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Lausanne Hosts
the Olympic
Collecting
World

XXTH WORLD OLYMPIC
COLLECTORS FAIR



LAUSANNE
23-25 MAY
2014





SPORTS
PHILATELISTS
INTERNATIONAL

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On the cover: *The Olympic Museum which recently reopened after an extensive two-year remodel of both the inside and gardens.* [photo by Mark Maestrone]

2012 LONDON
OLYMPICS

2

AICO & XXTH
Olympic Fair

17

COMMONWEALTH
GAMES

20

GOLF

27

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

SPI Election, 2014-2016

It's once again time to cast ballots to elect *your* officers and members of the Board of Directors of SPI. Many of the faces will be familiar, but with a minor shuffle in the batting line-up! A new candidate for the board will be Joe Lopreiato. Stepping down at this time is Dale Lilljedahl. Please do take just a few moments to fill in your ballot (enclosed with this issue) which you may then return by:

1. Mail to our secretary Andrew Urushima, 1510 Los Altos Dr., Burlingame, CA 94010, USA, **or**
2. E-mail to treasurer@sportstamps.org, **or**
3. Enclose in your dues envelope (our Membership Chairman will forward it on to Andrew).

Our web-only members will receive a ballot via email. The deadline for receipt of ballots is August 1, 2014.

Dues Renewal

If you find a dues envelope included with this issue of the journal, then it's time to renew your membership in SPI (web-only members will receive renewal notices by email). We had a very small dues increase of just \$2 for US/Canadian members and \$4 for our overseas members necessitated by the increase in postage rates. We hope that you will continue to support sports and Olympic philately through continued membership in SPI.

Founding of AICO

SPI has joined 18 other Olympic collecting groups from around the world as a charter member in AICO (Association Internationale des Collecteurs Olympiques) which was founded in Lausanne on 22 May.

AICO's mission is "fostering quality Olympic philately, numismatics and memorabilia collecting related to the historical and cultural aspects of the Olympic Movement."

Following a unanimous vote from the assembled delegates to create the new organization, a five-member executive board was elected. I was honored to have been chosen as First Vice-President serving for a four-year term.

I would like to thank our delegate to the General Assembly, Norman Jacobs, for so ably representing SPI. A full report on the proceedings may be found on page 17 of this issue.

20th World Olympic Collectors Fair 23-25 May 2014

Immediately following the founding of AICO, the new international Olympic collectors organization, Lausanne played host to the annual World Olympic Collectors Fair.

Over fifty dealers in Olympic and sports philately, memorabilia and numismatics filled a large tent set up on the busy lakefront park/recreation area. Judging from the foot traffic on Saturday, the Fair appeared to be a popular diversion for the public enjoying the sunny spring weather.

The Fair's organizing committee (David Maiden, Jim Greensfelder and Halvor Kleppen of the IOC's Olympic Philately, Numismatic and Memorabilia Commission, and SPI member Jean-Louis Emmenegger) provided evening events for the participants including cocktails and a tour of the Olympic Museum on Friday, and a silent auction and official dinner on Saturday.

Lake Placid, New York, home of the 1932 and 1980 Olympic Winter Games, is a candidate to host the 2015 World Olympic Collectors Fair.

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

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Figure 2. SmartStamp FDC for Canoe Slalom, mailed from Waltham Cross P.O. in the town center adjacent to the Lee Valley Water Park.



Figure 3. SmartStamp FDC for Paralympic Equestrian events, with SOC SmartStamp, mailed from Greenwich Post Office.

Looking Back at London 2012

Part 2: The Build-up to the Games

by Bob Wilcock

Following their agreement with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) for the use of official images on computer-generated “SmartStamps,” in September 2008 and again in July 2009 the Society of Olympic Collectors (SOC) issued SmartStamps to mark official “Open Weekend” events when there were tours of the Olympic Park under construction (Figure 1).



Figure 1. ‘Open Weekend’ SmartStamp 2009 with Olympic and Paralympic logos.

SOC’s agreement was originally ad-hoc. LOCOG were reluctant to authorize the use of the logo and Olympic Rings, but did agree that the official pictograms could be used, and supplied official images on disc. SOC took advantage of this for the first time on 22 October 2009 when Royal Mail launched the first part of its 30-stamp “Sports Series.” SmartStamps depicting the pictograms matching the Olympic stamps were released on

covers mailed from post offices nearest to the venues (Figure 2) hosting the sports depicted on the stamps issued on that date. It was not possible to use the Paralympic logos because they were not yet published, so SOC’s own logo was used in conjunction with the Paralympic stamps (Figure 3).

Royal Mail Olympic and Paralympic Sports Series

22 October 2009 saw the issue of the first installment of ten of a series of 30 stamps depicting 29 Olympic and Paralympic sports. Two of the stamps were dedicated to athletics (one for track and the other for the field events). Swimming, diving and water polo, however, were represented by a single “aquatic sports’ stamp, despite water polo taking place in a second (temporary) pool. The stamp shows a diver, and, ironically, Royal Mail does not have undisputed copyright to the image!

The first series comprises aquatics, Paralympic archery, athletics (track), badminton, basketball, boccia, canoe slalom, Paralympic equestrian, judo, and weightlifting. The stamps were issued principally in two 50-stamp sheets. Each sheet was composed of five designs se-tenant horizontally, and in columns of ten stamps, rows 5 and 6 being divided by a gutter. By and large post offices and philatelic counters would only sell the stamps in



Figure 4. 2009 Commemorative Sheet "The Journey Begins".

entitled "The Journey Begins," and, like the subsequent Commemorative Sheets, was issued in an A4 protective folder with a descriptive insert (Figure 4).

The "official" Royal Mail cancels (Figure 5) illustrate another quirky aspect of the program: one cancel is from Badminton, a well-known equestrian center, but depicts canoe slalom, an event that has nothing to do with the town; the Olympic venue was at Waltham Cross just up the River Lee from the Olympic Park at Stratford.

There were 14 sponsored postmarks (Figure 6). Two deserve particular comment. The first, from Weymouth, is a tribute to Britain's Yngling Team that won Gold in Beijing. (Yngling is a class of sailing boat similar to, but smaller than, a Soling.) While Weymouth was indeed the Olympic yachting venue, the Yngling class was dropped from the 2012 events.

The other postmark deserving comment was from Falmouth. It honored native Ben Ainslie's silver and three gold yachting medals in 2008. Ainslie went on to win his 4th gold in 2012.

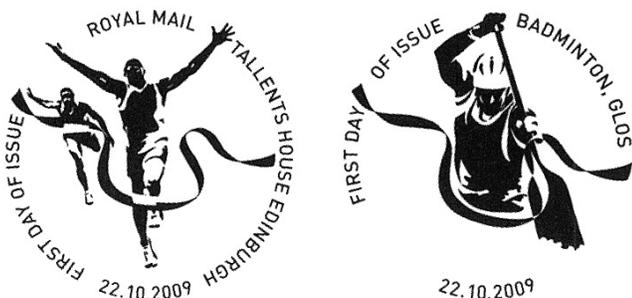


Figure 5. The two "official" Royal Mail FD cancels 22 October 2009.

rows, not columns. This annoyed collectors who only wanted Olympic stamps (as opposed to Paralympic), or only certain sports. Royal Mail had an interesting program, with many good features, but they had the knack of annoying either collectors or the public in some way or other at every stage, and they were stubbornly deaf to complaints and suggestions, which is a great pity.

The stamps were also issued in a commemorative sheet with informative tabs. The 2009 sheet is



Figure 6. The 14 sponsored postmarks of 22 Oct. 2009.

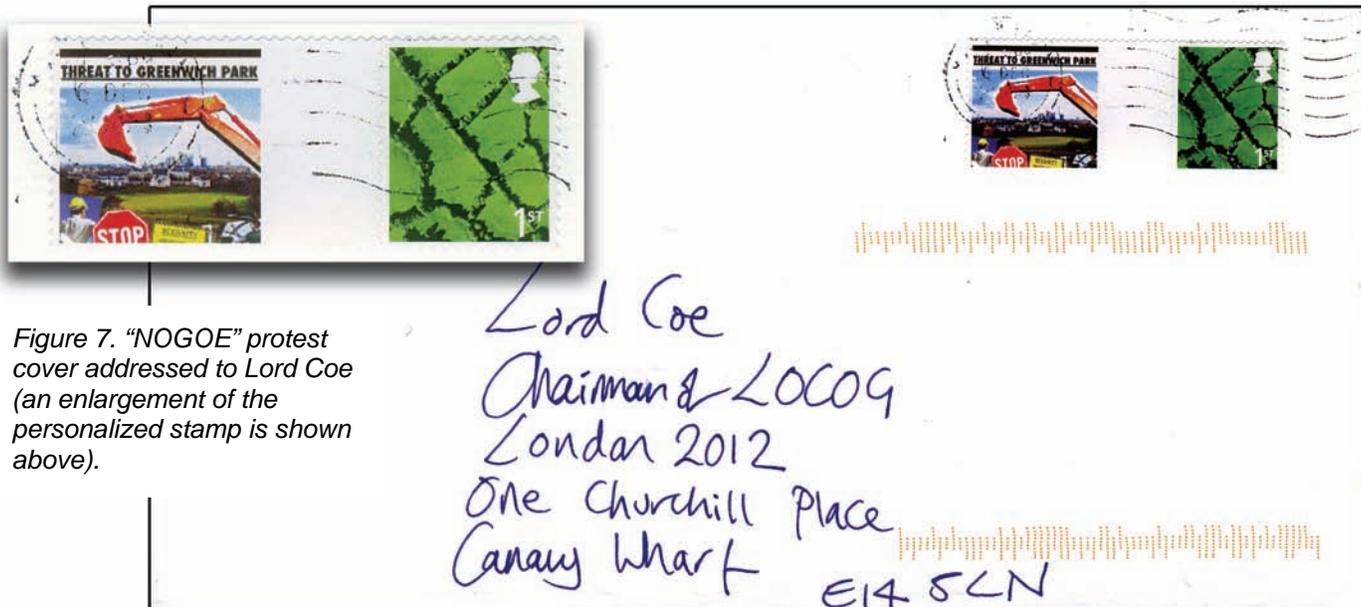


Figure 7. "NOGOE" protest cover addressed to Lord Coe (an enlargement of the personalized stamp is shown above).

Great though both tributes are, it would have been even better if the sponsor had waited until the sailing stamp was issued in 2011.

NOGOE: "No to Greenwich Park Olympic Equestrian Events"

Back in 2009, a strong and vociferous campaign to stop the building of the temporary facilities in Greenwich Park was at its peak. An aspect of the campaign of particular interest to collectors is the use of personalized stamps, in Britain known as "Smilers" to publicize the campaign. This came to light in a particularly interesting way when a batch

of envelopes addressed to Lord Coe was released by LOCOG in return for a donation to the British Olympic Foundation. There is a nice irony in the cover in Figure 7. (More covers are known.)

Self-Adhesive Stamp Booklets

Come 7 January 2010, Royal Mail launched the next aspect of its Olympic program: booklets of six First Class stamps, comprised of four definitives plus one each of two of the sports stamps, this time with a border, and self-adhesive (the sheet stamps are water-activated gum).



Figure 8. The first stamp booklet featured one each of the judo and archery stamps, plus four "1st" Machin definitives. (The outside and inside of the self-adhesive booklet is shown above.)



Figure 9. Four postmarks were available for use with the first booklet. No. 11570 had a variable date stamp used for subsequent booklets.



11637 - 25 February



11638 - 25 February



11643 - 25 February

Figures 10 & 11. The booklet of 25 February 2010 and sponsor postmarks.

The first booklet featured judo and Paralympic archery (Figure 8). There were to be six booklets in all, and each time the stamps have borders depicting badminton and archery, which turned out to be a nuisance for first day postmarks, because of their dark coloring.

There were four postmarks for the first booklet (Figure 9). The first, with a poorly drawn British flag, had a variable date and was also used for subsequent booklets. The other three postmarks were first days only. One of these, depicting the O2 Arena, is not obviously Olympic, but the Arena, renamed the North Greenwich Arena because O2 were not Olympic sponsors, was the venue for some basketball, and for artistic gymnastics.

The second booklet was issued on 25 February 2010, with athletics and basketball stamps (Figure 10). There were three first day postmarks (Figure 11) plus the variable date “flag” postmark.

27 July 2010: Sports Issue 2 – On Track for 2012

The second set of ten stamps in the Sports Series was issued exactly two years before the Games, on 27 July 2010.

This time there were seven Olympic sports: shooting, modern pentathlon, taekwondo, cycling (mountain bike), hockey, football and boxing. The other three stamps were Paralympic: rowing, table tennis and Goalball (Figure 12).

A second Commemorative sheet, in the same A4 format as 2009, was issued under the caption “One Aim.”

The third booklet was also issued on that date, in the same format as previously, and featuring self-adhesive Paralympic Table Tennis and Rowing stamps.

