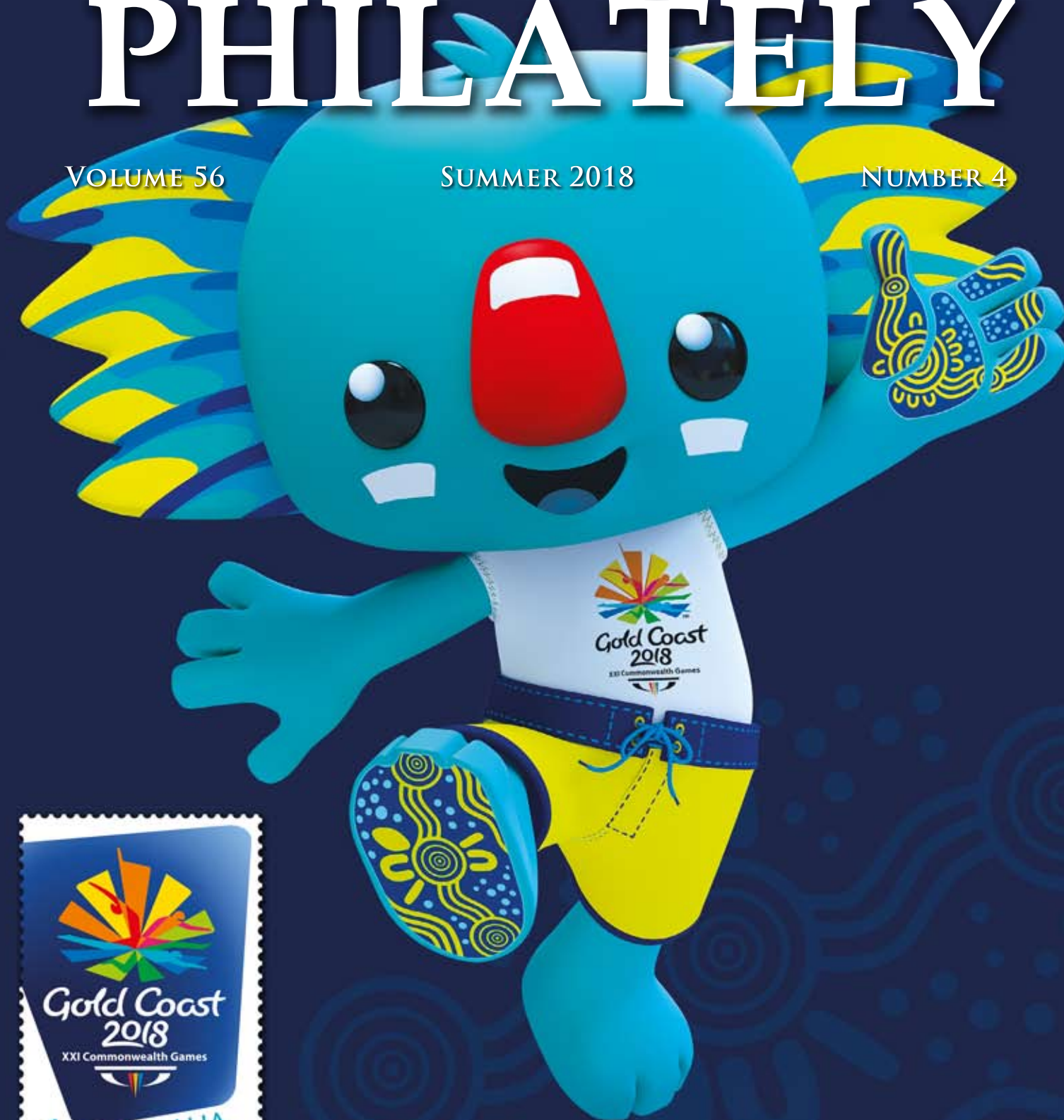


JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

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Sports Philatelists International

**VOLUME 56
NUMBER 4
SUMMER 2018**

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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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TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	Mark Maestroni	1
In the Pawprints of a Surfing Blue Koala	Mark Maestroni with William Silvester	3
Montréal's "Big O": Monumental Masterpiece Or Financial Folly? (Part 2)	Mark Maestroni	7
International Youth Service (IYS) Commercial Sports Covers	Norman Jacobs	12
Paris 1924, I Owe You (Part 4)	Manfred Bergman	14
Sports "Twofer" Cover From Italy	Norman Rushefsky	22
Be vigilant when seeking out stamps on sports topics	Maria Libera	24
Montserrat Golf Course, a Vanishing Green	Patricia Loehr	27
Constitution of SPI (Revised 2018)		29
New Stamp Issues	John La Porta	33
News of our Members & Commemorative Cancels	Mark Maestroni	36

On the cover: Borobi, the blue koala, official mascot of the XXI Commonwealth Games. The illustration is taken from a postal stationery card issued by Australia Post. While only one postage stamp was issued by the host country postal administration, there were a number of "official" personalized stamp packets commemorating the Queen's Baton Relay and the sports on the games program, both with and without Borobi.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestroni

SPI 2018 Election, Constitution Revision & Annual Membership Renewal Time

It's time to cast your ballots for the officers and board members who oversee the inner workings of *your* society. We do have a couple of changes in the batting line-up.

I'd like to thank Charles Covell for his many years of service to SPI, first as our Vice-President for 18 years (9 terms), and then as a member of the SPI Board of Directors for 4 more years (2 terms). That's what I call yeoman's duty!

Kon Sokolyk, one of our longtime Canadian members and frequent contributor to the journal, will be running for election to the board. I hope all of you will support him.

At long last, we have revised and updated the SPI Constitution. These changes are long overdue and something I've wanted to address for some time. So over the past couple of years, a Constitution Revision Committee composed of Joe Lopreiato, Charles Covell, Clemens Reiss and Kon Sokolyk have been reviewing and then revising the constitution. The Board of Directors voted unanimously in December 2017 to adopt the Revised Constitution, and recommends that the membership ratify the document. A simple majority of votes cast is needed for passage.

The "Constitution of Sports Philatelists International (Revised 2018)" is printed on pages 29-32 of this issue. New additions are indicated by underlined text; deleted text has been ~~struck out~~.

An election ballot enclosed with this issue includes a space for approving or disapproving the revised constitution. For an online election ballot:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LH9DKDK>

Please take a moment to vote – the candidates will appreciate it. And thanks to our Nominations Chairman, Glenn Estus for doing his usual fine job! Please note that the deadline for receiving votes (either by mail or online) is 1 August.

Lastly, if you find a renewal envelope enclosed with this issue, then it's time to renew. Digital members will receive an email notice. Feel free to use PayPal to pay your dues; our account name is: treasurer@sportstamps.org



Los Angeles 2018 World Olympic Collectors' Fair

Long Beach Convention Center
6-8 September 2018
LA2018.org

The Olympic Fair is coming right along with preparations. Booths are selling well and we have an official show hotel: the Renaissance Long Beach Hotel (a member of the Marriott chain). A special show rate of \$179 (plus taxes and fees) per night is available to all attendees. Please use the link on the Fair website to guarantee the rate.

The Fair is being held as part of the Long Beach Coin Expo, a thrice-yearly event that draws around 6,500 visitors to the beautiful Long Beach Convention Center.

There will be approximately 80 booths of Olympic memorabilia, pins, coins and stamps. Overall, the Expo features about 500 dealers in coins, and sports memorabilia. Plans are in the works for an Olympic Collecting Pavilion presenting frames of Olympic philately and pins along with display cases of Olympic torches, medals and other memorabilia.

The biennial General Assembly of the International Association of Olympic Collectors (AICO) will be conducted during the Olympic Fair, most likely on 7 September.

One of the highlights of the Fair will be the Gala Banquet on the evening of Friday, 7 September at the Queen Mary. And yes, this is *the* RMS Queen Mary which sailed the Atlantic from 1936 to 1967. She is permanently docked in Long Beach, serving as a floating hotel and destination attraction.

Other activities, still in the planning phase: a special tour of the Olympic Coliseum followed by a reception at the LA84 Foundation on 5 September (the day prior to the opening of the Fair); and a reception and Silent Auction on 6 September. Autograph sessions with Olympic athletes are also in the planning stage.

For information – and to reserve your booth – please visit our website at **LA2018.ORG**.

CELEBRATE THE OLYMPIC GAMES

at the **24th WORLD OLYMPIC
COLLECTORS' FAIR**

80 Olympic Collectibles Dealers
Display of Olympic Torches & Medals
Buy, Sell, Trade Olympic Memorabilia
Meet Olympic Athletes

SEPTEMBER 6-8, 2018
LONG BEACH EXPO
visit us at **LA2018.ORG**



In the Pawprints of a Surfing Blue Koala

by Mark Maestroni
with William Silvester

Borobi, the surfing blue koala captured the hearts of athletes and visitors alike as he led the way down the sandy beaches of Australia's Gold Coast to the XXI Commonwealth Games (Figure 1). Decked out in his yellow boardies and white t-shirt emblazoned with the sunburst logo of the Games, he was a charmingly irresistible ambassador for Gold Coast 2018.

The Legend of Borobi, the Blue Koala

When Borobi was born, all his Koala kin huddled around, utterly mesmerised by him and his very different paws. Each one bore unusual markings that Grandpa Koala, thought resembled drawings of the local people who spoke the Yugambah language. Grandpa wondered if it could be a sign of great things to come.

Determined to learn how to surf, Borobi walked to different Gold Coast beaches, leaving a trail of amazing pawprints. While Borobi was having lots of fun, he still hadn't caught his first wave. After weeks of trying, he noticed a magical transformation. His grey fur had turned a vibrant blue – the colour of the water.

As he walked up the beach, an elder approached Borobi. He explained that he'd been following Borobi's pawprints, which had intricate patterns that spoke of a great gathering. The circles represented a large meeting place, the dots were spectators and the lines symbolised the athletes' journey.

Borobi was blown away by this revelation and knew that destiny was calling. It would be his duty to be the Mascot of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

[From the official Gold Coast 2018 website]



Figure 1. Borobi the blue koala welcomes athletes and visitors alike to "The Friendly Games" on this postal stationery card from Australia Post.

The Commonwealth Games Return to Australia

Every four years, midway through the Olympic Games cycle, the Commonwealth Games assemble athletes in friendly rivalry from nations belonging to the British Commonwealth.

This year's edition, conducted from 4-15 April, was hosted by Australia's Gold Coast – both a city and Queensland's second most populous region – located along the country's eastern seaboard. Some 71 nations sent athletes to participate in 18 sports.

For many smaller states, particularly those which are not members of the International Olympic Committee, this was an opportunity for their athletes to shine on an international stage. Tim Kneale of the Isle of Man, an individual British Crown Dependency, won a silver medal in trap shooting.

For tiny Norfolk Island, an Australian external territory with a population of less than 2000, a bronze in the men's triples lawn bowls event was an occasion for celebration. "Any medal of any colour is a huge deal for Norfolk Island ... it marks our identity and lets people know who we are. We have great culture ... we are so very proud," bowler Haydn Evans remarked following their team's win.



Figure 2. Queen's Baton Relay stamp folder containing a sheetlet of 10 stamps and labels

The Queen's Baton Relay Kicks Off Events

Inspired by the Olympic Torch Relay, it has been a tradition since the 1958 Commonwealth Games in Cardiff, Wales, to conduct the Queen's Baton Relay (QBR) in which the Commonwealth's monarch encloses a message inside a special baton which is carried by relay runners from London to the host city. The message is extracted from the baton during the Opening Ceremony where it is read by the monarch or her representative.

Queen Elizabeth II launched this year's relay on Commonwealth Day – 13 March 2017. From its start at Buckingham Palace, the baton made its way around the world, visiting 70 Commonwealth nations and territories. This was the longest QBR in history spanning 388 days and covering 230,000 km.

