

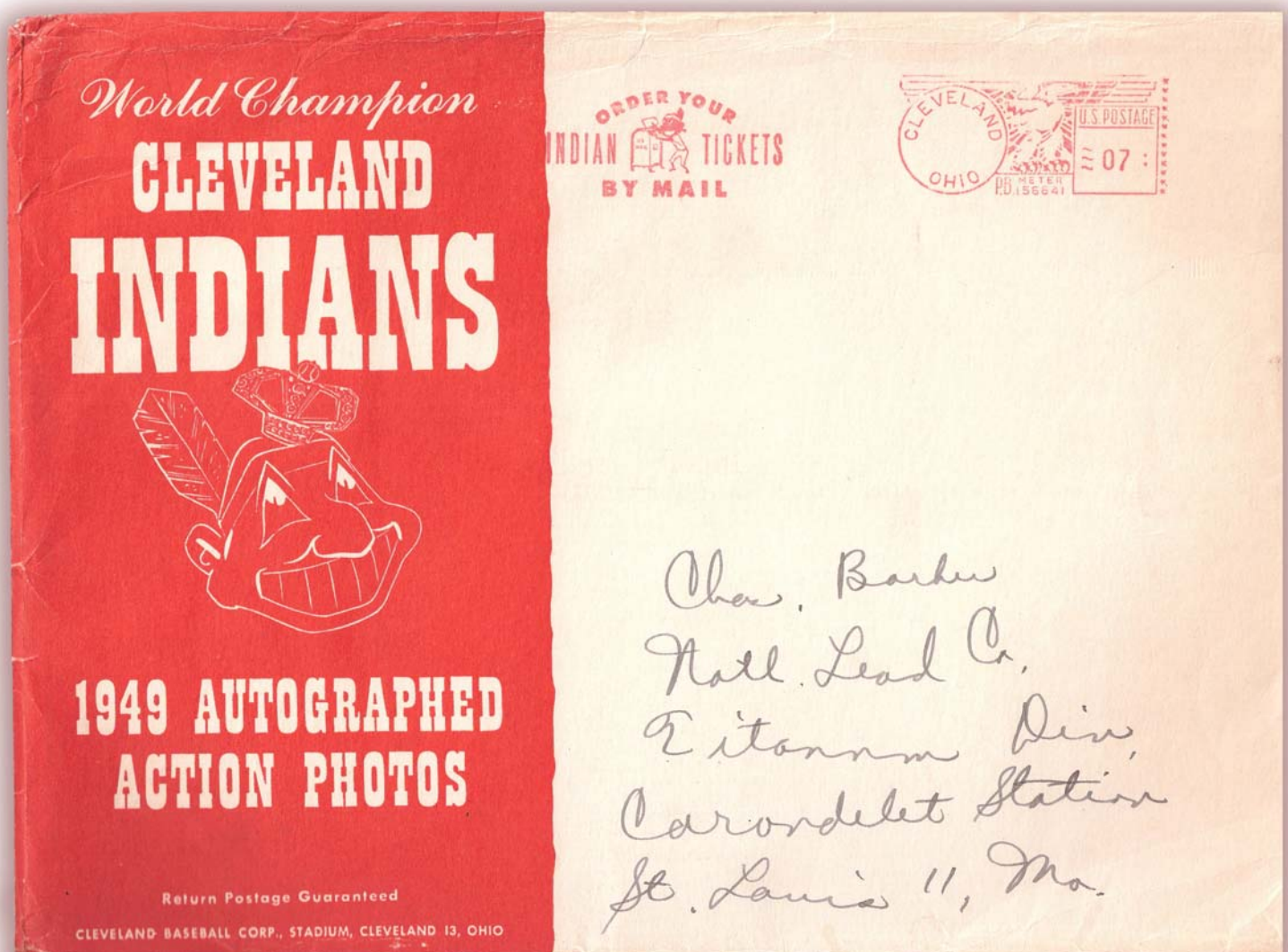
# JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

VOLUME 50

WINTER 2011

NUMBER 2

## Meters of the Cleveland Indians





SPORTS  
PHILATELISTS  
INTERNATIONAL

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## 2008 BEIJING OLYMPIC GAMES

3

## BASEBALL

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## 1944 POW OLYMPIC GAMES

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## SPORTS PHILATELISTS INTERNATIONAL

<b>President:</b>	Mark C. Maestron, 2824 Curie Place, San Diego, CA 92122
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Charles V. Covell, Jr., 207 NE 9th Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601
<b>Secretary-Treasurer:</b>	Andrew Urushima, 1510 Los Altos Dr., Burlingame, CA 94010
<b>Directors:</b>	Norman F. Jacobs, Jr., 2712 N. Decatur Rd., Decatur, GA 30033 John La Porta, P.O. Box 98, Orland Park, IL 60462 Dale Lilljedahl, 4044 Williamsburg Rd., Dallas, TX 75220 Patricia Ann Loehr, 2603 Wauwatosa Ave., Apt 2, Wauwatosa, WI 53213 Norman Rushefsky, 9215 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910 Robert J. Wilcock, 24 Hamilton Cres., Brentwood, Essex, CM14 5ES, England
<b>Auction Manager:</b>	Glenn Estus, PO Box 451, Westport, NY 12993
<b>Membership (Temporary):</b>	Mark C. Maestron, 2824 Curie Place, San Diego, CA 92122
<b>Sales Department:</b>	John La Porta, P.O. Box 98, Orland Park, IL 60462
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Mark C. Maestron, 2824 Curie Place, San Diego, CA 92122

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

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestroni

## ***Results: Articles of Distinction***

The people have spoken and the winner of the best article in Volume 49 of our journal was Laurentz Jonker's "Olympic Accommodations, 1928 Amsterdam Games." I'm sure this was a tough choice for those who voted (sadly, only 18 members took the time to send in their preference).

We have submitted Laurentz's article to the American Philatelic Society and in due course they will post a PDF of his article on their website. Not only is this great publicity for SPI, but it's a nice way to honor outstanding writing. I hope this spurs others of you to sit down at your keyboards and tap out an article for all our members to enjoy.

And my congratulations to the runners-up in the competition, Norman Jacobs ("The Singles Grand Slam, Measure of a Tennis Champion") and Peter Street ("Cricket Tales of Southeast Asia").

## ***Some Corrections***

In the last issue of *JSP* (Fall 2011), there are a couple of errors in different articles.

"The World Olympic Collectors Fair Comes to Chicago" included an interesting anecdote on page 8 about how Dick Fosbury's eponymous high-jump style "the Fosbury Flop" got its name. Rather than further muddle the real story, I'll let Dick's subsequent e-mail to me speak for itself:

*"I always remembered a photo in our local paper, the Medford Mail Tribune, showing me jumping, with the caption 'Fosbury flops over the bar'. With the alliteration and the conflicting meaning (flop), I couldn't forget it. So, when asked what my style was called, I explained that back home, they call it the 'Fosbury Flop'. The sports writers loved it."*

Gunter Pilz correctly pointed out what is a glaring error in the article "2018 Olympic Winter Games,"

namely that the South Tyrol region is part of Austria. He is entirely correct as South Tyrol is actually a province in northern Italy.

In fact, this 2022 Olympic Winter Games bid comprises three regions spanning two countries: Tyrol (Austria) – South Tyrol (Italy) – Trentino (Italy).

## ***SPI 50th Anniversary Party!***

Can you believe it? SPI will be celebrating its 50th birthday from September 28-30, 2012 at INDYPEX in Indianapolis, Indiana. The show, an APS World Series of Philately exhibition, is held at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel, just a stone's throw from the airport. We'd like to get everyone's input on how they'd like to celebrate this milestone. Any volunteers to give a philatelic presentation? We need exhibitors too! If you have any ideas or think you'll be able to attend, please shoot me an email ([markspi@prodigy.net](mailto:markspi@prodigy.net))



## ***Seeking a New Membership Chairman***

SPI is still searching for a new Membership Chairman to take over the duties of maintaining our roster, fielding occasional questions from members and non-members alike, and generally keeping contact with you.

This isn't a time-consuming job. The only technical qualification is that you have at least a nodding acquaintance with Excel spreadsheets which are how we maintain our roster. E-mail capability is also a requirement. Let your 2012 New Year's resolution be volunteering to serve your society in this vital post!

*As always at this time of year it is my pleasure to extend the best wishes of the officers and Board of Directors of SPI to you and your families for a wonderful holiday season and excellent New Year!*

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

Mark Maestroni: [markspi@prodigy.net](mailto:markspi@prodigy.net)  
Charles Covell: [covell@louisville.edu](mailto:covell@louisville.edu)  
Andrew Urushima: [aurushima@yahoo.com](mailto:aurushima@yahoo.com)  
Norman Jacobs: [nfjr@comcast.net](mailto:nfjr@comcast.net)  
John La Porta: [album@comcast.net](mailto:album@comcast.net)

Dale Lilljedahl: [dalij@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dalij@sbcglobal.net)  
Patricia Ann Loehr: *(none at this time)*  
Norman Rushefsky: [normanrush@yahoo.com](mailto:normanrush@yahoo.com)  
Robert Wilcock: [bob@towlard.freemove.co.uk](mailto:bob@towlard.freemove.co.uk)





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10-350402-13-0085-004 (style of referencing from late 2008). Postal stationery card with 2010 Lunar year indicia. Used copy. Sanming University, commemoration of an Olympic related event. New items are still appearing in 2011 as images of Olympic events and the Beijing torch relay are commemorated by the provinces and cities.

## CHINA POST - Advertising Postal Stationery for the XXIX Olympic Games, Beijing 2008

by Bob Farley

Early in 2007, I suddenly became aware that a significant number of postal stationery items were appearing in China bearing the corporate “Beijing 2008” logos of a number of the main sponsors, supporters and partners of the 2008 Olympic Games. The earliest copies seen related to a few corporations: China Mobile; CNC; Bank of China; State Grid; and PICC.

The existence of these items and their postal use is a long established tradition in China, and offers a challenging and interesting collecting opportunity.

China Post produces postal stationery in a variety of formats each year. The postal indicia (printed stamp) design is generally based on the appropriate lunar year (Table 1). These standard templates include security numbered panels that act as entries in a lottery.

Three standard templates are available to which corporations can add their own artwork and text:

1. **Postal stationery card** (single sheet card with address and message sections on the reverse).
2. **Postal stationery lettercard** (folded card with either printed advertising or message area on the reverse. The card is folded and sealed before mailing and is opened by removing a perforated or rouletted marginal strip).
3. **Postal stationery envelope**, approximately European C5 format.

These are used by corporations for their postal needs, and many are made available for public use at a cost close to the postal value (sometimes at a discount). The user gets cheap or free stationery, the corporation gains an effective advertising medium, and there is the potential opportunity to gain a lottery prize (often stamps in a unique small sheet format not available on general sale).



The provision / printing of postal stationery for advertising and promotional purposes provides an established income stream for China Post, and is identified in their published accounts.

By June 2007, I had prepared an illustrated list of 300 items, listing the items by corporation, year of issue and stationery type: postcard, lettercard or envelope.

Armed with my list, in the form of a booklet, I visited dealers at the Olympic Collectors Fair in Beijing and the nearby stamp market, seeking new designs. The results were disappointing, with very few "finds." There were however two unexpected results of using my booklet as a checklist. Firstly, the level of interest from dealers that I had an illustrated list was very surprising; on many occasions, an interpreter would be sought by the dealer to ask if

copies of the booklet were available. Secondly a small number of collector contacts were made that have resulted in ongoing correspondence.

Internet auction sites were initially the primary source for finding new items, but these have been replaced by correspondents, with the bonus that they also provide more information than a vendor.

I am indebted to correspondents for information provided regarding the reference numbering used in the production of these postal stationery items, and their advice for the correct structuring of the listing that continues to grow.

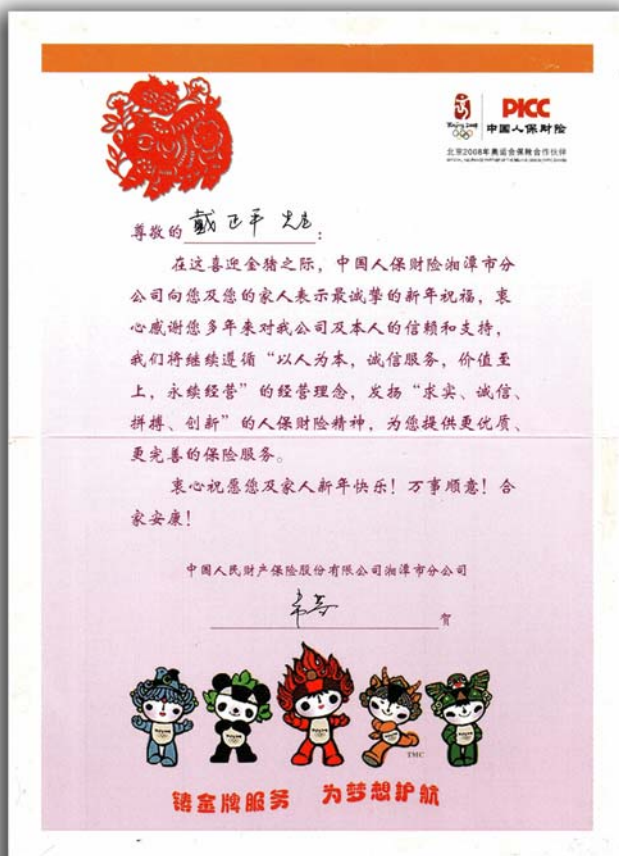
In June 2008, two volumes of a loose-leaf catalogue were produced for entry in the literature class of Olympex Beijing 2008, with distribution limited to pre-orders, contributors and promotional copies.