There were twelve special cancels for this issue

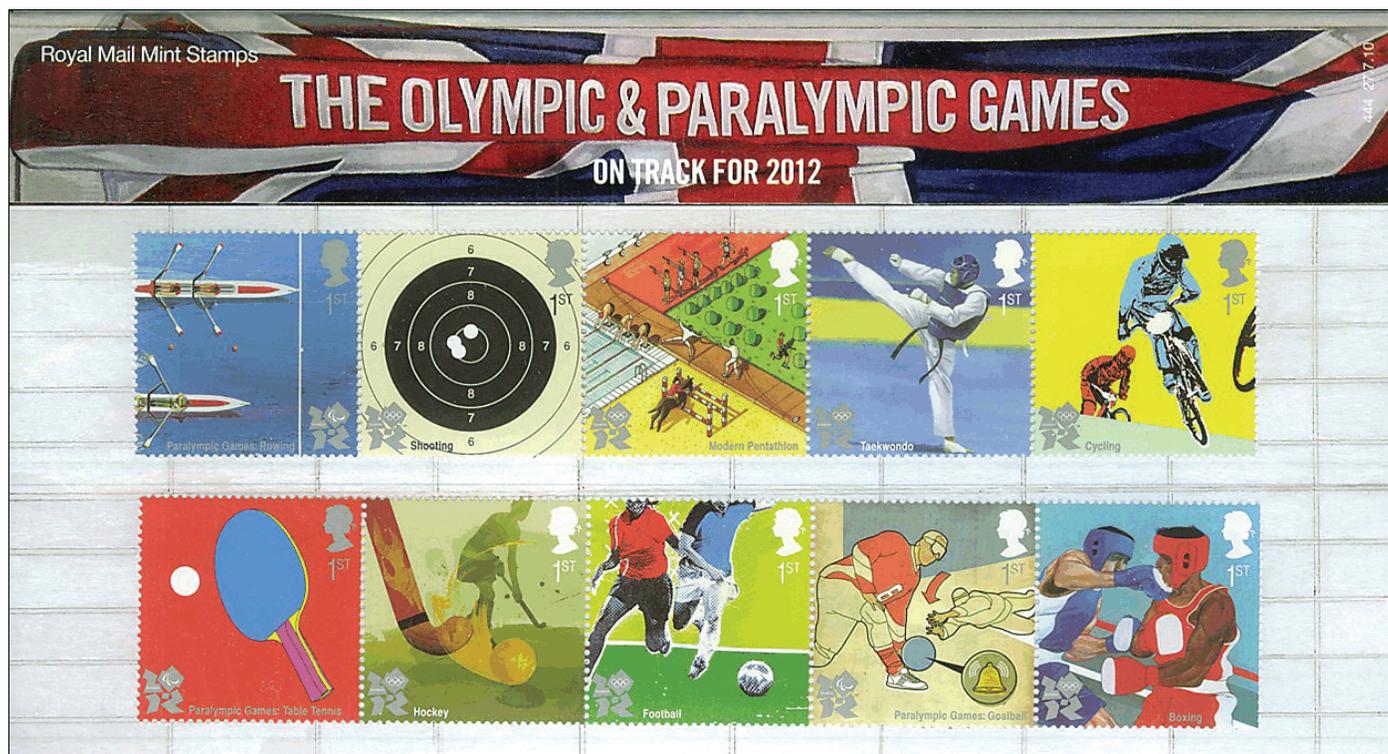


Figure 12. Presentation Pack for the 2010 issue of stamps.



Figure 13. Special cancels for the third issue. Nos. 11797 and 11807 specifically refer to the booklet stamps.

Figure 13). Two of them specifically refer to the booklet stamps. Soccer collectors will note that one of the cancels depicts Wembley Stadium, the principal soccer venue for the Games (Figure 14).

The fourth booklet (Figure 15) was issued on 12 October 2010, depicting football and cycling (mountain bike). Again these were self-adhesive stamps. While collectors consider them to be different from the gummed sheet stamps, Royal Mail do not, so there were no first day cancels.

Commercial sponsors had financed Royal Mail postmarks relating to the previous booklet issues, but this time sponsors forgot the cycling: there were two postmarks, both related to football (Figure 16).

All was not lost however, because on the same date Royal Mail launched a series of cards, in conjunction with the Royal Mint, each bearing a



Figure 15. The fourth booklet featured football and mountain bike.

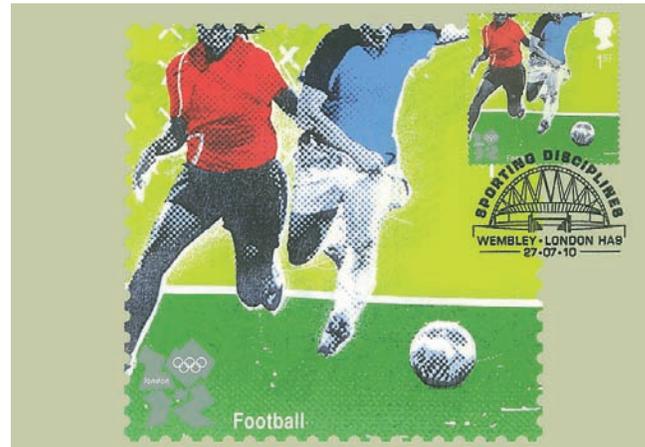


Figure 14. In this case, one postmark actually links a stamp with the venue at which the sport was contested: football at Wembley. Shown here is one of the football stamp maximum cards with the Wembley postmark.

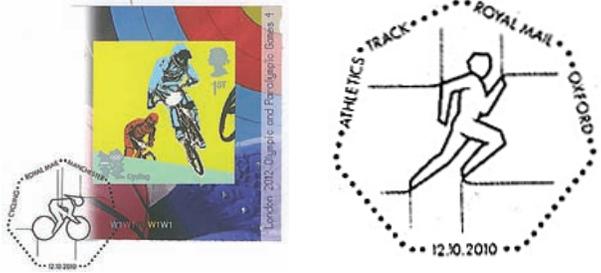
sports series stamp, cancelled by a postmark in the shape of a 50 penny piece, and featuring a pictogram of the related sport. Embedded in the card is a 50p coin depicting the same sport.

The sports chosen for the first two “coin cards” were track athletics and cycling. This meant that the cycling postmark could also be used as a “first day” postmark for the cycling stamp from the booklet (Figure 17). However, the pictogram chosen is track cycling, while the stamp is for the mountain biking discipline. Further, the post town is Manchester, whose Olympic connection is as a soccer venue; the only cycling connection is the fine velodrome used during the Commonwealth Games of 2002.

The athletics pictogram cancel (Figure 18) is from Oxford. There is no 2012 Olympic connection, but a “Chariots of Fire” link, and Roger Bannister broke the 4-minute mile there. These idiosyncrasies and confusions are typical of the Royal Mail program which was thought up in the marketing department, not by collectors. Figure 19 shows a coin card for modern pentathlon, and Figure 20 is a mailed cover with matching, LOCOG-approved computer-generated “SmartStamp” on a cacheted cover (Taekwondo). The full program detailed in Table 1.



Figure 16. Only two football postmarks were available for the fourth issue – no cycling!



Figures. 17 & 18. The cycling and track pictogram postmarks, though not perfectly matched, could be used on the mountain bike and athletics stamps.

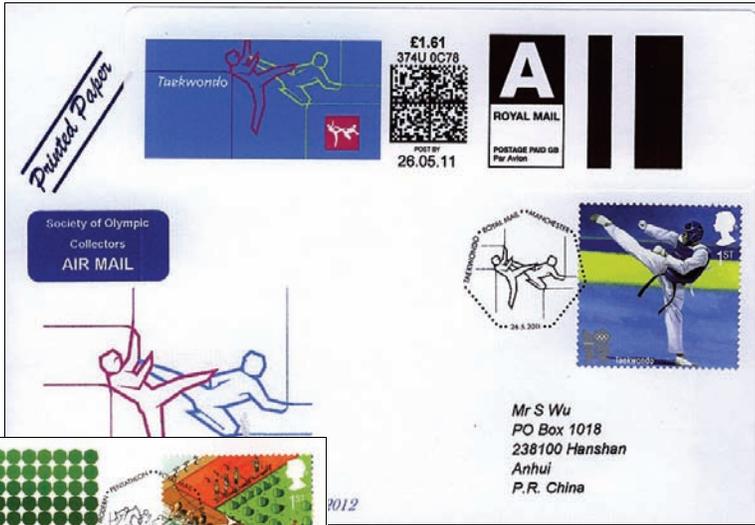


Figure 20 (above). Taekwondo pictogram cancel, pictogram "SmartStamp" on pictogram cacheted envelope, mailed from Manchester to China.

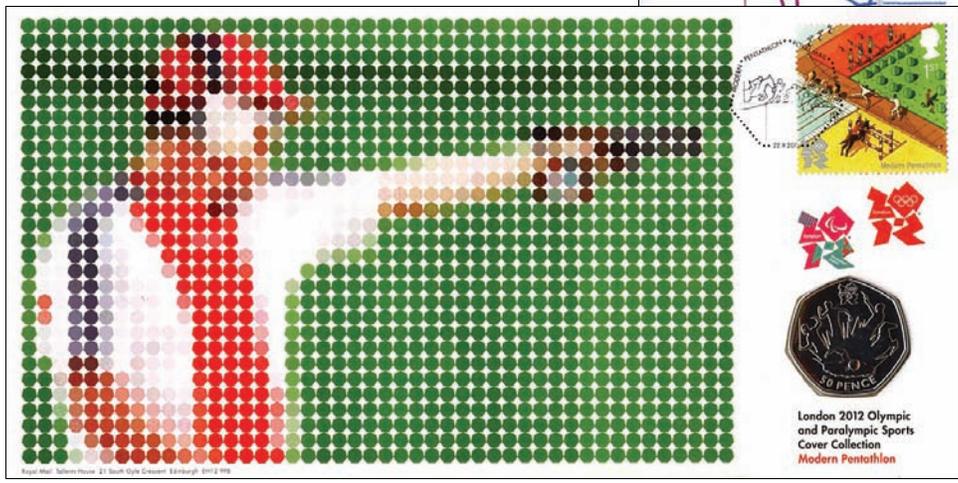


Figure 19 (left). Coin card for modern pentathlon 22 September 2011.

Table 1: Program of Coin Cards and Pictogram Cancels				
Date	Sport	Post town	Sport	Post Town
12-Oct-10	Track athletics	Oxford	Cycling	Manchester
30-Nov-10	Boccia	Sheffield	Football	Wembley
1-Feb-11	Hockey	Blackheath	Weightlifting	Bisham
24-Mar-11	Shooting	Woolwich	Goalball	Bedford
26-May-11	Boxing	Bethnal Green	Taekwondo	Manchester
27-Jul-11	Wrestling	Salford	Handball	Liverpool
22-Sep-11	Basketball	Birmingham	Modern Pentathlon	Bath
29-Nov-11	Archery (Paralympic)	Lilleshall	Canoeing	Nottingham
12-Jan-12	Rowing	Henley-on-Thames	Aquatics (diver)	Loughborough)
28-Feb-12	Sailing	Weymouth	Badminton	Badminton
1-Apr-12	Judo	Chelsea	Triathlon	Swansea
6-May-12	Wheelchair Rugby	Twickenham	Volleyball	Edinburgh
12-Jun-12	Equestrian (Paralympic)	Greenwich	Table Tennis (Paralympic)	Edinburgh
26-Jul-12	Fencing	Birmingham	Wheelchair Tennis	Wimbledon *
28-Aug-12	Field Athletics	Stratford	Gymnastics	Loughborough

Post town names in **bold** are Olympic venues for the sport.
 * Wimbledon was the tennis venue, but Wheelchair tennis was played at Eton Manor in the Olympic Park at Stratford.



Figure 21. The final set of 10 stamps issued 27 July 2011. The Presentation Pack is shown here.

27 July 2011: Sports Issue 3 – One Year To Go

The final set of ten stamps (Figure 21) in the sports series was issued on 27 July 2011. The sports depicted were Paralympic sailing, field athletics, (beach) volleyball, wheelchair rugby, wrestling, wheelchair tennis, fencing, gymnastics, triathlon and handball.

As previously, the stamps were issued in two sheets of five se-tenant values in strips of ten (with a central gutter), and in a Commemorative Sheet of the ten stamps plus labels under the caption “High Hopes.” All 30 stamps were issued in a composite sheet, with a completely different se-tenant arrangement (Figure 22).

The fifth of the sports series booklets was also issued on the same day, this time depicting sailing (Paralympic) and wheelchair rugby, with the two stamps again in self-adhesive format (Figure 23).

Figure 24 shows the 16 first day postmarks with their Royal Mail numbers. No. 12203 had a variable date and could be supplied on request for any date initially up to 26 July 2012. This was the day before the opening ceremony. At the special request of the Society of Olympic Collectors, it was retained in use for another year, and was one of the very few Olympic postmarks available during the Games.

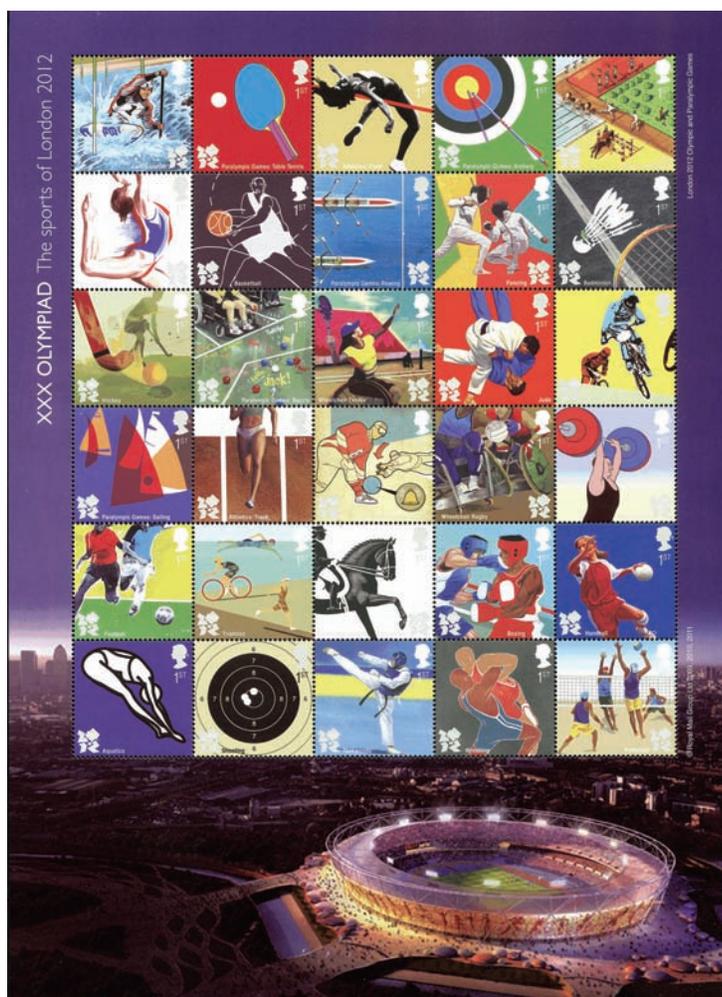


Figure 22. A composite sheet of all 30 Olympic sports stamps.



