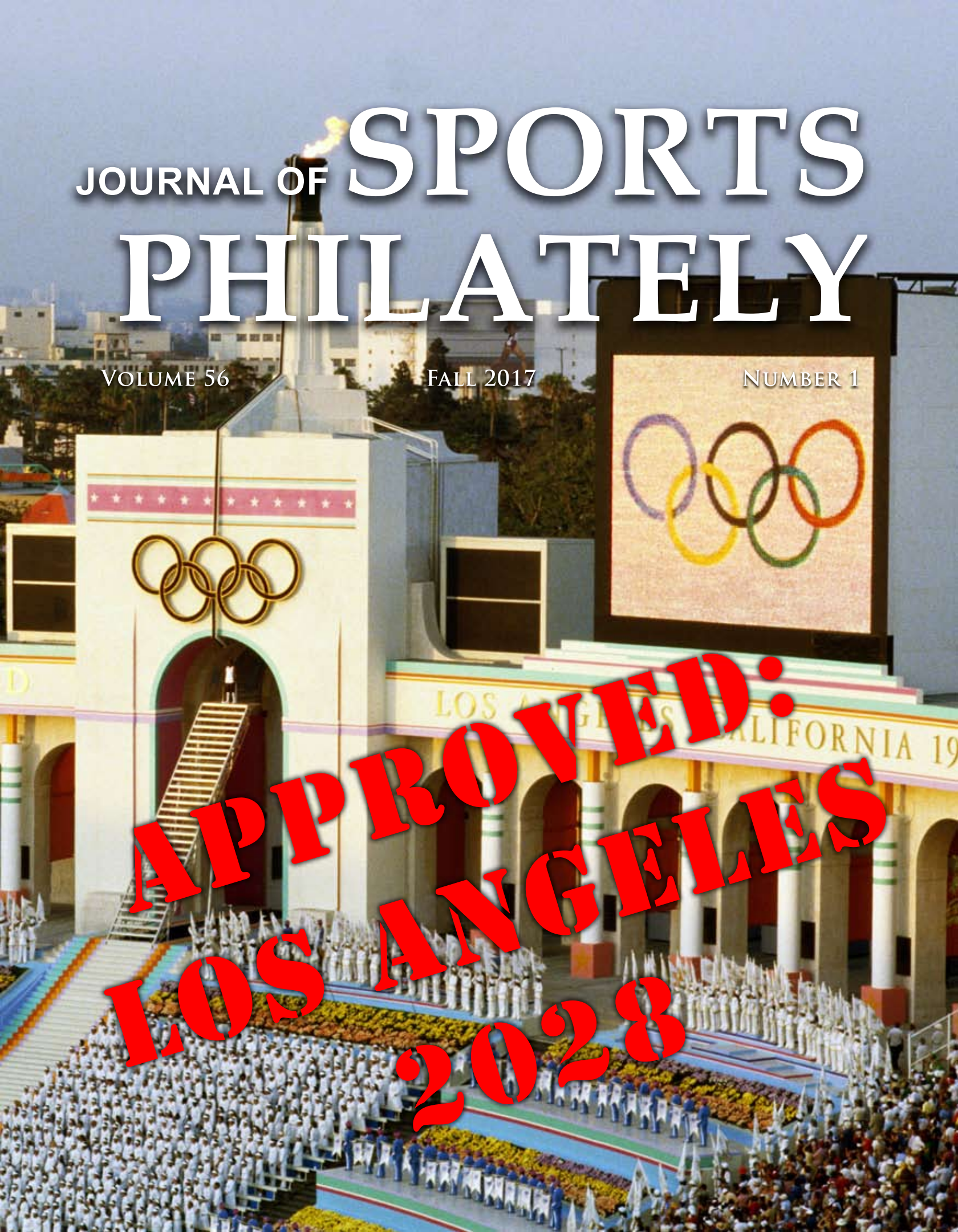


# JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

VOLUME 56

FALL 2017

NUMBER 1



**APPROVED:  
LOS ANGELES  
2028**





# Sports Philatelists International

**VOLUME 56  
NUMBER 1  
FALL 2017**

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Sports Philatelists International is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the study and collecting of postage stamps and related collateral material dealing with sports (including Olympics) and recreation and to the promotion of international understanding and goodwill through mutual interest in philately and sports. Its activities are planned and carried on entirely by the unpaid, volunteer services of its members.

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**On the cover:** The iconic peristyle of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum decked out in "Festive Federalism" for the Lighting of the Olympic Cauldron during the Opening Ceremony of the Games of the XXIII<sup>rd</sup> Olympiad on 28 July 1984. On 13 September 2017, the International Olympic Committee, at its 131<sup>st</sup> Session in Lima, Peru, selected Los Angeles to again host the Olympic Games. The Coliseum will figure prominently in the ceremonies and athletic events during the Games of the XXXIV<sup>th</sup> Olympiad from 21 July through 6 August 2028.

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

## New SPI Branding!



For over five decades, our distinctive blue logo with the “SPI” acronym embracing the eastern and western hemispheres of the globe, represented our society’s membership around the world. However, with the emergence of modern new communication platforms – computers, smartphones and tablets – reproduction of our logo was no longer limited to just the printed page. Digital versions of the logo appeared muddy and ill-defined. In short, we lost the ability to adequately express our identity. It was time for a change!

Working with graphic artist and stamp collector, Jim Sulsona, of Laughing Palm, Inc., the board approved a new logo which we believe will provide a modern, more effective visual identity for SPI.

In combining a simplified representation of the world with a framework of stamp perforations, it is clear we are a global philatelic organization. The green laurel branch at the center of the image symbolizes our Olympic heritage, while the color gold is the embodiment of excellence in sports – and philately!

There are two versions of the logo which we will be using. In the larger of the two, our name is spelled out in italic characters – perfect for the banner of our journal’s title page (see the inside front cover of the journal on the facing page). A more compact version, shown above, will be available for situations with limited space requirements. The laurel branch is our stand-alone emblem featured on our website’s favicon (the small icon in your web browser’s address bar or bookmark list).

We hope that our members approve of our new branding, and we encourage those of you with your own websites to display our new logo (available shortly from our website’s banner page).

Speaking of our SPI website, that, too, is undergoing a complete makeover (as I have time to work on it). Stay tuned!

## IOC Awards Two Olympic Games

Unless, like Rip Van Winkle, you’ve been napping under a tree for the past year, it has not passed your notice that the International Olympic Committee, on September 13, elected not one, but *two*, Olympic host cities. Paris will present the 2024 Olympics, while Los Angeles, California welcomes the Games in 2028. Coincidentally, this will be the third time the Olympic Games has visited each city: Paris in 1900 and 1924, and Los Angeles in 1932 and 1984.

An article on page 2 of this issue reviews the chronology of how Los Angeles rose from just another USOC bid city applicant for 2024, to be the sole candidate for the 2028 Olympic Games.

## 2017 World Olympic Collectors Fair Bratislava, Slovakia

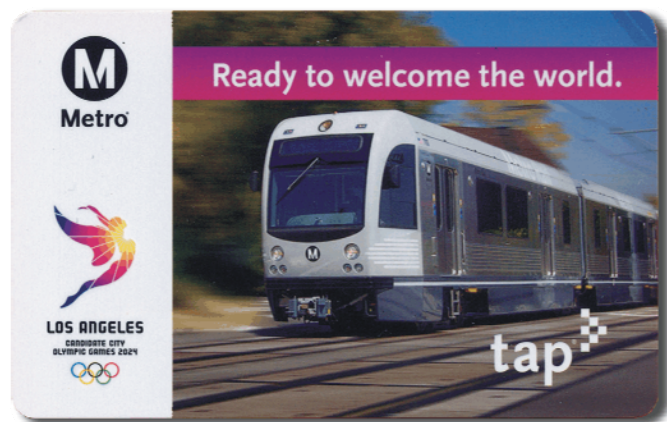
September was a busy month as we also celebrated the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Olympic Collectors Fair in Bratislava, Slovakia. The 3-day event was held at the NH Bratislava Gate One Hotel from 8-10 September.

The Fair is an annual event for Olympic collectors of all stripes – stamps, coins, pins and memorabilia. In cooperation with AICO (the International Association of Olympic Collectors) and the IOC’s Culture and Olympic Heritage Commission, Bratislava 2017, was organized by the Slovak Society of Olympic and Sports Collectors, with the support of the Slovak Olympic Committee and the Slovak Olympic and Sports Museum. A full report begins on page 15.

## SPI 2024 Olympic Covers

The recent “Have a Ball” stamps issued by the U.S. Postal Service on 14 June presented a perfect opportunity to celebrate the Los Angeles bid for the (then) 2024 Olympic Games. A limited number of six different cacheted covers were created matching a ball stamp with its proposed Olympic venue, and cancelled with the USPS’s color laser FD postmark. Visit page 32 for ordering instructions.





# It's a done deal: Los Angeles gets the 2028 Olympic Games!

by Mark Maestroni

**W**ho would have thought that after the collapse of Boston's campaign to win the 2024 Olympic Games that Los Angeles, California would step into the breach – AGAIN – with the sole bid for the 2028 event?

It wasn't so long ago – well in fact 1978 – that Los Angeles bailed out the International Olympic Committee as the only city willing to host the Games of the XXIII<sup>rd</sup> Olympiad! The 1984 Olympics turned out to be a game changer for the Olympic Movement by proving that it was possible to self-finance the mega-event without public money. By using existing facilities, leveraging the Olympic brand through corporate sponsorships, and maximizing revenue from the sale of television rights around the world, the Los Angeles Games not only paid for themselves, but turned a handsome \$250 million profit.

Los Angeles took a most circuitous path in winning the Games of the XXXIV<sup>th</sup> Olympiad.

## Timeline: 2028 Los Angeles Olympics bid\*

**16 December 2014:** US Olympic Committee (USOC) announces four finalists: Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

**8 January 2015:** USOC picks Boston as the US bid city for the 2024 Olympic Games.

**27 July 2015:** Boston withdraws 2024 bid.

**1 September 2015:** Los Angeles selected by USOC, joining Budapest, Hamburg, Paris and Rome.

**29 November 2015:** Hamburg withdraws.

**16 February 2016:** LA 2024 introduces its slogan, "Follow the Sun," and bid logo.

**11 October 2016:** Rome suspends bid; eventually withdraws.

**8 December 2016:** IOC president Thomas Bach doesn't rule out awarding both the 2024 and 2028 Olympics in 2017, saying the current bidding process produces "too many losers."

**22 February 2017:** Budapest withdraws, leaving only Paris and Los Angeles.

**February-March 2017:** Paris 2024 co-bid chief Tony Estanguet says Paris will only accept the 2024 Olympics. Los Angeles leaves its options open.

**4 May 2017:** LA 2024 chairman Casey Wasserman says city will not renew bid if it does not receive an Olympic Games this summer.

**9 June 2017:** IOC executive board recommends awarding 2024 and 2028 Olympics at same time to Paris and Los Angeles (order to be decided).

**11 July 2017:** IOC approves awarding both the 2024 and 2028 Olympics, one to Paris, the other to Los Angeles.

**31 July 2017:** Los Angeles announces that an agreement with the IOC has been reached to withdraw 2024 bid in favor of 2028.

**13 September 2017:** At the 131st IOC Session in Lima, Peru, Paris and Los Angeles are unanimously elected hosts of the 2024 and 2028 Olympic Games, respectively.





Seven pins were issued to promote Los Angeles as the 2024 Candidate City (the oval pin at bottom center was also issued in domed plastic). The gold pin (bottom right) is the only 2028 bid pin. (Images courtesy Craig Perlow)

The timeline reveals a new wrinkle in the Olympic bid process, namely that it's no longer good enough for a city to present a great bid "on paper." Of equal, or perhaps paramount, importance is that a candidate city has the backing of the vast majority of its residents. This lack of overt support from the populace is what terminated the bids from Hamburg, Rome and Budapest, as well as that of the original U.S. candidate city, Boston.

Much has been written about the two finalists, Paris and Los Angeles, and how each jockeyed for position during the final phase of bidding.

Paris insisted that it could only bid for the 2024 Games due to agreements it had negotiated and upon which its bid heavily relied. In particular, the land upon which an Olympic Village would be built was available only for a Paris 2024 Olympics.

Los Angeles had no such restrictions and thus was in a more flexible situation. However, L.A. bid chief, Casey Wasserman, made it very clear to IOC President Thomas Bach that it would not countenance losing out completely. The solution, hatched by Bach, was to award both the 2024 and 2028 Games at the same time.

The remaining sticking point: which city would get which Games. According to the IOC Charter, the decision was still up to the IOC members. Bach, however, wanted to avoid having a winner (2024) and a loser (2028). After negotiating with the L.A. bid group, the IOC sweetened the pot. In exchange for agreeing to withdraw its bid for the 2024 Games in favor of being the sole candidate for 2028, the IOC promised at least \$1.8 billion to the Los Angeles organizing committee and advance payments of

\$180 million to "compensate the local committee for the extra four years it must work." Finally, an up front payment of \$160 million for youth sports programs was promised.

## Branding

The logo for the Los Angeles 2024/2028 candidacy features a flying angel (Los Angeles is known as the "City of Angels") rendered in a gradient of yellows, oranges, and purples, colors which fill L.A. skies during sunrise or sunset. The white lines radiating from a central point evoke the warm rays of the sun which shine on Los Angeles 284 days a year.

The figure of the angel is decidedly female and athletic, resembling a gymnast sticking a landing. [I am, however, reminded of Tinker Bell, the fairy from "Peter Pan" – apt for the Film Capital of the World.]

From a collectibles perspective, there is very little available. The only philatelic items are the six cacheted First Day Covers which SPI produced for the "Have a Ball" stamps issued on 14 June (see page 32 for details). Each cachet depicts a different venue projected for the 2024 (now 2028) Olympics.

An early supporter of the L.A. bid has been METRO, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Transportation during the Olympics is always an important, and with L.A. a contentious, element of a candidate city's plan. Los Angeles has been slowly building a subway system linked to its extensive county-wide transit network. Like many major cities they offer so-called "TAP cards" which one loads with cash. By "tapping" the card against a sensor plate, the user's fare is debited from the balance on the card.

A special limited edition TAP card was produced by METRO featuring the logo of the 2024 LA bid committee (top of facing page). These were available beginning on 8 July from vending machines at certain transit stations near proposed Olympic venues as well as from three transit offices.

