

JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

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NUMBER 3

THE
WORLD
COMES
TO SOCHI





SPORTS
PHILATELISTS
INTERNATIONAL

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On the cover: Marit Bjørgen, winner of the Sochi Olympics Ladies' Skiathlon at the flower ceremony on 8 February 2014. Photo by Iurii Osadchi. Also shown, the Norway Post Olympic stamp showing Marit Bjørgen issued 7 February 2014.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestroni

SPI Election Season

Once again, it's time for SPI's biennial election when all positions – officers and members of the board of directors – are open for nominations.

Any SPI member in good standing is eligible to run. Nominations must be received by our Nominations Chairman, Glenn Estus, no later than May 1, 2014. His address is PO Box 451, Westport, NY 12993 (e-mail: gestus@westelcom.com).

XXTH World Olympic Collectors Fair

This year's World Olympic Collectors Fair is being held in Lausanne, Switzerland, from 23 to 25 May. The fair coincides with the inaugural General Assembly for the new Olympic collecting organization, AICO (Association Internationale des Collecteurs Olympique).

Tables in the bourse are available for 100 CHF. The dinner on 24 May is 50 CHF per person. You must request an official invitation in order to register for a table and/or the dinner by contacting David Maiden by e-mail: dma22920@gmail.com. The deadline for registering is 1 May.

Attendees will also be able to take a special tour of the newly remodeled IOC Museum.

Additional information may be found on our website: www.sportstamps.org/2014fair.html

XXI All-Poland Philatelic Exhibition WARSAW 2014

Our colleague in Poland, Roman Babut, sent information on a philatelic exhibition to be held in Warsaw from 12-19 October 2014. The exhibition, which is being held in celebration of the 95th anniversary of the Polish Olympic Committee, will

take place at the Committee's headquarters. There will be a special section devoted to Olympic and sports themes. For more information, please contact Dr. Babut (e-mail: tubab@wp.pl).

Collectors Showcase

Our readers have a terrific amount of knowledge on various aspects of sports and Olympic collecting. The big question is how do we encourage them to share this wealth of information?

Your board came up with a great suggestion – the ***Collectors Showcase*** – which will feature interesting items or stories from the collections of our members. To make it easy to participate, the article should be one page in length and discuss a specific Olympic or sports item. See the bottom of page 30 for more information on submissions.

New Printer

If you notice a difference in the overall “feel” of this month's journal it's because we are experimenting with a new printer. There is no cost difference to SPI. Our current publisher, John La Porta, will continue to be the point man for mailing, but without all the headaches that come with maintaining printing equipment.

Corrections & Information

In Pat Loehr's article in the Winter 2013 issue of *JSP*, “A Father of Golf,” a portion of a sentence was inadvertently omitted. On page 27 the last sentence at the bottom of the left column should read: “That club became another ‘National’ and similar to Macdonald's National it was inspired by Jones' love of the Scottish style of golf.”

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The World Comes to Sochi

by Mark Maestroni

As I sit down to write this article, the Sochi Olympic Winter Games have just concluded. My favorite sports moment was watching the U.S. snowboard team sweep the gold medals in the new slopestyle event (big kudos to both Sage Kotsenburg and Jamie Anderson), while at the same time bidding farewell to perhaps the winningest U.S. snowboarder in history, Shaun White, who just couldn't complete a clean run in the halfpipe finals.

The above digression for a little flag-waving aside, let's take a look at the philately of these Games – more specifically, issues from participating nations (we'll leave host, Russia, for another time).

What is remarkable is the dramatic drop in the number of participating countries issuing stamps.

At the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games, no fewer than 36 (of 81 *non-host* participating) nations issued a total of 94 face-different stamps (includes both stamps issued for the Games as well as subsequently honored medalists).

By the start of these Games on 7 February, just 20 (of 87) non-host countries with teams at Sochi had issued 41 face different stamps. This number may increase with medalist stamps.

Why so few? We can't be certain, but I know that at least from the perspective of the U.S. Postal Service it is due to the new licensing regulations imposed by the International Olympic Committee which now requires a percentage of the proceeds from philatelic sales.

Without further delay, let's get to the stamps!



Azerbaijan: Four stamps issued se-tenant in pane of eight (15 Jan 2014). Fielding a small team of just four athletes (two figure skaters and two Alpine skiers), Azerbaijan is competing in its fifth Olympic Winter Games as an independent nation.



Belarus: Single-stamp souvenir sheet (7 Feb 2014). Belarus had a moderately sized team of 26 athletes competing in a variety of sports at Sochi, so it's curious that the sole stamp issued for the Games depicts the Olympic flame burning in the special cauldron used at the Panathenaic Stadium in Athens, Greece. However, if we look back to 2010 Vancouver, Belarus waited until after the Games to issue a set of three stamps, each honoring a different medalist. Interestingly, all three of those athletes are competing again in Sochi. One of them, Darya Domracheva, won Gold in 3 of the 5 women's Biathlon events in which she competed!



Armenia: Two-stamp souvenir sheet (FDI: 2 Dec 2013). The subject of Armenia's stamps are well-chosen as their 2014 Sochi team consisted of three cross-country skiers and one Alpine skier.



Bulgaria: Single-stamp souvenir sheet (31 Jan 2014). Two-thirds of teams at these Olympics had 20 or fewer athletes. Bulgaria, with 18, falls into the upper end of that group. This were the first Olympics at which Vladimir Zografski, their sole ski jumper, competed (he did not win a medal). From an architectural viewpoint, the schematic of the RusSki Gorki Jumping Center in the selvedge reproduces an older version of the design which was later simplified. On a philatelic note, the “0,00” value sheets in different colors that are being sold are no more than gifts given to stamp collectors. These are not errors; don’t be fooled!



Croatia: Alpine skiing in sheet of 9 plus label (7 Feb 2014). Eight of Croatia’s 11 athletes competed in Alpine skiing having won 9 medals in this sport in the last three Winter Games.

Czech Republic: Snowboarding in sheet of 50 (5 Feb 2014). The 85-athlete strong Czech Republic team featured speedskater, Martina Sablikova, who walked away with two Golds and one Bronze in Vancouver. At Sochi she took a Gold and a Silver in her two events.



Estonia: Single, sheet of 20 (16 Jan 2014). Nordic skiing events are Estonia’s forte, having won seven medals in the last three Olympic Winter Games. With 25 athletes, they competed skating, Alpine skiing, but no freestyle skiing as suggested by the stamp’s design.



Latvia: Skeleton, sheet of 10 (7 Feb 2014). Luge is Latvia’s most successful winter sport with four Olympic medals. In fact, brothers Andris and Juris Šics, who had a Silver in the double luge from Vancouver, are each taking home 2 Bronze medals from Sochi. I love the colors on this stamp!



Liechtenstein: Single stamp in sheet of 16 (11 Nov 2013). At first glance this stamp capturing Sochi’s dual nature as a seaside resort at the foot of the Caucasus Mountains may look rather plain. The stamp uses a special thermographic process in which paint mixed with crushed stone from Sochi is applied to the stamp giving it a slightly rough texture when touched. Not so plain anymore!



Lithuania: bobsleigh and ice hockey in separate sheets of 10 (18 Jan 2014). Lithuania, with 9 athletes at Sochi, has competed in each Olympic Winter Games since 1992. Sports in which they competed included Alpine and Nordic skiing events – but oddly neither bobsleigh nor ice hockey. Independent Lithuania has yet to win any medals at the Winter Games.



Moldova: Alpine skiing and ice hockey stamps (plus bobsleigh, snowboarding, figure skating and cross-country skiing silhouettes in background) in separate sheets of 10 (7 Feb 2014).

The Republic of Moldova with just 4 competitors at Sochi contested events in both Nordic and Alpine skiing as well as luge.

Monaco: bobsleigh and Alpine skiing in sheet of 10 (30 Jan 2014).

Monaco's five-athlete team competed in, appropriate to this stamp, the two-man bob event and Alpine skiing. Prince Albert II, Monaco's ruler, competed in the bobsleigh events at five consecutive Olympic Winter Games from 1988 to 2002. Prince Albert has been a member of the IOC since 1985.



Norway: (clockwise from top left) Alpine skiing (Aksel Lund Svindal); cross-country skiing (Petter Northug); cross-country skiing (Marit Bjørgen); and biathlon (Tora Berger) (7 Feb 2014).

Norway had one of the largest contingents at Sochi with 134 competitors. A perennial powerhouse in winter sports, especially the Nordic events, the Sochi team won 26 medals. The athletes depicted on the four stamps are all competitors at Sochi as well as having won medals at prior Olympic Winter Games. Svindal won a Gold, Silver and Bronze at Vancouver, while Northug took home four medals. Neither was a medalist in Sochi. Tora Berger, competing in the women's biathlon, took home a full set of medals

with a Gold, Silver and Bronze. The most successful of this Norwegian quartet is Marit Bjørgen. Her medal haul in cross-country events began at Salt Lake City in 2002 where she won a Silver in the 4x5km event. She continued at Turin in 2006 with another Silver, this time in the 10km Classic. At Vancouver she came into her own winning three Golds, a Silver and a Bronze. At Sochi she won three cross-country Golds.



Poland: ski jumping and cross-country skiing in a miniature sheet of 4 (7 Feb 2014).

The Polish team sent 58 athletes to compete at Sochi and won 6 medals which included Justyna Kowalczyk's Gold in ladies' 10km Classic cross-country skiing; Kamil Stoch's 2 Golds ski jumping, and Zbigniew Brodka's Gold and Bronze in speed skating.



Romania: Biathlon, bobsleigh, figure skating and cross-country skiing, se-tenant in two tête-bêche blocks of four (7 Feb 2014).

Romania, with a team of 24 athletes at Sochi, were unsuccessful in bringing home only their second Olympic Winter Games medal despite having competed at all but the 1960 Squaw Valley Games.



Serbia: figure skating and ski jumping in individual sheets of 8 (7 Feb 2014). Sochi was the second Olympic Winter Games at which a team from Serbia competed. Their eight athletes were entered in bobsleigh, Alpine and Nordic skiing, and snowboarding (though not skating, nor ski jumping).



Slovakia: Biathlon, sheet of 50 (15 Jan 2014). Anastasiya Kuzmina won the first Gold for the Slovakian team at Sochi in, appropriately, the Biathlon (women's 7.5 km Sprint).

Despite a team comprising 62 athletes, they were unable to bring home any additional medals.



