

11-1

TORCH BEARER



SOCIETY of OLYMPIC COLLECTORS

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BACK ISSUES: At present, back issues of TORCH BEARER are still available to Volume 1, Issue 1, (March 1984), though there are now very few complete sets of Volume 1. When these run out, they will not be reprinted. It is Society policy to ensure that new members will be able to purchase back issues for a four year period, but we do not guarantee stocks for longer than this. Back issues cost £1.25 each, or £5.00 for a year's issues, including postage by surface mail. If ordering single copies, please indicate which volume you require. Cheques should be made payable to the SOCIETY OF OLYMPIC COLLECTORS and sent with the order to John Miller at the above address. If you wish to receive back issues by airmail, please add 75 pence per issue (£3.00 per volume.)

LIBRARY: Photocopies of articles are available through the Librarian at 10 pence per sheet. Please enclose money with the order. Books may be borrowed, but postage must be paid IN BOTH DIRECTIONS. The Librarian's address is listed above.

COPY DATES: TORCH BEARER is published four times a year; in February, May, August and November. Articles or adverts for inclusion in a particular issue should be sent at least two months in advance.

FRONT PAGE

Having looked for a new Editor for over a year now, I thought that my last Editorial would fill me with nothing but pleasure. This is, however, not the case. I leave the Editor's seat with some sadness and regret, but also relief that the constant search for new articles and on-going deadlines are behind me. I thank Bob Farley most sincerely for stepping into the breach.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking those members who have kept me supplied with articles and information over the last ten years, and there are been too many to name, but I must single out Manfred Bergman, Robert Budge, Bob Farley and Bob Wilcock, who have been particularly helpful. Please continue to give your new Editor the same support.

You do not, of course, get rid of me quite so easily! Although I am giving up one hat, the Chairman's hat I shall continue to wear, so long as I have the support of the members. This is Election year and forms are enclosed with this issue of TORCH BEARER. If you feel that you can help the Society, why not put your name forward to join the Committee. We would love to introduce some new ideas at our meetings.

BETTY MILLER

Since the formation of the Society of Olympic collectors in 1984, Francesca has been the Editor of TORCH BEARER. The magazine has gone from strength to strength and won recognition in the literature class at many International Exhibitions around the world. At times I know Francesca has been under great stress, but she has always managed to get the magazine ready on time. Even on her way to operating theatre for major surgery she has phoned me with last minute instructions, determined that TORCH BEARER should not be issued late. Not many people would be so dedicated. On behalf of all our members, thank you, Francesca.

However, the time has now come when she feels she must pass the editorship on to someone else. At our last Committee meeting our Vice Chairman, Bob Farley, offered his services as Editor, and this was accepted by the Committee. Bob has already had experience of this job, as we have seen by the Supplements that have been issued covering the 1992 Olympic Games. Do please give him support by writing articles and sending information.

We must not forget the gallant work done by John Crowther during the past few months. Organising and assembling the exhibition in the Manchester Museum, to support the city's bid for the Games in the year 2000, was a major undertaking. Even though the bid failed, the exhibition was good publicity for the Society. Our thanks also to those members who assisted and who sent material for display. Well done, John.

Maybe we could give Manchester similar support in their bid for the Commonwealth Games?

DEAR FRANCESKA

ROBERT CYCA

Greetings from New Zealand!

The wet, cold winter weekends have given me the opportunity to assemble the material for this article. You requested material for " Torchbearer" - hopefully it is interesting enough and not too out of date to warrant inclusion. It really does show just how imaginative N.Z.Post has been in its corporate role as an Olympic sponsor. Bob Wilcock has also been in touch with N.Z.Post and he may be able to offer fine touches to some of the details in my article. His search and enquiry and documentation skills leave me for dead!

I continue to enjoy " Torchbearer" and eagerly await its arrival every three months. The torchcards are an excellent idea and as a S.O.C. member, I value their novelty. Just one request regarding these cards - could the cards past and present be given added information - ie. source and year? Some are obvious but others are clearly a mystery. Could a future brief inclusion in "Torchbearer" address the source/year of some of these cards?

Keep up the good work!

MEMBER'S FORUM

One of our Spanish members, Miguel Oliveras, Apartado 287, 17800 Olot, Gerona, Spain can supply maximum cards, meter and special cancellations and all other philatelic material relating to the XXV Olympic Games in Barcelona. Members should write to him in the first instance with their requests.

Mr P.J. Vincett, Flat 3, 41 Highbury New Park, Islington, London N5 2EN is looking for Barcelona 1992 publicity posters. They are approximately 1.5 feet wide and 2.5 feet high and are coloured. They are thought to have been produced by the now disbanded COOB olympic Organising Committee. If anyone can help, please write to Mt Vincett direct. He is not a member at present, but will probably join if he gets a favourable response!

LILLEHAMMER 1994

BOB FARLEY

Norway Post are to be congratulated for their efforts to provide collectors with advance information regarding their philatelic programme, and perhaps the conservative nature of the basic series of stamp issues and postal markings. Through their special bulletin "Fakkelposten", distributed to all Olympic subscribers they have published a number of Olympic articles, and their philatelic intentions.

Details of the Postmark Programme during the Games are included in No.4-1993; they are reproduced here to assist those members who may wish to submit their own covers for cancellation. All of the postmarks will be available to subscribers, but it should be noted that subscription service covers will only be prepared with the first date of usage of each cancellor, many "finals" dates will not therefore be common.



- 1) Opening day
Olympic Park
2600 LILLEHAMMER

Date: 12 Feb.



- 2) Luge, Hunderfossen
2638 FABERG

Dates: 13, 14, 15,
16, 18 Feb.



- 3) Bobsleigh
Hunderfossen
2638 FABERG

Dates: 19, 20, 26,
27 Feb.



- 4) Alpine Skiing
Hafjell
2636 OYER

Dates: 21, 23, 24,
25, 26, 27 Feb.



- 5) Alpine Skiing
Kvitfjell
2634 FAVANG

Dates: 13, 14, 15,
17, 19, 20 Feb.



- 6) Freestyle Skiing
Kanthaugen
2600 LILLEHAMMER

Dates: 15, 16, 21,
24, Feb.



- 7) Skijumping
Lysgardsbakkene
2600 LILLEHAMMER

Dates: 20, 22, 25 Feb.



- 8) Combined Nordic
Lysgardsbakkene /
Birkebeineren Stadium
2600 LILLEHAMMER

Dates: 18, 19, 23,
24 Feb.



- 9) Cross-country Skiing
Birkebeineren Stadium
2600 LILLEHAMMER

Dates: 13, 14, 15,
17, 19, 21, 22, 24,
27 Feb.



- 10) Biathlon
Birkebeineren Stadium
2600 LILLEHAMMER

Dates: 18, 20, 23,
25, 26 Feb.



- 11) Ice Hockey
Hakon Hall
2600 LILLEHAMMER

Dates: 12, 13, 14,
15, 16, 17, 18, 19,
20, 21, 22, 23, 24,
25, 26, 27 Feb



- 12) Ice Hockey
Gjovic Olympic Cavern
2800 GJOVIK

Dates: 12, 13, 14,
15, 16, 17, 18, 19,
20, 21, 23, 24, 25,
26 Feb



- 13) Figure Skating
Hamar Olympic Amphitheatre
2300 HAMAR

Dates: 13, 15, 17,
18, 19, 20, 21,
23, 25, 26 Feb.



- 14) Short track Speed
Skating
Hamar Olympic Amphitheatre
2300 HAMAR

Dates: 22, 24, 26 Feb.



- 15) Speed Skating
Hamar Olympic Hall
(Viking Ship)
2300 HAMAR

Dates: 13, 14, 16,
17, 18, 19, 20, 21,
23, 25 Feb.



- 16) Closing Day
Olympic Park
2600 LILLEHAMMER

Date: 27 Feb.

The two Ice Hockey cancels (11 and 12) both have the text "2800 GJOVIK" which may be a misprint in Fakkelposten - it would be unusual to utilise the cancellation of one town in another post town.

Prepared covers should be forwarded to the Postmaster, at the appropriate town with post code (given in capitals below), stating the postmark and date required.

Lillehammer will, of course, utilise other special cancellations on 12th February. A first Day of Issue cancellation will be available for the third and final stamp issue.

A further cancel will also be in use as the Olympic Torch Relay reaches Lillehammer for the Opening Ceremony, completing a series of seventy five (!) postmarks of common design, a trend which now seems to have become established with recent Games - particularly Winter Games.



Unfortunately Fakkelposten does not give any details regarding the actual location of postal facilities, so that visitors to the Games will have the usual task of seeking out postal facilities. The information given suggests that the special postmarks will be available at the listed Post Offices; however, a number of these offices are not adjacent to the venues, which may lead to difficulties when combined with the transport restrictions within the Olympic Area.

To minimise difficulties in finding postal facilities, it is strongly suggested that members attending the Games make a visit to Kirkegarden 70, Lillehammer (opposite the "Grand Piano" Art Gallery) which will act as Norway Post's focus for Olympic Philately throughout February. At street level, Norway Post will have information counters, postmarking facilities and an Olympic Guest. The lower floor will house a number of Olympic Philatelic exhibits, including collections from the Olympic Museum in Lausanne.

LILLEHAMMER - FURTHER POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

After receiving Fakkelposten No.4-1993, I contacted Norway Post to clarify the illustration of the Ice Hockey cancellation (11), and asked a number of questions regarding Temporary Post Offices, Registration facilities and the preparation of any other philatelic items. The response was rapid, informative and helpful in containing new information, which will, I believe, be contained in the next issue of Fakkelposten. I appreciate that some of this information will not reach readers in sufficient time to enable preparation of their own items, but other parts should aid the preparation of Registered items, and be of some assistance in seeking cancels from the Temporary Offices.

- The illustration in Fakkelposten for Ice Hockey at Lillehammer, is, as suspected, an error; the correct text should read "2600 Lillehammer", not GJOVIK.

Temporary Post Offices.

Fakkelposten No.3-1993 included illustrations of thirteen cancellations, three of similar design (except for date) were for use on the First Day of Issue of the Olympic Stamp Programme. Three were to commemorate the opening of Olympic Venues. Five were to commemorate cultural events included in the Cultural Olympiad. One was the design for the Torch Relay, to be used with seventy five different place names on the date of the flames passage.



The cancel illustrated was simply stated as being for "Lillehammer and five other Post Offices", with the date 3 Jan. 1994. The recent reply states, "Cancellation j, (illustrated here), will be used at Lillehammer Post Office and seven temporary post offices (Olympic Villages, Broadcast Center, Press Centers). Please note that all the cancellations will look exactly like j".

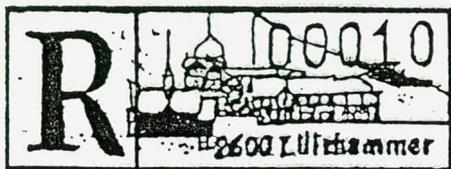
This certainly infers that the cancel will be in use from the 3 January, until closure of the temporary offices. The number of offices having risen from five to seven. If any readers wish to obtain items mailed from these temporary offices, I suggest that prepared covers be mailed to the Postmaster, 2600 - Lillehammer, Norway, with a request that they be distributed to the seven offices.

Stamp Fair/Philatelic Exhibition.



As previously reported, a Philatelic Exhibition will be opened on the 11 February; the cancellation illustrated is stated as being used from the 1 January - 27 February, although the text appears to be of fixed type, covering the period 12 - 27 February??

Registration Label with Olympic Design.



From 3 January 1994, an illustrated Registration label will be introduced; the information received does not make clear the office(s) of use, but suggests that all Lillehammer offices are

potential users, presumably with individual identification.



BRASOVUL
UREAZA SUCCES
FILATELIEI SI ROMANIA
PARTICIPANTE LA

COMPANEX
92

OLYMPHILEX '92
7-10-92





ROMANIA
LEI
10
POSTA ROMANA



Destinatar _____

Strada _____ Nr _____

Scara _____ Etaj _____ Apart _____

Sectorul _____ Judetul _____

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| Codel | Lokalizatea |
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COLLECTING RECENT GAMES

MANFRED BERGMAN

Bob Wilcock took the time to respond extensively to my article in November TORCH BEARER (p.162). This dialogue (and I do hope that other members will also participate by giving their opinions/questions) proves the interest in showing recent Olympics and the "problems" related thereto. So, Bob, here I am again and let's see if I can't satisfy you (and your colleagues) to a greater extent. Let me start by separating showing at an international exhibition and an Olympilex show. The reason will become obvious.

1. INTERNATIONAL FIP EXHIBITIONS.

Recent Olympics may be shown either in the THEMATIC or in the MOPHILA class.

1.1 Thematic Class

Let me start by quoting the regulations pertaining to the "thematic plan".

