

JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

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NUMBER 1





SPORTS
PHILATELISTS
INTERNATIONAL

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**LONDON OLYMPIC
GAMES OF 2012**

2

**STOCKHOLM OLYMPIC
GAMES OF 1912**

8

**CANADIAN
FOOTBALL**

13

GOLF

20

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

Welcome to the 50th Anniversary of SPI

Olympex 2012

I can't believe that SPI has actually reached the half century mark! In this day and age with membership in philatelic societies seemingly diminishing worldwide, it's a testament to our nearly 200-strong Olympic and sports collectors who continue to support our society in so many ways. We certainly appreciate it!

As we gather in Indianapolis for our fête September 28-30, I hope to see many of you. Following is our schedule of events:

Friday, Sept. 28: SPI dinner at the Weber Grill. If you wish to attend please RSVP to me by Sept. 10. My email is: markspi@prodigy.net. The website for the restaurant is: www.webergrillrestaurant.com

Saturday, Sept. 29: SPI General Meeting, 10-11 a.m.

Saturday, Sept. 29: Awards Banquet (show hotel). Tickets (\$35/person) are available in advance by mail or at the show on Friday.

Our convention's theme will celebrate the centennial of the 1912 Stockholm Olympic Games and its most famous Olympian, Jim Thorpe. A special postmark will be available all three days of the show. We will also have a special cacheted cover on sale.



Although this year's Olympic Games, which I'm sure we all enjoyed watching, broke with tradition in that there was no competitive philatelic exhibition, there was in fact a very impressive display of Olympic philately at the British Library.

In support of that event, which ran from 25 July through 9 September (following the conclusion of the Paralympics), a very colorful show catalog was printed. Due to generous contributions of various sponsors, the organizers were able to make free copies of this catalog available to members of the various Olympic and sport philatelic societies around the world. These were drop-shipped (at no cost to us) to our publisher for mailing with this Fall issue of *JSP* to our USA and Canadian members (other international members will receive their copies from their national Olympic philatelic societies).

I would certainly like to thank Bob Farley, Chairman of the Society of Olympic Collectors, for working so hard to produce this publication and making sure it was as widely distributed as possible.

SPI Election, 2012-2014

I am happy to announce that our entire slate of candidates was reelected for another two-year term as officers and members of the board of Sports Philatelists International. In all, we had 29 ballots submitted and counted. Many thanks to all those who took the time to vote!

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

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Royal Mail's Olympian Undertaking

by Mark Maestroni

Royal Mail, the United Kingdom's national postal administration, decided to take on the daunting task of issuing a special commemorative stamp for each Team GB gold medal winning individual or team. When it announced the program back in early spring, it had anticipated issuing 19 stamps (based on the team's performance at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games). I doubt it ever imagined that no less than 29 stamps would eventually be issued across 13 sports!

Royal Mail is only the third host postal administration to issue gold medalist stamps – and the first to use an action photo rather than a shot taken at the award ceremony. Australia Post was the first to implement the idea of next-day medalist stamps at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. Hellas (Greek) Post continued the tradition during the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.

When one considers that Royal Mail guaranteed that each medalist stamp would be available for purchase at post offices nationwide by lunchtime the day following the medalist's victory, it is easy to appreciate the goal they set for themselves.

Put in perspective, Andrew Hammond, Royal Mail's Director of Stamps and Collectibles, said that it normally takes "18 months to 2 years to design a stamp and we're crushing that down into 24 hours." He added that in fact it might be considerably less as a medal could be awarded as late as 11 p.m.

The process was further explained by Marcus James, Head of Design. Within 20 minutes of a British victory, digitized images would arrive at the stamp design center from the Official Photo Agency of the IOC, Getty Images. The design team set themselves a one-hour time frame to sort through the photos, select the one that best captured the "defining moment" of that event, and then digitally refine the image to fit the template. PDFs were then sent electronically to the six printers for the final stage of production.

Printing the stamps was a two-step process. First, the base sheet for the stamps was lithographically printed by Walsall Security Print, then rouletted (between miniature sheets and on the left selvage), and die-cut (stamps). The base sheet consisted of the silhouette of Queen Elizabeth II at upper left, and the 2012 London Olympic Games

logo and words "Gold Medal Winner" in the right margin, all printed in gold ink.

In the second step, following a Team GB victory, the athlete's name and event, in black ink, and the image were digitally overprinted by six regional printers. In the case of a "team" victory, the words "Team GB" were used instead of the athletes' names.

The six regional printers are: Preston, Edinburgh, Solihull, Attleborough, Swindon, and London. The name of the printer is in the selvage of the 4th (bottom) miniature sheet in each printers sheet.

Each printers sheet was composed of four miniature sheets stacked one upon the other and divided by rouletting (see the illustration of the printers sheet on the next page). Each miniature sheet contained six self-adhesive stamps with a "1st" denomination (currently 60p) satisfying the first class letter rate nationwide.

The completed printers sheets were dispatched to 500 selected U.K. post office branches before lunchtime the day following the gold medalist's victory. Many of these "selected" post office branches were also open on Sundays "so fans [could] celebrate Team GB's achievements." Three times during the course of the Games, batches of stamps were to be delivered to an additional 4,500 branch post offices around the U.K.

According to SPI board member, Bob Wilcock, the medalists stamps were available from about 9 a.m. the next day at the selected post office branches. Stamps were delivered as undivided printers sheets (i.e. four miniature sheets still connected), a format in which customers could purchase them (see facing page). It was of course also possible to purchase them in individual miniature sheets of 6.

Following are the 29 gold medal stamps issued by Royal Mail. The date accompanying each illustration is the date on which the medal was won.

The First Day postmark (below) for every gold medal stamp is identical except for the date.

Following the Olympics, Royal Mail announced that it would produce similar gold medal stamps for each Paralympic gold medal winner on Team GB (29 August - 9 September).





London 2012 Olympic Games

Mo Farah
Saturday 11 August 2012
Olympic Stadium



The XXX Olympiad

London 2012 Olympic Games

Mo Farah
Saturday 11 August 2012
Olympic Stadium



London 2012 Olympic Games

Mo Farah
Saturday 11 August 2012
Olympic Stadium



London 2012 Olympic Games

Mo Farah
Saturday 11 August 2012
Olympic Stadium



GMW27 Issue date 12 August 2012
Printer location London





Date Won: 1 August 2012
Helen Glover & Heather Stanning



Date Won: 1 August 2012
Bradley Wiggins



Date Won: 2 August 2012
Tim Baillie & Etienne Stott



Date Won: 2 August 2012
Peter Wilson



Date Won: 2 August 2012
*Chris Hoy, Jason Kenny
 & Philip Hindes*



Date Won: 3 August 2012
*Katherine Grainger
 & Anna Watkins*



Date Won: 3 August 2012
*Steven Burke, Ed Clancy,
 Peter Kennaugh
 & Geraint Thomas*



Date Won: 3 August 2012
Victoria Pendleton



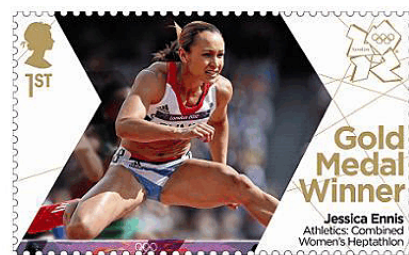
Date Won: 4 August 2012
*Alex Gregory, Pete Reed,
 Tom James
 & Andrew Triggs Hodge*



Date Won: 4 August 2012
*Katherine Copeland
 & Sophie Hosking*



Date Won: 4 August 2012
*Dani King, Joanna Rowsell
 & Laura Trott*



Date Won: 4 August 2012
Jessica Ennis



Date Won: 4 August 2012
Greg Rutherford



Date Won: 4 August 2012
Mo Farah



Date Won: 5 August 2012
Ben Ainslie



Date Won: 5 August 2012
Andy Murray



Date Won: 6 August 2012
Scott Brash, Peter Charles,
Ben Maher, Nick Skelton



Date Won: 6 August 2012
Jason Kenny



Date Won: 7 August 2012
Alistair Brownlee



Date Won: 7 August 2012
Laura Bechtolsheimer,
Charlotte Dujardin, Carl Hester



Date Won: 7 August 2012
Laura Trott



Date Won: 7 August 2012
Chris Hoy



Date Won: 9 August 2012
Charlotte Dujardin



Date Won: 9 August 2012
Nicola Adams



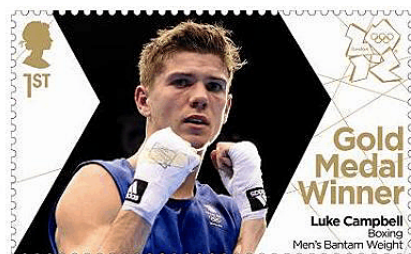
Date Won: 9 August 2012
Jade Jones



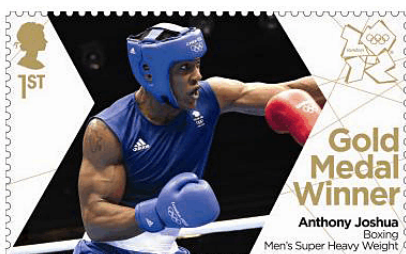
Date Won: 11 August 2012
Ed McKeever



Date Won: 11 August 2012
Mo Farah



Date Won: 11 August 2012
Luke Campbell



Date Won: 12 August 2012
Anthony Joshua

Technical Specifications

Stamp size: 47 x 29mm
Miniature sheet size: 192 x 74mm
Printers sheet size: 210 x 297mm (A4)
Gum: self-adhesive
Printing: lithography and digital



A young Olympic enthusiast standing next to cyclist Jason Kenny's first gold mailbox on Churchgate in Bolton, Lancashire, Kenny's hometown.

A most clever idea: for each Team GB gold medalist, one of Royal Mail's iconic red mailboxes would be painted gold. The location was chosen to coincide with the medalist's hometown or some other notable location. For those with two gold medals, such as cyclist Jason Kenny, two boxes got the Olympic treatment (left)!

Another interesting piece of philatelic history is the packaging (A3 sized = 297 x 420mm) used to ship each batch of miniature sheets to post offices. Rescued by Bob Wilcock, and shown on the next page, is the package for the final issue of stamps honoring Anthony Joshua. Fittingly, the polyethylene packaging is gold.

According to the inscription, the package contained 120 miniature sheets (thus 30 printers sheets).

For more information:

Gold Medalist Stamps: www.norphil.co.uk/2012/07g-olympic_gold_medal_stamps.htm
Gold Postboxes: www.goldpostboxes.com/
Full listing of all 2012 Olympic stamps worldwide: www.sportstamps.org/membersonly/london2012stamps/olympics2012stamps.html



The Gold Medal Winners miniature sheets were delivered to post offices in fancy polyethylene packaging that left no doubt as to what contents were within (front and back shown).





Perforated version of the 1912 Olympic label in Swedish affixed to an official postcard sent from Stockholm on the Opening Day of the Games, 29 June 1912.

by Fredrik Schreuder

At the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Congress in Berlin the decision was made on 28 May 1909 to award the Vth Olympic Games in 1912 to Stockholm, the capital of Sweden.

The decision to award the Games to Stockholm should, to a large degree, be attributed to Colonel Victor G. Balck, one of the two Swedish members of the IOC. Colonel Balck was elected as head of the organizing committee for the Games. Mr. Sigfrid Edström, who was elected as his deputy, would later become a member of the IOC and its president from 1942 to 1952.

In all, 2490 male and 57 female athletes from 28 nations participated in the Stockholm Olympic Games. Norway was represented by 191 participants.