Slovenia: Ski jumping and ice hockey in a mini-sheet of 6 (3 of each + 3 labels) (31 Jan 2014). While Slovenia has never won a medal in ice hockey, they have been successful in ski jumping. In fact, of the eight medals won in Sochi, one is a Silver by Peter Prevc in the men's Normal Hill Individual ski jumping event. Also notable is that the 66-member team's two Golds were both won by Tina Maze (women's Alpine skiing Downhill and Giant Slalom). Tina won Silvers in the Super-G and Giant Slalom events at Vancouver. Slovenia issued a stamp honoring her Vancouver medals following those Games.



Togo: bobsleigh, ice hockey and figure skating in a souvenir sheet of three, and individual souvenir sheets of one. Also snowboarding and curling in a souvenir sheet of one (22 Jul 2013). Sochi marks Togo's debut at an Olympic Winter Games. Their two athletes – both women! – competed in Alpine and cross-country skiing.



Turkey: figure skating, ski jumping, Alpine skiing and speed skating (7 Feb 2014). Despite never having medaled at an Olympic Winter Games, Turkey has sent a team to all but three Games since 1936. At



Sochi, their six members competed in figure skating, Alpine and cross-country skiing.

Uzbekistan: Figure skating (31 Jan 2014). Uzbekistan, attending its sixth Olympic Winter Games with a three-athlete contingent, chose to honor its national figure skating champion, Misha Ge. Sochi marks his Olympic debut in the men's individual event where he placed 17th. The photo from which the stamp was designed depicts Ge performing his free skate routine during the 2011-12 season to "War and Love" by Invincible.



Sochi 2014 Olympic Games: First Day Postmarks from Participating Nations

 <p>Armenia 2 Dec 2013 Nordic & Alpine skiing</p>	 <p>Belarus 7 Feb 2014 Olympic flame cauldron</p>	 <p>Bulgaria 31 Jan 2014 Ski Jumping & "XXII Olympic Winter Games Sochi"</p>	 <p>Croatia 7 Feb 2014 Sochi Olympic logo & "XXII Olympic Winter Games"</p>
 <p>Czech Republic 5 Feb 2014 Snowboarding</p>	 <p>Estonia 16 Jan 2014 Cross-Country Skiing</p>	 <p>Latvia 7 Feb 2014 Skeleton</p>	 <p>Liechtenstein 11 November 2014 "SOCHI4"</p>
 <p>Moldova 7 Feb 2014 Sochi Olympic logo</p>	 <p>Monaco 30 Jan 2014 Bobsleigh & Alpine skiing</p>	 <p>Norway 7 Feb 2014 Olympic rings & "Olympic Winter Games Sochi"</p>	 <p>Poland 7 Feb 2014 Mountains, sea, "XXII Olympic Winter Games Sochi 2014"</p>
 <p>Romania 7 Feb 2014 Snowflakes & "Olympic Winter Games, Sochi 2014"</p>	 <p>Serbia 7 Feb 2014 Ski jumper & "22 Olympic Winter Games"</p>	 <p>Slovakia 15 Jan 2014 Cross-Country skiing</p>	 <p>Slovenia 31 Jan 2014 Ice Hockey & "XXII Olympic Winter Games"</p>

 <p>Turkey 7 Feb 2014 Sochi logo, Alpine skiing, ski jumping, "Sochi Olympic Winter Games"</p>	<p>Following are non-first day postmarks used by participating countries.</p>	 <p>Croatia 7 Feb 2014 Special postmark: Alpine skiing & "XXII Olympic Winter Games"</p>	<p>(Blank)</p>
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Sochi 2014 Olympic Games: Postal Stationery from Participating Nations



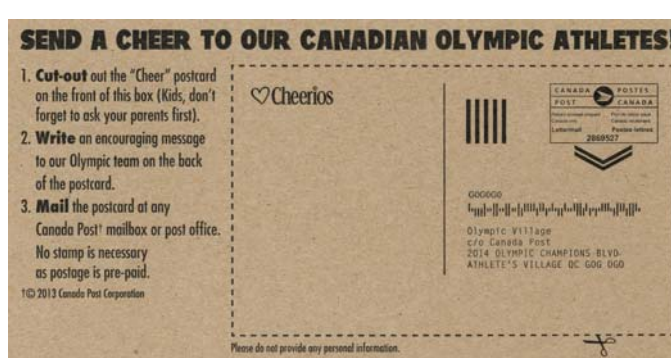
Bulgaria: postal stationery envelope showing ski jumper before take off and text "XXII Olympic Winter Games Sochi 2014"



Croatia: postal stationery (probably privately printed) with special non-first day postmark for the Sochi dated 7 Feb 2014.



Croatia: postal stationery (probably privately printed) with first day cancel used for stamp issue on 7 Feb 2014.



Canada: postpaid "Cheers" postal card on inside of Cheerios cereal box. After writing your encouraging message to the Canadian Olympic Team at Sochi, you simply posted the card in any mailbox. The addressee is: Olympic Village, c/o Canada Post, 2014 Olympic Champions Blvd., Athlete's Village QC G0G 0G0. Thanks to Kon Sokolyk for spotting this offer!

Sochi 2014 Olympic Games: Sports Postmarks

A set of 15 different sports postmarks were available on a daily basis at seven locations: five in Sochi and two in Krasnaya Polyana. Postmarks were customized for each facility as indicated in the curved text at the bottom of each postmark. The seven types of postmarks (Types A - G) are shown first. The remaining 8 postmarks are all Sochi Main Post Office.












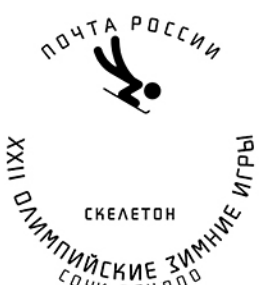



 <p>Alpine Skiing</p> <p>Type A: Sochi Main Post Office - Sochi 354000</p>	 <p>Biathlon</p> <p>Type B: IOC Hotel - Sochi 354340</p>	 <p>Bobsleigh</p> <p>Type C: Main Media Center - Sochi 354349</p>	 <p>Cross-Country Skiing</p> <p>Type D: Russia Team Fan House - Sochi 354349</p>
 <p>Curling</p> <p>Type E: Coastal Village - Sochi 354349</p>	 <p>Figure Skating</p> <p>Type F: Mountain Village - Krasnaya Polyana 354392</p>	 <p>Freestyle Skiing</p> <p>Type G: More Mountain Village - Krasnaya Polyana 354392</p>	 <p>Ice Hockey</p>
 <p>Luge</p>	 <p>Nordic Combined</p>	 <p>Short Track Speed Skating</p>	 <p>Skeleton</p>
 <p>Ski Jumping</p>	 <p>Snowboarding</p>	 <p>Speed Skating</p>	<p>Thanks to Bob Farley we have additional late information. These 15 postmarks were available only on competition days for that specific sport. The Media Center and IOC Hotel post offices were not accessible without special credentials.</p>



Figure 1. Golf courses of Bermuda (left to right): Ocean View, Port Royal, Castle Harbour and Belmont Manor.

Golf in Bermuda

by Patricia Loehr

In 1971 Bermuda honored the sport of golf by issuing four stamps (Scott 284-287). Each stamp is a scene from four of its golf courses (Figure 1). This set is one of four, four-stamp sets issued by Bermuda in 1971, all having the same series of denominations.

The 4-cent value features Ocean View, a public course of nine holes along the north coast in Devonshire Parish. The view is of four golfers. All are on the green and one golfer is putting.

The 15-cent value stamp is a view of Port Royal Golf Club, a public course in Southampton Parish. It most likely is the famous 16th hole with the tee and green along the edge of a bluff next to the water. There is a male and a female golfer on the tee. The male golfer has completed a swing of the club and the female golfer is also on the tee with a golf club. Port Royal opened in 1970 so when this set of stamps was issued it would have been the newest of the four courses. In 2009 it reopened after a year of being closed for renovations.

The 18-cent value is an overview of the Castle Harbour Golf Club in St. George's Parish (Figure 2). A new course was built in place of the old Castle



Harbour Golf Club. It opened in 2002 and is now named Tucker's Point Golf Club.

The 24-cent value in 1971 would have been Belmont Manor Golf Club in Warwick Parish (Figure 3). It is a view of two golf carts with golfers on a



Figure 2. Castle Harbour Golf Club.



Figure 3. Belmont Manor Golf Club.



Figure 4. Golfers on a putting green.

fairway. There are flowers in the foreground and water in the distance. For many years after it opened Belmont Manor was popular with celebrities. The original course closed and a course with a new design opened in 2003 on the site of the former Belmont Manor and is now named Belmont Hills Golf Club.

Each stamp in this set has the golf course view near water with sailboats.

An oval photographic image of the reigning monarch Queen Elizabeth II is in the upper right corner. The words "Golfing in Bermuda" are along the lower left side of each stamp. Those words are set differently on the 24-cent value stamp.

Tourist guide books as recent as 2012 mention that Bermuda has eight golf courses: one of nine holes (Ocean View), one par three executive course (Fairmont Southampton Golf Club), and six regulation length courses. There is also a separate Golf Academy with practice facilities.

In February 1993 Bermuda issued a four-stamp set of Tourism posters. The 60-cent value stamp (Scott 645) in Figure 4 is a scene of four golfers on a putting green and, similar to the 24-cent value Belmont (Manor) stamp, has flowers in the foreground and water in the distance. To identify it as British there is a crown over ER. Again, as in 1971, Bermuda continued a limited stamp-issuing program of three four-stamp sets, all with the same denomination sequence. They also issued a set of four booklet stamps with a different denomination sequence for a total of sixteen Scott numbers assigned to Bermuda stamps for the year.

Bermuda grass is one of several grass varieties used for golf courses. It came to the United States from Bermuda and is a grass that will not re-root when the turf is dislodged from the stroke of a golf club creating what is known as a divot. Consequently, on Bermuda grass courses golfers do not have to replace divots. Instead, should they have a sand and seed mixture they use it to fill in the divot (Figure 5). When course designers choose grass for a course there are many considerations such as climate, soil analysis, budget, etc. Bermuda grass is used mostly in the southern United States.

In September 1998 Bermuda issued a six-stamp set for "Hospitality in Bermuda." The 30-cent value



Figure 5. The cachet on this advertising cover for the Belmont Manor and Golf Club in Bermuda depicts a golfer with an elevated box nearby. Such boxes usually contain a soil/sand/seed mix for filling in divots.