"Special Regulations for the Evaluation of Thematic Exhibits at FIP Exhibitions (SREV)"

3.2.1. The plan defines the structure of the Collection and of the Exhibit, and its subdivision into parts. It has to be correct, logical and balanced, and cover all aspects related to the title. Finally, it has to be fully consistent with the title chosen and should be completely structured according to thematic criteria.

"Guidelines to the Regulations for the Evaluations of Thematic Exhibits"

4.1 Plan (Under 4. Criteria for Evaluating Exhibits)

...The plan should be:

Comprehensive and complete. It should detail both direct and cross references, developments, and special characteristics of the chosen theme. Themes developed with an organisational or chronological framework (into which recent Olympics belong to) should, however, clearly show the historical background, the aims, tasks, results and effects of the activities of such organisations or events. It should include all the different aspects of the theme, and cover the largest scope compatible with it. In this respect, one should avoid limiting or concentrating the development of the plan only to one or a few countries, as far as the chosen theme allows it.

Thematic development follows the same lines; one may look it up in the SREVs and the Guidelines.

As we can see, "Thematic Plan and Development" requires "all." By this is meant everything that has to do with the theme. Let

us dwell for a moment on the definition of the "theme". If we take a general theme, such as "The XXV Olympiad", we expect to find everything that is related to that theme, which surely includes political, commercial and doping matters. On the other hand, if the theme is limited to (for example) "The Programme of the Games of the XXV Olympiad", then we can expect only material related to that programme. We certainly will not mark down the plan and development because of lack of material related to other aspects of this Olympiad. (Nevertheless, the jury might not give top marks for other reasons, related to the scope, originality, creativity and importance of the theme. One could expect more from a collector of recent Olympiads than just the programme of the Games).

In other words, the theme is "Olympics", not "Olympic Material". Therefore the plan and the development ought to cover all aspects of the Games, whether documented by overtly or not overtly Olympic material (within the limits of the definition explained above). Certainly, the exhibitor has the choice to develop a consistent plan excluding political, commercial or doping aspects. But, the plan will not be complete, as required by SREV. The exhibit will not be marked down for what is not there, but for having an incomplete plan.

The message I am trying to pass is that if we do wish to obtain top marks from a thematic point of view (with a general theme - the majority of cases), we must comply with the rules as they are and not try to bend them to our interpretation of collection/showing.

1.2 Mophila Class

Recent Olympics can also be shown in the Mophila Class (which is not always present). There, one may show one's exhibit, encompassing mainly stamps - without too many postmarks (some should always be present). An introductory page is a prerequisite, but a thematic plan is not "sine qua non". The material, as shown by the exhibitor, will be evaluated and not marked down for what is not there (unless the missing material is clearly connected directly to the theme; example, if one shows the stamps issued for the Barcelona Games by all participating countries and the stamps issued by the host country - Spain - are missing). This class might find favour with exhibitors shying away from developing complete thematic plans (and developing the same). However, the award of this class does not (yet) possess the "glitter" of the thematic class.

Bob asks me for encouragement to stamp collecting members that eschew all postmarks and postal history material. (Bob, I doubt whether there is postal history material in recent Olympics; historical documents, yes, but items clearly of postal history value, very rarely).

I believe that Olympic collecting ought to be thematic, as they are part of the Olympic culture. Nevertheless, I do consider that all ways of Olympic collecting are valid and ought to be encouraged. My encouragement includes some alternatives, to choose from by the collector: a. do not show, and have some patience; develop a thematic exhibit to show in the future.

- b. if you want to participate now with your "stamps", consider participating in the Mophila Class, and slowly develop a thematic exhibit
- c. "pass" FIP international shows and enter your exhibit in "Olymphilex", in the traditional class (see below).

2. OLYMPHILEX EXHIBITIONS

We aim to have as many valid entries as possible for the Olymphilex shows. This was the original reason for creating the "Promotion Class". In Barcelona it transpired that we can't include in the future all the various kinds and types of Olympic and sports entries (in particular from developing nations and for recent Olympics) under the "Thematic" definition. Therefore, under the impetus of FIP President D.N.Jatia, it was decided that in the future Olymphilex shows would include the following classes:

- a. Traditional class
- b. Postal History class (for the first Games)
- c. Thematic class
- d. Aerophilately
- e. Postal Stationery class
- f. Maximaphilie

And, of course, Youth and Literature. These classes will be valid both for the FIP and the Promotion classes.

This, I hope, will solve Bob's concerns about the "stamp" collectors. I ought to add, though, that if the entry is in the Thematic class, whatever was said above about the "completeness" of the plan and its development, stays valid. Thematic diversity ought not to be confused with thematic completeness.

I have difficulties understanding Bob's example about the material in relation to the candidature period. All I meant, in my plan, was the necessity to include material about this period, as it certainly exists for recent Olympics. I agree that some candidates made more postal advertising, others less. The only thing I wish to stress is that this material ought to be included. I do hope that the juror will know the relative difficulty of obtaining the respective material and evaluate accordingly. And if there is none from one candidate, then one just can't show it; this does not prevent us from showing from other candidate-cities.

"Balance" pertains to the amount (quantity) of the various types of materials shown or the amount of material shown for one chapter versus another one of the plan.

Bob, I suggest to digest (or continue debating) the above. Next time, I propose to cover the uses of items (non postal ones) and the ease or difficulty of showing particular aspects of the plan.

Last, but not least, the definition of the Olympiads has not changed. The XXIV Olympiad is from 1988 until 1991 and the XXV Olympiad starts in 1992. The FDC of 3.10.1988 is wrong. Bob, you ought not to be sarcastic. To tell this story is not needed for a gold medal. On the other hand, investigating and showing that the postmark is a thematic error, might give a point more in the criterion of the thematic knowledge.

WEMBLEY

ALAN SABEY

I recently had the chance to buy the Official Instructions to the Postmaster of the Olympic post Office at Wembley. They form two typed sheets, and on the back he had noted the number of items which were posted each day. Since the boxes were cleaned on the Saturday, they were able to tell, before they started work on the following Monday, exactly how many items were actually put into the boxes on the Sunday. These Sunday postings were cancelled on the Monday. There were also impressions of the machine cancellations, and members' attention is drawn to the new edition (1991) of the fourth edition of "Special Event Postmarks of the United Kingdom" p.61, which lists the up to date information. The book is published by the British Postmark Society, and is available from them at: 19, Moorland Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP1 1NH

The details of the numbers posted each day of the Games are:

| | | | |
|--------|--------------|--------|-----------------------------|
| Thurs. | 29 July 1948 | 45,479 | at Wembley |
| | | 20,996 | at Harrow |
| Fri. | 30 July | 4,407 | only at Wembley from now on |
| Sat. | 31 July | 6,267 | |
| Sun. | 1 Aug. | 364 | Postmarked 2nd August |
| Mon. | 2 Aug. | 6,464 | |
| Tues. | 3 Aug. | 11,530 | |
| Wed. | 4 Aug. | 11,194 | |
| Thurs. | 5 Aug. | 10,081 | |
| Fri. | 6 Aug. | 10,17 | |
| Sat. | 7 Aug. | 11,216 | |
| Sun. | 8 Aug. | 545 | Postmarked 9th August |
| Mon. | 9 Aug. | 7,561 | |
| Tues. | 10 Aug. | 7,364 | |
| Wed. | 11 Aug. | 5,996 | |
| Thurs. | 12 Aug. | 4,579 | |
| Fri. | 13 Aug. | 6,681 | |
| Sat. | 14 Aug. | 11,729 | |

Total items posted
in the London area 182,529

The collection and cancellation times were as follows:

8.00am for 8.45am
Noon for 1.00pm
2.45pm for 3.45pm
5.15pm for 6.15pm
7.30pm for 8.00pm

If it had not been for the foresight of this official making a note of the numbers posted, this information would not be available for us now.

VIVALDI'S OLIMPIADE

MARTA GRABOCZ

Vivaldi's "L'Olimpiade" is a typical example of Venetian opera. The work is assured a high place among the twenty two Vivaldi opera manuscripts in Turin not only because it is one of the most mature pieces of Vivaldi's final creative period as a composer for the stage (1723-1739), but also because it was written to a highly fashionable and popular libretto by Pietro Metastasio. (That century more than fifty composers made use of the libretto, including Pergolesi, Galuppi, Hasse, Cimarosa, Piccinni and J.Ch.Bach. Vivaldi, in 1734, was the first to set it to music in Italy.)

Vivaldi's "L'Olimpiade" includes not only the most typical aria types prescribed in the period but also set pieces adjusted to the requirements of the drama and the text. These dramatic arias and ensembles are parallel with a compositional idea familiar in Vivaldi's concertos: a method of improvisational composition, rich in dramatic contrasts which, among the operas of that period, were unique.

The story might appear too complicated for today's listener, but 18th century audiences were accustomed to such imbroglis. They often did not even listen to the recitatives that carried forward the plot. This gave rise to the practice of the librettist briefly summing up and explaining the story in the introduction (the argomento) to the libretto which was published for the performance. Using Metastasio's argomento let us try to summarize the antecedents and motives of the plot.

The parting of the roads of the lovers - Megacles and Aristeia, and Lycidas and Argene - is first caused by parental arbitrariness the motives for which must be sought in political and tribal conflicts as well as aristocratic ways of thinking. Clysthenis, the tyrant of Sicyon, the Dorian city-state, prevents the marriage of his daughter Aristeia and Megacles because of the latter's Athenian (Ionian) origin. Likewise the King of Crete drives away Argene, the lover of his son, Lycidas because he disapproves of misalliances. Next it is chance which intervenes in the development of the story. In his grief Megacles goes to Crete, where at a time of danger, Lycidas saves his life. Megacles becomes the friend of the Cretan prince and feels under an obligation. This is where the motive of life-long friendship and gratitude enters the plot.

Despite royal pressure, Argene does not want to marry Lycidas's friend, Megacles, she escapes to Elis, more precisely in the town of Olympia, the land of the Achaeans and a neutral spot, that the characters of the story meet again by chance.

It is the site of the Olympic Games, and Clysthenis is invited with his daughter to referee the Games. The dramatic transformation and turnaround of the relations of the lovers is caused by perhaps the most realistic human motive in the work:

the fickleness and infidelity of Lycidas. The Cretan prince, the only non-idealised hero of the plot, also comes to Olympia to watch the Games. Setting eyes on Aristeia, he immediately falls in love with her and forgets Argene.

Since Aristeia - due to a further arbitrary royal-paternal decision - has to marry the winner of the Olympics, Lycidas asks his friend Megacles, who has frequently taken part in the competitions, to win Aristeia's hand for him, using a pseudonym.

The opera opens at this point, in a perfect imbroglio situation with the characters meeting in Olympia. The twenty seven scenes of the three acts (7+13+7) thus undertake to describe the following basic situation: the tragic turn of previous events (the interference of outside persons, chance, human fickleness) have put Megacles, a noble-spirited youth, into a situation where he has to fight at the Olympic Games for his love, but out of gratitude and self-sacrifice, on his friend's behalf. With this he not only creates an inner conflict (between love and friendship) which leads to his attempted suicide, but also drives his own love and the former betrothed of his friend into a fit of despair.

At the first great climax, after the prevention of Megacles's attempted suicide and the exposure of the change of names, Lycidas should account for what has happened. However - again due to his weakness of character - he chooses revenge instead of exile, and makes an attempt on the life of Clysthenis. But his attempt fails and the assailant is faced with death.

Here, in the last scenes of the third act the supernatural motive enters the drama, without which an ending resolving all the conflicts and reconciling the differences could hardly be conceived. The deus ex machina solution - in accordance with the ancient Greek story - follows from the prophecies of the Delphic oracle.

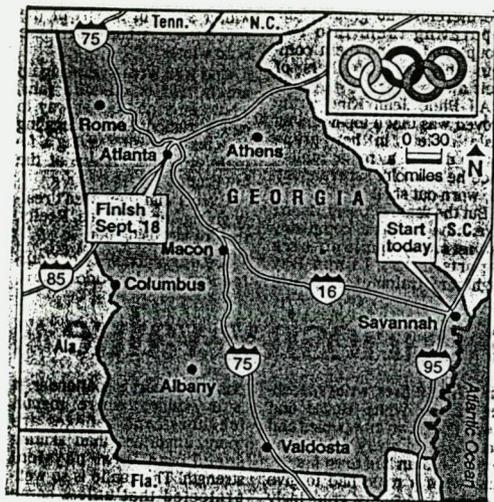
We have also learnt from Metastasio's argomento that, because of the Delphic oracle's prophecy, Clysthenis had his son, the twin brother of Aristeia, thrown into the sea since, according to the oracle, the child would have committed parricide. When, in the last scene of the third act, Argene wants to sacrifice herself in place of her love, Lycidas, she shows Clysthenis the jewel she was once given by Lycidas, to make him accept her sacrifice. This jewel is the key to the recognition, Clysthenis has found his own son in Lycidas, and Aristeia her twin brother. In the last moments of the drama the people (and not only the ruler's sense of justice) acquit Lycidas, and this finally makes it possible for the two couples happily to find each other.