Australia Post produced a special Queen's Baton Relay Stamp Pack (misspelled "Replay" in their online promotional material) consisting of a sheet of ten of the \$1 Queen Elizabeth II birthday stamps issued in 2017. The stamps alternate with five different tabs. Three of the tabs each picture a different colored Gold Coast 2018 baton, while the remaining two tabs reproduce the games logo and registered word mark. The stamp sheets are enclosed in handsome folders picturing – you

guessed it – our favorite Blue Koala! The price of the stamp pack was \$12 (Figure 2).

A Souvenir Commemorative Cover to mark the QBR was issued with eight different cancels from eight of the towns on route (Figure 3): 25 January 2018, Canberra, ACT 2600; 3 February 2018, Sydney, NSW 2000; 9 February 2018, Hobart, TAS 7000; 10 February 2018, Melbourne, VIC 3000; 18 February 2018, Adelaide, SA 5000; 24 February 2018, Perth, WA 6000; 2 March 2018, Darwin, NT 0800; 30 March 2018, Brisbane, QLD 4000. Each cover is franked with the \$1 Queen's Birthday stamp and cancelled with the special postmark (Figure 3).



Figure 3. QBR cover, 3 February postmark from Sydney.



Figure 4. Pair of sheetlets with \$1 Wattle stamps and 20 sport/para-sport pictogram tabs.

Gold Coast 2018 Includes Para-sports

Unlike the Olympics, the Commonwealth Games features sports for both able-bodied athletes as well as those with physical challenges. In all, the Gold Coast 2018 games conducted events in 18 sports and seven para-sports.

Sports included: Aquatics (Diving and Swimming), Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Beach Volleyball, Boxing, Cycling (mountain bike, road and track), Gymnastics (Artistic and Rhythmic), Hockey, Lawn Bowls, Netball, Rugby Sevens, Shooting, Squash, Table Tennis, Triathlon, Weightlifting and Wrestling.

Para-sports were: Athletics, Swimming, Lawn Bowls, Powerlifting, Track Cycling, Table Tennis and Triathlon.

A handsome pair of sheetlets were produced by Australia Post featuring 20 sports (Figure 4), one of which – Para-Powerlifting – was unique to the para-sports competition. The stamp attached to the sports pictogram tabs is the \$1 Wattle stamp. This Sports Stamp Pack pair of sheetlets sold for \$23.

Australia issued but a single stamp for the XXI Commonwealth Games. The \$1 stamp displays the official logo of Gold Coast 2018 (Figure 5). The emblem's design is said to have been inspired by the

region's skyline, ocean location and energetic feel, and incorporates graphic representations of a gymnast, hurdler and swimmer.

The Gold Coast 2018 sheetlet was comprised of ten stamps and was issued on 20 March 2018.



Figure 5. Stamp and first day maxicard.

Australia Post also released a stamp and coin cover featuring a pictorial envelope franked with the Gold Coast 2018 stamp and with a 50c Cupronickel coin from the Royal Australian Mint. First day post-marked on 20 March 2018 / Brisbane Qld 4000, this was a limited edition of 7,500 covers (Figure 6).



Figure 6. The stamp and coin cover with FD postmark.

Borobi's Mysterious Pawprints

And what of those mysterious markings on our mascot's paws (shown at right)? They were designed by 19-year-old Chern'ee Sutton of the Kalkadoon people of Queensland's Mount Isa region.

Each element of the design is symbolic of the journey taken by both athletes and visitors as they follow in the pawprints of Borobi to the Commonwealth Games. The Commonwealth countries are represented by the campsite or meeting place (on the soles of Borobi's feet) with both female and male athlete symbols sitting united on either side.

The athletes arrive at the Games which is represented by the main campsite – the larger circle on his paw – which also represents the ocean/water in Yugambah symbols. This main campsite has men and woman athletes from each country of the Commonwealth sitting united. The athletes then continue their journey fighting for gold at each of the many venues.

The eleven wavy lines in the fingertips represent the eleven days of the Commonwealth Games and the scattered dots represent the spectators from all over the world that come to support the games.

It is appropriate, then, that our final Australia Post issue is the Borobi Stamp Pack featuring a pair of sheetlets each with ten \$1 Wattle stamps and tabs showing the mascot engaging in 20 of the 26 sports on the program (Figure 7).



Thanks to William Silvester for contributing to this article and to the folks at Australia Post for providing the illustrations.



Figure 7. The pair of Borobi sports sheets parallels the pictogram sheets shown in Figure 4.



by Mark Maestroni

The Big “Owe”

With his past successes (the Metro, Expo ‘67 and Montréal Expos baseball team), Mayor Drapeau easily sold the Olympic Games to Montréal with his promise that the Games would be self-financing, a claim he punctuated with the analogy that “the Olympics can no more run a deficit than a man can have a baby.” He would eventually come to regret that promise.

Aislan – the *nom de plume* of well-known

'ELLO,
MORGENTALER?



"THE OLYMPICS CAN NO MORE HAVE A DEFICIT
THAN A MAN CAN HAVE A BABY"
JEAN DRAPEAU 29/1/73.

Montréal's “Big O”: Monumental Masterpiece Or Financial Folly? (Part 2)

Canadian editorial cartoonist Terry Mosher – took plenty of pot shots at Mayor Drapeau. The Mayor's Olympic “deficit” comment elicited a response from Aislan that perfectly captured the mixed mood of the public (Figure 24). For reference, Morgantaler was a Montréal abortion doctor who was tried multiple times (and always acquitted) in the early 1970s for violating Canada's abortion laws.

By Mayor Drapeau's simple calculations, the cost of the 1976 Olympic Games (both capital and non-capital costs) would total CD\$310 million. This entire sum would be covered by the sale of lottery tickets, coins, stamps, TV rights, tickets, and commercial licences. Aislan, with a nod to the sometimes capricious whims of philatelists, mocked Drapeau's figures in a humorous cartoon in 1973 (Figure 25).

Construction of the venues at Olympic Park should have been finished long before the Opening Ceremony on 17 July 1976. Most were. The stadium – more precisely, the stadium roof and the inclined tower to which it was attached – were not. What's more, the price tag for the construction of the Olympic Stadium alone had skyrocketed from an originally-budgeted CD\$71 million to CD\$1.1 billion! It would take nearly 40 years for the City of Montréal to finally retire the debt that was incurred in building the Olympic Park.

Figures 24 and 25. Aislan's editorial cartoons in the Montréal Gazette poked fun at Mayor Drapeau's claims that the Games were completely self-financed.

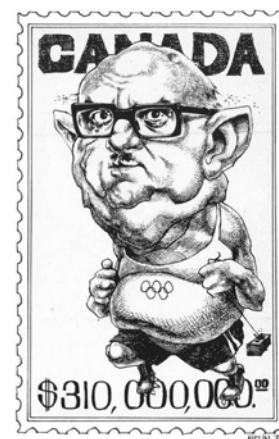




Figure 26. Execution in concrete of such an enormous curvilinear structure proved to be extraordinarily complex and expensive. This official postcard is franked with the \$2 Stadium stamp and postmarked with the "large date" stadium cancel on opening day, 17 July 1976.

How did this financial disaster – for that's really what it was – come about? There were three primary reasons.

First and foremost was the cost of building curvilinear concrete structures at such an enormous scale (Figure 26). Several respected structural engineers were of the opinion that the designs were some of the most complex concrete structures yet attempted. This was most certainly an onus to be shouldered by architect Taillibert.

Taillibert who, it was reported, had asked for CD\$40 million in design fees, was eventually paid a total of CD\$9.6 million following a ruling by the Québec Superior Court. A major sticking point in adjudicating the suit: there was no written contract between the city and Taillibert!

Second, construction management was in the hands of Mayor Drapeau and Taillibert, neither of whom had any experience overseeing a project of this complexity and size.

There were multiple delays right from the beginning. The extraordinarily complicated construction blueprints drafted in Paris using the metric system had to be completely redrawn in Montréal with measurements converted to feet and inches (Figure 27)!

Construction, which should have begun in late 1971 was delayed 18 months, getting underway on



Figure 27. Construction plans drawn in Taillibert's Paris office had to be converted from metric to feet/inches delaying construction by months.



Figures 28 & 29. Two primary causes of the giant cost overruns: Canada's strong labor unions (above left) held the Olympic Park project hostage, while corrupt public and private entities (above right) lined their pockets.

28 April 1973. The delay placed the project at the mercy of Québec's militant and all-powerful labor unions (the Québec Federation of Labour and the Confederation of National Trade Unions) who demanded extravagant overtime pay (Figure 28). During a critical period of construction in 1975, workers were on strike continuously for nearly 5 months.

Third, graft, corruption, and a nearly complete lack of oversight, consumed millions of dollars (Figure 29). One particularly egregious example: contractor Regis Trudeau, used \$163,000 of the CD\$6.9 million he had been awarded for Olympic construction projects, to build Gerard Niding, a political crony of Mayor Drapeau, an opulent vacation home. Niding was eventually sent a bill.

Finally in 1975, the Québec provincial government stepped in, creating the Olympic Installations Board (OIB) to manage all construction. By then, however, the horse was out of the barn.

The tower, as originally conceived, underwent numerous starts and stops in construction. Finally, in 1987 – over a decade after the 1976 Olympic Games – the funicular and observatory at the top of the Montréal Tower were finally opened.

Post-Olympic Legacy: Asset or Albatross?

Montréal's loss would actually turn out to be the Olympic Movement's gain. The financial repercussions for Montréal, combined with the terrorism attack in Munich in 1972, had so soured cities on bidding for the Olympic Games that just one candidate, Los Angeles, remained willing to host the 1984 edition.



Figures 30 & 31. After the terrorism attack at the 1972 Munich Olympics and the 1976 Montreal financial disaster, Peter Ueberroth, President of the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee, developed a system for host country self-financing, breathing new life into the Olympic movement. Forty percent of the profit went to the AAF (below, meter).

As it turned out, the 1984 Games completely altered the landscape for financing future Olympics, thanks to its organizing committee president, Peter Ueberroth (Figure 30). He developed a system for self-financing an Olympic Games: sell world broadcast rights, maximize sponsorships and licencing, and utilize existing venues whenever possible. Through careful planning, the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee showed a \$222 million surplus. One of the major recipients of the surplus was the Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles, now known as the LA84 Foundation, which was endowed with \$93 million for promoting youth sports in Southern California (Figure 31).

I'm sure, however, that the citizens of Montréal take little comfort that their financial losses were the Olympic world's gains!

So what has become of the Olympic Park? As one might expect, over the past forty years the facilities have been renovated or transformed for new uses.

The Swim Center remains well-used, serving as both Canada's National and Québec's provincial training center for swimming, synchronized swimming, diving and water polo.



The adjacent Velodrome was transformed into the Montréal Biodôme (Figure 32). Opening to the public in 1989, it features replicas of four ecosystems found in the Americas through which visitors can walk.



Figure 32. The Olympic Velodrome was transformed into the Biodôme, opening in 1989. The exhibit remains a popular Montréal attraction (postcard image).



Figure 33. The 1977 “Ice Bowl” – an iconic moment at the Olympic Stadium. Autograph is of Terry Evanshen, a wide receiver for the Canadian Football League Montréal Alouettes.

As for the Olympic Stadium, it has seen use as both a sporting and events facility. The Canadian Football League’s Montréal Alouettes were the first team to use the stadium, holding half their 1976 season home games on the newly laid astroturf field.

