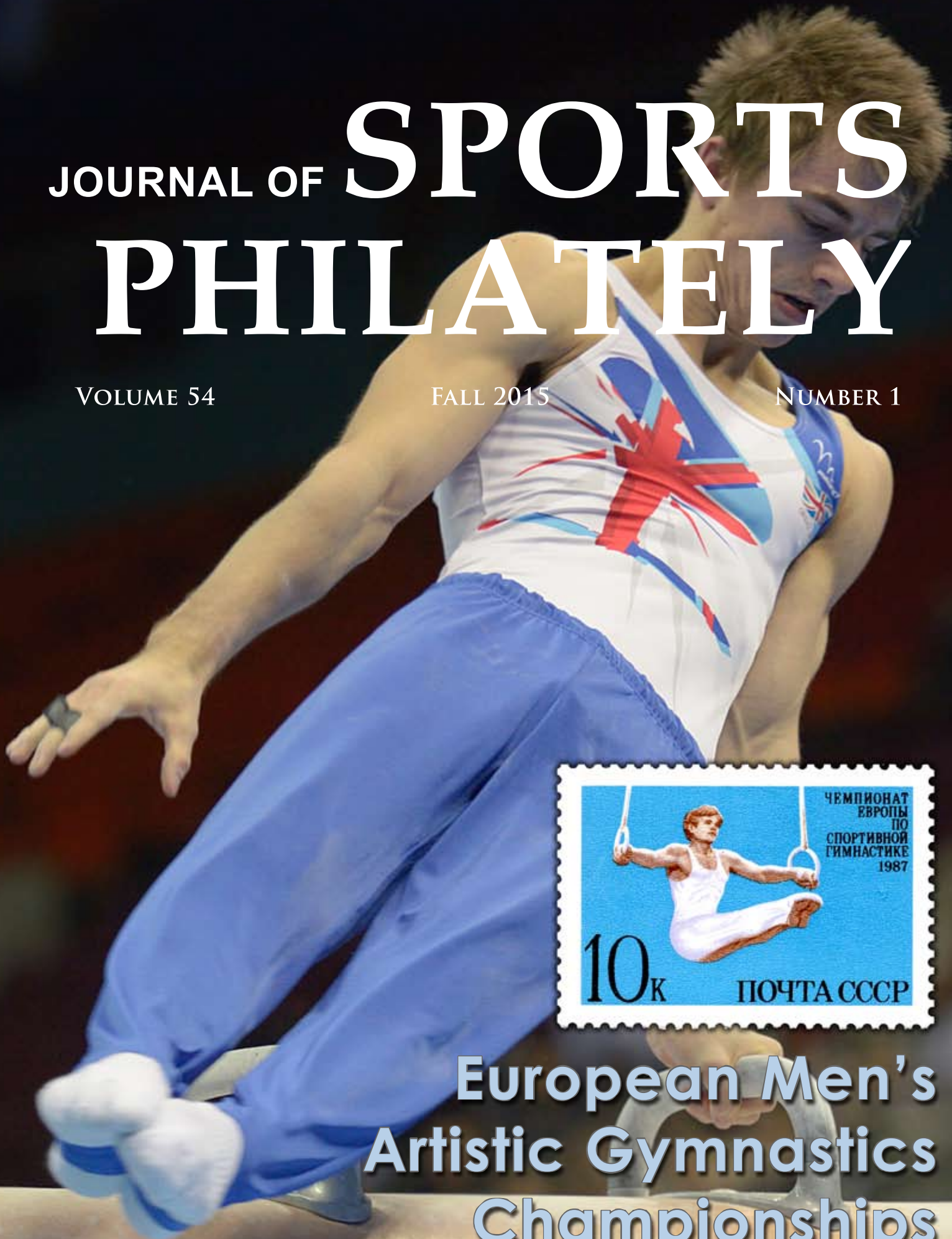


JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

VOLUME 54

FALL 2015

NUMBER 1



European Men's Artistic Gymnastics Championships



SPORTS
PHILATELISTS
INTERNATIONAL

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On the cover: *Max Whitlock (Great Britain) winning the bronze medal on the pommel horse at the 5th European Championships in Artistic Gymnastics (2013) in Moscow. Inset: stamp issued for the 1987 European Championships in Moscow.*

GYMNASTICS

3

**1906 ATHENS
OLYMPIC GAMES**

10

**1940 WINTER
OLYMPICS**

26

**ICE SLEDGE
HOCKEY**

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**Vol. 54, No. 1
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

2015 World Olympic Collectors Fair Lake Placid, NY – 10 to 13 September

By the time you receive this issue of the journal, Olympic collectors from around the world will be gathering at Lake Placid for this year's Olympic Collectors Fair. There's still time to register, and plenty of hotel space, for last minute attendees. And if you live in the region, come on over for the day.

There will be a large bourse of dealers from across the US and at least 16 different countries.



Special postmark available 10, 11, and 12 September. The USPS will have a table at the show on Saturday, only, from 10am - 1pm. For ordering instructions, see page 31.

Schedule of events

Thursday, 10 September

1:00 - 3:00 pm: Tour of the Olympic Sites from the 1932 & 1980 Winter Olympic Games

6:00 - 8:00 pm: Luge Team Reception

Friday, 11 September

10:00 am - 5:00 pm: 21st World Olympic Collectors Fair, 1932 Olympic Arena (free admission)

6:00 - 8:00 pm: Reception in the Lake Placid Olympic Museum and silent auction

Saturday, 12 September

8:00 - 9 am: AICO presentation: informal Q&A and website launch (everyone welcome)

10:00 am - 5:00 pm: 21st World Olympic Collectors Fair, 1932 Olympic Arena (free admission)

6:00 - 10:00 pm: Formal Reception & Dinner in the Olympic Center

Sunday, 13 September

8:00 - 9 am: Olympin Club general meeting (everyone welcome)

10:00 am - 5:00 pm: 21st World Olympic Collectors Fair, 1932 Olympic Arena (free admission)

I believe that the tour is now full, however space may still be available for the other events, but you must have a reservation (there is no charge). A few seats are still available for the Saturday Formal Reception and Dinner (\$49/person). Please register for these events at: www.lakeplacid2015.com

NY2016 World Stamp Show 9 months away!

