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Major Tournament Golf





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INTERNATIONAL

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

SPI 50th Anniversary Planning

Planning for our 50th anniversary celebration at INDYPEX from September 28-30, 2012 is now in full swing. The theme for our party is the centennial of the 1912 Stockholm Olympic Games with a special nod to the man regarded as the world's greatest athlete at that time, Jim Thorpe. At present, I'm working on securing permission for a Thorpe postmark. Hopefully, we'll also have a speaker knowledgeable about that Olympic era.

I have been informed by the show's organizers that the exhibiting prospectus and application will be available on their website (indianastampclub.org/indy.html) very soon. We are also awaiting confirmation of the hotel rate for the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel.

If you'd like to volunteer to help, please send me an email (markspi@prodigy.net).

SPI Election: 2012-2014

It is once again time for our SPI elections. Nominations are now open for all officers and board of directors positions. Any SPI member in good standing is eligible to run. Nominations must be received by our Nominations Chairman, Joe Lopreiato, no later than May 1, 2012. His address is: 1105 Betts Trail Way, Potomac, MD 20854 (e-mail: jolopreiato@comcast.net)

Still Seeking a New Membership Chairman

Isn't there any member out there willing to donate a little of his or her time for the good of the society?

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, nor are there many requirements. You should be: (1) a US resident; (2) own and use a computer; (3) have e-mail capability; (4) be at least acquainted with using Excel spreadsheets which are how we maintain our roster.

18th World Olympic Collectors Fair, Athens

We have now received the program of events and registration information for the Olympic Collectors Fair to be held in Athens, Greece from May 17-20 in conjunction with the handing over of the Olympic Flame to the London Olympic Organizing Committee. The full announcement is on page 29 of this issue as well as on our website.

Briefly, tables at the fair are priced at €100 and include a ticket to the banquet (valued at €45). Participants are also provided with accreditation for the hand-over ceremony on May 17 at the Panathenaic Stadium. For more information or to make reservations, please contact Mrs. Anastasia Baleli (abaleli@hoc.gr). Deadline for table reservations is March 26.

A small number of members from the U.S. will be there (including myself). If you plan to go, please let me know (via email, if possible), so I can keep you in the loop for future information.

Clarification

Member Trevor Bevan of New Zealand caught your editor being a tad, shall we say, Ameri-centric.

In the Winter 2011 issue of *JSP*, an article by Roman Sobus discussed the 1944 Olympic Games held at the Gross Born POW camp in Poland which housed Polish officers during WWII. In his translation of the printed Olympic program, Roman consistently used the American term "soccer" to refer to football events. While this is not incorrect for American readers, a more accurate translation would have been "football".

As it so happens, the term "soccer" actually predates "football" when used to describe Association Football. In the 19th century on the playing fields of British public schools, "association" was often shortened to "soc" and those who played it were "soc-ers" ... hence the derivation of the word "soccer."

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by Peter N. Street

It was almost by chance that limited overs cricket was introduced in the 1950s at the international level.

During World War II the first class competition between the cricketing English Counties was suspended. As soon as the County competition resumed in the summer of 1945 the cricket-starved public flocked to the cricket grounds to see their heroes, many of whom had served in the war.

However the euphoria soon passed and by the mid-1950s there was a drastic drop off in attendance at the Test Match and County Cricket events.

In 1956 the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), then the ruling body for English cricket, set up a committee to determine the reason for the decline and make recommendations to improve the game.

One of the recommendations was limited overs cricket. A one day, single innings knockout competition with a specified number of overs (usually 40, 50 or 60).

The first of these was the Gillette Cup introduced in 1963 followed by the Benson and Hedges Cup in 1972.

Special event covers were created for the finals of these competitions.

Each cover had a cricket-themed postmark and a cachet which included the cup, the names of the two teams and the location of the match.

Figure 1 shows the cover for the 1977 Gillette Cup final between Glamorgan and Middlesex. Middlesex won by 5 wickets.

The event cover for the final of the Benson and Hedges Cup is reproduced in Figure 2. Kent beat Derbyshire by 6 wickets.



Figure 1. Event cover for the 1977 Gillette Cup Final.

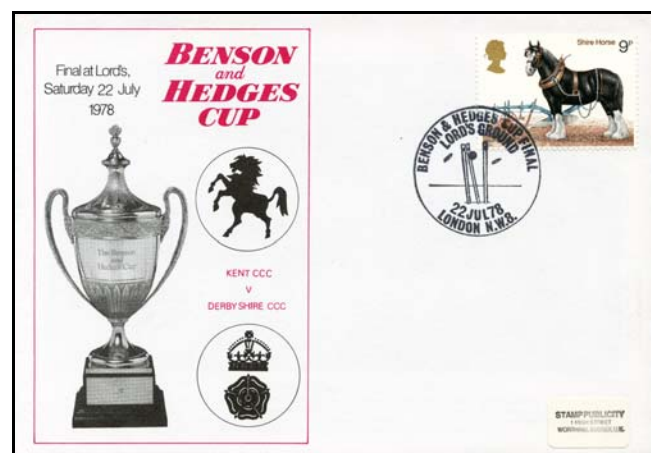


Figure 2. A Benson & Hedges Cup Final event cover.

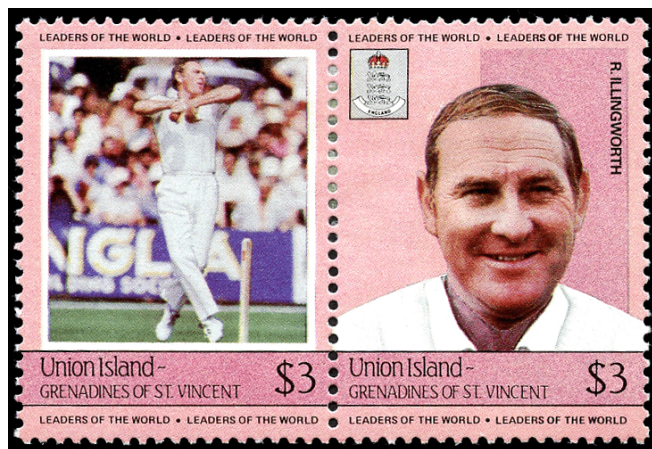


Figure 3. Ray Illingworth, England cricket captain, who initiated the first one day international cricket match.

By the late 1960s and early 1970s, limited overs cricket in England was well established as a successful cricketing and financial enterprise.

During the 1971 “Ashes” tour of Australia by England, the third Test match was due to start in Melbourne on January 1. However heavy rain meant that no play was possible on the first three days and part of the fourth.

Rather than cancel the whole match, the English captain, Ray Illingworth, approached the Australian captain and suggested they play a one innings, one day match on the next day.

Ray Illingworth was one of the featured cricketers in St. Vincent’s “Leaders of the World” series issued in November 1984 (Figure 3).

The Australian cricket authorities wholeheartedly embraced the idea and a 40 overs match was arranged for January 5.

The hosts won by 5 wickets but, perhaps more importantly, 45,000 people attended the match proving the financial viability of the format. This success suggested that an international competition between the major cricketing countries be introduced.

The inaugural Cricket World Cup was played in 1975 in England. The English cricketing authorities were able to find a sponsor, the Prudential Assurance Company, who put up £100,000. The winners would received £4,000 each, the runners-up £2,000 and the losing semi-finalists £1,000 each.

THE PARTICIPANTS

As South Africa was banned from international competition because of its racial policies, the six Test playing nations were augmented by two associate members of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

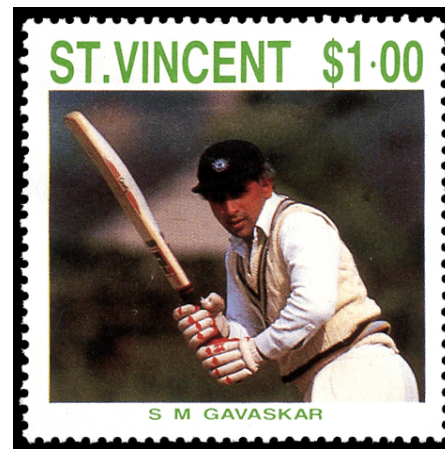


Figure 4. Sunil Gavaskar, Indian opening batsman who elected to “take batting practice.”

Thus Sri Lanka and East Africa were added allowing two groups of four teams. It was decided that England and Australia would not be placed in the same group, nor would Sri Lanka and East Africa. The final groupings were as follows:

Group A: England, New Zealand, India and East Africa

Group B: Australia, Pakistan, West Indies and Sri Lanka

Each group member would play the other three in its group, with the top two in each group advancing to the semi-finals.

THE GROUP STAGE

Despite England’s reputation for rainy summer weather, bright sunshine greeted the 20,000 spectators at Lord’s Cricket Ground in London for the first match in Group A between England and India. England batted first and amassed 334 runs for the loss of only four wickets in their 60 overs at a run rate of 5.52 (5 to 6 runs per over is considered the standard for victory in one day matches).

When Sunil Gavaskar opened India’s innings the match took a bizarre turn. Although Gavaskar was considered one of the world’s greatest opening batsmen, he decided victory was unattainable and in his own words he “took batting practice.” He batted throughout the innings which ended at 132 for 3. Hence England won by 202 runs.

Gavaskar faced 174 balls, scored 32 not out at the paltry run rate of 2.2 runs per over. As India finished third in the group with only one win, they did not advance to the semi-finals. Gavaskar’s decision came under a great deal of criticism.

Sunil Gavaskar is on a St. Vincent “Leaders of the World” stamp issued in July 1988 (Figure 4).

| Group A Final Standings | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|------|--------|
| Team | Won | Lost | Points |
| England | 3 | 0 | 12 |
| New Zealand | 2 | 1 | 8 |
| India | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| East Africa | 0 | 3 | 0 |

England comfortably overcame New Zealand and East Africa to finish at the top of Group A. New Zealand won their other two matches and were runners-up.

The first match in Group B at Headingley in Leeds Yorkshire played to a full house – the first in a decade – with beautiful weather. The match pitted Australia against Pakistan.

Australia batted first and after a good start at 63 for 1 wicket down they stumbled to 124 for 4. However the middle order batsmen came through and enabled Australia to finish with 278 runs for 7 wickets down.

Pakistan's batsmen were no match for Australia's premier fast bowler, Dennis Lillee, who took 5 for 34 and enabled Australia to win by 73 runs. Lillee also appeared on a stamp in St. Vincent's "Leaders of the World" series issued in July 1988 (Figure 5).

Probably the most exciting match in Group B was at Edgbaston in Birmingham in the British Midlands where the West Indies were facing Pakistan. Pakistan batted first and made 266 for 7. In reply, the West Indies were soon in trouble and slumped to 166 for 8 and then 203 for 9. However fast bowler Andy Roberts and wicketkeeper Deryck Murray put on a last wicket stand of 64 runs enabling the West Indies to win the match in the last over with two balls to spare.

| Group B Final Standings | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|------|--------|
| Team | Won | Lost | Points |
| West Indies | 3 | 0 | 12 |
| Australia | 2 | 1 | 8 |
| Pakistan | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Sri Lanka | 0 | 3 | 0 |

Roberts is featured in the specimen overprint of a stamp issued by Antigua in December 1975. Murray was one of the cricketers in a series issued by Trinidad and Tobago in February 2000 (Figure 6).

The West Indies at last found their form and easily beat Australia by 7 wickets at the Oval in London. They topped Group B with 3 wins and 12 points. Australia finished second with only one loss and 8 points.

One of the pleasant surprises of the tournament was the showing of Sri Lanka. Although they did not win a match, they put up a spirited challenge in their match against Australia. In reply to Australia's 328 for 6, they managed 276 for 4 despite being without two of their best batsmen due to injury. (Sri Lanka was awarded Test Match status in 1991.)

In the semi-finals, England would play Australia and West Indies would battle New Zealand.

THE SEMI-FINALS

The first of the mid-week semi-finals between England and Australia was played at Headingley.

The rainless weather continued but the day was humid which meant the fast bowlers were able to swing and seam the ball. The conditions, combined with a green and used pitch, suggested a slow scoring game.

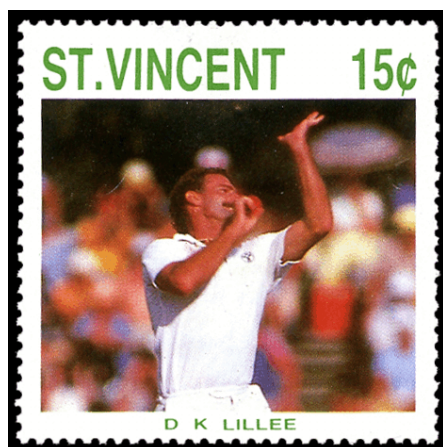


Figure 5 (left). Dennis Lillee, Australia's premier fast bowler.

Figure 6. Andy Roberts (near right) and Deryck Murray (far right) who put on a last wicket stand enabling the West Indies to beat Pakistan.

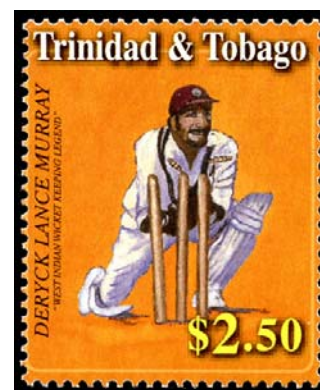




Figure 7. John Snow, England fast bowler.