SUPPORT YOUR SOCIETY!

Please support your new Editor by sending him interesting articles for inclusion in the magazine. Write to Bob Farley at 14 Lime Walk, Acton, Sudbure, Suffolk CO10 OUL.

THE FLAG IN ATLANTA

FROM "OUR STAR BEGINS TO RISE", 1992



In a dignified gesture amid the excitement of the Closing Ceremonies of the 1992 Games, Barcelona's mayor handed the Olympic flag to Atlanta's mayor. This inaugurated the four-year celebration of the Centennial Games.

The Flag, with five rings representing the unity of nations, was introduced by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Movement. It first flew at the Antwerp Olympics in 1920 and has since been passed from host city to host city. It has flown above the greatest athletic achievements and peaceful international gatherings of the 20th century. It has seen Jesse Owens singlehandedly prove Olga Korbut bring together, if

the fallacy of the Third Reich and only for a moment, an uneasy world.

On 10 September 1992, the Flag arrived in Savannah aboard the U.S. Coast Guard "Barque Eagle". After a day of festivities the Flag and a travelling Olympic museum and historic train began a tour of nine Georgia cities. At each stop workshops and festivals educated and entertained schoolchildren and adults.

On 18 September, the anniversary of winning the bid, the train pulled into Underground Atlanta for a spectacular celebration. The Flag was presented to the city in a special ceremony to officially launch the events of the Centennial Olympic Games.

SUPPORT YOUR SOCIETY!

Please use the Society Packet and Auction when disposing of your unwanted material. Remember that your duplicates could well become another member's treasures. Write to Colin Faers of John Crowther for details. You will find their address on the inside front cover.

MELBOURNE 1956

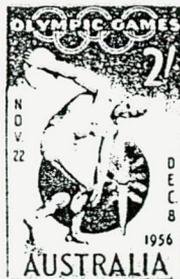
(FROM "THE STAMP COLLECTOR" MARCH/APRIL 1993)

RICHARD BRECKON

Now that Sydney has been awarded the Centenary Games, perhaps it is a good time to take a last look back at 1956, before the deluge for 2000 hits us!

The holding of the Olympic Games in Melbourne in 1956 was undoubtedly Australia's most significant event. Anyone who remembers that time could not forget the country's excitement as the rest of the world focused its attention on Melbourne during the eighteen days of the Games. For the Post Office, the Olympics was naturally an important occasion for philatelic and postal activities. The Olympic stamps and associated philatelic items represented Australia's commemorative issue up to that time. As well, the influx of overseas visitors provided the Post Office with its biggest logistics exercise since the War.

Pre-publicity stamps



The first Olympic stamp issue originated with the Post Office's acceptance early in 1954 of a suggestion from the Olympic Games Organising Committee that a stamp be issued later in the year as a means of publicising the Games in advance. As a result, a 2/- stamp for airmail usage to most overseas countries was issued on December 1 1954 for about four weeks sale at post offices. The stamp design featured the Melbourne Olympics publicity poster and Richard Beck, who had designed the prize-winning poster in a competition, was commissioned to prepare the stamp design. The publicity stamp was considered successful and the Organising Committee asked the Post Office for another stamp at the end of 1955. A new design was not favoured, so the 2/- stamp was reissued on November 30th 1955, with its colour changed from blue to green. The period of sale at post offices was also for about four weeks.

The Olympic commemoratives



The issued Olympic stamps included two values printed by multicolour photogravure, the first time this process had been used for an Australian issue.

In April 1955, the Post Office announced plans for the commemorative series to be issued at the time of the Games. Three stamps were to be issued in denominations comprising 3 1/2d (for domestic and British Commonwealth surface mail); 7 1/2d (for foreign countries surface mail) and 2/- (still the principal overseas air mail rate). This was the same make-up as the Royal Visit and Coronation commemorative issues. The Post Office's announcement also mentioned that, "Although it was not intended to conduct a competition for designs, the Stamp Advisory Committee would give full consideration to any designs or ideas for designs submitted to the Department by the end of July 1955". However, in the event, none of these designs were adopted for use.

Artists at the Note Printing Branch contributed designs, the intention being to feature an Olympic torch and athlete (3 1/2d), an aerial view of the main stadium (7 1/2d) and a variant of the Olympic publicity design (2/-). However, subsequently the Post Office changed its plans for the Olympic series. It was decided to add a 1/- stamp, which would be principally used for parcel postage.

The stamp subjects were now changed to the Arms of the City of Melbourne (3 1/2d); an Olympic medallion (7 1/2d); a view of Collins Street, Melbourne (1/-) and a view of Melbourne across the Yarra River (2/-). In a radical departure from practice, the 1/- and 2/- stamps were to be printed overseas by multicolour photogravure process. This was the first time this course of action had been adopted for an Australian Commonwealth issue. The

lower value stamps would be printed in the usual manner by recess at the Note Printing Branch.

The plan to feature an Olympic medallion on the 7 1/2d stamp met with unexpected difficulties and was dropped in favour of the Olympic torch and rings design originally intended for the 3 1/2d stamp. The dies for the 3 1/2d and 7 1/2d stamps were cut by that doyen of artist/engravers at the Note Printing Branch, Frank Manley. The 1/- and 2/- were based on photographs taken by a Post Office photographer, M Murphy, which were converted to colour sketches by a Post Office artist, L Coles (1/-) and Courvoisier artists (2/-). It was the Swiss firm, Courvoisier SA, which printed the 2/- stamp and the British firm, Harrison & Sons printed the 1/- stamp. Both firms were considered to be the leading photogravure printers in the world.

A major hitch in the production of the Olympic stamps occurred when the Federal Government decided, at short notice, to increase basic letter postage from 3 1/2d to 4d. The increase took effect from 1 October 1956, a month before the stamps were issued. The base rate stamp had to be changed to 4d, although the other denominations were not affected by the changes in postal rates. The die for the 3 1/2d stamp was altered to 4d and new printing plates were rapidly produced. The Olympic stamps were issued on 31 October and remained on sale during the period of the Games, 22 November to 8 December. A total of 119 million 4d stamps were produced - three times the quantity normally printed of a base rate commemorative - to ensure that the stamp remained current over the five week period of its issue.

Unissued stamp booklet



It had been the Post Office's original intention to issue an Olympic stamp booklet containing 12 of the then 3 1/2d stamp arranged in two panes of six stamps. The booklet, which was to be printed in three languages - English, French and Spanish - would have been only the second occasion a commemorative issue appeared in a booklet format, after the Canberra Parliament House booklet in 1927. However, the sudden

rates change caused the Post Office to abandon the stamp booklet, because of the increased work thrown on to the Note Printing Branch. A supply of 3 1/2d stamps for the booklets had already been printed, which had to be destroyed, but examples were retained for the Post Offices' archival collection. In 1987, when Australia Post conducted its sale-by-tender of surplus philatelic archival material, 40 of the unissued 3 1/2d booklet stamp were sold, the only examples to be released on to the market.

Aerogramme

A 10d aerogramme was provided for the Olympics, the first occasion a commemorative aerogramme was issued in Australia. The aerogramme is without the variegated border usual at that time, and featured the Arms of Melbourne in the stamp area and the main stadium at left. It was issued on November 12 1956 for

about two and a half months sale at post offices. The aerogramme also exists with Specimen overprint for UPU distribution.



Postmarks played an important role in honouring the Games and, indeed, present the most scope for assembling a collection of Melbourne Olympics philately. A pictorial machine postmark was used at GPOs in the six state capital cities, as well as Canberra, Newcastle and Launceston. The postmarks were used at these locations for periods of around a week at a time, at intervals of between one and two months. Usage of the postmarks started in December 1954, coinciding with the issue of the 2/- Publicity stamp, and continued up to the start of the Games.



The major postmark facility was the series of fifty two different, pictorial, hand postmarks used at fifteen temporary post offices operated at various Olympic venues in Melbourne and surrounding regions during November and December 1956. The hand postmarks were steel-engraved and featured scenes of sports, venues or other Olympic symbols.

A selection of the 52 pictorial postmarks in use during the Melbourne Olympics.

Of the fifteen temporary post offices, two were mobile post offices that were used at more than one site. Another two post offices were for use by the Press only. A temporary post office planned for Station Pier, Port Melbourne, did not operate, but since its postmark had already been announced as part of the set of fifty two, the Post Office kept faith with collectors by using the Station Pier postmark at the Philatelic bureau.

The Post Office offered a mail order facility for obtaining the full set of fifty two postmarks from a single point, the Philatelic Bureau. The postmarks were applied to either the Post Office's standard philatelic cover or to collectors' own covers and could be ordered for various dates - first or last day usage of the postmark; first or last day of the Olympics or any specified date. Particularly desirable are full sets of fifty two postmarks on registered covers featuring the four Olympic commemoratives. Few such sets exist due to the high cost involved - over £10 at the time. Even scarcer are registered covers, which apparently had to be procured directly at the temporary post offices concerned.

Olympic Air Mail

Another Olympic postmark item exists, but in very large numbers. This is a cover that QANTAS produced for carriage from Greece to Australia on the same aircraft that carried the Olympic torch to Australia. About 33,000 covers all bearing Greek stamps were postmarked at Olympia, the site of the ancient Olympic Games. QANTAS carried the covers to Melbourne where these were back-stamped on arrival.

OF MARATHONS AND MEN

SIDNEY AMERY

Of all the events on the Olympic programme, none captures the imagination more than the marathon. It is an endurance test that sorts out the men from the boys, and it is only in recent years, since the advent of jogging as a means of keeping fit, that the marathon was lost some of its mysticism.

When the Olympic Games were revived in 1896, many events on the programme had their roots in the Olympic Games of antiquity. Track and field events had not greatly changed in the intervening centuries, and the man who wore the olive wreath of the pentathlon winner was considered an exceptional athlete, then as now. One event that was not on the ancient Olympic programme was the marathon. Although the Greeks honed their bodies to perfection for both sport and war, it was against their philosophy the abuse their bodies unnecessarily. A run of some twenty six miles in the name of sport would have been considered such an abuse to the Olympians of the pre-Christian era.

The inclusion of the marathon race in the 1896 Olympic Games was proposed by the Frenchman, Michel Breal, to commemorate the legendary run of the Greek courier, possibly Pheidippides, who is reputed to have run from Marathon to Athens with the news of the Greek victory over the Persians in 490BC. It is told that he ran all the way, and after crying out "Rejoice, for we conquer", he collapsed and died.

When it was time for the marathon in 1896, the Greeks had still not won a gold medal in the track and field events, and national pride was at a low ebb. Hardly surprising therefore, that there was great excitement in the stadium when news came that a Greek shepherd from Amaroussi, Spiridon Loues, was in the lead. When the small dusty figure of Loues appeared at the marble entrance to the stadium, he was escorted to the finish line by Prince George and Crown Prince Constantine of the Hellenes. His time was two hours fifty eight minutes and fifty seconds, the only competitor to finish in under three hours. The second and third places were also taken by Greeks, Chariloas Vasilakos and Spiridon Belokas. However, when it was learnt that Belokas had ridden part of the way in a carriage, he was stripped of his awards and the third place was given to the Hungarian, Gyula Keller.

Spiridon Loues was born in 1872 and he died on 27 March 1940. After his historic win in the marathon, the merchants of Athens wanted to shower him with gifts, and he could have been a rich man for the rest of his life. Apparently Loues turned down all such gifts, and accepted only a horse and cart, which helped to transport water to his village. Surprisingly, Loues managed to return to a relatively normal life and he did not return to the Olympic scene until 1936, when he was invited to the opening ceremony at the Games in Berlin and where he presented an olive branch from the sacred grove at Olympia to Hitler.

In 1900 the Olympic Games were held in Paris. In an Olympiad that was marked by controversy and acrimony, it would have been surprising had the marathon been without incident. Michel Theato, a Parisian baker's roundsman was declared the winner of the event, though it has long been suspected that he used his knowledge of the city's back streets to gain the advantage. The American long distance runner, Arthur Newton was convinced that he had won when to took the lead at the half-way stage. He always claimed that no-one overtook him, yet he was placed fifth, more than thirty minutes behind Theato. Since a Swede and two other Frenchman were also ahead of Newton, it is unlikely that there was much truth in his claims.

