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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

JSP Articles of Distinction

Each year, the American Philatelic Society encourages its affiliates and clubs to submit an **Article of Distinction** for publication on the APS website. For the second year, SPI is participating with the help of our volunteer jury of Jim Bowman, Peter Laimins, and Clem Reiss. From the vast number of articles published in Volume 50 of *JSP* (Fall 2011-Summer 2012), they have nominated three articles for the members' consideration (listed in alphabetical order by author):

"The Game of Ten Pins," by Jim Leatherberry
(Fall 2011)

"Major Tournament Golf," by Patricia Loehr
(Spring 2012)

"Illustrated V-Mail With a Baseball Theme," by
Norman Rushefsky (Fall 2011)

All members are encouraged to reread these three excellent articles and submit their vote for the best article to Norman Rushefsky (9215 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910 or via his e-mail address listed below) no later than May 1. Thanks to Norman and his jury for their hard work!

PerfectCollector.com

As noted in my President's Message in the last issue of *JSP*, the Board of Directors has decided to terminate the SPI Auction due to lack of interest. Still, SPI members have mentioned that it would be nice if there were a mechanism on our website for listing and trading or selling material directly between members.

It's a great idea that would, however, be a bit beyond our site's current capabilities (and your webmaster's time constraints). There is a potential alternative. PerfectCollector.com is a new website devoted to collectors groups. SPI has been invited to join. And because we would be "early adopters" there would be no fee assessed to either the society or its members.

In short, PerfectCollector.com would allow members to list and illustrate any philatelic or memorabilia item, offer it for trade or sale ... or simply share your material with your fellow collectors. The best way to illustrate the site's capabilities would be to visit the Olympin Club's Marketplace:

<http://www.perfectcollector.com/communities/Olympin/marketplace/>

Take a look at Craig Perlow's profile which illustrates how someone can really show off both their collection and what they want to sell/trade:

<http://www.perfectcollector.com/users/BidMaster/>

The SPI Board of Directors is discussing taking up PerfectCollector.com's invitation, but we'd like to know what YOU, the collector, think. Drop me a line at my email address (shown below).

XIX World Olympic Collector's Fair

As we were going to press with this issue, an announcement arrived inviting all SPI members to the 2013 World Olympic Collector's Fair to be held in Bø, Norway from 26-28 July. The event coordinator is Halvor Kleppen who can be reached by e-mail at halvor@kleppen.com. Further details are available on the SPI website home page.

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

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CRICKET AND PHILATELY: CRICKET ON THE SUBCONTINENT – BANGLADESH

by Peter N. Street

*"I have not become the King's First Minister to
preside over the liquidation of the British Empire."*
Winston Churchill, 1942

Notwithstanding Churchill's brave words, by the end of the twentieth century all the European powers, except France, found it financially untenable to support their colonies leading to the founding of many independent nations.

The Indian subcontinent was divided, in 1947, into two separate countries mostly along religious and ethnic lines. The central and by far the largest part, was retained as Hindu India. The rest – Moslem Pakistan – was itself divided into West Pakistan bordering on Afghanistan, and East Pakistan abutting India and Burma (now Myanmar).

After a brief civil war in 1971, East and West Pakistan were separated. East Pakistan was re-named Bangladesh (Figure 1).

The first Bangladeshi stamps with a cricket theme were issued in 1988 and since then the country has produced a number of stamps, miniature sheets and event covers with cricket as their main topic. A number of these items will be discussed in this article.

After its war of independence, Bangladesh was faced with the problem of survival and thus could spare little energy on the furtherance of cricket. It wasn't until a military regime was established in 1976 that cricket saw a revival.

The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) team toured the country in 1976-77 playing four matches to large crowds.

In 1977 the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) was welcomed by the International Cricket Council (ICC) as an associate member.

The expansion of the game accompanied by the improvement of the infrastructure especially around the capital of Dhaka meant the standard of play began to improve. Soon, the national side began to experience some successes.

Bangladesh won the South-East Asia Cup in 1984, 1988 and 1992 and thus qualified to play in the Asia Cup.



Figure 1. The Indian subcontinent includes the nations of India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh (once known as East Pakistan).

In 1997 they won the ICC Trophy which qualified them for the 1999 World Cup. This success led to the award of one-day international and first-class status by the ICC.

Their performance in the World Cup and the popularity of the game at club, company and school levels, led to the BCCB seeking full Test Match status which was granted in the year 2000.

Initially the ICC was criticized for this action but in the last decade Bangladesh has gradually improved on an international level which seems to justify the ICC's action.

Also without this promotion it is doubtful whether Bangladesh could have obtained the money for development.

THE ASIA CUP

The senior international 50 over, one-day was initiated in 1984 and was meant to be played every two years. The competing countries were India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the three Test Match playing countries on the Indian subcontinent. Bangladesh joined in 1986.

The competition was a round-robin format with each team playing the other. The two most successful played in the final.



Figure 2. Bangladesh hosted the 3rd Asia Cup, issuing a set of 3 postage stamps to commemorate the event.

The 3rd Asia Cup was played in September and October 1988 and held at Dhaka and Chittagong in Bangladesh. Sri Lanka with three wins and India with two played in the final with India winning by 6 wickets. Bangladesh was without a win in their three matches.

To mark their hosting of the event, Bangladesh issued a three-stamp set showing a cricket match in progress. The 10-taka value shows a bowler and umpire with fielders in the background. A batsman making a pull shot is shown on the 5-taka stamp. Lastly, the 1-taka has a wicket-keeper crouching behind the stumps (Figure 2).

The 1991 Asia Cup (the fourth) was held in December 1990 at Calcutta, India. Pakistan did not participate reducing the competition to three matches. Bangladesh was again unsuccessful and the final was between India and Sri Lanka. India won by seven wickets. The match was postponed for 24 hours due to torrential rains. The highlight of the game was a hat trick (three wickets in successive balls) by India spin bowler, Kapil Dev. Dev was one

of the cricketers featured in St. Vincent's cricket issue of July 1988 (Figure 3).

An event cover was issued by Bangladesh to commemorate the competition. The cachet includes the reference to "India" as the host country (Figure 4).

No stamp or event cover was issued by Bangladesh to commemorate the 5th Asia Cup which was again won by India.

Pakistan returned for the 6th Asia Cup held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in July 1997. An event cover with a special wicket and bat postmark was produced by Bangladesh. The cachet shows the flags of the four competing nations and the logo of the sponsoring company, Pepsi Cola (Figure 5).

The 7th Asia Cup was held in May and June 2000 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It was won by Pakistan for the first time beating Sri Lanka in the final by 39 runs. Even though Bangladesh was playing on its home ground it again failed to win a single match.

A stamp issue for this competition, which was again sponsored by Pepsi Cola, shows a stylized batsman driving the ball. This time the Pepsi logo is reproduced on the stamp itself, directly above the country name. The first day cover's cachet depicts a wicket with a map of the Indian subcontinent as a backdrop (Figure 6).

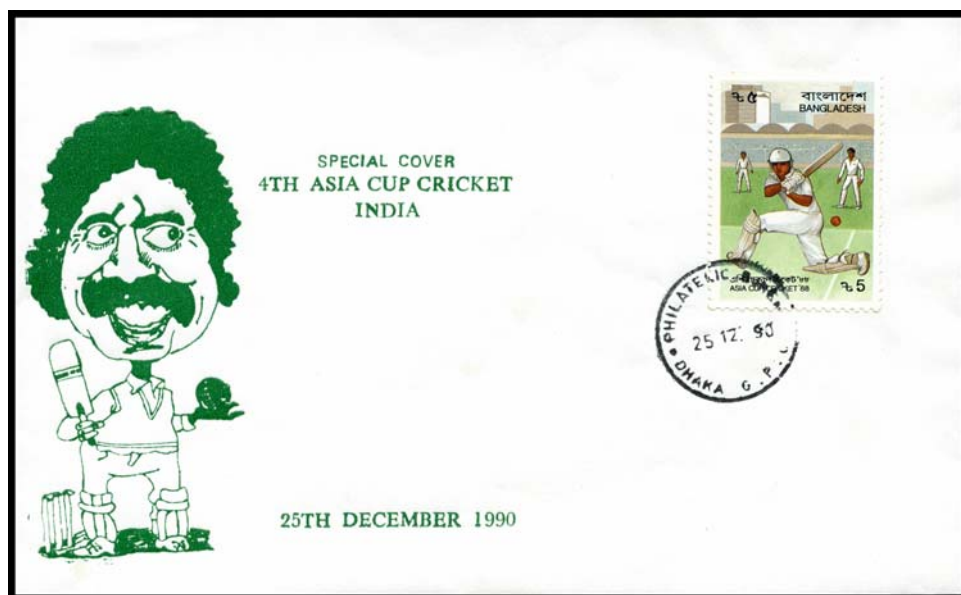
THE ICC TROPHY

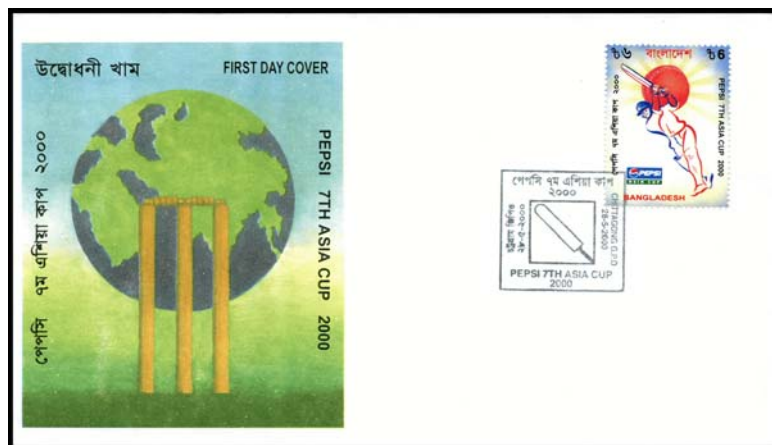
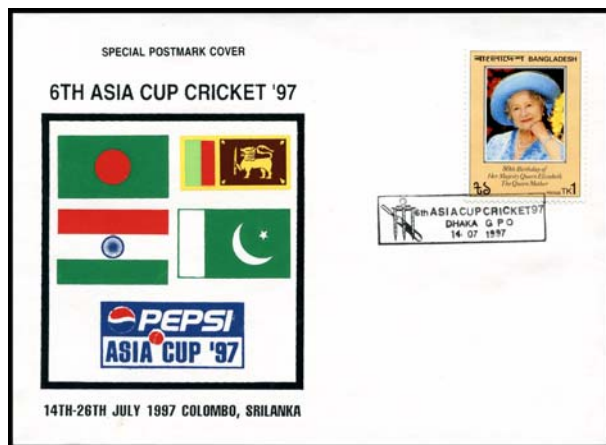
Associate membership in the ICC meant Bangladesh was eligible to play in the ICC Trophy – a qualifying competition for participation in the Cricket World Cup (CWC).



Figure 3 (above). Indian spin bowler Kapil Dev's hat trick was the highlight of the 4th Asia Cup.

Figure 4 (right). A special event cover postmarked in Dhaka on 25 December 1990 for the 4th Asia Cup held in India.





Figures 5 and 6. (Left) Bangladesh post office event cover for the 6th Asia Cup conducted in Sri Lanka. Note the prominence of Pepsi's sponsorship logo. (Right) An event cover for the 7th Asia Cup played in Bangladesh. This time Pepsi's name is included in the postmark and in the lower left corner of the stamp.

The Netherlands were selected as hosts for the June 1990 Trophy. This was the first time the contest was held outside England. Matches were played on coconut matting pitches at ten different club grounds in six major cities.

The seventeen teams who entered the competition were divided into four groups for the first round. Bangladesh was in a group with Kenya, Fiji and Bermuda. The Bangladeshi team won its three matches and thus moved into the next round where it finished second. Playing Zimbabwe in the semi-finals, they were beaten by 84 runs and thus missed out on the 1992 CWC.

Bangladesh issued a special event cover to mark this, their first time participating in the ICC Trophy. The cachet features a line drawing of a cricket bat and wicket (Figure 7).

The 6th ICC Trophy was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in March and April 1997 with 22 countries participating. Bangladesh won its group graduating to the next round. It won two matches in this round

(one rained out) and played Scotland in the semi-final which they won by 72 runs. Although the final, too, was marred by rain delays, Bangladesh eventually were successful beating Kenya by two wickets and thus were eligible for the 1999 Cricket World Cup.

Bangladesh issued a single stamp to celebrate their success featuring the trophy, a cricket ball and the Bangladesh flag. The cachet of the attractive first day cover shows the victorious Bangladeshi team (Figure 8).