Australia won the toss and put England in to bat. True to predictions, wickets fell rapidly and at one time England was 34 for 7. A mid-innings partial recovery enabled them to reach the rather dismal total of 93 runs.

Australia also started badly and was soon 39 for 6 due partially to the bowling of John Snow.

Snow was one of the featured cricketers in Tuvalu's "Leaders of the World" series issued in October 1984 (Figure 7).

Australia's lower order batsmen were able to reach a winning total in just 28 overs and a victory by 4 wickets.

The other semi-final – New Zealand versus the West Indies – was held at the Oval in London.

The conditions again favored the bowlers. New Zealand batted first and was soon 98 for 1, though a spectacular collapse by their middle order batsmen meant they were all out for 158.

The West Indies started well and was 138 for 1 mainly due to the strong batting by opener Gordon Greenidge. Despite a mini-collapse, they were able to claim victory by 5 wickets with almost 20 overs to spare.

Greenidge was one of the players in St. Vincent's cricket series of July 1988 (Figure 8).

Australia would face the West Indies in the finals at Lord's.

THE FINAL

A perfect summer's day greeted the Australia and West Indian players as they took the field for the Prudential Cup Final at Lord's Cricket Ground in London.

Australia won the toss and elected to field. Their fast bowlers struck easily and by the nineteenth over they were only 50 for 3.

At this stage of the game, enter Clive Lloyd, the West Indian captain. He joined Rohan Kanhai, a former captain, who, at nearly forty years of age, was recalled to the side.

Lloyd immediately attacked the bowling and scored 102 runs off 82 balls including 2 sixes and 12 fours. He reached his second fifty in only 30 balls.

Kanhai, normally an attacking batsman, sublimated his batting in support of his captain to such an extent that at one stage, for eleven overs, he did not score a single run. Kanhai was eventually out for 55. With some useful runs from the lower order batsmen the West Indies eventually scored 291 runs for the loss of eight wickets.

Guyana, Lloyd's home country, issued three stamps in November 1985 to commemorate his testimonial (Figure 9).

Kanhai, also from Guyana, was featured on a series issued in July 1993 entitled "Famous Athletes of the Twentieth Century." On a personal note, Kanhai visited my local cricket club in Florida several years ago and I was able to get his autograph on the First Day cover (Figure 10).

In reply to the West Indies score of 291, Australia started well but some brilliant fielding by the West Indians and some poor running between the wickets by the Australians resulted in no less than five Australia run-outs.

Three of these were by Viv Richards who had two direct hits on the stumps.

Richards has appeared on a number of stamps issued by several West Indian countries. In March 2002 Antigua and Barbuda issued a set in celebration of his 50th birthday. The 25¢ and 75¢ values show him in action (Figure 11).



Figure 8. Gordon Greenidge, West Indies opening batsman.

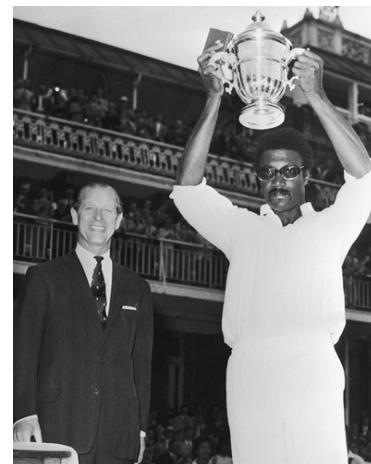


Figure 9. Clive Lloyd, West Indies' captain and "Man of the Match" in the final. At right, Prince Philip who presented Lloyd with the Prudential Cup.

Australia faced defeat at 233 for 9 and the vast West Indian contingent in the crowd began to stir. Fast bowlers Dennis Lille and Jeff Thompson decided to delay the West Indian victory. They put on a last partnership of 41 runs and came within 17 runs of victory with eight balls left.

The West Indies had won the inaugural Cricket World Cup!

CONCLUSIONS

As the last Australian wicket fell, the West Indian spectators crowded onto the pitch to celebrate the victory by their cricketing heroes. Although the match finished just before 9 p.m., it was almost midnight before all the speeches had been made.

Prince Philip, a useful cricketer in his youth and the President of the MCC, presented the Prudential Cup to Clive Lloyd (above right), the West Indian captain who also received – and deservedly so – the "Man of the Match" award. The Prince noted in his speech that "Prudential had achieved something memorable for cricket."

A number of Caribbean nations celebrated the triumph by issuing philatelic items.

Antigua issue a three-stamp series in December 1975 featuring fast bowler Andy Roberts and star batsman Viv Richards, both of whom were members of the winning West Indian team. The third stamp, based on a team photograph, shows the captain, Clive Lloyd, seated in the middle holding the Prudential Cup (Figure 12).



Figure 10. Autographed first day cover for Rohan Kanhai.



Figure 11. Viv Richards, West Indies premier batsman.

Antigua also issued a souvenir sheet (Figure 13) with four stamps entitled “1976 Special Events.” One stamp featured Roberts and Richards. The other three celebrated the Viking Space Mission, the 100th anniversary of the first telephone transmission and the U.S. Bicentennial. Only the West Indies would consider the winning of a cricket tournament to be the equal of these momentous events!

Ten other West Indian nations that play cricket issued two-stamp series, either as separate stamps or part of a souvenir sheet. One stamp shows the Prudential Cup while the other reproduced a map of the Caribbean Ocean with the cricket-playing nations highlighted in red. Typical of these is a souvenir sheet from St. Lucia (Figure 14).

The inaugural Cricket World Cup was a triumph, well supported throughout and entertaining to the last ball of the final match. Equally important was that the whole competition was financially successful with a total gate of over £200,000 and an aggregate attendance of 158,000.

The final at Lord's, despite not including England, played to a full house of 26,000 spectators and yielded a gate receipt of £66,000, another record for a one day match.

The ICC immediately decided to stage the next competition in England in 1979. The Cricket World Cup was here to stay.

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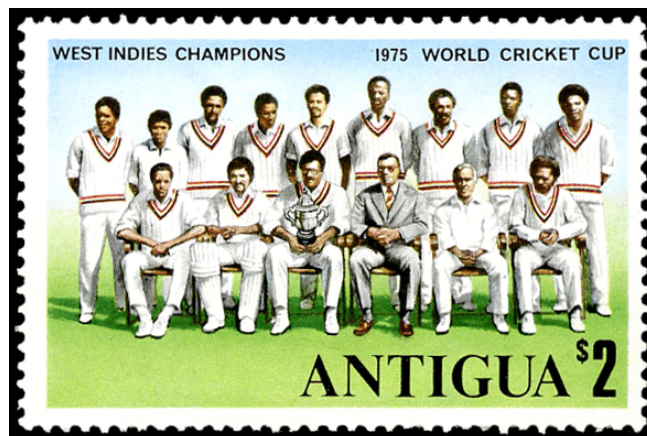


Figure 12. The victorious West Indies Team. Clive Lloyd is shown holding the Prudential Cup.



Figure 13. West Indies World Cup Victory on an Antigua “1976 Special Events” souvenir sheet.



Figure 14. Souvenir sheet featuring West Indies cricket playing countries (in red on the 50¢ value) and the Prudential Cup (\$1 value).



London 2012 Olympic Adventures: the New “Definitive” Stamp Issue

by Bob Farley

Royal Mail celebrated the start of this Olympic year with an issue of definitive stamps on 5 January. Royal Mail appear to be following the example set by Canada Post who introduced definitive stamps to promote the Vancouver Olympic Games, but there are some significant differences in the policies of the two postal authorities:

- The Canada Post issues were continuously available for a year in advance of the Games.
- The Royal Mail issue appears only seven months before the Games, and because 2012 also celebrates the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, the Olympic designs will be withdrawn on 30 January and reintroduced one month before the Games. In effect this is a promotional period of just two months.

The interruption in availability also spans the traditional date of annual postal rate increases, so the NVI (non-value indicated) Olympic stamps may appear at a higher sale value in June.

Letters to the philatelic press in the UK have already challenged the “definitive” status of this issue with some wondering if this isn’t simply a way for Royal Mail to address criticism of the increasing number of commemorative stamp issues.

This issue consists of four designs (top):

- Olympic 1st Class (46p at the time of issue)
- Paralympic 1st Class (46p)
- Olympic 20g worldwide (£1.10)
- Paralympic 20g worldwide (£1.10)

The stamps are printed in self-adhesive sheets of either 50 1st Class stamps or 25 20g worldwide.

The 1st Class values also appear in two retail booklets, each containing three copies of each design produced by a different printer.

The booklets can be differentiated by the cover design and inscribed self-adhesive label in the booklet. One has a quotation by Sebastian Coe on the vision of the Games (Figure 1), while the other is a list of key dates for London 2012 (Figure 2). Another difference between the two booklets is how the stamps are laid out in each.



Figure 1. “Quote” booklet with the order of stamps: (top row) Paralympic - Olympic - Paralympic (bottom row) Olympic - Paralympic - Olympic.



Figure 2. “Key dates” booklet with the order of stamps: (top row) Olympic - Paralympic - Olympic (bottom row) Paralympic - Olympic - Paralympic.



Figure 3. "First Day" and special pictorial handstamps for the Olympic definitive series.

The complete issue comprises 16 stamps: fourteen 1st Class stamps (two booklets of six stamps, plus two sheet singles), and two sheet singles of the 20g worldwide stamps.

Three "First Day" postmarks and seven special handstamps (Figure 3) were introduced at the Special Handstamp Centres to service collectors requests. These cancellations are not made available in local post offices in the UK, so they can only be obtained by mail-in request. The cancels cannot be used on enhanced service items such as "Signed For" (Certified) or Special Delivery (Registered) mail.

The choice of Land's End (Sennen, Penzance) as a location for the First Day cancel seems strange. Land's End is the start point for the Olympic Torch Relay in May, but has no other relevance to the London Olympic Games.

In an attempt to prepare covers with true postal provenance, I decided to prepare and mail items at post offices that directly relate to the London Olympic Games.

The most obvious location would be London E20, the newly created Postcode District that includes the Olympic Park at Stratford, but until the Post Office in the Main Press Centre is opened, there is no Post Office operating under this post-code.

The selected option was to mail items at Much Wenlock and Stoke Mandeville, the towns from which the London 2012 mascots derive their names, and towns that have valid claims regarding their

influence in the creation of the Modern Olympic Movement and the Paralympic Movement.

The trip to mail covers on 5 January proved quite serendipitous. From Much Wenlock to Stoke Mandeville is 110 miles, so a round-trip from home would be 240 miles, about 5 hours driving time, so covers had to be prepared in advance to minimize the time spent in the post offices.

Minimum Next Day 13:00 Special Delivery rate is £5.45, so I decided on this franking for my covers:

| | |
|--|----------|
| 1 x booklet + label = 6 x 1 st Class | (\$2.76) |
| 1 x 1 st Class (Olympic for M. Wenlock, Paralympic for S. Mandeville) | (\$0.46) |
| 1 x 20gm WW (Olympic for M. Wenlock, Paralympic for S. Mandeville) | (\$1.10) |

The balance of £1.13 would be added as an Horizon label printed at the post office counter, which would provide a secondary record of the date and location of mailing.

Arriving at Much Wenlock just before opening time, I held the door for the wife of the Post Master as she carried out the postcard rack to hang on the outside of the door.

My covers were scanned into the computerized system. Horizon labels were affixed and left with the Post Master for later cancellation after the date-stamp was cleaned – according to plan (Figure 4).



Figure 4. A cover mailed from Much Wenlock on the first day of the Olympic logo stamps.

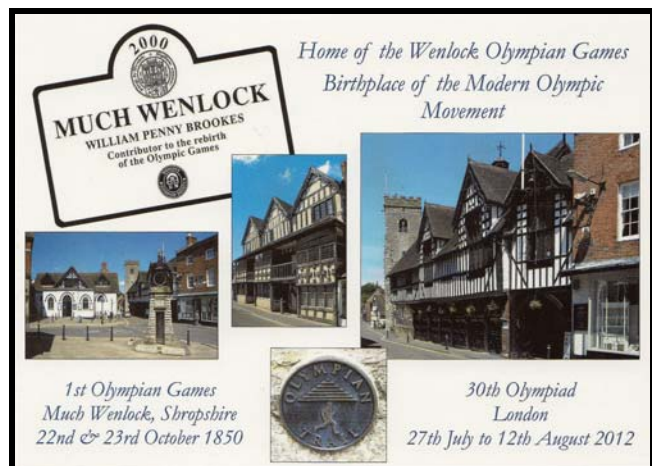


Figure 5. Newly discovered Much Wenlock postcard specifically mentioning the London 2012 Games.

As I left, I glanced at the postcard rack and was surprised to see that a number of cards had text relating to the “Olympic” heritage of the town. The Society of Olympic Collectors have a long-standing relationship with Much Wenlock, and we have looked for such cards during our many visits, particularly after a commemorative name sign for the town was approved by the International Olympic Committee in 2000.

Three postcards have text within their design “Birthplace of the Modern Olympic Movement.” One card includes the name sign, and the text “30th Olympiad London 27th July to 12th August 2012” (Figure 5).

Following a rapid purchase and discussion with the Post Master – and a cup of coffee nearby – franked postcards were left for cancellation. *Technically, the Post Master could refuse to cancel correctly franked 1st Class items, leaving them to be cancelled during the sorting process, hence the discussion.*

One stop completed. With expectations exceeded, I set off for Stoke Mandeville.

