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SPORTS
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INTERNATIONAL

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

SPI Auction draws to a close

It was inevitable, what with eBay, Delcampe, and the myriad other online sources for philatelic material these days, that SPI would lose most of its auction customers. According to our Auction Manager, Glenn Estus, the auctions of late have been receiving bids from as few as four customers. The work entailed in creating and operating each auction is no longer justified by the few dollars in income it generates.

Over the next few weeks, Glenn will be returning unsold auction lots to consigners along with any checks for sold material still outstanding.

The Board would also like to take this opportunity to thank Glenn – and ALL our previous Auction Managers – for their many years of hard work!

It is said that when a door closes in one place, a window opens somewhere else. Rather than fighting progress, the Board has approved an idea to investigate the feasibility of opening an SPI Storefront on eBay in which only donated material will be sold. Accepting only donated material (and by this we mean quality items, not floor sweepings) would greatly simplify the accounting aspects (no checks to cut; no unsold lots to return). Using eBay as a vehicle for sales would widen our potential customer base from the couple hundred SPI members to the millions of collectors worldwide. The costs involved are minimal and easily covered by just a few sales a month.

Further, I'm convinced that each of us has plenty of duplicate *quality* material that we would be more than happy to donate (and take a nice charitable tax deduction for!).

Serving as Storefront Manager would be a wonderful opportunity for the right individual. The duties would include: receiving and storing donated items, scanning each item and adding it to the

online store (eBay provides simple templates for this), and, finally, mailing items to buyers who will most likely pay through our PayPal account.

I actually believe this job will be far less time-consuming than the auction as there will no longer be auction lists to compile, bids to receive, or accounts to reconcile. There won't be any auction items; everything will be sold at a fixed price.

So ... may I have a volunteer? (Don't make me come knocking on doors!)

Another IMPORTANT volunteer opportunity

As you know – because I've been talking about it for the past year or more – we *need* a new Membership Chairman to take over the maintenance of our membership database (using Excel), receipt of dues once a year, and answering the occasional question, or directing it to the right person.

The only requirements: (1) you must be a US resident; (2) own and use a computer; (3) have e-mail capability; (4) be at least acquainted with using Excel spreadsheets.

How much time is involved? Most of the year, probably no more than a couple hours per month depending on how many new member applications are received. Between June and September, maybe an hour a week to log in dues payments.

I have been handling this position *temporarily*. Now it's time to hand it off to someone else.

If you would like to apply for either the eBay Storefront Manager or Membership Chairman positions, email me at markspi@prodigy.net

The Officers and Board of Directors of SPI would like to wish each of you and your families a Happy Holiday Season and all the best for a wonderful New Year!

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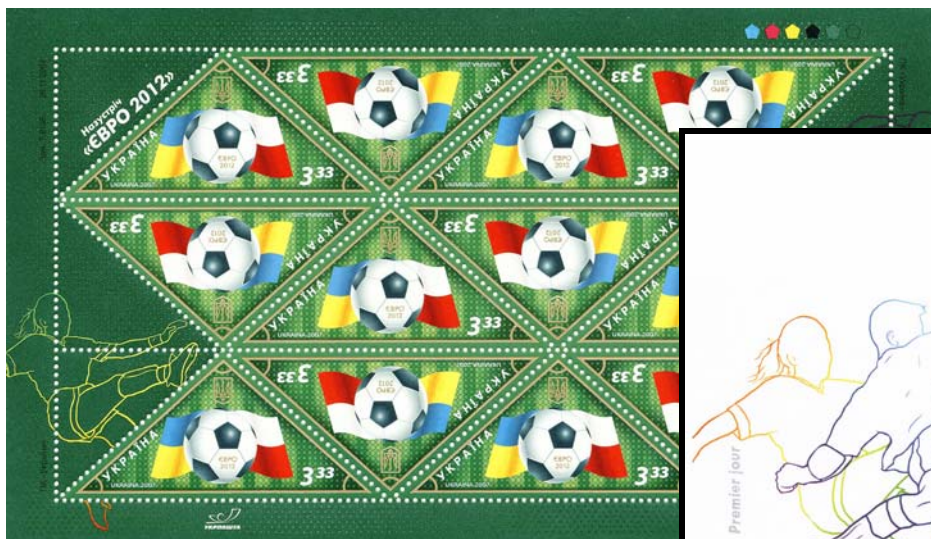


Figure 1. Ukraine's 2007 triangular stamp featuring a football and the flags of Ukraine and Poland ushered in the countries' extensive EURO 2012 philatelic program. At right, the stamp's first day cover.



by Kon Sokolyk

On 18 April 2007, the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) selected in the first round with an absolute majority the Poland-Ukraine bid to host the 2012 UEFA European Football Championship. The joint bid became the third successful joint bid since the tournament's inception in 1960 and the first to be held in central and eastern Europe.

After much uncertainty – particularly whether Ukraine would have its facilities completed on time – the tournament opened on June 8, 2012 in Warsaw, Poland where Greece and Poland played to a 1-1 tie. Twenty-three days later, in Kyiv, Ukraine, the championship final was played. The tournament was more successful than many envisioned, drawing a record attendance overall (1.4 million) and per game (46,481).

It did not take long for the first EURO 2012 stamp to appear. On December 12, 2007, Ukraine issued a 3.33 hryvnia (uah) stamp “Towards EURO 2012” featuring a football and the flags of the two co-hosts. The stamp (Figure 1) was also Ukraine's first triangular-shaped stamp. Subsequently, there was a significant lull before the next postal commemoration, a circular cancel used in Kielce, Poland on October 6, 2009 featuring a football and marking the 1000-day countdown to EURO 2012.

Another two-year lull occurred before additional postal material was released in Poland or Ukraine.



UEFA
EURO2012
POLAND-UKRAINE

Interestingly, while the link to EURO 2012 was undeniable, in neither country's case was there any direct reference to the event.

Poland issued a postal card (Figure 2) with a pre-printed domestic rate 1.55 zloty (zl) stamp featuring a football. In a stylized “2012” the names of all the 16 EURO 2012 qualifying nations appear and the text reads “Football event of Europe 2012.”

That same year Ukraine began issuing domestic rate pre-stamped postal envelopes featuring the art of the winners of the children's art contest “Ukraine – a Football Nation.” In total 8 different cachets were issued in 2011 and 2012, with the youngest winner at 6 years of age and the oldest at 14 (Figure 3).



Figure 2. Polish postal card listing the 16 EURO 2012 qualifying nations incorporated into a stylized “2012.”



Figure 3. Eight Ukrainian postal envelopes with soccer-themed cachets by children aged 6 to 14 for EURO 2012.





Figure 4. Personalized sheets showing two of the three versions available for each of the 4 venues. Kyiv (left) provides space for a personalized image, while Lviv's sheet (below) comes with the pre-printed logo of Ukraine Post.



Figure 5. The sheetlets for both Kharkiv (above) and Donetsk (right) are versions with the selvage design repeated on the personalized stamp.



Ukraine's football issue of February 20, 2012, once again, had no direct reference to EURO 2012. This issue featured a "personalized" stamp and was consistent with Ukraine Post's personalized stamp program.

For this issue, stamps were available in a pane of 14 (two rows of seven). Each stamp consisted of two parts: a pre-printed portion noting the nation's name



Figure 6. Circular postmark on the first day of the Kyiv personalized stamps.

and the franking "V" (first class domestic rate), and a second blank label above designated for a customer's own image. The two parts were separated by perforations (Figure 4).

The sheets were issued with four different pictorial selvages each featuring one of the four EURO 2012 stadiums in Ukraine: Kyiv, Kharkiv, Lviv and Donetsk. A soccer ball and the text "Ukraine – a Football Nation" were included in the selvedge.

Ukraine Post decided to expand the personalized stamp option by pre-populating the top portion of each personalized stamp with either the Ukraine Post logo (Figure 4) or a reproduction of the image in the selvedge (Figure 5).

The personalized stamp arm of Ukraine Post in Kyiv used its cancel on February 22, 2012 to show first day of use (Figure 6). The envelope cachet features the stadium as did a letter page insert. Interestingly, the Latin character "V" used to denote the franking is not to be found in the Cyrillic alphabet that Ukraine uses.

On May 22, 2012, Poland issued a 3zł stamp promoting tourism (Figure 7). Resembling a signpost, four arrows point to significant tourist attractions. The top arrow features a stylized football and Warsaw's famed "Stadion Narodowy" (National Stadium) which would host a number of matches, including the opening and a semi-final. Again, no direct reference to EURO 2012 is made.

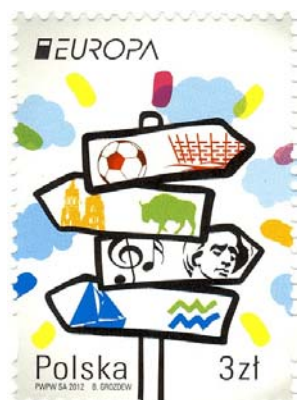


Figure 7. Polish stamp graphically depicting a football and Warsaw's famed national stadium.

To help promote the championship in the two host countries, the UEFA EURO 2012 "Follow the Trophy" tour was held featuring the Henri Delaunay Cup. Beginning in Warsaw on April 20, 2012, the tour wound its way through Poland making stops in Gdansk, Poznan, Wroclaw, Lodz, Krakow and Katowice arriving in Kyiv, Ukraine on May 11, 2012.

In conjunction with the tour's arrival in Ukraine, Ukraine Post issued a 62.55 uah souvenir sheet featuring the Cup (Figure 8). This became the first stamp in either

of the two host countries to directly reference Euro 2012 since the 2007 triangular issue.



Figure 8. EURO 2012 Ukraine souvenir sheet depicting the Henri Delaunay Cup awarded to the winning team.

As the tour made its way across Ukraine, a special commemorative one-day cancel was made available to the cities (other than Kyiv) hosting the tour, even if the Cup stayed in a city for more than a day.

A similar cancel (Figure 9) "Trophy Tour 'Welcome the Cup'" that differed only in city name, postal code and date, was used in six cities: Ivano-Frankivsk - May 14, Kharkiv - May 15, Donetsk - May 18; Dnipropetrovsk - May 21, Lviv - May 23, and Odessa - May 26.



Figure 9. Cancel used on the "Trophy Tour" through Ukraine.



Figure 10. Ukraine's series of 4 stadium stamps issued on May 28, 2012. The first day cancel (above) shows a football pitch at center.

After the release of the Henri Delaunay Cup souvenir sheet, Ukraine Post's stamp program in May and June was focused on EURO 2012.

Two sets of stamps appeared May 28. The first set, "EURO 2012 Stadiums," comprised four stamps each with a value of 4.80 uah and featuring one of the stadia (Figure 10). Identical first day of issue covers and cancels (customized with correct city name and postal code) were available in each of the four cities.

The second set, "EURO 2012 Host Cities," also comprised four 4.80 uah stamps (Figure 11). These depicted scenes of each host city. Once again, first day of issue covers and cancels were available in



each of the four cities. The Kharkiv host city FDC cancel appears to have been available not only in the standard black ink but also in blue.