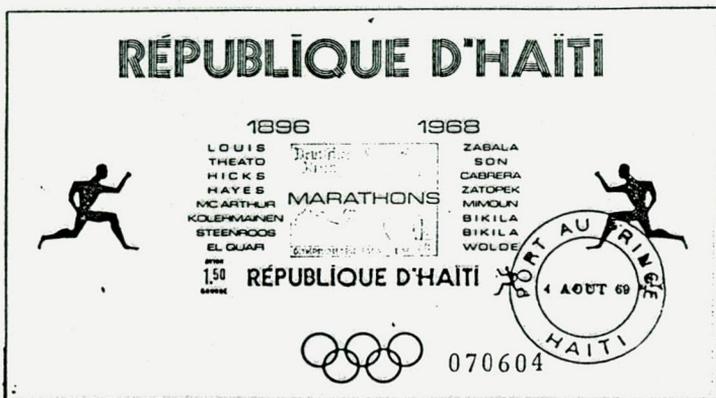
The Games of 1904 were held on American soil for the first time, in St. Louis as a part of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. Thomas Hicks, born in Birmingham, England, but representing the United States, was declared the winner in the marathon, but not before Fred Lorz had stolen most of Hicks' thunder and been hailed the champion. Less than half way through the race, Lorz developed cramp and dropped out, but gratefully accepted a lift back to the stadium. However, the car in which he was travelling broke down, so Lorz completed the last four miles on foot. He did nothing to disillusion the crowd when they rose to acclaim him, and it was only the officials who had been accompanying Hicks who prevented Lorz being given the winner's crown.

Dorando Pietri, from Italy became a part of Olympic legend when he failed to win the marathon at the London Games in 1908. He was the first to enter the White City stadium at the end of the gruelling race, but his legs were unable to carry him further. After collapsing twice, he was helped across the finishing line by two well-meaning officials. Although declared the winner, he was later disqualified because of the help that he had been given and the gold medal was awarded to the American, John Hayes. However, Queen Alexandra, who had been present at the finish of the race, felt so sorry for Dorando that she presented him with a gold cup the following day.

At the marathon of the 1912 Games in Stockholm, the race claimed its first victim. It was a blistering hot day, and of the sixty seven competitors only thirty four eventually finished. Portugal's Francisco Lazaro collapsed with heat stroke and later died in a Stockholm hospital. The South African champion, Ken McArthur was the eventual winner in a time of two hours, thirty six minutes and 54.8 seconds. His compatriot, Chris Gitsham finished second, less than a minute later, thus giving South Africa its greatest moment in Olympic history.

The Great War from 1914 to 1918 meant that the Games of 1916, scheduled for Berlin, did not take place. Hannes Kolehmainen, the winner of the 5,000 metres and the 10,000 metres events in Stockholm, was the winner of the marathon when the Games took place again, in Antwerp in 1920. He thus confirmed the supremacy of the Finnish runners in the middle and long distance events. In 1924, when the Games were held for the second time in Paris, another Finn, Albin Stenroos, wore the winner's crown in the marathon race. His win gave the Finns a clean sweep in all the middle and long distance events at these Games. The fabulous Paavo Nurmi alone won seven races in six days and eventually won four gold medals.

In 1928 the Olympic Games were held in Amsterdam and Boughera El Quafi, a French Algerian who had participated in Paris but had been unplaced, won the race in the last two miles by a sustained burst that broke the will of his rivals. One of the most gruelling finishes of all Olympic marathon races took place in Los Angeles in 1932, when just sixty five seconds divided the first and fourth places. The twenty year old Argentinian, Juan Carlos Zabala was less than 100 yards ahead of Sam Ferris of Great Britain, who was placed second in one of the most exciting finishes of this event.



Kitei Son, who was born in Korea, but participated under the Japanese flag, was the winner of the Berlin Games of 1936. He was the first runner to break the 2+ hour time at an Olympic marathon, finishing in a time of two hours, twenty nine minutes 19.2 seconds. Zabala started the race at such a suicidal pace that the British champion, Ernest Harper, cautioned the inexperienced Son not to set out in pursuit. Thus the two men ran much of the race together, eventually overtaking Zabala who later dropped out suffering from exhaustion. Son drew away from Harper in the last two miles and the Englishman had to be satisfied with the silver medal.

War again interrupted the Games of 1940 and 1944, and the next Olympiad was celebrated in London in 1948. Another Argentinian, Delfo Cabrero was the winner of the marathon, but not before there was almost a repeat performance of the Dorando Pietri episode. Etienne Gailly from Belgium was the first into Wembley stadium for the final lap, but he was so exhausted that he could hardly put one foot in front of the other. He was easily overtaken by Cabrera, and then by the Englishman Tom Richards, who took the silver medal. Gailly managed to struggle to the line, (this time unaided) in third place to take a hard-earned bronze medal.

Emil Zatopek from Czechoslovakia first came to the notice of the sporting world in London when he won the 10,000 metres race and was placed second in the 5,000 metres. At the 1952 Olympic

Games in Helsinki, he won not only those two events, but also the marathon. He ran again at the next Olympiad in Melbourne in 1956, when his friend and rival, Alain Mimoun of France won the event.

For the first time in Olympic history the 1960 marathon champion successfully defended his title four years later. Abebe Bikila of Ethiopia, a private in Emperor Haile Selassie's Imperial Guard, won the race bare-footed over Rome's cobble stones in 1960. He was the first black African to win an Olympic title. In Tokyo in 1964 he had donned running shoes and won the title in a world record time of two hours, twelve minutes 11.2 seconds, after having his appendix removed just five weeks earlier! In 1968 another Ethiopian, Mamo Wolde, won the coveted marathon crown. He has been an Olympic participant since 1956 when he had been placed last in the 800 metres heat, 1,500 metres heat and as a part of the Ethiopian relay team. By 1964 Wolde realised that he was a better long distance runner, and was placed fourth in the 10,000 metres, though on that occasion he dropped out of the marathon before the finish.

All the above mentioned marathon winners (with the exception of Dorando Pietri) were commemorated by a set released by Haiti in 1969 (SG 1136-1151) after the Games of Mexico. The Dominican Republic showed Kitei Son on one stamp of the first series of Olympic winners in 1957 (SG 662), and Alain Mimoun was depicted on the 5 value (SG 692) of the second series to commemorate the Melbourne Games. Italy remembered Dorando Pietri with a special cancellation on 20 October 1985 to commemorate the centenary of his birth and in 1954 Czechoslovakia showed Emil Zatopek (SG 828) on one value of a sports series.

In 1972 at the Munich Games, Frank Shorter of the United States won the marathon. In 1976 in Montreal and 1980 in Moscow, Waldemar Cierpinski of East Germany was only the second man to retain his Olympic title, and at the second Los Angeles Games in 1984, the Portuguese national anthem was heard when Carlos Lopes mounted the winner's rostrum. For the first time at an Olympic gathering, a woman's name was added to the list of marathon winners in Los Angeles, that of Joan Benoit of the United States. It is interesting that Joan's time of two hours, twenty four minutes and 52 seconds was faster than that run by the men until the Second World War!

In Seoul and Barcelona, new names were added to the ever-growing list of winners in this toughest of races. For British fans of this most arduous race, the London Marathon, which takes place in early May is an indication of possible winners at the Olympic Games. Almost certainly the first three British men and women across the finishing line in the Olympic Year London Marathon, will represent Great Britain at the Olympic Games and several of the overseas runners are also likely to be selected by their countries to take part in this gruelling race.

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THE REVIVAL OF THE TURNHALLE

The Ravenstein Sports Hall Trust is comprised of individuals who are together attempting to ensure that the Turnhalle at Kings Cross:

- (a) survives the planned re-development of the area;
- (b) is restored to its original grandeur and
- (c) once again provides a useful sports and recreational facility for the area, and a national focal point for sport.

The German Gymnasts

In the mid 1800's German immigrants brought their early form of Gymnastics to London and caused it to spread throughout England. Following the successful launch in the early 1860's of the Germany Gymnastics Society in London, the Society was able to commission a purpose designed Turnhalle (or gymnasium). The new building was designed by Edward Gruning and was largely built in 1864-5. This unique building is only one part of the legacy of the Germany Gymnastics Society: among the activities practiced in the Turnhalle were gymnastics, fencing, boxing, wrestling, "leaping", running, putting the shot, and "lifting the bar and the broadsword" or weightlifting. The national governing bodies of most of these sports today can trace their parentage to the Germany Gymnastics Society and the Turnhalle. The building is thus a historical monument to gymnastics and the national sports movement.

One of the early Directors of the German Gymnastics Society was Ernest Ravenstein. In 1865 Ravenstein and others from within the Turnhalle organised the first National Olympian Games in London, which took place in 1866. The outdoor events of these Games were held at the old Crystal Palace and on the Thames, but the indoor events took place in the Turnhalle. As early as 1866 Ravenstein's wife was conducting classes in gymnastics for women at the Turnhalle; a revolutionary practice in Victorian times.

The title "Germany Gymnastics Society" was, within a year, a total misnomer - its membership represented more than twenty nationalities with British patronage predominating - its pursuits were social, educational and "multi-sport".

The Building

The Building stands on Pancras Road facing the flank of the great St. Pancras train shed. The building is important as the earliest surviving purpose-built public gymnasium in this country and as a rare example of a laminated timber arch roof. This structural type was fairly widely used in the 19th century for temporary bridges but was not often used in buildings. The two best known examples, in the roofs of Kings Cross Station and the central barrel-vault of the Crystal Palace, have both been lost. After about 1870 this structural type was not used again until the development of modern glues during World War II.

Although somewhat dishevelled the structure of the complex is largely intact and generally in sound condition. The principal alteration has been the insertion of a floor in the main hall at the gallery level so that the full original volume cannot now be seen. The other alterations have been mostly insertions of non-structural partitions and all these, including the inserted floor, can probably be removed without major distress.

The building is located in a townscape fragment which still preserves its 19th century consistency and is of the great age of industrial invention when a train shed would be given the largest span of any roof in the world, a gas holder clothed in the Classical Orders and a gymnasium built with the seriousness of a church. Like the nearby train shed and gas holders, the Turnhalle is a "listed building". Thus the building merits careful consideration for its unique origins, for its unusual structure and for its townscape role.

The Need for Sports Facilities

The Turnhalle is situated at Kings Cross in a fairly typical inner city area with a mix of residential, commercial and light industrial premises. The residential parts of Kings Cross and Somers Town, in Camden, and the estates in neighbouring Islington, have high population densities, but a generally low level of recreational and sporting amenities. Indeed Camden Council's Leisure Services Committee has recently identified the Kings Cross area as its highest priority in relation to the need for new sports and recreation provision.

The Kings Cross re-development, which will take place over the next few years, will generate an even greater demand for sports and recreational facilities for the local community.

Two of the major problems in providing new facilities in an inner city are the difficulty of identifying suitable sites for new development and the high cost of land. The conversion of an existing building therefore often represents the only realistic chance of making additional facilities available.

The re-opening of the "Turnhalle" by a broad based charitable organization, offering public access to local residents and employees, would go some way to meeting the sporting and recreational needs of the area. Given its location it could provide for local schools as well as local business and residential communities. Its original layout would provide good access for disabled people, a major requirement that is all too often lacking in sports halls in this country.

The Turnhalle could also provide a venue for regional and national sporting events. For example in gymnastics alone there are 10,000 youngsters in London practicing one or other of the five contemporary forms (Recreational, Women's Artistic, Men's Artistic, Sports Acrobatics and Rhythmic Gymnastics). There are many youngsters on waiting lists amongst the 12 million people of Greater London, whose potential cannot be realized because of the shortage of facilities. The Turnhalle could provide a fitting focus for athletes in London and from further afield, able to mount competitions and to house spectators and officials as well as competitors.

The Future

The Ravenstein Sports Hall Trust intends to protect, preserve and revive the Turnhalle. It is an invaluable part of this country's sporting and cultural heritage and is architecturally significant. It could provide:-

1. A sports and educational facility for everyday use by local residents and workers.
2. A centre for competitions and exhibitions of sporting excellence.
3. An administrative centre for sports organisations (several of whom have voiced an interest in relocating to these premises).
4. A sports museum.

Operating as a charitable trust for the benefit of the public at large the Sports Hall Group envisage that they would supplement charitable income by finance from:-

- (a) Letting of the bulk of the Office accommodation to sports organisations (eg London and Kent Amateur Gymnastics Association, London Amateur Boxing Association).
- (b) The hiring out of floor space for sporting exhibitions and competitions.
- (c) Part-time use of its facilities by fee paying users.
- (d) The sale of light refreshments.
- (e) Charging a small fee for entrance to the museum of sport.