At the Stoke Mandeville Post Office, covers were again scanned into the computerized system and Horizon labels affixed. The Post Master took a telephone call. As I waited to request the position of cancels, a collection van arrived, so the Post Master (still on his call), asked the driver to wait for the Special Delivery items, collected the cancel from the secure area and under my direction carefully placed the strikes of the cancel as requested.

After offering my thanks for his assistance (and checking if there were any postcards of Stoke Mandeville), I left happy that all had gone to plan, and returned home.

At 8:30 a.m. on 6 January, a post van arrived with the Special Delivery covers, and I immediately

flicked through them to verify that all was well.

The first problem encountered: one Much Wenlock cover lacked any cancellations (rectified by a 76-mile return trip!).

The second “problem” was the date of the Stoke Mandeville cancel. When the Post Master retrieved his cancel, it must have been the first use of the day. In the rush to cancel the covers with the collection driver waiting, he had forgotten to change the date, and I had not noticed despite seeing every single impression applied. The value of using the Horizon label to complete the franking suddenly comes to the fore as it confirms the date of posting (Figure 6).

Covers showing apparent early release of the stamps may excite some collectors, but I enjoy a pre-release facility to permit the production of Society of Olympic Collector souvenirs. The pre-release undertaking includes a declaration that the stamps will not be used before the official date of release. The date of the Horizon label and the computerized Special Delivery mailing receipt are evidence that the agreement had not been broken and confirmed that the early date was simple human error.


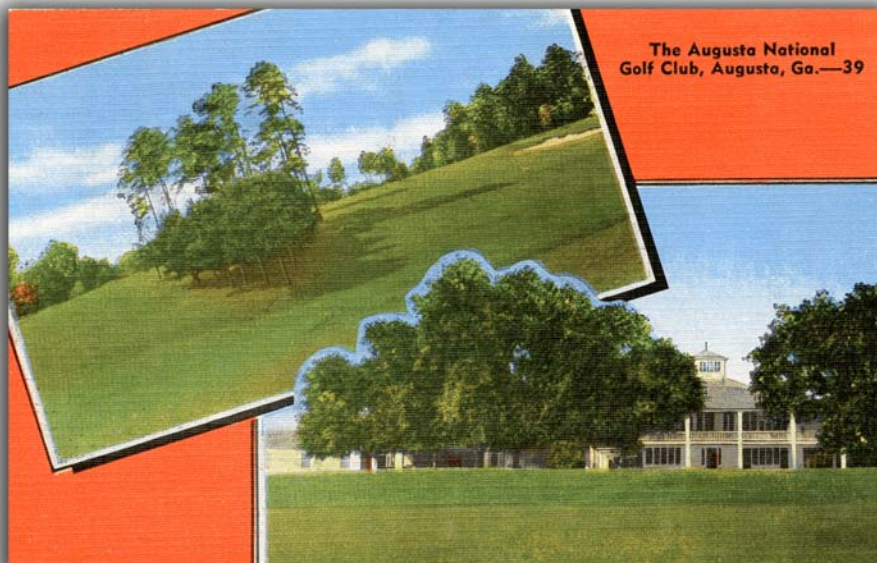
In my opinion it is “no contest” between Royal Mail souvenirs and my legitimately traveled postal covers! 



Figure 6. Although the Stoke Mandeville postmark reads 4 January the cover was actually mailed on 5 January as indicated by the Horizon (Postage Paid) label.



Major Tournament Golf

by Patricia Loehr

Of all golf competitions, the “majors” have, through the years, established themselves as significant contributors to the history of the sport of golf. Although there may have been a few years when they were not held, the majors have evolved from their many years of organizer support, player participation, and spectator interest. Each year brings renewed preparation and much anticipation for these events.

For men’s golf, some writers and historians of the sport have determined there are two eras of major tournaments. The first era was dominated more by amateur golfers. Then a second era established itself when professional golf rose to prominence.

Let’s take a step back to remember that before the now-major tournaments began, “rules of play” were created to govern them. In the early years of golf those who attempted to have competitions realized they needed some uniform rules and The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers wrote

the first “articles and conditions” in 1744. The St. Andrews golfers (later the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews) made some revisions in 1754. The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews continues to make rules and revise existing rules for the sport (Figure 1).

Previously, I have written about The (British) Open Championship as the start of championship golf, thereby making it also the first-ever major (Figure 2). Instead of having separate competitions for professional and amateur golfers, a single tournament open to all began in 1861. Both amateur and professional golfers may qualify to play in open tournaments.

Wanting to resume an amateur-only championship, the Royal Liverpool Club (Figure 3), also known as Hoylake, initiated a British Amateur Championship in 1885. In the years that followed, the British Amateur was won by some of the famous golfers of their time including Horace Hutchinson



Figure 1. St. Andrews Golf Club meter stamp. The Royal and Ancient Golf Club resides in St. Andrews.



Figure 2. Day 1 cancellation for the 1970 British Open.



Figure 3. Royal Liverpool 2006 meter stamp. Royal Liverpool returned to hosting the Open Championship in 2006 having last hosted it in 1967.

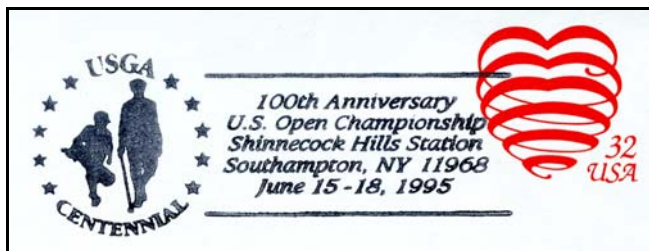


Figure 4. US Open Championship centennial pictorial hand cancellation 1995.



Figure 5. 1996 US Amateur Championship cancellation.

(2-time winner), John Ball (8), and Harold Hilton (4). By the end of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth the British Amateur was well-established as a significant major golf event.

The United States Golf Association (USGA) was formed in 1894 (Figure 4). It organized the first United States Amateur and Open Championships in 1895 (Figures 5, 6, and 7).

Like the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, the USGA has become a rules-making organization for the sport.

The United States Open Championship (Figures 8 and 9) had its first golfing hero when, in 1913 at the age of twenty, amateur United States golfer Francis Ouimet won in a famous play-off with British professional golfers Harry Vardon and Ted Ray (Figure 10). Golf enjoyed an increase in popularity following Ouimet's historic win.

Already experienced at winning majors – nine

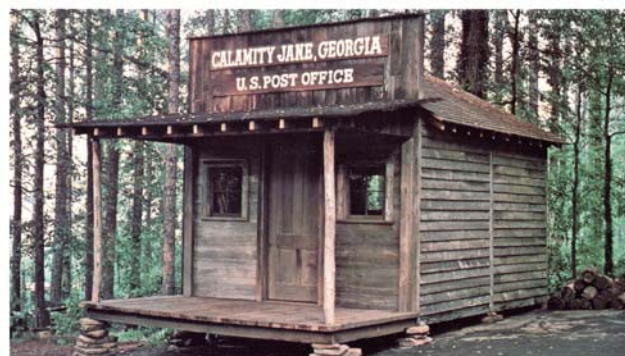


Figure 6. Picture postcard and cancellation for the 76th US Open in 1976. A replica post office station was constructed and named Calamity Jane in tribute to Bobby Jones and his famous Calamity Jane putter.



Figure 7. Meter stamp used in advance of the 1966 US Open (NBC currently has broadcast rights). Notice that this is a repeating number date sequence of 6-6-66.

of them since 1923 – amateur golfer Bobby Jones decided to attempt to win four significant tournaments in 1930. Those competitions would be the Amateur and Open championships of both Great Britain and the United States. When he accomplished that great feat of winning those four tournaments in the same calendar year it became known as the Grand Slam of golf (Figure 11).

Modern Grand Slam

The professional-era Grand Slam replaces the major amateur tournaments with the Masters Tournament and Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) Championship. The Masters now begins each major tournament year in April and the PGA held in August is the final major with the two Open Championships in-between.

When Bobby Jones retired from competitive golf after winning his Grand Slam he turned his attention to designing and building a golf course, the official opening of which occurred in January 1933.

The next year he hosted a get-together of many of his golfing friends and other accomplished golfers. He invited them to a tournament that was then known as the Augusta National Invitation Tournament. It has since become a world-famous sporting event known as The Masters (Figure 12 and postcard at top of article) and often described by the media as “a tradition like no other.”

The United States Professional Golfers’ Association (PGA) began in 1916 (Figure 13) and held its first championship the same year. Both the Masters and PGA tournaments are, unlike the Opens, by invitation only. Although the Masters may select amateur golfers who then receive an invitation, the PGA is a championship for professional golfers.

In the modern Grand Slam era there is some ambiguity for golfers who win the Bobby Jones era Grand Slam amateur events and then as professionals win the professional era events as to whether the amateur titles should be considered major wins.

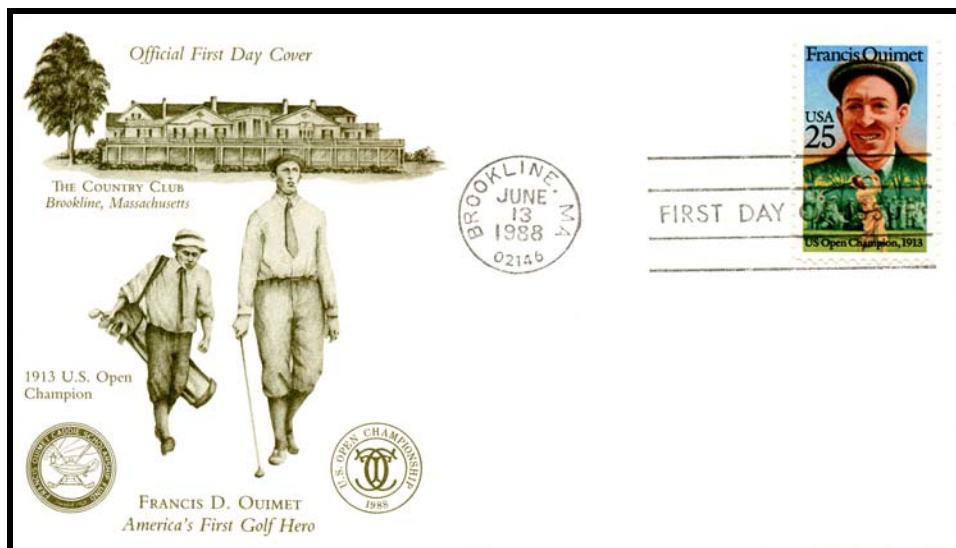


Figure 8. 1988 marked the 75th anniversary of the historic 1913 US Open Championship which was won by Francis Ouimet. A stamp was issued in his honor that same year.

Women’s Golf Majors

Women’s major golf tournaments are somewhat more complicated to determine as they just have not had the longevity of the men’s majors. Although the British Ladies’ Golf Union began in 1893 and held the first Ladies’ Open Amateur Championship the same year, it was not until more than a century later that a women’s British tournament received designation as a major. That event, the Women’s British Open, became a major in 2001.

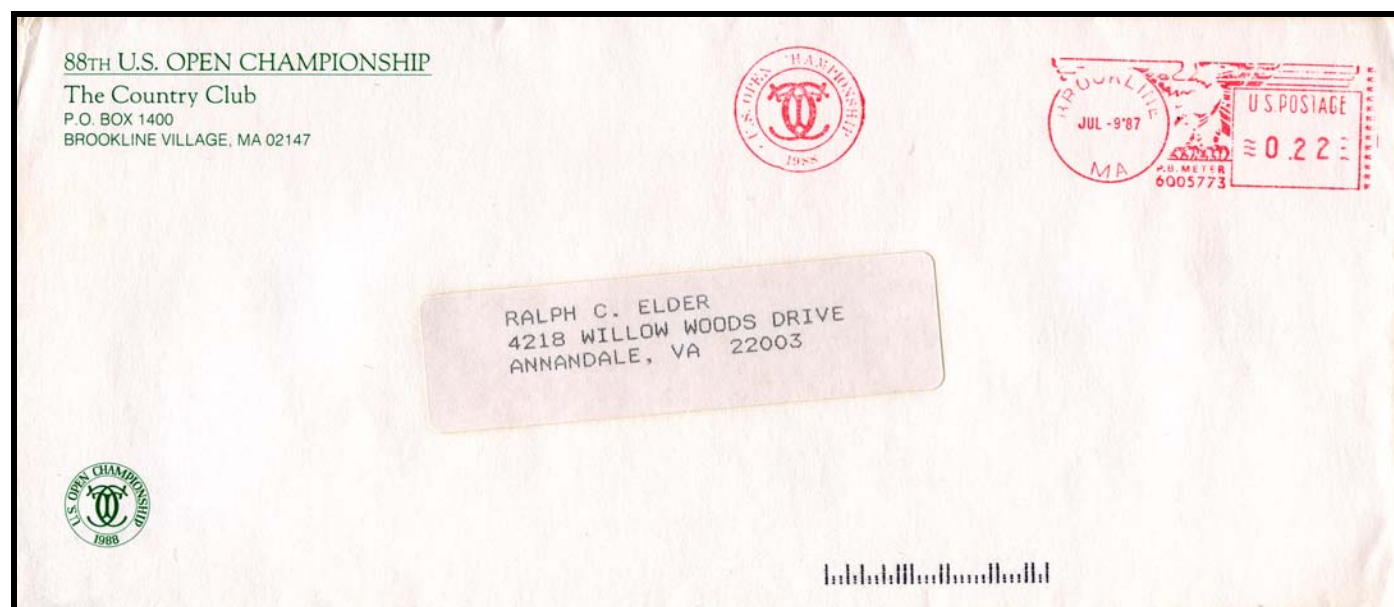


Figure 9. Meter stamp used in advance of the 1988 US Open Championship.