Figure 6. Golfing is a popular activity for visitors to Bermuda. This guest is accompanied by his golf clubs.



(Scott759) in Figure 6 is of a hotel guest with a bag of golf clubs at a registration desk. A profile portrait facing left in black of Queen Elisabeth II is at the upper right corner of the stamp. In 1998 Bermuda issued sixteen stamps and one sheetlet of four stamps. A similar limited number of stamps was issued in 1971 and 1993.

The location of three golf courses is featured on a Bermuda picture postcard (Figure 7). One of the three is Belmont Manor and Golf Course, featured on the 1971 set of stamps. The other two, at opposite ends of Bermuda, are Mid Ocean Golf Course in St. George's Parish and Riddell's Bay Golf Course in Warwick Parish.

Riddell's Bay Golf Club and Mid Ocean Club both opened in the early 1920s and are the oldest of the Bermuda golf courses. Each was designed by a renowned golf course architect: Mid Ocean by Charles Blair Macdonald and Riddell's Bay by Devereux Emmet. Mid Ocean is a neighbor club to the old Castle Harbour course from the 1971 stamps.



Figure 8. Bermuda fishing and golf essay slogan meter stamp.

As the meter stamp essay¹ in Figure 8 states, golfers are sure to find challenging courses. In 2008 and 2009 Mid Ocean hosted the Grand Slam Golf Tournament. First played in 1979, contestants are limited to the winners of the four major golf tournaments for the year. Since 2010 it has been held at the Bermuda golf course of Port Royal.

Endnote

1. A look at the Bermuda section of *The International Postage Meter Stamp Catalog* from 2005 by Joel A. Hawkins and Richard Stambaugh shows that Bermuda meter stamps from the 1960's had a simulated perforation border around the frank unlike this impression with a straight line border. Also, the town mark usually has the post office name where the meter is licensed at top, date of mailing in the middle, and country name (Bermuda) at the bottom. This meter has the parish name of Pembroke at the bottom. Therefore it is considered an essay generated during its development process, not known to be used, and possibly not submitted for approval.



Figure 7. Postcard showing some of the golf courses on Bermuda.



By Peter N. Street

When the International Cricket Conference (ICC) announced that the tenth Cricket World Cup (CWC) would be held in 2011 on the Indian subcontinent, a number of former players and members of the cricketing press expressed some concerns and reservations.

Typical of the former players' comments were those by Jack Russell who was the English team wicketkeeper for the disastrous 1996 tour. He wrote: "Playing on the subcontinent is like playing on another planet. Your length changes, the type of bowling skill are different, if you were there long enough before the games it could be tough."

Other factors to be considered: the food can be a problem; there are huge distances to travel between the various cricket venues; the big cities are hot, noisy and dusty; and the non-subcontinent teams face hugely partisan and sometimes hostile crowds of spectators. The overriding question in the minds of many was how would India fare? The team had never won on its own soil.

The last time the CWC was held on the subcontinent, in 1996, India finished third in its group in the qualifying rounds. They moved to the quarterfinals to meet old rival Pakistan who they beat by 39 runs (*JSP*, September/October 1997).

In the semifinal, India played Sri Lanka at Eden Gardens in Calcutta (now Kolkata). Crowd

disruptions caused the game to be halted and it was eventually awarded to Sri Lanka.

Most recently, the ninth CWC was conducted in the West Indies. India was beaten by Bangladesh in the group stage and did not advance to the next round match, much to the consternation of the vast Indian cricket-loving population (*JSP*, Spring 2010).

Finally, how would their long-time premier batsman, Sachin Tendulkar, perform? He needed only three centuries (100 runs) to reach a century of them in all forms of the game.

Pre-Tournament

The 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup was played in India, Sri Lanka and (for the first time) Bangladesh. Pakistan was also scheduled to be a co-host,



Figure 1. Map of the Indian subcontinent showing some of the cities where the matches took place, the flags of the competing nations, and the cup.



Figure 2. Captains of the fourteen competing countries. Two of the stamps are incorrectly labeled on this sheet which was eventually reprinted to correct the errors.

however following the 2009 attack on the Sri Lankan national team in Lahore, the ICC withdrew that honor. Additionally, the organizing committee's headquarters were transferred from Lahore to Mumbai, India. A total of 14 matches scheduled to be played in Pakistan were parceled out among the other three co-hosts.

All matches were 50 overs, One Day Internationals (ODIs).

Competition involved fourteen national cricket teams. Of these, ten were full members and four were associate members of the ICC.

The ten full members, which included Zimbabwe, were automatically included in the ICC. The four associate members, who were selected following a qualification tournament held in South Africa, were Ireland, Canada, the Netherlands and Kenya. The cricketing press dubbed them the "minnows."

The tournament's opening ceremony on 17 February 2011 was conducted at the Bangabandhu Stadium in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The final match took place on 2 April in Mumbai, India at Wankhede Stadium.

The fourteen teams were divided into two groups of seven which guaranteed that each team would play at least six matches. Following match play, the top four teams from each group would qualify for the quarterfinals.

India was selected to play in Group B. Sachin Tendulkar was designated as official event ambassador.

The matches were played at a variety of venues in the three host nations. Some of these stadia are shown on miniature sheets issued by the West Indian nations of Dominica and Guyana.

The two sheets are nearly identical, the only difference being in the national flag depicted in the bottom left corner. In addition to a map locating the cities in which matches were held, the national flags of the participating countries are reproduced. The single stamp depicts the cup. The sheet issued by Dominica is shown in Figure 1.

To commemorate the West Indian participation in the tournament, the island of St. Kitts issued a souvenir sheet featuring the captains of the fourteen teams (Figure 2). However, there are two errors on the sheet.

The Bangladesh stamp (top row, second from left) is labeled Shahid Afridi, Pakistan's captain, rather than Shakib Al Hasan, the Bangladesh captain. The stamp showing Pakistan's captain is correctly labeled.

The second error is visible on the far right stamp in the top row. While the stamp correctly depicts English captain, Andrew Strauss, it is mislabeled Ricky Ponting, the name of the Australian captain. The Australian stamp (first stamp in the top row) is correctly inscribed with Ricky Ponting's name. St. Kitts later reissued the sheet correcting the errors.

Warm-up Matches

Prior to the start of the actual competition, warm-up matches were held from 12-18 February. The purpose of the matches was to acclimate the teams to playing conditions on the subcontinent. Each of the fourteen teams played two matches against different opponents.

India played Australia on 15 February in Bangalore, India, winning comfortably by 38 runs (214 to 176). Their second match, against New Zealand in Chepauk Chennai, was won by an even more convincing margin of 117 runs (360/5 to 243). Thus, India entered the Group Stage full of confidence.

Group Stage

In their opening Group B match, India handily defeated Bangladesh by 87 runs (370/4 to 283) in Dhaka, Bangladesh. In an attempt to give the right



Figure 3b. Miniature sheet from Bangladesh showing an umpire, batsman and 3 fielders.



Figure 3a. Co-host Bangladesh issued four stamps with rather whimsical caricatures of cricket players.

impression of the country, Bangladesh authorities banned all old cars from the city, and beggars were given \$2 per day to remain out of sight. The hundreds of armed troops surrounding the stadium successfully prevented any demonstrations from occurring.

Probably the most interesting and exciting match for India in the group stage was against England on Sunday, 27 February, at Bangalore, India.

Batting first, India made 338 runs in 49.5 overs. The highlight of the Indian innings was a sparkling 120 runs by Sachin Tendulkar, India's premier batsman, idolized in India as the "Little Master."

England's innings started well and was dominated by their captain, Andrew Strauss, who eclipsed Sachin Tendulkar with his 158 run innings.

Toward the end of the England innings when they appeared to be in a winning position with only 61 runs needed in the remaining nine overs, some of the Indian supporters started to leave the stadium. However, England lost four quick wickets for only twenty-five runs and the Indian spectators scampered back to their seats confident of victory.

In the end, England managed a comeback scoring 338 runs in its fifty overs resulting in a tie – a very unusual result in cricket!

The next two games for India were against the "minnows," Ireland and the Netherlands. India easily won both matches, each by five wickets. During these matches, Tendulkar scored his second century of the tournament.

India's only loss was on 12 March to South Africa which won by three wickets.

Their final match was against the West Indies who were bowled out for 188 runs in 43 overs and India won by 80 runs.

India advanced to the quarterfinals with 9 points – only one point behind South Africa. Also making it into the next round were England and West Indies with 7 and 6 points respectively.

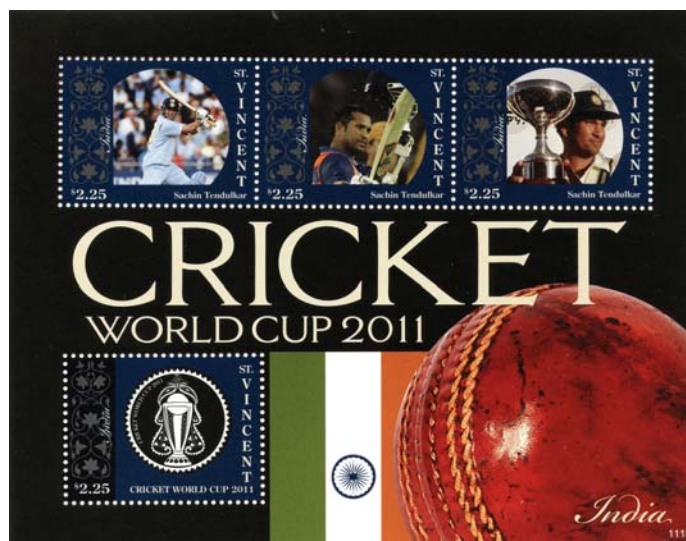
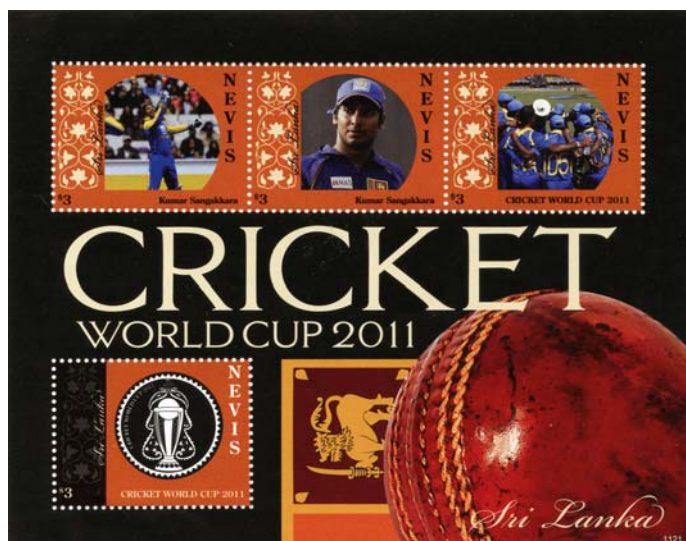


Figure 4a & 4b. Nevis miniature sheet (left) for Sri Lanka featuring batsman Kumar Sangakkara and the Sri Lankan team. At right, the St. Vincent sheet honors the team from India. Star batsman, Sachin Tendulkar, appears on all three stamps.

