

# JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

VOLUME 52

FALL 2013

NUMBER 1

**SURF**

**SKATE**

**SNOW**





SPORTS  
PHILATELISTS  
INTERNATIONAL

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**About the cover:** three members of the Z-Boys skateboard team as portrayed in the 2005 Sony Pictures movie "Lords of Dogtown," (left to right) John Robinson as Stacy Peralta, Emile Hirsch as Jay Adams, and Victor Rasuk as Tony Alva.

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

**Annual dues: \$31.00 U.S./Canada (first class mail), \$43.00 overseas (airmail).  
Internet-Only Member: \$15.00 (worldwide)**

## JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

<b>Publisher:</b>	John La Porta, P.O. Box 98, Orland Park, IL 60462
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<b>Circulation (Temporary):</b>	Mark C. Maestroni, 2824 Curie Place, San Diego, CA 92122

The Journal of Sports Philately is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December. Advertising Rates: Covers \$50.00; Full Page \$45.00; Half Page \$25.00; Quarter Page \$15.00. Advance payment required. Camera ready copy must be supplied by the advertiser. Publishing deadlines: January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15 for the following issue. Single copy price (postpaid): \$5.00 (US/Canada), \$7.50 (overseas).

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual authors and they do not necessarily represent those of the editor, the officers of SPI or the position of SPI itself. All catalogue numbers quoted in this publication are from Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue unless specifically stated otherwise. SPI and JSP do not guarantee advertisements, but accept copy in good faith, reserving the right to reject objectionable material.

American Philatelic Society (APS) Affiliate #39  
American Topical Association (ATA) Study Unit

ISSN 0447-953X

Vol. 52, No. 1  
Fall 2013

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

## ***Volunteer Still Needed!***

At the risk of sounding like a broken record (or possibly a stuck iTunes), I'm still awaiting some help from someone willing to step into the shoes of the Membership Chairman.

I've been doing duty as the interim chairman for the not-so-interim period of three years now. Unfortunately, between my own business (yes, like most of you I still have to work for a living) and my SPI editorial/webmaster duties that leaves me little time to devote to membership – an area critical to our society's well-being.

Being Membership Chairman is not onerous duty. At its most basic level, it requires maintenance of our membership database (using Excel), processing new members, receipt of dues once a year, and answering the occasional membership question, or directing it to the right person. At most, we are talking 1 or 2 hours per month.

I would hope, though, that the Membership Chairman would also help out with developing new avenues for soliciting members.

The only requirements: (1) you must be a US resident; (2) own and use a computer; (3) have e-mail capability; (4) be at least acquainted with using Excel spreadsheets (no math involved!).

We're just beginning a new membership year so this is the perfect time to step forward and help out **YOUR** society. Drop me a line to volunteer!

## ***SPI Awards***

SPI participated in this year's APS Chapter and Affiliate Web Site competition which featured the websites of some 27 philatelic organizations associated with the American Philatelic Society. We were among four gold medals awarded to the top society

websites. If you haven't been to the site in awhile, I invite you to surf by for a look. We try to provide frequent updates. For members, this includes checklists for the 2012 London Olympic Games (still a few to add), a start to the 2014 Sochi Olympic Winter Games list, and eventually one for the 2014 World Cup.

Your journal was entered in the literature competition at the APS StampShow in August at Minneapolis where it won a vermeil against some pretty stiff competition. Kudos to all our writers out there without whom there would be no *JSP*!

## ***Corrections***

¶ In Joseph Lopreiato's article "1992 Albertville Olympic Winter Games – 20 Years On" (Winter 2012), we misspelled 1968 Olympic gold medal skier, Jean-Claude Killey's name. Thanks to Jean-Louis Emmenegger for catching the error.

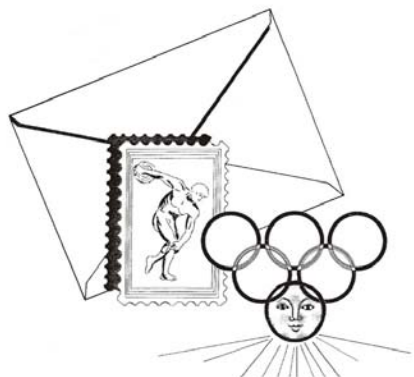
¶ While reading Peter Street's article "Cricket & Philately – Cricket on the Subcontinent – Bangladesh" (Spring 2013), member Trevor Bevan questioned whether Indian player Kapil Dev was a spin bowler. When contacted, the author responded: "I was wrong! Dev was in fact an all-rounder. He was a right arm batsman and a right hand fast medium bowler not a spin bowler."

¶ Our golf expert, Patricia Loehr, spotted an error in her own article, "Follow-Up to a Philatelic Golf Threesome" (Summer 2013). The Merion Golf Club in Pennsylvania was not the site of the 1930 U.S. Open in which Bobby Jones won his (Pre-Masters) Grand Slam, but rather the U.S. Amateur. The 1930 U.S. Open that year was played at the Interlachen Country Club in Edina, Minnesota.

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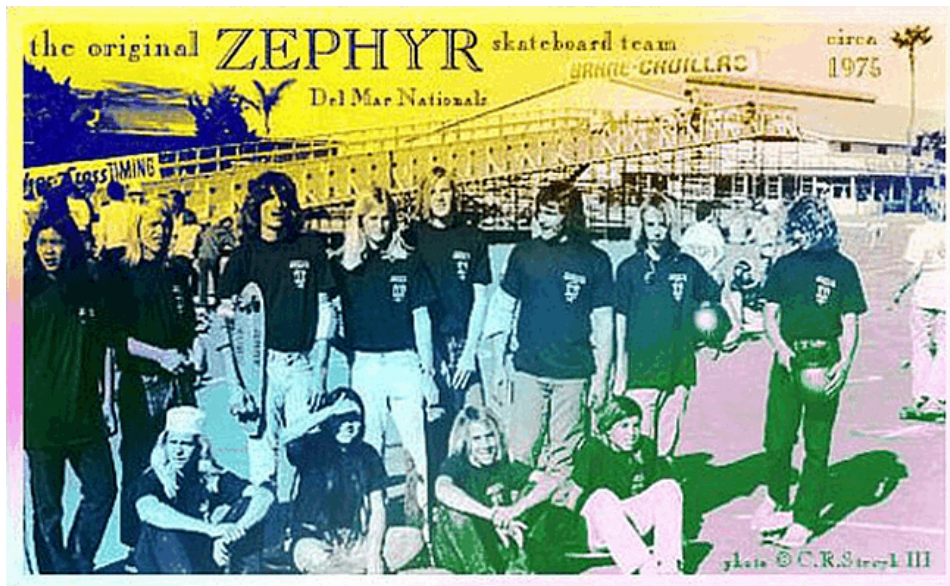


Figure 31. The original Zephyr Skateboard Team (the Z-Boys) revolutionized the sport of skateboarding in the 1970s. Their debut at the 1975 Del Mar Nationals stunned the skateboard world. [postcard]

Standing (L-R): Shogo Kubo, Bob Biniak, Nathan Pratt, Stacy Peralta, Jim Muir, Allen Sarlo, Chris Cahill, Tony Alva. Sitting (L-R): Wentzle Ruml IV, Peggy Oki, Jay Adams, Paul Constantineau.

# SURF, SKATE, SNOW

## Exploring the murky origins of board sports

### Part 2: Skateboarding & Snowboarding

by Mark Maestroni

The earliest board sport – surfing – originated in the islands of the South Pacific, eventually making its way to the west coast of the United States courtesy of three Hawaiian princes who demonstrated “surf riding” to the citizens of Santa Cruz, California in the summer of 1885. In part 1 of this article (Summer 2013) I discussed surfing’s evolution, practice and contributions to pop culture. Surfing spawned two other important board sports, skateboarding and snowboarding, explored in more depth in this conclusion to **Surf, Skate, Snow**.

## Sidewalk surfing

When the yell “surf’s up” wasn’t echoing through the beach communities of southern California, it wasn’t unusual for surfers to take to their skateboards, the clickety-clack of wheels on concrete substituting for the sound of crashing waves in their ears.

No one can really say for certain how or where the skateboard originally came to be. There probably was no single great evolutionary leap forward. Rather, it’s more likely that kids just thought up the idea of attaching roller skate wheels to a wood plank with perhaps a T-shaped handlebar mounted to the front for stability (rather like a scooter). As the skater became more confident, the handlebar came off, much like removing training wheels from a bike (Figure 32).

Bill Richards, a North Hollywood (Los Angeles) surf shop owner, was possibly the first to recognize the commercial potential around 1958. His shop manufactured square-ended wooden boards, or



Figure 32. The development of the skateboard was likely a natural progression from roller skates, to a scooter, and eventually a true skateboard.

“decks,” to which were then attached sets of roller skate wheels supplied by the Chicago Roller Skate Company. Sidewalk surfing – or skateboarding – was an instant hit!



Figure 33. A broken clay wheel could quickly put a skateboard out of commission, much to the dismay of the rider.

The biggest problem with these early skateboards was that the roller skate wheels being used were steel or manufactured out of clay – actually a composite of plastic, paper, and finely ground walnut shells. Both did a poor job of gripping the hard pavement of concrete sidewalks and asphalt roads, and the clay

wheels deteriorated quickly (Figure 33). Even worse was the rough ride: both steel and clay wheels resulted in teeth-jarringly bumpy boarding. Wipe-outs – and not with comparatively “soft” landings into water as with surfing – were common (your author well remembers suffering his fair share of “sidewalk rash” on elbows and knees).

The 1970s marked a big technological advance in skateboard design. A young California transplant by the name of Frank Nasworthy, searching for a better skateboard wheel, recalled seeing some experimental polyurethane (Figure 34) roller skate wheels being manufactured in a plant in his native Virginia. Attaching a few sets of the new polyurethane wheels to skateboards, Frank discovered that they made all the difference in the world. Not only did they provide much better traction as well as

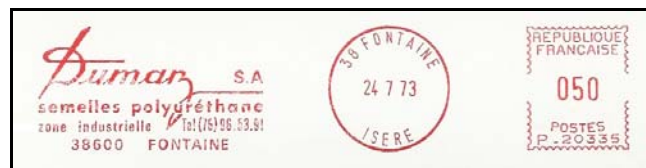


Figure 34. Early skateboards were equipped with steel wheels (stamp at right, red arrow) making boarding difficult. The advent of polyurethane (above) enabled the production of skateboard wheels in the 1970s that gripped the pavement while making the ride considerably smoother. [French meter]



being lightening fast, but they resulted in a very smooth ride which reminded him of riding in a Cadillac – thus the name of his new business: Cadillac Wheels Company (Figure 35).

After a great surge in popularity in the 1950s and early 1960s, enthusiasm for skateboarding began to wane. By 1965, it was looking more like a passing fad. So Nasworthy’s new wheel design couldn’t have come at a better time as it helped rejuvenate the sport. As one aficionado said of skateboards outfitted with the new wheels: “... you could do so much more on a skateboard, surf moves, especially; you could carve your turns and stuff without sliding, that changed everything a lot.”

A second major innovation took place in the design of the deck. When Bill Richards began producing commercial versions of skateboards back in the 1950s, they were still relatively rudimentary, really little more than a squared-off two-by-four with roller skate wheels. Over the ensuing couple of decades, skateboard decks were modified: ends were rounded, the width of the board increased/decreased, and various materials (plastics, laminates, solid woods) were used in manufacturing. What remained consistent was that the decks, for the most part, resembled flat, mini-surfboards (Figure 36).

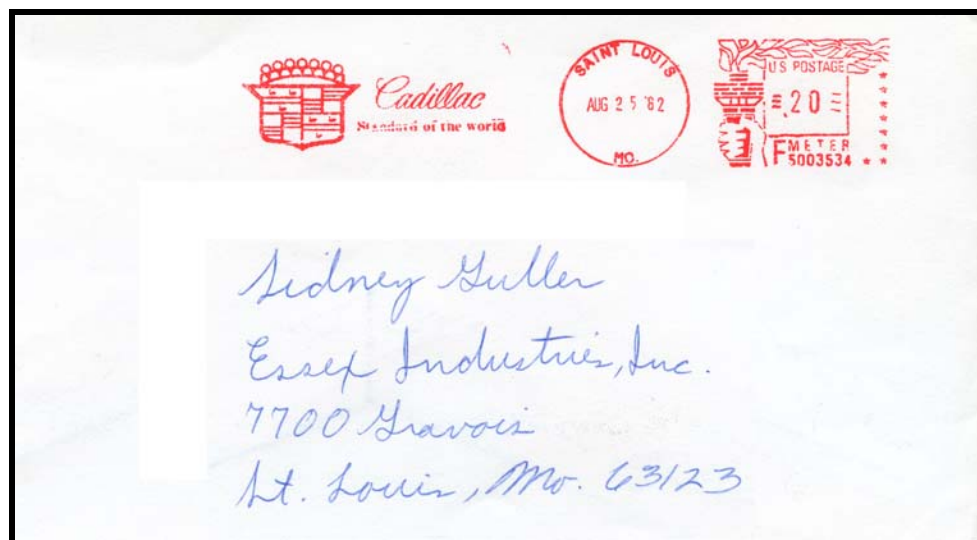


Figure 35. Frank Nasworthy named his new polyurethane skateboard wheel company after Cadillac cars – the “Standard of the world.” [1962 slogan meter cover]





Figure 36. Until the late 1960s, skateboards resembled mini-surfboards with their flat decks and rounded ends. [diagonal lines indicate these are specimen stamps]

Richard Lawrence “Larry” Stevenson, already a well-known skateboard designer and manufacturer with his own Makaha brand, is generally credited with creating the kicktail which he patented in 1968 (Figure 37). By creating an upward curve of the back end of the board, a rider was able to accomplish all manner of new tricks. No longer was skateboard navigation limited to forward and sideways movement. With practice, a rider could now propel his board vertically.

The increased maneuverability of boards and innate desire of young skaters to push the envelope would soon lead to daring new styles of riding.

