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NUMBER 4

*A Personal Journey to Ancient
Olympia Where it All Began*





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JOURNEY TO ANCIENT OLYMPIA & ATHENS

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2012 TORCH RELAY

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GOLF

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestroni

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN TO ...

1. Cast your votes for the next 2-year term for the officers and Board of Directors of SPI. You may vote by marking and mailing in the (enclosed) ballot to our Secretary/Treasurer Andrew Urushima, or you may e-mail him your votes. (Deadline August 1.)

2. Renew your membership in SPI. Only those who receive envelopes with this issue are up for renewal for the 2012-2013 year. (Deadline August 1.)

For those who would like to save some postage, you may include your ballot with your SPI renewal (sent to me) and I'll forward them on to Andrew.

SPI-MEMBER, ELTEN SCHILLER'S PASSING

We note with sadness the passing of longtime member Elten Schiller. Elten was the author of the book "Baseball Stamps...Autographs," an invaluable reference for those interested in the multitude of cachets used on FDCs of U.S. baseball stamps.

Elten was born in Germany in 1923 and emigrated with his parents to the U.S. when he was one year old. Following his discharge from the Navy in 1947, Elten worked in the front offices of two baseball organizations, the Dodgers and Padres, for a total of 41 years.

Elten was recognized for the many innovations he brought to the business end of the game. Those wishing more details regarding this extraordinary man may peruse an obituary at: www.legacy.com/obituaries/utsandiego/obituary.aspx?n=elten-f-schiller&pid=156487761

- Norman Rushefsky

SPI 50TH ANNIVERSARY APPROACHING

Our celebration at INDYPEX is fast approaching. From September 28-30, 2012 we'll be gathering at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel near the airport. To reserve your hotel room, please call (877) 361-4511 and mention INDYPEX to get the special rate of \$92 per night, single or double occupancy.

This is a National Level APS World Series of Philately exhibition so you can be sure that there will be plenty of excellent exhibits on view. For those of you who have not yet submitted your applications to exhibit, I would recommend you do that very soon. While there are a sufficient number of frames reserved for us, the show committee will eventually release them to other exhibitors.

We are working on an interesting program for attendees. The theme of our convention is a celebration of the centennial of the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm, Sweden and its most notable medalist, Jim Thorpe. In addition to a special postmark, we will also have a small exhibit of philately and memorabilia relating to the Games of the Vth Olympiad assembled by Conrad Klinkner and myself.

A speaker for the event has been selected, but is pending final confirmation. Planned are one or two additional PowerPoint presentations.

Last but not least, we will hold a special SPI dinner on Friday, September 28 which you won't want to miss. I will have location and cost details available shortly.

Those planning on attending the show (and especially if you are interested in attending the dinner), please drop me a line either by letter or email (markspi@prodigy.net) so we can contact you with more information.

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

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Figure 1. Accompanied by a priestess, the “amphithales pais” (boy with both parents living), holding an olive branch symbolizing victory and honor, enters the Olympic stadium at Ancient Olympia during the Lighting Ceremony of the Olympic Flame, 10 May 2012.

(Photo: M. Maestroni)

A Personal Journey to Ancient Olympia Where it all Began

by Mark Maestroni

It's hard to remember a time when I *didn't* have a burning desire to visit the birthplace of the Olympic Games, Ancient Olympia. So when the opportunity presented itself to actually make the journey, I fairly jumped with excitement.

Thanks to Greek SPI member, Stathis Douramakos, the plan was hatched during last year's World Olympic Collector's Fair in Chicago. When I learned from Stathis that the 2012 Fair would most likely be held in Athens at the same time as the Olympic Torch Relay, I was almost immediately on the phone with my Olympic cohorts, Norman and Kathy Jacobs. My proposal: combine a trip to Ancient Olympia with a visit to Athens. The possibil-

ity of attending the Lighting Ceremony at Olympia and the Handover Ceremony in Athens was just icing on the baklava!

Planning continued apace and on 9 May 2012, Norm, Kathy and I were rendezvousing at the airport in Athens. Driving across the Corinth Canal and onto the Peloponnese – the peninsula that forms the southern portion of Greece – we continued along the Gulf of Corinth to Patras. Venturing down to the seaside in search of somewhere for lunch we happened upon a small café with terrific views of the modern Rio-Antirrio Bridge which links the Peloponnese and the Greek mainland (Figure 2).

Besides its incredible beauty, I mention the bridge because of its dual Olympic connections. Inaugurated on 7 August 2004, the first persons to



Figure 2. The Rio Antirrio Bridge played a part in both the 2004 and 2012 Torch Relays.

officially cross the bridge were the Olympic torch bearers en route to Athens for the Opening Ceremony of the 2004 Olympic Games on 13 August. This year's Torch Relay also cross-

ed the bridge (northbound this time) on 15 May 2012.

From there our journey continued southward through the rugged, mountainous areas of Achaea and into Ilia (Elis), home to the Olympics. I'm not sure if it was the Olympian gods guiding us or Norm's GPS, but we managed to successfully navigate the winding, single-lane roads to reach our destination.

Happily ensconced in our rooms at the Hotel Europa high above the town of Olympia, we had incredible views westward across the Elian plain. That evening we joined our fellow Olympic collectors from the U.K., Germany and Greece for a delicious dinner of grilled Greek vegetables and meats accompanied by a Greek Assyrtiko wine at the hotel's outdoor taverna. Surrounded by olive trees, the scent of night-blooming jasmine in the air, we watched the sun, now a red ball, sink below the horizon – a good omen for the next day's festivities.

Through the generosity of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, we were all accorded VIP status as their

guests for both the Lighting Ceremony on 10 May and the Handover Ceremony a week later in Athens. At this point I would like to publicly thank them for according us this honor.

Now back to our story. By 9:30 a.m. the next morning, our special accreditation badges around our necks, we convoyed in taxis down to the entrance to the ruins at Ancient Olympia (Figure 3). The police presence was very much in evidence, but not overly intrusive, as we walked along the Sacred Way and into the Altis – the once-walled precinct that includes the Temples of Zeus and Hera. Just past the Temple of Hera, we paused for a moment under an olive tree where a small group had gathered. Fittingly perched on a piece of an ancient wall or column was a rough wooden container resembling a carpenter's tool box with a half-dozen miner's lamps lined up like milk bottles (Figure 4). On closer inspection one noticed that a small flame burned brightly in each. Clearly, these were the back-up flames lit during the previous day's dress rehearsal. Occasionally these have had to be used when the weather was uncooperative on the day of the official Lighting Ceremony.

Making our way along the walkway through the tree-lined Altis complex (more on the archeological and historical aspects of the ruins later), we passed through the iconic stone-lined tunnel (Figure 5) – of which only a short section of arch remains – and into the bright sunshine of the Olympic stadium.

Facing the west end of the stadium was seating for roughly 300 guests. Among those invited were, of course President of the IOC, Dr. Jacques Rogge, and King Constantine of Greece.



Figure 3. US/UK delegations at the Lighting Ceremony: Bob and Brenda Farley, Bob and Ruth Wilcock, Kathy Jacobs, David and Rennie Buxton and your author. (Photo: N. Jacobs)



Figure 4. Miner's lamps containing Olympic Flame lit during dress rehearsal on 9 May to be used in case of inclement weather on 10 May.

A roped-off area of the northern embankment that is formed by the base of the Cronus Hill contained a sea of many hundreds of spectators.

While waiting for the ceremony to commence, there was an opportunity to explore a bit. Various participants in the event were milling about. One official displayed an Olympic torch, presumably to be used in the day's relay. Standing nearby, amid a cluster of 2012 London Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG) officials, was the second relay runner, Alexandros Loukos.

A British-born 19-year-old of Greek heritage, Alex (Figure 6) had been selected back in 2005 to



Figure 5. The "krypti" or arched tunnel leading from the Altis into the stadium.



Figure 6. Alex Loukos (second from left), the first Briton to carry the torch, poses with LOCOG officials. The growing gallery of spectators can be seen on the grassy embankment.

accompany the official London Bid delegation to Singapore where the city was selected as host of the 2012 Games. As a relay participant in Greece, Alex represented the youth of London.

Remarking afterward, he described his torch bearer experience as "just incredible," adding that "for the first time in my life I was lost for words. After the Ceremony I took my place to ready to carry the Flame. I had to run about 350 meters to hand it to the next person and I was taking it slowly just so I could take it all in."

Things finally got underway around 11 a.m. Following the requisite hoisting of the Olympic, Greek and United Kingdom flags, playing of the national anthems and speeches by the dignitaries, the core event occurred – the kindling of the Olympic Flame from the rays of the sun.

A small group of some 50 Olympic and government officials were invited to witness the lighting which took place out of view of the public (and most of the rest of us) at the Altar of Hera (Figure 7).

At noon, the High Priestess, played by actress Ino Menegaki, dipped the special Greek torch into the bowl of the parabolic mirror aimed at the sun. Within moments, the Olympic Flame was kindled and then placed in a small decorative glazed clay bowl.



Figure 7. The Temple of Hera in front of which the Olympic Flame is lit.



Figure 8. The “amphithales pais” is shown using a golden scythe to cut an olive branch from the sacred olive tree at Olympia.

The traditional portion of the ceremony continued with the arrival through the stadium tunnel of a priestess accompanying the *amphithales pais* (Figures 1 & 8), a young boy whose parents are still

living. The boy carried an olive branch (*kotinos*), symbolizing victory and honor, which he was required to cut himself. According to ancient legend, this olive branch was formed into a garland and awarded to the victor of the Games.

In dramatic fashion, from over the rise of the embankment at the western end of the stadium, came the priestesses who performed the “Dance of the Nymphs” (Figure 9). In Greek mythology, these were beautiful young maidens of divine origin who loved to sing and dance, and were sometimes guided by the god Apollo.

They were followed by “the heralds,” 14 young men whose warlike “Weaponless Pyrrhic” dance (Figure 10) contrasted dramatically with the rather ethereal choreography by the priestesses.

The ceremony culminated with the arrival of the Olympic Flame carried in a small decorative pot. As a senior priestess cleared the crest of the stadium embankment behind the dancers, the flame was extinguished by a gust of wind. The pot was quickly relit from the Mother Flame, and the priestess descended to the stadium floor where the pot was



Figure 9. Priestesses performing the “Dance of the Nymphs” during the Lighting Ceremony. (Photo: N. Jacobs)

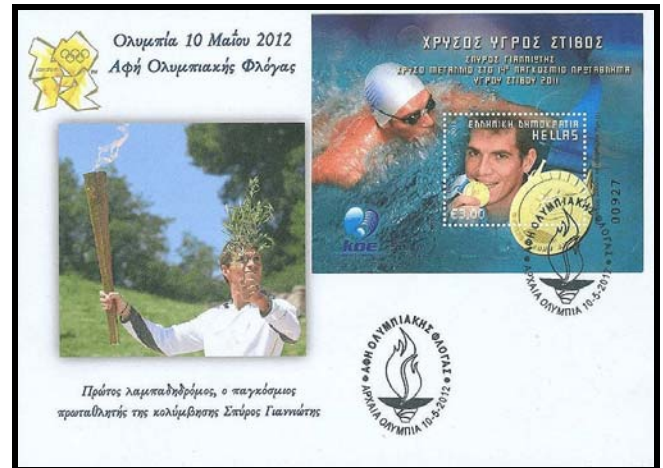


Figure 11. The first Greek torch bearer, Spyros Gianniotis, was honored on a souvenir sheet commemorating his swimming gold medal at the 2011 World Swimming Championships. It is used on a cacheted cover with the special torch relay postmark of 10 May.

placed on an altar in front of the seated guests. Once again, the special Greek torch was lit from the Flame. It was then used to ignite the first London Olympic Games Torch held by the lead runner, Spyros Gianniotis (Figure 11).

Although born in Liverpool, Gianniotis competes for his homeland of Greece in freestyle swimming. He participated in the 2000, 2004 and 2008 Olympics and has qualified for the 2012 London Olympic Games.