Figure 23. Booklet 5 in the Sports Series booklets.

No.12206 was intended to be used to cancel booklet stamps, while Nos. 12207 and 12208 post-marked the two coin cards issued on that day. All three could be used more widely.

“1 year to go” pin SmartStamp

The Society of Olympic Collectors obtained special permission from LOCOG and Honav, the official 2012 pin supplier, and, in addition to the regular sports pictogram SmartStamps, produced one on 27 July 2011 depicting the official pin. This is believed to be the first philatelic representation of an Olympic pin (Figure 25).



Figure 25. Smartstamp duplicating the “1 year to go” pin.

Surprise Slogan Postmarks

Without any warning, two days after the stamp issue, an ink-jet (spray) slogan postmark appeared: “Royal Mail Olympic Stamps Now on sale” (Figure 26). There was scarcely time for collectors to alert each other when it was withdrawn. Reasons for its withdrawal are not clear. It was used in 17 Mail Centres from 29 July to 3 August 2011. Covers with the slogan are extremely hard to find, and very few examples are known cancelling Olympic stamps.



Figure 26. The surprise 2011 Olympic slogan postmark.

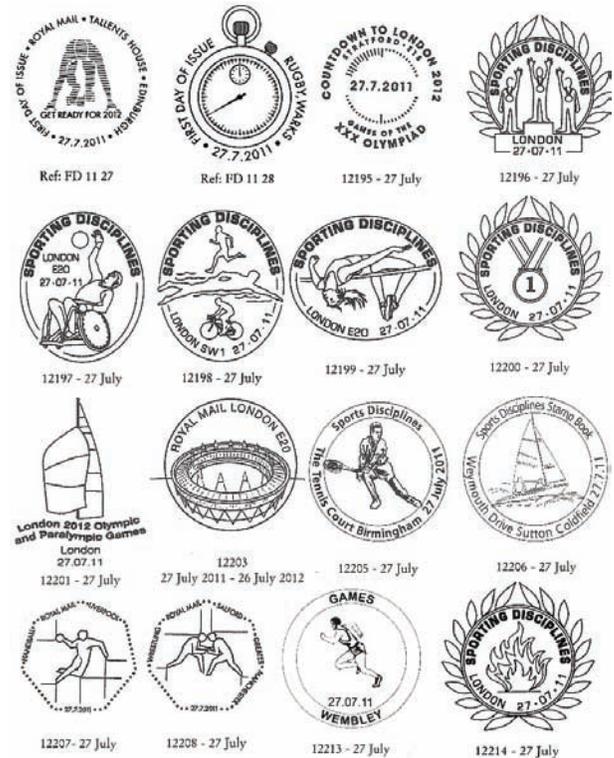


Figure 24. The 16 postmarks for the final group of sports stamps.

The Final Sports Series Booklet

This was issued on 15 September 2011, with gymnastics and fencing stamps. There were two gymnastics handstamps (one depicting a rhythmic gymnast), but no dedicated fencing postmark. The variable date flag postmark was used (Figure 27).

Royal Mail’s Olympic program increased steadily over the three year’s leading up to 2012, building to a climax in 2012 itself. The year of the Games brought successes and failures, and plenty to interest the collector. That fascinating story will be told in the next part of this article.



Figure 27. The final pair of booklet stamps.

Portugal's 1928 Olympic Stamps (Part 4)

by Dr. Manfred Bergman

*"Whoever cheats the customs,
pays double"*

An old Ladino saying

One of the terms of the decree creating the 1928 Olympic stamps stipulated that mail without the 15c obligatory stamps, would be taxed by a 30c tax stamp (Multa).

I believe that at this point it would be appropriate to define the 15c obligatory stamp. Most catalogues, philatelists and auction houses define it as a "postal tax" stamp. Is that correct? My contention is that the definition is not appropriate or precise, and that was the reason (as we shall see later on in this article) for misunderstandings and misuse.

First, a "tax" stamp is applied by the recipient's post office in instances of insufficient postage. In our case, the 15c stamp was affixed by the sender.

Second, even though a postal item was franked at the correct domestic rate, the 15c obligatory stamp was still required and thus not a "tax" stamp.

And third, this meant that the 15c obligatory stamp was a "surcharge" to the regular postal rate, not a "tax" stamp.

To conclude, I define the 15c Olympic stamp as an "IMPOSED" stamp, to be used over and above the regular (domestic) postal rate.

The 30c stamp, on the other hand, *was* a tax stamp, not for insufficient postage but for the absence of the 15c "imposed" stamp.

Genesis of the 30c Tax stamp. (I shall use the same classification as for the "imposed" 15c stamp discussed in Parts 2 and 3 of this article which appeared in the Spring 2014 issue of *JSP*.)

1. Original drawing (by Roque Gameiro). This should exist, but I have not succeeded in uncovering it. Perhaps it still resides somewhere in the files of the Portuguese Olympic Committee.

At this point, one ought to stress that the so-called "Alves" design, shown in the de Oliveira Mar



Figure 1. The die proof of the 30c "Tax" stamp.



Figure 2. Coin die proof.

ques' catalogue, does not exist. Where did de Marques find this item? That remains a mystery. Note that the face value of 20c is the wrong value (from the de Marques catalogue).

2. Proofs.

2.1. Progressive die proof (black parts). Not identified by me.

2.2. Progressive die proof (red parts). Theoretically this proof should exist, but to the best of my knowledge it has not yet been identified.

2.3. Die proof of the master die in the final colors (Figure 1).



Figure 3. Printer's proof, block of 6.



Figure 4. UPU "SPECIMEN" stamps, strip of 3 perforated.

2.4. A coin proof in the final colors, on un gummed paper (Marques no. 32 – item described but not illustrated). The proof was found by the author (Figure 2).

2.5. Printer's proof, block of 6 (Marques no. 33 – item described but not illustrated). The block was found by the author (Figure 3).

2.6. The Universal Postal Union (UPU) "SPECIMEN" stamps, perforated and imperforate (Figure 4).

3. Varieties.

3.1. Recto-Verso. So far unknown.

3.2. Imperforate (with gum).

3.3. Reversed transfer. More than likely this variety does not exist.

3.4. Imperforate between two rows. The well-known Olympic collector and exhibitor, S. Caruso, owns an example of this variety.

4. **Uses.** Let us now look at mail franked with the 30c Olympic Tax stamp.

4.1. This letter was posted at the North Mobile Post Office (24 May) to Porto, where the Tax stamp was affixed (Figure 5). One may presume, from the nature of the address, that the writer was a tourist or a sailor who was not aware of the requirement that the 15c "Imposed" stamp had to be included.

Normally, a philatelic study would end here, but this is not the case with the 1928 Portuguese Olympic stamps. The circumstances that surrounded it – the short period of use, the lack of precise instructions to all post offices, the separate (and in many a cases late) delivery – caused bizarre, curious and intriguing mail.

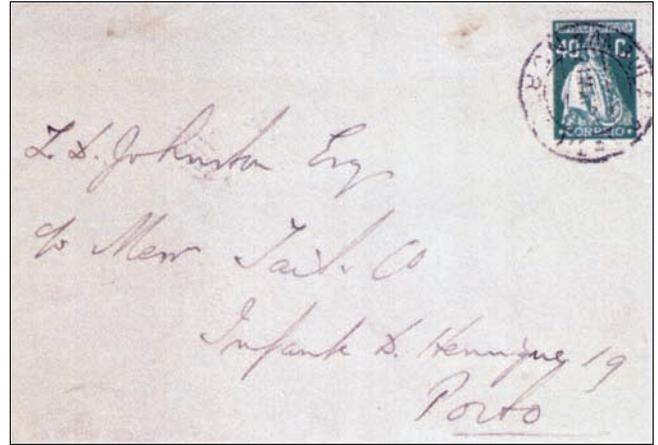


Figure 5. The above cover was mailed on 24 May – but without the 15c "Imposed" stamp. A 30c "Tax" stamp was correctly affixed to the reverse (below) and postmarked on 25 May.

4.2. Unnecessary use of the Tax (Multa) stamp. The letter was posted on 21 May 1928, one day before the use of the 15c "Imposed" stamp, therefore the obligatory stamp was not enforceable (Figure 6). It arrived on 23 May, during the period of its use. Most likely, the postal clerk had not been correctly instructed and believed that all mail during that period (up until May 24) ought to present the 15c "Imposed" stamp. Naturally, he erred and the Multa stamp's use was not justified.

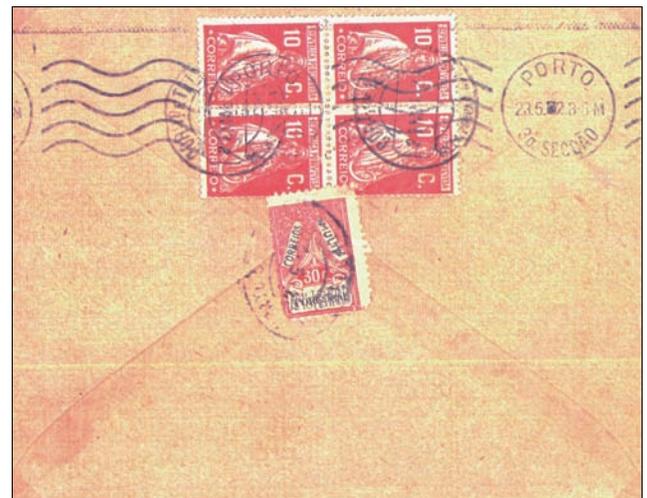


Figure 6. Mailed on 21 May – one day before the 15c "Imposed" stamp was required – this cover was incorrectly assessed the 30c "Tax" stamp upon its arrival on 23 May.



Figure 7. In the absence of 15c “Imposed” stamps for sale, the Évora post office bisected one of their 30c “Tax” stamps and used that in place of the 15c stamp.

4.3 Late delivery of the 15c “Imposed” stamp, but on-time delivery of the 30c Tax (Multa) stamp. The Évora post office lacked the 15c stamp (Figure 7). It, therefore, on May 23, substituted a bisected Tax (Multa) stamp for the 15c Imposed stamp. The Reguengos Post Office accepted the bisected stamp.

Évora is a city famous for its wines and at that time the seventh largest city in Portugal, so the reason behind the late delivery of the 15c stamp remains a mystery.

Did the Évora post office act correctly in using a bisected 30c Tax stamp in place of a 15c “Imposed” stamp? Yes and no:

- Yes, concerning the principle of bisecting since at that time it was allowed in Portugal.
- No, the use of a Tax stamp in lieu of the “Imposed” stamp was prohibited in Portugal. According to the “Compendos to Legislações Postal Nacional e Internacional” published in 1922, use of a tax stamp for regular franking was prohibited.
- Yes, since it was not being used as a Tax stamp (i.e. a penalty) for failure to use the 15c Imposed stamp, but rather as an additional stamp to satisfy the obligatory stamp requirement.
- Yes, as the aim was to raise funds and the stamps were just a

vector to do so; by using the one stamp he possessed, the clerk was correct.

In conclusion, the Reguengos postal clerk must have used the same logical reasoning to explain his action. A “philatelic fantasy” can also be excluded, since the Tax stamps were only applied by the Post and were not sold to the public.

4.4.A postcard (Figure 8) mailed without the 15c Imposed stamp from Viana do Castelo was marked with a handstamped “T” (for postage due). Upon its arrival at Porto (23 May), the 30c Tax stamp was affixed. Should “T” designation have been applied?

- Yes, considering the absence of the 15c Imposed stamp.
- No, from the point of view of postage; the latter was correct, so no further revenue could be requested.
- Yes, because there was no other way to alert the destination post office to apply the 30c Olympic Tax stamp.

I would say that the arguments for “yes” or “no” are of equal weight and using or not using the “T” marking is equally acceptable.



Figure 8. Postcard mailed without the 15c “Imposed” stamp was marked with a “T” for Tax and then assessed the 30c “Tax” stamp. Should a “T” have been applied?



Figure 9. Another case in which the post office in Évora used a bisected 30c "Tax" stamp in place of the 15c "Imposed" stamp (right). The receiving post office at Porto did not accept the bisect and applied a 30c "Tax" stamp on the reverse of the envelope (above).



4.5. Now, consider case 2. Again, the clerk at the sender's post office at Évora used a bisected 30c Tax stamp in lieu of the 15c "Imposed" stamp (Figure 9). The letter was addressed to a well-known postmaster in Porto. (By the way, this confirms that the Évora post office did not receive the 15c "Imposed" stamp in time).

In this case the postal clerk strictly applied the 1922 regulation; he did not accept the bisected Tax stamp as a valid substitute for the 15c "Imposed" stamp, therefore taxing it with an entire, full-rate 30c Olympic tax stamp. Was he/she right?

- Yes, it this was a case involving normal postage, according to the 1922 rule.
- No, because of the special circumstances:
 - A. The bisected stamp was not used for postage, thus it could not be considered as a tax stamp;
 - B. The aim of the issue was reached, i.e. a contribution to the Olympic efforts was made as 15c was paid by the sender.

The result was that a total of 45c was paid instead of 15c. I, therefore, consider that the "no" outweighs the pure application of the rule, which should not have applied in this case.

4.6. The many bisected 30c Tax stamps used in different post offices prove that they were not a "philatelic fantasy" but the result of late (or non)

delivery of the 15c "Imposed" stamp.

I have identified a bisect used from Cartaxo. We also know of bisects from small villages such as Tramagal and Mangualde (courtesy of L. Jonker and Castanheira da Silveira, respectively).



Figure 10. Two examples of bisected 30c stamps used from Mangualde (left) and Tramagal (right).

"They Evaporated into Thin Air" – Gone with the Wind

Let us conclude this study by summarizing the results. Were the estimated results achieved? How did this help in the preparation of the Portuguese Olympic (1928) team? What happened to the unsold stamps, etc. etc.?