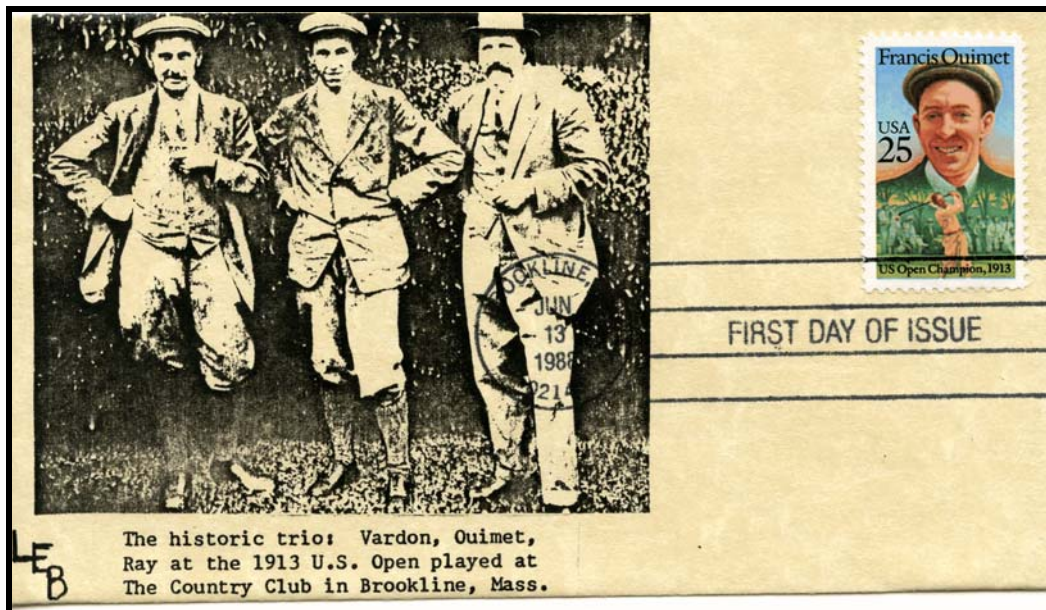


Figure 10. FDC with cachet of the three golfers who tied for the 1913 US Open Championship: Harry Vardon, Francis Ouimet, and Ted Ray.

Figure 11. 1981 US stamp honoring Bobby Jones issued at the World Golf Hall of Fame (then located at Pinehurst, NC). This cover combines commemorating the 50-year anniversary of completing the Grand Slam and First Day cancellation for the Bobby Jones stamp.

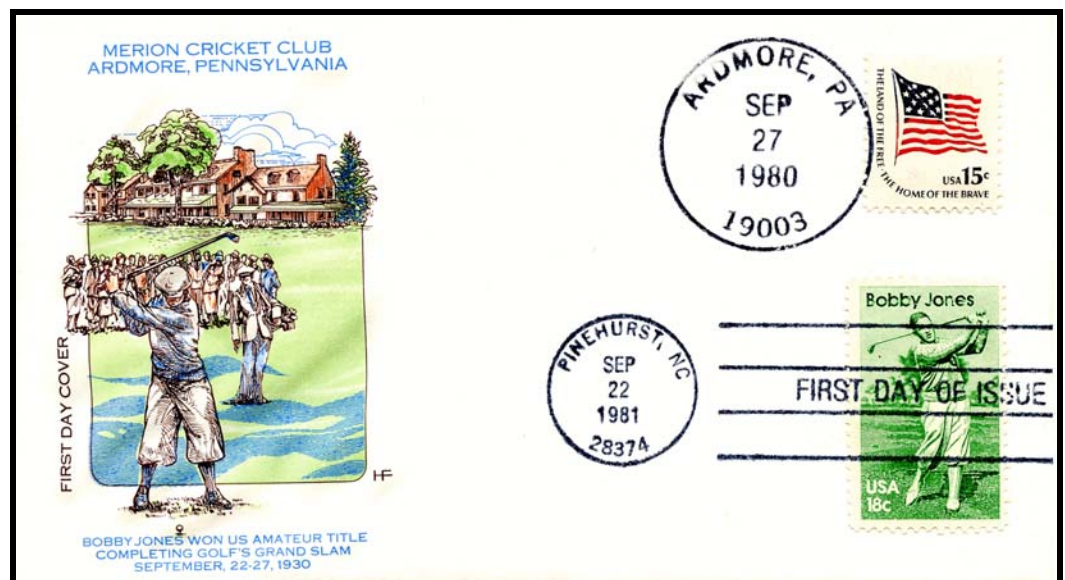


Figure 12. The first US postal issue honoring golf: an envelope in four styles with indicium depicting a golf club and an embossed golf ball. It was released at Augusta, Georgia in April 1977 during the Masters Tournament. FDC with cachet that has inset of the clubhouse at Augusta National.

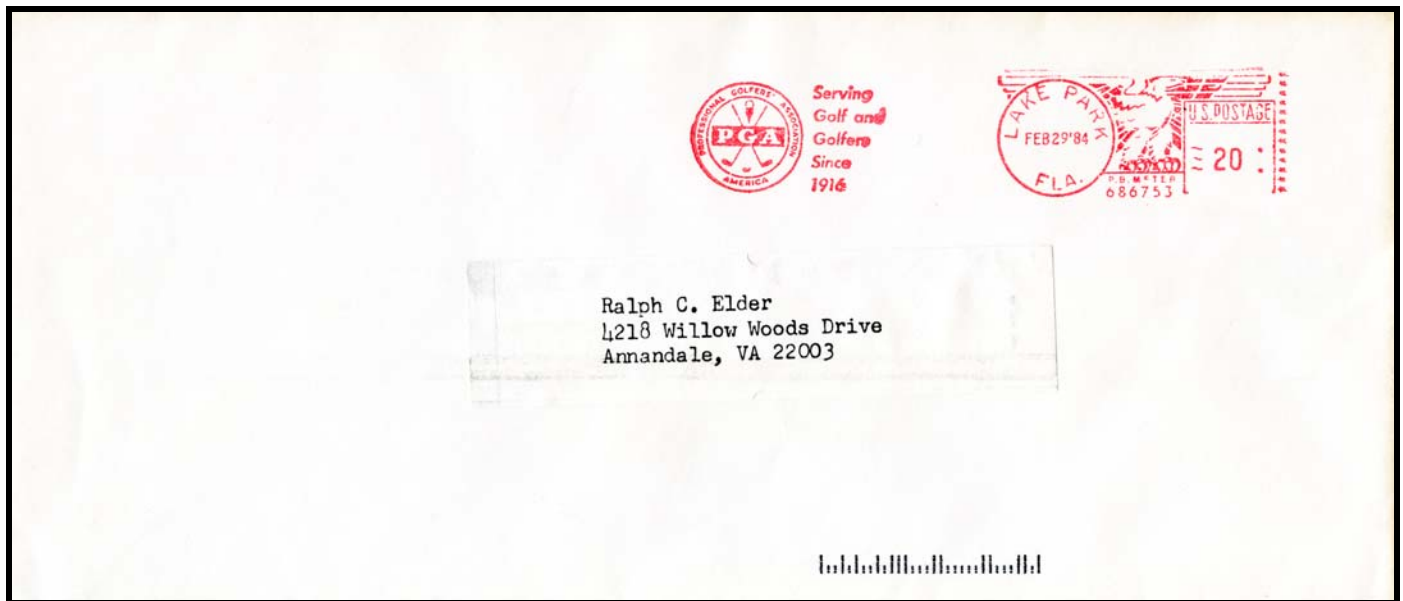


Figure 13. Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) meter stamp on leap year day in 1984.

First held in 1946, The United States Women's Open (Figure 14) is another major. Since 1953 it has been organized by the USGA.

Two early tournaments once described as majors began in the 1930s and have since then been discontinued. They are the Women's Western Open, last held in 1967, and the Titleholders Championship that ended after 1972. A popular tournament, The Titleholders was held at Augusta Country Club in Georgia. It is a golf course adjacent to Augusta National, the home course of The Masters.

The Ladies Professional Golfers Association (LPGA) began in 1950. It held its first championship in 1955 which, like the PGA's, is considered a major.

Mildred "Babe" Zaharias was a founding member of the LPGA having won numerous golf championships, some which are listed on a FDC for a 1981 stamp honoring her (Figure 15). During her career she also won four Women's Western Opens and three Titleholders which would have then been considered major wins. By the time the LPGA began having a championship, Zaharias was in declining health. She died in 1956.

The Du Maurier Classic, a Canadian tournament, began in 1973 and was designated a major in 1979.



Figure 14. 1992 US Women's Open cancellation.



Figure 15. A stamp honoring Mildred "Babe" Zaharias was released at the same time in 1981 as the Bobby Jones stamp. The design was unveiled on June 4, 1980 during the LPGA Championship at Kings Island, Ohio.

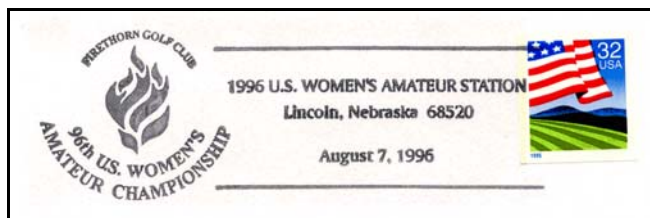


Figure 16. 1996 US Women's Amateur cancellation.

A significant tournament known as the Colgate-Dinah Shore Winner's Circle when it began in 1972 became a major in 1983. It is now known as the Kraft Nabisco Championship. Like the Masters Tournament it is held at the same course each year.

The oldest of all women's championships in the United States is the Women's Amateur Championship (Figure 16). It was one of the three original United States championships dating back to 1895; in the modern era of professional golf, however, it is not considered a major.

While the Bobby Jones era gave us Grand Slam golf events for men in the 1930s, that term did not apply to women's golf until some years after the LPGA began. Even then, in those early LPGA years, it is not clear how many or which tournaments were considered Grand Slam events. There is reference to the Du Maurier Classic as still being considered a major tournament. Another reference states that the Women's British Open replaced it in 2001. If that is the case, then the current four major Grand Slam tournaments in women's golf are: Women's British Open, U.S. Women's Open, LPGA Championship, and Kraft Nabisco Championship.

A Game of Honor

In tournament golf, direct supervision of a referee, umpire, or knowledgeable rules-of-the-game official may not be available. Therefore, in both amateur and professional competitions,

players when aware of infractions of the rules might call a penalty upon themselves or they could ask for an official ruling from competition organizers.

This principle of honor also applies to determining amateur and professional status for participation in the majors as defined by the rules of golf. The rules allow for professional golfers who want to return to amateur status the option to apply to those who govern the sport for reinstatement of an amateur designation.

The commemorative covers in Figures 17 and 18 each have a tournament cachet. The first is titled "The Tournament" with a golf stamp from the recreational sports set of stamps of 1995. The other is a Bobby Jones stamp celebrating his "The Grand Slam of Golf." The cachets could be a view of any amateur, professional, open, or invitational tournament for either men or women. The scene could take place in any of the many countries of the world that have golf events.

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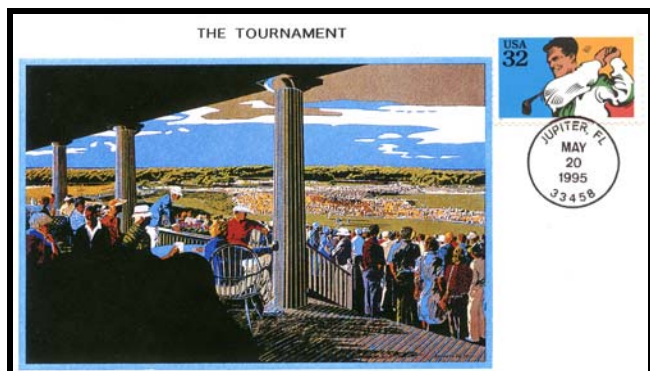


Figure 17. Commemorative cover with cachet of Shinnecock Hills Golf Club, Long Island, New York.

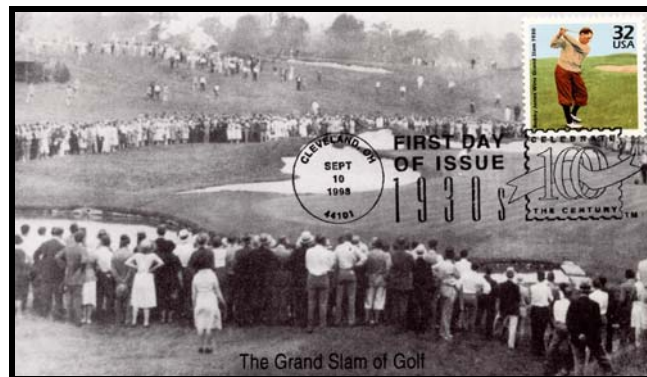


Figure 18. FDC for the Bobby Jones stamp from the 1998 Celebrate the Century Series, 1930s.



Figure 1. Letter to Germany from the Netherlands bearing a pair of P-Stamps honoring Frederik van Tuyll van Serooskerken, founder of the Netherlands Olympic Committee and the man most responsible for securing the 1928 Olympic Games for Amsterdam.