Waiting patiently for the priestesses and heralds to slowly retreat back over the embankment into the Altis, Gianniotis then began the first leg of the Torch Relay running past the assembly and up to the Coubertin Grove. For more on the Greek Torch Relay, please refer to the article “The 2012 Torch



Figure 10. The “Weaponless Pyrrhic” dance by the heralds. (Photo: M. Maestroni)



Figure 12. A photo taken during the 2012 Lighting Ceremony, with the special stamps and 10 May postmark.

Relay and Its Philatelic Aspects” beginning on page 16 of this issue.

The entire ceremony was marked by such solemn dignity that I can’t imagine anyone who wasn’t moved by the event. I certainly was.

With the Lighting Ceremony concluded, it was back to the hotel – after a stop at the Post Office which closed at 2 p.m.

We had heard that there was a special philatelic issue commemorating the lighting of the Olympic Flame and that the stamps were “going fast.” So as not to be left out, Norm and I hustled right over to make a purchase and mail a few covers and postcards. The clerks were particularly helpful with all our requests and knew from experience exactly what we philatelists wanted to do.

After a brief respite at the hotel, Norm and I returned to the town. By mid-afternoon, the thousands of enthusiasts who had descended upon Olympia for the morning’s flame lighting ceremony had completely disappeared leaving the main street feeling more like a ghost town. Norm and I quite literally had the place entirely to ourselves.

There were two interesting displays in town. The



Figure 13. Apostolos Kosmopoulos in his bookstore. Behind him are pictures of him as a torch bearer for the 1964 Olympics (middle top), and his grandson who ran the torch in 2004 (middle bottom). (Photo: M. Maestroni)

first was a collection of Olympic torches and posters dating back to the first relay in 1936. Also on view was a *chiton*, the traditional pleated Greek gown worn by the priestesses during the Lighting Ceremony, as well as the special decorative pot in which the Olympic Flame burns. We were told by the very knowledgeable docent that everything on display belonged to a single collector.

In an adjacent space was a truly fascinating exposition of Greek inventions dating back thousands of years. These included all sorts of mechanical devices from the first “moving picture” machine to security systems for homes.

We had earlier noticed a young woman selling photographs of the lighting of the Olympic Flame. We stopped for a more careful look at what was available with the idea of perhaps using an appropriate print as a vehicle for the special flame lighting postmark (Figure 12).

Just as we began to peruse her wares displayed on two-sided vertical wooden easels mounted on wheels, the already dark skies began to rain. As she was alone, we gave her a hand moving her inventory under the overhang of a nearby building. While



Figure 14. The de Coubertin Monument (left) adjacent to the ancient ruins at Olympia, stands at the terminus of a tree-lined walk. At center, the area after the fire storms which devastated the Peloponnese in 2007. At right, as it looked during our visit in May following extensive restoration. (Photos: The Restoration Projects at Olympia, center, and M. Maestroni, right)

waiting out the cloud burst, we selected a couple of photos from the rack. In talking with her we discovered that her husband had taken the photos at the dress rehearsal the previous day then stayed up until 3 a.m. making prints to sell. She confessed that business hadn't been particularly good that morning, but she hoped that at least they hadn't lost money on their endeavor. With the difficult economic circumstances in Greece, this was a concern we heard from others, but hardly the doom and gloom that is constantly reported in the news.

Dodging raindrops and shopkeepers hoping to make a sale, we ducked into an inviting-looking bookstore. Galerie Orphée had that slightly musty smell one associates with a proper repository of the world's knowledge. Glancing around at the variety of intriguing artwork, we heard a disembodied voice greeting us from somewhere above. Being Olympia, Zeus perhaps?

Climbing a short flight of steps we encountered the owner, Apostolos Kosmopoulos, who did look rather Zeus-like ensconced comfortably behind his desk, glasses dangling from a lanyard around his neck and his hand draped over an open book in front of him.

Over light-hearted banter – Apostolos, like many Greeks, spoke excellent English – my gaze strayed to the picture-filled wall behind him. Right there in the middle was a black-and-white photograph of a young man holding an Olympic torch standing next to the altar near the Pierre de Coubertin monument. The torch bearer in the photo wore a white athletic shirt emblazoned with the emblem of the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games and the Hellenic Olympic Committee logo (Figure 13).

Noticing me gazing at the photo, Apostolos identified the young man: "That's me at 17. I was one of the torchbearers for the Greek relay in 1964."

"And," he added, "the small picture beneath it is my grandson. He ran the torch in 2004!" Perhaps in another 40 years, another member of the Kosmopoulos clan will again participate in what has become a family tradition.

The photograph reminded me that we needed to stop by the de Coubertin Grove carved out of the hillside property belonging to the Olympic Academy.

The entire area around Olympia had been hard hit by the wild fires that raged across the Peloponnese in 2007. Today, the devastation has been largely repaired with extensive reforestation. Now dotting the hillsides are fire suppression towers which are able to shoot water at very high pressure over a wide swath of the landscape.

The monument to Pierre de Coubertin in which his heart was interred in 1938, stands at the end of a long allée flanked by Mediterranean Cypress trees replanted after the devastating fires (Figure 14). Save for the chirping of birds and clicking of cicadas, the silence gave me pause to reflect on the remarkable accomplishments of this man who devoted so much of his adult life to reviving a tradition stilled for 15 centuries.

The next day was our long-awaited opportunity to finally explore the ruins of the Altis and surrounding complex. While some of the original buildings, the gymnasium for example, are now little more than foundation outlines on the ground, there are still significant ruins to explore (Figure 15).

Thanks to restoration work, the Palaestra, where the athletes in heavy/combat sports trained, has many of its Doric columns supporting the surrounding colonnades in place. The careful observer will notice that the sides of the lower portions of the columns facing inward toward the shaded portico are not fluted, affording a resting athlete a smooth surface to lean against (Figure 16)!



Figure 15. Booklet stamps: reconstruction of the Altis at Ancient Olympia (left) and the Palaestra (right).

Diverging from the Sacred Way, we followed the path toward the stadium (actually the third stadium built on this site, dating to around 350 BC). I would guess that athletes and spectators of that day must have felt much as we do in modern times as they approached the field of play. I decided, however, not to share in the tradition of spitting on the zanes (the plural of “Zeus”). Back then, whenever a player was caught cheating, taking bribes, or (yes!) doping, they were fined. The proceeds paid for the erecting of a bronze statue to Zeus sitting upon a stone pedestal inscribed with the miscreants name and offense. At one time as many as 17 of the zanes lined the path leading to the stadium entrance.

Passing through the 100-foot long tunnel, the *krypti* (Figures 1 and 5), I imagined what it might have been like for the athletes as they emerged into the bright sunlight of the massive stadium with spectators crowding the embankments. Today, a few tourists (Figure 17) toed the starting blocks and



Figure 16. The Palaestra today. Note the smooth interior side of the columns. (Photo: M. Maestroni)

jogged (or walked) to the finish line at the opposite end of the stadium, a distance of one stade or 600 feet. For me, this rather simple stadium with grassy banks where spectators would sit and watch the best athletes from Greece – and later the rest of the civilized world – truly represented the heart and soul of the Olympic Games. It was quite a humbling experience to stand there absorbing the nearly 1200 years of athletic history that had transpired on this very spot.

Olympia also housed two excellent museums both located nearby. The Museum of the History of the Ancient Olympic Games which overlooks the entrance to the ruins had at one time been the primary repository of items unearthed at Ancient



Figure 17. Norm at the starting line (left). The vastness of the stadium is difficult to appreciate until one is down on the floor of the track. The judges “box” can be seen at right, midway down the length of the stadium. (Photos: M. Maestroni)



Figure 18. The Archeological Museum at Olympia displays the statue of Apollo that has been reproduced on a number of Olympic stamps (right). The statue is part of the west pediment from the Temple of Zeus.



Olympia. It was this museum that suffered the bold daytime robbery on 17 February 2012, after which the facility was shuttered. With extensive “human” security in place – there seemed to be at least two guards in each room – the museum reopened just days prior to the lighting ceremony.

The holdings at the more modern Archeological Museum of Olympia included the amazing pediments and metopes from the Temple of Zeus. Unlike what had occurred to the sculptural elements from the Parthenon in Athens, those from the Temple of Zeus remained largely in Greece (primarily in this museum). A reconstruction of the pediments line opposite walls in the main hall. The *Battle of the Lapiths and Centaurs* which graced the pediment on the west end of the temple presented

an immediately recognizable sculpture: the 10-foot-tall Apollo at the center of the action (Figure 18). The head appears on the three-stamp 1944 IOC Jubilee issue of Switzerland and a 1968 Greek Olympic stamp.

Also in this museum are two extraordinary statues dating to the classical period of Greece. The first is the Nike of Paenion (circa 421 B.C.), also known as the statue of Victory, which sat atop the Pillar of Nike adjacent to the Temple of Zeus. Anyone interested in the Olympic Games has certainly heard of the winged goddess Nike.

Another equally renowned statue was the 7-foot Hermes of Praxiteles which dates to 340-330 B.C. and was unearthed near the Temple of Hera. The exquisitely carved marble Hermes, who holds a baby Dionysus, exhibits the zenith of Greek sculpture. If you think both the Nike and Hermes statues look familiar, they should be as they appear on two of Greece’s 1896 Olympic Games stamps (Figure 19)!



Figure 19. The statues of Nike (left) and Hermes (right) were also philatelically immortalized on stamps for the first Modern Olympic Games in 1896.
(Photos: M. Maestroni)

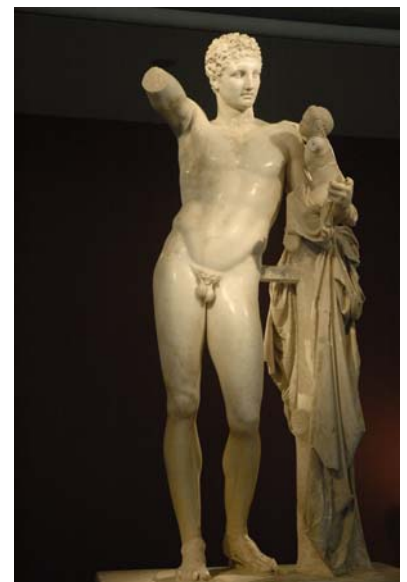




Figure 20. The stadium at Epidavros hosted a quadrennial athletic festival similar to those at Olympia, Delphi and Isthmia.

With our sojourn in Olympia at an end we drove across to Nafplion on the eastern side of the Peloponnese for a three-day stay in the small Venetian port town. While there, we were able to take day trips to Mycenae and Epidavros.

Mycenae, an ancient hilltop fortress, was the center of the Mycenaean civilization which dominated the region from 1600-1200 B.C. (so at least four centuries before the birth of the Olympic Games). The Mycenaeans can be considered the first "Greeks."

At its height in the 4th and 3rd centuries B.C., Epidavros was the center for healing in Greece. The sick came from near and far to be treated by doctor-priests who prayed for a cure to the god of medicine, Asklepios. In addition to a temple to Apollo, hospitals, mineral baths and a magnificent amphitheater, Epidavros also has a wonderful stadium that at one time seated 6,000. As at Olympia, Delphi, and Isthmia, the Epidavros stadium also hosted a quadrennial athletic festival. The stadium is currently being restored (Figure 20).

Leaving Nafplion, we headed back up north to Athens for the Olympic Collectors Fair which would open on 17 February.

Our base of operations was a comfortable two-bedroom apartment in the Ambelokipi residential



Figure 21. The main trading floor at the Fair. The doors at the rear led into a second room of tables and exhibits.

neighborhood about 2 miles northeast of the Zappeion and minutes walk from the modern Athens underground metro system. Despite daily wrestling matches with the overly complex appliances (you needed a rocket science degree to launch the washer/dryer), the apartment proved the perfect lodging solution.

The 18th World Olympic Collectors Fair occupied two adjacent rooms on the west side of the spacious Zappeion Megaron. This facility which was opened in 1888 has always had an Olympic connection, first serving as the fencing venue for the 1896 Olympic Games and then as the press center for the 2004 Athens Olympic Games. Today, it is an important exhibition and conference center for Athens.

