

JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

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NUMBER 4

SURF



SKATE



SNOW





SPORTS
PHILATELISTS
INTERNATIONAL

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About the cover: the background illustration is from a photo by Harry Mayo entitled "Back to the Barn" (1941) showing surfers ascending the cliffs at Cowell Beach, Santa Cruz, California.

SURFING

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BASEBALL

16

JAPAN NATIONAL SPORTS FESTIVAL

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestroni

JSP Articles of Distinction

The membership has voted, and the award for the best journal article of the 2011-12 year goes to Patricia Loehr for "Major Tournament Golf." Congratulations, Pat!

The winner's article will appear on the American Philatelic Society website. I would also like to thank our esteemed jury comprised of Jim Bowman, Peter Laimins, and Clem Reiss under the chairmanship of Norman Rushefsky, for their hard work. Of course many thanks to all those members who took a few moments to cast their votes.

Favorite Finds

The National Postal Museum in Washington is preparing a special exhibition entitled "Favorite Finds" which will feature philatelic items cherished by their owners for their "detail or beauty, rarity, or even in the story of the roads [they have] traveled."

Your editor is always on the lookout for new articles. So, acknowledging that not everyone has a multi-page article swirling around in their heads, I challenge our readers to send in a "Favorite Find" from their own collections for publication in our journal. Preferably, entries should be emailed to me with a scan of the item (at least 300 dpi) and, in 100 words or less, describe the item and tell us why you like it.

ATA Grand to Norman Jacobs

SPI would like to congratulate our own Norman Jacobs in winning the Grand for his tennis exhibit at this year's National Topical Stamp Show. The last time a sport/Olympic exhibit won a U.S. national level Grand was at the ATA's 2000 show when Jim Bowman won for his exhibit on the 1936 Olympic Games.

Norm's exhibit will compete for the Champion of Champions award at APS StampShow 2013, August 8-11 in Milwaukee. Congratulations as well to Clem Reiss'



(L-R) Norm Jacobs receiving his Grand award from NTSS Awards Chairman, Larry Davidson as Chief Judge, Douglas Clark looks on.

sailing exhibit which won a gold medal and the SPI multi-frame Best of Show. Complete results are in the News of Our Members column on page 28.

Passing of U.K. member, David Buxton

It is always sad to lose a member of our society, but even more so when the member is a good friend. David passed away on 23 April suddenly, but peacefully.

David and his wife Rennie were active in our sport and Olympic philatelic circles. David served as Treasurer of the Society of Olympic Collectors for many years and was a regular contributor to their journal as well as *JSP* (his most recent article, "The Story of the Four-Minute Mile," appeared in the December 2012 issue). David and Rennie also enjoyed participating in trips with other SOC and SPI members, for example, to the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympic Winter Games and the 2012 trip to Greece for the Olympic Fair and Torch Lighting Ceremony at Ancient Olympia.

To Rennie and the rest of their family, please accept our society's deepest condolences, and know that David will be missed very much.

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by Mark Maestrone



*The three Hawaiian Princes: (l-r)
Jonah Kūhiō Kalanianaʻole, David Kawānanakoa
and Edward Keliʻiahonui.*

SURF, SKATE, SNOW

*Exploring the murky
origins of board sports*

Part 1: Surfing

Once upon a time, there were three princes named David, Edward and Jonah. Their home was an archipelago of islands in the Pacific that in those romantic days of the late 19th century conjured up exotic images of tropical rain forests abloom with colorful orchids and palm trees bowing gracefully in the gentle warm trade winds.

Born to High Chief David Kahalepouli Piʻikoi from Kauaʻi Island and Princess Victoria Kūhiō Kinoike Kekaulike, the three princes were raised on Kauai, the northernmost of the main islands making up the Hawaiian archipelago.

This is the story of how these three 19th century Hawaiian princes came to introduce surfing to the Americas, and how sharing their love for what was to them very much a part of their culture, would inspire young men of a future generation to create the new sports of skateboarding and snowboarding based on the simplicity of a wooden surf board.

Tragedy and fortune

Prince David Kawānanakoa (born 1868) was the eldest of the three princes. He had two younger brothers: Edward Keliʻiahonui (b. 1869) and Jonah Kūhiō Kalanianaʻole (b. 1871).

Their royal lineage derived from their mother whose sister, Queen Consort Esther Kapiʻolani, was married to King David Kalākaua (Figure 1). (It would not be until 1883 that the King would grant all three brothers the title of Prince.)

During the first half of the 1880s, the boys lost both parents. David was just 12 when his father,



Figure 1. King David Kalākaua and his Queen Consort Esther Kapiʻolani were instrumental in rearing the three princes after their parents died.



Figure 2. At left, a cover from the St. Matthew's Hall military school with a "SAN MATEO / CAL" postmark dated "FEB / 21 / 1886" which would have coincided with the time the three princes were in attendance. The envelope is addressed to a "Mrs. J. T. Crank in Pasadena, Los Angeles, Cala [sic]." The corner card of the school handstamped in purple ink is shown with more clarity above.

who had instilled in his sons a love for surf riding, passed away in 1880 at the young age of 35. Princess Victoria continued to raise her sons until her own death just four years later.

Hawai'i tradition values family, so all three sons were immediately *hanaied*, or adopted, by Princess Victoria's two sisters. Moving to Honolulu, David and Jonah would live with their aunt, Queen Kapi'olani, who, with her husband, King Kalākaua, raised the boys as their own. Middle son, Edward, went to live with Princess Po'omaikelani.

Surfriders make land

Elected to the Hawaiian throne following King Lunalilo's death in 1874, David Kalākaua was determined to put an end to the election of monarchs. One of his first acts as king was to settle the line of succession, which would be revised numerous times during his reign. In 1883, Prince David Kawānanakoa, the eldest of the three adopted princes, was named third in line to the throne (he would eventually become Crown Prince).

To prepare him for the monarchy, David was enrolled in the Hawaiian Studies Abroad Program integrating King Kalākaua's Hawaiian theme of "Hawai'i for the Hawaiians" with his international focus. In 1884, David, who had been attending the Royal School on Oahu with his brothers, matriculated at St. Matthew's Hall in San Mateo, California.

St. Matthew's was at that time a well-known military school, styling itself as "the leading private educational institution for boys on the Pacific coast" (Figures 2 & 3). From what we know, the 16-year-old prince got along well at his new school. A report on the prince and his fellow Hawaiian, Thomas Puali'i Cummins, dated May 1885 stated that "These boys are doing themselves great credit and Mr. Brewer, the Principal, is very proud of them."

Sometime in early 1885, David's two brothers, Prince Edward Keli'iahonui (16) and Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole (14), joined him as cadets at St. Matthew's Hall (Figure 7). During their breaks at school they would ride the Southern Pacific train down the coast to Santa Cruz on Monterey Bay, an easy 60-mile trip. The boys would stay with a friend of the Royal Family – and an ali'i (of noble Hawaiian lineage) – Antoinette "Akoni" Marin, who by this time was married to Lyman Swan, a well-known, if perhaps not entirely honest, merchant from Honolulu. The Swan Family had relocated to Santa Cruz from Hawai'i in the mid-1860s and purchased land at the end of Cathcart Street backing onto the San Lorenzo River.



Figure 3. St. Matthew's Hall seal on the reverse of the cover in Figure 2.



Figure 4. Redwood planks for the princes' surfboards were reputed to have been from logs harvested in the Santa Cruz mountains. Shown here, a label advertising Santa Cruz as a center for redwood from the "big trees."

Old-time Santa Cruz journalist Ernest Otto, who was a teenager when the princes were visiting Santa Cruz, would later recount tales of the boys' exploits. In one of his various historical columns for the Santa Cruz *Sentinel*, Otto wrote that the princes commissioned surf boards of "solid redwood planks and milled locally by the Grover Lumber Company. They were over 100 pounds in weight and 15 feet in length." Since the mid-1800s, first-growth redwood forests in the Santa Cruz Mountains were providing highly sought after redwood lumber for both local use and export (Figure 4).

Surfriding in the Americas

The time: a beautiful sunny California summer day sometime in July 1885.

The place: Santa Cruz beach near the mouth of the San Lorenzo River.

The principal players: three Hawaiian princes with enormous redwood ol'ō surfboards.

The Monday, July 20, 1885 issue of the Santa Cruz *Daily Surf* newspaper, carried a full account of all the previous weekend's activities in a page-two column entitled "Beach Breezes."

With temperatures in the high-70s and mid-80s, "so many bathers, both ladies and gentlemen, [have] been in the water, and all pronounced it delightful." There was even an exciting ocean race pitting two brothers, William and Irvine Jones, against each other. William won by a convincing 20 yards to take home the not insubstantial \$40 purse!

A bit further down the beach "the breakers at the mouth of the river were very fine and here occurred the very primest of fun, at least, so said those who were 'in the swim.'" There were a few dozen swimmers "dashing and tossing, and plunging through the breakers, going out only to be tossed back apparently at the will of the waves and making some nervous onlookers feel sure that they were about to be dashed against the rocks."



Figure 5. Monument in Santa Cruz, California to the three Hawaiian princes who introduced surfing to the Americas in 1885. The image of the princes is based on a photograph taken while attending St. Matthew's Hall military academy in San Mateo, California.

Figure 6. 17-foot redwood surfboard discovered at the Bishop Museum in Honolulu and believed to be one of the three original boards belonging to the princes. [photo: Dana Edmunds]



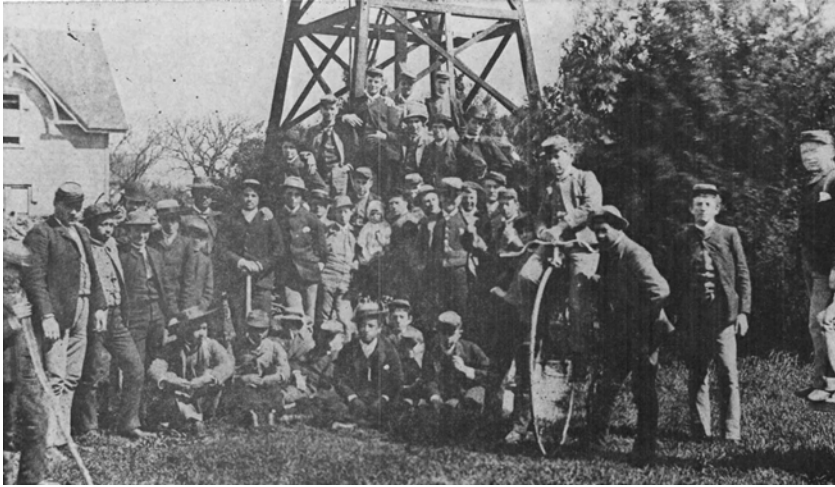


Figure 7. At St. Matthew's Hall. (Above) The cadets, circa 1885. Prince David is shown leaning against the right side of the penny cycle. (Right) Prince Edward, circa 1886. Edward was stricken with scarlet fever in 1887 and rushed back to Hawai'i where he died shortly after arriving.

At long last, the *Daily Surf* provided the first mention of surfing in the Americas. The Hawaiian princes were clearly enjoying themselves in the water while providing "interesting exhibitions of surf-board swimming as practiced in their native islands." This account of the *Daily Surf* report was presented in a fascinating article entitled "Riders of the Sea Spray" by Geoffrey Dunn & Kim Stoner. These authors observed:

"What is interesting about the description, is that the writer was not only familiar with the princes—and assumed his readership to be as well—but he or she was also aware of the term 'surf-board' and that their ocean escapade was a cultural activity they had brought with them from Hawai'i."

Seemingly, this was not the first time the princes had ridden their boards, demonstrating that their exhibition was not a one-off incident, as some surfing historians continue to maintain.

The *Daily Surf* column also noted that one of the princes – we don't know which one – was slightly injured after jumping off the "railway bridge" up river, and "was stunned and breathless for some time after."

Wrapping up coverage of the weekend's activities, we learn that the "the evening was quite as delightful as the afternoon." Near where the princes had been surfing at the mouth of the San Lorenzo, "the Santa Cruz City Band played its finest airs by the light of an immense bonfire and boating was the order of the evening. Guitar music and

singing added to the charm of the scene and the hours sped all too rapidly."

On 10 April 2010, to mark the 125th anniversary of this milestone in sports, a commemorative tribute was planned to honor the trio of royal surfers. Spearheading the event were Kristin Zambucka, a noted author on the Hawaiian monarchy and an artist, along with Santa Cruz historian, Geoffrey Dunn. Princess Esther Kapi'olani Kawānanakoa, the 86-year-old granddaughter of Prince David Kawānanakoa, donated a handsome bronze plaque reproducing the famous photograph of the three brothers in their St. Matthew's Hall cadet uniforms (Figure 5). Princess Ester was in attendance at the Santa Cruz Surfing Museum to help dedicate the monument to her grandfather and great uncles.