2008-0804(BK)-0145 Postal stationery card. Specimen copy. China Mobile. The "cancel" states that it has no postal value. The lower section of the cancel is occasionally completed in manuscript with the number of specimens and the unique number of this example (e.g. 40 - 8). The area for the lottery number is replaced with text confirming that it has no validity. Note that the card is marked with a potential cut line so that the lottery number can either be retained by the sender, or mailed to the recipient.



2007-1611(BK)-0080 Postal stationery lettercard. Used and sealed copy. PICC.



2007-1802(BK)-0220 Postal stationery lettercard. Used and "opened" copy. PICC. Note that the inside message area of the letter-card (left) is preprinted and of Olympic interest. On some lettercards the thematic interest is only on the message side, and is overlooked unless mint, unsealed copies are examined.



In the foreword to this initial printing I wrote: “At the time of initial printing, over 2,100 items are known, with ‘discoveries’ of over 500 ‘new’ items in a two-week period. It is very noticeable that a far higher number of items are known from provinces where a correspondent is based, which suggests that many more items await discovery and adding to this list.” And closed with the statement: “This June 2008 edition must be treated as a work in progress, no more than 50% complete.”

By July 2011, the number of items re-corded had reached 5,000 (although the rate of new finds dramatically decreased).

A unique reference number generally appears on these postal stationery items between 2004 and 2008 (a new referencing system was adopted by China Post for the latter months of 2008).

Typical reference code format for a series of only one design:

format: 2007-xxyy-(BK)-zzzz

example: 2007-0601-(BK)-0028

2007 = year

Digits 1 & 2 (xx) represent the Province code.

Digits 3 & 4 (yy) represent the City code.

Digits (zzzz) represent the series number (in the case of single item series this is also the design number).

Typical reference code format for series including more than one design:

format: 2008-xxyy-(BK)-zzzz(t-a)

example: 2008-1501-(BK)-0312(6-3)

2008 = year

Digits 1 & 2 (xx) represent the Province code.

Digits 3 & 4 (yy) represent the City code.

Digits (zzzz) represent the series.

Digits (t-a) represent the number of items in the series and the unique number of the design within the series. Therefore in the example given, the series contains six designs, and this item is number three of the series.

These China Post postal stationery items provide numerous opportunities to enhance a thematic collection or exhibit. Records of the items printed within each province do not seem to exist, so the chance of new “finds” is very high, adding a certain thrill to the hunt. The experience gained from

**Table 1. Postal indicia designs based on the Chinese Lunar Year.**

Postcard	Lettercard	Envelope (C5)
2005 		
2006 		
2007 		
2008 		

**Table 2. Numbers assigned to individual Provinces by China Post and used in reference codes of postal stationery.**

Code	English name	Chinese name	
	Province / City	Trad	Simp
01	Beijing	北京	北京
02	Tianjin (or Tientsin)	天津	天津
03	Hebei	河北	河北
04	Shanxi	山西	山西
05	Neimenggu (or Inner Mongolia)	蒙古	蒙古
06	Liaoning	遼寧	辽宁
07	Jilin	吉林	吉林
08	Heilongjiang (or Heilungkang)	黑龍江	黑龙江
09	Shanghai	上海	上海
10	Jiangsu (or Kiangsu)	江蘇	江苏
11	Zhejiang (or Chekiang)	浙江	浙江
12	Anhui	安徽	安徽
13	Fujian	福建	福建
14	Jiangxi	江西	江西

Code	English name	Chinese name	
	Province / City	Trad	Simp
15	Shandong	山東	山东
16	Henan	河南	河南
17	Hubei (or Hebei)	湖北	湖北
18	Hunan	湖南	湖南
19	Guangdong	廣東	广东
20	Hainan	海南	海南
21	Guangxi	廣西	广西
22	Sichuan	四川	四川
23	Chongqing	重慶	重庆
24	Guizhou	貴州	贵州
25	Yunnan	雲南	云南
26	Tibet	西藏	西藏
27	Shaanxi	陝西	陕西
28	Gansu	甘肅	甘肃
29	Qinghai	青海	青海
30	Ningxia	寧夏	宁夏
31	Xinjiang	新疆	新疆
32	Taiwan	台灣	台湾



nearly five years of viewing items leads me to conclude that material appropriate to almost any theme can be found.

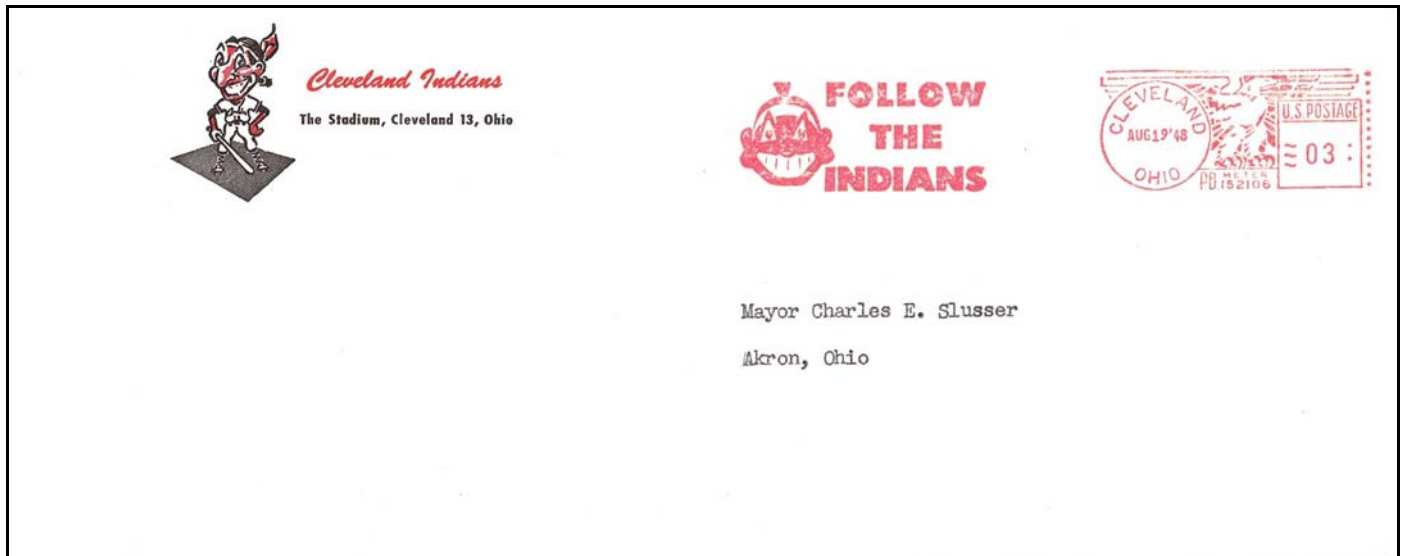
One final word of caution: many items are now offered on-line as “postal stationery.” If these are in traditional post card format (rather than the panoramic format), they are very likely to be personal productions. Blank fronted postal stationery cards are available from China Post. The face design can either be printed “at home” or in many Post Offices as a paid service. These items will not have a valid reference number on the face. The postal indicia is usually a landscape design “water lilies.” The back and front are printed as two distinct operations which does not meet many of the accepted definitions of postal stationery.



*Example of type of postal card with “water lilies” indicium frequently used for personalized post cards created by individuals.*



*2007-1408(BK)-0272 Postal stationery envelope. Mint. Bank of China.*



**Figure 1.** An early Cleveland Indians meter from 1948 depicting the team mascot, Chief Wahoo.

## Meters of the Cleveland Indians

by Norman Rushefsky

Perhaps the most attractive baseball team meter covers are those of the Cleveland Indians. The Cleveland, Ohio team can trace its establishment as a Major League franchise back to 1901.

The team's name, the Indians, was selected by the media in 1914 after a request for suggestions from the club's owner.

This new name was said to have been inspired by the Boston Braves, then known as the "Miracle Braves," after going from last place on July 4 to sweep the 1914 World Series.

The Cleveland Indians are nicknamed "the Tribe" and "the Wahoos." The latter is a reference to their mascot, Chief Wahoo, who appears in the team's logos.

In 1946 Bill Veeck formed an investment group that purchased the Cleveland Indians. Among the investors were Bob Hope, who had grown up in Cleveland, and former Detroit Tigers slugger, Hank Greenberg.

Making the most of the cavernous Cleveland Municipal Stadium, Veeck had a portable center field fence installed in 1947 which he could move in or out depending on how the distance favored the Indians against their opponents in a given series. The fence moved as much as 15 feet between series opponents.

Following the 1947 season, the American League countered with a rule change that fixed the distance of an outfield wall for the duration of a season. The massive stadium did, however, permit the Indians to set the then record for the largest crowd to see a Major League Baseball game. On October 10, 1948, Game 5 of the World Series against the Boston Braves drew over 84,000.

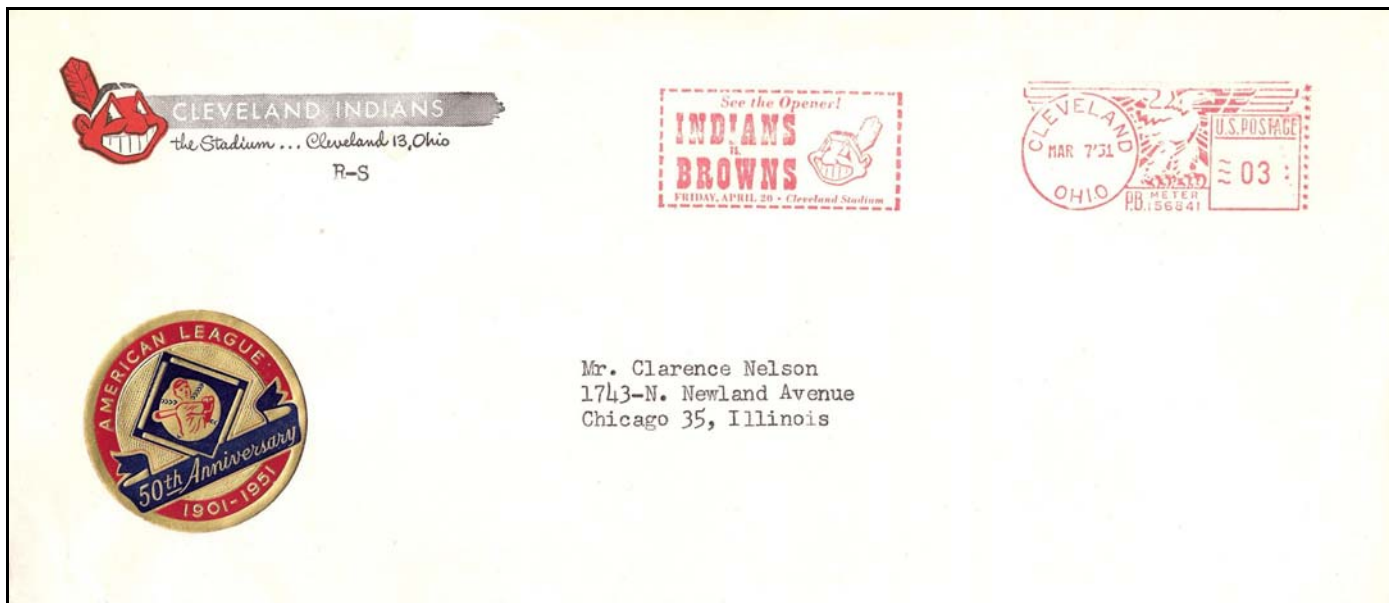
One of Cleveland's most significant achievements under Veeck's leadership was breaking the color barrier in the American League. They signed Larry Doby, formerly a player for the Negro League's Newark Eagles, eleven weeks after Jackie Robinson signed with the Dodgers in 1947.

Like Robinson, Doby battled racism on and off the field and posted a .301 batting average in 1948, his first full season. A power-hitting center fielder, Doby led the American League twice in homers.