The 13c "Imposed" Stamp. Postal authorities provided the following information:

1. Printing Total 2,000,000

Some sources indicate the printing quantity was 1,999,998; others report the number of stamps printed as being 1,900,000 (sheets of 90 stamps). I am waiting for someone to confirm the exact number! The printing was surely too high – see #3 below.

2. Shipped to Azores post offices 250,000

The stamps shipped to the Azores post offices never arrived. Moreover, nobody seems able to explain their fate. As if by magic they evaporated into thin air! Did the post office really believe that this quantity was necessary?

3. Shipped to mainland post offices 1,750,000

The post office was perhaps overly optimistic when it came to deciding the number of stamps that might be sold. Based on the population at that time, their level of education and potential number of writers, the relation between urban and rural populations, as well as the short period of use, it was probably wishful thinking to expect sales to require printing 2 million stamps. Shall we say this was “overbooking the plane”!

4. Sold in post offices 500,000

If one presumes a sales figure of 500,000 stamps to be correct, the question still unanswered is how many of these were actually used on mail. The number of cards, covers and loose (used) stamps discovered would suggest that only a small fraction were used on mail. As the fighting in World War II did not touch Portugal, cards and covers that were saved should remain intact. It is my contention that many stamps were bought up by large companies (mostly by the Ultramarino Bank) to aid the NOC, but were not used. It would be helpful if Portuguese philatelists were to try to investigate this matter further.

5. Transferred to the NOC 1,250,000

The number of stamps turned over to the NOC has been confirmed. However, the NOC never tried to “make promotional champagne” by selling them as labels. With the exception of a fair quantity sold to a private company (a dealer primarily in coins) for a small campaign, the bulk of the unused stock remains with the NOC. It is my hope that the NOC will eventually arrange for a marketing specialist to devise a method to sell them for the benefit of the NOC.

6. Post office expenses (10%) 7,500 PTE

The Portuguese Post Office, as per the agreement, retained 10% of the proceeds to cover its expenses. (Note: PTE stands for Portuguese Escudo, Portugal’s currency prior to adopting the Euro in 1999.)

7. Amount transferred to NOC 67,000 PTE

With respect to the 67,000 PTE supposedly paid to the NOC from the sales, we are once again confronted with an unsolved mystery. For many years I was surprised that nobody ever questioned this number. With my curiosity piqued, I decided to explore this issue with the Portuguese NOC. It was as if a time bomb had gone off! *No money was received by the NOC; the sum mentioned by the postal authorities had evaporated into thin air!* When and how is, indeed, a puzzle and awaits answers. Who can help?

To wit, here is the paragraph, relative to this matter, from the NOC’s letter to me, partially shown in Part 1 (Winter 2013 issue of *JSP*).

“We are ignorant of the financial result from the sales of the stamps and (its) contribution for the expenses for the preparation of the team. The report of the Games makes no reference.”

Surely, the report would have mentioned any amounts received, especially since the NOC kept all other documents related to the stamp issue.

The 30c “Tax” stamp. Essential details, provided by the postal administration, are as follows:

1. Printing Total 300,000

Again, was the need for 300,000 “Tax” stamps not exaggerated?

2. Shipped to Azores post offices 3,750

As with the 15c “Imposed” stamps, the 30c “Tax” stamps never arrived in the Azores. Their fate is unknown.

3. Shipped to mainland post offices 262,500

The postal administration does not provide precise numbers of the stamps shipped to mainland post offices. One may reasonably estimate the number to be similar in proportion (87.5% of the total printing quantity) as for the 15c “Imposed” stamp.

4. Used in post offices 50,000

The number of stamps used by the post office is, in my opinion, highly exaggerated. Based on the

“If I forsake thee ...” – in Memoriam



Figure 11. A Dutch Official Postcard showing the Portuguese football team.

I enjoyed studying this 1928 Portuguese issue. To this point the subject had received only superficial examination, so I do hope to have filled a few gaps in our philatelic knowledge. Moreover, I contend that very little had been done to commemorate the stamp that was the first to show the Olympic rings, symbol of the Olympic Games.

As far as I know, only two (small) efforts were made to philatelically commemorate these stamps. The first (Figure 12) was at the World Stamp Exhibition, Israel '98, in Tel-Aviv (70th anniversary of the 1928 Portugal Olympic stamps). The other (Figure 13) was by the IOC in 2003 (75th anniversary). I do hope the philatelic community will honor these stamps again in 2018 (or at some earlier sports event in Portugal) as they deserve the recognition. 🇵🇹

quantity of the 15c stamps sold (500,000), this would mean that a further 10% of mail (normally, only 1% - 1.5%) did not use the “Imposed” stamp. The proportion of taxed items retrieved would have been approximately 4%, which is higher than average as there was less lead time to implement the program.

5. Transferred to the NOC 246,250

The Post claims that 246,250 stamps were transferred to the NOC!

6. Post office expenses (10%) 1,745 PTE

The expense of 1,745 PTE is not given by the Post; I calculated it from the amounts presents in #4 and #5.

7. Amount transferred to NOC 67,000 PTE

The amount of money that the post office declared to have been turned over to the NOC was never confirmed by the latter. Another mysterious disappearance.

In conclusion, I believe room remains for further investigation, mainly of postal documents. It might also prove fruitful to explore the financial portion of the NOC report; it is conceivable (but highly improbable) that the moneys (supposedly) transferred by the Post are “hidden” in some other subsidies from the government.

Portugal sent a team to Amsterdam participating in athletics, modern pentathlon, Greco-Roman wrestling, weightlifting, equestrian sports, football (Figure 11) and sailing. The men’s épée team won a bronze medal.

The author invites readers to contact him with any questions, remarks, additions or corrections. Please e-mail him at: manfred.bergman@bluewin.ch

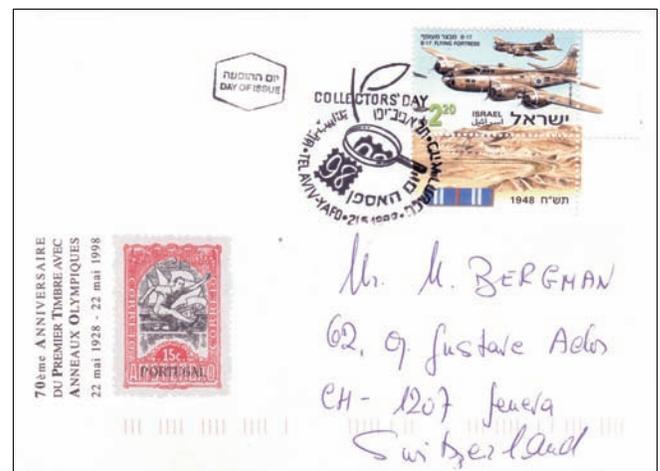


Figure 12. Israel '98 cover with label commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Portugal Olympic stamps.



Figure 13. 2003 meter from the IOC celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Olympic rings which were first displayed on the Portugal Olympic stamps of 1928.

COLLECTORS SHOWCASE

My Most Valuable Stamp: the Greek 1896 Olympic Chariot

by Andrew Urushima

I am sometimes asked to identify the most valuable stamp in my collection. My answer is not based on cost, but rather on intrinsic value as it is one of the first stamps I acquired when venturing down the path of Olympic philately.

I began collecting as a kid in the 1960's eventually taking aim at Olympic stamps when the Sapporo Olympic Winter Games of 1972 rolled around. I recall my mom would drive me over to Jonathan's Coin and Stamp shop in Inglewood, California where I would happily flip through the counter books of stamps, then rummage in the used stamp bin. Somewhere around that time I decided I just had to have stamps from all of the Olympic Games including the First Games of 1896 in Athens.

A defining moment occurred in 1980, while in high school, when I purchased what I regard as my "most valuable stamp."

Leafing through a philatelic publication of the period – it could have been *Stamps Magazine*, *Linn's Stamp News*, or even the stamp and coin corner in the *Los Angeles Times* newspaper – I ran across a notice for one of George Alevizos' many auctions. In this instance, he was offering a number of stamps from the 1896 Greek Olympic series.

Obtaining a copy of the auction catalog, I pored over its contents from cover to cover. While I was aware that the set comprised twelve values ranging from 1 lepton to 10 drachma, it was clear that the entire series was out of my reach. A mint copy of the 60 lepta stamp depicting a chariot racer in black was just barely within my budget.

Attending the auction in person was a first for me. Waiting for my auction lot to come up seemed like an eternity. I could say the bidding was fierce, but in reality I remember only one other bidder on "my" lot.

Eventually, the hammer fell and for the princely sum of \$14 (I still have the original sales card as proof) I was the proud owner of Greece #124! In



1980 dollars, it consumed nearly three weeks of my allowance – a king's ransom. As Alevizos was not used to taking cash (I don't know many auction houses that do) they had to visit a nearby convenience store to make change!

I was so proud of this purchase that it found an honored place in my first stamp exhibit, "Olympic Host Country Issues." Assembled while still in high school, I entered that exhibit at ORCOEXPO 1980 where it received a youth Gold. Not knowing much about exhibiting, I only showed the exhibit that one time.

In 2013, some 23 years after the purchase of this stamp, I debuted a new exhibit: "Spoiled by War: The Games of the XIIth Olympiad." And once again, that same Greek Olympic charioteer was driving his 4-horse quadriga through my exhibit.

After many fits and starts in my stamp collecting career, this stamp has taken me full circle. 🍀

The original sales card from the Alevizos auction.

Have a story for the **COLLECTORS SHOWCASE**? Jot it down (500-600 words is perfect) and e-mail the text along with a clear digital image of your philatelic item (300 dpi minimum) to me at: markspi@prodigy.net



(Photo: IOC/Arnaud Meylan)

A NEW OLYMPIC COLLECTORS ORGANIZATION IS BORN

by **Mark Maestroni**

After three years of hard work by a nucleus of dedicated collectors in the fields of Olympic philately, numismatics, and memorabilia/pins, a new organization was founded uniting nineteen Olympic and sports collecting groups around the world. As a sign of its continuing support of the Olympic collecting community, the IOC played host to this first General Assembly of AICO – Association Internationale des Collectionneurs Olympiques.

Delegates from 18 of the 19 founding societies gathered in the auditorium of The Olympic Museum on 22 May 2014 to endorse the formation of the new organization as well as elect its first executive board.

Although a completely independent organization run by the member societies, AICO will maintain a relationship with the IOC through the Culture & Heritage Department headed by the current Director of The Olympic Museum, Mr. Francis Gabet. In his opening remarks to the assembly, Mr. Gabet assured the delegates that “AICO will be the heart of the Olympic Fair,” thereby addressing one of the concerns of many collectors.

The draft Statutes for AICO as well as a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AICO and the IOC had been circulated to the societies well in advance of the assembly and were passed by a unanimous voice vote of the delegates.

It was then time to take a vote on who would comprise the first executive board. A total of ten candidates vied for five positions. The first vote was nullified due to a misunderstanding by some delegates as to how to mark their ballots. On a

second try, the assembly selected (in order of number of points awarded): Mr. Christophe Ait-Braham, Association Française des Collectionneurs Olympiques et Sportifs – AFCOS (213); Mr. Gianni Galeotti, Unione Italiana Collezionisti Olimpici & Sportivi – UICOS (210); Mr. Mark Maestroni, Sports Philatelists International – SPI (209); Dr. Roman Babut, The Polish Club of Olympic and Sports Philately “Olympian” (187); and Mr. Branislav Delej, Slovak Society of Olympic and Sports Collectors (186). As the two members with the least number of votes out of the five elected, Dr. Babut and Mr. Delej will each serve a two-year term while the other three members will serve a four-year term. Staggering the terms allows for continuity from one board to the next.

Immediately after the election, the board, along with Mr. David Maiden of the Olympic Philately, Numismatic and Memorabilia Commission, and Ms. Stéphanie Coppex, Networks and IOC Commissions Project Manager, convened its first Executive Board meeting. The first item of business was the election of office bearers. Dr. Babut was selected as AICO’s first President, followed by Mr. Maestroni as First Vice-President. Mr. Galeotti will serve as Second Vice-President, with Messrs. Ait-Braham and Delej filling the positions of Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Ms. Coppex takes the role of the IOC Observer while Mr. Maiden has generously agreed to serve as advisor to the Board.

Over the next few months, AICO will introduce its programs. Look for the launch of a new website, logo and plans for the 2015 Olympic Collectors Fair.

Please join me in wishing this new Olympic collectors organization the best of success! 🍀

INAUGURAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AICO



(Left) The first Executive Board of AICO: Mark Maestroni (USA), First Vice-President; Christophe Ait-Braham (France), Secretary; Roman Babut (Poland), President; Gianni Galeotti (Italy), Second Vice-President; Branislav Delej (Slovakia), Treasurer. (photo: IOC/Arnaud Meylan)

(Right) SPI Delegate, Norman Jacobs, signing the document creating AICO, 22 May 2014 at the Olympic Museum.



(Left) Mr. Francis Gabet, Director of the IOC's Culture & Heritage Department (which includes the Olympic Museum) greeting attendees at the official dinner at the Museum on 24 May 2014.



Official cover (above) and postcard (below) with special rectangular cachet in blue honoring the inaugural AICO General Assembly. Postmarked with the special "1000 Lausanne Philatélie" cancel on 22 May 2014. Thanks to Mr. Jean-Louis Emmenegger for designing all four AICO and Fair philatelic items and arranging for the special cancellations.



XXTH WORLD OLYMPIC COLLECTORS FAIR



(Left) 50-plus dealers were comfortably accommodated in the roomy tent on the Place de Navigation. Below, SOC's new treasurer, David Frome (at left) with SPI board member (and SOC Vice-Chairman) Bob Wilcock.