The 65th Grey Cup, was played in the Olympic Stadium on November 27, 1977 (Figure 33). A blizzard which hit Montréal two days before turned the stadium floor into a surface better suited for ice hockey, conferring the name “Ice Bowl” on the event. For the record, the hometown Montréal Alouettes defeated the Edmonton Eskimos by a score of 41-6.

Following the 1986 season, the Alouettes used the stadium only for larger events, favoring the smaller Percival Molson Stadium.

The Montréal Expos baseball team were the longest sports tenants, moving in for their 1977 season (Figure 34). They continued to use this as their home field for all or some of their games until moving south to Washington, DC to become the Washington Nationals in 2005.

The stadium continues to host numerous concerts and other events.

Of note was the 6 July 1977 Pink Floyd concert which attracted the largest ever paid crowd to the Olympic Stadium: 78,322 people. This was also a pivotal concert for Pink Floyd as it is often cited to have been the catalyst for lead member Roger Waters’ writing “The Wall,” one of the band’s most well known songs (Figure 35).



Figure 35. The 1977 Pink Floyd concert drew the largest paid Olympic stadium crowd.

The Olympic Stadium has seen use for sadder purposes. On 6 August 2017, fearing (U.S. President Donald) Trump’s deportation policies, particularly of Haitians (Figure 36), a record-breaking number of people from the U.S. sought refuge in Canada. The biggest burden fell on Montréal which was forced into using the Olympic Stadium to temporarily house and feed the refugees.

The Montréal Olympic Tower will see increased activity in mid-2018. Following some 30 years of being empty, the tower will welcome 1,000 employ-

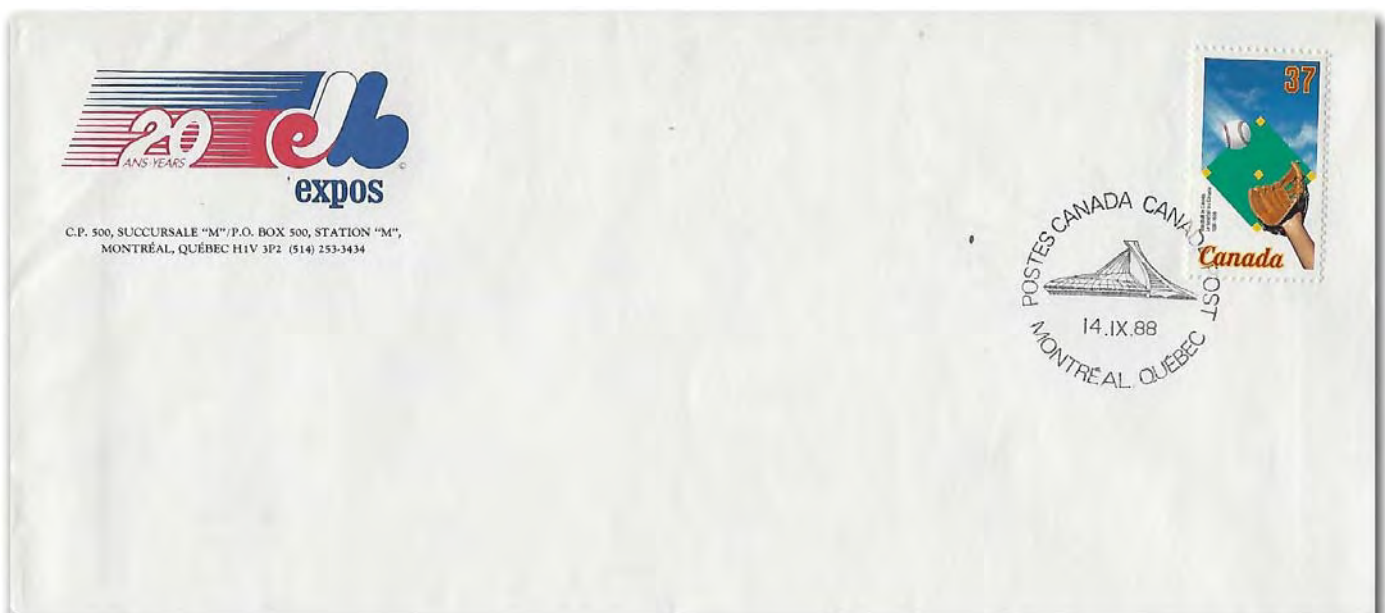


Figure 34. The Montréal Expos were the longest of the Olympic Stadium tenants, calling the “Big O” their home from 1977 until being relocated to Washington, DC in 2005.



Figure 36. In 2017 Haitian refugees fleeing the US, ended up in French-speaking Montréal where they were housed temporarily at the Olympic Stadium. This registered FDC is franked with a pair of Haiti “Year of Refugees” stamps of 1960.

ees of Desjardins, Canada’s largest credit union (Figure 37). They will occupy seven of the twelve

floors in the tower, making good use of the Olympic Park’s metro stations, underground parking and sports center.

While the Olympic Park structures exacted a staggering financial obligation on the citizens of Montréal, the city has most certainly benefitted from their continued use.

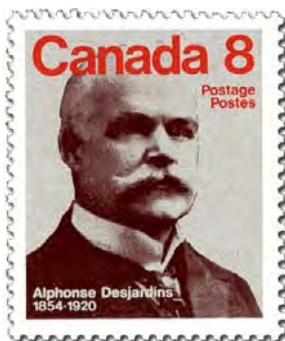


Figure 37. Alphonse Desjardins, founder of the Desjardins credit union.

Judging from the legacy of venues at more recent Olympic Games – Athens 2004 and Rio 2016 come to mind – Montréal’s sports complex is far from being just another Olympic-sized white elephant.

Despite the ineffectiveness of the stadium roof, which has never worked as planned, it is hard to deny the awe-inspiring massiveness of Montréal’s Olympic Park – a monument that over the years has been celebrated with at least eight different postmarks (Figure 38).

Figure 38. Key to the Olympic Stadium postmarks (below).

1. 1976 Olympic Games (small date variety). Available only from the philatelic service with a fixed date of “17 - VII - 76” (17 July 1976).
2. 1976 Olympic Games (large date variety). Large date Olympic Stadium postmarks were available at several temporary postal stations from July 17 through August 1.
- 3 & 4. Olympic Stadium postmark with different versions of dates (YMD & DMY). Periods of use are not known.
5. The Fédération québécoise de philatélie (“fpq”) 1990 General Assembly. They had offices in the Olympic Stadium.
6. Montreal skyline, a permanent postmark used at the downtown post office.
7. Special postmark celebrating Montréal’s 375 anniversary.
8. The newest Olympic Stadium cancel (introduced in September 2016) is being used at the Rosemont postal station on Masson Street.





International Youth Service (IYS) Commercial Sports Covers

by Norman F. Jacobs

In my article “Modern Issues in International Sports and Olympics Exhibiting” (*JSP*, Spring 2016), I included the 1994 cover from Guinea to Finland shown above. Franked with three identical stamps showing a player stroking a backhand, it appeared to be a commercial use paying for Express service. I reviewed its appropriateness in a philatelic exhibit, and I outlined the difficulties in the decision criteria put forward in 1976 by the International Federation of Philately (FIP).

Recently, I found the covers shown in Figures 2 and 3 on Delcampe, both available from the same seller who specializes in tennis philately. In view of

the scarcity of commercial covers with tennis themes from African nations, I wondered briefly if this could be a case of a tourist creating philatelic artifacts that looked commercial. However, the different color and shape of the envelopes and handwriting suggested the covers were not produced by the same person. The reverse of the Ivory Coast cover (Figure 3) indicates the sender is a student. The first line translates as “student in Primary D2”.

With a little more searching, I found the port pay cover from IYS shown in Figure 4. The front confirms that IYS was a real organization, and the reverse gives you a huge clue about their mission and how they attracted letters from these different countries.



Figure 2. Gambia cover addressed to the IYS (pen pal service) in Finland.



Figure 3. An Ivory Coast cover to the IYS. The return address shows the sender was a student.

Sadly, the work of IYS, to bring together young people as pen pals, ceased in 2008, another postal casualty of the explosion of internet communications. Based in Turku, Finland, International Youth Service arranged pen pals for students aged 10-20 years in over 100 different countries from its founding in 1952 until it closed on June 30, 2008. The organization's support came from a per-address fee paid by the person applying for one or more pen pals, who would be matched by age, interests, and language abilities. This explains why all three African covers were registered, since they likely contained the cash fee. All that remains now are the tributes from former members on a blog site (<http://penpallingandletters.blogspot.com>), and a Facebook page for fans of IYS.

If you spot a sports or Olympic cover addressed to IYS in a dealer's box or online, you will have found an artifact from a slower time, when communicating with friends in foreign countries involved long waits for the next letter. And the information above should help to reassure you that the cover represents a legitimate and possibly scarce com-

mercial use of the sports stamps we collect.

Finally, what about the use of tennis stamps on the three African covers? Does tennis play a role in these countries? In February 2018, the Davis Cup website listed 16 African countries as active participants in this competition. Although the three nations whose covers are illustrated do not currently play Davis Cup, Ivory Coast did send teams to Davis Cup from 1986 to 2012. The 1991 tennis stamp on the Ivory Coast cover honored the centenary of the French Championships, a reasonable commemoration for this former French colony. Guinea and Gambia have National Associations that are members of the International Tennis Federation (ITF). In 2006, the ITF conducted a Coaches Education Course in Gambia. Even though these nations face challenges and have not yet equaled the success of South Africa, Morocco, Zimbabwe, and Egypt in international competition, their tennis stamps highlight the development of organized tennis in their countries. This makes the stamps thematically appropriate to appear on their mail.

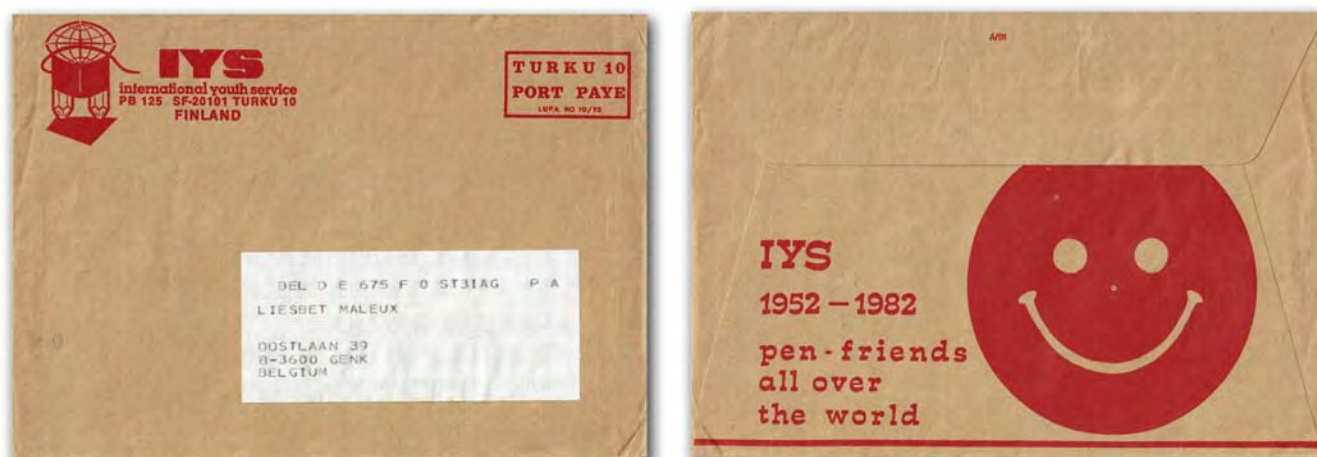


Figure 4. The IYS's true mission was revealed on this "smiley face" cover from the head office in Turku, Finland.

PARIS 1924

IOWE YOU

PART 4

by Manfred Bergman

PRESTIGE

Two special “prestige” products were printed by the French Post.