Needing pitching for the stretch run of the 1948 pennant race, Veeck once more turned to the Negro League and, amid much controversy, signed pitching great Satchel Paige. Many viewed this as little more than a publicity stunt. Officially 42 years of age, Paige became the oldest rookie in Major League Baseball history, and the first black pitcher.

Paige proved he could still pitch, ending the year with a 6 - 1 record, 2.48 ERA and two shutouts.

Figure 1 is a 1948 meter incorporating the slogan "FOLLOW / THE / INDIANS" with a rather grotesque representation of Chief Wahoo. The meter is from



**Figure 2. 1951 meter promoting the Indians' season opener against the Browns.**



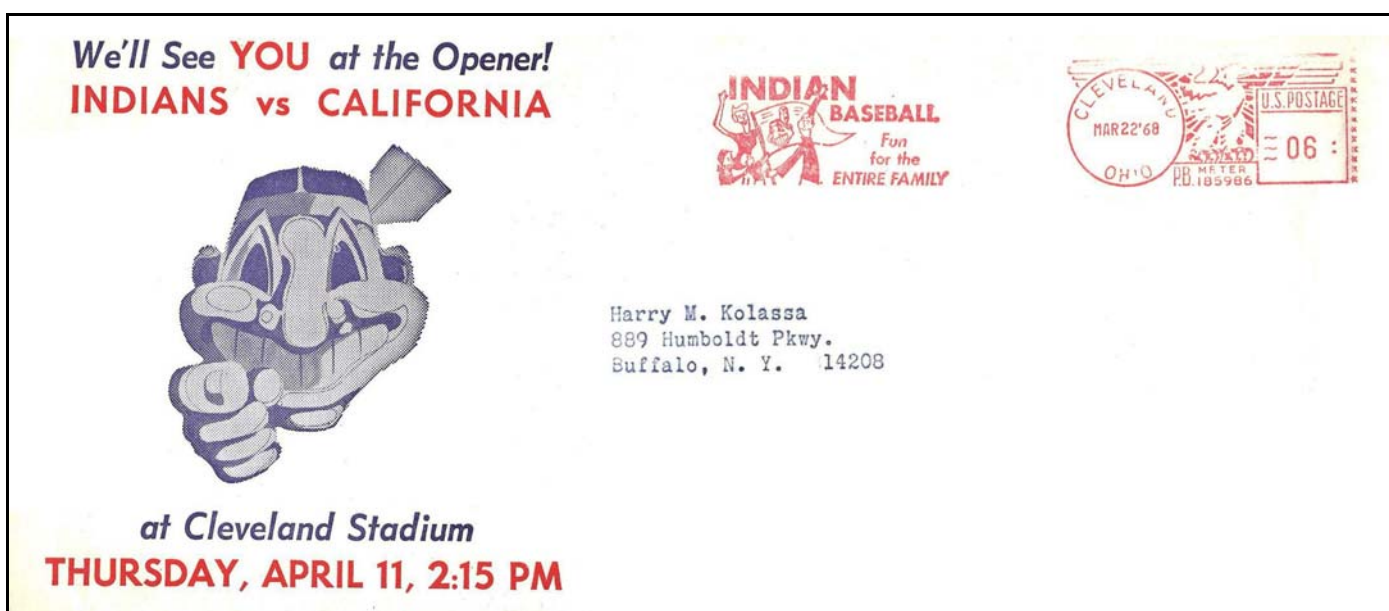
**Figure 3. Chief Wahoo ordering his Indians tickets by mail on a 1954 meter.**

a Pitney Bowes (PB) machine with the number 152106. The slogan is also known used in 1950 from PB #156841. All Cleveland meters known to me are red in color.

The meter slogan in Figure 2 (PB #156841) was used to promote the 1951 season opener of the Indians against the St. Louis Browns. A sticker attached to the cover notes the 50th anniversary of the American League.

The best season in franchise history came in 1954, when the Indians finished the season with a record of 111-43 (.721). That mark set an American League record for wins which stood for 44 years until the New York Yankees won 114 games in 1998.

The Indians' 1954 winning percentage of .721 is still an American League record.



**Figure 4. Indians' cover with cachet advertising the April 11, 1968 home opener. Their meter promotes baseball as "fun for the entire family."**





**Figure 5. A meter slogan promoting the home opener of April 11, 1969 (PB #185986). The same meter slogan was used for the April 11, 1972 home opener.**

The Figure 3 (PB #156841) meter, dating back to 1954, shows Chief Wahoo depositing a letter in a U.S. mailbox presumably, as the text indicates, to order tickets by mail.

The Indians returned to the World Series in 1954 but could not bring home the title, ultimately being upset by the New York Giants in a sweep.

The series was notable for Willie Mays' famous over-the-shoulder catch off the bat of Vic Wertz in Game 1.

Famous Cleveland players from that year included Larry Doby, Al Rosen, Jim Hegan, Bobby Avila, and pitchers Bob Feller, Mike Garcia, Bob Lemon and Early Wynn.

Trying to build their fan base, the Indians used a meter in 1968 to encourage families to attend (Figure 4).

The 1969 baseball season (Figure 5) is noteworthy in that this was the first year that the American League was divided into divisions. The Indians played in the American League East Division, finishing last in 1969 and next to last place in 1972.

The 1974 season achieved undesired notoriety when the June 4 game between the Indians and Texas Rangers, which featured 10-cent beer in an attempt to boost lagging attendance, ended in a brawl between inebriated fans and players from both teams. The umpires declared that the Indians had forfeited the game to the Texas Rangers.

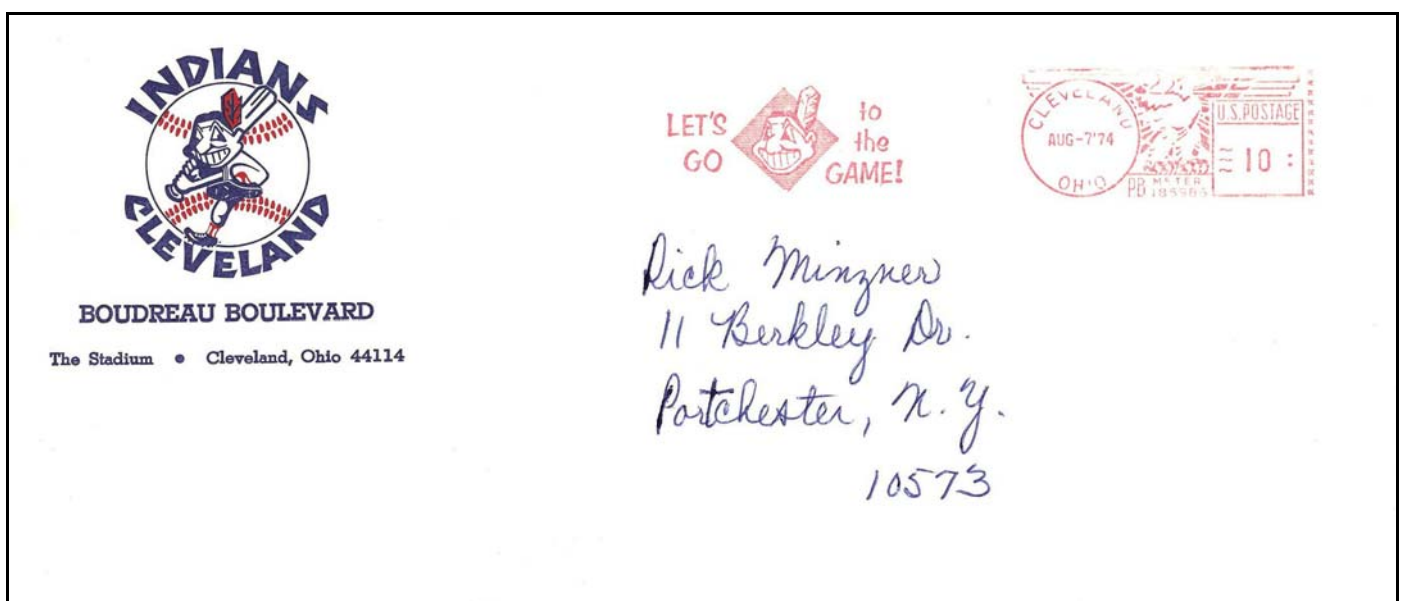
The cover in Figure 6 (PB #185986) is franked with a meter from 1974 showing Chief Wahoo with the caption "LET'S / GO / to / the / GAME!"

The Indians have won two World Series championships (1920 and 1948). The current drought of 62 years since their last Championship is now the longest in the American League, and second only to that of the Chicago Cubs in all of Major League Baseball.

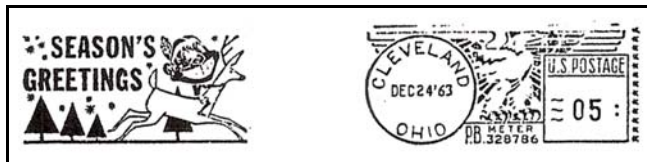
Through the years, the Indians have used a variety of interesting – and amusing – meters. The selection shown here are from both my own collection and from a monograph published by the Federazione Italiana Baseball Softball (FIBS). 🍌



**Meter used in 1958 and 1963 (PB #328786): Chief Wahoo and the words "Play / Safe / Drive / Safe / Follow the INDIANS".**



**Figure 6. The Indians 1974 season is long remembered for the on-field brawl between beer-soaked fans and ball players resulting in the Indians' forfeit of the game to their opponent, the Texas Rangers. The front office tried to increase attendance with its "Let's Go to the Game" meter slogan.**



The meter slogan (PB #328786) features Chief Wahoo riding a reindeer and was used in 1963 during the Christmas season.



Used in 1977, this meter slogan (PB #185986) features Chief Wahoo in a batting stance with the caption reading "FOLLOW / the / INDIANS". The slogan also appeared in 1964 (PB #328786).



The "GALA / OPENER / APRIL 15" meter slogan (PB #169465) refers to the Indians' 1966 home opener against the Boston Red Sox. The source of the slogan's use is uncertain.



The meter slogan "TO NIGHT GAMES / RIDE / BASEBALL / SPECIALS" (PB #120566) was probably used by a Cleveland transit system to encourage fans to ride the bus. As this was used on "bulk rate" mail, the date dial is "mute" (i.e. no date).



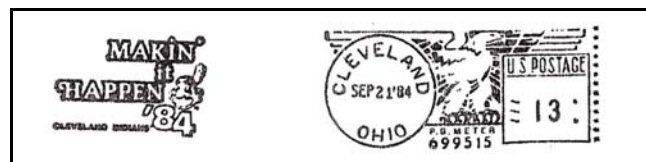
A 1971 Sears Roebuck department store meter (PB #337994) featuring Chief Wahoo with the caption "Buy INDIAN BASEBALL TICKETS / from SEARS".



"CATCH / INDIAN / FEVER" on a 1980 meter (PB #185986).



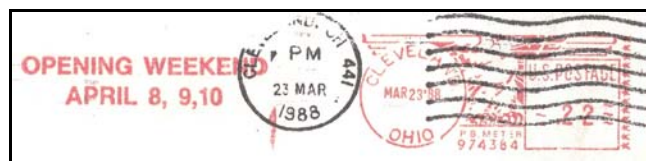
1972 meter (PB #185986) showing Chief Wahoo depositing letter in mailbox. Also used in 1949 (PB #156841) and 1962 (PB #328786).



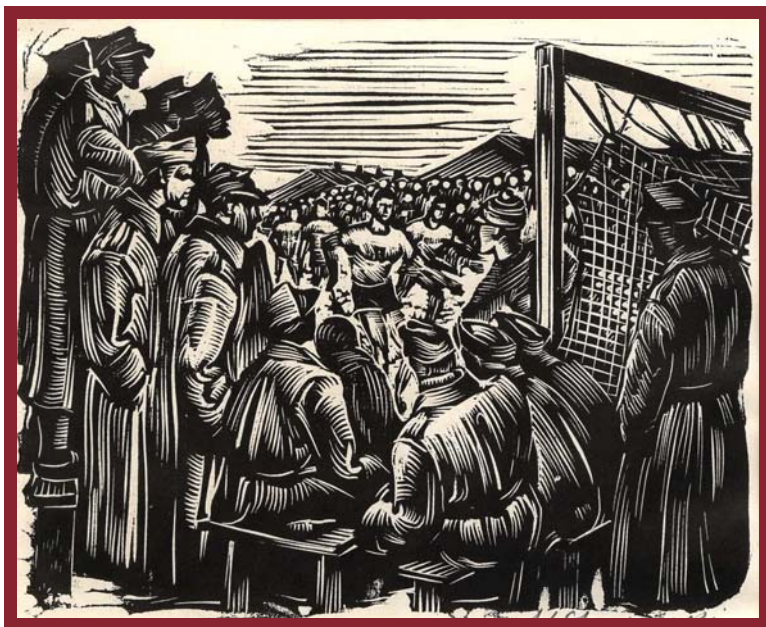
1984 (PB #699515) meter slogan shows Chief Wahoo with the caption "MAKIN' / it / HAPPEN / '84 / CLEVELAND INDIANS". Source of the meter is uncertain. It may have been used by an organization promoting the Indians, rather than the team itself.