For the first time in Olympic history there were participants from all five continents. Ladies events were only organized in swimming. It is also interesting to note that boxing was not included in the Olympic program in 1912, since Sweden did not permit boxing matches on Swedish soil. This was indeed one factor which led to the IOC decision to limit the influence of the host country on the composition of the program of events in subsequent Olympic Games.

In Paris 1900, St. Louis 1904 and London 1908 the Olympic Games were organized as part of world exhibitions stretching over a period of several months. In Stockholm in 1912 the Games were more compact lasting only about three weeks. In later years the period of the Olympic Games has been shortened to approximately two weeks, in spite of a vast increase in the number of events.

The Olympic Games in Stockholm 1912

The most prominent athlete at the Olympic Games in Stockholm was undoubtedly Jim Thorpe, an American Indian athlete, who won both the decathlon and pentathlon by wide margins.

At the Olympic Congress in Lausanne in 1913, he was, however, stripped of his two gold medals, as he was found to be in violation of the Olympic amateur rules.

The IOC overturned its earlier decision and, in 1982, reinstated Jim Thorpe as Olympic Champion post mortem. It is part of the history that one of the two competitors who benefitted from the disqualification of Jim Thorpe was the Norwegian athlete Ferdinand Bie who came in second in the pentathlon. Upon Jim Thorpe's disqualification in 1913, Bie was awarded the gold medal.

Jim Thorpe has been honored philatelically by his home country, the United States, which has issued a commemorative stamp in memory of his Olympic accomplishments (Figure 1).

Looking back, it is interesting to note the severity of the amateur rules 100 years ago. At the Olympic Games in Stockholm an amateur was defined as an athlete who had never:

- competed for a monetary reward or financial gain nor who in any way had benefitted financially from his sport;
- competed against any professional athlete;



Figure 1. The great Jim Thorpe was the "Star at Stockholm."

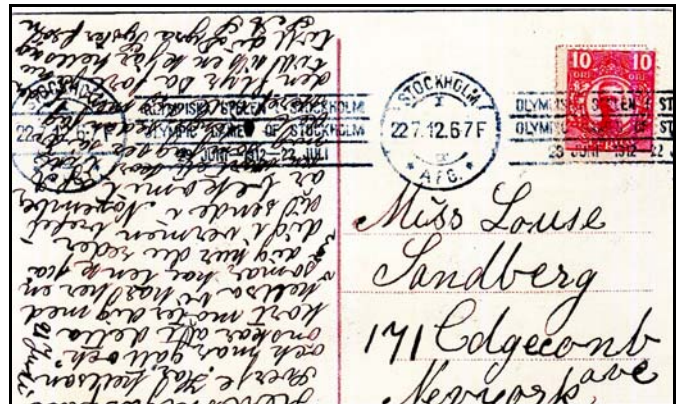


Figure 2. Two postcards with the slogan machine cancel used by the Swedish post office on outgoing mail before and during the Games. At left, an official post card mailed on 2 July 1912. Addressed to the USA, the card at right was mailed on 22 July, the closing day of the Stockholm Olympic Games.

- received financial compensation from teaching or coaching in any branch of sport;
- sold, mortgaged, rented or received payment from the exhibition of his medals or other prizes.

If these rules were in force today, it is doubtful if any participant in the Olympic Games would be in compliance with the amateur requirements.

As part of the campaign to promote the 1912 Olympic Games the organizers decided to print an advertising poster and a vignette with the same design in 16 different languages. Some of these vignettes are quite rare. The vignettes were issued in perforated as well as imperforate versions, and frequently affixed to covers and postcards.

The card illustrated at the beginning of this article shows the perforated version in Swedish on an official postcard sent from Stockholm on the Opening Day of the Games, 29 June 1912.

On 22 March 1912, it was decided that the Swedish postal service would employ a thematic machine cancellation on postal mailings during and

immediately prior to the Games. The machine cancellation included both Swedish and English text.

An official postcard postmarked with the machine cancellation on 2 July, and a regular postcard, sent to New York on the Closing Day of the Games, 22 July are presented in Figure 2.

A special boxed cachet with French text was used as a transit marking in Gothenburg. It exists in black, as on the letter from Ostersund to New York, and in blue as on a letter from Stockholm to Arboga (Figure 3). The black cachet is known from 1912 as well as 1913, particularly on transit mail to the United States.

There were no stamps issued to commemorate the Olympic Games in Stockholm, either in Sweden or in any other country. The philatelic interest is therefore focused on the cancellations, and in particular on the two Stadium cancellations which were in use during the Games.

The Swedish postal administration established a separate small post office in a building located just outside the Olympic Stadium, where mail was



Figure 3. Boxed cachet used as a transit marking in black (above) and in blue (right).



Figure 4. The “STOCKHOLM STADION” postmark was used on mail deposited at the small post office located out the Olympic Stadium. The card at left above was mailed on 12 July to England while the one at right was a registered internal postcard mailed on 16 July.

cancelled and sorted. Mail which arrived or was deposited at the post office received the “STOCKHOLM STADION” cancellation.

A postcard to England, cancelled 12 July, and a registered internal postcard, cancelled 16 July, are reproduced in Figure 4.

Letters and cards which were dropped in the letter boxes in and around the Olympic Stadium or the Swimming Arena received a different cancellation: “STOCKHOLM STADION LBR” (landbrev). Figure 5 shows an internal letter cancelled 18 July and a postcard dated 17 July.

According to an article published by Mr. Manfred Bergman, the former philatelic curator at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne and the world’s foremost expert on the philately of the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm, it is estimated that about 19,000 letters or postcards received one or the other of the two stadium cancellations. Of these, a total of about 200 are still believed to be in existence.

The pure “STADION” cancellation is more rare than the “STADION LBR” cancellation; certain cancellation dates are also more rare than others. For a detailed study of the nuances and rarity of the stadium cancellations, reference is made to an upcoming treatise being prepared by Manfred Bergman to be published later this year.

The remainder of this article is devoted to the correspondence from the Organizing Committee and its different subcommittees and departments, which also constitute an interesting part of the postal history of the 1912 Olympic Games.

To a substantial degree the covers speak for themselves, but it is interesting to note that several of these covers have been sent to Mr. I. Roessler-Orovsky, the Secretary General of the Czech Olympic Committee. Two such covers from the Organizing Committee are pictured in Figures 6 and 7.

Figures 8 and 9 present covers from the Housing Committee and Ticket Office, respectively.

Figure 5. For letters and cards dropped in letter boxes around the Olympic Stadium and Swimming Arena, a “STOCKHOLM STADION LBR” postmark was applied. Below are an internal letter (left) postmarked 18 July with the “LBR” cancel, and a postcard (right) dated 17 July.





Figures 6 and 7 (left and below). Two Organizing Committee covers addressed to Mr. Roessler-Orovsky, the Secretary General of the Czech Olympic Committee in Prague.

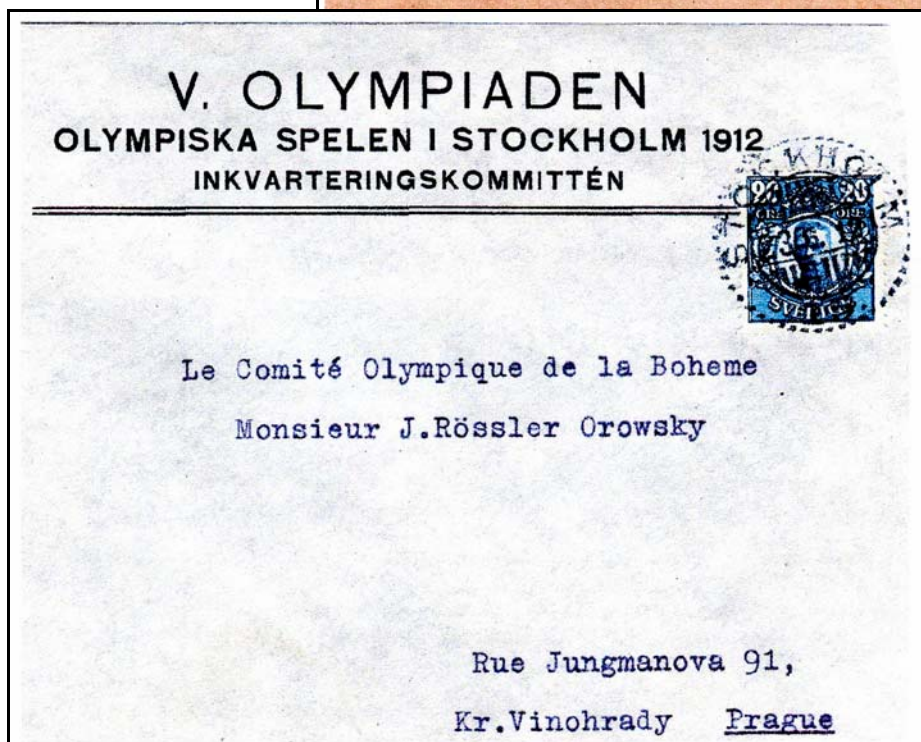
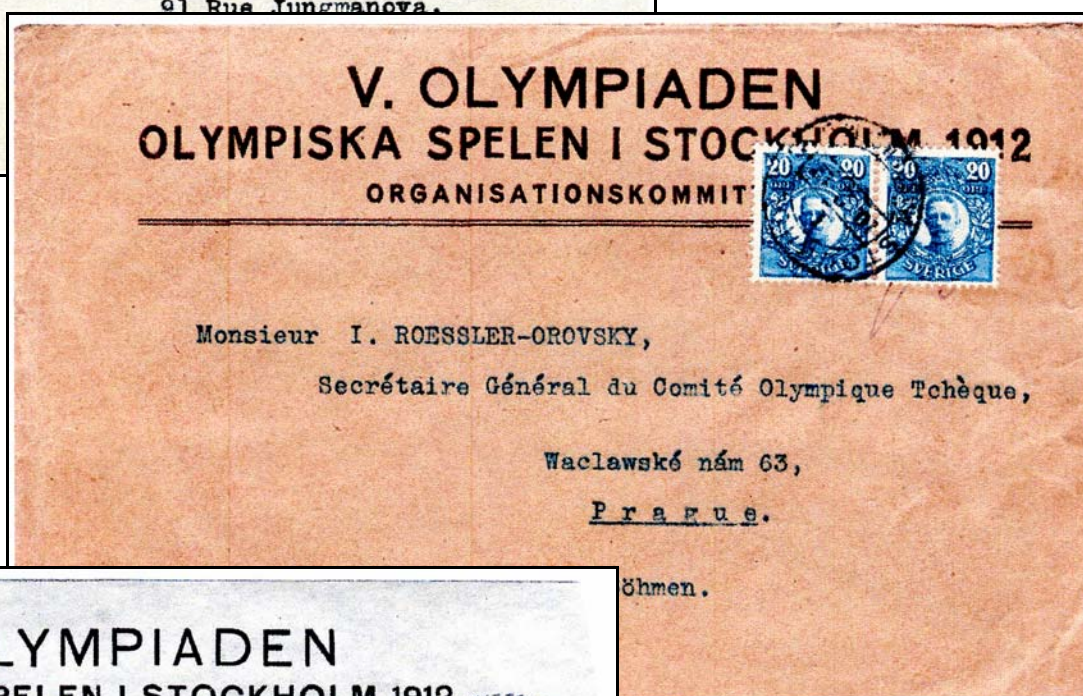


Figure 8 (left). Another cover to Mr. Roessler-Orovsky, this time from the Housing Committee.



Figure 9. Ticket Office cover.

Finally, the reader will find covers from the sub-committees for particular branches of sport, such as “Le Comité d’Escrime” (fencing), shown in Figure 10, and, in Figure 11, “Kommiten för Fotball” (soccer).

