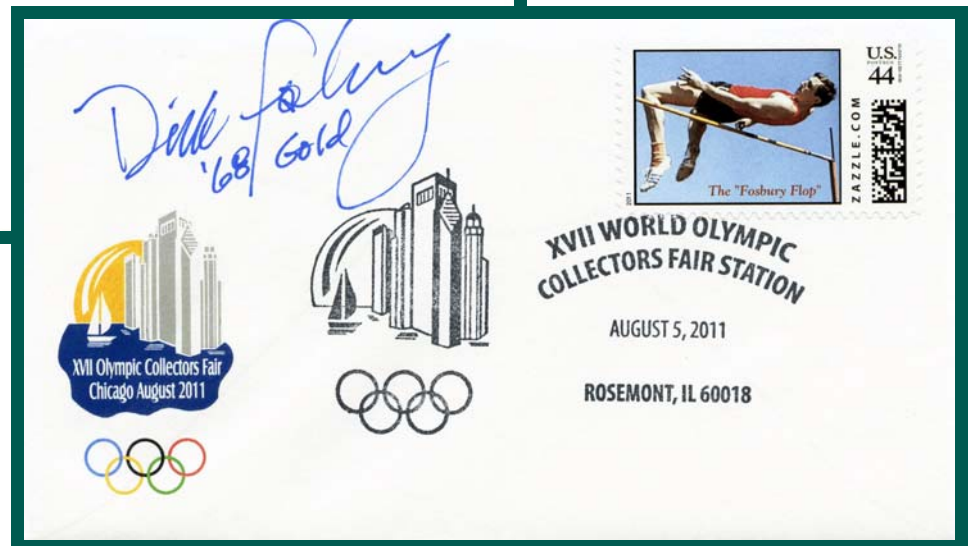
Early on, the Olympin Collectors Club obtained permission from the IOC to duplicate the Fair’s logo on a P-Stamp (personalized stamp) printed by a California company named Zazzle (Figure 5). Under an agreement with the USPS, Zazzle’s privately printed stamps are recognized as legitimate postal products. The 44-cent stamps (the current first class domestic postage rate for letters weighing up to 1 ounce) were offered for sale by Olympin on official IOC stationery bearing the multi-colored Olympic rings (Figure 6). To enhance the souvenir, each stamped envelope was also postmarked with the special show cancel.

SPI took the idea of a P-stamp one step further. When informed that 1968 Olympic high jump gold medalist, Dick Fosbury, would be in attendance and signing autographs at the show, SPI contacted Mr. Fosbury to obtain permission to create a 44-cent Zazzle stamp bearing his likeness. He readily agreed (to a limited printing of 400 stamps). In his own right Fosbury was certainly enough of a draw to entice visitors to pay \$10 for his autograph (a bargain when baseball and football players at the show were asking – and getting – upwards of \$150 for theirs). A special cacheted envelope (created and sold by SPI at its booth) to which the Fosbury Zazzle stamp was affixed and then postmarked with the commemorative cancel definitely boosted his revenue as visitors bought a cover and then carried it over to Fosbury to autograph (Figure 7).



Figure 6. The Olympin Collectors Club produced 1,000 covers (on stationery provided by the IOC) featuring a 44¢ Zazzle stamp reproducing the official logo of the Fair. The special show cancel was available all four days of the show from the USPS booth.

Figure 7. SPI's cacheted cover features the Fair logo and "Fosbury Flop" stamp. It is also autographed by Dick Fosbury.



So how did the USPS do? While they did not sell a lot of stamps from their own stock, they did cancel a great deal of mail, most of which bypassed the mail stream completely generating pure profit for the post office. What they lacked in stamp sales they more than made up for in accepting and mailing packages for the many out-of-town attendees who did not want the hassle of carrying their purchases home with them. When asked if business had been sufficient to justify the USPS presence at the show, Des Plaines (Illinois) Postmaster Jim Wizniak said that if he had known it was going to be this busy, he would have brought in the larger USPS mobile post office. The mobile post office, which is equipped with a POS terminal, electronically connects to the USPS system enabling higher value enhanced services such as registered and express mail.

As for Olympin and SPI, their tangible benefit was more in acquainting visitors with Olympic collectibles and gaining some new members for their respective organizations.

With the new technology of privately printed stamps becoming more widely available, philately can only benefit as marketing opportunities abound.

Olympians Abound

Dick Fosbury (Figure 8) was not the only Olympian to be available for autographs in the Pavilion.

For the first couple of days of the show, Bob Beamon, a teammate of Dick's at the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City, joined Dick to banter with admiring fans and sign the various odds and ends that were presented.

Bob, it will be recalled, stunned the sporting world with his World Record long jump leap of 8.90 m (29 ft. 2½ in.), a record that would stand for nearly 23 years.

Another famous Olympian, Adolph Kiefer (Figure 9) who won the 1936 Berlin Olympics gold medal in the men's 100m backstroke, dropped by Sunday (see sidebar for a report by Craig Perlow).



Figure 8. Dick Fosbury displaying his Olympic gold medal in the High Jump from the 1968 Mexico City Olympic Games. In addition to his many professional and charitable activities, Dick also serves as the president of the World Olympians Association.



Figure 9. (Above) 1936 Olympic 100m backstroke champion, Adolph Kiefer, was a big hit with visitors when he appeared at Dick Fosbury's table to sign autographs. Kiefer is joined by Fosbury and Craig Perlow of the Olympin Club.



(Left) Kiefer after winning his event at the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games.

Adolph Kiefer at the 17th IOC World Collectors Fair

Those of you who attended the 17th IOC World Collectors Fair had a truly "golden" opportunity on Friday afternoon, August 5th, when Adolph Kiefer, accompanied by his wife, Joyce, showed up right on time and immediately took his place at Dick Fosbury's booth where he signed countless autographs, posed for photos, and chatted with anyone and everyone who waited patiently to meet him. For about an hour, Adolph was more than happy to accommodate a steady and long line of Olympic enthusiasts who were anxious to meet this American Olympic and swimming legend.

A 1965 Inductee into the International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF), Adolph is generally regarded as the greatest backstroke swimmer who ever lived. His biggest claim to fame is the gold medal he won as an 18-year old in the 100m backstroke at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, and the Olympic Record he set in the process. However, he was also the first man in the world to swim the 100-yard backstroke in under one minute, and after his Olympic gold medal, he went on to set world records in every backstroke event. Adolph was so dominant in the backstroke that in over 2,000 races, the statistics indicate that he lost only twice – although Adolph says he actually lost only once – and none of his backstroke records were broken until 1950 which was four years after he retired from competition.

Adolph is the Founder, President and CEO of Adolph Kiefer and Associates, a large, multi-national, swimming products company based in Zion, IL, which is about 30 miles north of Chicago, Adolph's hometown. Up until recently, Adolph went into work every day, but after just turning 93 in June, Adolph is now finally pulling back a bit to become a special consultant to his company and its new ownership, and we wish him well.

As the oldest-living U.S. Olympic Gold Medalist, it was an honor to have Adolph at the Fair, and I'm very happy that my long-term relationship with the International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF) helped me to secure his appearance. This was actually the second appearance Adolph made at an Olympic-related event at my request – the first being a show that Olympin member, Don Hollis, organized in Oak Brook, IL, on October 4, 2009, just shortly after the 2016 Olympic Host City announcement.

*By Craig Perlow
Olympin Journal
September 2011*

A Surprise For Baseball Fans

For those Olympic collectors who ventured onto the main NSCC floor, a special treat could be found tucked away in Booth 867 on the far side of the hall.

Holding court were five members of the Negro Baseball Leagues: Nathan "Sonny" Weston, a Chicago American Giants outfielder in 1951 and 1952; Ray "Boo Baby" Knox, also of the American Giants; Johnny "Lefty" Washington, left-handed pitcher for the Chicago American Giants (1948-50) and the New Orleans Eagles (1950-51); Hank "Baby" Presswood, an infielder for the Cleveland Buckeyes and Kansas City Monarchs from 1948 to 1952; and Louis Clarizio, Jr., outfielder for the Chicago American Giants.

Unlike the "regular" major league teams, the Negro Leagues were not segregated; some six white players competed alongside their "colored" teammates. Lou Clarizio was only the second white baseball player to sign with the Negro Leagues, joining the Giants in 1950 for a single season.

Johnny Washington related the time he met the great Boston Red Sox player, Ted Williams, when the latter was touring hospitals treating soldiers wounded in the Korean War (both served in the Marine Corps). Seeing Washington, who had been wounded twice, Williams made a point of encouraging him to get better soon as baseball needed him! Despite the doctors' negative prognoses for Washington's continuing in baseball, he took Williams remarks to heart, and with a lot of hard work made a comeback, playing another 5 seasons.

All the players enjoyed gabbing with fans, posing for pictures and signing autographs (Figures 10 and 11).



Figure 10. Negro League Baseball legends: Johnny Washington, Lou Clarizio, Sonny Weston and Ray Knox.

A Banquet in Style

One of the highlights of the schedule was the Olympin Collectors Club banquet on Friday evening to which everyone was invited. Preceded by a cocktail hour and auction for the benefit of the club, it turned out to be a very well-attended event!

Following the buffet, which certainly offered something for everyone, we were privileged to hear from one of the leading Olympic historians in the U.S., Dr. Bill Mallon. Bill's entertaining and very informative presentation centered on the often overlooked IIIrd Olympic Games at St. Louis.

Also speaking that night was Dick Fosbury who answered the question that most of us had always wondered about: how did his signature style of leaping over the high bar get its name. As Dick explained, it was actually a young fellow high

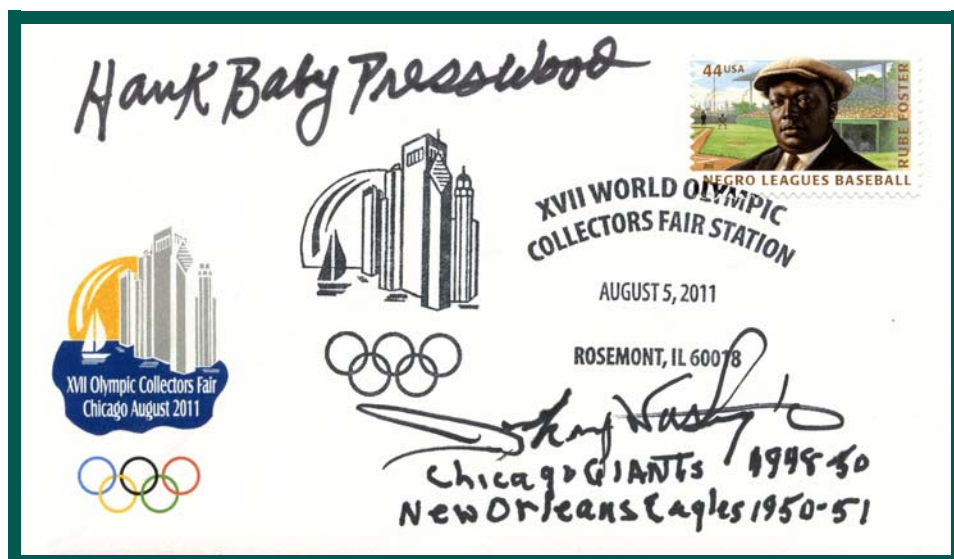


Figure 11. The covers SPI prepared with the recent 44c Negro Leagues Baseball stamp proved a perfect vehicle for obtaining autographs from Hank Presswood and Johnny Washington.

jumper from Canada, Debbie Brill, who inspired the name. She said his style resembled what a fish does when handled – it flops around. And of course the alliterative combination with his surname was a natural: thus, the “Fosbury Flop” was born! Even today this remains the most popular technique for jumping over the high bar.

Conclusion & Epilogue

I would like to particularly thank our SPI Board Member and printer of our journal, John La Porta, for giving so generously of his time. Not only did he help me man the booth all day, every day, but he also was instrumental in assisting with picking up the philatelic frames, assembling them, and then taking them down afterward.