Meter (PB #185986) with the caption "GROUPS / HAVE / MORE FUN / CALL 687-0050" used in 1977.



1988 (PB #974384) meter slogan promotes the Indians' "OPENING WEEKEND / APRIL 8, 9, 10".



## Program of the 1944 Olympics at Oflag IID, Gross Born (Part Two)

Figure 1. POW Camp graphic by Lt. Stefan Zukowski depicting a soccer match at Oflag IIC.

by Roman Sobus

In the Fall 2011 issue of the *Journal of Sports Philately* (as well as issue #544 of the *Polonus Bulletin*), we presented a most interesting document made available by Polonus member Mr. Andrzej Szymanski of Brampton Ontario, Canada. The document was a three-page letter of typed text detailing the schedule of events for the 1944 Camp Olympic Games and mailed within the Oflag IID POW Camp.

The schedule included a glimpse of the opening ceremonies, with all the speeches, the procession of athletes, musical performances, lighting of the Olympic flame and raising of the flag on that July day. Though meager in a material sense, the Olympic spirit was as strong on that day as it was at every Olympic Game before and since.

The subject of this article is the second and third pages of the letter, which details a preliminary schedule for the Olympic Games themselves. To the author's knowledge, this document is a second or third generation carbon paper copy which may be the only surviving example of a program for the Gross Born Olympic Games.

The 1944 Olympic Games were held at two German prisoner of war camps, both housing Polish officers. At Woldenberg, Oflag IIC, the Games were held from 23 July to 13 August. At Gross Born, Oflag IID, the Games were conducted from 30 July to 15 August. Both competitions featured similar events,

given the limited availability of resources, and were designed to give officers of a wide range of ages an opportunity to participate. Volleyball, soccer (Figure 1), tennis, and a number of track and field events were supplemented with chess tournaments, various educational exhibits and entertainment consisting of presentations of song, dance and theater.

The three-page letter that is the subject of this article was mailed six days before the Games were scheduled to begin, and one day after they had already begun at Woldenberg. We can speculate that planning for this event began somewhat earlier at Oflag IIC in Woldenberg, given that a formal program was prepared and sold to spectators at that camp. It consisted of a tri-fold booklet, printed in five colors using five wood blocks. While the schedule was not etched in stone, it was carved in wood limiting major changes in the arrangement of events (Figure 2).

There might be several possible reasons for the last minute preparations for the Games at Gross Born. The first is that while commemorating the 1944 Olympic year by the Camp postal authority, who may have planned an emission of postage stamps and cards in advance, the idea of actually holding an Olympic-style competition was somewhat of an afterthought. Upon receiving news of the events being planned at Woldenberg, preparations began at an accelerated pace.

A second possible scenario is that permission had not been received from the German camp



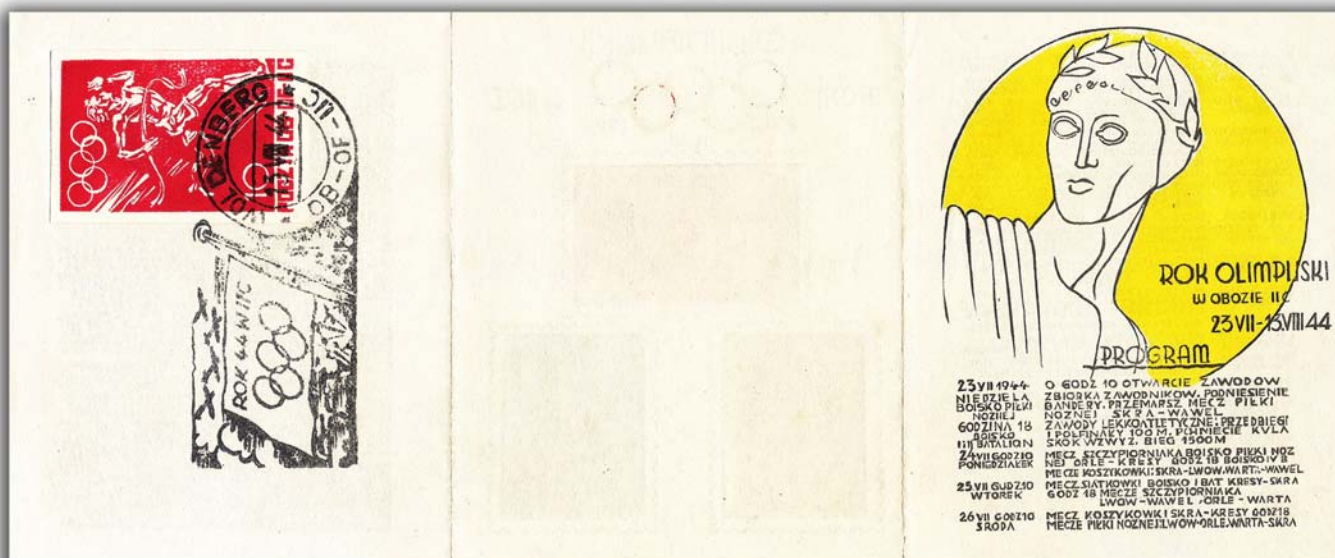


Figure 2. Oflag IIC Olympics Program sold during the Games at Woldenberg.  
The Olympic stamp is postmarked on the final day of the Games, 13 August 1944.  
The outside of the tri-fold booklet is shown above; the inside is at bottom.

authorities to hold such a large scale event. Undoubtedly, there were reservations in permitting the organization of so many POW's in a united cause. Perhaps news that a similar event was granted permission at another nearby camp softened the attitude of the camp command into relaxing restrictions.

The copy of the Oflag IID, Gross Born program made available to us was mailed a mere six days prior to the scheduled opening date of the Games and reflects a hasty effort at planning. It has numerous blank spaces, handwritten notations and

corrections, indicating this was still a work-in-progress. There are lines that have been crossed out, new ones penciled in, and others are still blank.

Quality of the original also hinders complete deciphering of the document. Used carbon paper impressions of old typewriter type bars on tissue paper did not leave sharp, clear text. The handwritten notes in many cases are illegible. We can only surmise what the author wished to note. Age has also taken its toll, fading the black and yellowing the paper. Translations of the second and third pages of the letter are shown on the following two pages.



**Camp Olympics Program**

30.7.44	9.00-10.00 18.00-20.00	Field Holy Mass – in chapel Opening Ceremonies (Reviewing Stand) a/ assembly, review and procession of participants b/ lighting of the flame by the relay runner c/ announcement of the opening of the Olympic Games d/ administering of the pledge by 2nd Lieutenant Weiss e/ performance by the orchestra and choir of their themed works f/ gymnastics performance g/ performance by the choir of themed hymns
31.7.44	9.00-10.00 10.00-12.00 16.00-17.00 17.00-18.00 18.00-20.00	Track and field, 100 m run ow. final, shot put semi final. Field volleyball championships. Volleyball 6's Track and field: 100 meter run, semi final. Shot put final. Tennis [crossed out] volleyball 3's.
1.8.1944	10.00-12.00 14.00-16.00 16.00-17.00 17.00-18.00 18.30-20.00	Field volleyball championships Opening of Architectural Exhibition (Café) Chess Triples volleyball Track and field: 100m run finals, 3000m run. Soccer match
2.8.44	9.00-10.00 10.00-12.00 15.00-16.30 17.00-18.00 18.00-20.00	Track and field: long jump semifinals Field volleyball finals. Concert [illegible] Track and field: long jump finals Tennis [illegible]
3.8.44	9.00-10.00 10.00-12.00 14.00-16.00 15.00-18.00 18.30-20.00	Volleyball (threesome) [illegible] Field volleyball finals [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [crossed out] 17-18 Volleyball 3's Soccer match
4.8.44	9.00-10.00 10.00-12.00 14.00-16.00 15.00-17.00 17.00-18.00 18.00-20.00	Track and field – run – one circuit – ow. final Field volleyball championships [illegible] Karacmowczy contest (Café), 16-17 [illegible] Track and field – Single circuit run, semi-finals, 800m run. Tennis and volleyball 3's
5.8.44	9.00-10.00 10.00-12.00 15.00-16.30 17.00-18.00 18.00-21.00	Volleyball (threesome) Field volleyball championships Concert Track and field- finals single circuit run, discus throw semi-finals Cabaret in café
6.8.44	10.00-11.00 11.00-18.00 18.00-21.00	Opening of art exhibit (chapel) Festivities – Sport Club "Pogon" Cabaret in café

*Translations of the second and third pages of the Gross Born Camp Olympics Program.*

7.8.44	9.00-10.00 10.00-12.00 15.00-17.00 17.00-18.00 18.00-21.00	Track and field high jump semifinals Chess exhibition (hall) Tennis Track and field – 4x 100 relay, 5000m run Recital, ballet, national dances in the Variety Theater
8.8.44	9.00-10.00 10.00-12.00 15.00-16.00 16.00-18.00 18.00-21.00	[left blank] Chess quiz (crossed out), Report on “Building Development” Discussion at the Architectural Exhibit Tennis Recital, ballet, national dances in the Variety Theatre.
9.8.44	9.00-10.00 10.00-12.00 15.00-16.30 17.00-18.00 18.00-21.00	Threesome volleyball Chess tournament Concert (crossed out) Track and field, high jump finals. (crossed out) Recital, ballet, national dances in the Variety Theatre
10.8.44	9.00-10.00 10.00-12.00 15.00-17.00 17.00-18.00 18.00-20.00	[left blank] Chess Tournament Announcement of results of the literary competition – Café Track and field – one course around the track Soccer match
11.8.44	9.00-10.00 10.00-12.00 16.00-16.30 17.30-18.30 18.30-20.00	Volleyball threesome (11.30-18.30) [left blank] Concert Naval signaling (exhibition) 16.30-17.20-18.20 Soccer match
12.8.44	9.00-10.00 10.00-12.00 15.00-16.30 17.00-18.00 18.00-20.00	Basketball (exhibition) [illegible] Boxing exhibition Track and field: volleyball semifinals [abr], discus throw finals, Olympic relays. Cabaret in gathering hall - [illegible]
13.8.44	10.00-12.00 15.00-16.30 17.00-18.00 18.00-21.00	[illegible] Concert Track and field [illegible]: long jump, discus throw, 200m. run Café Cabaret
14.8.44	9.00-12.00 15.00-16.00 16.00-18.00 18.00-21.00	Finals - field volleyball championships Organizational rally by rifle brigade. Track and field: Five circuit run, 1500 m run, shot put, [illegible] Lt. Bankowski, Relays. Theatrical presentation “Defense of Ksantypa” repeated 16 and 17.8
15.8.44	9.00-10.00 10.00-11.00 15.00-18.00 19.00-21.00	Holy mass (field) [illegible] (exhibition) Display organized by rifle brigades Closing ceremonies of the Olympic Games a/ procession of athletes b/ announcement of awards c/ closing statements by second Lieut. Weiss d/ music and choir productions e/ announcement of the completion of the Olympic Games, extinguishing of the flame, and lowering of the flag.



The Games themselves must have been quite the event in a place where loneliness, hunger and despair were the norm. It was a brief diversion from the day to day monotony, not only for the prisoners, but their captors as well, who observed the activities with admiration. Figure 3 includes a photograph of a tennis match taken during the Games. Since, for obvious reasons, photographic equipment was forbidden for the prisoners to possess, the photograph was most likely taken by one of the camp guards and given to one of the prisoners. It was then mailed within the camp on 14 August during the Games to Kapitan Pierzyński.

The event at Gross Born and its counterpart at Woldenberg represent one of the most interesting highlights in the history of the Olympics, yet few individuals are even aware of the events that occurred during those days in July and August of 1944.

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Figure 3. Photo of a tennis match at Oflag IID used as a post card mailed to Kapitan Pierzyński during the Games on 14 August.



Illustrations courtesy of the author (Figure 1), Andrzej Szymanski (Figure 2), and Rick Woldenberg (Figure 3).

*SPI would like to thank the author and the Polonus Philatelic Society for making this article possible. For more information on the Polonus Philatelic Society, please visit their website at: [www.polonus.org](http://www.polonus.org) or e-mail your request to [info@polonus.org](mailto:info@polonus.org).*

# Registered Mail of the 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games: An Update

by Laurentz Jonker

Since publication of my monograph in the spring of 2006, I have encountered over three dozen more registered mail items from the 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games. Following is the original table emended to include the new registration label numbers in **red**. N1, N2, and N3 refer to the numbers of the special pentagonal Olympic handcancels used at the temporary Stadion post office during the Olympic Games.