In connection with the Games of the Vth Olympiad in Stockholm 1912, 87 different official and numerous unofficial postcards were issued, picturing celebrities, Olympic events, Olympic arenas, gold medal winners and other Olympic topics. These postcards have become popular collector items.

I hope that this short presentation of the postal aspects of the Olympic Games in Stockholm has shown that even Olympic Games without commemorative stamps can be of substantial interest to philatelists and postal historians. An exciting way of collecting might be to link cancellations from the different dates of the Games to the Olympic events which took place on the same dates.

From 1912, a period of 40 years elapsed until a Nordic country once again organized an Olympic Games. It was a double honor, therefore, when in 1952, Oslo, Norway, organized the Olympic



Figure 10. Fencing Committee cover.

Winter Games while Helsinki, Finland, staged the Olympic Summer Games.

The above article and illustrations originally appeared in the January 2012 issue of Olympiaposten, the journal of the Norwegian Society of Olympic and Sport Philatelists and is reproduced with their and the author's kind permission. The author also provided the English translation from the original Norwegian.



Figure 11. Cover from the Football Committee for the Stockholm Games.

Canada's Grey Cup

by Kon Sokolyk

The 100th Grey Cup Game will be played November 25, 2012 at Toronto, Canada. The Cup, emblematic of the Canadian Football League (CFL) championship, has seen a colorful history. It has been contested in mud or snow, fog or bitter cold. The teams have been comprised of university students or amateur gentlemen players, air force enlistees or professionals. It has spawned heroes and scapegoats. It has ended in joyous celebrations and riots. It has been called “Canada’s national madness.”

That the Game and the festivities that surrounded it were dubbed “national madness” is not surprising. The moment fans were notified about the availability of Grey Cup tickets (Figure 1) the festivities would begin. And as the trains full of fans rumbled across Canada to the host city the level of revelry would pick up. The festivities leading up to the game and post game were legendary. In 1948, for example, Calgary fans rode horses into the lobby of Toronto’s prestigious Royal York Hotel.

It all began in 1909 when Earl Grey, the Governor General of Canada, donated a trophy for the “amateur rugby football championship of Canada.” The first Grey Cup Game was contested that same year, in Toronto on December 4, with the University



of Toronto defeating Toronto Parkdale 26-6. For a number of years during World War I, the Cup was not held resulting in the 100th game being played in 2012. In 1921, the game became a national championship with teams from both the East and the West vying for the trophy. Since 1958, it has been awarded to the champions of the professional Canadian Football League. Earl Grey’s trophy was no longer a competition between amateur teams.

Some Grey Cup Games have gained legendary status – the 1950 “Mud Bowl” where players were completely caked in mud and no one really knew who was who. Or the 1962 “Fog Bowl” where most fans could not see the field in the fog. It got so thick that the game was halted and completed the following day. Or the all-Air Force final in 1942 pitting the Winnipeg RCAF Bombers versus the Toronto RCAF Hurricanes, ensuring that the first non-civilian team would win the Cup. Or the 1977 “Ice Bowl” where so much snow fell that salt was used to melt it down. The temperature dropped and Montreal’s Olympic Stadium field turned into a sheet of ice.

Some games were won by spectacular plays and others, such as the 1948 game by a “most dazzling” sleeper play: while on offense, a Calgary player wandered over to the far side of the field and flopped on the ground. The defense did not realize what was happening until the quarterback threw a touchdown pass to the “sleeping” player.

While both Canadian and American football have their origins in British rugby, the development of the game was somewhat different on either side of the border. In particular, the Canadian field is

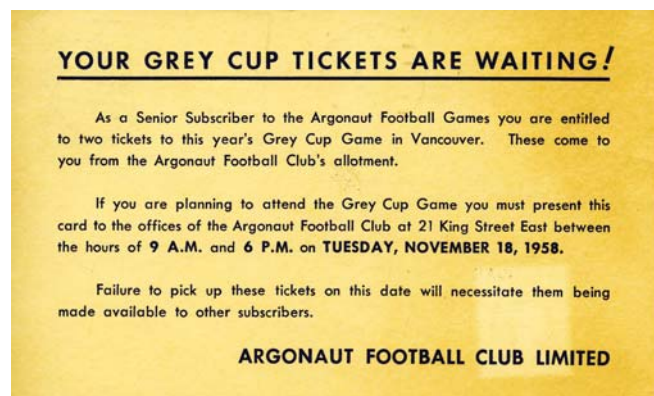


Figure 1. Announcements that Grey Cup tickets were available were eagerly awaited by Canadian football fans.

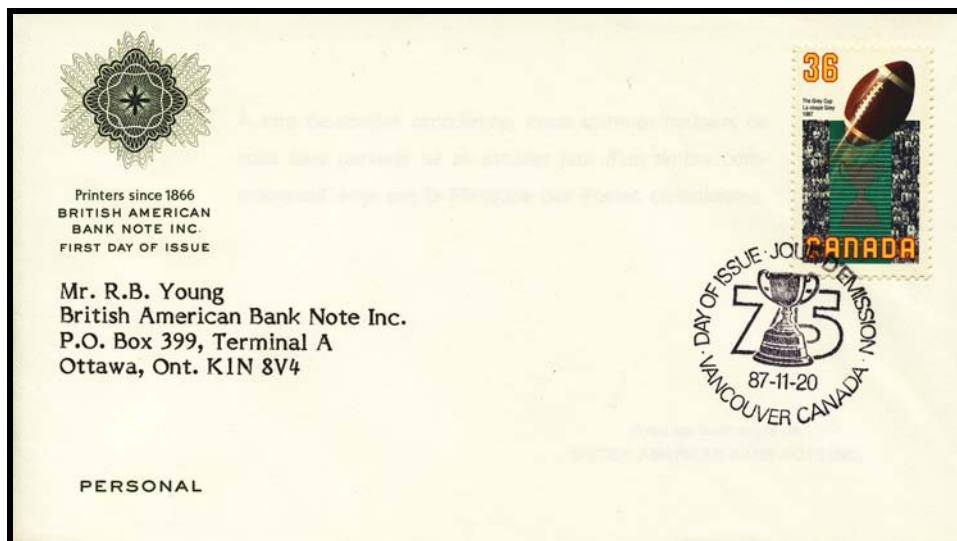


Figure 2. The Grey Cup was first commemorated with a postage stamp for the 75th game in 1987. While not the stamp's printer, the British American Bank Note company took the opportunity to produce a first day cover.

larger, 110 by 65 yards compared to the American 100 by 53 yards. The Canadian end zone is 20 yards deep while the American fields are only 10. Twelve players are eligible to be on the field in Canadian football while only 11 in American, and three downs are allocated to advance the ball 10 yards in Canada while it's four downs in the U.S.

The Grey Cup first appeared on a Canadian stamp in 1987 when a 36-cent domestic rate commemorative was issued to celebrate the 75th Grey Cup Game. While the British North American Bank Note Company did not print the stamp, it nevertheless offered a First Day Cover (Figure 2). In conjunction with the 75th Grey Cup Game, Canada Post also prepared eight cachets and eight commemorative cancels each representing a team in the CFL. The cachets portrayed an action scene along with a symbolic representation of the city, while the cancels reproduced the team logos. The 1987 Grey Cup champion Edmonton Eskimos cover features a player about to be tackled in the foreground with an oil well in the background, along with the familiar EE logo on the cancel (Figure 3).

At least two ink jet sprayed-on slogan cancels have been used to promote the Grey Cup.

Between November 10 and 18, 1995 the slogan "Grey Cup 1995 Coupe Grey" was used in Regina, site of the 1995 game. The cancel exists with both an italic (Figure 4) and non-italic font. In 2000, host city Calgary used the slogan cancel "Calgary - Grey Cup 2000" between November 2 and 30, 2000 (Figure 5).

At the opening ceremonies of the 2002 Grey Cup Game played in Edmonton, the Canadian air force "Snowbirds" demonstration team did a "flypast" of the stadium. Carried by the Snowbirds were 200 "Grey Cup 2002 Snowbirds Flypast" covers prepared by the Western Chapter of the Canadian Aerophilatelic Society (WC-CAS) (Figure 6). The covers were postmarked with a cancel prepared by WC-CAS as Canada Post did not have a post office in the stadium. The covers were also signed by the pilots. Most of the covers were donated to Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) World War II veterans in Calgary and Edmonton Veterans Hospitals.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Saskatchewan Roughriders Football Club in 2010, Canada Post issued a philatelic commemorative envelope with a pictorial indicium. Images on the envelope recount the club's history and victories in three Grey Cup games (Figure 7).

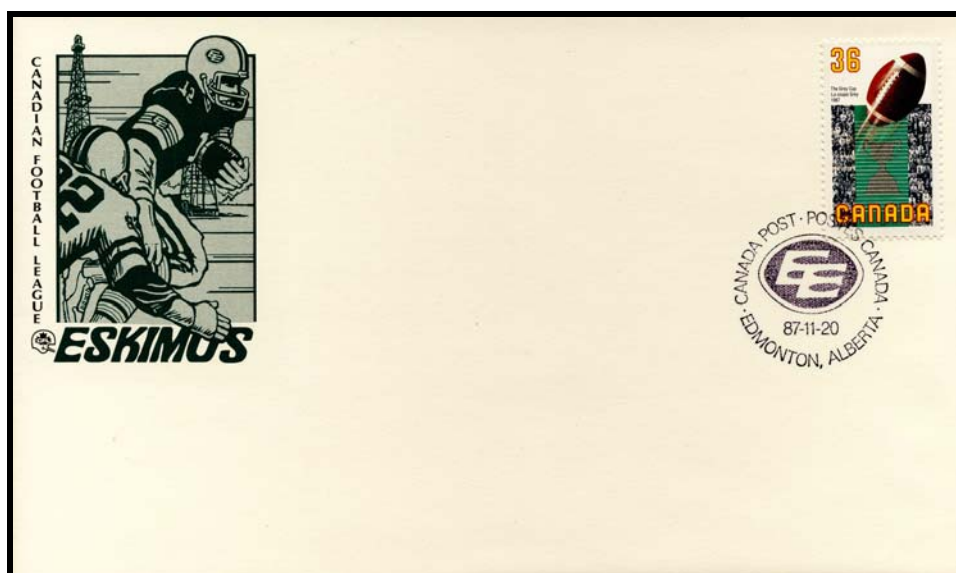
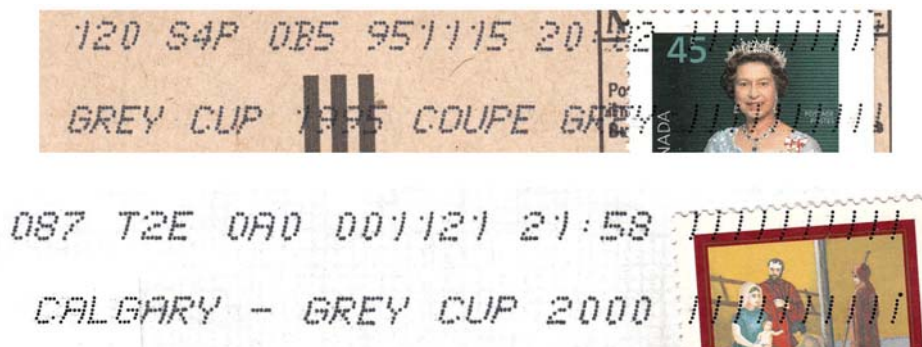



Figure 3. The Edmonton Eskimos, Grey Cup champions in 1987, were honored with a fancy Canada Post cacheted cover for the stamp's first day. The special postmark included the Eskimos' distinctive "EE" logo.



Figures 4 and 5. Two ink jet sprayed-on markings. At top is one for the 1995 cup held in Regina, while the bottom marking publicizes the 2000 Grey Cup in Calgary.