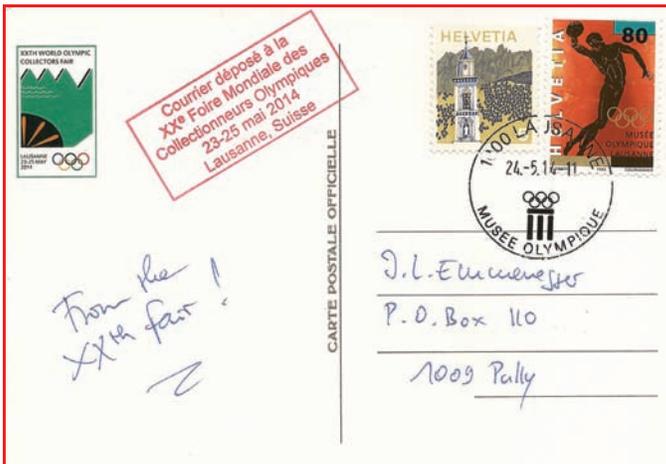


Official postcard (front and back) In honor of the XXth World Olympic Collectors Fair. A special rectangular cachet in red was available at the Fair for visitors to apply to their postcards. The cards were sold by the committee to help defray some of the costs of the Fair. A box was available to deposit mail for the special IOC Museum cancellation.



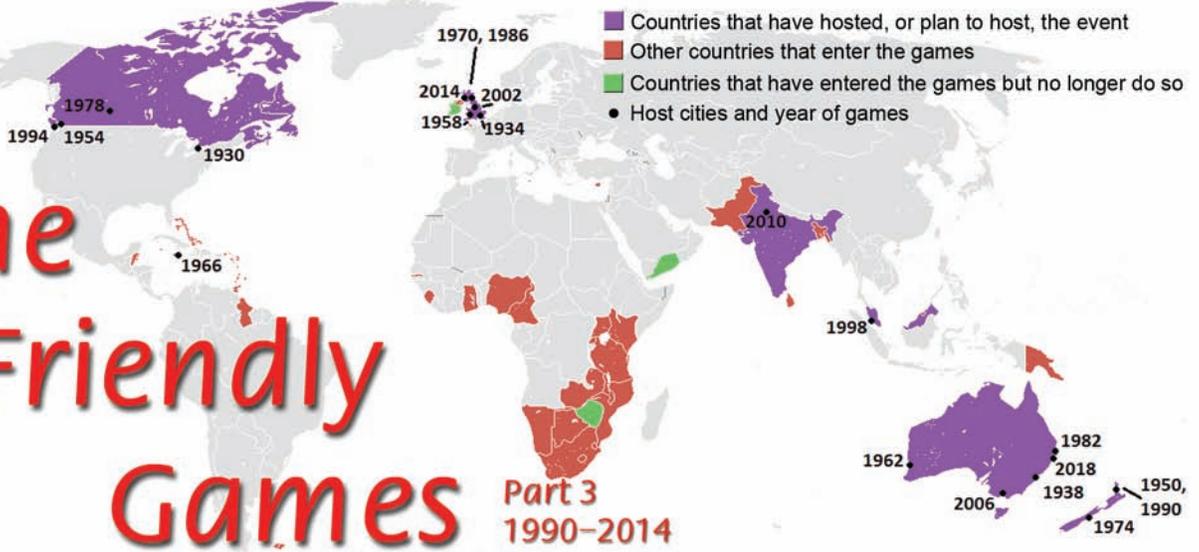
(Left) Fellow tennis collectors, Norman Jacobs and Jean-Pierre Picquot.

(Below) An SPI group shot at the dinner : Norman Jacobs, Thomas Lippert, Nellie Douramakos, Ruth and Bob Wilcock, Stathis Douramakos and Kwok-Yiu Kwan.



The Friendly Games

Part 3
1990-2014



by William Silvester

XIV Commonwealth Games – Auckland

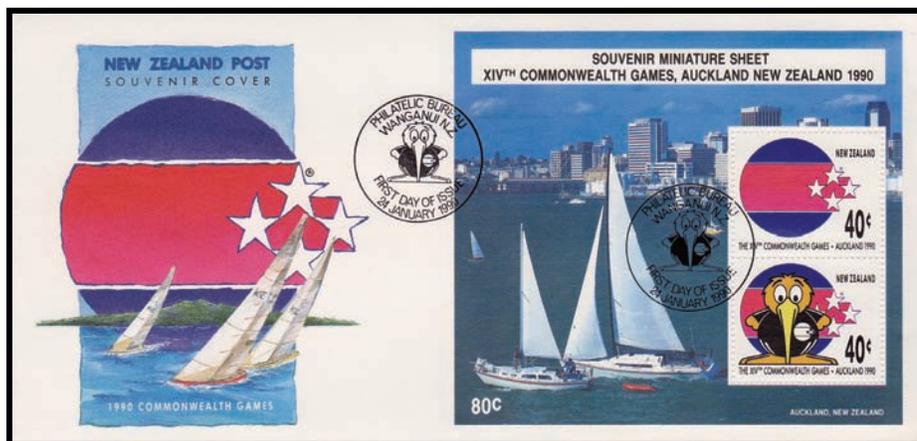
The 1990 games in Auckland, New Zealand were best known for two events which set apart the Commonwealth Games from other international competitions. First, the ecstatic fans of the athletes from tiny Nauru and Jersey watched their heroes win gold for the first time. Second, the grindingly poor nation of Bangladesh received its first gold medal. Only in the atmosphere of the Commonwealth Games would these nations stand a chance to win top honors.

Just three countries issued stamps for these games: New Zealand (Scott 970-977) (Figure 1); Tanzania (Scott 623-727) and Tonga (731-734).

A wide variety of venue handcancels (Figure 2) were available, most of which had the image of the games' kiwi mascot, Goldie, performing a sport.

XV Commonwealth Games – Victoria

The fourth games hosted by Canada were held in Victoria, British Columbia, in 1994. A new set of policies was initiated for these games which will hopefully become Commonwealth Games legacies. For the first time, disabled athletes competed as full members of their national teams including a wheelchair marathon and an 800-meter wheelchair race. More events for women athletes were added to the list of sports and gender testing was eliminated. South Africa, having ended its rac-



Figures 1 & 2. (1990) One of 2 souvenir sheets issued by New Zealand showing the games logo and mascot. At right, a selection of XIVth games venue cancels.



Figures 3 & 4. (1994) Above, Victoria BC FDC with official cancel and venue cancels. Below, a selection of commercial meter slogans – Centra Gas, Neptune Foods and Labatt Breweries – sponsors of the XVth Games.



ial segregation policies, was now back in the Commonwealth and eligible to compete for the first time in 36 years. Hezekiel Sepeng, running the 800 meters, was the first black ever to win a medal for South Africa. The country won a total of eleven medals.

Canada issued a set of stamps (Scott 1517-1522), as did Hong Kong (Scott 703-706) and Nauru (Scott 410).

Canada Post had a logo postmark for its official first day covers and each venue had its own rectangular handcancels (Figure 3).

Two machine cancels were in evidence, one with Victoria BC and the games logo and the generic

POSTAL CODE/CODE POSTAL in the box and another with the generic circular date stamp (CDS) and games information in the box.

Numerous local businesses also took advantage of the games to use the logo on their meter machines (Figure 4) and envelopes. The Hong Kong FDC had a special games logo cancel as well.

XVI Commonwealth Games – Kuala Lumpur

The government of Malaysia had made hosting the 1998 games a national priority. They were larger and more spectacular than Edinburgh, Auckland and Victoria combined. Still Malaysia worked hard to retain the unique flavor of the Commonwealth Games keeping it the only major international multi-sport event in the world after the Olympics as opposed to regional games such as the Pan-American Games, African Games or Asian Games.

Australia finished first in the medal run with 197. Host Malaysia finished fourth, behind England and Canada, with 36 – twenty-nine more than it had won four years earlier.

The only doping case arose when a Pakistani shooter was eliminated for using beta-blockers to lower his heart rate.

The most touching scene was when Canadian Alexandre Despatie, a tiny 13-year-old diver, was hoisted onto the shoulders of Tony Ally, a 6-foot-tall diver from England, after winning a gold medal on the 10-meter platform. For the record, Tony took the bronze on the 3-meter springboard event.

Political unrest marred the event as thousands of protesters, ignoring the visit of the Queen, clashed with police in the biggest outpouring of dissent of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's rule. Helicopters buzzed overhead as police and army reservists clashed with the mobs of protesters.

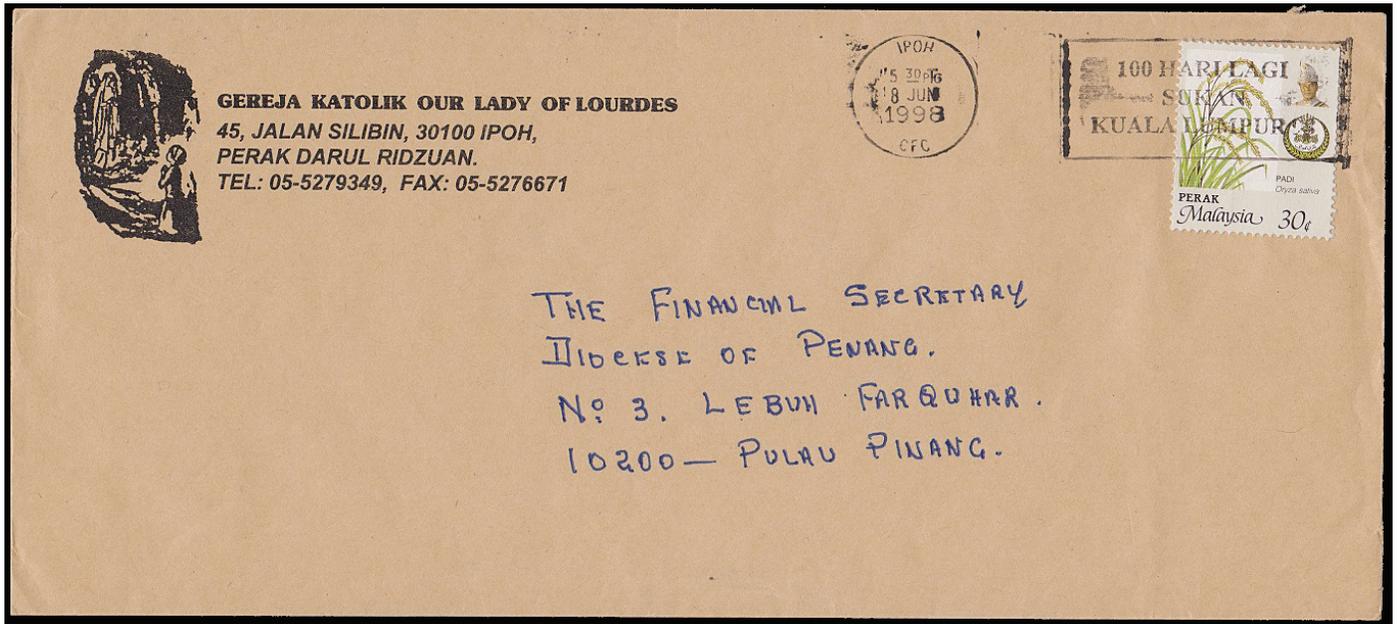


Figure 5. (1998) Malaysian commercial cover showing slogan cancel announcing 100 Days to go until the games.

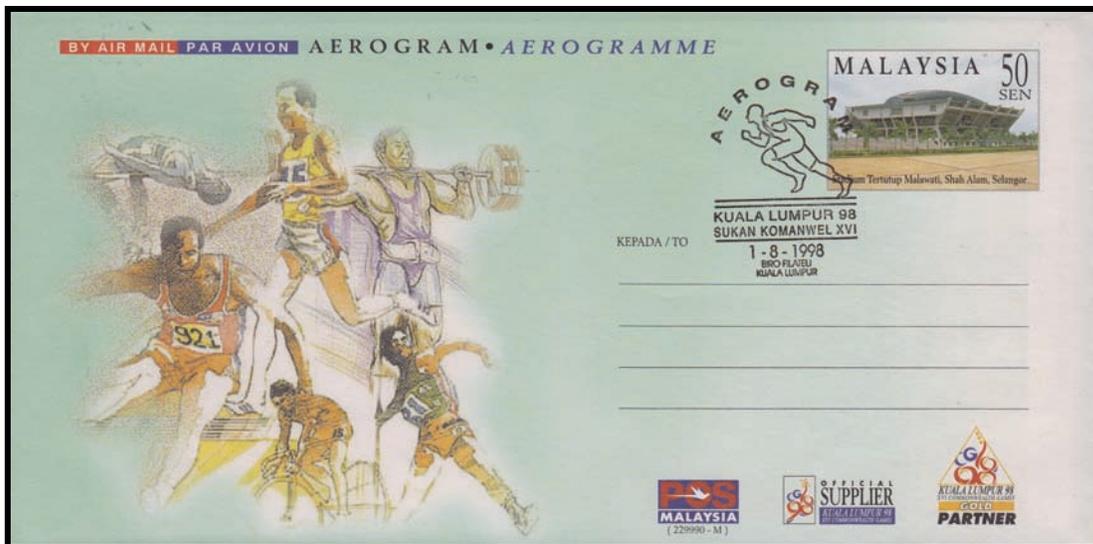


Figures 6 & 7. (1998) Above, pre-games issues started in 1994 as soon as the Victoria games were over. Wira, the games mascot, is shown performing various sports in the gutter between the two stamps. Below, Malaysian aerogramme FDC with special cancel.

Having called out his forces, Mohamad joined the Queen for the closing ceremonies of the Commonwealth Games.

Four nations issued stamps for the 1998 games. Malaysia released a set of stamps every year from 1994 (Figure 6) to 1998 to publicize the games (Scott 523-24, 549-50, 609-10, 650-54, 675a-p); Fiji (Scott 825-29); Nauru (Scott 454-457, 457a); Norfolk Island (Scott 657-660) and Papua New Guinea (Scott 952-955).

The Malaysia post office used a handcancel with Wira, the games mascot, on its early FDC's and also issued a number of colorful aerogrammes (Figure 7). Machine cancels counting down the days until the games appeared periodically (Figure 5). Venue cancels were also available.





Figures 8 & 9. (2002) Above, Royal Mail FDC showing the 4 Great Britain stamps with stop watch cancellation. Below, se-tenant pair of stamps from the British Virgin Islands.