Frederik van Tuyll van Serooskerken

by Laurentz Jonker

Imagine devoting many years of your life to attaining a goal which would instill national pride and bring great international honor, and then not be able to enjoy the fruits of those labors. That is precisely what happened to Frederik W.C.H. baron van Tuyll van Serooskerken.

Van Tuyll, a member of a very old Dutch aristocratic family dating back to at least the 16th century, was instrumental in bringing the Olympic Games of 1928 to Amsterdam. As the first Dutch member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), elected in 1898, he first proposed that the Games of 1912 be hosted by Amsterdam, but they eventually went to Stockholm. World War I forced the cancellation of the 1916 Games, scheduled for Berlin.

Amsterdam again applied to host the 1920 Games, but agreed to step aside in favor of Antwerp.

Van Tuyll once more put Amsterdam's name forward to conduct the 1924 Olympics. IOC President Baron De Coubertin, wishing to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the founding of the IOC in 1894, asked instead that Paris be awarded those Games. With the acquiescence of the Netherlands Olympic Committee and the promise of De Coubertin, van Tuyll agreed to support Paris' bid for the 1924 Olympics in exchange for a guarantee that Amsterdam would receive the 1928 Games.

Finally, on 2 June 1921, van Tuyll's hard work and dogged determination paid off: Amsterdam was named as the host city of the Games of the IXth Olympiad. Barely three years into the planning for the historic event, Frederik van Tuyll van Serooskerken passed away on 13 February 1924 at the age of 72. In commemoration of his work, the Organizing Committee commissioned a statue in his honor which was installed at the entrance to the stadium.



Figure 2. My original 1987 design for a stamp honoring Frederik van Tuyll was turned down by the Dutch PTT.

In addition to his work in securing the 1928 Olympic Games for his nation, he was also chiefly responsible for the creation of the Netherlands Olympic Committee founded 11 September 1912 at the Hotel Krasnapolsky in Amsterdam. Van Tuyll served as its first President.

It had been my original intention to honor van Tuyll back in 1987 on the 75th anniversary of the Netherlands Olympic Committee. I wrote to the

Dutch postal administration with a proposal for a stamp which they turned down. My original design is shown in Figure 2.

My idea languished for many more years, until the recent advent of personalized stamps (so-called P-stamps) being offered by TNT, the current postal administration for the Netherlands.

Taking a chance, I submitted my original design. Much to my surprise, as the design still included the Olympic rings logo in the lower right corner, the stamps were printed. In all, two sheetlets of 10 stamps were produced. Figure 3 shows a partial sheetlet of the completed stamp.



Figure 3. A partial sheetlet of the van Tuyll stamp produced as a P-Stamp in 2011.

The “1” value signifies that the stamp was valid for postage equaling the first class domestic rate – at the time €0.46. The cover in Figure 1 is franked with a pair of the van Tuyll stamps even though this exceeds the €0.77 postage rate to Germany. The stamps are postmarked with a 12 July 2011 cancel from the Amsterdam Marathonweg post office which is located a few blocks from the Olympic Stadium.



At the laying of the cornerstone for the 1920 Olympic stadium at Antwerp on 4 July 1919. Frederick van Tuyll is fourth from the left (holding the umbrella for the man who is reading).



by Norman Rushefsky

The United States, having decided to use Panama for a cross-isthmus canal, utilized gunboat diplomacy to force Colombia to grant Panama's independence.

Panama declared itself an independent republic on November 3, 1903. At the same time, it also granted the United States the Canal Zone in perpetuity under a treaty crafted by the U.S. President, Theodore Roosevelt. This treaty gave the U.S. the right to build the canal and create a 10-mile wide Canal Zone of what amounted to sovereign American territory surrounding the waterway. Those born there would be considered as native born U.S. citizens.

Construction of a lock canal began a year later and America's cultural stamp – including baseball – has been on the country ever since.

U.S. corporations moved into the Canal Zone along with American soldiers. As in other examples of American empire building baseball was introduced by soldiers and workers for their recreation and for their and the locals' entertainment.

As construction of the canal began an Isthmian Baseball League was quickly formed. Col. George Goethals, who directed the canal construction, was league president. Soon the Atlantic League also began, and in 1908 the Panama Canal Zone League was created. Despite the raw relations between the United States and Colombia, baseball nevertheless received an enthusiastic reception in the South American country.

In 1939 the U.S. issued a stamp to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal (shown above). The stamp includes framed portraits of President Theodore Roosevelt at the left and Goethals at the right, with a reproduction of a steamship passing through Gaillard Cut in the center. The stamp was first placed on sale at the U.S. Navy post office on the USS Charleston, which

Baseball in the Panama Canal Zone

was at the Canal Zone on the anniversary date.

The FDC in Figure 1 is unusual in that it is on the stationery of the Los Angeles (Angels) Baseball Club. This team was a AAA level minor-league team. Fortuitously, the use of the baseball related envelope for the FDC of this stamp is perhaps pertinent in view of Goethals' interest in baseball. Because the post office of the Canal Zone operated relatively independently of the U.S. postal system the cover in Figure 1 was required to be postmarked by a U.S. government entity, in this case a U.S. Navy ship.

At the time the Canal Zone properties were turned over to the U.S. in 1904, the need for a postal service was of extreme importance because the postal service of the Republic of Panama ceased to operate in the Canal Zone.

On June 24, 1904, a postal service was established as a part of the Department of Revenues and under the supervision of the treasurer of the Canal Zone. On that date post offices were opened at Ancon, Cristobal, Gatun, Culebra and La Boca (later changed to Balboa). On the following day, additional post offices were opened at Bohio, Gorgona, Matachin and Empire. The Canal Zone Postal Service was now in operation with railroad station agents as postmasters.

The Canal Zone Postal Service was from the very beginning operated as an independent postal



Figure 1. FD cover of the 25th anniversary of the Panama Canal stamp postmarked on the U.S.S. Charleston. The envelope bears the corner card of the Los Angeles (Angels) Baseball Club.

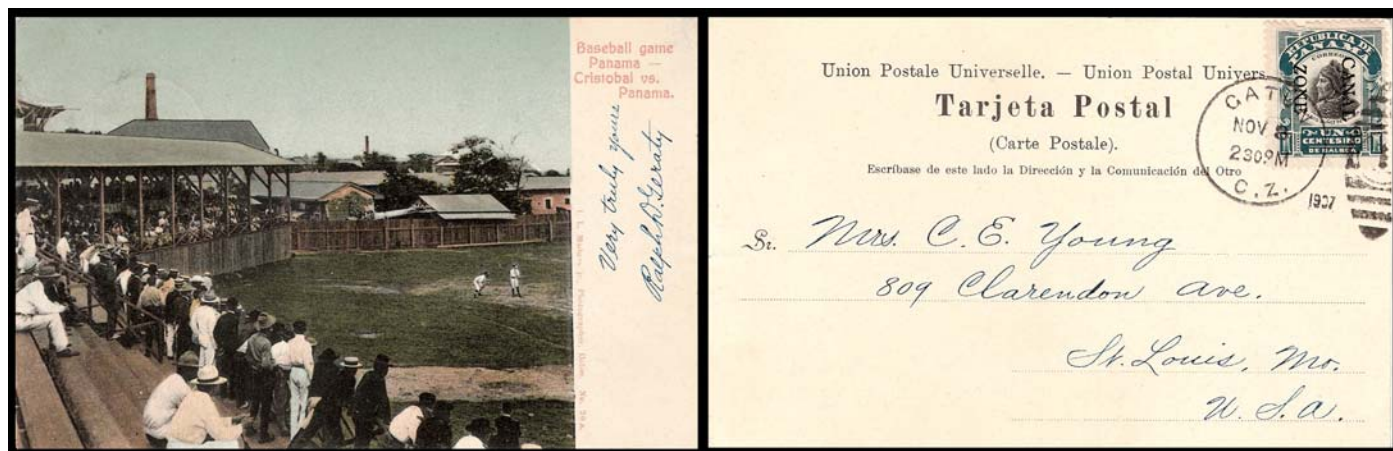


Figure 2. 1907 post card from the Canal Zone picturing a baseball game between teams from Cristobal and Panama.

system established as such by act of Congress of the United States. However, the Canal Zone, like all territories, possessions and other areas under control of the U.S. was represented at postal conventions by the U.S. Post Office Department.

When the Canal Zone Postal Service was first established a small supply of 2, 5 and 10 centavos Panama stamps overprinted "Canal Zone" were obtained and used until July 18, 1904. Then U.S. stamps overprinted "Canal Zone" were received and placed in use.

The overprinted U.S. stamps were used until December 12, 1904, then replaced by Panama stamps overprinted "Canal Zone" in conformity with the provision of an executive order issued on December 3, 1904 by U.S. Secretary of War William H. Taft. Panama received 40% of the face value of the overprinted stamps.

The postcard in Figure 2 was used in 1907 and shows a baseball game between Cristobal, Canal Zone and a team from Panama.

Another postcard dating to 1909 (Figure 3) depicts the "The Never Wases" and "The Has-Beens" the "leading" baseball teams on the Isthmus of Panama.

On May 28, 1924, the Taft order was abrogated by the President of the U.S. and on July 1, 1924, U.S. stamps overprinted "Canal Zone" were again placed in use, thus supplanting the overprinted Panama stamps.

Finally in 1928, stamps specifically designed and printed for the Canal Zone were issued.

With the approach of World War II and the draft in the U.S., many minor-league players traveled to the Canal Zone during the winter to play for the Balboa, Diablo, Cristobal and Colon teams and were given jobs in the defense industry during the ball season. As draftees began to arrive from the states many were pro ballplayers who were signed up to play in the Isthmian League. The players in the military in addition to playing for civilian teams also played for their base teams in the military league.

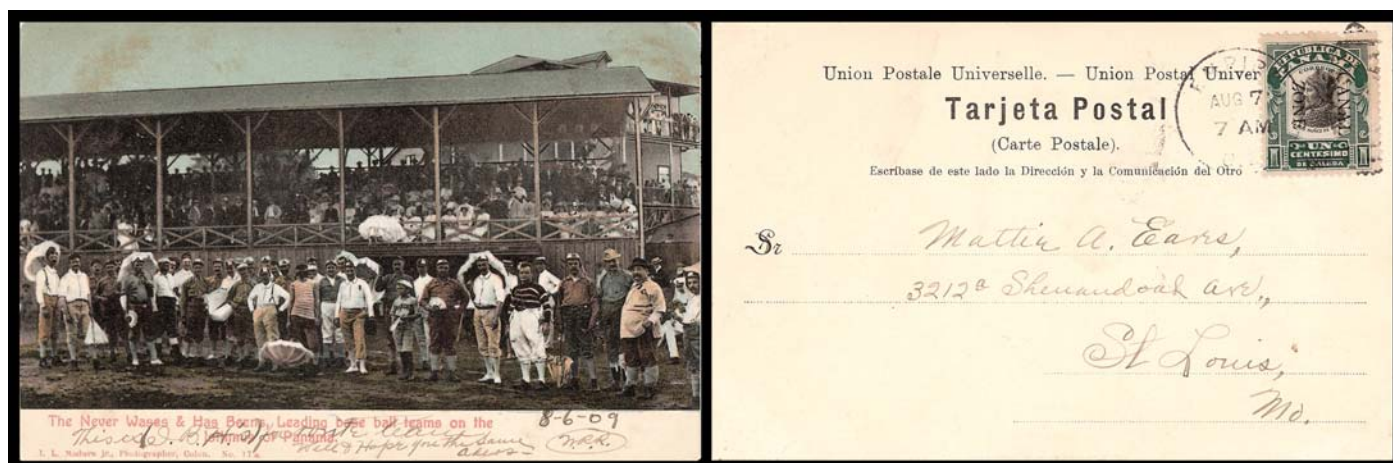


Figure 3. A postcard from 1909 depicting The Never Wases and The Has-Beens, the two leading Isthmus teams.



Figure 4. During WWII, a number of players from the U.S. played on Canal Zone teams, both military and civilian. Censored cover from the Diablo Heights Baseball Club in the Canal Zone mailed in 1945.

Isthmian baseball was at the height of its glory during the war years and was considered very important to worker morale. It was never to achieve or maintain the same greatness after the war.

The 1945 censored cover in Figure 4 is postmarked at Balboa Heights and features the logo of the Diablo Heights Baseball Club.

Baseball Hall of Famer Rod Carew was born in Gatun aboard a train within the Canal Zone. Carew spent mornings, afternoons and evenings growing up in Panama hitting lots of paper taped into balls. When he was a teenager his mother moved the family to New York City, not far from the old baseball Polo Grounds and near Yankee Stadium.

During Carew's extraordinary career, the 18-time All-Star won 7 batting titles, including four straight from 1972-1975, joining Ty Cobb as the only other player to do so in the American League. In 1977, Carew's .388 batting average was the highest since Ted Williams' .406 in 1941.

Figure 5 reproduces a patriotic cover from World War II postmarked in Gatun, Carew's birthplace. He also appeared on a 1988 stamp from Grenada.