Individual DeLuxe sheetlets of each stamp were created using a special die. Shown in Figure 79 is the 50c DeLuxe sheetlet.

Imagine that even after 94 years, questions still surround these interesting items!

First, how many were printed? The accepted quantity is ten. However, there is no written evidence to support that number. I have attempted to count them as they are shown by top collectors at international exhibitions. The number seems reasonable, but I can’t vouch for it.

Second, who were the recipients of the sheetlets, assuming that ten was the correct quantity?

The postal archives at the Musée de La Poste in Paris are, at present, inaccessible as the museum is closed for renovation. It is scheduled to reopen in September 2018, at which time I shall try searching for further clues.



Figure 79. 50c DeLuxe sheetlet.

The post office also printed a collective DeLuxe proof, showing the full 1924 Olympic set in an imperforate format, including the 50c stamp (Figure 80). The proof was covered by silk paper (which explains the fuzzy appearance of the scan). The printing house control punches are clearly visible at the right side of the proof. Depolier’s 1947 Catalogue general des timbres sportifs states a printing quantity of 153. This quantity has not been challenged. It was commonly accepted that the control punches were on the right margin of the proof. Last year, however, I saw one proof with the control punches on the bottom margin which I consider to be an extremely scarce variety.



Figures 80 & 81. Collective DeLuxe proof with control punches (left), and with punches trimmed off (right).

The majority of these DeLuxe proof sheets were distributed to members of the International Olympic Committee and French National Olympic Committee, high officials of the government and Parliament. Some were retained for the post office archives, but that quantity is not currently known.



The remaining proofs were given by the French post office as gifts on the occasion of the 8th UPU Congress (Stockholm 1924). The punches were removed, slightly reducing the width (Figure 81).

There is a personal story connected to this proof as it was the first one to be added to my collection. My stamp dealer in Geneva offered me one back in 1951 (almost pre-historic in terms of Olympic philately). At that time its price was a tenth of the price demanded now, but as a student with limited financial means, I had to work for two months in his shop to pay for the proof.

A thought ought to be given to prices and potential acquisition. In Olympic philately's heyday, the original proof was offered at \$4,000 to \$6,000. Those without the control punches sold for \$3,000 to \$4,000. Back then, both versions sold well at those prices. It is my opinion that the proof without the control punches is far more scarce than its control-punched brother, therefore the prices should be reversed. The question is not when they were used, but rather the quantity in existence.

Today, prices have slumped for all Olympic items. In fact, up to 90% of lots remain unsold, and this includes the DeLuxe proofs! The proofs without the control punches tanked, dropping from \$3,000 to \$1,200 and still found no buyers.

I am convinced, however, that Olympic philately is one of the rare areas of our hobby which will continue to thrive. With the 2024 Paris Olympic Games just around the corner, interest in the 1924 Olympic set should again soar. Collectors would be well-advised to grab these proofs at the current low price.



***The Olympic Salute:
Knockout in the
Third Round
(continued from Part 3)***

The period between the World Wars saw a decline in the use of the Olympic salute and the rise of the Fascist salute. The Olympic salute was knocked out in three rounds.

During WWI, soldiers of all nations were encouraged to play football as a means of fostering "esprit de corps" among the troops. Socioeconomic and political factors led to further democratization of sport, driving a wedge between the IOC's amateurism, and the professionalism espoused by the FIFA. The conflict began at the 1925 Prague Congress followed by a compromise for the 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games. The status quo established at the 1930 Berlin IOC Congress led to the creation of the Rimet World Cup in 1931. The lack of a football tournament at the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics resulted in only amateur teams at Berlin 1936.

The first round between the Olympic and Fascist salutes occurred at the 1934 World Cup in Italy. FIFA, more concerned about strengthening its independence from the Olympic Movement, allowed teams to give their Fascist salutes (see Part 3).

The Olympic salute again lost in the second round at the 1936 Berlin Games (see Part 3). The IOC's fight against the use of the Fascist salute by athletes was ineffective.

The third and final round started after the Berlin Olympics. On the occasion of international sports events, Fascist salutes were given by teams of Germany, Italy and other countries, even when the competition was hosted by a democratic nation. Worse still, teams from democratic countries were coerced into giving the Nazi salute. This was facilitated by the absence of the Olympic Games though, as I will show, the Nazi salute also prevailed in the correspondence of the German Organizing Committee of the 1940 Winter Olympics.



Figure 82. The English national team giving the Nazi salute before their match in Berlin on 14 May 1938.



Figures 83-85. Propaganda forgeries of Göring and Goebbels (left and center). At right, a 2008 gaffe by Deutsche Post depicting Hess.

Let's take a look at three highlights of the third round.

Our first highlight was the arrogant insistence of Germany that all foreign touring teams should give the Nazi salute. The round began with a 1937 match played in Germany between a Manchester (England) team and a German team. Though the Manchester players were asked to give the Nazi salute, they chose instead to stand at attention. One player, as a joke, raised his hand and was acclaimed by the public. It was not a point in favor of the Olympic salute, but at least it demonstrated resistance against German fascism.

Shame, however, befell the British Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) team that went on a tour of Germany, and gave the Nazi salute in Berlin. (Did the MCC think that it would not be "cricket" if they did not abide by local standards?)



Figure 87. The Italian team giving the Fascist salute during the at the 1938 World Cup in France.

The final blow against the Olympic salute occurred on 14 May 1938¹. The English national football team played Germany in front of 11,000 spectators at the Olympiastadion in Berlin (Figure 82). It was the opening game of their tour of Europe² and began with a powerful political incident. Top-ranking Nazis Hermann Goering, Rudolf Hess and Joseph Goebbels were in attendance for the match (Figures 83-85). England's players were told to raise their arms to give the Nazi "Heil Hitler" salute when the German national anthem was played before the game. The orders came direct from the Foreign Office. It was later reported that the team initially refused³, which caused the British Ambassador to Germany, Sir Neville Henderson, to intervene and enforce the gesture.

The second highlight was a series of demonstrative Fascist salutes by Germany, Italy and other countries at international sports events.

The last major international sports event before WWII was the Jules Rimet FIFA World Cup. It took place in France from 4-19 June 1938 (Figure 86). Italy, the title-holder won the Cup for a second time. The team gave the Fascist salute at all games, causing outrage in France and worldwide. Figure 87 is a photograph from the quarter-final game against France. The Hungarian team, which placed second (Figure 88), also gave the Fascist salute. FIFA did not react, choosing to ignore the Fascist demonstration. Did it have a choice?

We shall talk about round three's final highlight in detail in Part 5 of this article.

Figures 86 & 88. The 1938 World Cup in France was the last major international sports event prior to WWII (left). The Hungarian team came in second (right).



The Olympic Salute on Related Stamps and Postcards

Olympic victory was the central theme of Becker's stamp designs for the 1924 Olympic Games. One might say it was almost an obsession. For example, the 10c stamp of the 1924 set featured a winner of the ancient Olympic Games giving the Olympic salute. The stamp has three aspects: philatelic, thematic and political.

A. The philatelic aspect.

I shall show all the evolutionary stages, but shall refrain from detailing the modifications in order to encourage readers to participate and discover such differences by him/herself.

[The captions below correspond to the illustrations below and on the next page.]

1. The original hand-painted design for the ultimate 10c stamp. (Quiz: Why was this denominated 25c?)

2. The original design reduced to stamp-size in blue. (Quiz: How was this created?)

3. Original design, part of a "collective presentation" sheet which included the original designs for the 25c and 30c stamps, but all with a 25c denomination.

4. The modified, hand-painted design for the 10c stamp. (Quiz: When was the stadium, shown in the background, used for the first time?)

5. Hand painted maquette with Becker's annotations. (Quiz: What is the in terminology?)

6 & 7. Color essays of the Master die. (Quiz: What are the frames around the essay?)

8. & 9. Progressive color essays of the Master die. (Quiz: Are any other color essays known?)

10. The definite die printer's proof. (Quiz: When was the stamp demonetized?)

11. Imperforate stamp from the reference sheet. (Quiz: Where was the stamp, as such, used outside France?)

12. Individual DeLuxe sheetlet. (Quiz: How many types of the collective DeLuxe sheets are known?)

The reader sending in the most correct answers to the quiz wins a 30c proof, current value about \$300. Limited to non-exhibitors, or those with less than a vermeil medal.



5



8



9



10



11

12



B. The thematic aspect.

To describe the thematic aspect, I must reveal one modification. The original design showed a modern athlete wearing a sleeveless jersey. Eventually, the athlete was depicted shirtless.

Good old Becker, though well-intentioned, made two thematic mistakes when it came to his portrayal of an ancient athlete (Figure 89): (1) the winner gave no salute, but modestly bowed his head to receive his crown, and (2) the victor received an olive branch woven into a crown, not a branch from a laurel tree.

Figures 89 & 90. Below, an ancient Greek athlete, head bowed, wearing an olive crown. (Right) A modern athlete, but with a laurel crown.



Hammersten-Janss (1940 Olympic Games stamp project which was never issued) featured an ancient Olympic athlete, head modestly bowed, but still wearing a laurel crown (Figure 90).

C. The political aspect. Use in the French Mandate for Syria and the Lebanon.

The Treaty of Sèvres (which followed the San Remo Conference) was signed on 10 August 1920 in the exhibition room at the Manufacture Nationale de Sèvres porcelain factory (Figure 91). This marked the beginning of the dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire following WWI. The terms included, notably, the ceding of Eastern Mediterranean lands and allowed the creation of new forms of government, including Mandatory Palestine and the French Mandate for Syria and the Lebanon.

The political situation thereafter became very complicated, with revolutions, wars, upheavals and new treaties. The French mandate was confirmed by the Treaty of Lausanne, 24 July 1923 (Figure 92).

France wished to enhance the international recognition of its mandate. It decided to do so by postal means, overprinting its metropolitan stamps,



Figure 91. The French Mandate for Syria (State of Damascus) and the (Greater) Lebanon were created by the Treaty of Sèvres signed on 10 August 1920 in the exhibition room at the Manufacture Nationale de Sèvres porcelain factory. Inset is the special cachet handstamp used by the factory.

including the 1924 Olympic set. The overprints were either in French or in French and Arabic. The overprints were done in a hurry, resulting in many varieties, some of which are shown (Figure 93). Postal use of the Olympic stamps was meager and mostly philatelic (Figures 94 & 95).



Figure 93. Varieties of the French and Syria Mandate overprints on the 1924 French Olympic set abound.



Figure 92. The Lausanne Conference of July 1923 confirmed the territories of the French Mandates for Syria and Lebanon. A special postmark was used.



Figure 94. 19.6.1924. Cover from Damascus to Beirut with the French overprinted Olympic set.



Figure 95. 29.9.1924 cover from Damascus to Aleppo, this time with the Arabic overprinted Olympic set.



Figure 96. Athlete giving the Olympic salute wearing a wreath of laurel leaves – the same thematic mistakes made by Becker.

Stamps Depicting the Olympic Salute Issued by Other Countries

Columbia held its IIIrd (National) Olympiad (approved by the IOC) in 1935. One stamp depicted an athlete giving the Olympic salute. Like Becker, the stamp designer made the same thematic mistakes (Figure 96).

As discussed earlier in this article, the Olympic salute fell into disuse at sporting events after 1936. During WWII, the Olympic salute reappeared, though clandestinely, on the program of the Olympic Year (1944) celebrated in the Polish P.O.W. camp of Gross Born (Figure 97). The German camp commander was led to believe that it was the Nazi salute. Again, a laurel crown was incorrectly used.

The tide of WWII began to turn in favor of the Allies. With a certain amount of optimism, the IOC “dared” to organize an Olympic Jubilee in Lausanne in July 1944. A set of stamps was issued depicting Apollo giving the Olympic salute (Figures 98 & 99).