Another big thanks to Conrad Klinkner for his help in mounting/dismounting exhibits, and to his nephew, Adam, who provided added muscle where needed.

Of course the Fair would not have been possible without the organizational skills of Jim Greensfelder, Don Bigsby, and the rest of the Olympin Collectors Club.

Finally, it was my pleasure to meet many of our SPI members from overseas, especially Pasquale Polo of Italy and Vincent Girardin of France.

So where to next? It was announced that the 2012 World Olympic Collectors Fair will be held in May in Athens, Greece to coincide with the lighting of the Olympic Flame for the 2012 London Olympic Games Torch Relay.

I'm going to try to be there. Will you?



Clockwise from top left: John La Porta manning the SPI table; an “international” moment with Nelly Douramakos, Klaus Fink, Ingrid O’Neil and Stathis Douramakos; Olympic Fair chairman, Jim Greensfelder (left) chatting with Norwegian SPI member Halvor Kleppen; Conrad Klinkner and his nephew Adam strategizing at Conrad’s table.

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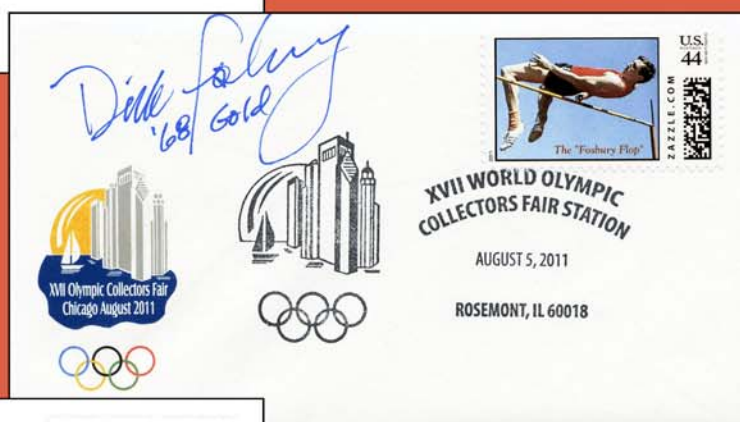
Single mint stamp: US\$4.00

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Regional Games Around the World

by Joan Ortí Ferreres

In the world of international sporting competitions, teams representing different countries or territories take part. The most popular are probably the Olympics, World Championships and World Games (Figure 1) because teams from many continents participate making them global events.



Figure 1. Casting (fishing) and flying discs (frisbee), two sports contested at the 2001 World Games in Akita, Japan.

At a smaller scale are competitions with a more regional flavor. Their participants are countries or territories with a common geographical element, a shared cultural identity or, lastly, similar demographics.

At some regional events sports may be played that are characteristic of that area, but unknown elsewhere.

Among the sporting events between countries with common geographical elements that are represented on postage stamps are the Baltic Sea Games, the Island Games, the Mediterranean Games and Micronesian Games.

As the name implies, participants in the Baltic Sea Games must come from countries bordering the Baltic Sea (Figure 2). Inaugurated in 1993, the program of events includes many on the Olympic



Figure 2. Stamps for the First Baltic Sea Games: (left) a Viking ship with shields emblazoned with the flags of the 10 participating nations; (right) Kalevipoeg, an Estonian folkloric hero in a stone-throwing competition.

schedule such as swimming, basketball, handball, gymnastics and so on. Other contested sports having deep roots in the region include dancesport and orienteering.

The Island Games are a sporting competition between residents of small islands around the world (Figure 3). Currently there are 25 members of the International Island Games Association. Most are from northern European waters (e.g. Åland, Alderney, Guernsey, Faeroe, Iceland and Isle of Man), while St. Helena and the Falkland Islands are located in a remote area of the South Atlantic Ocean.

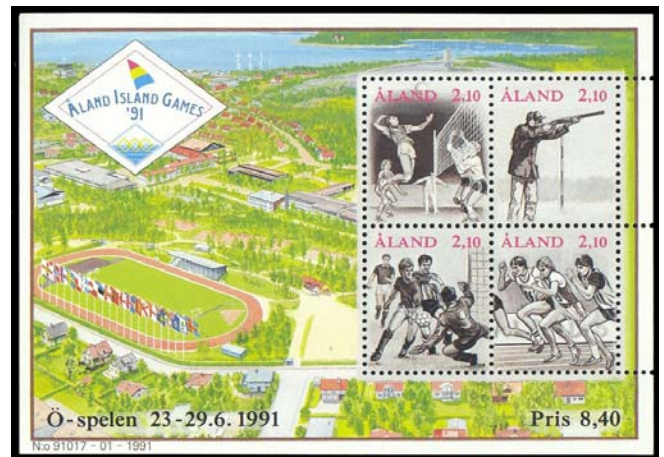


Figure 3. The IVth Island Games at Åland in 1991 included volleyball, shooting, soccer and track events.

These games were created in 1985 to provide an opportunity for athletes from islands of a similar size to compete against each other, while promoting coexistence and cultural exchange.

The Mediterranean Games, a multi-sport competition, made their debut in 1951 (Figure 4). Participating countries border the Mediterranean Sea and thus represent three different continents: Africa, Asia and Europe. In addition to many Olympic sports, athletes also compete in bowls and golf.



Figure 4. 2005 Mediterranean Games at Almería, Spain. The three rings represent the three continents of the participating nations.



Figure 5. Two of the unique island sports contested at the Micronesian Games: tree climbing and coconut husking.

The Micronesian Games are also a multi-sport event held in a subregion of Oceania in the western Pacific Ocean. Participants from the 10 member islands compete quadrennially in a variety of Olympic and non-Olympic sports. In the latter category are events peculiar to these islands (Figure 5) such as coconut tree climbing, coconut husking, spearfishing and va'a canoeing. First held in 1969 in Saipan, the Mariana Islands, the most recent games were contested in Palau from 1-10 August 2010.

Other international competitions for countries in a specific geographic region include the SEA Games for Southeast Asian nations, Central American and Caribbean Games, Pan American Games, and South Pacific Games.



Figure 6. Lacrosse and lawn bowling, two sports played at the Commonwealth Games that are not on the Olympic schedule.



If we look at cultural aspects, the biggest international sporting event in the world is the Commonwealth Games (Figure 6). Participating nations have a common bond represented by membership in the British Commonwealth of Nations. While participants come from different continents, these games are considered regional in nature because the member

countries have a common cultural and political link.

Most of the sports on the Commonwealth Games schedule are also played at the Summer Olympic Games. Some, though, are sports introduced by the British that have become favorite pastimes in the far-flung regions of the Commonwealth such as lawn bowls, rugby, and cricket.



Figure 7. Stamp commemorating the 50th Glengarry Highland Games celebrated in Canada in 1997. The caber toss is shown at left.

The Highland Games are also a multi-sport event linked in this case to Scottish and Celtic culture (Figure 7). They take place in different countries or regions with ties to those cultures. Hosts have included Scotland, of course, along with Canadian cities in the Provinces of Ontario, Nova Scotia, and Quebec. Games have even been held in Alaska.

Sports linked to rural areas of Scotland make up the so-called "heavy" events. In the caber toss, participants throw a long pine pole or log so that it lands with one end pointing to the 12:00 position.

Other heavy events include the stone put, Scottish hammer throw, weight throw, weight over the bar (56-pound weights are launched over a horizontal bar that is continually raised in height), and sheaf toss (throwing a 20-pound bale of hay over a horizontal bar using a pitchfork).

A very traditional event, the Maide Leisg – Gaelic for "lazy stick" – is a test of strength in which two players, sitting on the ground with the soles of their feet pressed together, grasp a wooden bar held



Figure 8. Maide Leisg ("lazy stick") – a traditional event at the Highland Games. (homeschoolonthecroft.blogspot.com)

above their feet. The object of the event is to raise your opponent off the ground by pulling the wooden bar toward you (Figure 8).

The Highland Games are just as much about preserving Celtic and Scottish popular folklore with exhibitions, dance displays, and music festivals.

The Arctic Winter Games are also an international event held biannually in the circumpolar North. Although all participants come from the same geographic region, they have diverse cultural traditions. Competitors represent Alaska, Greenland, the Sami people, the Nunavik in Quebec, the Yamalo-Nenets in Russia and others (Figure 9).

At this sporting and cultural meeting, internationally practiced sports such as skiing and skating are held along side other sports with a more intracultural character. For example, a sport called "one foot high kick" or "two foot high kick" is played in which a player must kick a ball suspended in the air with either one or both feet. A variation, the Alaskan High Kick, requires a player to keep one hand on the ground as he tries to kick the suspended ball.

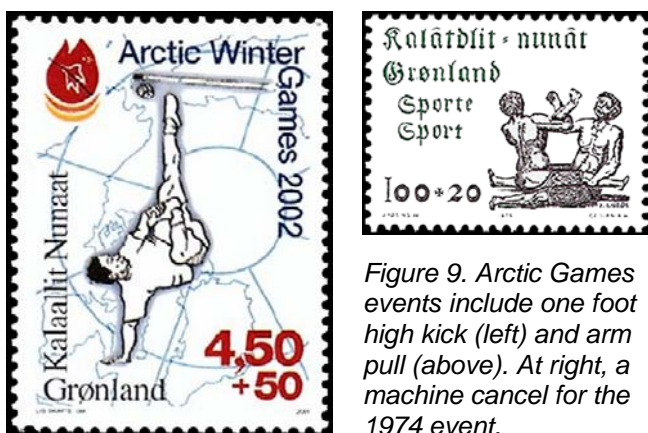


Figure 9. Arctic Games events include one foot high kick (left) and arm pull (above). At right, a machine cancel for the 1974 event.

Other Inuit sports are the Kneel Jump (from a kneeling position, jump as far as possible landing on your feet), the Arm Pull (in a seated position two players hook arms and try to lift the opponent off the matt), the Sledge jump and the Triple jump.

A particularly painful event – the knuckle hop – involves propelling one's body forward in a push-up position. Supported on knuckles and toes, a player must hop, with knuckles and toes simultaneously leaving the floor. The athlete able to cover the most distance before collapsing wins.

The final type of international competition groups countries with a similar demographic, in this case population. Because of their size, many smaller nations have neither the pool of elite athletes that larger nations do, nor in many cases the sporting infrastructure to properly train them.

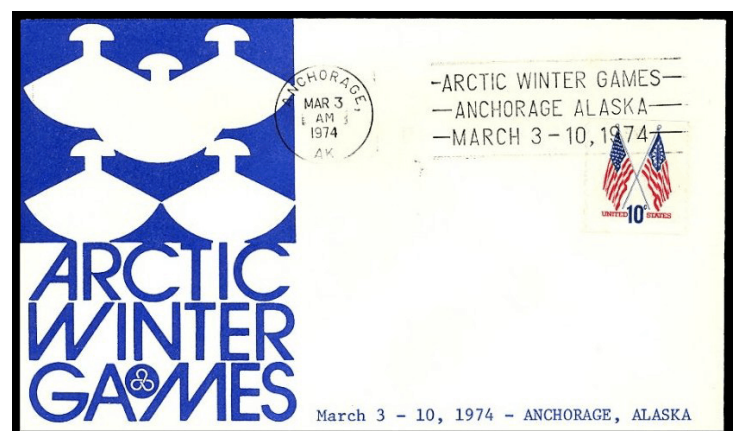
An example of a demographically driven competition is the Games of the Small States of Europe. These are a biennial multi-sport event involving European countries with a population of under one million inhabitants. There are currently nine



Figure 10. Maltese stamp featuring judo, a sport contested at the 2009 Games of the Small States of Europe hosted by Cyprus.

participating countries: Andorra, Cyprus, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta (Figure 10), Monaco, Montenegro, and San Marino.

Regional sporting events around the world may be organized along geographic, cultural or demographic lines and include a variety of well-known sports along with many indigenous to their own populations. Through philately we come to a better understanding of these games.





A – You read a letter in your boy’s own writing, like that above. **B** – The three small boxes in the photograph contain over 5000 of these letters – in the form of photographic film. **C** – On this one roll of 16-mm. film, 1700 letters have been photographed.