Meanwhile in Group A, Pakistan finished first with five wins out of six for 10 points. Sri Lanka and Australia both had 9 points, but Sri Lanka secured second place with a superior run rate. New Zealand filled out the quarterfinal ranks from Group A with 8 points.

Bangladesh, delighted, no doubt, to be a co-host and for staging matches in Dhaka and Chittagong, issued a strip of four se-tenant stamps and a miniature sheet commemorating the tournament. The stamp strip features caricatures of a bowler, batsman, wicketkeeper and a fielder (Figure 3a). A bearded umpire is shown on the miniature sheet giving a batsman out while three fielders are animatedly appealing (Figure 3b).

Quarterfinals

The top four teams in each group were eligible for the knockout stage, a single elimination phase of the tournament. Each of the four teams in Group A played a team from Group B in the quarterfinals.

India was able to beat Australia despite a century by Australia's captain, Ricky Ponting. Sachin Tendulkar made 53 runs in India's innings.

Pakistan beat the West Indies without losing a wicket and thus advanced to the semifinals against India, a contest that the sponsors would have desired for the final.

In the other grouping, New Zealand and Sri Lanka both won their matches, meaning that three of the subcontinent's cricketing powers were in the semifinals.



Figure 5a. Miniature sheet from Guinea-Bissau depicting five players of the victorious Indian team. Captain M.S. Dhoni is shown on two stamps.

Although the West Indies team only managed fourth place in the Group Stage and were defeated in the quarterfinals by Pakistan, several of these Caribbean nations issued miniature sheets to commemorate the tournament.

Nevis and St. Vincent (along with both Dominica and St. Kitts mentioned earlier) issued four and five miniature sheets respectively. Each was dedicated to one of the nine Test playing nations.

Nevis chose Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka (Figure 4a) and the West Indies to commemorate. St. Vincent selected Australia, Bangladesh, England, India (Figure 4b) and New Zealand.



Figures 5b & 5c. Sachin Tendulkar and the Indian team celebrating their victory on two Guinea-Bissau miniature sheets.

The sheets were of common design. Each sheet included the words “Cricket World Cup 2011.” The lower right corner featured a red cricket ball, although a white ball was used in the competition. The ball partly obscures the flag of the honored nation. Each sheet also includes four stamps, with one depicting the cup and the other three displaying photographs of prominent players and the team.

The stamps on Nevis’ sheet for Sri Lanka (Figure 4a) features batsman, Kumar Sangakkara on two stamps, and the Sri Lankan team on the third.

St. Vincent’s sheet for India (Figure 4b), not surprisingly, displays images of Sachin Tendulkar on the three stamps.

Semifinals

The semifinal match between India and Pakistan was held on Wednesday, 30 March in Punjab Cricket Association Stadium in Mohali, India. There was heavy security including a no-fly zone over the area. There were reports that ground-to-air missiles were positioned nearby to deal with any infiltrators.

The stadium was filled with 28,000 spectators including the Prime Ministers of both India and Pakistan. Fortunately the match passed peaceably.

India batted first and amassed 260 runs in their fifty overs. India was able to dismiss Pakistan for 231 runs in their fifty overs. Tendulkar made 85 runs and was awarded Man-of-the-Match honors.

In the other semifinal, Sri Lanka beat New Zealand by 5 wickets.

The final was set between two co-hosts: India, the winner of the 1983 Cup, would face off against Sri Lanka, the 1996 tournament winner.

The Final

The culmination of the nearly two-month tournament was the final between India and Sri Lanka at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, India on 2 April. This would be the first Cricket World Cup final contested by two Asian teams.

The noisy, raucous, mostly Indian spectators that streamed across the brand new bridge that connected the stadium to the city center were confident of an Indian victory. Prior to the start of the match, the noise level was so high that the coin toss had to be held twice – a most unusual occurrence especially for such an important tournament.

Sri Lanka batted first and made 274 runs for 6 wickets in their 50 overs.

India’s innings started badly when Sachin Tendulkar was back in the pavilion with only 31 runs on the scoreboard.

However, the middle order batsmen stabilized the innings and Man-of-the-Match and Captain, M.S. Dhoni (93 not out) and Gambhir (97 runs) ensured that India’s total of 275 was achieved in the forty-ninth over.

Guinea-Bissau, a former Portuguese colony on the west coast of Africa with no cricketing background, issued four miniature sheets to commemorate the tournament (Figures 5a-5d).



Figure 5d. Sri Lankan batsman, Kumar Sangakkara.

The first sheet features five players of the victorious Indian team (Figure 5a). The second sheet shows Sachin Tendulkar and the Indian team celebrating their victory (Figure 5b).

The Indian team holding the cup and a stamp of Sachin Tendulkar is shown on the third sheet (Figure 5c).

Figure 5d features Sri Lankan batsman, Kumar Sangakkara.

At the conclusion of the match, Tendulkar and the South African-born coach of the Indian team, Gary Kirsten, were hoisted on the team's shoulders in a victory lap around the stadium as a tribute to their contribution to India's success.

Former French colony, Togo, another west African nation with no cricket pedigree, issued two miniature sheets. One features Sachin Tendulkar and coach Kirsten (Figure 6a). The other shows two views of Tendulkar and a central illustration of Indian batsman, Sourav Ganguly (Figure 6b).

Aftermath

Since winning the tenth Cricket World Cup, the Indian team has been consistently rated at the top of the ICC ratings for One Day Internationals.

In addition, it added to its laurels by winning the Champions Trophy held in England in June 2013.

Will India be able to sustain its winning ways until the next cup scheduled in Australia and New



Figure 6a. Indian batsman, Sachin Tendulkar (top left) and India's South African coach, Gary Kirsten (top right).

Zealand in 2015? That will be the subject of a future article.

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Figure 6b. Indian batsmen, Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly.



Figure 1. Original design of the 15c stamp.

Portugal's 1928 Olympic Stamps: A Philatelic Starlet is Born (Part 2)

by Dr. Manfred Bergman

Part 1 of this article, which appeared in the Winter 2013 issue of the *Journal of Sports Philately* discussed the reasons behind the creation of the 1928 Portugal Olympic stamps and discussed their designer. Now, let us examine their genesis.

The designer. I trust that the reader is now convinced that the designer of these stamps was Alfredo Roque Gameiro, a famous Portuguese watercolor painter. See Part 1 for a brief biography.

The mandate. From information gathered by I.A. Land and presented in his 1959 article "Portugal's Issue Pertaining To Sports," it is clear that Portugal's postal administration was the source of the incorrect information concerning the identity of the stamps' designer. Moreover, the original artwork is located in the archives of Portugal's national Olympic committee (NOC). We may thus be certain that it was the NOC which authorized Roque Gameiro to design the stamps.

Time frame. From their inception (22 March 1928) to delivery to the Central Post Office (5 May), the production period for the stamps was very short – just 47 days.

Essays and proofs of the 15c stamp. I shall endeavour to describe all that have been identified by others and myself, not only during the design phase and production period of the stamps, but also any that may have been found (or not as yet found), or were eventually destroyed or lost.

2.1. The original design (shown in Figure 1) included most of the attributes and themes relative to the aim of the stamp:

- The Olympic rings. This was the first use of the rings on a stamp.
- "J.O." standing for "Jogos Olímpicos" or Olympic Games in Portuguese.
- Amsterdão (Amsterdam) and 1928, the location and year.
- A hurdler - also a first on stamps.

Modifications, or rather additions, included the face value and the postal designations.

2.2. A progressive die proof of the black portions of the stamp (Figure 2).

2.3. Theoretically, a die proof of the red areas should exist. To the best of my knowledge it has never been identified.



Figure 2. Progressive die proof of the black portions.



Figure 3. Die proof of the master die.

2.4. Die proof of the master die in the final colors (Marques¹ no. 29). (Fig. 3)

2.5. A coin proof in the final colors on ungummed paper (Marques no. 30).

2.6. Printer's proof, block of 6 (Marques no. 31). (Figure 4)

2.7. The Universal Postal Union (UPU) "SPECIMEN" stamp (Figure 5). It is clear that the printing of the specimens was done rather carelessly with poor centering and insufficient inking of the plate. This is most likely the result of the short period of time available for producing this stamp.



Figure 4. A 6-stamp printer's proof, typical for Portugal.

2.8. Varieties are part of the production process. Some were identified many years ago; others are more recent discoveries. To my knowledge, this is the first time all have been described.



Figure 5. UPU specimen.

2.8.1. Recto-Verso. Some sources claim that this variety exists, however Paulo Dias, owner of the leading auction house, states that none are known for this issue.

2.8.2. An imperforate variety, found in IDANHA (Figure 6). (It is a pity that the stamp was taken off its cover.) Mint and gummed samples of this variety also exist. The late Catsanehiro owned one.



Figure 6. Imperforate variety from IDANHA.

2.8.3. "Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?"

A late discovery (at least for me and I would welcome reports of earlier knowledge from others) and a surprise were the mirror-like varieties (Figure 7).

Portugal changed from left-hand to right-hand traffic on June 1, 1928. It was official.

The mirror-like variety came just one month earlier, but it was accidental.



Figure 7. The stamp as issued (left) and a mirror-like variety (right). Note: the mirror image was digitally created; an unused example of the mirror-like variety is so far unknown.

2.8.3.1. The first surprise occurred in 2011, when a fragment (Figure 8) was submitted for expertization². The stamp, which was used for mail posted



Figure 8. First reported mirror-like variety (on piece).