T-shirts and other ephemera are ubiquitous for candidate cities, and Los Angeles is no different. Memorabilia also included pins (see above left). HONAV created a series of four eye-catching surfboard-shaped pins emblazoned with the Los Angeles 2024 logo, along with two simple logo pins. At the official announcement of the agreement on 1 August, a rush-job 2028 gold pin was spotted on VIP lapels – only 50 were made!

\*Source: [olympics.nbcsports.com/2017/07/31/la-2028-olympics-timeline](https://olympics.nbcsports.com/2017/07/31/la-2028-olympics-timeline)

# PARIS 1924

## I OWE YOU

by Manfred Bergman

**O**n 14 May 2017, the new French President, Emmanuel Macron, took office. That same day, the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) selection committee visited Paris to perform a final inspection of the venues put forth in the city's bid to host the Olympic Games in 2024. The odds for Paris to be awarded the 2024 Games appeared good.

2024 Olympic Games in Paris? It reminded me that I owe Paris and 1924 Olympic Games philately. It was thanks to the 1924 French Olympic stamps that I became a member of the international philatelic community. Although I had been interested in the Olympics and its philately since 1936, I was a "lone ranger" and not involved in clubs or exhibitions.

Then in 1967, I received an invitation to be part of a jury to select official postcards for the forthcoming VERSO MEXICO 1968 exhibition in Riccione, Italy. I had no idea why I had been invited, but found out much later that it was due to a mistaken identity – I was being confused with a Björn Bergman.

So, merrily I went to Riccione to fulfill my task on the jury. During the run-up to the exhibition, I had been bombarded by letters, cables and phone calls, asking me to participate in the 1968 exhibition. Having had no experience in exhibiting, no knowledge of the rules, nor how to mount an exhibit, I declined. Eventually, though, I relented and mounted a 120-page exhibit of the 1924 Olympic set.

Why just 1924? Why not an extract of all Olympic Games? In 1965, Bernard Behr, a well-known dealer in Paris, offered me a lot of 25 different proofs of the 1924 set. I thought this would be a good start for an exhibit. Furthermore, I extended the exhibit by adding other Olympic items that were inspired by the themes represented on the 1924 stamps. It turned out to be the first step in moving away from the traditional way of presenting the stamps, evolving into a more thematic display.

To my surprise, the exhibit was awarded two gold medals – one for the exhibit and one for the best 1924 exhibit. The latter award was donated by



Figure 1. La Poste, the French postal administration, issued a stamp honoring the 2024 Paris candidacy. The 0.73€ stamp repeats the candidate motto, "Venez partager" (Come share). The attached tab depicts the official Paris 2024 logo repeated on the special first day postmark (13 May 2017) as well as on the corner card of the envelope. Note the printed inscription at lower left announcing the IOC Evaluation Commission visit from 14-16 May 2017.

(courtesy R. Christin)

Henri Trachtenberg who intended it for his client, Mr. L., who indeed pre-sented a good 1924 exhibit. It was the first time that I met Henri, who in the beginning did not think it possible for a collector unknown to him to possess 25 proofs of the 1924 Olympic stamps. The picture (Figure 2) shows me in the company of Toto Caruso (Grand Prix 1968) and Nino Barberis († 2015). Nino was Vice Chair of the jury, an athlete and one of the best, if not *the* best, Olympic and thematic juror. He was also instrumental in my becoming the jury secretary of many exhibitions.

So, I owe Paris a debt, which I hope will be repaid with this article. The Games in 2024 in Paris will be Paradise Regained (a poem composed by John Milton in 1771) after 100 years (Figure 1). It should also, it is hoped, revamp philatelists' interest in both the old and the new. By "old" I mean, obviously, 1924 philately, whose many facets have been, for the most part, well-researched and published. A few enigmas still remain unresolved; hopefully this article will put them to rest.

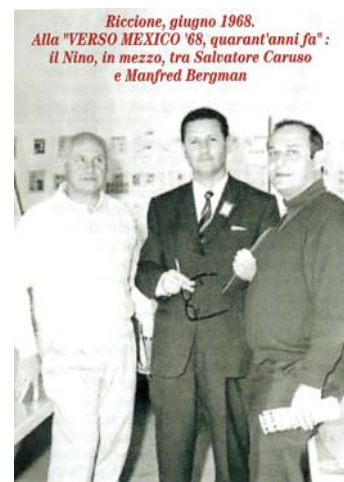


Figure 2 (left to right). Salvatore Caruso, Nino Barberis, and the author at VERSO MEXICO '68.

## "This Is My Way" – My Philatelic Motto & Credo



*"Yes, there were times, I'm sure you knew  
When I bit off more than I could chew  
But through it all, when there was doubt  
I ate it up and spit it out  
I faced it all and I stood tall  
And did it my way"*

Why did I choose the 50c value from the set of four 1924 Olympic stamps? My first contact with the French Olympic stamps was in 1940. In a library shop, I purchased a set of the French Olympic stamps, overprinted "Syrie" (Figure 3). The set is still in my collection. But again, why the 50c stamp?

Over the years, I developed my motto which says "Philately does not commence with a stamp or its usage – it ends with it. Philately commences with a sketch and ends with stamp." The 50c stamp is my way of demonstrating the accuracy of my motto.

In 1945 I met a sports journalist who also collected sport stamps, arranging them adjacent to illustrated postcards of the events on which he had reported. He was an early practitioner of thematic and global philately. My credo became: "Olympic philately is an amalgam of philately and thematics." This article on the 50c stamp is *my way* of spreading my credo by presenting its philatelic aspects (evolution and its unique varieties – Figure 4), as well as thematic attributes (the Olympic salute and the symbols of Olympic victory).



Figure 3. The 50c, overprinted "Syrie".



Figure 4. Rare imperforate variety of the 50c stamp on cover. The stamp was imperforate on three sides, and attached with perforations to the adjacent stamp on the fourth (right) side (those perms were cut off).

The 1924 set, and in particularly the 50c proofs, have whetted the appetite of forgers, both amateur and professional. Alerting our community to such forgeries is *my way* of preventing "bad" acquisitions.

This investigation is also *my way* to prove that philately is almost never a closed door. The solving of the Nîmes stamp enigma is a case in point. I hope that it will be an effective statement of my case.

## The Issuance of the Olympic Set Necessitated the Promulgation of a Special Law

The National Olympic Committee (NOC) of France, taking a page from Greece and Belgium, desired that a set of stamps and a postcard be issued to promote the 1924 Olympics worldwide. The NOC asked the postal administration to issue such a set. The law of 1854 permitted the Post to issue stamps on its own, but only for stamps with unlimited validity. This was not the case for commemorative stamps; a special law had to be enacted for such an issue.

The government submitted a proposal for legislation on 26 June 1923. The Assembly's Commission for Public Works and Communication was charged with examining the proposed bill to avoid budgetary objections. The Commission's report on 7 December 1923 recommended adoption of the bill (Figure 5) based on the following:

- Good publicity, as in Greece and Belgium.
- The NOC would finance the maquettes (preliminary designs) and engraving.
- The government would have no budgetary obligations, and could benefit financially.
- Period of validity: the stamps would be demone-  
tized after 31 December 1924.

Following this report, the Assembly's Finance Commission was asked to give its opinion which it submitted on 13 December 1923 (Figure 6). Its opinion was also positive, pointing out that the sales of the stamps would benefit the Treasury. The Commission did propose one modification: to shorten the period of validity to 30 September 1924 (ignored by the Assembly).

The proposed bill was then sent to the Senate, as directed in the constitution. The Senate Commission for Commerce, Industry, Works and Post, was asked to examine the proposed bill for the issuance of the Olympic set.



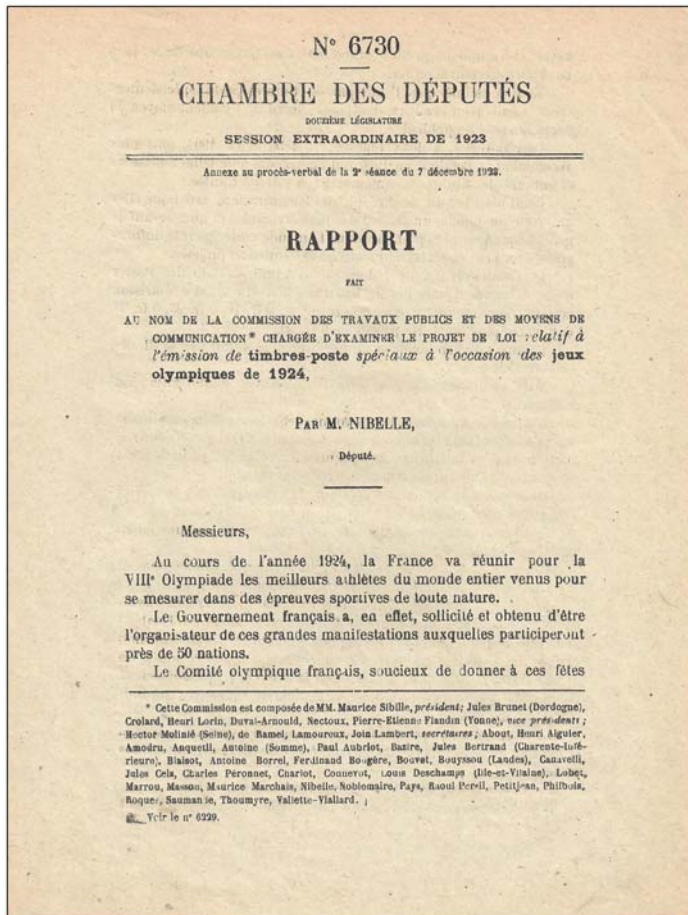


Figure 5 (left). Report of the Assembly's Commission for Public Works and Communication dated 7 December 1923 recommending issuing a set of stamps for the 1924 Paris Olympic Games.

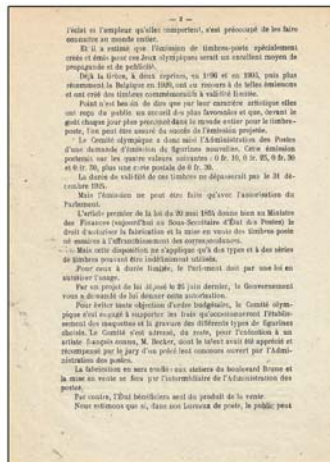
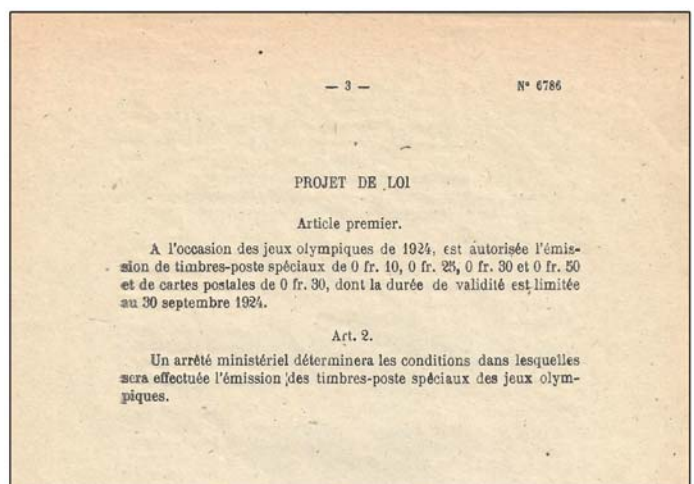
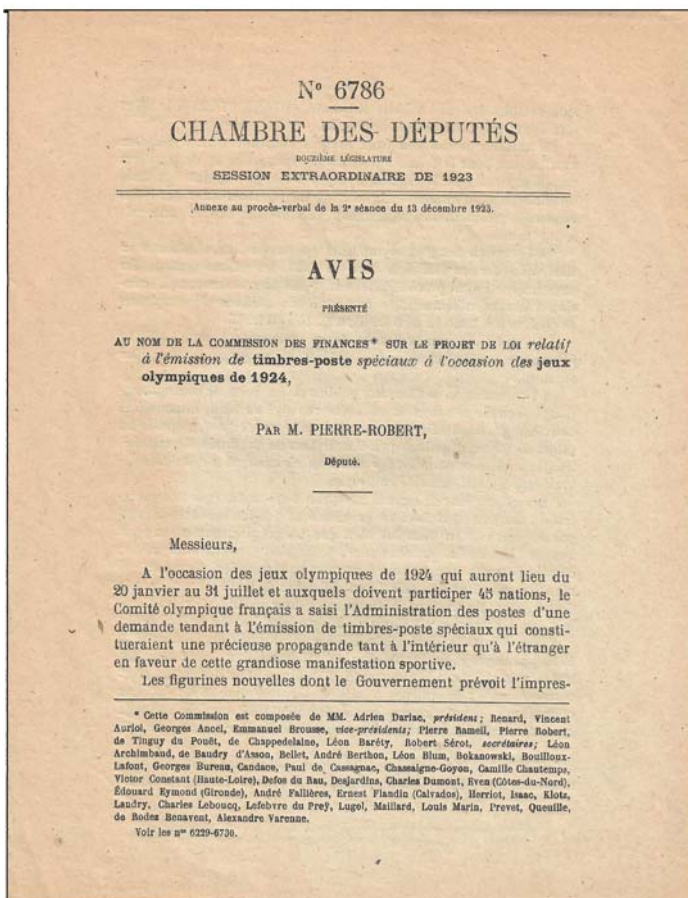


Figure 6 (below). The Assembly's Finance Commission rendered its opinion on 13 December 1923, also approving of the plan to issue the Olympic stamps.



The bicameral French Parliament consists of the National Assembly which holds its sessions at the Palais Bourbon (left), and the Senate, which meets in the Palais du Luxembourg (right).