It seems like just yesterday that we were all gathered in Washington, DC for Washington 2006, the last international philatelic exhibition held in the U.S. In 2016 in New York, SPI will convene a mini-convention which you won't want to miss.

In my previous President's Message (Summer 2015 issue of *JSP*), I misstated that our SPI General Meeting on Monday 30 May would be occurring on Labor Day. In reality, it's Memorial Day. That still means you have no excuse not to attend!

Plans so far include an SPI dinner on Sunday 29 May (more details later). Our General Meeting will feature one – and perhaps two – guest speakers. Again, details will follow in the next issue.

Last, but not least, I hope that everyone who attends will be able to spend a couple of hours during the show manning our SPI table. An online sign-up sheet will be posted in due course. Hope to see many of you there!

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

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World Stamp Show



May 28-June 4, 2016
Javits Center



ny2016.org

Attend the SPI Convention at NY2016
General Meeting With Special Guests
Monday, 30 May ~ 11 am to 1 pm



European Men's Artistic Gymnastics Championships

by Mark Maestroni

When most of us think of sports at the elite level, the Olympic Games and World Championships come to mind. But there are many lesser known sporting competitions that are highly regarded by competitors and fans alike. In the realm of men's gymnastics, one such contest is the European Men's Artistic Gymnastics Championships (EMC).

A European Championships title, as many a gymnast will tell you, is just one step below taking home a World Championships medal. The fact that many leading Olympic gymnasts have won an EMC medal or two in their careers must tell you something about the importance of this annual event! Thankfully, philately has provided us with ample stamps, commemorative postmarks and even a few slogan cancels for our collections or exhibits.

The EMC is actually one of the more recent gymnastics championships, having been inaugurated in 1955. As a point of reference, the World Gymnastics Championships date back to 1903 and were one of the first world championships in an individual sport. The earliest postal artifact from the World Gymnastics Championships (of which this author is aware) commemorates the 4th tournament held in 1909 in Luxembourg (Figure 1).

The Birth of the EMC

The center of gravity in gymnastics had begun to shift eastward since the Soviet Union's Olympic debut at the 1952 Helsinki Games. Together with the Japanese, another rising gymnastics power, they were in firm control of the men's gymnastics medal podium. Their polished, nearly flawless, routines were a wake-up call for teams from western European nations, the birthplace of modern gymnastics. In response, gymnastics coaches asked for more top level international competition to hone gymnastic skills and expose western European athletes to innovations in the sport.

It was against this backdrop that the idea for a continental championships in men's gymnastics was debated and eventually accepted during the 1954 Congress of the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) in Rome, held in conjunction with the 13th World Gymnastics Championships.

The FIG is the international governing body for gymnastics, founded in 1881 in Liege, Belgium (Figure 2).



Figure 1. A rare instance of the commemorative handcancel of the "Ive Tournoi International de Gymnastique" on a mourning cover dated 2 August 1909. This is believed to be the earliest postal commemoration of a World Gymnastics Championships.



Figure 2. FIG celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2006.



Figure 3. A European gymnastics championships for men (and later women) was agreed upon at the meeting of the International Gymnastics Federation during the 1954 World Championships in Rome. A special postcard and cancel promote the event.

In addition to a souvenir postcard, two cancellations were available, one of which read “Concorso Internaz^{le} Di Ginnastica” (International Gymnastics Meeting). The cancel honored the FIG Congress and was used from 29 June - 1 July (Figure 3).

The European Championships would be conducted in odd-numbered years, thus providing a large international contest every year (the Olympics and World Championships alternated in even-num-



Figure 4. The first European Men's Gymnastics Championships in 1955 were celebrated with a postmark in host city Frankfurt.

bered years). Each European member country of FIG could send two gymnasts to compete for medals in the All-Around (best overall gymnast in all six men's events) and the champion in each of six Individual Events (floor exercise, pommel horse, rings, vault, parallel bars and horizontal bar).

Frankfurt, then in the Federal Republic of Germany, was selected to host the inaugural European Men's Gymnastics Championships on 10-11 April 1955. Nineteen nations participated.

Figure 4 shows an 11 April commemorative postmark used in Frankfurt. Until the mid-1960s, the championships were sometimes also referred to as the “European Cup” (thus the reason for the text “Coupe D'Europe” on the postmark).

The star was without a doubt 23-year-old Boris Shakhlin (USSR), winner of four of the six events (all-around, parallel bars, pommel horse and horizontal bar). Known for his clean lines and steely determination, he certainly lived up to his sobriquet, “Man of Iron,” when, in the middle of his horizontal bar routine in the finals of the 1960 Rome Olympic Games, his handgrip snapped. Despite the pain from the broken leather digging into his palm, he continued, finishing with a bronze medal.

Though not identified as such, Mstislav Botashev's 1960 photograph of Shakhlin was the basis for the Canadian gymnastics stamp issued for the 1976 Montreal Olympics Games (Figure 5).



Figure 5. Boris Shakhlin, star of the 1st European Men's Gymnastics Championships.

The Rise of Specialists

Prior to World War II, men's gymnastics was still obsessed with producing all-around champions who excelled on every event. This was slowly changing as younger gymnasts arrived at the elite level who were still proficient on each apparatus, but also had one or more specialties.

European competitors assembled in the Balkans for the first time at the 5th championships (6-7 July 1963) held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia (Figure 6). Host nation favorite, Miroslav Cerar, edged out the USSR's Boris Shakhlin for the all-around gold.



Figure 6. Belgrade, Yugoslavia, host of the Vth championships in 1963, issued a set of 3 stamps showing pommel horse, parallel bars and rings. A special pictorial postmark (above) was also used during the two days of competition on 6-7 July.



Figure 7. Franco Menichelli of Italy amazed everyone with his exciting floor exercise routine.

Quite remarkable was the floor exercise routine by 21-year-old Franco Menichelli of Italy. One of the British contingent marveled that Menichelli's "floor routine is the most exciting exhibition of tumbling that the human body can perform. There are no adjectives

to describe his breathtaking routine." Menichelli not only won the gold on the floor exercise in Belgrade, but also took the gold on the same event at the Tokyo Olympics in 1964 (Figure 7) and again at the 1965 EMC in Antwerp, Belgium.

The championships moved on to Madrid in 1971 (Figure 8) with an expanded corps of three gymnasts per nation, a change instituted in Warsaw in 1969.