**CANADIAN
AEROPHILETIC
SOCIETY**

**GREY CUP 2002
SNOWBIRDS FLYPAST
COUPE GREY 2002
DEFILE DES SNOWBIRDS**

Snowbird 1. _____	Snowbird 6. _____
Snowbird 2. _____	Snowbird 7. _____
Snowbird 3. _____	Snowbird 8. _____
Snowbird 4. _____	Snowbird 9. _____
Snowbird 5. _____	

COORDINATOR / NARRATOR - COORDONNATEUR / NARRATEUR

Snowbird 10. _____

SNOWBIRDS

Snowbird 11. _____

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER - OFFICIER DES AFFAIRES PUBLIQUES

Snowbird. _____




Figure 6 (above). Special cancellation for the “flypast” of the “Snowbirds” during the 2002 Grey Cup opening ceremony. Only a limited number of covers with cancellations were created and signed by the pilots. Most were given to World War II veterans.

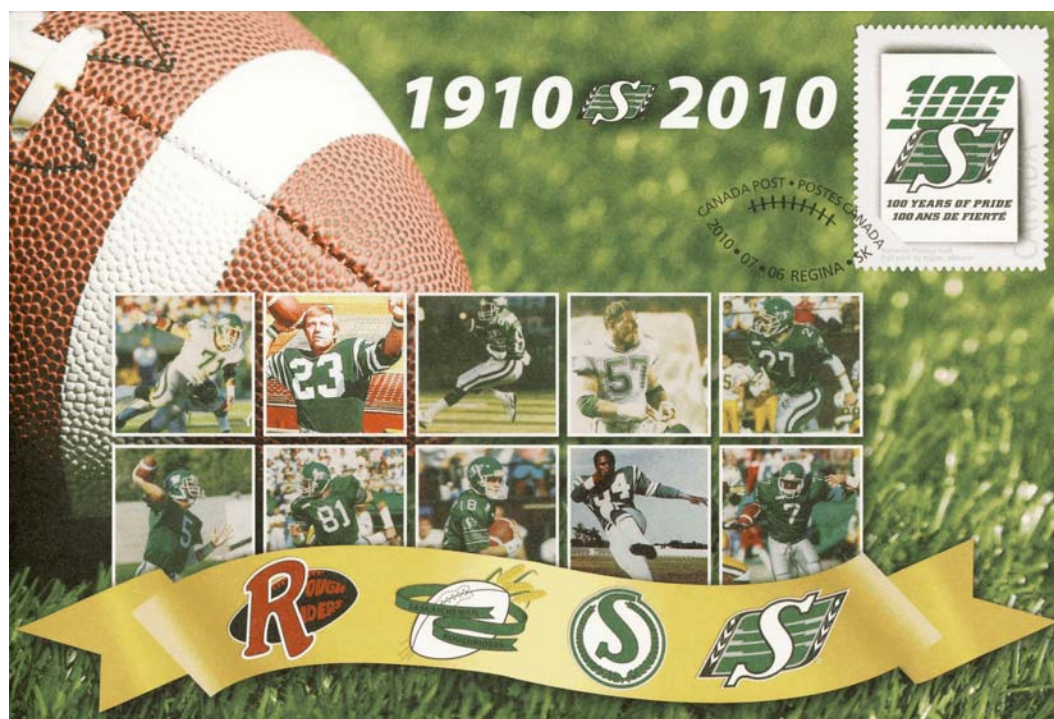


Figure 7 (right). Canada Post philatelic cover with indicium picturing the logo of the Saskatchewan Roughriders Football Club. Images on the cover include scenes from their 3 Grey Cup victories.

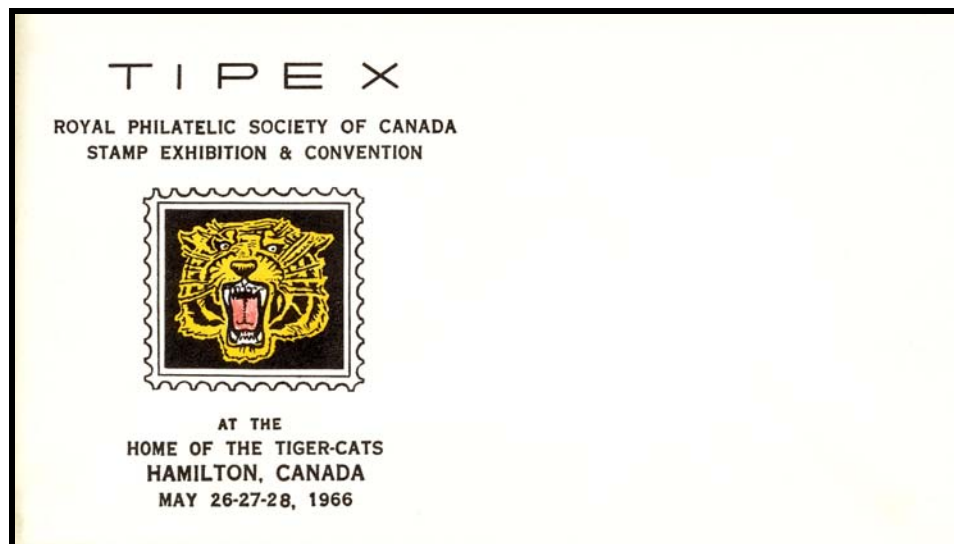


Figure 9. TIPEX cover from 1966. While the Hamilton Tiger-Cats football club did not have a relationship with the philatelic event, the organizers clearly had them in mind when they gave the show its name.

The Grey Cup has had an additional impact on philately. When Hamilton hosted the 38th Stamp Exhibition and Convention of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada in the spring of 1966, the event was coined TIPEX, in honor of the 1965 Grey Cup Champion Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

Football and the Tiger-Cats were very big in Hamilton and when Canadians thought of Hamilton in the 1960s, the Ti-Cats were probably one of the first things that came to mind. There is, however, no evidence that the team was officially involved with the show. The Hamilton Philatelic Society, host of the show, had 5,000 TIPEX cacheted covers printed featuring the “leaping tiger” team logo (Figure 8).

Years later, in conjunction with Calgary Philatelic Society’s CALTAPEX 2009, the society issued a personalized picture postage stamp featuring a football. The stamp, gray in color, was affixed to a cacheted cover promoting CALTAPEX and celebrat-

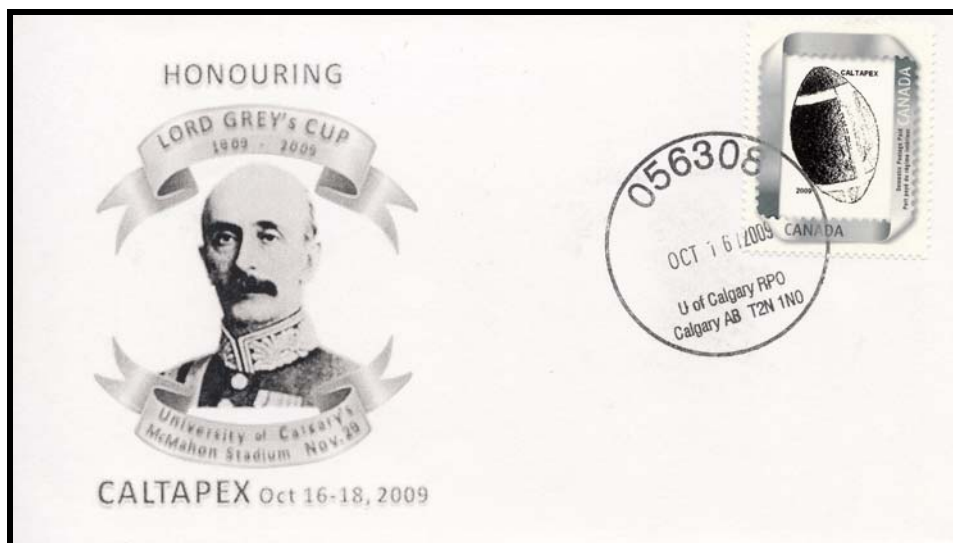
ing the 100th anniversary of the first Grey Cup Game (Figure 9).

In 2012, to celebrate the 100th Grey Cup Game, Canada Post issued stamps featuring the Grey Cup, memorable moments from the Grey Cup and Canadian Football League team logos.

The first set comprising eight stamps and featuring club logos appeared on June 29. These were permanent domestic rate self-adhesive coil stamps issued in rolls of 50. Each roll featured a single team’s logo. All eight team logos were issued in a gummed souvenir sheet (Figure 10).

On August 16, the second set of stamps appeared along with pre-paid postcards. This set featured the Grey Cup and eight different stamps each featuring a different team’s memorable Grey Cup moment in the background and a team great in the foreground. Each CFL team chose which moment and player it wanted portrayed on the

Figure 9. The centennial of the first Grey Cup game was celebrated with a personalized stamp created by the Calgary Philatelic Society for the 2009 CALTAPEX stamp show.





stamp. The permanent rate self-adhesive domestic stamps were issued in booklets of 10 stamps. The first day cover cancels featured club logos. The images on the stamps appeared on the postcards, this time, though, prepaying international delivery. As with the first set, the stamp designs were consolidated on a gummed souvenir sheet (Figure 11).

The rich history of 100 Grey Cup Games was well captured by Canada Post with the assistance of the CFL teams: The memorable Games - the "Mud Bowl," the "Ice Bowl," the "Fog Bowl" and the Edmonton Eskimos winning their fifth consecutive Cup are all featured along with football greats such as "Pinball" Clemons, Ken Ploen and Tom Wilkinson.

Special thanks to Stephen J. Kostyshyn, Ph.D., archivist and historian of the Hamilton Philatelic Society, Denny May and Nino Chiovelli of the Western Chapter of the Canadian Aerophilatelic Society and author Dr. Joel Weiner.

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Figures 10 and 11. Issues for the 100th Grey Cup in 2012. Eight stamps honoring the CFL teams (above) and special moments from each team's Grey Cup games (below).



The British Library,
venue for Olympex 2012.



(above) Main lobby and entrance
to Olympex 2012.

(right) Display of essays for the 1948
British Olympic stamps.





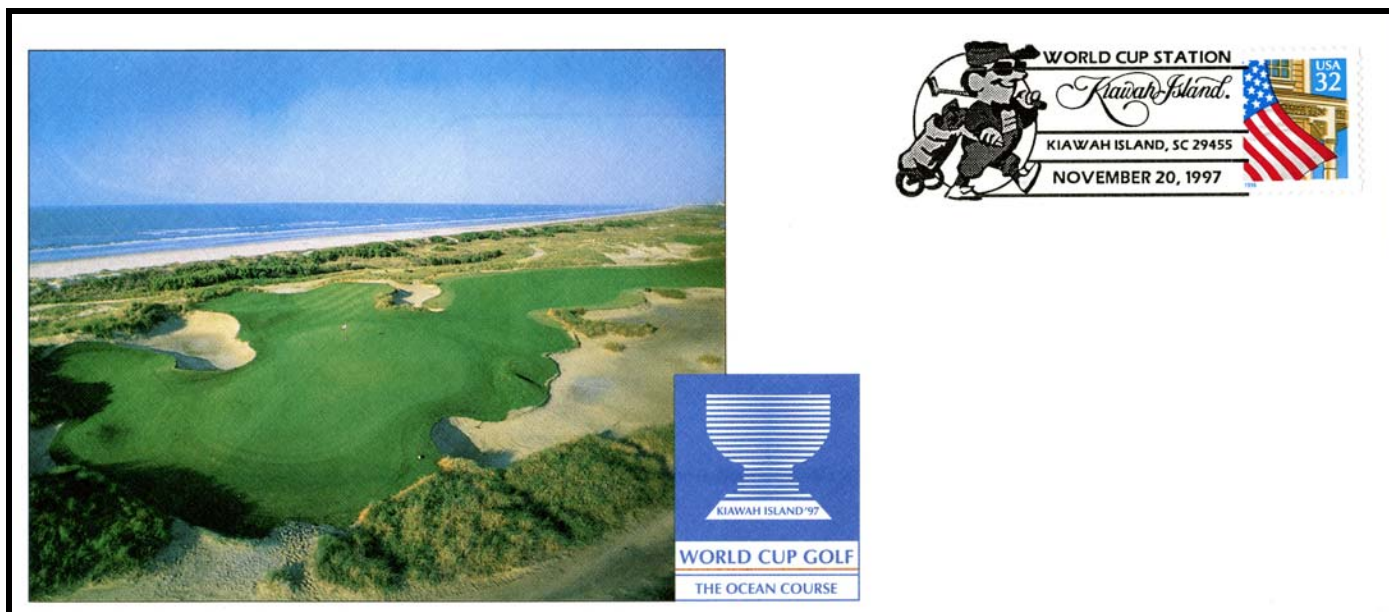
(left and below) Presentation of single frames for each Olympic sport loaned by members of UICOS, the Italian Union of Olympic & Sport Collectors.