(from a Kodak advertisement)

Illustrated **V---MAIL** With a Baseball Theme

by Norman Rushefsky

Victory Mail, or V-Mail for short, was based on the similar British “Airgraph” system for delivering mail between those at home in the United States and troops serving abroad during World War II.

V-Mail correspondence worked by photographing large amounts of censored mail reduced to thumb-nail size onto reels of microfilm, which weighed much less than the original letters. The film reels were shipped by priority air freight (when possible) to the U.S., sent to prescribed destinations for enlarging at a receiving station near the recipient and printed out on lightweight photo paper. These

facsimiles were reproduced about $\frac{1}{4}$ the original size and the miniature mail was placed in envelopes and delivered to the respective addressees.

V-Mail ensured that thousands of tons of shipping space could be reserved for war matériel. The 37 mail bags required to carry 150,000 one-page letters could be replaced by a single mail sack. The weight of that same amount of mail was reduced dramatically from 2,575 pounds to a mere 45. This saved considerable weight and bulk in a time in which both were hard to manage in a theater of war. It also eliminated the threat of spies using microdots or invisible ink to send reports. Any microdot would not be photographed with enough resolution to be read.



Figure 1. World War II Seabees illustrated V-Mail letter-sheet calling Hitler "out".

A similar system was deployed during the Franco-Prussian War (1870-71) which used carrier pigeons to send primitive microfilm strips across German lines.

During World War II active military personnel were given the free franking privilege to maintain morale through encouraging communication with loved ones at home.

Between June 15, 1942 and April 1, 1945, 556,513,795 pieces of V-Mail were sent from the U.S. to military post offices and over 510 million pieces were received from military personnel abroad. In spite of the patriotic draw of V-Mail, most people still sent regular first class mail.

With extensive free time available to many military personnel those with an artistic bent created illustrated V-Mail for various holidays or with different humorous themes. Through communication with member Leon Vanverre I have been provided copies of a number of illustrated V-Mails having a baseball theme.

It will be noted that a few of these are identified as being associated with the U.S. Navy Seabees, which is the construction engineering arm or construction battalion (hence "CB") of the Navy. The Seabees were charged with building airfields, landing facilities, etc. in combat areas. Presumably

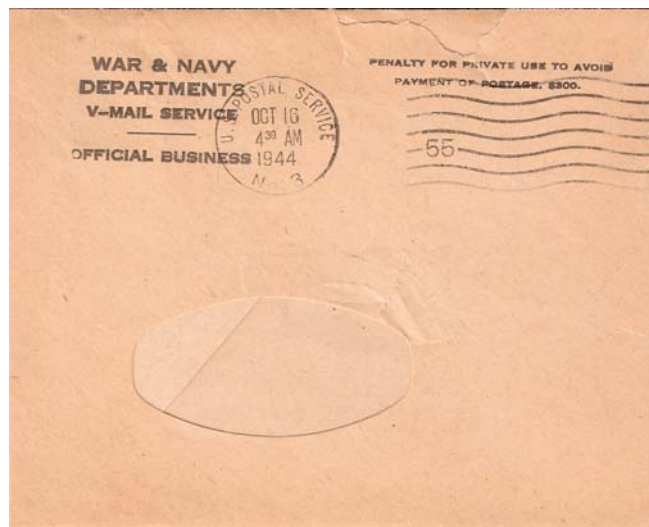


Figure 2. Delivery envelope for V-Mail. The addressee's name, which appeared at the top center of the printed V-Mail sheet, would show through the envelope window.

staff artists created illustrated sheets of paper for use and/or enjoyment of personnel and these, thus, are not one of a kind illustrations.

Figure 1 is one of these Seabees-illustrated letters sent by a Seabee in 1944 whose name and naval construction company are identified in the

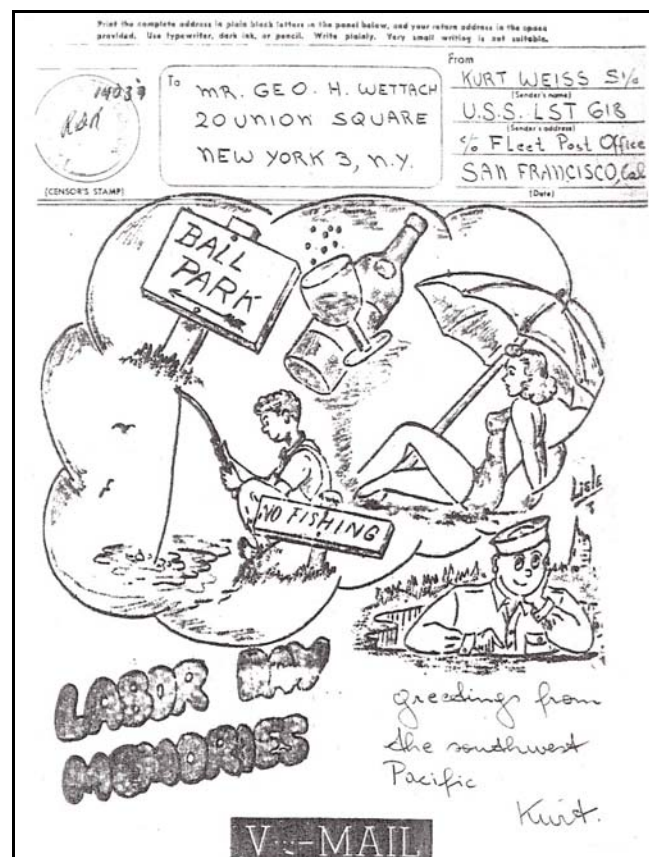


Figure 3. "Labor Day Memories" from a sailor included enjoying some baseball.



Figure 4. Comic character "Little Lulu" swinging a baseball on this V-Mail valentine.

upper right corner. In the upper center is the addressee in the United States whose name and address would be visible in an aperture formed in the envelope (Figure 2) in which the facsimile reproduction from microfilm was placed when made in the United States. The letter features an illustration of Hitler being called out on strikes by the sailor/umpire who is behind a sailor/catcher.

Figure 3 is another letter sent by a sailor identified as being sent from "...the southwest Pacific." This letter features a sailor contemplating various activities associated with "Labor Day Memories" such as fishing where it is prohibited, watching the girls at the beach at the end of summer, drinking and of course lastly going to the ball park for possibly an end of summer game. A clue that this is not a one of a kind illustration is the appearance of an artist's name in this example to the right of the sailor's head.

Figure 4 is taken from an original illustration that was full size before being reproduced on microfilm. The V-Mail was intended to convey a Valentine greeting to an army medical officer in a hospital probably somewhere on an island in the Pacific. The design features the well known comic character Little Lulu holding a bat with the greeting of "I

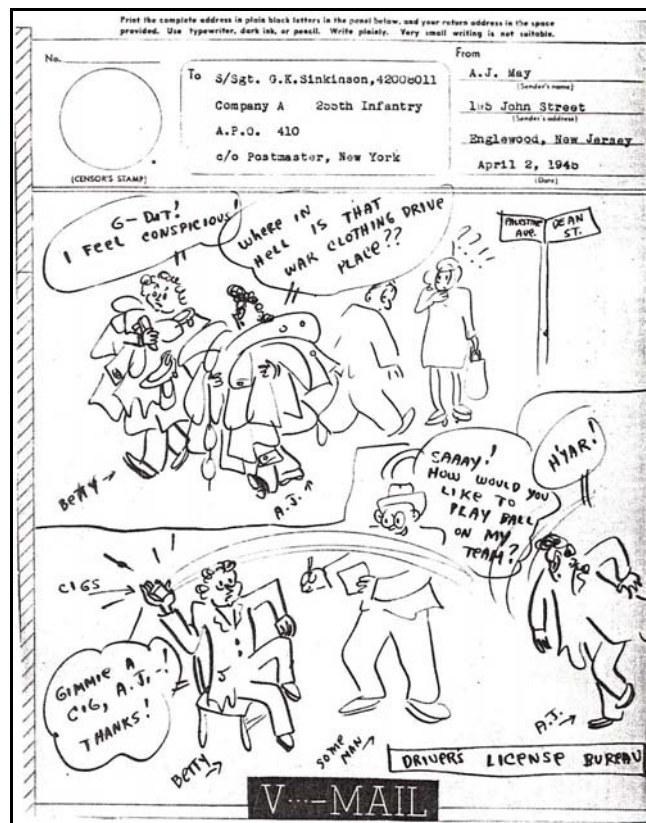


Figure 5. This V-Mail design includes what appears to be a character posing as a baseball scout.

hope you have a 'Lulu' of a Valentine's Day." The artwork appears to be made by the sender.

Figure 5 is an illustrated V-Mail that is a one of a kind and appears to feature some message by the sender regarding events that took place in the sender's hometown of Englewood, New Jersey. In the upper panel two characters (one of which is presumably the sender) are seen laden with clothing being taken to the "war clothing drive place." In the lower panel the same two characters are featured at the "drivers license bureau" with one throwing a pack of cigarettes to the other, the catch is apparently impressive and a third character requests of the catcher "Saaay! How would you like to play ball on my team?"

Figure 6 is a V-Mail sent from Chicago in 1944 to a merchant marine. I believe this is a very good hand reproduction by the sender of a cartoon appearing in the Chicago Daily News. Below the cartoon there is written "Apologies to Mr. Shoemaker copy by J. H. Guthrie." Guthrie appears to be the sender and Shoemaker is probably Vaughn Shoemaker, Pulitzer Prize winning chief editorial cartoonist of the Daily News.

The cartoon features two soldiers in battle gear discussing opening of baseball season with one

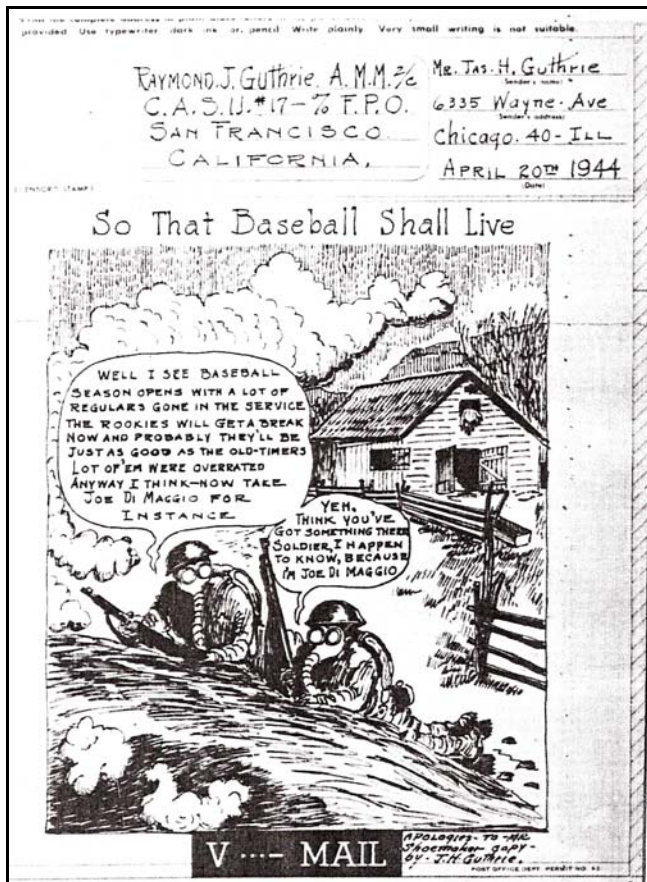


Figure 6. "So That Baseball Shall Live" pokes fun at the "old-timers" such as Joe DiMaggio.

making derogatory statements about older players such as Joe DiMaggio. The other identifies himself as DiMaggio. Like many professional baseball players who enlisted in the armed forces, DiMaggio enlisted in the United States Army Air Forces. He was stationed in California, Hawaii and Atlantic City, New Jersey as a physical education instructor. He played baseball for service teams but never saw combat.