Figure 97. The 1944 Gross Born POW camp Olympic program depicting an athlete with laurel crown raising his hand in a salute – was it Fascist or Olympic?



The designer of the 1944 Swiss stamp, Alex Diggelmann, was a three-time Olympian, winning a gold medal in the 1936 Olympic art competition. He was also an Olympic philatelist whom I knew personally. Shown in Figure 98 is the major variety Apollo “with open eye.”



Figure 98. The 1944 Olympic Jubilee stamps from Switzerland depicted Apollo with arm outstretched in an Olympic salute. Fascism’s days were numbered. The red arrow on the top left stamp in the block points to the “open eye” variety of the stamp.



Figure 99. The 1944 Jubilee stamps on cover and card.



The most bizarre stamps depicting the Olympic salute were issued by the French Indochinese Federation (a federation of one colony and four protectorates) on 11 July 1944, and overprinted in January 1945 (Figure 100). After the fall of France during World War II, French Indochina was administered by the Vichy government, with its naval bases ceded to Japan and with the presence of 50,000 Japanese soldiers. In contrast to stamps issued in France at the same time, these depict a figure giving the Fascist salute.

To end the story of the Olympic salute in philately, let us return to 1912. At the last meeting of the IOC Session in Stockholm, Coubertin presented a postcard (Figure 101) intended to be used at the 1914 Olympic Congress (Paris). Commissioned by the Baron, it was designed by the Swiss artist Edouard Elzingre.

Take a look at the athlete on horseback (Figure 101). Isn't his arm raised in the Olympic Salute? Was the salute, then, not Coubertin's idea, which was then implemented for the first time at the 1920 Antwerp Olympic Games? Taken a step further, might Becker not have been inspired by the picture



Figure 100. French Indochinese Federation stamps depicting an athlete giving the Fascist salute – an odd subject for a French colonial stamp!

of the 1920 Olympic Opening Ceremony (Figure 102)? Or was using the Olympic salute Becker's own inspiration? The readers' opinion will be welcome.

Notes:

1. England left FIFA twice, the first time in 1919 in a dispute over inclusion of Central Powers, and again in 1929 over payments to amateurs. They did not rejoin until 1950, and consequently did not participate in the 1938 Rimet World Cup. Instead, the team made this European tour.
2. VICE Sports, 12 May 2016.
3. It is said that Eddie Hapgood, a mild-tempered, respected and devoted captain, wagged his finger at the official and told him what he could do with his Nazi salute, which involved putting it where the sun doesn't shine.



Figures 101 & 102. (Left) 1914 Olympic Congress postcard commissioned by de Coubertin. This may be the debut of the Olympic salute for the Modern Olympic Games. (Above) At the 1920 Opening Ceremony.



Figure 1A & B. Cover with two different sports machine cancels.

Sports "Twofer" Cover From Italy

by Norman Rushefsky

Italians are very passionate about their sports and this passion extends to sports philately as well. While football (soccer) is their greatest pastime, other sports are avidly collected. As one who specializes in baseball, I am well aware of the wide variety of baseball and softball philatelic items available in Italy including stamps, meters and cancellations.

Early philatelic baseball collectibles from Italy took the form of postmarks. The first of these promoted the 1952 European baseball championship held in Rome on 31 August 1952.

In this regard the cover shown in Figures 1A and 1B comprises a sports "twofer" meaning that there are two different sports postmarks that could only be obtained through a mailing of the cover, probably for non-philatelic purposes, from Trieste to Rome.

From 1947 to 1954, most of the city of Trieste was governed by military forces from the United States and Great Britain. Known as the Allied Military Government - Free Territory of Trieste, its Italian postage stamps were overprinted "AMG-FTT."

The front of the Figure 1A cover features a sports related 1952 machine postmark noting the VI

National University Championships sponsored by C.U.S.I. (Centro Universitario Sportivo Italiano) and hosted by C.U.S. Trieste in September 1952.

The university sports centers grew out of university groups following the end of World War II. The first sports activities at the C.U.S. were basketball, volleyball, fencing, light athletics and tennis.

Figure 2A shows a postcard promoting the 1952 games in Trieste. The back of the postcard is postmarked with a clearer imprint of the Trieste sports postmark (Figure 2B).

The rear of the cover shown in Figure 1B includes a Rome receiving machine postmark noting a baseball game between Italy and Spain on August 31, 1952. Although baseball was played in Europe prior to World War II, this game was the first to be played after the war.

Efforts were made during this post-WWII period to establish a European baseball federation. Italy and Spain decided to jump start the process with Italy feeling secure in a victory because they had Giulio Glorioso, one of Europe's greatest pitchers.

The game was heavily publicized. American actor Gregory Peck, who was in Rome for the filming of the movie "Roman Holiday" with Audrey Hepburn, was invited to throw out the first pitch.



Figure 2A & B. Postcard for the 1952 National University Games held in Trieste. The machine cancel (above) is the same as in Figure 1A.

The team from Spain led by pitcher Juan Manuel Becerra, a Puerto Rican native living in Spain, defeated the Italian Azzurra team 7-3.

In 1953, Spain defeated Italy once again. This time the game was played in Madrid, with Spain using players from Puerto Rico. Eventually, the Federation of European Baseball prohibited such players reasoning that Puerto Rico was a territory of the United States and not Spain.

Figure 3A is a postcard promoting the 1952 game. The address side (Figure 3B) includes a handcancel from Rome that was also used to promote the game.

Despite the fact that Spain beat Italy in both the 1952 and 1953 baseball games, Italians took a far more active interest in the sport. This led to further development of baseball in Italy which is reflected in the numerous baseball philatelic items associated with this country.



Figure 3A & 3B. Postcard celebrating the 1952 Spain - Italy baseball game in Rome. Spain won. At left is the special handcancel which was applied to the reverse of this postcard. The postcard itself was not mailed.



Figure 1. Illegal sheetlet in the name of Egypt for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games.

Introduction

Having worked with the institutional aspects of the development of philately and stamp collecting on the international level, I was impressed by the thorough analysis and well-documented concerns raised in the article “Modern Issues in International Sports and Olympics Exhibiting” by Norman Jacobs that was published in the Spring 2016 issue of the *Journal of Sports Philately*. The numerous issues raised by Mr. Jacobs continue to be relevant and definitely require follow-up to ensure that stamp collectors, especially those preparing exhibits for competitions, do not become penalized due to a lack of information available concerning the authenticity of items they seek to include in their exhibit.

Stamp collecting and the practicing of sports are similar passions

Indeed, the collecting of postage stamps on numerous topics and the practicing of a variety of sports are similar activities and passions that bring together and connect people of all ages and professions from around the world, out of individual pleasure or for competitive reasons in a variety of events at national, regional and international levels. New and avid stamp collectors and philatelists visit and participate in stamp fairs and exhibitions to enlarge and display their stamp collections. Individuals and professional athletes practice and compete in their favorite sport on fields, diamonds, courts, and other sports facilities.

Most countries celebrate their nation’s participation and victory in national, regional and interna-

Be vigilant when seeking out stamps on sports topics

by Maria Libera*

tional sports championships and events by regularly issuing postage stamps, thereby providing a lasting connection between sports and the country’s national and cultural heritage and the values attributed to the peoples involved.

On the occasion of a recent stamp issue, a senior postal official declared as follows: “We are honored to celebrate our nation’s passion for athletics with the Have a Ball! Forever stamps. It is my hope that whenever you affix these colorful new stamps to letters, they serve as a reminder of the connection between sports and culture ... This innovative stamp collection provides a lasting symbol of how sports ... can connect people and communities, create fun opportunities to promote an active lifestyle, and bring out the fan in all of us ...”

It is also to be highlighted that a major philatelic stamp exhibition, known as “Olymphelex,” was frequently organized simultaneously with the Summer Olympic Games, bringing together, at the same time, numerous stamp and sports enthusiasts.

Sports on stamps are among the most widely collected topics

It is undoubtedly due to the popularity of sports in themselves that has made the collecting of sports on stamps one of the most popular topics in stamp collecting. Popular leisure and recreational activities and sports depicted on stamps include everything from archery to windsurfing.

Beware of the numerous “dubious” stamps on sports topics

It is also probably because sports topics are so popular and widely collected that there have been,

over the past few years, an incredible number of sports themes produced as “illegal stamps,” as well as “abusive” productions under the cover of official contracts between certain philatelic agents and mostly developing nations.

Regarding the latter, one of the more difficult stamp topics to accept are images of ice hockey players and games in the names of the following African and other developing nations, that have no direct link or tradition to the ice hockey sport. These include countries such as the Republique Centrafricaine, Comoros, Djibouti, The Gambia, Guinea, Guine-Bissau, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mocambique, Niger, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Togo, and Zambia. That, at the same time, these and other nations continue to be victims of a continuing proliferation of illegal “stamps” is definitely neither to the benefit of the country concerned, nor to the stamp collector.

Illegal “stamps” on many topics including various sports, have become so widespread that it is difficult for the countries themselves to keep up with quantities and to publish rapidly the required denouncements. One recent example is Egypt. Its official denouncement via UPU Circular No. 157 of 4 December 2017 included “illegal” stamps on the 2018 Olympic Winter Games (Figure 1). It should be noted, however, that the aforementioned sheetlet is only one of eight items in the set. Since then, more “illegal stamps” in the name of Egypt have appeared on other topics.

As has been the case with Egypt, an almost identical style of “illegal stamps” on various Olympic themes and other sports and their events has also been identified as having been produced in the name of many other countries of the developing world. These “illegal stamps” are usually sold in a set of 8 sheetlets (for the most part), constituted of a sheetlet of four “stamps,” a sheetlet of two “stamps” and six individual sheetlets of one “stamp” each with reproduce images already appearing in

the sheetlets of the two and four “stamps.” Each set is advertised as having been produced in both the perforated and the imperforate formats, making for sixteen individual items in each set! In most cases the description does not include the name of the country or year, only the topic.

As occurred with Egypt, numerous countries of the developing world have had almost identical styles of “illegal stamps” issued in their names. Collectors should be wary of stamps from: Republique du Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Republic of Cameroon, Republique Centrafricaine, Union of the Comoros, Republic of Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Republique Gabonaise, The Gambia, Ghana, Republique de Guinee (Guinea), Guine Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Kongo DR (R.D. Kongo), Lao PDR, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Republic of Niger, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, Tanzania, Republique Togolaise, and Uganda.

Let us take one case, notably that of the Republique du Benin. Various sports topics issued in the country’s name included World Cup 2018, the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games, auto racing and other miscellaneous sports. These issues are as follows:

Sports FIFA World Cup 2018 in Russia (2018), Sports FIFA World Cup 2018 in Russia - set of 9 sheetlets (2017), Sports FIFA World Cup 2018 in Russia Japan (2017), Sports FIFA World Cup 2018 in Russia (2016) x 2 sets of 8 sheetlets each, Sport Football stadiums of Russia Kazan Arena (2017), Sport Greatest Goalkeepers of the USSR Lev Yashin (2017), Sport FIFA Confederations Cup 2017 (2016),

Sports Champions of PyeongChang 2018 Hockey (2018), Sport Olympic athletes from Russia Biathlon Pyeongchang (2018), Sport Olympic Champions Ryan Lochte (2017), Sport Pierre de Coubertin (2018), Sports PyeongChang paralympic games 2018 (a set of 9 sheetlets) (2018), Sports 120th Anniver-



Figure 2. Illegal sheetlets in the name of Ethiopia (F1-Ferrari, Cristiano Ronaldo) and Zimbabwe (2018 World Cup).

sary of the Olympic movement (2017), Sport Swimming at the 2016 Summer Olympics (2017), Sports Winter Olympic Games PyeongChang 2018 x 2 sets of 8 sheetlets each (2017), Sports Winter Olympic Games PyeongChang 2018 (2017), Olympic Games in Rio 2016 x 2 (2016) (One set of 9 sheetlets, one set of 8 sheetlets), Sport Paralympic Games in Rio 2016 (2016), Sport Winter Olympic Games in Sochi 2014 Champions (2016), Sport 35 Anniversary of the Olympics-80 (2015), Sport Champions of the Olympiad 1980 Gymnastics (woman) (2015), Sport 120 years of International Olympic Community (2014), Sport Olympic Games 2012 in London (2012) x 2, Sport Winter Olympic Games 2010 in Vancouver (2010).