XVII Commonwealth Games – Manchester

Manchester, England hosted the 2002 games in late July and early August and it was the largest to date in the history of the games with 72 participating nations and 3,679 athletes. For the first time in the games history, indeed at any multi-sport event in the world, a limited number of full medal events for elite athletes with a disability were included in a fully inclusive program. The sports which included EAD events were Athletics, Lawn Bowls, Swimming, Table Tennis and Weightlifting.

Great Britain issued stamps (Scott 2059-2063) and stamp postcards for the games (Figure 8), followed by Isle of Man (Scott 942-947), Norfolk Island (Scott 779-782), Tonga (Scott 1070-1073), Virgin Islands (Scott 999a-b) (Figure 9). Australia issued an aerogramme with a pre-printed stamp showing the Australian Commonwealth Games Committee logo. Special fdc cancels were available and numerous Australian covers have been produced congratulating medalists (Figure 10).

XVIII Commonwealth Games – Melbourne

In 2005-06 the Queen's Baton Relay made a 180,000 kilometer journey around the Commonwealth to end at the Opening Ceremony. It was the longest, most inclusive relay, traveling to all 71 nations of the Commonwealth in 1 year and 1 day.

In gymnastics, Canadian Alexandra Orlando completed the rhythmic gymnastics competition having won seven gold medals – a gold in every rhythmic gymnastics event – to become the fourth competitor to win six gold medals at a single Commonwealth Games.

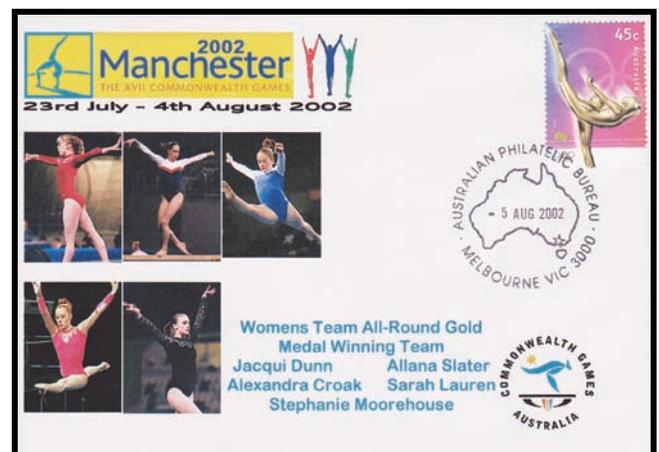


Figure 10. (2002) Australian Philatelic Event Cover for Manchester Games celebrating Australian medalists.



Figures 11 & 12. (2006) At left, Australian Commonwealth Games champions were celebrated on 17 panes of stamps throughout the games. Above, Australia issued a set of 3 stamps plus a souvenir sheet on opening day.

The Kenyan women, Lucy Wangui and Evelyn Nganga, won gold and silver respectively in the 10,000 meter run. Wangui overtook Nganga in the final straight, after Nganga attempted to break away.

Australia issued a record number of stamps for these games in continuing the practice of honoring Australian gold medalists with a personalized stamp (Figure 11). Australia Post introduced this for the 2000 Olympic Games held in Sydney and it has become a tradition ever since for both the Olympic Summer and Winter Games.

Along with a set and souvenir sheet issued on opening day (Figure 12 – Scott 2455-57a), a single in sheet and self-adhesive form (Scott 2452-53) depicting the games logo, Australia Post outdid itself with 17 souvenir sheets, with 5 to 10 stamps, showing gold medal winners and the opening and closing ceremonies. They also issued pre-stamps postal cards and prestige booklets.

Norfolk Island issued a se-tenant pair commemorating the Queen’s Baton Relay (Scott 866a-b) and a set of three for the games (Scott 867-869). One interesting cover that emerged from these games was in tribute to the Royal Australian Navy for their part in Operation Acolyte, maritime support to the Commonwealth Games (Figure 13).

XIX Commonwealth Games – Delhi

In October 2010, Delhi welcomed a total of 6,081 athletes from 71 Commonwealth countries competing in 21 sports and 272 events, making it the largest Commonwealth Games ever. Preparation for the games received widespread international media attention, with criticism being leveled against the organizers for issues related to security and hygiene and the slow pace of work.

Host nation India finished second overall, its best performance to date. Fiji had been suspended from the Commonwealth and did not attend but Rwanda fielded a team for the first time since it became a member in 2009.

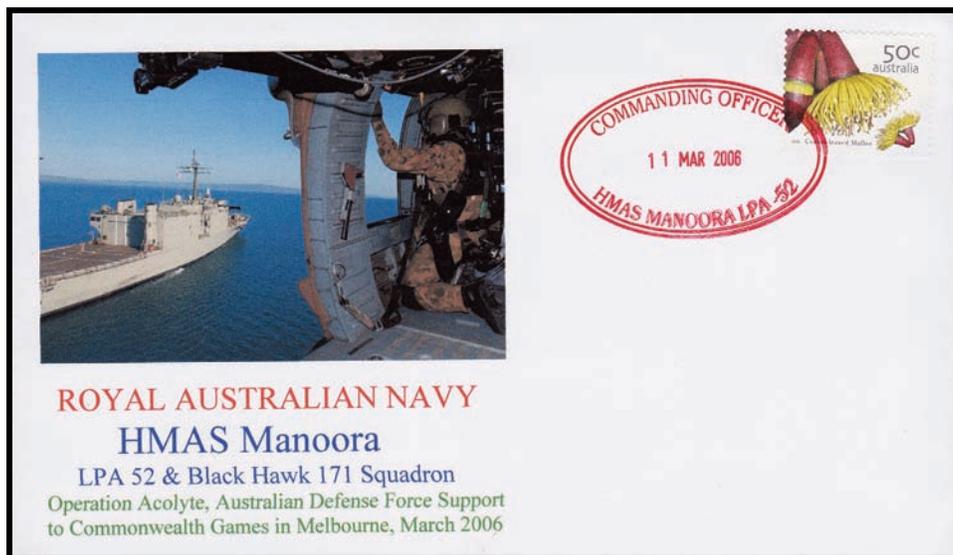


Figure 13. (2006) Commemorating Operation Acolyte with a Royal Australian Navy Defense Force cover.



Figures 14 & 15. (2010) Above, SHERA, the Delhi Games mascot. At right, one in a series of Queen's Baton Relay covers following the progress of the Queen's Baton through India.



India began issuing stamps for the Commonwealth Games in 2008 with a single and a souvenir sheet (Scott 2263). A set of two and a souvenir sheet were issued for the Queen's Baton Relay (Scott 2430-2431a) showing a route taken by the runners around the world (Figure 14). Two stamps and a souvenir sheet showing the games stadiums were issued in August (Scott 2438-39a) and a final strip of four and souvenir sheet were issued on the first day of the games (Scott 2447-2450a).

Gibraltar issued its first games souvenir sheet (Scott 1251), while Guernsey released a set of six (Scott 1105-1110). Mozambique sold a sheetlet of eight and a souvenir sheet (Scott 2149, 2156) and Papua New Guinea came out with a set of four, souvenir sheet of one and a sheetlet of 4 (Scott 1486-1491).

Special cancels were available with the FDC's and a series of handcancels for each city in India on the baton relay circuit were used.

XX Commonwealth Games – Glasgow

The 2014 games will return to Great Britain for the sixth time since their inception with the city of Glasgow, Scotland playing host from 23 July to 3 August. A record 22 para-sport events will be contested in five different sports with para-track cycling being held for the first time. Among new disciplines on the Commonwealth Games program are the triathlon mixed relay event, women's boxing and more shooting medal opportunities for women.

The Commonwealth has come a long way since the birth of the British Empire Games in 1930. Only eleven nations participated in the first Hamilton, Ontario Games. Today, 71 are eligible to take part.

The Commonwealth Games are an experience of a lifetime. Not only is there the thrill of athletic competition but also the unique cultural coming together of widely divergent cultures, ethnic backgrounds and lifestyles. The games are a legacy which will benefit the nations of the Commonwealth for many years to come.

On the following page you will find a handy checklist of the Commonwealth Games stamps.

Anyone interested in corresponding and sharing information on the philately of the Commonwealth Games, please contact the author via e-mail at wgsilvester@shaw.ca



Figure 16. (2010) Stamps commemorating the XIXth Commonwealth Games and the two stadiums built to accommodate them on a FDC with pictograph handcancel.

Commonwealth Games Stamps Checklist

by William Silvester

I 1930 Hamilton, ON, Canada

No Stamps issued

II 1934 London, England, UK

No Stamps Issued

III 1938 Sydney, NSW, Australia

No Stamps Issued

IV 1950 Auckland, New Zealand

No Stamps Issued

V 1954 Vancouver, BC, Canada

No Stamps Issued

VI 1958 Cardiff, Wales, UK

Great Britain, Scott #338-340

VII 1962 Perth, WA, Australia

Australia, #349-350

Papua New Guinea, #171-173

VIII 1966 Kingston, Jamaica

Jamaica, #254-257, #257a

Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, #164-167

IX 1970 Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

Isle of Man, local set

Gambia, #244-246

Great Britain, #636-641

Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, #217-220

Malawi, #132-135a

Swaziland, #179-182

X 1974 Christchurch, New Zealand

Cook Islands, #372-377

Fiji, #341-343

New Zealand, #547-551

Samoa, #395-398

Tonga, #332-336

XI 1978 Edmonton, AB, Canada

Canada, #757-762

Isle of Man, #1978-139

Kenya, #117-120

Tonga, #419-423, #C239-C243, #C0129-C0131

Turks & Caicos Islands, #355-358, 359

Uganda, #199-202a

XII 1982 Brisbane, QD, Australia

Anguilla, #507-510

Ascension, #321-322

Australia, #842-845, #844a

Falkland Islands, #352-353

Great Britain, #3035 (2012 Jubilee Commemorative)

Guyana, #550

Kenya, #447

Papua New Guinea, #571-574

St. Helena, #376-377

Samoa, #579-582

Solomon Islands, #475-477

Tonga, #524-525

Tristan da Cunha, #318-319

XIII 1986 Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

Great Britain, #1149-1152

Eynhallow, local set of 2

Guernsey, #336-341

Isle of Man, #297-300

Tonga, #632-633

XIV 1990 Auckland, New Zealand

New Zealand, #970-977, #971a-b, #1742 (issued 2001)

Tanzania, #623-627

Tonga, #731-734

XV 1994 Victoria, BC, Canada

Canada, #1517-1522

Hong Kong, #703-706

Nauru, #410

XVI 1998 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Fiji, #825-829

Malaysia, #523-524, #549-550, #609-610,

#650-653, #675a-p

Nauru, #454-457a

Norfolk Island, #657-660

Papua New Guinea, #952-955

XVII 2002 Manchester, England, UK

Great Britain, #2059-2063

Isle of Man, #942-947

Norfolk Island, #779-782

Pabay, local set of 3

Tonga, #1070-1073

Virgin Islands, #999a-b

XVIII 2006 Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Australia, #2385, #2385a, #2452-2453, #2455-57a,

#2459-2475 (17 souvenir sheets)

Norfolk Island, #866a-b (Queen's Baton), #867-869

XIX 2010 New Delhi, India

India, #2263, #2430-31a, #2438-39a, #2447-2450a

Gibraltar, #1251

Guernsey, #1105-1110

Mozambique, #2149, 2156

Papua New Guinea, #1486-1491

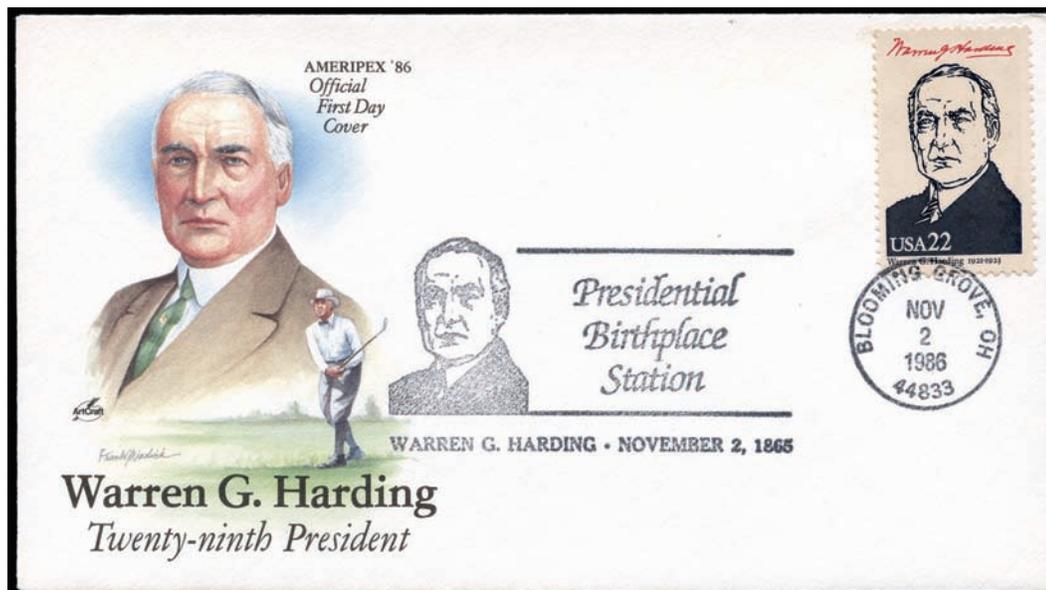


Figure 1. First Day Cover of the Ameripex '86 stamp honoring President Warren G. Harding. The cachet includes an image of a man swinging a golf club – presumably Harding – who was an avid golfer.

Warren Harding, A Golfing United States President

by Patricia Loehr

In the January-February 1998 issue of the *Journal of Sports Philately* (JSP) Norman F. Jacobs, Jr. wrote about “Sports and the Presidency.” The article discussed the physical fitness choices of twentieth century U.S. presidents from Theodore Roosevelt to Bill Clinton. Each president through Lyndon Johnson is represented by their stamp from the Ameripex 1986 American Presidents set. President Warren G. Harding received the briefest write-up as follows: “Warren Harding was also (chronologically he followed president-golfers William H. Taft and Woodrow Wilson) a serious golfer, but lacked the flair or sense of drama of his predecessors.” There is more that could be acknowledged about golfing president Warren Harding.¹

The commemorative cover in Figure 1 is post-marked from Blooming Grove, Ohio on November 2 – Harding’s place and date of birth. When he was seventeen his family moved to Marion, Ohio which remained his hometown throughout his life. Prior to winning election as the 29th President of the United States, Harding served as a United States Senator from 1914 to 1920 representing Ohio. It was during this period that he developed his love for golf.