Figure 8A. The special postmark commemorating the Bangladeshi team's victory at the 6th ICC Trophy Championship at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



Figures 7 and 8. The first ICC Trophy event to be held outside England was the 1990 event hosted by The Netherlands and commemorated by a Bangladesh event cover (left). In 1997, Bangladesh won its first ICC Trophy (right).



Figure 9. While Bangladesh would not make its debut in the World Cricket Cup until 1999, it issued a 3-stamp set for the 1996 event.



THE CRICKET WORLD CUP

The Cricket World Cup (CWC) is a 50 over single innings, one-day competition between the Test Match playing countries and the winners of the ICC Trophy.

Although Bangladesh did not participate in the 1996 CWC, which was played at various venues in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, they nevertheless issued three stamps to honor the event. The 4t stamp shows a bowler about to deliver the ball, while the 6t value is of a batsman making a drive shot with the wicket-keeper crouching behind the wicket. The 10t stamp depicts a cricket scene complete with umpire, batsman, bowler and wicket-keeper (Figure 9).

The 1999 CWC returned to England and in addition to the Test playing nations it included the three winners of the 1997 ICC Trophy – Bangladesh, Kenya and Scotland – making twelve teams in all.

The twelve teams were split into two equal groups with each team playing the other five in its group. The top three in each group advanced to the Super Six stage. Bangladesh finished second to last in its group and did not advance.

The attractive miniature sheet issued by Bangladesh contains two stamps (Figure 10). The emblems of the participating nations are shown on the 8t value. The 10t stamp reproduces a red cricket ball with a tiger's head superimposed upon it (although a white ball was used in the competition) and the Bangladeshi flag in the background. The tiger is featured in the emblem of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (previously the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board). The background of the miniature sheet shows the Bangladeshi team in their colorful uniforms and London's famous clock tower, Big Ben, emblematic of England, the host country.

South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya played host to the 8th CWC, the first time it had been held on the African continent. Bangladesh, now a Test playing nation, was one of the fourteen teams that took part in the competition. Bangladesh was in Group B with Kenya, New Zealand, South Africa, Sri Lanka and the West Indies. Bangladesh lost its five matches (one no con-

test) and thus did not

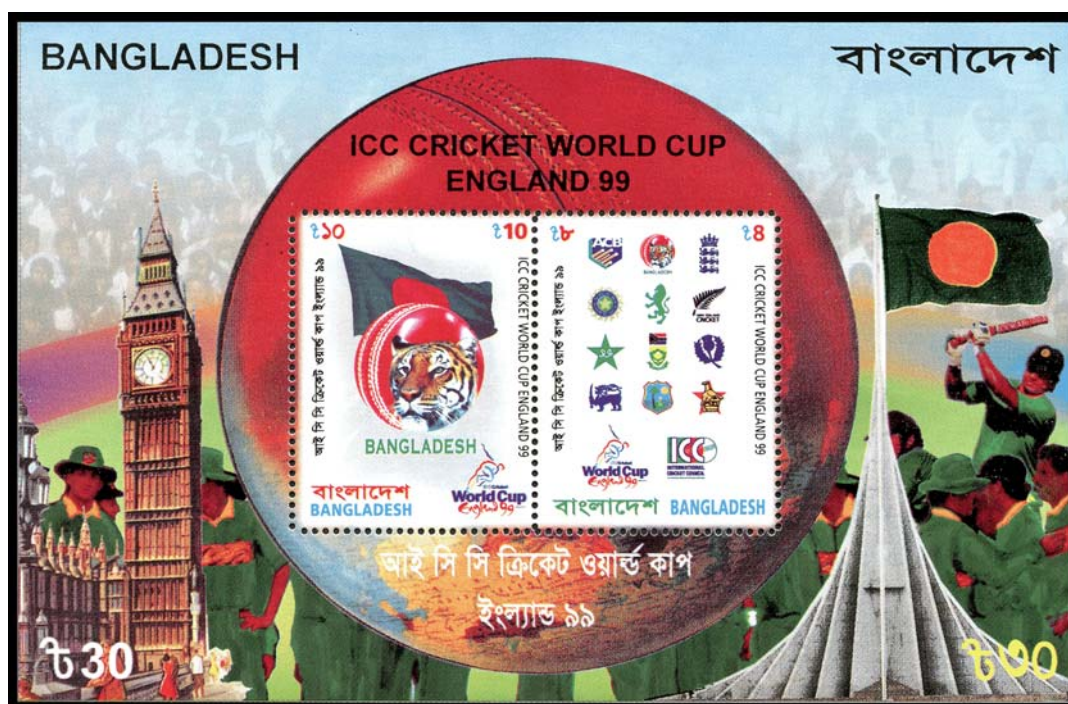


Figure 10. Souvenir sheet celebrating Bangladesh's first participation in the World Cup (1999).

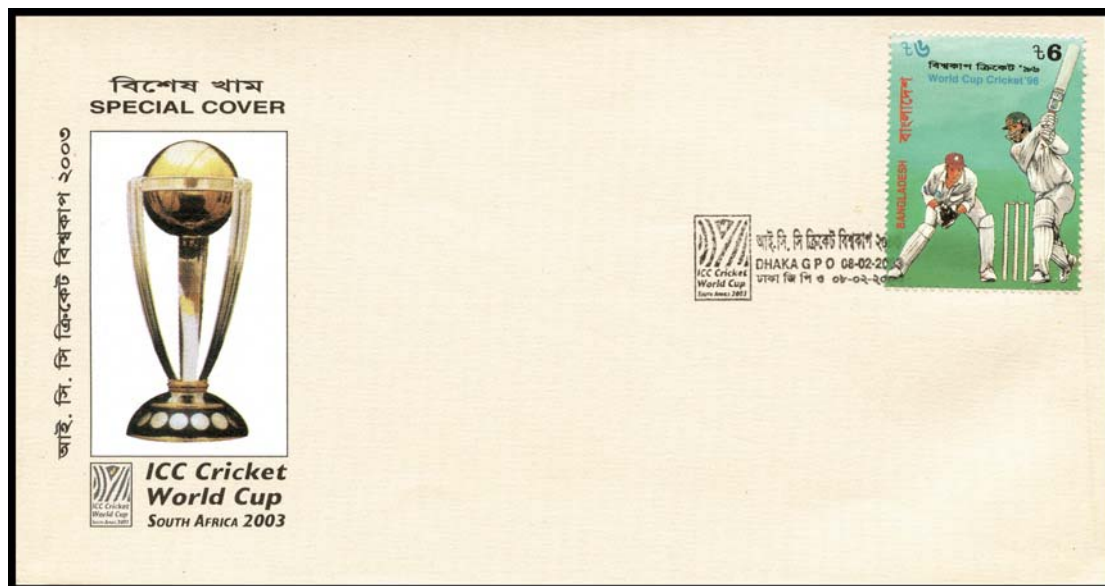


Figure 11. Cachet and postmark reproducing the logo of the 2003 Cricket World Cup played in South Africa.

advance to the next stage. They did, however, issue an event cover for the tournament featuring the Cup as the cachet (Figure 11).

The next CWC, the ninth, was played in the West Indies in 2007. No less than five teams from the ICC Trophy were added to Kenya and the ten Test nations. These sixteen teams were divided into four groups of four with the top two winners of each group advancing to the Super Eight stage.

Bangladesh finished a surprising second in Group B losing to Sri Lanka but beating India (unexpected) and Bermuda (expected). Although Bangladesh did not advance beyond the Super Eight stage, they did issue four 10t stamps in April 2007 to commemorate their participation. One shows the ball breaking the wicket with players celebrating in the background. A second depicts players with the World Cup in the background. A bowler and a Bengal tiger's head appear on a third value, while the final stamp in the series is of a batsman and the World Cup trophy (Figure 12).

The 10th CWC was slated to be played in 2011 on the Indian subcontinent with the four Test playing nations (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh) acting as hosts. However, Pakistan was barred from hosting matches for security reasons so their fourteen matches were spread among the remaining three host countries.

Bangladesh's matches were conducted in Dhaka and Chittagong. Their fortunes in the Group stage were decidedly mixed. They were all out to the West Indies for 58 runs and 78 all out to South Africa, but were able to beat England by 2 wickets.

Once again they failed to advance to the next stage.

Bangladesh issued four se-tenant stamps and a miniature sheet honoring their hosting duties. The four stamps show caricatures of a bowler, batsman, wicket-keeper and a fielder in that team's colored uniforms (Figure 13). The miniature sheet shows a bearded umpire giving the batsman out and with three fielders

appealing, also in caricature (Figure 14).



Figure 12. Issue for the 9th CWC in 2007. Printed se-tenant, the 4-stamp set had an odd configuration with two vertically oriented stamps turned 90° with respect to the pair of horizontal stamps.



Figure 13. One of three hosts for the 2011 CWC, Bangladesh issued four stamps with rather whimsical caricatures of cricket players.



Figure 14. A souvenir sheet which accompanied the stamp set for the 2011 CWC.

In addition to issuing philatelic items marking the Asia Cup, the ICC Trophy and the Cricket World Cup, Bangladesh produced a number of event covers, stamps and miniature sheets for other cricket competitions.

The Sharjah Cup was played at the Sharjah Cricket Ground, United Arab Emirates (UAE). Carved from the desert, the stadium was the brainchild of Abdul Rehman Bukhatir, a Sharjah businessman and cricket fanatic.

Although previous Sharjah Cup competitions had included other Test Match playing countries, the 1990 contest was limited to two matches between Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka won the first by 6 wickets and Pakistan the second by 50 runs. Pakistan took the Cup on superior run rate.

An event cover was issued by Bangladesh despite not having fielded a team. The cachet shows a broken wicket and the inscription "Sharjah-Cup Cricket, U.A.E." (Figure 15).

In 1998 Bangladesh invited the nine Test Match playing countries to the Wills International Cup, a one-day competition held in Dhaka.

The matches were contested between 24 October and 1 November before sell-out crowds. In the final, South Africa beat the West Indies by 4

wickets. Bangladesh issue a single stamp showing a batsman making a glance stroke (Figure 16). It has been suggested that he exhibits a strong resemblance to India's former captain and opening batsman, Sunil Gavaskar. St. Vincent included Gavaskar in its cricket issue of July 1988 (Figure 17).

When the Benson and Hedges Cup competition in England ended in 2002, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) needed a one-day competition to take its place. The cricketing authorities were looking to boost the game's popularity among the younger generation in response to dwindling crowds and reduced sponsorship for the longer versions of the game. The answer was the Twenty/20 (T20). As the name implies, this was a single innings match with each side having twenty overs. This meant the game would last from three

to four hours and could be played in the evening under floodlights, thus attracting the after-work fans.

This form of cricket quickly spread internationally. The inaugural ICC World Twenty/20 Cup was played in South Africa in 2007. Bangladesh was teamed with South Africa and the West Indies in Group A. Their one win – against the West Indies – enabled them to advance to the Super Eight stage playing in a group with Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Australia. They lost all three matches knocking them out of further competition.

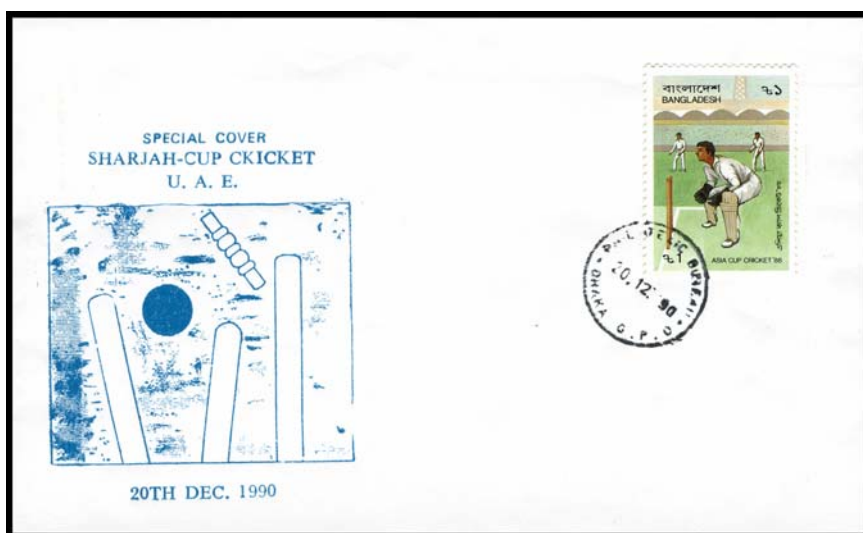


Figure 15. Another cricket competition commemorated by the Bangladesh post office was the 1990 Sharjah Cup, though the country did not field a team for the event.



Figures 16 and 17. Bangladesh hosted 9 Test playing nations at the one-day Wills Cup in Dhaka. Some believe the batsman shown on the Bangladesh stamp (left) greatly resembles the well-known Indian player and captain, Sunil Gavaskar (right).