While the majority of the approximately 70 dealers at the fair displayed mostly pins and memorabilia, philately could be found if one looked carefully (Figures 21). SPI had a table manned by



Figure 22. Our SOC and IMOS contingents: (standing) Bob Wilcock, Bob Farley and Thomas Lippert; (seated) Brenda Farley, Ruth Wilcock and David & Rennie Buxton.



Figure 23. SPI-member Conrad Klinkner manning his table of Olympic treasures.



Figure 24. The Hellas Post booth at the show offered two postmarks, one of which was the World Olympic Collectors Fair cancel shown here. I was lucky enough to get Li Ning, one of gymnastics' most celebrated Olympians, to sign the cover. Later that day, he was one of the two final torchbearers to carry the Olympic Flame, helping light the cauldron at the Panathenaic Stadium.

material produced by SOC sold well. The only other US dealer at the show was Peter Wade of the Olympin Collectors Club.

Hellas Post, the Greek post office, had a booth at the show all four days. In addition to the previously mentioned pairs of stamps with vignettes, they also made available the final Torch Relay cancel for the Handover Ceremony as well as a special 18th World Olympic Collectors Fair postmark (Figure 24) with a fixed date of 17 May. This and the Handover Ceremony postmarks were available all weekend.

Being May, the weather in Greece can be unpredictable. Thursday, 17 May proved to be just one of those unstable days.

The skies had been threatening for much of the afternoon.

About 4:30 p.m. the Greek por-

tion of the Torch Relay steered its way up to the Zappeion's front entrance where crowds of school children – and many Olympic enthusiasts – were jammed under the columned portico avoiding the sprinkle of rain that had begun to fall. Some of us

myself and Norm Jacobs. We not only brought some of SPI's inventory of covers to sell, but also some of our own stock. There were a number of "lookers" but not many "buyers," a complaint heard from a lot of the other dealers. Traffic by the general public was sparse, perhaps due more to the current economic situation in Greece than anything else. On the upside, SPI did sign up 4 new members, and (easily) convinced one past member to rejoin!

Also taking tables at the show were SPI members Conrad Klinkner (Figure 23) and Ingrid O'Neil (USA), Klaus Fink and Thomas Lippert (Germany), Stathis Douramakos (Greece), Pasquale Polo (Italy) and Vincent Girardin (France).

The Society of Olympic Collectors (Figure 22) was well-represented with Bob Farley, Bob Wilcock and David Buxton sharing three tables between them (all, of course, are also SPI members). As might be expected, London 2012 philatelic



Figure 25. To everyone's amazement, the Torch Relay detoured into the Zappeion Hall for a photo-op.
(Photo: M. Maestroni)

braved the rain drops to get up close and personal with the torch bearer, jostling with professional photographers and television camera crews for the best angle. Then all of a sudden the torch bearer and her support staff turned toward the steps of the Zappeion – and kept moving, gently sweeping us aside. Much to everyone's utter astonishment, the torch relay proceeded up the steps and headed into the Olympic Fair hall (Figure 25). Running past the dealers, their jaws dropping open with amazement, the relay made its way to the second hall where the Olympic Torch was held high for everyone to see. Pausing for some pictures, the torch bearer took off again, this time headed for the Olympic Stadium. Okay, now how cool is that!

By then it was time for those of us attending the Handover Ceremony to depart for the Olympic Stadium just across the street. No longer just a sprinkle, the weather had turned nasty. Out came the umbrellas, but they can only protect one just so much, especially with countless other umbrellas shedding water down your back.



Figure 26. Lighting of the Olympic cauldron at the stadium during the Handover Ceremony by Greek Olympic weightlifter Pyrros Dimas and Chinese gymnast Li Ning. Li, who lit the cauldron at the Olympic Stadium in Beijing during the Opening Ceremonies in 2008, was chosen as a link between the 2008 and 2012 Games.

Fortunately with our VIP badges we were able to avoid the long lines of general admittance spectators and, after doing the “mag-and-bag shuffle” through security, headed ... somewhere? No one was directing us anywhere specific, so we just continued walking down the sidelines of the stadium until we could go no further. Climbing up some rather gigantic steps (clearly designed for the stride of an NBA center), we huddled a few rows up from the bottom. Everyone around us seemed equally wet and miserable. Time passed very slowly; we wondered when (if?) the ceremony would *ever* get started.

Then around 7 p.m. in marched a military band following by the pleated-skirt clad Evzones (the mostly ceremonial Presidential Guard). I mumbled something about wishing the guy in front of us would sit down as he (and it seemed just about everyone else) decided to remain standing rather than getting a wet rump on the cold marble seats.

By this time, the rains were finally beginning to abate. With



Figure 27. Hellenic Olympic Committee President, Spyros Capralos, handing over the Olympic Flame to Anne, The Princess Royal. (Photo: M. Maestroni)



Figure 28. The entrance to the memorabilia exhibition featured the magnificent *Discus Thrower* by Kostas Dimitriadis. The statue won a gold medal in the arts competition at the 1924 Paris Olympic Games.

umbrellas closing around us, we finally had an opportunity to look around. To our immediate right was one of the torch bearers still clad in her uniform and tightly gripping her Olympic Torch. A couple more bearers were just two rows in front. And miracle of miracles, the gentleman in front of us, who had earlier been blocking our view, had disappeared. Things were definitely looking up.

Our attention shifted back down to the floor of the stadium as the VIPs began arriving, proceeding to the royal box which much to our surprise was almost directly in front of us! All of a sudden our formerly sodden seats looked pretty good to us as we stood barely a stones' throw from Anne, The Princess Royal. A member of the International Olympic Committee, she is also President of the British Olympic Association and the lead delegate representing the United Kingdom at the ceremony.

As happened at Ancient Olympia just seven days earlier, the ceremony began with the national anthems of the United Kingdom and Greece. But wait, there singing the Greek national anthem was none other than the gentleman who had been standing in front of us blocking our view: Greek operatic tenor, Mario Frangoulis. He had an amazing voice!

Next, the priestesses and heralds from the Lighting Ceremony streamed into the stadium to perform abbreviated versions of their dances.

Finally, the Torch Relay arrived. Each of three bearers did a quarter lap of the stadium with the final handoff to a pair of torch bearers: Greek Olympic weightlifter Pyrros Dimas and Chinese gymnast Li Ning (Figure 26). We had seen Mr. Li earlier in the day when he visited the Olympic Fair, much to my delight signing one of my Fair covers (Figure 24). I was also able to tell him (he spoke quite good English) that I remembered and appreciated his participation at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games where he won three gold medals, two silvers and a bronze. With great solemnity, Dimas and Li, gripping the single flaming torch between them, approached the golden altar in the center of the stadium, and lit the large cauldron. The Greek portion of the 2012 Olympic Torch Relay was now completed.

In his speech, the President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, Spyros Capralos, remarked that "The Handover of the Olympic Flame is a key milestone for each Olympic Games as the Torch Relay rallies the world's athletes to make their final preparations."

Lord Sebastian Coe, Chairman of the London Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG), responded by extending an invitation to "join us in a sporting celebration that will capture the imagination of the world."

The final act in this Greek drama was the handover of the Olympic Flame to the British delegation. The High Priestess who had presided at the Lighting Ceremony, Ino Menegaki, advanced to the altar, lighting one of the three-sided, golden Olympic Torches from the flaming cauldron which she then handed to Mr. Capralos. The Princess Royal, who had taken center stage, was presented with the Olympic Torch, displaying it proudly to the applause of the crowd (Figure 27). After some minor technical problems (the wind kept interfering), a miner's lamp containing the Olympic Flame was delivered into The Princess Royal's hands as the British delegation marched out of the stadium.

The flame spent the night at the British embassy in Athens, departing Friday evening along with the entire U.K. delegation on a special British Air flight (BAW2012). A welcoming celebration was planned at the Royal Naval Air Station Culdrose in Cornwall.

Back at the Olympic Fair, there was a small exhibition of philately comprising selected pages from a number of Greek Olympic exhibits, many of which we had viewed in their entirety at Olymphilex 2004 in Athens.

Really quite fascinating, though, was a special digitized exhibition, “The Modern Olympic Games 1894-2012: Greek Contribution to Memorabilia” created by the Hellenic Olympic Committee and Hellenic Olympic Academy.

The display – primarily backlit digitized images – was a collection of artifacts covering all facets of Olympic memorabilia from works of art and musical scores, to medals, books, torches, coins and stamps (to name just a few). All were related to Hellenic Olympic history (Figure 28).

There were more opportunities for socializing during the four days of the fair. The customary

banquet was held the evening of 18 May at the Zappeion. By my rough count about 100 *very* hungry people attended the buffet-style catered affair. Woe to those who were slow to fill their plates!

In addition to the Olympic Fair, we had three sightseeing goals while in Athens: the National Archeological Museum, the Acropolis (Figure 29) and the new Acropolis Museum. I’m happy to say we accomplished all three – and without running ourselves ragged.

Capping our trip to Greece, we hopped a short 30-minute flight to the island of Santorini (also known as Thira) in the middle of the Aegean. Once a volcano which literally blew its stack around 1600 B.C., the island is a favorite vacation spot with its white and blue homes perched precariously along the rim of the caldera 1,500 feet above the water.

Even without huge crowds at the Olympic Fair, the mood of the participants was so positive that word began circulating encouraging Athens to again hold the Fair in conjunction with the Torch Relay Ceremonies for the 2016 Rio Games.

Will I be there? You bet!



Figure 29. What would a visitor's description of Athens be without a shot taken on the Acropolis. My favorite building? Most certainly the Erechtheion with its Porch of the Caryatids.

(Photo: M. Maestroni)



Greek swimmer, Spyros Gianniotis, led off the torch relay at Ancient Olympia.
(Photo: Norm Jacobs)

The 2012 Torch Relay and Its Philatelic Aspects

by Mark Maestroni

You know the quadrennial Olympic Games is just around the corner when the Olympic Torch Relay gets underway. The event – really a series of mini-events – always begins with the ceremonial lighting of the Olympic Flame at Ancient Olympia. Greek torch bearers are given the honor of relaying the flame around Greece before passing the torch to the host country in the formal Handover Ceremony at the Panathenaic Stadium.

In past years, it had become the custom to send the torch on a goodwill relay around the world to kindle interest in the Games. Sadly this tradition has been curtailed due in part to the many protests against the Chinese government – largely on humanitarian grounds – that dogged the relay prior to the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. Now, when the relay concludes in Greece, usually a week or so after the lighting, the Olympic Flame is transported directly to the host country to begin their torch relay.

The Lighting Ceremony is a very inspirational event with traditions dating back to the first relay

prior to the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games. This year it occurred on Thursday, 10 May and for the first time was open to the general public who were able to view the ceremony from the grassy embankment on the north side of the stadium. The ceremonies at Ancient Olympia and Athens (17 May) are described in full detail in “A Personal Journey to Ancient Olympia Where It All Began” beginning on page 3 of this issue.

The Torch

The torch for the 2012 London Olympic Games was designed by east Londoners Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby.

The design of an Olympic torch is highly iconic incorporating all manner of symbolism.

London’s torch is triangular in shape – a first in torch design. The number three represents: the three times London has hosted the Games (1908, 1948, 2012); the motto of the Olympic Games, “Faster, Higher, Stronger”; and the vision of the London’s Games to unite “sport, education and culture.”

It is perforated by 8,000 laser-drilled holes representing the 8,000 torch bearers who will carry the torch throughout the country.

The 2012 torch is also very functional in design. It is composed of an inner and outer skin manufactured from a lightweight aluminum alloy to which a gold color finish has been applied. The perforation of the skin permits quick dissipation of the heat generated by the flame. While tall at 80 cm (31½ inches), the torch is surprising light weighing just 800 grams (1¾ pounds), making it easier for younger torch bearers to carry.

The largest torch was designed for the Centennial Olympic Games. At nearly 32 inches it’s only ½-inch longer than the London torch, but fully double the weight, tipping the scales at a hefty 3½ pounds!

According to London 2012 Olympic officials, the torches are worth £495 (\$770) but were sold to bearers for £295 (\$460).