After casting his ballot in Marion the morning of November 2, 1920 (both election day and his birthday) presidential candidate Harding changed into his golfing attire and traveled south to Columbus to

play at Scioto Country Club. Scioto opened in 1916 so it was a somewhat new club when Harding played there and would, in succeeding years, become well known to the golfing public for hosting a variety of national tournaments. It was also the home course of the Charles Nicklaus family when young Jack Nicklaus was learning the sport. On that day in 1920, his fifty-fifth birthday, Warren Harding won the popular vote by such a large margin it could be described as overwhelming. He went golfing on his post-election vacation trip to Texas and the Panama Canal Zone (Figure 2), which preceded his inauguration in March.

Harding could be described as a mixture of “saint and sinner” when golfing. For example, during the years of prohibition he was known to occasionally indulge in an alcoholic beverage while golfing. Then, sticking precisely to the rules of golf, he would insist on always playing his ball from where it lay. He also liked to wager modest bets with his fellow golfers.

Historians describe him as completing a round of golf in about three hours walking.² Today’s administrators would praise him for his “pace of play.” The April 23, 1921 issue of *American Golfer* carried an article from famous sports writer Grantland Rice entitled “President’s Golf Game: Wherein Your Correspondent and Ring Lardner Mingle in Fast Company over the Chevy Chase Links.” The interpretation of “fast” in the title might refer to Harding’s pace of play and/or his gambling abilities.

The hostilities of the First World War had already ended during the presidency of Woodrow Wilson. However it wasn't until July 2, 1921 that President Harding, while golfing in New Jersey, received a Congressional resolution officially proclaiming an end to the war. As the resolution required his signature he left the course to sign it.

Golf's Golden Age gives an account of President Harding needing a match play golfing partner while in southern Florida during the winter of 1921. By coincidence Jim Barnes the golfer who would become the 1921 United States Open champion was there at the time and agreed to partner with President Harding. Before leaving, the President asked Barnes if he was playing in the Open at Columbia. Barnes replied that yes he was, to which the president responded he would be there. When Harding presented the United States Open trophy to champion Barnes at Columbia Country Club in Chevy Chase, Maryland he called him "partner."

During the Harding presidency in 1922 the United States Golf Association (USGA) began a new national championship. The U.S. Amateur Public Links joined the original three national USGA championships that began in 1895. Several more national championships would follow in future years offering competitive opportunities to several classes of golfers who qualify. By establishing the U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship administrators recognized the advantage of providing public access to the sport similar to in its native Scotland. The U.S. Amateur Public Links trophy is named for President Harding.

President Warren Harding died in San Francisco on August 2, 1923 making his presidency one of the shortest (Figure 3). A memorial³ to him is described in *The Book of Golfers*: "Harding's love of the game was saluted when that city named its 1925 municipal facility Harding Park in his honor."

Former USGA president Frank "Sandy" Tatum wrote in 2012, "... we have the San Francisco City Championship, the oldest continuously played match-play tournament

in the country. The event is played at TPC Harding Park, a public course that provides affordable access to a priceless golf experience."⁴ He continued that, "My involvement in the restoration of Harding Park was stimulated by my understanding of how much public golf matters to the game."

An International team and a U.S. team of professional golfers competed in the Presidents Cup at Harding Park in 2009. The recent 2013 Presidents Cup happened at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio, a club that did not exist when presidential candidate Warren Harding enjoyed golfing at nearby Scioto Country Club almost a century ago.

ENDNOTES

1. This is about Harding's interest in the sport of golf and not about the legacy of his presidency.
2. A regulation round of eighteen holes of golf is, with no prolonged delays, recommended to take approximately four hours. There would be exceptions, for example playing eighteen holes on an executive length golf course.
3. A 2¢ black memorial President Harding stamp was issued on September 1, 1923 (Figure 3).
4. TPC (Tournament Players Club) is a network of public and private golf courses operated by PGA TOUR.

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Figures 2 & 3. (Right) Canal Zone cacheted cover promoting the many sports, including golf, available year-round. (Left) The Harding Memorial stamp issued in 1923.

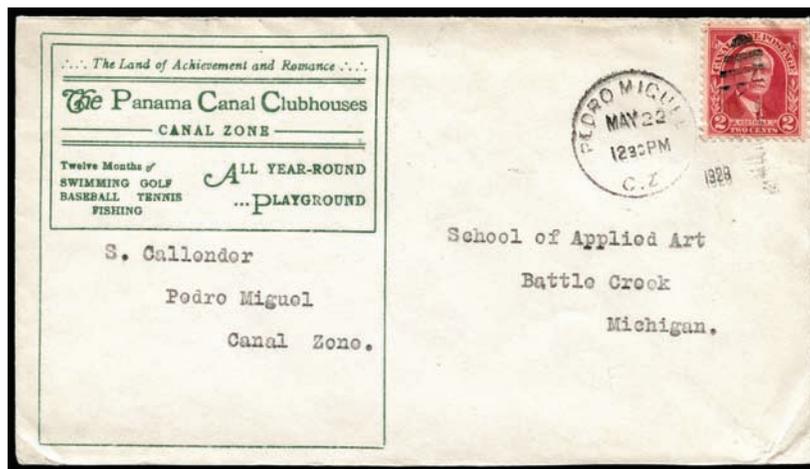




Figure 1. A First Day Cover (12 October 1944) of the 9-stamp set sent locally without registration.

The VII Amateur Baseball World Series

by Norman Rushefsky

On October 12, 1944, Venezuela issued a locally printed set of nine airmail stamps (Scott C189-97) honoring the Amateur Baseball World Series games to be held in Caracas. Each of the stamps was printed in a single color and then overprinted “AEREO” in carmine ink.

Figure 1 shows a First Day Cover (FDC) of the nine values of this set and postmarked 12 October 1944. Relatively few FDCs of this set have a postmark date that is visible because most FDCs were sent registered with blind-date postmarks.

Even though the stamps were printed in relatively low quantities, numerous varieties of each stamp exist. These varieties include fully imperforate, partially imperforate, and with two or more impressions of the stamp design. The “Aereo” overprint also resulted in varieties with multiple impressions of the overprint (Figure 2), as well as inverted examples (Figure 3). Varieties on cover are the exception.

As with other stamps of Venezuela that were printed locally during World War II, relatively small quantities of the two highest values were printed – just 10,000 of the 1.20Bs and 1.80Bs stamps.

While the various philatelic aspects of this set have been reasonably well documented in past issues of the *Journal of Sports Philately* (May 1967 and November/December 1994 issues), the story of the games themselves are quite remarkable.

During the early years of the Amateur World Series games the teams were primarily from the Americas. The Latin American teams were fiercely competitive and victory was of national import. Because of transportation restrictions during World War II, the number of teams able to compete in Caracas was limited.

In the 1944 games, Mexico, Cuba and host Venezuela managed to finish the month-long tournament in a dead heat with a tie-breaking playoff becoming necessary.

Before the tie-breaker games began, one of the officials was removed because of a ruling by him which resulted in the Venezuelan team losing the game. The official was replaced by the Venezuelan authorities (who were responsible for appointing the game officials) with a coach from the Venezuela team – a sure recipe for disaster!

Peter C. Bjarkman relates the rest of this story in his monumental book, *A History of Cuban Baseball, 1864 -2006*:



Figure 2. A cover mailed in 1949 with a block of 4 of the 0.10Bs stamp with double overprints of "AEREO."

"It was a truly bizarre play that brought Cuba's stay at the tournament to an unpredicted end. With a man on first, a Cuban batter was involved in a close play at first in which the pitcher covering the bag dropped the toss from his fellow infielder. The errant heave was surprisingly retrieved by a photographer positioned on the field near first base, and he immediately tossed it to the first sacker who then relayed to third to nail the original Cuban runner coming around from first. When Cuban manager Pipo de la Noval next justifiably protested the unorthodox event he was shockingly informed that photographers were legitimate 'baseball persons' and thus allowed to intervene in on-field action.

Noval angrily withdrew his forces from the competition at the end of the day's play and Mexico next followed suit after another disputed decision a day later. The tournament thus never reached completion, though Venezuela claimed forfeits by both the Cubans and Mexicans and ceremoniously declared themselves controversial champions." (pages 166-167).

Whether due specifically to this event, or because the better Cuban players turned professional, Cuba did not field another team in the Amateur Baseball World Series until 1950.



Figure 3. A January 1945 censored cover. The 1.20Bs stamp exhibits the inverted "AEREO" overprint variety.

REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS

by Mark Maestrone

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

March 2014 (#71). This past December, the Olympic Museum in Lausanne reopened after extensive renovations. Jean-Louis Emmenegger escorts the reader through the various parts of the completely interactive museum including a temporary exhibit, "Sports Images in the Soviet Union in the years 1920-1930." With celebrations in Sochi in full swing, René Christin offers a "cocktail" of Olympic Winter Games meters including one of the first – a German meter for Norwegian Olympic figure skater (and movie star) Sonja Henie applied by the Berlin office of 20th Century Fox studios. Following is another Christin offering on the first Olympic Winter Games at Chamonix, France in 1924.

Part 4 of Manfred Bergman's study of the French "Pasteur" cards from 1924 consists of an annex presenting a brief history of early postal stationery including Olympic-related items prior to 1924.

Also in this issue: coverage of the Prix Olympia awarded to the best stamp issue of the 2012 Olympic Games (Canada's rowing stamp won, with the Greek and Cook Island stamps taking silver and bronze respectively); the return of rugby to the Olympic Games in 2016; and Olympic torches and pins.

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

February 2014 (#161). The independent local posts continue to be an important contributor to sport and Olympic philately in Germany. Wolfgang Marx discusses the postModern Dresden local post from 2008 to 2013. Their first sports-related stamp commemorated the 2008 Bobsleigh and Skeleton World Championships in Altenberg. This was followed by numerous stamps devoted to football, cycling and other winter and summer sports. Also in this issue is a short article on the 1980 Moscow torch relay by Veiko Brandt.

Catalog updates include new stamps, and sport and Olympic postmarks.

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

September 2013 (#87). Giorgio Leccese continues his series on football (soccer) production material with a discussion on the 1960s material from French-speaking nations in Africa such as Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Niger, Chad, and Afars & Issas.

Manfred Bergman takes on the subject of the imperforate 1936 Olympic blocks. "Are they varieties ... printers' proofs ... or generally imperforate," he asks. In this discussion he looks at those imperforate stamps with shifted images, demonstrating that he believes them to be printers' proofs.

A listing of IOC Session philately continues in this issue with the 84th Session/11th Congress in Baden-Baden (1981) through the 90th Session in Berlin (1985). Valeriano Genovese provides updates on the Giro D'Italia cycling. A variety of other sports, including auto racing, tennis, basketball, hockey and baseball are also the subjects of brief articles.

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

May 2014 (Vol.31, #1). Delayed by two months, this issue provides more detail on the postmarks of Sochi including event and torch relay cancels and six Olympic infrastructure postmarks. The latest host country postal stationery cards and stamps are also discussed and illustrated.

Jean-Pierre Caravan provides illustrations of a postcard showing the 1908 US Olympic team and promoting an alumni group of Olympians known as the New Whirlers. Despite research through periodicals of the time, he was able to unearth minimal information on the group.

Bob Wilcock provides some warnings to collectors about 2012 London illegally-obtained trial stamps, and gold medalist postcards with bogus first day cancellation that should be avoided by collectors.

Lastly, Bob Farley delves into the Olympic issues of Guyana and the topic of Pierre de Coubertin.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Mark Maestrone

NEW MEMBERS

Richard E. Linde, PO Box 11299, McLean, VA 22102,
USA. **Track & Field, Baseball, Football (American)**.
E-mail: rlinde1@msn.com

NEW ADDRESSES

George Bardosh: 6557 Somerled Avenue,
Montreal QC, H4V1T1 Canada
Society of Olympic Collectors (new contact point):
c/o Miss Paula Burger, 19 Hanbury Path,
Sheerwater, Woking, Surrey GU21 5RB Great
Britain.

EXHIBITING RESULTS

2014 Sarasota National Stamp Show (WSP). "Lawn
Bowling, Rulers, Rules, Recreation and Results," a

single-frame exhibit by Clemens Reiss, won a Silver
medal and the AAPE Award of Honor.

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).

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NEW STAMP ISSUES

by John La Porta

Albania: August 27, 2013. 18th World Track and Field Championships. Se-tenant pair, 30 l runner; 200 l high jumper. Souvenir sheet with one 250l stamp, pole vaulter.

Argentina: September 14, 2013. International Olympic Committee. Souvenir sheet with two se-tenant 5p stamps. Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics; Argentine flag.

Austria: October 31, 2013. Tyrolean Ski Federation. €0.62 ski jumper.

Belarus: August 14, 2013. Tennis Players. Se-tenant pair, Victoria Azarenka serving; Maxim Mirnyi chasing ball.

Bosnia-Herzegovina (Serb Administration): August 29, 2013. Nevesinje Olympics. Sheet of two 1.50m stamps, horse racing; shot put.

Bulgaria: October 25, 2013. Centenary of Botev-Plovdiv Soccer Team. 65s photo of team.

Burundi: October 15, 2012. London Olympics. Sheetlet of four stamps, 1180f judo; 1190f soccer; 3000f table tennis; 3000f cycling. Souvenir sheet with one 7500f stamp, swimmer.

October 15, 2013. Marilyn Monroe. Souvenir sheet with one 7500f stamp, Monroe and Joe DiMaggio (1914-1999) baseball player.