On June 1 Ukraine issued a 4.80 uah stamp (Figure 12) featuring the mascots, twins "Slavko" and "Slavek." One twin is garbed in the red and white of Poland while the other is in the yellow and blue of Ukraine. The twins even have their hair colored in their national colors. The twins were unveiled nameless; a public contest resulted in the names Slavko (Ukrainian) and Slavek (Polish).

The opening day of EURO 2012 on June 8 saw Ukraine issue two stamps.

The first is a 27.60 uah stamp reproducing the "EURO 2012 logo" which is a stylized flower with the main bloom being a

Figure 11. A second set of stamps featuring Ukraine's host cities were also issued on May 28. The first day cancel is shown below.





Figure 12. The mascot twins, Slavek and Slavko, on a Ukrainian stamp issued June 1. The first day postmark shows a stylized football players and ball.



Figure 13. On June 8, opening day, Ukraine issued a stamp featuring the EURO 2012 logo.



Figure 14. A second stamp issued by Ukraine Post on June 8 portrayed each of the stadia as blossoms on vined plant.



Figure 16. The final stamp from Ukraine was a three-stamp souvenir sheet (above). This was the only item to include a holographic "Official Licensed Product" sticker on the reverse of the sheet (right).



Figure 15. A souvenir sheet of two stamps from Ukraine on June 11 honors the "Final Stage of EURO 2012" competition.

football (Figure 13). The two secondary blooms display the national colors of Poland and Ukraine.

The second stamp has a value of 12.00 uah and features "Stylized Football Stadiums." In keeping with the plant motif, the eight stadia are depicted as

blossoms on a vine (Figure 14). Also on the vine are two referee's whistles.

Ukraine's next issue was unveiled on June 11 (Figure 15). The souvenir sheet "Final Stage of Euro 2012" comprised two stamps each with a 27.60 uah face value. One stamp depicted the EURO 2012 logo while the other a football in flight.

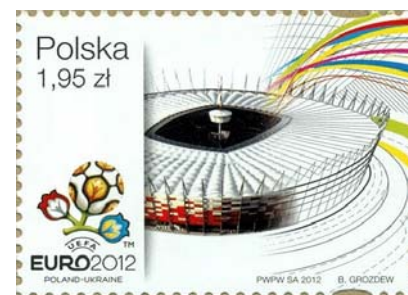


Figure 17. Poland's series of four stamps portraying the Polish stadia where matches were held were issued in sheetlets of 8 plus a central label. Each stamp had a different value: Poznan, 1.55 zł; Warszawa, 1.95 zł; Gdansk, 2.40 zł; and Wroclaw, 3 zł.

The final issue appeared on June 25, in between the quarter and semi-final matches. The souvenir sheet "Ukraine Welcomes EURO 2012" comprised three 13.80 uah stamps depicting a stylized woman with flowers welcoming EURO 2012 and its fans. The souvenir sheet had a hologram "Officially Licensed Product" on the back, the only postal item in Ukraine to do so (Figure 16).

It is interesting to note that two of the three souvenir sheets issued by Ukraine were sold at a premium by the post office. The "Henri Delaunay Cup" sheet with a face value of 62.55 uah sold for 360.00 uah while the "Ukraine Welcomes EURO 2012" with a face value of 31.40 uah (3 x 13.80 uah) sold for 300.00 uah. In both cases only 30,000 souvenir sheets were issued.

Poland's EURO 2012 stamp program was modest by comparison.

On June 8, the opening day of the tournament, Poland issued a set of four stamps each

depicting a stadium. These were issued individually in sheetlets of eight plus a central label (Figure 17), as well as in a souvenir sheet which consolidated the four stadium stamps (Figure 18).



Figure 18. The consolidated sheetlet containing one of each value.



Figure 19. One of four official first day covers for the Polish stadium stamps. Each cover's background image was a view of a stadium with corresponding stamp and pictorial first day postmark.

First day covers were available for each stadium stamp. While the first day cancels were identical in design (but with the matching city), the cachets each differed providing an inside view of the corresponding stadium (Figure 19). As well, the stamps were of different face values: Poznan – 1.55 zł (domestic rate), Warsaw – 1.95 zł (domestic priority rate), Gdansk – 2.40 zł (Europe up to 50 gr) and Wrocław 3.00 zł (Europe 50-100 gr).

Poland issued a 3 zł stamp in the shape of a football on June 15 (Figure 20). Depicted are a football and the flags of Poland and Ukraine. The stamp was issued in sheets of six with two soccer players portrayed in the selvedge, one dressed in the colors of Poland and the other in the colors of Ukraine.

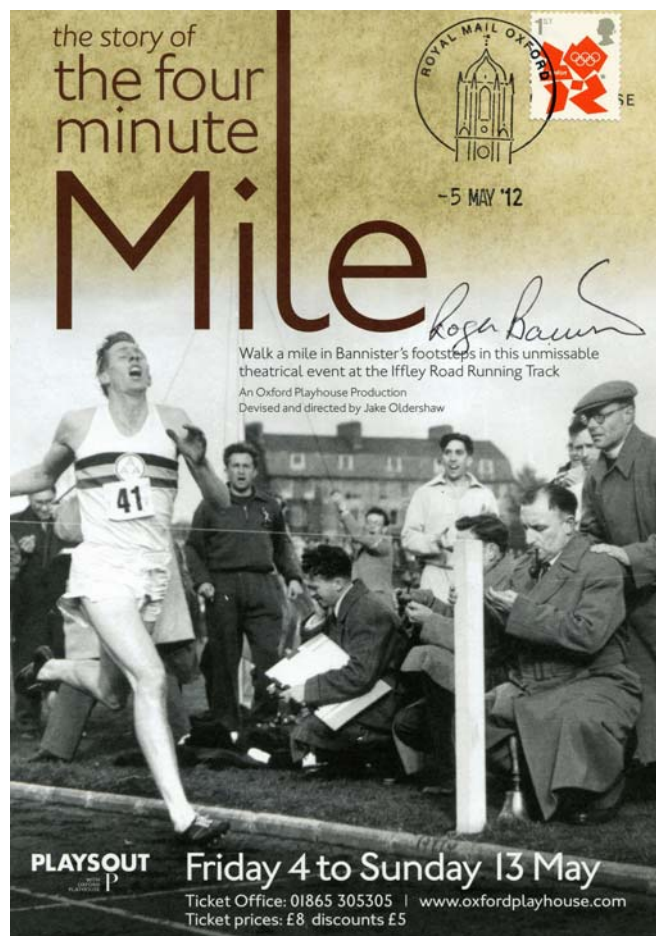


Figure 20. The final stamp in Poland's program: a circular stamp featuring a football and the flags of the two host nations, Poland and Ukraine.

All of the stamps Poland and Ukraine issued were gummed and perforated.

For the record, Spain won the Henri Delaunay Cup by defeating Italy 4-0 in the final, thus becoming the first nation ever to win back-to-back European championships. And in between these two titles Spain won the FIFA 2012 World Cup. Perhaps we are seeing a dynasty in the making. 🐣

The author, acknowledging that the foregoing may not be a complete review of all philatelic material from the host countries for EURO 2012, welcomes additions to the list. He may be emailed at: kwsokolyk@yahoo.com.



“The Story of the Four-Minute Mile”

(as performed by Oxford Playhouse)

by David Buxton

Roger Bannister is one of my heroes. His success in being the first man to run a mile under four minutes and his achievements as a distinguished neurologist marks him as one of the greatest of the 20th Century's icons.

It is more than this that make him a special subject for me to collect on postcards. He ran the sub-four-minute mile on the track at Iffley Road, Oxford, which is where I used to run for my club, Oxford City. As secretary of Oxford University Athletic Club, he ensured that the 300-yard track was converted to an international standard 440 yards.

Further intersections with my life: he broke the record on 6 May 1954, which (although 28 years later) is the birthday of my son. I was given a book

prize at school written by Bannister's coach Franz Stampfl and I have met Roger Bannister on many occasions and he is always interested in everyone he meets.

So imagine my excitement when I read that the Oxford Playhouse was going to stage “The Story of the Four Minute Mile” on the Iffley Road running track. The advert for this audience-participation reenactment (shown at left) read: “Walk a mile in Bannister's footsteps.” How could I resist?

The event was held from Friday 4 May to Sunday 13 May of this year. I was tempted to go on 6 May, which was impossible as I was leaving for the Torch Lighting Ceremony at Olympia with my wife Rennie and Bob and Brenda Farley in the morning. So I booked Saturday 5 May at 6 p.m. – the same time that the famous 1954 race began.

Rennie and I turned up early that evening. Appropriately, the weather was much as on that historic day. It had rained; it was cold, overcast and windy.

The producer could not have arranged a better backdrop to his production. We were given a race number, three different numbers representing the numbers worn by Bannister (41), Chataway (42) and Brasher (44).

The performance consisted of four participants: three men and a lady. They started dressed in tweed caps, beige macs and puffing on pipes, images that you can see in the famous picture of Bannister breaking the tape. On the railings to the running track were two posters of Helsinki 1952 and a podium.

We were welcomed by the actors. One of the audience, who was wearing a flat cloth cap, was congratulated on his headwear. They then took turns providing commentary on the 1952 Olympic



Sign marking Roger Bannister's sub-four-minute mile at the Iffley Road track at Oxford University.



Jack Trow (right), an actor playing the part of an announcer, taking audience members round the running track.
Photo: Madeleine Woolgar for The Telegraph

1500-meter final as they ran up and down the podium. To no one's surprise the athlete who did not finish on the podium was Bannister and he announced "that had he won he would retire and devote his energies to medicine. However on reflection there was one target that he felt that he could still be remembered for" and he flung back the gate and we walked onto the track. We were asked to go and stand by poles that had our running numbers.

So started the first lap. We were with the actress who told us that she was a female athlete training for the 2012 Olympic Games. As we walked she told us about her training schedule, the attempt to get funding and the never-ending cycle of track meets.

The actor playing Bannister ran up to her and told her that he trained half an hour in the morning and half an hour in the evening, fitting his training around his work in a London Hospital. The lady athlete raced off and 50 yards later stopped. We caught up with her and she explained that she had incurred an injury, and the Olympics would be over before she recovered. Would she now find funding for the next four years?

She asked questions: "Which sport is being introduced in 2016 at Rio de Janeiro?" I hesitated before answering, as I did not want to be a know-it-all. No one spoke so I asked rather than said "golf," winning me a London 2012 pencil. I refrained from answering any more questions, so an energy bar and a banana went to other lucky participants!

By now we had completed the first lap. One of the actors announced that the first lap had been completed by Brasher leading from the start in 57.5 seconds.

We then were joined by an actor taking the part of a 14-year-old boy. As we walked around the track for lap two, he told us that his elder brother had been killed in the Korean War and today was the 6th of May and the anniversary of his brother's death.

His parents had not recovered from their loss and to be at home that evening was going to be a strain. The boy had arranged to take a girl out for the first time that evening, and he wondered how he was going to get out of the house. He was delighted when his father said that his mother was in a particularly bad state and why did he not go down to Iffley Road, where there was likely to be an attempt at an athletic record.

The actor had a transistor radio and played songs from the 1950's such as "Secret Love." We were encouraged to sing and he danced with some of the ladies. Bannister appeared and offered a red rose to one of the ladies and danced with her.