The re-instatement of the Turnhalle, would have a considerable impact on contemporary sport and sports history since:

1. It is the hereditary home of Gymnastics in London, from which evolved the modern governing bodies of Gymnastics, Fencing, Weight Lifting, Wrestling and Swimming. The building was also important in relation to the formation of a National Olympic Movement. Thus it has great educational value as a location for a national museum of sport.
2. It has a strategically strong position,
 - (a) Immediately adjacent to Kings Cross Underground, Kings Cross and St. Pancras Railway Stations; it has excellent transport links providing easy access for national and international travellers.
 - (b) It is at the focus of a major inner city re-development area which will substantially upgrade its surroundings.
3. If reinstated as a sports hall it would help meet the increasing demand for sporting, recreational, cultural and educational facilities in the area and could provide several sports with a focal point in Central London.

LAUSANNE, OLYMPIC CITY

Marie-Helene Roukhadze

(The two articles on which this article is based first appeared in the OLYMPIC REVUE in April 1990)

At two decisive moments in history, namely the turning point of two centuries, the 19th and 20th, bridges between such different worlds, the International Olympic Committee has been headed by two men who share a number of common traits: the same silhouette, tenacity, patience, diplomacy, an impressive capacity for work, an iron discipline and total devotion to Olympism, which is an ideal form of training for reinforcing the physical, mental and moral faculties of the individual.

The first man, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, a Frenchman, is the restorer of the Olympic Games of Antiquity. The second is the seventh and current President of the International Olympic Committee, H.E. Marques Juan Antonio Samaranch, former Spanish ambassador to the Soviet Union.

Both look towards the future and share the same principle of "never destroying what can be used, never compromising anything of what has been obtained before". Both share a concern with constructing a stronger and safer future for the Olympic Movement.

On 10th April 1990, H.E. Mr Juan Antonio Samaranch celebrated the 75th anniversary of the IOC's arrival in Lausanne. On that occasion the population and their guests evoked a scene which took place on 10th April 1915 at the town hall.

There, Baron Pierre de Coubertin and Mr Maillefer, the mayor, shook hands after signing an agreement making Lausanne the world administrative headquarters of the International Olympic Committee. Neither of the two parties, but for different reasons, doubted the permanence of this act.

It had been carefully prepared by de Coubertin himself who, before getting to know Switzerland and making friends there, had travelled the world, initially to expand his knowledge, then to reinforce his grand designs for educational reform, and finally to universalize his ideas. He had cosmopolitan tastes, something which is, moreover, to be found with H.E. Marques Juan Antonio Samaranch. He was inspired by "a faith in the future different from the past" which led him to re-establish the Olympic Games of Antiquity on 23rd June 1894 at the Sorbonne Congress in Paris, "in order to ennoble and fortify sports and muscles, to ensure them independence and continuance, and thereby make them able to fulfill the educational role incumbent upon them in the modern world. For the exaltation of the individual athlete whose existence is necessary to the muscular activity of the community, and whose prowess ensures general emulation."

Although Switzerland was one of the twelve nations represented at the Sorbonne, it was only in 1907 that de Coubertin truly

discovered the country and its institutions thanks to Colonel de Loys who introduced him to various leading figures. De Coubertin made them his friends. He was convinced, and wrote, moreover, that "for any undertaking on a vast scale that it was hoped would last, it was necessary to proceed in stages". Lausanne had charmed him and he depicted along the shore of the lake, crowned by forests, provided with every conceivable sporting possibility, Lausanne was the best-appointed location imaginable for the establishment of the administrative headquarters of Olympism". He therefore began to travel to Switzerland and stay there more often, organising the 16th IOC Session and a sports psychology congress there in 1913. The previous year, one of his Vaudois friends, Baron Godefroy de Blonay, one of the first members of the IOC, had, with Dr Francis Messerli, founded the Swiss Olympic Committee. Together, they supported the creation of an association, the "Friends of Olympism", which was to be disbanded three years later, mission accomplished, its main aim being to prepare the ground for the IOC's arrival in Lausanne. The sympathy and support obtained was widespread, the hospitality generous.

PROTECTING THE ARCHIVES

The year after the first World War broke out in 1914, Coubertin, anxious about the future of his young institution, asked the municipality to house the archives and secretariat of the IOC, and the doors were opened to him. Until then, the secretariat had had, in theory, to transport itself to the city organising the following Games, yet it had never in fact left the baron's home in Paris. By establishing it in Lausanne, de Coubertin ensured it a stability which would increase its influence.

The definitive establishment of the headquarters of the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne took place on the morning of Saturday 10th April 1915. The ceremony was very simple. In the meeting hall, prettily decorated with flowers, the municipal council, headed by the mayor of the city, Professor Maillefer, received the representatives of the International Olympic Committee, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, President, and Baron Godefroy de Blonay, member of the board, who were accompanied by the members of the commission for the 1913 Congress. It is that commission which, in a reconstituted form, would have the responsibility, under the supervision of the board of the Committee, for the keeping of the archives and the curatorship of the Olympic Museum, which they intended to create in the near future. Mr Chuard, President of the Council of State, who was detained by a meeting of that Assembly, sent his excuses. Baron de Coubertin spoke the following words:

"Mr Mayor, Members of the Municipal Council, the act which is being performed at this moment was prepared over a long period. From 1907 onwards, it was envisaged that this country would become the centre of our international activity. The Congress, which, since then, brought together the friends of sport in Lausanne under your auspices, and in which the public authorities participated so effectively, could only strengthen a resolution which everything combines to justify. This lovely city, where Greece and France have so many friends, is no stranger to any of the diverse forms of contemporary civilization. Its hospitality is proverbial and its renown universal. The work of balance and

beauty which the International Olympic Committee has undertaken and has been directing for twenty years will be able to continue here fruitfully. Olympism will find, in the independent and proud atmosphere which one breathes here, a guarantee of the liberty indispensable to its progress.

Our already substantial archives were in need of faithful guardians. I have the honour of introducing to you the members of the commission who will help us take care of them from now on. The memories of the recent Congress unites us with them, and the devotion they have shown to our work does not surprise us.

Please allow me, Gentlemen, to express our sincere gratitude for the welcome which the noble and illustrious city of Lausanne is extending to the International Olympic Committee, on behalf of which I declare that, as of today, we elect domicile and establish our headquarters within your walls."

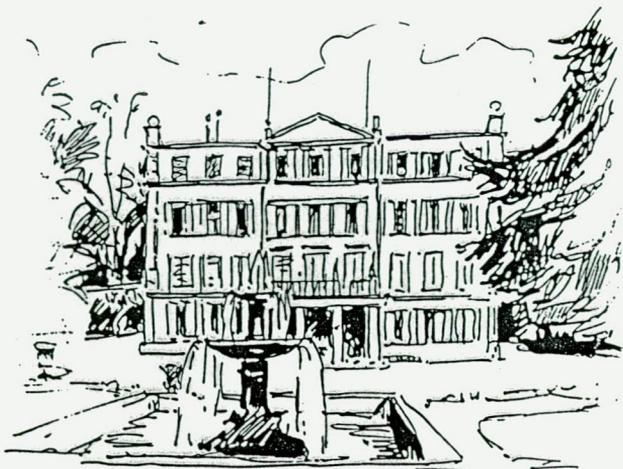
This decision was ratified at the 18th IOC Session held in Lausanne in 1919, and although neither of the two parties ever considered undoing what Baron de Coubertin had constructed with such care, numerous cities and capitals have on various occasions since then coveted the privilege of becoming the world centre of Olympism.

No proposal, however tempting, has ever interested the IOC. In Lausanne it had found not just a residence, but friendship and collaboration sealed by marks of mutual esteem. These were, for example, the honorary citizenship conferred upon Pierre de Coubertin by the city of Lausanne in 1937 because "there are few men who, in their field, have had such a fruitful influence and worked so intelligently"; the awarding of the Olympic Cup in 1919 to the Olympic Institute in Lausanne and in 1944 to the city of Lausanne; and the gift of the Olympic flag to the city of Lausanne in 1982, thereby consecrating definitively the Olympic vocation of the city.

A TITLE WELL DESERVED

This title of Olympic City is well deserved. First of all, it has always placed well-sited and pleasant premises at the IOC's disposal: the Casino de Montbenon, the Villa Mon Repos and the Chateau de Vidy. Since the outset it has been interested in the spread of Olympism, submitting its candidature to hold the Olympic Games several times. It lent enthusiastic support in 1917 to the creation by de Coubertin of the Olympic Institute, which gave the population the opportunity to practice sports and educate themselves. It took part in 1944 in the splendid artistic and sporting celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the creation of the IOC. In 1976, on the IOC's initiative it created an international festival of television sports programmes, the Golden Ring. It lobbied the Confederation in support of the IOC's request to obtain the status of an international non-governmental organisation, a status it received on 17th September 1981.

From 1980, the great availability of President Samaranch, who had decided to live in Lausanne and devote himself full-time to



his new responsibilities, encouraged co-Olympic Games, mass runs and exhibitions on sport; the celebration of Olympic Day on 23rd June and the opening of a provisional Olympic Museum; constant encouragement for sports development with the "20 kilometres de Lausanne", cycle races, the Lakeside Day, the swim across Lake Geneva, Athletissima; and the distribution of sports equipment, balls and other items to schools. The list could go on, and is certain to do so.

CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN CITY AND THE IOC

In order to provide in Lausanne conditions favourable to the development of the IOC and its institutions; to create a museum and Olympic studies centre open to the public; and to promote the spread of Olympism through the city and its environs, in 1983 President Samaranch created an IOC/City of Lausanne Co-ordination Commission, chaired in turn by the mayor and himself. Since taking up office, he has wished to associate the city council as much as possible in the Olympic and sports development of the city. He wished thus to show the city the gratitude of all the IOC presidents who had succeeded Baron de Coubertin: the Belgian Count Henri de Baillet-Latour, the Swede Sigfrid Edstrom, the American Avery Brundage and the Irishman, Lord Killanin, who had appreciated its hospitality and faithful co-operation, and who had all enjoyed good relations, without being able to support the Olympic and sporting life of the city as they would have wished, since in those days the IOC's financial means were very limited.

When the problem of expanding the headquarters came up once more, the IOC decided to have a building constructed. The city council therefore granted it a ninety-nine year lease on land adjoining the chateau. Building work proceeded briskly, yet without destroying the luxuriant vegetation of the Parc Bourget. And in two years, a magnificent edifice of glass and marble had risen from the ground, designed by the architects Pedro Ramirez

BIATHLON

W. Van der Zwaan.

(This article first appeared in 1988 Issue 1 of THEMA, the Dutch thematic journal, and is reprinted with permission. The English translation is by R.A.Huurman.)

Not unnaturally, during the Olympic Winter Games, most of the Dutch attention is focused on the speed skaters. Although we know about alpine skiing, bob-sled, figure skating and ski jumping in this country, we are also confronted with winter sports that are practically unknown to us. One of these is the Biathlon.

The name Biathlon may be difficult to comprehend for those who are unfamiliar with the sport, since a "dual contest" (the literal translation of the word), could stand for any two sports. The Swedes and the Norwegians give this discipline a much easier to understand name "Skishooting". The sport is indeed a combination of skiing (cross country) and shooting. Since earliest times, skiing has been used in Norway and other countries, where snow lies on the ground for the greatest part of the year, as the simplest and fastest method to travel in the winter. Hunters with bows and arrows moved on bone skis over the snow fields to look for game. The combination of arms and skiing is therefore an ancient one.

At the end of the last century, interest in skiing as a sport developed. The combination of Nordic skiing and shooting also gained in popularity, initially, not as a civilian, but as a military sport. Many soldiers, not only in the Scandinavian countries, but also in Austria, Germany, Italy and Switzerland

used skis in winter. This was also the case in the Tatra Mountains.(1) Since shooting is also a military necessity, it was clear that there would be a growth of trained biathlon athletes. This situation has not changed. Many of the biathletes who competed at the Winter Olympic Games in Calgary are indeed regular soldiers. However, the sports suffered in the early years because of its military connection. Although the Biathlon was a demonstration sport as early as the first Olympic Winter Games in Chamonix in 1924, it was not until



the 1960 Games at Squaw Valley that it achieved the status of an Olympic sport.

THE RULES OF PLAY.

The Biathlon event begins ten minutes before the official start, when the weapons are checked. Biathlon rifles have an 8mm calibre and are not semi-automatic. Magnifying optical sights are not allowed. The recoil of the weapon must be at least 1Kg. In the individual events, the participants start separately at between 30 seconds and 120 seconds intervals.(2) In the Olympic Games, the time between each contestant is one minute. The length of the standard individual event is 20 kilometres, and during this, the gun has to be fired on four occasions. After some

4 kilometres, the participant arrives for the first time at the shooting range.(3) Even before he comes to a standstill, he has taken his weapon from his shoulder. (4) In a kneeling position, the weapon is loaded with a magazine containing five bullets, and after lying down in the snow, he carefully takes aim.(5 & 6) It is not permitted to load the rifle while skiing, nor is it permitted to remove the skis while shooting.