The Greek Relay

Following the lighting of the London Olympic Torch by the High Priestess, Ino Menegaki, the first Greek torch bearer, swimmer Spyros Gianniotis, headed off toward the nearby Coubertin Grove to pay homage to the founder of the Modern Olympic Games, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, whose heart is interred there in a monument.

Over the course of 8 days, a total of 490 Greek runners relayed the torch some 2,900 kilometers (1,800 miles). In addition to the runners, the torch was also carried by vehicle, boat and air. The day-by-day schedule was as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1st DAY 10/5/2012 | ANCIENT OLYMPIA | LIGHTING CEREMONY |
| | PYRGOS | CEREMONY |
| | AMALIADA | TRANSIT |
| | ANCIENT ILIDA | CEREMONY |
| | KORIVOS | TRANSIT |
| | GASTOUNI | TRANSIT |
| | LECHAINA | TRANSIT |
| | KORINTHOS | CEREMONY |
| | PIRAEUS | TRANSFER BY BOAT TO CRETE |

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|--|
| 2nd DAY 11/5/2012 | KISSAMOS | TRANSIT |
| | CHANIA | CEREMONY |
| | RETHYMNO | CEREMONY |
| | KNOSSOS | 5 MINUTE STOP |
| | AGIOS NIKOLAOS | CEREMONY |
| | MALIA | TRANSIT |
| | CHERSONISSOS | TRANSIT |
| | IRAKLEIO | CEREMONY - TRANSFER BY AIR TO MEGISTI (KASTELLORIZO) |
| | MEGISTI (KASTELLORIZO) | TRANSFER BY AIR TO ATHENS |

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 3rd DAY 12/5/2012 | PIRAEUS | TRANSIT |
| | PATRAS | CEREMONY |
| | THE BRIDGE OF RIO | TRANSIT |
| | AMFILOCHIA | CEREMONY |
| | VONITSA | TRANSIT |
| | PREVEZA | CEREMONY |
| | PARGA | CEREMONY |
| | IGOUMENITSA | CEREMONY |
| | IOANNINA | CEREMONY - OVERNIGHT STOP |

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| 4th DAY 13/5/2012 | IOANNINA | TRANSIT |
| | KOZANI | CEREMONY |
| | VERIA | CEREMONY |
| | THESSALONICA | CEREMONY |
| | KAVALA | CEREMONY - OVERNIGHT STOP |

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 5th DAY 14/5/2012 | KAVALA | TRANSIT |
| | KOMOTINI | CEREMONY |
| | BORDER OUTPOST KIFI | TRANSIT |
| | FERES | TRANSIT |
| | ALEXANDROUPOLI | CEREMONY |
| | XANTHI | CEREMONY |
| | DRAMA | CEREMONY - OVERNIGHT STOP |

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| 6th DAY 15/5/2012 | DRAMA | TRANSIT |
| | ALISTRATI | TRANSIT |
| | SERRES | CEREMONY |
| | KATERINI | CEREMONY |
| | LARISA | CEREMONY |
| | VOLOS | CEREMONY |
| | LAMIA | CEREMONY - OVERNIGHT STOP |

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| 7th DAY 16/5/2012 | LAMIA | TRANSIT |
| | HALKIDA | CEREMONY |
| | PERISTERI | CEREMONY |
| | PIRAEUS | CEREMONY |
| | ACROPOLIS | CEREMONY - OVERNIGHT STOP |

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--|
| 8th DAY 17/5/2012 | ACROPOLIS | |
| | ACROPOLIS MUSEUM | CEREMONY |
| | CENTRE OF ATHENS | TRANSIT |
| | ZAPPEIO | TRANSIT |
| | PANATHENAIC STADIUM | CEREMONY - HANDOVER OF THE OLYMPIC FLAME |

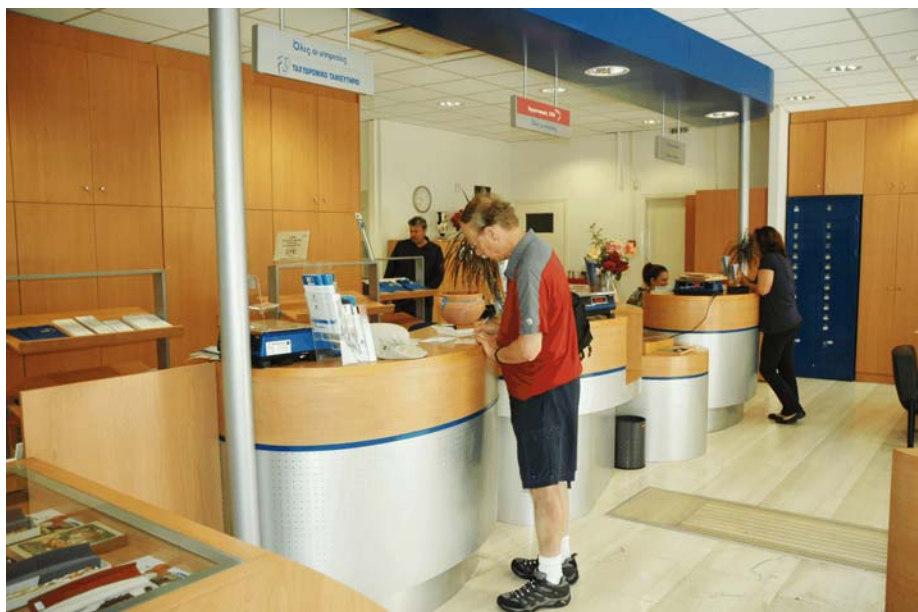
The Greek post office issued a very attractive personalized stamp for the occasion, along with a full compliment of seven relay postmarks and special commemorative covers.

The stamps consisted of a personalized stamp from 2008 depicting the Greek flag with a face value of €0.67 (the international postcard/letter rate was actually €0.78) and an attached vignette (label) with stylized versions of the Olympic Flame in a cauldron. The pair (i.e., one stamp plus the attached vignette) sold for €1.00. These were placed on sale on 10 May.

According to a postal official in Athens, the stamps were printed in panes of 10 pairs stacked vertically on the sheet, then separated (mechanically?) into pairs for sale. Panes of the stamps were never placed on sale, presumably to deter dealers from buying up the limited issue. So far this seems to be true as I've not heard of any collector who has purchased them in that format. SPI member, Thomas Lippert, confirms that even at post offices along the route of the Torch Relay, the stamps were sold only in separated pairs.

We have been told that the printing quantity totaled 27,500 pairs. Of these, 22,500 pairs were used for production of the special commemorative envelopes. The remaining 5,000 were distributed to the postal stores of Ancient Olympia, Ioannina, Kavala, Drama, Lamia, Acropolis, the temporary post office at the Zappeion during the World Olympic Collectors' Fair and the Post Collection store.

A problem that surfaced was how to determine the postal value of the stamps when applied to an envelope or post card.



Above left, SPI-member Norm Jacobs preparing mail for special postmarks at the modern Olympia post office. At right, the very helpful postal clerk took great care in applying the cancellations.



The personalized Greek flag stamp from 2008 with the attached vignette depicting the Olympic Flame.

The Zappeion post office booth also accepted the personalized stamp for regular postage even though technically the value of the stamp was €0.11 short of the letter/postcard rate of €0.78.

If mailing a registered letter, however, some post offices counted the flag-and-flame pair at the face value of €0.67, requiring an additional €2.61 to satisfy the €3.28 fee.

To make matters even more confusing, the Kavala post office accepted for registration prepaid (non-Olympic related) envelopes purchased for €1.35 with or without additional postage! Clearly, consistency is not Hellas Post's strong suit.

The post office at Olympia considered the pair to pay €1.00 postage even though the franking value of the stamp was only €0.67. This is confirmed by the registered cover I mailed from Olympia on 10 May which bears the flag stamp with Olympic Flame vignette plus a single €2.29 Zakynthos stamp. This paid the postage (€0.78) plus the registration fee (€2.50) for a total of €3.38 (overfranked by €0.01).

(Right) Registered letter to the USA from the post office at Olympia. The €0.67 flag stamp was deemed by the Olympia postal officials to be worth €1.00 since that was the retail price for the pair (stamp + label). Thus, only €2.28 was needed to pay the remaining postage (1c overfranked).





The Torch Relay postmarks from (top) Ancient Olympia, Ioannina, Kavala, Drama, Lamia, Acropolis, and the Panathenaic Stadium (Athens). Note: the Ancient Olympia postmark is the same size as the others.

The seven torch relay postmarks (there was no postmark for 11 May) are identical in design and size, depicting a flame in the bowl of a torch. The flame resembles that on the stamp's vignette. The text around the top of the postmarks read:

10 May postmark: "Lighting Olympic Flame"
(ΑΦΗ ΟΛΥΜΠΙΑΚΗΣ ΦΛΟΓΑΣ)

12-16 May: "Overnight Stop Olympic Flame"
(ΔΙΑΝΥΚΤΕΡΕΥΣΗ ΟΛΥΜΠΙΑΚΗΣ ΦΛΟΓΑΣ)
17 May: "Handover Olympic Flame"
(ΠΑΡΑΔΟΣΗ ΟΛΥΜΠΙΑΚΗΣ ΦΛΟΓΑΣ)

In using the torch relay postmarks on covers or cards franked with the flag-and-flame pair, some clerks would refuse to apply the postmark to the vignette portion (Olympic Collector's Fair post office), while at others (Olympia post office) they happily tied both stamp and label to the cover.

Also of interest to collectors are the cacheted covers sold by Hellas Post at individual post offices along the torch route. The five covers from Ioannina, Kavala, Drama, Lamia, and Acropolis were priced at €2.50 each which included the stamp and Olympic Flame vignette with the Torch Relay postmark. The covers from Ancient Olympia and Panathenaic Stadium included a medal from the National Mint. These covers (with stamps and postmark) sold for €9 each.

Thomas Lippert reported that when he visited the Lamia post office, he was told that there were no cacheted covers available because the mayor of the town had bought them all!

Quantities of the special covers are listed below.

Ancient Olympia (10/05/2012): 7,500 covers with medal of the Lighting of the Flame.
Ioannina (12/05/2012): 1,500 covers.
Kavala (13/05/2012): 1,500 covers.
Dramas (14/05/2012): 1,500 covers.
Lamia (15/05/2012): 1,500 covers.
Parthenon (16/05/2012): 1,500 covers.
Panathenaic Stadium (17/05/2012): 7,500 covers with medal of the Handover of the Flame.

(Right) Hellas Post cacheted cover for the Torch Relay's overnight stop at Kavala on 13 May. The covers with stamp and postmark were sold for €2.50 each.





(Left) An undated women's golf match, perhaps from the 1900 Paris Olympic Games. (Right) Canadian, George Lyon, winner of the men's 1904 Olympic golf event.

GOLF AND THE MODERN OLYMPIC GAMES

by Patricia Loehr

In the 1890s some sports enthusiasts led by Baron Pierre de Coubertin began preparing for a revival of the Ancient Greek Olympic Games. Once established, they would evolve into what would become today's Modern Olympic Games.

Following the First Games of the Modern Era held in Athens in 1896, a decision was made that Athens would not be the permanent location for hosting future Olympic Games. During the early years of trying to recreate the ancient Olympics for a twentieth century world, the International Olympic Committee scheduled the second, third, and fourth

Olympics to be conducted in conjunction with World Fairs. For many reasons the "World Fair" Olympics were not as successful as the First Olympiad of 1896.¹

Because golf was already well-established in many countries by the time it appeared in the 1900 Olympic Games, it may have seemed fitting and justified to have it on the program. France, the host of the 1900 Olympics, was the first continental European country to have a golf club, the Golf Club de Pau that formed in 1856. In Belgium, the oldest golf club is the Royal Antwerp Golf Club founded in 1888 (Figure 1).² Moreover, the (British) Open Championship had been held annually since 1861.³



Figure 1. Belgium 2007 definitive (permanently valid) golf stamp in self-adhesive booklet of ten.