But what of the three ol'o boards that the brothers rode during those lazy summer days of 1885? It was thought that when the princes returned to Hawai'i, the boards went with them. However, no mention seems to have been made of them in the Hawaiian state archives, nor letters referencing them discovered by descendants.

After the festivities in Santa Cruz, Kristin Zambucka began to think more about those missing boards. Late in 2010 while viewing a special exhibition of historic Hawaiian surfboards at the world renowned Bishop Museum in Honolulu, she spotted a certain 17-foot-eight-inch-long ol'o board which was part of the Kapi'olani-Kalaniana'ole collection, bequeathed to the museum in 1923 by Elizabeth Kahanu Kalaniana'ole, widow of Prince Kuhio, one of the three surfing brothers (Figure 6). Could this be one of the three missing boards, she wondered?

“I had an instinct, a funny feeling, about this one board,” Zambucka said in a 2010 interview for an article in *Honolulu Magazine*. “Elizabeth kept it lovingly and presented it to the museum after [Kuhio’s] death. Why would she leave this one board?”

One of the reasons why no one had ever recognized the potential historic significance of the surfboard is that it was labeled as made of “pine.” All contemporary sources were in unanimity that the boards the princes rode were manufactured of redwood from the Santa Cruz Mountains.

The article continued: “Zambucka suspected it was mislabeled, and two botanists from the University of Hawai‘i whom she invited to examine it, as well as a master wood carver, confirmed her suspicion. A fourth expert, the head of a wood-identification laboratory, said the board is likely to be redwood.” The only way to be scientifically certain of the board’s composition was to permanently remove a 1-inch square piece of the board for genetic testing – something the museum would certainly not permit.

Following the closing of the exhibition, while the board was being examined in the storage room, Zambucka found yet another surf board stored right beside the first one and also a part of the Kapi‘olani-Kalaniana‘ole collection. The big difference: this board was actually labeled “redwood”! A bit shorter than the first, Ms. Zambucka theorizes that it may have belonged to the middle brother, Prince Edward, who was smaller than his siblings.

Perhaps definitive information will one day come to light proving beyond a doubt that these two boards started it all.

Catching a wave

The origins of riding a wave on a board – surfing – are shrouded in the mists of time. Historians generally agree, though, that indigenous peoples living in the vast swath of Polynesian islands in the South Pacific probably spawned the activity. The first Europeans to visit the islands were those aboard the HMS *Dolphin* under the command of Samuel Wallis (Figure 8). Visiting Tahiti in 1767, it is quite possible that they observed surf riding first hand.

The first direct reports of surf riding originate with Captain Cook’s logs from his third, and final, voyage of exploration (Figure 9). During his visit to Kealahakua Bay in the Sandwich (Hawaiian)

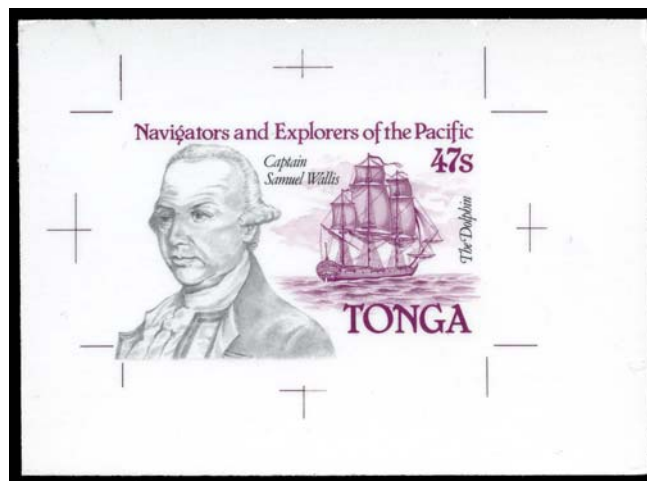


Figure 8. Samuel Wallis, during his explorations of the South Pacific in 1767, was likely the first European to view surf riding by the natives of Tahiti. [Cromalin proof from the Tonga postal archives. Only 4-5 exist.]



Figure 9. Logs from Captain James Cook’s third expedition relate the first encounter with surf riding while exploring the Hawaiian Islands in March 1779. [Australian specimen stamp.]

Islands, an excerpt of the ship’s log dated March 1779 reads:

Twenty or thirty of the natives, taking each a long narrow board, rounded at the ends, set out together from the shore. The first wave they meet, they plunge under, and suffering it to rollover them, rise again beyond it, and make the best of their way, by swimming, out into the sea. The second wave is encountered in the same manner with the first ... As soon as they have gained by these repeated efforts, the smooth water beyond the surf, they lay themselves at length on their board, and prepare for their return.

As the surf consists of a number of waves, of which every third is remarked to be always



Figure 10. Mark Twain's "Letters from Hawaii" in 1866 includes his humorous, though not entirely successful, attempt at surfing.

much larger than the others, and to flow higher on the shore, the rest breaking in the intermediate space, their first object is to place themselves on the summit of the largest surge Those who succeed in their object of reaching shore, have still the greatest danger to encounter. The coast being guarded by a chain of rocks, with, here and there, a small opening between them, they are obliged to steer their boards through one of these, or, in case of failure, to quit it, before they reach the rocks, and, plunging under the wave, make the best of their way back again.

In 1866, just prior to the time our three princes were arriving on the scene, America's favorite humorist, Mark Twain, was on assignment in Hawai'i. For a period of four months, his *Letters from Hawai'i* were published in the Sacramento Union newspaper much to the delight of their readers (Figure 10). Immersing himself in the local culture included paddling into the ocean on a wooden surfboard, and waiting "for a particularly prodigious billow to come along." His take on the activity: "I tried surf-bathing once but made a failure of it. None but natives ever master the art of surf-bathing thoroughly."



Figure 11. Traditional Hawaiian surfboards were made from wood of the 'ulu (Breadfruit tree, shown above) or koa (at right, indicated by red arrow).

For the "natives," surfing was an expression of their cultural traditions which revolved around the concept of *kapu*. Simply, *kapu* was a set of laws with deeply religious significance guiding nearly every facet of life. A rigid caste system set the Hawaiian royalty and nobility (*ali'i*) above the average Hawaiian.

With respect to surfing, for example, the *ali'i* used the *ol'o*, the longest of surfboards averaging 18 (and up to 25) feet in length. Despite being made of lighter and more buoyant woods, these boards have been known to tip the scales at a hefty 175 pounds. The wood of the wiliwili tree (*Erythrina sandwichensis*) was *kapu* and was thus only to be used for *ol'o* boards.

Alaia boards for the average Hawaiian were shorter, usually from 7 to 12 feet in length, weighing maybe 100 pounds, and with a rounded nose and square tail. The boards were traditionally made of either koa (*Acacia koa*), or 'ulu, also known as the Breadfruit tree (*Artocarpus altilis*) (Figure 11).

Not long after the *kapu* system of laws was abolished by King Kamehameha II in 1819, missionaries began arriving in Hawai'i. Mostly from puritan New England, the missionaries discouraged what they regarded as frivolous activities such as surfing (which still held religious connotations). As Hawaiians began converting to Christianity, surfing declined in popularity.

We have King David Kalākaua to thank for helping revive the sport in Hawai'i. Known for surfing the long break along Waikiki Beach, he passed his love for the sport to the three princes.



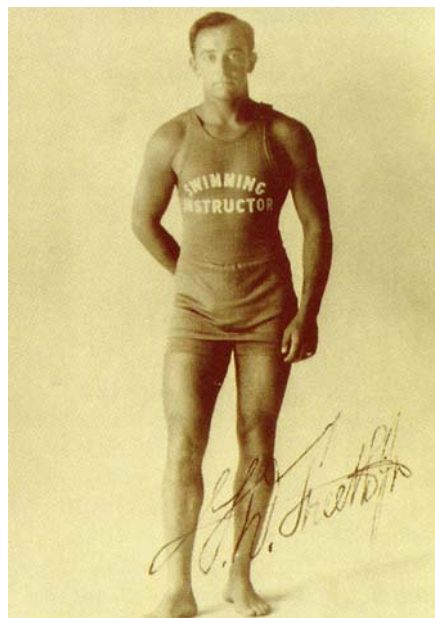


Figure 12. George Freeth (above left) is frequently cited as having introduced surfing to the continent in 1907 when he gave surfing demonstrations at Redondo Beach, California. [Undated Freeth photo; 1906 Redondo Beach postcard]

Surfing enters the 20th century

Not everyone is in agreement on who should receive credit for introducing surfing to the continent. A contingent of surfing historians maintain that another Hawaiian, George Freeth, should receive that honor.

George Freeth, a hapa-haole (half-Hawaiian, half-white), was born and raised in Honolulu, teaching himself to surf using his Hawaiian uncle's 16-foot ol'o board.

During the period from 1900 to 1907, Freeth dedicated himself to teaching the sport to anyone – Hawaiian or haole – who expressed an interest and desire to learn the art of surf riding. In 1907, he visited California in order to give a surfing demonstration in Redondo Beach (Figure 12) as a publicity stunt for railroad magnate, Henry Huntington, who was opening a new line of his Pacific Electric Railway (interurban mass transit). Developing an immediate affinity for the Los Angeles area, Freeth stayed on to become California's first life guard, eventually winning the Congressional Medal of Honor for rescuing seven Japanese fisherman caught in a violent storm off the coast in 1908. George Freeth would save the lives of at least 78 people during his short, yet illustrious, life. He died at the age of 35 after contracting the Spanish influenza during the 1918-1920 worldwide pandemic.

Back in Hawai'i, the early part of the new century brought visitors from the continent to what was fast becoming an exotic vacation destination. Greeted at the ocean liner arrival pier by pretty *wahines* bearing colorful leis of delightfully scented *pikake* flowers, visitors would be whisked away to one of the two hotels on Waikiki Beach (Figure 13).

"The Beachboys" – no, not the singing quintet (we'll get to them later) – were a group of young Hawaiians recruited to serve as lifeguards to protect the tourists. Among them was the first true "ambassador" of surfing, Duke Kahanamoku (Figure 14). Along with his younger brothers Sargent, Louis and Sam, the beachboys both protected and entertained the tourists with their surfing stunts like riding backwards or with a visitor – usually a pretty girl – on the front of the board.



Figure 14. 2002 Duke Kahanamoku stamp essay (above) and stamp as issued (right). [courtesy Carl Herrman]





Figure 13. In the early part of the 20th century, Hawai'i became an exotic vacation destination where visitors disembarking from luxury ocean liners were greeted with a lei of aromatic flowers. Even pretty wahinis could learn to surf. [Undated slogan meter promoting Hawai'i and surfing on a colorful visitors bureau cover.]

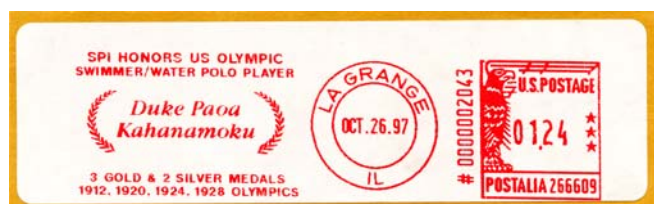


Figure 15. Slogan meter tape honoring Duke Kahanamoku's Olympic achievements in swimming.

Duke Paoa Kahinu Mokoe Hulikohola Kahanamoku, who was born in 1890, was a contemporary of Freeth's and in fact some sources credit Freeth with not only teaching him to surf, but recognizing his potential as a swimmer. At a local amateur swim meet in August 1911, Duke broke the existing 100-meter freestyle world record by a remarkable 4.6 seconds. He easily qualified for the 1912 U.S. Olympic swimming team, winning the 100-meter freestyle gold medal. He would go on to win a total of three gold and two silver medals in two more Olympic Games (1920 and 1924). In middle age, Duke continued to compete at the Olympic Games as a member of the U.S. swimming team at the 1928 Amsterdam Games and as an alternate on the 1932 U.S. Olympic water polo team (Figure 15).

In addition to demonstrations of surfing on both the west and east coasts of the United States, Kahanamoku is recognized as having introduced the sport to Australia in 1915. Invited by the New South Wales Swimming Association to swim at the Domain Baths in Sydney (where he again broke the world record in the 100-meter freestyle), Duke decided to also give a demonstration in surfboard riding. As no boards were readily available, he constructed one himself from local sugar pine. On 15 January 1915, Duke Kahanamoku put on a crowd-pleasing show to kick-start a sport that would turn Australia into a surfers paradise (Figure 16).