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Five shots are fired from 150 metres on targets with a diameter of 25 centimetres. Nowadays, so-called folding targets are used. When the shot hits, the white disc tumbles backwards and a black surface becomes visible. For every missed shot, a penalty of one minute is added to the skiing time. After shooting, the contestant rises quickly to his feet, straps his rifle over his shoulder (either barrel up or barrel down, both are allowed) and gets under way.

After another 4 kilometres, the contestant is back at the rifle range. He now has to shoot in a standing position. This is the most difficult part of the Biathlon, the biggest problem being caused by the breathing and the heart beat, both straining from the exertions of the last kilometres. To shoot accurately, it is necessary to bring the heart beat and breathing under control as quickly as possible. Arriving at the shooting range at full speed, the contestant stops himself several metres before the shooting position by using his poles and glides to his position (8). The gun is loaded very calmly and sometimes he will wait several moments



8

to regulate his breath. (9) Only then will he carefully take aim and start shooting. In order to avoid the heart beat from effecting the aim of the rifle, the weapon rests only on the tips of the fingers. (11) Several stamp designers miss the detail and show their biathletes gripping the gun far too tightly. As for shooting in a prone position, this second,



9



11

standing discipline, also requires five shots to be fired from a distance of 150 metres. The diameter of the target is larger than when lying down, namely 45 centimetres. Great care must be taken, since accuracy is of greater importance than speed.

Most participants remain standing on their skis during shooting, though because of the recoil of the gun, there is a danger that the contestant moves from his position. Undoing the skis during shooting, however, is permitted. As for the prone position shooting, penalty points are given for any missed shots. After completing his shots, the biathlete rushes off again. In a 10 kilometres race he is rushing for the finish, and in the 20 kilometres race he starts again at the beginning. He must go round the track a second time, repeating both the prone and the standing shots. At the end of the race, the penalty points are calculated at one point per minute and added to his time to arrive at a final score.



13

For a Biathlon Relay, different rules apply. The distance is usually 4 x 7 km, with two stops for shooting, prone and standing for each skier. Instead of a staggered start, all competitors begin together. (13) The relay is therefore very often a nerve racking contest. If the skier is a bad shot, he may reload a maximum

of three times. If by then, all five targets have not been hit, he has to add a penalty of 150 metres to his distance for each missed disc.

CHAMPIONSHIPS.



15

Since 1958, regular World Championship Biathlon events have taken place. The first World Championships were held in Saalfelden in Austria. In the years in which Olympic Games are held, no world championships take place. When world championships or other, mostly military, championships take place,

either stamps or special cancellations are produced to commemorate the event, some of which are illustrated below.



14



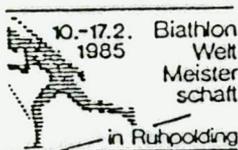
16



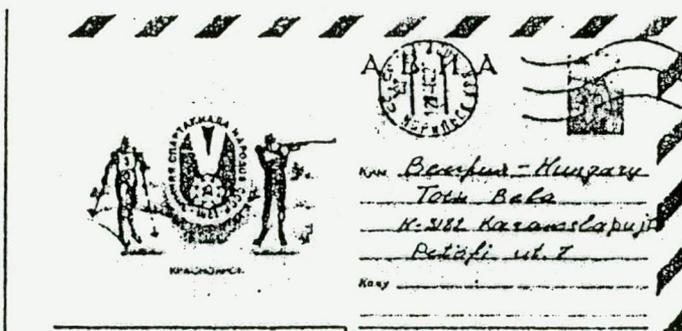
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19



18

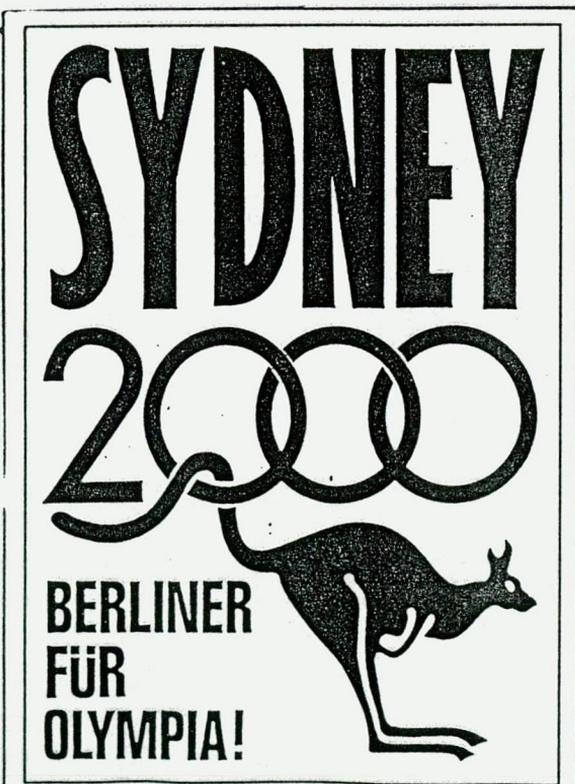


Most of the stamps that are issued showing the Biathlon appear in Olympic year. Since the Biathlon became an Olympic sport in 1960, many countries have pictured biathletes on their stamps. The stamp from Paraguay shows the West German biathlete Peter Angerer, who won the gold medal during the Olympic Winter Games in Sarajevo in 1984 in the 20 kilometres, and a silver medal in the 10 kilometres individual events. Seeing him pictured during a skiing moment is correct, since it was his skiing speed, rather than his shooting ability, which won him his gold medal. Angerer, a professional soldier, also participated in the Olympic Winter Games at Calgary in 1988.

Biathlon holds only a moderate position within the Olympic Winter Games and within the winter sports scene generally. The number of people practising this sport tend to come from a limited number of countries. However, this is also the case with other winter sports, particularly speed skating. Philatelically, the Biathlon is also a a modest sport, though with a little detective work, quite a number of interesting items can be found.

For many stamp designers, Biathlon is an unknown sport. It is therefore not surprising that there are quite a number of errors on stamps that illustrate this discipline. In Poland, for instance, they have pictured a biathlete plodding through a snowstorm, when in reality this event cannot take place during such weather conditions, since in poor visibility it would not be possible to shoot at a target that is 150 metres away!. Pictures showing the gun held too firmly are also incorrect, as has been previously discussed. Some countries, such as Mongolia, have shown the rifle held in such a ridiculous manner that it could only be regarded as a miracle if the rifleman were to hit anything. Both Hungary and Bulgaria have shown their own variation of the Biathlon and have introduced a new discipline, namely shooting from a kneeling position. This is particularly surprising, since the Biathlon is a sport that is practiced in both countries.

From the above, it will be seen that, although it may not be possible to form a large collection of this sport, it could nevertheless be an interesting one.



MEMORIES OF BERLIN

Folker Weis.

The first Olympic Games which I attended were those of Berlin in 1936. In October 1935, I ordered tickets for my wife and myself at a travel agent in Pforzheim as follows: an Olympic pass for three days for athletics half way up the Olympic Stadium on the opposite side to the Fuhrer's box, three days at the Dietrich Eckart amphitheatre for the gymnastics, at the Reichssportfeld for the hockey final and at the swimming stadium for the swimming springboard and high diving finals. At that time, I was still being very badly paid as a gymnastics and sports teacher in a primary school, so I had to be content with the cheapest possible lodgings. I found myself sleeping in emergency accommodation holding one hundred and fifty camp beds, but with very clean sheets, a pillow and a warm blanket. Of these beds, only about thirty were booked in the huge Pharos Halls, where before 1933 bloody brawls took place between Nazis, Communists, democrats and people of other opinions at vast political rallies. I slept very well there, because I dropped into bed each night dead-beat, and my other fellow sleepers were in the same state. They were mainly Italians. I had my breakfast in a nearby cafe with a bakery, very small and homely, where I got a two-cup pot of coffee, three rolls, a boiled egg, butter and jam, and all for one Reichsmark.

Every morning about thirty Olympic enthusiasts from all over the world formed a cheerful group, all feeling at home with our motherly hostess - a fine woman with a warm heart and full of chatter - a typical Berliner, who in addition attended to all our little wishes. We sat at little tables for two or three, where true friendship between different nationalities reigned. My table companion each day was a wealthy black business man from New York; a wonderfully cheerful fellow whom we all liked. Since he spoke perfect German, I did not need to rack my brains to use my schoolboy English on him as best I could. He informed me that he came every year on holiday to the German Alps with his German friend from Hamburg, but on this occasion, he was on his own. After breakfast, my coloured Olympic friend and I would go for a stroll through Berlin, and during the fifteen days that we were together, I managed to show him all the city's most important sights. Since I had spent time in Berlin on two previous occasions, I was also able to show him the beautiful surrounding lakeland scenery as a tourist guide.

One morning our adoptive mother asked us whether we already had tickets for a gala evening at the Ice Stadium, where all the figure skaters who had stood on the winners rostrum in Garmisch Partenkirchen were to show off their skills. When we said that we did not, she gave us a good tip, and told us to go to the rink at eleven o'clock that morning, and to let her know the following day what had happened. We had to pay fifty pfennings to get in, and for this we could choose anywhere in the tiered seating to sit. For two hours we were able to watch the ice dancers at their training, while the loudspeakers played the music for their disciplines. We were able to admire all the great

figure skaters, both men and women, only "Haseken" did not come out of her burrow. In the afternoon, our ways parted, since we all had different seats in various locations.

Since my first wife, who was not a sports enthusiast, told me three days before the start of the Olympic Games that she would rather take up her mother's invitation to stay in the Black Forest than go to Berlin, I travelled to Berlin alone - I of course, was happy to forego a holiday in the Black Forest in favour of the Games. Consequently, I had at my disposal my wife's tickets which were in very great demand. I could have made a good bit of money out of them, but it was more important for me that they came into the right hands. The opportunity for this presented itself surprisingly during the afternoon break of the first light athletics contests in the Olympic stadium. I was looking for a nice restaurant with a garden in the nearby Grunewald, so that I could have one of their very economical and good fixed price meals. I was not sat down for long when a group of some fifteen young people from eighteen to about twenty five years of age sat down near me for a little snack. They gave the impression of being apathetic and tired out, as if they had just come from a funeral. Since I wanted to satisfy my curiosity, I asked the one sitting nearest to me why they were so downhearted. He just said "It was frightful". "What was frightful?" "Since yesterday we have been looking in all the likely, as well as all the unlikely places in Berlin for tickets for the Games. This morning we were even in Goebbels Propaganda Ministry".

"Here too there was nothing, although we said that through sheer enthusiasm we had made up our minds to come to Berlin when we heard the first Olympic reports on the radio". I asked them where they came from. "We are Sudeten Germans. We are all members of a sports club in a small village. That is why we are all wearing the same sporting outfits, but without swastikas and badges". I said to the boys, "Just bring over here your leader or your tour guide". This gentleman confirmed all the boy's statements for me, and said that if only they could be allowed to look once into the Olympic stadium during the midday break, that would be lovely. When I answered that they could all do more than that, he asked me with entreating eyes, "Have you tickets for us?" I took from my wallet the tickets bought for my wife and put them in the leader's hands, saying "They are yours". When the boys, who had been crowding around my table during the conversation, saw the tickets in their leader's hands, they leapt up with a single yell. They leapt, laughed, capered and sprang through the garden. It took some time to calm them down and to understand that the journey they had made on impulse to Berlin had not been in vain. That day was one of the finest in my eventful life. But I could give pleasure to these poor souls who were in Berlin without lodging, without tickets and with limited purses. They wanted to hug me and stammered over and over again "Thank you". You can guess what words of thanks came from their leader opposite me. He wanted to pay more for all the tickets than they had cost me, that is to say about 75 Reichsmarks, but fortunately, the price was marked on each ticket. Each day was 3.75 Reichsmarks for an Olympic pass, while the day ticket for the gymnastics was 5 Marks. I cannot now remember the prices for the various other categories. These were of course the prices that were set between us. So every day there was a Sudeten German sitting on my left, saying something

like, "to think that I can have this wonderful experience". On my right I was greeted by an elderly white American with the words "Germany - Wunderbar!" In the course of time, he let me know that he had been a spectator at all the Olympic Games since 1896. When I asked him which had been the finest for him, he replied "Those that we are watching right here".