Table 2: Distribution of Registration Labels By Pentagonal Handcancel				
Date	Total	Known R-Mail Numbers		
First Period		N1	N2	N3
17 May	17		2, 5, <b>7</b> , 8, <b>11</b> , <b>16</b>	
18 May	7		21, 22	106
19 May	11	25	31	
20 May	4			
21 May	post-office closed			
22 May	6		44	
23 May	4			
24 May	16		54, 57, <b>59</b> , <b>60</b>	
25 May	post-office closed			
26 May	25	<b>65</b> , 70	71, 79, 81	
27 May	26	84	94, 96	
28 May	25		132, 133	
29 May	24		138	60
30 May	33	169, 184	173	
31 May	post-office closed			
1 June	17	194, 195	<b>187</b>	
2 June	19	210, 212, 213		274
3 June	14			

4 June	29	240, 245, 246, 250		
5 June	post-office closed			
6 June	47	<b>269</b> , 291, <b>305</b>	304	
7 June	29		388	36, 43
8 June	post-office closed			
9 June	39	355	<b>344</b> , 351, 357, 365	156
10 June	22	403, 405		
11 June	post-office closed			206
12 June	post-office closed			
13 June	59	409, 418, 419, 431, 441, 450, 470, <b>471</b>	472	331
14 June				382
23 June				301
28 June				68
2 July				187
9 July				16
Second Period		N1	N2	N3
28 July	157	24, 29, 41, 46, 47, 49, 90, 105, 117, 119, 123, 124, 126	478, 479, 486, 492, 493, 497 (handwritten & handstamped text); 1, 57, 59, 60, 61, <b>71</b> , 72, <b>81</b> , <b>82</b> , 89 (handstamped text)	
29 July	8	130		
30 July	61	159, 259, 262	<b>143</b> , <b>152</b>	
31 July	33	191	200	

1 Aug.	95	216, 217, 255, 283	<b>238</b> , 278, 289, 302, <b>313, 318</b> , 315, 321, <b>325</b> , 346	
2 Aug.	71	<b>261</b> , 262, 270, 263, 288, 289, <b>360</b>	303	
3 Aug.	58	57, 330, 332, 334, 338	331	
4 Aug.	63	392, 396, <b>397</b>	71, 75, 361	
5 Aug.	50	55, 408, 410, 421, <b>443</b> , 448, 451, <b>453</b>	417, 419, 425	
6 Aug.	74	402, 413, 466, 475, 476		19
7 Aug.	58	<b>437</b> , 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453	4, 438, 439, 443, 465, 466, 478, 487, 490, 492, 495	
8 Aug.	46	16, 17, <b>24</b> , 26, 30, 69, 175	487	
9 Aug.	98	41, 42, 48, 55, <b>63, 69</b> , 70, 71, <b>90</b> , 95, 102, 106, 492	74, <b>75</b> , 86	
10 Aug.	90	27, 29, 39, 41, 134, <b>144</b> , 160, 165, 178, 319 (hand)	15, 16, 126, 151, 166, 167, 171, 173	
11 Aug.	133	44, 45, <b>48, 49</b> , <b>54, 56</b> , 57, 58, 95, 189, 210, <b>216</b> , <b>228</b> , 250, 262	73, 75, 76, 77, 84, 181, 183, 186, 187, 229, 231, 234, 237, 240, 242, 248, 249, 258, 275, 278	17, 70
12 Aug.	83	290, 294, 299, <b>303</b> , <b>307</b> , 310, 355	12, 117, 345, 385	

### "Amsterdam C.S. Asd. C.S." Registration Labels

In my original monograph (pages 16-17), I discussed this registration label which was handstamped in black and used on 500 Olympic marathon poster cards mailed to Switzerland.

I initially believed that the business, which was mailing the cards as a souvenir to its clients in Switzerland, was affixing the registration labels to cards that had already been postmarked with the Olympic pentagonal handstamp by the post office. I surmised that the registration labels had been provided to the bank by the Amsterdam Centraal Station (C.S.) Post Office.



New information causes me to change my mind about how these registered cards were processed.

The cover shown above is from the beautiful old Victoria Hotel on the corner of Damrak and Prins Hendrikkade opposite the Centraal Station and Centraal Station Post Office. Clearly, the cover was registered and mailed at that post office. What is very interesting, however, is that the number of the registration label – 50165 – falls into one of the three groups of labels applied to the 500 cards mailed to Switzerland. It certainly is unlikely that the business processed this cover!

I suspect what happened is that the 500 poster cards arrived at the Stadion post office after the conclusion of the Games. The post office director, Mr. Dufrenne, decided to process the request anyway, applying the pentagonal Olympic postmark dated the final day of the Games (12.VIII.1928). Presumably he was no longer in possession of registration labels and therefore sent the entire lot over to the Amsterdam Centraal Station (C.S.) Post Office where the labels were affixed – typically over the Olympic postmarks – and then sent on their way. An arrival cancel on the reverse of the above cover reads "Ennenda, 7.V.28".







Figure 1. P-Stamps depicting the monument at Hellendorf, Germany commemorating the 1936 Olympic Torch Relay.

by Thomas Lippert

The Olympic Torch Relay has become an established tradition of the modern Olympics. It contributes to the festive atmosphere during the lead-up to the Games while generating worldwide attention as it touches many people on its journey from Ancient Olympia to the host country.

The Olympic flame has been a celebrated symbol since the early days of the Games. Usually Amsterdam is cited as the first Olympics to be conducted “under the flame.” However, during the 2010 International Collectors Fair in Cologne, Ansgar Molzberger presented his work on the 1912 Olympics. Using research documents and images in the archives of the Swedish organizing committee, he discovered that an Olympic flame was alight in the Stockholm stadium as well.

It was the idea of Carl Diem, then Secretary General of the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games organizing committee, to organize a torch relay from Olympia to Berlin. The plan was approved by the IOC Session in Athens in 1934.

The German Olympic and sports philatelic organization (IMOS) wished to honor the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Olympic Torch Relay with an event marking the crossing of the Olympic flame from Czechoslovakia into Germany on 31 July 1936. How better to celebrate this jubilee than with a joint meeting with its Czech sister society OLYMPSPORT?

A few philatelic items were created for the meeting. IMOS sponsored a commemorative postmark depicting a torch relay runner carrying the

## Celebrating 75 Years of the Olympic Torch Relay

1936 Olympic torch. The postmark (Figure 2) is dated 30 July 2011 from Hellendorf, Germany.

Three different P-stamps were produced. The POST MODERN stamp shown in Figures 1 and 2 was created by Thomas Lippert. A total of 25 sheets of ten stamps were printed.

Another IMOS member, Eberhard Büttner, created a similar P-stamp showing the monument, this time printed by Biber Post. The stamp is shown on the cover in Figure 3. The cachet reproduces the inscription on the front of the monument which, roughly translated, reads: “At this point, athletes from the CSR [Czechoslovak Socialist Republic] gave the 1936 Olympic torch on its way from Athens to Berlin to German athletes.”

The third P-stamp, shown in Figure 4, was commissioned by IMOS manager, Diethard Hensel, and printed by Deutsche Post. The stamp depicts the torch holder used in the 1936 torch relay.

A STAMPIT franking, similar to the British *Smart Stamp*, was also used by IMOS on 30 July 2011 (Figure 5). The pictorial portion of the franking incorporates the artwork from the postmark along with additional information.

OLYMPSPORT was responsible for a privately-printed postal stationery card and special publicity meter (Figure 6). The latter reproduces the 1936 Olympic torch holder along with a map of the relay’s route through what was then Czechoslovakia.

Considering the short preparation time from early May, the results were quite good. A small 60-page booklet was printed outlining the first Olympic relay using both philatelic material and contemporary newspaper reports.



Figure 2. Commemorative postmark honoring the 75th anniversary of the 1936 Olympic Torch Relay. The €0.50 P-stamp depicts the memorial near the German-Czech border where the relay crossed into Germany on 31 July 1936.



Figure 3 (left). Biber Post P-stamp reproducing the torch relay memorial.

Figure 4 (below). Deutsche Post P-stamp showing the Olympic torch base used during the 1936 Torch Relay from Athens to Berlin.

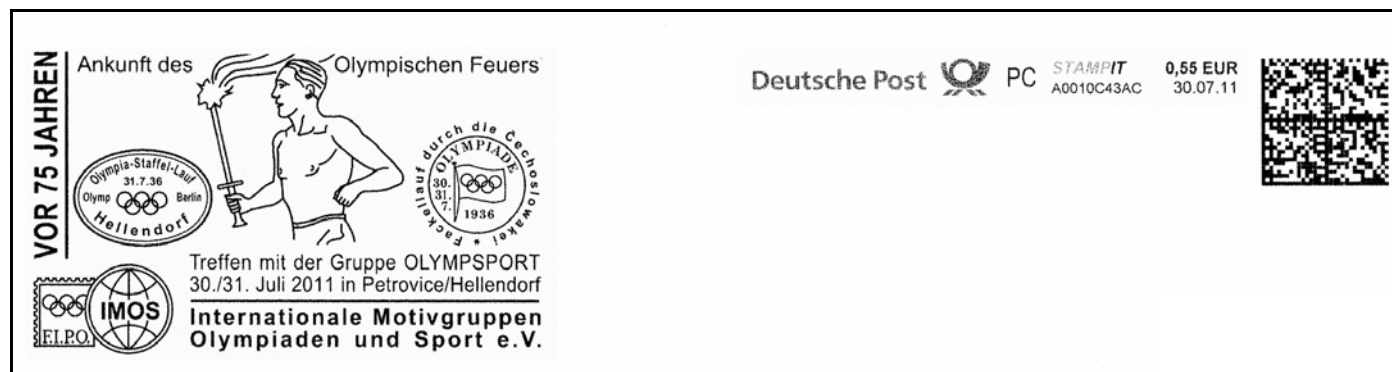
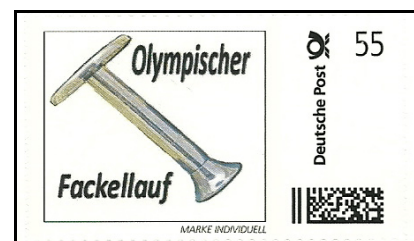


Figure 5. IMOS STAMPIT franking with publicity slogan reproducing a 1936 torch bearer.





Figure 6. OLYMSPORT commemorated the event at the Czech-German border with a special privately-printed postal stationery card which includes a photo of the torch relay runners from 1936. The publicity meter features the torch holder with the Olympic flame burning on top. In reality, the flame burned at the end of a magnesium flare inserted into the holder.

The 1936 Olympic Games Official Report, while a good resource for Olympic collectors, was not particularly thorough (nor entirely correct) in its discussion of the relay. This is not surprising since the report is from the organizers' perspective. Photographs of enthusiastic crowds in towns along the torch route are evident; protests, both loud and silent, less so.

To present a more balanced and complete story, the booklet produced for the jubilee included, for example, the protests in Czechoslovakia and Vienna. Czechoslovakia was home to many German emigrants who used the torch relay as an occasion to protest against the "Nazi games." On the other hand, in the Bohemian region of Sudetenland where a number of inhabitants of German nationality resided, the positive reception was overwhelming.

In Vienna, astonishingly, the protests from the Austrian-Nazi side were against "the system." Even the broadcast of the torch relay ceremony from the Heldenplatz (Heroes Place) had to be terminated.

The IMOS and OLYMSPORT organizers decided to hold the jubilee at Hellendorf near the Czech-German border. Around 40 people attended, mostly from the two hosting societies, but also included two members from Great Britain and one from Slovakia.

The local authorities were very supportive of the event, but unfortunately they could not shut off the rain faucet. The wet weather notwithstanding, the presentations on the torch relay and the Olympic symbolism of the 1936 Games (by well-known

Olympic historian, Volker Kluge) proceeded without a hitch.

Umbrellas provided shelter when the attendees – with included the sons and grandsons of the first German torch bearers in 1936 along with their torches – held a brief ceremony at the modest Olympic Torch Relay monument near the border. For many of the guests it was quite a surprise when they learned that the monument had been erected in 1957. This was because at that time the area was still part of the GDR which was not known for looking favorably upon the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. Nevertheless, it happened!

Concluding with an evening of socializing and camaraderie, the rendezvous at Hellendorf was worth the effort.



Final few meters of the relay in Czechoslovakia.

# THE WOMEN'S OLYMPICS

Published by the  
Foundation of the Hellenic World

In 1936, after almost two decades of rivalry and negotiations, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) and the International Olympic Federation managed to incorporate and hence control women's athletics, which from the early 1920s had been growing through its own organizational structures and competitive institutions.

The International Federation of Women's Sport (Federation Sportive Feminine Internationale - FSFI) was founded in October 1921 as a reaction to the refusal of the IOC to include in the program of the Games women's contests in athletics and in other sports. The prime mover of the foundation of the FSFI was Alice Milliat of France.