Figure 9. Expertizing certificate confirming that the stamp is a rare reverse transfer.

at the Lisbon Central Post Office, displayed a “reversed transfer” configuration – in other words

it appeared as a mirror image. The owner did not proclaim his discovery from the rooftops (unusual for a philatelist), so the philatelic world, including specialists, were in the dark when it came to knowledge of this fantastic variety. (Sold at auction on 14 June 2013.)

Although the lot included the expertizing certificate (Figure 9), the auctioneer completely overlooked it and thus had no idea what a fantastic variety he possessed (reflected in the very low starting price at auction).

2.8.3.2. An even bigger surprise occurred in the month of June 2013 (and I *am* shouting from the roof), when another cover (Figure 10) surfaced in a different country with the same date and from the same post office as the fragment in Figure 8.

We may surmise, given that both items were used at the same post office, that at least 98 similar stamps (assuming that only one sheet of 100 with that variety was printed) existed. It may also be presumed that the majority were destroyed. Are there any other survivors? I sincerely hope so, for the sake of collectors, and I hereby declare the hunt open. Good shooting!

One issue ought to be mentioned regarding the differences between the cancellations. I believe that the nature of the letters was different; one letter (Figure 8) was cancelled by a roller cancellation (regular mail), while the second one (Figure 10) was sealed (secured) mail, and therefore cancelled at a different counter.



Figure 10. Front (left) and reverse (above) of a second cover bearing the reverse transfer variety of the 15c stamp. The postmarks on both this cover and the fragment in Figure 8 indicate that both items were mailed the same day (23 May 1928) and from the same post office. Do more examples of this rare variety exist on cover?



Figure 11. Imperf between horizontally (photographically simulated).

I initially doubted the nature of the stamp, believing it to be a recto-verso variety because of the presence of some glue on the stamp, but Mr. P. Dias confirmed to me that it is a “reversed transfer” variety, not a recto-verso (also suspected by another, German, expert).

2.8.4. Imperforate between two rows (Fig. 11).

“A Republic without parties is a complete anomaly”. (Franklin Pierce - American President 1804-1869).

The same is true for us: “Philately without varieties or incorrect use is an anomaly.”

The Curious and Enigmatic Use of the 15 Cts. Olympic Stamp (Part 3)

by Dr. Manfred Bergman

We find, occasionally, curious or enigmatic noteworthy use of the Olympic stamp. Some may be explained; others remain mysteries. Let us review them.



Figure 12. Foreign destination cover mailed on 22 May 1928 to Düsseldorf, Germany from Lisbon.

Unnecessary Use. Use to foreign destinations was formally prohibited. It seems, though, that many companies bought a stock of stamps to help the Olympic Committee, and then used them for their correspondence to foreign destination. (I define these items as “patriotic covers.”)

3.1. A fine example is the cover to Düsseldorf, Germany, mailed on 22 May 1928 (Figure 12).

3.2. Another example is a registered letter to London, mailed 24 May 1928 (Figure 13). It does seem that many companies in Porto came to the aid of the Olympic Committee.



Figure 13. Registered letter to London on 24 May. Again, the 15c obligatory tax stamp was used to a foreign destination despite postal service rules against it.

3.3. Another, regular mail, to England, Most probably written by a visitor (Figure 14).



Figure 14. A nice foreign usage, this time to Shrewsbury, England.

3.4. The most interesting item of this group is a postcard sent from Porto to Paris (Figure 15). No Olympic stamp was required for two reasons: (1) it



Figure 15. A postcard mailed from Porto to Paris on 25 May was probably written and franked the previous day while still within the obligatory period of use of the 15c tax stamp (despite its foreign destination).

was sent to a foreign country; and (2) it was posted on 25 May 1928 following the expiration of the obligatory period of use. What, then, is the most probable explanation?

- The (Portuguese) writer stayed at the hotel and on 24 May wrote this card to a friend in Paris.
- The writer gave the card to the concierge the same day (24 May).
- The concierge, not aware of the prohibition of use to foreign destinations, nevertheless affixed the Olympic stamp (it was still 24 May and therefore within the prescribed period of 22-24 May) along with regular Portuguese stamps.
- The card was not mailed until 25 May.
- We can be certain that the stamps were affixed by someone other than a postal clerk who would have known that the obligatory period of use had passed.

Illicit and Late Use. A fascinating use was on a letter mailed in **1934** to Vienna, Austria (Figure 16). The Olympic stamp was affixed by the sender (not a postal clerk) since the stamps were no longer available at post offices. Furthermore, the stamp was not part of the revalidated stamps. Lastly, the postal clerk overlooked the fact that the stamp had no value (not being part of the revalidated stamps), otherwise he would have taxed it, the correct rate being 1.60 while the valid stamps amounted only to 1.55.

Use for regular postage in Portugal. The CORRO DES SOLDADES block of 6 (Figure 17).

The origin of this item is truly enigmatic. My solution (discussed and agreed upon with my late,



Figure 16. Cover to Vienna in **1934**, long after the Olympic stamp was removed from sale. As it no longer had value, the cover is underfranked by 5c – a fact overlooked by the postal clerk cancelling the mail.

close friend Antonio Hernan) is that the Customs office at the Central Railway Station of Lisbon, called CORRO DES SOLDADES, used the stamps on a customs document. From the placement of the cancellations, it is probable that the block was even larger! Other explanations of how this block came about are possible and suggestions are welcome. 🍷

Notes:

1. While Marques was induced to err relative to the Alves proofs, one should not minimize his catalogue on Portuguese proofs. The rest of the catalogue is based on excellent research and a fine help to specialists.
2. The fragment was owned by the son of a Canadian 1936 Olympian.



Figure 17. The CORRO DES SOLDADES block of 6. How this multiple came about remains a mystery!



Figure 1. Kielce, Poland postmark counting down from 1000 days to EURO 2012. Note how the 4 digits to the left of the date stamp begin with the number 1000 (above), decreasing with each passing day (100 days is shown at left).

EURO 2012 – An Addendum

by Kon Sokolyk

Subsequent to the publication of my “EURO 2012” article (*JSP*, Winter 2012), I came across some interesting information and post office products, which shed additional light about the philatelic material of the two host nations, Poland and Ukraine.

In the 2012 article, reference was made (but an illustration was not available) to a circular cancel of October 6, 2009 used in Kielce, Poland marking the 1000 days countdown to EURO 2012. According to the Kielce Post Office, the last day the countdown cancel was in use was April 19, 2012, or 73 days to the final.

Reference was also made in the article to a Polish 1.55 zł EURO 2012 postal card listing the names of the 16 EURO 2012 qualifying nations. The Polish web-based catalogue, *Katalog Znaków Pocztowych*, indicates that this postal card was in circulation until April 30, 2012.

Both the 1000 days countdown postmark and postal card are shown in Figure 1.

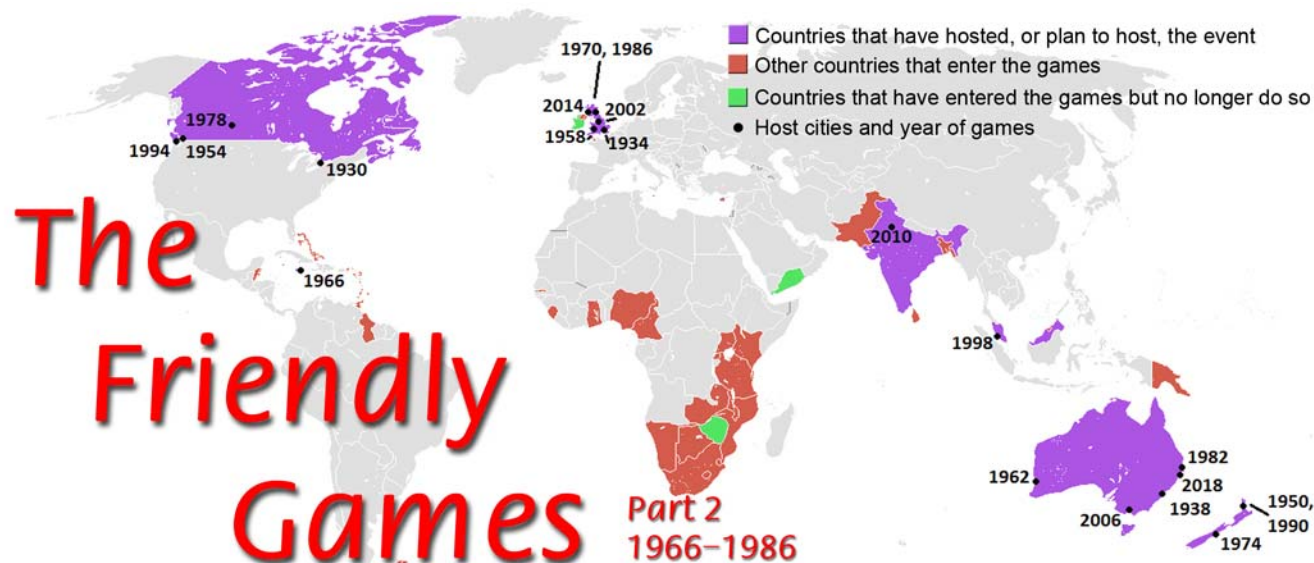
Philatelic sources in Poland note that the suspension of this postmark’s use and the withdrawal from sale of the postal card (and

likely the destruction of the unsold stock) were the result of trademark disputes.

Across the border in Ukraine, the post office issued four unfranked cacheted envelopes (Figure 2) in late 2010 with the slogan “Welcome To Ukraine” in both Ukrainian and English. While no specific reference to EURO 2012 can be found on the envelopes, each one features the same images of football players in action. Each of the four envelopes notes a different Euro 2012 host city and there are some color variations between them.



Figure 2. Ukraine envelope, probably for EURO 2012, although the text makes no reference to the event.



by William Silvester

VIII British Empire and Commonwealth Games – Jamaica

The smallest independent country in the Commonwealth was selected to host the 1966 games. Jamaica became the first predominately black country to stage the competitions, playing host to thirty-four countries (Figure 1) and 1,050 athletes. The Queen's Baton ceremony, started in Cardiff in 1958, but skipping the 1962 games, was reinstated. Toronto's Bruce Kidd and England's Brian Kilby ran with Jamaican great, Keith Gardner, after receiving the baton from the Queen.