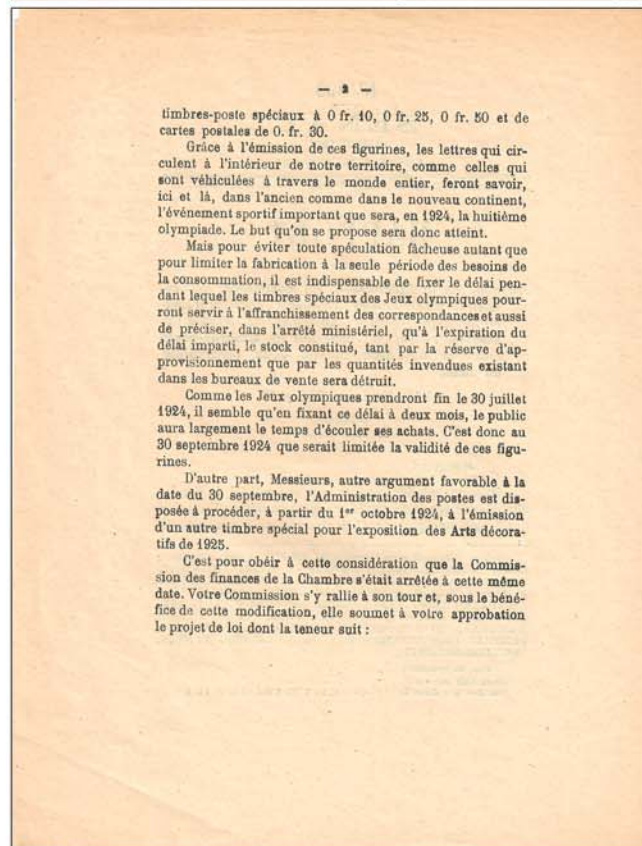
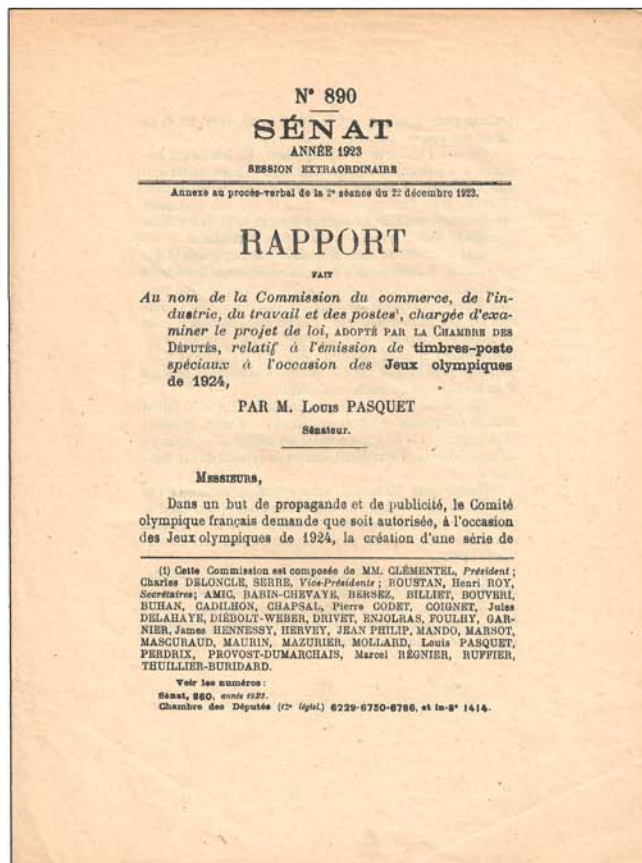


Figure 7. The Senate Commission for Commerce, Industry, Works and Post submitted their opinion – also positive – on 22 December 1923. However they recommended the stamps be valid only through 30 September 1924 rather than the end of the year.

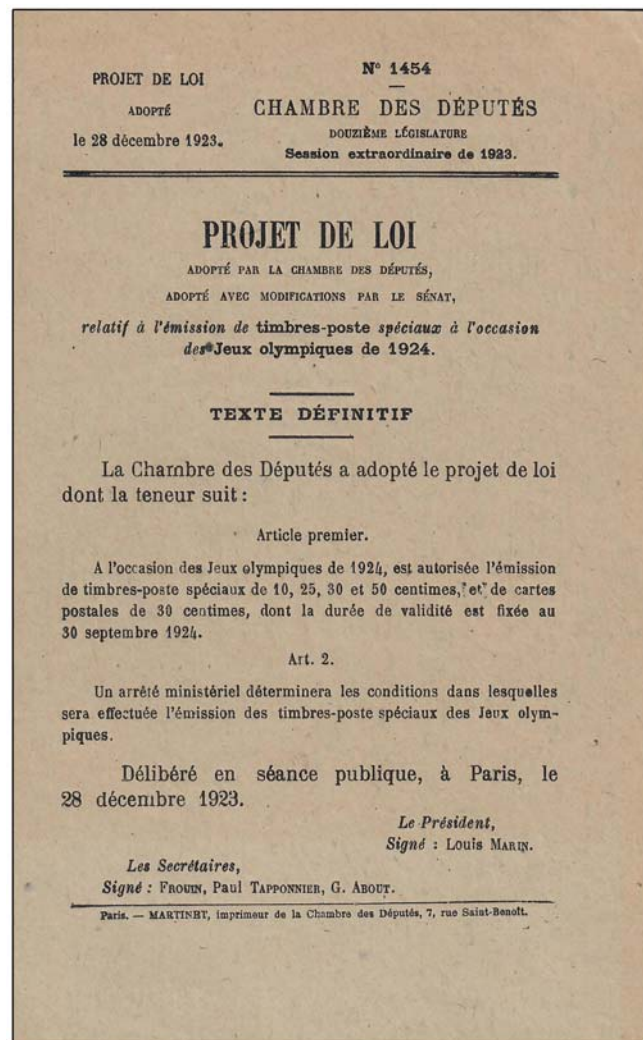


Figure 8. The Law authorizing the creation of the 1924 Olympic stamps as enacted on 28 December 1923.

The Senate Commission made its positive report to the Senate on 22 December 1923 (Figure 7). Page 3 of the report reproduces the text of the Bill. Again, the value of the publicity was mentioned, but the core of the report dealt with the validity and production limitation of 30 September 1924. The reasons given were:

- To discourage speculation (as happened with the 1896 Greek Olympic issue)
- To avoid overlapping of the Olympic issue with a stamp commemorating the 1925 Artisan Exhibition which was scheduled release on 1 October 1924.

The proposed bill was returned to the Assembly for final ratification. Following deliberation in an extraordinary and public session, the law was enacted on 28 December 1923 (Figure 8). It went into effect on 17 January 1924.



Figure 9. Two examples of progressive die proofs of the 25c stamp (the most common).

The final date of validity was fixed at 30 September 1924.

A few more facts that you may as well know about the proceedings reproduced in Figures 5-8:

1. The proceedings and deliberations of the French legislative authorities are printed in a quantity equivalent to the number of its members. After a certain period of time, most are destroyed or sold. The documents involving the issuance of the Olympic stamps found their way into a library for ancient books next to the Senate. Thence, they appeared in a stand at the LONDON 1980 exhibition where they were offered to me. They are original.

2. Why did it take so long (from June to December 1923) for the commissions to give their approval? As it was the Olympic Committee which had requested the issuance of the stamps, the government, wanting to avoid budgetary objections, were waiting for it to make a financial offer. The NOC did come through with an offer: it allocated 30,000 francs (29,851.85 francs were used according to the Official Report, page 828) to choose the designer, examine his projects, and pay for the maquettes and engraving of the dies.

The NOC engaged E. Becker to design the four stamps. Progressive proofs were also submitted to the representatives of the P.T.T. and the Ministers of Commerce, Industry and Finance on the Executive Board of the Games. This fact explains the large number of progressive proofs (Épreuves D'État) both signed and unsigned by Becker and G. Daussy (the engraver). Of all the progressive proofs, the 25c stamp is the most prevalent (Figure 9).

3. One major argument for issuing the stamps was that there was a "tradition of issuing special stamps at the occasion of the Olympic Games." This was only partially correct as there were no Olympic stamps issued for Olympic Games of 1900-1912. This lapse in memory may be forgiven, and the stamps of 1896, 1906 and 1920 are still "cousins" of the 1924 set, the subject of this article.

### Evolution of the 50c Stamp: Philatelic Darwinism



Some years ago I observed on the cover page of an exhibit a 1924 "Olympic Village" cancelled postcard (Figure 10). I asked the owner the reason for starting his presentation with this piece. His answer: "The good usage of a stamp is the beginning of its story"! I explained that in the evolution of a stamp, usage is the end result, not the beginning. I was tickled pink when, at the next show, I noticed the owner opened with a color essay of the 50c stamp.

E. Becker (Figure 11), selected by the French NOC, began work on the designs. At that point he had no idea which denomination would be matched with which design, so he arbitrarily chose the 25c denomination as a "place holder" on each design. At the time, this was the rate for inland letters.





Figure 10. A good usage of a stamp – here the 50c with Olympic Village cancel – is always the end result!



Figure 11. E. Becker, designer of the 1924 French Olympic stamps. (postcard courtesy L. Jonker)

For almost 60 years none of the original sketches had surfaced, though a respectable quantity of essays and proofs at the various stages of development were widely known from Guy Depolier's 1947 *Catalogue General des Timbres Sportifs*.

It wasn't until the Italian VERSO MEXICO 1968 exhibition (Figure 12) that they began to achieve a measure of appreciation. A representative quantity

was shown, mainly (but not entirely) in the category "A Single Olympic Games." However, over the years



Figure 12. Vignettes for the VERSO MEXICO 1968 exhibition in Italy at which essays and proofs of the 1924 Olympic Games stamps began to be appreciated.

some of the original sketches in stamp-size dimensions, in blue or brown, surfaced (some even with hand-drawn perforations). It was only in the 1990s that the Kalkstein brothers (Caphila) discovered original drawings and related maquettes.

As we now progress to a discussion of the development of the 50c stamp, it is useful to set forth the terminology used to describe each phase of the process. Table 1 outlines the phases in French, English and German.

Becker's four original drawings (sketches) and his maquettes were the starting point of subsequent stages of evolution. In keeping with our theme, all stages of evolution for the 50c stamp will be shown.

To better understand Becker's methodology, the original drawings and maquettes for the first three designs are presented in Table 2 (the fourth design is a mystery to be discussed in Part 2).

Table 1. Stamp Phase Terminology

French	English	German	Tools Used
Dessin original	Original sketch	Zeichnung	Gouache, pencil
Dessin modifié	Modified sketch	Zeichnung	Gouache, pencil
Maquette	Sketch or Maquette	Entwurf	Gouache, pencil
Epreuves d'artiste (noires /couleurs)	Essays (black/ colored)	Probedruck	Master die
Epreuves d'artiste modifies (noires /couleurs)	Modified essay (black/colored)	Geänderte Probedrucke	dies
Essais de couleurs (Inclus aussi "Epreuves d'état")	Color proofs (includes "progressive die proofs")	Farbe-Probedrucke	dies
Timbre définitif Epreuve de poinçon	Final die proof	Revision-Druck	dies
Feuille Timoin	Plate proof	Vorlage-druck	plate
Epreuve de Luxe Individuelle/collective	DeLuxe sheet	Minister-druck	Special die

**Table 2. Original Drawings & Maquettes of the 1924 Olympic Games Stamps**

	Original Design	Stamp-Size	Stamp-Size Blue	Maquette
10c				reduced size 
25c				
30c				reduced size 
50c	Unknown	See Part 2 of this article	And a surprise	

Remarks: Original Designs. 10c found alone in original size; 25c and 30c in reduced, collective format, stamp-size; 10c, 25c, and 30c in collective sheet; 25c and 30c also in single format.



Figure 13. A collective collage of the Original Designs with perforations signed by Becker.

**Stage 1.** The Original Designs With Perforations (Figure 13). This collective collage, signed by Becker, shows the stamp-sized designs and is where the evolution of the first three stamps begins.

**Stage 2.** Maquette of the original design. This drawing (Figure 14) is the original maquette/sketch. At first I took it for a counterfeit item, such as the ones from the Vienaphil-Auction (discussed in the chapter on counterfeits). When I was eventually able to examine the original and touch it with my fingers, it was clear that this was the maquette, but modified (by hand) to include Becker's remarks (see stage 5), for the preparation of a new master die.



Figure 14. Maquette of the original 30c (later 50c) stamp.





Figure 15. At left, the reconstructed 30c original design (eventually the 50c stamp). At center, stamp-sized drawings of the 50c brown and blue. At right, a forgery of the 30c maquette in blue with counterfeit Becker signature.

Let us take a closer look at Figure 14:

- The design was part of several from the Kalkstein discovery, all genuine.
- One can see (and also feel) that the lower part was cut out and replaced with the "30" and "RF" with a lighter background as noted in the upper part of Figure 14.



- The baseline of the "RF" legs are on the same level rather than on different levels as in all original designs and maquettes.

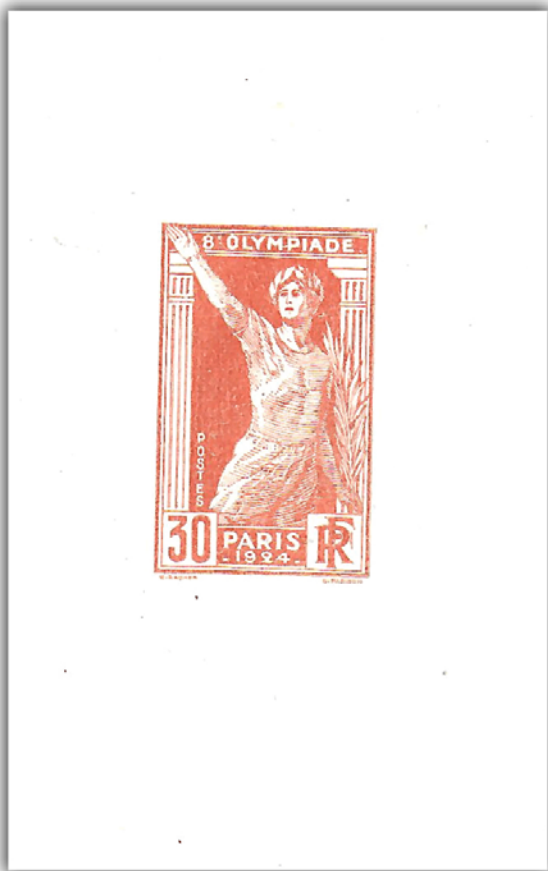


Figure 17. (Stage 4) Red die proof from Stage 3. "POSTES" moved to right of column, but "30" and "RF" are as shown on stamp-sized brown drawing.

- The original more rounded "30" was similar to that in Stage 5 which Becker wanted used (but was overruled). Compare this to the original rounded "0" in the 10c maquette (Figure 13).

- Furthermore, one can see (and feel) that new lines were drawn to show a modified frame.