Figure 6 shows a U.S. War Department envelope used by the Magdalena Fruit Co. of Santa Marta, Colombia to possibly provide a report to the U.S. Army. The stamp is the Colombia 5 centavos stamp of the set of stamps for the 1935 National Olympic

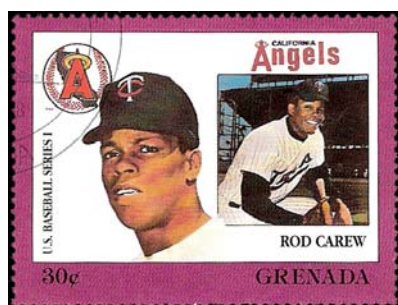
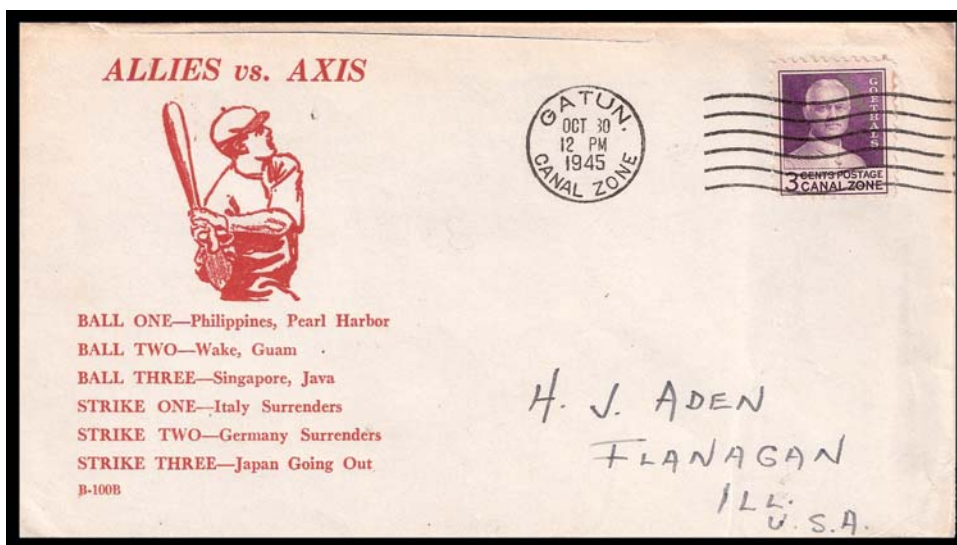


Figure 5. One of Major League Baseball's greatest players, Rod Carew, was born in October 1945 in Gatun, Canal Zone. At right, WWII patriotic cover mailed from his birthplace. Above, Grenada stamp honoring him.



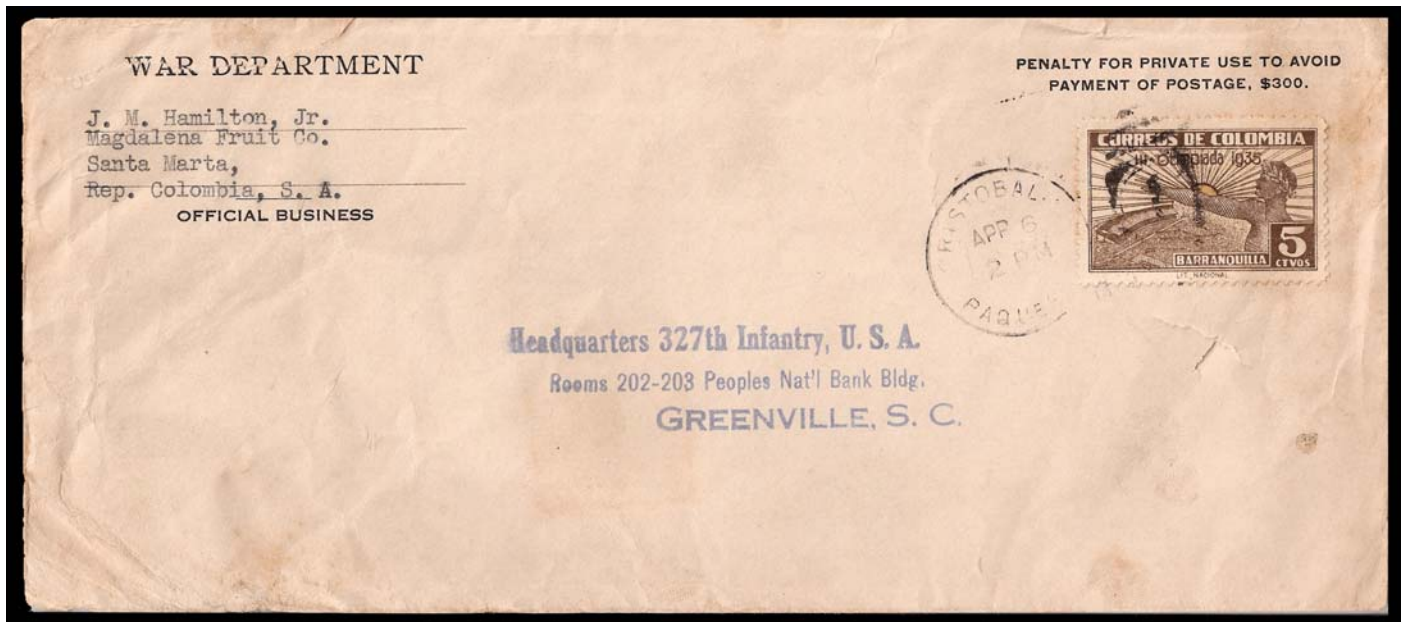


Figure 6. Cover franked with a 1935 Colombian stamp featuring a baseball field in a stadium. The stamp is postmarked with a Cristobal (Canal Zone) paquebot marking.

games and shows a stadium with a baseball field. The envelope however is postmarked with a Cristobal, Canal Zone paquebot cancel. Usually paquebot cancels are used on letters posted on board a ship. However, where one does not trust the local post, as might be the case for correspondence with the U.S. military, it is possible this was given to a ship's officer at Santa Marta. Figure 7 illustrates a better example of a Cristobal paquebot cancel used in 1936.

America maintained control of the Canal until a treaty in 1977 gradually gave control of the Canal back to Panama. The complete turn over of the



Figure 7. The Cristobal paquebot marking from 1936.

Canal Zone was concluded in 1999.

From an early date, America's pastime became Panama's pastime. Indeed as noted by the cover in

Figure 8, a baseball stamp was issued by Panama in 1938 – a year before the U.S. issued its first U.S. baseball stamp. The stamp's postmark illustrates the Isthmus of Panama with a slit through the middle of the country to indicate the location of the Canal.



Figure 8. The 1938 baseball stamp from Panama with a map cancellation showing the canal. Panama honored the sport a year prior to the U.S.!

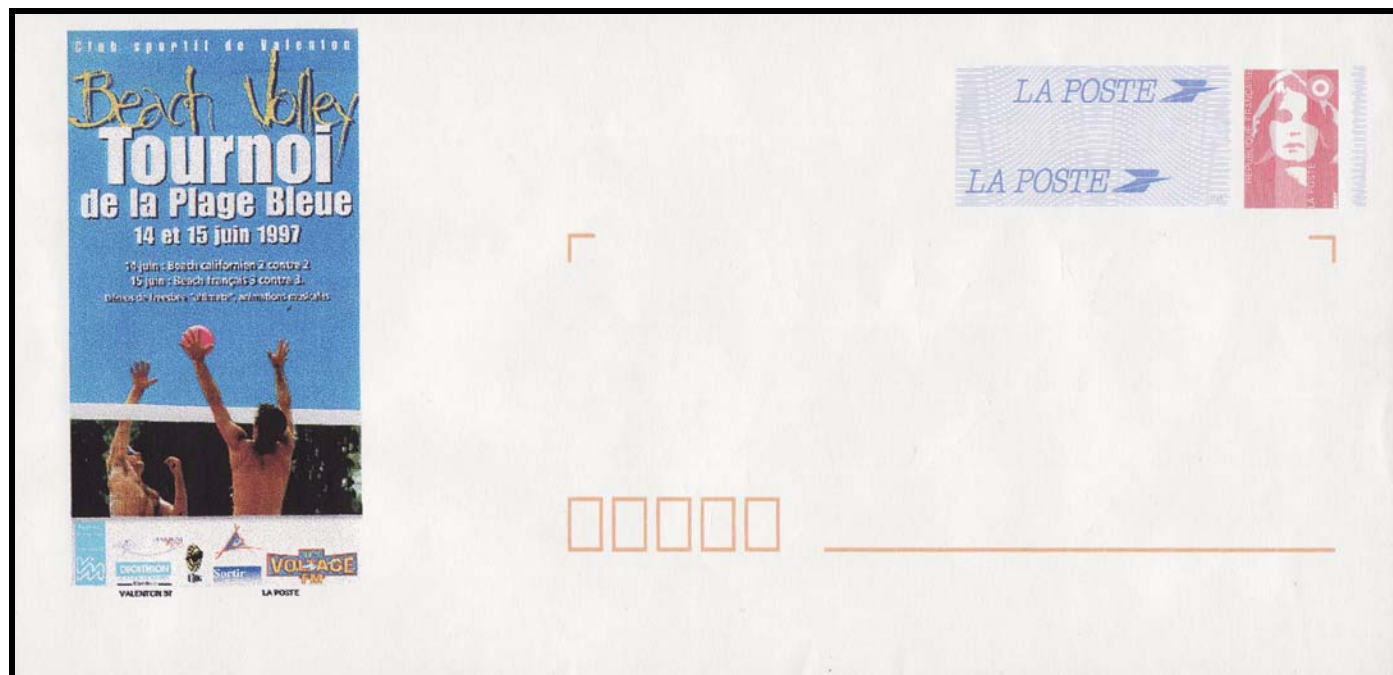


Figure 1. Beach volleyball PAP (privately printed). Indicium design: Louis Briat (Marianne du Bicentenaire).

An Overview of French “Prêt-à-Poster” Postal Stationery

by Piet van den Berg

A Prêt-à-Poster or PAP envelope is a type of French postal stationery, usually with a decorative cachet or printed corner card. As the name implies (in English, “Ready to Post”), the envelopes come with an indicium – imprinted stamp indicating that postage is prepaid. These exist in both official and privately printed versions.

La Poste, the French postal administration, introduced the PAP in 1995. From 2003 onwards, they authorized local authorities and private companies/clubs to also produce them.

PAP envelopes are very popular in France. Cities, villages, regions, private companies and all sorts of clubs have created their own PAPs promoting special interests. The sheer number produced each year, combined with the lack of extensive publicity, makes collecting them difficult. This article serves only to introduce collectors to this philatelic element.

Privately printed PAPs exist with sports themes on the cachet including archery, basketball, cycling,

golf, soccer and volleyball. Even the summer and winter Olympic Games have been noted.

Official PAPs are mentioned in the postal stationery section of the Yvert & Tellier Catalogue. A separate PAP catalogue is not yet available.

PAP envelopes are generally 220 mm. x 110 mm. in size. They are prepaid for weights up to 20 grams with delivery within France. Some PAPs are also available for mailing in Monaco and Andorra.

Many earlier PAPs are franked with images of Marianne, the national emblem of France. Each new president of France invites designers to participate in a new design of Marianne.

In 2008, France’s President Nicolas Sarkozy chose a design of Marianne by illustrator and engraver Yves Beaujard.

Past designers have included Louis Briat (Marianne du Bicentenaire) (Figure 1), Eve Luquet, Thierry Lamouche (Figure 2), Pierre Gandon and Albert Decaris. PAP collectors will often classify a particular PAP by the artist responsible for the Marianne indicium.

More recently, PAPs have appeared with their own unique “Prêt à Poster” indicium (Figure 3).



Figure 2. Privately-printed PAP (on paper different from the official version) promoting Vichy as a summer vacation destination for beach volleyball, aerobics, rowing and sailing. Indicium design: Thierry Lamouche.

Privately printed PAPs differ from official PAPs in the manner in which the stamps and cachet are printed. In official types, all printing is done in a single process. In privately printed versions (Figures 1 and 3), the cachet (or other printing) is added to the pre-franked envelope at a later time by a different printer. Sometimes, the paper on which privately printed versions are produced (Figure 2)

is different from the officially printed types.

Almost all PAPs have a unique number on the reverse which is La Poste's approval code. 📧

For more information on PAPs please visit the French auction site: <http://www.delcampe.net/page/category/language,E,cats,588,var,Stamps-Europe-France-Postal-Stamped-Stationery.html>



Figure 3. PAP (franked with Prêt à Poster indicium). The corner card is for a volleyball team in Tourcoing.

Canada Post Revisits the Olympic Games: the Backstory

by Mark Maestroni

Canada Post recently issued a set of five “permanent” definitive stamps, two of which note Canadian participation at the Olympic Games.

The theme of the set released on January 16, 2012 is “Canadian Pride.” Each stamp shows ways in which Canadians display their flag with its iconographic emblem, the red Maple Leaf. A Coast Guard ship, flag fluttering in the wind, graces one stamp, while another shows a very retro green VW bus with a flag plastered in the rear window. A young Inuit child waves a small paper flag on another stamp.

The remaining two stamps are directly related to the Olympic Games.

The first portrays judoka (judo practitioner) Nicolas Gill who proudly carried the Canadian flag during the Opening Ceremonies of the 2004 Athens Olympic Games. The stamp portrays Gill, in a red t-shirt, holding the Canadian flag (Figure 1).

Mike Ridewood/Canadian Olympic Committee



This stamp reproduces a photograph shot by Mike Ridewood before the opening of the 2004 Athens Olympic Games (Figure 1).

When contacted by this author, Mike related an interesting story surrounding the photograph on which the stamp’s design is based.

“London will be my 10th Olympics,” Mike wrote, adding that “since 1996 in Atlanta [I have worked] for the Canadian Olympic Committee as one of two team photographers.”