For the first time, Prince Charles and Princess Anne were present at the opening ceremonies with the Duke of Edinburgh. The Queen later commented in her Christmas address to the Commonwealth that they were "enchanted with the adventure, the kindness of the people, and the opportunity to meet so many athletes from every part of the Commonwealth."

Despite inauspicious beginnings, such as delays in the track events because someone forgot the starter's pistol, and the disqualification of boxer John Coker of Sierra Leone when no gloves could be found to fit him, the games went well for the Jamaicans. They won 12 medals, albeit mostly bronze, a feat they have since yet to equal.

One of a set of four stamps (Figure 1) issued by



Figure 1. Jamaica imperforate souvenir sheet with the names of participating countries in the border.

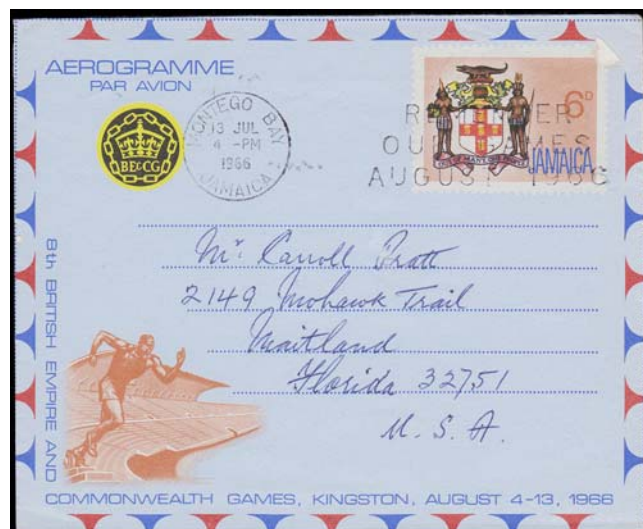


Figure 2. Jamaican aerogramme with games machine cancel "Remember / Our Games / August 1966".

Jamaica depicts the stadium (Scott 254-257). Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika rounded out the games issues (Scott 164-167). A "B.E.&C.G. National Stadium P.O." hand-cancel was used during the games and an aerogramme was issued (Figure 2). There was also a "Remember / Our Games / August 1966" machine cancel in use.

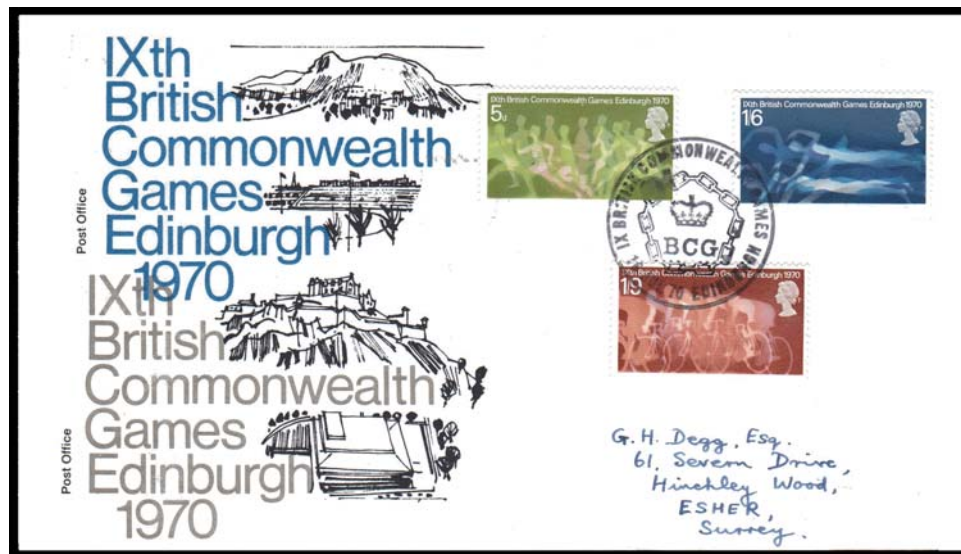
IX British Commonwealth Games – Edinburgh

Under a new name – the British Commonwealth Games – competition returned to Great Britain, this time in the venerable old Scottish capital of Edinburgh in July 1970 with HM the Queen attending for the first time. 1,383 athletes from 42 countries competed and amongst those winning medals were three husbands and their wives, the Sherwood's in the hurdles and women's long jump; the Payne's in the hammer and women's discus and the Whetnall's winning gold and silver in badminton.

These were the first games to employ electronic photo-finish technology and races were now measured in metric.



Figure 3. (Above) Great Britain machine cancel with advertising slogan. (Below) Great Britain cover with first day of games cancel and the set issued by Royal Mail to commemorate the games.



Great Britain issued a set of three stamps (Scott 636-641); four African countries, Gambia (Scott 244-246), Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika (Scott 217-220), and Malawi (Scott 132-135) also issued stamps. All except Swaziland (Scott 179-182) won medals.

A round handcancel with the games logo in the center and the number and name of the games around the edges was used in Edinburgh. A machine cancellation reproducing the 1970 logo and "Commonwealth / Games / 16-25 July / Edinburgh" was employed (Figure 3).

X British Commonwealth Games – Christchurch

The tragedy of the Olympic Games in Munich two years before had an effect upon the complexion of the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand's Christchurch in 1974. Originally no allotment had been made for security but that now changed as the specter of the murdered athletes hung over all international sporting events like a black cloud.

Still, miracles happened as Ian Thompson of England, who had never run an international marathon in his life not only won a gold medal but set the second fastest time ever recorded. Athletes from Western Samoa, Lesotho and Swaziland were on the medal podium for the first time.

All stamps issued for these games came from New Zealand (Scott 547-551 - Figure 4) and other South Pacific islands and show a wide variety of events. (Cook Islands – Scott 372-277; Fiji - Scott 341-343 (Figure 4); Samoa - Scott 395-398; and Tonga - Scott 332-336).

A machine cancel with a circular date stamp (cds), games logo and "Commonwealth / Games NZ 1974 / Christchurch / Jan 24 - Feb 2" was used in Christchurch and a variety of handcancels were available for philatelic covers.

XI Commonwealth Games – Edmonton

For the XIth edition at Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, the name was changed to, simply, the Commonwealth Games. 1978 was the first year that gymnastics were included in the



roster of events and the sport became the hit of the games despite some pessimistic fear of possible second rate performances. It was also the first time Canada, as the host country, led the Commonwealth in medals won with 109.

There was a nice cross section of stamps issued from all parts of the Commonwealth from Isle of Man's single stamp (Scott 139) to Tonga's offering of 13 (Scott 419-423, C239-C243, C0129-C0131). Others included Canada (Scott 757-762 - Figure 5); Kenya (Scott 117-120); Turks & Caicos Islands (Scott 355-359) and Uganda (Scott 199-202).

A special cancel with the Edmonton Games logo in the center was used for first day covers. Additional hand stamps in the form of venue cancels were also available (Figure 5).



Figure 5. (Above) Canada issued a set in two parts, the first pair was released in March and the two se-tenant pairs on opening day in August. A selection of Edmonton Games venue cancels and registration mark are at left.



Figure 6. A special cover was released displaying all of the venue cancels used at the Brisbane Games.

XII Commonwealth Games – Brisbane

The games returned to Australia in 1982. Brisbane hosted the event which saw the advent of millisecond timing which cost the over anxious Australians a number of disqualifications and granted Scotland four extra swimming medals. The Aussies nevertheless came out ahead in the final medal count with 107 – 1 more gold than England.

These games marked the first appearances of a number of smaller nations who could otherwise not compete on an international scale (Figure 7). Five of these issued stamps to proclaim the event: Anguilla (Scott 507-519); Ascension (Scott 321-322); Falkland Islands (Scott 352- 353); St. Helena (Scott 376-377); and Tristan da Cunha (Scott 318-319).

Australia issued a set of four stamps (Scott 842-845 - Figure 6) with matching postcards, as well as a souvenir sheet of the three lower denomination stamps (Scott 844a).



Figure 7. For a number of countries these were their first games and overprinted stamps were issued to commemorate the event.

Other sets in this, the largest games omnibus issue to date, included Guyana overprints (Scott 550 and 789); Papua New Guinea (Scott 571-574); Samoa (Scott 579-582); Solomon Islands (Scott 475-477); and Tonga (Scott 524-525).



Figure 8. Edinburgh Games mascot “Mac” is prominently displayed in the handcancel on this British FDC.

Every venue had its own handcancel (Figure 6). A few machine cancels were used with varying configurations of the name and logo and with different text, for example “XII Commonwealth Games / Brisbane 1982 / Australia Post / Will Keep You Posted” and “XII Commonwealth Games / Brisbane 1982 / Be There / Australia Post Will.” The machine cancels were applied nationwide. Australia also issued an aerogramme with a pre-printed games stamp.

Papua’s first day cover was cancelled with the ANPex 82 and games logo postmark. Samoa added “Commonwealth Games” to its First Day of Issue generic cancel.

XIII Commonwealth Games – Edinburgh

The Edinburgh, Scotland games of 1986 were marred by the conflicts of sports and politics. The dreaded word “boycott” which had been effectively squashed in earlier games where it reared its head, now came to the fore with a vengeance. Britain’s Prime Minister Thatcher refused to impose sanctions on South Africa due to its racial policies.

Most of Commonwealth Africa took exception to this and refused to attend the games. Then India backed out followed by 12 Caribbean nations. Still, the games were deemed too important in the fabric of the Commonwealth to be discontinued and they

went on without many members in attendance.

Needless to say not many countries issued stamps for the event: only host Great Britain (Scott 1149-1152); Isle of Man (Scott 297-300) and Tonga (632-633). Isle of Man won its first gold medal at these games.

The British Philatelic Bureau used a couple of different handcancels. Edinburgh postmarks with the games logo also featured the mascot Mac (Figure 8), Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson’s wedding and Scottish Brewers (Figure 9). Isle of Man had the games logo on its First Day Cancel and Guernsey used a games logo postmark for its 1986 sports issue even though the stamps did not have a games imprint.



Figure 9. The Wedding of Prince Andrew and the Scottish Brewers provided interesting cancels for the Edinburgh Games.

Brazil Issues First 2014 World Cup Stamps

by Mark Maestroni

The philatelic celebration for this year's FIFA World Cup of football kicked off with a 12-stamp issue from Brazilian Post on 30 January 2014. The set honors each of the dozen host cities across this vast country, reproducing the colorful official posters from each city.