Scenes from Olympex 2012 The British Library 25 July - 9 September



(left) The Collectors' Cabin in the plaza outside the British Library provided a place where visitors could send a souvenir postcard cancelled with an Olympic postmark. SPI Member Thomas Lippert is at right.

*Photos courtesy of
SPI Member Zoltan Klein*



Originally the "Canada Cup," the World Cup Golf tournament is one of the premier team golf events. A special Kiawah Island, South Carolina computerized cancel is used to postmark the commemorative event cover.

TEAM GOLF

by Patricia Loehr

In team golf, two or more teams of a designated number of golfers compete at stroke or match play over a predetermined number of days at a golf course or golf courses. Requirements, format, and the host venue for a team golf event are determined by those who administer it.

FORMAT OF TEAM GOLF

Match play is decided by winning holes. The winning side receives one point for each hole won. A match ends when one side has won more holes than are left to be played, for example three holes more than the opponent with two holes to play. The winning side then receives one team point. If a tie occurs each side receives one-half point. A match play event is played as foursome, fourball, singles, or some combination.

- ❖ Foursome is a match in which two play against two and each side alternates playing one ball.
- ❖ Fourball is a match with two golfers per side. For each side, the better of the two players' scores is counted.

- ❖ In a singles match there is one player per side.

The side with the lower score wins each hole in foursome play also known as alternate shot, fourball (bestball), and singles matches.

Stroke play is the same as medal play and the total overall score for each contestant is counted making each stroke significant. The side with the lower total score is victorious.

International team golf events began with the intention of promoting peace along with respect and understanding among players and countries through the sport of golf. Many team golf events have been philatelically commemorated.

THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN ESTABLISH TEAM GOLF

In the years following the First World War, the United States and Great Britain began playing three international team matches. However, the initiative for such matches began much earlier when several of the best women golfers from the United States traveled to Royal Cromer¹ Golf Club (Figure 1) in 1905 to play in the British Ladies' Championship. To prepare for the competition some United States golfers suggested that they have a pre-championship



Figure 1. Cromer Golf Links. Picture postcard circa 1913.

competition with some British golfers. Thus, that first unofficial International Golf Match between the United States and Great Britain was held with Great Britain victorious by six matches to one. The first official event was held in 1932 and named the Curtis Cup (Figure 2) after golfing sisters Harriet and Margaret Curtis who donated a trophy to the competition.

In 1920 when George H. Walker was president of the United States Golf Association he proposed having amateur matches with golfers from Great Britain and offered to donate the trophy. The first informal matches were held in 1921 at Royal Liverpool Golf Club with the United States winning nine matches to three. Because the Walker Cup trophy was first presented at the matches of 1922 at the National Links on Long Island, New York it is designated the first official Walker Cup competition. The Walker Cup was held annually in 1922, 1923, and 1924. It then became a biennial event (Figure 3).

Samuel Ryder who was a supporter of British golf proposed having an international event similar to the Walker Cup for professional golfers. Like the Curtis sisters and George H. Walker he offered a trophy for the event. The first official Ryder Cup matches were held in 1927 at Worcester, Massachusetts Country Club with the United States golfers playing to 9½ and Britain to 2½.

The British side began to include European golfers in



Figure 2. Text-only meter stamp for the 1996 Curtis Cup.

1979. From then on, the Ryder Cup became the United States versus Europe. Since extending the Britain and Ireland side to include Europe the Ryder Cup has become the most popular of the team competitions. Consequently, this event has received the most philatelic commemoration. A few examples are shown in Figure 4.

The Curtis Cup, Walker Cup, and Ryder Cup are biennial events and each side alternates hosting the competition. Players represent their country or geographical region such as Europe in the Ryder Cup.

OTHER TEAM COMPETITIONS

World Amateur Team Championships

While President of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed giving a trophy to a team event for amateur men golfers that would be played every other year. First known as the Eisenhower Trophy when it began in 1958, the competition is now known as the World Amateur Golf Team

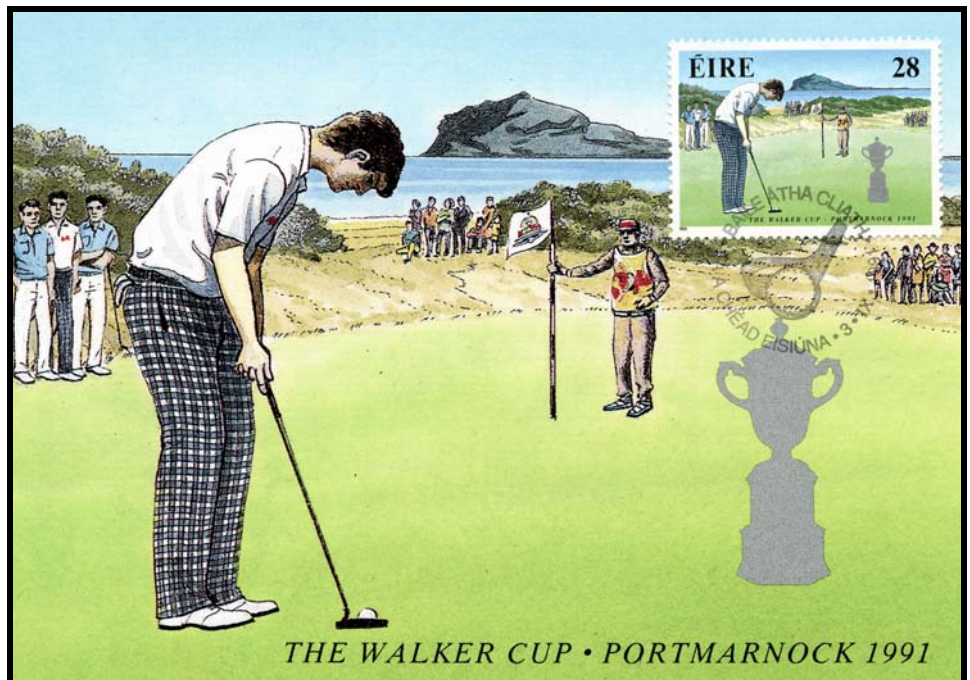


Figure 3. Walker Cup 1991 souvenir card.



Figure 4. Ryder Cup meter stamp, cancel, and stamps. Same design on gummed stamp and peel-and-stick stamp from set of four designs.

Championship. The 1958 event was held at the Old Course of St. Andrews in Scotland. In 1974 the Dominican Republic issued stamps for this event (Figure 5).

Following the success of the World Amateur Golf Team Championship, a similar event known as The World Women's Amateur Team Championship began in 1964. They play for the Espirito Santo Trophy donated to the event by the Ricardo Espirito Santo family of Portugal through the Portuguese Golf Federation.

Australia won the first event for men while France won the first event for women The United States was runner up in both events. The World Team Championships rotate biennially among geographic zones. They are organized by the World Amateur Golf Council (now the International Golf Federation). Many countries enter teams of two or three players in the World Amateur Golf Team Championships (Figure 6a & 6b). The players must



Figure 5. One of four stamps for the 1974 World Amateur Team Championship.

be citizens of the country they represent. The two lowest scores by players from each team are the team score for each round.

European Amateur Team Championship

Organized by the European Golf Association – an association of now over forty countries founded in 1937 – the European Amateur Golf Team Championship began in 1959 at Barcelona, Spain. Sweden won the first championship and France was second. In 1975 Killarney, Ireland (Figure 7) hosted the ninth event that was won by Scotland with Sweden second. From 1959 to 2007 the championship was held biennially, then annually from 2008 to 2011.



Figure 6a. 1994 World Amateur Team Championship held from September 28 to October 9. One of four location cancellations having the same design used on mail from July 9 to October 8.



Figure 6b. 1994 World Amateur Team Championship. One of three special hand cancels each with a different design for the championship used on a philatelic document (600 produced numbered from 001 to 600).

Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf

This is a team event tournament for professional senior men golfers that began in 1979. Golfers over 50 compete in three divisions determined by age in a fourball format (Figure 8).

represent the European side in the Ryder Cup can compete in a similar competition. The President's Cup is held in non-Ryder Cup years (Figure 10). As a result, the European Ryder Cup golfers and President's Cup International golfers have two years to prepare for their events while the United States

Solheim Cup

Golf club designer Karsten Solheim founded the Solheim Cup (Figure 9) in 1990. It is an international match for professional women golfers from the United States and Europe in a competition with each other similar to that of the Ryder Cup for men. The first match of 1990 was held at Lake Nona in Orlando, Florida with the United States side winning 11½ to 4½.

President's Cup

Because of continued global interest in golf, the President's Cup was established so that professional golfers from countries other than those allowed to



Figure 7. 1975 commemorative cover for European Amateur Golf Team Championship. The 10th hole of the Killeen Championship Course known as "Pure Champagne" is featured on the designs of the stamps.

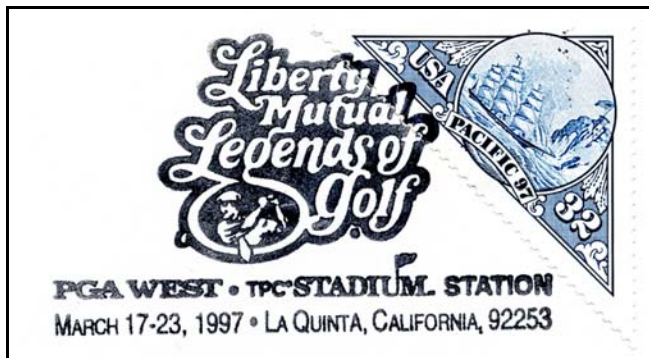


Figure 8. Legends of Golf 1997 commemorative cancel.

golfers play every year. The first President's Cup was held in 1994 with the United States victorious in those matches and again in 1996. The International team won their first President's Cup in 1998.

World Cup of Golf

The World Cup of Golf began in 1953 and was then known as the Canada Cup (Figure 11). When it began it was intended to be played annually. Each country entered in the competition is represented by two professional golfers and the team with the lowest aggregate score for four rounds of golf wins the event.

The first Canada Cup, held in Montreal, was won by a team from Argentina. In 1967 the name of the Canada Cup changed to World Cup of Golf (Figure 12). For many years the location for each event moved from one geographic region to another and many countries participate by entering teams.²

There are many team competitions organized – whether limited by invitation, locality or country or open to all countries – for golfers of a designated minimum age and/or skill level determined by a handicap number for men or women, amateur or professional, or some combination.



Figure 11. Canada Cup 1960 cancel (right).