Figure 7 is reproduced from the National Postal Museum's website about V-Mail and illustrates an unmailed V-Mail comprising a one-page weekly newsletter of the Dayton, Ohio Journal Herald dated April 1, 1943. This newsletter provides a brief discussion of local news including the scarcity of meat so that sight of a butcher carrying a side of beef warranted a picture on page 1 of the regular paper. Sports news is also provided including local high school basketball, club soccer, boxing, golf and Cincinnati Reds baseball.

Figure 8 is a V-Mail to a soldier and features a hand sketched scorecard of the first game of a Brooklyn Dodgers vs. Chicago Cubs doubleheader on May 20, 1945, not quite two weeks after V-E Day wherein the Allies formally accepted the uncondi-

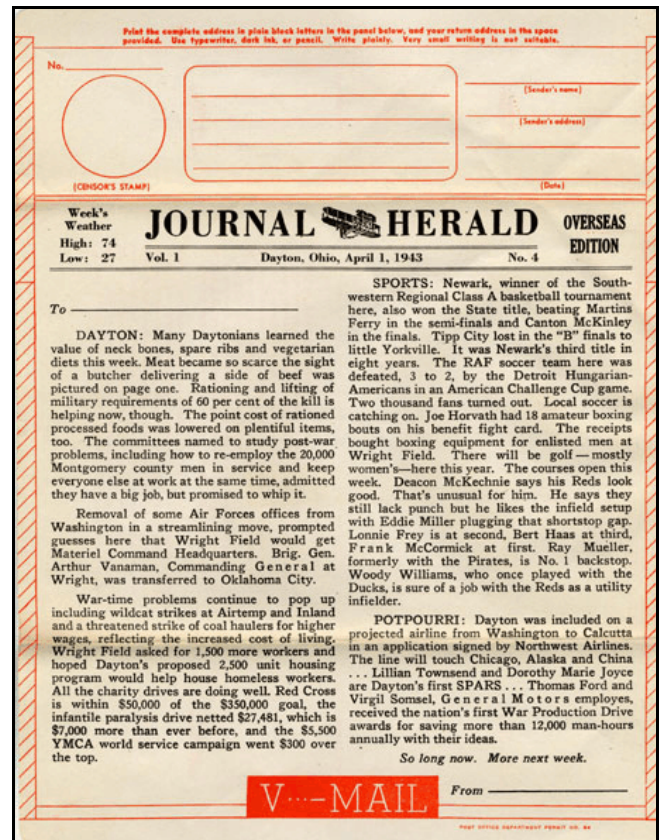


Figure 7. This V-Mail provided hometown news, including sports scores, to a serviceman overseas.

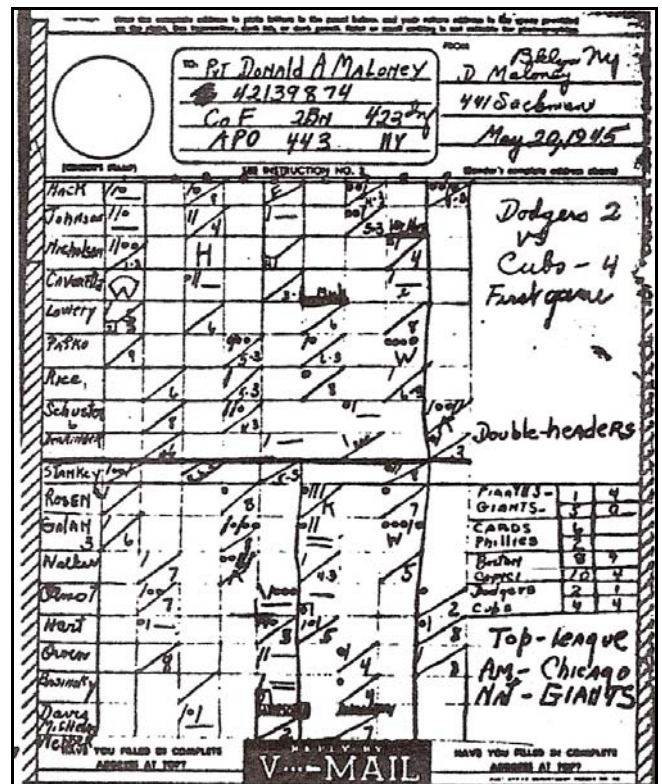


Figure 8. This lucky G.I. received a detailed scorecard via V-Mail. Sent from Brooklyn, one would presume that the recipient was a Dodgers fan whose team lost 4-2.



Figure 9. A V-Mail rebus (picture puzzle) which included a baseball clue. See page 36 for the answer – don't cheat!

tional surrender of the armed forces of Nazi Germany. The scorecard also includes game results of several other teams' doubleheaders.

Lastly, Figure 9 is a V-Mail rebus puzzle drawn for the use of Seabees. The puzzle shows a baseball

player sliding into a base and the umpire calling the player out. The solution to the puzzle is provided on page 36. Be warned though that because of difficulty reproducing details of the original certain clues may not be visible to you.

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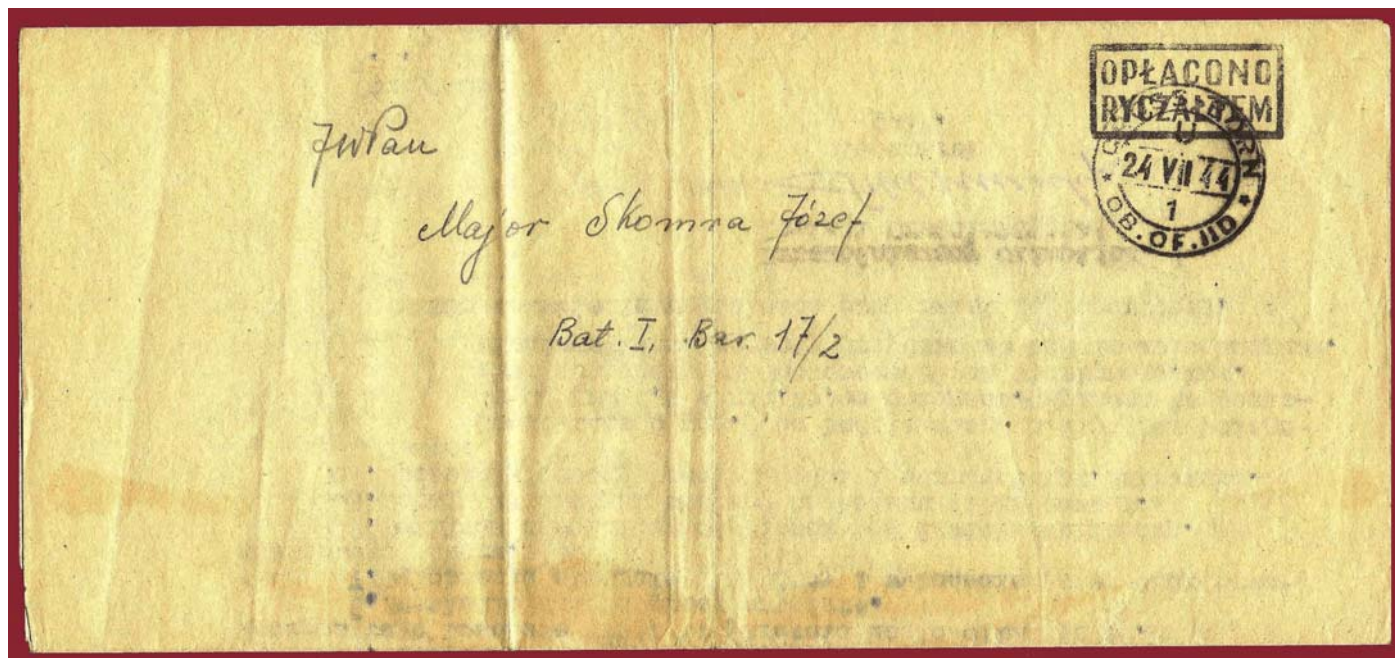


Figure 1. Gross Born Polish POW Camp cover addressed to “Major Józef Skomra Bat. 1, Bar 17/2”.

Schedule of Opening Ceremonies – 1944 Olympics at Oflag IID (Part One)

by Roman Sobus

The saying, “you can’t judge a book by its cover”, does not only apply to books. In philately, however, the cover is usually the object of desire, and any contents are likely to have only secondary value. I did say usually, since on occasion, the contents are the prize, and the cover is of lesser interest.

One such item came to my attention through a fellow Polonus member who shares my interest in collecting internal camp mail. I received four scans of an item he had recently acquired for his sports theme collection. The first image I opened was of a plain letter, bulk mail, sent within the camp Oflag IID. I scrutinized the cover, which was not franked with a postage stamp, only a black stamp “Opłacono Ryczałtem”.

The cover was a bit larger than the common mailing, about the size of a business envelope, but certainly nothing to get excited about. The date on the canceller “24.VII.44” was sharp and clear. This was usually reserved for official mail, but was often used by various clubs and organizations within the

camp that mailed notices at discounted rates. The cover is addressed to: “Major Józef Skomra, Bat. 1, Bar 17/2” without a return address (Figure 1).

The remaining three scans that I opened revealed pages of typewritten text. Not an original document, but a second or perhaps third generation carbon paper copies. For obvious reasons no mechanical reproduction of documents was permitted in prisoner of war camps. If multiple copies were required, carbon paper between sheets of paper was preferred. A more labor intensive process was to make hand written transcripts or to individually type the documents. The carbon copy method was chosen in this case.

At first glance the three-page document appeared to be a list or schedule of sorts. There are handwritten changes throughout the document, with original typed text crossed out and corrections penciled in. As an example, the first item in the schedule is an outdoor Mass that has a handwritten notation changing it from “outdoors” to “Chapel” (Figure 2). This indicates that the document was a working copy and specifics for the festivities were still evolving.

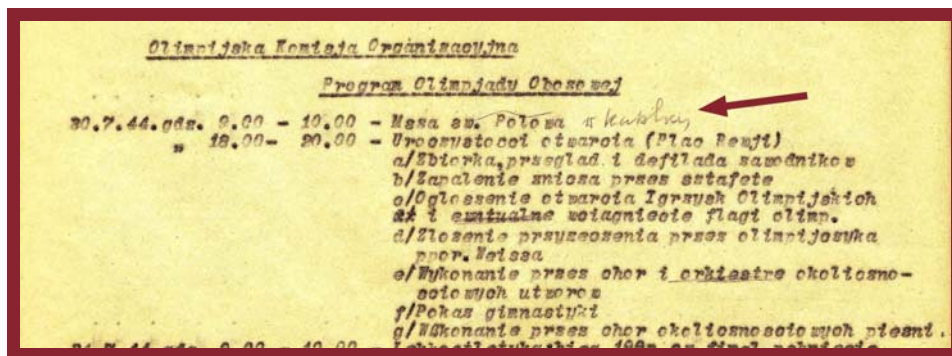


Figure 2. Top of page 1 of the schedule of Olympics Opening Ceremonies. The arrow indicates one of the many changes, in this case that a Mass would be held in the Chapel rather than outdoors.

The final notations on the third page indicated copies were also sent to the five military sports clubs in the camp, Czarni, Polonia, Warta, Wilno, and Wisła. These were the clubs whose members took part in the Olympic athletic competition. Also copied were several captains, and the music and marching group directors. It is signed by Lt. Kaczmarek, Superintendent of the Olympic Organizing Commission (Figure 3).

For those of our readers not familiar with the camp Olympics, several words of background information:

No formal Olympic Games were held in 1940 and 1944 due to the ongoing war. There were however celebrations commemorating the 1944 Olympic year at two German Prisoner of War Camps, housing Polish Officers. Flags with the five ring symbol were flown over each camp, the Olympic torch was lit, athletes competed and awards were bestowed on all the participants.

The POW Olympics have been well documented. During the 2004 Games, both NBC and the Cable station Bravo each aired a one-hour documentary segment about the event. Information has

also been published in philatelic and non-philatelic literature [2, 4, 5].