## The Z-Boys arrive

Early in 1975, a group of high school surfers from the adjacent communities of Venice and Santa Monica, California were recruited by Skip Engblom, a surfer and board manufacturer, to represent his surfboard shop in skateboarding competitions. Engblom and his business partners, Jeff Ho and Craig Stecyk, had opened a surf shop in the early 1970s on



Figure 38. The Z-Boys skateboard team of Venice, California were portrayed in the movie “Lords of Dogtown.” Shown here is actor Emile Hirsch who portrayed Jay Adams. [Brazil telecom card]



Figure 37. Larry Stevenson, owner of Makaha skateboards, introduced the kicktail (upturned ends) to the skateboard, enabling vertical tricks.



Main Street in Santa Monica which had become a hangout for the young surfers. The goal for the Z-Boys, as the skateboard team was named, was to blow away the competition at the 1975 Nationals held in March in Del Mar, California (Figure 31). With their low, aggressive surf-style of skating, the Z-Boys did more than just win the event – they revolutionized skateboarding by infusing it with surfing’s daring and athleticism.

The birth of the Z-Boys team and its most famous members – Stacy Peralta, Jay Adams and Tony Alva – was convincingly captured in the 2005 movie “The Lords of Dogtown” which has become somewhat of a cult classic in the skater world (Figure 38).

The Z-Boys took advantage of a natural disaster in the summer of 1976 – a severe drought in California – to raise the roof on their sport. Pool owners in Los Angeles, in order to conserve water (Figure 39), were encouraged to drain them. The lure of empty in-the-ground concrete pools with steep curved sides was too much for the Z-Boys. Scouting neighborhoods during weekdays for unattended homes with pools, the boys would come equipped with water pumps and hoses to drain any standing puddles and then spend the day practicing skating the pool walls.



Figure 39. To conserve water during the 1976 California drought, homeowners drained their swimming pools, creating an ideal venue for skateboarders.

Figure 40. The first aerial move was executed by Tony Alva of the Z-Boys during one of the boys' uninvited visits to the "Dogbowl," an empty pool in Santa Monica. [booklet stamp]



An "ah-hah" moment occurred at one Santa Monica pool that the boys frequented known as the "Dogbowl." Tony Alva managed to ride high enough on the pool to actually clear the lip, do a 180-degree turn in mid-air while grabbing his board with one hand, then skate back down the pool wall. Thus was born the "grabbed aerial" (Figure 40).

This style of vert (vertical) skateboarding would carry over to other sports, such as BMX cycling, rollerblading, and snowboarding (more about that sport later).

At about the same time that Tony Alva and the Zs were developing their vertical style on steep concrete embankments and curved ramps, another skateboarder was utilizing the kicktail on his board to do vertical "no hand aerial" movements while traveling horizontally.

Alan "Ollie" Gelfand, just your typical skateboarding 13-year-old living in Florida in 1976, figured out that by stomping on the kicktail with one foot and springing upward, the skateboard would "pop up" with you thus enabling the rider to jump obstacles without having to grab his board with one hand (Figure 41). The trick, which became known as the "Ollie Pop," radically impacted all three styles of skateboarding: freestyle, vert and street.

Freestyle was the earliest of the skateboarding styles and was practiced on a flat, smooth surface. While moving forward or backward, the skater

would execute various movements that might involve traveling on only two wheels, pivots and spins, and – after the "ollie" was invented – flips. Freestyle can even include elements of gymnastics (handstands) and dance.

Vert (vertical), discussed earlier, requires some form of sloped vertical surface. A halfpipe shaped double-sided ramp is popular as it allows skaters continuous practice as they ride back and forth. (The stamp in Figure 40 shows a halfpipe ramp.)

Skate parks, which include poured concrete curvilinear sloped walls provide a similar experience to the empty swimming pools favored by the Zephyr Boys.

Vert skating inspires some of the more eye-popping tricks. The Korean stamps in Figure 42 help illustrate a short skating routine using a halfpipe:

Imagine you are on your skateboard perched on the edge of the small platform at the top of one side of the halfpipe ramp. To get started, you **Drop In** by riding down the steep incline of the curved ramp, gaining momentum. When you reach the top of the opposite curved ramp you might do a **Tail Stall** by allowing the tip of one end of your board to project over the platform's coping at the top of the ramp while the rest of the board is cantilevered horizontally over the ramp.

After a pause for your tail stall, you again drop in. Building speed, you hit the top of the opposite ramp. During that brief moment when you are suspended in air ("catching air"), you execute a perfect **Backside Grab** by reaching around in back and grabbing the side of the board between your feet. Turning 180°, you again drop in, this time going for that big aerial finish at the top of the opposite ramp – a **Backside Spin** – in which you spin your board 360° while turning your body in the same direction 180°.

Figure 41. Alan "Ollie" Gelfand invented a method for jumping a board by stomping on the kicktail while hopping upward. The move – the "Ollie Pop" – is the basis for all vertical tricks. [Australia stamp booklet cover]







Figure 42. Four skateboard elements that may be executed on a halfpipe: Tail Stall (misspelled “stole” on the stamp), Drop In, Backside Grab, and Backside Spin. (Korea, block of 4 self-adhesive stamps)



Figure 43. Railslide in Street style skateboarding.

The third style, Street, brings skateboarding into the urban environment where tricks are executed on, off, and over stationary elements. Railings (Figure 43), street furniture, planter walls, basically anything that doesn’t move, is a candidate. Using the basic Ollie Pop, a skater can jump onto a horizontal or slanted object with a smooth continuous edge, and, using his forward momentum, slide (using the underside of the board) or grind (where the trucks supporting the wheels are in contact with the surface) along the length of the object.

Skateboarding difficulty is limited only by the rider’s imagination. Sometimes the names of the tricks are almost as enigmatic. Take, for example, the **Roast Beef**, a complicated trick in which a rider “grabs the heel-edge of the board with his or her

trailing hand in-between the legs, rather than wrapping the arm behind” (Figure 44). If you figure out how it got its name, let me know!

Skateboarding competitions abound with events at all skill levels held worldwide. The most famous are probably the multi-event X (which stands for “Xtreme”) Games sponsored by ESPN, the television sports network. The 1999 summer event was held the end of June in San Francisco, California (Figure 45).



Figure 44. Popping a “Roast Beef.”

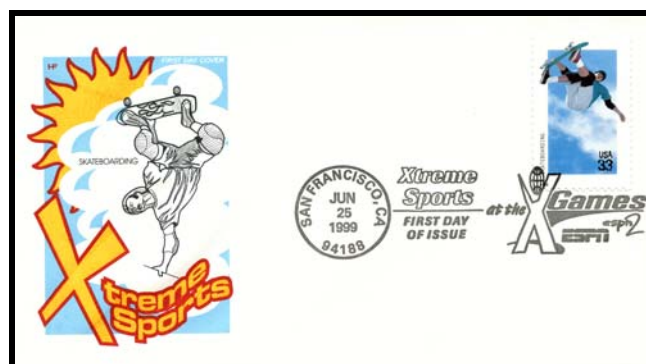


Figure 45. 1999 X Games postmark and first day of issue of the Xtreme sports quartet of stamps which included skateboarding.

Skateboarding has seen its popularity rise and fall due in no small part to the availability of modern skateboard parks. Composed of pored concrete bowls and purpose-built park features for street skating, parks began popping up across the U.S. in the mid-1970s. By the mid-1980s, however, liability issues due to injuries caused many parks to close. That changed in 1998 when California led the nation with legislation classifying skateboarding as “inherently dangerous” thereby absolving municipalities and their employees from most injury-based claims.

Today, skaters are encouraged to wear protective gear, especially helmets, knee and elbow pads – a practice that even top skateboarders such as the legendary Tony Hawk promote by example (Figure 46).



Figure 46. A well-padded Tony Hawk promote by example (Figure 46).



Figure 47. Although snowboarding and surfing are quite different sports, boarders admit that they both provide a similar thrill – just on a different surface. [Commercial cover with se-tenant French stamps of 2004]

## Snowboarding: riding an icy surf

Surfers just had to ride year-round. When the surf wasn't up, they hopped on their skateboards. For those craving speed in winter that usually meant putting away those skateboards and taking out the skis. But what if there was a way to surf on snow?

Now, while surfers who are snowboarders

(and vice-versa) will readily admit that there are not a lot of similarities between the sports beyond the equipment (a board) and stance (sideways), the rush riders feel is still very much the same (Figure 47) ... and definitely different from skiing.

The year was 1965. It was Christmas time. A Michigan engineer by the name of Sherman Poppen purchased a pair of 36-inch skis sold in a bubble pack at the local drugstore. Back home he fashioned the skis into a single unit using some old molding as cross pieces about five or six inches apart. Attaching a rope to the front, he gave it to his daughter as a hopefully safer alternative to her trying to stand up on her sled. The double-wide skis, which Poppen's wife named the "Snurfer" (snow + surf), were an instant hit.

Poppen patented the Snurfer and then licensed production to Brunswick (Figure 48), famous for its bowling alleys and equipment. Some 750,000 Snurfers were sold over a 15-year period, igniting the sport of "surfing on snow."

In the early 1970s, Poppen promoted the young sport by holding competitions at a Michigan ski resort drawing surfers and skateboarders alike who seemed to gravitate to this winter recreation.

The first modern snowboard company was started by an American surf enthusiast, Dimitrije Milovich, in 1972.



Figure 48. The original "Snurfer" (left) was produced by sports conglomerate, Brunswick. [Brunswick postmark from Austria]





Figure 49. The “Winterstick” bears a striking resemblance to a swallowtail surfboard!

Called the Winterstick (“stick” is slang for “surfboard”), it was designed with a very distinctive swallowtail reminiscent of the swallowtail on surfboards (Figure 49). Milovich opened a shop in the Salt Lake City area which lasted until 1987, closing its doors before the big boom in the sport began. Still, this was the first true snowboard and consequently a milestone event.

Next up, two skateboarders took a shot at the snowboard world. In Sims, on the West Coast, began selling snowboards in 1978. Passionate about both skateboarding and skiing, Sims built his first snowboard in 1963 in his school’s woodshop class. His “ski board” was little more than a “primitive 34-by-8-inch creation with a

carpeted top and an aluminum bottom.”

Some credit Sims with indirectly introducing the sport of snowboarding to the world in the fourteenth James Bond film, “A View To A Kill” (Figure 50). Released in 1985, this was Roger Moore’s final outing as Secret Agent 007. Sims, as Moore’s stunt double, performed the breathless snowboarding chase scene down a precipitously steep icy glacier to the playful sounds of the Beach Boys iconic “California Girls” (again, the surfing connection).

Sims’ eponymous snowboards brand is sold by Sports Authority.

On the opposite side of the country, Jake Burton Carpenter was developing his own line of snowboards. Founded in Londonderry, Vermont in 1977, Burton Board initially marketed a snurfer-like board or “snurfboard.” Following a legal tussle with Poppen over the name, Burton changed his product to, simply, “snowboard.” Burton is one of the largest manufacturers of snowboards and snowboard equipment (Figure 65).

By the mid-1990s, snowboard manufacturers had become ubiquitous, each one carving out a niche market. Flow, a major snowboard company based in San Clemente, California (a surfing Mecca!) is known for cutting edge technology in the design of its equipment, but with a maverick attitude. Jamie Anderson (Figure 51), a top women’s slopestyle snowboarder, favors Flow boards.

Modern snowboards are generally categorized for optimal use in a particular style of snowboarding (discussed in more detail below), though one can use just about any board anywhere on a mountain. Boards can be directional (one end is meant to be the nose, the other end the tail) or non-directional, and come in different lengths and with varying flexibility. What snowboards have in common is their basic shape, generally wider on the ends than in the middle, and the rider is secured to the board with bindings set at an angle, one foot ahead of the other. As with surfing and skateboarding, snowboarders (Figure 52) may ride regular stance (left foot forward) or goofy (right foot forward). The stance also dictates which hand is used for aerial tricks involving grabs.

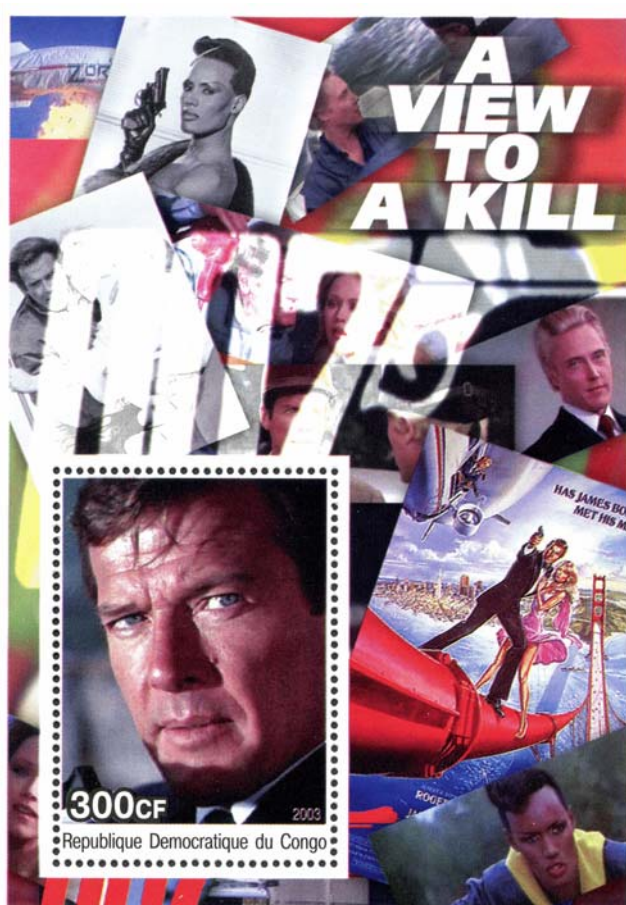


Figure 50. The general public was introduced to snowboarding in 1985 when Tom Sims, the stunt double for Agent 007, rode down a glacier in the James Bond thriller, “A View to a Kill.”



Figure 51. Jamie Anderson riding a Flow snowboard (see arrow).



Figure 52. A rider's stance is either regular (left foot forward as on the stamp at left), or goofy foot (right foot forward, Turkish postal stationery above).

As noted earlier in this article, liability was often cited as a reason for the cyclical opening and closing of skateboard parks in the United States. Much the same occurred in the early days of snowboarding.

Until the mid-1980s, skiing was still a recreation that appealed to the more well-heeled who vacationed at posh resorts in the Rockies and New

England and tended to frown upon "those young rebels" on their snowboards. However it wasn't long before resort owners recognized the financial advantages of attracting new young skiers, albeit on snowboards, to their slopes.