An interesting sidelight occurred during the match between the West Indies and South Africa. The game was delayed for an hour due to rain and the pitch was dried by a hair dryer at the end of a long, long extension cord!

In the final, India beat Pakistan by 5 runs.

Bangladesh's pair of se-tenant stamps for this event show a batsman driving the bale with fielders in the background on one, while the other depicts a batsman completing a drive against a map of South Africa (Figure 18).

Such was the popularity of this new format that by the late 2000s it was decided that an ICC World Twenty/20 Tournament would take place every two years except when it clashed with the CWC.

The West Indies hosted the 2010 tournament. Bangladesh played in a group with Pakistan and Australia, but did not advance. In an unusual turn of events, a team from Afghanistan, by winning several qualifying rounds, was included in the competition.

The final took place at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados. England, rather surprisingly perhaps, beat Australia by 7 wickets.

Bangladesh issued a single stamp reproducing the logos of the twelve participating national teams (Figure 19).



Figure 18. The inaugural Twenty/20 World Cup at South Africa.

When friends ask me why cricket isn't an Olympic sport, my usual answer is that it was once – in 1900 in Paris (*JSP*, March/April 1993) but that most formats of the game are too long. However, with the introduction of the Twenty/20 format, this obstacle could be overcome. No less an authority than former Australian wicket-keeper, Adam Gilchrist, in a June 2009 lecture pushed for Twenty/20 to be included as an Olympic sport. "It would," he said, "be difficult to see a better, quicker or cheaper way of spreading the game throughout the world." Gilchrist was one of the "Champions of Cricket" included in a miniature sheet issued by Chad in 2000 (Figure 20).

A knockout competition prior to the Games could reduce the field to, say, eight or sixteen teams to actually play during the Games similar to the format for football (soccer).

One problem may be the availability of suitable pitches in some of the non-cricket playing countries where the Games are being held. The solution might be to use artificial drop-in pitches as used in World Series Cricket in 1977 (*JSP*, Fall 2004).

Finally, although Bangladeshi team play has improved recently, they are still mired at the bottom of the ICC ratings for Test matches, one-day international and Twenty/20. Hopefully as they begin to win more games they will issue more stamps to commemorate their successes.

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Figures 19 and 20. Perhaps the popularity of the new Twenty/20 format of cricket (left) will enable it to be readmitted to the Olympics, an idea promoted by Australian wicket-keeper, Adam Gilchrist (right).

HUNGARY SALUTES LONDON OLYMPICS AND HUNGARIAN OLYMPIC TEAM

by Mark Maestrone
contributed by Zoltan Klein

Olympic protocol during the Opening Ceremonies of the Olympic Games calls for the athletes (and judges) to take an Olympic Oath. The tradition since 1920 has been for a single athlete from the host nation to recite the oath on behalf of the assembled athletes.

At London, the honor went to Sarah Stevenson, a Taekwondo player competing at her fourth Olympic Games. While holding a corner of the Olympic Flag, right hand upraised, she swore "in the name of all competitors, I promise that we shall take part in these Olympic Games, respecting and abiding by the rules that govern them, in the true spirit of sportsmanship, for the glory of sport and the honour of our teams."

It is not unusual for individual national Olympic Teams to also take an oath. For Hungary's team, a formal ceremony on 22 June was held at the Palace of Arts in Budapest and commemorated with a special postmark (below):



Budapest 72, 2012. június 22

The postmark reads: (top) 30th Summer Olympics London; (middle) "Toward London!"; (bottom) Olympic oath at the Palace of Arts.



Hungary's pair of London Olympic Games stamps issued 22 June 2012.

Coinciding with this event was the first day of issue of the Hungarian Olympic stamps (above). The first day postmark (right) shows the easily-recognized London landmark, Big Ben.

The 315-forint value features a goggled male swimmer taking a breath during a freestyle event. Hungary traditionally fields very competitive swimming teams in Olympic competition. At London, they took two medals: a gold in the Men's 200m Breaststroke by Daniel Gyurta on 1 August, and a bronze the next day in the Men's 200m Individual Medley by Laslo Cseh. Cseh was in very good company on the medal stand with Michael Phelps (gold) and Ryan Lochte (silver)!

The higher value 360-forint stamp shows a pair of women kayakers (note the double-paddled oars). Although it is difficult to tell because of the way the kayak is depicted, this appears to be a double boat (rather than a single or four).

At the 2012 Olympics, Katalin Kovacs and Natasa Douchev-Janics competed for Hungary in the Women's Kayak Double (K2) 500m, winning the silver.

MOSFIT, the sport and Olympic philatelic society of Hungary, produced some interesting post cards to accompany the first day of the stamps.

Each of the three cards honors one of the London Olympic Games: 1908, 1948 and 2012.

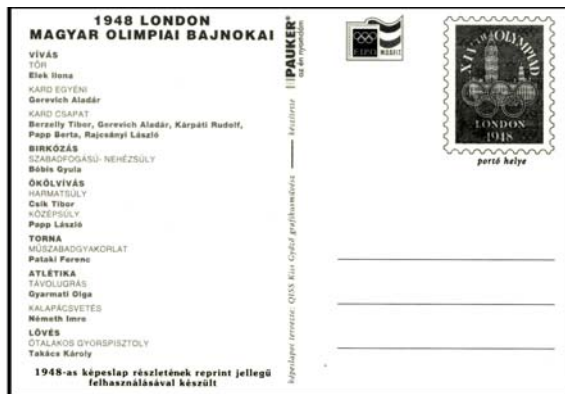
The picture side of each card reproduces the main stadium for each of the three Olympics: the Great Stadium (1908), Wembley Stadium (1948), and the Olympic Stadium (2012).





1918 Stadium postcard honoring Hungary's 3 gold medals – two in fencing and one wrestling.

By the 1948 Olympics, Hungary had increased its gold medal count to ten in six sports: athletics, boxing, fencing, gymnastics, shooting and wrestling.



The final card welcomes the athletes, coaches, sponsors and guests to the "oath" ceremony and is signed by Zsolt Borkai, President of the Hungarian Olympic Committee.



The final philatelic items announced prior to the start of the Olympics involved the team flights.

On 24 July, the Hungarian Olympic team departed Budapest for London aboard British Airways flight 869.

MOSFIT used a red cachet to commemorate the occasion. The text at top reads "Travel of the Hungarian Olympic Team."

The team returned on 13 August, the day following the Closing Ceremonies.

MOSFIT used a red cachet to announce the team flight. This time, however, projecting great success in London, the postmark's inscription labels this the arrival of the "Golden Airplane." As with all the teams, we congratulate their athletes!



1928 Olympic Fencing Postcards from Italy

by Mark Maestroni

In November 2012, while looking through the stock of a Belgian dealer at a New York postcard show, an SPI member ran across a series of 14 rather unusual postcards. Two others were reported bringing the total to 16.

The cards feature a line drawing with a fencing theme. The majority are humorous takes on one or more fencers, the judges, or innocent bystanders unfortunately positioned too close to the action! Captions typically refer to specific fencing terms in either French or Italian.

A small subset of these postcards – so far six different are known – harken back to the days of yore portraying famous swords and swordsmen. The illustrations on each of these six vertically-oriented postcards, are by Georges Villa (1883-1965) a French painter and lithographer who specialized in, among other things, sports subjects, particularly fencing.

Each of these Villa cards is entitled: “De taille et d'estoc / Aïeules celebres” which loosely translates as “With the edge and the tip [fencing term] / famous female ancestors” which I believe refers to the swords (in French, “sword” is feminine in gender). Captions identify the sword and owners.

Villa also has an Olympic connection: he competed in the arts competition at the 1924 Paris Olympic Games. His entry in the “Mixed Painting” category was entitled “Three Panels on Fencing.”

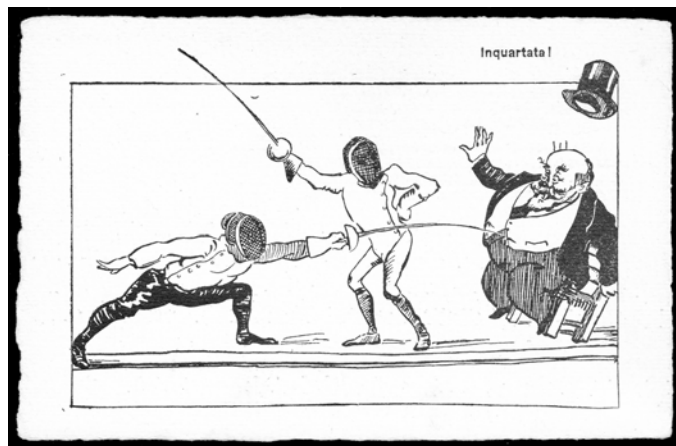
The source of the all these cards appears to be an Italian armorer in Verona, Buzzoni & Andreis. A Google



LES IX^{es} JEUX OLYMPIQUES
AMSTERDAM 1928
LA FABRIQUE D'ARTICLES D'ESCRIME
BUZZONI & ANDREIS - VERONE (Italie)
EN HOMMAGE AUX ESCRIMEURS.

search yielded no further information on them. Each card in the series is imprinted with the same boxed text (shown above) in the upper left corner of the reverse. This is the only reference to the 1928 Olympic Games in Amsterdam. The text below, also in French, translates as: “Manufacturer of Fencing Equipment / Buzzoni & Andreis - Verona (Italy) / A Tribute to Fencers.” A second set of identical card has been reported by another SPI member. On these, however, the text on the picture side is always in Italian. The reverse carries a different boxed inscription in the lower left corner: “Edizioni della Ditta / GAJARDONI e ANDREIS / Fabbrikante d'Armi da Scherma / VERONA”.

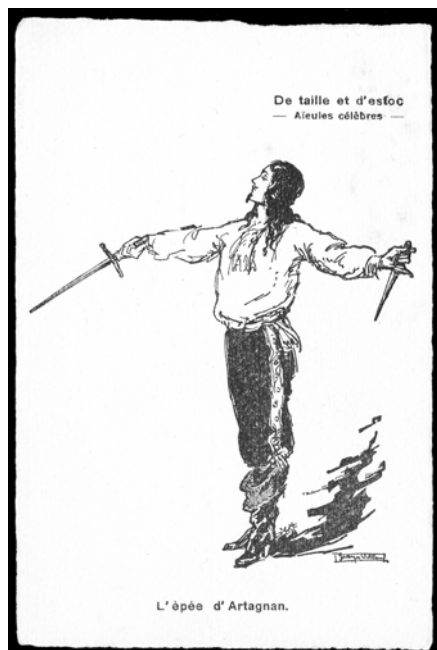
As these cards have never before been seen by the collector, the dealer, or reported in relevant auction catalogues, they are assumed to be quite rare. I welcome reports and scans of any additional cards or information on them. My contact information is provided on the inside front cover of the journal. 🐸



“In quartata!” [Italian] : “In quarter” involves twisting your body away - using a quarter turn to your left - to avoid your opponent’s lunge. Unfortunately, the rather corpulent spectator on the right wasn’t quite so agile.



“La ‘Passata sotto’ ...” [Italian]: “Passing low” is an evasive move requiring dropping a hand to the floor and ducking under the opponent’s oncoming blade – not really what’s happening here.



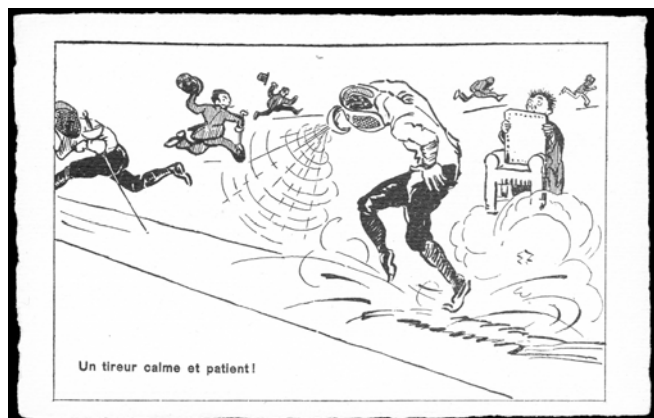
Villa card: "L'épée d'Artagnan" ("The sword of d'Artagnan" of Three Musketeers fame)



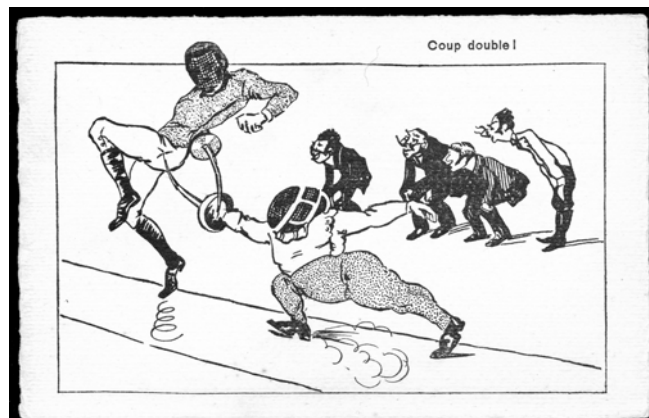
Villa card: "La Durandel du Compte Roland" ("Durandel" was the name of the sword belonging to the Roland, Charlemagne's paladin.)