Sport Handball (2017), Sport Hockey National Hockey League (2017), Sport Ice Hockey World Championship (2017), Sport National Hockey League (2017), Parachutes Basejumping (2017) (A set of 9 sheetlets), Parachutes Swoop (2017) (A set of 9 sheetlets), Sport Rugby (2017), Sport The legends of Soviet hockey (2017), Sport Vladislav Tretyak (2017)

Transport Racing Cars Formula 1 (2018), Transport Formula 1 (2017), Transport Formula 1 Ayrton Senna (2017), Transport History of the Rally-Dakar (2016), Transport Formula 1 x 2 sets of 8 sheetlets each (2015).

All of these so-called “stamps” should be avoided, even while waiting for the official UPU Circulars to be published.

Illegal Stamps in the name of Ethiopia

Three illegal stamps sheetlets of the sports themes that were denounced by Ethiopia via UPU Circular No. 165 of 31 October 2016 are described (Figure 2). There are several sheetlets of nine perforated values each (1B, 5B, 10B, 100B, 200B, 300B, 400B 500B, 600B) including the year 2016, the country name “Ethiopia” and illustrating as follows: F1-Ferrari, Michael Schumacher, NHL Hockey Stars, Soccer Stars, and Cristiano Ronaldo in action.

Additionally, there is a series of seven sheetlets illustrating different soccer players as a team and individually that apparently form part of the “Netherlands national football team” that would play in the FIFA World Cup Russia 2018. The two larger sheetlets include among them five stamps that are reproduced separately within miniature sheetlets. Each individual illegal stamp includes in the top part “ETHIOPIA postes 2015” and a currency (46m, 35C, 15C, 15C or 2C). The body of the stamp has the

image of a soccer player whose name and original team are reproduced at the bottom of the stamp.

Illegal Stamps in the name of Zimbabwe

The sports theme that was denounced by Zimbabwe via UPU Circular No. 164 of 31 October 2016 is on the topic of the “Ice Hockey World Championship 2015”(Figure 2).

Illegal Stamps in the name of Namibia

The sports theme denounced by Namibia via UPU Circular No. 40 of 21 March 2016 is on the topic of the “2018 World Cup in Russia” (Figure 3). 🇳🇲

**Maria Zofia Libera is at present Coordinator of the Worldwide Philatelic Observatory (WPO). In cooperation with philatelic partners, the WPO is striving to safeguard philately and the cultural heritage and identity of Nations from abusive stamp industry practices, such as the large-scale proliferation of illegal stamps produced, distributed and sold in the names of the countries concerned.*

Maria worked for more than 26 years for the Universal Postal Union in Bern, much of that time involved with philatelic related activities.

Readers are welcome to send queries about the authenticity of stamps they wish to acquire or have already purchased to either of the following email addresses: m.zofia.libera@gmail.com phil.obs@progress-marketing.tn

[Editor’s Note: Additional illustrations of these illegal issues, along with the UPU Circulars cited above, may be downloaded from the SPI website via the this link: www.sportstamps.org/society.html]



Figure 3. Illegal 2018 World Cup sheetlet in the name of Namibia.

Montserrat Golf Course, a Vanishing Green

by Patricia Loehr

Golf courses that no longer exist have been described as vanishing greens. In *Golf On Old Picture Postcards*, Tom Serpell

writes that “the reasons for this are as diverse as the uses to which good land may be put ...” He also gives a few examples.

In traditional golf language, the word “green” refers to the entire golf course. Therefore, when a golf course disappears, so, too, do its putting greens.

Until the volcanic eruption in 1995, Montserrat had a single golf course that was designed to attract visitors to the island. Constructed following World War II, it was not a resort-style course; it was, instead, available to golfers wishing to play while visiting the area.

During the years that the golf course existed, Montserrat maintained a somewhat conservative stamp program with designs relevant to this small British territory in the Caribbean. Their first golf stamp was issued 29 December 1967 (Scott 192) for the United Nations International Tourist Year (ITY).

Figure 1 is a cacheted First Day Cover of the four-stamp set. The design of the 24c denomination features a golfer preparing to putt while a nearby caddy, or perhaps a fellow player, carries a bag of clubs over his left shoulder while holding a flagstick in his right hand. The ITY emblem of a dove superimposed on an eight-point star surrounded by a wreath of laurel leaves appears on each stamp. An example of the emblem is shown in Figure 2.



Figure 1. The first golf stamp issued by Montserrat depicts its course, part of a 1967 set of four honoring the International Tourist Year.

On 30 November 1970 Montserrat issued another four-stamp set for tourist publicity. As with the first set, the golf stamp is the high value (Scott 251). The design is of two golfers, a man and a woman, with a caddy nearby. Printed at the bottom is the text, “The 5th Tee & Fairway.” The four stamps were also available in a souvenir sheet (Scott 251a, Figure 3).

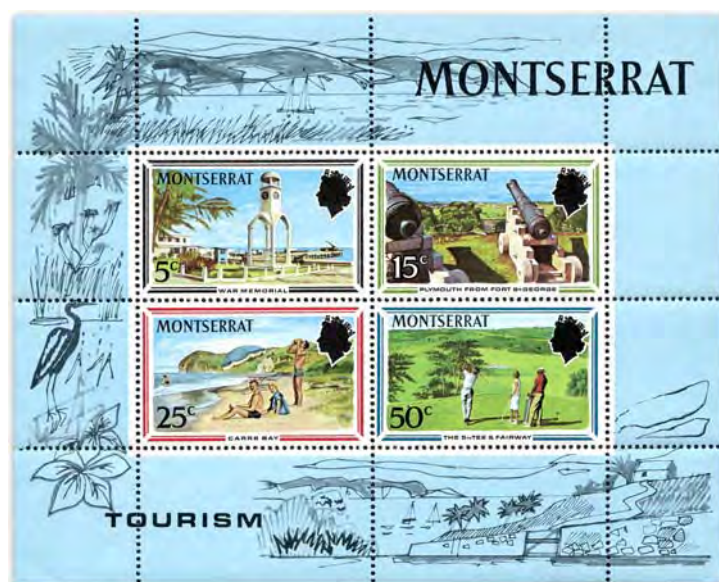


Figure 3. The 50c value on this souvenir sheet depicts the “5th Tee & Fairway” on the Montserrat Golf Course.



Figure 2. The emblem of the International Tourist Year in 1967 as depicted on a Kuwaiti stamp.

The pre-1995 golf course is featured on the back cover of a stamp booklet (Figure 4A) issued 3 March 1975 (Scott 322a). The booklet offers interesting information about the island’s history with a list of important dates reflecting the struggles between the English and French over control of Montserrat. The island became a British Crown Colony in 1867.



Figure 4A. The pre-1995 golf course on the back of a stamp booklet cover (left).

Figure 4B. An inside page (below) pictures golfers on the course with text promoting the “peace and quiet” to be had on the course.

In my thematic exhibit, the booklet cover helps illustrate the meaning of the term “green,” which is to say the entire golf course. An inner page (Figure 4B) from the booklet pictures golfers on a putting green with pull carts alongside to tote their golf bags.

The final Montserrat golf stamp (Scott 640) was issued 10 December 1986 (Figure 5). The scene is similar to the illustration on the booklet page, but without golfers. A sign reads “Montserrat Golf Club.”

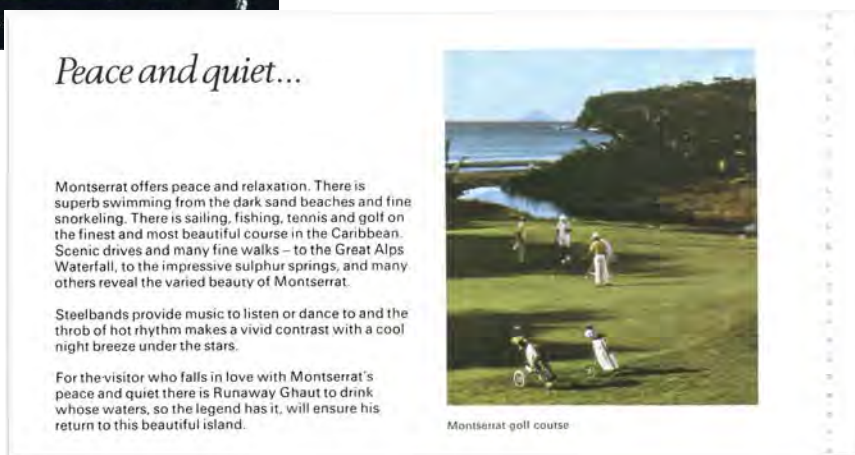


Figure 5. A final stamp showing the Montserrat golf course was issued in 1986. Note the similarity in views with Figure 4B (above).

In July 1995, Montserrat’s Soufrière Hills volcano erupted. The island lost not only its golf course, but as much as two-thirds of what was once lush, fertile land. The southern portion of the island, including the completely destroyed capital city, Plymouth, is

now an Exclusion Zone. The northern third of the harp-shaped island is where the population lives.

Even though the green is green no more, the Montserrat golf course can be remembered from its philately.

If anyone has more to offer about the Montserrat Golf Club such as its stamps used on cover, scorecards, photographs, picture postcards, or memories of golfing on its lush green, please contact me or the editor. Better yet, consider writing about it in the *Journal of Sports Philately*!



Figure 6. Little chance of hitting another golfer on what was once the Montserrat Golf Course following the cataclysmic eruption of the Soufrière Hills volcano. At right, the club house buried under ash, mud and debris.



Background: Over 50 years has passed since the Constitution of Sports Philatelists International was drafted and passed by our founding members. Much has changed over that half century, so in 2015, the Board of Directors of SPI named a committee to take charge of reviewing and making recommendations for updating the constitution. I would like to thank our Constitution Revision Committee, consisting of Joe Lopreiato, Charles Covell, Clemens Reiss and Kon Sokolyk for their hard work. The following document was unanimously approved by the SPI Board of Directors during their annual meeting in December 2017. New additions are indicated by underlined text; deleted text has been ~~struck out~~. We ask our members to please review the revised Constitution and vote whether to approve or disapprove. Please use the enclosed printed election ballot (or online ballot) to indicate your response.

Constitution of Sports Philatelists International (Revised 2018)

1.0 Name and Purpose

- 1.1 The name of this organization shall be Sports Philatelists International.
- 1.2 The purpose of Sports Philatelists International shall be:
 - 1.2.1 to promote the collection and study of postage stamps and related philatelic material, as well as other collectibles such as coins, pins and memorabilia dealing with the Olympic Games, sports, and recreation;
 - 1.2.2 to produce publications related to Olympic and sports collecting, including compile and publish check-lists, handbooks, articles, as appropriate ~~membership lists and other material relating to collecting in this area;~~
 - ~~1.2.3 to undertake such other matters as may further the objective stated previously in assisting collectors of this topic;~~
 - 1.2.3 to support, insofar as possible, those organizations which sponsor and maintain amateur sports ~~both in the USA this country and throughout the world;~~ and,
 - 1.2.4 to foster international cooperation ~~understanding and friendship~~ through mutual interests in Olympic and sports and philately and related collectibles.