Figure 9. Solheim Cup 1994 cancel (above) and 2011 Ireland stamp of a golfer representing each side (right).



Figure 10. President's Cup 2005 cancel.

Endnotes

1. In his 1988 book titled *Golf On Old Picture Postcards*, Tom Serpell featured five postcards of Royal Cromer from the early 1900s, only exceeded by St. Andrews with six cards. It is unknown to the author whether this was intentional or not and this card postmarked in 1913 is yet another postcard of that course that was not in his book.

2. There have been years when this team event was not held as have some of the other team events. After the International Olympic Committee voted in 2009 to put golf on the program for the 2016 Olympic Games the World Cup of Golf changed from annual to biennial to accommodate golf at the Olympics. A World Cup of golf would be held in odd number years.

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Wikipedia.org and www.EGA-GOLF.ch



Figure 12. World Cup of Golf stamps for the 1979 World Cup at Glyfada, Greece (top left) and one stamp from a set of four for the 1999 World Cup held in Malaysia (top center) featuring the World Cup of Golf trophy. World Cup commemorative cancel for the 1975 event in Thailand (top right) and a handstamp cancel in red for the 1997 Kiawah Island competition.



The first recipients of the “Juan Antonio Samaranch Medal for Olympic Collecting”: Jaroslav Petrsek of the Czech Republic (Philately), Donald Bigsby of the USA (Memorabilia), Donald Mackay-Coghill of Australia (Numismatics).

Photo: IOC/Richard Juilliant

The First “Juan Antonio Samaranch Medal for Olympic Collecting” has been awarded

by Jean-Louis Emmenegger

During a ceremony held on 22 June 2012 at the Château de Vidy (where the IOC headquarters are located) in Lausanne, Switzerland, the IOC awarded the first “Juan Antonio Samaranch Medal for Olympic Collecting.” The ceremony took place in the presence of the members of the IOC Commission for Olympic Philately, Numismatics and Memorabilia (IOC/COPNM) which had just completed its official meeting under the vice-chairman, Mr. K.C. Wu.

The “Juan Antonio Samaranch Medal for Olympic Collecting” was created in 2011 and officially introduced in 2012 by the IOC to honor the legacy of former IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch, an avid and enthusiastic Olympic collector. As many know, he introduced different programs to encourage the collection and study of Olympic stamps, coins and memorabilia during his presidency.

The “Juan Antonio Samaranch Medal for Olympic Collecting” will be awarded each Olympiad to individuals or organizations that have made long

and outstanding contributions to Olympic collecting at local, national or international levels.

Following the welcome address by Mr. Timo Lumme, Managing Director of IOC Television & Marketing Services (IOC/TMS), Mr. C.K. Wu, vice-chairman of the IOC/COPNM introduced the winners and their accomplishments in the field of Olympic collecting. The medals and accompanying certificates were presented to the winners on behalf of the IOC by IOC member Juan Antonio Samaranch Jr., son of the late IOC president, and Mr. C.K. Wu.

“I congratulate the winners of this prestigious award and thank them for their active and enthusiastic support of Olympic collecting and, through this, the Olympic Movement itself” said IOC President Jacques Rogge in his message prepared for this event. “Olympic collectors are unofficial custodians of a vast amount of Olympic history. Olympic stamps, coins and other memorabilia all tell their own stories about Olympic Games and thereby help produce, in an easily accessible and visual manner, a different kind of understanding of the Olympic Movement.”

The winners of the “Juan Antonio Samaranch Medal for Olympic Collecting” for the XXXth Olympiad in matters of Olympic philately, numismatics and memorabilia are:

- Mr. Jaroslav Petrasek (Czech Republic) for his active leadership in Olympic philately locally, nationally and internationally. He has been an Olympic philatelist for over 40 years. In 1966, he was a founding member of Olympsport, the Czech Olympic collecting club, of which he is presently the Chairman. With his Olympic stamps and covers collection, he has participated at many international philatelic exhibitions, winning numerous medals. He has also conducted many research projects in Olympic philately and edited several specialized publications, to share his knowledge with other Olympic collectors. The Olympsport club publishes a bulletin in which Mr. Petrasek has been a prolific contributor of articles.

- Mr. Donald Mackay-Coghill (Australia) for having developed and introduced Olympic coin collecting to the general public, mainly in his home country. He was responsible for the Olympic coin program for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. In this capacity, he approved the design of the coins, implemented the marketing strategy and conducted the very successful sales of these Olympic coins. The result was what can be called the birth of a “new generation of enthusiastic Olympic coin collectors.”

- Mr. Donald Bigsby (United States) for having established in 1982 the Olympin Collectors’ Club – the world’s largest Olympic memorabilia collector’s organization – which he has lead as president for many years. He can be considered the “father of Olympic pin collecting.” The club he founded now has nearly 600 members in 32 countries. Today, pin collecting is an essential part of the Olympic Games experience. Don Bigsby has made a significant personal and professional contribution to that appreciated result.

- China Post Group (China) for the development and promotion of Olympic collecting (stamps, coins and memorabilia) among the collectors in China, the world’s most populous nation. China Post further promoted the Olympic Movement and Olympic collecting through the OLYMPIC EXPO 2008 in Beijing, which proved to be the largest Olympic collecting exhibition ever held.

Jaroslav Petrasek, medal winner in Olympic philately

Regarding Olympic philately, Mr. Jaroslav Petrasek is a very active philatelic exhibitor, researcher and publisher, who has always strived to increase his knowledge of the Olympic Games. He has been devoted to disseminating that knowledge as widely as possible.

Jaroslav’s passion for Olympic philately is evident, and he loves sharing that enthusiasm with other collectors. Nevertheless, the 71-year-old Olympic collector admitted that he was “very surprised to receive this Samaranch medal,” adding that he thought there were others collectors more deserving of it than he.

Petrasek began collecting stamps at the young age of 6 with the help of his father. “I collected stamps on basketball – because I played this sport for 8 years in the first division – as well as stamps for volleyball and sports events with Czech participation.”

He is currently president of the commission for thematic philately in the Czech Republic and a philatelic judge for FEPA (Federation of European Philatelic Associations) specializing in thematic philately.

Petrasek has authored some 20 studies on Olympic philately, the most important being the three-part monograph of the Czechoslovak Olympic Movement.

As an exhibitor, Jaroslav Petrasek participated with his collections entitled “*Olympic Games Moscow 1980*,” “*Basketball, a thematic collection*” and “*No profit, no glory*” at national exhibitions as well as the inaugural 1985 Olymphilex exhibition in Lausanne and the Olymphilex exhibitions of 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2008.

Many of his exhibits may be viewed on the Expo-net website, www.olympsport.cz. Mr. Petrasek may be reached at: olympsport@gmail.com.

Congratulations, Jaroslav, for your fantastic contributions to Olympic philately!



Mr. Petrasek (left) receiving his medal from J.A. Samaranch, Jr.



New Major League Baseball All-Star Stamps

by Norman Rushefsky

The U. S. Postal Service on 20 July 2012 issued its first baseball stamps with the FOREVER designation. This permits the stamps (currently valued at 45 cents) to be used to pay the First Class Mail rate for up to one ounce regardless of the rate current at the time. An official first-day-of-issue dedication ceremony for these stamps took place at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York, the first of five ceremonies held in the cities where four of baseball's most iconic legends built their careers.

The ceremony in Cooperstown was for the pane of 20 stamps (Figure 1) depicting the four players honored on the stamps: Joe DiMaggio of the New York Yankees; Larry Doby of the Cleveland Indians; Willie Stargell of the Pittsburgh Pirates and Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox. Each pane is composed of 5 rows of the four different designs.

In addition to the pane of 20 stamps dedicated in Cooperstown and available nationwide, the USPS issued limited quantities of individual panes of 20 stamps for each player (Figure 2). These were released on 21 July and available only at select post offices in the player's team's city, from the USPS Stamp Fulfillment Services and Cooperstown, NY.

Pre-orders for the stamps exceeded two million fueled not only by the popularity of baseball stamps from stamp collectors and sports memorabilia collectors, but also because of an announced very limited production of a variety that will undoubtedly create anxiety for collectors. Originally the USPS announced that 1000 uncut press sheets were to be printed and issued which would feature six panes showing the four players. It was also announced that each of the single-player stamp panes would also be issued as press sheets with a limited printing of 2500 press sheets (Figure 3).

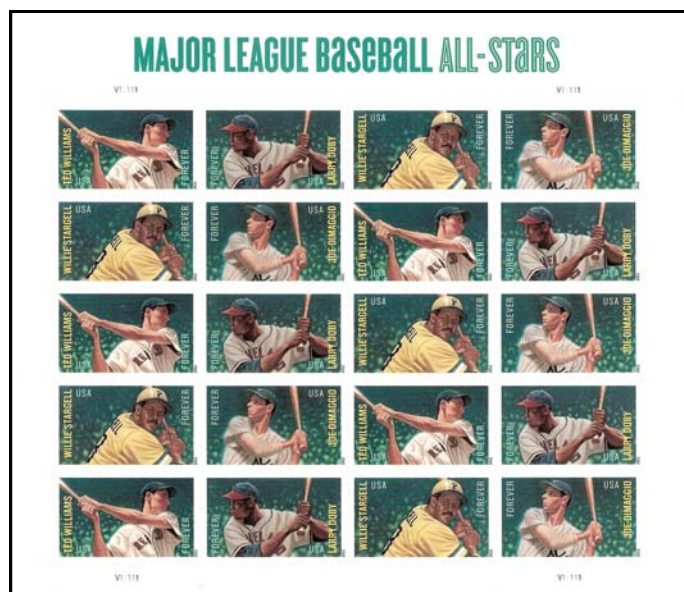


Figure 1. Pane of 20 for all four stamp designs.

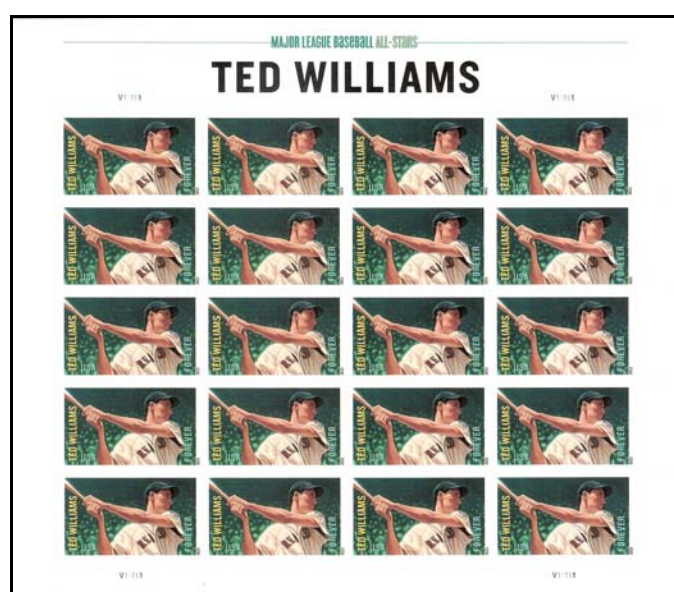


Figure 2. Pane of 20 for the Ted Williams stamp.