These clues prove that Figure 14 was the original maquette which was modified.

**Stage 3.** In this stage, the denomination was changed from 25c to 30c and the maquette was engraved. The die proof is shown in Figure 16. One modification was made: "POSTES," originally positioned inside the left column, was moved to between the column and the victor.



Figure 16. Die proof.



Figure 18. (Stage 5) Final recommended design modifications to numeral "30", frame corners, and "RF" positioning. Numeral change not accepted.

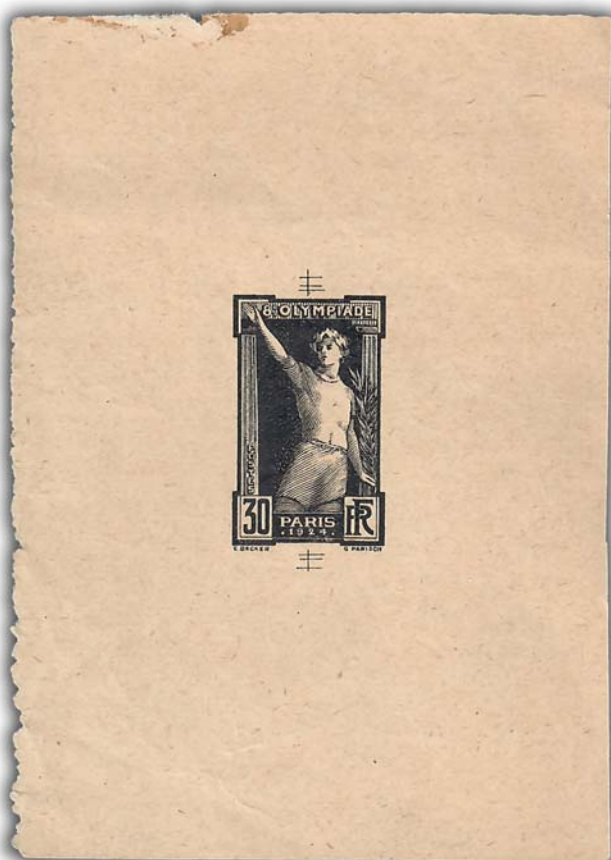


Figure 19. (Stage 7) The final engraved essay in black.



Figure 20. (Stage 8). Color proof of the final engraved essay shown in Figure 18.

**Stage 4.** Color Proof in red from Stage 3 (Figure 17). The characteristics are:

- Frame and "RF" are identical to the original drawing (see the brown stamp-size image)
- The "POSTES" has been moved as in Stage 3.

**Stage 5.** Final design modifications (Figure 18) to the color proof in Stage 4, characterized by:

- Thickening of the frame at the corners. Accepted for finished stamp.
- Indenting of the upper frame. Accepted for finished stamp.
- The "3" to be rounded. Not accepted.
- The vertical legs of "R" and "F" to have the same base line. Accepted for finished stamp.

This color proof is still making the "rounds" with different auction houses. The original owner sold it to Jacques Wolf (the first and foremost dealer of thematic stamps in Paris). Jacques did not succeed in selling it (50,000 francs), nor did French, Swiss and, lastly, German auction houses. The reason deterring buyers is, in my opinion, the high price.

The hook that it was a great item for large exhibits did not seem to work. Owners of large exhibits do not need this item to obtain a top award.

**Stage 6.** This stage is most interesting. It has no equivalent in any of the other stamps of the set. In order to prepare a die with all the modifications he requested, Becker used his original maquette and modified it accordingly. So the original maquette (Figure 14) is the Stage 6 drawing *with* changes.

**Stage 7.** The next stage is the modified engraved essay, in black (Figure 19), incorporating Becker's modifications as per Stage 6. Note that "POSTES" has been moved back to its initial position inside the left column.

**Stage 8.** This stage consists of the various color proofs of Stage 7 (Figures 20 and 21). The most interesting proof is the one with the final color selection: cobalt blue (Figure 22).

This is as far as we go ... this time. In Part 2 we will discuss thematic aspects of the Olympic Salute as well as finalizing of the 50c stamp. 🍷





Figure 21. (Stage 8) Color die proof in orange.



Figure 22. The color proof of the final engraved essay in cobalt blue – the color selected for the stamp.



Note that many documents of the 1924 Olympic Games present the same major error in terminology: these were not the “VIII Olympiade Paris 1924,” but rather the “VIII Olympic Games Paris 1924.” An “Olympiade” is a time period of 4 years. Even Becker made the same error. Interestingly, the correct term “Jeux Olympiques” (Olympic Games) was used on the publicity cancellation (shown on this cover) and on labels.



Figure 1. The first French stamp issue for the candidacy of Paris as host of the 2024 Olympic Games. The first day cancel (13 May 2017) reproduces the bid logo.

## Paris to host the Olympic Games in 2024

by Mark Maestroni

Ever since Paris entered the race to host the 2024 Olympic Games, it was most certainly the sentimental favorite. After all, this would be the centennial of Paris' 1924 Olympics. As if by design – and I think we can safely say that the results of the voting in Lima on September 13 were preordained – Paris 2024 will join Los Angeles 2028 as an Olympic host city.

La Poste, the French postal administration, has been working with the Paris bid committee to help promote the city's candidacy. This has resulted in two postal emissions.

The first stamp (Figure 1), issued on 13 May 2017, features a photo of the Grand Palais. This large exhibition hall built in the Beaux-Arts style for the 1900 Exposition is scheduled to host the taekwondo and fencing competitions at the 2024 Games.

The motto of the Paris candidacy, “Venez partager,” appears in script across the upper third of the stamp. The official English translation is “Made for Sharing” which reflects the vision for the Games.

Attached to the stamp is a vignette (label) reproducing the Paris “24” candidacy logo. This is repeated in the first day cancellation. With a nod to social media, the cancellation includes the text “#PARIS2024” above the motto.

The face value of the stamp is 0.73 € which is the Lettre Verte (second class) postal rate for domestic

mail up to 20 grams in weight. An interesting side note: La Poste promotes the Lettre Verte rate as being environmentally friendly as there is no use of aircraft in transportation. Coincidentally, this ties into the importance the IOC places on “the environment as an integral dimension of Olympism, alongside sport and culture.”

The second postal issue is actually an overprint of the first stamp reading, in two lines, “13/09/2017” and “Lima” (Figure 2). This marks the day that Paris was selected host of the 2024 Games during the IOC Session in Lima, Peru. To the left and right of “Lima” are images representing the Eiffel Tower and La Catedral de Lima (the main cathedral of Lima).

This stamp, issued on 14 September, will remain on sale ONLY through 30 September – the day the Paris candidacy organization is officially dissolved.

A special postmark (not a first-day since this is an overprint rather than a new stamp) depicts the Eiffel Tower at center surrounded by the text “PARIS 2024 - VILLE HÔTE DES JEUX OLYMPIQUES ET PARALYMPIQUES” (“Paris 2024 – Host City of the Olympic and Paralympic Games”).

The second issue is sold in 24-stamp panes for 17.52 €. They may be purchased by phone (+33 5 53031926) or email (sav-phila.philaposte@laposte.fr).



Figure 2. Overprint on the candidate stamp which went on sale on 14 September. Below is the special postmark used on the overprinted stamp.







*Official 2017 WOCF postcard (500 printed)*

## The 23<sup>rd</sup> World Olympic Collectors' Fair ~ Bratislava 2017 ~

by Mark Maestroni

**R**emember the “Miracle on Ice” at the 1980 Olympics when the US men’s ice hockey team snatched the gold medal from the clutches of the perennial favorites, the Soviet Union? Well, over the weekend of 8-11 September, we saw another miracle – this time in Bratislava where the Slovak Society of Olympic and Sports Collectors, hosted the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Olympic Collectors’ Fair (WOCF). Not only did they manage this feat in three short months, but they did it with style and panache! As president of the organizing committee, Branislav Delej freely admitted he hadn’t had a good night’s sleep since taking on the organizing job after both Baotou, China and Budapest, Hungary withdrew as hosts.

The nexus for all this Olympic collecting mania was the NH Gate One Hotel which not only served as the venue for the fair, but also the show hotel. It’s modern amenities and comfortable hotel rooms were well-priced for fair goers.

Events got underway on Thursday as table holders began to trickle in, most arriving through Vienna’s airport which was a mere 40 miles west of Bratislava.

Gathering in the second floor convention space to pick up their credentials, table holders sipped a delicious dry white wine made from the Devín grape by the Hubinsky winery in the hills above Bratislava. For the oenophiles among you, the Devín grape was

made in 1958 by crossing the floral Gewurztraminer grape with the peppery Roter Veltliner. Devín gets its name from a ruined castle near Bratislava. If you should stumble across a bottle at your local wine store, don’t hesitate taking it home to serve well-chilled with a plate of carpaccio or your favorite goat’s milk cheese.

Goody bags were presented to each of the nearly 135 registered participants from 29 countries around the world. In addition to the show pin, attendees also received a handsome – and handy – navy blue canvas messenger bag with the show logo on the front. I spotted plenty of people putting their bags to good use during the fair.

As someone steeped in the graphic arts, I was most impressed by the extensive array of printed matter featuring the fair’s colorful logo. Naturally the three different fair pins bear the insignia, but there also were roll-up banners, posters, a show program, official postcard, and even a small pane of personalized stamps issued by the Slovak Post Office!



*The hurley burley of the show floor on Friday.*



*Posing in front of the Olympic Flag signed by many of the Fair attendees: Branislav Delej, President of the WOCF Organizing Committee; Ms. Patricia Reymond from the IOC; Roman Babut, President of AICO; and Velimir Adzic, Secretary of the WOCF Organizing Committee.*



Roman Babut (sitting on bench with an unknown Slovak red-head) and AICO Vice President Massimiliano Bruno pose with one of Bratislava's famous downtown statues: a Napoleonic soldier named "Hubert."



Three official pins issued by the WOCF. Only the Official pin (at left) was for sale.

Quantities issued and prices (if they were sold) of the many collectible items are as follows:

Official (white) logo pin - 500 made (€10)

Organizer pin - 20

Participant pin - 120

Official Fair postcard - 500 (€3)

Stamp sheet - 80 sheets of 8 "Motif of the State" T2 50g personalized stamps with 4 each of two different labels (€15 per sheet)

The fair occupied the entire 2<sup>nd</sup> floor exhibition hall with tables arranged in long rows. Once in operation, the show floor appeared very busy. According to the organizers, about 200 members of the public availed themselves of the free entrance to the fair, mingling with the WOCF participants in buying, selling, and "window shopping" the vast display of memorabilia and pins. A few philatelic dealers remained very busy catering to the Olympic and sports philatelists. I must confess to having found a couple of interesting items for my gymnastics collection!

Friday afternoon featured the official Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Fair attended by the President of the Slovak Olympic Committee, Mr. Anton Siekel; General Director of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Ms. Bozena Gerhatova; representative of the International Olympic Committee, Ms. Patricia Reymond; Director of the Slovak Olympic and Sport Museum, Ms. Zdenka Letenayova; and AICO President Roman Babut.



The Slovak Post Office was present at the show on Friday (only) where a special show postmark could be used to cancel mail. The postmark was available just that one day: 8 September 2017. The official stamps (below) paid the rate for domestic mail. Two stamps paid the rate for cards to the USA.



Special personalized sheet of 8 definitive stamps plus 8 labels/vignettes for the fair. Only 80 sheets were created.



Following the close of the show on Friday, attendees were invited for a tour of the city which included a visit to a special month-long exhibition of sports and Olympic philately and memorabilia entitled "Find Your Own Hobby" at the Bratislava City Museum. There was also time to explore the downtown plazas with their famous life-sized statues depicting every-day people from different eras. My favorite was Hubert, a Napoleonic soldier who is reputed to have fallen in love with a Bratislava girl and settled down in the area to produce, of all things, sparkling wines, the most popular brand of which is named for him.

A sight-seeing "train" took us on a guided tour of the city including the imposing Bratislava Castle, once the seat of Queen Maria Theresa of Austria. From the grounds, one had a spectacular view of three countries – Austria, Hungary and Slovakia – which come together at Bratislava.

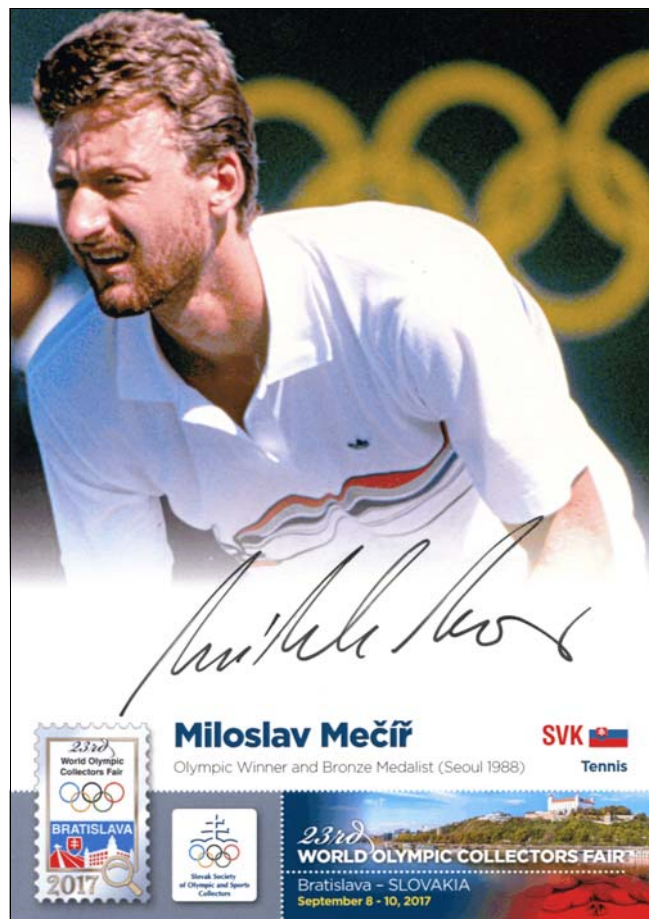
Last year's Gothenburg World Olympic Collectors' Fair inaugurated a practice that seems to have now caught on with WOCF organizers: creating special cards designed for visiting Olympians to autograph.