The eventual solution to the liability issue lay in physically separating the boarders from those on skis, satisfying all parties. In the 1984-85 season, just 40 U.S. resorts welcomed snowboarders. By 1990 that number had grown to 476. Today, the number of resorts that still ban snowboarders may be counted on the fingers of one hand.

Snowboarding has developed at least eleven different styles or disciplines. The five most popular are freeriding, slopestyle, halfpipe, parallel giant slalom and snowboard cross.

**Freeriding** is perhaps most like skiing. As the name implies, riders follow the "random flow of natural terrain." Where snowboarding has an advantage over skiing is the ability to carve turns through fresh powder or just about any other snow quality (Figure 53). Using the uphill edge of the board, a rider traces a line with the board's nose,



Figure 53. Carving a turn while freeriding.

the angle of which dictates his speed. The tail must always follow the nose otherwise the board will "slide" more than "carve." Whether carving turns or jumping rocky outcrops, the freerider tends to enjoy the best of all snowboarding worlds.

**Slopestyle** courses are set up to challenge riders with all manner of obstacles including boxes (any "boxy" slick-topped object), jibs (metal rails, benches, concrete ledges or walls), and jumps (Figure 54). The task of the boarder is to select a line through the course that provides the most difficulty and opportunity for aerial tricks while demonstrating smooth technique. Slopestyle snowboarding was inspired by "grinding" in street style skateboarding.



Figure 54. Slopestyle snowboarding, inspired by street style skateboarding, includes riding a board across or down objects such as metal railings as demonstrated by the snowboarder in the cachet. [Official Finland Post FDC]



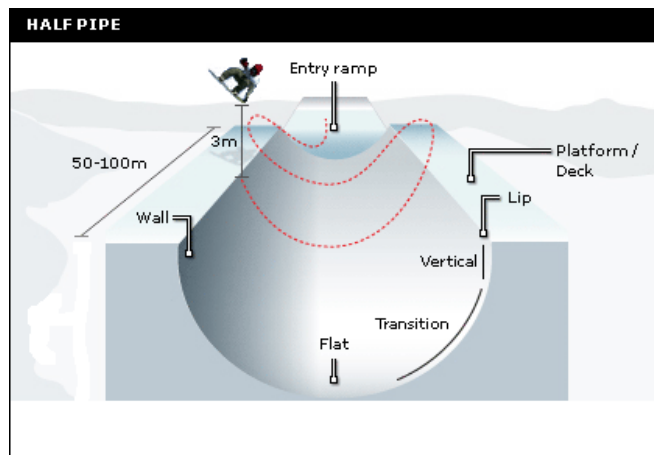


Figure 55. Schematic of a halfpipe. The rider enters the tube from the Entry Ramp at the highest point, then zigzags back and forth, building momentum so as to soar above the top of the wall on each side.

**Halfpipe** is one of the earliest disciplines. It, too, was appropriated directly from the skateboarding world.

The design of the snowboarding halfpipe is straightforward: think of a long U-shaped pipe laid on an incline with the top half cut off along its length (Figure 55). The boarder begins at the top of a ramp that feeds into the upper-most end of the pipe. Gaining speed, the rider begins zigzagging from one side of the pipe to the other. As he builds momentum, the rider can shoot up the 18- to 22-foot high walls and soar above the rim to “catch air” while twisting, turning and somersaulting in any number of daring, gravity-defying tricks.

The most difficult part of a halfpipe course, at least for resorts, was its construction and maintenance. At first the troughs had to be roughly cut by existing slope grooming equipment. Ultimately, it was the invention of the Pipe Dragon by a Colorado farm-equipment engineer, Doug Waugh, that revolutionized the sport in the early 1990s.

Halfpipe is all about the tricks. The naming of tricks follows standards used in both surfing and vert skateboarding. Basic categories include airs, grabs, spins, flips and rotations, slides, etc.

Once in the air, a rider may bend his knees to grab his board with either one or both hands. The difficulty depends on where and how the rider grabs his board. One often used trick is the Nose Grab



Figure 56. Nose Grab (regular stance).

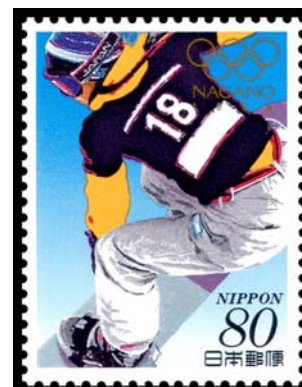


Figure 57. Frontside Air (goofy foot).

which, as the name implies, means grabbing the nose (front end) of the board (Figure 56).

An Indy or Frontside Air, which was popularized by skateboarder Tony Alva, is fairly basic and requires the rider to grab the front side of the board between the toes of his boots (Figure 57).

The decision to introduce snowboarding as an Olympic sport at the 1998 Nagano Olympic Winter Games was in no small part due to Mr. Waugh's invention. A halfpipe event was held for both men and women in addition to the Giant Slalom event (discontinued after 1998).

An interesting side note to these Games: Terje Håkonsen of Norway, arguably the best snowboarder in the world at the time, decided to boycott snowboarding's Olympic debut (Figure 58). He, and a number of other top riders, objected to the International Olympic Committee handing the qualification process over to the FIS (International Ski Federation) rather than the International Snowboard Federation. The latter is now defunct.

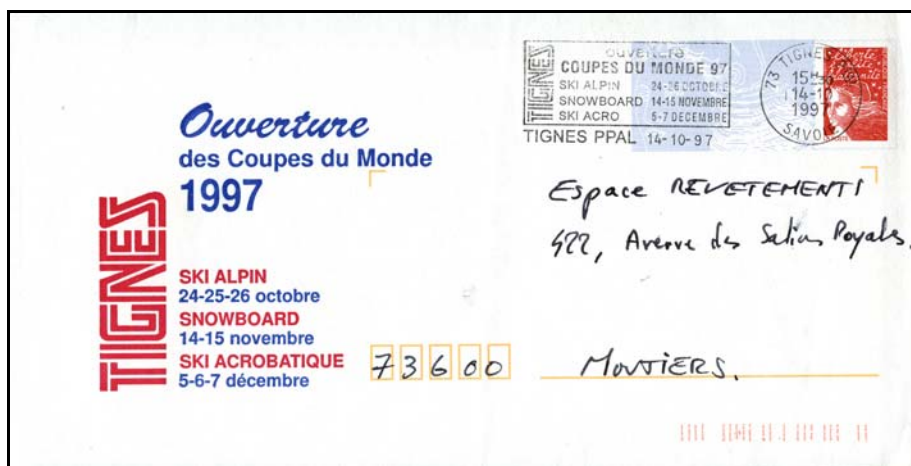


Figure 58. The 1997 Snowboard World Cup series, which also served as qualifications for the 1998 Nagano Olympics, was conducted by FIS. Some of the leading riders boycotted these qualifications, missing snowboarding's first Olympic competition. [Machine slogan on French Prêt-à-Poster cover]



Figure 59. The photograph at left of Philipp Schoch competing in the PGS at the 2006 Turin Olympics was turned into a stamp issued in 2011 by Djibouti. Note the branding on his board: Kessler.

**Parallel Giant Slalom (PGS)** is much the same as skiing's giant slalom in that one must navigate around a series of gates. In PGS, though, identical parallel courses are created with two snowboarders riding the course at the same time. A missed gate results in disqualification. The first boarder across the finish line advances to the next round.

Introduced at the 2002 Salt Lake Olympic Winter Games, the event's first star was Swiss rider, Philipp Schoch. Not only did he win the first PGS at Salt Lake City, but he repeated as the gold medalist at the 2006 Turin Olympics (Figure 59) – the first Olympic snowboarding double gold medalist.

Snowboarders, like skiers, become devotees of specific brands of equipment. This often may appear a symbiotic relationship with the manufacturer relying as much on the positive publicity generated when the boarder wins an event as the rider benefits from the monetary value of the business' sponsorship.

During his first two Olympic wins, Philipp was a confirmed user of Kessler snowboards, a major European brand. The stamp in Figure 59 was derived from a photo of Philipp taken at the 2006 Turin Olympics which clearly shows the Kessler logo on the board's underside.

**Snowboard cross** is something of a hybrid event in which four riders at a time weave their way down a long winding

course consisting of berms, jumps across narrow gaps, sudden drops, and both flat and steep sections. The challenge: stay in control while trying to keep ahead of the other three riders. The first boarder to cross the finish line advances to the next round.

Snowboard cross was introduced in 1991 at the Whistler-Blackcomb resort in British Columbia, Canada. Exciting to compete in as well as watch, the event's popularity soared. The IOC added the event to the snowboarding schedule at the 2006 Turin Olympic Games.

My first exposure to this discipline was the men's snowboard cross at the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games the finals of which turned out to be quite a nail-biter! Competing for the medals were U.S. men, Seth Wescott (Figure 60) and Nate Holland, along with Canadian Mike Robertson and Tony Ramoin of France. For virtually the entire race, Mike Robertson led. The Canadian fans all round us set up a deafening roar, sure that another Canadian gold was soon to be theirs. But at the very end – and yes, I mean the *very* end – Seth Wescott nosed ahead to take the gold. Now how exciting is that! Importantly, Seth repeated as the gold medalist in this event having won in Turin in 2006.

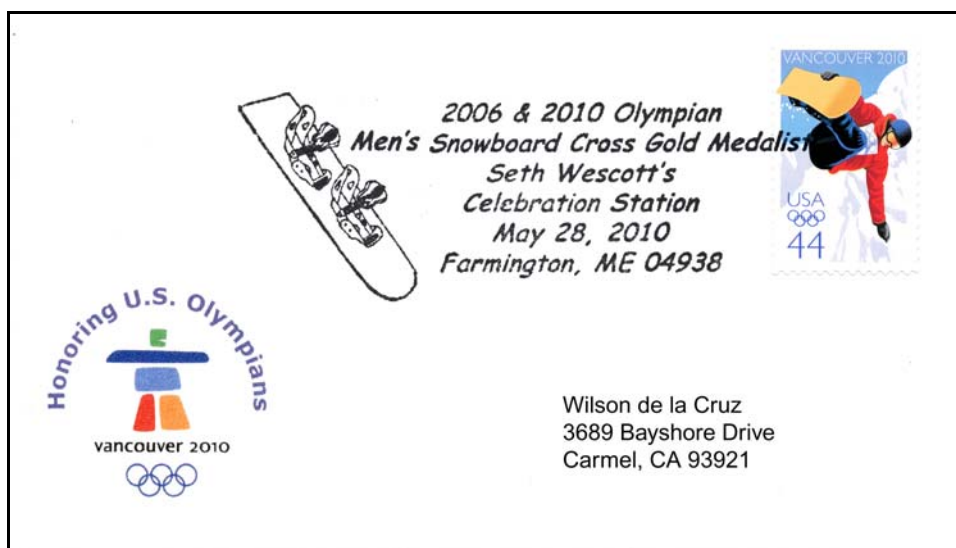


Figure 60. Having already won gold in the snowboard cross in Turin, Seth Wescott repeated as the winner at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. The interesting postmark clearly depicts the bindings into which snowboarders lock their boots.





Figure 61. Doriane Vidal of France was an early star in the women's halfpipe event winning a gold at the 2001 World Championships in Italy (left) and a silver at the 2002 Salt Lake Games. [At right, Prêt-à-Poster postal stationery envelope. Vidal is executing a Frontside Grab in the cachet while the rider on the stamp is performing a regular foot Method.]

## It isn't just a guy thing

Competitive skateboarding and, to a certain extent, surfing have been predominantly male sports (though that is changing). Snowboarding has not experienced that gender gap, Olympic competition being a good example.

With the birth of Olympic snowboarding at the 1998 Nagano Games, every event has had both a men's and women's component. At Sochi, there will be five events for both men and women: Parallel Giant Slalom, Halfpipe, Snowboard Cross, and the two new additions of Parallel Slalom and Slopestyle.

Doriane Vidal of France (Figure 61) was one of the earlier stars in women's snowboarding. In three successive FIS Snowboarding World Championships (2001, 2003 and 2005) she rode to gold in the halfpipe competition. At the 2002 Olympics at Salt Lake City, Doriane snatched a silver medal.

One of the best U.S. snowboarders is Vermont native, Kelly Clark who beat out Doriane for the gold medal at the Salt Lake Games (Figure 62). Kelly's hardware includes a halfpipe bronze at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics and no less than four X Games gold medals. She is also credited with the first 1080 in woman's competition (an aerial spin requiring three complete rotations of the body) which she nailed at the 2011 X Games in Aspen.

Another long-time competitor in women's snowboarding is Dutch rider Nicolien Sauerbreij. After competing in both the 2002 and 2006 Olympics, she capped off her Olympic career in Vancouver in 2010 with a gold medal in the Parallel Giant Slalom (Figure 63). Her accomplishments in World Cup competition include seven golds and numerous silvers and bronzes.

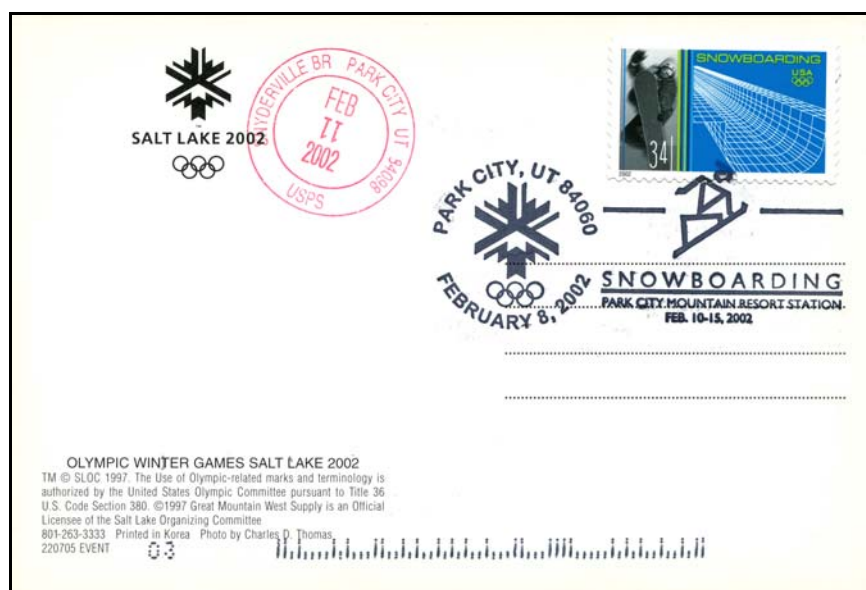


Figure 62. Kelly Clark won her halfpipe gold medal at the Salt Lake City Olympics on 11 February 2002. [mailed postcard with rare inverted "11" in the red Snyderville Branch circular date stamp.]