As we neared the end of the second lap he told us that he returned home to find his father in an excited mood.

"What an evening, what did you think of the race?"

"Err. Yes it was good," the lad replied.

"What a victory," his father went on.

"Yes, err Bannister won" the lad said almost as a question.

"The time boy, the time, what did you think of the time?" his father exclaimed.

"Oh, I can not remember the exact time" the lad admitted.

"You can not remember the time ... you did not go" accused his father. "You missed the most important event of your young life, you should have been there."



The Olympic Flame is passed between Sir Roger Bannister and Oxford doctoral student Nicola Byrom on the running track at Iffley Road Stadium in Oxford, England, Tuesday July 10, 2012. *(AP Photo/Letteris Pitarakis)*

"The worst of it," the lad told us, "I cannot remember the girl's name."

We were asked to write down a memorable event that we witnessed. I wrote down Mary Peters in the high jump which won her the pentathlon gold medal in Munich 1972.

The announcer told us that the half-mile was completed in 1 minute 58 seconds.

Lap three saw us accompanied by the announcer, who told us the story of the "Four-Minute Mile."

He gave a young boy a stop watch and with "we need to be at that point in 38 seconds," set off at a fast walking pace. Needless to say no one got there in 38 seconds.

"Not good enough" he said, "We have got to go faster."

His next instruction was to get to the top of the first bend in a much shorter time, which we achieved. He then told us the date and named the athletes who held the Mile World Record since IAAF records began, starting with John Paul Jones of the U.S.A. in May 1913 with a time of 4:14.4 up to Gunder Hagg of Sweden in July 1945 with a time of 4:01.4. His energy and actions to portray each athlete left us breathless.

Bannister appeared and told us that he had decided on 6 May at Iffley Road. As an ex-University student he would be assured of being invited to compete.

We then set off, knowing that we had to reach each marker within the time set.

At one marker our announcer related how just that morning a schoolboy at Magdalen College School, 200 yards up the road, had learnt that there was going to be an attempt on breaking the four-minute-mile.

At another marker, he told us of a shop assistant who was cycling home from work and was surprised at the number of people entering the running track.

As we continued our third lap, the announcer rattled off the names and professions of people who began to realize that something was about to happen. By 5 p.m. the school boy from Magdalen College

School and a few friends had arrived and so he described the anticipation and expectation, including the decision by Bannister and his coach, Stampfl, to go for the record as the wind dropped.

(In reading the program I learnt that the writer of the script had interviewed all the named local people and had used their memories in his presentation.)

We completed lap three in a time of 3 minutes 0.7 seconds. The bell lap had to be run in under 59 seconds to break the four-minute-mile.

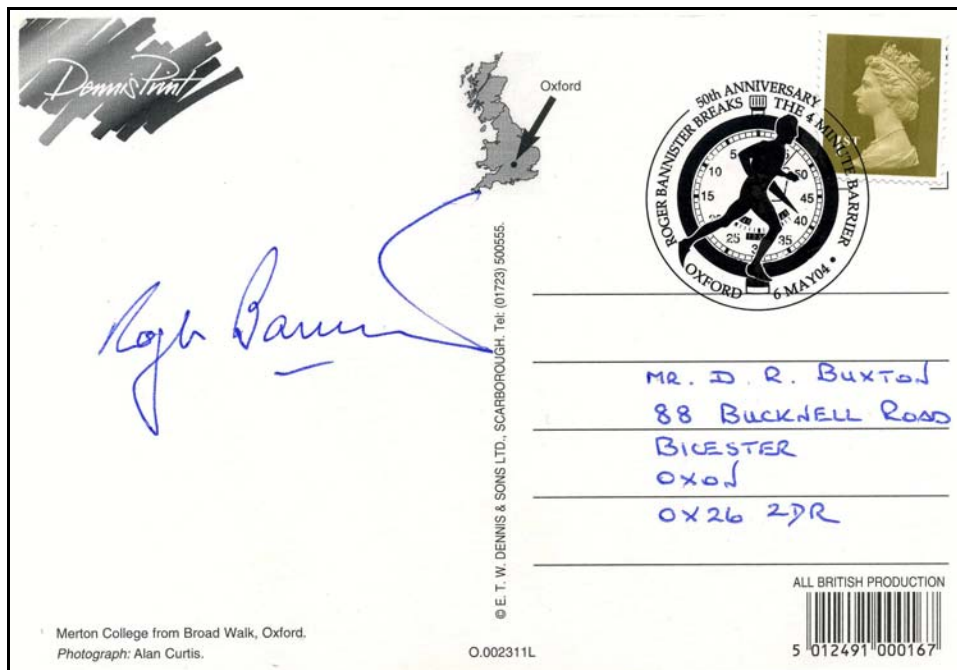
We were asked to sit in the stands. A choir came out and sang, as the actor portraying Bannister, in the replica AAA vest, started to run the fourth lap.

His style was just like that of Bannister and his finish at the tape echoed the famous photos, the choir finishing their song in a resounding finale.

Bannister was held by two of the other actors as we waited for the announcement, it seemed an age as the announcer checked his watch. Then the announcement came: "The result of event number ..." as he goes through the various records broken, and then says "in a World Record of 3....." everyone cheers just as it happened on that historic occasion.

We were then invited to complete our own mile by walking, jogging or running the final lap, spurred on by an amplified commentary and genuine applause by the choir in the grandstand.

It really did evoke a sense of being there on 6 May 1954.



Sir Roger Bannister's autograph on a postcard with a 6 May 2004 special postmark honoring the 50th anniversary of his record-breaking run.



The SPI table at the INDYPEX awards banquet: (seated, left to right) Conrad Klinkner, Dale Lilljedahl, John La Porta, Carol Reiss; (standing) Mark Maestroni, Joe Lopreiato, Norm Jacobs, and Clem Reiss.



Conrad Klinkner explains to Joe Lopreiato about "the one that got away" as John La Porta looks on. John created the festive 50th anniversary banner that hangs on the wall behind the SPI table.

SPI Celebrates its 50th Anniversary!

by Mark Maestroni

I am sure that the founding officers of SPI (Robert Bruce, Quentin Farr, Lawrence McMillan and Travis Land) never dreamed that we would be celebrating a half-century of serving the sports and Olympic philately community around the world. While it has been challenging keeping ahead of the many technological advances that both help and hinder our hobby, I think our founders would nonetheless be pleased.

When it was suggested that we celebrate our 50th, the SPI board settled upon the INDYPEX philatelic exhibition held annually in Indianapolis by the Indiana Stamp Club. As an American Philatelic Society World Series of Philately show, it was a perfect fit for the many members who were interested in exhibiting. It also provided an opportunity to bring an SPI convention to our members living in the eastern portion of the country.

The INDYPEX organizing committee headed by John Becker and Randy Marcy were enthusiastic about having our group at the show and did an admirable job of making our stay both comfortable and enjoyable.

Our theme for the show was the centennial of the 1912 Stockholm Olympic Games with a special acknowledg-

ment of the great Native American Indian athlete, Jim Thorpe, who won both the Decathlon and Pentathlon at those Games.

The INDYPEX committee readily agreed to a show postmark commemorating the theme. SPI designed the postmark and created a special cacheted cover reproducing both our 50th anniversary logo and a colorful vignette from the 1912 Olympic Games. Our printer, John La Porta, very kindly contributed the cacheted covers.

I would also like to thank Phillip Korkis at CMG Worldwide who was instrumental in obtaining the permission of the family of Jim Thorpe to use his name and likeness in our postmark.



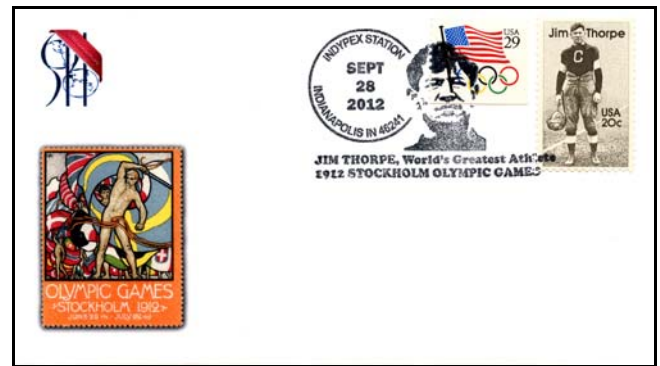
Celebrating at the Weber Grill in downtown Indianapolis.

From an exhibiting standpoint, my goal was to fill 50 frames (of a total 160 frames available). We came very close with 13 exhibits comprising 46 frames of material. In addition, Conrad Klinkner and I collaborated on a non-competitive single-frame exhibit devoted to our convention's theme: the 1912 Stockholm Olympic Games and Jim Thorpe. I also provided a second one-frame non-competitive exhibit on the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games. Both exhibits may be viewed at the SPI website (www.sportstamps.org/society.html).

While the venue for the show, the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel, was convenient to the airport, it did somewhat hamper easy access to the city's vibrant downtown. We did, however, manage to get our group together for an SPI dinner on Friday evening at the Weber Grill smack dab in the heart of the downtown CBD. After a bit of initial confusion over our table's location, we were given our own private dining room which we certainly appreciated.

On Saturday morning SPI held its meeting. The modest number of members and visitors were treated to an interesting presentation by our guest speaker, Ken Martin, Executive Director of the APS and a judge at the show. His talk on thematic exhibiting was most interesting. Judging from the questions generated both during and after the presentation, most everyone seemed to have gleaned at least a few valuable tips. A big thank-you to Ken for stepping in at the last minute after our previous speaker was forced to cancel.

That evening, we all gathered for the awards banquet for a tasty menu at a reasonable price and an awards ceremony that moved right along.



The SPI commemorative cover included our SPI 50th anniversary logo and a reproduction of the colorful vignette used for the 1912 Olympic Games. The pictorial postmark was used all three days of the show.

SPI's exhibitors were showered with no less than 6 gold medals which I think is a record for us at any convention! The full results may be read on the News of Our Members page elsewhere in this issue. I would like to single out two of our members who won SPI's special awards.

Our SPI Best-of-Show for a multi-frame exhibit went to Norman Jacobs for "The Story of Tennis, from Game of Kings to Game for All." This was Norm's first showing of his newly remodeled 8-frame exhibit. The SPI trophy, a beautiful crystal vase by Nambé, was contributed by SPI member Ingrid O'Neil. Many of us know Ingrid as a leader in the field of sports and Olympic memorabilia and a longtime advertiser in our journal.

Dale Lilljedahl's "Polish Prisoner of War Camp Olympic Issues" won the SPI Best-of-Show single frame award. Dale was our only double gold medalist as he also received a gold for his "French Olympic Issues from 1924."

The jury, who did an outstanding job, comprised Ken Martin (chairman), Peter McCann, Nancy Clark, Alan Warren, and Janet Klug.

Last, but not least, I'd like to thank all our SPI members who turned out for the show, either attending, exhibiting ... or both.