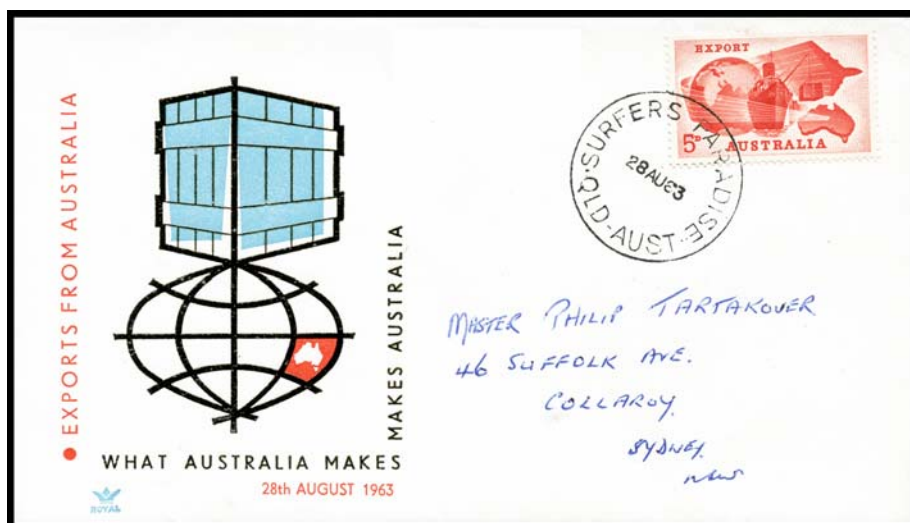


Figure 16. Surfers Paradise in Queensland, Australia is a favorite surfing spot with one of the best beaches in the world. [1963 "Surfers Paradise" postmark]

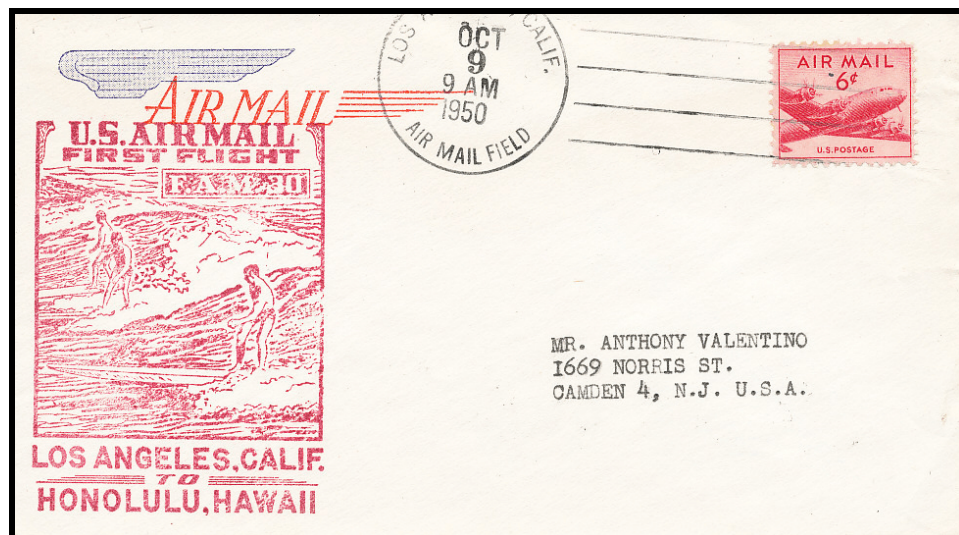


Figure 17. Fiberglass, an important material used in early surfboards, found widespread use in aircraft manufacturing, especially by the Douglas Aircraft Company. [First flight cover of Foreign Airmail Flight (FAM) 30 from Los Angeles to Honolulu with surfing cachet and Douglas Aircraft's DC-4 Skymaster stamp.]

Surfboard evolution

To understand surfing, one must explore the evolution of the surfboard. Far from a “floating slab of wood, resembling an ironing board” as characterized in the liner notes for the Beach Boys (this time the singers) 1962 album *Surfin' Safari*, the design of the surfboard was always predicated on a desire to tame, if not master, the wave.

While the solid wood ol' o boards would continue to be popular with many surfers, their size and weight were not conducive to deft maneuverability. So when it came time to create new types of boards utilizing state-of-the art materials, who better than surfers to spark the next revolution in surfboard design.

The dimensions of a surfboard are its most influential aspects. Length, width, thickness and template (3-dimensional shape) are balanced for different surfing conditions (small light waves on up to big breakers), and experience level (beginner versus seasoned professional).

Two great technological developments from the 1940s were utilized in surfboard manufacturing. The first, fiberglass, was discovered in the 1930s and used in manufacturing airplanes during WWII, especially by the Douglas Aircraft Company (Figure 17).

The second development was the commercial availability of lightweight

plastic foam which made solid wood surfboards obsolete (Figure 18).

The modern non-wood surfboard begins with a “blank” created from a lightweight foam material which is cut then shaped into a specific template. The blank becomes the core of the surfboard which is then subjected to final shaping and lamination. The material from which blanks are manufactured come in three basic types:

Polyurethane (PU) foam is at the center of these traditional blanks dating back to the 1960s and used in conjunction with polyester resins.

Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) has an open cell core and thus is known as beaded foam. This is now the most common type of the two epoxy surfboard blanks. It is worth noting that only epoxy resins may be used on polystyrene foam blanks; polyester resins will dissolve the foam.

Extruded Polystyrene foam is the second type of polystyrene foam from which epoxy blanks are created. Extruded polystyrene has a distinct advantage over expanded polystyrene in that it has closed cells and thus is waterproof. It is also considerably stronger than expanded polystyrene.



Figure 18. Modern surfboards, with their rainbow of colors and vibrant graphics, are constructed of lightweight foam cores with epoxy resin shells. [2003 Australia minisheet of surfing stamps]

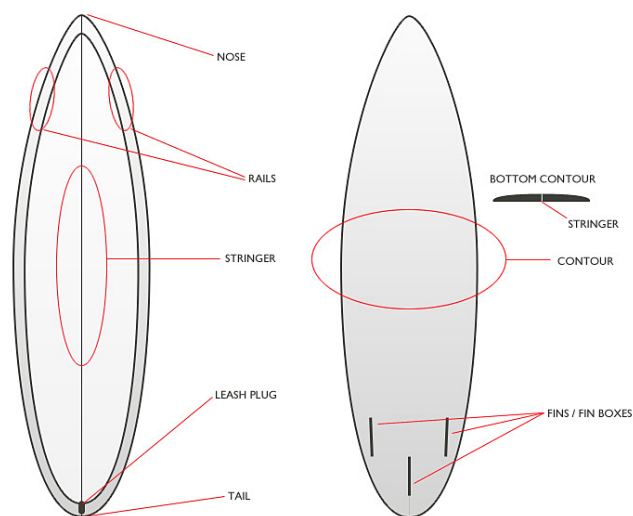


Figure 19. Basic parts of a surfboard.

All surfboards have certain common characteristics. Not surprisingly, many of these features are also found on skateboards and snowboards (part two of this article). It's therefore instructive to take a quick look at the parts of a surfboard.

Nose: the tip of your board. Shortboards and fish generally are characterized by their pointed noses, while long boards and fun boards have a more rounded nose. You can purchase a nose guard.

Deck: the top surface of the board to which wax is applied. Some surfers like to add a traction pad for a more "grippy" surface. Decks may be relatively flat, or shaped with a slight camber from rail to rail (side to side) with the centerline slightly higher. This is known as a "domed" deck, which aids in side-to-side movement of the board.

Rails: the outer edges of the board.

Stringer: a narrow piece of wood, most commonly balsa, that runs the length of the board to eliminate flexing which in turn can cause the board to break in half. Some boards come with side, or parabolic, stringers along the rail in addition to, or instead of, the center stringer (Figure 20).

Tail: the rear tip of the surfboard. These may be pointed (pin), flat (squash), or v-shaped (swallow-tail).



Figure 20. The stringer is often visible on the underside of the board (see red arrow).

Bottom: perhaps the most important part of the board as this is where board meets water. How the water flows against the board's surface (degree of friction) depends on the shape of the underside which may have more or less rocker (curve), or be concave, channeled or dimpled.

Fin: also known as a skeg, provides directional stability and increases control in steering the board. Fins were introduced in the 1930s and come in a variety of shapes, sizes and materials. Always mounted at the tail, boards may have one, two, three or more fins in varying configurations. Modern boards are equipped with fin boxes, slots built into the underside of boards that permit the mounting of different types of fins depending on surfing conditions.

The dimensions, materials and characteristics are balanced to create six basic types of surfboards which can then be matched to the proficiency level of the rider and the conditions of the surf.

Shortboard: This is the most common type of surfboard used by today's professional surfers because its size and shape allow for easy maneuverability and quick response. Shortboards are typically between 5'11" and 6'5" in length. Pointed noses and squash tails are the norm along with three fins on the tail (Figure 21).

The Gun: Use these for big wave riding. Their standard length is anywhere from 7 to 12 feet. Guns are more narrow than shortboards and considerably thicker. This gives them added stability in very big waves and prevents the boards from breaking in heavy surf. Their pin tail shape provides for greater response and sensitivity – important assets when surfing big dangerous waves.

Semi Gun: As their name implies, these surfboards are designed for use on those days when your shortboard just won't do, but your big Kahuna gun is too much! These boards usually measure between 7 and 8 feet in length with a width and thickness between the gun and shortboard.

Longboard (or Malibu): The shape of this board is great for

Figure 21. Seven surfboards from various periods (l-r):

1. Longboard: Union Jack board by Keyo of Australia, mid-1960s.
2. Fun Board: Freedom Fun Machine, circa 1971.
3. 7'2" freedom single fin, swallow tail.
4. Fish: Freedom with swallow tail.
5. Longboard: Phil Edwards 3 stringer, 1980s.
6. Shortboard: Sea Flight, circa 1985.
7. Shortboard: Billabong.

The two surfers in the selvedge of the sheet are Chester MacKley (top) and J.C. Carden, both members of the (Isle of) Jersey Surfboard Club.



beginners as it is easier to paddle and more stable allowing the rider to enter waves faster and stand up more quickly. Longer than a shortboard, sizes range from 9 to 10 feet in length and typically feature either a single or tri fin setup (Figure 21).

Fish: The Fish works best for surfing small waves. When there's not enough wave action for a shortboard, that's when you paddle out on your fish. These tend to be 2 to 3 inches shorter than a regular shortboard and are usually wider; the result is a board with a "rounder" outline. This permits easier paddling into waves while maneuvering at lower

speeds. Because of the flatter profile (less rocker – the uptilt – in the nose and/or tail) it glides more smoothly over the water's surface (Figure 21).

Fun Board: Fun boards are a hybrid of a longboard and shortboard. While a bit longer than a shortboard, they still maintain its rounder outline (when compared with a longboard). The name says it all: easy to paddle and fun to ride (Figure 21)!

Let's surf!

You've got your board, you're wearing your boardies, ... now what? Paddling out beyond the breaking waves, you turn your board around to face the shore. And wait. There's a lot of waiting in surfing.

Figure 22. Surfer carving to stay ahead of the breaker while maintaining momentum. [Australia postal stationery card]

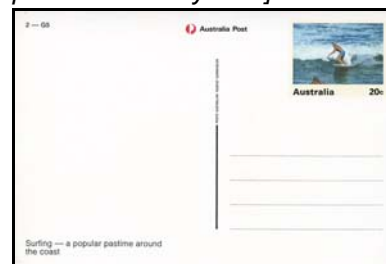




Figure 23. An important maneuver to master is the Backside Bottom Turn to gain speed and maintain your ride. [1976 Australian postal stationery card]

When you think you've spotted just the right swell building, begin paddling toward shore to match the speed of the approaching wave. The moment you feel the wave begin pushing the board it's time to stand up and ride while trying to keep just ahead of the breaking part (white water) of the wave (Figure 22).

Once a surfer has mastered the basics (i.e. reaching shore while remaining onboard), it's time for some more challenging maneuvers. One of the most important moves in your repertoire will be the Backside Bottom Turn (Figure 23) – "backside" indicates that your back is to the wave while your chest faces shore. The Bottom Turn will help you gain speed and change your position on the wave by turning into it so as to maintain your ride for as long as possible.



The ultimate ride of all is inside the tube (Figure 24). Providing the wave breaks in an orderly line from the middle to the shoulder, the rider should be able to position him or herself to ride the length of the tube and bullet out the far end. This is also known as being in the "green room".

Surfers also like to catch some air by propelling themselves off the lip of the wave, turn, and then re-enter the wave (Figure 25). This is not unlike the "ollie" which forms the basis of nearly all jumping moves in both skateboarding and snowboarding (more about them in part 2).