The fact that two separate camps held similar events at approximately the same time was not coincidental. Both Oflag IIC in Woldenberg and IID at Gross Born were situated in relative close proximity to one another. Priests, chaplains and social workers would travel between the two, often carrying information and clandestine messages. That is the primary reason similar themes appear on many of the stamp issues of both camps.

The games at Woldenberg and the related commemorative ephemera have been well-documented in both philatelic and traditional books and periodicals.

The single red stamp depicting a runner crossing the finish line is a recognizable, highly desirable and relatively inexpensive memento of the 1944 Olympic Games (Figure 4).

An admission ticket and the formal program, which lists the schedule of both the opening ceremonies and the competition, are more difficult to acquire. Incorporated into the cover design of the program are three proposed stamp designs.

Figure 3. Final page showing distribution of the schedule and signed by Lt. Kaczmarek, Superintendent of the Olympic Organizing Commission.

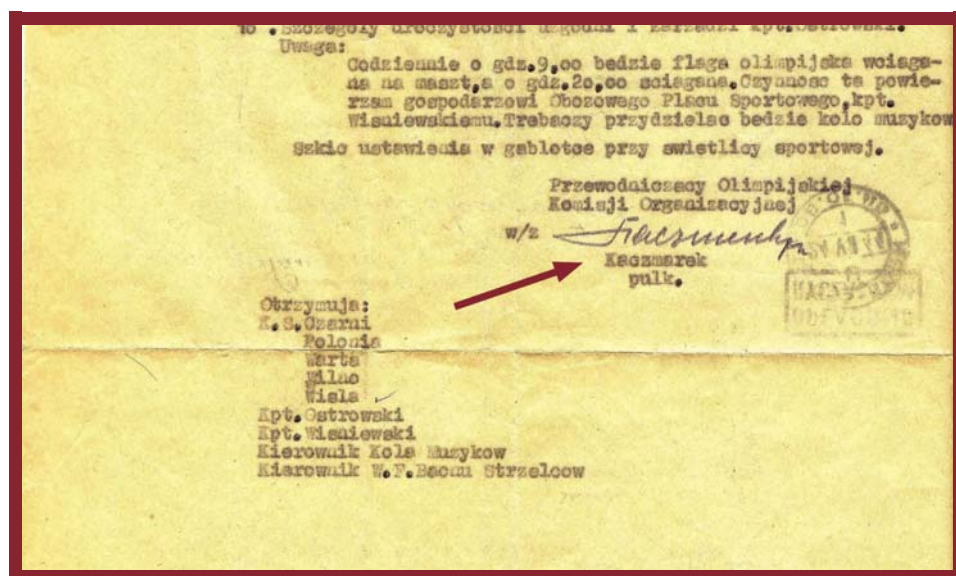




Figure 4. (Above)
Oflag IIC cancelled
stamp Fi 41 issued 13
August 1944.



Figure 5. (Right) Oflag
IID sheetlets Fi 12ax,
13ax and 14ax issued
30 July 1944.



Figure 6. Oflag IID souvenir sheet Fi Blok 5 issued 14 August 1944.



Figure 7. Oflag IID 1944 Olympic medal.

The multicolored commemorative cachet postcards produced for the event are also a much sought-after item among collectors of the Olympics, sports memorabilia in general, and of course prisoner of war camps.

The Gross Born items tend to be more elusive even though three Olympic-themed stamps (Figure 5) and a postal stationery card were prepared and were cancelled with special commemorative cancellers. A souvenir sheet utilizing the stamp designs in different colors was also prepared. A very rare uncanceled example is shown in Figure 6. At the completion of the games, participating athletes were awarded embossed paper medals (Figure 7).

While the Gross Born stamps, cards, and sheets surface at auction intermittently and the embossed medal less often, there is no evidence that an official program was produced for the event. Judging by the list of events appearing on these pages a great deal of planning went into preparations for the opening ceremonies. No doubt the schedule for the games themselves must have been equally precise. To my knowledge, this is the first time an article about this schedule is being published and, may very well be the only surviving example of this document.

Thanks to Andrzej Szymanski of Brampton, Ontario for granting access to this wonderful document and Adrian Wortman of Tauranga, New Zealand for the Gross Born philatelic images for this article. The remaining items are from the author's collection.

For a visual philatelic overview of the prisoner of war Olympic Games of 1944 please visit the Polonus website exhibit section and peruse member Andrew Urushima's award-winning one frame exhibit on the 1944 POW Olympic Games.

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Editor's Note: Part Two of this article, to be printed in the December 2011 issue of *JSP*, will feature full translations of the text of the three pages discussed in this article. This may be the first time that the entire schedule of these Games has appeared in print.

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The Game Of Ten Pins

Figure 1. The objective in nine and ten pin bowling is the same. However, as seen on this correspondence card, in nine pins the ball is smaller, the pins are shorter, and scoring is different.

by Jim Leatherberry

Ten Pin Bowling is one of the most popular sports in the world. Not only is it an easy game to play, but it is adaptable to people of all ages and skill levels.

Bowling has been popular in America since the Colonial days thanks to the English, Dutch, and German settlers (Figure 1). It was the British variant of "Crown Green" or "Lawn Bowling" that first captured the American imagination in the early 1600's. The first facility was established in 1733 in New York's Bowling Green Park. To this day the small plot on which the original gaming ground stood is still called "Bowling Green."

Although some looked to the game as a distinguished, genteel pastime, in the early nineteenth century it was surrounded by so much gambling and racketeering that bowling was outlawed in New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. An 1841 Connecticut statute made it illegal to maintain "any ninepin lanes" (Figure 2), but bowling enthusiasts evaded these laws simply by adding a tenth pin and changing the configuration of the pins from a diamond to a triangle (Figure 3).

The "new" game mushroomed in popularity, and by the 1860's basement rooms for playing tenpins lined every block along Broadway. Addicted by the tenpin craze, captains of industry installed bowling lanes in their mansions from the Hudson Valley to Long Island.

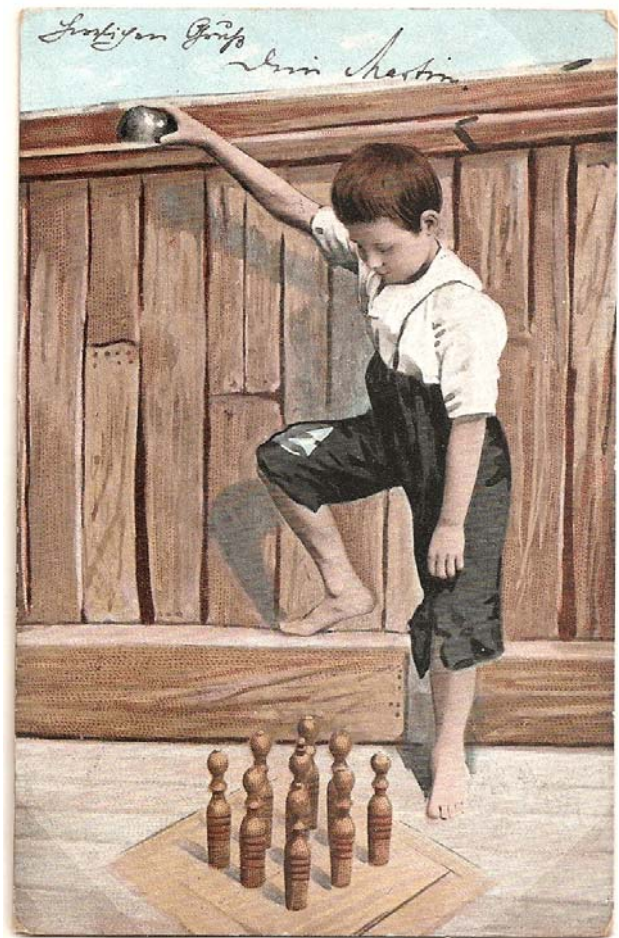


Figure 2. Prior to 1950, people were used to reset pins and return balls for small wages.

By the late nineteenth century, bowling had spread as far west as Illinois and Ohio. The American Bowling Congress (ABC) was founded in 1895 to standardize equipment and rules on a national level; it later held its first national championships in 1901 (Figure 4). Under the leadership of the ABC, bowling quickly became both popular and respectable (Figure 5).

Although many wealthy folks enjoyed bowling in private gentlemen's clubs, estate lanes, or garden lanes, bowling continued to be more closely linked with the center of the working class social life – the saloon. In fact, bowling saloons were the primary means by which the game was introduced to the masses (Figure 6). While the term “saloons” suggests a certain air of refinement, the setting was far from glamorous.

Bowling, by the beginning of the twentieth century, was part of the dreary recreational pastime that included beer drinking, tobacco chewing, and gambling in depressing, airless dives. With one or two lanes each, saloons were nothing more than damp, dimly illuminated, poorly ventilated basements. No respectable person would consider entering such a place (Figure 7).

Influenced by the modern streamlined look and effect that prevailed from the 1930's through the 1950's, bowling establishments, especially in California, evolved into glorious recreational out-

posts. Bowling alleys sparkled with the glitter and flash of mid-century modern design, which was evident in their cocktail bars, billiard rooms, barber shops, beauty parlors, arcade rooms, and restaurants (Figure 8). The popularity of the game accelerated with the introduction of industrial bowling leagues and aggressive marketing campaigns aiming to make bowling a family recreational sport.

Automation proceeded gradually between 1939 and 1950, even as the game was moving toward greater mechanization of pinsetting, it still relied on pinboys to provide the technical support (Figure 9). They ultimately controlled the speed of the game and, in many cases, the enjoyment of its participants.

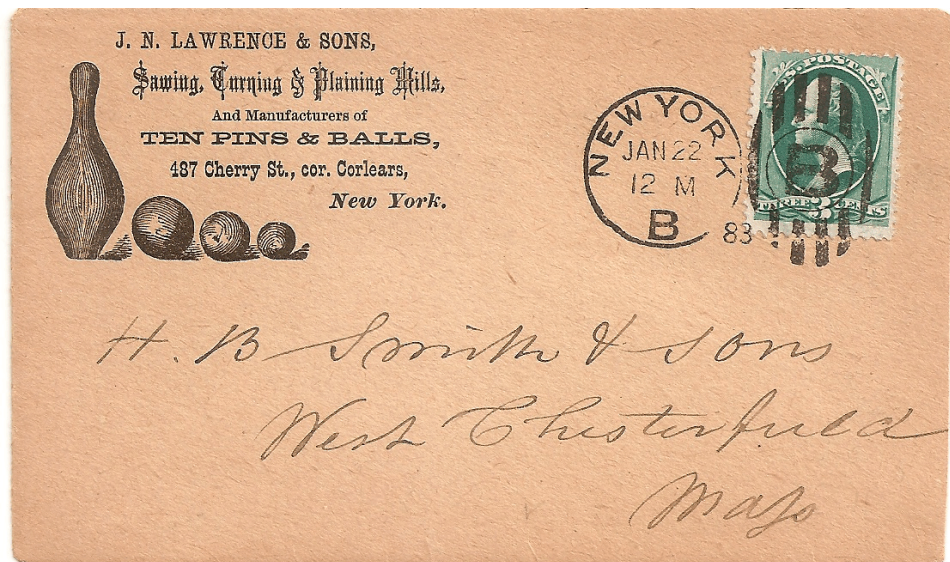


Figure 3. Advertising cover postmarked Jan. 1883 from a bowling equipment manufacturer of “ten pin” pins and more. The different sizes (evolution) of bowling balls can be seen here.



Figure 4. Stamped cachet and Cinderella from the 1941 ABC National Tournament.



Figure 5. Bowling became such a popular sport that ladies began to join. In keeping with tradition, bowling participants wore their best clothing on bowling days.



Figure 6. Bowling captivated America from the farmlands to cities, and mountains to the seashores. We had found a sport that was both recreational and/or competitive – anyone could participate.



Figure 7. Postcard sent August 1909 depicting Casino Bowling Alleys of Massachusetts, a prime example of a basement bowling alley.