Figure 63. Dutch PGS Olympian, Nicolien Sauerbreij.



Figure 64. Torah Bright, halfpipe gold medalist at the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games.

Leading up to the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi next February, we should see some familiar faces from past Games. One of those, Torah Bright of Australia, rode to a gold medal in the halfpipe at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics (Figure 64). Torah's duties that year included carrying the Australian flag during the Olympic Opening Ceremony.

She is also a talented slopestyle competitor having won a bronze at the 2013 FIS Snowboarding World Championships held in Stoneham-et-Tewkesbury, Québec, Canada. Will she compete in halfpipe or slopestyle in Sochi?

## Three board sports come together

If there is a single individual who epitomizes the confluence of all three board sports it's San Diego native, Shaun White. Growing up on the water, he loved surfing. More importantly, though, he was at the same time a competitive skateboarder and snowboarder. A regular participant in the Summer X Games' vert skateboarding events, Shaun has racked up two golds, two silvers and a bronze.

He's seen even more success in the Winter X Games where his snowboarding medal haul over the course of eleven years is an astounding 13 gold, three silver and two bronze medals in superpipe and slopestyle snowboarding events (Figure 65).

Figure 65. Shaun White's success at the ESPN Winter X Games is unmatched. White has had endorsement deals with numerous snowboard companies including Burton. The Burton logo (reproduced below) is clearly visible on the underside of Shaun's snowboard on the stamp at left.



Figure 66. Shaun White and teammate Danny Kass came in first and second in the Turin Olympic Winter Games halfpipe finals on 12 February 2006. [stamps.com private meter imprint]

Shaun took the Olympic snowboard world by storm by winning the halfpipe events at both the 2006 Turin (Figure 66) and 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games (Figure 67). In the latter, he didn't even need his second ride to win the gold – but he took it anyway, performing a Double McTwist 1260 which he named "The Tomahawk."

With that, we come full circle to acknowledge surfing's importance as the basis for so many modern sports. And it all started with three Hawaiian princes.

*Special thanks to: Sam Zuegner and the California Surf Museum in Oceanside, California; James Bennett and the (Isle of) Jersey Surfboard Club; and author Kristin Zambucka of Honolulu.*



Scan the code for some fun videos of surfing, skateboarding and snowboarding along with the sources for this article, or surf to:  
[www.sportstamps.org/surfing2013.html](http://www.sportstamps.org/surfing2013.html)



Figure 67. Shaun White rode to his second Olympic gold medal in snowboard halfpipe at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. [Registered cover franked with the medalist souvenir sheet and cancelled with the West Vancouver halfpipe postmark & cds.]





## Tecardi Presented the IOC President's Trophy

*by Jean-Louis  
Emmenegger*

*IOC President, Dr. Jacques Rogge (left) presenting the President's Trophy and accompanying diploma to Maurizio Tecardi of Italy.*

*(Photo: IOC/Richard Juilliard)*

**O**n 20 March 2013, the president of the International Olympic Committee, Dr. Jacques Rogge, presented the IOC President's Trophy to Maurizio Tecardi for his many years of "service rendered to the Olympic Movement."

Mr. Tecardi was present at the foundation of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie Olympique (FIPO) in 1982 in Lausanne, serving as the organization's General Secretary until December of this past year. The FIPO was created on the demand of the late IOC President, Juan Antonio Samaranch, to demonstrate the importance Olympic philately plays in the Olympic Movement.

During his long tenure as General Secretary, Maurizio has helped organize all Olympilex and Olympex philatelic exhibitions: Lausanne 1985, Roma 1987, Seoul 1988, Varna 1990, Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996, Sydney 2000, Athens 2004, Beijing 2008 and London 2012, as well as the exhibitions at the Olympic Winter Games in Nagano 1998 and Torino 2006.

Tecardi currently serves as a member of the Olympic Philately, Numismatic and Memorabilia Commission. The OPNMC is responsible for advising the IOC on the dissemination of the Olympic ideal through the worldwide promotion of stamps, coins and items commemorating the Olympic Games.

He is a prolific philatelic writer authoring a 1964 monograph on "The Olympic Games 1896-1964" as

well as assisting on some ten catalogues on Italian sports cancellations. He continues to serve as the President of UICOS, the Italian Union of Olympic and Sports Collectors.

Maurizio, an Olympic philatelist and accomplished international philatelic judge, specializes in the Olympic Games of Athens 1896 and 1906, Paris 1900, St. Louis 1904 and Paris 1924. 🇮🇹

*SPI certainly echoes President Rogge in thanking Maurizio for his many years of dedication to furthering Olympic philately worldwide!*



*Maurizio and his interpreter at the Great Wall during the Olympex 2008 Jury trip.*

*(Photo: Roman Babut)*



Figure 1. London 2012 bid committee envelope with special meter publicizing the "LONDON 2012" bid. £1.25 paid the printed matter rate to the U.S. for an airmail small packet under 100g.

# Looking Back at London 2012

## Part 1: Candidature Period to the 2008 Beijing Olympics

by Bob Wilcock

It seems like just yesterday that London's outstanding Olympic Games and ground-breaking Paralympic Games came to an end. With the first anniversary past, it is appropriate to look back at the philatelic coverage of the Games and the postal history in particular. Over three or more issues of *JSP*, I will attempt to provide a detailed overview, rather than a comprehensive listing, of the Games' philately.

### *The Candidature Period*

It is now nearly 10 years since London's bid was launched. Very quickly, the Candidature Committee introduced a meter to frank mail (Figure 1).

As the bid progressed, commercial and civic sponsors used meters, sometimes very briefly, to show their support (Figures 2 & 3). The Society of Olympic Collectors (SOC) reached an agreement with the committee permitting the use of computer generated Royal Mail SmartStamps to publicise the bid (Figures 4 & 5).

Royal Mail lent its support in June 2004 with a booklet of six gold First Class definitives bearing the Queen's head, with text on the cover reading "Supporting London 2012" and a white label inside: "Royal Mail is proud to support London's bid to host the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in 2012" (Figure 6).

The booklet was not exactly eye-catching, but the public could not miss the slogan campaign begun without warning on 20.12.2004. Sprayed-on





Figures 2 & 3. At top, EDF Energy meter (EDF also used the logo on their postage paid envelopes). At bottom, a meter from Harrow, believed to have been used for only a few days.



Figure 4 & 5. Examples of SOC SmartStamps using official London 2012 images. At top, the IOC Evaluation Commission visit from 16-19 February 2005, and at bottom, "100 DAYS TO GO" until the selection.



Figure 6. Booklet of 6 gold Queen's head 1<sup>st</sup> class stamps with bid label on inside front cover (far left).



inkjet cancels reading "London 2012 Royal Mail Backs the Bid" were used continuously until July 2005 in four mail centers in the London area: London South, Gatwick, Greenford & Windsor, and Watford (Figure 7). The slogans were withdrawn a few days after the awarding of the Games to London on 6 July 2005.

### The Award to London

The Games were awarded to London at the 117th Session of the International Olympic Committee in Singapore on 6 July 2005. SOC had a SmartStamp ready (Figure 8), more in hope than expectation, Paris being the pundits' favorite.

Royal Mail was caught on the hop: it had no stamp designs ready but was inspired to re-use the 1996 Olympic stamp designs in a miniature sheet

inscribed "London 2012 – Host City". Paranoia on the part of Royal Mail's legal department meant the word "Olympic" never appeared on the stamps or in publicity because International Olympic Committee (IOC) consent did not come through in time.

Two of the 19 special handstamps did include the word "Olympic" while another referred to the fact London was chosen to host the Games for the third time. All 19 cancels are shown in Figure 9.

It should be mentioned that in the U.K. cancels are available via Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres (SHCs). The two in Table 1 with the text "First Day of Issue" were Royal Mail's official First Day Cancels. The others were sponsored and paid for by various organizations – mostly commercial first day cover producers – and intended for their

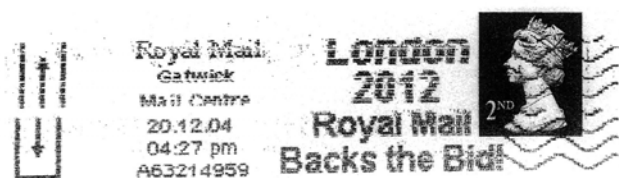


Figure 7. "London 2012 Royal Mail Backs the Bid!" inkjet slogan machine cancel applied at Gatwick, on the first day of use, 20.12.04.



Figure 8. SOC's "Congratulations" SmartStamp. A small number were prepared in advance and dated 6 July. A larger print run was dated 7 July. (Most received "Revenue Protection" handstamps.)

exclusive covers. However, to avoid them being treated as cachets, Royal Mail produced them and retained the copyright, making them available to all. They are advertised in a "Postmark Bulletin" and applied in the SHCs. The four-digit numbers beneath some of the images are the Royal Mail numbers.

Figure 9. (Below) Nineteen cancels honoring the awarding of the 2012 Olympic Games to London. Note that only two (#9737 and #9738) use the word "Olympic," while #9709 references all three London Olympic Games of 1908, 1948 and 2012. The two cancels at lower right (without numbers) were first days used by Royal Mail.



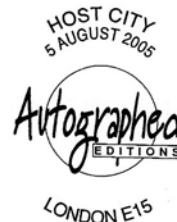
9709 - 5 August



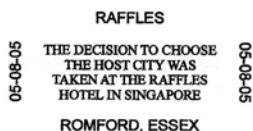
9710 - 5 August



9711 - 5 August



9712 - 5 August



9713 - 5 August



9736 - 5 August



9737 - 5 August



9738 - 5 August



9739 - 5 August



9740 - 5 August



9741 - 5 August



9742 - 5 August



9743 - 5 August



9744 - 5 August



9745 - 5 August



9769 - 5 August



9779 - 5 August







Figures 10 & 11. (Left) HQ 2012 rubber stamp. (Right) HQ 2012 printed label.

## LOCOG & ODA

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) – the body responsible for laying out the Olympic Park and delivering all of the venues – opened offices in Churchill Tower at Canary Wharf, with fine views over the Olympic Park, and dramatic views of aircraft taking off from London City Airport.

The Canary Wharf Post Office moved to the ground floor of Churchill Tower but LOCOG and ODA set up an arrangement whereby all their outgoing mail was despatched through the Barclays Bank mailroom, Barclays being the main occupiers of the building. Instead of a franking meter they obtained a PHQ (Post Office Headquarters) number “HQ 2012”. For a short period, the mailroom staff used rubber handstamps inscribed with either “1” or “2” for First and Second Class outgoing mail (Figure 10). In due course, First Class (only) printed labels were used (Figure 11). These continued to be employed until well after the conclusion of the Games and the winding up of the two organizations at the end of 2012.

LOCOG and ODA signed an agreement with UPS, the Official Logistics and Express Delivery Supporter of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, for everything other than ordinary mail (Figure 12). This arrangement between LOCOG and UPS was the source of many headaches for Royal Mail, particularly with respect to facilities for athletes, press and the public during the Games (to be discussed in more detail in the final installment of this series of articles).

## The Build-up to Beijing 2008

The only development in this period was that SOC signed one of the first agreements with LOCOG enabling the Society to issue SmartStamps incorpo-



Figure 12. USPS label from “LOCO GAMES”.

rating official LOCOG images. One of the first of SOC’s SmartStamps commemorated the national tour of the Olympic Roadshow Bus in 2006 (Figure 13). Further activity commenced after the Beijing Games.

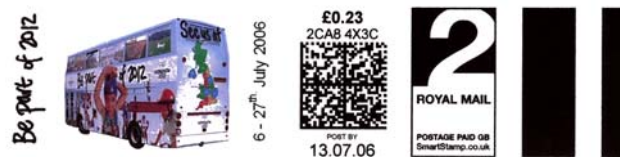


Figure 13. SmartStamp depicting the “Roadshow Bus” which started a tour of the U.K. on the first anniversary of London’s success.

## Beijing Handover and After

Royal Mail joined with China Post to produce four stamps, two showing the Bird’s Eye Stadium and Forbidden City in Beijing, and two for the Tower of London and London Eye (Figure 14). The British

set were united in a miniature sheet made particularly attractive with an overlay of the Olympic Rings printed in a transparent glossy varnish (known omitted from one sheet).

On this occasion, two of the 13 sponsored first day cancels referred specifically to the Olympics, and one of the two from Royal Mail depicted the Olympic Rings. The handover was on a Sunday so the stamps were issued on Friday 22 August 2008. There was one special cancel for handover day, and joint cancels were possible. All 14 cancels are shown in Figure 15.

[Next time: The run-up to the 2012 Olympic Games.]



Figure 14. PHQ card depicting the miniature sheet with English and Chinese hand-over stamps and respective cancels for 24 August.