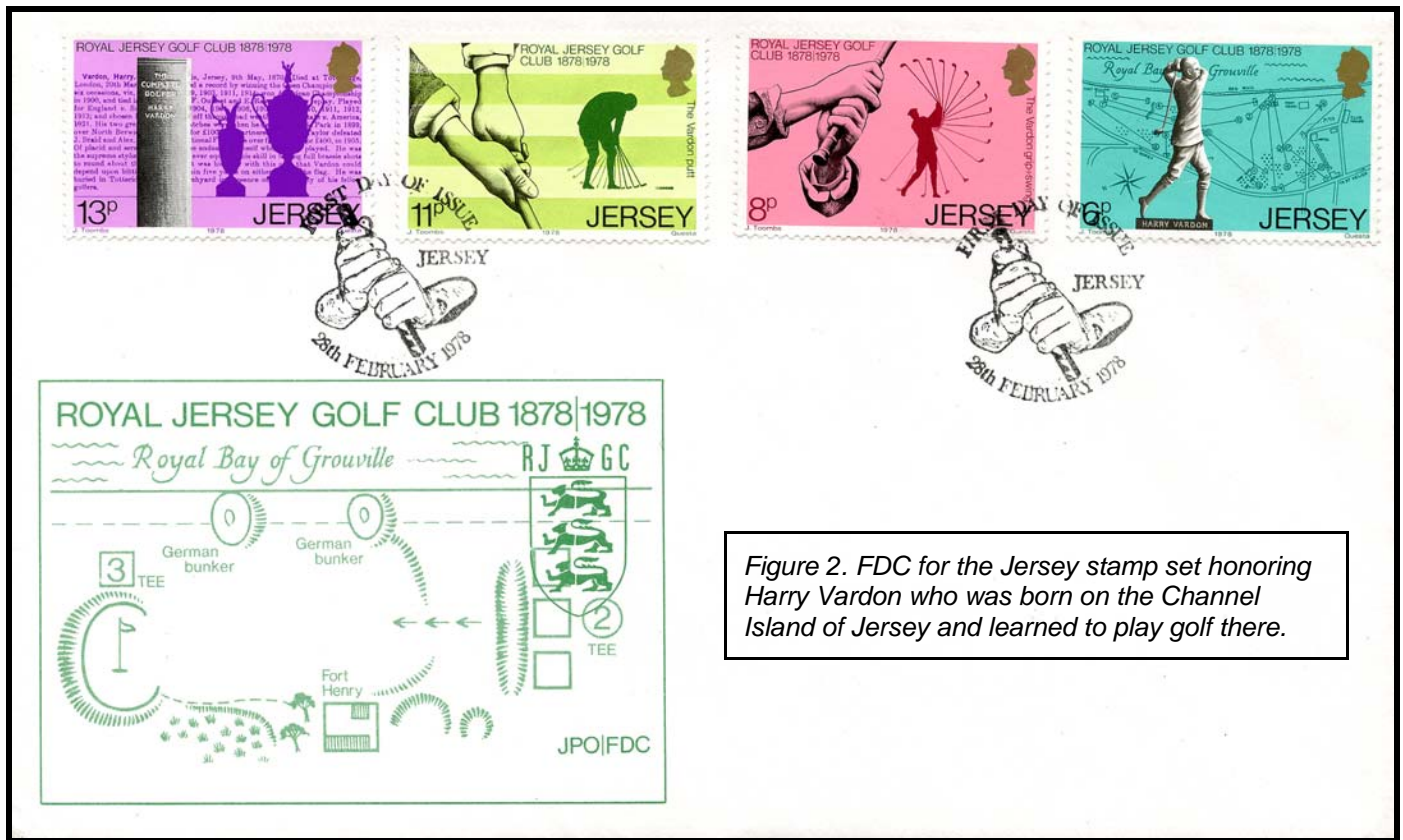


Figure 2. FDC for the Jersey stamp set honoring Harry Vardon who was born on the Channel Island of Jersey and learned to play golf there.

Golf's popularity spread beyond Europe. By 1895, when the United States Golf Association (USGA) held its first national championships, there were more than 80 golf clubs in the country. Another administrator for the sport in the United States is the Western Golf Association (WGA). Begun in 1899, the WGA organized its own competitions similar to those of the USGA.

In 1900, British golfer Harry Vardon (Figure 2) was on an exhibition tour playing in golf matches throughout the United States. Having won his first Open Championship in the Olympic year of 1896, Vardon became the United States Open Champion during his 1900 tour.

The first Canadian and Australian Open Championships, along with the first French Amateur Open, were held in the Olympic year 1904. Argentina inaugurated an Amateur Championship in 1895. A

Ladies' Championship followed in 1904.

These are just some examples of golf's increasing presence around the world at the beginning of the twentieth century.

1900 Paris Olympic Games

The second modern Olympic Games was held in conjunction with the six-month long Universal Paris Exposition of 1900. So many sporting events were held during this period that it was sometimes difficult for athletes, organizers, and spectators to know which events were part of the Games of the IInd Olympiad. Women competed for the first time at the Paris Olympics of 1900.

The golf events were held 2-4 October in Compiègne⁴ (Figure 3) located north of Paris. The 36-hole, stroke play men's event of 2 October

Figure 3. Roller cancel from 1949 promoting golf in Compiègne, venue for the 1900 Olympic golf competitions.



1904 St. Louis Olympic Games

The 1904 Olympics were conducted during the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. A women's golf event was replaced with a team competition for men.

Olympic golf in 1904 was held at the Glen Echo Golf Club. Most of the competitors were from either the United States or Canada and, as in 1900, not all the events are considered part of the Games of the IIIrd Olympiad by historians. Due to the length of the Exposition which ran from July to

November, the Olympic organizers were able to schedule their sports competitions to avoid any overlap.

A match play competition for men was held from Monday, 19 September to Saturday, 24 September (Figure 6) and won by Canadian golfer George Lyon.

A team competition on 17 September preceded the individual event and it was won by the team from the WGA. There were two other ten-man teams: one representing the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association and the other the United States Golf Association.

First in, then out, golf now scheduled for the Olympics

Specific sports for inclusion at each Olympic Games are decided in advance by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Their members vote to include or remove a sport from the program. Before the second Olympics of 1900 such sports as cricket⁶, croquet, and golf were added to the program by the IOC. They did not appear in future Olympics, except for the golf events of 1904.

Golf very nearly made it onto the schedule of the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia. However, the public's outrage over the proposed venue, the Augusta National Golf Club, which continued to deny women membership, made holding the event at that club simply unpalatable to then-

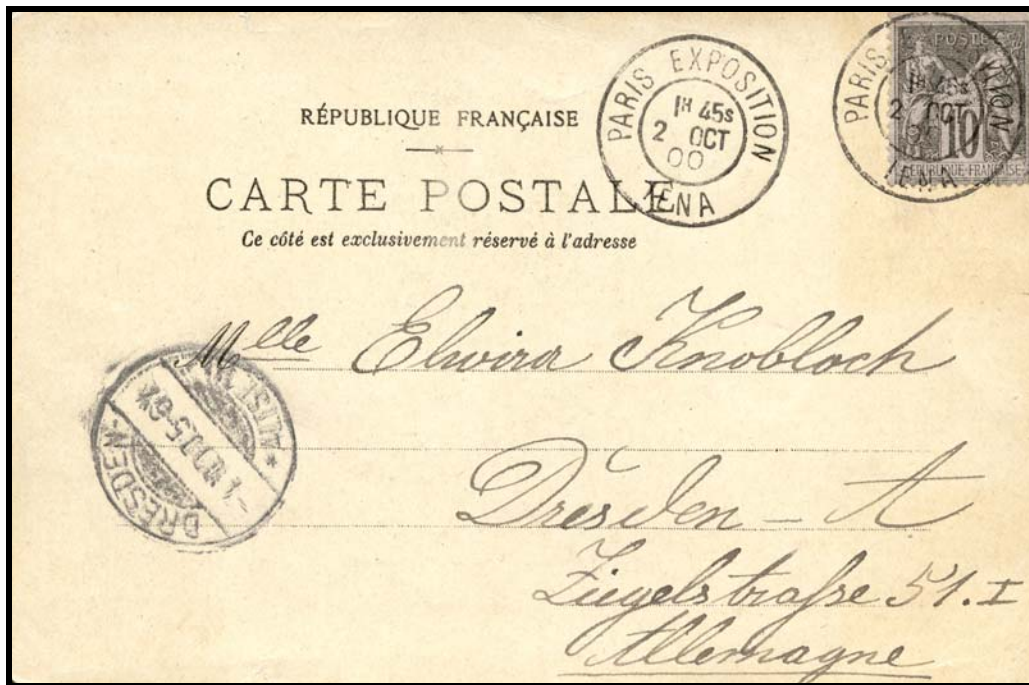


Figure 4. Paris Exposition cancel, 2 October 1900, day of men's Olympic golf competition.

(Figure 4) had twelve entrants and was won by Charles Sands of the USA.

On 3 October, a 9-hole, stroke play event for women with ten competitors was won by Margaret Abbott⁵ of the USA. By winning this golf event she became the first – and only – United States woman Olympic golf champion. The events held on 4 October are not considered Olympic by historians.

Abbott became one of Charles Dana Gibson's famous "Gibson Girls" when he captured her likeness in a 1903 portrait. A US "Celebrate the Century 1900s" stamp features the typical Gibson Girl (Figure 5), who personified the young woman of the era.



Figure 5. A trailblazer in women's sports, Margaret Abbott was illustrated by noted American artist, Charles Dana Gibson (right) becoming one of the period's iconic Gibson Girls. A stamp from the "Celebrate the Century 1900s" set portrays one of his "Girls".

President of the IOC, Juan Antonio Samaranch. Since no alternative golf course was suggested by the Atlanta Olympic Organizing Committee, there was no choice but to cancel the Olympic golf competition.

The IOC in 2009 voted to approve the return of golf to the Olympic program of sports for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The design for the Olympic course was awarded to Gil Hanse, an American golf course designer. Whether or not a golf competition comes to fruition remains to be seen. The Olympic officials in Rio recently reported of a legal dispute surrounding the land upon which the new golf course will be built at the Reserva de Marapendi in Barra. If officials are forced to relocate the proposed Olympic golf course, it might not be possible to meet the deadline for the pre-Olympic test event scheduled for 2015.

After a 112-year hiatus, will Olympic golf once again tee off? Only time will tell! 🍷

ENDNOTES

1. In "The Arts Must Go Hand In Hand With Sport" (*Journal of Sports Philately*, July-August 1995) Vsevolod Furman writes that: "The 1900 and 1904 Olympic Games were overshadowed by the World Expositions of which they were a part. Numerous displays of graphic, painting and sculptural exhibits were on view. The evident popularity of the fine arts displays made de Coubertin even more determined to include them as part of future Olympic Games." Furman also writes, "The first Olympic arts exhibition was held at Stockholm in 1912." This is an example of the ever-evolving, decision-making that goes into planning for each Olympiad.

2. Antwerp would host the 1920 Olympics. There is some documentation that suggests there may have been efforts to have golf on the program at those Olympics.

3. The Open Championship was not held in 1871. The organizers of the event had to relinquish the championship trophy to the 1870 champion who met the requirement of winning three consecutive championships. During 1871 a new trophy was provided and also a rotation of clubs to host the Open Championship was established.

4. In his *Olympic Memoirs* (pages 32-34) Pierre de Coubertin wrote that the General Commissioner was from the Compiègne Sports Club. Jacques de Pourtales was appointed steward for golf.

5. Sue Allison, in a 1984 article in *Life* magazine, reported that Margaret Abbott never knew she had competed in an Olympic event. All of 22 at the time of the 1900 Olympics, Abbott thought she had "won a golf tournament at the same



Figure 6. St. Louis World's Fair cancellation, 24 September 1904, final day of men's Olympic individual match play competition.

time as the Games were being held." Only in 1983 was her family made aware of her Olympic honor.

6. In the March-April, 1993 *Journal of Sports Philately* Peter N. Street wrote about "Cricket and the 1900 Olympics." The article illustrates U.S. postal markings that were applied at the 1900 Universal Exposition in Paris.