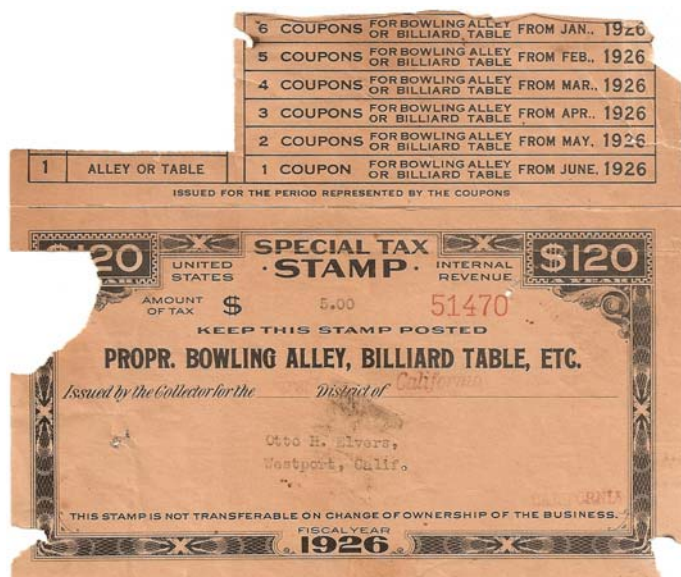


Figure 8. 1926 revenue document for bowling alley and billiard table permit. Bowling became so popular and fashionable that the government could heavily tax the establishments. Note the \$5 monthly tax.



Figure 9. Mechanization helped revolutionize the game of ten pins; pins and balls were uniform in size and weights. Pin boys continued to work for the alleys, but as mechanical experts for pinsetting machines.

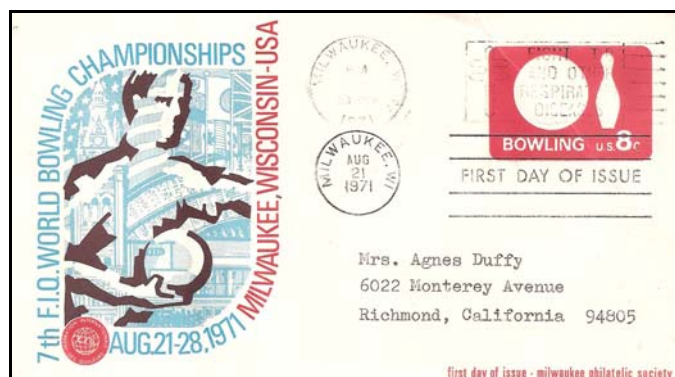


Figure 10. Pre-stamped envelope (Sc. #U563, 1971) with first day of issue cancel and cachet from the 7th F.I.Q. World Bowling Championships, where the best bowlers in the world compete against each other.

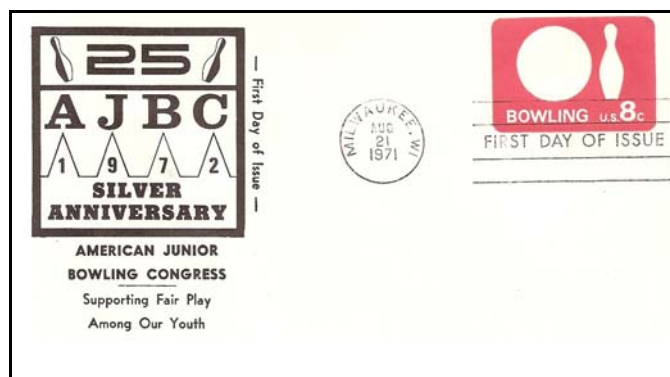


Figure 11. Label from the American Junior Bowling Congress. Youth of any age under 20 to this day are welcome to bowl in local leagues.

Going automatic put bowling in a new league – it catapulted the sport into a full-fledged mainstream American pastime. No other sport was as influenced by the introduction of mechanization as was bowling. And when Ozzie and Harriet, Bob Hope, Jerry Lewis, and Roy Rodgers picked up bowling balls, it was clear the game had become part of mainstream America.

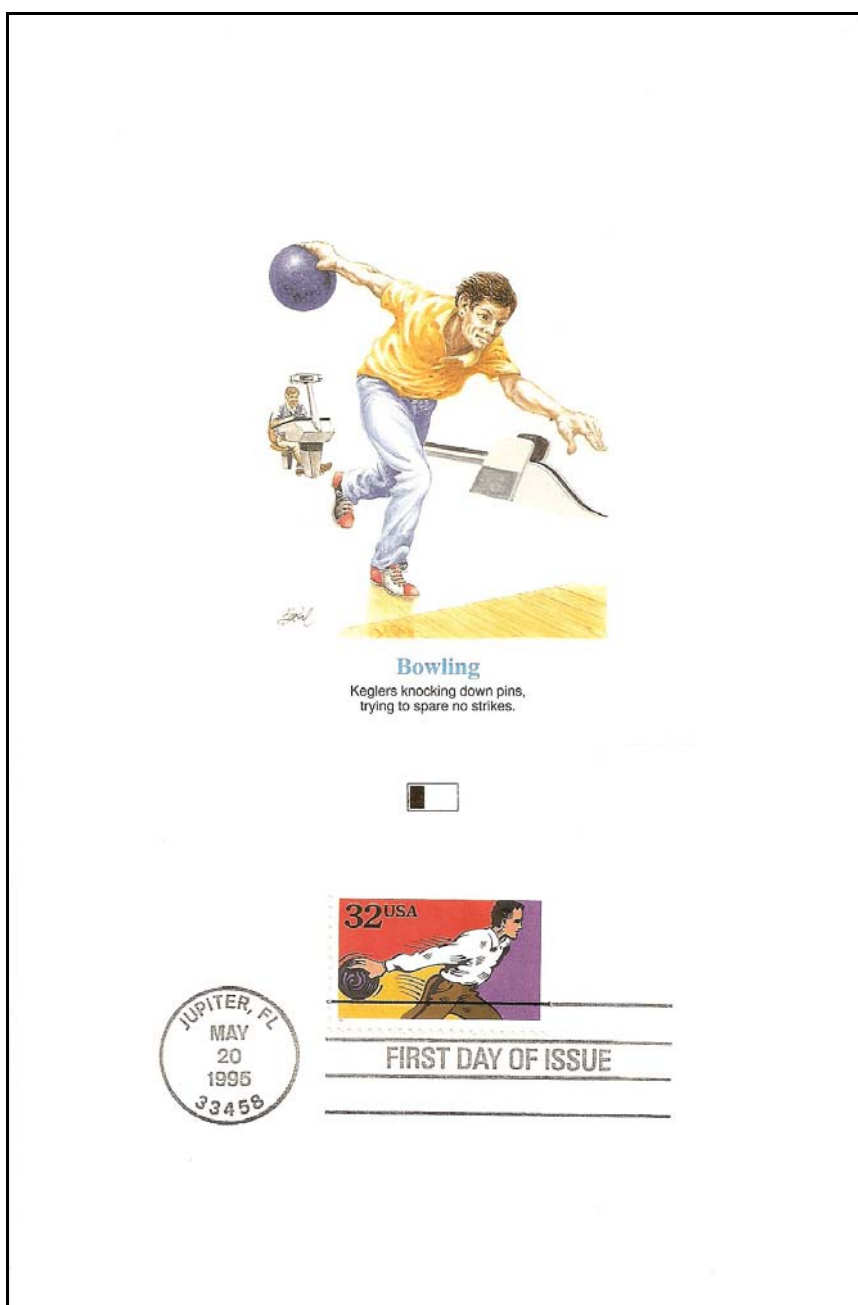
In the last 50 years (1961-2011), bowling has gained immense popularity worldwide. An increasing number of amateurs, regulars, and professionals are pursuing bowling as a league activity, hobby, and even as a profession (Figure 10).

Bowling enjoys great global support because there are so many clubs, schools, churches, and associations that promote bowling and encourage players to participate at any level (Figure 11).

There are amateur bowling tournaments as well as professional ones.

Bowling is fun and entertaining – such as cosmic bowling or “Rock-n-Bowl.” It’s also great exercise for fitness recreation, or competitive as a league or tournament for all ages (Figure 12).

Figure 12. Maximum card and stamp from “recreational sports” set, the bowling stamp being Sc. #2963, depicting bowlers in leisurely (slacks and long sleeve shirt on stamp) and casual (shirt, jeans, rental shoes on card) clothing.



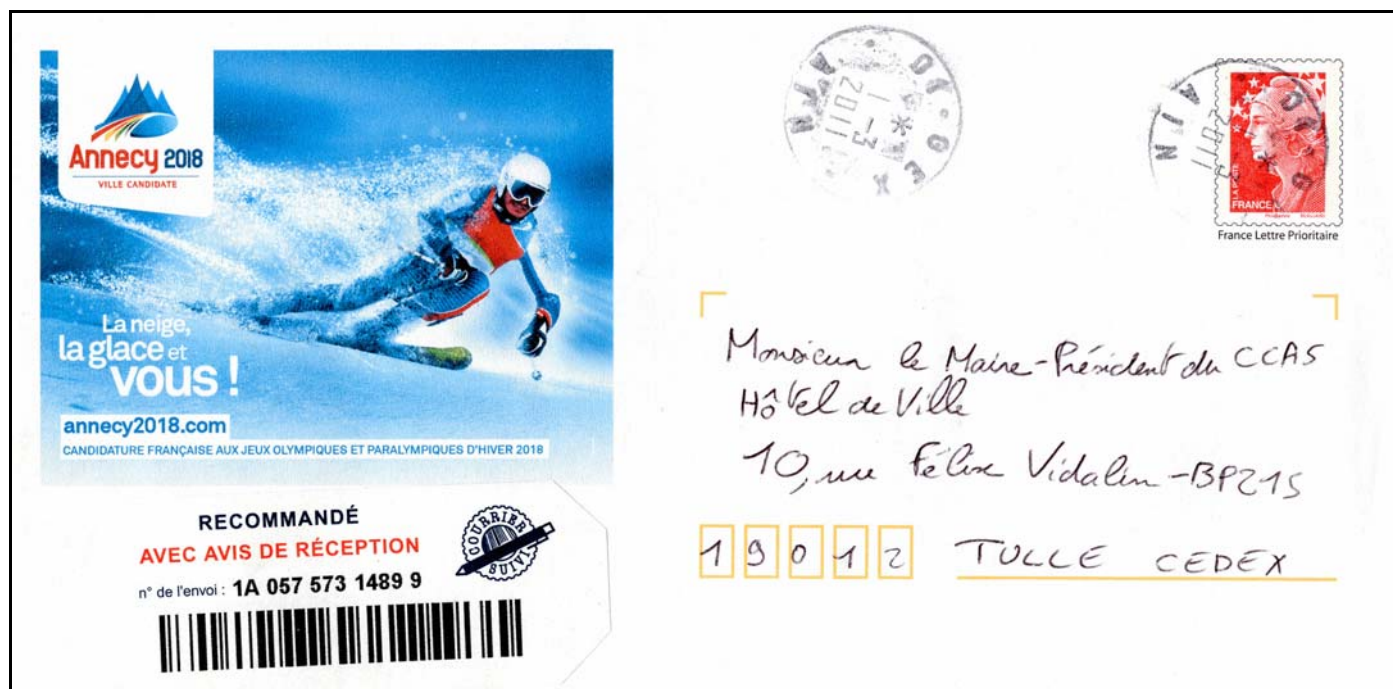


Figure 1. The Annecy candidature produced six different postal stationery envelopes for domestic use. This skiing cover was sent via registered mail.

2018 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

by Alain Hébert

PyeongChang has won its bid to host the 2018 Olympic Winter Games. The South Korean city received 63 of the 95 votes while Munich (Germany) obtained 25 votes and Annecy (France) a lowly 7 votes.

The vote was held in Durban, South Africa on July 6, 2011. This was PyeongChang's third effort, having lost out for the 2010 and 2014 Winter Games. Thus, the Games will be held for a second time on Korean soil, Seoul having been the host nation in the summer of 1988 (Figure 5).