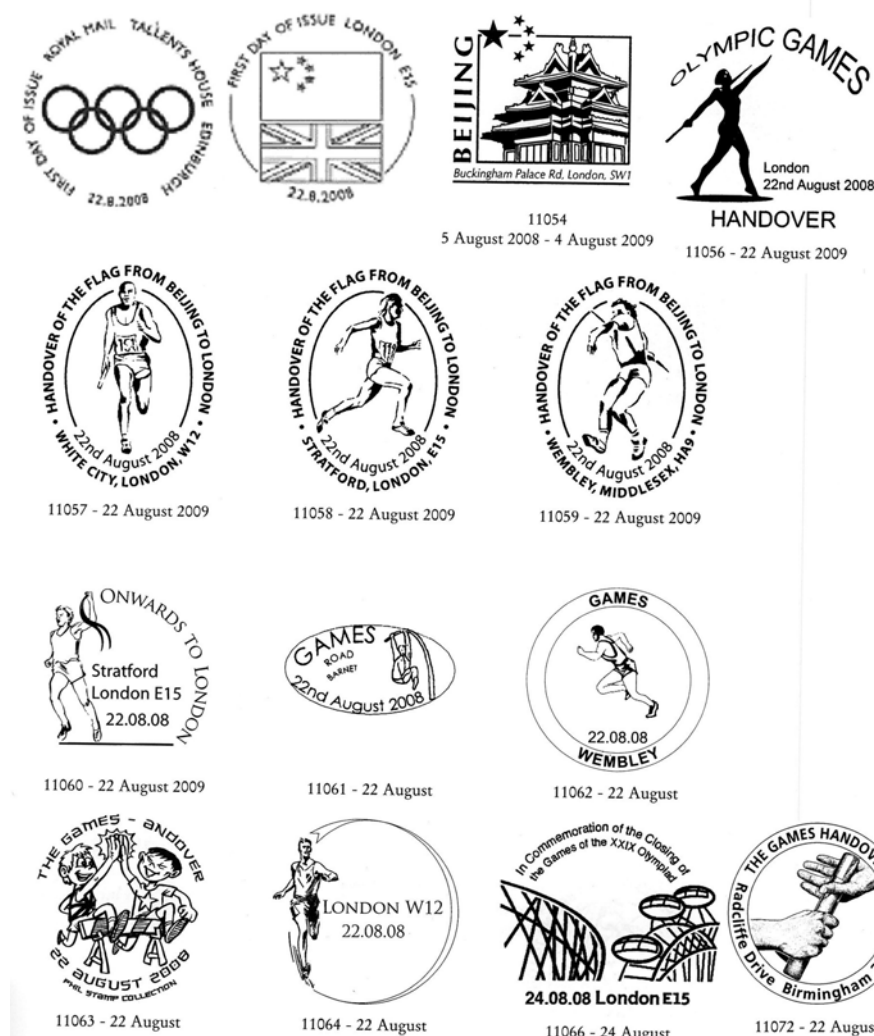


Figure 15. The 14 first day cancels for the joint issue between Royal Mail and China Post commemorating the handover from Beijing to London.





Figure 1. Registered envelope from the special temporary post office ("Sonderpostamt") in Innsbruck. The "private stamp" (at right) is accompanied by two other ATM stamps and cancelled with the special postmark which was available only on 13 January.

# 1<sup>st</sup> Winter Youth Olympic Games

Innsbruck, Austria  
13-22 January 2012

by Jean-Louis Emmenegger

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) had for a long time held the idea of conducting an Olympic Games for younger athletes (aged 15 to 18). As with the Olympic Games, the IOC conceived of separate summer and winter competitions for youth alternating every two years.



Figure 2. The two "private stamps" issued in Austria for the 1<sup>st</sup> Winter YOG in Innsbruck in 2012.

The inaugural Summer Youth Olympic Games (YOG) were hosted by Singapore from 14-26 August 2010 (see *Journal of Sports Philately*, Fall 2010 issue). The IOC selected Innsbruck, Austria as the host city of the 1<sup>st</sup> Winter Youth Olympic Games which were conducted from 13-22 January 2012. The winter sports resort had all the necessary facilities to organize the Winter YOG. It will be recalled that Innsbruck held the IX<sup>th</sup> Olympic Winter Games in 1964.

For this first Winter YOG competition, 1,059 young athletes representing 67 nations participated at Innsbruck. In all, 15 winter sports disciplines were contested: Alpine skiing, biathlon, bobsleigh, cross-country (Nordic) skiing, curling, figure skating, freestyle skiing, ice hockey, luge, speed skating, ski jumping and snowboarding.

Austria Post did not issue any special stamps for these 1<sup>st</sup> Winter YOG, despite it being an important international sporting event. In lieu of a formal stamp issue, Austria Post did permit the printing of two so-called "private stamps" (Figure 2). While the designs were created and the stamps sold by a local stamp club, they were printed with Austria Post's approval and considered legitimate stamps by Austrian collectors.

On Opening Day of the YOG – 13 January 2012 – a special temporary post office operated in a local department store. For this one day *only*, a special postmark was used (Figure 1) showing the official Innsbruck 2012 YOG logo and small pictograms of each of the 15 sports disciplines. For the remaining days of the YOG, mail deposited in a local postbox received a standard circular date stamp.

We can also add that the City of Innsbruck used a special blue franking meter on its official mail, showing the YOG logo (Figure 3).

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Winter YOG will take place in Lillehammer, Norway, from 26 February - 6 March 2016. 🇳🇴

Our thanks to the IOC Press Office and Mr. Ortwin Schiessl (of Vienna) for their valuable assistance.



Figure 3. Meter imprint used by the Administration Office of the City of Innsbruck, Austria.

ALABAMA PITTS' ALL - STARS  
BASKETBALL TEAM

*Louis Murphy, Booking Agent*  
ASSOCIATED WITH  
*Metropolitan Booking Agency, Inc.*  
Room 1136, Tribune Building, 154 Nassau St.  
New York City, N. Y.



Figure 1. Alabama Pitts' All-Stars Basketball Team cover dating to the 1930s.

## The Strange Story of Alabama Pitts

by Norman Rushefsky

The cover in Figure 1 is an unmailed circa 1930s cover with the intriguing return address of "Alabama Pitts' All-Stars Basketball Team." Relatively unknown today, Pitts in his time achieved notoriety and then celebrity status that changed how we treat felons in the sports arena.

Edwin Collins Pitts was born in 1910, in Opelika, Alabama and nicknamed by his mother "Alabama." After serving honorably in the Navy, Pitts found his way to New York City. He became involved with another who convinced him to join with him in committing robberies. During one armed robbery of a grocery store Pitts was captured, convicted and sent to Sing Sing Prison for 8 to 16 years. The prison is located approximately 35 miles north of New York City. The warden, Lewis E. Lawes, was a champion of rehabilitation and a man who soon would have a profoundly positive affect on the life of Alabama Pitts.

Lawes oversaw a massive modernization of treatment of prisoners with the goal of rehabilitation as opposed to punishment. He instituted an athletic program that included games with teams of non-prisoners. Prison teams of various sports, including football, basketball and baseball, were started, with

qualified coaches put in charge of each sport.

Pitts starred in numerous sports for the prison, especially football. The Black Sheep, as the football team was called, were coached by John Law, a former Notre Dame star and protégé of coaching legend Knute Rockne. Pitts' exploits on the gridiron began to attract attention from the New York newspapers.



Figure 2. Pitts leaving Sing Sing Prison in 1935 accompanied by his mother, Erma Pitts Rudd, after serving only five years of his eight-to-sixteen-year sentence.





Figure 3. The House of David baseball team asked Pitts to join, but he declined because he did not want to grow a beard, a requirement of playing on the team.

While football clearly was Pitts' strongest sport, he also received recognition for his baseball skills, particularly his fielding. Sing Sing teams occasionally played exhibition games against the New York Yankees and Giants. After a game in September 1933, the New York Times reported, "Alabama Pitts, Sing Sing's star football player, demonstrated that he is equally at home on the diamond. He made two doubles ... and handled several chances in centre field perfectly." Pitts would finish his Sing Sing baseball career with a .500 batting average and eight home runs in 21 games.

As a reward for good behavior, Warden Lawes arranged to drop three years from his sentence, meaning he would be released in June 1935. By late 1934, Pitts' athletic exploits had made him something of a national celebrity. The Los Angeles Times, discussing Pitts' upcoming release, referred to him as "the most prominent jailbird athlete in America."

While still in prison, Pitts was given a try out by at least two professional football teams. Also showing interest was the Albany Senators baseball team of the International League. Before his release from prison Pitts was offered and signed a contract for \$200 per month to play for the Senators. The signing ignited a powder keg of

controversy.

International League President Charles H. Knapp refused to approve the signing. Judge W.G. Bramham, president of the minors' governing body, the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues (NAPBL), supported Knapp, saying Pitts' signing was "against the best interests of the game." These decisions raised much local rancor, with editorials appearing in New York papers advocating Pitts' admission into baseball.

Upon his release from Sing Sing, Pitts' celebrity was confirmed as he was greeted by more than a hundred reporters, photographers and curiosity seekers (Figure 2). Temporarily barred from playing with Albany, he accompanied the team to various games receiving applause and a wild ovation when he appeared at Albany's home park, putting on a batting exhibition between games of a doubleheader.

Pitts' growing fame and popularity put more and more pressure on organized baseball to reverse its decision. Sportswriters, editorial writers, players, managers and coaches expressed support for Pitts, echoing a theme of forgiveness for a man who had paid his debt to society. The NAPBL did allow Pitts an appeal to the Commissioner of Baseball, Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis.

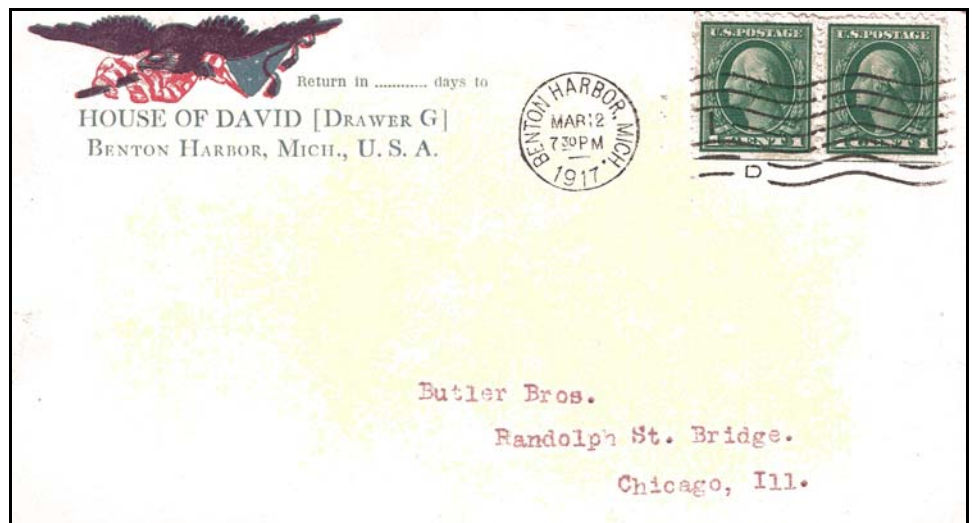


Figure 4. The House of David religious society was founded in 1903 in Benton Harbor, Michigan.



Figure 5. Meter promoting Kate Smith on whose radio show Alabama Pitts appeared.

With his status as an Albany Senator in limbo, Pitts received a number of job offers. The House of David offered him a spot on their barnstorming baseball squad. The House baseball team toured rural America from the 1920s through the 1950s, playing amateur and semi-pro teams in exhibition games. They were motivated by the need to make money for their families and religious colony back home and by the opportunity to share their beliefs. The team members wore long hair and beards as they played but Pitts reportedly turned them down because he didn't want to grow a beard (Figures 3 and 4). At least two professional football teams, the New York Eagles and Brooklyn Dodgers, offered him contracts. He was offered acting jobs in Hal Roach comedies in Hollywood and appeared on a number of radio shows, including the popular Kate Smith show (Figure 5).

Newspaper editors were inundated with letters supporting Pitts. Warden Lawes of Sing Sing received 800 communications and only two were negative on Pitts. Even the victim of the robbery for which Pitts was jailed defended him, stating that "he's paid his debt to society and he's deserving of another chance ... Why should he be driven back into crime again?"

Pitts' popular support may have reflected empathy for a man whose crime of petty theft, while not condoned, was at least understood in the height of the Great Depression. Certainly, many people felt it was unfair to deny a changed man the opportunity to make a living in a time when doing so could be very difficult indeed.

Judge Landis, always sensitive to public opinion, ruled in Pitts' favor allowing him to play for Albany with the stipulation that he take part only in "regular" games, to keep his employer from exploiting his notoriety through the staging of exhibition games. The text of Landis' decision is fascinating. After a lengthy description of Pitts' criminal past, while lauding the NABPL for making eminently reasonable decisions, Landis abruptly changes his tune, arguing

that "not permitting him to enter baseball employment" would have left little "doubt as to the destructive effect upon Pitts' efforts towards rehabilitation."

Apparently, Landis agreed with the NAPBL decision as it had first conferred with him before issuing its controversial decision. But the overwhelming tide of public pressure convinced Landis that baseball could not win by keeping Pitts out.

Not surprisingly, Landis' ruling received widespread praise from journalists and baseball people. Pitts reacted gratefully, speaking of his imprisonment as the "turning point in my life just as this decision may be also."



Figure 6. Alabama Pitts in Albany Senators uniform.



Finally cleared to play for the Albany Senators on June 23, 1935, Pitts, now the darling of the press and baseball fans, was favorably greeted by not only home team fans but also received friendly welcomes throughout the International League. While Pitts' speed and fielding prowess consistently drew raves he was overmatched against the pitching in the International League, just one step below the majors. He hit a paltry .233 in 116 at bats, managing just three extra base hits, all doubles, and seven walks, while striking out 24 times. Perhaps several injuries contributed to his batting woes but Pitts felt that time spent in a lower league might improve his hitting. However, the Senators would not hear of this and stated that he was their best fielder. But the fact that the crowds came to see him play was probably uppermost in the decision to keep him (Figure 6).

Pitts, capitalizing on his popularity, in September 1935 signed a generous contract for \$1,500 to play for the Philadelphia Eagles professional football team in four exhibition games and four regular-season games (Figure 7). He ultimately played in just three games for the Eagles, seeing very little action and was released by the Eagles.

He played football for a New Rochelle team which played the New York Brown Bombers, the most important all-black team of the 1930s. The Bombers at the time were undefeated in five games against white competition, with their winning streak finally stopped on the last day of the season when the New Rochelle Bulldogs, led by Alabama Pitts, defeated the Bombers, 7-6. Pitts, an almost legendary halfback who had played several years for New York's Sing Sing Prison team, the Black Sheep, scored the winning touchdown.

Pitts also tried his luck at basketball that off-season, leading the Alabama Pitts All-Stars, a New York professional basketball team, in a series of games although Pitts played only a minor part on the team.


With pro football and basketball offering little long-term financial stability, Pitts returned to baseball in 1936. In an indication both of his diminished stardom and his inability to hit International League pitching, he was demoted to a lower league and eventually found some hitting success in the South off of Carolina League pitching.