Figure 8. Two stamps were issued by Spain to commemorate the Madrid championships. A special postmark was also available 15-16 May.



The 1971 competition marked the debut of one of the most successful male gymnasts of the 20th century, Nikolai Andrianov (USSR). Over nine years he amassed a treasure trove of 18 European Championships medals. From 1972-1980, Andrianov (Figure 9) won an unprecedented 15 Olympic medals (7 of them gold) – a feat not surpassed by another man until swimmer Michael Phelps in 2004 with a cumulative total of 22 medals.



Figure 9. Nikolai Andrianov.



Figure 10. Slogan machine cancellation promoting the XIth European Men's Gymnastics Championships on 31 May and 1 June 1975.

Gymnastics & the Cold War

The 1975 championships visited Bern, Switzerland for the first time (they return to Bern in 2016). For Nikolay Andrianov of the USSR, his third European Championships was a charm as he added a gold in the All-Around event to his 1971 bronze and 1973 silver.

Figure 10 illustrates the machine slogan cancel used in Bern to promote the event.

Another winner, though not on any apparatus, was 25-year-old East German gymnast, Wolfgang Thuene. In an espionage thriller worthy of John le Carré, Thuene managed to convince his rival on the West German team, Eberhard Gienger, to help him defect to the west. Under the cover of darkness on Sunday night (1 June 1975) after the conclusion of the championships, Gienger hid the 5'7", 126-pound gymnast in his Opel Manta sports coupé (thank heavens gymnasts are relatively small!) and spirited him over the Swiss-German border to Emmendingen, just over 100 miles north. From there,

Thuene managed to hitchhike the rest of the way to Frankfurt where he turned himself in to West German authorities who granted him asylum. Gienger made it back to Bern without anyone finding out about his nocturnal adventure – a secret he kept for 24 years!

Gienger (Figure 11) didn't go home empty-handed either having won the gold on horizontal bar, silver in the All-Around and a bronze on the pommel horse.

The UEG: A New Gymnastics Organization

During the early years, the European Championships were organized by FIG. On March 7, 1982, fifteen national gymnastics federations in Europe formed their own organization, the European Union of Gymnastics or UEG. By the time of the 1987 EMC in Moscow, the championships were being organized entirely by the new gymnastics association.

This Moscow event will be remembered as a shootout between two of the top Soviet gymnasts: Yuri Korolev and Valery Lyukin.

Korolev had been wowing audiences since he sprang on the scene at the 1981 Europeans in Rome. In total numbers, he is the most decorated non-Olympian gymnast in history with a total 34 individual medals at World Championships, World Cups, and European Championships. When it came time for the Olympics, fate dealt him not one but two blows. The Soviet boycott prevented his competing at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, and an Achilles tendon injury sidelined him before Seoul 1988.

For Valery Lyukin, it was his first major international meet since joining the Soviet senior men's team. This self-assured 20-year-old, who had been training in Alma-Ata, Kazakh SSR, was far from intimidated by the surroundings and competition. Just the opposite as he stunned the gymnastics world by being the first to throw a skill that had been considered nearly impossible: a triple back somersault on the floor exercise.

Lyukin walked away with not only the all-around gold medal, but four golds, a silver and a bronze in the six individual event finals. Korolev had to be satisfied with a silver in the all-around behind Lyukin. He also took home the vaulting gold and silver in the floor exercise (Figure 12).



Figure 11. Eberhard Gienger autograph on 1972 Munich Olympic FDC.

Following the 1989 event at Stockholm, the UEG elected to move the European Championships, which until this point had been contested the same year as the Worlds, to even numbered years. Lausanne, seat of the IOC, would play host to the 1990 EMC.

Gymnastics, as with most non-professional sports on the Olympic schedule, experiences a certain ebb and flow of its athletes in four-year cycles. Competitors may dominate for a few years on the international circuit, peak at the Olympic Games, then retire. Every now and then, a truly unique gymnast comes along who so completely monopolizes an event that competitors wonder if they even stand a chance of wresting control.

Just such a gymnast emerged in the 1990's – Jury Chechi from Italy. Beginning with his gold medal at the 1990 EMC in Lausanne, Chechi owned the rings event for over seven years. Golds followed at the next three EMCs: 1992 Budapest, 1994 Prague, and 1996 Copenhagen. It didn't stop there. He was World Champion on the rings through 5 consecutive championships, 1993-1997. And last, but not least, the gold medal in rings at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games was his (Figure 15). In a valiant effort to make a comeback in 2004 Athens (at the age of 35), he won the bronze.

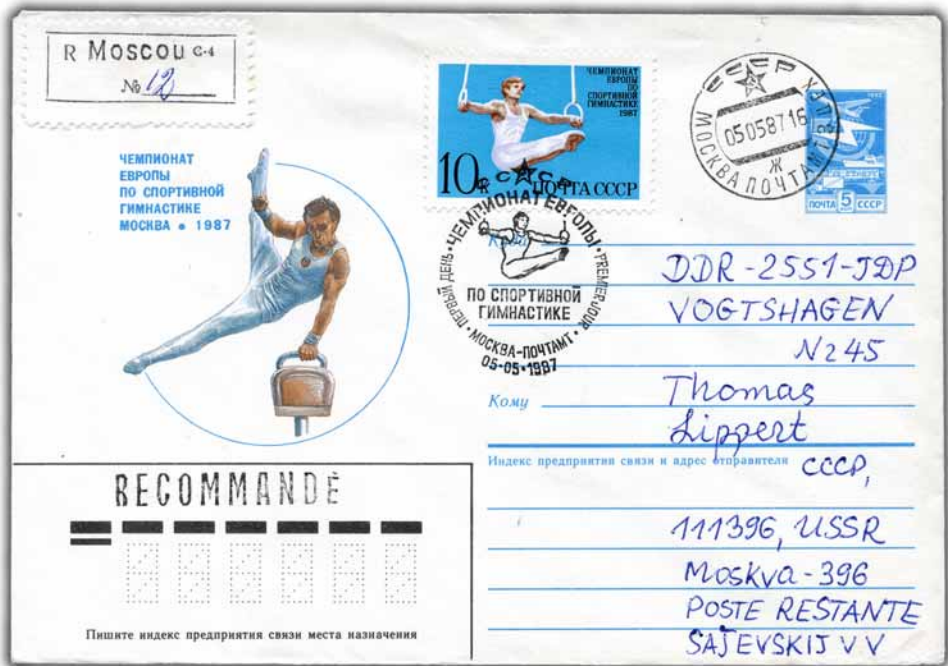


Figure 12. Special postal stationery and stamp issued for the 1987 European Men's Gymnastics Championships. The commemorative cancellation echoes the image on the stamp showing a gymnast on the rings who bears a striking resemblance to the pre-competition favorite, Yuri Korolev.