The Bratislava fair held two sessions. The first, on Friday afternoon, featured Milos Mecir, tennis singles gold and doubles bronze medalist in Seoul 1988; Juraj Mincik, bronze medalist in slalom canoeing at 2000 Sydney; Zuzana Rehak-Stepecekova, twice a silver medalist in trap shooting (2008 Beijing and 2012 London); Jozef Gonci, a two-time bronze medalist in rifle shooting at the 1996 Atlanta and 2004 Athens Games; and judoka Jozef Krnac, silver medalist at the 2004 Athens Olympics.

A second autograph session, conducted on Saturday at noon, was attended by silver medalists from the 2016 Olympic Games at Rio in the K4 1000m kayak sprint (Erik Vlcek, Juraj Tarr, Denis Mysak) and their coach Peter Liker. The fifth member of the team, Tibor Linka wasn't able to attend.

Activities culminated on Saturday as each table holder at the show was awarded a Certificate of Participation by the IOC representative, Patricia Raymond, and the President of the show committee, Branislav Delej.

The evening's festivities began with a small silent auction in the downstairs lobby area headlined by a 1992 Barcelona Olympic torch, and accompanied by a number of participants medals and some IOC badges courtesy of the Olympic Museum. Competition was spirited, especially between the many Chinese collectors at the fair.



*This card for Miloslav Mecir was one of a set of six created for the autograph signing sessions by Slovak Olympic medalists on Friday and Saturday.*

The customary Gala Dinner followed, with the participation of the President of the Slovak Olympic Committee. It appeared that most of the table holders attended, enjoying the wide array of appetizers, entrees, salads and desserts served buffet style. And of course more of that delicious Slovak wine was offered!

It should be mentioned that AICO's Executive Board took this opportunity to hold extensive meetings which included an open session on Friday to which representatives of the AICO member clubs were invited. Meetings of the Pin, Memorabilia, and Philately Committees were also conducted.

Judging from the positive comments, the fair was a success with both buyers and sellers. Most seemed particularly pleased with the quality of the hotel accommodations and moderate rates which included a substantial buffet breakfast.

Certainly a big thank-you is due the organizing committee – and in particular President Branislav Delej and Secretary Velimir Adzic – for the first-rate 2017 World Olympic Collectors' Fair.

See you all next year in Los Angeles!





## Los Angeles 1932 – A Collector's Files Are Never Closed

Figure 1. Cacheted cover commemorating the visit of the Olympic Air Cruise in Vancouver, B.C. This actually turned out to be an activity sanctioned by the organizing committee of the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles!

by Thomas Lippert

Some time ago as I was developing my thematic philatelic collection on the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games, I came across two covers that just could not be placed into the usual chapters. The resulting internet journey brought to light a story that had not yet been reported in Olympic collecting literature.

The first cover was a Canadian one (Figure 1). Vancouver, British Columbia had welcomed a so-called *Olympic Air Cruise* on 30 May 1932 as reflected on the special handstamped cachet.

My initial research led to rather quick results with the help of *The Air Mails of Canada and Newfoundland* catalog. The cover in question from that event is listed in the catalog as #3213, and reads:

*1932, May 30 — Vancouver. Commemorative cachet in purple: "Vancouver, B.C. / Welcomes Olympic Air Cruise / May 30, 1932." Commemorating the arrival of aircraft on route to Olympics in Los Angeles.*

But even this remark providing a direct Olympic connection could not convince some experienced 1932 collectors (especially in the US); another explanation involving the Olympic Mountain range in northwestern Washington State seemed more logical. That's why additional sources had to be found – and were.

Contacts with Canadian airmail collectors were very helpful. Chris Hargreaves, editor of *The Canadian Aerophilatelist*, used the image of the cover to send a call out to his fellow collectors. Barry Countryman dove into 1932 back issues, succeeding in unearthing details. The clipping from *The Vancouver Sun* newspaper dated Tuesday, 31 May 1932 had been reproduced in the newsletter from December 2007 (Figure 2).

There, under the headline "*Ten Planes Fly into Local Airport Together*," is a detailed report, which I believe leaves no doubt as to the cover's Olympic Games connection! In its entirety, the article reads:

### Ten Planes Fly Into Local Airport Together Los Angeles Olympic Games Fleet Includes Woman Flier. Left for Tacoma Today

*Ten planes, including a Bach tri-motored 10-place ship of notable proportions and fittings, flew into Vancouver airport shortly after 4 p.m., Monday, carrying 25 Olympic Games ambassadors from Los Angeles.*

*Eight of the planes left again at 9:45 this morning to make a scheduled visit to Tacoma and will be in Portland this evening.*

*Two of the party, D.L. Fuller and ? W. Fuller of San Francisco, the former flying a Pitcairn and the latter a Sicarman open cockpit plane, decided to stay over in Vancouver until Wednesday or Thursday.*

*Like others of the flying cruise, they are loud*



## FOLLOW UP: 1932 OLYMPIC AIR CRUISE COVERS



This cover, with a "VANCOUVER, B. C. WELCOMES OLYMPIC AIR CRUISE MAY 30th, 1932" cachet, was illustrated in the September newsletter, together with a question as to: whether "Olympic" actually has anything to do with the Olympic games in Los Angeles that year, or does it refer to the Olympic Mountains?

Many thanks to BARRY COUNTRYMAN, for this wonderful article, establishing that the Cruise was definitely related to the Olympic Games:

## Ten Planes Fly Into Local Airport Together

Los Angeles Olympic Games Fleet Includes Woman Flier. Left for Tacoma Today

Ten planes, including a Bach tri-motored 10-place ship of notable proportions and fittings, flew into Vancouver airport shortly after 4 p.m. Tuesday, carrying 23 Olympic Games ambassadors from Los Angeles.

Eight of the planes left again at 4:45 this morning to make a scheduled visit to Tacoma and will be in overland this evening.

Two of the party, D. L. Fuller and S. W. Fuller of San Francisco, the former flying a Picaun and the latter a Stearman open cockpit plane, decided to stay over in Vancouver until Wednesday or Thursday.

Like others of the flying cruise, they are loud in praise of the local airport and all its appointments and conveniences. "We liked the look of Vancouver from the air so much that we want to see more of it" was their explanation of remaining over. They had joined the tour at San Francisco.

### BUCKED WINDS UP COAST

"The cruise has a double purpose. To invite people to attend and participate in the Olympic Games at Los Angeles and to demonstrate the feasibility of flying in a large party on schedule," said Clifford Rawson, manager of the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce, which sponsored the outing.

W. E. Carey, a Union Oil Company aviation official, in charge of tour operations, reported a successful but rather difficult trip up the coast owing to wind, rain and cloudy weather.

Some of the planes met for the first time in two days when they reached the Sea Island airport, but all had stopped at Seattle before coming on to Vancouver.

Mrs. Frances Dudgey of Glendale, Calif., was the only lady pilot in the party and was reported to have given a very good account of her skill in her neat Moreland two-seater.

### WELCOMED AT AIRPORT

Several other ladies came as passengers including Miss Josephine McKim, national diving champion, and Miss Georgia Coleman, 100-yard breast stroke swim champion.

Ald. E. W. Dean was at the Airport to extend a civic welcome, with Board of Trade officials including President Harold Brown, R. D. Williams, Elmer Johnston, G. H. Cotterell, W. E. Payne and W. A. Rundie.

Charles H. Webster was present in behalf of the Publicity Bureau and several members of the Aero Club extended fraternal greeting. The party spent the night at Hotel Georgia, but there was no official entertainment.

The Vancouver Sun, Tuesday May 31st 1932, page 2.

Figure 2. Page from The Canadian Aerophilatelist reproducing the Vancouver newspaper report on the arrival of the Olympic Air Cruise. [The text is reproduced nearby in its entirety.]

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It was quite remarkable to find Josephine McKim (Figure 3) and Georgia Coleman, both of whom were already Olympic medalists, among the passengers. Clearly they had no reservations about joining the air cruise which, though very sportive, was not without potential mishaps given this was still only the 1930s.

The Vancouver Sun reversed the order of sports in which each lady competed: Georgia was the diver and Josephine the swimmer.



Figure 3. Jim Thorpe and US Olympic swimmer, Josephine McKim, during the Olympic Air Cruise.



Figure 4. Cover with cachet honoring the visit to Portland, Oregon of the Olympic Air Cruise (called "Tour" here) on 30 May 1932. Note that the 1:30 p.m. postmark ties in nicely with the landing at Swan Island Airport less than 3 hours earlier. An early aerial view of Swan Island Municipal Airport is shown at right. It served commercial traffic from 1927 to 1940.

Georgia played a significant role in Olympic history as a U.S. Olympic diving silver (10m platform) and bronze medalist (3m springboard) in Amsterdam 1928. She would also medal in the upcoming Games in Los Angeles with an Olympic championship in the 3m springboard and silver medal in the 10m platform.

As for Josephine McKim, she competed in swimming at the 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games winning a gold medal as part of the the 4 x 100m freestyle relay (she only swam in the heats) and a bronze in the 400m freestyle. Four years later in Los Angeles, she won a second gold in the 4 x 100m freestyle relay. She also placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the 100m freestyle.

Returning to the Olympic Air Cruise. As noted in the *The Vancouver Sun* article, some of the planes were scheduled to land in Portland on the way home. It was also discovered, however, that some of the planes stopped in Portland on the way north as well. The second cacheted cover in my collection (Figure 4), marks the landing in Portland of at least three of the flights on their way to Vancouver.

The *Oregon Journal*, which is an afternoon newspaper, reported in its issue of Monday, 30 May 1932 on page 7 about the event (Figure 5).

### *First Group Of Olympic Cruise Planes Arrives*

*The first of several planes in the Olympic Cruise arrived in Portland shortly before 11 a.m. today to bring an invitation from Los Angeles to the Olympic Games there.*

*Three planes had arrived by 11 o'clock and other were expected. Storms in the South disorganized the cruise and prevented arrival in Portland on schedule Sunday night.*

*Late Sunday afternoon C.C. Lovass, superintendent of Swan Island airport, was advised by Cliff Rossi, one of the fliers at Medford, that the group would spend the night there because of weather conditions.*

*The message from Rossi did not state how many planes had arrived at Medford.*

*A report from Montague, Cal., was that four unidentified planes had flown northward from there, apparently headed for Medford.*

*At Red Bluff, the scheduled stop after the group left Reno, Nev., Sunday morning, was a Shell Oil plane believed to that of Bill Fletcher, who left Portland Sunday morning to join the group.*



Figure 5. Report in the afternoon edition of the Oregon Journal about the arrival of the Olympic Air Cruise in Portland on 30 May 1932 at 11 a.m.





Figure 6. Another of the 1932 Olympic related aero-collectibles is this cacheted cover honoring Amelia Earhart's visit to Lindbergh Field in San Diego for the Army and Navy Aerial Review.

In Portland the “aerosportsmen” were welcomed as part of the OLYMPIC AIR TOUR (rather than “CRUISE”), a mistake by the cachet makers (these were rubber stamps). The article in the *Oregon Journal* used the same terminology as in the *The Vancouver Sun*, namely Olympic Air Cruise.

Like other aero-collectibles, for instance the Amelia Earhart celebration at Lindbergh Field in San Diego on 28 July 1932 (Figure 6), these covers are a philatelic document of a further aerosports event connected with the Los Angeles Olympics.

In conclusion, there is no reason not to include these philatelic papers or documents in a Los Angeles 1932 Games collection. Why hasn't this been done before? One reason may have been that the philatelic network at that time was not terribly well developed, and news from airmail collectors didn't find its way to the Olympic collectors. On the other hand, this example demonstrates the necessity for collectors to return to the basics: philatelic catalogs and literature. Certainly, the Canadian cover could have been found long before now.

## Epilogue

The Olympic Air Cruise was to be held from 7 to 29 May 1932, as announced in the *Los Angeles Times* newspaper of 19 February 1932. This project was initially presented at the meeting of the Aeronautical Publicity Committee of the California State Chamber of Commerce.<sup>1</sup> On 18 April 1932, the *Los Angeles Times* announced that applications were being accepted for aviators interested in participating.<sup>2</sup> According to that article, 15 applications had

already been received for the 8100-mile tour throughout the United States, Mexico and Canada inviting everyone to the Olympic Games.

The tour's start was later postponed from 7 May to 21 May, and then brought forward to 14 May 1932. Under the headline “Olympic Air Trip Revised,” the *Los Angeles Times* announced that the Junior Chamber of Commerce was trimming the scheduled visits to coastal cities covering just 3000 miles. The article went on to say that only cities in California, Washington, Nevada and British Columbia in Canada would be host to overnight stays. (Oregon was, however, included into the schedule.) The revised plan included the

following stops:

- 28 May – Los Angeles and Bishop, California; and Reno, Nevada
- 29 May – Red Bluff, California; Medford, Eugene, and Portland, Oregon
- 30 May – Olympia and Seattle, Washington; Vancouver, B.C.
- 31 May – Tacoma, Washington; Salem and Roseburg, Oregon; and Eureka, California
- 1 June – San Francisco, Fresno, and Los Angeles.

Sixteen planes started out from Los Angeles on 28 May on the first leg of about 400 miles. By the second day, weather conditions required a interruptions: “Olympic Air Party Runs Into Storm” (*Los Angeles Times*, 30 May 1932).

It's also important to understand that this was not a “closed caravan” – aviators joined the party along the route; others left it before arriving back in Los Angeles. Nevertheless, this was a remarkable event designed to promote the Olympic Games – and demonstrating aeronautical achievements! 🇺🇸

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> “Olympic Air Tour Planned,” *Los Angeles Times*, 19 February 1932.

<sup>2</sup> “International Air Cruise Trip Open,” *Los Angeles Times*, 18 April 1932.

[Check out the SPI website for additional documents from the organizers.]