A few years later Pitts married, had a child

and was playing for a textile mill team in Valdese, North Carolina and played center field for the House of David when they came to Valdese.

One evening and wildly drunk he was fatally wounded by a knife when he attempted to cut in on a man dancing with a girl. Alabama Pitts was dead at age 31.

Pitts' funeral on June 8, 1941, drew an estimated 5,000 people. Pallbearers were the teammates with whom he'd shared a field only a few hours before his death. Before the next Valdese game, Pitts' former teammates lined up, heads bare, eyes filled with tears, in a silent salute to their center fielder.

The case of Alabama Pitts created a precedent for future athletes who, having run afoul of the law and paid for their crimes, were later permitted to earn a living in professional sports commensurate with their abilities. 

**Source:** <http://sabr.org/bioproj/person/d7db6951>

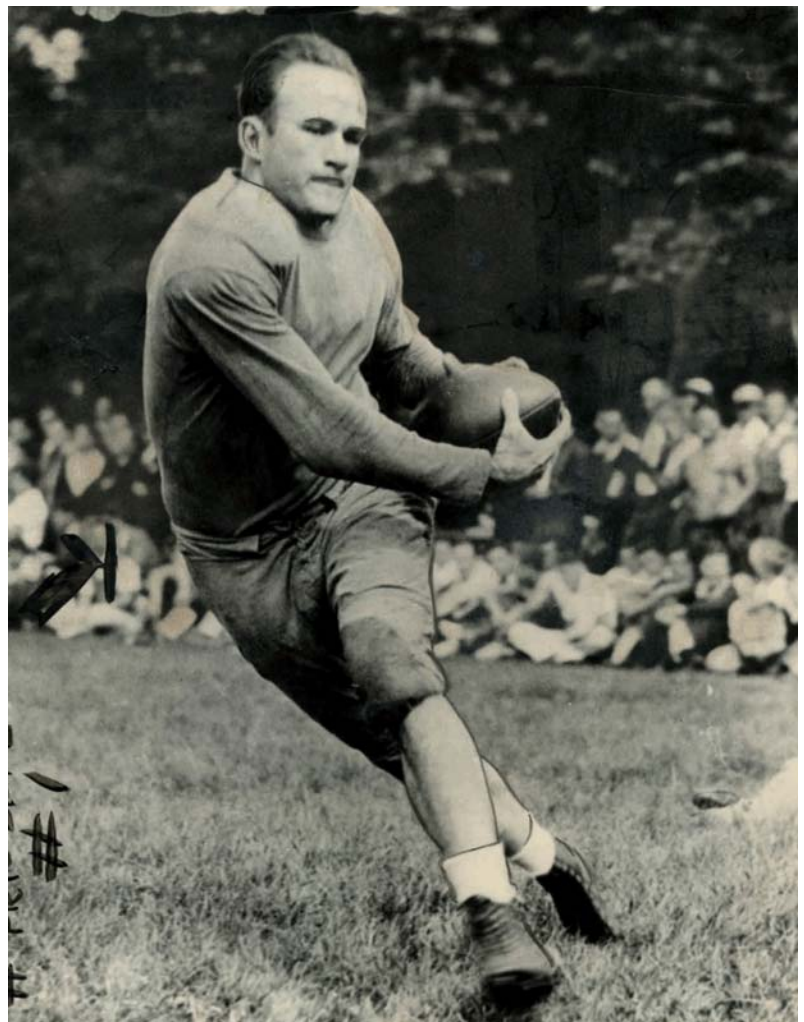


Figure 7. Alabama Pitts playing for the Philadelphia Eagles, 1935.



# Japan's 67<sup>th</sup> National Sports Festival: An Update

by Mark Maestroni

In the Summer 2013 issue of *JSP* I reported on last year's National Sports Festival, an annual multi-sport event held in Japan. Some of my information was incomplete. I also posed questions as to the dating of the festival's commemorative postmarks.

After reading the article, one of our members in Japan, Masaaki Ichimura, rode to the rescue with answers as well as more detailed information on the philately of those games.

The most important question was the duration of use of the 20 pictorial sports postmarks. We now have a definitive answer: the first day of use was 9 June 2012 and the final day, 15 October 2012. While the festival ran just 11 days (29 September - 9 October), the postmarks began generating publicity over 3½ months before the start of competition. Examples of the first day and last day of use are shown in Figures 1 and 2.

All twenty postmarks were available from two different postal facilities in each of the designated cities: the regular post office (PO) and a Postal Cooperation Branch (PCB). On October 1, 2012, both types of postal facilities were merged into a single post office (PO).

Figure 2. Last day of use of the sports postmarks was 15 October. Shown here is the field hockey postmark from Kagamigahara Higashi PO (their official rubber handstamp is at lower left) canceling the National Sports Festival field hockey stamp issued on 28 September. Because the postmark's date is after the merging in Japan of Post Offices with Postal Cooperation Branch facilities, there was no longer a need to underline the year date.

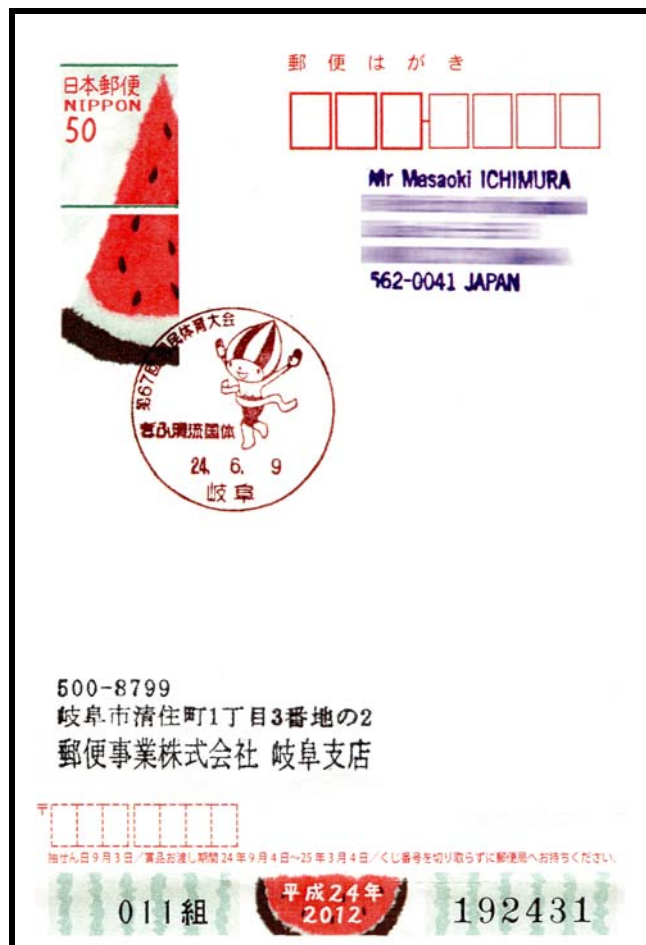


Figure 1. Postal card cancelled on the first day the commemorative sports postmarks were available, 9 June 2012. Since the postmark was applied at the Gifu Postal Cooperation Branch, the year designation ("24") is not underlined.







Figure 3. Both track & field postmarks are from the city of Gifu. At left is the postmark applied at the Central Post Office, the one at right is from the PCB. The green arrows point to the difference in rendering the year date (i.e. underlined on the PO-applied postmark) which was common to all 20 event postmarks. The red arrows point to the city – Gifu – but on the CPO postmark, the two additional characters translate as “central” which is unique to this design.

The design of the postmarks is such that only the city name is included (below the date), not the words “post office” or “postal cooperation branch.” However It is possible to differentiate between the PO and PCB postmarks by noting the differences in how the year “24” (which translates to 2012) is rendered. The postmark applied at the regular PO has a line beneath the number “24” while the year date in the postmark from the PCB has no underline. Following the combining of the two types of post office facilities on October 1, the underlining was omitted from PO-applied postmarks (Figure 2).

There are exceptions. The city of Gifu used the word “central” (in Japanese, “chuou”) to the right of the city name to identify the postmark as having been applied at the “Central Post Office” in Gifu (Figure 3). This was only for the track & field design. The postmarks for the other two sports held in Gifu were swimming (Gifu-Kita) and table tennis (Gifu-Nishi). Both were offered at the post office and PCB, respectively with and without the underlined year. As with all other postmarks, the underlining was discontinued on October 1.

Another variation occurred with the naginata postmark from Kasamatsu (Figures 4 & 5). Here, the post office-applied postmark has lines both above and below the year. This is rare and so far has only been seen on this specific postmark.

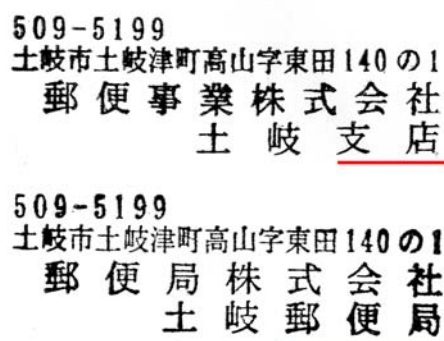
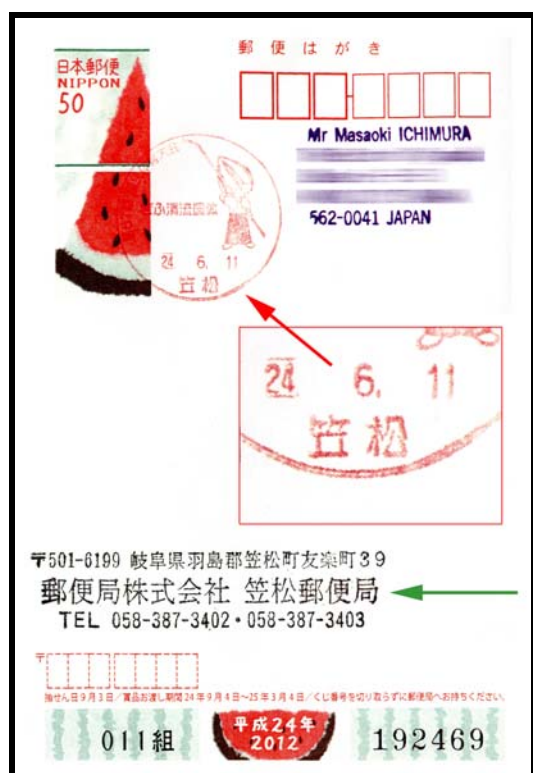


Figure 6. Toki Post Office official handstamps. Two underlined characters in the top cachet translate to Postal Cooperation Branch while the three characters in the bottom cachet are for the Post Office.



Figures 4 & 5 (left and right). Both postal cards show the naginata (halberd) postmark from Kasamatsu.

Figure 4 is the postmark from the PO, but instead of a single underscore beneath the “24” it has lines both above and below (see enlarged inset).

A second way to determine whether a postmark is from a PO or PCB is to compare the official black rubber handstamps (green arrows on both cards and Figure 6). The card at right is from the Kasamatsu PCB.

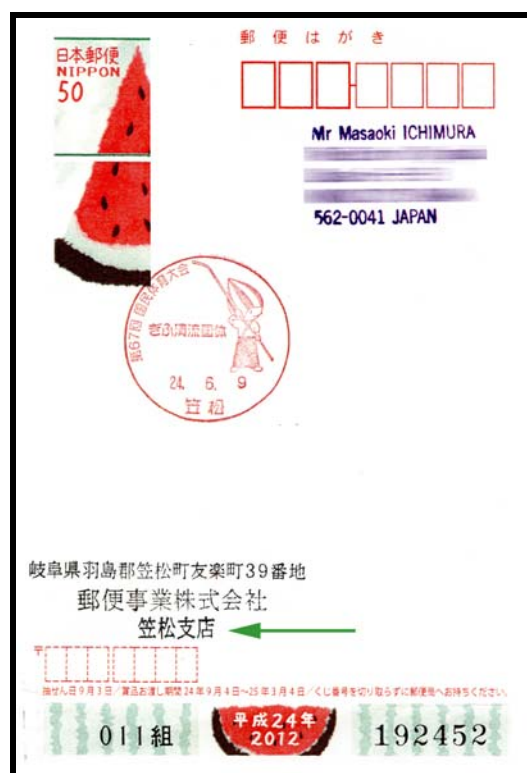




Figure 7. Naginata, a traditional Japanese sport, was commemorated on a stamp and postmark for the 1983 National Sports Festival.

A second question I posed in my original article had to do with one of the two postmarks I was

unable to illustrate: what is *halbert*? As it turns out, the correct term is “*halberd*” which is a generic category of weapons characterized by a long pole with a blade mounted at the upper end.

The Japanese halberd-style weapon is the naginata. Dating back to the early 8<sup>th</sup> century A.D., it was first used by the Bushi (samurai) class, eventually becoming the weapon of choice for the Sohei or Buddhist monks. The oval-shaped naginata pole varies from 5 to 8 feet in length. The curved blade is between 10 inches and 2 feet long and sharpened on a single side – a most imposing weapon indeed!

Today, naginata is a popular traditional sport in Japan for men and women of all ages. The naginata used in Shiai (the fighting form of the sport) is constructed out of oak and topped by two strips of curved bamboo simulating the blade. Kendo-style protective equipment, including shin guards, are worn in competition.

A stamp depicting naginata was issued for the 38<sup>th</sup> National Sports Festival and postmarked with a commemorate cancel showing the sport on 15 October 1983 from Maebashi, Gunma Prefecture (Figure 7).

Both Shiai – the fighting version of naginata – and Kata with its choreographed, practiced movements, were competed in at the 2012 National Sports Festival. The postmarks in Figures 4 and 5 depict the mascot of the games, Minamo, wielding a naginata.

A second postmark that was not shown in the original article represents weightlifting. A variation in this postmark shows the date slid about 2 mm to the left in the PO postmark as compared with the PCB version in Figure 8.