Chechi is still admirably referred to as the “Lord of the Rings.”

The Hungarian postal administration issued a stamp and commemorative postmark (Figure 13). The latter was used at both the Budapest 4 (on 15 May) and Budapest 8 (on 16 May) post offices.

Czechoslovakia used a machine slogan cancellation to advertise the contest in Prague (Figure 14). The cancel's text notes that the junior and men's (senior) championships were held at the same time.

Figures 13 & 14. Budapest (below) and Prague (right) witnessed Jury Chechi's continued domination of the rings event.



Figure 15. Jury Chechi, the “Lord of the Rings,” honored on a pictorial postmark from Italy following his gold rings medal at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games.

USSR Dissolution and European Gymnastics

With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, many of its leading male gymnasts began to compete for their now-independent homelands. This was reflected in the 1992 EMC in Budapest.



Figure 16. Vitaly Scherbo.

A standout that year was certainly Belorussian, Vitaly Scherbo, who took home individual gold medals on the pommel horse and vault, and silvers on floor exercise, rings and parallel bars. His medal hunt continued through the 1992 Barcelona Games where he became the first male gymnast to win 6 gold medals in a single Olympics (Figure 16).

It wasn't only gymnasts from ex-Soviet Socialist Republics who benefitted from the USSR's dissolution. The door opened for other rising stars.

Dimosthenis Tambakos of Greece is a case in point. Making steady progress as a rings specialist since his EMC debut in 1998 in St. Petersburg, Tambakos picked up a silver in that event at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.

At both the 2003 World Championships in Anaheim, California and the 2004 EMC in Ljubljana, Slovenia, Tambakos tied for the gold medal.

By coincidence – or was it foreshadowing – the Slovenian postal authority's stamp and postmark

commemorating the 2004 EMC featured a gymnast on the rings, but from an interesting perspective: the gymnast's back (Figure 17).

Peaking at just the right moment in his career, and no doubt helped by the encouragement of the Greek fans at the 2004 Athens Olympics, Tambakos won the rings gold medal outright (Figure 18).

Adding a Team Event

From 1990 to 2004, the format of the European Men's Championships remained unaltered. Then in 2005 at the 21st Congress in Birmingham, England, the UEG made a significant change, deciding to add a Team championship. Rather than expanding the biennial meet from a 2-day championships to four days to accommodate the new team event, the EMC decided to split the competition into two separate meets held in alternating years.

With the new format, the individual event finals, which would be held every year, would be combined with a team event (even-numbered years) and all-around competition (odd-numbered years).

The first team competition (five men per nation) and individual event finals were competed in 2006 as the XXVIIth European Gymnastics Championships in Volos, Greece. For the first time, the women's championships were held concurrently with the men's.

The newly named European Men's Artistic Gymnastics Individual Championships (individual all-around and individual event finals) were sequentially numbered beginning with the first competition in 2005 in Debrecen, Hungary. The women's event continued to be contested separately.

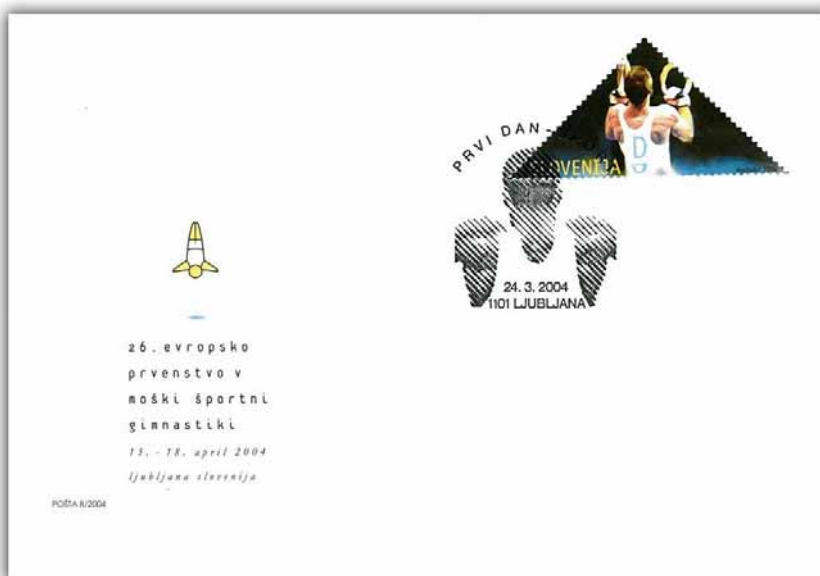


Figure 17 (left). First day cover with stamp and postmark commemorating the 26th EMC in Ljubljana, Slovenia.



Figure 18 (above). 2004 Olympic Gold medalist in the rings, Dimosthenis Tambakos, was honored with a Greek medalist stamp.



Figure 19. Germany issued a special stamp to commemorate the 2011 European Championships in Berlin.

Gateway to the Olympics

The EMC can be especially beneficial as a tune-up for Olympic qualification.

The Berlin EMC from 4-10 April (Figure 19) proved very useful for Team GB in its quest to get a full team into the 2012 London Games. Daniel Purvis, the GB team's top performer, finished with a bronze medal in the individual all-around at Berlin. Newcomer, 18-year-old Sam Oldham, managed an excellent 4th place finish in the horizontal bar, giving him both experience and that all-important name recognition with the judges.

So how did the GB team do in their quest? Not only did they qualify a full team to the 2012 Olympics, but the five-man team (Sam Oldham, Daniel Purvis, Louis Smith, Kristian Thomas, and Max Whitlock) stood on the Olympic bronze medal podium (the last GB team medal, also a bronze, was in 1908!). Not only that, but Louis Smith and Max Whitlock garnered silver and bronze medals respectively in the pommel horse.