Although women had competed at the International Olympic Committee's (IOC's) Games since 1900 – initially in tennis and golf, and later in archery, gymnastics, skating, and swimming – these events were initiated by Games organizers and sympathetic international federations like La Fédération Internationale de Natation Amateur. If IOC founder and president Pierre de Coubertin and some of his colleagues had had their way, these competitions would never have been held. The combined opposition of the IOC and the IAAF kept women out of the most prestigious sport on the program — track and field.

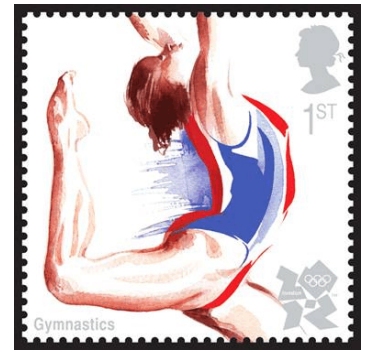
Prior to this, in May, a women's version of the Olympic Games had been organized in Monaco.



*Alice Milliat, a founder of the FSFI.<sup>1</sup>*



*Women's sports are celebrated by a 2002 issue from Italy (left) and stamp for the upcoming 2012 London Olympic Games.*



Approximately 300 female athletes from five countries participated in these games, which included athletics events and basketball games.



*Probably the USA team on the steamboat to Europe.*

In the following year (1922) the FSFI organized in Paris the so-called Women Olympic Games. It was an international "one day" athletics meeting including 11 events in which approximately 2,000 female athletes participated from six countries (the USA and five European countries) and attended by 20,000 spectators.

Four years later, in 1926, the second Women Olympic Games were held in Gothenburg, Sweden with the participation of women from 10 nations, including distant Japan, and with the support of the royal family. It was an event characterized by splendid ceremonies and events and by impressive



*Alice Milliat (left) and the Technical Jury at the 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games.*





*King Gustav V presided over the 1912 Stockholm Olympic Games, then lent his support to the women's sports movement with the 1926 Women Olympic Games in Gothenburg. (Special Roller Cancel: Last day of the athletic events, July 15, 1912 on 5ö postal card to Amsterdam. From David Feldman Auctions.)*

performances by the athletes. The success of these games resulted in increasing pressure applied on the IOC, in order to include a full program of women's athletics events. Indeed, these pressures led to negotiations between the IOC and the IAAF on the one hand and the FSFI on the other hand. The negotiations led to an agreement. The IOC undertook the responsibility to include 10 women's track and field events in the Olympics, whereas the FSFI committed itself not to use the words "Olympic Games" in the international sports meetings that it organized. However, the agreement was applied only to a limited extent. In the Olympic Games of Amsterdam (1928) it was indeed the first time that women's track and field events were included, but they were half of the agreed number, namely five instead of ten. This resulted in the first "boycott" of the Games, seeing that many female track and field athletes refused to participate in them, especially the athletes from Great Britain, who had dominated most of the contests in Gothenburg.

However, the FSFI honored its commitment and the athletics games that were held in 1930 in Prague were given the name International Women's Games. Canada competed in the Women's Games for the first time in Prague and the sole Canadian entry was the University of British Columbia basketball team, runners-up to the Edmonton Grads for national honors that year, and winners of the Games' championship. The Games were repeated in 1934 in London, immediately following the British

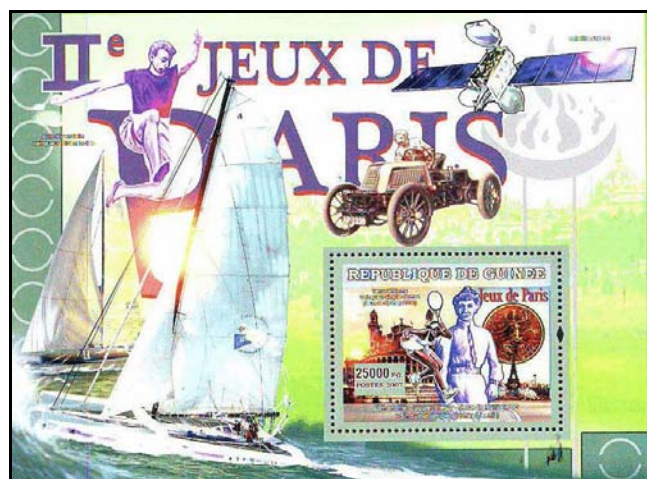
Empire Games, and were the last to be organized by the FSFI.

The appearance of the fascist and authoritarian governments in Europe created conditions that prohibited the promotion of women's aspirations, not only in sport, but also in all the fields of social life. Under these circumstances, the FSFI was incorporated into the IAAF in 1936.

The fifteen-year activity of the FSFI (1921-1936) followed the dynamic presence of the women's movement that was developed in Europe and in North America during the first decades of the 20th century. In this framework of more political and social rights gained by women and as the significance of sport and of the Olympics increased constantly in the modern world, the exclusion of women from the first modern Olympic Games (1896)

and their limited participation in the following Olympiads were two central points of action by the women's movement. The matter of contention was the participation of women in athletics. The appearance of women's track and field events from 1928 onwards, however limited, was the result of the pressure exerted, to a large extent through the activity of the FSFI.

The decline of the women's movement from the end of World War II until the 1960s, when a second wave by women appeared, is reflected in the minimal increase of women's sports in the program of the Olympic Games between 1948 and 1968.



*Charlotte Cooper (shown on stamp) was the first women's Olympic gold medalist winning both the singles and mixed doubles events at Paris 1900.*



However, since the 1970s, and especially in the 1980s and the 1990s the change has been spectacular, since today women participate in almost all the sports included in the Olympic program.

Most specifically, in the Games of 2000, of the total of 37 sports included in the program, women participated in 34 sports, whereas men participated in 35 (some sports were performed by women or men only). This development is due to the unexpected increase of both the number of female athletes who participate in the Games and of the number of countries they come from. However, this tendency is not shown inside the IOC, namely in the number of female members. It is characteristic that the participation of women in the IOC was not allowed before 1973 and the first woman member of the IOC was elected in 1981. Today, less than 10 women are in the IOC, a very small number compared to the almost 200 men.

[Editor's note: Ms. Flor Isava-Fonseca of Venezuela was the first woman elected to the IOC. I believe the "200 men" number above is an error and should have read "100". There are now 19 women members among the total of 113 IOC Members. Another four women are Honorary Members.]

The improvement of the position of women in both private and public life and in sport as well, from the beginning until the end of the 20th century, was the result of the social and political modernization that developed (and is still developing) in the societies of Europe and North America, resulting in an improvement in women's living conditions and

the reduction in unfavorable discrimination. However, this development is not uniform, nor does it appear in the same way and at the same time in all the latitudes and longitudes of the earth.

The increase of the influence of political Islam in several countries led to the official or tacit exclusion of women's participation in the Olympic Games and the other international sports meetings. Iran, the only country that prohibits officially the presence and participation of men and women in the same sport games, organized in Teheran in 1992, namely the year of the Barcelona Olympics, a "Muslim" version of Women's Olympics. Exactly seventy years after the organization of the "Olympic Games" by the FSFI in Paris (1922), the games held in Teheran concerned once again the position of women. In this case, however, the trend was not to abolish the exclusion of women from the Olympic Games, but on the contrary, to exclude their participation in athletic events, in which men participate as well.

*This article originally appeared on the website of the "Foundation of the Hellenic World" which may be found at [olympics.fhw.gr](http://olympics.fhw.gr). It was edited by Luciano Calenda and published in the August 2010 issue of **Filabasket Review**.*

1. Photo source: Quintillan, Ghislaine (February - March 2000). "Alice Milliat and the Women's Games". Olympic Review (International Olympic Committee) (XXVI-31): 27-28.



*A registered cover mailed from Iran to Rumania franked with several sport stamps including two complete sets issued to celebrate the "1st Islamic Countries' Women Sports Games".*

# Building Your Olympic Games Collection

by Mark Maestroni

A recent email from a member inquired as to where he might purchase stamps for the upcoming London 2012 Olympic Games. This was certainly a very logical question, and reminded me that with the inevitable onslaught of new issues from around the world, it seemed an appropriate occasion to provide some guidance on how to build one's Olympic Games collection.

Sadly, the day has long since passed when a collector could visit the neighborhood stamp store and browse through albums of mint or used stamps. So what's a collector to do?

As there is no central vendor for all the stamps, and presuming that collectors may wish to pick and choose between Olympic issues based on their individual interests, here are some suggestions:

1. The least expensive, but perhaps not the most efficient, way is to order issues directly from the postal administration that issued them. You will almost always pay the face value of the stamps, but of course there will be shipping and handling charges applied. These charges can quickly add up if you are ordering just one or two stamps from a number of countries. Some postal administrations will also have minimum purchase requirements.

Most major postal administrations have philatelic areas of their websites where collectors may place orders. Two useful lists of websites (though not always current) are [www.philatelicbureau.com](http://www.philatelicbureau.com) and [digilander.libero.it/fabioalarici](http://digilander.libero.it/fabioalarici).

2. Another good option is, of course, the SPI Auction. While you may have to wait awhile for stamps from the 2012 Games to be listed, they will generally have a very reasonable starting price and the postage/handling fees are modest.

3. Of course patronizing the businesses that advertise in our journal is another excellent way to build your collection while helping support SPI. Two

of our regular advertisers – Westminster Stamp Gallery and Australian Sports Stamps – are good places to begin. Send them your want list!

4. Online auction sites such as eBay.com and Delcampe.net are excellent clearinghouses for obtaining new issues. Vendors will list stamps on these two auction sites almost immediately after they are issued. Sometimes the stamps will be at a fixed price; other times the stamps will have a low starting price but will be sold via auction.

Expect to pay over face value. Generally, new issues have a catalog value of twice face value, so you can certainly use that as a rule of thumb in figuring what is a fair price. A word of caution when using Delcampe: check out the payment methods

accepted by a vendor before bidding/buying. Not all vendors accept PayPal (usually the safest and easiest payment method). A European-based version of PayPal – Moneybookers – is also accepted by many vendors however for U.S. residents this is not easy to set up and use.

5. Last, but not least, there are still a few new issues dealers out there with extensive websites. (I am happy to provide the name of my favorite to those who are interested. Just email me at [president@sportstamps.org](mailto:president@sportstamps.org))

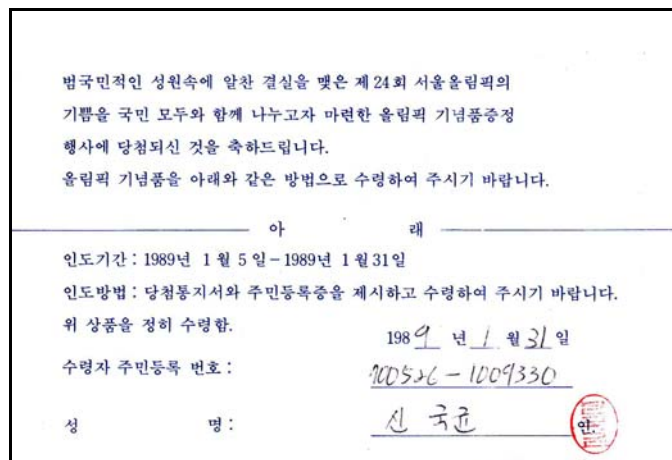
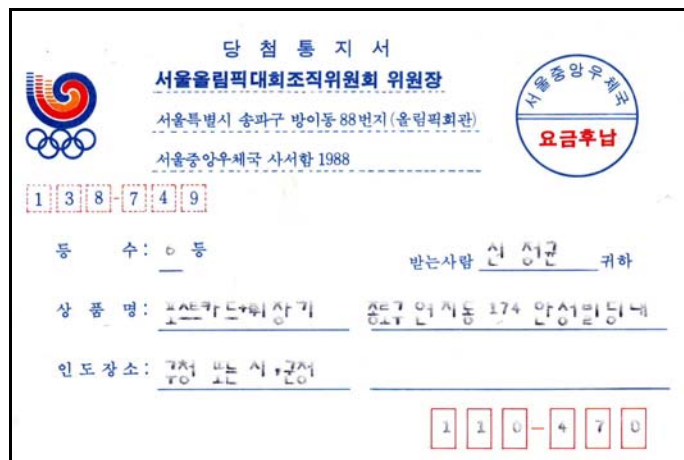
It sometimes takes awhile for new issues dealers to add the most recent stamps to their websites, but eventually most stamps are typically available. The nice thing about a new issues dealer is that one can pick and choose from their lists. And of course the big advantage here is that you need only pay shipping and handling for the entire order which might include sets from many countries.

A second option that some dealers provide is to subscribe to their new issues service which can be customized for a particular topic (in this case, London 2012 Olympics).

Hopefully the above suggestions will get you started on your London 2012 collection. Happy hunting!