2.0 Membership

- 2.1 Membership in Sports Philatelists International is available to collectors throughout the world upon written application to the Secretary together with the payment of annual dues.
- 2.2 The membership dues shall be set by the Board of Directors in consideration of the established and planned program of the organization. Membership dues will cover the one-year period beginning 1 September to 31 August regardless of the month in which a member applies for membership. ~~with the month in which the applicant's membership is accepted by the Secretary.~~ A member is in good standing who is not in default in the payment of dues and against whom no charges are outstanding. Any member who is ninety (90) ~~sixty (60)~~ days in arrears for annual dues shall be suspended from membership upon notification by the Secretary.
 - ~~2.2.1 Each person on the Board shall have one vote on all Board business.~~
- 2.3 The responsibilities of membership shall be:
 - 2.3.1 to help actively in achieving the purpose of Sports Philatelists International;
 - 2.3.2 to give full support to the activities of the organization;
 - 2.3.3 to vote in all elections; and,
 - 2.3.4 if eligible and elected, to accept and hold office.
- 2.4 Any member found guilty by the Board of Directors of conduct unbecoming a member shall be suspended for a period of time determined by the Board of Directors or expelled from the organization.
 - 2.4.1 Grounds for disciplinary action shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

- 2.4.1.1 Delinquency in payment of indebtedness to the organization for a period of ninety (90) days.
- 2.4.1.2 Failure to answer official correspondence.
- 2.4.1.3 Conduct generally unbecoming a member.
- 2.4.2 Charges of such conduct shall be definite and specific and preferred in writing by any of the following:
 - 2.4.2.1 The Secretary-Treasurer in the case of indebtedness to the organization exceeding ninety (90) days.
 - 2.4.2.2 Any Director of the organization.
 - 2.4.2.3 Any Officer of the organization.
 - 2.4.2.4 Any member, in good standing, of the organization.
- 2.4.3 A copy of such charges and notice of the time and place of hearing (if feasible; otherwise, all charges will be handled by mail), shall be presented to the member against whom the charges are preferred, ~~either in person, by email,~~ or by certified or registered mail, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date fixed by the Board of Directors for the hearing.
- 2.4.4 Charges against a member shall be investigated in such a manner as the Board of Directors considers appropriate. The member against whom the charges have been preferred shall have the right to file correspondence and other documents in support of his defense either in person or by mail.
- 2.5 A former member may make application for reinstatement. If a member is reinstated, he may, at the discretion of the President, be assigned his former membership number. ~~only if he pays in full all his dues in arrears.~~

3.0 Officers and Directors

- 3.1 All officers and directors of SPI will serve without any remuneration.
- 3.2 The following officers shall be elected biennially: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held concurrently by the same person.
 - 3.2.1 Directors shall be elected biennially at the same time as officers.
- 3.3 There shall be a Board of Directors, which shall consist of all elected officers and such additional directors ~~members~~ as may be deemed necessary for the conduct of the activities of the organization. The Board of Directors shall prescribe the number of additional directors ~~members~~. The Board of Directors shall meet annually, either virtually or in person.
 - 3.3.1 Each person on the Board shall have one vote on all Board business.
- 3.4 The President shall have general charge and supervision of the activities of the organization, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. The President may appoint such committees as may be necessary to carry on the regular or special business of the organization. ~~He shall appoint all other than elective officers.~~
- 3.5 The Vice-President shall assist the President and shall perform the duties of the President in his absence or inability to serve.
- 3.6 The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the organization, shall conduct correspondence as necessary and as required by the Board of Directors, ~~shall receive all applications for membership and issue membership cards, shall keep a record of all members and submit names and addresses of new members to the Editor and Circulation Manager,~~ shall notify members of suspension of membership privileges as appropriate.

shall compile a directory of membership upon request of the Board of Directors, and shall prepare a condensed annual report of membership for submission to the Board of Directors and the general membership.

- 3.7 The Treasurer shall keep proper records for all receipts and disbursements, shall collect dues and fees, shall notify the Secretary and Membership Chair of dues paid, and shall prepare a condensed annual report of finances of the organization for submission to the Board of Directors and the general membership.

3.7.1 The Treasurer shall annually prepare a budget for the coming fiscal year, which runs from September 1 through August 31 of the following year, showing the estimated receipts and estimated expenditures. The budget shall be balanced. Except where expressly authorized by the President or the Board of Directors, all expenditures of the Society shall be limited to the amounts outlined by the budget. The Treasurer may pay such amounts as required in the ordinary operation of the Society. keep proper records for all receipts and disbursements, shall send out annual statements for dues and collect dues and fees, shall notify the Secretary of dues paid, and shall prepare a condensed annual report of finances of the organization for submission to the Board of Directors and the general membership.

- 3.8 A Membership chair, appointed by the President, shall receive all applications for membership, shall keep a record of all members, shall be responsible for preparing the annual dues statements mailed to members, submit names and addresses of new members to the Editor and Circulation Manager, shall compile a directory of membership upon request of the Board of Directors, and prepare a condensed annual report of membership for submission to the Board of Directors and the general membership.

3.8.1 If the Membership Chair is a not an elected Director, he or she will be a non-voting *ex officio* member of the Board of Directors.

- 3.9 The Board of Directors shall be the general administrative body of the organization, controlling its policies and activities in all their details. It may conduct its business either in a session convened by the President or by teleconference mail. A majority of the officers and voting members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of any business. In the case of a tie vote by the Board of Directors and officers, the President shall cast the deciding vote.

- 3.10 Officers, committees, and members of the Board of Directors shall be reimbursed for authorized expenses when conducting official business of the Society. Authorized expenses shall be determined by the Treasurer and approved by the President.

4.0 Elections and Meetings

- 4.1 The officers and members of the Board of Directors shall be elected biennially by ballot. A majority of the ballots cast shall be required for election to office.
- 4.2 A Nominating Chairman Committee, appointed by the President, shall present a slate of candidates at least thirty (30) days in advance of any election. Additional nominations may be submitted over the signature of any ten members in good standing.
- 4.3 A ballot shall be provided by the Secretary for each member of the organization. Ballots may be in the form of electronic ballots or paper mail-in ballots. All ballots submitted shall be signed by and bear the full mailing address of the voting member (either by hand or electronically). Only ballots received by the deadline, which shall not be less than 45 days from the date of mailing of the ballots, within a period of thirty (30) days shall be counted. The elected officers and directors shall assume office on September first and shall serve until their successors are duly elected or appointed.
- 4.4 Vacancies in office shall be filled:
- 4.4.1 in the office of President by the succession thereto of the Vice-President; and,

4.4.2 in the other offices by a majority vote ~~appointment~~ of the Board of Directors. ~~itself~~.

4.5 The organization shall hold meetings at such places as selected by the Board of Directors, and announced by notification to the membership at least thirty (30) days in advance.

4.5.1 A quorum of 15% of the total paid membership must be in attendance at a meeting of the organization for any votes to be taken. If the quorum is met, votes will be decided by a majority of votes cast.

5.0 Official Publications

5.1 The official publication of Sports Philatelists International shall be called the “Journal of Sports Philately” and shall be published by the Editor and Publisher, appointed by the President and acting under the supervision of the Board of Directors.

5.2 Any handbook or other publication prepared by the organization and offered for sale under its sponsorship shall be interpreted to be an official publication of Sports Philatelists International.

5.3 The Board of Directors shall have full authority in respect to the organization's publications.

6.0 Affiliated Organizations

6.1 The Board of Directors shall encourage the formation of affiliated organizations under such rules and conditions as the Board of Directors shall determine.

6.2 Normally a minimum of five (5) members of the affiliated organization shall also be members of Sports Philatelists International. This membership requirement may be waived by the Board of Directors if deemed appropriate.

7.0 Amendments

7.1 Proposals for amendments to these Articles may be made:

7.1.1 by the unanimous vote of the elected officers;

7.1.2 by a majority of the Board of Directors; or,

7.1.3 by a written petition signed by a least ten (10) members of the organization in good standing.

7.2 All such proposals shall be submitted promptly to the Secretary and sent by him to all members at least thirty (30) days prior to the specified date closing the ballot.

7.3 All ballots shall be signed by ~~and shall bear the full mailing address of the voting member~~ (either by hand or electronically). A majority of the members voting shall be required for the adoption of any amendment.

8.0 Disbandment

8.1 In the event of disbandment of the organization, the following nonprofit organizations shall become equal beneficiaries of the assets of the organization:

8.1.1 American Philatelic Research Library - a reserved fund for acquiring Sports and Olympic Philatelic Literature.

~~8.1.2 U.S. Olympic Committee - a reserved fund for acquiring additions or upgrading the Philatelic Collection held in the Olympic House (N.Y.):~~

8.1.2 AICO (The International Association of Olympic Collectors) - a reserved fund for acquiring Sports and Olympic Philatelic Literature.

NEW STAMP ISSUES

by John La Porta

Brazil: June 27, 2016. Rio Olympics. Sheet of 16 - 1.50r stamps, children's designs.

October 15, 2016. Joao Carlos de Oliveria. 1.70r stamps showing the Olympic Triple Jump Medalist.

Cameroun: August 18, 2014. Sprinter. Set of two 50f and 200f stamps, EMS

Canada: October 20, 2017. History of Ice Hockey. S/s with two P stamps, modern player, old-time player. Pane of 10 booklet stamps has the same designs.

October 24, 2017. Centenary Toronto Maple Leafs hockey team. Single P stamp depicts a maple leaf with 100 in center. Booklet pane of 10 also.

January 24, 2018. Female Athletes in Winter Games. Set of five non-denominated stamps, Sharon Firth and Shirley Firth cross country skiing; Sonja Gauet wheelchair curling; Danielle Goyette hockey; Nancy Greene alpine skiing; Clara Hughes cycling and speed skating. Issued in a booklet pane of 10 and a souvenir sheet of 5 stamps.

Chad: July 10, 2017. Sochi Olympics. Sheetlet of four 800F stamps, speed skating; snowboarding; figure skating; freestyle skiing. S/s 3300F stamp, Felix Loch.

July 10, 2017. Formula 1. Sheetlet of four 800F stamps, Sebastian Vettel, Red Bull racing; Jenson Button, Brawn GP; Lewis Hamilton, Mercedes AMG Petronas; Fernando Alonso, McLaren Racing. Souvenir sheet with one 3300F stamp, Nico Rosberg, Mercedes AMG Petronas.

China: August 5, 2016. Rio Olympic Games. Set of 2 stamps, \$1.20 women's volleyball, \$1.50 men's relay.

China (Taiwan): August 16, 2017. Summer Universiade. Block of 8 5\$ stamps, weight lifting; archer; track; taekwondo; baseball; basketball volleyball. Block of 8 \$15 stamps, weight lifting; archery; track; volleyball; taekwondo; table tennis; basketball; baseball. S/s with one \$25 stamp.

Colombia: July 7, 2016. Rio Olympics. 500p stamp and label showing dove. S/s 25,000p stamp, dove.

December 12, 2016. Rio Olympics. Sheet of four 2,000p stamps showing medals. Sheet of four 10,000p stamps showing medals won in the Games.

Cuba: August 21, 2016. Rio Olympics. Set of 6 stamps, 10c boxing; 20c rowing; 30c volleyball; 65c wrestling; 75c judo; 85c taekwondo. S/s 1p, running.

October 12, 2016. Rio Olympics. Set of 4: 65c Olympic Torch; 65c Rio de Janeiro; 65c golf; 65c rugby.

Egypt: September 14, 2017. 50th Anniversary General Sports Union for Business. \$2 stamp depicts emblem and athletics.