60 Years of the EMC

The European Men's Artistic Gymnastics Championships have evolved dramatically in their first 60 years:

- # Participation has risen from 35 gymnasts from 19 nations (1955), to 171 gymnasts from 37 nations (2015).
- # Membership in the UEG has grown from the original 15 constituent countries to today's 48 nations. The newest member, Montenegro, was admitted in 2011.
- # For the first 4 decades, medals were shared primarily among athletes from 6 nations. Today, due to the dramatic growth and popularity of gymnastics programs throughout Europe, gymnasts from as few as 10 and as many as 13 countries share the medals podium.

To illustrate that final point, a gymnast from Croatia took home his nation's first European Championships gold medal. At the most recent EMC held in Montpellier, France from 15-19 April 2015, Marijo Možnik, won the horizontal bar event with a high score of 14.833, besting second place Sam Oldham of Great Britain by over 0.1 points.

Croatia celebrated Marijo's gold with a special cancellation on 7 May from Zagreb (Figure 20).

The European Men's Artistic Gymnastics Championships have matured into one of the most important international meets on the sports calendar. So if you are planning a visit to Bern, Switzerland from 25 - 29 May 2016, consider dropping in at the Post Finance Arena to see if Marijo can defend his European Championship title.

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I would also like to thank both Blythe Lawrence and Hardy Fink of the FIG for providing answers to my rather obscure questions.



Figure 20. Marijo Možnik won his nation's first European Championships gold medal with his victory in the horizontal bar event at the 2015 EMC in Montpellier, France.

THE FIRST SPECIAL OLYMPIC POST OFFICES



1906 INTERCALATED OLYMPIC GAMES

(PART 4)

by **Manfred Bergman**

16/29 APRIL 1906: DAY 6 IN THE STADIUM
[CONTINUATION]

When I last left you (Part 3, Summer 2015 issue of *JSP*), I was in the midst of my tale about hunting for additional covers addressed to Mr. Dubois in Bruges, Belgium, franked with the remaining values of the 1906 Olympic set of stamps from Greece. In fact, Lady Luck did indeed smile upon me!

In a note from my friend and fellow philatelic explorer, Julien De Vuyst, I was advised that in a Smeth (club) sale another 1906 Olympic cover was being offered (along with other items from the Dubois collection of Greek and Cretan covers). This particular cover was bought by Mr. Neefs for 11,000 Belgian francs. To wit, two covers from that auction are shown in Figure 27. (Please forgive the poor quality of the reproduction as these were provided by the club).

It is important to note that:

1. While the date is difficult to decipher, under special light it was revealed to be 16.4. Superficial examination by collectors and auctioneers have always described this cover as having been cancelled on 10 April. The empty space in the bottom right corner suggests that perhaps a stamp was removed. Was that space intended for an address?
2. The letter was not mailed. It reached Mr Dubois in some other way.

Subsequently, the cover was sold to L. Jonker, but with a modified front and flap side. The front side showed an imaginary Paris address, added (probably by Mr. Neefs) in Paris (Figure 28).



Figure 27. A final cover in the Dubois series (above) with the 16.4 Stadion postmark on the 1906 Olympic stamps. The cover at top from the same auction lot shows that Dubois was collecting Greece and Crete, and that the Olympic cover was part of his collection.



Figure 28. After purchasing the cover shown in Figure 27, it is believed that Mr. Neefs added the imaginary Paris address shown in the bottom right corner.

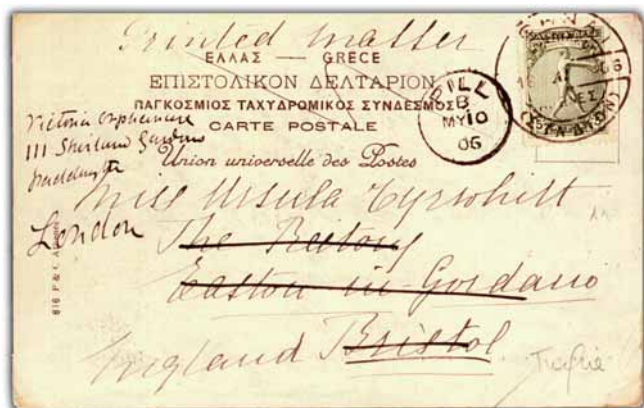


Figure 29. Part of the Euclides correspondence, this card was 11 days in transit from Greece to Bristol.



Figure 30. Another 16.4 Stadion postmark on an IPC to Mr. Paleologue in Metelin on the island of Lesbos.

The cover eventually found its way into the collection of John Loaring, and then was sold again in 2011 to Laurentz Jonker. Finally, in 2014, it once again sold at auction, this time to a Chinese collector who was aware of the added address.

The alterations to the flap side included the addition of the writer's address (fake), a drawing of the Stadion cancellation, and an explanation of the date differences between the Julian and Gregorian calendars.

With these pointless and transparently bogus manipulations of this otherwise handsome cover, this tale comes to a sad end. Lady Luck can, I learned, be a cruel mistress!

An added note: the collector who altered the cover was also active in modifying other Olympic items at different times.

An international postcard (IPC) from the Euclides correspondence addressed to Bristol, England (Figure 29). From there it was forwarded to London. The 5 lepta stamp is tied to the card by the Stadion cancellation dated 16 April (29 April by the Gregorian calendar), arriving in Bristol on May 10, thus 11



Figure 31. PC to Mr. Costi on Corfu with the 16.4 Stadion postmark.

days in transit. (A similar card posted on 13 April appears in Figure 14 from Part 3 of this article.)

Figure 30 is another IPC addressed to Mr. Paleologue in Metelin (Mytilene) on the island of Lesbos (see also Figure 19 in Part 3). The town was founded in the 11th century BC. At the time of the 1906 Olympics, Lesbos was still part of the Ottoman Empire, reverting to Greece in 1912.

Another postcard to Mr. Costi on Corfu (Figure 31). From the multitude of PCs mailed to Mr. Costi, it might be assumed that he was a philatelist. But given the sloppy manner in which the sender affixed the stamps overlapping the edges of the card, one wonders.

The owner of this postcard believed it to have been cancelled on 12 April. Under UV light, however, it is shown to be from 16 April. The illusion is caused by a second cancellation, very light and barely visible until it is enlarged.