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Figure 1. The three Picture Postage stamps celebrating the return of the Jets hockey team to Winnipeg: (from left) the Jets' official team log; their second (alternative) logo; the team's first goal made by Nik Antropov.

Canada Post and Winnipeg Celebrate Canada's Newest NHL Hockey Team

by Kon Sokolyk

On November 10, 2011 Canada Post issued a set of three Picture Postage “forever” stamps and an international rate prepaid postcard celebrating the return of a National Hockey League (NHL) team to Winnipeg.

Without a NHL team for over 15 years, the Atlanta Thrashers were purchased and relocated to Winnipeg in 2011. Local public lobbying resulted in the team being re-named the Jets in recognition of the Jets that had earlier played in Winnipeg, first in the World Hockey Association (1972-79) and later in the NHL (1979-96). After experiencing financial difficulties the Jets moved to Phoenix in 1996.

Each of the three Picture Postage stamps (Figure 1) was issued in a “Keepsake” pane format that included 21 domestic rate (\$0.59 at time of issue) stamps per sheet plus one large souvenir image of the stamp (Figure 2).

Two of the stamps feature the Winnipeg Jet's logos. Their primary logo, as shown on the first stamp, is an air force roundel within which is a stylized image of a maple leaf surmounted by an overhead view of a CF-18 Hornet jet in tribute to the 17 Wing of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) based in Winnipeg.

The second stamp reproduces the Jets' alternative logo: a pair of crossed hockey sticks beneath silver captain's wings topped with a red maple leaf.

Each of these two “Keepsake” panes sold for \$24.95 (about double face value) plus tax. There was no limit on the print run of the logo stamps.

The design of the final stamp is taken from a photograph of the Winnipeg Jets' first goal, scored by Nik Antropov. A native of Kazakhstan, Antropov has played for the Toronto Maple Leafs, the New York Rangers and the Atlanta Thrashers.

This domestic rate stamp was issued in a limited print run of 10,000 individually numbered “Keepsake” panes. Each pane sold for \$34.95, plus tax.

The international rate prepaid postcard (Figure 3) features a photo of the Winnipeg Jets during pre-game introductions at their first home game on October 9, 2011. For the record, the Jets lost 5-1 to the Montreal Canadiens. On the obverse, the pre-stamped image features the Jets' logo and text “postage paid” and in French “port payé.” While the card sold for \$4.95 plus tax, at time of issue, the rate to international destinations was \$1.75.



Figure 3. The postal stationery card shows the team on the ice for their inaugural home game against Montreal.

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CANADIAN BANK NOTE Design / Conception: Steven Szpak

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Figure 2. Full pane of 21 stamps featuring the Jets' secondary (alternative) logo. These "Keepsake" panes sold for a premium of 100% over the face value of the stamps.



STAN “THE MAN” MUSIAL

by Norman Rushefsky

Stan Musial was one of the most underrated of baseball players except, of course, in St. Louis where he played for the St. Louis Cardinals from 1941-1963.

Nicknamed Stan “The Man,” Musial was a 24-time All-Star selection (a record tied with Willie Mays), and widely considered to be one of the greatest hitters in baseball history.

Musial is ranked fourth all-time in number of hits and most years in a career spent with only one team.

With 1,815 hits at home and 1,815 on the road, he is also considered to be the most consistent hitter of his era. He also hit 475 home runs during his career, was named the National League’s Most Valuable Player (MVP) three times, and won three World Series championship titles.

Musial was a first-ballot inductee to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1969 and is currently the longest tenured living Hall of Famer.

Signed to a professional contract by the Cardinals as a pitcher in 1938, Musial was converted into an outfielder prior to his major league debut in 1941.

Noted for his unique batting stance, he quickly established himself as a consistent and productive hitter.

In his first full season, 1942, the Cardinals won the World Series. The following year, he led the National League in six different offensive categories and earned his first MVP award.

Musial was named an All-Star for the first time in 1942 and was selected to every All-Star Game in every subsequent season he played. He won his

second World Series ring in 1944, then missed the entire 1945 season while serving with the United States Navy.

On his return to baseball in 1946, Musial resumed his consistent hitting. That year he earned his second MVP award and third World Series title.

His third MVP award came in 1948, when he finished one home run shy of winning baseball’s Triple Crown.

Musial retired from his playing career in 1963 to oversee businesses such as a restaurant which he operated both before and after his playing career.

He served as the Cardinals’ general manager in 1967, winning the pennant and World Series and then quitting that position due to the death of his longtime business partner Biggie Garagnani, prompting Musial to devote more time to managing his restaurant and other business interests.

Known for his modesty and sportsmanship, Musial was selected for the Major League Baseball All-Century Team in 1999. President Obama presented Musial with the Presidential Medal of Freedom (Figure 2), the highest honor that can be bestowed on a civilian, at the White House on February 15, 2011.

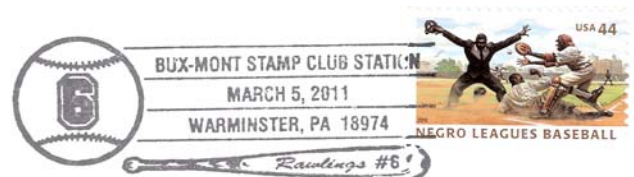


Figure 1. Musial’s uniform number (6) is prominently featured on this Bux-Mont Stamp Club postmark honoring Stan “The Man.”



Figure 2. President Obama awarding the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Musial at a White House ceremony on February 15, 2011.
(Photo: UPI/Kevin Dietsch)

Despite the recent accolades, Musial has rarely been celebrated philatelically. Until recently, the U.S. Postal Service had a rule requiring an individual to have been deceased at least five years before being honored on a stamp. However, there is no similar rule with regard to postmarks. A postmark sponsored by the Bux-Mont Stamp Club honored Musial in 2011 (Figure 1). The postmark features the number 6, which was Musial's uniform number.

Most other countries are not reluctant honoring living persons if it helps to sell their stamp products. Musial has appeared on the stamps of a few countries (Figures 3 and 4).

Slogan meters were used by his restaurant business, Stan Musial and Biggies (Figures 5 and 6). The slogan in Figure 5 is obscured by the postmark but is similar to the cachet shown on the envelope.

A postcard from 1970 illustrates the restaurant in St. Louis and the Ivanhoe Hotel in Miami Beach, which the business also owned (Figures 7 and 8).

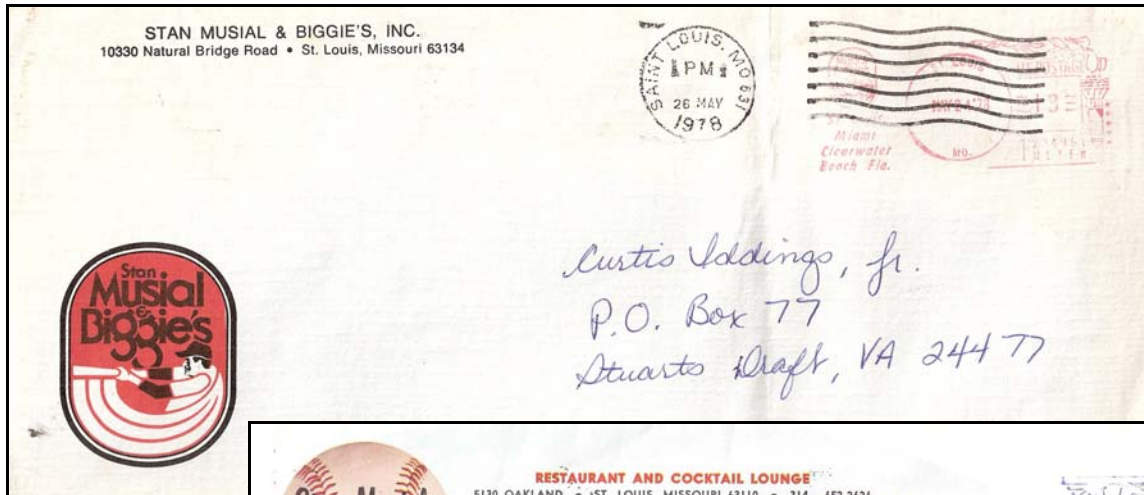
In his 2007 analysis of baseball's under and overrated players, sportswriter Jason Stark said, "I can't think of any all-time great in any sport who gets left out of more 'who's-the-greatest' conversations than Stan Musial."



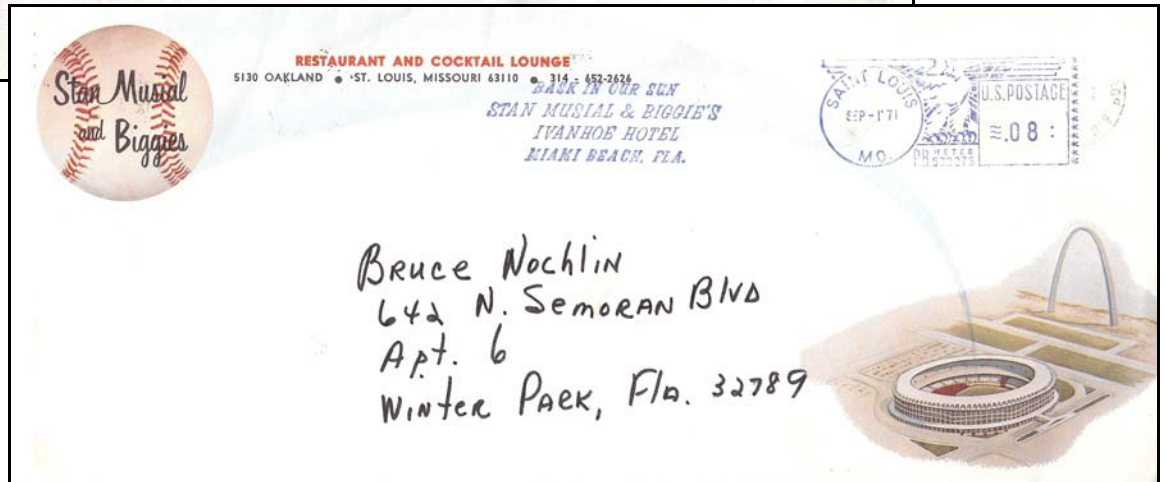
Figure 3. Grenada honored Stan Musial on a 30¢ value in its series on U.S. Baseball.



Figure 4. Musial was also honored on the 10 dirham value (upper left) stamp in this series from Ajman.

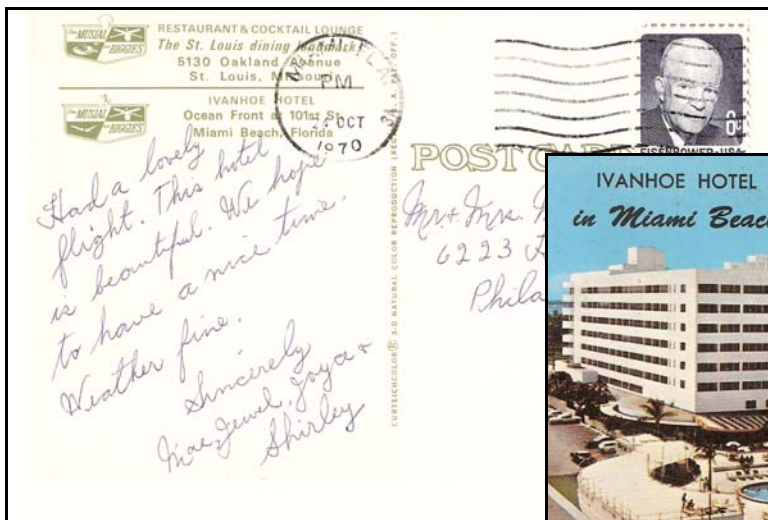


Figures 5 & 6. Two slogan meters promoting Stan Musial & Biggie's, a restaurant business he owned in partnership with Julius "Biggie" Garagnani.