For more pictures and info on INDYPEX, scan the QR code above or visit www.sportstamps.org/indypex.html



Norm Jacobs receiving one of his special prizes for his multi-frame exhibit on tennis.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE



by Dr. C. Ronald White

Baseball ... it's a different era now ... a time of exorbitant salaries and signing bonuses. The players are so different too.

Back in the 40's and 50's players often had to work other jobs during the off-season to provide for their families. In 1954 the highest salary was \$123,000 to Ted Williams and the mean salary was approximately \$14,000 – slight by today's standards.

I grew up in northwest Ohio and followed the Cleveland Indians, hunkering down by the Philco listening to Jimmy Dudley and Jack Graney as they delivered colorful descriptions of games from Municipal Stadium, later referred to as “The Mistake By the Lake,” or away games with the Tigers or Yankees.

In 1954 when the annual All-Star Game came to Cleveland my mother informed me we had tickets to the Classic. I was elated.

By that time I was a devoted memorabilia collector. Each April 1st I walked to the post office and purchased a hundred 2-cent postcards diligently addressing them to my favorite Indians for autographs. Within weeks I daily trailed the postman on his rounds awaiting the autographed picture postcards that were returned to me ... free!

My pulse quickened as we drove east on July 13 after staying a night at a resort just west of Cleveland, and then we blended into the crowd of 68,751. Here we were with a chance to watch baseball idols like Jackie Robinson, Ted Williams, Stan Musial, Whitey Ford, Robin Roberts, Mickey Mantle, Minnie Minoso, Yogi Berra, Ted Williams, and my heroes Bobby Avila, Larry Doby, Bob Lemon, Mike Garcia and Al “Flip” Rosen.

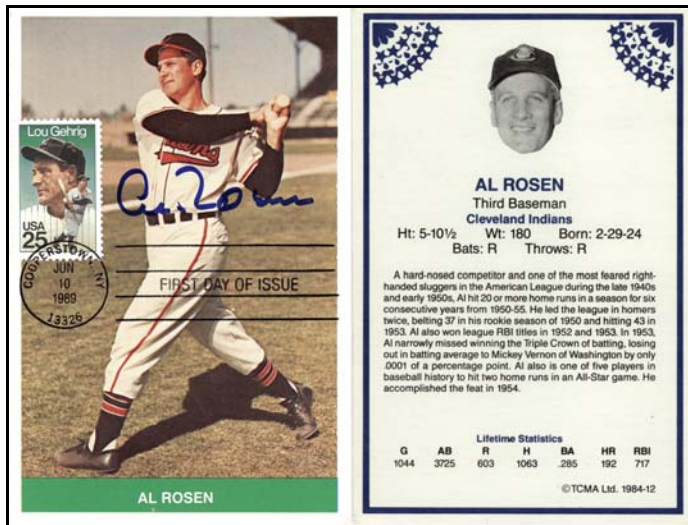
The crowd cheered as American League (AL) Manager, Casey Stengel, and National League (NL) Manager, Walter Alston, exchanged lineup cards and, in the bullpen, starting pitchers Robin Roberts and Whitey Ford threw their final warm-up pitches.

The NL had won the four previous games. Many records were tied or broken during the three-hour and ten-minute slugfest, including home runs by both teams (6), homers by one team (4, AL), runs by both teams (20), hits by both teams (31), and hits by one team (17, AL).

With the NL leading in the eighth inning, 9-8, the AL scored three runs. With one out Larry Doby tied the score with a pinch hit home run and the fan favorite sent the crowd into a real home-town frenzy. Mantle and Berra both followed with singles and Al Rosen, another hometown favorite



The author (bottom center, without cap) at the 1954 Major League Baseball All-Star Game.



Two sides of an Al Rosen baseball card personally autographed by the player. The first day of issue postmark was for the Lou Gehrig stamp on 10 June 1989.



Chief Wahoo, the Cleveland Indian's mascot, and Municipal Stadium, site of the 1954 All-Star Game.

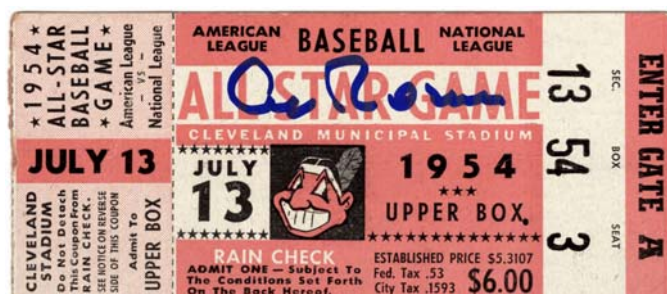
who had homered in the third and fifth innings, was walked, loading the bases. Nellie Fox hit a blooper into center scoring the winning runs. Closer pitcher, Virgil Trucks, sealed the victory for the AL.

Recently while going through a box of dusty memorabilia I found a slightly faded ticket stub from the summer classic. A flood of memories followed as I recalled the entire 1954 Indians' squad.

Several weeks later while watching the MLB Channel, and occasionally drifting into sleep, I heard a special feature in which Mr. Rosen was to receive the Executive Leadership Award from major league scouts. He was not only alive, but svelte and graying. As I listened I again relived many intense memories, and then drifted back to sleep.

Might it be possible? If you don't ask, the answer is always 'no'. I was able to locate Mr. Rosen in California and sent him a letter requesting autographs on the ticket stub and a picture postcard I had in my collection (needless to say I am an avid baseball and stamp collector).

Summoning the "little kid" in me, with great anticipation I anxiously checked the mail each day.



Front of ticket stub autographed by Al "Flip" Rosen.

As happened at the 1954 All-Star Game, the kind Mr. Rosen did not disappoint.

On July 20, 2012 the USPS issued a pane of stamps honoring four Major League All-Stars, two of whom played in the 1954 All-Star game, Ted Williams and Larry Doby. I also had the pleasure to see Willie Stargell and Joe DiMaggio play during their heyday.

I will never forget that wonderful experience!

References:

Baseball Almanac
The Economic History of Major League Baseball

Dr. White is a former physician consultant for the Tampa Bay (Devil) Rays Baseball Team.



The 2012 Major League Baseball All-Stars pane featured two players in the 1954 Games: Ted Williams and Larry Doby.



Spain Salutes Spanish Olympism

Mark Maestroni

This year marked the centennial of eight national Olympic committees. Spain celebrated the occasion with a trio of stamps on 7 February 2012 honoring individuals who have made notable contributions to the Olympic movement in Spain.

What attracted me most to this set was that two of the three stamps were for native sons of whom I had never heard – one, a victor in the Ancient Olympic Games!

So who were these promoters of Spanish Olympism?

Lucius Minicius Natales

Lucius Minicius Natales, a native of Barcino (Roman Barcelona), was the first Olympic champion born on the Iberian Peninsula. According to a monument now in the collection of the Archeological Museum of Catalonia in Barcelona, he was born on a day in the Ides (6th -11th) of February, probably in 97 A.D.

Like his father, Lucius held high posts in the Roman government. During his lifetime, he was Praetor (127-128 A.D.), Consul (130-134) and Proconsul in Africa (149-150).

As was common for many in the patrician class, Lucius was fond of all equestrian activities and was an accomplished horseman. At the 227th Olympic Games (129 A.D.) at Ancient Olympia he won the *tethrippon*, the four-horse chariot race in the hippodrome. In celebration of his victory, Lucius made a votive offering of his chariot to the Sanctuary.

Pausanias, in his *Guide to Greece*, tells of being

present when the foundation for such a monument was being dug near the pillar of Oinomaos adjacent to the hippodrome. The base, presumably upon which the chariot was mounted, was excavated during modern times and bears an inscription which, translated, reads:

The praetor Lucius Minicius Natales, after winning the chariot unscathed at the 227th Olympiad, donated the chariot. He was Consul and Proconsul of Lybia.

Presumably there are no known works portraying Lucius Minicius Natales, so the stamp reproduces a scene from a Roman mosaic unearthed in a villa in Gerona, Spain northeast of Barcelona. The mosaic (shown below) features a chariot race at upper left, probably at the Circus Maximus in Rome. The charioteer, named Calimorfus, drives his tethrippon, providing a visual image of how Natales may have looked as he successfully navigated the twelve laps around the Olympic course.



Gonzalo De Figueroa y Torres

Our second honoree, Gonzalo De Figueroa y Torres, is notable for being Spain's first member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). From this position he also founded the Spanish Olympic Committee and became its first President.

Gonzalo was born in Madrid on 19 August 1861. As a member of the Spanish nobility, he served in various governmental positions including as a councilman and mayor of Madrid. In 1907, King Alfonso XIII of Spain created the Duchy of Torres, conferring the title on Gonzalo de Figueroa. In addition, he was the 1st Count of Mejorada del Campo, VIIth Marquis Villamejor, and VIIIth Viscount Irueste.

His involvement in the Olympic movement began in 1902. In an effort to begin spreading Olympism further afield, Pierre de Coubertin approached Queen Regent Maria Cristina of Spain asking her assistance in naming an IOC representative in her country. She entrusted the job to Prince Carlos de Borbón who eventually settled on Don Gonzalo de Figueroa. In a letter to Coubertin dated 21 February 1902, de Figueroa accepted the honor of serving as the representative of the IOC to Spain.¹

Sport in Spain was still nascent. However, de Figueroa hoped that with a new young monarch on the Spanish throne, 16-year-old King Alfonso XIII, interest in sport would surge.

On 20 November 1912, Don Gonzalo was able to write of his success to de Coubertin:

*"... I also take satisfaction in informing you that on Saturday I will form my Spanish committee of the Olympic Games, having decided to dedicate myself to it in body and soul. I have always feared that I was not the right man for the job, but in this case you are to blame for not having replaced me."*²

Over the following nine years until his death in Lausanne in 1921, Gonzalo De Figueroa y Torres was not only successful in strengthening the Olympic movement in Spain as president of the Spanish Olympic Committee, but spreading it to the old Spanish colonies of the Americas, especially Argentina, Chile, and El Salvador.

1. Durántez, Conrado, "The Foundation of the Spanish Olympic Committee," *Journal of Olympic History*, January 2000.

2. A letter from Villamejor to Coubertin dated 20th November 1902. IOC Records.

Juan Antonio Samaranch

Very few followers of the Olympic Games will not be familiar with the name Juan Antonio Samaranch. As president of the IOC from 1980 to 2001, he was instrumental in not only reviving what had become a moribund institution, but helping to make it a world force in sport. Olympic and sports philatelists honor President Samaranch for recognizing the importance of Olympic collectors and collectibles in helping spread Olympism.

Born in Barcelona in 1920, Samaranch's early years in sports administration during the 1950's and 1960's included head of sports for the Barcelona municipal government, chef de mission of the national team at various international events, and eventually president of the Spanish Olympic Committee from 1967-70. In 1966, Samaranch joined the IOC, serving as a vice-president from 1974-1978.

Elected president at the IOC Session in Moscow just prior to the opening of the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games, Samaranch managed to mitigate some of the damage done by the West's boycott of Moscow by encouraging a few cracks in the reciprocal Soviet boycott of the 1984 Games. With the assistance of Peter Ueberroth, president of the LA 1984 Olympics, Samaranch recognized the value of Olympic sponsorships and television revenue in building a solid financial foundation for the IOC. Under Samaranch, the lines between amateurism and professionalism, which had already begun to blur, were all but dissolved.