To conclude this eventful day at the Stadion let's look at these counterfeit cancellations on a postcard (Figure 32) and the red 1906 Olympic vignette (Figure 33). Even the untrained eye should recognize these for what they are.



Figures 32 & 33. Counterfeit cancels on a postcard and 1906 Olympic vignette.



Figure 34. Postcard to Egypt with STADION postmark of 17.4 and receiving mark at Ismailia.

17/30 APRIL 1906: DAY 7 IN THE STADIUM

The Greeks of Eghe, or Egyptotes, were present in the country from the time of Alexander the Great (333 B.C.) until the Egyptian Revolution of 1952, when most were forced to leave. In 1906 there resided around 62,000 Greeks living in Egypt. This explains the abundant correspondence between Greece and Egypt, including Olympic mail. The postcard in Figure 34 bears a nice STADION postmark dated 17.4.

I have identified a nice philatelic cover to London postmarked 17.4 and with a London arrival cachet on the flap (Figure 35). Some collectors consider it a manipulated cover, but the 50 lepta stamp which overlaps the handwritten address



Figure 35. Although philatelic in nature, this authentically traveled cover to London is postmarked with 17.4 STADION cancel.



speaks in favor of a cover that was nevertheless authentically posted.

The final item from this date is an IPC dated 17.4 (Figure 36).

Figure 36 (left). A second postcard from the STADION post office mailed on 17.4.



Figure 37. IPC with postmark 18.4 to Switzerland. The address is shown overlaid at top.

**18 & 19 APRIL 1906 (1 & 2 MAY):
DAYS 8 & 9 IN THE STADIUM**

Why have I combined these two days? As we shall see, the clerk forgot on 19 April to change the date in the postmarking device. Thus, mail posted on that day was still being cancelled with 18.4.06. As a consequence, mail cancelled on 18 April is questionable, unless other evidence, such as a dated inscription, is present.



Figure 39 (above and below). Card probably mailed on 18.4 since it bears an in-town arrival cachet of 20.4.

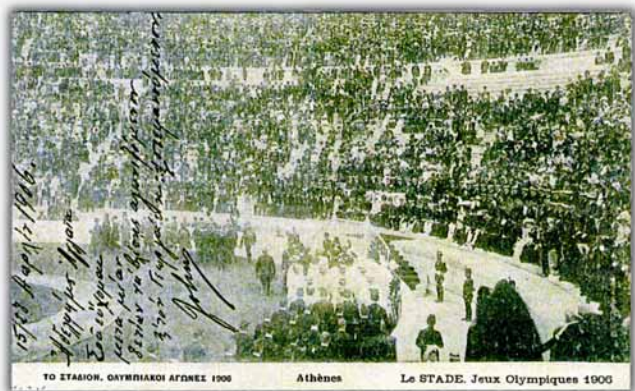


Figure 38. Part of the Euclides correspondence.

The IPC in Figure 37, with a destination of Geneva, Switzerland, is dated 18 April. The text relates to the opening ceremony.

“Give us our daily postcard.” An IPC from the famous Euclides correspondence (Figure 38). Note that Ms. Euclides alternated between Greek and English. On this postcard, postmarked on 18.4, she used the abbreviation “Boul.” (for boulevard) rather than “Rue.” The rate of 3 lepta is correct.

According to the text on the front of the IPC in Figure 39, the card was written on 15 April. It has an arrival cachet dated 20 April (very rare for in-town mail), thus, it is more than probable that the card was posted on 18 April. The text says that the uncle hopes that she (the niece) will win here in 1914, alluding to the scheduled Intercalated Games of 1914.

This Euclides IPC to Bristol (Figure 40) was most probably posted on 18 April judging from the quality of the postmark. [see Figure 47]

A sailor’s postcard addressed to his ship is reproduced in Figure 41. While the date reads 18 April and so could have been posted either day, I tend to favor 19 April. The stamp on the left presents a double perforation along the top edge.



Figure 40. Likely a 18.4 postmark on this Euclides IPC.



Figure 41. A sailor's postcard mailed on either the 18 or 19 April, though the latter is more likely.



Figure 42. Another postcard that is postmarked 18.4, but could have been mailed either 18 or 19 April.

The Figure 42 IPC could also have been posted either 18 or 19 April.

An IPC with a New York destination posted by Euclides on either date (Figure 43). An arrival cachet is present.

Figures 44A & 44B show the address and picture sides of an IPC to Turkey. The address side bears a Stadion postmark dated 18 April, but we can be certain that it was actually posted on 19 April, because the inscription on the picture side (lower red arrow) points to the date "19 April 1906." The second arrow directs attention to a circle around one of the individuals marching around the track – ostensibly the card's sender. I wonder who it is? The card also bears a transiting cachet from the Austrian post office in Smyrna, followed by a Turkish post office receiving cachet.

Another card mailed "in town" is shown in Figure 45. It, too, was written on 19 April but postmarked on 18 April. The numerous cards written on the 19 April but with postmark from the previous day prove that the postal clerk made the mistake, not

the writers.

Figure 46 depicts the daily Euclides IPC, this time in English. It is certain that it was written on 19 April since we have already seen the card mailed on 18 April (Figure 38).



Figure 44A. While the card is postmarked 18.4, we can be reasonably certain it was posted 19.4 because of the dated inscription on the picture side (Figure 44B).



Figure 43. Euclides IPC to New York with arrival mark.

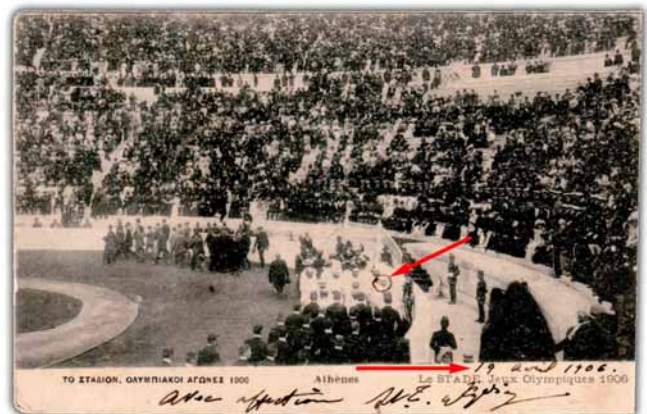


Figure 44B. The picture side of Figure 44A confirming that the postcard was written on 19 April. As for the person circled in the photo – that remains a mystery!