Villa card: "La bonne épée du Chevalier Bayard" ("the good sword of the Knight Bayard." Bayard was also known as "The Good Knight")



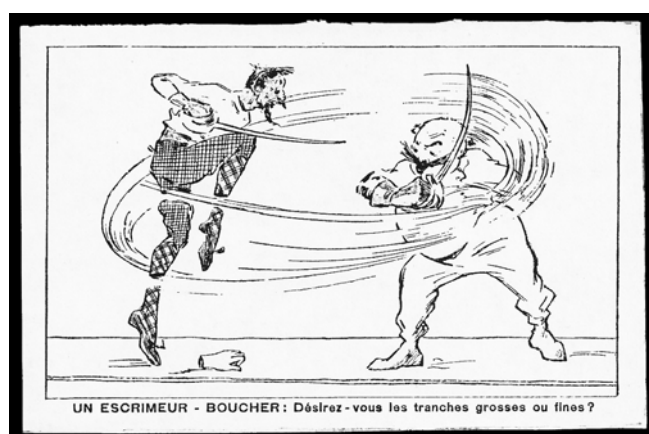
"Un tireur calme et patient!" [French]: a "calm and patient fencer" ... hardly!



"Coup double!" [French]: a "double touch" in which both fencers touch each other at nearly the same time, though I think the tall fencer got the raw end of the deal!



"La Flèche" [French]: an attack in which the aggressor leaps while attempting to hit and run past his opponent.



"Un Escrimeur - Boucher ..." [French]: The "Fencer - Butcher" asks, "Do you want the slices thick or thin?"



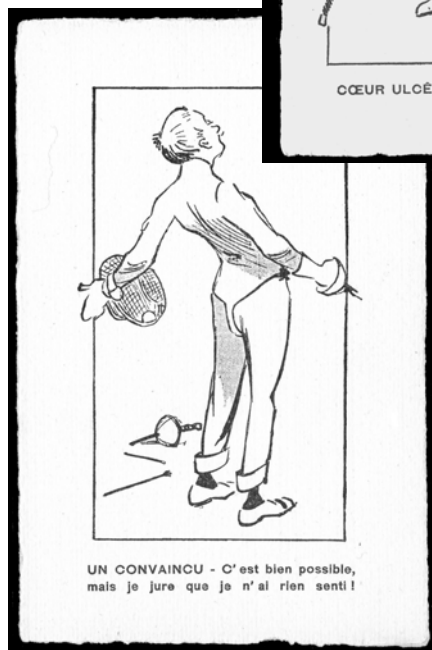
Villa card: "L'épée de Don Quichotte."



Villa card: "L'épée de Cyrano."



Villa card: "L'épée du Gladiateur."



(Left) "Un Convaincu ...": Convinced one - it is possible, but I swear I did not feel anything!

(Above left) "Coeur Ulcéré ...": Angry one - dirty rotten jury.

(Above right) "Un coup douteux ...": A doubtful match ...

(Right) "Un Sincère ...": Sincere one - [the meaning of the remainder of this sentence is a mystery.]





Figure 12. First Day Cover of the 50th Intercity Amateur Baseball Championship in Tokyo and Korakuen Baseball Stadium scenic postmark (1979).

Scenery Baseball Postmarks of Japan

by Norman Rushefsky
& Masaoki Ichimura

Two types of pictorial postmarks are found in the philately of Japan. The first are commemorative postmarks which honor a particular event and are generally used by a post office for a relatively short duration. The second type – scenery postmarks – are intended for a more permanent use by a particular post office.

Scenery postmarks were first used in Japan in 1931 by the Fuji-San and Fujisan-Kita post offices which were to be opened in the summer only near the summit of Mount Fuji. Soon thereafter other post offices in Japan began using scenery postmarks which were found to be quite popular. About 1000 different postmarks were used up until 1940 when they were temporarily discontinued during the Sino-Japanese conflict. Although these scenery postmarks were applied to ordinary letters the majority are found on *kampaku* or government postal cards.

Scenery postmarks typically feature a scene and/or activity that pertains to the particular area of the post office concerned, the name of the post office and the date of posting expressed in year, month, day. Commemorative postmarks, on the other hand, typically feature additional wording relative to the event commemorated.

For postmarks up to 1988, the year is expressed in years of the Showa Era which commenced in 1926. Thus, year 11 of the Showa Era may be converted by adding 1925 resulting in the year 1936. Postmarks after 1988 fall in the Heisei Era. To convert year 11, add 1988 to express the year 1999.

Baseball is one of the most popular sports in Japan with numerous professional teams of very high level. In addition high school baseball is extremely popular and the championship which takes place annually at Koshien is of national importance. Therefore, it is not unexpected that numerous scenery postmarks with a baseball theme have been provided in Japan.

Figure 1. Scenery postmark from the Yokohama Naka post office used in 1978. It shows a picture of Yokohama Stadium home of the Yokohama Bay Stars professional baseball team. The postmark also features a view of a subway car. Yokohama is the capital city of Kanagawa prefecture and is the second-largest city by population in Japan.

Figure 2. March 24, 1989 (1, 3, 24) postmark from the Yokohama Sakuragaoka post office and illustrates a baseball player at Hodogaya Baseball Stadium in Kanagawa prefecture.

Figure 3. 1999 scenery postmark from Nagasaki Koebaru post office and features the Koebarudai tennis ground and illustrates a baseball player at Nagasaki City Athletic Park Stadium.

Figure 4. 1999 scenery postmark from Kumagaya Kubojima post office and illustrates baseball players in Kumagaya Athletic Park Stadium in Saitama prefecture.

Figure 5. 1993 postmark from Tomakomai Kiba post office in Tomakomai City, Hokkaido prefecture. The postmark shows Tomakomai City Midorigaoka Stadium. The stadium is now part of an athletic park and the city has declared itself the City of Sport.

Figure 6. 2002 scenery postmark from Takasaki Shingokan post office showing the Takasaki Municipal and Jonan Baseball Stadium. Women's softball

is played here. Also, the minor league Saitama Seibu Lions of the Eastern League host an official game here in early summer.

Figures 7 and 8. 1993 and 2002, respectively, scenery postmarks from Nagoya Goniyoushi. They feature a baseball batter at Nagoya Stadium.

Figure 9. 1998 scenery postmark from Nagoya Yada post office illustrating the Nagoya Dome home of the Chunichi Dragons professional baseball team of the Central League.

Figure 10. 1990 postmark from Asahikawa Shunko post office. Shown is the Asahikawa Starrfin Stadium with the statue of Victor Starrfin. Starrfin was named "the blue-eyed Japanese" and was an ethnic Russian and first professional pitcher in Japan to win 300 games. Starrfin played from 1936 to 1944 mostly in the Japanese dead ball era before 1945. He was placed in a detention camp during World War II with other foreign diplomats and residents. Starrfin was the first foreigner elected to the Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame.

Figure 11. 1998 postmark from Tokyo's Hoya Higashi Fushimi post office illustrating the sports of baseball, rugby and soccer.

Figure 12 (illustration on previous page). First Day Cover of the 50th intercity amateur baseball championship stamp issued in 1979. The FDC



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 13a



Figure 13b



Figure 14



Figure 17



Figure 18

includes a scenery postmark from Tokyo's Koishikawa post office showing the Korakuen Baseball Stadium and a special commemorative postmark also from Koishikawa used for the first day of issue. Korakuen Stadium was primarily used for baseball and was home to the Yomiuri Giants until 1988 when they moved next door to the Tokyo Dome.

In 1942 Korakuen Stadium played host to a memorable 28 inning, 311 pitch, complete game effort by Michio Nishizawa.

It also hosted the Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame. On August 16, 1976, it hosted the first NFL (American football) game played outside of North America when the St. Louis Cardinals defeated the San Diego Chargers 20-10 in a preseason game before 38,000. The stadium was also used as a concert venue for superstars.

Figure 13a. 1933 scenery postmark from Nishinomiya post office showing Ebisu (God of Business Prosperity) and a baseball stadium. Nishinomiya is best known as the home of Kōshien Stadium, where the Hanshin Tigers baseball team plays home games and where Japan's annual high school baseball championship is held.

The All-Japan High School Baseball Championship Tournament, commonly known as "Summer Kōshien," is the largest scale amateur sport event in Japan. The tournament, organized by the Japan

High School Baseball Federation and the newspaper firm *Asahi Shimbun*, takes place during the summer school vacation period, culminating in a two-week final tournament stage with 49 teams in August at Hanshin Koshien Stadium in the Koshien district of Nishinomiya City, Hyōgo, Japan.

There is also another annual baseball tournament at Koshien: The National High School Baseball Invitational Tournament of Japan, commonly known as "Spring Kōshien" or "Senbatsu."

Figure 13b. Revised scenery postmark in 1950 from Nishinomiya.

Figure 14. Similar to Figure 13 but from Hyogo Kami Koshien post office.

Figure 15. A 1985 postmark that is also from the Hyogo Kami Koshien post office and shows Koshien Stadium and the Mukogawa cycling path. The Echo postal card upon which the postmark is applied commemorates the 60th anniversary of Municipal Organization enforcement in Nishinomiya City and states "Nishinomiya is full of hope Future'85." The stadium illustrated on the Echo card is Koshien Stadium.

Figure 16. A 1968 FDC of the two stamps issued to commemorate the 50th All-Japan High School Baseball Championship Tournament. The FDC includes both scenery and commemorative postmarks from the Nishinomiya post office.

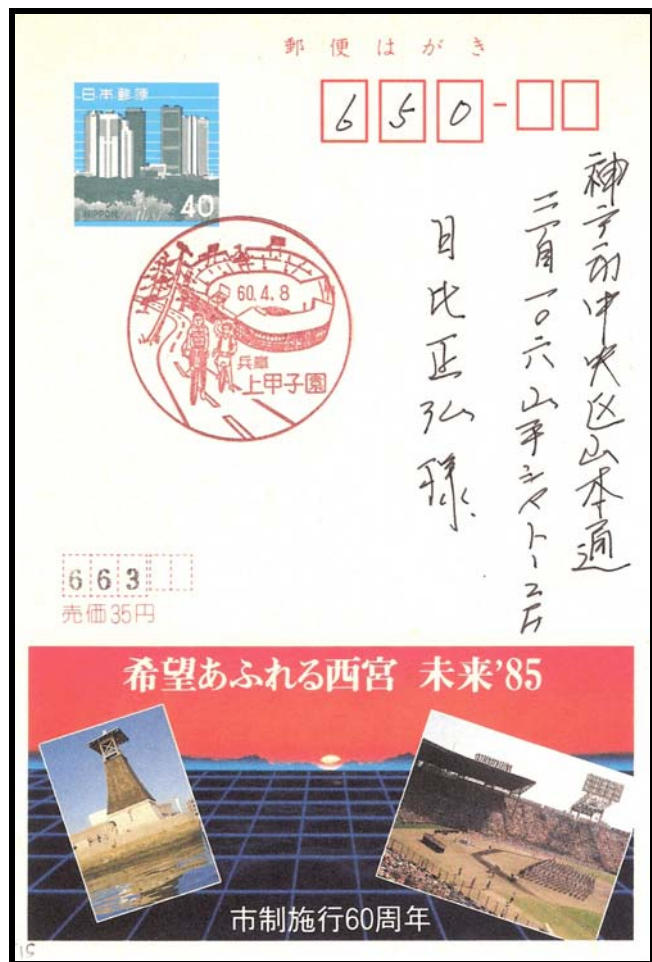


Figure 15. Echo postal stationery card from the Hyogo Kami Koshien post office. Postmark shows Koshien Stadium and the Mukogawa cycling path.

Figures 17 and 18. Scenery postmarks from Nishinomiya Higashi post office showing a pitcher (year 1978) and batter (year 1980) respectively at Koshien Stadium.