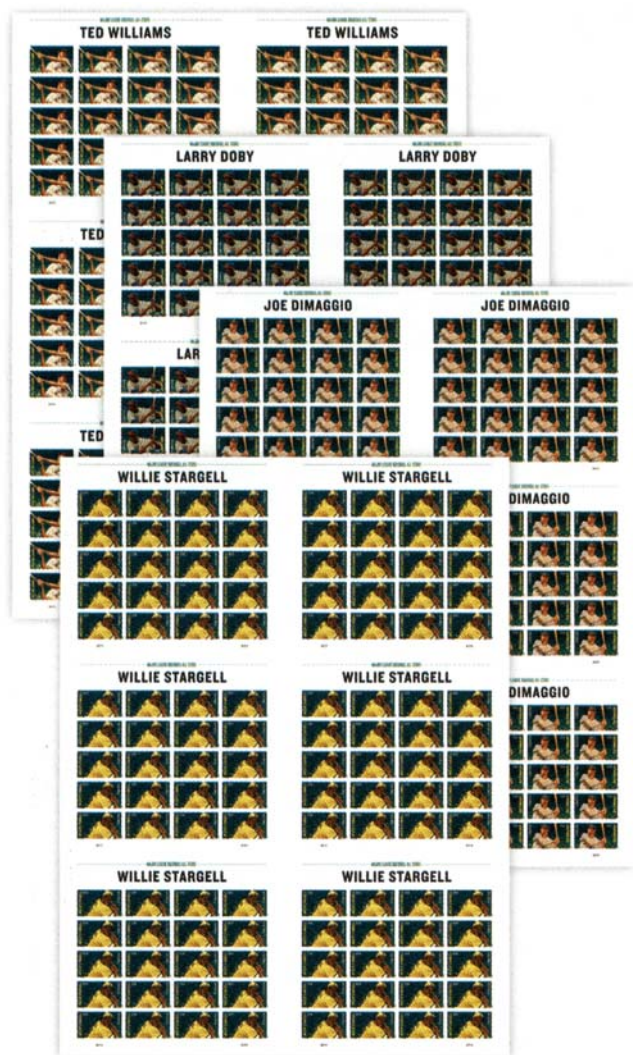


Figure 3. Uncut press sheets of 6 panes for each of the four players.

Typically press sheets are not popular with collectors because of their size and cost (\$54). The announced printing volumes were initially deemed sufficient by the USPS. The USPS expected additional interest for these press sheets to come from sports memorabilia collectors who would frame them for display purposes. To facilitate the display of the press sheets the USPS decided not to cut serrations or separations to these stamps thus effectively creating an imperforate variety. Since 1994, the USPS has issued uncut press sheets for various stamp issues with little collector notice or interest, probably because the stamps on the uncut press sheets featured perforations or serrations between the individual stamps similar to those of the corresponding post office panes. However, a furor developed weeks before this baseball stamp's issuance because of the immediate sell out of the uncut and imperforate press sheet variety showing

the four players. In response, the USPS destroyed the initial run of 1000 press sheets, and ordered a completely new printing of 2500 of these press sheets so that there would be no distinction between different printings. Despite this additional number of press sheets, they also sold out almost immediately due to the number of orders placed for the original printing of 1,000.

The press sheets of the individual players did not sell out.

To date, uncut press sheets of previous issues have not been given a separate *Scott Catalog* numbered designation, though their existence is noted. However, as the new baseball stamps' press sheets are also imperforate the editors of the *Scott Catalog* may decide to treat this issue with a new catalog identification.

The first day postmarks for the pane of four players stamps held at Cooperstown, New York are shown in Figure 4. The first day postmarks for the individual panes are reproduced in Figures 5 and 6.

The pane of 20 stamps featuring Larry Doby had its First-Day-of-Issue dedication ceremony on 21 July in Cleveland, Ohio at the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel near Progressive Field, home of the Cleveland Indians. Larry Doby (1923-2003) was the first African-American to play in the American League, joining the Cleveland Indians shortly after Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in the National League in 1947. The seven-time All-Star excelled as a hitter and center fielder and set an American League outfielder record for 164 consecutive errorless games.



Figure 4. First Day postmarks for the four players stamps issued 20 July at Cooperstown.



Figure 5. First Day postmarks (black & white) for each of the four individual panes of stamps. Note the different first day city for each.

The First-Day-of-Issue dedication ceremony for the Joe DiMaggio stamps were held on 21 July at a post office in Bronx, New York, home to Yankee Stadium. Joe DiMaggio (1914-1999) was admired for his skill and grace as a fielder and base runner. DiMaggio, nicknamed “The Yankee Clipper,” is best known for his incredible 56-game hitting streak in 1941—the season of “The Streak.” DiMaggio led the New York Yankees to ten pennants and nine World Series titles.

The Willie Stargell pane’s First-Day-of-Issue dedication ceremony on 21 July was at PNC Park in Pittsburgh, Penn., home of the Pittsburgh Pirates. The event was scheduled before the start of a Pirates/ Miami Marlins game. Willie Stargell (1940-2001) powered the 1979 Pittsburgh Pirates to a World Series title. Hitting 475 home runs during his career, the seven-time National League All-Star is famous for smashing baseballs out of stadiums.

The final pane – honoring Ted Williams – was dedicated on July 21 at Boston’s Fenway Park prior to the Red Sox/ Toronto Blue Jays game. Ted Williams (1918-2002) of the Boston Red Sox served during World War II and the Korean War as a fighter pilot. He is the last Major

League player to bat over .400 for a single season, in 1941. Williams won six American League batting titles and four home run titles. Despite extensive breaks in his career for active military service, Williams hit .344 over 19 years, including 521 home runs.

The stamps were designed by artist-illustrator Kadir Nelson of San Diego and are based on historic photographs. Nelson also designed the popular Negro League stamps issued in 2010. Three of the players were left handed batters with DiMaggio being the sole right

handed batter. Some have suggested that the DiMaggio stamp shows the hands incorrectly placed on the bat. However, the DiMaggio stamp shows him at the end of his swing looking up at the ball he has no doubt hit. Similarly, the Williams stamp depicts the player at the end of his swing.

First day covers of these attractive stamps should also be popular. Each of the 5 cities used both black-and-white as well as multicolored postmarks.

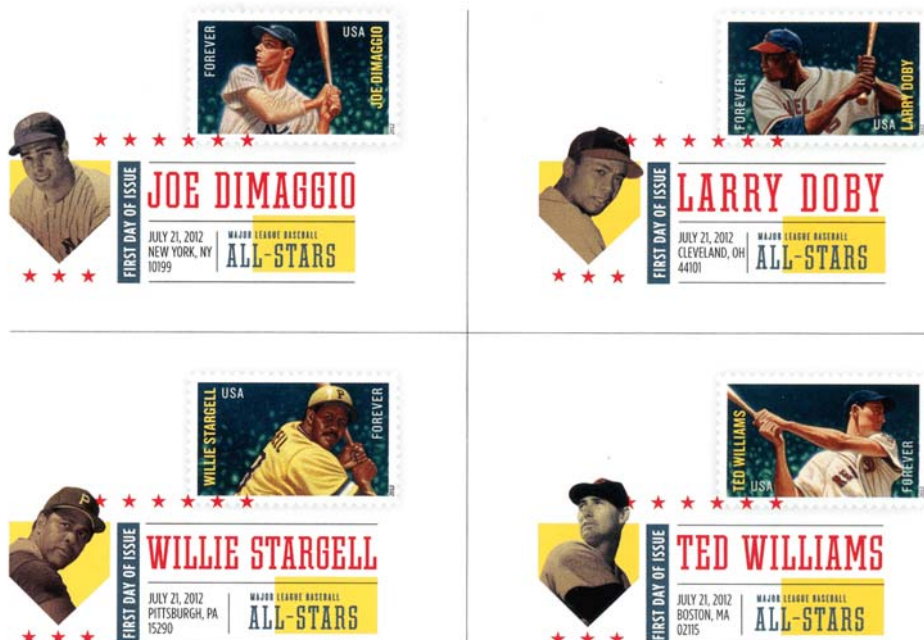


Figure 6. Color first day postmarks for the individual panes.

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NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Mark Maestrone

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E-mail: carwells@thegrid.net

(#2300) Evan Jenkins, 28 All Saints View, Woodlesford, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS26 8NG U.K. **Olympics**. E-mail: evjnk@hotmail.co.uk

ADDRESS CORRECTION

Jean-Louis Emmenegger, PO Box 110, 1009 Pully, Switzerland.

EXHIBITING

63rd Annual ATA National Topical Stamp Show, June 22-24, 2012, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Clem Reiss' "Sailing Races, 1662-2012. Earliest Recorded to Next Olympics" received a gold and the ATA Reserve Grand Award. The exhibit also won two specialty society awards from the Lighthouse Stamp Society and Ships On Stamps Society. Conrad Klinkner garnered a silver for "Games of the Xth Olympiad." The single-frame exhibit "The Rimet World Cup of Soccer – 1930, 1934, 1938" by Richard Woodward won a vermeil.



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NEW STAMP ISSUES

by John La Porta

Algeria: June 27, 2012. London Olympics. 15d taekwondo, London Eye Ferris wheel; 38d rowing, Tower Bridge.

French Andorra: July 6, 2012. Sports. €0.77 wrestlers.

Armenia: June 15, 2012. Olympic Champions. Souvenir sheet with three se-tenant 160d stamps depicting the athletes wearing their medals. Gymnast Eduard Azaryan; wrestler Levon Julfalakyan; weightlifter Oksen Mirzoyan.

Aruba: April 27, 2012. London Olympics. Four se-tenant 500¢ stamps, "Olympia"; hurdler; hand with torch; swimmer. Printed in sheets of eight.

Austria: May 6, 2012. SV Ried Soccer Cup. €0.62 player holding trophy. Offset in sheets of six.

Bahamas: June 26, 2012. London Olympics. 15¢ (each design includes London Olympics emblem), boxer, Parliament, Big Ben, bridge; 50¢ high jumper, Nelson's Column; 65¢ swimmer, Tower Bridge; 70¢ runner, Olympic stadium. Offset in sheets of 10.

Belgium: May 21, 2012. The Olympic Games. Nondenominated "1" international rate stamp, runners handing off torch, horse, bicyclist, other athletes in background. Offset in sheets of five.

Brazil: April 30, 2012. Soccer/Road to the 2014 World Cup. Nondenominated stamp, 100th Anniversary America Soccer Club.

Burundi: March 30, 2012. Legends of Sports. Sheet of four stamps three 1070f stamps, L. Armstrong cycling; M. Navratilova Tennis; B. Lara cricket; one 5000f stamp depicting Pele soccer. Souvenir sheet with one 7500f stamp, Carl Lewis track.

March 30, 2012. Sports. Sheet of four stamps three 1070f stamps, H. Chong diving; J. M. Wieber Women's gymnastics; O. Saladukha Women's long jump; 5000f P. Wojciehowski pole vault. Souvenir sheet with 7500 stamp, Eric Guay skiing.

May 30, 2012. Bicycles. Sheet of four stamps three 1070f stamps, cycling; one 3000f stamp cycling. Souvenir sheet one 7500f stamp Zimmerman cycling.

May 30, 2012. Formula I. Sheet of four stamps two 3000f and two 1070f stamps, Giuseppe Farina and Juan Manuel Fangio. S/s of one 7500f stamp Sebastian Vettel.

Canada: June 29, 2012. Canadian Football League Teams. A s/s of 8 nondenominated stamps depicting the team logos. Eight different nondenominated coil stamps showing the BC Lions; Edmonton Eskimos; Calgary Stampeders; Saskatchewan Roughriders; Winnipeg Blue Bombers; Hamilton Tiger-Cats; Toronto Argonauts and Montreal Alouettes. Coils produced in rolls of 50.

August 16, 2012. 100th Anniversary of the Grey Cup Game. Souvenir sheet of 9 nondenominated stamps, 100th Grey Cup Game; BC Lions; Edmonton Eskimos; Calgary Stampeders; Saskatchewan Roughriders; Winnipeg Blue Bombers; Hamilton Tiger-Cats; Toronto Argonauts and Montreal Alouettes depicted on sheet. Set of 9 booklets, each depicting one of the stamps and a set of 9 postcards also depicting the football teams.