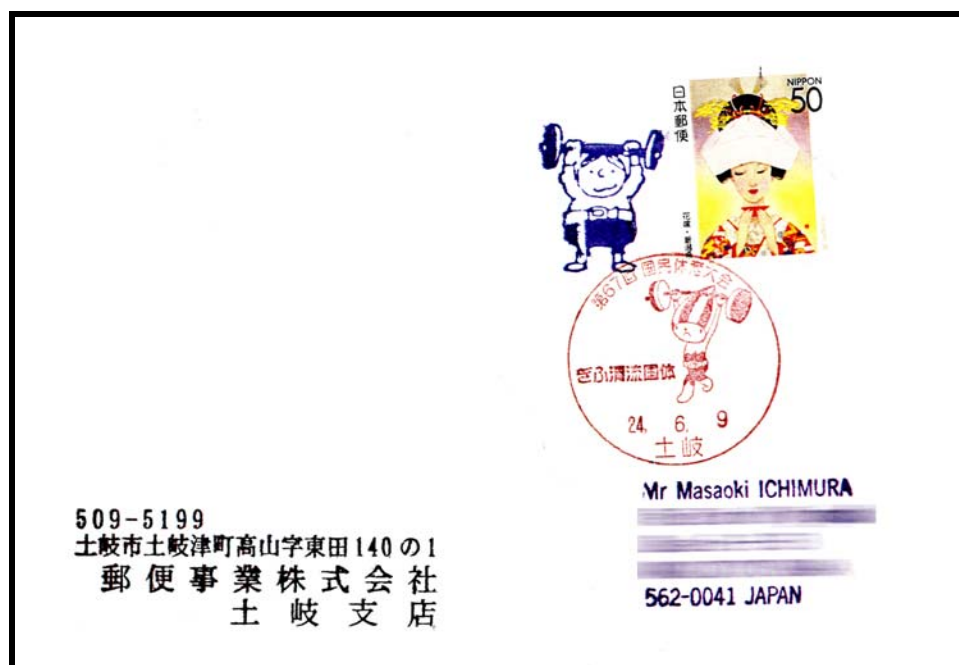


Figure 8. The weightlifting postmark from Toki's PCB (left) on the first day of the postmark program. Note the position of the date when compared with the postmark from the post office (above) which is moved to the left about 2mm.



There are also some corrections to the city designations in the original listings:

Postmark #10: Baseball with soft rubber ball –  
Kagamigahara (not Kakamigahara)

Postmark #13: Karate – Tajimi  
(not Kakamigahara)

Postmark #14: Wrestling – Nakatsugawa  
(not Natsugawa)

Postmark #15: Hockey – Kagamigahara Higashi  
(not Kakamigahara)

Postmark #17: Handball – Hagiwara  
(not Hagihara)

Coinciding with the issuance of the pane of 10 stamps on 28 September 2012 was PHILA-GIFU, the 36<sup>th</sup> Gifuken Philatelic Exhibition. A special postmark from Gifu CPO (only) was available (Figure 9).

To finish up this article we have a pair of colorful official commemorative pictorial postcards issued by two of the cities in Gifu Prefecture. These commemorative cards were not issued by all cities with events; only a few exist.

The card from Mizunami City depicts the mascot playing soft tennis (Figure 10). While both Mizunami City and Toki hosted soft tennis events, a special postmark was only in use at Toki.

The card shown in Figure 11 is from Ena City where the archery competition was held.

To sum up, the philately of the 67<sup>th</sup> Sports Festival was more complex than it initially seemed! 🐉



Figure 9. Postmark for the 38<sup>th</sup> Gifuken Philatelic Exhibition coinciding with the special issue of stamps for the National Sports Festival on 28 September 2012.

Figure 10.



Figure 11.



# REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS

by Mark Maestrone

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

March 2013 (#67). In May of this year, Paris hosted the World Championships of Table Tennis. France Poste commemorated the event with a pair of stamps. Writing in this issue of *Esprit*, Hubert Menand reviews 70 years of table tennis philately. This year was also the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Pierre de Coubertin, philatelically celebrated in an article by René Christin. One of France's earliest skiing champions, Émile Allais, passed away in 2012 having made it to the century mark. René provides an interesting overview of his life with skiing philately dating back to the 1930s.

June 2013 (#68). Part one of Manfred Bergman's unpublished work on the postal stationery of the 1924 Paris Olympic Games presents a fascinating study of the so-called "Pasteur" cards. Vincent Girardin previews the 19<sup>th</sup> Olympic Collectors Fair held in Bø, Norway. Last but not least, Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak, reports on efforts to restore the tomb in Edinburgh, Scotland of noted French golfer, Arnaud Massy. Massy is the only Frenchman to have won any of golf's (men's) major tournaments (1907 Open Championship in England).

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

April 2013 (#40). The editor of *Filabasket* catches up on a continuing series, "The complete overview of basketball Olympic stamps" with part 6 covering the Seoul 1988 and Barcelona 1992 Olympics. Some interesting items are also found in this issue's regular columns on "new 'old' items," "curiosities – miscellanea," and early basketball equipment (balls and hoops).

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

February 2013 (#157). The highlight of this issue is a wonderfully instructive examination of the 1924 Olympic Games "Milon of Croton" stamp from France. Rüdiger Fritz and Hans-Georg Starr start

with the essays, continue through numerous usages on covers and cards, and conclude with the overprints for the French Mandate for Syria and the Lebanon. Wolfgang Marx reports on the latest private post football issues for various German teams. Thomas Lippert discusses the philately of recent Universiades (2011 Summer in Shenzhen, China; 2011 Winter in Erzurum, Turkey; 2013 Summer in Kazan, Russia) and the upcoming Winter Universiade in Trentino, Italy in December 2013.

May 2013 (#158). Coinciding with the annual IMOS Congress, held this year in Gmunden in northwestern Austria, the club distributed a special volume in place of its usual journal.

The cover story by Manfred Bergman details the "dream that did not happen": the Berlin Olympic Games of 1916. The story of those Games is presented through philately, numismatics, and memorabilia.

Three articles on sports in Austria follow. Reinhard Franz presents the story of Victor Silberer, an Austrian sports pioneer. Austria and table tennis in an international context is reviewed by Christian Klaus. Austria Post's philatelic participation at the 2006 Turin and 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games, primarily through the series of stamps portraying the Austrian Olympic team members, is discussed by Thomas Lippert.

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

November 2012 (Vol. XV, No. 2). Congratulations go to the town of Győr, Hungary, for being selected as the host city of the 2017 European Youth Olympic Festival. Certainly we will see some excellent philatelic items produced for the event by Hungary Post. Hungary hopes that this first Olympic-style event will perhaps be a stepping stone to one day hosting the Youth Olympics or Olympic Games themselves!

The majority of this issue is devoted to a review of the philately of the London Olympic Games and Hungarian participation. Zoltan Klein salutes the 1952 Helsinki Olympic Games which were the most successful Olympics for Hungarian athletes.



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

Vol.8, No. 1, 2013. Norwegian speed skaters portrayed on postage stamps of other countries are presented by Dag Henriksbø. Amusingly, Dag places “postage” in parentheses and with a question mark noting his skepticism over the legitimacy of certain issues! Nevertheless, he covers many notable sports stars such as Ivar Ballangrud, Knut Johannesen, and Johann Olav Koss. A discussion of skaters from Norway would be incomplete without Sonja Henie. Fredrik Schreuder reviews her many sports accomplishments through philately.

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

January 2013 (#85). The featured article in this first issue of 2013 is, once again, by Manfred Bergman – this time on the 1912 Stockholm Olympic Games, with anecdotes and trivia about the participants. The tennis career of Andre Agassi, one of the sport’s most successful stars, is detailed by Valeriano Genovese. Giorgio Leccese provides a visually stunning look at the essays and proofs of the Paris 1924 Olympic Games stamps of France. In a prior issue of the magazine, a new series began on the philatelic issues honoring each of the many IOC Sessions through the years. This installment covers the end of the emissions for the 1896 Session, jumps ahead to the 15<sup>th</sup> Session in Stockholm, then continues to the 63<sup>rd</sup> Session in Tokyo.

April 2013 (#86). Giorgio Leccese certainly is passionate about football (soccer) as evidenced by the extensive collection of production material he displays for the early football stamps of Italy, Monaco, and French-speaking countries. This issue continues with the IOC Session philately from the 1964 Tokyo Session to the 83<sup>rd</sup> Session in Moscow. Alvaro Trucchi brings us a well-illustrated discussion of the 2013 World Championships of Nordic Skiing at Val di Fiemme in Trentino, Italy. Additional articles cover fencing, and memorabilia from the Cortina Olympic Winter Games of 1956.

**Tee Time:** International Philatelic Golf Society, 8025 Saddle Run, Powell, OH 43065, USA.

June 2012 (#100). Opening this issue of *Tee Time* is a great first day cover of the 1970 Eisenhower 6¢ stamp autographed by Arnold Palmer. Both “Amer-

ican Titans” played the Augusta National Golf Course on multiple occasions. Also in this issue is a report on golf course postcard packs from Australia, and new issues.

September 2012 (#101). Golf PAP envelopes from France and unlisted (in the Scott Catalog) golf issues are presented.

December 2012 (#102). John La Porta reports on a picture post card promoting “Golf in Florida” that, following some investigating, turned up promoting golf in other places as well!

March 2013 (#103). Jim Gray provides “A Philatelic Tribute to Severiano Ballesteros.”

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

March 2013 (Vol.30, #1). A theme not often presented is the philately of Ancient Olympia and the International Olympic Academy. Bob Farley delves into the subject displaying an astonishingly broad body of philately for both the town (each torch relay in recent years has had a postmark from the town) as well as the various Olympic Academy sessions and many seminars that have taken place since the Academy opened in 1961. Also in this issue is the first supplement to Bob Wilcock’s “London 1948 Olympic Games” opus (still to be reviewed by *JSP*), and more worldwide stamp issues devoted to the London 2012 Olympics.

June 2013 (Vol.30, #2). Bob Farley takes us on a trip to the Finnish Sports Museum in Helsinki. The 1948 Wembley Olympic cancels are discussed by Bob Wilcock in a follow-up to his book on the 1948 Olympic Games. Evidently, there is more to the story of the machine cancels for those Games than initially met the eye. Also discussed in this issue is the new Juan Antonio Samaranch Memorial Museum in Tianjin, China. Manfred Bergman contributes an article entitled “100 years of the First Pan-Russian Olympiad, Kiev 1913.”

### ***Publications available online***

**Grupo Podium:** [www.grupopodium.com.ar](http://www.grupopodium.com.ar)

**Olympsport:** [www.olymp-sport.cz](http://www.olymp-sport.cz)

**Philatelic Volleyball Newsletter,** available (via email in PDF format) in English from Piet H.M. van den Berg at [volleyphil@home.nl](mailto:volleyphil@home.nl)

# NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Mark Maestrone

## NEW MEMBERS

#2308 Fredrik C. Schreuder, Eiksveien 83, N-1361 Osteraas, Norway. **Winter Sports and Pre-1960 Olympics.**

#2309 William Silvester, 378C Cotlow Road, Victoria, BC V9C 2G1 Canada. **Commonwealth Games.**  
Email: wgsilvester@shaw.ca

#2310 Andrey Evich, U krize 631/20, Praha 58, 15800 Czech Republic. **Ice Hockey, Asian Games, Winter Olympics: 1980, 2014.**  
Email: exch.stamps@gmail.com

#2311 Walter O. Van Meegroot, Nicanor Carranza 3558, Cordoba, Argentina. **Soccer, World Cup 2010-2014.** Email: waltosvanmee@fibertel.com.ar

## RENEWED MEMBERS

#1948 Thomas Cavanaugh, 5 Pollock Rd., Wayland, MA 01778-4505. **Lacrosse, Rugby, Soccer.**

## NEW ADDRESS

Pierre Godin: pgodin343@gmail.com (new email)  
Margaret Jones: docj3@stloak.com (new email)

## US EXHIBITING NEWS

Correction to the listing in the Summer 2013 issue. Clemons Reiss' "Lawn Bowling, Rulers, Rules, Recreation and Results" exhibit at the NTSS show in May 2013 did not receive the Mary Ann Owens One-Frame special award as we noted in this column. It did, however, receive three other special awards in addition to a Single Frame Silver medal!

NAPEX 2013, Arlington, Virginia (31 May - 2 June, 2013). Andrew Urushima: "The 1944 Gross Born Olympics." Single Frame Gold Medal, Polonus Philatelic Society Gold Medal, and Polonus Philatelic Society Single Frame Grand Award.

APS StampShow 2013, Milwaukee, WI (8-11 August). Conrad Klinkner's "Games of the Xth Olympiad - Los Angeles 1932" received a Silver and American Topical Association Third. The *Journal of Sports Philately* garnered a Vermeil in the literature class. Receiving a Prix d'Honneur in the World Series of Philately class was

Norman Jacobs' "Tennis - From Game of Kings to King of Games" which won the Grand at this year's National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS).

2013 APS Chapter and Affiliates Web Site Competition. The SPI website was one of only four (out of 27 entries) to win a gold medal!

## MICHAEL BERRY TRIBUTE

In the last issue of *JSP* we announced the sad news that Michael Berry, whom many of us knew through his auction house in the U.K., Healey & Wise, had passed away. We didn't have any details at the time. Since then, however, I've been provided with a tribute delivered at a "Thanksgiving Service" for him. I wanted to quote certain portions.

*"Michael was born in Liverpool in 1934. During the war, Michael and his siblings went with their mother to stay in the Lake District. As an 11 year old he went to board at Elsmere College [where he was] ... introduced to the joys of rugby. His love of the game continued throughout his life, as a player and then later as a spectator. He played for Streatham rugby club and the family remember many hours spent freezing in the cold on the side of rugby pitches.*

*In 1963 he joined the army as part of his National Service. He was sent to Officer Cadet school and was commissioned into the Royal Signals. He did extremely well and nearly made it his career but chose to join his father's stamp business. His particular niche in the field were the themes of scouts, sports and Olympics. He was able to work from home and also to enjoy traveling to auctions and exhibitions [in] ... Europe, the States, and to the Far East [accompanied by] his wife, Inga-Britt. Other interests of his were bowling, skiing, and walking."*

Michael passed away after a bout of pneumonia contracted just before Christmas 2012 from which he never fully recovered. He is survived by his wife, Inga-Britt, to whom he was much devoted; their three children, Nick, Vicki and Emma; and seven grandchildren. Sadly, Inga-Britt has been suffering from Alzheimer's for many years, which was extremely distressing for Michael.

Our condolences go out to his family. Those in the Olympic and scouting philatelic communities will miss Michael.