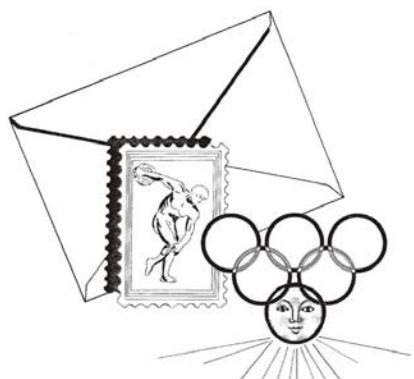


In 1968, a statue of Musial was erected outside of the Cardinals' Busch Memorial Stadium. The statue was moved from its original location to the west side of the new Busch Stadium for its first season in 2006. It has become a popular meeting

place for generations of Cardinals fans. Musial's statue is inscribed with a quote attributed to former baseball commissioner Ford Frick: "Here stands baseball's perfect warrior. Here stands baseball's perfect knight."



Figures 7 & 8. Postcard featuring Stan Musial & Biggie's Restaurant in St. Louis, and the Ivanhoe Hotel in Miami Beach which the partnership also owned.



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by Stathis Douramakos



The Helsinki 1952 Olympic Torch

With but 22 made, skyrocketing prices, and the stories being told amongst collectors, it is no surprise that this beautiful torch has become the “holy grail” for Olympic aficionados.

The following information comes from the Official Report of the 1952 Olympic Games, as well as my own personal experiences.

The Torch Relay

Some statistics: the Torch Relay began at Ancient Olympia with the traditional lighting on 25 June 1952, concluding at the Olympic Stadium in Helsinki on 19 July. The distance run was 7,870 kilometers (4,890 miles) and involved the participation of 3,372 runners.

A member of the Organizing Committee, Mr. Lauri Miettinen, arrived in Athens by air from Helsinki on 20 June, bringing with him seven Helsinki torches and 200 fuel canisters for use during the Greek portion of the torch relay.

Following the Lighting Ceremony at Ancient Olympia, the relay made its way across Greece with its final stop being the Panathenaic Stadium in Athens for the traditional Handover Ceremony.

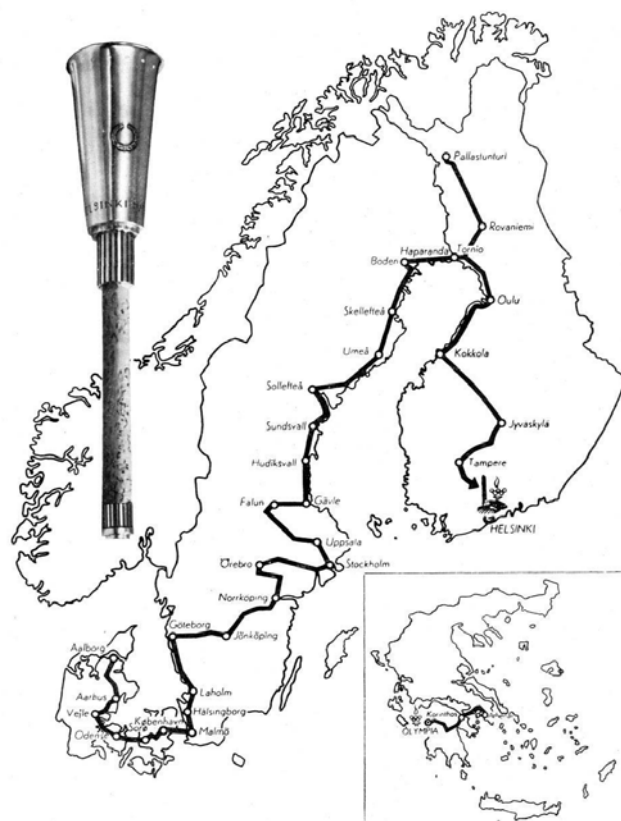
In Greece the Flame was carried the entire distance by 342 runners in one-kilometer stages.

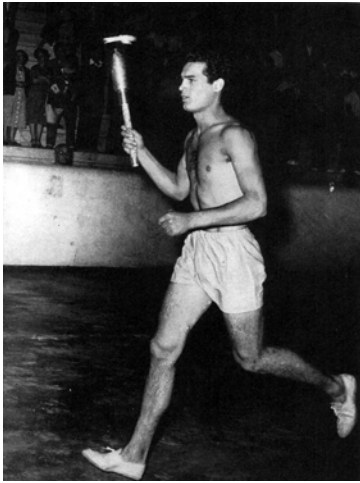
The Finnish Olympic Committee, concerned about routing the torch relay through Soviet-controlled Eastern Europe, decided to transport the Olympic Flame from Athens to Scandinavia by plane – the first time in Olympic history that the flame traveled by air.

After leaving Greece, the Torch Relay’s first stop was in Denmark. From there the Flame was relayed north up the length of Sweden. It crossed into Finland at Tornio and then continued south to Helsinki.

The Saar Olympic Committee made a gift of a beautiful miner's safety lamp in which the Flame could be carried in an airplane. Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) offered to transport it by special aircraft from Greece to Denmark.

A special Saar stamp commemorates both the 1952 Olympic Games and Saar’s “participation” in the torch relay by providing the miner’s lamp to carry the flame.





Scenes from the 1952 Olympic Torch Relay: (left) the Greek runner, and later Olympic winner Roubanis, bears the torch into the Stadium in Athens; (center) the Olympic Flame, safely protected in a special miner's lamp provided by Saar for its flight from Athens to Copenhagen; (right) the "Flying Finn," Paavo Nurmi, carrying the torch into Helsinki's Olympic stadium. (Photos: 1952 Olympic Report)

The Torch

In the 1936 and 1948 Torch Relays each runner had his own torch, kindled by the previous runner. Following the changeover, each torch bearer was allowed to keep the torch as a memento. This is a tradition that has continued at every Olympic Games – except for the 1952 Torch Relay!

The Organizing Committee for the Games of the XVth Olympiad ordered only a small number of torches with attachable fuel canisters. By using fuel canisters and exchanging torches every twenty minutes, the number of torches could be reduced to 22 (in 1936 there were 3,840 and in 1948, over a much shorter route, 1,700).

Instead of their own torch, runners were awarded a torch relay copper plaque (40 mm x 70 mm, and 3 mm thick) as a memento for their participation in the torch relay (left). In all, 3,750 plaques were created.



The torch, designed by Aukusti Tuhka, is attached to a lacquered curly birch wood handle. It is 60 centimeters (23.6 inches) long and its metal parts

include 600 grams of silver.

The total weight of the torch is approximately 1080 grams (38.09 ounces).

Around the lower part of the metal bowl, is inscribed in two lines: "XV OLYMPIA HELSINKI 1952" and "HELSINKI HELSINGFORS". A star is engraved at the beginning and end of each line.

A laurel wreath is attached at the approximate center of one side of the torch; the Olympic Rings are on the opposite face. Two sets of four hallmarks provide distinguishing characteristics: one set is on the metal part of the handle being the lowest part of the torch, and the other is on the metal bowl. (Additional details of the hallmarks are not provided in an effort to deter counterfeiters.)

A total of 1600 fuel canisters were produced. Of those, 200 were sent to Greece, 175 to Denmark and 300 to Sweden. The fuel canister was guaranteed to burn for a minimum of 21 minutes but in tests some burned for as long as 45 minutes.

After the Games, the Organizing Committee presented one torch each to the Olympic Committees of Greece, Denmark and Sweden, SAS Airlines, the International Sports Museum in Lausanne, the Finnish Museum of the Far North and the leading Finnish sports organizations.

There have been claims that there were two types of Helsinki torches, one in silver and a bronze version. Experience, along with the information given in the Official Report, lead to the conclusion that no bronze Helsinki torch was ever produced – only the 22 silver ones.

Finally, as with many other torches, there have been attempts to replicate this torch. Having seen both the authentic and counterfeit torches up close, I consider these attempts to be very unsuccessful. It does, however, take an experienced eye to discern the difference, so please be careful, as a fraud may cross your path. If in doubt, consult an expert before buying!

THE SPORTS ARENA

by Mark Maestrone

Vancouver Olympics Major Error

Courtesy of Glenn Estus, we have a news item dating back to February 2011 revealing the existence of a major error on the overprinted Canada Post souvenir sheets from the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games.

To recap, Canada Post originally issued three different souvenir sheets. A total of 50,000 sets were set aside and subsequently overprinted with the text "Vancouver 2010" in gold, silver, or bronze foil. Of these overprinted sheets, 16,000 sets were packaged for sale as expensive stamp-and-coin sets. However, after complaints by collectors, the remaining 34,000 sets of the overprinted sheets were sold in stamp-only packages at face value.

The error involves the souvenir sheet of five sports stamps. Instead of a silver foil overprint, it appears that the sheet was instead overprinted using gold foil. To date, only a single example has been reported. The owner of the error has confirmed that the souvenir sheet was part of the stamp-and-coin packaged set.

For the original report on this find, please go to: http://brcstamps.com/pr24_2010_olympics_ovpt_error.htm.



At bottom is the error souvenir sheet with gold foil overprint. A normal silver foil overprinted sheet is shown above it.



More Vancouver Olympic News

Canada Post's recent issue of four "Difference Makers" stamps on May 22 included an important participant in the February 12 Opening Ceremony of the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games.

Rick Hansen, then a 53-year-old Paralympian, and multi-gold medalist in the Paralympic marathon, was the first Canadian torch bearer to enter the BC Place Stadium. With the torch securely fastened to a special arm attached to his wheelchair, Rick wheeled into the stadium and passed the Olympic flame to Catrina Lemay Doan, one of Canada's most successful speed skaters.

Hansen, who also carried the torch on February 9 in the town of Richmond, is best known for his lifelong commitment to finding treatments for spinal cord injuries. He was 15 years old when he was thrown from the back of a pickup truck sustaining permanent injuries that paralyzed him from the waist down. Undaunted by his injury, Rick went on to become the first person with a physical disability to receive a degree in Physical Education from the University of British Columbia.

Today, the Rick Hansen Foundation has raised over \$200 million in support of spinal cord injury-related programs.

The self-adhesive "permanent" Rick Hansen stamp was issued in a 10-stamp booklet format. The current value of each stamp is 61¢. The stamp is also included in a four-stamp souvenir sheet along with the other three honorees: actor and Parkinson's activist Michael J. Fox, Nobel Peace Prize nominee Sheila Watt-Cloutier, and war crimes prosecutor Louise Arbour.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Mark Maestrone

NEW MEMBERS

Jean-Louis Emmenegger, PO Box 10, 1009 Pully, Switzerland. **Winter Olympics, Host Country, Pre-1960 Olympics.** (e-mail: jemm@hispeed.ch)

Constandinos A. Tarassouleas, 10 Stadiou Str., 10564 Athens, Greece. **Olympics.** (e-mail: c_tarassouleas@yahoo.com)

Yury A. Golant, 3td Frunzenskaja 14-53, 119146 Moscow, Russia. **Parachuting, Archery.** (e-mail: ygolant@comtv.ru)

Hou (Justin) Kun, Rm 1123, New World Center, Chongwenmenwai St., Chong Wen Qu, Beijing 10006, China. (e-mail: houkun@2008.sina.com)

Gu (Andy) Chen, Guo Rui Cheng Dong Qu 3-6-1309, Chong Wen Qu, Beijing 100062, China. **Asian Games.** (e-mail: gc7602@163.com)

REINSTATED MEMBER

David R. Buxton, 88 Bucknell Rd, Bicester Oxon OX26 2DR, United Kingdom. **Summer & Winter Olympics, Track & Field, Commonwealth Games.** (e-mail: dbuxton@ripon-cuddesdon.ac.uk)

DECEASED MEMBER

Elten Schiller, San Diego, CA

ADDRESS CHANGES

James Bowman, 4555 E. Mayo Blvd., Unit 4306, Phoenix, AZ 85050-6961
Roberto Gluckmann, 1400 Geary Blvd., Apt. 2504, San Francisco, CA 94109-9316
James D. Greensfelder, 6495 Partridge Way, Mason, OH 45040
Ray Soldan, 308 Sage Brush Rd., Yukon, OK 73099-6872

EXHIBITING

St. Louis Stamp Expo (March 2012): Andrew Urushima's single frame exhibit "The 1944 POW Olympics: Gross Brom & Woldenberg" received a Vermeil and the APS 1940-1980 Award. "The Rimet World Cup of Soccer - 1930, 1934, 1938" by Richard Woodward won a silver and the ATA One Frame Award.