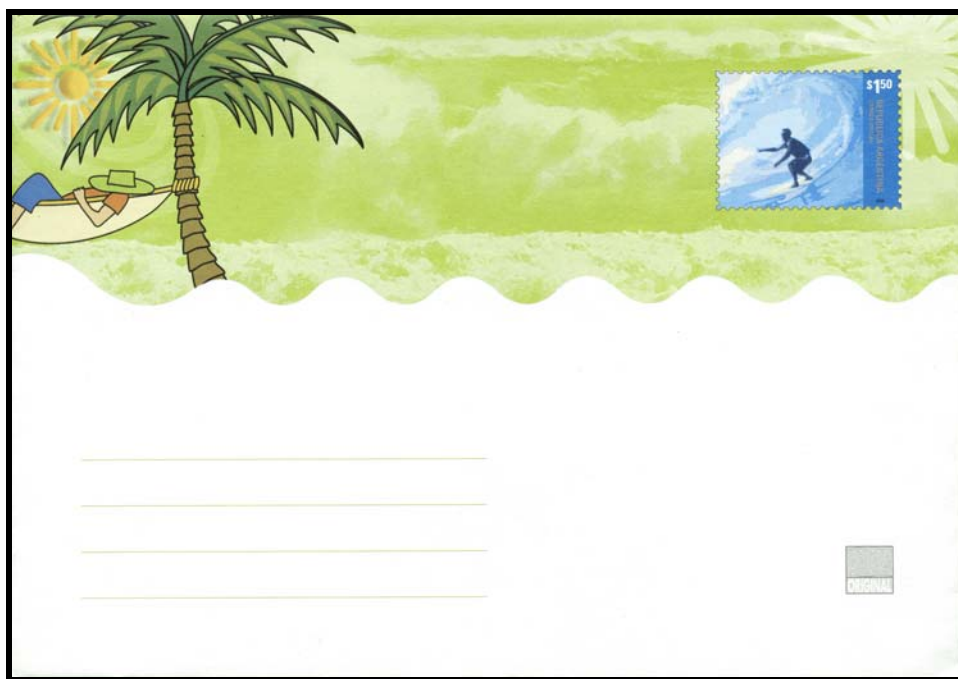


Figure 24. (Left) Riding a pipe is the ultimate in surfing. One of the best surfing locations in Argentina is Mar del Plata. [Argentina postal stationery envelope]



Figure 25. (Above) Catching air using the lip of the wave to propel the board upward, much as in skateboarding and snowboarding.



Figure 26. With their tight harmonies and catchy lyrics, the Beach Boys songs epitomized the 1960s Southern California youth culture of surfing, cars, and romance.

Surfing & pop culture

Whether or not you were a surfer boy – or girl – during the 1950s and 1960s, it was almost impossible not to be influenced by the surf culture. One had only to look around to see the impact of surfing on language, fashion, the arts, and industry.

When summer rolled around, teens all over the country would be rockin' and rollin' to the strains of the Beach Boys' "Surfin' Safari" blasting over a transistor radio (Figure 26). During the daytime they'd flock to the beach, surfboards poking out the back of an old woodie (Figure 27). At night, it was off to the drive-in movie to catch the latest beach movie complete with Annette Funicello and Frankie Avalon – the Selena Gomez and Justin Bieber of the 1960s – cavorting over the sand (Figure 28).

Fashionwise, you better have your boardies for riding those waves. Après-surf, it was strictly Aloha shirts for the barbeque on the beach (Figure 29).



Figure 27. The "woodie" station wagon, the car of choice for surfers, who let their boards hang out the rear window. [Plate number coil of 3 self-adhesive stamps]



Figure 28. Annette Funicello and Frankie Avalon movies, such as "Beach Party" (1963) were the preferred feature at drive-ins across the U.S.

McGregor was one of the first to capitalize on the blossoming of the sportswear industry. By the mid-1960s, it had partnered with surfboard manufacturer Hobie to create a line of surf wear which was worn by the "McGregor Surfing Team." Even off the beach, McGregor was the epitome of style. In 1955, their red Anti-Freeze windbreaker jacket was selected for sexy actor James Dean to wear in his daring film "Rebel Without A Cause." Needless to say, sales of that red jacket skyrocketed (Figure 30).

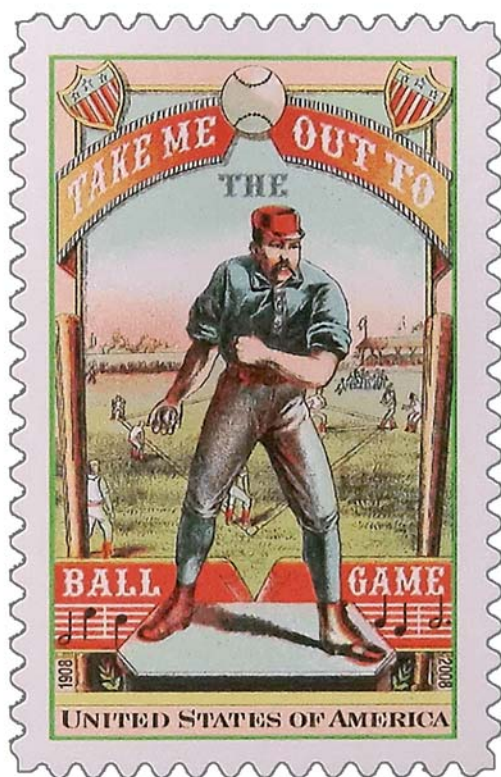


In Part 2 we'll take a look at the origins of skateboarding and snowboarding. In the meantime, scan the code for some fun vids!



Figures 29 & 30. When the last wave was surfed and boards stowed away for the day, an aloha shirt was always fashionable for that beach cookout. And when it got a bit chilly, you could throw on a red Anti-Freeze windbreaker ala James Dean!





Take Me Out to the Ball Game

... and get an autograph too!

by Dr. C. Ronald White

I have always pursued baseball memorabilia. From the mid- and late 40's when a request on a two-cent postcard would bring a postcard-sized, autographed picture of a major leaguer, to the 250 signed baseballs I collected in the 70's through 90's. The thrill of speaking with a Hall of Famer, at either a card show or near a dugout at a spring training game, has been an experience close to my heart.

Whether during "Little League Day" at Cleveland's Municipal Stadium or an at-bat against Bob Feller at Al Lang Stadium in St. Petersburg, the onset of spring training issues in another opportunity.

St. Petersburg was the hub of the Grapefruit League since 1914 with the St. Louis Browns, Philadelphia Phillies, Boston Braves, St. Louis Cardinals, NY Yankees, NY Giants, NY Mets and Baltimore Orioles spending their spring training there.

And there are 10 more teams training within 90 miles.

Both Tampa, to which I moved in 1971, and eventually St. Pete, proved fertile ground for a baseball memorabilia and stamp collector. Sitting next to the visitor's dugout in the first row for many years at Al Lang Stadium provided ample opportu-

nity to shmooze with rookies or veterans who were generally amiable and happy to sign an item thrust their way.

Now, with the Rays deserting to Port Charlotte, a spot by the fence near the visitor's bullpen at Florida Auto Exchange Stadium in Dunedin offers a chance for contact and a signature, as does a seat alongside the visitor's dugout at Tropicana Field in St. Pete during the regular season.

On July 26, 2008 the U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp honoring the 100th anniversary of "Take Me Out To The Ballgame" honoring both the game and the song. Written in 1908 by Jack Norworth and Albert Von Tilzer it is sung in all ballparks during the seventh inning stretch, probably the most famous by Harry Caray of the Chicago Cubs. Kids young and old sway while, in unison, echoing ...

***"if the (home team) don't win, it's a shame."
... and it truly is!***

Many players happily give autographs. Those that don't are either too egocentric, busy or have been harassed by fans in the past. Some refuse – rightfully so – because times have changed and dealers hawk signatures for sale, often hiring young fans to get autographs for them. Players are more often willing to sign for a kid than a pushy adult.

I have never sold a baseball card or a first day cover. Although I gave my baseballs to my youngest son who sold them, the proceeds went into my grandson's college education fund.

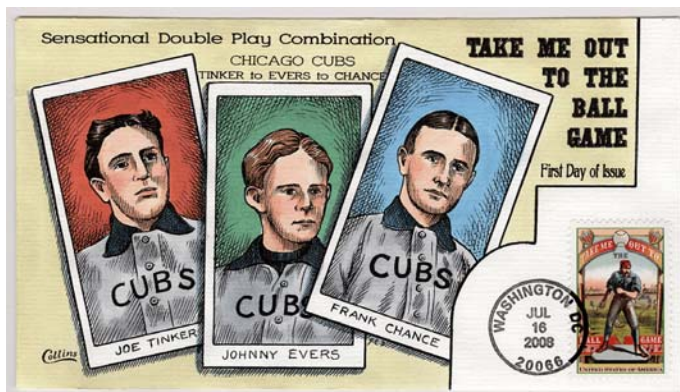
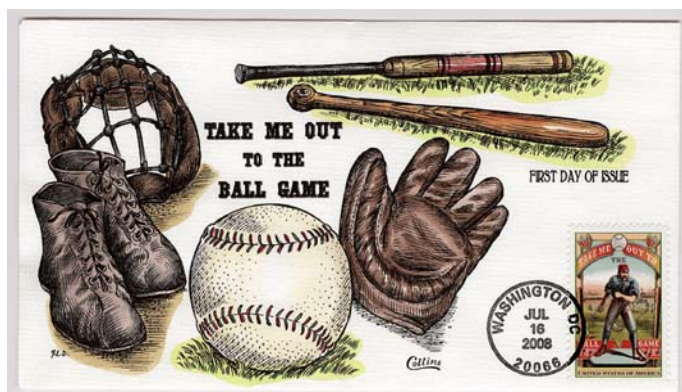
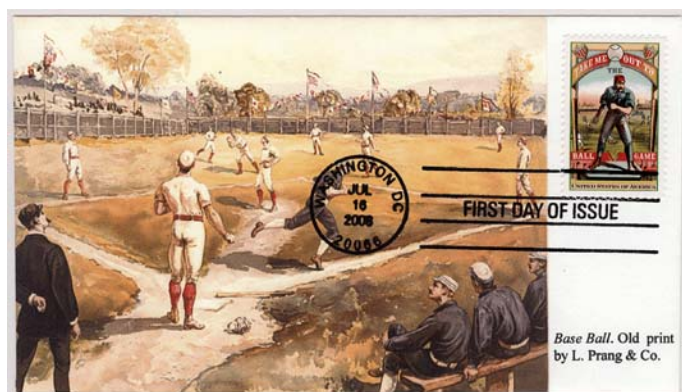
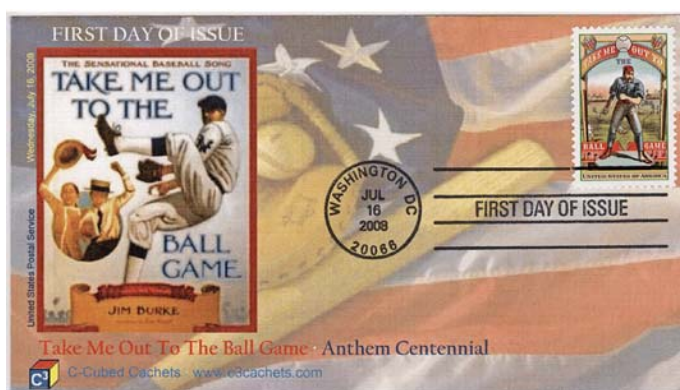
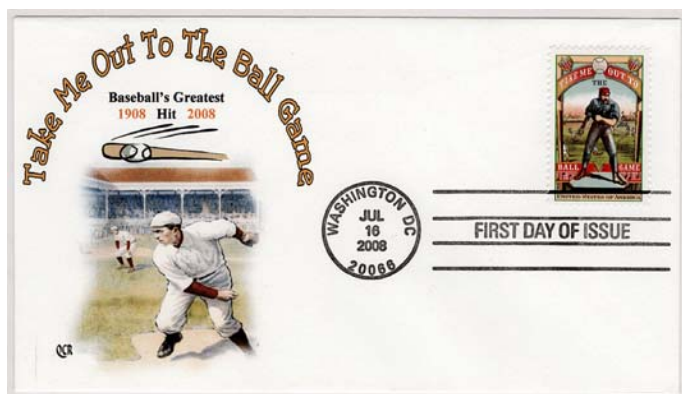
The enjoyment for me is in the collecting experience, meeting the players and occasionally looking over the cache (cachet) of my collection. I hope you enjoy these photos and it gives you an alternative idea for your topical collection.

Here's a very important tip: when you get an autograph be sure to document who it is, because in several days you will not remember who's autograph it was and you and others will be extremely lucky to be able to read the signature.

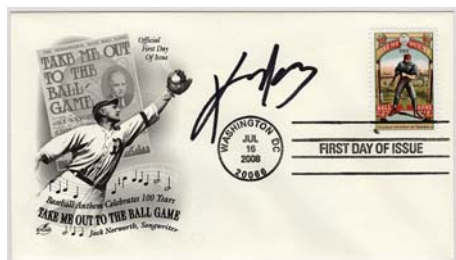


Author with Joe Girardi (signing ball) – Port Charlotte, Florida, Spring Training, 2013.