Figure 45. The postcard is inscribed 19.4 but the postmark reads 18.4, a sure sign that the postal clerk forgot to advance the date on his cancel.



Figure 46. The daily Euclidis card. This card was certainly written and mailed on 19.4 despite the postmark's date, 18.4.



Figure 47. The daily Euclidis IPC to Bristol mailed on 19.4, but postmarked 18.4. The card actually mailed on 18.4 is shown in Figure 40.

This IPC (Figure 47) was certainly posted on 19 April since the (almost) daily postcard to Bristol was already posted the day before. [see Figure 40]

Did the clerk realize his mistake? There are, as far as I could determine, no bona fide postcards cancelled on 19 April. The lack of material with this date is strange. The crowd for the marathon race and closing ceremony was large so that the post office at the Stadion must have been busy. The only conclusion we can arrive at is that the clerk was so distracted that he did not realize his error.

In philately, the word "never" does not exist – that is with the possible exception of the Mauritius and British Guyana rarities of which we are very familiar. One day, postal items cancelled "19.4.06" from the Stadion post office just may surface.

While it is surprising not to find bona fide traveled mail cancelled 19.4, there are items from that date with a STADION type ii (with distant "N") cancel. [For a more detailed discussion of this postmark, please refer to Part 2 of this article in the Winter 2014 issue of *JSP*, pp. 13-17.]

This is the same discussion as for the 9 April items. The claim made by M. Tsironis about this STADION type ii (distant "N") postmark appearing only on 9 and 19 April is confirmed. Equally true is that these type ii postmarks are counterfeit. For further proof, let's examine some more IPC's.

The card shown in Figure 48 I have kept to this day because of its image. How can a postcard showing a photograph of the 1906 Olympic closing ceremonies **be cancelled 10 days previously**? It proves the cancellation is a forgery; this item is pure science fiction time travel. Why is it that experienced philatelists, experts or dealers still defend its authenticity?



Figure 48. The postcard (above) depicts a scene from the 1906 Olympic closing ceremonies on 19 April, yet the type ii postmark is from 9 April (shown enlarged at right). How can this be? Clearly this postmark is a forgery.

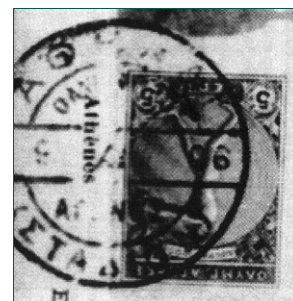




Figure 49. Another example of a postcard (above) with a cancellation of 19 April (enlarged at left) which is two days after the event depicted in the photograph occurred (17 April).

The Official Report from these Games shows various photos of the ceremonies (pages 125-134).

Figure 49 is an IPC depicting the final of the 110-meter hurdles event which took place on 17 April. The postcard could not have been on the market by 19 April, and yet it bears a STADION type ii postmark from that day. This is further evidence that the distant “N” cancellation is counterfeit. This same image is also shown on page 52 of the Official Report. *Note that no IPC with a photograph taken at the Games could have been placed on sale earlier than 4-5 days following the event.*

The majority of Olympic collectors are now in agreement that the distant “N” type ii cancellation is a counterfeit. Do the dealers and auctioneers admit it? Not for a minute! Figure 50 is circumstantial evidence. What philatelist in his right mind would remove the high values from a cover? High values were extremely rare on mail posted at the Stadium Post Office. The lot was offered in 2014 and proves that auctioneers never tire of offering “fake” items, though they were warned about their nature.

Now for two more items to reinforce the fact that these type ii postmarks are counterfeit.

The IPC reproduced (in color) in Figure 51 is cancelled 19 April. The “9” is indistinct, but by inference it can be proven. The rope climb finals depicted on the IPC were held on 13 April. The image reproduced on the postcard is also shown in the Official Report (Figure 52).



Figure 51 (above). Most certainly this 19 April STADION postmark is a counterfeit. The IPC reproduces a photograph of the rope climb finals.



Figure 52 (right). The rope climb finals as shown in the Official Report – identical image to the IPC.



Figure 50. A grouping of four of the high-value 1906 Olympic stamps all with 19 April postmarks in a 2014 auction. Despite their “counterfeit” status, auctioneers continue to offer them.

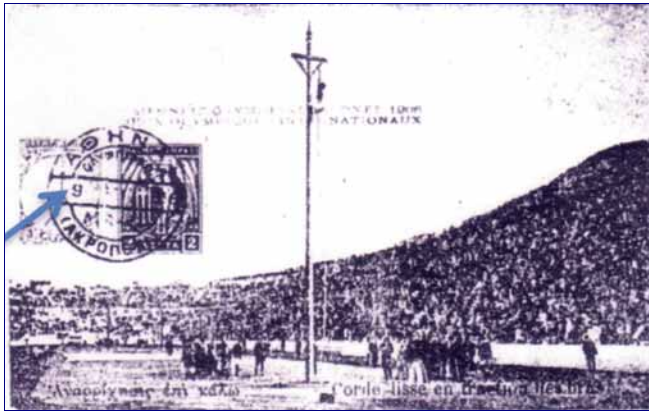


Figure 53. Although this postmark reads 9.4 we know that cannot possibly be as the rope climbing event depicted did not occur until 13.4. Thus, the 9.4 postmark on this card must be counterfeit.

The second IPC showing the same rope climbing event (Figure 53) is postmarked with a 9.4.06 cancel. This is where we once again experience time travel for how else could a postcard be cancelled four days prior to the event happening? Clearly, since the 9 April cancellation is counterfeit, the 19 April cancel must be as well.

With all this evidence I believe to have proven that the STADION type ii (distant “N”) cancellation is counterfeit.

To bring this day to a close, I would like to

present the item in Figure 54 which shows the entire set on a single fragment. Without doubt this was a favor-cancelled set. What a waste! The original owner had the money to spend, but did not have an inkling about philately. And why are the corners torn away? Can someone solve this mystery?

This trip through the 1906 Olympic Games, from the perspective of the Stadion post office philately, is fascinating. We’ve seen a wide selection of excellent material and become acquainted with some avid philatelists and correspondents. Not to be forgotten, however, is the darker side of philately – the forgers, manipulators and unscrupulous individuals trying (and oftentimes succeeding) in cheating naive, and even experienced, collectors.