The month-long World Cup play will begin on 12 June in São Paulo and culminate in what will certainly be an action packed final in Rio de Janeiro on 13 July.

The square-shaped stamps were issued seventeen in three rows of four stamps. A pane consists of 24 stamps – two complete sets one above the other. Each stamp is denominated R\$1.20 (roughly US\$0.50). Sheets of 24 stamps retail for R\$28.80.

The subject of each stamp reflects the character of the city being honored. On most of the stamps, elements of the game dominate the design such as Salvador's issue showing a ball stretching a goal's net.

A few of the stamps are more representative of the culture or environment of the host city. Belo Horizonte's stamp, for example, combines the silhouette of the Church of São Francisco de Assis with doves of peace upon which the pentagonal pattern of a soccer ball is superimposed.

The most colorful of all the stamps is from the city of Manaus in the Amazon region of Brazil's north. The design features a pair of colorful macaws perched on a goal's crossbar.

Brasília's issue has a very eye-appealing composition created by the soaring lines of its famous Cathedral merging with a soccer player rendered in very modernist geometric patterns.

Each city also had its own First Day of Issue postmark. The central figure is, of course, the World Cup mascot, Fuleco, a Brazilian three-banded armadillo. His name is a portmanteau for the two themes of this World Cup: **Futebo**l (football) and **Eco**logia (ecology).

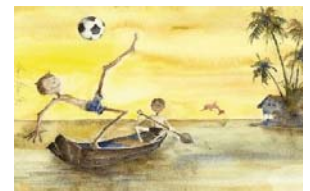


(Above, left to right, by row) the stamps represent: Belo Horizonte, Brasília, Cuiabá, Curitiba, Fortaleza, Manaus, Natal, Porto Alegre, Recife, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador and São Paulo. (Below) the First Day cancels from each of the twelve host cities (in the same order as above).



For postcard collectors, there is an attractive series of five postcards with whimsical images of soccer-playing youth representing each of the five regions hosting the competition: mid-west, north-east, north (shown below), southeast and south.

The cards are sold for R\$1.00 each and, like the stamps and First Day postmarks, are available directly from Brazilian Post (see note below).



Brazilian Post's catalog of World Cup issues can be accessed at their website listed below.
http://shopping.correios.com.br/wbm/store/script/wbm2400902p01.aspx?cd_company=ErZW8Dm9i54=&cd_departament=VJLn/Xic2xk=

A Triple Surprise

by Norman F. Jacobs

This is the first installment of a new series, designed to showcase interesting items or stories from the collections of our members. Mark and I have started it off, but future short articles depend on you. No writing skills needed (after all, I have none!), so how about trying it out – who knows, you just might like it!

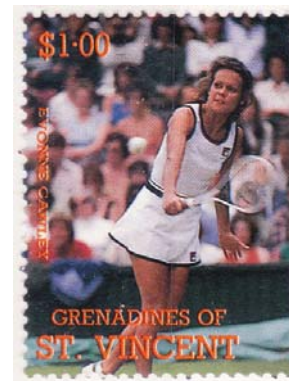
The first surprise occurred in 1974, when I watched on TV as a 19-year-old native Aborigine stunned the tennis world by taking the women's singles trophy at the French Open. Evonne Goolagong was one of eight children in a family that struggled to survive on the income of her father, a traveling sheep shearer. By chance, she started playing tennis at a local court, and was later discovered by Vic Edwards, a tennis club owner who brought her to live with his family at age 13 so that she could train in Sydney. Her speed, grace, and unpredictability on the court made her matches fascinating to watch. The London papers nicknamed her the "Sunshine Supergirl," and provided extensive coverage of her wedding to Englishman Roger Cawley. By the time she retired, she had won six majors in singles and seven in doubles. She led the victorious Australian Fed Cup team in 1971, 1973, and 1974. After retirement, she was appointed to an Australian government position in Aboriginal affairs. Her story brings to mind the saga of Althea Gibson, featured in *JSP* last year, who also became an unlikely tennis champion.

In 1986, I took my daughter Nicole, then a 9½-year-old collector of Disney stamps, to Ameripex in Chicago, where she was awed by the auction of an inverted Jenny and spent many happy hours filling up her passport and talking to the dealers and collectors. We agreed we should repeat the trip for the next international. To my surprise, even though she was 20 when Pacific '97 rolled around, she was interested and available, so off we went.

My second big surprise occurred in the final half-hour on the last day of the show, when I decided to visit one or two final dealers before meeting Nicole for dinner. Stopping at the booth of an Australian dealer, I asked my usual question, "Do you have



(Above) Australian stamp from July 1974. The tennis player bears a strong resemblance to Evonne Goolagong (shown on the St. Vincent stamp at right). This is the only known multiple showing progression from normal to color missing.



anything tennis related?" His response was, "Well yes I did bring one item." And in a moment I was staring at the strip of four of the 1974 Australian tennis stamp, with the brown color missing on the right-hand stamp. He and I were both happy as I promptly purchased it. Subsequently I learned that only one partial sheet is known to have contained this error. Although the stamp was not advertised as showing Goolagong, the similarity to the photo on the St. Vincent stamp is obvious at a glance.

You can see the third surprise for yourself, just looking at the strip of four stamps. Not only is this the only recorded example of this error that includes the progression from normal through color partly missing to fully missing on the last stamp. It also acts as a metaphor for the first and only Australian tennis champion of color who burst onto the tour with such a flourish.

And perhaps it is my favorite item in the exhibit, as it reminds me of the great vacation I took with my daughter, the amazing story of Evonne Goolagong, and the serendipity that brought the error into the collection. That's my story – now I look forward to hearing yours!

Have a story for the **COLLECTORS SHOWCASE**? Just jot it down (around 500 words is perfect) and e-mail the text along with a clear digital image of your philatelic item (300 dpi is preferred) to me at: markspi@prodigy.net

How Germany (Almost) Competed at the 1948 London Olympic Games

by Mark Maestroni

As Norman Jacobs pointed out in his article for the **COLLECTORS SHOWCASE** on the previous page, surprises are one of the best parts of philately. I particularly love discovering some new aspect of an item already in my collection. Such was the case with this nice piece of German postal stationery from 1972.

Let's first set the stage. The year was 1946. The long war in Europe (and the Pacific) had barely drawn to a close when the International Olympic Committee, at the behest of King George VI, voted to allow London to host the 1948 Olympic Games. (London had been scheduled to hold the 1944 Games which were cancelled due to the war.)

Invitations went out to nations around the world for what would become known as the "Austerity Games." Two nations, however, were not on the invitation list. As aggressors in the war, Germany and Japan were not permitted to send athletes.

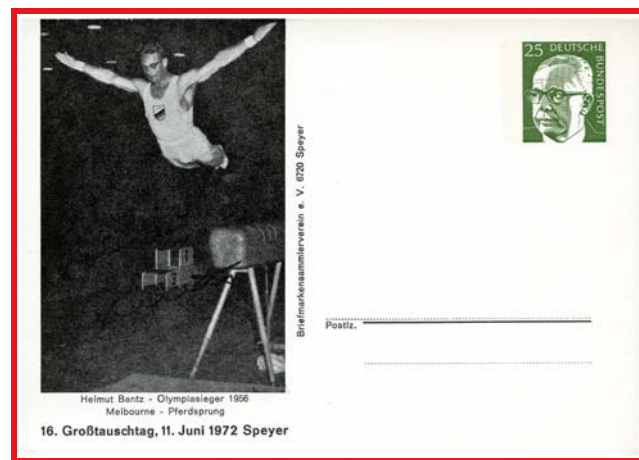
Following the armistice, some 4 million German Prisoners of War, who remained under Allied control, were used as "forced labor" throughout Europe. In the U.K., they comprised some 25% of the agricultural work force and were certainly integral to Britain's rebuilding effort. By the time of the Games, the number had dwindled to a few thousand. Many Germans elected to remain after being released.

My story begins with one of these ex-POWs.

Helmut Bantz, a native of Speyer in western Germany (about 60 miles south of Frankfurt), grew up in a gymnastics family. Though not initially an enthusiast, he fell in love with the sport at the age of 14 after attending the 1935 German championships. By the time he was conscripted into the German army in 1942, Helmut had already won his first National Championships title.

Bantz was captured by Allied troops in 1944, ending up in a POW camp near Sleaford in Lincolnshire. Following his release in late 1947 or early 1948, he decided to remain in England for a time.

It was during this period that Helmut Bantz had



Helmut Bantz performing his famous Hecht Vault to win the 1956 Olympic gold medal in Melbourne.

become acquainted with members of the British gymnastics community. He was invited to participate in the National Championships in Leicester on 3 April 1948. According to a contemporary report: "When this blonde German man entered the gym, removed his jacket, jumped up at the High Bar and executed the Olympic compulsory routine without error, the spectators were as astonished as the British gymnasts and coaches."

Arthur Whitford, coach of the British Olympic men's gymnastics team, knew talent when he saw it, and wasted no time in securing Helmut's help as a member of the coaching staff.

Frank Turner, the team captain, recalled that "Bantz became part of the British team as our secret coach."

Despite being asked, Bantz declined the offer to march in the opening ceremonies with the British team, but did accept a team uniform and a commemorative badge. Helmut, who always spoke fondly of his experiences with the 1948 team, kept his British Olympic trousers all his life, saying "My wife always threatens to give them to the rag man."

Helmut eventually returned to his homeland, competing in the 1952 and 1956 Olympics, winning a gold medal in the vault at Melbourne.

After retiring from competition, Bantz stayed in the sport, becoming a successful coach and a lecturer in sports science at Cologne University. He continued to return to England (with his wife Erika, also a gymnast) to conduct training sessions and establish a national plan in the U.K. for coaching modern Olympic gymnastics.

What remains so remarkable about Helmut Bantz was his extraordinary generosity in sharing his wealth of gymnastics knowledge and experience with his British captors. I am so glad I delved more deeply into this philatelic item!

THE SPORTS ARENA

by Mark Maestroni



At the Paralympic Winter Games, skiers compete in Downhill, Super Giant Slalom (Super-G), Giant Slalom, Slalom, and Super Combined. Visually-impaired skiers use the same equipment as non-disabled skiers. The only difference is that a sighted guide skis immediately ahead of the visually-impaired skier, calling out verbal instructions so that the competitor knows when and in what direction to turn.