Criticized for turning a blind eye to the corruption of many in the IOC which culminated in the Salt Lake City bid scandal of 1998, he did institute new rules for the bid process to prevent further abuses.

Made "Honorary President for Life" upon his retirement from the IOC in 2001, Samaranch continued to work for the Olympic movement until his death in Barcelona in 2010.

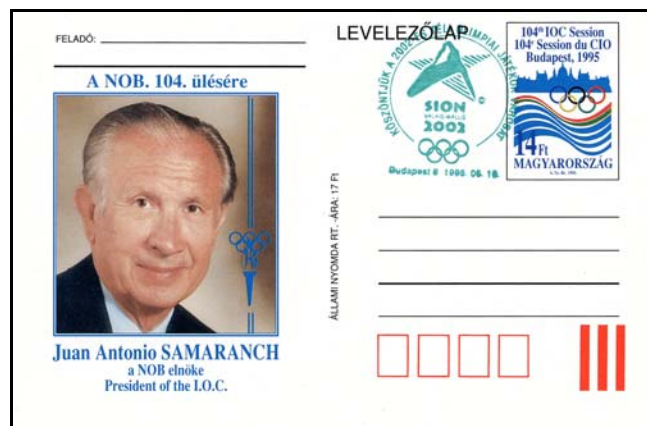




Figure 1. Minisheet honoring Andy Murray's gold medal in the 2012 London Olympics men's tennis singles.

Great Scot!

by Norman Jacobs, Jr.

Although Andy Murray has won 24 career tennis titles, he never broke into the highest level of men's tennis until 2012, when he upended the three-way domination of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, and Novak Djokovic. At age 25, he became the first British Olympic tennis champion since 1908 (Figure 1), and the first British man to win a singles title in a major (Grand Slam) tournament since Fred Perry in 1936.

Murray's junior career included the Junior U.S. Open title in 2004, and participation in Davis Cup for Britain in March of 2005, the youngest Briton ever to play in Davis Cup. He turned pro later in 2005. Although he was ranked as high as number two in 2009, he always came up just a little short in the Grand Slams. In 2008, he lost the U.S. Open final to Federer in straight sets. In both 2010 and 2011 he lost the Australian Open finals in straight sets, to Federer and Djokovic, and in 2012 he lost the Wimbledon finals in four sets to Federer. But 2012 was a special year, with the Olympic Games contested at Wimbledon the month after the close loss to Federer in the Wimbledon Championships.

After working with a number of different coaches, including Brad Gilbert and Alex Corretja, Murray linked up with eight-time major tournament winner Ivan Lendl as his new coach for 2012.

Perhaps the most important aspect of this new coaching relationship was the perspective that Lendl could provide. Like Murray, Lendl lost his first four major finals, before capturing the French Open in 1984. Figure 2 shows Lendl hoisting the French Open trophy, which he also won in 1986 and 1987. For an emotional player like Murray, who had previously received fines for swearing and racket abuse, the calmness of Lendl helped to focus Murray on his goal of winning a major.

Although some might question placing the Olympic tennis tournament on the same level as the majors, players like Andre Agassi, who won in 1996, and Roger Federer, who has won everything except an Olympic singles gold medal, have been quoted as saying that they consider the Olympics as important as any of the majors. And it was Federer who stood between Murray and gold in August of this year when they played the finals of the Olympic singles tournament at Wimbledon. This time there was no denying the Scotsman, who used the cheers



Figure 2. Ivan Lendl with the French Open trophy.



Figure 3. Novak Djokovic was named "Person of the Year" in Serbia in 2011. The stamp shows him cradling the Wimbledon trophy.

of the partisan crowd to his advantage, as he elevated his game and won in overwhelming fashion in straight sets, 6-2, 6-1, 6-4.

Royal Mail took up the challenge, and issued a Gold Medal Winner sheet the next day. As Mark Maestrone pointed out in his article in *JSP* Fall 2012, the Winner sheets were printed by six regional printers in order to expedite the delivery to post offices around Great Brit-

ain by noon the day after the victory. Each printer's sheet consisted of four miniature sheets, with the printer location listed in the selvedge of the bottom miniature sheet in each printer's sheet. Figure 1 shows the Murray miniature sheet as it was sold by Royal Mail, with the selvedge removed before sale. The selvedge would appear at the left side of the sheet.

For readers who may wish to purchase Murray sheets (or other Winners sheets) that include the selvedge and printers name, you need to contact Royal Mail directly, as these are not sold via their website. For my purposes, I wanted to obtain printers sheets from the London printer, since that is the printer closest to the tennis venue at Wimbledon. Two printer's sheets postpaid to the U.S. sell for £30.95. You can use Visa or MasterCard. Send the request to Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 9PB, Scotland, U.K. For questions about the cost of other options, email "philatelic.enquiries@royalmail.com". My thanks to Bob Farley for this information.

I have just received the November/December issue of *Tennis Magazine*, which has shrunk to 50 pages, a commentary on the eclipse of magazines in the internet age. The cover shows a picture of Nadal, Federer, and Djokovic with a banner reading "The Trivalry: Who Beats the Rest When at His Best?" The article analyzes which of the three has been the best player, and how they match up with each other. Since this issue also discusses Andy Roddick's retirement, it was published after the U.S. Open, but the only mention of Andy Murray is in a listing of rising young professional stars from 2007. Perhaps this project was started many months ago, but the comparisons seem very incomplete without

Murray, who has defeated all three of the "Trivalry" on multiple occasions.

Although I have concentrated mainly on Murray, who deserves the attention for his breakthrough year in 2012, I must also honor Novak Djokovic, whose historic achievements in 2011 will not soon be repeated. He began the year with 41 straight victories, just one short of John McEnroe's record in 1984. By the end of the year he had won three majors (all except the French), five Masters tournaments, and had a 10-1 record against Federer and Nadal for the year. Figure 3 shows him with his Wimbledon trophy. No wonder he was named Person of the Year in Serbia for 2011.

On December 28, 2011, prior to Murray's victory in the Olympic Games, Togo anticipated the addition of Murray to the top echelon of men's tennis players with a souvenir sheet (Figure 4) that gave him equal billing with Federer and Nadal. Although Togo has been criticized for issuing a large number of stamps and sheets on topics that have little connection to that country, the tennis items make sense based on Togo's participation in both Davis Cup and in the 2008 men's Olympic tennis tournament.

In 2013, perhaps we can look forward to a four-way rivalry, if Nadal recovers from his knee injuries, Federer continues to play well, and Murray can sustain his new level of competition. As for Djokovic, I have no doubt he will continue to amaze the tennis world. Players ready, serve!



Figure 4. Appropriately, Andy Murray is honored along with Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer on a 2011 souvenir sheet.



1992 Albertville Olympic Winter Games – 20 Years On

by Joseph Lopreiato

On a recent trip to Lyon, France for a medical education meeting, I had some free time and decided to make a side trip into Olympic history.

In addition to its flagship Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland (currently closed for renovation until the end of 2013), the International Olympic Committee (IOC) recognizes several museums around the world for their sport and Olympic collections. One of these is located in Albertville, France, site of the 1992 Olympic Winter Games.

Albertville is a medium-sized town at the foot of the French Alps in the Savoie region of France. It was only a 2-hour train ride from Lyon and the trip through the countryside was breathtaking, even on an overcast day. The train station is a short 5-minute walk to Rue Pargoud, home of the Maison des Jeux Olympiques d'Hiver, a converted courthouse that

served as the headquarters of the Albertville Organizing Committee and now the official museum. This year marks the 20th anniversary of Albertville's hosting of the 1992 Winter Olympics and the town was justifiably proud (Figure 1).

The museum occupies two full floors of the building.

The first floor is dedicated to the staging of the Olympics, particularly the costumes and the props

used in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. A large video screen shows a continuous loop of both ceremonies and on the exhibit floor are examples of items used in these events. There were snow angels, acrobats, skiers, skaters and all sorts of odd characters (Figure 2).

A short film in an adjacent theater tells the story of how the volunteers, choreographers, lighting directors and managers pulled together to create scenes that showed the French perspective on winter sports. I left with a deep appreciation of all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes to make these events memorable.



Figure 1. Poster publicizing the 20th anniversary of the Albertville Winter Olympics.



Figure 2. Perched above the entrance to the museum were examples of the many other-worldly costumes created for the ceremonies.



Figure 3. A pair of speed skates are but one example of the many artifacts on view belonging to past French champions.



Figure 4. Miners lamp that held the 1992 Olympic flame.



Figure 5. A favorite item: the 1992 Olympic torch.



Figure 6. 1948 St. Moritz and 1952 Oslo Olympic identification cards; 1952 Oslo Olympic participation medal.



Figure 7. Jean and Lara at the museum's reception desk were just 2 years old at the time of the Albertville Games.



Figure 8. One of the few philatelic items for sale at the museum: a photographic postcard of Albertville's train station circa 1907 franked with a 1992 Olympic stamp and "Train Club Coubertin" Olympic torch relay postmark.

told them I was an Olympic philatelist, they pointed me toward the only two philatelic items for sale. The first was a small picture postcard of the old Albertville railway station franked with a 1992 Olympic stamp and cancelled aboard the Torch Relay train to Albertville (Figure 8). The second, a single page from a much larger book, had Olympic venue cancels (Figure 9). I purchased both along with the 1992 official Olympic program in French and an IOC book about the Games in both French and English.

After my tour of the museum, I took a cab to see the only two Olympic venues in town that are still standing.

The Théâtre des Cérémonies, a temporary round “stadium” built for the opening and closing ceremonies, is now a public park with only the center tower still in place (Figure 10). This tower held the ropes for all the acrobatics that were performed during the ceremonies and is now adorned with bicycles in recognition of the 2012 Tour de France which passed nearby.

The Halle de Glace Olympique (Olympic Ice Hall) located directly across the street hosted the figure skating and short track speed skating events. It was in this arena that Kristi Yamaguchi of the USA won the gold medal in women’s figure skating. At the conclusion of the Games, the Olympic cauldron was moved from its place in the stadium to an area in front of the Ice Hall where it serves as a stunning landmark (Figure 11).