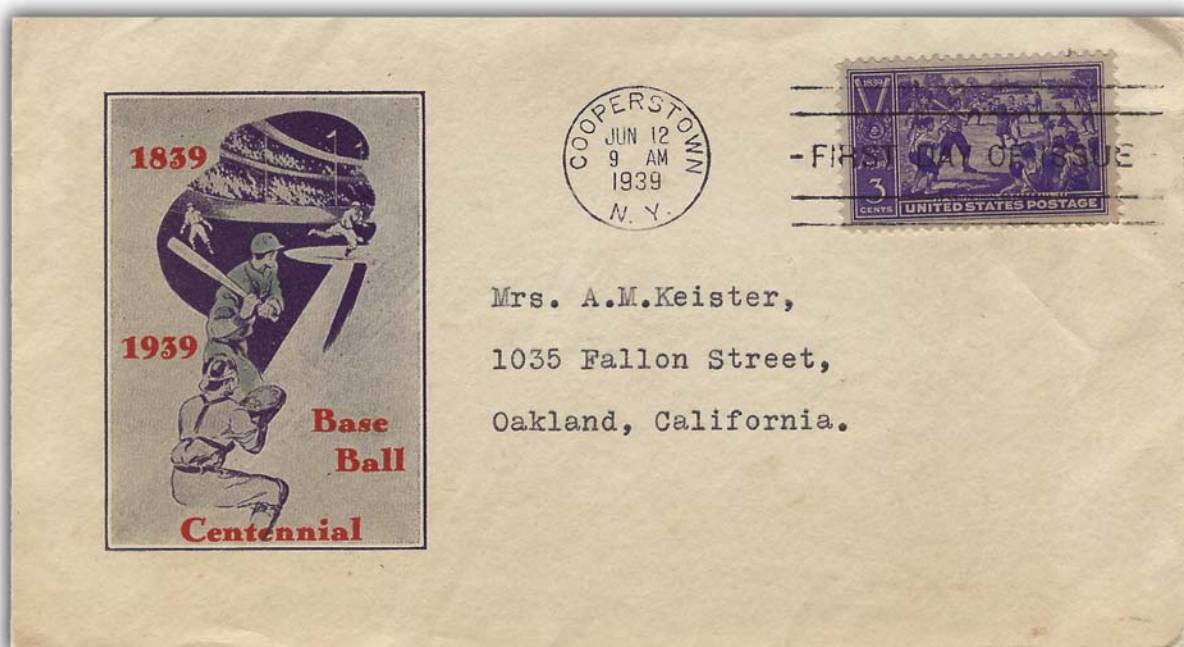


Figure 1. First Day Cover of the 1939 Centennial of Baseball stamp (Scott #855) exhibiting the “parted date” variety in the circular date stamp (the month and date are separated by a wide gap).

## 1939 Baseball Machine Postmarked FDC: the Parted Date Variety

by Norman Rushefsky

**F**igure 1 shows a First Day Cover of the first U.S. baseball stamp with the variety of machine postmark exhibiting a wider than normal gap between the month (JUN) and day (12). Compare this with the typical machine first day postmark for U.S. Scott #855 in Figure 2.

There is an interesting backstory to how I first became aware of this variety. This all happened at the NY2016 World Stamp Show where I happened to peruse Jeffery Bennett’s extraordinary exhibit of FDCs of #855. The reader will understand that before attending the show I had for years collected #855 FDCs as a subsidiary part of my philatelic baseball collection which had more emphasis on baseball related postmarks and meters. Nevertheless, I still was in possession of well over 100 different cachets for #855. Based on information in various catalogs, I was also well aware of the numerous cachets I did not have and which I had never seen offered for sale.

Getting back to Jeff Bennett’s exhibit. Over the years I had viewed exhibits of #855 FDCs at national level shows and had been generally impressed with

the material exhibited. However, Bennett’s exhibit just blew me away, the extent of which demanded that I return the next day to spend more time reviewing the exhibit and perhaps pinch myself that it was real. And now the story gets interesting from a personal perspective.

The Jacob Javits Center, venue for the show, was the final stop for the “7” train on the New York subway system. About two stops prior to that the train generally emptied. The remaining passengers were predominantly male and of a certain age – pretty much a dead giveaway that they, like me, were attending the exhibition.

So the gentleman seated opposite me inquired if I was headed to the show. I answered in the affirmative and he asked about my collecting interest. I responded “baseball.” Much to my surprise he replied that was his interest as well. Given that this was a major international exhibition, not a topical stamp show, I thought this guy had to be joking. No, he assured me, baseball was his collecting interest, at which point I realized this might be the owner of the baseball exhibit I was admiring. When asked, he confirmed he was indeed that same Jeffrey Bennett.



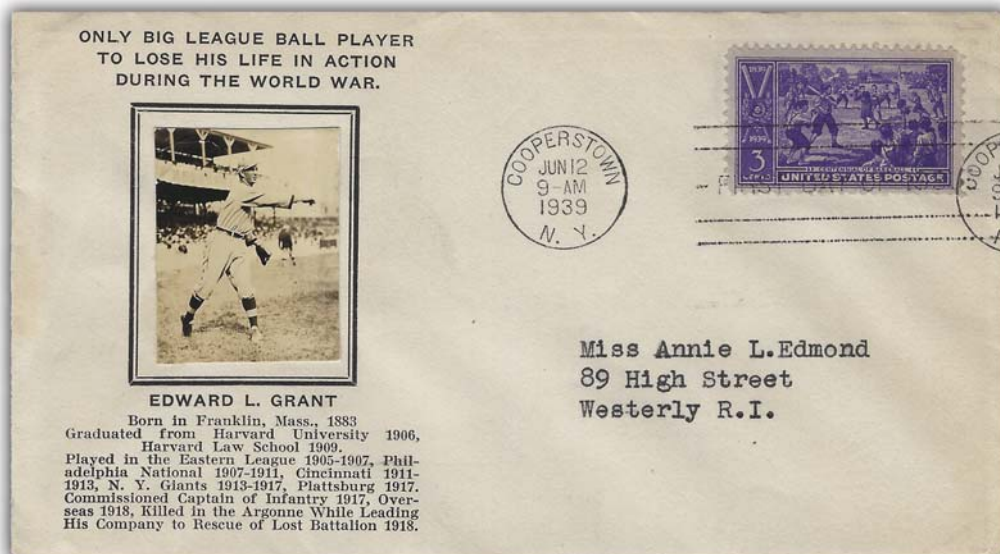


Figure 2. Normal first day cancellation with month and day positioned side by side. The cachet honors Edward Grant, the first major league player killed in World War I.

On the walk of a couple of blocks from the subway stop to the convention center entrance I expressed to him how impressed I was with the exhibit. I wondered, though, why the best and most expensive #855 cover in my collection (Figure 2) was not in his exhibit. It was then that I realized that my best cover wasn't rare enough to make the cut. Yes, that was how spectacular the material in his exhibit was!

The Figure 2 cachet is by an unknown cachet maker in the style of Crosby who often featured photographic images attached to his FDCs. This cachet honors Edward Grant who was the first (but not the only) professional major league baseball player killed in combat in World War I.

One of the covers in the Bennett exhibit featured the parted date variety, a learning moment for me as I had not previously heard of it. As I recall the exhibit noted that perhaps 1 in 100 FDCs of #855 exhibited this difference. Upon returning home, I checked my collection: disappointingly, none showed the parted date.

I subsequently noted on eBay a #855 FDC with the parted date and purchased it (this is the cover shown in

Figure 1). The cachet is one of numerous ones produced by cachet maker Ioor for #855 FDCs. As I periodically review these FDCs on eBay without seeing the parted date variety, I believe that the variety may be more rare than suggested by the exhibit.

In considering how this variety occurred I believe the die for the circular date displaying the parted date was from a Cooperstown Post Office supply and perhaps erroneously substituted for a limited period during the processing of FDCs by the Cooperstown Post Office.

The cover in Figure 3 demonstrates my theory. Postmarked May 19, 1938 during National Air Mail Week with a conventional machine postmark of the era, the parted date is clearly evident. FDCs of other U.S. stamps of 1939 with a two-digit date of issue typically, but not always, have the date closely placed next to the month and not parted.

Those interested in collecting FDCs of #855 will be interested in two books: "Baseball ... Stamps ... Autographs" by Elten Schiller, and "Planty's Photo Encyclopedia of Cacheted FDCs Volume IX-1938-1939" by Michael Mellone.

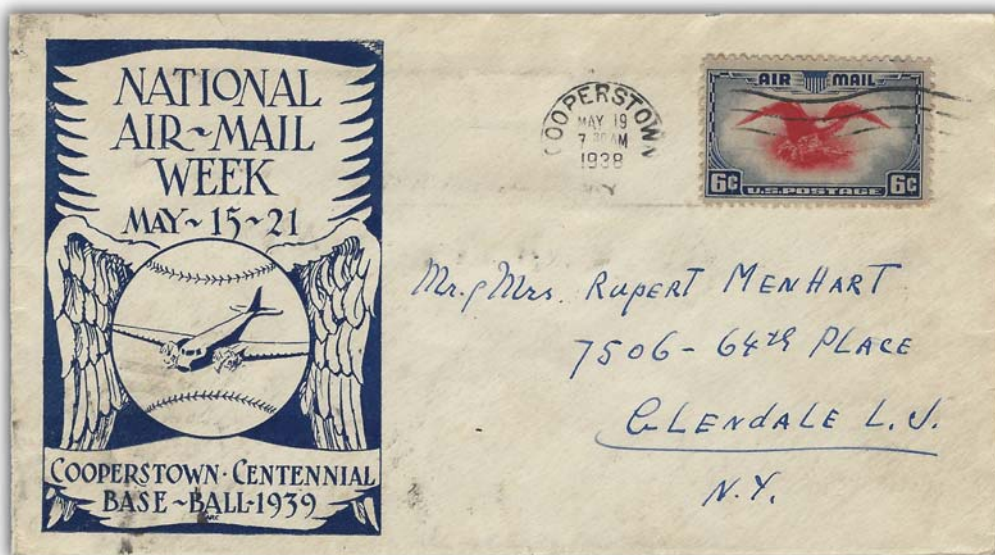


Figure 3. A 1938 machine cancel from Cooperstown exhibiting the same "parted date" as on the #855 first day cover in Figure 1. Perhaps, this die was placed in use by the Cooperstown Post Office, either erroneously or temporarily.

# Triple Crown Winners – Basketball's Royalty

by Mark Maestroni & Luciano Calenda

When I think of sport's "Triple Crown," names like Secretariat and Seattle Slew come to mind, rather than two-legged thoroughbreds such as Jerry Lucas or Magic Johnson. And yet, they too are Triple Crown winners – of basketball.

Basketball's Triple Crown is a relatively recent institution. It's first winner, in 1954, was Clyde Lovellette. To qualify, an individual must have been on teams that won three events: the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Championship, the National Basketball Association (NBA) Championship, and an Olympic Games gold medal.

This is a surprisingly difficult trifecta (again, horse racing parlance) to pull off. To date, only seven players have been admitted to this most exclusive club (in parentheses, the year they achieved the Triple Crown): Clyde Lovellette (1954), Bill Russell (1957), K.C. Jones (1959), Jerry Lucas (1973), Quinn Buckner (1984), Magic Johnson (1991) and Michael Jordan (1992).

With only one exception (Johnson), the players won their collegiate and Olympic honors before their first NBA Championship. This is not unusual as in the pre-1989 era, the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) still required that Olympic teams be composed entirely of amateurs in keeping with Olympic rules. Thus, teams were built around the best collegiate players. From 1989 onwards, professionals were permitted on Olympic teams.

An interesting aside: the acronym FIBA originally stood for "Fédération Internationale de Basket-ball Amateur." The "Amateur" was dropped from the official name in 1989 to conform to the new rules, but the original acronym remained as a legacy of the game's earlier days.

One might logically deduce with the caliber of player in the NBA, that future additions to these immortals would be many. In reality, the opposite is probably true, as many collegiate players at this level turn professional after one or two seasons. This would mean fewer opportunities to win that most difficult of the three: the NCAA Championship.

Following is a list of the seven honorees and their paths to the Triple Crown.

(\*) Won multiple NBA Championships.

(\*\*) Also won Olympic gold at Barcelona 1992.



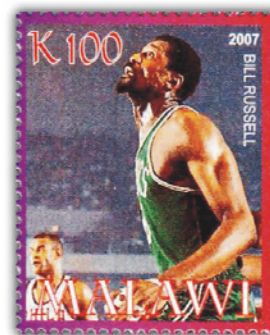
## Clyde Lovellette

NCAA: Univ. of Kansas

Jayhawks (1952)

Olympics: Helsinki (1952)

NBA: Minneapolis Lakers (1954\*)



## Bill Russell

NCAA: Univ. of San Francisco Dons (1956)

Olympics: Melbourne (1956)

NBA: Boston Celtics (1957\*)



## K.C. Jones

NCAA: Univ. of San

Francisco Dons (1955)

Olympics: Melbourne (1956)

NBA: Boston Celtics (1959\*)



*Cachet (right): gold medal US Team. Jerry Lucas is at front. The cancellation was made in the Palazzo dello Sport, venue for the final match which took place on 10 September 1960.*

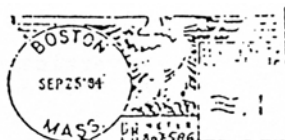
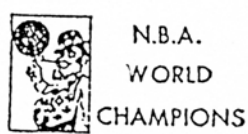
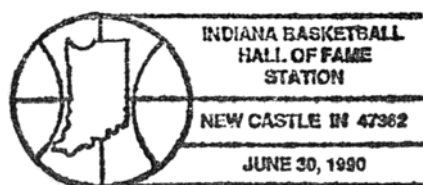


### ***Jerry Lucas***

NCAA: Ohio State Buckeyes (1960)

Olympics: Rome (1960)

NBA: New York Knicks (1973)



### ***Michael Jordan***

NCAA: North Carolina Tar Heels (1982)

Olympics: Los Angeles (1984\*\*)

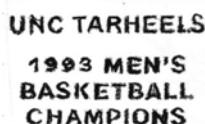
NBA: Los Angeles Lakers (1991\*)

### ***Quinn Buckner***

NCAA: Indiana Hoosiers (1976)

Olympics: Montreal (1976)

NBA: Boston Celtics (1984)

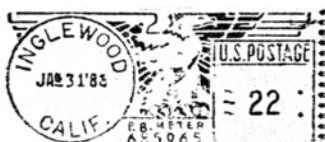


### ***Magic Johnson***

NCAA: Michigan State Spartans (1979)

NBA: Los Angeles Lakers (1980\*)

Olympics: Barcelona (1992)



*Magic Johnson (#32) and Michael Jordan (#23) on a souvenir sheet honoring the Barcelona 1992 Olympic Games. Both players participated on the U.S. Dream Team, the first time professional players were permitted to play at the Olympics.*





Figure 1. Four of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary stamps featured sports personages representing great moments in Canadian sporting history (left to right): Olympic freestyle skier, Alexandre Bilodeau; Paralympic alpine skier, Lauren Woolstencroft; ice hockey player, Paul Henderson; and athlete, humanitarian, and cancer research activist, Terry Fox.