## The Mystery of the 1988 Olympic Lottery Card

by Mark Maestroni  
contributed by Robert Farley

Recently, Bob Farley of the Society of Olympic Collectors emailed me an interesting item that had come into his possession. Clearly it was a postcard that somehow related to the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games – but how? Bob’s best guess was that it was a lottery card of some sort, but without a proper translation we couldn’t be certain.

Hong Kong SPI member, Kwok-Yiu Kwan, came to the rescue. A good friend of his, Joanna Seow, was able to provide a translation of the Korean text into Chinese, then Kwok-Yiu generated the final English translation.

At the top of the card’s front is the title “Prize winning notification” below which is the return address of the “Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games in Seoul, No. 88 Songpa-gu District, Seoul (Olympic Stadium), Post Box 1988, Central Post Office Seoul”.

At lower left is the pre-printed designation “Product Name:” followed by the typewritten words “Postcard/pin”.

The recipients name and address is typewritten at right.

The pre-printed circular indicium at upper right identifies the mailing location as “Central Post Office Seoul” (semi-circular arc of text at top). Kwok-Yiu believes that the horizontal text across the middle of the marking reads “Postage Paid”.

The pre-printed text on the reverse provides more detail. Above the horizontal line dividing the card in half is a paragraph of text in four lines:

**Line 1:** With the effort of all the members of our nation, the 24<sup>th</sup> Summer Olympic Games in Seoul was successfully held.

**Line 2:** We are happy to share the already prepared Olympic souvenirs.

**Line 3:** Congratulations to those who have won prizes in these Activities.

**Line 4:** Details of distribution & collection of the souvenir are listed as below. We look forward to seeing you.

The text below the line sets out the rules for picking up one’s prize:

**Line 1:** Date of collection: 5 JAN 1989 to 31 JAN 1989.

**Lines 2 & 3:** Method of collection: The winners have to present their identity cards & the notification letters. Collection in person is expected.

**Line 4:** Identity card number of the winner: 700526-1009330.

It would seem that these were actually winners’ notification cards rather than lottery cards, and that in this case, the winner was to receive a pin.

Many questions still remain. How did one enter the drawings? What prizes and how many were available? Was this part of the customary liquidation of assets that organizing committees conduct following the conclusion of an Olympic Games? Were cards destroyed when prizes were redeemed? If so, one wonders how many of these cards exist.

While questions do remain, this is certainly a very nice piece of Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee postal history.

Mystery partially solved!





# OLYMPIC COLLECTIBLES

by Stathis Douramakos



*The Winged Victory plaster statue awarded to each foreign first place winner at the 1896 Athens Olympics.*

## The Winged Victory of Georgios Vroutos

The Athens 1896 Olympic Games Organizing Committee commissioned sculptor Georgios Vroutos, professor at the School of Fine Arts, to create in Pentelic marble a life-size statue of George Averof, the great benefactor whom we could safely call the first major sponsor of the modern Olympic Games.

Averof's statue was inaugurated on 24 March 1896, on the eve of the opening of the Games, in front and to the right of the entrance to the Panathenaic Stadium in Athens. The statue still stands.

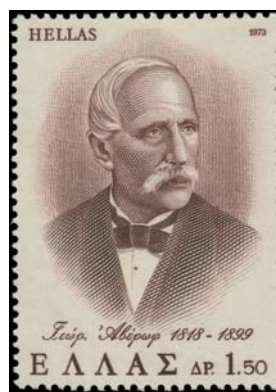
George Vroutos felt very honored by this, so he decided to make an offering for the Olympic Games himself. He crafted 21 small plaster statues of Nike, the Winged Victory, and offered them to the Organizing Committee, so they could officially award them to the foreign first place winners.

It will be recalled that Nike, the Greek winged goddess of victory, was the daughter of the Titan, Pallas, and Styx (Water). Nike was originally an attribute of both Athena and Zeus, represented as a small figure carried in their hand. She gradually came to be recognized as a mediator between gods and mortals, and was frequently shown carrying a palm branch, wreath, or staff as the messenger of victory. When depicted on her own, she was often a winged figure hovering over the victor in a competition.

Vroutos selected Nike, the Winged Victory, as the subject of the winners' statues because he felt that she personified the ideals of the Olympic Games. Victory represents success in achieving ones aims, and in doing the hard thing because it is right rather than the easy thing. There is no pleasure in gaining Victory through hate, greed, contempt, revenge and fear. Victory tastes bitter if it has not been honestly earned.

Nike has figured prominently in the iconography of sport. The design of the Jules Rimet Cup, awarded to the victorious team in World Cup competitions from 1930 to 1970, features the Winged Victory supporting an octagonal cup fashioned in gold. A souvenir sheet from Bulgaria illustrates both the Jules Rimet Cup and newer FIFA World Cup Trophy.

Olympic collectors will of course be familiar with another important work portraying Victory: the Olympic medal. Since 1928, medals awarded at the summer Olympic Games have featured the seated goddess Victory on the obverse side. The medal was designed by the noted Italian painter and sculptor, Giuseppe Cassioli, who, appropriately, was "victorious" in an open competition sponsored by the International Olympic Committee in 1923.



*George Averof (left) and the statue of him sculpted by Georgios Vroutos (right).*



The Jules Rimet Cup, shown in the foreground of this souvenir sheet from Bulgaria, features the Winged Victory (Nike). The Cup was awarded to the victors of the World Cup from 1930 to 1970.



Polish stamp reproducing the obverse side of the Olympic medal showing the seated Nike.

The Cassioli-designed Olympic medal has frequently been portrayed in philately. One notable set of stamps from Poland commemorates their winners at the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games. Each stamp features a gold, silver, or bronze medal and an artistic representation of the winner in action.

Brazilian cinderella (label) featuring the Nike Corporation's famous "swoosh" logo at upper right. Nike is an important sports sponsor worldwide.



The Winged Victory has even been coopted for commercial use. The goddess's name has been appropriated by the sports shoe and apparel manufacturer, Nike. Anyone who follows sport is surely familiar with the company's logo – famously referred to as the Nike "swoosh". Carolyn Davidson, the logo's designer, said it symbolized the winged goddess' flight.

Returning to the 1896 celebration: on 3 April, the International Olympic Committee, with president Dimitris Vikelas, hosted a farewell reception in the grand lounge of the Hotel Grande Bretagne. During this reception, among other festivities, official award ceremonies took place.

First place foreign winners (who had already received their medals during the award ceremony held in the stadium) were each presented a small plaster Winged Victory bust made by Georgios VROUTOS who also attended the ceremony. Second place winners were also awarded their medals at this reception.

Articles from newspapers of the time describe the story in great detail:

*"The sentimentalist and fellow artist Mr. Georgios VROUTOS, crafted for the Olympic Games, artistic artifact of the bust of the winged Nike. He sent to the committee of the Games equal number of pieces to the Olympic winners with the name of each, in order to be handed to each Olympic winner in commemoration of the Games. Hear Hear!"*

Translated from: TO ASTY, 3 April 1896.

*"... The committee accepted the artistic offering of Mr. VROUTOS and will distribute today the statues to the winners."*

Translated from: AKROPOLIS, 3 April 1896.

*"The artistic Nikes of Mr. VROUTOS as we previously wrote, were sent to the committee, for each of the Olympic winners bearing their names, and were presented to them during the farewell social evening. The foreign Olympic winners received with enthusiasm those, which successfully symbolize their victory."*

Translated from: EFIMERIS, 6 April 1896.

*"The congenial sculptor Mr. VROUTOS, had the inspiration to offer as a memento to the foreign Olympic winners, a very nice artistic gift. He offered each of the 21 athletes, a small statue made of plaster, portraying the bust of Nike with wings, bearing a laurel wreath and a palm branch. These small statues were handed to each of the foreign athletes, the night before yesterday at the Grande Bretagne hotel during the reception that the Olympic committee held for everyone, the Olympic winners and athletes; the joy that the noble foreigners felt for the archaic gift of the artist Mr. VROUTOS was indescribable. Same plaster models will also be offered by Mr. VROUTOS to each of the Greek Olympic winners."*

Translated from: TO ASTY, 6 April 1896.

Only one of the 21 original plaster statues is known to exist. Privately owned, it was exhibited for the very first time during the 2004 Athens Olympic Games at the National Historical Museum of Greece.

Are any others hidden in private collections or dusty attics of the Olympic victors' heirs? Perhaps time will tell. In the meantime, if you would like to see more of the original research on the Winged Victory statues, please visit the author's web document at: [issuu.com/douramakos/docs/wingedvictor](http://issuu.com/douramakos/docs/wingedvictor)

## SPI Annual Financial Statement: FY 2011 & 2010

	Fiscal Year Ending August 31, 2011	Fiscal Year Ending August 31, 2010
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Dues	3,632.36	3,969.30
Interest	18.27	21.55
Donations	-	500.00
Publications/Advertising/	1,024.00	1,205.24
Total	4,674.63	5,696.09
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
Printing	2,701.89	2,922.80
Postage	1,795.82	2,022.00
Other (supplies, etc)	692.29	668.04
Total	5,190.00	5,612.84
<b><u>Auction activity</u></b>		
Receipts	1,645.75	1,638.01
Disbursements	(1,516.52)	(1,218.34)
Total	129.23	419.67
<b>Net Income (loss)</b>	(386.14)	502.92
<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	18,114.50	17,611.58
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	17,728.36	18,114.50
<b>Cash and Investments:</b>		
Total Cash and Investments	17,728.36	18,328.28
Payable to Consignors		(213.78)
<b>Fund Balance</b>	17,728.36	18,114.50



# REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS

by Mark Maestrone

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

September 2011 (#61). France is always a contender in the Rugby World Cup and the 2011 competition was no exception. Unfortunately, the French team lost to host New Zealand in the finals, 7-8. *Esprit* covered the lead up the Cup with articles on the philately of this event, as well as French participation in prior RWC's. Additional articles in this issue review the Chicago World Olympic Collectors Fair and new philatelic issues related to the London 2012 Olympic Games. Olympic equestrianism and the career of French horseman, Pierre Jonquieres d'Oriola, who was active in the Olympics from 1952 through 1968 is reviewed through the philately of the period. Finally, reports on summer sports events and the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup held in Germany complete this issue.

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



August 2011 (Vol. XIV, No. 1). Canoeing is a sport in which Hungarian athletes excel. This year, Szeged, Hungary, hosted the World Championships, so naturally this issue of *Olimpiafila* provides plenty of philatelic coverage for enthusiasts. General Secretary of the Hungarian Canoe Federation, Gábor Schmidt, talks

about how the popularity of the sport is promoted to youth by marketing the Hungarian stars in the iconography of the period. In the past, canoeing champions have posed as comic strip superheroes and action figures. This year they are rock stars (above). Now that's what I call clever marketing!

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Berlin Olympics of 1936 is celebrated with a look at stamps, postmarks and meters which portray medalists from those Games. Of course issues devoted to Jesse Owens are prominent.

***Olympiaposten:*** NOSF Postboks 3221, Elisenberg, NO-0208, Oslo, Norway. [In Norwegian]

Vol. 6, No. 2, 2011. With this review, *JSP* inaugurates its coverage of the journal of the Norwegian Society of Olympic and Sports Philatelists (NOSF). As the language of philately is universal, the Norwegian text is no particular hindrance to enjoying this full-color publication. The primary article in this 24-page issue is by Fredrik Schreuder who writes about the overprinted Olympic stamps from 1896 to 1948 (Athens 1896 & 1906, Antwerp 1920, Paris 1924 and London 1948). Also included in this issue is a brief illustrated report on the 12 postmarks produced for the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships which took place from 23 February to 6 March 2011 in Oslo, Norway. A review of the Olympic Collectors Fair in Chicago by Halvor Kleppen and a separate article on the IOC Collectors Commission by Gerhard Heiberg, the commission's chairman and IOC member of Norway, are also featured.

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

September 2011 (Vol. 28, #3). With the countdown clock ticking away toward the London 2012 Olympics this coming July, this issue of *Torch Bearer* brings us up to date on the new Royal Mail issues as well as plans to honor every Team GB gold medalist with a stamp.

Editor Bob Farley presents a very detailed report on the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games "logo" stamp which was authorized by China Post for use in "personal" souvenir sheets which appeared in seemingly countless variations.

Continuing their discussion of pin collecting, authors Sid Marantz and Bud Kling present an overview of what collectors may expect in London next year along with suggestions about how to cope with the flood which they predict may exceed 5000 different pin designs!

\*\*\*\*\*

UICOS, the Italian sports and Olympic collectors group, has a new contact address: c/o CONI Servizi, Largo Lauro de Bosis 15, Foro Italico, 00135 Roma, ITALY

# NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Mark Maestrone

## NEW MEMBERS

2291 Don Bigsby, PO Box 575, Guilderland, NY  
12084 USA. **Olympics**.  
(e-mail: dbigsby1@nycap.rr.com)

2292 Bart J. Bosveld, 40 Cottontail Drive, Philips  
Ranch, CA 91766-4843 USA. **Olympics**.  
(e-mail: mcsnbboz@gmail.com)

## ADDRESS CHANGE

Norman Jacobs, Jr., PO Box 33187, Decatur, GA  
30033-0187.