I think that I can also allow myself to pass judgement, on looking back over five Olympic Games as a spectator, as well as at a good number of sport and cultural events of world wide importance. The Berlin Games were, with regard to sport and culture, a great success and they brought happiness both to those taking an active part and also the visitors. At all the competition sites, an enthusiastic public rewarded all the sporting achievements, not just the medallists, with hearty applause; it was all one whether they were German or foreign champions. Fair play was taken for granted in Berlin. Honourable judges, honourable contestants, who did not cheat their way to a medal by drug taking or other unfair methods of competing. Everything was played out in harmony at the glorious competition sites. Coubertin's idea, friendship among nations, I was able to observe on many occasions, not only among the participants, but also among the spectators. There were no barriers concerning either race or religion. My thoughts go back more than once to the Olympic stadium, to unforgettable, exciting contests, in which athletes of exceptional ability, such as the coloured four-times Olympic victor, Jesse Owens from the United States, or the Japanese Kitei Son, as the victor in the marathon, gave performances of world-beating class. These two are mentioned as representative of each individual competitor.

Each evening, after the official contests, some nation or other delighted the visitors to the Olympic stadium with a treat of a special kind; with gymnastics or drill performances, a speciality of their people. There thus once appeared on the grass, marching perfectly in step, twelve unknown gymnasts, all of equal height. Many spectators will probably have asked themselves "What are these little men from Denmark likely to offer us?" For half an hour, these sportsmen, acting like marionettes, performed a unique display, giving us a highly polished artistic performance over the springboard, with such an elegance and harmony that the spectators were spellbound. They jumped one after another over the springboard, at intervals of three or four seconds, and performed in mid air the most fantastic capers, tumbles, single, double and treble somersaults both backwards and forwards, flying dive rolls and so on. Each individual got through the entire programme without a fault, without one wrong step, without a fall and an absolutely steady stance even after a difficult antic. The stadium rang with ovations for this wonderful achievement in sporting artistry. Then thousands of Germans and foreigners strolled happily into the Strength Through Joy Village, and there they enjoyed in one of the seven long wooden halls, for free a pleasant evening with the best of entertainment. Dance orchestras and folk music bands in national costume, which from time to time struck up for a dance, offered a varied evening of folklore, ballet, various artistes and the best of comedians. At every table for eight to ten people, cordiality and contentment were the rule among people from all nations.

Not only the glorious Olympic contests aroused my enthusiasm,

but also the abundant cultural offerings drew me, as a lover of art and music, completely under their spell. For example, opera, concerts (the world famous Romanian violinist Telmanji gave a difficult classical programme accompanied by his wife at the piano), art exhibitions such as that in the Deutschlandhalle, and then the world renowned variety shows at the Winter Garden and at the Scala, which had top-flight stars from all over the world. But I should not like to forget one really great figure from the world of music - Barnabas von Geczy. When in 1936, the young people of the world hastened to Berlin to win their gold medals, it was he who won their hearts. This violinist of world renown was for many years the resident leader of the orchestra at the Esplanade in Berlin, one of the most imposing hotels in Europe, and he played music for dancing and dreaming - music full of poetry. He also played at the house balls of the Crown Prince and Princess, as well as for great diplomatic receptions, at the annual Press Balls such as those held at the Haus Rotschild, or at the German Embassy in London at a reception given prior to the coronation of George VI and Queen Elizabeth in 1937. Where did the recipe lie for his incomparable success? It sounds apparently easy. Let us take a few violins, a piano, a few rhythm instruments, and possibly in addition a wind instrument - and add to that a leader who played first violin. That really is all. The one and only difficulty is that the violinist and leader would have to be named Barnabas von Geczy.

With consummate grace - his face reflecting all he felt in his music, from the open heartfelt smile to the expression of painful ecstasy - the Grand Seigneur with violin sent forth his "sound", the unique harmony of all the instruments from which there soared the "violin which beguiles us all" - that was Barnabas Geczy, who might almost be called the inventor of sound. That was true art, but which comes from ability. His instructors, men of world renown, Hubay and Dohnanyi, furthered the great gift of his developing genius. Goethe once said "Genius is diligence". The one-time leader of the the orchestra of the Budapest Opera delighted the visitors to the Olympic Games with his world-class concert and dance ensemble and enraptured them with his inimitable sound. On the last day of the Games the Hungarian was overwhelmed with ovations. That was the day when we, the white and coloured Americans and myself, took our leave of Berlin after yet one more visit to his gala performance. There were tears too among the visitors to the Berlin Olympic Games.

I.S.O.H.

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF OLYMPIC HISTORIANS

The International Society of Olympic Historians (ISOH) was formed as a result of a meeting in London in December 1991. The idea of forming an Olympic Historical Society had been the subject of correspondence - mainly between Bill Mallon (USA) and Ture Widlund (Sweden) - for many years. On Thursday, 5 December 1991, a group of potential members met at the "Duke of Clarence" pub in the Knightsbridge section of London. Those present were: Ian Buchanan (GBR), Ove Karlsson (SWE), Bill Mallon (USA), Peter Mathews (GBR), David Wallechinsky (USA), and Ture Widlund (SWE). The invited guests who sent regrets were: Anthony Bijkerk (NED), Peter Diamond (USA), Pim Huurman (NED), Erich Kamper (AUT), Volker Kluge (GER), and Wolf Lyberg (SWE).

At the meeting the wheels were set in motion to form The International Society of Olympic Historians. Erich Kamper, holder of the Olympic Order and the doyen of Olympic historians, was elected by acclamation as the group's honorary president with the other officers as noted below.

The purpose of the organization will be to promote and study the Olympic Movement and the Olympic Games. The purpose will be achieved primarily through research into the history of the Olympic Movement and the Olympic Games, through the gathering of historical and statistical data concerning the Olympic Movement and the Olympic Games, and through the publication of the research via journals and other publications. ISOH is a non-profit organization whose dues will be used solely for the production of such publications. This purpose will be supported with the publication of historical and statistical research in "Citius, Altius, Fortius: The ISOH Journal", which will be published initially three times per year. The society will also attempt to support historical research into the Olympic Games.

Membership in ISOH will be offered to Historians after nomination by one of the current members. Annual subscription will be \$15.00 (US) per year. Several different methods of payment of the subscription may be arranged. For further details, write to:

Bill Mallon, M.D.
303 Sutherland Court,
Durham, NC 27712,
USA.

ISOH Officers - 1992 - 1996

Honorary President: Erich Kamper (Austria)

President: Ian Buchanan (G.B.)

Secretary-General: Bill Mallon (USA)

Vice President: Ture Widlund (Sweden)

Executive Committee: Robert Barney (Canada), Anthony Bijkerk (NED), Konstantine Georgiades (Greece), Wolf Lyberg (Sweden).

THE ASTROLOGY OF L.A GAMES

Mary Mackenzie.

(This article first appeared in the August 1984 issue of AMERICAN ASTROLOGY, and is reproduced here with permission.)

From the point of view of backers for the 1984 Olympic Summer Games in Los Angeles, "Olympic Gold" refers less to those medals the athletes were competing for than a hoped-for revenue bonanza amounting to \$2.5 billion. The precedent is there, since 1932, the only other time that the Games have been held in Los Angeles, a profit of \$1 million was reported, and that was in the depth of a world wide depression.

The expectation of this type of "gold" may seem crass to those who respect the long and complex history of the Olympic Games, but if properly examined, it is well within the "Olympic tradition". The quadrennial Olympic Games as an institution in ancient times lasted for over a thousand years as a religious festival which the city state of Elis managed directly. This is a legacy of Greek history; the world of Rome, although some of the emperors expressed a passing interest in taking over the Games, never had the resources or the real desire to hold the Games.

The Olympic Games were an important crowning event of a series called the Pan-Hellenic Games. By the mid sixth Century BC, the big four of these games included, with the Olympics, the quadrennial Pythian Games at Delphi, where they honoured Apollo, the biennial Nemean Games at Nemea in the Peloponnese, honouring Zeus, (as did the Olympic Games), and the Isthmian Games at Corinth in honour of Poseidon.

It is generally agreed that the Olympics as an institution was founded in 776 BC and held on an already established sacred site in a pastoral setting. The ground plans of the location at Olympia show the Temple of Zeus and nearby sacred olive grove.

A complicated calendric ritual, with religious origins, timed the five days of the ancient Games. The third day of the Games coincided either with the second or the third full moon after the summer solstice. The first day was given primarily to offering and worship of the gods by officials and individual athletes, who were themselves religious representatives of the various Greek city states.

After 261 AD, the history of the Games is sketchy, but we do know that the Christian emperor Theododius 1 ordered all pagan centres closed in 393 AD, causing the Olympia site to be converted into a Christian church. Historians such as John Kieran say it is unthinkable that the Games would have been allowed to exist within a Christian community. Other changes ended the ancient Games. There were two disastrous earthquakes, waves of invaders, both Germanic and Slavonic, and a period when the two

nearby rivers changed course, altering the sacred precincts and turning them into a swamp.

After a long break in time, we find the religious association of the ancient Games changed from a formal worship of the gods to a quest for a "gold". Even in antiquity gold mattered, and so of course did politics. Political figures, then as now, were strong suitors for acclaim at the Games, the power of the city oligarchs being enhanced by winning performances of athletes from their home cities. This quest for city power and identity has broadened in modern times to a contest among nations. The modern Games were revived through the efforts of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, born in Paris on 1 January 1862. The baron felt that a revival of the Olympics would improve international understanding. He felt that education and athletics could go hand in hand toward this ideal aim.

Through his tireless efforts, the 1896 Games were held in Athens, the ancient city of Olympia not being considered because it was too rural and thus too far from the urban crowds needed to support the modern Games. The choice of Athens as the initial site for the revived Games was preceded by a gigantic fund drive to provide facilities, including a huge stadium. Many individual contributed, but the lion's share came from Alexandrian business man George Averoff, who gave one million Drachmae to the Olympic Committee.

LOS ANGELES 1932.

Los Angeles is not Athens, but the modern tradition of funding today's essentially secular Games by individuals in private business life has been followed successfully there. While the Olympic Games of modern times are, unfortunately, political battlefields for nations, the ancient importance of the cities has been restored in modern times. The history of the 1932 Olympic shows this. There was a terrible world wide depression in 1932 and the modern Olympics themselves had a history of losing money. Few observers, except possibly the enthusiastic California backers themselves, believed before 1932 that the Games would do so well.

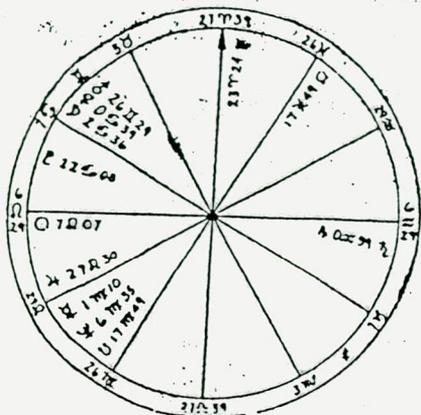
The weather for the Games was fine, the crowds came in record numbers, there were new athletic records set in many fields, and box office records as well. The funding for the 1932 Games included support by the State of California for \$1 million and a bond issue floated by the city of Los Angeles for a further \$1.5 million. This funding, along with the backing of individuals and private businessmen, provided a permanent Olympic Stadium which seated 105,000 spectators, an Olympic auditorium, site of the boxing and wrestling events and opening ceremonies, a swimming stadium and many other facilities. The precedent of not accumulating a huge public debt was set in Los Angeles and added a great deal to the 1932 Games.

The Games ran from 30 July to 14 August 1932. They can be studied in detail through the means of a sunrise chart drawn for the opening day, 30 July 5.04 AM PST. See the accompanying chart. The principle here is that any event of several days duration can be studied by examining its beginnings, with the time of the

sunrise being useful in the absence of more specific data. The time of sunrise is a buoyant time and is discussed in some geophysical details by modern researchers like Geoffrey Dean (Recent Advances in Natal Astrology). It is the time each day that the ionisation level increases significantly, moving from its night-time to its day-time levels and, as all who follow the waves of shortwave radio know, it is the time that long distance communication improves very dramatically.

Tropical

Placidus



1932 OLYMPICS
July 30, 1932, 5:04 A.M. PST
34N04, 118W15

The 30 July 1932 Sunrise Chart shows emphasis on the following mundane houses: the 9th long distance travel and communication, as well as philosophy (Uranus); the 11th national, or in this case, legislation (Mars, Venus Moon); the 12th of secret societies, hospitals, crime (Pluto); the 1st of public consciousness, expression (Sun, Jupiter); the 2nd of trade, wealth (Mercury, Neptune), and the 6th of public health and employees in general (Saturn).