Estonia: July 1, 2017. World Orienteering Championships. €1.50 stamps showing runner.

Finland: January 15, 2016. World Junior Ice Hockey Championships. One stamp depicting the team.

France: May 19, 2017 Centenary of Coupe de France Soccer Tournament. One 73c stamp showing soccer players and trophy.

June 2, 2017. Carnival. Set of 10 stamps one depicts bowling.

June 24 2017. Harness Race at Rambouillet Hippodrome. 73c stamps showing racing horses.

July 22, 2017. World Wrestling Championships. €1.30 stamps depicting wrestlers in action.

Guinea: October 9, 2017. Ice Hockey Championships. Sheetlet of four 12,500 FG stamps, Nikita Goussev; Nikita Koutcherov; Mitchell Marmer; Vadim Chipatchiov. Souvenir sheet with one 50,000 FG stamp, Artemi Panarine.

October 9, 2017. World Athletic Championships. Sheetlet of four 12,500 FG stamps, Barbora Spotakova, Javelin throw, Omar McLeod, hurdling; Katerina Stefanide, pole vault, Tomas Walsh, shot put; Usain Bolt, sprint, Wayne van Niekerk, 400 meters; Luvo Manyonga, long jump, Geoffrey Kirui, marathon. Souvenir sheet with one 50,000 FG stamp, Andrius Gudzius, discus throw, Tori Bowie, sprint.

September 20, 2017. 50th Anniversary Donald Campbell. Sheetlet of four 800F stamps, Donald Campbell; Bluebird K7; with wife Tonia. Souvenir sheet with one 3300F stamp, Campbell.

February 27, 2018. International Isle of Man TT Race. Sheetlet of four 12,500 FG stamps, Honda CBR1000RR; BMW S1000RR; Kawasaki ER650; Honda RS125. S/s of one 50,000 FG, Yamaha YZF-R6.

February 27, 2018. Tennis. Sheetlet of four 12,500 FG stamps, tennis scenes. S/s 50,000 FG, tennis scene.

Guinea-Bissau: January 9, 2018. Cricket. Sheetlet of five 640 FCFA stamps, Chris Gayle; Steve Waugh; Inzaman-ul-Haq; Virat Kohli; AB de Villiers. Souvenir sheet with one 3200 FCFA stamp, Adam Gilchrist.

Hungary: September 15, 2017. Florian Albert. One 300fo stamp depicting Albert receiving the 1967 Ballon d'Or Trophy.

Liberia: September 15, 2014. Sochi Olympics Gold Medalists. Sheet of 3 \$125. stamps, Vic Wild snowboarding; Canadian ice hockey player; Jorgen Graabak Nordic combined. Souvenir sheet of two \$175 stamps, Kamil Stoch ski jumping; Anton Kushnir freestyle skiing.

Liechtenstein: November 13, 2017. Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. Set of two stamps, 170p Nordic skiing; 200p alpine skiing.

Luxembourg: July 4, 2017. Centenary of Luxembourg Cycling Federation. 70c, cyclist.

July 4, 2017. Tour de France, Fourth Stage. 70c stamp shows cyclist.

Moldova: August 23, 2017. Sports. Set of 2 stamps, 1.75 l volleyball; 9.50 l Tennis.

New Zealand: June 7, 2017. Surfing areas. Set of five stamps, \$1 Piha Bar, Piha; \$2.20 Manu Bay, Raglan; \$2.30 Surf Highway 45, Taranaki; \$2.70 Mangamauna, Kaikoura; \$3.30 Aramoana, Spit Dunedin.

July 3, 2017. Victory of Emirates Team in America's Cup Yacht Race. Sheet of six \$2.70 stamps depicting the ships racing.

Niger: December 12, 2017. Formula 1. Sheetlet with four 800F stamps, Mika Hakkinen; Kimi Raikkonen; Fernando Alonso; Lewis Hamilton. Sheetlet with one 3300F stamp, Michael Schumacher.

December 12, 2017. Golf. Sheetlet of four 800F stamps, Jason Day; Lexi Thompson; So Yeon Ryu; Rickie Fowler. Sheetlet with one 3300F stamp, Jon Rahm, Anna Norqvist.

December 12, 2107. Cricket. Sheetlet of four 800F stamps, various action scenes. Souvenir sheet with one 3200F stamp, action scene.

2017. Taekwondo World Champion. Sheetlet of four 800F stamps. This is a local issue.

Poland: August 5, 2017. Tall Ships Racing. Souvenir sheet with one 6z stamp, tall ships.

August 10, 2017. European Men's Volleyball Championships. Strip of 4 2.60z round stamps all depicting action scenes in volleyball.

Qatar: September 26, 2016. Road Cycling World Championships. Sheetlet of 3 stamps, 3.50r cyclists wear same jerseys, 4r cyclist and mascot, 4.50r cyclists wearing different jerseys.

Russia: August 23, 2017. Stadiums for the 2018 World Cup Soccer Championships. Set of four 22r stamps, Nizhny Novgorod; Kalingrad Stadium; Mordovia Arens, Sarask; St. Petersburg Stadium.

St. Vincent: June 7, 2016. Rio Olympic Games. Two sheets of four \$4 stamps, sheet 1: taekwondo; basketball; synchronized swimming; water polo. Sheet 2: badminton; sailing; road cycling modern pentathlon. Souvenir sheet consists of two \$7 stamps, swimming; Shigeo Arai.

Serbia: February 27, 2017. European Indoor Track & Field Championships. Postal Tax Stamp, 10d runner.

April 21, 2017. 30th Belgrade Marathon. 23d stamp depicting runner and emblem.

April 27, 2017. European Wrestling Championships. Postal Tax Stamp, 10d wrestlers.

September 1, 2017. Ljubicevo Equestrian Games. 70d stamps showing rider and horse jumping over fence.

Sierra Leone: October 30, 2017. 30th Anniversary of Lionel Messi. Sheetlet of four LE 9800 stamps depicting Messi in action. Souvenir sheet with one LE 40000 stamps showing Messi.

October 30, 2017. Sochi Olympic Games. Sheetlet of four LE 9800 stamps, Ole Einar Bjordalen, Biathlon; Jamie Anderson, Snowboarding; Michel Mulder, Speed Skating; Matthias Mayer, Alpine Skiing. Souvenir sheet with one LE 40000 stamp, Vic Wild, Snowboarding.

October 30, 2017. Formula 1. Sheetlet of four LE 9800 stamps, Valtteri Bottas; Lewis Hamilton; Daniel Ricciardo; Kimi Raikkonen. Souvenir sheet with one LE 40000 stamps, Sebastian Vettel.

October 30, 2017. World Athletic Championships. Sheetlet of four LE 9800 stamps, Pole vault; shot put; discus throw; 100m hurdles. Souvenir sheet with one LE 40000 stamp, javelin throw.

October 30, 2017. Polo. Sheetlet with four LE 9800 stamps, Juan Martin Nero; Gonzalo Pieres Jr; Facundo Pieres; Pablo Mac Donough. Souvenir sheet with one LE 40000 stamp, Adolfo Cambiaso.

October 30, 2017. Marilyn Monroe. Sheetlet of 4 LE stamps, one showing Joe DiMaggio baseball player.

October 30, 2017. 30th Anniversary of Andy Murray. Sheetlet of four LE 9800 stamps depicting Murray. Souvenir sheet with one LE 40000 stamp, showing Murray.

October 30, 2017. Golf. Sheetlet with four LE 9800 stamps, Hideki Matsuyama; Jordan Spieth; Jason Day, Rory McIlroy. Souvenir sheet with one LE 40000 stamp showing Dustin Johnson.

October 30, 2017. Table Tennis. Sheetlet of four LE 9800 stamps, Fan Zhendong; Ding Ning; Zhang Jike; Xu Xin. S/s with one LE 40000 stamp, Ma Long.

October 30, 2017. 120th Anniversary First Boston Marathon. Sheetlet of four LE 9800 stamps, Edna Keplagat; Kathrine Switzer; Tom Longboat; Geoffrey Kirui. Souvenir sheet with one LE 40000 stamp depicting John J McDermott.

October 30, 2017. World Ice Hockey Championships. Sheetlet of four LE 9800 stamps, William Nylander, Sweden; Russia vs Sweden; Canada vs Sweden; Andrei Vasilevsky. Souvenir sheet with one LE 40000 stamp, Henrik Lundqvist.

October 30, 2017. Rugby. Sheetlet of four LE 9800 stamps, Israel Folau; Maro Itoje; Dane Coles; Jamie Heaslip. Souvenir sheet with one LE 40000 stamp, Beauden Barrett.

November 30, 2017. 80th Anniversary Pierre de Coubertin. Sheetlet of four LE 9800 stamps all depicting de Coubertin. Souvenir sheet with one LE 40000 stamp showing de Coubertin.

Slovakia: September 7, 2017. Slovak athletes. €1 stamp, Andrej Kvasnak soccer player; Vaclav Nedomansky ice hockey player; Julius Torma Boxer.

Solomon Islands: December 07, 2017. 80th Memorial Anniversary of Pierre de Coubertin. Sheetlet of four \$10.00 all depicting de Coubertin. Souvenir sheet with one \$40 stamp showing de Coubertin.

December 7, 2017. World Championships in Athletics. Sheetlet of four \$10 stamps, Karsten Warholm, Gold in 400m hurdles; Mariya Lasitskene, Gold in high jump; Katerina Stefanidi, Gold in pole vault; Mo Farah, Golf in 10,000m running. Souvenir sheet with one \$40 stamp, Justin Gatlin, Golf in 100m sprint.

Thailand: July 28, 2016. 64th Birthday Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn. Two stamp set, both 5b value showing cyclists. Souvenir sheet with two pairs of the same stamps.

April 7, 2017. Log Boat Racing. Set of four 3b stamps all depicting long boats racing.

Togo: 2017. Evala Wrestlers. Single 1000F stamp and 2500F souvenir sheet. This is a local issue.

February 9, 2018. FIFA World Cup. Set of four 550F stamps, Spartak Stadium, Moscow; Kazan Areal, Kazan; Saint Petersburg Stadium; Fisht Stadium, Sochi. Printed in sheets of 9.

February 9, 2018. Ice Hockey. Sheetlet of four 800F stamps, all depict ice hockey scenes. Souvenir sheet with one 3300F stamp, ice hockey scene.

Tonga: July 18, 2017. Tourism. Sheet of six 2.25pa stamps, one depicts a kayaker near Vava'u Islands.

United States: October 20, 2017. History of Ice Hockey. Two forever stamps depicting hockey players.

Uzbekistan: June 9, 2017. Rio Olympics. Pair of Gold medalists, 1800s Russian Nurudinov weight lifter; 1900s Xananboy Do'smatov boxing.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

by Mark Maestrone

NEW MEMBERS

David J. Main, P.O. Box 826, Ridgetown, Ontario
N0P2C0 CANADA. *Golf, Curling, Team Canada.*
E-mail: david.main@sympatico.ca

William M. Senkus, 2020 Grant St., Apt. 807
Concord, CA 94520-7810 USA. *Olympics.*
E-mail: wmsenkus@sbcglobal.net

RENEWED MEMBERS

Orval F. Hart, Los Alamos, NM
William Silvester, Calgary, CANADA

ADDRESS CHANGES

John Everett, 199 Coolidge Ave #509, Watertown,
MA 02472 USA
Markus Vaska. New e-mail address:
collectoskingdom@hotmail.com

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.

SPORTS CROSS INDEX FEBRUARY 2018

These 6 USPS cancellations commemorated the 2018 Super Bowl held at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, Minnesota on 4 February. Because of trademark restrictions, the words "Super Bowl" could not be used.



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