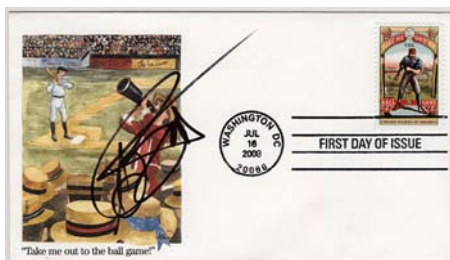
First Day of Issue Covers for the "TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME" stamp (not autographed)



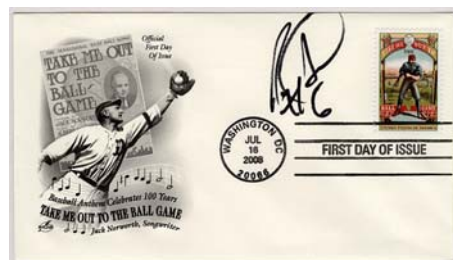
First Day of Issue Covers for the "TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME" stamp (ones I've gotten signed)



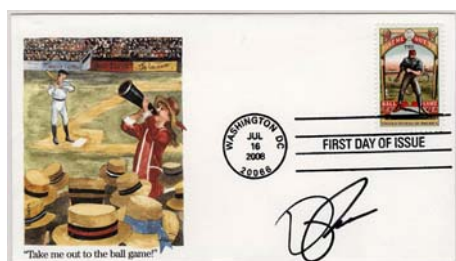
Kevin Youkilis: Third and First Baseman for the Boston Red Sox (2004-2012). Now third baseman for the NY Yankees.



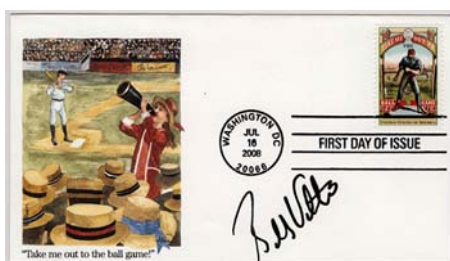
A. J. Burnett: RHP for Pittsburgh Pirates who has pitched in the Major Leagues since 1999 for Marlins, Blue Jays and Yankees. Pitched No-Hitter in 2001.



Ryan Howard: 2006 NL MVP First Baseman for Philadelphia, Phillies, 2006 NLROY Tore Achilles tendon: ready for 2013.



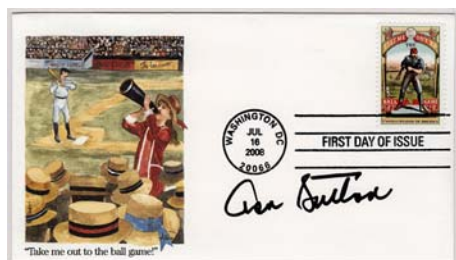
Terry Francona: Former first baseman/outfielder who managed the Boston Red Sox to World Series titles in 2004 and 2007. Now manages the Indians.



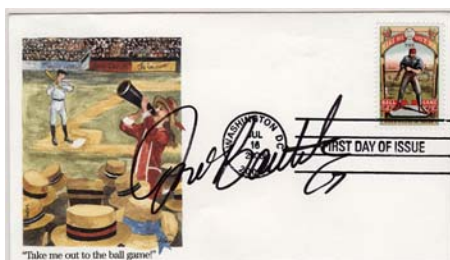
Bobby Valentine: Former Major League infielder/outfielder (Mets, Red Sox) now a college Athletic Director in Fairfield, Connecticut.



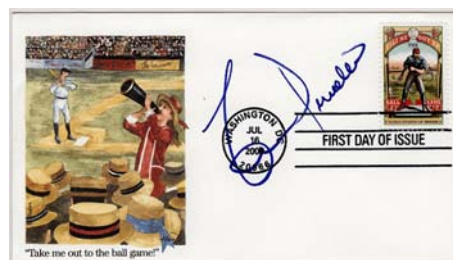
Tim Wakefield: Retired knuckleballer who played for the Boston Red Sox for 17 years. Has 206 career Major League wins.



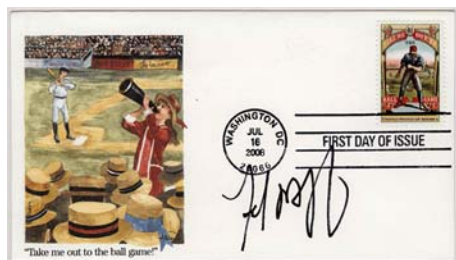
Don Sutton: Former right-handed pitcher for the LA Dodgers. Was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1998. Currently a broadcaster for the Atlanta Braves.



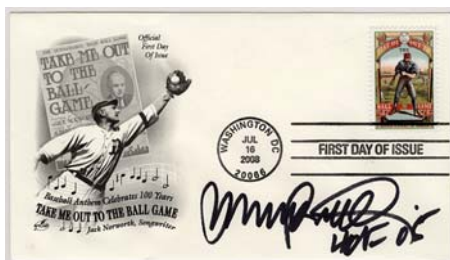
Jose Bautista: Power-hitting right fielder for the Toronto Blue Jays. Major League Baseball HR Champion in 2010 and 2011.



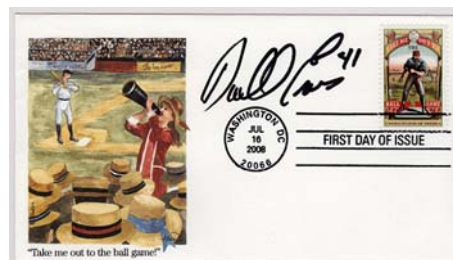
Lou Pinella: "Sweet Lou" is a former MLB outfielder and Manager who finished his Managerial career Ranked 14th in Managerial Wins.



Fred McGriff: Left-handed power-hitting first baseman. The most recent player to lead both Leagues in home runs and a 5-time All-Star.

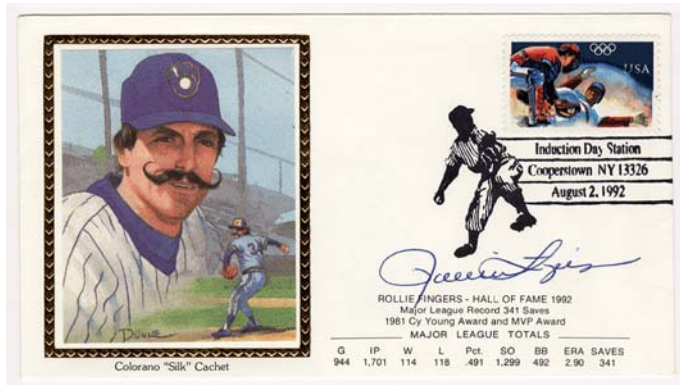


Ryne Sandberg: HOF 2005) Former 16-year veteran second baseman, mostly with the Cubs. Currently the third-base coach for the Philadelphia Phillies.

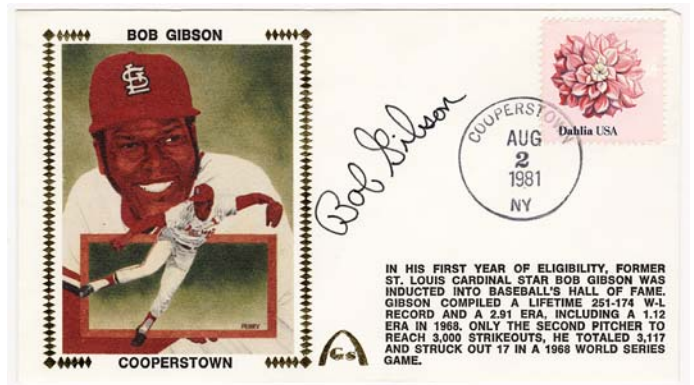


Darrell Evans: Former third and first baseman (1969-1980). The first player to hit 40 home runs in both leagues. Described as the "most underrated player in history."

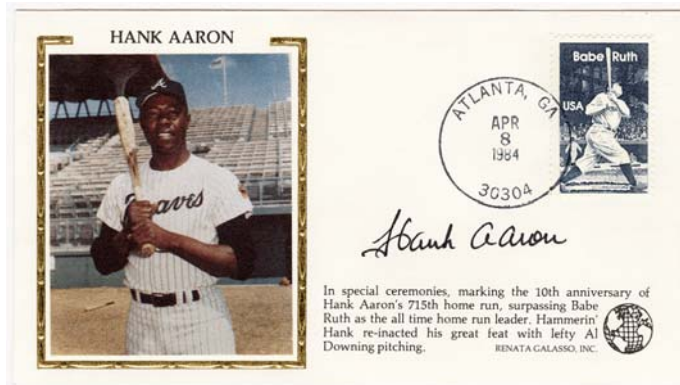
Commemorative Covers (I purchased these)



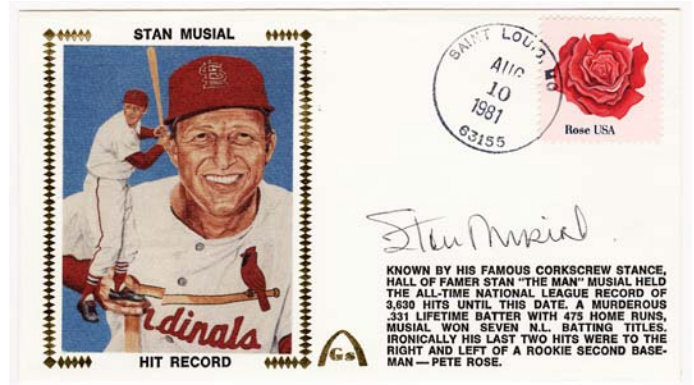
Rollie Fingers



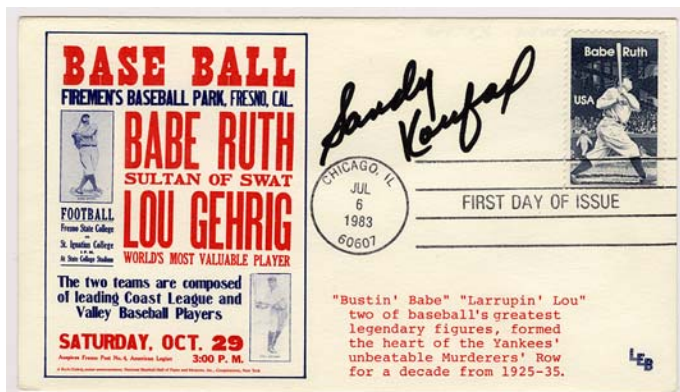
Bob Gibson



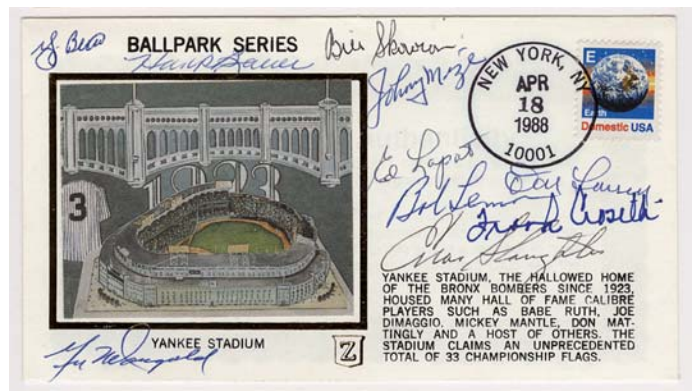
Hank Aaron



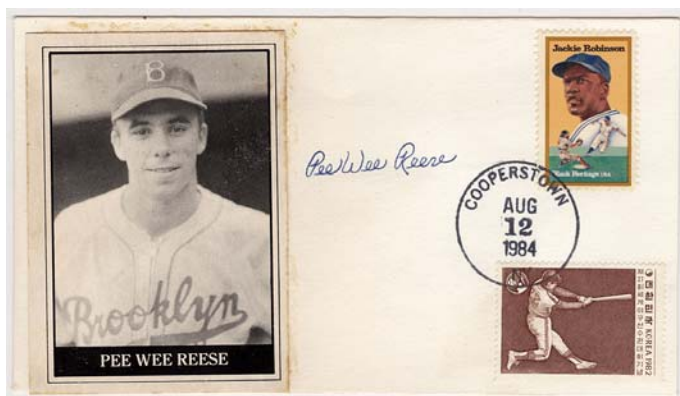
Stan Musial



Sandy Koufax



NY Yankees



Pee Wee Reese

Now you see why it's very important to somehow keep track of the autographs you are getting. Sometimes it's next to impossible to go back 2-3-4 months later and identify the signatures of many of the signers with which you are not that familiar.

Consider First Day of Issue and commemorative covers, ... and then consider getting them autographed!

Dr. White is a former physician consultant for the Tampa Bay (Devil) Rays. The author would like to thank Mike Jacobs for help with the layout.