Significant aspects include the innovative Uranus widely conjunct the chart's mid-heaven, an aspect that shows faith by Los Angeles citizens in the future of the city, as well as indicating the foreign travellers brought there by the Games. Mars, generally accepted as the planet closely associated with athletics, sextiles mid-heaven from 11th, showing the importance of athletes supporting the growth of the city, as well as the Games. The placements of the Moon (strong by sign in Cancer) and Venus in the 11th as well, give emphasis to the emotional intensity of the city's support of the Games. Jupiter closely trines the mid-heaven from the 1st house, showing the great importance of the public consciousness of the occasion in Los Angeles.

Mercury, strong by the sign in Virgo, widely conjoins the cusp of the 2nd (trade and wealth) with Neptune in the second as well. The strong business orientation of the events shows here, with the conscious thinking supported by the intuitive ideas of Neptune. Moon and Venus trine the 2nd house Mercury, adding warmth to the purely business side of the events; individual enthusiasm appears here.

The training and sacrifice of the individuals are involved, individuals who loved the Games, not just for money's sake, but also for the sake of personal and local achievement.

The names of the winners in 1932 are likely to be recalled only by specialists in sports history, names such as Eddie Tolan of the United States, winner of both the 100 metres and 200 metres men's sprints, or Lauri Lehtinen of Finland, who narrowly won the 5000 metres over American Ralph Hill. It was the accomplishments of these individuals, not the behind-the-scenes work of the money-raisers, important as it was, that drew the crowds.

On the opening day, 30 July 1932, there were more than 100,000 fans in the new Coliseum to cheer the opening of the Games. There was also a great parade in downtown Los Angeles with 500,000 fans along the route. The foreground placement of Pluto in the 12th house underlines the appeal of the Games to the L.A. crowds. The square of Pluto to the mid-heaven from the 12th, as well as the square of Saturn to the same point from the 6th, speak of social inequity and conservatism, lending a sombre tone. For instance, since the completely new Olympic Village of 1932 was constructed for male athletes only, the women being housed at some distance in a downtown hotel, we can perhaps see the charts message of inequity. There is also the generally accepted fact, at least in our 20th Century, that any great crowd inevitably infringes on individual rights in some way, if only the rights of non-sports lovers, in the case of the Olympic Games!

For three athletes there was a melancholy aftermath to the 1932 Games, a sober reflection of the Saturn-Pluto overtones in the chart. Runner Bill Carr of Penn State, winner of the 400 metres event, broke both legs in an automobile accident only eight months after the Games and never ran again. Killed in a car accident nine months after the Games, George Salling had been a record setter in the 110 metre hurdles. Also, veteran champion fencer, Lieutenant George C. Calnan of the U.S. Navy, died aboard the Navy airship Akron during a storm less than a year after the Games.

In the opening day sunrise chart, Sun, Moon, Mercury and Saturn are strong by sign, and there is a good balance of the elements Fire, Water etc. Also, it is a very stable chart from the weather point of view,, as the 4th house is untenanted by planets, with its cusp ruled by the balmy Venus elevated in the 11th and conjunct warm Mars. A study of inter-aspects of the sunrise chart with the foundation chart of Los Angeles (4 September 1781, 12.00 PM PST) as given by Carolyn Dodson in Horoscopes of the U.S. and Cities, shows that the transiting Sun trines the L.A. Ascendant, a harmonious indication. Transiting Mercury and Neptune square the Ascendant shows that although the Games events accord well with the basic nature or "character" of the city, there was perhaps an excess of business zeal and a certain muddle headedness associated with the city's view of the Games.

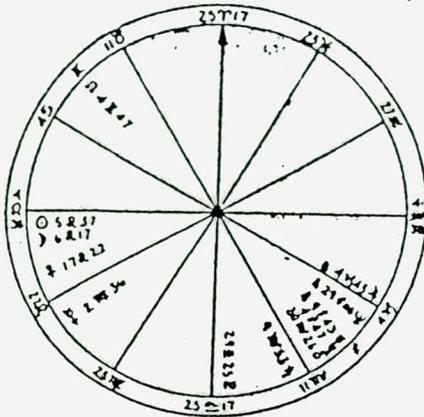
THE 1984 SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES.

The Summer Olympics of 1984 were scheduled to run from 28 July until 12 August. An analysis of this event using the same means we used to approach the 1932 Games begins with a sunrise chart for 28 July 1984, 6:01 AM PDT. We notice at once that this comes very close to being a New Moon chart (the Moon is less than one degree from its cyclical conjunction with the Sun). The 1932

sunrise chart is a New Moon "era" chart (three days before the

Tropical

Placidus



1984 OLYMPICS
July 28, 1984, 6:01 A.M. PDT
34N04, 116W15

New Moon) so there is rough similarity, but the much closer placement of the Sun and Moon at this 1984 sunrise chart's Ascendant (see accompanying chart) is thought provoking, implying a cyclical change manifesting in this event.

The 1984 chart gives emphasis to the following: the 1st of public consciousness and expression (Sun and Jupiter), the 2nd of trade & wealth (Mercury) the 4th of, among other factors, weather (Pluto and Saturn); the 5th of social events including, predominantly for our purposes, sporting events (Mars, Uranus and Neptune) and the 6th of public health & employees in general (Jupiter)

The placement of Pluto and Saturn in the 4th leads us to question the weather for the opening day. As noted in my article, "How you can Predict the Weather", if Pluto and Saturn are active local weather indicators we can expect some departure in the normal weather pattern. Pluto, tending to the wind, cool air and light rain, is widely conjunct the cusp of the 4th house in the sunrise chart. Fortunately, it is placed in dry, cool Libra in a chart with hot, dry Leo on the Ascendant. Saturn, tending to be a cool, rainy influence, is further along in the 4th, squared by Sun-Moon in Leo from the 1st. Since Sun and Moon are both in Leo, we can expect Saturn's extreme stormy influences to be moderated. Weather for the opening day of the Olympics does not look perfect though, and wind especially may create some discomforts. Fortunately, the opening day's ceremonies, although an important part of the Games, will not be seriously harmed by less than perfect weather. The season itself guarantees more warmth and fewer extremes than the athletes experienced at Sarajevo, for instance.

Since our era is one where gold, rather than olive wreaths dominate, the opening day chart is interesting from the viewpoint of funding. Note that the 2nd house of trade and wealth is occupied by commercial Mercury, strong by sign in Virgo, and that Mercury trines expansive Jupiter in the 6th house (employment) as well as public Pluto, discussed above, in the 4th. The latter aspect suggests that the day's minor weather disturbance won't harm business!

There have been a good many changes in U.S. Olympic funding since the retirement of Avery Brundage in 1972 as the President of the International Olympic Committee. Brundage maintained an

ideal of pure amateurism for Olympic athletes. This ideal is a modern one, for in the ancient world the distinction between amateur and professional athletes was not in material reward, but in skill and training. In the ancient world, amateurs, called unmelodiously "idiotes", simply had less training and less experience than professionals.

As we know, the State-supported Russian and East German teams are certainly not amateur in any sense, ancient or modern. There is no secret about this. Interviewed in "Runner's World" in May 1983,, the deputy chief of the Soviet Union's track and field programme, Nicolai Politico, an ex-sprinter who competed for the Soviet national team in the 1960's, was asked how the sports which aid most of the Olympic candidates are financed in the U.S.S.R. He replied that these clubs were financed by "trade unions, worker's collectives and students". This high level of financial support allows year-round training for athletes in the U.S.S.R., and somehow was not defined by the I.O.C. as professionalism!

Since the retirement of Brundage, a "sacrificial" approach to athletics is no longer required by U.S. athletes, and for the first time there was even a U.S. national warm-up for the Games (at National Sports Festival V, held in Colorado Springs in 1983). According to an article in the New York Times magazine for 3 July 1983, the U.S. Olympic Committee, in the past a debt-ridden organisation, under the leadership of William E. Simon, former Secretary of the Treasury, now is helping underwrite the 1984 Olympic Games with the aid of large corporations, such as Miller High Life and Coca Cola. The athletes themselves, such as high jumper Dwight Stones and hurdler Edwin Moses, can now work at their respective skills between Olympic years and are financed by endorsements and above-the-table payments at various track meetings, and they are no longer forced to enact the charade of amateurism.

The Times noted that the U.S. had changed its approach to the Olympics, and had become "all business" in the last decade. Changes in law, culminating in the Amateur Sports Act of 1978, helped to iron out the conflicts between the Amateur Athletic Union and the National Collegiate Athletic Association. While the Olympics are not funded by the government, as it is in most other countries, private business has risen to the financial challenge and provides corporate support. Costs for the Los Angeles Games have been estimated at \$500 million, none of which will be borne by the tax payers. ABC will pay \$225 million for exclusive television rights and, from promotional benefits, a blue-chip list of corporate sponsors have paid a price, along with small individual contributors. The Los Angeles Olympic Organising Committee, a private company, is raising its own money so that the city itself will not be in the same debt that Montreal and other cities were after their Olympic years.

Interspects between 28 July 1984 sunrise chart and the L.A. founding chart show that transiting Sun-Moon trines the L.A. Ascendant and transiting Uranus widely conjoins the L.A. 1st house Saturn, certainly beneficial for the city's public outlook. Improvements to the Memorial Coliseum built in 1932 include new sewerage systems, dressing rooms, concessions stands and electrical systems, as well as world-class track, paid for by

Arco. There are many other potential beneficiaries in the city, including hotels, restaurants etc., all providing some 20,000 temporary jobs. Many minority business interests were licensed to provide Olympic-related services. Along with the commercial impact, the 1984 Summer Olympics promised to incorporate some social changes in the athletic events themselves. Inter-aspects of the sunrise chart with the "Gemini rising" U.S. chart include transiting Pluto widely conjunct the U.S. 1st house Venus, a foreground influence for 28 July to 12 August events. Although this writer does not like to attribute gender influences to the planets (I continue to feel gender role-playing has more to do with anthropology than with the planets), in this case I might perhaps relent and say that this Pluto-Venus influence shows a change in setting for female athletes. For the first time there will be a women's marathon and a new women's event, the heptathlon. Unlike 1932, the women athletes will have quarters closer to the various venues, and will not be relegated to the outskirts.

The transit of the Sun-Moon conjunct the lunar North Node in the U.S. 3rd house of news media is very good for the "image" of U.S. athletes in these events, but a certain amount of hysteria also reaches afar as transiting Venus opposes the U.S. Moon in the 9th house of foreign contact. Unfortunately, there are personality conflicts aplenty in these summer's Games, on quite a petty level. Although the transiting trine between Saturn and the U.S. Sun show a stable business event with long-term possibilities of benefit, the transiting square to the U.S. mid-heaven by Mars has military overtones. We can only hope that the fine successes of the U.S. athletes at Los Angeles' big Olympic show will be of primary importance in athletics.

The sunrise chart for 28 July 1984 has five Fire planets, only one Air planet, two Water and two Earth. Combined with the New Moon influence (New Moons sometimes indicate wrenching changes, or events not readily comprehended) the transiting Mars square the U.S. mid-heaven, and Pluto and Saturn in the sunrise chart's 4th, there is more possibility of misunderstanding the good efforts of all the U.S. interests in these Olympics than there were in 1932. Thus, we may see some peevishness about arrangements expressed by some foreign participants.

We can emphasize the quality and the worth of the individuals participating in the Los Angeles Olympic Games, the spirit of "no-religion", business which has given them support almost as stunning as that of Zeus of old. Above all, we can emphasize the summer's fine chances of world-class U.S. performances; Edwin Moses in the 440 metres hurdles, Mary Decker in the 3,000 metres run, Bart Conner and Peter Vidmar, Mary Lou Retton and Julianne McNamara in gymnastics. Carl Lewis in long jump, Dwight Stones in the high jump, Greg Louganis in diving, Evelyn Ashford in the sprint, and many fine team efforts by men and women. The prospects for the Games seem good.

(ED. This article was written before the Olympic Games took place in 1984. It is interesting to read the last paragraph with the knowledge of hindsight. We now know that Edwin Moses won the gold medal in the 400 metres hurdles and Mary Decker came nowhere, since she was tripped, or was pushed, by Zola Budd. However, out of ten predictions, she was correct in eight cases).

Cartoon of winter sports, cars, coaches and a resort. Renault logo. Renault Partenaire Officiel des Jeux Olympiques d'Albertville 1992. LE PARTAGE DE L'EXPLOIT. 150 x 105 mm.

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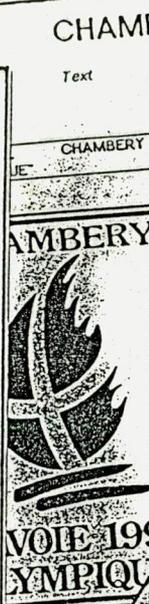
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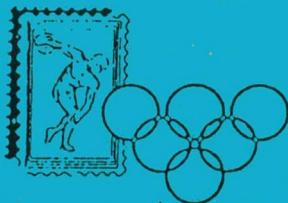
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