Garfield-Perry March Party (March 2012) Cleveland, Ohio. Conrad Klinkner received a Vermeil for "Games of the Xth Olympiad, Los Angeles 1932." Elizabeth Hisey received a Single Frame Vermeil and the AAPE Award of Honor for "Bolivia Commemorative Sports Issue 1951."

SPORTS-BY-COUNTRY CHECKLISTS

Checklists are available as a printout, e-mail or by IBM disks by SPI. These are available to ATA and SPI members who collect sport stamps in countries other than their own. For more information, or to order checklists, contact Margaret Jones by e-mail at docj3@hotmail.com or write Margaret A. Jones, 705 South Laclede Station Road, Apt 163, St Louis, MO 63119-4969 USA.

Countries available through 2010 include:

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Aland Islands | Greenland |
| Andorra (French) | Iceland |
| Andorra (Spanish) | Israel |
| Australia | Japan |
| Austria | Madeira |
| Azores | Namibia |
| Basutoland | New Zealand |
| Bechuanaland | Nigeria |
| Bophuthatswana | Norway |
| Cape of Good Hope | Philippines |
| Ciskei | Poland |
| Colombia | Portugal |
| Danish West Indies | Rhodesia |
| Denmark | Russia |
| Faroe Islands | South Africa |
| Finland | South West Africa |
| France | Spain |
| Germany (Old, West, Reunified, Berlin) | Swaziland |
| Germany (East) | Sweden |
| Great Britain | Thailand |
| Greece | Transkei |
| | Transval |

NEW STAMP ISSUES

by John La Porta

Andorra (French): February 10, 2012. Soldeu Women's World Cup Alpine Skiing. €0.89 skier's legs and skis.

Australia: January 20, 2012. Australian Legends-Football Champions. Eight 60¢ stamps showing Australian rules, football, rugby union and rugby league players. Ron Barass: Gary Ablet; John Raper; Billy Slater; David Campese; David Pocock; Joe Marston; Mark Schwarzer. Offset in sheets of 50 (two panes of 25 or two different stamps) and booklets of 10.

June 5, 2012. London Olympics. The Road to London. 60¢ double-decker bus, London Eye Ferris wheel, Big Ben, St. Paul's, Olympic rings. Offset in sheets of 10, booklets of 10 and coils of 100.

Azerbaijan: December 26, 2011. Rabit Baku Volleyball Club. S/s with a 1m stamp, the volleyball team.

March 15, 2012. Europa/Visit. Set of three stamps, two with sport themes, 20g sailboat; 60g skier. Offset in sheets of 10.

Brazil: December 19, 2011. Diplomatic Relations with Qatar. 2.70r stamps, soccer players, flags.

Burundi: December 30, 2011. Table Tennis Championships. 1000f, 1120f, 3000f, 3000f all depict table tennis players in action. Souvenir sheet of four values, 1020f, 1090f, 3000f, 3000f showing different players.

March 30, 2012. 70th Anniversary Muhammad Ali. Sheetlet of four values se-tenant 1070f (two), 3000f (two); souvenir sheet one value 500f all depict Muhammad Ali boxing.

March 30, 2012. Sports. Sheetlet of four values, 1070f Lionel Messi, soccer; 1070f Novak Djokovic, tennis; 1070f Martin Kaymer, golf; 5000f Usain Bolt, track.

Canada: June 27, 2012. London Olympics. Permanent domestic rate, double-scul boat. Booklet of 10 stamps. Postcard permanent rate.

Caribbean Netherlands: February 1, 2012. Sailboats. 65¢ catamaran; 99¢ Optimist; 101¢ Sunfish; 168¢ Laser.

Central Africa: December 27, 2011. Table Tennis: Set of three 900f values depicting table tennis players, s/s of one 3200f value depicting Ding Ning playing table tennis.

Cyprus: March 21, 2012. Soccer. Souvenir sheet with €1.77 round stamp, soccer, ball, shoe.

March 21, 2012. London Olympics. €0.22 gymnast on rings; €0.26 tennis; €0.34 high jump; €0.43 biathlon. Offset in sheets of 8.

Ecuador: November 30, 2011. 16th Pan-American Games. Five se-tenant 25¢ stamps, karate; weightlifting; canoeing; boxing; roller skating.

Finland: March 21, 2012. World Ice Hockey Championship. Nondenominated first class stamp, Hockey Bird mascot. Offset in booklets of 10.

Germany: April 12, 2012. Sport. European soccer championships, €0.55+€0.25 soccer players on field; London Olympics, €0.90+€0.40 swimmers in lanes; World Team Table Tennis Championships, €1.45+€0.55 table tennis.

Greece: December 15, 2011. World Aquatics Championships Gold Medalists. Two souvenir sheets each with a €3 stamp, flag, golf medal for women's water polo team; swimmer Spyros Gianniotis, gold medal.

Guinea: December 12, 2011. Baseball Stars. Sheetlet of three values, 5000FG; 15000FG; 20000FG.

December 30, 2011. French High Speed Trains. Souvenir sheet 40,000FG value depicts a soccer player.

Guinea Bissau: September 27, 2011. World Rugby Championship. Sheet of three 1000 FCFA stamps depicting rugby players, souvenir sheet with one 2000FCFA stamp, rugby players.

September 27, 2011: World Soccer Cup. Souvenir sheet with one 3000FCFA stamp.

September 27, 2011: London Olympics. Souvenir sheet with one 3100FCFA stamp.

September 27, 2011. Table Tennis. Souvenir sheet with one 2500FCFA stamp, Wang Hao.

Hong Kong: May 3, 2012. Art. Set of four stamps, one is sport, \$3 The Racecourse, Amateur Jockeys, Close to a Carriage by Edgar Degas. A souvenir sheet contains the four stamps.

Iceland: May 3, 2012. London Olympics. Nondenominated stamp, athlete with ball. Printed in sheets of 10.

Indonesia: February 22, 2012. National Sports Week/Pon XVIII. Six se-tenant 2,500rp stamps featuring the mascot, a blue-crowned hanging parrot, parachuting; shooting; gymnastics rings; soccer; windsurfing; canoeing. Printed in sheets of 24, some rows are tete-beche.

Iran: April 18, 2012. Victory at the 16th Asian Senior Men's Volleyball Championship. Souvenir sheet with 3,400r stamp, team celebrating.

Monaco: February 2, 2012. Monte-Carlo Rolex Masters. €0.89 fans watching tennis match.

February 20, 2012. La Carabine de Monaco. 100th Anniversary Monaco rifle shooting, €1.35 shooters of 1912 and today. Printed in sheets of 10.

March 20, 2012. 70th Monaco Grand Prix. €0.77 race car, emblem, Monaco scene. Printed in sheets of 10.

March 20, 2012. 100th Anniversary First Seaplane Competition. €1.80 seaplane, Monte Carlo. Printed in sheets of 10.

Morocco: January 23, 2012. Africa Cup Soccer. 3.50d stamp shaped like a soccer ball, soccer player, map of Africa.

Mozambique: December 30, 2011. Tribute to Marco Simoncelli. Sheet of six 66.00mt stamps depicting Marco Simoncelli racing motorcycles. Souvenir sheet with one 175.00mt stamps with the racer depicted.

December 30, 2011. Horse Racing. Sheetlet of six 66.00MT stamps, all depict horse racing. Souvenir sheet of one 175.00Mt stamp, horse racing.

Norway: April 13, 2012. Birth Centennials. "A" domestic-rate stamps, Sonja Henie on skates; portrait of Sonja Henie.

Russia: February 27, 2012. Sochi Olympics. Souvenir sheet with three 15r stamps showing mascots, leopard; hare; polar bear.

February 27, 2012. Sochi Paralympics. Souvenir sheet with free-form 30r stamp showing mascots, snowflake, ray of light.

Somalia: (?) Horse Racing. 100. 200, 600, 3300, all depict horse racing at track. Michel # 832-35.

Somalia: (?) Ferrari F1. 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 2500, set of six stamps depicting the race car Ferrari F1. Michel# 890-95.

Somalia: (?) Polo. 200, 400, 3200, souvenir sheet 3000, all depict polo playing. Michel# 920-22 plus blk.

Somalia: (?) Gliders. 200, 400, 3300, all depict gliders flying. Michel # 995-97

Sri Lanka: September 27, 2011. World Tourism Day. Set of 5 stamps, one depicts sports, 45re white-water rafting.

October 11, 2011. South Asian Beach Games. 5re beach volleyball, frisbee, soccer.

Togo: December 28, 2011. Lawn Tennis. Sheet of three 950f stamps picturing Nadal, Murray & Federer. Souvenir sheet with one 3000f stamp depicting Novak Djokovic.

February 20, 2012. Table Tennis. Sheetlet of three 750f stamps, Ma Long, Timo Boo, Zhang Jike. Souvenir sheet on 2000f value, Wang Lao.

February 20, 2012. Golf Champions. Sheetlet with three 950f values, Luke Donald, Westwood, Rory McIlroy. Souvenir sheet with one 3000f value, Tiger Woods.

February 20, 2012. Boxing. Sheetlet with three 950f values. Wladimir Klitschko, Chris Arreola, Vitaly Klitschko, David Haye. Souvenir sheet with one 3000f value, Muhammad Ali.

December 28, 2011. Tour de France 2011. Sheet of three 950f stamps, Mark Cavendish, Cade Evans, Samuel Sanchez, souvenir sheet with one 3000f value, Cade Evans.

Turkey: February 15, 2012. Istanbul 2012 European Capital of Sports. 50k marathon runners, top of building; two 1-liras stamps, Ortakoy Mosque, Bosphorus Bridge, sailboats; skyline tennis player; 2 liras top of building, bicyclists.

March 9, 2012. World Indoor Track and Field Championships. Souvenir sheet with four se-tenant stamps, 50k, two 1-liras, 2-liras, different designs of bridges and athletes jumping or vaulting.

Ukraine: February 20, 2012. Personalized stamps/Soccer. Four different frames with country name "V" for denomination, with large se-tenant label that can be personalized. The preprinted version shows soccer stadiums, Kiev; Kharkov; Donetsk; Viv. Offset in sheets of 14.

Wallis & Futuna: January 2012. Ninth Mini Pacific Games. 65f emblem. Offset in sheets of 10.

COMMEMORATIVE CANCELS

by Mark Maestrone

THE NUMBERING SYSTEM

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

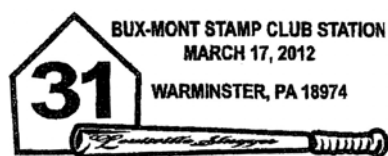
SPORTS CROSS INDEX FEBRUARY-JUNE 2012

Auto Racing: 12527-462.
Baseball: 12317-189, 12413-021, 12420-021, 12607-056.
Basketball: 12320-675.
Boxing: 12610-130.
Cycling: 12605-691, 12607-295
Football: 12414-151.
Horse Racing: 12504-402, 12505-402.
Skating, Figure: 12211-121.
Surfing: 12505-950.

MEDUSA WINTER CARNIVAL



12211-121 Medusa, NY 11



12317-189 Warminster, PA 17



DI NJCAA BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
SPORTS ARENA STATION
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MARCH 20, 2012

12320-675 Hutchinson, KS 20-24



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Kentucky Oaks
CHURCHILL DOWNS STATION
LOUISVILLE, KY 40208
MAY 4, 2012

12504-402 Louisville, KY 4

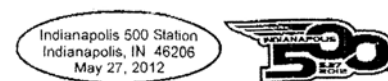


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12505-402 Louisville, KY 5



12505-950 Santa Cruz, CA 5



12527-462 Indianapolis, IN 27



12605-691 Stapleton, NE 5



12607-056 Montpelier, VT 7



12607-295 Pawleys Island, SC 7



12610-130 Canastota, NY 10



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