Günter Pilz, Horzingerstr. 38, A-4020 Linz, Austria

Clem Reiss (new e-mail): creiss58@gmail.com

UICOS, c/o CONI Servizi, Largo Lauro de Bosis  
15, Foro Italico, 00135 Roma, Italy

## DECEASED

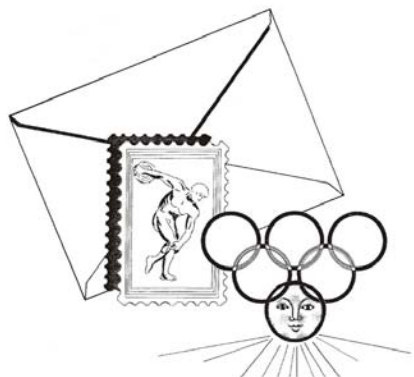
Joseph M. Lacko (Member #199C), a charter member of SPI, passed away at the age of 90 on October 8, 2011 after a brief illness. Joe had been an active member of SPI and an inveterate sports philatelist with extensive collections of both ice hockey and the Olympic torch relay.

## 18th World Olympic Collectors Fair

*It's not too early to start your planning for the next World Olympic Collectors Fair which includes a special exhibition of memorabilia, "Greece and the Olympic Games: 1894-2012". Fair participants will enjoy special privileges, including accreditation for attending the handing over ceremony of the flame at the Panathenaic Stadium on 17 May. A large variety of sightseeing and tour options will also be available for attendees. There will be a limited number of vendor tables, so early booking is essential to ensure a place at the Fair. Final details will be available soon.*

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**Athens, Greece**





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**Internet:**  
[www.olympiaphilatelie-volk.de](http://www.olympiaphilatelie-volk.de)  
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# NEW STAMP ISSUES

by John La Porta

**Argentina:** June 25, 2011. American Soccer Cup. Three circular s/s each with two triangular 5p stamps attached to a grommet. Sheet 1 depicts group A teams; sheet 2 depicts group B teams and sheet 3 features group C teams.

**Armenia:** August 20, 2011. Fifth Pan-Armenian Games. Souvenir sheet with 380d stamp, symbolic athletes with ball, racket.

**Australia:** July 5, 2011. Living Australian/Photography Contest. Five se-tenant 60¢ stamps, one sport stamp, Cricket game at GABBA reflected in lens of sunglasses. Offset in sheets of 50, booklets of 10 (self-adhesive), coils of 200 (self-adhesive).

July 19, 2011. Skiing Australia. 60¢ girl learning to ski; \$1.60 snowboarding; \$1.65 downhill skiing. Offset in sheets of 50; coils of 100 (60¢ self-adhesive), booklets of 20 (\$1.60 & \$1.65 self-adhesive), booklets of five (\$1.60 & \$1.65) self-adhesive. 60¢ also in rolls of self-adhesive.

September 27, 2011. Golf. Three 60¢ stamps, golf glove; President's Cup trophy; golf shoes, glove and ball; \$1.65 golf club and ball; \$2.35 clubs in bag. Souvenir sheet contains the five stamps. Offset in sheets of 25 and bklets of 10 (60¢ stamps), booklets of five \$1.65 and \$2.35.

**Belarus:** July 12, 2011. Equestrian Sport. Three nondenominated international rate "H" stamps, racing, jumping; dressage. Offset in sheets of 8 stamps plus label.

**Belgium:** June 27, 2011. Women in Team Sports. Pane of five se-tenant nondenominated "1" stamps, field hockey; soccer; basketball; volleyball; handball.

**China:** July 2, 2011. Cycling. Two \$1.20 stamps, people cycling outside the city; racing. Offset in sheets of 12.

September 10, 2011. Sports of Ethnic Minorities of China. Two se-tenant pairs of \$1.20 stamps, board show racing, Zhuang; single bamboo drifting, Miao; spinning top, Yi; stilt racing, Tujia.

**Colombia:** July 21, 2011. FIFA U-20 Soccer World Cup. 2,000p soccer ball as cup of coffee.

**Comores:** December 15, 2010. Sports (these issues are in addition to the items reported in the last issue), Sheets of six 350FC stamps and souvenir sheets of one stamp with a value of 3,000FC; Formula 1 Champions; X Games; Chess Players; Table Tennis; Basketball; Baseball; African Football Players; Brazilian Football Players; Olympic Games London 2012; The Winners of Beijing 2008; Rugby; The Winners of Athens 2004; Winter Games Vancouver 2010.

**Czech Republic:** August 31, 2011. Men's European Volleyball Championship. 20k silhouettes of players.

**Denmark:** August 4, 2011. International Cycling Union Road World championships. 8kr cyclist. Printed in sheets of 36 and sheets of eight.

**Dominica:** June 1, 2011. 10th Cricket World Cup. Souvenir sheet with \$5 stamp depicting a trophy.

**Equatorial Guinea:** 2010. World Cup Soccer. Four se-tenant stamps, 475fr emblem; 575fr Zakumi, leopard mascot; 625fr trophy; 675fr flag of Spain.

**Estonia:** July 20, 2011. European Track and Field Junior Championships. €0.35 mascots, symbolic stamps named City, Alti and Forti. Printed in sheets of 20.

**Guinea-Bissau:** July 28, 2011. 2011 Formula 1. Sheet of four 625 FCFA stamps, depicting race car drivers. S/s of one 2000FCFA stamp, depicting driver and race car.

Barcelona Soccer. Sheet of six 500 FCFA stamps depicting soccer players.

India's Cricket World Champions 2011. Sheet of six 350FCFA stamps, Souvenir sheet of one 2000FCFA stamp. Li Na Roland-Garros 2011. Sheet of four 825 FCFA stamps. Souvenir Sheet with one 2000FCFA stamp.

**Guyana:** June 20, 2011. 10th Cricket World Cup. \$150 Sardar Patel Stadium; souvenir sheet with \$300 stamp depicting a trophy.

**Ireland:** September 15, 2011. Solheim Cup. €0.55 stamp, two women golfers, cup. Offset in sheets of 16.

**Isle of Man:** September 1, 2011. Commonwealth Youth Games. Pane of eight 38p stamps featuring Tosha, the cat mascot, emblem; playing badminton; boxing; rugby; cycling; on pommel horse; at finish line; swimming.

**Italy:** July 23, 2011. Tourism. Set of five €0.60 stamps, one depicts the Monte Lussari ski resort.

August 27, 2011. European Field Archery Championship. €0.75 archer aiming at target.

August 27, 2011. Soccer Series A. Two €0.60 stamps. ACM Milan Soccer Cup emblem, player; trophy, soccer ball. Printed in sheets of 12.

August 27, 2011. World Fly Fishing Championships. €0.60 silhouettes of fly fishermen, emblem.

**Japan:** July 8, 2011. 100th Anniversary Japan Sports Association and Japanese Olympic Committee. Pane of 10 se-tenant 80y stamps. Founder Jigoro Kano; team; gymnast Endou Yukio, weightlifter Miyake Yoshinobu at 1964 Tokyo Olympics; team at opening of 1912 Olympics; ski jumpers Yukio Kasaya, Akitsugu Konno and Seiji Aochi at 1972 Sapporo Olympics; volleyball, equestrian event at 1946 national sports festival; speed skater Hiroyasu Shimizu, ski jumper Kazuyoshi Funaki at 1988 Nagano Olympics; swimmer Hironoshin Furuhashi; emblem of Sports Masters Tournament; four baseball players, founding of youth sports, 1962; baseball player, swimmer Kosuke Kitajima, wrestler Saori Yoshida, 2008 Beijing Olympics.

October 6, 2011. 43rd World Gymnastics Championships. Se-tenant pair of 80y stamps, female gymnast at finish of event; male gymnast on pommel horse. Offset, in sheets of 10.

**South Korea:** August 3, 2011. Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. Host 2018 Winter Games, 250w skier, ski jumping hill. Printed in sheets of 16.

August 26, 2011. International Association of Athletics Federation World Championship. Se-tenant pair of 250w stamps: logo and symbolic athletes, sprinters; pole vault.

**Latvia:** August 25, 2011. 125th Anniversary Latvian cycling Federation. 35s racing cyclist. Offset in sheets of 10.

**Liberia:** June 30, 2011. Milan Soccer Club ACM. Pane of nine se-tenant \$35 stamps, 2003 European Football Associations champion; 1999 centennial, trophy; 2001 6-0 match, manager Carlo Ancelotti; 2010-11 team, player Paolo Maldini; 2007 European Football Association champion; 2007 World Cup; club owner and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, trophies.

**Mayotte:** July 4, 2011. Scuba Diving. €0.60 scuba divers, fish, coral.

**Mozambique:** April 30, 2011. 100th Anniversary First Monte Carlo Rally. Sheet of six 16mt stamps depicting early rally cars. Souvenir sheet of one 175mt stamp early car.

June 30, 2011. Sporting Icons of the XX Century. Sheet of six stamps, four 16mt, (Pele, Michael Jordan, Ayton Senna, Babe Ruth), one 66mt Nadia Comaneci, one 92mt Jim Thorpe. One souvenir sheet consisting of one 175mt stamp depicting Mohamed Ali.

**New Caledonia:** June 24, 2011. 20th Anniversary Transcalédonienne Hike/Race. 75fr runners, mountain, medal.

August 29, 2011. Pacific Games. Souvenir sheet with three 110fr stamps, gold medal; hand holding torch; nautilus with flame.

**New Zealand:** July 28, 2011. Philanippon. Souvenir sheet with three previously issued \$1.90 stamps, two All Blacks rugby team stamps; silver round Kiwi.

August 10, 2011. Counting in Kiwi, pane of 21 se-tenant 60¢ stamps, some sport items, Six runs in cricket; netball, for seven netballers make a team; soccer scene, two legs for first 11; rugby player with ball, for 15 players make a rugby team; surfer tossed in wave, for 19 protected surf breaks.

September 7, 2011. Rugby World Cup. Souvenir sheet with a \$15 stamp depicting the Webb Ellis Cup in 3d.

October 5, 2011. The New Zealand Experience/Tourism and Sports. Set of six stamps with the following depicting sports: two 60¢ stamps, hikers with backpacks, tent, paraglider; sailing, windsurfing, ski boat; \$1.20 fly fishing; \$2.40 helicopter and skier; \$2.90 bungee jumping. Souvenir sheet contains the six stamps.

**St. Pierre & Miquelon:** July 10, 2011. Sport. €1.05 sailing. Intaglio in sheets of 10.

**St. Vincent:** May 2, 2011. 10th Cricket World Cup. Two panes of four \$2.25 stamps. Pane 1 features the Australian team. Pane 2 features the Bangladesh team.

June 15, 2011. AC Milan Soccer Team. Pane of nine se-tenant \$1.20 stamps.

**Spain:** September 19, 2011. National Soccer Team. Pane of five se-tenant €0.80 stamps and a label featuring players.

**Sweden:** August 25, 2011. Equestrian Sports. Five se-tenant 6k stamps. Harness racing, horse Victory Tily and coachman Stig H. Johansson; show jumping, Butterfly Flip and rider Malin Baryard Johnsson; pony racing, Norrskents Grim and jockey Ebba Stigenberg; dressage, Briar and rider Jan Brink; eventing, Gaston KLG and rider Hannes Melin, Offset in sheets of 9 and booklets of 10.

**Togo:** June 20, 2011. 150th Anniversary James Naismith. Sheet of four 750f stamps and souvenir sheet of one 3000f value all depicting James Naismith and basketball players.

June 20, 2011. Handicap International. Sheet of four 750f stamps and souvenir sheet of one 3000f value. All values depict some aspect of summer and winter handicap sports.

**Turkey:** July 8, 2011. 650th Anniversary Kirpinar Oil Wrestling. Souvenir sheet with four se-tenant stamps, two 90k, two 1.30 liras, different wrestling scenes.

**Uruguay:** July 20, 2011. 100th Anniversary National Commission of Physical Education. 12p pole vaulter, hurdler, swimmer.

August 12, 2011. America Cup Soccer. Pane of 24 se-tenant 6p stamps. Photographs of different team members.

**Wallis & Futuna:** July 16, 2011. Pacific Games. Souvenir sheet with two se-tenant stamps, 10fr relay race; 190fr yachting.

# COMMEMORATIVE CANCELS

by Mark Maestroni

## THE NUMBERING SYSTEM

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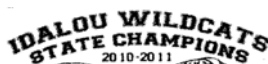
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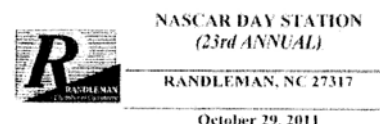
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