Japan's 67th National Sports Festival

by Mark Maestroni
contributed by John La Porta and
Yutaka Matsubayashi

The juggernaut that is the Olympic Games tends to overshadow other major sports events that take place around the same time. Such was the case with the 2012 Japanese National Sports Festival held from September 29 to October 9.

Always conducted during the month of October, because "Sports no Aki" (Japanese for, "Autumn is the best season for sports"), the National Sports Festival dates back to 1946 in Kyoto. Since then the

event has grown considerably, encompassing some 22,000 athletes competing in up to 38 sports (this number includes the winter sports events contested earlier in the year). Compare this with the London Olympic Games in which 10,820 competitors vied for medals in 26 sports and you get an idea of how large the National Sports Festival is!

This year's festival was held in Gifu Prefecture (a prefecture is something akin to a state or province). Gifu (its capital city is also called Gifu) is located in the center of the main island of Honshu and has historically been referred to as the cross-roads of Japan. The last time Gifu hosted the National Sports Festival was in 1965.

An unusual aspect of the National Sports Festival is that the prefectures actually compete against one another. Points are awarded for the top eight places in each event. At the end of the festival, the prefecture with the most points (combining both men's and women's events) receives the Emperor's Cup. The Empress's Cup goes to the prefecture with the highest women's point total. Usually – but not always – the two cups end up in the possession of the same prefecture. In 2012, the host, Gifu, won both.

Japan Post issued a handsome set of five different ¥50 stamps. Classified as a "Furusato" (Prefectural) set, the stamps depict the sports of badminton, rhythmic gymnastics, rowing, cycling, and field hockey. Minamo, the festival mascot, appears in the selvedge participating in each of the five sports.



*Miniature sheet
of five stamps
issued for the
Festival.*



Registered cover to Italy postmarked with the commemorative basketball cancel.



67th National Sports Festival Commemorative Postmarks

1. Track & Field, Gifu Chuo PO
2. Table Tennis, Gifu Nishi PO
3. Rugby Football, Seki PO
4. Cycling Road Race, Mino PO
5. Sumo, Gujyo Hachiman PO
6. Halbert (?), Kasamatsu PO
7. Softball, Hazima PO
8. Swimming, Gifu Kita PO
9. Judo, Ogaki PO
10. Baseball with soft rubber ball, Kakamigahara PO
11. Volleyball, Minokamo PO
12. Basketball, Takayama PO
13. Karate, Kakamigahara PO
14. Wrestling, Natsugawa PO
15. Hockey, Kakamigahara PO
16. Golf, Kani PO
17. Handball, Hagihara PO
18. Weightlifting, Toki PO
19. Soft tennis, Toki PO
20. Archery, Ena PO

Produced in vertical panes of 10 (two of each), the stamps were issued September 28, 2012 – the day prior to the start of competition. Six million stamps (600,000 panes) were printed. The stamp designer was Akira Tamaki.

A series of 20 commemorative sports cancels were also used. Each cancel portrays the festival mascot, Minamo, performing that sport.

The photocopied announcement reproduced for this article is unfortunately missing cancels 6, 12, and 18. The translation provided identifies the three missing postmarks as: (6) Halbert (Kasamatsu Post Office), (12) Basketball (Takayama PO) and (18) Weightlifting (Toki PO). I haven't a clue to what sport "Halbert" refers, and the lack of an illustration makes identifying it that much more difficult.

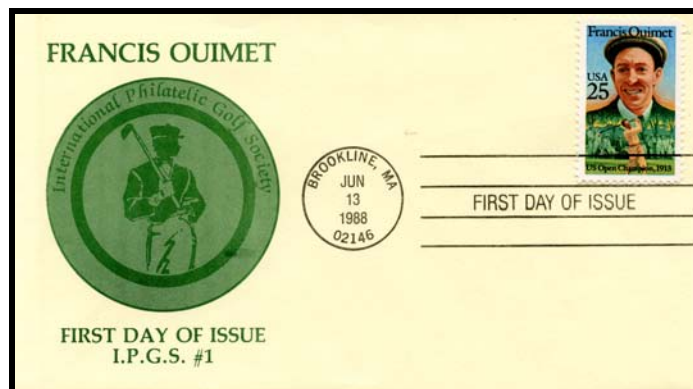
Another mystery that so far has gone unsolved is why the postmarks shown in the reproduction are all dated "24. 6. 9" (2012 June 9). The date does not fall within the period of the sports festival which ran from 29 September to 9 October, nor does it coincide with the First Day of Issue of the set of stamps (28 September). So what is the connection?

At first I thought that the dates shown in the postmarks' designs was for representation purposes and really didn't reflect the final dates of use of each postmark. Perhaps 9 June marked the publication of the postmark announcement.

Then, in correspondence with member Luciano Calenda in Italy, I discovered he had covers with basketball postmarks from various days in June other than 9 June. So we can certainly say that the postmarks were used in June ... but why? And further, are there any examples of any of the postmarks actually used during the sports festival?



Another mystery that we were able to solve, thanks to Kazuo Kobayashi in Japan, is what the significance was of the "—" beneath the year (see above right postmark). According to Kazuo, both postmarks were used on the first day from two different post offices: the Takayama post office (without underline) and the Takayama postal cooperation branch which was not open on 9/10 June (Saturday & Sunday). Are there other postmarks from multiple post offices? Your editor welcomes any and all information on these postmarks!



Figures 1 & 2. (Left) Francis Ouimet cacheted FDC of the International Philatelic Golf Society. (Right) Bobby Jones FDC, another of the many cacheted FDCs celebrating his Grand Slam of golf.

FOLLOW-UP TO A PHILATELIC GOLF THREESOME

by Patricia Loehr

In three issues of the *Journal of Sports Philately* (Spring, Summer and Fall 2012) I wrote about “Major Tournament Golf,” “Golf and the Modern Olympic Games,” and “Team Golf.” This is an addendum to those articles of golf past, present, and future.

MAJOR TOURNAMENT GOLF

The United States Open Championship of 1913 was commemorated with a United States postage stamp in 1988 honoring Francis Ouimet (Figure 1). The centennial of that historic U.S. Open in 2013 is scheduled for June at Merion Golf Club¹ in Pennsyl-



Figure 3. Postcard of Minikahda Golf Club (here spelled Minnekahda), site of the 1916 U.S. Open. Chick Evans learned to golf when he caddied at Chicago golf courses.

vania, the site of another famous Open in 1930 when Bobby Jones completed the Grand Slam of golf (Figure 2). Both Francis Ouimet and Bobby Jones were prominent amateur golfers in the era before the rise to dominance of professional golf in the United States.

GOLF AND THE MODERN OLYMPIC GAMES

As the sport prepares for its return to the Olympic Games in 2016 it should be noted that 2016 also marks the centennial of amateur golfer Charles “Chick” Evans Jr. achieving an early Major double² by winning both the United States Open (Figure 3) and United States Amateur in the same year. In an interesting coincidence, just as Bobby Jones³ realized his golf Grand Slam at Merion in 1930, Chick Evans completed his famous double at Merion as well (Figure 4).

Another centennial in 2016 will be the founding of the United States Professional Golfers’ Association (PGA) and its major tournament, the PGA



Figure 4. Slogan meter for the Evans Scholars Foundation. Begun in the Grand Slam of Golf year, the foundation was established by Chick Evans to provide a college education to former deserving caddies and is administered by the Western Golf Association.



Figure 5. PGA slogan meter stamp for 75th anniversary 1991.



Figure 6. Commemorative cancellation for one of the several golf events held at Medinah.

Championship. Rodman Wanamaker initiated a meeting of prominent golfers in January of 1916 to form an association that would promote the sport while at the same time protecting its professional competitors. The PGA began in April with 35 charter members. The first PGA Championship was held in October and the trophy awarded to the champion is named for its donor, Wanamaker. A slogan meter stamp in Figure 5 commemorates 75 years of the organization.

TEAM GOLF

The biennial matches of the Ryder Cup were held at Medinah Country Club (Figure 6) outside of Chicago, Illinois the last weekend in September of 2012. The matches provided exciting and suspenseful golf for a global audience.

The event was the first opportunity for the Ryder Cup to honor Severiano (Seve) Ballesteros who passed away in May of 2011 and reflect upon all he meant to what the matches have become. Also, it gave the European team the first opportunity to win the matches in his memory.



Figure 7. Commemorative cancellation for Seve Ballesteros' first major championship win at the 1979 British Open.

With his first major tournament victory in the United States at the Masters of 1980, Ballesteros became known for his enthusiasm, vitality, and adventurous style of play. After becoming a popular champion, Seve went on to play most of his golf internationally instead of as a regular on the United States PGA Tour. Consequently, his five major tournament wins were twice at the Masters and three times at the British Open (Figure 7).

In 1991 St. Vincent issued a miniature sheet of Famous Golfers (Figure 8); Ballesteros is featured on one of the eight stamps. Each of the golfers on the miniature sheet achieved considerable success throughout his years in golf.

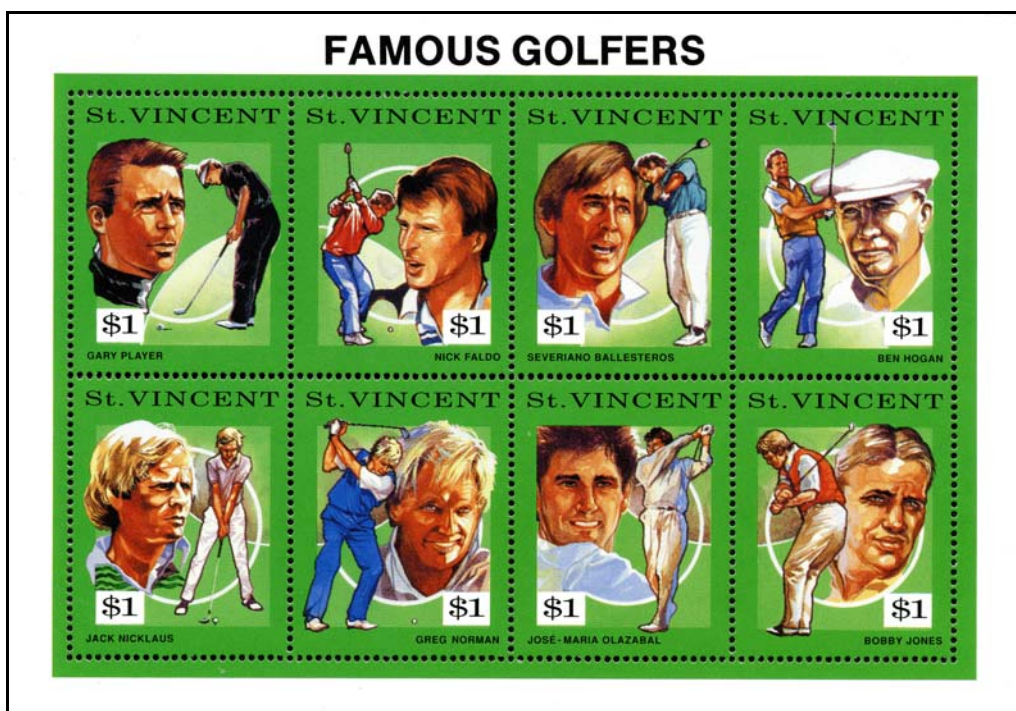


Figure 8. Featured with Ballesteros is Ben Hogan who achieved a famous triple in 1953 by winning the Masters, U.S. and British Opens.

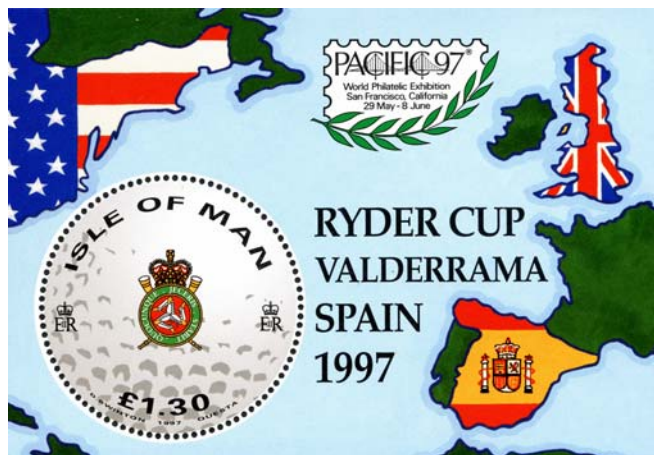


Figure 9. Isle of Man souvenir sheet (left) with presentation folder (above) for 1997 Ryder Cup Matches.

Despite multiple successes at the Masters and Open Championship, Seve is mostly remembered for his Ryder Cup golf.

From a desire to create renewed interest in the matches, Ryder Cup administrators in 1979 expanded the Great Britain and Ireland side to include European golfers. Previously, with only a few exceptions, the matches had become mediocre with the United States routinely victorious.