Mike continues: “Before the opening ceremony there is always pressure for photographers to find pictures. The day before the opening in Athens we organized a photo op with Nicolas Gill at the Parthenon. A group of photographers, along with Nick, traveled [to the Acropolis] from the Main Press Center. The flag was about a half-size Canadian flag. We found the best spot for the picture and got out the flag. We all got a few frames, then the security folks swarmed. ‘You can’t take pictures with a flag. We will have to take your memory cards,’ they said. We pocketed our cards, but they mellowed as the conversation progressed and we escaped with our pictures.”

Gill is regarded as Canada’s most successful judo competitor. He competed in four consecutive Olympic Games (1992, 1996, 2000, and 2004), winning two Olympic medals in the process.

Figure 1. The design of the Nicolas Gill stamp (right) is from a photo shot by Mike Ridewood just prior to the start of the 2004 Athens Olympics. The original photo (left) almost did not survive!





Figure 2. Michael Sohn's photograph of the Canadian bobsledder, Pierre Leuders (right), was used for the Canada Post stamp honoring the silver medalist.



Michael Sohn for the AP

At Barcelona in 1992, Gill took the bronze in the middleweight (86 kg) division. At Sydney's 2000 Olympic Games, he garnered a silver in the half-heavyweight (100 kg) category. Gill has also participated in numerous world championships and other international competitions.

The fifth stamp in the series features a white bobsleigh bearing the Canadian Olympic Committee logo (red maple leaf surmounted by the Olympic rings in white), Olympic Rings (in color), word "Canada" in a script font, and the Canadian flag. A white-helmeted slider is seated inside the two-man bobsleigh (Figure 2).

While no particular Olympic Winter Games is associated with this stamp, according to the publicity the slider is identified as Pierre Leuders, Canada's premier male bobsledder. A five-time Olympian, Leuders began his Olympic career at the 1994 Lillehammer Games and continued through Vancouver's 2010 celebration. In all he won two Olympic

medals: a gold in the 1998 two-man bobsleigh event at Nagano, and a silver in the same event at Turin in 2006. He retired from competition following the 2010 Winter Olympics and now serves as the coach of the Canadian development bobsleigh team.

The design of the stamp is based on a photograph by Michael Sohn, an Associated Press photographer (Figure 2). It was taken on February 16, 2006, during two-man bobsleigh training at the 2006 Turin Olympic Winter Games. Leuders won the silver medal along with his brakeman, Lascelles Brown, who would have been bent down behind Leuders (the driver) and therefore not visible on the stamp.

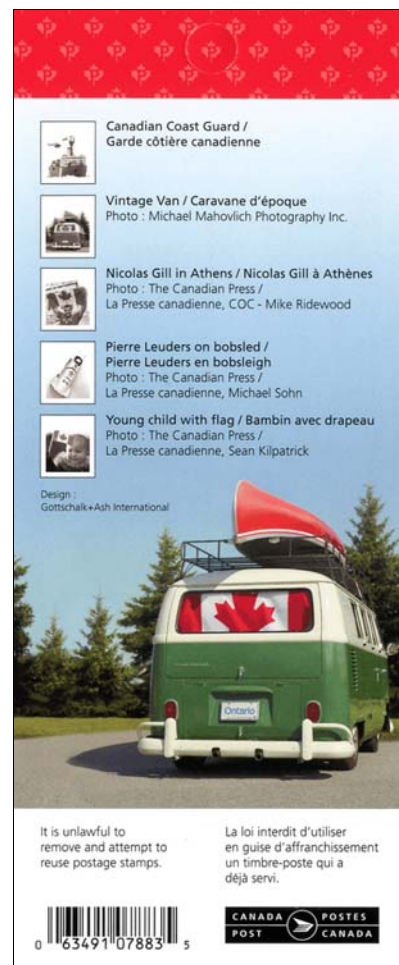
Canada Post is selling the stamps in three formats: in a booklet of 10 (two of each stamp – Figures 3 and 4); a booklet of 30 (actually three booklet panes of 10 attached side-by-side and sold as a single unit – Figure 5); and a souvenir sheet of 5 (Figure 5). The stamps pay the current first class domestic postage rate of 61¢.

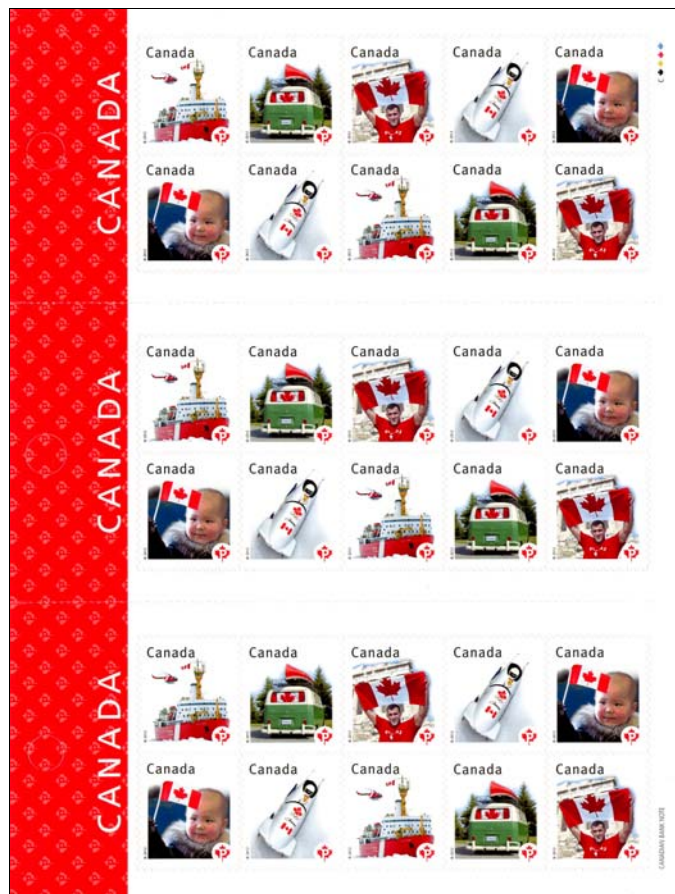
The printing process is by four-color lithography. The booklet stamps are self-adhesive and come with die cut perforations. The souvenir sheet has water-activated gum; the stamps are perforated 13.

Figure 4. Back cover (right) identifies both Olympians as Nicolas Gill (holding the Canadian flag) and bobsledder, Pierre Leuders.



Figure 3. Booklet of 10 self-adhesive stamps.





A note in *Details* magazine, the free quarterly publication of Canada Post, advises collectors to “look for a couple of unusual new tagging techniques on these stamps – one in red and the other in yellow.” Yellow tagging is clearly visible as vertical bars on both right and left edges of each stamp (true for both the booklet and souvenir sheet versions).



Figure 4. Booklet of 30 stamps, vertically tri-folded. The selvedge at the top of each pane differs from that on the single-pane 10-stamp booklets. The outside of the unfolded booklet features two youngsters holding the Canadian flag aloft at the end of a dock beside an image of the cutter making a path through icy waters.

The red tagging is trickier to see. According to Anick Losier, the Media Relations Director at Canada Post, the red taggant is only viewable under black light and reveals more information on each stamp. For example, the bobsleigh stamp has text reading “Pierre Leuders on bobsled,” while the other Olympic stamp is identified as “Nicolas Gill in Athens.”

She added that “the green/yellow taggant is for our machines; the red is for security purposes to ensure our products are not fraudulently reproduced.”



Figure 5. Souvenir sheet of five perforated stamps with water-activated gum.



**18th World Olympic Collectors Fair
17-20 May 2012
Zappeion Megaron, Athens**



ANNOUNCEMENT

We are proud to announce, and invite you to join us in the 18th World Collectors Fair hosted by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and Hellenic Olympic Committee (HOC) on May 17th-20th 2012, in Athens.

The Hellenic Olympic Committee and its Commission for Olympic Philately, Numismatic and Memorabilia, in cooperation with the Hellenic Olympic Academy are pleased to inform you that the Fair will coincide with the Handing over Ceremony of the Olympic Flame by the Hellenic Olympic Committee to the London Organizing Committee of Olympic Games in the Panathenaic Stadium.

The 18th World Olympic Collectors Fair will be hosted at Zappeion Megaron (www.zappeion.gr), a historical monument, the first building in the world to be constructed in order to serve Olympic needs and has always been linked to the Olympic Movement. Zappeion is located at the historical centre of Athens, surrounded by some of the most important buildings & monuments and within walking distance from the Panathenaic Stadium, where the Handing Over Ceremony will take place.

During the Fair, the Hellenic Post will also operate an office in Zappeion.

All participants will receive among other privileges, free accreditation passes compliments of H.O.C., to attend the Handing Over of the Olympic Flame Ceremony on May 17th at the Panathenaic Stadium. They may also visit Athens Olympic venues and historical sites. A limited number of free accreditation passes for VIP seating for the Lighting Ceremony of the Olympic Flame on 10th May in Olympia will also be available for few lucky participants with early bookings. They may also visit the premises of the Hellenic Olympic Committee in Ancient Olympia (International Olympic Academy).

**Olympic Memorabilia Exhibition
“Greece and the Olympic Games: 1894 – 2012”
15-20 May 2012**

As part of the Fair, a memorabilia Exhibition will also take place, from 15th to 20th May, where the Hellenic Olympic Committee, Institutions, as well as individual collectors will exhibit memorabilia and items related to Greece and the Olympic Games.

- More details and application forms will shortly be available at the Hellenic Olympic Committee web site, www.hoc.gr

Looking forward to receiving you in Athens,

Dr Petros Synadinos
Chairman



THE SPORTS ARENA

by Mark Maestrone



From Laurentz Jonker comes an interesting cover (shown above) franked with two different p-stamps (personalized stamps) he created. The designs are based on vignettes from the 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games.

The stamp on the right, the Marathon Runner, is classified as a "December stamp" which means it can be used during the month of December to mail Christmas cards and other unsealed envelopes at a reduced rate (for domestic use only) of 36c instead of the usual 46c.

The other stamp is in an Art Deco style. The face value "1" represents the domestic postal rate of 46c for cards and letters up 20 grams (this increased to 50c in January 2012).

In reality, Laurentz noted, the stamp cost him about 30c above face to have printed.

The cover bears one of each stamp totaling 82c. The rate to the U.S. is 95c; the additional pair of numeral stamps add 15c to the total (so overfranked by 2c).

The stamps are postmarked from Assendorperstraat, the street where Laurentz grew up. A machine cancel from the Zwolle processing center appears at the bottom (upside down).

As a side note, Laurentz noted that two months ago the last official post office in the Netherlands closed – a beautiful Art Deco building in the center of Utrecht. All postal business is now conducted at supermarkets, tabacs and bookshops. I guess here in the U.S. we should be grateful that we still have post offices!

Our trusty correspondent in Canada, Kon Sokolyk, has sent word of an interesting hockey-related postal envelope released by Canada Post on September 26, 2011 (below).

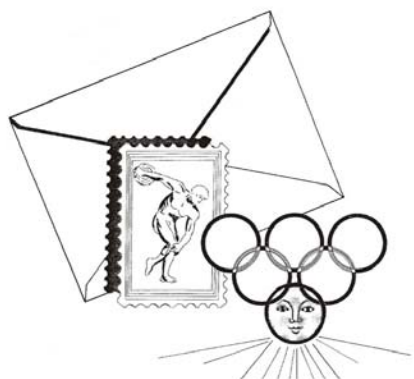
The cover celebrates the opening of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts' new Claire and Marc Bourgie Pavilion of Quebec and Canadian Art.

The museum's logo is reproduced as the indicium and postmarked with a printed-on generic Canada Post cancel of the same date.

What's interesting for the sports collector is the reproduction of a painting by Serge Lemoyne called, simply, "Dryden," which covers the entire front of the cover. Part of the museum's collection, the painting depicts ice hockey great Ken Dryden's goalie mask.

Because the cover is sold only pre-canceled, it should be considered a philatelic souvenir. Still, it's an interesting item.





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**National Topical Stamp Show
Lancaster, Pennsylvania
June 22 – 24, 2012**

The American Topical Association's 63rd annual National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS) will be held at the Lancaster, Pennsylvania's Host Resort and Conference Center on June 22-24, 2012. This all-thematic exhibition now accepts Display Division, First Day Cover exhibits, Maximum Cards and Postcard class exhibits, as long as they are thematic in nature.

Exhibitors are welcome to view the ATA website at www.americantopicalassn.org for a copy of the show prospectus.

Additional information is available from the show chairman, Robert J. Mather, S56-W29562 Roanoke Dr. Waukesha, WI 53189-9035 or burrobb@wi.rr.com.

REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS

by Mark Maestroni

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

December 2011 (#62). The first Olympic Winter Games did not take place until 1924. However, as René Christin reports in the current issue of *Esprit*, there was a precursor – the Nordic Games – which were first held in 1901. Through postcards, vignettes and postmarks, Christin illustrates the early days of this multi-sport winter competition. A pair of postcards are shown at right.

Hercules (Herakles) has long been associated with the Olympics. In 1909, sculptor Antoine Bourdelle completed a bronze statue, “Hercules the Archer.” This sculpture graces the many meter imprints used by INSEP, the French National Institute of Sports and Physical Education.

The philately of World Weightlifting Championships is also reviewed.