Figure 19. 1980 scenery postmark similar to

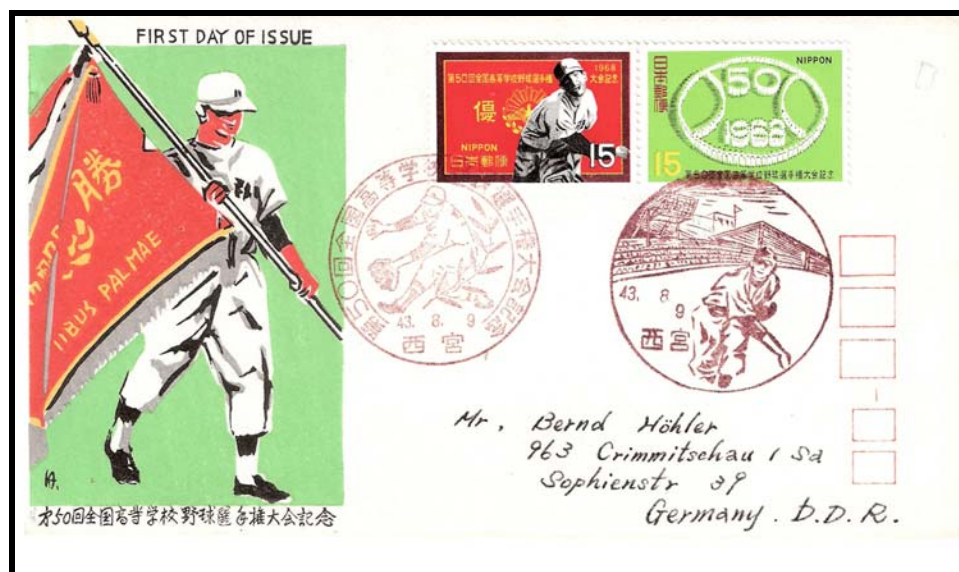


Figure 16 (left). FDC from the Nishinomiya post office for the stamps issued to commemorate the 50th All-Japan High School Baseball Championship Tournament.

Figure 18 but from the Koshien post office.

Figure 20. Koshien Stadium on a 2001 scenery postmark from the Nishinomiya Minami Koshien post office.

Figure 21. Also a 2001 scenery postmark showing Koshien Stadium, but from the Nishinomiya Hamakoshien post office.

Figure 22a. 1979 postmark from the Naniwa post office in Osaka. The postmark shows Tsutenkaku (Tower Reaching Heaven) a well-known landmark of Osaka advertising Hitachi and located in the Shinsekai district of Naniwa-ku, Osaka. The postmark also shows Osaka Stadium (also called in Japan "Naniwa Stadium"). The stadium opened in 1950 and was home to the Pacific League professional baseball team Nankai Hawks until they moved to a different stadium in 1988.

Figure 22b. Similar to Figure 22a, but dating to 1990, also from the Naniwa post office.

Figure 23. A First Day Cover for the stamp issued in 2002 for the 85th Lions Club International Convention at the Osaka Dome Stadium. The FDC includes a scenic postmark from the Osaka Nishi post office. This stamp is a special prefecture issue of Osaka. Since 1989, each Japanese prefecture issues its own stamps. These "local" issues may be bought at post offices in the area where they have been issued and at larger post offices around the country and can be used on mail everywhere in the country. Beginning in 1997, this baseball stadium was the home field of the Kintetsu Buffaloes. In 2005, the stadium became one of the homes of the Orix Buffaloes, a result of the merger between the Orix Blue Wave and Kintetsu Buffaloes. The Hanshin Tigers also use the stadium as their "home field" for their season

openers and their home games in August because their stadium, Koshien Stadium, is used for the spring and summer Koshien high school baseball tournaments during those periods.



Figure 19

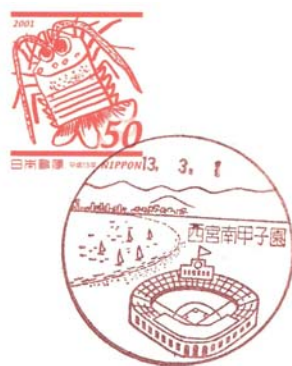


Figure 20

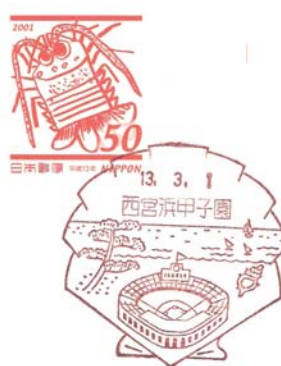


Figure 21



Figure 22a



Figure 22b



Figure 24



Figure 25



Figure 26



Figure 27



Figure 28

Figure 24. The Chiba Marine Stadium is featured on a 1992 postmark of Mihama. The stadium is the home field of the Chiba Lotte Marines baseball team. The postmark also shows the nearby Makuhari Messe, Japan's second largest convention center.

Figure 25. 1990 postmark from Hachinohe that features a baseball stadium in Hachinohe Higashi Athletic Park.

Figure 26. The Sapporo Maruyama Baseball Stadium built in 1934 is shown on a 1989 Sapporo Maruyama postmark. The stadium is currently used for high school and amateur baseball games. The postmark also features the Maruyama Zoo.

Figure 27. A 1988 postmark from Minamiasama (Matsumoto City) of Nagano Prefecture reproducing the Matsumoto Baseball Stadium possibly used by the baseball team of nearby Shinshu University.

Figure 28. 1987 postmark of Shizuokakurihara. In the 1934 visit to Japan by American Major League Baseball All-Stars, a 17-year-old pitcher, Eiji Sawamura, struck out nine batters including in succession Charley Gehring, Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig and Jimmie Foxx at Shizuoka Kusanagi Baseball Stadium (depicted on the postmark). The stadium hosts amateur baseball games and holds some official Nippon Professional Baseball games. The stadium is part of Kusanagi Sports Park. In 1935 Sawamura joined the Tokyo Giants team. He later joined the Japanese Imperial Army; he was killed in 1944. The Sawamura Award is named in his

Figure 23 (right). A 2002 First Day Cover for the 85th Lions Club International Convention at the Osaka Dome Stadium with a scenic postmark from the Osaka Nishi post office.





Figure 29. 1984 FDC for the 50th anniversary of Japanese Professional Baseball. 17-year-old Eiji Sawamura is depicted on the cachet and upper left stamp.

honor and is Japan's equivalent to Major League Baseball's Cy Young Award for the best pitcher. The statues of Sawamura and Babe Ruth are outside the stadium.

Figure 29. The FDC of three stamps issued in 1984 for the 50th anniversary of Japanese Professional Baseball. One of the stamps showing a pitcher and the cachet illustrates a likeness of Sawamura.

Figure 30. Our final postmark is from Koishikawa post office and shows the Koishikawa Botanical Gardens and cherry blossoms as well as the Tokyo Dome Stadium, home of the Yomiuri Giants, Japan's most popular baseball team. The Tokyo Dome opened March 17, 1988 and this date (63. 3. 17) is the first day of use of this postmark. The Tokyo Dome is nicknamed "The Big Egg" and in addition to baseball has hosted basketball, American football and other sports and entertainment events. It is the location of the Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame.

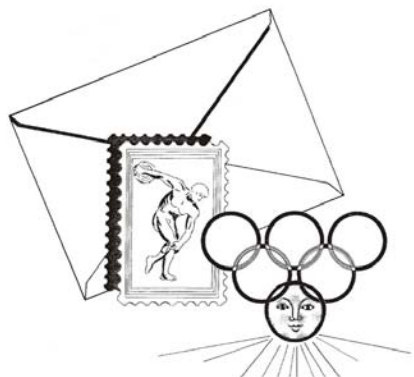
Scenery postmarks have also been shown to be popular in Canada and hundreds of post offices there have created scenery postmarks with local themes that are available for postmarking envelopes upon request. A number of these are sports related and several relate to baseball. Scenery postmarks of Canada are available for review at:

www.canadapost.ca/cpo/mc/personal/collecting/cancels/index.jsf

Last year the United States Postal Service announced a program called The Postmark America program for providing scenery postmarks featuring designs pertinent to the local area that would be available for postmarking mail on request on any day the post office is open. One might expect some of these will be sports related.



Figure 30. The famed Tokyo Dome Stadium, home of the Yomiuri Giants.



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100th Grey Cup Game – A Post Game Addendum

by Kon Sokolyk

In the article “Canada’s Grey Cup” that appeared in the Fall 2012 issue of *JSP*, it was noted that Canada Post had released two sets of stamps in 2012 to celebrate the 100th Grey Cup Game.

As the game approached and game-related festivities began, Canada Post continued its association with the historic event.

In early September, a specially outfitted train – an engine and five cars – embarked on a cross Canada tour celebrating the Grey Cup. Described as a football museum on rails, the train’s first car was “wrapped” in giant Canada Post Grey Cup stamps. The tour traversed 8,000 kilometers in ten weeks and included 138 viewing stops before concluding its journey in Toronto on November 17.

At train stops in eight cities, Canada Post offered a one-day use commemorative cancel. Featured on the cancel were the 100th anniversary logo, an image of the train and the name of the train sponsor Rona (a Canadian hardware and home improvement retailer). Rona also produced a card featuring the train as it made its way through the Rocky Mountains. All the cancels were identical other than the date and location:



Calgary	2012-09-22
Regina	2012-09-30
Winnipeg	2012-10-06
Halifax	2012-10-13
Montreal	2012-10-20
Ottawa	2012-10-27
Hamilton	2012-11-10
Toronto	2012-11-17

Canada Post provided an additional commemorative cancel that was used in the host city Toronto between November 15 and 25 to promote the Grey Cup Game and the related festivities. It too featured the 100th anniversary logo.

The Grey Cup Game was played on Sunday November 25 with the home-town Toronto Argonauts defeating the Calgary Stampeders 35-22. That evening, Canada Post



Card produced by Rona, sponsor of the Grey Cup 100 Train Tour across Canada.

announced that it was issuing a stamp to salute the Grey Cup champion Argos. The stamp was initially made available on November 28 at select post offices in Toronto and through the National Philatelic Centre. There was no official first day cover.

The stamp was an overprint of the Grey Cup stamp issued in booklet form of ten self-adhesive stamps on August 16. Canada Post held back from circulation 30,000 booklets and after the championship game ended commenced with the overprinting of the stock with the Toronto Argonauts logo on the upper right part of the stamp and the words “Congratulations! Félicitations!” in the selvage at the top. As well, the bar code on the back was blacked-out and a new bar code printed. Overprinting the Argo logo proved challenging for Canada Post as the “A” should be white. This was not possible to do given the silver grey background of the stamp. As a result, a metallic silver ink had to be used. 🐻

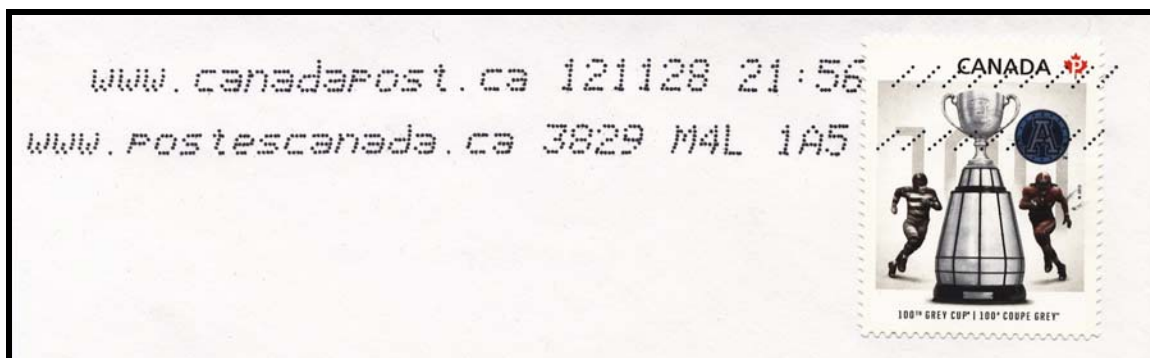
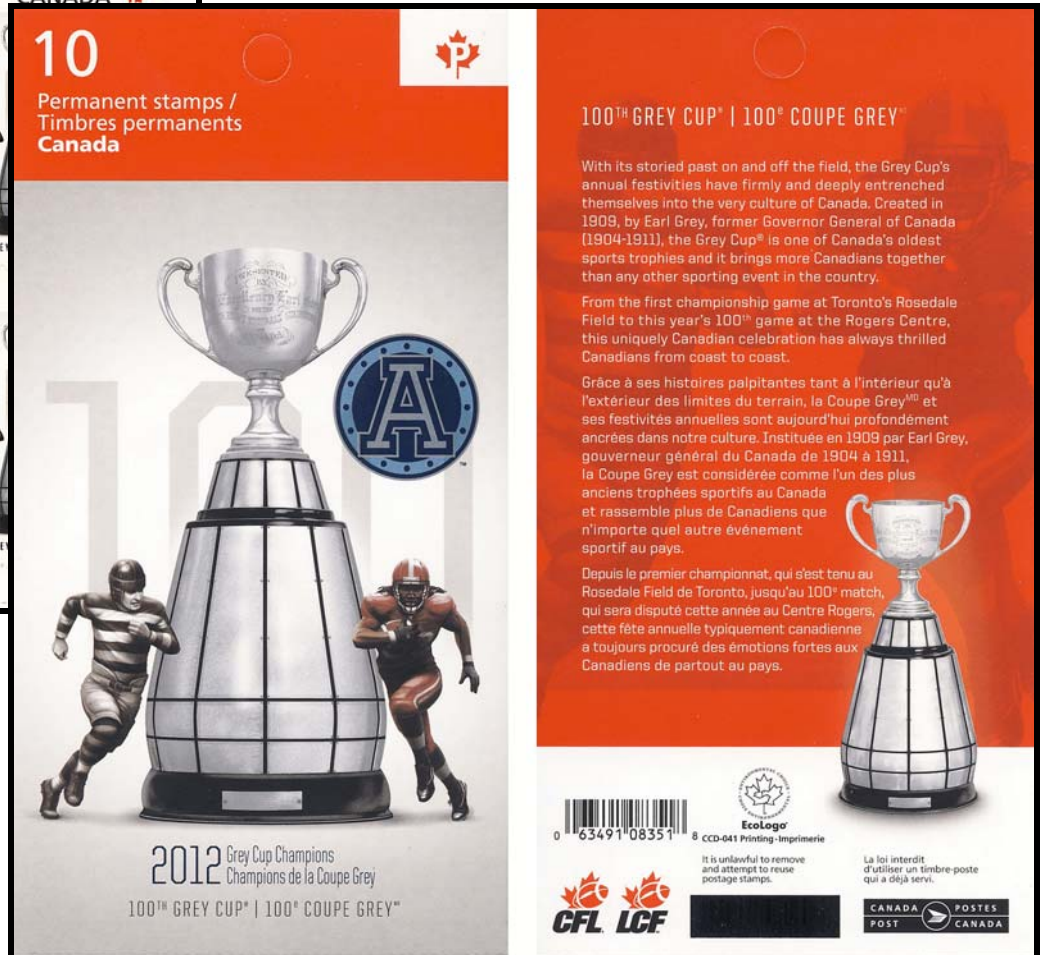
A special thank you to Jim Phillips, Director, Stamp Services, Canada Post.