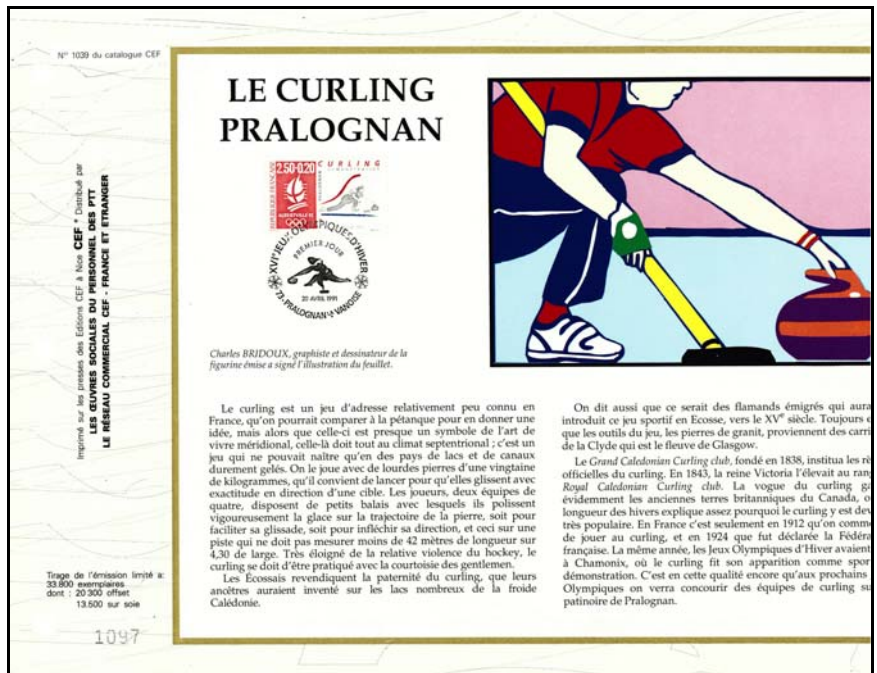


Figure 9. A page from a large book presenting the various sports competed at the Albertville Olympic Winter Games. Each page included the relevant Olympic sports stamp and pictorial venue postmark.

All in all, my trip to Albertville was well worth the effort to see one of the few Olympic museums in Europe and stroll through a small town in the spectacular French Alps. While I did not take home many philatelic items, I will never forget the charm of this town and its pride in hosting a world sporting event.

For more information on the Olympic Museum in Albertville, France, please visit:
www.maisonjeuxolympiques-albertville.org



Figure 10. All that remains of the temporary Théâtre des Cérémonies (now a park) is the central tower used for the acrobatic portions of the ceremonies.



Figure 11. The Olympic cauldron was moved to the nearby Olympic Ice Hall. Hedges form the Olympic rings at the base of cauldron.

BOOK REVIEW

by Jean-Louis Emmenegger

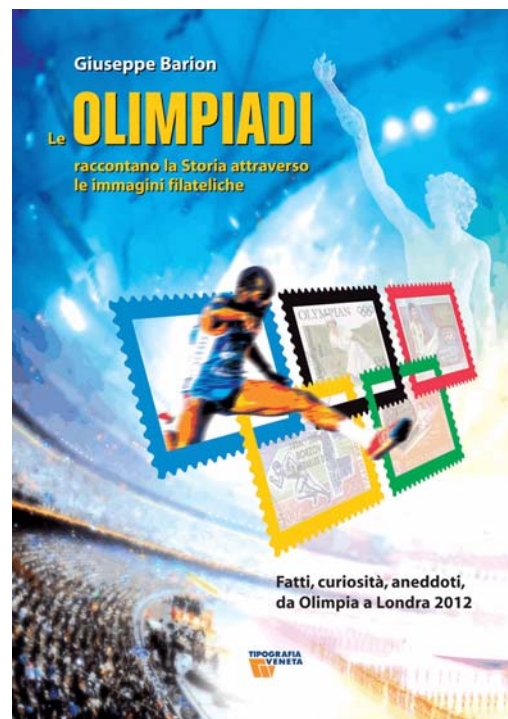
Le OLIMPIADI raccontano la Storia attraverso le immagini filateliche (The Olympics story told through philatelic images) by Giuseppe Barion (author and publisher). Introduction by Maurizio Tecardi. In Italian, full color, 395 pages. €20 + postage. Order from the author, Mr. Giuseppe Barion, V. Navene Vecchia 150, I-37018 Malcesine, Italy; email: gbrn38@alice.it

Olympic stamp collectors are quite familiar with the various philatelic catalogs currently in print which list Olympic stamps in chronological order for each Olympic Games. A new “book” published by Giuseppe Barion takes a different – and very original – approach.

First, the author uses pages he mounted himself for his own Olympic collection to “build” his book. Thus, the reader will see each page of the collection reproduced complete with not only stamps, but covers, postal stationery, postmarks, etc. Comments are kept to a minimum as is the standard for competitive exhibiting. In essence, the book contains all the material that makes for a “good” collection!

The book is divided into four chapters: I - The Ancient Games of Greece; II - The Awakening (the social, cultural and technological transformations that took place in the XIXth century; III - Pierre de Coubertin; IV - The Olympic Games of the Modern Era (from the 1896 Athens Games to the London 2012 Games).

The fourth chapter, comprising some 320 pages, is clearly the most important part.



The second interesting approach taken by the author is that he includes general information on the political events in which the Olympic Games took place. Where appropriate, the political situations, wars, peace treaties, political leaders and heads of state at the time are presented both thematically and philatelically on his pages. This background provides the reader with a better understanding of the international political environment of the period.

I would enthusiastically recommend this book to all Olympic collectors. Not only is it an excellent historical record of the IOC and the Olympic Games, but it also presents some of the more interesting philatelic items related to the Olympic Games included in his personal Olympic collection.

In summary, Giuseppe Barion proves that it is unnecessary for a collector to own the most rare Olympic stamps and covers in order to build an interesting and historically relevant philatelic collection on the Olympic Games.

At left is a page (only the top half is shown) talking about World War II as a backdrop to the 1948 London Olympic Games.



Winner Medals of the 1859-1889 Olympic (Olympian) Games

In 1830, following the recognition of Greece once again as a sovereign nation, Greeks began to celebrate their ancient history, especially from the Classical period. Wishing to honor the ancient Greek phrase “Νοῦς ὑγιὴς ἐν σώματι ὑγιεῖ” (“Healthy mind exists, in a healthy body”), they began to create the groundwork for the revival of the ancient Olympic Games. These initiatives included:

- 1833, poem by Panagiotis Soutsos, (an intellectual, poet of the time) titled “Dialogue of the Dead,” in which he clearly proposes the revival of the ancient Olympic Games.
- 1834, Panagiotis Soutsos sends a formal proposal to Ioannis Kolettis, minister of internal affairs of Greece, asking for the revival of the Games.
- 1835, after P. Soutsos’ proposal, I. Kolettis, in his “Memorandum of the instituting of National celebrations and public games on the model of Antiquity,” submits a formal proposal to King Othon.
- 1837, Royal Decree signed by Queen Amalia, formally gives shape to what the Games would look like.

- 1838, the municipality of Letrina (today’s municipality of Pyrgos, near Olympia) proposed to hold an Olympic Games on March 25 honoring Greece’s national celebration.

It is said, that Evangelis Zappas was so inspired by the work of P. Soutsos, that he took it upon himself to revive the ancient Olympic Games. In his proposal to King Othon, Zappas said he would self-finance the Games. The offer was accepted and ultimately resulted in the revival of the ancient Olympic Games in Athens from 1859-1889.

These “Olympian” Games consisted of two parts. The first, an exhibition for the “promotion of industry,” included music, painting, architecture, achievements in mining, textiles, plant propagation and much more. These were held in the Zappeion Megaron (Mansion). The second part for athletic events were held in Ludwig Square (now Omonia Square) in 1859. Subsequent athletic competitions were conducted in the Panathenaic Stadium where the Olympic Hymn (composed by Orfanidis) and athlete’s oath would be heard for the first time.

The Olympian Games generated a great deal of excitement in the national and international press. Societies which promoted the benefits of physical education (e.g. Wenlock, a committee of gentlemen in England, founded in 1850 who held their own local athletic games, the Wenlock Olympian Games) praised and supported the their revival. (*The London Review*, Sept. 15, 1860).

Winner Medals Described in Royal Decrees

A number of Royal Decrees issued between 1837 and 1859 dealt with details related to the Games in general and awards in particular.

A February 9, 1837 Royal Decree, described what the medals would be and how they would look. Awards were to be given based on performance. It was suggested that in addition to financial awards (50-500 drach



The initial wooden Zappeion building, where the exhibition portion of the Olympian Games was held through 1875.

mas), there be First (A') Class and Second (B') Class gold medals, First (A') Class and Second (B') Class silver medals, and diplomas to accompany the medals.

The Royal Decree of August 28, 1858, officially announced the formation of the Olympian Games with financing by Evangelis Zappas. It was decided that the medals would be distinguished by diameter and thickness. The appearance of the medals, meaning the images and text to be used, were also specified by this decree.

A Royal Decree, published January 29, 1859, announced the program and regulations of the Olympian Games. It also clarified that the judges' committee would be responsible for deciding the results of all competitions. In addition to the previously decided First and Second Class Gold and Silver medals, there would also be a single-class of Bronze medal and the awarding of "Praise". Signifying the importance of a Gold Medal, it was decreed that they be distinguished from the rest of the awards. Finally, the decree, identifies these Olympian Games as a revival of the ancient Olympic Games after a pause of many centuries.

General Information about the Medals

The medals in all Olympian Games (except 1888-9 where only diplomas were presented) followed this pattern. There were Gold First (A') and Second (B') Class medals, Silver First (A') and Second (B') Class medals, Bronze medals, and Praises. These, would be awarded by significance of event and performance, at the discretion of the judges' committee. Diplomas would accompany medals.

First Class medals were larger in diameter and heavier than Second Class medals. The Bronze medals were of the same diameter as First Class medals.

Gold and Silver medals came in boxes upon which the year of each Olympian Game was inscribed in Greek lettering. Bronze medals were presented in plain boxes.

It is important to understand the differences in how awards were determined. Unlike today where winners are evident by their score or time, back then it could be that an event would have no winner as no one would be worthy of even receiving praise. Or perhaps an event would have two or more silver First Class winners, but no Gold winners.

Gold First Class and Second Class medals represented absolute excellence, thus, these were given to very few and therefore were created in very limited numbers. Gold winner medals were even distinguished from the rest of the awards in all documents, underscoring their significance.

Winners who received Gold medals would, by today's standards, be considered as first place winners.



Obverse of the Silver First Class medal of 1859 showing King Othon

Winner Medals of the First (A') Olympian Games, 1859

The medals of 1859, followed the motif described in the Royal Decrees of 1837 and 1858.

Obverse: relief bust of King Othon; text "Othon, First King of Greece, founder of Olympian Games."

Reverse: text "Gold or Silver or Bronze Olympic Wreath / First or Second Class" (for Bronze medals, no Class was mentioned). Smaller text "Consecrator of Games Evangelis Zappas," surrounded by olive wreath.

Gold First Class (45.5mm diameter): 4 awarded
Gold Second Class (smaller, diameter unknown): 7
Silver First Class (45.5mm diameter): 43
Silver Second Class (smaller, diameter unknown): 97
Bronze (45.5mm diameter): 273
Praises: 271



Gold First (A') Class 1870 winner medal

Winner Medals of the Second (B') Olympian Games, 1870

The medals of 1870 and 1875, were different than those of 1859, as the King had now changed. Thus, King Othon's bust was replaced with that of King George I.

Obverse: relief bust of King George I; text "George I, King of the Greeks."

Reverse: text (at center), “Olympia / in Athens / ΑΩΟ’ (1870) / First Class, or Second”(for Bronze medals, no Class was mentioned). Circular text, “Consecrator of Games Evangelis Zappas.” An olive wreath wraps around perimeter.