Ballesteros has been given most of the credit for the event's return to relevance when he began playing for side Europe. Seve played in eight Ryder Cups. He captained the European side to victory in 1997 at Valderrama in the south of Spain – the first time the Cup was held at a course outside Great Britain and the United States. The Isle of Man issued a single stamp souvenir sheet in advance of that Ryder Cup (Figure 9). A commemorative cancellation of each team score is in Figure 10.

Davis Love III, who had won the 1997 PGA Championship (Figure 11), was captain for the United States side at the 2012 Ryder Cup. However, they could not prevail at Medinah as the European side captained by Seve's protégé and two-time Masters champion, Jose Maria Olazabal, realized an emotional and exciting come-from-behind victory. A most fitting tribute to Severiano Ballesteros and also reminiscent of his Ryder Cup golf (Fig. 12).

Endnotes

1. In its early years, the Merion West Course was affiliated with a cricket club and known as Merion Golf and Cricket Club.
2. Bobby Jones played in his first golf championship at the age of fourteen at Merion when Chick Evans achieved his famous double.
3. A decade after Evans' Major double, Bobby Jones doubled by winning the United States and British Open Championships in the same year. In the modern, professional Grand Slam era several golfers have earned Major doubles. This is especially true of Jack Nicklaus who won two Major Championships five times (1963, 1966, 1972, 1975, and 1980).



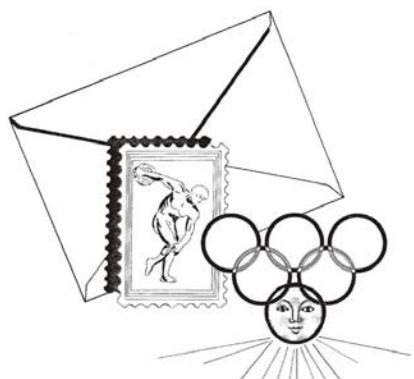
Figure 10. Commemorative cancellation of 1997 Ryder Cup results, with "Valderama" misspelled.



Figure 11. Postmark for 1997 PGA Championship.



Figure 12. A May 2004 Spanish souvenir sheet for the Espana 2004 International Philatelic Exposition includes a picture of Severiano Ballesteros on a label beneath a golf stamp (above left). In April 2012 Spain issued a stamp for Severiano Ballesteros (above right).



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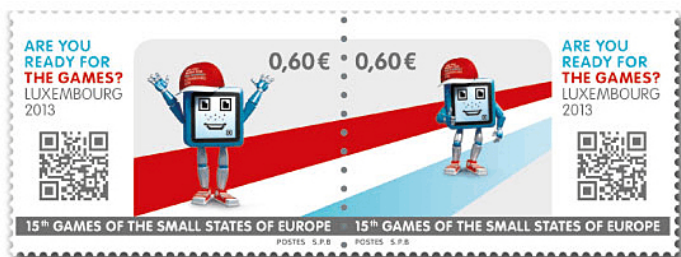
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THE SPORTS ARENA

by Mark Maestroni



Luxembourg's Small States Games Stamps Go Hi-Tech

This year, Luxembourg plays host to the 15th Games of the Small States of Europe (GSSE). The biennial sporting event will take place from 27 May to 1 June and involve teams from nine nations. The participating states – all with under one million residents – are: Cyprus, Montenegro, Malta, Iceland, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino, and of course Luxembourg.

Competition will be in ten sports: athletics, cycling, judo, table tennis, tennis, swimming, gymnastics, shooting, basketball, and volleyball (both beach and regular).

The internet will play an important role in this year's GSSE. For the first time, fans can follow the action on any electronic device, be it a computer, tablet or smartphone. Not surprisingly, the mascot is an anthropomorphized computer device sporting a bright red baseball cap and sneakers.

The se-tenant pair of stamps issued by Luxembourg Post feature the official mascot in two different poses. Reinforcing the hi-tech theme, each stamp also includes a QR (Quick Response) code. When scanned using a smartphone camera or other portable device equipped with the special barcode reading application, the square QR code acts as a quick link to the Games' website: www.luxembourg2013.lu

This is not the first time a QRC has been added to a sports stamp. Russia issued a single stamp in September 2012 for the upcoming 2014 Sochi Olympic Winter Games. The entire design area of the square stamp is a QRC linked to the Sochi Olympic website.

Luxembourg's stamps, each with a value of €0.60, are issued in vertical miniature panes of ten (five se-tenant pairs). Pictograms of the ten sports are reproduced in the selvage as are the QR codes. The date of issue was 2 May 2013.

1928 Olympic Fencing Postcards from Italy: An Update

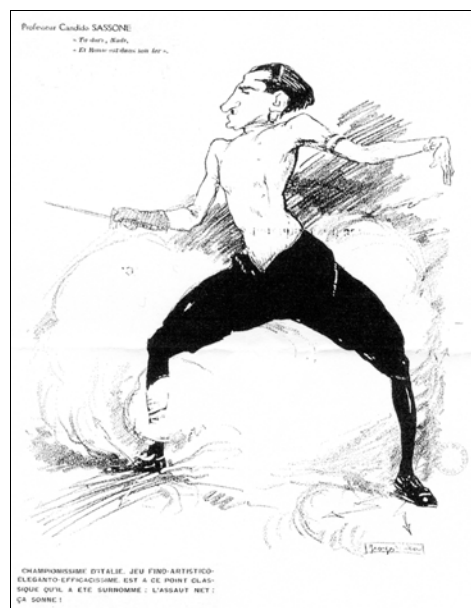
Thanks to SPI members Jean-Pierre Picquot and Jeffrey Tishman, we have some further details on the 1928 Olympic fencing postcards reported on in the Spring 2013 issue of *JSP*.

We were able to identify the artist of six of the cards: French painter, Georges Villa. We also discovered that Villa was entered in the 1924 Paris Olympic Games arts competition with a work entitled "Three Panels on Fencing." In the absence of an illustrated reference for the arts competition, which I don't believe exists, I wondered what Villa's entry looked like.

Since publication of the original article, we've discovered that Villa's entry actually consisted of three pages (panels) from the book "Haut les Masques!" ("Raise the Masks"), published in 1924 with text by Armand Massard and Roger Ducret, two well-known French fencers. The two-volume set is richly illustrated with Villa's fencing caricatures. Still unanswered, though, was the question of which three illustrations had been entered in the Paris competition?

In "Art & Olympisme" by Jean-Yves Guillaud, we found a reproduction of one panel, shown below.

What were the two other illustrations from "Haut les Masques!" vying for honors at the 1924 Olympic Games? That's still a mystery which perhaps one of our readers can answer!



FOR THE OLYMPIC COLLECTOR WHO HAS (NEARLY) EVERYTHING

The IRS leave you with a little money in your pocket this year? Well hopefully you were the lucky individual who managed to win this lot in the April 17 auction of "American Furniture, Folk & Decorative Arts" conducted by Freeman's Auctioneers & Appraisers of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Lot 338, a "Rare 1904 St. Louis Olympic Games ribboned participation medal" was quite a trinket!

Probably belonging to Samuel Morse Felton, Jr. (1853-1930) of Philadelphia, the medal was described as follows: "octagonal form, the obverse cast to show a nude male, mid-stride, clutching a laurel branch, the sun rising over his shoulder; the verso with legend and the crests of St. Louis, France and the United States against a background of ivy; the medal suspended from a ribbon inscribed, 'Aug. 29-31, Sept. 1-3, 1904' and attached to a bar impressed, 'Hon. Official.'"

Like his father, Samuel Morse Felton Jr. was a railroad man. After graduating from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1873, he became president of various railroads, including the Alton and St. Louis Railroad and the Chicago Great Western Railway. He served as a member of the Transportation Committee for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. It's certainly likely that the Exposition organizing committee bestowed the medal on its senior members.

Freeman's pre-sale estimate on the medal: \$3,000-\$5,000.

The hammer price? A whopping \$24,000 (plus 25% buyer's premium of \$6,000) for a grand total of \$30K!



The real stamp (left), and the clever counterfeit (right).

Vancouver Olympic Counterfeits cost Canada Post \$10M

Believe it or not, there are still counterfeit stamp thieves out there making a fast buck. By one estimate, Canada Post is losing \$10 million annually on fakes!

While perusing recent offerings on eBay, I came across a commercially used cover bearing the snowboard stamp issued in 2009 by Canada Post for the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games. The seller, a Canadian dealer, was clear: this was a counterfeit stamp. How did he know? The real stamps have a band of fluorescent tagging along all four sides which glows green under ultraviolet light.

A little further investigation on the internet turned up a useful article dated 13 March 2013.* According to the report, a ring of stamp counterfeiters has been selling their bogus wares through chains of convenience stores in the Toronto and Montréal areas. Arrests have been made by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Richard Gratton, secretary of the FIP and an expert in the field, has identified some 32 different counterfeit Canadian stamps. He added that in "2010, he looked at 27,000 envelopes and found almost one per cent – 0.65 per cent – had been posted with counterfeit stamps" adding up to some "\$100 to \$200,000 per day."

I ended up purchasing the cover for my collection. The #10 cover is addressed to the Municipal Court in Montréal and bears a circular docketing stamp in the center.

Upon receipt of the cover, I scanned both a real example from my collection as well as the counterfeit on the cover. I used a resolution of 1600 dpi to make comparison easy. The stamps are shown side-by-side in the illustration at top.

When I superimposed the fake on top of the real stamp, the designs were almost exactly aligned. However one can see that at the same resolution, the counterfeit's printing is coarse in comparison. The real stamp's images are perfectly smooth even at this magnification. And of course, if you have an ultraviolet light, detection of fakes will be even easier.

* <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/story/2013/03/13/quebec-canada-post-counterfeit-stamps.html>

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Mark Maestroni

NEW MEMBERS

#2307 Phil J. Webber, 59 Robert St., Maitland, SA 5573, Australia. **General sports & Olympics.**

NEW ADDRESS

Joan Miquel Llompart, Joaquim M. Bover, 15 4^o-A, 07005 Palma (Balearic Islands), SPAIN

CORRECTIONS TO MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Tim Baikie: correct email address is tim@tsbaikie.com

Thomas Lippert: correct email address is lippert@imos-online.de

Kon Sokolyk: remove from General Olympic interest; add Olympics Host Country and Olympic cinderellas. To sports, add Ice Hockey.

Jeffrey Tishman: correct email address is jeffreytishman@optimum.net

Olli Viljanen: add 1952 Olympics to interests; subtract Dutch and add Finnish to Translation Services.

MEMBER'S PASSING

On a sad note, David Buxton, a long-time member of SPI and SOC, passed away on 23 April.

US EXHIBITING NEWS

2013 National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS), Rochester, NY, 17-19 May. Jury: Douglas N. Clark, Chief Judge; Yavuz Corapcioglu; Robert R. Henak; Thomas Lera; Jay B. Stotts; Christopher E. Dahle, Apprentice.

Norman F. Jacobs, Jr.: "Tennis - From Game of Kings to King of Games" (8 frames). NTSS Gold medal and NTSS Grand Award.

Clemons Reiss: "Sailing Races - 1662-2012, Earliest Recorded Race to Next Olympics" (8 frames). NTSS Gold medal and SPI Multi-Frame Award.

Clemons Reiss: "Lawn Bowling, Rulers, Rules, Recreation and Results" (1 frame). NTSS Single Frame Silver medal, Mary Ann Owens One-Frame

Grand Award, Lighthouse Stamp Society Award, Ships on Stamps Award, and SPI Single-Frame Award.

OVERSEAS EXHIBITING NEWS

OSTROPA '13, Jihlava, Czech Republic, 18-28 April 2013 (Class 1). Dieter Germann, Grosskrotzenburg, Germany: "Fight for Victory," Sport in Ancient Greece. Gold medal.

European Championship, Essen, Germany, 2-4 May 2013 (International Class). Germany: "Fight for Victory," Sport in Ancient Greece. Grand Vermeil medal.

SAMOLUX '13, Schiffweiler, Germany, 9-12 May 2013 (Class 2). Rüdiger Fritz of Halle, Germany: "The Olympic Comeback - the Games in the Era From Baron de Coubertin 1896-1925." Gold medal.



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NEW STAMP ISSUES

by John La Porta

Albania: September 28, 2012. European Soccer Championships. Se-tenant pair of stamps, 100 lek and 200 lek, different designs of flags of participating countries. Offset in sheets of eight.

Armenia: November 30, 2012. London Olympics. Three se-tenant stamps showing athletes, London landmarks, 170dr boxer; 200dr weightlifter; 230dr wrestlers. Offset in sheets of six.

November 30, 2012. Olympic Champions. Pane of four se-tenant 120dr stamps, shooter Hrachya Petikyan; weightlifter Israyel Militosyan; wrestler Mnatsakan Iskandaryan; wrestler Armen Nazaryan.