## Canada's Sesquicentennial Sports Stamps

by Kon Sokolyk

On 1 July 2017, Canada celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. In conjunction with the anniversary, on 1 June Canada Post issued a set of ten stamps "Celebrating the moments that define us as Canadians." Interestingly, the moments selected do not span the 150 years of nationhood but rather the most recent 50 years.

Of the ten stamps issued, four have links to sports (Figure 1). These four stamps are titled *Olympic Games*, *Paralympic Glory*, *Summit Series* and *Marathon of Hope*.

The Olympic Games stamp celebrates the three occasions Canada has hosted the Games: the Summer Olympics in Montreal (1976), and the Olympic Winter Games of Calgary (1988) and Vancouver (2010). The image on the stamp portrays freestyle skier Alexandre Bilodeau upon winning the gold medal in the moguls at the 2010 Games. Bilodeau thus became the first Canadian to win a gold medal at a Canadian-held Olympics.

Canada has twice hosted the Paralympic Games: Toronto 1976 and Vancouver 2010. The Paralympic Glory stamp features alpine skier Lauren Woolstencroft who, in 2010, won five gold medals. She remains the most decorated Canadian Olympic or Paralympic Winter Games athlete.

The Summit Series stamp salutes Canada's 1972 victory over the USSR in an eight-game hockey series. The victory was secured by Paul Henderson, captured on the stamp jubilantly celebrating his game-winning and series-winning goal with just 34 seconds of play remaining in Game 8. The goal is one of Canada's most iconic sports moments!

The Marathon of Hope stamp is a memorial to Terry Fox, who lost his leg to cancer at 18. In 1980 Fox embarked on a cross-Canada run, the "Marathon of Hope," to raise money for cancer research. Averaging nearly 40km per day, the 21-year-old amputee covered 5,373 km in 143 days before he was forced to stop his run outside of Thunder Bay



Figure 2. The "Canada 150" set was also available in gummed panes of 10 circular stamps plus two labels.





Figure 3. Booklets of 10 of the self-adhesive stamps die cut in the shape of the Canadian Maple Leaf.

after cancerous lumps were discovered in his lungs. He won the Lou Marsh Memorial Trophy that year as Canada's top athlete. A year later, he died. Annual Terry Fox runs are held to raise money for cancer research.

Formatted in the shape of a maple leaf, the Canada 150 stamps were issued in a booklet of ten permanent domestic rate self-adhesive stamps (Figure 3). In addition, a composite gummed souvenir sheet (pane) was issued that included all

the designs (Figure 2). The stamps on the pane were perforated circularly. Vibrant, but rather overcrowded, First Day Covers were produced for the self-adhesive stamps (Figure 4). As a result, unfortunately, it's difficult to make out the silver ink of the First Day cancellations.

**Issuing Details:** Postage value at time of issuance: 85¢ (domestic letter rate). Booklets of 10 issued: 400,000. Panes of 10 issued: 80,000.

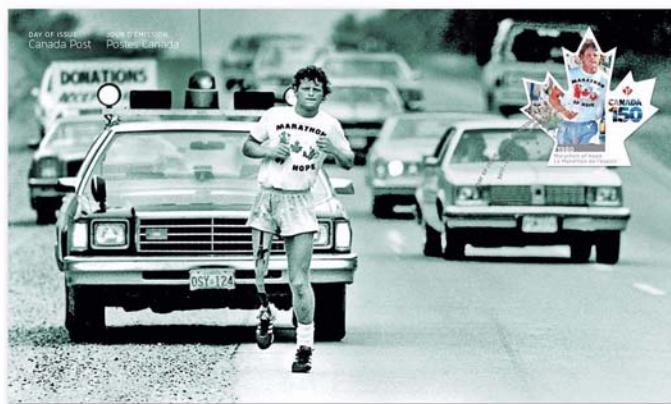


Figure 4. Canada Post's official first day covers (clockwise from top left): Canadian Olympic Games (cauldrons at the Montreal, Calgary, and Vancouver Olympics); Canadian Paralympic Games (cross-country skiing); Terry Fox during his 1980 marathon; and the Canadian ice hockey team at the Summit Series in 1972.





## Collecting and Exhibiting Golf Picture Postcards

by Patricia Loehr

For collecting and exhibiting picture postcards it is necessary to understand what defines a picture postcard (PPC). Postage must be affixed to the reverse (address) side of the card before mailing. There are also PPCs that when purchased have a postage imprint (indicium) where postage would be applied. Such cards are referred to as “postal stationery” and perfectly acceptable in philatelic exhibiting.

PPCs made into maximum cards (Figure 1) are also considered exhibitable. Whether you make your own maximum cards or purchase them in the marketplace, they must, according to the American Philatelic Society’s *Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting* (2016) “have on their picture side an adhesive postage stamp with a related image and a commemorative cancellation with a related image. ... All three components—illustration (PPC), stamp and cancel that ties the stamp to the card, should result in tight ‘concordance’ in which all are related to the same subject.”

When I began exhibiting in the 1990s, a Picture Postcard Exhibit class did not exist. For thematic exhibiting I was told that PPCs were not considered a philatelic element, and thus only permitted on the title page. From the beginning of my thematic exhibit and through several revisions a PPC depicting fashionable golfers and postmarked in 1905 graced my title page. I also had one or two maximum cards and picture postal cards in the exhibit. Even though PPCs were very limited in thematic exhibiting, I continued to collect them.



Figure 1. An example of a maximum card (at bottom) on a page from my multi-frame, *Display Exhibit*. Note that the picture on the card, the stamp and the cancellation all relate to the same subject: playing a game of golf.





Figure 2. My one-frame PPC exhibit, "Golf Greens and Putting on Picture Postcards" was organized along more thematic lines with this page featuring equipment.

A Display Exhibit class was eventually introduced in which, according to the previously mentioned APS judging manual, philatelic material and non-philatelic elements are combined to tell a story. It was then I discovered that my PPCs would be allowed and considered collateral material. I proceeded to make a golf display exhibit with several PPCs throughout the pages. I wrote about this exhibit in the Spring 2017 issue of the *Journal of Sports Philately*.

I enthusiastically embraced the Picture Postcard Exhibit class, developing three different golf exhibits: a one-frame, two-frame and multi-frame. Whereas my thematic exhibit had but one PPC (on the title page), my picture postcard exhibits were composed entirely of PPCs!

I decided my first attempt at making a PPC exhibit would be one frame (Figure 2). To limit the scope of the plan I titled the exhibit "Golf Greens and Putting on Picture Postcards." As expected for a one-frame exhibit, I had both the introductory text and exhibit plan on the title page along with two PPCs. Because of the size of PPCs, they fill and dominate each page.

While assembling the one-frame PPC golf exhibit I became aware of varieties in the PPCs. Digging more deeply into deltiology (the collecting and study of postcards) led to an interest in organizing an exhibit about those differences – some obvious, others more subtle. In assessing my golf PPCs from the perspective of deltiology rather than a golf theme, I began to notice the diversity instead of the sameness of my collection. The result was a two-frame exhibit: "An Introduction to Golf Deltiology." As with the one-frame exhibit, the introductory text and exhibit plan are on the title page with a PPC.

My multi-frame exhibit followed and is its own story, possibly for a future article.

In October 2001 an article I wrote titled "Versatile thematic postcards cause collecting quandary" appeared in *Scott's Stamp Monthly*. It is about having two golf PPCs that are also philatelic because they bear pictorial golf cancels on the address side. Such cards in which both sides have golf connections offer numerous possibilities to collectors and exhibitors of the theme of golf.



Figure 3. A page from my two-frame golf deltiology exhibit discussing artist-drawn and artist-signed cards.

# The *Other* America's Cup

by Clemens Reiss

When the 1919 America's Cup sailing races were postponed by 23 mph winds, Nova Scotia deep-sea fishermen scoffed at the news. The Halifax newspaper then started the International Fisherman's Trophy for schooners fishing off the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. Lunenburg, Nova Scotia and Gloucester, Massachusetts both claimed this as home waters, so a keen racing rivalry emerged. Gloucester won the inaugural race in 1920.

The next year began the *Bluenose's* (a nickname given to Nova Scotians) epic rise to fame. She was built as a trimmer schooner than the typical ship in the Canadian fishing fleet. *Bluenose* beat the American challenger *Columbia* in the 1922 first race in spite of a collision entangling both boats. *Bluenose* towed the challenger for nearly a minute. The second race was never resolved when a turning mark was moved.

Canadian pride placed the *Bluenose* on the 1929 50-cent definitive (Figure 1). It is considered a classic engraved design with its montage of two different images of the *Bluenose*, which some believe shows the ship racing. It is easy to see why this is Canada's favorite stamp!



Figure 3. The *Bluenose* and its architect, William Roué.

Now let's investigate the rest of the *Bluenose* racing story. It would be eight years before the races resumed in 1930. The American challenger that year was *Thebaud*, a smaller, winsome schooner. *Bluenose* had blown out its sail coming down the coast and lost for the first time. In the second race, *Bluenose* was ahead by five minutes when a wind shift allowed *Thebaud* to overtake her and win. It was the only time *Bluenose* lost a series.



Figures 1 & 2. Canada's favorite stamp, the 1929 *Bluenose* (above), shows the schooner in full sail (upper right corner block, OTTAWA - No. A-2936 Y). A 1982 stamp-on-stamp design (below) reproduces the 1929 *Bluenose* issue.

1931 saw a new challenge by *Bluenose* and it won both races by 32 and 8 minutes over *Thebaud* to recapture the trophy. The convincing wins resulted in years between races.



The final series was in 1938 between the same two boats and it now took three wins to secure the trophy. *Thebaud* won the first race when *Bluenose's* foretopmast was carried away, but reversed the results in the second race. The third and fourth races were split again, thus the series was tied. The Canadian's won the final race with this grand old schooner – despite more gear failure – by nearly 3 minutes. She retained the International Fisherman's Trophy (Figure 4) during a remarkable seventeen years.



*Bluenose* captain, Angus Walters, on a 1988 stamp and in a 1920s photograph along side the International Fisherman's trophy.



# NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Mark Maestrone

## NEW MEMBERS

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Bob Wilcock. New E-mail: 1908bobw@gmail.com

## EXHIBITING RESULTS

### ***European Championship for Thematic Philately (Essen, German; 11-12 May 2017)***

Ruediger Fritz, "The Olympic Comeback: The Era of Pierre De Coubertin 1894-1925 and the Games of That Time," Gold (91)

Barry Stagg, "Parachuting Through the Ages: the History and Development of Parachutes and Parachuting Techniques," Large Silver (78).

Zoltan Klein, "Great Festival of Sport (Gods, Heroes, Champions, Olympic Games)," Silver (72)

### ***Finlandia 2017 (Tampere, Finland; May 24-28)***

Massimiliano Bruno, "Footballers of the World Play for a Cup," Large Vermeil (87).

Daniel Herrmann, "Paris 1924, Olympic Motivation Seen From St Raphaël Quinquina," Vermeil (83)

Peter Osusky, "First Modern Sports Stamps of the World," Slovakia Vermeil (82)

Andrew Urushima, "Spoiled by War: The Games of the XIIIth Olympiad," Vermeil (82)

Olli Viljanen, "The World Meets Finland," Vermeil (81)

Nicolas Cosso Hoedt, "La glisse aux sports d'hiver, c'est trop cool ! (Gliding at winter sport is so cool!)," Vermeil (80)

Antonis Gennadiou, "Pre-war Olympic Philately From Host Countries: the First Sponsors and Promoters of Olympic Games," Silver (72)

### ***Ropex 2017 (Rochester, NY, 19-20 May)***

Clemens Reiss, "Competitive Rowing: Errors and the Unexpected," Silver

### ***National Topical Stamp Show 2017 (Milwaukee, WI, 23-25 June)***

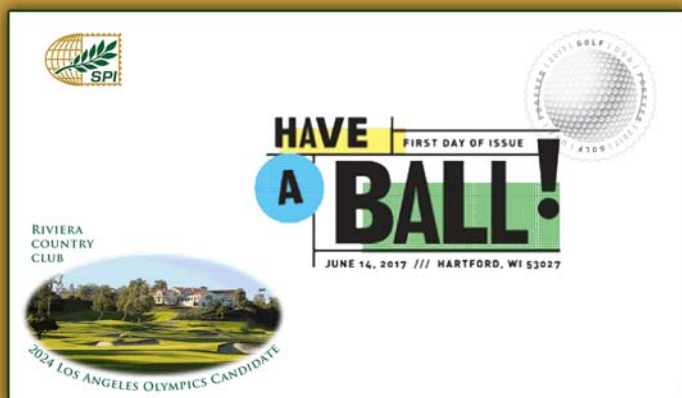
Conrad Klinkner, "Games of the Xth Olympiad - Los Angeles 1932," Vermeil

Clemens Reiss, "Competitive Rowing: Errors and the Unexpected," Large Silver; plus, SPI Best-of-Show Award (One Frame Division), and Lighthouse Stamp Society awards.

### ***APS Stampshow 2017 (Richmond, VA, 3-6 August)***

Joel Cohen, "Diversity in the Diamond: The Courageous Struggle for Acceptance and Recognition in America's Pastime as Commemorated by the USPS," Silver Bronze.

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# NEW STAMP ISSUES

by John La Porta

**Armenia:** December 12, 2016. Argentine Boca Juniors Soccer Team. 500d souvenir sheet, 1977, 2000 and 2003 Intercontinental Soccer Club Champions, photo of team.

**Canada:** June 1, 2017. Canada 150. Two sports related stamps, nondenominated P stamps, honoring Canada's three Olympic Games, Alexandre Bilodeau and Luen Woolstencroft. Issued in booklets of 10, and panes of 10 stamps.

June 11, 2017. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Professional Open Wheel Automotive Racing in Canada. Set of five non-denominated stamps, Sir Jackie Stewart; Gilles Villeneuve; Ayrton Senna; Michael Schumacher; Lewis Hamilton. Issued in sheets of 5 stamps and self-adhesive stamps in booklets of 10.