Slovakia issued a pair of stamps for the 2014 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia. The Paralympic stamp shows a downhill skier, led by his sighted guide, negotiating a gate on the course. According to Slovakia Post, this is the first instance where both a Paralympic Alpine skier and guide have been depicted on a stamp. Imagine how in sync both the skier and guide must be in order to successfully negotiate what would certainly be a challenging course for even a non-disabled skier!

The America's Cup, sailing's premier event in 2013, was contested on San Francisco Bay – the first time the Cup has not been held in open water.

This was also an important anniversary as it was just thirty years ago when *Australia II*, captained by John Bertrand and sailing under the auspices of the Royal Perth Yacht Club, broke the United States' 132-year winning streak. *Liberty*, skippered by Dennis Conner, had a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven series when *Australia II* blew by the Americans

winning the final three races. All of Australia celebrated the victory which put an end to the longest winning streak in sports.

The headlines in the next day's paper said it all.

Australia Post selected the Cup as one four events to be celebrated in its "Headline News" series issued 23 July 2013.



Japan's 68th annual National Athletic Meet in 2013 was held in Tokyo from 11 September through 14 October. Unlike prior meets, this one also combined with the 13th National Sports Festival for People with Disabilities. Together, 50 sports were contested (37 for the National Athletic Meet and 13 for the People with Disabilities competitions).

From information provided by Yutaka Matsubayashi, we know there were at least 25 different sports postmarks used during the meet. He sent along a copy of the golf postmark used from the Hachoji Nishi post office from 29 September through October 14.

The postmark (below right) depicts the mascot of the games, Yurito, a black-headed gull, swinging a golf club. The emblem of the games, shown below left, includes Yurito.



BOOK REVIEW

by Mark Maestroni

1906 The Olympic Issue by Michalis Tsironis. Full color, hardbound, 360 pages, in Greek & English (parallel columns). Published by Michalis Tsironis, 2006. Cost: €120 (includes s/h). Order from the author: Deligiani 7, Kifisia, Attica 14561, Greece. E-mail: info@tsironismichalis.gr

Winner of the prestigious Academy of Athens prize in 2008 as well as some 15 Gold and Large Gold medals at FIP, FEPA and International Exhibitions.

To fully appreciate the philatelic story of the 1906 Olympic Games, one must understand not only the Olympic Games, but Ancient Olympia itself. Just as Heinrich Schliemann and Friedrich Adler brought to life the ruins of the birthplace of the Olympics, noted Greek philatelist, Michalis Tsironis, takes us on an archeological dig, unearthing the story surrounding the second oldest series of Olympic stamps.

In this beautifully produced, primarily philatelic study of these often underappreciated Olympics, Tsironis establishes the importance of the 1906 Games in keeping alive the Olympic Movement after the nearly disastrous so-called “Exposition Games” of 1900 and 1904. There follows a brief informative overview of Olympia, their mythology, and the Ancient Games.

Michalis begins his quest by resolving to unravel the mysteries surrounding the evolution of this second Olympic issue. To date, three questions had never been answered. First, who proposed the subject matter for the 1906 stamps? Second, what artist designed the series? And, third, who was the engraver and printer?

The pieces of this philatelic puzzle began to fall into place when Tsironis was introduced to the great-grandson of the designer of the 1896 Olympic issue, Emile Gillieron. Amongst the many pa-

pers the great-grandson held, the author discovered “two sheets with depictions related to the stamps of the Olympic Issue of 1906 ... I was stunned: I could see and hold the authentic depictions ... [of] the first proofs of the artist!”

With the designer of the 1906 issue now revealed to be the same as for the 1896 Olympic stamps, Tsironis was able to deduce both the man responsible for selecting the subjects of the stamps – John Svoronos – and that the engraver had to have been the French associate of Gillieron, Louis-Eugene Mouchon.

The printing house (Perkins-Bacon) was less of a mystery. What was not clear, however, was the relationship of the printing house, J.P. Segg & Co., whose name appeared on the special presentation sheets of the 14-stamp set. As it turns out, Segg was merely the middle-man in this venture. Perkins-Bacon, it can definitively be said, printed all the proofs and stamps for the series.

Tsironis delves deeply into the details of the stamps themselves. The subjects, not surprisingly, are drawn from the remains of ancient Classical vases and Hellenic coins, the latter a specialty of Mr. Svoronos.

The technical aspects from essays to proofs to printing of the stamps are examined, and conclude with a look at the printing varieties.

For pure eye-appeal, at least for philatelists, there is a richly illustrated detailed discussion of the usages, both domestic and abroad, many registered, and fulfilling a wide array of rates (an extensive table of postal rates is provided).

The final section of the book brings us full circle back to the *raison d'être* for this issue of stamps: the 1906 Athens Olympic Games. Tsironis provides a day-by-day break down of the schedule with discussions of the venues and winners.

I highly recommend this book for anyone interested in the early Olympic Games. While a bit costly, it will be among the stars of any Olympic philatelic library.



Remarkable block of fifteen 1-lepton stamps on a 25-lepta letter abroad.

REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS

by Mark Maestrone

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

December 2013 (#70). The big news in 2013 was of course the selection of Tokyo as the host of the 2020 Olympic Games, and the election of a new IOC president, Thomas Bach of Germany. Jean-Louis Emmenegger covers both in his article on the 125th IOC Session in Buenos Aires.

Unless you are French-speaking, you may never have heard of Les Jeux de la Francophonie (Francophone, or French-speakers', Games) held every four years. René Christin provides a philatelic review beginning with the inaugural games in 1989.

Manfred Bergman presents Part 3 of his study of the 1924 Olympic "Pasteur" cards. Sylvain Bouchet explores an interesting topic, "Coubertin and the Ceremonies."

Additional articles in this issue review the Olympic Fair held in Bø, Norway; illustrations of past Olympic Winter Games medals and a preview of the Sochi awards; and lastly, a look at the sport of fencing.

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

December 2013 (#42). The highlight of this issue is Part 8 of the colorful series on Olympic basketball stamps spanning the period from just after Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Games of 1996 to just prior to the start of the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Continuing a topic introduced in the previous issue about Open Class exhibiting, the author presents a whole variety of collectibles that might be candidates: match box labels, sports advertising, vignettes, and pennants. An example of a non-sport Open Class exhibit entitled "Mafia" discusses, in one instance, prostitution as a source of the Mafia's income. The exhibitor cleverly incorporates "hooker tax" stamps used by doctors in Argentina to certify the health of local prostitutes!

Finally, a presentation of fascinating mailed postal documents rounds out the issue with, yes, some unusual and intriguing uses of basketball stamps. Updates of new basketball stamps and cancels are also included.

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

November 2013 (#160). The IMOS Journal uses this issue to catch up on its various catalogs with updates to Olympic and sports stamps, postmarks and postal stationery from around the world. Of particular interest is the lengthy section on Russia's expansive output of postal stationery cards and envelopes for the Sochi Olympic Winter Games.

The second part of this issue presents articles from various contributors. Guido van Hoey writes on Belgian figure skating philately which includes a lovely Publifel card from 1945-6 depicting various sports for which the card's sponsor, Nestor Benoît in Brussels, markets equipment. Illustrated on the card are canoeing, camping, fishing, ice skating, tennis, skiing and swimming.

For football fans, Peter Leinemann celebrates the 150th anniversary of the UK's Football Association, and the 140th year of the Scottish Football Association.

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

December 2013 (Vol.30, #4). With Sochi upon us, *Torch Bearer* provides an updated cataloging of Russia Post's extensive output as host postal administration for the 2014 Sochi Olympic Winter Games. Editor Bob Farley begins with new stamp issues and their associated postmarks from November and December 2013. The largest section covers the huge issue of postal stationery depicting the many architecturally stunning venues purpose-built for these games, and the series of postal cards for each of the 15 sports on the Olympic schedule. A third section tracks the course of the Olympic Torch Relay which includes postmarks for what seems like nearly every overnight stop of the torch on its 4-month run across Russia. The special side-trips, such as to the International Space Station, are also covered.

Lest you think that we've left London 2012 behind us ... think again! Bob updates us on further stamps and cancels from around the world as well as the many postmarks for 2012 used in China.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Mark Maestrone

NEW MEMBERS

Maurizio Piccioni, Via 4 Novembre 3, Carnate, MB
20040, Italy. ***Olympics and sports.***
Email: ismic@yahoo.it

Ernesto Tabacco, Via Umberto I 36, Trofarello, Italy.
Olympics and soccer. Email: erntabac@alice.it

NEW ADDRESSES

George Bardosh: 402-6644 Somerled Avenue,
Montreal QC, H4V1T4
Don Bigsby: don.bigsby@yahoo.com (new email)
Zoltan Klein: filaszob@gmail.com (new email)

Planning For NY2016

SPI's next convention will be held in conjunction with the next U.S. international philatelic exhibition – NY2016 – at New York City's Jacob Javits Convention Center, May 28 - June 4, 2016. SPI has already purchased a society booth at the show; the next step is to plan meetings, seminars and events. If you have an idea for a seminar or event or are interested in volunteering, please contact Mark Maestrone (markspi@prodigy.net) or Norman Jacobs (nfjir@comcast.net).

In Memoriam: Vsevolod Furman

by Maurizio Tecardi

A great researcher, a committed academic and a passionate enthusiast of sports and Olympic philately, this is how I wish to remember, with affection and esteem, Vsevolod Furman, who passed away in his home town, Odessa, on 15 December last.

We met in Lausanne in 1985 at the first edition of Olympihlex, where he, one of the first members of FIPO, was participating with a collection devoted to "The Olympic Games and Sport in Art," as well as in the literature section with a series of articles on Olympic philately. At the following Olympihlex editions, in Rome in 1987, Seoul in 1988, Varna in 1990, Barcelona in 1992, Atlanta in 1996 and Athens in 2004, he was always present, as an exhibitor and a dedicated scholar. I also remember him as an expert jury colleague and the "commissioner" for the Ukraine at the Moscow 1997, Israel and Milano 1998 FIP exhibitions, where he represented his country. His research into the origins and history of the first Olympic postal issues, "Greece 1896" was also very important, which he undertook and made known through articles and publications.

All these years of shared passion and meetings, besides strengthening our acquaintance and cementing our friendship, also contributed greatly to the dissemination of Olympic philately throughout the world. All these things remain in my memory and also remind me of my regret at never being able to see him again.



From left, Maurizio Tecardi, Vsevolod Furman, and Manfred Bergman at the Olympihlex in Varna in 1990.



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