Austria: January 2, 2013. Ski Championships. €0.62 freedom in the snow; €0.70 Styrian heart; €0.90 slalom dance.

January 4, 2013. Modern Architecture. €0.62 Bergisel Ski Jump.

Australia: February 12, 2013. Surfing Australia. Four 60¢ stamps, 1950's scene with three women and surfboards; 1960's with stylized wave; two surfers walking on beach, station wagon; pro surfer Layne Beachley. Souvenir sheet with the four stamps se-tenant. Prestige booklet. Offset in sheets of 50, booklets of 10 and coils of 100.

Azerbaijan: November 7, 2012. 20th Anniversary National Olympic Committee. 20g national flag, silhouettes of ancient Greek runners, emblem.

Belarus: December 21, 2012. London Olympics. Nondenominated "M" stamp for airmail postcards, bronze medal in canoeing, tennis, weightlifting, rhythmic gymnastic; nondenominated "H" stamp for international surface mail, silver medals in swimming, canoeing, rhythmic gymnastics; non-denominated "P" stamp for airmail letters, gold medals in shooting, tennis. Offset in sheets of eight stamps and four labels.

Bosnia Serb Administration: September 15, 2012. 50th Anniversary Slavia Boxing Club. 90p boxing, gloves. Offset in sheets of eight and a central label.

Burundi: October 15, 2012. London Olympics. Sheet of four stamps, 1,180f judo; 1,190f soccer; 3,000f table tennis; 3,000f cycling. Souvenir sheet of one 7500f value, swimming.

Central Africa: June 25, 2012. Famous Golfers. Sheet of four 900f stamps, Gary Player; Phil Mickelson; Arnold Palmer; Jack Nicklaus. Souvenir sheet with one 3000f value, Tiger Woods.

Formula 1. Sheetlet of four 900f stamps, Red Bull Racing, Sebastian Vettel, Lotus - Kimi Raikkonen. Souvenir sheet of one 3000f value Fernando Alonso.

Table Tennis Champions. Sheetlet of four 900f values, Cin Xu, Li Xiaoxia. Souvenir sheet of one 3000f value Ma Long.

Cyprus: November 14, 2012. First Olympic Medalist. €0.34 silver medalist Pavlos Kontides, laser sailing. Offset in sheets of eight.

Czech Republic: January 21, 2013. Biathlon World Championships 2013. Postcard "Z" rate, imprinted stamp depicts biathlon.

Egypt: July 27, 2012. London Olympics. Five £2.50 stamps, mascot; bicycle; basketball; soccer; biathlon.

Ghana: September 12, 2012. Rugby. Pane of three stamps, 5,000fr Juan Smith; 15,000fr Andries Bekker; 20,000fr Sebastien Chabal. Souvenir sheet with 40,000fr stamp, Bryan Habana, Adam Ashley-Cooper.

September 12, 2012. Table Tennis. Pane of three stamps, 5,000fr, 15,000fr different views of Wang Hao; 20,000fr Zhang Jilke. Souvenir sheet with 40,000fr stamp, Wang Hao.

Guinea: September 20, 2012. Table Tennis. Sheet of three 40,000FG stamps showing table tennis players in action, Zhang Jike, Wang Hao. Souvenir sheet with one 40,000FG stamps, Wang Hao.

December 3, 2012. Gilles Villeneuve (Formula 1). Sheet of three 15,000FG stamps depicting the auto racer. Souvenir sheet of one 40,000FG value showing the racer and cars.

December 10, 2012. The Cycling World. Sheet of three 15,000FG values depicting track and road racing. Souvenir sheet of one 40,000FG value depicts a race in Japan.

December 10, 2012. Champions of F1. Sheet of three 15,000FG values, Lewis Hamilton and others depicted. Souvenir sheet of one 40,000FG value, Ayrton Senna and Michael Schumacher.

December 17, 2012. Sports Legends Summer 2012. Set of four sheets of six values, three 5,000FG and three 10,000 FG, sheet one depicting women boxers and men's judo. Sheet two showing Canoeing, rowing. Sheet three shows individual speed cycling. Sheet four depicts tennis players.

Guinea-Bissau: April 10, 2012. Cricket. Sheetlet of four 725FCFA values Jacques Kallis, AB de Villers. S/s of one 3,000FCFA value Kumar Sangakkara.

April 10, 2012. Sumo Champions. Sheetlet of four 600FCFA values, Hakuho Sho, Kisenosato Yutaka. Souvenir sheet of one 3,300FCFA value Asasekiryu Taro, Tokitenkyu Yoshiaki.

April 10, 2012. London Olympics. Sheetlet of four 1,000FCFA values: boxing, soccer, tennis, taekwondo. Souvenir sheet of one 3,000FCFA value judo.

July 16, 2012. Tennis. Sheet of four 750FCFA stamps depicting tennis players in action. Souvenir sheet with one 2,800FCFA value stamp, tennis player.

July 16, 2012. Soccer. Sheet of four 850FCFA stamps depicting soccer players in action. Souvenir sheet of one 2,700FCFA value, soccer player.

July 16, 2012. Formula 1. Sheet of four 750FCFA stamps showing face cars and drivers.

September 10, 2012. Sheet of four 700FCFA stamps, all depicting judo.

October 31, 2012. Golf Legends. Sheet of four 800FCFA stamps, Gary Player, Ben Hogan, Walter Hagen. Souvenir sheet with one 2800FCFA stamp which depicts Tiger Woods.

October 31, 2012. Racing Cars. Sheet of four 800FCFA stamps, NASCAR, Chevrolet No. 5.

Kazakhstan: January 23, 2013. London Olympic Champions. Pane of seven se-tenant 150t stamps and a label. Weightlifter Ilya Ilyin; boxer Serik Sapiev; triple jumper Olga Rypakova; cyclist Alexander Vinokurov; weightlifter Svetlana Podobedova; weightlifter Zulfiya Chinshanlo; weightlifter Maiya Maneza.

Korea, South: January 23, 2013. Special Olympics World Winter Games. Pyeongchang, 270w athletes snowshoeing.

Latvia: November 23, 2012. London Olympics. Gold Medalists 35s Maris Strombers, BMX; Martins Plavins and Janis Smedins, beach volleyball. Offset in sheets of four.

Lebanon: November 12, 2012. 10th Anniversary Lebanese Marathon. \$750 symbolic design with "10", emblem showing runner.

Malaysia: November 19, 2012. Children's Hobbies/BoBoiBoy. Six se-tenant 60¢ stamps, BoBoiBoy playing soccer.

Marshall Islands: January 28, 2013. Australia's 225 Anniversary. Pane of 10 se-tenant 46¢ stamps, one depicts a tennis racket and another depicts a cricket player.

Monaco: January 2, 2013. 150th Birth Anniversary of Pierre De Coubertin. €2.55 portrait of the founder, ancient Greek athletes. Printed in sheets of 10.

January 16, 2013. 125th Anniversary Nautical Society of Monaco. €0.95 nautical flag, rowers in boats, sailboat. Printed in sheets of 10.

February 7, 2013. Rolex Master (Tennis). €1.05 crowd watching tennis match. Sheets of 10.

Montenegro: December 28, 2012. Victory in Women's Handball Championships. Two €0.30 stamps, celebration; team and medal. Offset in sheets of eight and a label.

Mozambique: June 30, 2012. 100th Birth Anniversary Byron Nelson Golfer. Sheet of six values and one souvenir sheet of one value, all depict various photos of Byron Nelson.

November 30, 2012. Judo Champions. Six stamps, three 16.00MT and three 66.00MT, all depict various judo matches, Robert Van de Walle, Teddy Riner are pictured on two of the stamps. Souvenir sheet with one 175.00MT value, Teddy Riner.

Netherlands: ARCADIS and KNHN. Sheet of 10 and labels. One stamp depicts the London Olympic Stadium.

Oman: November 3, 2012. Sultan Qaboos Award for Sailing. 250b gold foil stamp, the award featuring a ship..

Poland: 2012. 100th Anniversary Warta Sports Club. Postcard, 1.55zł picturing sports figures.

Russia: October 19, 2012. Sochi Olympics. Six 25r stamps showing athletes and snowflakes, skier; bobsledder; skeleton sledder; speed skaters; snowboarder; freestyle skier. Offset in sheets of eight stamps and a label.

San Marino: February 13, 2013. Nordic Ski Championships at Val de Fiemme. Souvenir sheet with three stamps €0.85, €1.74 different views of ski boots and skis; €2.64 three skiers.

Slovakia: April 30, 2012. World Ice Hockey Championships. Postcard. 0.40€imprinted Hockey stamp issued on March 25, 2011. Cachet: Flags of competing teams.

February 14, 2013. Sports/Jan Popluhar. €0.65 the soccer player, world map. Offset in sheets of 50 with labels.

Solomon Islands: June 5, 2012. London Olympics. Sheet of four \$9.00 stamps, Discus throw, judo, track cycling, road running. Sheet of four \$9.00 stamps and one \$27.00 stamp, discus throw, judo, track cycling, road running (same as the previous sheet of 4 stamps), rowing. Souvenir sheet with one \$27.00 value stamp, rowing (same as the one on the previous sheet of 5 stamps).

May 21, 2012. World Ice Hockey Championships. Postcard. 0.40€imprinted hockey stamp issued on March 25, 2011. Cachet: Palovi Demitrovi team member holding trophy.

February 15, 2013. Rugby in Solomon Islands. Sheet of four \$6.00 values, Dominique Peyroux, Radike

Samo visiting Solomon Islands. Souvenir sheet of one \$28.00 value, Mal Meninga.

February 15, 2013. Football (Soccer) 2012. Sheet of four \$7.00 values depicting soccer players in action. Souvenir sheet with one \$35.00 value, soccer players in action.

Spain: November 6, 2012. Spanish National Soccer Team Champions. Souvenir sheet with round €1 stamp, trophy cup.

January 11, 2013. Spain Hosts Men's World Handball Championships. €0.90 stamp, two handball players.

Switzerland: March 7, 2013. 150th Anniversary Swill Alpine Club. Souvenir sheet with four stamps, 85c mountains, cross country skiers; 1fr climber; 1.40fr hikers; 1.90fr mountain hut.

Tajikistan: October 19, 2012. London Olympics. Overprint in black and in violet on 2004 Athens Games pane of four 53d, 1 som, 1.23s, 2s. Note: many varieties of this overprint exist, including colors and inverts.

Tanzania: September 10, 2012. Muhammad Ali. Pane of four se-tenant 2,000s stamps, different black and white photographs of the boxer, one with Joe Frazier.

Togo: January 1, 2013. Lighthouses in Art. Souvenir sheet with one 2,000fr stamps. The border depicts and sailboat.

Turkey: November 1, 2013. 100th Anniversary Karsiyaka Sports Club. 50k+10k bowling, billiards, motorcyclist; 1 liras+10k volleyball, tennis, swimming; 2 liras +10k basketball, soccer, sailing.

Uganda: October 22, 2012. Formula 1 Racing. Pane of four stamps showing cars and drivers, two 3,400s stamps, Lewis Hamilton, McLaren Mercedes; Kimi Raikkonen, Lotus-Renault; two 4,100s, Michael Schumacher, Mercedes; Sebastian Vettel, Red Bull Racing-Renault. Souvenir sheet with 2,000s stamp, Fernando Alonso, Ferrari.

United Arab Emirates: February 10, 2013. Champion of 21st Gulf Cup. 2dh the soccer team. Souvenir sheet with 6dh stamp, the trophy.

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 MARCH - JUNE 2013

Baseball: 13413-151, 13525-815,
13608-056.

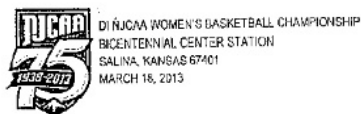
Basketball: 13318-674, 13318-675,
13319-616

Boxing: 13609-130.

Cycling: 13510-160.

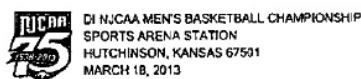
Hiking: 13510-160.

Horse Racing: 13501-401,
13503-401, 13504-401.



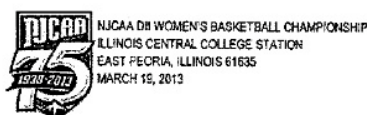
13318-674 Salina, KS

18



13318-675 Hutchinson, KS

18



13319-616 East Peoria, IL

19



13413-151 Monroeville, PA

13-14



13501-402 Louisville, KY

1



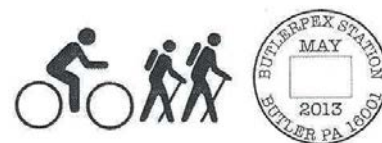
13503-402 Louisville, KY

3



13504-402 Louisville, KY

4



13510-160 Butler, PA

10-11



13525-815 Grand Junction, CO

25



13608-056 Montpelier, VT

8



13609-130 Canastota, NY

9



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