December 28, 2012. Stock Cars and NASCAR drivers. Sheetlet of four stamps, 1180f 2012 Chevrolet, Tony Stewart; 1190f 1983 Ford, Dale Earnhardt; 3000f 2012 Dodge, Brad Keselowski; 3000f 1957 Oldsmobile, Richard Petty. Souvenir sheet with one 7500f stamp, Chevrolet, Jimmie Johnson.

August 5, 2013. Pierre de Coubertin. Sheetlet of four stamps, 1090f Coubertin, cycling; 1180f diving, running; 3000f hurdling, women's gymnastics; 3000f men's gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics. Souvenir sheet with one 7500f stamp, discus and high jump.

August 20, 2013. Cricket Players. Sheetlet with four stamps, 1020f Travis Birt; 1190f Graeme Swann; 3000f M. S. Dhoni; 3000f Misbah-ul-Haq. Souvenir sheet with one 7500f stamps, Adam Gilchrist.

Canada: February 3, 2014. Pioneers of Winter Sports. Barbara Ann Scott (1928-2012) singles figure skater, 63¢ single in booklets of 10. Sandra Schmirler (1963-2000) skipped one of the most successful teams in Canadian

curling history, 63¢ single in booklets of 10. Sarah Burke (1982-2012) freestyle half-pipe, 63¢ single in booklets of 10. Souvenir sheet with all three stamps.

Central Africa: June 10, 2013. Table Tennis. Sheetlet of four 750fr stamps, Fan Shendong; Patrick Franziska; Koki Niwa; Dimitrij Ovtchorov. Souvenir sheet with one 2,650fr stamp depicting Xu Xin.

June 10, 2013. 150th Anniversary Pierre de Coubertin. Sheetlet of four 900f stamps, track; weightlifting; hurdles; javelin. Souvenir sheets has one 3,000f stamp, high jump.

June 10, 2013. Table Tennis. Sheetlet of four 750f stamps, Fan Zhendong; Patrick Franziska; Koki Niwa, Dimitrij Ovtcharov. Souvenir sheet with one 2650f stamps, Xu Xin.

China: August 15, 2013. Youth Olympic Games. \$1.20 stamp with label, mascot of games.

August 31, 2013. National Games. Two \$1.20 stamps, rhythmic gymnastics; fencing. Souvenir sheet contains the two stamps. Offset in sheets of 12.

September 15, 2013. Table Tennis. Se-tenant pair of \$1.20 stamps, female player executing a loop drive; Jan-Ove Waldner's forehand serve. Joint issue with Sweden. Issued in sheets of 16.

Cocos Islands: June 4, 2013. 50th Anniversary of Cocos Islands Stamps. Set of five stamps, one sport, \$1.00 value windsurfing. Souvenir sheet with all five values.

Colombia: July 28, 2013. Soccer. Medellin Independent Soccer club, 4,500p, emblems.

Croatia: November 5, 2013. Faros Swimming Marathon. 7.60k swimmers. Printed in sheets of 9 and a label.

Czech Republic: June 6, 2013. Centenary of the First CSOB. 10kc value, rowing eight.

June 12, 2013. 50th Anniversary of the 1962 FIFA World Cup. Postal Card, "Z" rate. The imprinted stamp depicts soccer players. World Cup Final between Czech Republic and Brazil.

September 4, 2013. Whitewater Canoe Slalom World Championships. 10kc racing canoe.

February 5, 2014. Sochi Olympics. 25kc stamps, snowboarder.

February 5, 2014. Sochi Olympics. Paralympics, 13kc stamp, Ice hockey player.

Estonia: December 9, 2013. 90th Anniversary of the Estonian Olympic Committee. €0.45, emblem.

France: June 29, 2013. 100th Anniversary Tour de France. Two stamp sheetlet, €0.80, €0.95 cyclists. This is in addition to previous listing on this date.

October 12, 2013. Stamp Day. Two stamps from this long issue pertain to sports. €0.63 Hang glider and €0.63 Sailboat.

French Polynesia: September 18, 2013. International Federation of Football Association Beach Soccer World Cup. 140fr, sun, waves, soccer ball.

Gambia: July 27, 2012. Muhammad Ali. Boxing Match Oct. 1, 1975 between Ali and Frazier. Sheet of four 40d stamps vertical layout, and sheet of four 40d stamps in block format.

Ghana: September 14, 2010. 2010 World Cup Soccer Championships. Four stamps and sheet of eight stamps. Reported in Scott's Monthly.

Guinea: August 15, 2014. World Rugby Cup. Sheetlet of three stamps, two 15,000fr, Billy Slater; Kurt Gidley; 20,000fr Lance Hohaia. Souvenir sheet with one 40,000fr stamp Darren Lockyer.

Israel: May 26, 2013. Maccabiah Games. 3sh stamp, male athlete and female gymnast leaping. Printed in sheets of 15 with tabs.

Japan: August 25, 2013. 68th National Athletic Meet. Five 80y stamps, Kayak on Tama; Sailboats near Tokyo Gate; Bonin Islands; Tokyo skyline; Tokyo Stadium.

Jersey: October 15, 2013. Nigel Mansell, Formula One & Indy Car Racing Champion. 45p Lotus-Renault; 55p first Formula win; 60p Formula 1 win for Ferrari; 68p Hungarian Grand Prix 1992; 80p Indycar Champion 1993; 88p taxing Ayrton Senna. Also in miniature sheet of 2x3.

Kazakhstan: July 16, 2013. Olympic Champions. Pane of three se-tenant 150t stamps and a label. Boxer Bakhtiyar Artayev; boxer Alexandr Parygin; pentathlete Bakhyt Sarsetbayev.

Korea, North: January 20, 2013. Sports. 30w tennis; 50w cricket; 70w cycling; 90w rugby. Sheet format and booklet.

Liechtenstein: November 11, 2013. Sochi Olympics. 2.60fr stamp, mountain.

Macau: November 8, 2013. 60th Macau Grand Prix. Six se-tenant 2pa stamps showing cars, grandstand and

buildings representing different years, 1954; 1963; 2003. Souvenir sheet with oval 12pa stamp, race cars, buildings. Offset in sheet of 12.

Maldives: November 18, 2013. Brazil 2013 Soccer. Sheetlet of four Rf20 stamps, Marcelo; Fred; Hulk; David Luiz. Souvenir sheet with one Rf60 stamp, Neymar.

November 18, 2013. 150th Anniversary Pierre de Coubertin. Sheetlet of four Rf20 stamps, yachting; running; cycling; boxing. S/s with one Rf60 stamp, Olympic Torch.

December 2, 2013. Formula 1. Sheetlet of four Rf20 stamps, McLaren-Mercedes MP4-24; Force India VJM06, Williams FW35, Ferrari F60. Souvenir sheet with one Rf60 stamp, Renault R28.

Mexico: December 13, 2013. 25th Anniversary National Commission of Physical Culture and Sports. 7p, runner, cyclist, boxer, martial art. Offset in sheets of 15.

Mozambique: June 25, 2013. Sochi Olympics. Sheetlet of four 16MT stamps, speed skating; cross country skiing; hockey; bobsled. S/s with one 175MT stamp, biathlon.

Monaco: January 30, 2014. Sochi Olympics. €1.78 stamp, bobsled and downhill skiing.

September 25, 2013. 150th Anniversary Pierre de Coubertin. Sheetlet of four 46MT stamps, Coubertin; table tennis; BMX cycling; judo. S/s with one 175MT stamp equestrian.

September 25, 2013. Brazil 2013. Sheetlet of four 46MT stamps, Fred; Hulk; Julio Cesar; David Luiz. Souvenir sheet with one 175MT stamp, Neymar.

Myanmar: September 2, 2013. 27th Southeast Asia Games. Four se-tenant 100k stamps, logo with symbolic man; golden owl mascot; mascots participating in different sports, volleyball, soccer, archery, kayaking; four 500k stamps, same designs. Offset in sheets of 50 and miniature sheets of eight.

Niger: July 1, 2013. Table Tennis. Sheetlet of four 750fr stamps, Zhang Jike; Ding Ning; Ma Long; Xu Xin. Souvenir sheet with one 750fr stamp Timo Boll.

September 30, 2013. Cricket Players. Sheetlet of four 750fr stamps, Inzamam-ul-Hag; Malcolm Marshall; Sanath Jayasuriya; Sachin Tendulkar. Souvenir sheet with 2,500fr, Andrew Flintoff.

Paraguay: 2013. Rubio Nu Soccer Club. A se-tenant pair of stamps, 1,400g the team playing; 6,000g team photograph

Russia: June 13, 2013. Sochi Winter Games. Three 25r stamps, two-man bobsled; Nordic combined; pairs figure shaking. Printed in sheets of 8 with a central label.

August 10, 2013. 18th International Track and Field Ch. One 14.25r stamp, runners and emblem.

St Thomas and Prince Island: September 10, 2013. Soccer. Brazil 2013. Sheetlet of four 25,000Db stamps, various soccer scenes. Souvenir sheet with one 96,000Db stamp Sergio Ramos and Hulk.

San Marino: October 9, 2013. 10th Anniversary Rally Legend. Se-tenant pair of €1 stamps, Lancia Delta, emblem; Volkswagen Golf, emblem.

Slovakia: January 15, 2014. Sochi Olympics. €0.90 biathlon shooting.

January 15, 2014. Sochi Olympics. Paralympics. 0.90€ stamp depicting downhill skiers.

Slovenia: January 21, 2014. Sochi Olympics. 64c ski jumping; 97c ice hockey. With a central label. Printed in sheets of six with three labels.

Solomon Islands: August 30, 2013. Mark Alan Webber. Sheetlet of four \$7.00 depicting F1 race car driver. S/s with \$35.00 stamp, Webber and race car.

South Africa: July 29, 2013. Transplant Games. Pane of 10 nondenominated "airmail postcard" stamps, badminton; volleyball; cycling; javelin throw; running; table tennis; relay; tennis; shot put; jumping hurdles.

Sweden: September 27, 2013. Table Tennis. S/s with two 6k stamps, women player; man player.

March 27, 2014. Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Captain of Sweden's National Soccer Team. Set of five stamps showing action scenes.

January 16, 2014. Sporting Events. 6k stamps, Vasaloppet 90-k cross-country skiing race; Lidingoloppet 30-k race; Vansbrosimninger 3-k swimming race; Vatternrundan 300k bicycle race; Engelbrekksloppet 60-k cross-country skiing. Booklet stamps. Vert. strip of 5 and pane of 10.

Togo: June 10, 2013. First Olympic Medalist of Togo. Sheetlet of four triangular 750fr stamps, s/s with 2,500fr stamp, slalom kayaker Benjamin Boukpeti.

June 10, 2013. Sports. Sheetlet of four triangular 750fr stamps, souvenir sheet with one 2,500fr stamp, golfers, Gary Player, Arnold Palmer, Sam Snead, Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods.

June 10, 2013. Sheetlet of four triangular 750fr stamps F1 world champions, Sebastian Vettel, Michael Schumacher, Mika Hakkinen, Ayrton Senna, Fernando Alonso. S/s with one 2500fr stamp.

June 10, 2013 Benjamin Boukpeti. First Togo athlete to win Olympic Medal. Sheetlet of four 750fr stamps and one

souvenir sheet with one 2500fr stamp, all depicting Boukpeti in action.

July 22, 2013. Sochi Olympics. Pane of three 950fr stamps, bobsled; hockey; ice dancing. Souvenir sheet with one 2,500fr stamp, snowboarding. Three deluxe sheets each with the same stamp and values as the pane.

November 11, 2013. Table Tennis: Pane of four 3000fr stamps, Zhang Jike; Ding Ning; Xu Xin; Jan-Ove Waldner. Souvenir sheet with one 2500fr stamp, Kong Linghui.

November 11, 2013. World Championships in Athletics in Moscow, August 2013. Pane of four 3000fr stamps track; high jump; pole vault; hurdles. Souvenir sheet with one 2500fr stamp, Usain Bolt.

November 11, 2013. Cricket: Pane of four 3000fr stamps, Sachin Tendulkar; Viv Richards; Brian Lara; Andrew Flintoff. Souvenir sheet with one 2500fr stamps, Jacques Kallis.

Uganda: July 8, 2013. Famous Athletes of African Origin. Four panes of four stamps, 1,000s, 4,000s, two 7,500s souvenir sheets with 7,500s tennis players Venus and Serena Williams; boxers Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali, Joe Louis, Shannon Briggs and George Foreman, Mike Tyson and Evander Holyfield, Floyd Patterson, Olympians Jesse Owens, Abebe Bikila, Maria Mutola, Derartu Tulu, Stephen Kiprotich; three panes of four stamps, two 1,800s two 7,500s and souvenir sheets with 7,500s soccer players Roger Milla, Nwankwo Kanu, Abedi Pele, Samuel Eto'o, Didier Drogba, basketball players, Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, Charles Barkley, Karl Malone; baseball players Willie Mays, Dan Bankhead, Satchel Paige, Larry Doby, Jackie Robinson.

United Arab Emirates: July 5, 2013. Fazza Heritage Championships. 1dh diving championship; 1.50dh.

November 5, 2013. Abu Dhabi Triathlon. 3dh runners, bicyclist, swimmer. Offset in sheets of 10.

Uruguay: December 11, 2013. Rampia Juniors Soccer Club. 15p, three men and emblem. Printed by offset in sheets of eight stamps and a label.

Uzbekistan: June 27, 2013. Summer Universiade. Set of two 1500s stamps, judo; fencing.

Vietnam: March 1, 2013. Vovinam Martial Arts. Set of three depicting martial arts, 2000d; 6500d; 8500d.

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.

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14317-675.
Boxing: 14608-130.
Cycling: 14125-320.
Fishing: 14506-795, 14601-057.
Football: 14119-802; 14202-070.
Horse Racing: 14517-212.



14119-802 Denver, CO 19



14125-320 White Springs, FL 25



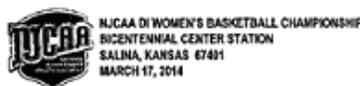
14202-070 East Rutherford, NJ 2



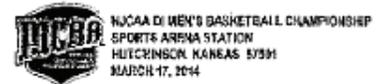
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