The overprinted stamps in booklets of 10. Above, the upper half of the stamp pane showing the "Congratulations" text at top. Right, the front and back sides of the cover.



The stamp as originally issued (left) and with the silver overprint (right).



Overprinted Grey Cup stamp on the first day of use in Toronto. Stamp purchased and posted at noon and postmarked at 21:56 that same day.



Figure 1. Souvenir sheet of three Olympic mascot stamps on a first day cover from Moscow dated 27 February 2012.

The next Olympic Games are just around the corner!

by Jean-Louis Emmenegger

Collectors from around the world are getting excited as the next Olympic Games approach: Sochi 2014, Rio de Janeiro 2016 and PyeongChang 2018!

The host cities of the next three Olympic Games have been known for quite some time and their Organizing Committees are working hard to get these huge projects completed on schedule. In chronological order, the Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia will arrive first with the opening day set for 7 February 2014. For these Olympics, Russia has invested huge sums of money – the most recent estimate is \$50 billion – to ensure the Games' success.

Sochi 2014

These Olympic Winter Games will ask much of Olympic collectors in not only time but money, if they wish to

obtain all the stamps, postal stationery, coins and memorabilia that will be issued! Last year's London Olympic Games brought a flood of special stamps, regular stamps, gold medalist stamps, souvenir sheets, first day covers, special covers, meters, postmarks, etc. If one includes pins, coins and other memorabilia, the London Games probably set a new record in the number of souvenir items for a



Figure 2. Russian postal stationery for the Sochi Paralympic Games with a cachet portraying the mascots. The mascot die-cut stamp is also used with the Moscow first day postmark on 27 February 2012.



Figure 3. 2012 Olympic Tourism issue showing: (15r) Gelendzhik, rock “sail”; (20r) Sochi, railway station; (25r) Sochi, tree nursery; and (30r) Sochi, Orekhovskiy waterfall.

single Olympics. If current trends are any indication, the Olympic Games of Sochi are well placed to meet, if not exceed, London’s record!

To date, there have been so many issues of stamps, souvenir sheets and especially postal stationery that even Russian collectors are having difficulty keeping up.

Two souvenir sheets were issued 27 February 2012 depicting the mascots for both the Olympic (Figure 1) and Paralympic Winter Games (Figure 2). The self-adhesive stamps on each sheet are free-form die cut, resembling colorful stickers.

Two months later (27 April 2012), Russia Post added to its series of Olympic Tourism stamps depicting notable monuments or attractive natural landscapes in the Sochi/Black Sea region (Figure 3). Each of the four values was issued in two formats: individually in miniature sheets, and as a group in souvenir sheets. Each miniature sheet (Figure 4) included six copies of a stamp, plus six text-only labels describing the stamp. Each of the six labels was in a different language: Russian, English, Chinese, German, French, and Spanish.

Each souvenir sheet (Figure 5) included one of each of the four different values with four attached labels. In this case, however, all the labels on a souvenir sheet were in the same language. Thus, there were a total of 6 different souvenir sheets.

A single stamp with a very different design was released on 18 September 2012. This QR (for “Quick Response”) stamp (Figure 6) features a square bar code that when scanned with a mobile phone application opens a browser window connected to the Sochi 2014 website. The 25-ruble stamp was issued in miniature sheets of nine.



Figure 4. One of the four miniature sheets for the 2012 Olympic Tourism issue showing the 15r value with labels in six different languages.



Figure 5. One of the six souvenir sheets showing all four stamps with labels in a single language – in this case English.



Figure 6. QR (Quick Response) stamp with first day postmark. This is the first Olympic stamp to use QR technology.



Figure 7. Final issue of 2012, and the second in the sports series, showing the sports of Alpine skiing, bobsleigh, skeleton, speed skating, snowboarding and freestyle skiing.

The final set for 2012, issued on 19 October, adds to the Olympic sport series begun in 2011. The new set (Figure 7), consisting of six stamps each with a value of 25 rubles, depicts athletes in action in the sports of Alpine skiing, bobsleigh, skeleton, speed skating, snowboarding, and freestyle skiing. The stamps were issued individually in miniature sheets of eight stamps with a central label reproducing the Sochi 2014 logo.

Many postal stationery envelopes and postal cards with a pre-printed stamp (indicium) have been issued designated for either Priority service or regular mail. These stationery pieces exist post-marked on the first day of sale in Moscow and Sochi. Certainly between now and opening day many more philatelic items will be issued!

During the Sochi Games, it is expected that there will be special temporary post offices opened for visitors and probably also for the athletes in the Olympic Village.

Rio de Janeiro 2016

Following Sochi, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil will celebrate the Summer Olympic Games of 2016. The official logo has been selected and the mascots have been chosen. But what about special Olympic stamps? Here, we arrive at an interesting point!

Based on information from Brazilian collectors, special miniature sheets with two 3D stamps (Figures 8 & 9) were to be issued for both the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Additionally,



Figure 8. 3D Olympic souvenir sheet.



Figure 9. 3D Paralympic souvenir sheet.

sheets of 18 stamps (3 x 6) for both events were planned (Figure 10).

All these products should have been issued on 27 June 2012 at the conclusion of the London Olympic Games. Similar items were also to be issued the same day for the 2016 Paralympic Games. But these issues were not released; instead, they were postponed to 28 December 2012. Again, when that date rolled around, the stamps were once again postponed (date not announced).

The reason for the delays involves a problem with authorization for use of the trademarked Rio 2016 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games logos on the stamps. It seems that Brazil Post is reluctant to pay the required royalties!

Brazil Post announced these issues in its 2012 Stamp Program, publishing illustrations of each miniature sheet and stamp. As is customary, it sent inventories of the printed miniature sheets and stamps to some Philatelic Agencies (regional postal agencies of Brazil Post) in various regions of Brazil prior to the revised release date of 28 December 2012. Some of these special sheets “should have been sold” to some collectors already cancelled (on the images we received, the name of the city has been made illegible in order to sell them).

As the pair of miniature sheets and sheet stamps are already printed, one would hope that it is only a matter of time before they are available for sale in

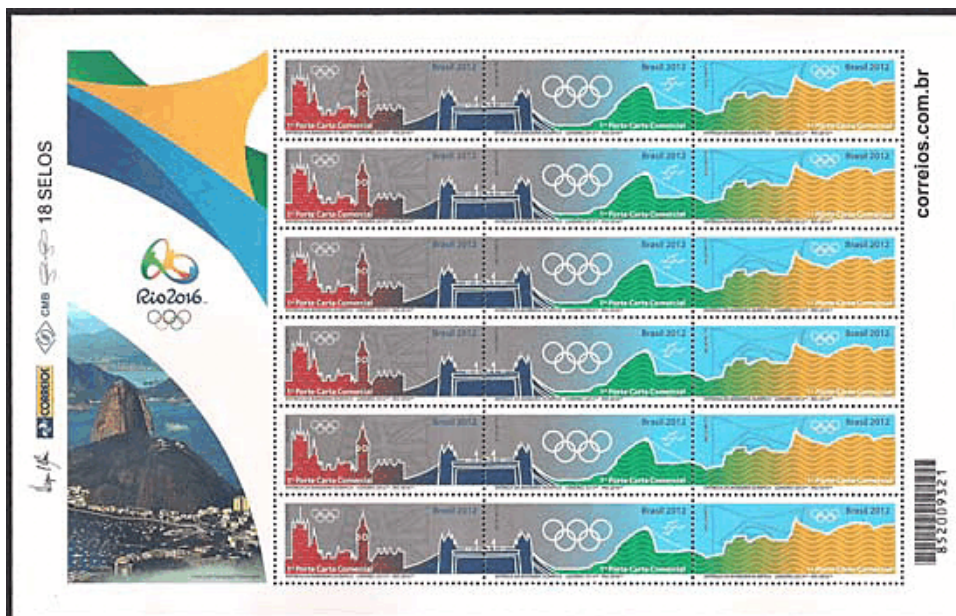


Figure 10. Sheet of 18 stamps (3 designs) for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. A second similar sheet carrying Paralympic markings was also planned.

post offices throughout Brazil. The big question, of course, is when?

PyeongChang 2018

Two years after Rio de Janeiro, the world's sportsmen and women will assemble for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in the South Korean city of PyeongChang. To date, only two Olympic Winter Games have been conducted in Asia – both in Japan: Sapporo in 1972 and Nagano in 1998.

Korea Post issued a stamp on August 3, 2011 to celebrate the election of PyeongChang as the host city (Figure 11). Printed in panes of 16 with a central vertical gutter, the 250-won stamp depicts an Alpine skier. The other candidates were: the European

cities of Annecy, France, and Munich, Germany (also see *Journal of Sports Philately*, Fall 2011, “2018 Olympic Winter Games”, pp. 28-29, by Alain Hebert). Certainly Korea Post, which is very active in promoting stamp collecting, will be issuing more stamps in the future to commemorate these Games.

Figure 11. Colorful official first day cover of the first issue commemorating PyeongChang as host of the 2018 Olympic Winter Games.



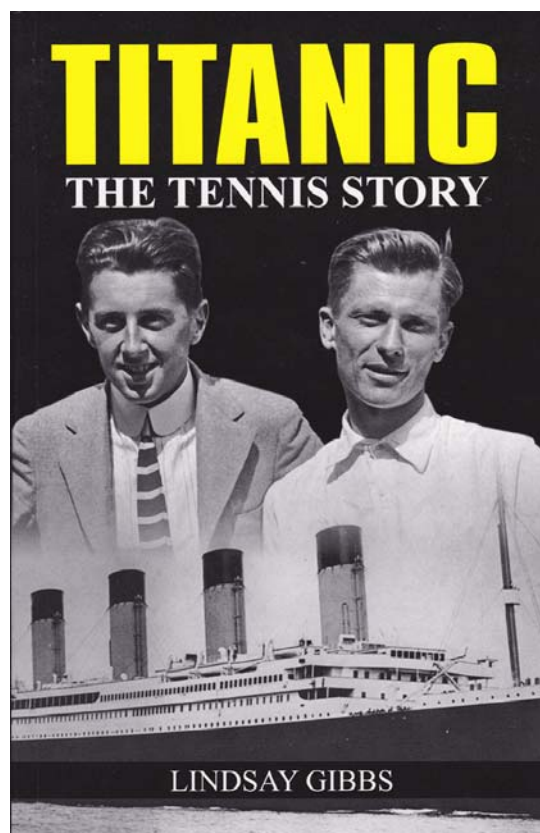
BOOK REVIEW

by Norman Jacobs, Jr.

Titanic: The Tennis Story by Lindsay Gibbs. In English, paperback, 242 pages. New Chapter Press © 2012. List price: \$12.95.