Gold First Class (41mm diam., 60 grams): 12 awarded
 Gold Second Class (37mm diam., 30 grams): 12
 Silver First Class (41mm diam., 42 grams): 87
 Silver Second Class (37mm diam., 22 grams): 133
 Bronze (41mm diam., 30 grams): 353
 Praises: 310
 Note: Weights of medals may vary slightly.



Silver Second (B') Class 1875 winner medal

Winner Medals of the Third (C') Olympian Games, 1875

The medals of the third Olympic Games of 1875, were the same as those of 1870, only with a different date. This time, the financial awards were also included in the tables with total numbers of awards.

Obverse: relief bust of King George I; text “ George I, King of the Greeks.”

Reverse: text (at center), “Olympia / in Athens / ΑΩΟΕ’ (1870) / First Class, or Second”(for Bronze medals, no Class was mentioned). Circular text, “Consecrator of Games Evangelis Zappas.” An olive wreath wraps around perimeter.

Gold First Class (41mm diam., 60 grams): 10 awarded
 Gold Second Class (37mm diam., 30 grams): 34
 Silver First Class (41mm diam., 42 grams): 103
 Silver Second Class (37mm diam., 22 grams): 205
 Bronze (41mm diam., 33 grams): 286
 Praises: 285
 Financial awards: 6
 Note: Weights of medals may vary slightly.

Winner Medals of the Fourth (D') Olympian Games, 1888-89

By the 1888-89 Olympic Games, the Zappeion

Megaron, as we know it today, had just been inaugurated. It was used for the Olympic Games along with the Panathenaic Stadium (athletic events). However, there were important issues to which Greece had to attend, particularly with respect to an unstable political and economic environment. The 1888-89 Olympic Games had less glamour than the previous ones.

Although the Games took place as planned, and the diplomas – which, as before, mentioned all the medals and classes – were awarded, no actual medals were given to the winners. These had been planned for, but they just never materialized. This fact was even satirized in the press. Even by 1889 when the athletic events took place, the medals were still nowhere to be found.

There was nevertheless one medal, which was made by the hatmaker shop (pilopoion) of Mr. Michalakis Katsimpalis, and which is the only known commemorative medal made for the 1888 Olympic Games. This was a privately struck medal, made in commemoration of the Games, mentioning the name of the hat maker on one side.

Obverse: relief image of Zappeion Megaron; text, “D’ / Olympias” on top, and “In / Athens 1888” at bottom.

Reverse: text, “ In commemoration” surrounded by an olive wreath. At top, text, “Pilopoion (hat maker shop),” and at bottom “M Katsimpalis.”

Medal in bronze (35.5 mm diam. 11.9 grams), with a loop.



Commemorative medal by hatmaker M. Katsimpalis, for the commemoration of the Olympic Games of 1888/9

Bibliography

- Official Reports of 1859, 1870 and 1875
- Royal Decrees published in the Government newspapers of the time 1837-1865.
- Newspaper “To Asty” 1888-1889.

**Stathis Douramakos's
“Olympiaka through original Documents”**

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REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS

by Mark Maestroni

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

March 2012 (#63). This issue was devoted primarily to the 20th anniversary of the Albertville Olympic Winter Games with a look back at the philately leading up to, and during, the Games. Brief articles discuss automobile racing memorabilia, 2018 Pyeong Chang Olympic Winter Games, and the 2012 Youth Olympic Winter Games at Innsbruck.

June 2012 (#64). Did not receive for review.

September 2012 (#65). London 2012 takes center stage in this issue with articles on the lighting of the Olympic flame in Greece, the World Olympic Collector's Fair in Athens, and the various cancellations associated with the London Games. Additionally, philately related to the sports of pétanque and boules are featured.

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

April 2012 (#37). In an effort to diversify the topic of basketball philately, editor Luciano Calenda presents his one-frame exhibit on relatives of basketball: korfbal and netball. This issue also introduces an interesting new philatelic element that we've not seen before, a so-called "personalized slogan meter." These were applied on registered mail receipts in India and consisted of a single phrase of the customer's choosing (example: "women - play basketball & be fit" or "basketball - game of tall players") printed on the computer-generated receipt. While exhibitable, collectors are cautioned against using more than one in an exhibit.

August 2012 (#38). With the 2012 London Olympics over, *Philabasket Review* provides an overview of some of the basketball stamps and stationery issue for the Games. In keeping with the theme, editor Luciano Calenda provides another small one-frame exhibit "Olympic Basketball." Most interesting is the exchange of letters from the IOC/UPU on the subject of the IOC's new royalty regulations and how/if they will impact Olympic stamp collecting.

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

February 2012 (#153). In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the 1936 Garmisch and Berlin Olympic Games IMOS published a special full-color handbook on philately relating to the medalists of those Games. Produced by Manfred Winternheimer, this quite thorough 54-page publication is a useful addition to the Olympic philately library.

Articles in the regular "journal" include a review of the first Youth Olympic Winter Games in Innsbruck by Thomas Lippert, and a look at "Faulty Olympic Stamps" (errors in design) by Armin Haug.

May 2012 (#154). Each year's IMOS Congress issue selects numerous articles specifically tailored to the city at which the congress is being held – in this case, Cottbus. Olympians from Cottbus as well as such popular sports as cycling and football are covered in some depth.

Providing non-Cottbus interest are articles on the Ancient Olympic Games (Dieter Germann); Zeus as portrayed in philately and numismatics (Armin Haug); 50th anniversary of the 1962 World Cup in Chile (Peter Thoennessen); and a look back at the 2011 under-17 and under-20 World Cup in Central and South America (Peter Leinemann).

August 2012 (#155). Under heavy handbook was distributed with this issue dedicated to the centennial of the 1912 Stockholm Olympic Games. The bulk of the volume which discusses the many philatelic and thematic aspects of those Games, was authored by Manfred Bergman, a recognized authority on these Games. The many and varied Olympic Challenge Cups are described in detail by Olympic historian, Karl Lennartz.

A separate booklet provides updates to the IMOS listings of worldwide Olympic and sports stamps and postmarks along with sports-related issues from the active German private post.

The third booklet, the regular "journal," includes a review of the IMOS Congress, and an article on the 2012 Torch Lighting Ceremony and Athens World Olympic Collectors Fair.

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

June 2012 (Vol. XV, No. 1). Zoltan Klein's article on the London Olympic Games of 1908-1948-2012 opens this issue. Looking back to 1912, Szekeres Sandor reviews the events at Stockholm from a thematic perspective using philately from that period as well as more modern issues. Shorter articles present information on the 1st Youth Olympic Winter Games at Innsbruck; the European football championships of 1972-2012; and 2012 European speed skating championships. Another interesting story tells of Momcsillo Tapavicza, the Hungarian weightlifter and wrestler at the 1896 Athens Olympics, who in later life became a noted architect – an aspect of his life that was unknown until recent research uncovered some of his works.

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

Vol. 7, No. 1, 2012. The primary article in this issue, "The Olympic Games of Stockholm, 1912," was translated and reprinted in the Fall 2012 issue of *JSP*. Updates on the London Olympics are also included.

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

October 2011 (#80). With this issue begins a special series authored by Manfred Bergman, entitled "Berlin 1913: A big stadium for a Games that were never held." The article will be serialized over multiple issues of the publication and is presented



Postcard mailed from the Olympic Stadium in Berlin the day of its inauguration, 8 June 1913. From Manfred Bergman's article on the Berlin Stadium in *Phila-sport*.

(in parallel columns) in both Italian and English. The story being told centers on the date 8 June 1913 – the day the Deutsches Stadion in Berlin was inaugurated. This first installment includes the preface/introduction, prelude to the event, how those participating/attending the inauguration arrived at the stadium, and the postal facilities that were available.

Football (soccer) dominates the remaining articles in this issue.

January 2012 (#81). This issue opens with Part 2 of M. Bergman's article on the 1913 Berlin Olympic Stadium. In this installment he begins with the opening of the inauguration ceremony at 12 noon. Using postcards, philately, memorabilia, etc., the ceremonies unfold taking the reader up to 2 p.m.

Further articles in this issue discuss the 1944 Olympics, the sport of bobsledding at the Olympic Winter Games, and the promotion of golf in Morocco by King Hassan II.

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

March 2012 (Vol. 29, #1). With the London Olympics just around the corner (at the time of this issue), it was to be expected that this issue would concentrate on events leading up to the Games. It was refreshing, though, to take a ride in the time machine back to the 1948 Olympics – the "Austerity Games" – and read about the accommodations for the athletes at West Drayton, an old wartime RAF camp. The narrative was provided by Naomi Beinart from the memories of a friend who as a student at the time volunteered to work at the facility. There wasn't much in the philatelic arena for this Olympic venue save for postmarks from the local post office and old picture postcards.

Further articles in this issue discuss the definitive stamp issues by Royal Post on 5 January 2012; the extensive Olympic stamp program from the Isle of Man; and suggestions/guidelines for ways to commemorate the Olympic Torch relay through the U.K. despite there not being any torch-specific postmarks.

Finally, we have updates on new Russian emissions for the 2014 Sochi Olympic Winter Games, and another installment in Sid Marantz and Bud Kling's series on pin collecting. This time, Sid and Bud discuss the differences between authorized and unauthorized pins, as well as illegal pins.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Mark Maestrone

NEW MEMBERS

(#2301) Mr. Michael E. Egan, c/o perfectcollector inc., 300 N. Lasalle St., Suite 4925, Chicago IL 60654 USA. **General sports & Olympics.**
E-mail: michael.egan@perfectcollector.com

(#2302) Mr. Tiit Viitmann, C.R. Jakobsoni 3-10, Tallinn, Estonia. **Olympics Host Country.**
E-mail: tiitvi@hotmail.ee

RETURNING MEMBERS

(#1442) Dr. Robert B. Kebric, 703 Nottingham Pkwy, Louisville KY 40222-5608, USA.
Olympics 1896-1936.
E-mail: robert.kebric@louisville.edu

(#1874) Mrs. Nancy B. Clark, PO Box 427, Marstons Mills MA 02648, USA. **Olympics 1996, Sailing.** E-mail: nbc@cape.com

EXHIBITING

INDYPEX 2012, Indianapolis, Sept 28-30, 2012.
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Silver-Bronze Medals

"Lawn Bowling," James Leatherberry*
"An Introduction to Golf Deltiology," Patricia Loehr

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Vermeil Medals

"Soccer (Just for Kicks!)," Charles V. Covell, Jr.
"Bolivia Commemorative Sport Issue, 1951,"
Elizabeth Hisey*
+ AAPE Award of Honor
"The World of Golf," Patricia Loehr
"Men's Gymnastics: Dressed to Win," Mark
Maestrone*
+ AAPE Award of Honor
"The Rimet World Cup of Soccer - 1930, 1934,
1938," Richard Woodward*

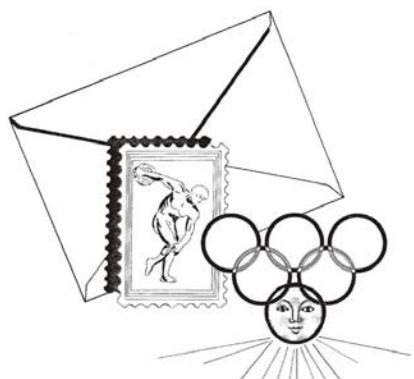
Gold Medals

"The Story of Tennis, from Game of Kings to
Game for All," Norman F. Jacobs, Jr.
+ SPI Best-of-Show Multi-Frame Award
+ American Topical Association Award
"Games of the Xth Olympiad, Los Angeles, 1932,"
Conrad Klinkner
"French Olympic Issues from 1924," Dale
Lilljedahl
"Polish Prisoner of War Camp Olympic Issues,"
Dale Lilljedahl*
+ SPI Best-of-Show Single Frame Award
"Sailing Races, 1662-2012, Earliest Recorded
Race to Next Olympics." Clemens Reiss
+ Lighthouse Society Award
"Spoiled by War: The Games of the XIIIth
Olympiad," Andrew Urushima*



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NEW STAMP ISSUES

by John La Porta

Antigua & Barbuda: June 18, 2012. London Olympics. Pane of four se-tenant \$2.20 stamps, rhythmic gymnast; hurdler; martial arts; runners.