# NEW STAMP ISSUES

by John La Porta

**Australia:** May 10, 2013. Black Caviar. 60¢ Black Caviar's 25<sup>th</sup> consecutive win and her retirement.

July 23, 2013. Headline News. Four se-tenant 60¢ stamps, one stamp depicts America's Cup Trophy, "Sailing into History." Sept. 27, 1983. A souvenir sheet was also issued and it contains the four stamps. Offset in sheets of 50 and booklets of 20.

**Austria:** April 14, 2013. Vienna City Marathon. €0.62 runners on Empire Bridge.

April 19, 2013. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Toboggan at Prater Amusement Park. The ride, statue of devil on building.

**Belarus:** January 28, 2013. Track Cycling World Championship. Nondenominated "H" stamp, emblem of the event. Offset in sheets of six.

**Belgium:** March 25, 2013. Tour des Flanders. Nondenominated "1" national-rate stamp, cyclist. Offset in sheets of ten.

**Bulgaria:** March 29, 2013. Soccer Club Anniversaries. 65st Chernomorie. Offset in sheets of three stamps and a label.

April 5, 2013. Soccer Club Anniversaries. 65st Slavia. Offset in sheets of three stamps and a label.

April 24, 2013. Soccer Club Anniversaries. 65st CSKA, photograph also shows the 1959 Barcelona team. Offset in sheets of three stamps and a label.

**Burundi:** December 12, 2012. Nascar. Sheetlet of 1180F, 1190F and two 3000F stamps all depicting various cars and drivers including Tony Stewart. Souvenir sheet of one 7500F stamp showing Jimmie Johnson and his car.

**Central Africa:** February 25, 2013. Sochi Olympics. Sheetlet of four 750F stamps Alpine skiing, bobsled, figure skating, speed skating. Souvenir sheet of one 2650F stamp showing luge.

February 25, 2013. Sebastian Vettel F1. Sheetlet of four 750F stamps depicting Vettel in various scenes with race car. Souvenir sheet has one 2650F stamp, showing Vettel.

March 25, 2013. 25<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary Enzo Ferrari. Sheetlet of four 750F values depicting Ferrari and race cars. Souvenir sheet of one 2650F value, showing Ferrari.

March 25, 2013. Sheetlet of four 900F values depicting tennis players including Rafael Nadal. The souvenir sheet has one 3000F value showing Roger Federer.

**Colombia:** December 18, 2012. London Olympics. Medalists. 1,800p emblems of the sports and names of the medal winners, runner Elkin Serna, swimmer Moises Fuentes, cyclist Rigoberto Uran, judo athlete Yuri Alvear, weightlifter Oscar Figueroa, BMX rider Mariana Pajon, taekwondo athlete Oscar Munoz Oviedo, triple jumper Catherine Ibarquen, cyclist Carlos Oquendo, wrestler Jackeline Renteria. Souvenir sheet with 30,000p stamp, same design. Offset in sheets of four with labels showing the medalists.

**Czech Republic:** June 12, 2013. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1962 FIFA World Cup. Postcard "Z" rate, imprinted stamp depicts the soccer players on the field.

**France:** May 14, 2013. World Table Tennis Championship. Triptych of two stamps and a central label. €0.63 women playing table tennis; €0.95 man. Printed in sheets of 32 stamps and eight labels.

**Gambia:** August 2, 2012. First Olympic Stamps. Six 300d gold-foil souvenir sheets with stamp-on-stamp design of Greek 1896 Olympic stamps, 2; 25; 40; 60 lepta and 2dr; 5dr and 10dr.

**Germany:** April 4, 2013. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary German Sports Badge. €0.58 the award. Offset in sheets of ten.

May 2, 2013: Sports/Cartoon Mouse by Uli Stein, €0.58+€0.27 mouse as a runner at starting block; €0.90+€0.40 sailing with Swiss cheese for the sail; €1.45+€0.55 on parallel bars. Offset in sheets of ten.

**Ghana:** October 30, 2012. Muhammad Ali. Pane of four se-tenant 2 cedi stamps showing the boxer in matches, Doug Jones, 1963; Sonny Liston, 1965; Ernie Terrell, 1967; Joe Frazier, 1975.

**Great Britain:** May 19, 2013. 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rules of Association Football (Soccer). Issue of 11 stamps, souvenir sheet with the 11 stamps se-tenant, booklet and a prestige booklet. All stamps are nondenominated paying the 60p first class rate.

August 8, 2013. Andy Murray win at Wimbledon. Souvenir sheet of four, two 1<sup>st</sup> and the other two £1.28 value stamps, Two stamps depict Murray with the trophy and the two action shots of the player.

**Guernsey:** February 20, 2013. Sark's Gold Postbox. Souvenir sheet with £1 stamp, public mailbox painted gold for Carl Hester's 2012 Olympic equestrian golf medal.

**Guinea:** December 10, 2012. Champions of Formula One. Sheetlet of three 15,000FG stamps Fernando Alonso etc. Souvenir sheet of one 40,000FG stamp, depicting Juan Manuel Fangio and Alain Prost.

December 17, 2012. Sports Legends Summer 2012. Additional three sheets as last issue. Sheet one depicts 100m steeplechase, sheet two depicts Soccer and sheet three shows basketball.

**Guinea:** April 30, 2013. Sochi Olympics. Sheetlet of three stamps, 1,000FG, 1500FG, 2000FG, showing snow boarding, 4-man bobsled, downhill skiing. The souvenir sheet has one 40,000FG stamps which shows short track speed skating.

**Hungary:** April 2, 2013. European Judo Championships. 360ft female judoka.

**Italy:** February 1, 2013. Nordic World Ski Championships. €0.85 skiers, mountains.

**Japan:** August 28, 2013. National Sports Festival. Five se-tenant 80y stamps, kayaking; sailing, Tokyo Gate Bridge; Bonin Islands; Sumida River and skyline; stadium. Offset in sheets of 10.

**Jersey:** April 11, 2013. Corbiere, Grand National Winner. 55p, 60p 68p, 80p different scenes of jockey Ben de Haan riding Corbiere in races and jumping. Souvenir sheet with £2 stamp, de Haan riding Corbiere past La Corbiere Lighthouse. Offset in sheets of 10.

**Israel:** May 26, 2013. 19<sup>th</sup> Maccabiah Games. 3s symbolic athletes. Offset is sheets of 15 stamps and five tabs.

**South Korea:** March 29, 2013. Memorable Figures/Baseball. Se-tenant pair of nondenominated stamps, Dong-Won Choi; Hyo-Jo Jang. Gravure in sheets of 18.

**Kyrgyzstan:** March 23, 2013. National Horse Games. 35s running pacer. Offset in sheets of six.

**Latvia:** January 30, 2013. Latvian Athletes. 35s/€0.50 BMX Racer.

**Luxembourg:** May 2, 2013. Games of the Small States of Europe. A se-tenant pair of €0.60 stamps, different designs with robot mascot and QR code. Offset in sheets of 10.

May 2, 2013. Tour de France. Souvenir sheet with €1 stamp, cyclists, Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe.

**Macedonia:** July 14, 2012. London Olympics. 50d hurdler; 100d wrestler.

**Monaco:** March 14, 2013. Race Cars. €1.05 Maserati; €1.75 Tyrell P34. Offset in sheets of 10.

**Mozambique:** October 30, 2012. London Olympics. Sheetlet of six values, three 16.00 MT and three 66.00 MT. All depict various paralympians. Souvenir sheet with one 175. MT value, Oscar Pistorius depicted.

February 20, 2013. Table Tennis. Sheetlet of four values, two 16.00MT and two 92MT stamps. Various scenes of table tennis players. Souvenir sheet of one 175MT value, Wu Yang depicted.

February 20, 2012. Rugby. Sheetlet of four values, two 16.00MT and two 92.00MT, The national rugby team of New Zealand and South Africa. Souvenir sheet of one 175.00MT value, Percy Montgomery.



**Nepal:** December 24, 2012. Sports. Two 25re stamps, elephant soccer; bungee jumping.

**New Caledonia:** August 19, 2013. Adaptive Swimming World Championship. 120fr swimmers in pool and ocean.

**Niger:** April 15, 2013. Tour de France. Sheetlet of four 750F stamps depicting Lucien Petit-Breton and others. Souvenir sheet of one 2500F value showing Bradley Wiggins.

April 15, 2013. Sochi Olympics. Sheetlet of four 750F stamps, luge, pairs figure skating, ice hockey. Souv. sheet has one 2500F value, freestyle skiing.

April 15, 2013. Soccer - African Cup of Nations 2013. Sheetlet of four 750F stamps, various soccer action scenes. Souvenir sheet with one 2500F stamp, two soccer players in action.

April 15, 2013. Rowing - Hamadou Djibo Issaka. Sheetlet of four 825F value stamps depicting the rower in action. Souvenir sheet with one 3000F stamp showing rower.

**St. Martin:** July 18, 2012. London Olympics. 12 se-tenant stamps, 25¢ handball; 50¢ running; 75¢ field hockey; 90¢ judo; 100¢ tennis; 120¢ soccer; 170¢ canoeing; 200¢ cycling; 220¢ gymnastics; 250¢ basketball; 300¢ beach volleyball; 400¢ triplet jump. Souvenir sheet contains three se-tenant stamps, 125¢ archery; 225¢ diving; 350¢ weightlifting.

**St. Thomas & Prince Islands:** March 29, 2013. Sochi Olympics. Sheetlet of four 25,000Db stamps all depicting ski jumping, hockey etc. Souvenir sheet of one 96,000Db value stamp which depicts Nordic combined.

March 29, 2013. Sebastian Vettel. Sheetlet of four 25000Db values showing the auto racer. Souvenir sheet of one 96000Db value depicting the racer.

March 29, 2013. Babe Ruth. Sheetlet of four 25,000Db stamps all showing Babe Ruth at bat. Souvenir sheet with one 96,000Db stamp depicting Ruth hitting baseball.

**San Marino:** April 13, 2013. 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Genoa Cricket and Soccer Club. €1 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century team captain James R. Spensley smoking pipe, Marassi Stadium. Offset in sheets of 12.

June 7, 2013. Juventus Soccer Club, Italian Champion. €1 the team celebrating. Offset in sheets of 12.

**Serbia:** December 4, 2012. Women's Handball postal tax stamp. 10d handball player.

**Solomon Islands:** May 3, 2013. Golf Players from the Pacific Islands. Sheetlet of four \$7.00 stamps which depict various golfers in action. Souvenir sheet with one \$20.00 stamp showing a golfer.

**Spain:** May 17, 2013. Anniversaries. €0.52 stamp. Soccer field, mountains, tower emblems of (100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) Baskonia Sports Club and Basauri Sports Club.

**Sweden:** March 14, 2013. Hockey Heroes. Four "brev" stamps showing the player in colors of Sweden's national team and their autographs, goalie Henrik Lundqvist; Jorgen Jonsson, Borje Salming; Nicklas Lidstrom; 6 krona, Peter "Foppa" Forsberg's goal in 1994, new printing of 1995 stamp with new denomination and "2013" year date. Self-adhesive in booklets of 10 and offset in sheets of nine (6k).

**Turkey:** June 10, 2013. 17<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Games. Souvenir sheet with four se-tenant 1.10 lira stamps showing athletes, shot put, javelin throw, running, boxing; sailing, weightlifting; gymnastics; volleyball, cycling.

**United States:** August 8, 2013. Black Heritage, Althea Gibson. Tennis player in action. Forever stamp value (.46). Self-adhesive, printed in pane of 20. Also press sheet with 10 panes, available with die cuts or without (imperforate).

**Uzbekistan:** June 17, 2013. Asian youth Games 1,500s depicting fencing; World Student Games 1,500s showing judo.

**Uruguay:** March 20, 2013. Defensor Sporting Club. 15p soccer players, emblems. Offset in sheets of eight and a label.

# COMMEMORATIVE CANCELS

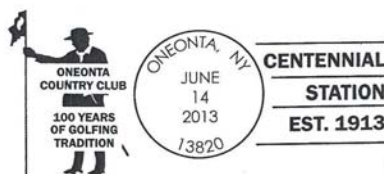
by Mark Maestroni

## 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 JUNE - JULY 2013

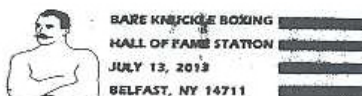
Baseball: 13727-660, 13728-133  
Basketball: 13620-331  
Boxing: 13713-147  
Canoeing: 13727-497  
Cycling: 13724-501, 13818-597  
Golf: 13614-138



13614-138 Oneonta, NY 14



13620-331 Miami, FL 20



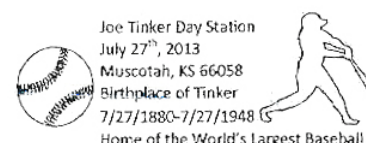
13713-147 Belfast, NY 13



13724-501 Monroe, IA 24



13727-497 Grayling, MI 27



13727-660 Muscotah, KS 27

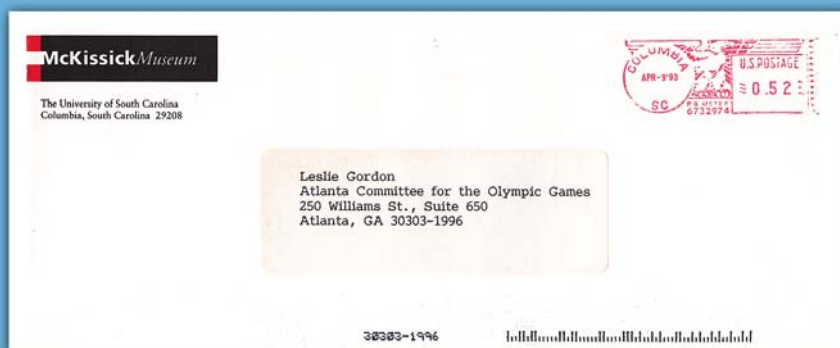


13728-133 Cooperstown, NY 28



13818-597 Ennis, MT 18

## 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games Mail from the Cultural Olympiad Office



For sale (all net proceeds benefit SPI), groups of 41 all different covers with a variety of corner cards (some ACOG), most with meters, some with stamps. Included in each group: 30 #10 covers, ten 9"x12" covers, 1 oversize cover with ACOG internal mail receipt marking. Cost per group: \$12 postpaid USA; \$19 postpaid rest of world.

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