**Central Africa:** January 16, 2017. Sochi Olympics. Sochi Ice Hockey, sheetlet of four 900F stamps, Sergi Bobrovsky; Pavel Datsiuk. Souvenir sheet with one 3600F stamp, Alexander Radulov.

**Djibouti:** May 5, 2016. Correction to the Fall 2016 column. Second Tennis item should be listed as Rugby. An additional souvenir sheet was released for this issue: the sheet shows the four single stamps.

May 5, 2016. The table tennis set also has an additional s/s released showing the four stamps.

March 15, 2016. European Football 2016. Additional s/s with the souvenir sheet depicted four times.

November 11, 2016 Ice Hockey. Additional souvenir sheet showing the four stamps as souvenir sheets.

**Greece:** July 8, 2016. Rio Olympics. Set of 2, silhouette of Rio skyline, 80c gymnast; 90c runner crossing the finish line.

November 10, 2016. 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Marathon Race of Modern Olympics. S/s of 2 stamps, 90c Ancient naked marathon runner; 2.10 modern runner.

**Grenada:** February 20, 2016. Muhammad Ali. Sheetlet of 6 \$3.15 stamps, photos of Ali. Souvenir sheet with one \$10 stamp, Ali jumping rope.

**Guinea-Bissau:** May 22, 2017. Confederation Cup 2017. Sheetlet of five 660 FCFA stamps, Otkrytiye Arena, Moscow; Fisht Olympic Stadium, Sochi; Krestovsky Stadium, St Petersburg; Kazan Arena, Kazan; Confederation Cup. Souvenir sheet with one 3000 FCFA stamp, Confederation Cup.

**Guyana:** February 20, 2016. Muhammad Ali. Sheetlet of six \$250 stamps, boxing scenes with Ali. Souvenir sheet with one \$800 stamp, Ali throwing punch.

July 7, 2016. Rio Olympics. Two sheetlets of four \$300 stamps, sheet 1 - boxing; archery; tennis; rowing. Sheet 2 - handball; weight lifting; diving; soccer. Souvenir sheet with two \$500 stamps, artistic gymnastics; Takashi Ono, Olympic gymnast.

**Hong Kong:** August 5, 2016. Rio Olympics. Set of four stamps, \$1.70 track and cycling; \$2.90 table tennis and badminton; \$3.70 windsurfing and swimming; \$5 golf and rugby. A souvenir sheet with the same four stamps was also issued.

**Hungary:** June 3, 2016. 2016 European Soccer Championships. One 340fo stamp, soccer ball inside of goal net.

July 7, 2016. Rio Olympics. Set of two stamps, 115fo swimming; 355fo kayaking.

**India:** August 5, 2016. Rio Olympics. Set of four stamps, 5r badminton; 5r boxing; 25r shooting; 25r wrestling. Also a souvenir sheet with the same stamps.

**Iraq:** October 23, 2016. Rio Olympics. Sheetlet of 8 stamps, 250d track; 250d soccer; 500d high jump; 500d handball; 750d equestrian show jumping; 750d javelin; 1000d boxing; 1000d fencing. 1000d imperf stamp, pole vault, gymnastics, basketball, long jump.

**Ireland:** September 15, 2016. Rothaiocht Cycling. Set of four 72c stamps, single rider; famil; start of road race; close up view of riders.. Souvenir sheet with the same four stamps.

**Israel:** February 7, 2017. Krav Maga. Single 11.70s stamps, pair of fighters, kick boxing.

**Italy:** May 6, 2016. 110<sup>th</sup> Ann. Italian Sports Center, Rome. 95c, women runners crossing the finish line.

May 7, 2016. 100<sup>th</sup> Targa Florio Road Race. 95c, car.

June 27, 2016. 2012-1016 Juventus Italian Soccer Champions. 95c stamp, stadium. In sheets of 5.

July 5, 2016. 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Italian Shooting Federation. 95c stamp, women shooting rifle.

**Japan:** September 1, 2016. 71<sup>st</sup> National Athletic Meet. Sheetlet of 10 82y stamps, rugby; field hockey; triathlon; wrestling; naginatajufsu; boxing; soccer; tennis; basketball; baseball.

**Jordan:** July 28, 2016. Hiking Destinations. Set of 7 40pi stamps, Karak; Man'in; Madaba; Wadi Rum; Ajun; Madaba; Wadi Al Dab.

September 25, 2016. Women's Under 17 World Cup Soccer Tournament. Set of 4 Jordanian flag and silhouettes of players, 40pi dribbling the ball; 50pi chasing ball; 60pi dribbling ball; 70pi kicking ball.

**Kazakhstan:** July 1, 2016. Boxer Gennady Golovkin. Sheetlet of 5 stamps, 121te championship belts; 200te black boxing gloves and white trunks; 200te black robe, assistants; 200te blue and red boxing gloves; 218te ring ropes in background.

November 2, 2016. Eur. Soccer Championships. Pair of 218te stamps, soccer players.

November 16, 2016. Fourth National Sports Festival. Pair stamps, 100te Kyz kuu; 200te Kekpar.

November 16, 2016. Rio Olympics. Sheetlet of eight 200te stamps, Gold medalist boxer Daniyar Yeleussinov; gold medalist swimmer Dmitriy Balandin; gold medalist weight lifter Nijat Rahimov; silver medalist boxer Vasiliy Levit; silver medalist wrestler Adilbek Niyazymbetov; silver medalist wrestler Guzel Manyurova; silver medalist judo Yeldos Smetov; silver medalist weight lifter Zhazira Zhapparkul.

December 8, 2016. 28<sup>th</sup> Winter Universiade. Souvenir sheet with one 300te stamp, mascot with torch.

December 30, 2016. Rio Olympics. Paralympics. Pair of 200te stamps, gold medalist swimmer Zulfiya Gabidulina; silver medalist power lifter Raushan Koyshibayeva.

**Korea (South):** October 7, 2016. Korean Baseball Organization League Teams. Sheetlet of ten 300w stamps, baseball caps and mascot: Kia Tigers; Nexen Heroes; Doosan Bears; Lotte Giants; Samsung Lions; NC Dinos; LG Twins; KT Wiz.

**Kyrgyzstan:** August 4, 2016. Rio Olympics. Set of 4, 22s taekwondo; 32s soccer; 55s gold; 117s wrestling.

**Kyrgyz Express Post:** August 5, 2016. Rio Olympics. Set of 2 stamps, 50s cycling; 150s tennis. Each stamp was printed in sheets of 4+2 labels.

August 8, 2016. 2016 World Nomad Games. Horizontal strip of 3; 50s mounted archery; 100s equestrian wrestling; 150s burning horseman.

**Lebanon:** August 5, 2016. Lebanese Olympic Committee. \$250 stamp depicting medal and ribbon.

**Liechtenstein:** March 6, 2017. Outdoor Sports. Set of 3 stamps, 85rp Smooth Power Turn; 100rp Winter Storm Windsurfing; 200pr Sunset Backflip.

March 7, 2017. Josy Barthel Olympic Gold Medalist Runner. Barthel (1927-1992) crossing finish line.

**Macao:** June 17, 2016. Volleyball World Grand Prix Preliminary Matches, Macao. Pair, 2p three women players; 5.50p two women volleyball players. S/s of one stamp, 12p women player and volleyball.

July 29, 2016 Rio Olympics. Block of four stamps, 2p runner; 3p gymnast; 4.50p high jumper; 5.50p diver.

November 18, 2016. 50<sup>th</sup> Macao Motorcycle Grand Prix. Block of four stamps, 2p; 3p; 4.50p; 5.50p all depict motorcycles racing. Souvenir sheet with one 12 p stamp, rider on motorcycle no. 1.

**Macedonia:** June 10, 2016. European Soccer Championships. 101d stamp, player kicking ball.

August 5, 2016. Rio Olympics. Set of 2 stamps, 40d wrestling; 60d judo. Souvenir sheet with one 50d stamps, Macedonian Olympic emblem.

**Malaysia:** December 20, 2016. Rio Olympics. Gold Medalists Paralympics. Single 95s stamps depicting the gold medalists.

**Maldives:** May 17, 2017. Rugby. Sheetlet of four Rf22 stamps depicting rugby action scenes. S/s with one Rf70 stamp showing rugby action scene.



May 17, 2017. 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cricket player Viv Richards. Sheetlet of four Rf 22 stamps showing the batsman in action. Souvenir sheet with one Rf 70 stamp, Richards batting.

May 17, 2017. Ice Hockey. Sheetlet of four Rf 22 stamps, Alexander Ovechkin; Bobby Orr; Sidney Crosby; Jaromir Jagr. Souvenir sheet with one Rf 70 stamp, Wayne Gretzky.

May 17, 2017. 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Andy Murray. Sheetlet with four Rf 20 stamps depicting the tennis player. Souvenir sheet with one Rf 60 stamp, showing Murray hitting the ball.

May 17, 2017. Ping Pong. Sheetlet of four Rf 20 stamps, Xu Xin; Dimitrij Ovtcharov; Fan Zhendong; Ma Long. S/s with one Rf 60 stamp, Ding Ning.

**Mongolia:** July 28, 2016. Rio Olympics. 1000t stamps showing gold medal, Olympic rings, Christ statue.

**Montserrat:** March 17, 2016. Cricket. Sheetlet of four \$3.25 stamps, ball; glove; bat and wickets; helmet. Souvenir sheet with one \$7 stamp, ball.

**Niger:** May 12, 2017. Russia Confederation Cup 2017. Sheetlet of four 800F stamps, Moscow Krestovshy Stadium; St Petersburg Otkrytiye Aren; Moscow Fisht Olympic Stadium; Sochi Kazan Arena. Souvenir sheet with one 3300F stamp, soccer ball in net.

**St Thomas & Prince Island:** March 13, 2017. Confederations Cup 2017 Russia. Sheetlet of four 31000Db stamps, Otkrytiye Arena (Spartak Stadium) Moscow; Fisht Olympic Stadium, Sochi; Kazan Arena, Kazan; Krestovsky Stadium, St Petersburg; Kazan Arena, Caza. Souvenir sheet with one 120000Db stamp, player kicking ball.

May 8, 2017. International Stamp Exhibit in Bandung. Badminton. Sheetlet of four 31000 Db stamps, Viktor Axelsen; Chen Long; Lee Chong Wei; Lin Dan. Souvenir sheet with two 62000 Db stamps showing Lin Dan, Lee Chong Wei.

May 8, 2017. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Donald Campbell's Fatal Crash. Sheetlet of four 31000 Db stamps, Donald Campbell (1921-1967); Bluebird K7; Mr Whoppit; Donald Campbell's mascot. S/s of one 124000 Db stamp, Donald Campbell. Additional s/s with the four stamps in multiples of four each.

**San Marino:** March 7, 2017. Mario Simoncelli (1987-2011) Motorcycle Racer. 2 stamps, portrait of racer.

March 7, 2017. Games of the Small States of Europe. Set of 2 stamps, 2 San Marino tower and shooting target; 2.50 San Marino stylized wall and track lanes.

Sierra Leone: April 28, 2017. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Donald Campbell's Fatal Crash. Sheetlet of four 9800 Le stamps, Bluebird Ky, Donald Campbell. Souvenir sheet with one 40000 Le stamp, Bluebird K7.

**Slovenia:** May 6, 2016. Peter Prevc 2016 World Ski Jumping Champion. 2.25 souvenir sheet depicting Prevc with trophy.

September 30, 2016. Rio Olympics. Tina Trstenjak, Olympic Gold Medalist. 1.26 stamp depicting Trstenjak holding gold medal.

December 7, 2017. Rio Olympics. Veselka Pevec Shooting Gold Medalist of the Paralympics. 1.26 stamp depicting Pevec holding gold medal in front of shooting target.

**Togo:** February 28, 2017. 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Ferrari. Sheetlet of four 900F stamps, Ferrari 125 S; LaFerrari; Michael Schumacher; Enzo Ferrari (1898-1988). S/s with one 3600F stamp, Ferrari 125 S.

May 5, 2017. African Cup of Nations. Sheetlet of four 800F stamps, Ahmed Fathi, Egypt; Nicolas Nkoulou, Cameroon; Jordan Ayew; Ghana; Prejuice Nakoulma, Burkina Faso. Souvenir sheet with one 3300F stamp, Mohamed Elnenny, Egypt.

May 5, 2017. Cricket. Sheetlet of four 800F stamps, stylized action scenes. Souvenir sheet with one 3300F stamp, action scene.

May 5, 2017. Table Tennis. Sheetlet of four 800F stamps, Dink Ning; Fan Zhendong; Fang Bo; Liu Shiwen. S/s with one 3300F stamp, Fan Zhendong.

May 5, 2017. Rugby. Sheetlet with four 800F stamps, Matt Giteau, Australia; Jonny Wilkinson, England; Brian O'Driscoll, Ireland; Leigh Halfpenny, Wales. Souvenir sheet with one 3300F stamp, Richie McCaw, New Zealand & Jamie Roberts, Wales.

May 5, 2017. 80<sup>th</sup> Memorial Anniversary Pierre de Coubertin. Sheetlet of four 800F stamp, all depict de Coubertin. Souvenir sheet with one 3300F stamp depicting Sprinting.

**United States:** June 14, 2017. Sports Balls. Set of 8 non-denominated stamps, football; volleyball; soccer; golf; baseball; basketball; tennis; kickball.

# COMMEMORATIVE CANCELS

by Mark Maestrone

## 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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Autoracing: 17728-183.  
Baseball: 17606-056, 17723-146, 17730-133.  
Boxing: 17608-130, 17708-147, 17721-811.  
Fishing: 17604-057.  
Football: 17517-757, 17813-441.



17517-757 Mineola, TX 17



17604-057 Chittenden, VT 4



17606-056 Montpelier, VT 6



17608-130 Canastota, NY 8

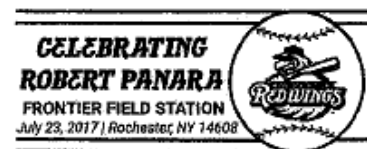
128TH SULLIVAN-KILRAIN FIGHT ANNIVERSARY  
BARE KNUCKLE BOXING  
HALL OF FAME STATION  
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JULY 8, 2017



17708-147 Belfast, NY 8



17721-811 Manassa, CO 21-22



17723-146 Rochester, NY 23



17728-183 Long Pond, PA 28-30



17730-133 Cooperstown, NY 30



17813-441 Independence, OH 13



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