The 100-year anniversary of the sinking of the ocean liner *Titanic*, with the loss of over 1,500 people, has led to a flood of books and articles recounting the voyage and the stories of the passengers and crew. For several years, I have used a *Titanic* postmark in my tennis exhibit (shown at bottom) to help tell the story of Dick Williams, a tennis player who sailed on the *Titanic*, survived, and later became the U.S. National Champion. As a result, I was very interested to discover Lindsay Gibbs's book on the two tennis champions who survived the *Titanic*'s sinking. In addition to Williams, Karl Behr was a ranked tennis player who sailed on the *Titanic*. Exactly 100 years prior to the commemorative postmark from Boca Raton, the ship's maiden voyage began on April 10, 1912 in Southampton.

Unfortunately, the author of this book chose, in her words, to "infer thoughts and feelings and create dialogue and scenes to advance the plot." In fact, much of the book is taken up by invented dialogue, and she even included a fictional White Star line employee. Not until the six-page author's note at the end of the book does the reader learn which details are historic and which are created. In addition, the book appears to contain some typographical and grammatical errors. Perhaps the most glaring mistake is when the author gives the speed of the ship at the time of impact as 75 knots. That would be 86.3 miles per hour! The correct speed at impact was 20.5 knots. Managing Director Bruce Ismay's testimony during the Senate inquiry was that the engine was running at 75 revolutions, which is different from the speed in knots.



The factual parts of the story would have been dramatic enough without the invented scenes. Do you recall the moment in the movie *Titanic* when the huge steam pipe crashed down and crushed an elderly gentleman? That was Dick Williams's father. Williams had to jump into the water and stay on a collapsible lifeboat until his rescue hours later. At first, doctors wanted to amputate his legs, but he refused and walked for hours to restore circulation. Karl Behr was more fortunate, having been placed on the second lifeboat to leave the *Titanic*, but he suffered later from survivors' guilt. Amazingly, Williams played AND WON a tournament only six weeks after the disaster. And in a scene too improbable for the movies, Williams and Behr met in the quarterfinals of the U.S. Nationals two years later, in 1914. Williams won the match and proceeded to win the championship as well.

If you want to learn a little more about this amazing story, I'd suggest Jon Wertheim's excellent article in the April 2, 2012 *Sports Illustrated* titled "Unsinkable." I also recommend viewing the current exhibit at the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, Rhode Island. Both Behr and Williams have been inducted into the Hall of Fame.



THE SPORTS ARENA

by Mark Maestroni



The Prix Olympia, Vancouver 2010

The Prix Olympia, a longstanding tradition initiated by the late Juan Antonio Samaranch in 1985, at the time President of the IOC, has once again been awarded.

As many may remember, the original idea was to organize an international competition to select the three best-designed stamps issued for the Winter Olympic Games in Sarajevo and the Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles. President Samaranch, himself a great Olympic collector, conceived this prize.

In March 2012, the jury for the Prix Olympia (made up of members of the IOC Commission for Philately, Numismatics and Memorabilia) selected the three outstanding stamps issued for the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games:

- ① Gold medal: United States Postal Service, stamp of 44 cents (snowboarding)
- ② Silver medal : Postal Administration of Andorra, stamp of 0,85 euros (skiing)
- ③ Bronze medal : Postal Administration of Latvia, stamp of 0,55 euros (ice hockey).

- Jean-Louis Emmenegger -

Susie O'Neill Honored by Australia Post

Swimmer Susie O'Neill has been selected as the first honoree of the Australia Post Australian Sporting Legends stamp issue program. O'Neill appears on a pair of postage stamps issued 12 October 2012. The award was created to recognize an "exceptional Australian athlete who has made a significant contribution to our sporting culture."

O'Neill, who was elected to the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 2002, was recently elevated to "legend" status, joining 33 other Australian athletes.

Nicknamed "Madame Butterfly" because of her swimming specialty, Susie's international swimming career was launched at the 1990 Commonwealth Games at the age of 16.

Her Olympic debut was two years later at Barcelona in 1992 where she won her first medal, a bronze, in the 200-meter butterfly event. Susie went on to win another bronze, plus two gold and four silver medals at the 1996 Atlanta and 2000 Sydney Games. It was at the latter where she appeared on her first Australia Post stamp after winning a gold medal (above).

The two new stamps (below) were issued in a sheetlet of 10 (5 of each design).



REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS

by Mark Maestroni

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

June 2012 (#64). London Olympic news predominates with a look back by René Christin at the 1908 and 1948 Games using both contemporary and modern philatelic material. Pin collecting, always a popular activity at the Olympics, is discussed by Claude-Denis Renard who also provides guidance on where the pin trading sites at the Games could be found. For a change of pace, Bernard Bergeret reviews the 2018 Ryder Cup (golf).

December 2012 (#66). The bulk of this issue is taken up by a well-illustrated study by René Christin on the postcards for the 1st Olympic Winter Games at Chamonix, France in 1924.

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

December 2012 (#39). Catching up on basketball philately for the 2012 London Olympic Games and a continuation of the series on basketball at past Olympics (this installment covers the period 1981-1987) occupy most of this issue. However, there is a very interesting article on personalized stamps, their collectibility and use in exhibits written by Peter Lang, a leading German thematic collector (music) and international judge.

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

December 2012 (#156). Thomas Lippert presents an extensive review of the philately of the 2012 London Olympic Games. Volker Kluge takes "A journey through time from Berlin via Madrid and Rome to Munich" to discuss the political and social events that eventually led to the selection of Munich as host city of the 1972 Olympics. Charly



March 31, 1931 crash cover from TWA flight 599 on which Notre Dame coach, Knute Rockne was killed.

Biernat continues the Munich theme with a discussion of the joys and sorrows of those Games. Shifting to sports, Wolfgang Marx reviews the 2011 Women's Football World Championships.

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

Vol. 7, No. 2, 2012. Leading off this issue is a well-illustrated article on Knute Rockne, famous American football coach at Notre Dame who was born in Norway and emigrated to the U.S. The really fascinating philatelic item in this article is a 1931 crash cover (above) from TWA 599 in which Rockne died. Also discussed in this issue: American athlete Babe Didrikson Zaharias whose parents emigrated from Norway; a golf meter from 1996; and the first skiing stamp, issued by Hungary in 1924.

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

September 2012 (Vol. 29, #2); November 2012 (Vol. 29, #3); December 2012 (Vol. 29, #4). All three issues concentrate on telling the philatelic story of the 2012 London Olympic Games. The September issue covers the postmarks and stamps from April to September 2012. Worldwide issues for these Games are also reported. The November issue details the Torch Relay. Finishing the series, the December issue reviews postal services in London, including those by LOCOG sponsor UPS.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Mark Maestrone

NEW MEMBERS

(#2303) Bob Emrick, PO Box 2850, Forney, TX 75126 USA. **General sports & Olympics, Baseball, American Football, Golf, Tennis, Basketball.** E-mail: emrickcachets@att.net

(#2304) Rick Sommer, 2032 Old Mill Road, Kitchener, Ontario N2P 1E2 Canada. **General Olympics, Host Country, 1936 Olympics.** E-mail: rick.sommer@sympatico.ca

(#2305) Rüdiger Fritz, Meisenweg 6 b, DE-06110 Halle, GERMANY. **1896-1936 Olympics, Pierre de Coubertin.** E-mail: ruediger.rudolf@t-online.de

(#2306) Mark Leighton, 97 North Warren Ave., Columbus, OH 43204-3351 USA. **Baseball, Swimming, Soccer, Boxing, Track & Field (Running).**

RESIGNED

Brian Bjorgo, Bremerton, WA

REJOINED

(#1892) Michael Nelson, 5210 Chesterwood Way, Somerset, NJ 08873 USA. **General Olympics.**

NEW ADDRESS

Robert Ebiner, 100 N. Citrus St., #520, West Covina, CA 91791

EXHIBITING NEWS

EXUP 33, Nov. 23-24, Montreal, Canada. Alain Hébert received a vermeil for his 32-page exhibit "Headgear for Hockey Goaltenders."

APS AmeriStamp Expo 2013, January 18-20, 2013 Louisville, Kentucky. Andrew Urushima received a Single Frame Prix d'Honneur for "The 1944 Gross Born POW Olympics."



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1996 Atlanta Olympic Games Mail from the Cultural Olympiad Office

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Payments to PayPal Only: treasurer@sportstamps.org

SPI Annual Financial Statement: FY 2012 & 2011

	Fiscal Year Ending August 31, 2012	Fiscal Year Ending August 31, 2011
<u>Income</u>		
Dues	3,834.31	3,632.36
Interest	22.33	18.27
Donations	-	-
Publications/Advertising/	1,213.00	1,024.00
Total	5,069.64	4,674.63
<u>Expenses</u>		
Printing	2,639.50	2,701.89
Postage	1,719.49	1,795.82
Other (supplies, etc)	531.10	692.29
Total	4,890.09	5,190.00
<u>Auction activity</u>		
Receipts	362.24	1,645.75
Disbursements	(237.00)	(1,516.52)
Total	125.24	129.23
Net Income (loss)	304.79	(386.14)
Beginning Fund Balance	17,728.36	18,114.50
Ending Fund Balance	18,033.15	17,728.36
Cash and Investments:		
Total Cash and Investments	18,033.15	17,728.36
Payable to Consignors	-	-
Fund Balance	18,033.15	17,728.36

XIX World Olympic Collectors` Fair 2013

You are hereby invited to take part in the IOC approved World Olympic Collectors` Fair, located to Bø in the region of Telemark, Norway from July 26th to July 28th. The fair is hosted by the local philatelic club, Bø Frimerkeklubb.

All requests and registration can be emailed halvor@kleppen.com



NEW STAMP ISSUES

by John La Porta

Australia: October 2, 2012. 50th Anniversary Racing at Bathurst. Four se-tenant 60¢ stamps, Peter Brock's Torona with Marlboro advertising; diagram of Mount Panorama motor racing circuit; Will Davison's Ford V8 Supercar with Dunlop and Trading Post advertising; Russell Ingall's Holden V8 Supercar with Castrol and other advertising. A souvenir sheet contains the four stamps. Sheets of 50 and booklets of 10 (self-adhesive) and 20.

October 12, 2012. Sporting Legends/Susie O'Neill. Se-tenant pair of 60¢ stamps, portrait as sports commentator; swimming. Offset in sheets of 10.

November 1, 2012. Lawn Bowls Australia. 60¢ women's lawn bowls. Souvenir sheet contains the two stamps. Offset in sheets of 50 stamps.

November 9, 2012. London Olympics. Paralympian of the year, 60¢ stamp, swimmer Jacqueline Freney with golf medal from London 2012 Paralympics. Offset in sheets of 10.

Brazil: December 14, 2012. Venues for Sport. Five se-tenant 2r stamps, jockey and horse, Gavea Horse Racing Track; go-kart, Ayrton Senna Kart Track; volleyball player, Journalist Felipe Hanriot Drummond Stadium; race car, Nelson Piquet International Racetrack; cyclist, Maringa Velodrome.

Canada: late November 2012. Grey Cup overprints. The Toronto Argonauts logo was overprinted on booklets of 10.

Cayman Islands: August 2, 2012. London Oly. 25¢ runner Cydonie Mothersill; 50¢ hurdler Ron Forbes; 75¢ swimmer Shaune Fraser; 80¢ runner Kemar Hyman; \$1.60 swimmer Brett Fraser.

Central Africa: June 26, 2012. Euro Football 2012. Sheet of four 900F values and souvenir sheet with one 3000F value. European soccer players.

June 26, 2012. Golf Players. Sheet of four 900F values and souvenir sheet with one 3000F value. Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods etc.

June 26, 2012. Formula 1. Sheet of four 900F values and souvenir sheet with one 3000F stamp. Red Bull Racing - Sebastian Vette, Lotus, Ferrari - Fernando Alonso etc.

June 26, 2012. Table Tennis. Sheet of four 900F values and souvenir sheet with one 3000F stamp. Xin Xu, Li Xiaoria, Ma Long etc.

Cuba: July 5, 2012. London Olympics. 10c boxer Orlando Martinez with gold medals; 15c boxer Teofile Stevenson; 20c track athlete Alberto Juantorena; 50c javelin thrower Maria Colon; 65c judo athlete Driulis Gonzalez; 90c volleyball player Mireya Luis; souvenir sheet with 1p stamp, high jumper Javier Sotomayor.

Czech Republic: May 2, 2012. World Gymnastics. Postcard, "A" value, Vera Caslavskya, gymnast, seven-time Olympic medalist, four-time world champion, eleven-time European champion.

China: July 7, 2012. London Olympics. Four 1.20y stamps depicting sports, London scenes, emblems and mascots, soccer player, Parliament; tennis, London Eye Ferris wheel; equestrian, buildings; hurdling, Tower Bridge. Printed in sheets of 16 and mini-sheets of 8.