Aruba: August 7, 2012. Rembrandt Regatta. Two 150¢ stamps, *Eva Luna*; Sunfish sailboat; two 175¢ stamps, *Ocean 505*; *Teishi*; two 200¢, different Sunfish; *Dash*.

Australia: July 17, 2012. London Olympics. 60¢ swimming; \$1.60 pole vaulting; \$2.35 rowing.

July 31, 2012. London Olympics. Gold Medalists. 60¢ Alicia Coutts, Cate Campbell, Brittany Elmslie and Melanie Schlange. Offset in sheets of 10.

August 9, 2012. London Olympics Gold Medalist. 60¢ stamp sailor Tom Slingsby, Laser class.

August 10, 2012. London Olympics Gold Medalist. 60¢ cyclist Anna Meares, women's cycle sprint.

August 13, 2012. London Olympics Golf Medalists. Three 60¢ stamps, Sally Pearson, women's 100 meters hurdles; Nathan Outteridge and Lain Jensen, 49er skiff class; Tate Smith, David Smith, Murray Stewart and Jacob Clear, men's K4 1,000 meters canoe sprint; Matthew Belcher and Malcolm Page men's 470 class sailing.

Bosnia-Herzegovina: July 10, 2012. Sport. 2.50m runner, swimmer, archer, ball player. Sheets of eight and a label.

Bulgaria: June 8, 2012. European Soccer Championship. Souvenir sheet with 1-leva stamp, soccer ball.

July 16, 2012. London Olympics. Souvenir sheet with 1.50-leva stamp, rhythmic gymnast with hoop.

Colombia: June 27, 2012. London Olympics. Four se-tenant 3,000p stamps, soccer player, discus throw, tennis player; martial artist, weight lifter, boxer, horse and rider, runner, cyclist; fencer, swimmer, wrestlers.

Cook Islands: June 22, 2012. London Olympics. 80¢ swimmer; 90¢ map of United Kingdom; \$2 sailing. Souvenir sheet contains the three stamps se-tenant.

Costa Rica: June 25, 2012. London Olympics. S/s with two stamps, 365col, runner; 435col taekwondo.

Croatia: June 8, 2012. European Soccer Championships. 4.50k soccer players, balls. Offset in sheets of nine.

July 27, 2012. London Olympics. 3.10k Olympic rings.

Curacao: July 12, 2012. Sports. Pane of 8: athletes, 25¢ cycling; 50¢ swimming; 75¢ sailing; 100¢ soccer; 125¢ basketball; 150¢ karate; 175¢ running; 200¢ baseball.

Czech Republic: June 20, 2012. London Olympics. 20k emblem, ancient Greek and modern javelin throwers. Offset in sheets of three stamps and two labels.

Estonia: July 13, 2012. 100th Anniversary of first Olympic medal won by an Estonian. €1 wrestler Martin Klein.

France: September 7, 2012. World Karate Championship. S/s of three €0.89.

September 14, 2012. World Pétanque Championship. €0.89 boules and jack.

Great Britain: August 2-13, 2012. London Olympics. Olympic Gold Medal Winners. 29 nondenominated first-class stamps, self-adhesive sheets of six stamps.

August 31 - September 10, 2012. London Olympics. Paralympic Gold Medal Winners. 34 nondenominated first-class stamps, self-adhesive, sheets of two stamps.

September 27, 2012. London Olympics. Olympic and Paralympics Memories. Pane of four se-tenant stamps reproducing photographs, two nondenominated first-class stamps, procession of British Paralympic athletes; volunteers walking toward stadium; two £1.28 stamps, fireworks at Paralympics opening ceremony; Olympic closing ceremony and hand over to Rio Games.

Greece: July 2, 2012. London Olympics. €0.78 stamp, emblem, London Skyline, London Eye Ferris wheel; €1.70 soccer ball, tennis ball, sailboat, diver, gymnast, runner, cyclist, tennis player. Offset in sheets of eight.

July 16, 2012. London Olympics. Gold Medalist Greek Athletes at the Indoor Championships in Istanbul. Two souvenir sheets each with a €2.50 stamp, high jumper Dimitris Chondrokoukis.

Guyana: June 27, 2012. London Olympics. Two se-tenant \$125 stamps, showing mascots, Wenlock (Olympics); Mandeville (Paralympics).

Hungary: June 8, 2012. European Soccer Championships. 270ft soccer ball, players, map of Europe.

June 22, 2012. London Olympics. 315ft swimmer; 360ft kayakers.

Ireland: July 19, 2012. London Olympics. €0.5 symbolic design of medal ceremony; €0.82 symbolic design representing Ireland's proximity to London.

Isle of Man: September 3, 2012. London Olympics. Olympic Gold Medal Winners. Pane of 6, three 38p stamps with the same design, the Cycling stamp in the London Olympics issue of Jan. 1, 2012; and three £3 stamps with the same design, Cycling road race from the souvenir sheet of the Jan. 1, 2012 issue, printed se-tenant with labels.

Italy: July 21, 2012. Italian Soccer Championships. €0.60 Juventus Stadium, shields of Juventus and of Italy.

Kosovo: 2012. London Olympics. Majlinda Kelmendi in London, se-tenant pair of stamps, €0.70, €1 different views of the judo athlete. S/s with two of each stamp.

Latvia: July 14, 2012. London Olympics. 60s javelin.

Lithuania: June 8, 2012. London Olympics. Pair of tete-beche stamps, 3.35 litas boxer; 3.55 litas single scull.

Malta: July 27, 2012. London Olympics. S/s se-tenant pair, €0.37 logo; €2.11 Wenlock mascot with flame.

Micronesia: May 30, 2012. London Olympics. Pane of four 80¢ weightlifting; archery; tennis; equestrian.

Moldova: July 21, 2012. London Olympics. 4.50 lei wrestling; 5.40 lei cycling. Offset in sheets of 10.

Mongolia: July 5, 2012. London Olympics. Triptych of two stamps and a label, 700t Big Ben, Tower Bridge, red-double decker bus, flag; 800t athletes in various sports including martial arts, boxing, shooting, archery.

New Zealand: July 4, 2012. Tiki Tour/Part 2. Pane of 20 70¢ stamps. The following sports are depicted: golfer, sailing, deep-sea fishing, sailboats, horse jumping, surfing cow, shoe with cleats, women with surfboard, scuba diver, horse racing, mountain climbing, bungee jumping from bottles of Pinot Noir wine, skiing down mountain, jet boating, man fishing, stadium, couple skating, curling stone.

Palestinian Authority: June 2012. Recognition by the International Federation of Association Football (soccer), souvenir sheet with 1,000f stamp, soccer ball, flag.

Pakistan: June 5, 2012. 40th Anniversary United Nations Environment Program. One 8re stamps depicts polo at Shandur, the world's highest polo grounds.

Palau: March 26, 2012. London Olympics. Pane of four 80¢: tennis, swimming, weightlifting; basketball.

Papua New Guinea: June 18, 2012. Sports Legends. Two 1.20k stamps. Lamo Launa track and field; Martin Beni boxing; 6k Stanley Nandex kick boxing; 8k Willie Genia rugby. Pane of four se-tenant stamps, two 1.20k stamps Tau John marathon runner; Iwila Jacobs weightlifting; Takale Tune sprinter; 8k John Aba boxing. Souvenir sheet with 10k stamp Willie Genia rugby.

July 27, 2012. London Olympics. Pane of 3: 50t weightlifting; 55t swimming; 1k running relay. S/s 5k: boxing.

Philippines: June 15, 2012. White Water Rafting in Cagayan de Oro City. 9p white water rafting.

July 27, 2012. London Olympics. Four 7p stamps symbolic athletes, runner; boxers; swimmer; shooter.

Qatar: October 16, 2011. 11th Qatar Classic Squash Championship. S/s of four se-tenant 1r stamps.

December 9, 2011. Arab Games. Three 50d stamps.

St Pierre & Miquelon: July 11, 2012. Andre Paturel. €0.33 portrait, sailboat.

July 27, 2012. London Olympics. €1.07 women's boxing.

Singapore: July 27, 2012. London Olympics. Non-denominated "1st local" stamp, table tennis; 65¢ swimming; \$1.10 sailing; \$2 badminton. Offset in sheets of 10.

Tonga: June 25, 2012. London Olympics. 45¢ boxer; \$1.40 runner; swimmer. S/s of 3 stamps se-tenant.

Turkey: May 31, 2012. Tenth Turkish Olympics. Four se-tenant stamps, 50k, "10" with bull's eye; two 1 liras, map with flag design; flag in circle; 2 liras hats and faces.

Tuvalu: January 1, 2012. London Olympics. Pane of three 50¢ circular stamps showing medals, bronze; silver; gold. Souvenir sheet with \$1.50 stamps, Big Ben and other structures of London skyline.

United Arab Emirates: May 26, 2012. 22nd Al Gaffal 60-foot Traditional Dhow Sailing Race, 1dh, 5dh dhow-shaped stamps, different photographs of the dhows. Souvenir sheet with 15dh stamps, dhows.

Vanuatu: July 12, 2012. Kiwanis Charity Race Day. 35v jockey on horse, trophies; 50v horse race; 150v two horses racing, marching band; 250v horse race.

Vietnam: July 12, 2012. London Olympics. Four se-tenant stamps, 2,000d weightlifting; 3,500d fencing; 8,500d gymnast on pommel horse; 12,000d taekwondo.

COMMEMORATIVE CANCELS

by Mark Maestroni

THE NUMBERING SYSTEM

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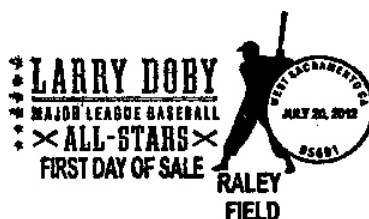
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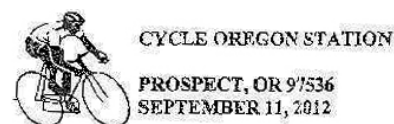
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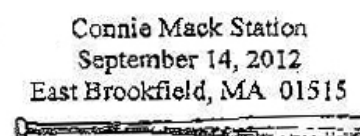
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