While tickets for your favorite Olympic events won't go on sale until 2016, it's not too early to start your collection of philatelic material for the XXIIIrd Olympic Winter Games. In an effort to promote interest, both of the losing candidates used philatelic material.

The Annecy Olympic Committee, in an agreement with LA POSTE, produced six different postage-paid envelopes bearing a red "Marianne" imprinted stamp. This paid the postage rate for letters weighing up to 20 grams mailed to anywhere in continental France, Andorra and Monaco. The sports represented on the envelopes were ice

hockey, ski jumping, snowboarding, figure skating, skiing (Figure 1) and biathlon.

Munich's Olympic Committee also responded by putting out envelopes boosting its candidacy. While these were not of the postage-paid variety, the DEUTSCHE POST used at least three distinct postal cancellations to promote Munich's bid in various locations in Germany (Figures 2-4).

It would not be surprising to see Olympic philatelic material for the 2022 Games appear in less than three years as different cities around the world start bidding.

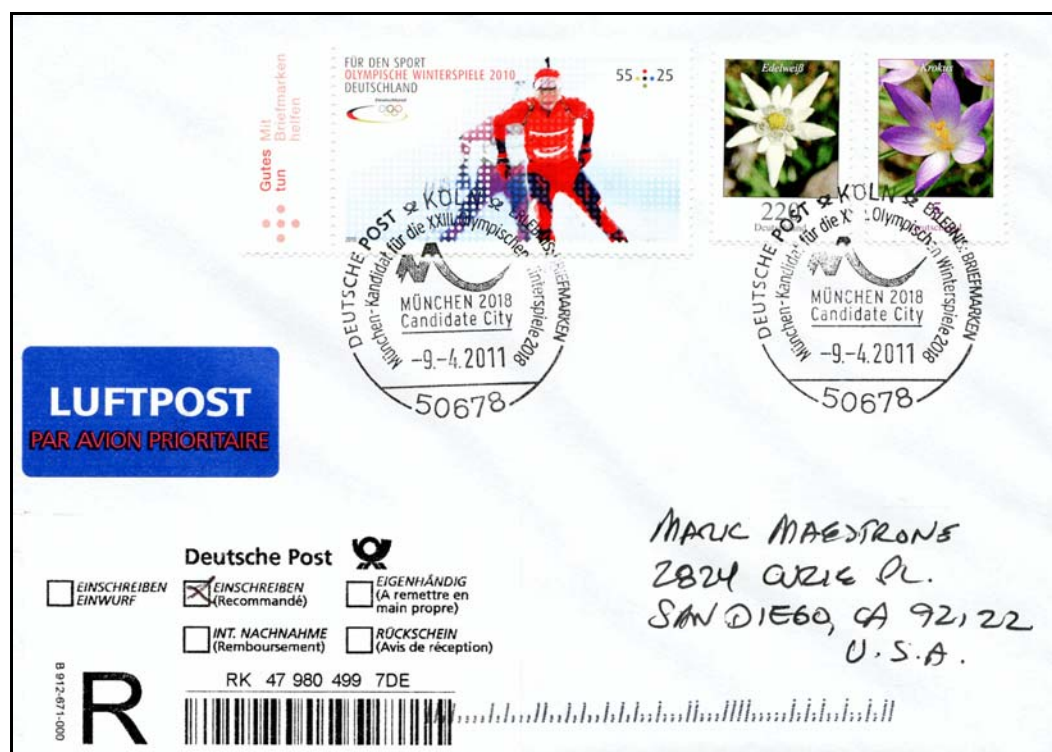


Figure 2. Machine cancel promoting the Munich bid used in 69 sorting stations around Germany from 10 February to 30 June 2011.



Figure 3. An oval-shaped handcancel was used at the International Stamp Bourse in Munich on 3 March 2011.

Figure 4. A round handcancel was employed in Köln at the International Collectors Fair on 9 April 2011.

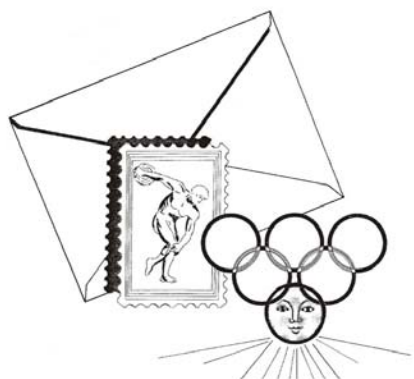


At least a dozen cities have already expressed an interest. These include Harbin (China), the Prahova Valley (Romania), Zurich (Switzerland), Quebec City (Canada), Santiago (Chile), Astana (Kazakhstan), Tahko (Finland), the area of Stavanger-Bergen-Voss (Norway), Zakopane (Poland), Lviv (Ukraine), Reno & Lake Tahoe (USA). There is even talk of 2 joint ventures: Toulouse (France) teaming up with Andorra and Zaragoza (Spain) while South Tyrol (Austria) would bid with Trentino (Italy).

If the present Europe-Asia-North America rotational trend continues, there is a good chance that a city in either Canada or the USA will be chosen. Check your mailbox regularly!



Figure 5. The Korean postal administration issued a 250 ₩ stamp on 8 August 2011 to celebrate PyeongChang's selection as 2018 host.



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THE SPORTS ARENA

by Mark Maestrone

1968 Men's Olympic Swimming Team Postcard – An Update

In the last issue of *JSP* I reported on a large colorful postcard picturing the entire U.S. men's 1968 Olympic swimming team. While I was able to match most faces with names, there was one mystery man in the crowd. SPI member, Kirk McGowan, rode to the rescue with an identification – and a correction.

According to Kirk, who consulted with a friend of his, Bruce Furniss (1976 double gold medalist in swimming), the “unknown” swimmer in the first row, fourth from the right, is Mike Burton – the first swimmer to win the 1,500 meters in consecutive Olympics ('68 and '72). The swimmer I had misidentified as Mike Burton is actually John Kinsella who went on to win the 1970 AAU Sullivan Award for the most outstanding amateur athlete in the United States. Thanks, Kirk – and Bruce – for the clarifications!

Surprise 2012 Olympic Ink-Jet Marking From Royal Mail

In a recent e-mail newsletter, SPI member Bob Wilcock reported on the discovery of an Olympic ink-jet marking. Here's how Bob related the story:

It was an order from a member that landed on my door-mat Monday 1st August, and on it an unannounced ink-jet postmark “Royal Mail Olympic Stamps Now on sale”. Committee were alerted, and one member rescued an envelope from his recycling bin. An e-mail circular to UK members enabled us to identify other mail centres using the slogan, but by the time we tried to get some covers done the campaign had finished, and a number of covers came back with non-Olympic postmarks. Royal Mail eventually informed us that the cancel was in use from 26 July to 3 August. However the earliest example seen is dated 29 July, and all cancels seen dated 27 July are non-Olympic. It definitely seems to have been replaced after 3 August.

Bob has asked for help in recording any and all usages that may have come into collectors' possession including the mail center and date. A scan would be most appreciated.



So far, the following eight mail centers are known to have used the ink-jet marking:

1. South East Anglia (Chelmsford) – 3 different dater heads
2. Hereford & Worcester
3. Birmingham
4. Manchester
5. Lancashire and South Lakes
6. Greenford/Windsor
7. London South
8. Watford

Bob adds that the cancel seems not to have been used in Sheffield. He also wonders if a Welsh version from Cardiff exists. If you have any information, please e-mail Bob Wilcock at: marathon@societyofolympiccollectors.org

USPS Unlikely to Issue 2012 London Olympic Games Stamps

The September 26, 2011 issue of *Linn's Stamp News* carried an editorial by Linn's editor, Michael Baadke: “Finances knock Olympic rings off U.S. stamps”. According to the report, the USPS, which has always resisted attempts to make it pay a royalty fee, has decided against a 2012 Olympic issue.

Reporters have been shown illustrations of a set of four “Athletes in Motion” stamps that portray beach volleyball, hurdles, diving and javelin – but no indication that they are being issued in honor of the 2012 Olympics. However, unlike every other stamp on next year's schedule, images of this set have yet to be released to the public. Could a change be in the offing?

The IOC's Marketing Department confirmed that the USPS had decided not to issue stamps for the Games because of new royalty fees that have recently been implemented by the IOC.

REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS

by Mark Maestrone

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

June 2011 (#60). The 2011 World Championships of Judo take center stage in this issue. The event was held in Paris-Bercy 23-28 August. La Poste issued a stamp on 1 July to mark the occasion. A review of philatelic material issued for past World Judo Championships competed in France is also presented. This issue also previews the centennial of rowing along with the World Championship of Orienteering, held in Savoie-Grand Revard, 10-20 August.

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

August 2011 (#35). Henk Knijnenburg's one-frame exhibit, "Women's Basketball," is presented in this issue. Considering the limitation of the subject matter from a philatelic point of view, this was no doubt quite a challenge.

A new feature beginning with this issue is a chronological review of Olympic basketball stamps. Starting with issue #1, a Monaco stamp for the 1948 London Olympic Games, the author takes us up through the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

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

August 2011 (#151). IMOS celebrates the 75th anniversary of the 1936 Olympic Torch Relay – the first of its kind – with an excellent 64-page full-color booklet devoted to the original relay. Thomas Lippert opens with a full review of the relay and its philatelic history from Ancient Olympia to Austria. From there, Pavel Hladik discusses the running of the Olympic flame through Czechoslovakia, handing off to Diethard Hensel who discusses the final leg through Germany to Berlin. Although entirely in German, this handbook is worthwhile for any Torch Relay specialist.

The regular journal provides updates on new Olympic and sports stamps and postmarks. Wolfgang Marx presents a detailed look at Germany's private post with respect to football philately.

Jean-Louis Emmenegger presents an article on the recent World Gymnaestrada, held in Lausanne, Switzerland in July, and the theme of gymnastics.

Finally, Armin Haug uses numismatics to tell the story of the father of gymnastics, J.F. Jahn.

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

April 2011 (#78). If one is looking for coverage of a particular sport, it's more than likely it can be found in this issue of the Italian sport and Olympic publication. Certainly cycling (Giro d'Italia) and archery are well covered.

Postal stationery for the 2002 World Championships of Football in Korea and Japan is presented with colorful postal cards that appear to be primarily from China.

An interesting review of Olympic tennis begins with a 1900 postal card from Paris complete with exposition cancel and continuing through to the recent Beijing competition.

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

June 2011 (Vol. 28, #2). With excitement building toward the 2012 London Olympic Games, this issue of *Torch Bearer* presents the schedule for the Torch Relay through the UK beginning at Land's End on 19 May. The newest Olympic and Paralympic stamp issues from Royal Mail are also shown.

The promotional cachet for the 1912 Stockholm Olympic Games is examined by Kwok-Yiu Kwan who compares three different strikes and wonders if there were multiple devices to account for irregularities in the impressions.

The next Olympic Winter Games will be held in Sochi in 2014. *Torch Bearer* reports on the recent stamp licensing agreement signed between the Organizing Committee and "Marka" and the first stamps to appear.

Continuing their series on Olympic pin collecting, Craig Perlow, Sid Marantz and Bud Kling review Olympic bid pins.