Central Africa: December 27, 2011. London Olympics. Sheet of three 900f stamps, judo, boxing, archery. Souvenir sheet one 3200f stamp equestrian.

China: June 16, 2012. Third Asian Beach Games. Three \$1.20 stamps, rollerblading; water skiing; beach volleyball. Printed in sheets of 12.

Estonia: June 1, 2012. London Olympics. €1.10 discus thrower, Olympic rings, emblem. Offset in sheets of 20.

Finland: May 7, 2012. Disabled Finnish Sports Stars. S/s of 2 nondenominated stamps, wheelchair racer Leo-Pekka Tahti, archer Saana-Maria Sinisalo, target.

France: June 11, 2012. Handball. Souvenir sheet with €5 stamps, handball players.

June 12, 2012. Sports. €0.89 tennis player, hurdler, soccer, Big Ben clock.

Gambia: March 13, 2012. Ferrari. Pane of four se-tenant 30d stamps, different Ferrari race cars.

Georgia: April 11, 2012. Olympic Champions. 1.50 laris, the Parthenon, mention of 2004 Athens Olympic Gold Medalists Zurab Zviaduri (judo) and Giorgi Asanidze (weightlifting); 2.50 laris Temple of Heaven, mention of 2008 Beijing Olympic Gold Medalists Irakli Tsirekidze (judo), Revaz Mindorashvili (wrestler), Manuchar Kvirkvelia (wrestling).

Germany: May 2, 2012. Soccer. €0.55 German fans celebrating with flags. Offset in sheets of 10.

Great Britain: July 27, 2012. Opening of the London Olympics. Souvenir sheet with four stamps showing athletes and London landmarks, two nondenominated first class stamps, fencer lunging, Tower Bridge,; runners, Olympic Stadium; two £1.28 stamps, diver, Tate Modern's chimney; cyclist, London's Eye Ferris Wheel.

August 29, 2012. Opening of the London Paralympics. S/s of 4 stamps showing athletes and London Landmarks, two nondenominated first class stamps, athlete wearing running blades, Olympic Stadium; wheelchair basketball, Palace of Westminster and Big Ben; two £1.28 stamps, power lifter, St. Paul's Cathedral and Millennium Bridge; cyclist, London's Eye Ferris Wheel.

Greece: April 8, 2012. Games of the Old Neighborhood. Nondenominated domestic rate stamps, marbles; €0.02 kickball; €0.10 scooters; €0.35 jump rope; €2 tops; €3 hopscotch. Offset in sheets of 25, miniature sheets of 6 (self-adhesive), booklets.

Guinea-Bissau: May 5, 2012. Mohamed Ali. Sheet of five 600FCFA stamps and one souvenir sheet with one 3000FCFA stamp. All depict the boxer fighting.

Hong Kong: July 27, 2012. London Olympics. \$1.40 windsurfing, rowing; \$2.40 badminton, archery; \$3 table tennis, cycling; \$4 swimming, track and field. S/s contains the four stamps forming a continuous design.

Ireland: June 14, 2012. Volvo Ocean Race. €0.55 yachts racing. S/s with €3 stamp yacht. Offset in sheets of 16.

Isle of Man: June 19, 2012. Champion Cyclist Mark Cavendish. 38p winning gold 2006 Commonwealth Games; 41p winning 2007 Schelderprijs Vlaanderen; 650 winning 2009 Milan-San-Remo classic; 71p wearing green jersey at end of 2011 Tour de France; 80p crossing finish line 2011 UCI World Championships; £1.05 wearing world championship jersey; £1.16 winning 2012 Kuune-Brussels-Kuune semiclassic. Sheets of 20.

Israel: June 26, 2012. London Olympics. Two 2-shekel stamps, each shows athlete, London skyline and sights, 4.50s gymnast on rings, London Eye Ferris wheel, red double-decker bus; high jumper, Tower Bridge; taekwondo athlete, Shaftesbury Memorial Fountain. Offset in sheets of 15 stamps and five tabs.

Liechtenstein: June 14, 2012. London Olympics. 1fr swimming; 4.40fr tennis. Issued in sheets of 20.

Luxembourg: May 15, 2012. London Olympics. €0.60 crowned lion emblem of Luxembourg Olympic Committee; €1.10 London Olympic emblem on Union Jack flag.

Monaco: July 17, 2012. International Association of Athletics Federations. €0.89 Runner, emblems. Printed in sheets of 10.

July 17, 2012. London Olympics. €1.35 emblem of the Games, Big Ben and Parliament, Myron's Discobolus, medal from 1908 London Olympics, Olympic Rings. Printed in sheets of 10.

Montenegro: May 14, 2012. Tourism. Set of three, the €0.80 shows skis, ice skates and other images related to winter sports.

June 8, 2012. London Olympics. €0.90 rhythmic gymnast with ribbon; €0.95 Myron's Discobolus. Both designs include the Games emblem. Printed in sheets of eight stamps and a label.

Namibia: London Olympics. \$2.90 shooting; \$4.80 runner; \$5.40 cycling; \$6.50 wheelchair racing.

New Caledonia: January 24, 2012. Hiking. 110f southern backpacking trail.

New Zealand: May 23, 2012. All Blacks Rugby Team. Two sizes 70¢ stamps, fern emblem. Souvenir sheet contains the two stamps. Offset in sheet of 10; sheets of 10 with labels that can be personalized.

Paraguay: December 20, 2011. America Soccer Cup. 700g soccer teams; 6,000g team.

December 30, 2011. Great Sportsmen. 700g soccer player Jose Luis Chilavert, squash player Esteban Casarino, shooter Olegario Farres, boxer Juan Carlos Gimenez. Souvenir sheet with 6,000g stamp, swimmer Benjamin Hockin Brusquetti.

Poland: June 18, 2012. Poland/Ukraine European Soccer Championships. 1.55zl Poznan; 1.95zl Warsaw; 2.40zl Gdansk; 3zl Wroclaw. Souvenir sheet contains the four stamps se-tenant. Offset in sheets of eight stamps and a label.

June 15, 2012. Poland/Ukraine European Soccer Championships. Round 3zl stamp depicting a soccer ball. Offset in sheets of six.

Portugal: June 4, 2012. Poland/Ukraine European Soccer Championships. €0.68 foosball soccer player and ball. Souvenir sheet with €2.50 foosball players and table.

Romania: April 20, 2012. 100th Anniversary Romanian Athletic Federation. 1.40 lei symbolic runner. Offset in sheets of 32 and a miniature sheet of eight stamps.

Russia: April 27, 2012. Sochi Olympic Games. 15r Parus or Sail Rock; 20r railway station; 25r gazebo in park; 30r Orehovsky waterfall. Offset in sheets of six stamps and six labels.

San Marino: May 9, 2012. 100th Anniversary Santos Soccer Club. €1 club's coat of arms.

June 13, 2012. San Marino CEPU Open Tennis Championship. €0.60 tennis ball and racket.

June 13, 2012. London Olympics. Four se-tenant €060 stamps, ancient Olympic champion with laurel leaves, flame; swimmer; track and field athletic; trap shooter, target. Offset in sheets of 12.

Serbia: December 20, 2011. Gold Medals in Volleyball. Two 22d stamps, different scenes of volleyball players, gold medal. Offset in sheets of eight with a label.

January 15, 2012. European Handball Championships. Postal tax stamps (obligatory on all mail from Jan. 15-29), 10d emblems.

April 21, 2012. Belgrade Marathon. 22d runner's legs, buildings of Belgrade, emblem.

Slovakia: May 25, 2012. Second Place in World Ice Hockey Championships. €0.40, the team lined up on ice.

June 28, 2012. London Olympics and Paralympics. Two €0.90 stamps, winged women with Olympic Torch, ancient runners; wheelchair racer, London Eye.

Slovenia: May 25, 2012. London Olympics. Se-tenant pair of €0.77 stamps, judo, sailing; €0.92 swimming, basketball. Offset in sheets of six.

Spain: July 2, 2012. 100th Anniversary Spanish Olympic Committee. Three se-tenant €0.85 stamps, Lucio Lucius Minicius Natalis in chariot race; Gonzalo de Figueroa y Torres, founder of Spanish Olympic Committee; Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the IOC.

Solomon Islands: June 5, 2012. London Olympics. Sheet of four \$9.00 values, Discus throw, judo, track cycling, road running. Sheet with one \$27.00 stamp, rowing. Souvenir sheet with all five values.

Sweden: May 10, 2012. Olympic Gold Medalists. Two se-tenant nondenominated "brev" stamps. Pistol shooter Ragnar Skanaker, target; track and field athlete Carolina Klüft; 12k javelin thrower Eric Lemming and Stockholm Stadium. Souvenir sheet contains the four 12k stamps. Offset in coils.

Togo: February 20, 2012. Boat Races. Sheet of three 750f stamps, souvenir sheet with one 2000f stamp, all depict various types of boat races.

February 20, 2012. Martial Arts. Sheet of three 950f stamps, souvenir sheet one 2000f stamps, all depict martial arts.

February 20, 2012. Racing Greyhounds. Sheet of three 750f stamps, souvenir sheet one 2000f stamp, all depict racing greyhounds.

February 20, 2012. Athletics. Sheet of three 950f stamps, souvenir sheet one 3000f stamp, all depict various athletic events.

February 20, 2012. American Football. Sheet of three 950f stamps, souvenir sheet one 3000f stamp, all depict various American football players in action.

Ukraine: May 11, 2012. Poland-Ukraine European Soccer Championships. Souvenir sheet with 62.55k stamp, Hunt Delaunay cup. Offset and foil embossed.

May 28, 2012. Poland-Ukraine European Soccer Championships/Cities and Stadiums. Two blocks of four se-tenant 4.80k stamps each, buildings of Lvov; Kiev; Kharkov; Donetsk; the second block depicts stadiums in the four cities. Offset in sheets of 16.

June 8, 2012. Poland-Ukraine European Soccer Championships. 12k flowers, emblem; 27.60k emblem. Offset in sheets of 12.

June 11, 2012. Poland-Ukraine European Soccer Championships. Souvenir sheet with a se-tenant pair of 27.60k stamps, emblem; soccer ball and crowd.

United Nations: August 17, 2012. London Paralympics. Six stamps 45¢ goalball; \$1.05 volleyball; 1.00f athletics; 1.40f archery; €0.62 wheelchair basketball; €0.70 table tennis. Souvenir sheets same designs and values as \$1.05; 1.40f; €0.70.

United States: June 7, 2012. Bicycling. Four forever stamps, two related to sports. One stamp depicts a road racer and the other BMX rider.

July 20, 2012. Major League Baseball All-Stars. Set of four forever produced in panes of 20. Ted Williams, Boston Red Sox; Larry Doby, Cleveland Indians; Willie Stargell, Pittsburgh Pirates; Joe DiMaggio, New York Yankees.

July 21, 2012. Major League Baseball All-Stars. Four nondenominated stamps, Ted Williams, Boston Red Sox; Larry Doby, Cleveland Indians; Willie Stargell, Pittsburgh Pirates; Joe DiMaggio, New York Yankees. Four panes of 20, one for each player.

Uruguay: March 30, 2012. London Olympics. Pane of four se-tenant 15p stamps (each stamp shows an athlete and a London landmark) soccer player, Arcelor Mittal Orbit, observation tower in the Olympic Park; cyclist, St. Paul Cathedral; sailing, Tower Bridge; long jumper, Big Ben Parliament. Printed in sheets of 8.

COMMEMORATIVE CANCELS

by Mark Maestrone

THE NUMBERING SYSTEM

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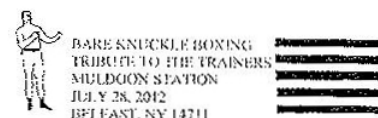
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