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

December 2011 (#36). A contribution on the 2010 Youth Olympic Games in Singapore from 27-year-old basketball philatelist, Aleksey Davydov of Russia, makes for very interesting reading. Aleksey, a FIBA (International Basketball Federation) referee at the YOG, explains the fascinating format of this sport used at the games called “FIBA 33” and presents some interesting philatelic souvenirs he picked up.

Two ongoing series are continued in this issue. First, Tracy Mitsidis, shows some pages from his fascinating and quite cleverly conceived thematic “World Basketball” exhibit. The presentation, which combines culture and sport, juxtaposes philatelic material from each host country of a World Basketball Championship with traditional dances from that country – for example tango stamps combined with an Argentine cover with cancel for the 3rd championships held in Buenos Aires in 1950. Now how clever a concept is that!

This issues concludes with an installment of the Olympic basketball stamp catalog, this time covering the Mexico City 1968 and Munich 1972 Games.

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

November 2011 (#152). IMOS presents a thorough look at the Women’s World Cup of Football which took place in Germany last spring. Various

writers provide extensive coverage of the philatelic aspects of the championships (stamps, special postmarks and meters) as well as personal impressions of the event from different perspectives.

Wolfgang Marx continues his reports on the many private posts in Germany generating sports related items. Armin Haug examines the ancient forerunners of modern wrestling through numismatics. Manfred Winternheimer provides updates to his Olympic and sports philately catalogs. Especially noteworthy are the full color illustrations of new Olympic and sports stamps.



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

December 2011 (Vol. XIV, No. 2). The 1st Youth Olympic Winter Games in Innsbruck, Austria are front and center in this issue. An overview of the YOG and a preview of Hungary's participation is provided, followed by a philatelic look at Innsbruck as a winter sport and Olympic host. In addition to hosting the 3rd World Championships in Alpine Skiing back in 1933 and again in 1936, Innsbruck welcomed the winter Olympic world in both 1964 and 1976.

Also reviewed in this issue are the results – philatelic and sporting – of the 2011 Canoe Sprint World Championships held in Szeged.

Looking ahead, Krisztián Berki, winner of the men's pommel horse gold medal in men's gymnastics at the 2011 World Championships will definitely be in competition at the London Olympic Games. Hungary has a long and illustrious record in men's gymnastics at the world level as summarized in this article on the sport.

Finally, on their 75th anniversary, part two of a review of medalists at the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games is presented.

Phila-Sport: *UICOS, c/o CONI Servizi, Largo Lauro de Bosis 15, Foro Italico, 00135 Rome, ITALY [In Italian]*

July 2011 (#79). There is a good cross-section of sports in this issue starting with the 2011 Rugby World Cup held in New Zealand in October. Pasquale Polo reports on the handsome stamp issues released by the host country. Alvaro Trucchi takes a long philatelic look at the sport of archery including both world championships and Olympic competition.

In "Unique Items for Olympic Specialists," Nino Barberis presents some original sketches (essays) for Monaco's set of stamps for the 1952 Helsinki Olympic Games. Shown are stamps for water polo, tennis, boxing, two for basketball, men's gymnastics,

diving and fencing. Some of the essays are shown below.

Other articles in this issue discuss World Cup autographs and tickets, Olympic bobsleigh, the world of volleyball (primarily Italian philately), and an extensive examination of Italian ski champions and related philately.

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

December 2011 (Vol. 28, #4). With the London Olympic Games less than a year away, it's no wonder that this final issue of 2011 concentrates on bringing readers up to date on the latest information.

One of the more unusual articles discusses the various Postage Paid mail pieces with visible Olympic connections that are being used by the many levels of Olympic sponsors. Deloitte (accounting firm), British Telecom, and EDF Energy are some of the more prolific issuers.

Following close on London's heels is Sochi's Olympic Winter Games in 2014. Already, many stamp issues have been produced by the Russian postal administration. Reported on are the 4-stamp "Russian Black Sea Coast Tourism" set, and three sports stamps for cross-country skiing, ski jumping, and short track speed skating.

Completing this issue, Sid Marantz and Bud Kling continue their series on pin collecting with a discussion of "themes" such as logos and posters, mascots, and sports pictograms.

Publications available online

Grupo Podium: www.grupopodium.com.ar

Olympsport: www.olymp-sport.cz

Philatelic Volleyball Newsletter, available (via email in PDF format) in English from Piet H.M. van den Berg at volleyphil@home.nl



NEW STAMP ISSUES

by John La Porta

Albania: August 26, 2011. Boxing. 50 lek, 100 lek; souvenir sheet with 250 lek stamp, boxing scenes.

Argentina: November 12, 2011. Sports Idols. Four souvenir sheets, each with 10p stamp, chess grandmaster Miguel Najdorf, chess board; legs of roller skater Nora Vega in track competition; symbolic silhouette, sail of windsurfer Carlos Espinola; horse and hand of polo player Adolfo Cambiaso.

Austria: January 12, 2012. 150th Anniversary Alpine Association. €0.62 early rock climber.

Bosnia Serb Administration: November 30, 2011. Person of the Year. 90pf tennis player Novak Djokovic with trophy. Offset in sheets of eight with a label.

Bulgaria: October 29, 2011. First Bulgarian in Dakar Rally. Souvenir sheet with two 1.50 lev stamps with the same design and two labels, all terrain vehicle in desert.

Cayman Islands: August 31, 2011. Catboats. 20¢ catching turtles; two 25¢, building boat; sailing around Cayman Brac's bluff; 50¢ racing regatta style; \$1.60 unloading cargo; \$2 sewing the sail.

Christmas Island: October 31, 2011. Christmas. Set of two stamps, \$1.50 value, Santa arrives with snorkeling gear and red crab on back. Offset in sheets of 50, sheets of five and booklet (\$1.50 value only).

Colombia: October 19, 2011. Pan-American Games. 600p mascots Gavo, Huichi, Leo.

Costa Rica: July 14, 2011. Athletes. Pane of four set-tenant stamps, two 200col stamps, boxer Hanna Gabriel; runner Nery Benes; two 330col, soccer player Bryan Ruis; cyclist Andrey Amador.

Croatia: November 30, 2011. Alpine Ski World Cup Winner. 7.10k, Ivica Kostelic kissing the trophy.

Egypt: October 17, 2010. 2nd Games of Arab Universities. 30pi emblem, mascots with "20" or "10" on jerseys.

December 11, 2010. 100th Anniversary Egyptian Olympic Committee. 30pi emblem, Olympic rings, bronze sculpture of ancient Egyptian with Olympic flame.

December 30, 2010. 50th Anniversary Cairo Stadium. Souvenir sheet with £2.50 stamp, stadium.

France: October 7, 2011. World Weight Lifting Championship. Souvenir sheet with two round stamps, €0.60 male weightlifter; €0.89 female weightlifter.

October 24, 2011. Rugby Cup. €0.60 stamp shaped like a rugby ball, national colors.

Great Britain: January 5, 2012. London Olympics. Two nondenominated first class stamps, two nondenominated "worldwide up to 20g" stamps, 2012 Olympic logo; 2012 Paralympic logo. Printed in sheets of 50 and booklets of six (the two first class stamps).

Guernsey: October 27, 2011. Formula 1 World Champions Lewis Hamilton and Jenson Button. 36p, 47p, 61p, 65p, Vodafone McLaren Mercedes team cars of 2008 and 2009. Offset in sheets of 10.

Guinea: July 28, 2011. 100th Anniversary of the First Race in Monte Carlo. Sheet of six various values and one souvenir sheet with one 40000FG stamps. All depict various race cars and drivers.

July 28, 2011. 100th Anniversary Juan Manuel Fangio. Sheet of six various values and one 40000FG stamps depict the race car driver.

Guinea-Bissau: February 10, 2011. National Team of India Cricket: Souvenir sheet with one 3500 FCFA stamp depicting cricket team.

August 14, 2011. Homare Sawa sheet of four 750 FCFA stamps, souvenir sheet with one 2500 FCFA stamp. All depict soccer scenes.

August 14, 2011. Japanese Baseball Stars. Sheet of four 750 FCFA stamps, souvenir sheet with one 2800 FCFA stamp. All depict Japanese baseball stars.

August 14, 2011. Winner of Tour de France 2011. Sheet of four 875 FCFA stamps, souvenir sheet with one 3300 FCFA stamp. All depict Cadel Evans.

August 14, 2011. World Ice Hockey Championship 2011. Sheet of four 750 FCFA stamps, souvenir sheet with one 2600 FCFA stamp. All depict hockey players.

August 14, 2011. Formula 1 Racing. Four souvenir sheets: 2500 FCFA Michael Schumacher; 2600 FCFA Lewis Hamilton; 2700 FCFA Fernando Alonso; 3000 FCFA Sebastian Vettel.

Iceland: January 26, 2012. 100th Anniversary National Olympic and Sports Association of Iceland. Nondenominated stamp depicting a gymnast on balance beam, three track and field athletes. Offset in sheets of 10.

Indonesia: October 16, 2011. Sea Games. Six se-tenant 2,500p stamps showing Modo and Modi, the komodo lizard mascots, Jakarta Tower; Ampera Bridge, Palembang; table tennis; badminton; soccer; pencak silat martial arts.

Isle of Man: January 1, 2012. London Olympics. 37p sailing; 38p cycling; 58p swimming; 68p tennis; 76p rowing; £1 running; £1.15 archery. Souvenir sheet contains one £3 stamp, cycling road race. Offset in sheets of 5.

Israel: December 6, 2011. Israeli Soccer Legends. Pane of 10 se-tenant 1.70s stamps. Offset in sheets of 10 stamps and 10 labels.

Italy: January 4, 2012. 100th Anniversary Giulio Onesti. €0.60 symbolic athletes, including fencer, sailboat, headquarters of Italian National Olympic Committee in Rome.

Jersey: January 10, 2012. Visit Jersey/Europa. One sport stamp in set, 49p surfer, sailboats, land sailing. Offset in sheets of 10.

Macedonia: August 31, 2011. European Basketball Championship. 70d circular stamp, basketball, crowd, emblem. Printed in sheets of 10.

Micronesia: September 21, 2011. Japan Wins Women's World Cup Soccer. Pane of eight se-tenant 50¢ stamps with continuous design of players on Japan's team; four se-tenant 98¢ stamps depicting the final match, goalie Ayumi Kaihori; Japanese team celebrates; United States team; goalie Hope Solo.

Mozambique: April 20, 2011. 100th Anniversary of Juan Manuel Fangio. Sheet of six various values and one souvenir sheet with one 175.00 MP stamps, all depict the race car driver.

New Zealand: October 24, 2011. All Blacks Rugby World Cup Champions. Souvenir sheet contains six \$1.90 stamps showing the silver fern emblem of the All Blacks.

October 24, 2011. Rugby World Cup Champions. Souvenir sheet contains six \$1.90 All Blacks stamps.

Nevis: April 4, 2011. Cricket World Cup. Pane of four \$3 stamps featuring South Africa's team, two stamps show A.G. de Villiers; team celebrating; world cup emblem.

Pakistan: September 23, 2011. 125th Anniversary Karachi Gymkhana Sports Club. Four se-tenant 8r stamps, emblem, buildings.

Palau: September 21, 2011. Japan Wins Women's World Cup Soccer. Two panes of four se-tenant 98¢ stamps depicting Japan's team. Pane 1, Nahomi Kawasumi; team with trophy, the team; Yudi Nagasato. Pane 2, coach Norio Sasaki; team celebration; the team; coach Pia Sundhage.

Poland: June 13, 2011. Postcard. 100th Anniversary of Polo in Poland.

November 19, 2011. Postcard. History of Polish Sports Organization: 100th Anniversary of Polonia Warszawa Sports Club.

November 20, 2011. Postcard. The European Football Championships Poland - Ukraine 2012.

Russia: September 27, 2011. Sochi Olympics. Black Sea Coast Tourism. Pane of four se-tenant stamps and labels (six versions exist of the pane with text on the labels in Chinese, English, French, German, Russian and Spanish), 15r skiers on lift, Krasnaya Polyana; 20r marine terminal building; 25r Bolsho Akhun Mountain; 30r Volkonskiy dolmen.

October 3, 2011. Sochi Olympics. Three 25r stamps, speed skaters; ski jumper; skiers. Offset in sheets of 9.

October 21, 2011. Sochi Olympics. Black Sea Coast Tourism. 15r, 20r, 25r, 30r, Same designs as stamps issued Sept. 27. Offset in sheets with six stamps of the same design and labels in the six different languages.

November 25, 2011. 100th Anniversary Russian Olympic Committee. 15r rings, Russian national colors, symbolic athletes, gymnast, hockey player, runners, skaters, weightlifter. Offset in sheets of 15.

San Marino: October 11, 2011. Milan, Soccer Champion of Italy. €1 emblem, shield with 18, silhouette of Milan buildings.

Serbia: September 20, 2011. European Women's Volleyball Championship. 46d emblem, symbolic players. Offset in sheets of eight stamps and a label.

South Africa: August 30, 2011. South African Rugby. 10 se-tenant nondenominated international stamps. Different springbok emblems.

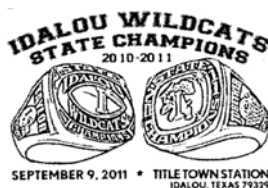
United States: January 22, 2012. Sailboats. Nondenominated postal card and reply card depicting a sailboat by Burt Silverman.

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.



11909-793 Idalou, TX

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The postmark shown above which was listed in the Winter 2011 issue of JSP did not include the notation in the Cross Index that it honors both football AND basketball (right side of right hand ring).



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