Lastly, Annecy 2018 candidacy items are shown including stickers, postal stationery and postcards.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Mark Maestrone

NEW MEMBERS

2280 Kirk McGowan, 1194 Sesame Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94087-2420 USA. **1932 Olympic Games.**

2281 Andrew Potter, 29 Orpington Road, London N21 3PD, U.K. **General sports, Olympics host country, sailing, cricket, and international games.** (andywithsarah@googlemail.com)

2282 Ernest E. Waner, 3025 Hard Rock Rd., Grand Prairie, TX 75050-6769 USA. **General sports, Olympics, World Cup soccer.** (waners@telkomsa.net)

2283 Gennaro Marcelli, via Caravaggio 45, 80126 Napoli, Italy. **General sports, horse racing, tennis, and soccer.** (loredanamarcelli2@virgilio.it)

2284 Ingrid P. Wicken, PO Box 273, Norco, CA 92860 USA. **Winter Olympics, ski jumping, skiing and winter sports.** (ingrid@skilibrary.com)

2285 Sid Marantz, 2131 E. 51st St., Vernon, CA 90058-2816. **Olympic memorabilia.** (sidmarantz@aol.com)

2286 Halvor Kleppen, Kleppenvegen 53, N-3800 Bö, Norway. **Winter Olympics, skiing, golf.** (halvor@kleppen.com)

2287 Klaus J. Fink, Bramfelder Chaussee 438, 22175 Hamburg, Germany. **Olympics, torch relay.** (kjfink90@hotmail.com)

2288 Hon. Hugo Henno E.R. Lohmeyer, 1331 Prather Rd., Lexington, KY 40502. **Olympics.** (henno@insightbb.com)

2289 Pedro J. Cordova, PO Box 9022316, San Juan, PR 00902-2316. **Summer Olympics.** (pjcordova@pontefresco.net)

2290 Stathis Douramakos, Zamanou 44a, 16674 Glyfada-Athens, Greece. **1896 Athens Olympics, Olympic torch relay.** (douramakos@yahoo.com)

RENEWING MEMBERS

1947 Peter M. Thomsen, Ajernvej 9, Hillerød, DK-3400, Denmark. **Soccer.**

2184 Kathryn Galli, 53 Temperence Way, Chico, CA 95928 USA. **Summer Olympics, 1936 Olympics, cycling, track & field, swimming, Billy Mills.** (blackdogs53@comcast.net)

ADDRESS CHANGE

Margaret Jones (new e-mail): docj3@hotmail.com

Kelvin Nash (new address): 65 Douglas Street Stanmore NSW 2048 Australia

EXHIBITING

2011 ATA National Topical Stamp Show, Milwaukee. Clem Reiss received a gold medal for "Sailing Races - 1662-2012, Earliest Recorded Race to Next Olympics."

PhilaNippon 2011, Yokohama, Japan, July 28 - August 2, 2011. "Games of the Xth Olympiad, Los Angeles - 1932," Conrad Klinkner (USA), Large Silver (75).



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NEW STAMP ISSUES

by John La Porta

Albania: March 10, 2010. World Soccer Cup. Se-tenant pair of 80 lek, 100 lek stamps. Souvenir sheet with 200 lek stamp, different scenes with symbolic players. Stamps offset in sheets of eight.

Andorra (French): July 11, 2011. Rugby. €0.89 stamp shaped like a rugby ball. Ball.

Argentina: December 11, 2010. Dakar Rally Argentina-Chile. Booklet of 15 1 p stamps, ATV's on sand; sunset on lake; mountain in clouds; road, red mountain; four stamps show motorcycles; seven show other vehicles, rally scenes.

Austria: March 15, 2011. 100th Ann. Austria Wien Soccer Club. €0.65 emblem, captains Luigi Hussak, Walter Nausch, Ernst Fiala, Herbert Prohaska.

Bangladesh: February 22, 2011. International Cricket Council World Cup. Four 20t stamps, different cricket scenes. Souvenir sheet with 50t stamp depicting cricket players.

British Virgin Islands: March 1, 2011. Spring Regatta, 15¢, 35¢, 50¢, \$2, different regatta scenes.

Canada: August 8, 2011. Miss Supertest III. One domestic rate and one \$1.75 stamp, depicting the Miss Supertest speedboat. Also one booklet and two postcards, domestic and international rates.

Colombia: March 26, 2011. National Stadium. Two 1,000 col stamps, different views of the stadium.

Comores: December 15, 2010. The following items consist of sheets of six 350 FC stamps and one souvenir sheet with a 3,000 FC value stamp: The Great Golfers; Football Cup of African Nations; Martial Arts; The Champions of Sumo; Winners of Beijing; Winners of Vancouver 2010; London 2012 Olympic Games; South Africa 2010 Football; Lawn Tennis; South Africa 2010 Football; Basketball; Chinese Chess.

Dominica: June 1, 2011. 10th Cricket World Cup. 90¢ player Chris Gayle; \$2 Windsor Park Sports Stadium.

France: July 4, 2011. World Champions of Judo. €0.89 judo scenes.

July 11, 2011. World Rugby Cup. Souvenir sheet with four €0.89 stamps, rugby scene; player; Auckland skyline; Authur's Pass, New Zealand.

July 11, 2011. Rugby. €5 stamp two players.

Germany: April 7, 2011. For Sport. €0.45+€0.20 goalie, soccer ball and net, Women's Soccer World Cup; two €0.55+€0.25 stamps, women soccer players; Women's World Cup Soccer; gymnast in air, gymnast on bar, rings, European Championships Artistic Gymnastics Berlin; €1.45+€0.55 field hockey, Euro Hockey Championships. Offset in sheets of eight.

Greenland: May 9, 2011. Queen Margrethe II. 50 ore, 1 krone the queen in sweater, sailboat.

June 9, 2011. 200th Anniversary Friedrich Ludwig Jann Gymnasium. €1.65 guy field in Berlin in 1818. Offset in sheets of 10.

July 7, 2011. 150th Anniversary German Shooting Sport Federation. €1.45 targets, bull's eye, scene of founding. Offset in sheets of 10.

Great Britain: July 27, 2011. London Olympics. Pane of 10 se-tenant strips of five nondenominated first-class domestic letter rate stamps. Depicted are fencing; field (high jump); handball; wrestling; Paralympic Games sailing; triathlon; volleyball; gymnastics; wheelchair rugby. Royal Mail is offering a composite sheet with all 30 stamps from the 2009-11 Olympic and Paralympic stamp issues in a single pane. A retail stamp booklet will be issued with one Wheelchair Rugby stamp and one Paralympic Games sailing stamp and four first-class QEII definitive stamps.

Greece: March 18, 2011. Special Olympics. €0.02 symbolic design of people; €0.04 symbolic design of Athens as host city; €0.60 sun emblem, laurel leaf; €0.75 Apollon, sun mascot; €1.20 emblems of Athens 2011 and Special Olympics movement.

Grenada-Grenadines: February 21, 2011. World Soccer Cup. Two panes of six se-tenant \$120 stamps. Pane 1 features players in the Netherlands versus Spain finals; Pane 2 features the Uruguay-Germany match. Two s/s with \$550 stamp, Andres Iniesta of Spain; Thomas Mueller of Germany.

Guinea-Bissau: May 10, 2011. Europa Basketball. Pane of four 1,000 FCFA stamps. Basketball scenes.

May 10, 2011. A. C. Milan "18 Scudetto". S/s with one 4,000 FCFA stamp showing the entire team.

Hungary: March 16, 2011. 100th Anniversary Vasas Sport Club. 315ft emblem.

Ireland: April 14, 2011. 100th Anniversary Irish Amateur Boxing Association. €0.55 boxers David Joyce and Stephen O'Reilly.

Isle of Man: April 1, 2011. 100th Anniversary Mountain Course for Tourist Trophy. Five se-tenant 38p stamps, photographs depicting the motorcycle event. S/s, £3 stamp Hislop verses Fogarty, 1992.

May 11, 2011. Cartoons of Dusty Miller 5 stamp set. 38p stamp depicts two men leaning of fence watching TT motorcycle race.

Jordan: April 6, 2011. Jordan Fencing Championship. 10pi, 30pi, 40pi, 50pi, souvenir sheet with 50pi stamp, various fencing scenes.

April 14, 2011. Jordan Rally. 10pi, 20pi, 30pi, 40pi, 50pi various rally scenes. S/s with 50pi stamp.

Korea, North: February 23, 2011. Fourth International Martial Arts Games. Pane of four stamps and four labels, 56w karate; 70w pankration; 112w muay thai. Souvenir sheet with 70w stamp taekwondo.

Mexico: May 11, 2011. Icons of Wrestling. Souvenir sheet with three se-tenant 7p stamps, different images of Mil Mascaras, other wrestlers.

June 15, 2011. FIFA U-17 World Cup Soccer. Three se-tenant 7p, 11.50p, 13.50p trophy, different soccer scenes. Offset in sheets of 15.

Monaco: August 9, 2011. 100th Anniversary Monaco Golf Club. €0.60 vintage illustration of woman golfer, coat of arms. Offset in sheets of 10.

Montenegro: June 9, 2011. Games of the Small European States. €0.36 volleyball with coat of arms; €0.90 tennis ball. Sheets of eight and a label.

Nevis: April 4, 2011. Cricket. Two panes of four \$3 stamps, pane one features Pakistan's team, two stamps show Shoabit Akhtar; Trophy. Pane two features South Africa's team, two stamps depict A.G. De Villers; team with trophy; trophy.

Russia: March 15, 2011. Sochi Olympic Games. Souvenir sheets with 25r stamp, Olympic colors on snow-covered mountain.

St. Vincent: May 2, 2011. Cricket World Cup. Three panes of four \$2.25 stamps. Pane 1 New Zealand's team, Pane 2 India's team, Pane 3 England's team.

San Marino: June 4, 2011. 100th Anniversary Brescia Calcio Soccer Club. €1, club emblem.

Serbia: June 12, 2010. Davis Cup Champions. 50d tennis players Novak Djokovic, Janko Tipsarevic, Viktor Troicki, Nenad Zimonjic. Sheets of eight and a label.

June 23, 2010. World Soccer Cup. 22d soccer players, map of Africa; 50d players, map. Offset in sheets of eight.

August 14, 2010. Singapore youth Olympics. 51d symbolic athletes, emblem. Sheets of eight.

Slovakia: May 27, 2011. World Rowing Championships. €0.92 rowers, Bled buildings.

Togo: November 15, 2010. Sports. The following items consists of sheets of four 750f stamps and one souvenir sheet of 3,000f: Champions of Lawn Tennis; Basketball stars; Motorsport; The Cycling Sport; Formula 1 Stars; Aviation Acrobatics; Boxing Legends; Asian Games; Athletic Championship Doha 2010; Horse Sports.

Trinidad & Tobago: April 5, 2011. 100th Birth Anniversary Eric Williams. One stamp, \$1.50 in set depicts sports: playing cricket with C.L.R. James and Learie Constantine at the Queens Park, Savannah.

Uganda: February 25, 2011. World Soccer Cup. Two panes of six se-tenant 400s stamps. Pane 1 shows photographs of African teams, Algeria; South Africa; Ghana; Nigeria; Ivory Coast; Cameroon. Pane 2 shows national team photographs Italy; Japan; Australia; Brazil; New Zealand; USA.

Union Island: February 17, 2011. World Soccer Cup. Seven panes of four se-tenant \$2.30 stamps each showing different matches between Spain and other teams. S/s \$6 stamp, Spanish team celebrates victory.

United Arab Emirates: August 19, 2010. Singapore Youth Olympics. Souvenir sheet with 4.75dh stamp, hand holding torch.

Uruguay: June 15, 2011. America's Soccer Cup. 37p soccer player, ball, map, flags of countries.

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 MAY-AUGUST 2011

Auto Racing: 11709-470,
11731-462, 11805-462,
11806-462, 11807-462.
Baseball: 11604-201, 11612-056,
11724-133.
Basketball: 11604-201.
Boxing: 116120130, 11723-147.
Fishing: 11503-795.
Golf: 11604-201.
Olympics: 11804-600.
Soccer: 11604-201.
Volleyball: 11604-201.
Sailing: 11804-600, 11824-911.

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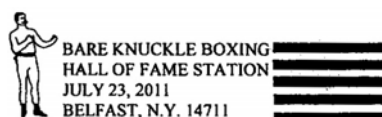
11612-056 Montpelier, VT 12



11612-130 Canastota, NY 12



11709-470 Sparta, KY 9



11723-147 Belfast, NY 23



11724-133 Cooperstown, NY 24



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11731-462 Indianapolis, IN 31



11804-600 Rosemont, IL 4-7



11805-462 Indianapolis, IN 5



11806-462 Indianapolis, IN 6



11807-462 Indianapolis, IN 7



11824-911 San Marino, CA 24

[Solution to the Rebus on page 17.](#)

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