Gabon: January 2012. Africa Soccer Cup. 250f, 500f different designs with gorilla mascot, national flag.

Gambia: June 27, 2012. London Olympics. Pane of 4 se-tenant 25d stamps: silhouettes of athletes, high jump; gymnastics; uneven bars; long jump.

August 2, 2012. First Olympic Stamps. Gold foil souvenir sheet with stamp-on-stamp design of Greek 1896 I lepta Stadium and Acropolis.

Ghana: August 21, 2012. London Olympics. Three souvenir sheets each with 1.50c stamp, synchronized swimming; table tennis; cycling.

Guinea: September 20, 2012. Table Tennis. Sheet of three values, 20,000 FG; 5,000 FG; 15,000 FG. Souvenir sheet with one value 40,000 FG. Zhang Jike, Wang Hao, Wang Hao on souvenir sheet.

September 20, 2012. Rugby. Sheet of three values, 20,000 FG; 5,000 FG, 15,000 FG. Souvenir sheet with one stamp 40,000 FG. Sebastien Chabal, Juan Smith, Andries Bekker. Souvenir sheet depicts Bryan Habana, Adan Ashley-Cooper.

Guinea-Bissau: April 10, 2012. Cricket. Sheet of four 725 FCFA values and one souvenir sheet with one 3000 FCFA stamp. Cricket players in action.

April 10, 2012. Sumo Champions. Sheet of four 600 FCFA values and one souvenir sheet with one 3000 FCFA stamp. All depict Sumo wrestlers in action.

April 10, 2012. London Olympics. Sheet of four 1000 FCFA values and one souvenir sheet with one 3000 FCFA stamp. All depict various athletes in action.

India: July 25, 2012. London Olympics. Two 5re stamps, rowing; windsurfing; two 20re stamps, badminton; volleyball. A souvenir sheet contains the four stamps se-tenant. Sheets of 20 stamps.

Iraq: August 12, 2012. London Olympics. 250d archery; 500d gymnastics; 750d fencing; 1,000d running. Two s/s with 1,000d stamps, Olympic Mascots, flame, rings, stadium, javelin thrower; athlete with Olympic torch inside rings, running, high jumping, equestrian, canoeing, swimming.

Japan: September 28, 2012. 67th National Sports Festival. Five se-tenant 50y stamps, badminton; rhythmic gymnastics ribbon; rowing; cycling; field hockey. Offset in panes of ten.

October 2, 2012. 150th Anniversary Modern Horse Racing. Pane of 10 se-tenant 80y stamps showing jockeys on horses that have won the Japanese triple crown, Ore-fevre; Apapaane; Deep Impact; Still in Love: Narita Brian; Mejiro l'Amone; Symboli Rudolf; Mr. C B.; Shinzan; St. Lite.

Jordan: 2012. London Olympics. 20pi equestrian; 30pi soccer; 40pi tennis; 50pi canoeing.

South Korea: July 27, 2012. London Olympics. Se-tenant pair of 270w stamps, swimmer, Tower Bridge in London; archer, Big Ben clock tower.

Kyrgyzstan: August 8, 2012. Jambi Atmai National Equestrian Games. 20s archer on horseback. Offset in sheets of six.

Mozambique: February 28, 2012. Joe Louis. Sheet of six 16.00 MT values and one souvenir sheet with on 175.00 MT stamp. All depict Joe Louis in action.

Montenegro: July 27, 2012. Handball Championships. €0.30 woman playing handball. Offset in sheets of eight with a label.

Netherlands: July 4, 2012. 100th Ann. Netherlands Olympic Committee and Sports Confederations. Pane of 10 se-tenant nondenominated "1" stamps depicting gold-medal athletes.

Poland: July 27, 2012. London Olympics. Souvenir sheet with four se-tenant stamps, 1.55zl rower; 1.95zl volley-

ball; 2.40zl weightlifter; 3zl shot put.

Paraguay: August 9, 2012. London Olympics. Six se-tenant 1,000g stamps, judo; javelin throw; runner; tennis; table tennis; swimming, rowing. Two souvenir sheets each with 4,000g stamp, swimmer Benjamin Hockin, table tennis player Marcelo Aquirre; runner, tennis player, javelin thrower.

October 1, 2012. 100th Ann. Cerro Poteno Sports Club. 1,000g basketball team; 6,000g soccer team.

Portugal: June 19, 2012. London Olympic and Paralympic Games. Two nondenominated stamps showing symbolic athletes "N20g" stamp, runner; "120g" stamp fencer.

June 19, 2012. London Paralympic Games. Two nondenominated stamps showing symbol athletes, "N20g" stamp athletic in chair; "120g" stamp athlete in wheelchair.

July 4, 2012. European Soccer Championship. Souvenir sheet with €1.50 stamp, soccer ball.

Romania: July 27, 2012. London Olympics. 1.20 lei gymnast; 1.40 lei canoe; 2.10 lei fencers; 6 lei javelin. Offset in sheets of four.

Russia: July 6, 2012. World Hockey Championships. Provisional, 12rub surcharge and overprint on 2008 8rub World Hockey Champions stamp (Scott 7111).

July 26, 2012. London Olympics. Souvenir sheet with 50rub stamps, emblem.

2012: London Olympics. Set of 20 postal "B" cards with mascot depicting various sports.

2012: London Olympics. Set of 10 postal "B" cards with mascot depicting various paralympic sports.

September 18, 2012. Sochi Olympics. 25rub emblem, QR code. Offset in sheets of nine.

Serbia: January 15, 2012. European Handball Ch. Postal Tax stamp, 10d emblem, handball.

February 27, 2012. Sport. Postal Tax stamp. 10d boxers, emblem.

June 4, 2012. Serbian Paralympic Committee. Postal Tax stamp. 10d athletic racing in wheelchair.

July 27, 2012. London Olympics. 44d Olympic Flame; 77d landmarks of London, London Eye Ferris Wheel. Sheets of 8 and a center label.

St. Kitts: October 1, 2012. Game Fish. Pane of six se-tenant \$2.50 stamps, French angelfish, barracuda; spotted trunkfish; trumpetfish; orange-lined triggerfish; eagle ray. Souvenir sheet with \$6 stamp, butterfly fish.

Sierra Leone: May 30, 2012. London Olympics. Pane of two se-tenant 3,600 leone stamps, silhouettes of ancient Greek runners.

July 26, 2012. European Soccer Cup. 16 panes of six 2,500 leone stamps, each pane includes three designs with four stamps showing the same photograph of a national team, and the other showing a stadium or arena. Two panes of eight se-tenant 2,500 leone stamps each and a central label, stamps show team and photographs.

Slovakia: April 4, 2012. Men's World Ice Hockey Championship. Postcard €0.40 imprinted value.

Slovenia: September 28, 2012. London Olympics. Slovenia's 12th Gold Medal, €0.92 Urška Zolnir with judo medal. Offset in sheets of 10.

Solomon Islands: June 5, 2012. London Olympics. Pane of four \$9 stamps showing symbolic athletes, discus thrower; judo; track cycling; running. A s/s contains one \$27 stamp depicting rowing.

Sri Lanka: July 23, 2012. London Olympics. 5e (each design includes Big Ben); 15re swimmer; 25re shooter; 75re tennis. Souvenir sheet contains the four stamps se-tenant.

Suriname: August 15, 2012. London Olympics. 12 se-tenant stamps, 50¢ badminton; \$1 cycling; \$1.50 diving; \$2 equestrian; \$2.50 gymnastics; \$3 hammer throw; \$3.50 javelin; \$4 long jump; \$4.50 relay race; \$5 hurdles; \$5.50 swimming; \$7 tennis. Souvenir sheet of three se-tenant stamps, \$2 volleyball; \$3 running; \$5 hurdles. Offset in panes of 24.

Tanzania: June 27, 2012. London Olympics. Pane of four se-tenant 1,300s stamps silhouettes of athletes, basketball; boxing; 3,000 meter hurdles; 5,000 meters running.

Tajikistan: June 19, 2012. London Olympics. Pane of four se-tenant 2d stamps, judo; taekwondo; hammer throw; boxing.

July 27, 2012. London Olympics. Overprint in black and in blue of 2004 Athens Olympic pane of four, 53d, 1s, 1.23s, 2s.

Turkey: July 27, 2012. London Olympics. Souvenir sheet with four se-tenant stamps, volleyball player, London Eye Ferris wheel, buildings; two 1 liras stamps, hurdler,

Tower Bridge; wrestler, Regent Street; 2 liras, basketball player, stature, Buckingham Palace.

October 27, 2012. European Kickboxing Championship for Seniors. Souvenir sheet with a pair of se-tenant 1,000 liras stamps, continuous design of symbolic kickboxers, map of Europe.

Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus: June 29, 2012. European Soccer Championships. 70k clock tower, legs and ball, rooftops.

July 27, 2012. London Olympics. 2 liras runner, London views; 2.20 liras sailing, Big Ben, 30 St. Mary Ax, known as the Gherkin.

Uganda: August 31, 2012. London Olympics. Three se-tenant 1,050s stamps showing stadiums, Olympic; Wembley; Old Trafford; 1,500s Olympic flame in Olympic colors. Offset in sheets of 12 (1,050s) and sheets of eight (1,500s).

October 22, 2012. Formula 1. Sheet of 4, two 3,400s and two 4,100s. Lewis Hamilton, McLaren Mercedes. Souvenir sheet with one 8300s stamp, Fernando Alonso & Ferrari.

October 22, 2012. Sailboats. Sheet of four stamps, two 3400s and two 4100s, Skipper of the Wawe, Muscat, Bachrein Pindar Team. Souvenir sheet with one 8300s stamp, Extreme sailing series Boston 2011.

October 22, 2012. Unmotorized Vehicles. Sheet of four stamps, two 3400s and two 4100s, skateboard etc. Souvenir sheet with one 8300s stamps, hang gliding, canoeing, hot air balloons.

Ukraine: June 25, 2012. Ukraine Welcomes European Soccer Cup Championship. Souvenir sheet with three se-tenant 13k stamps, stadium, buildings of Kiev, flowers; woman in national costume; bird, flowers.

July 27, 2012. London Olympics. Block of four se-tenant stamps, two 2k stamps, canoeing; high jumping; 2.50k running; 5.30k shot put. Offset in sheets of eight.

Uruguay: December 3, 2012. 100th Anniversary Neptuno Club. 15p the club, water polo players in pool.

Uzbekistan: July 27, 2012. London Olympics. 800s cycling.

October 10, 2012. 100th Anniversary Uzbek Soccer. Pane of eight se-tenant stamps and a central label, 600s, 650s, 950s, 1,050s, 1,150s, 1,300s, 2,200s, 2,500s, various soccer teams and scenes.

COMMEMORATIVE CANCELS

by Mark Maestroni

THE NUMBERING SYSTEM

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

SPORTS CROSS INDEX SEPTEMBER - FEBRUARY 2013

Autoracing: 12X27-273.

Baseball: 12921-772, 12X22-941,
12X24-941, 12X27-441,
12X28-941, 12Z02-940,
13215-857.

Basketball: 12Y09-921.

Football: 12919-336, 12922-465.

Olympics: 12X19-731.

September 19, 2012
**Tampa Bay PCC
STATION**
Tampa, FL 33623



12919-336 Tampa, FL

19



Greater Houston
Stamp Show Sta.
Houston TX 77201
SEP 21, 2012

12921-772 Houston, TX

21-23



12922-465 Notre Dame, IN

22

OKPEX Station
Honoring the 1912 Olympics
October 19, 2012
Oklahoma City OK 73162

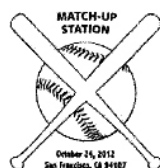
12X19-731 Oklahoma City, OK

19



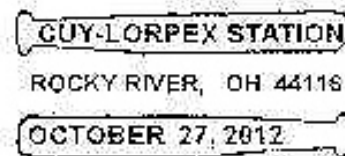
12X22-941 San Francisco, CA

22

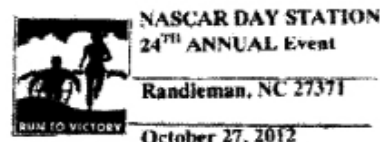


12X24-941 San Francisco, CA

24



12X27-441 Rocky River, OH 27-28



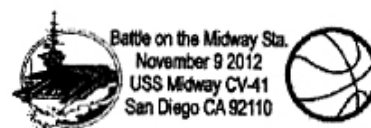
12X27-273 Randleman, NC

27



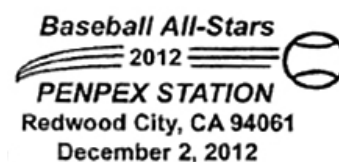
12X28-941 San Francisco, CA

28



12Y09-921 San Diego, CA

9



12Z02-940 Redwood City, CA

2



13215-857 Tucson, AZ

15



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