Our trip, though, is not quite finished, as Stadion cancellations dated after the closing of the special post office exist. They will be part of a special chapter that will also include curiosities from the other special post offices at the Zappeion and Akropolis. The trickle of items during the 1960s and 1970s has become a steady flow. It is worth keeping the following maxim in mind: “In philately one should never rush to acquire when the market is hot; good buys are best eaten cold.” Prices tumbled from the thousands of dollars to about 200, which is an adequate price. Do keep this in mind. 🐼



Figure 54. The entire set of 1906 Olympic stamps on a single piece favor-cancelled with the STADION 18 April 1906 postmark. Why the corners are torn remains a mystery.



Figure 1. Commercial cover with machine slogan cancellation promoting the 1970 Bahamas Islands Open golf tournament, the final stop on that year's PGA circuit. The same cancellation was also used from Nassau.

Finding Golf Philately By Happenstance

by Patricia Loehr

There are many reasons for attending a stamp show: visiting with other philatelists, acquiring items for your collection, and should the show have them, viewing the exhibits. There might also be meetings, presentations, or talks of interest.

When I began to form a collection of golf philately I had the added benefit of other golf collectors' prior research. Armed with my want list, I would attend shows in the hope of finding a new item or two to add to my golf collection. It also occurred to me that while some items were easily found, others would be far more elusive with few opportunities to acquire them. I learned that as you search, you develop an increased understanding of the philately of your special area of collecting.

Throughout my many years of philatelic collecting I began to realize that the "search and you shall find" approach has certain limitations as well as some benefits. It's while engaging in that "thrill of the hunt" for one item that you may instead find something you weren't even aware existed. At that moment, you've expanded your knowledge while experiencing yet another adventure in philately!

In the mid-1990s while attending a local stamp show, a dealer asked me the standard question, "What do you collect?" My reply, as I often say, is that I am looking for sports in general, but mostly golf. Pausing thoughtfully, he said he did not know of anything relating to golf or sports in his stock but that I was welcome to have a look. He added that he specialized in the Bahamas and that his covers were organized by the *Scott Catalog* number of the stamps. This also meant that the covers were roughly in chronological order by year.

I knew of Bahamas machine golf cancellations from 1970 and 1971. Within but a few minutes I was delighted to find that he had three covers of the 1970 cancel and one from 1971. I happily purchased all four covers. I have found and purchased only one other example of these two golf cancels in the past twenty plus years. When I paid the dealer he seemed somewhat bewildered that he did actually have some golf philately among his Bahamas covers.

The lesson here: my knowledge of the existence of those golf cancellations, along with the desire to acquire them, led to the happenstance of finding them. This happened after the dealer had said he doubted he had anything golf-related to offer.

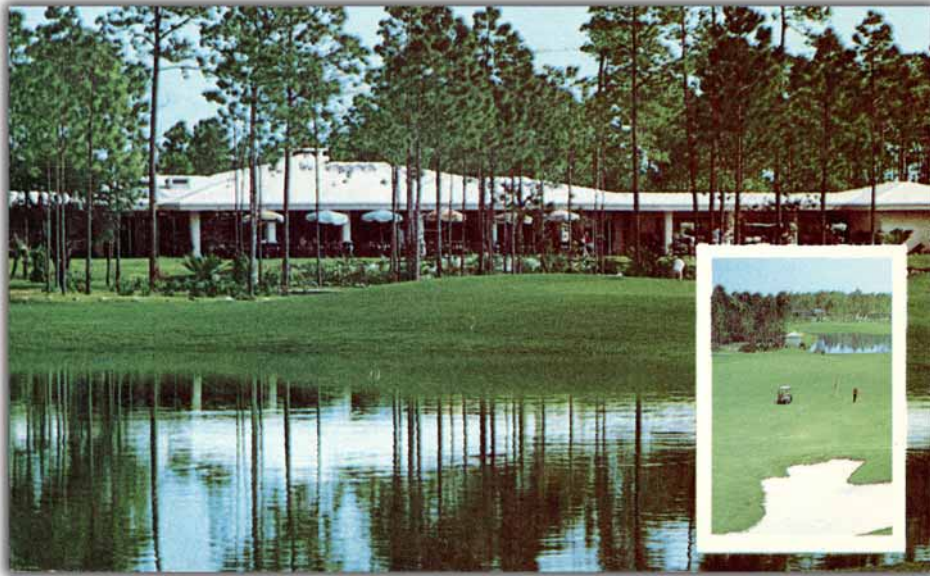


Figure 2. The Kings Inn & Golf Club, venue for the 1970 Bahamas Islands Open.

The 1970 golf machine cancellation (Figure 1) is for the Bahamas Islands Open, a government-sponsored tournament and the final stop on the United States Professional Golfers' Association schedule for that year. The text of the cancel: "Bahamas Island Open / Major PGA Tournament / December 9 - 13, 1970".¹

The tournament was held at the Kings Inn & Golf Club Emerald Course at Freeport. The picture postcard in Figure 2, postmarked in 1969, shows the club and course. The card's descriptive text on the reverse reads: "Largest - Most Complete Resort in the World!" The text continues with: "King of Island

Golf! 2 great 18-hole PGA championship courses designed by Dick Wilson and Joe Lee ..."

Doug Sanders won the December 10-13 tournament with a total score of 272.

The 1971 Bahamas golf cancellation (Figure 3) is in a transposed position, i.e. the slogan is to the left of the circular date hub. It publicizes "Bahamas / National Open & / National Golf Week / Dec. 6TH - 12TH, 1971".

As in 1970, this was again the last tournament on the schedule for that year. It was played at the Lucayan Country Club. The picture postcard in Figure 4 presents a watercolor-like impression

of the clubhouse and surrounding course and is cancelled in 1964.

Pro golfer Craig Wood is mentioned in the pre-printed descriptive text on the reverse as well as in the written message of the sender. Wood retired to the Bahamas and Lucayan Country Club after a very distinguished career that peaked in 1941 when he was the first to win both The Masters and U.S. Open Championship in the same year.²

Robert Goalby shot a 275 to win the 1971 tournament.

Prior to the use of these event cancellations from 1970 and 1971, the Bahamas issued its first golf

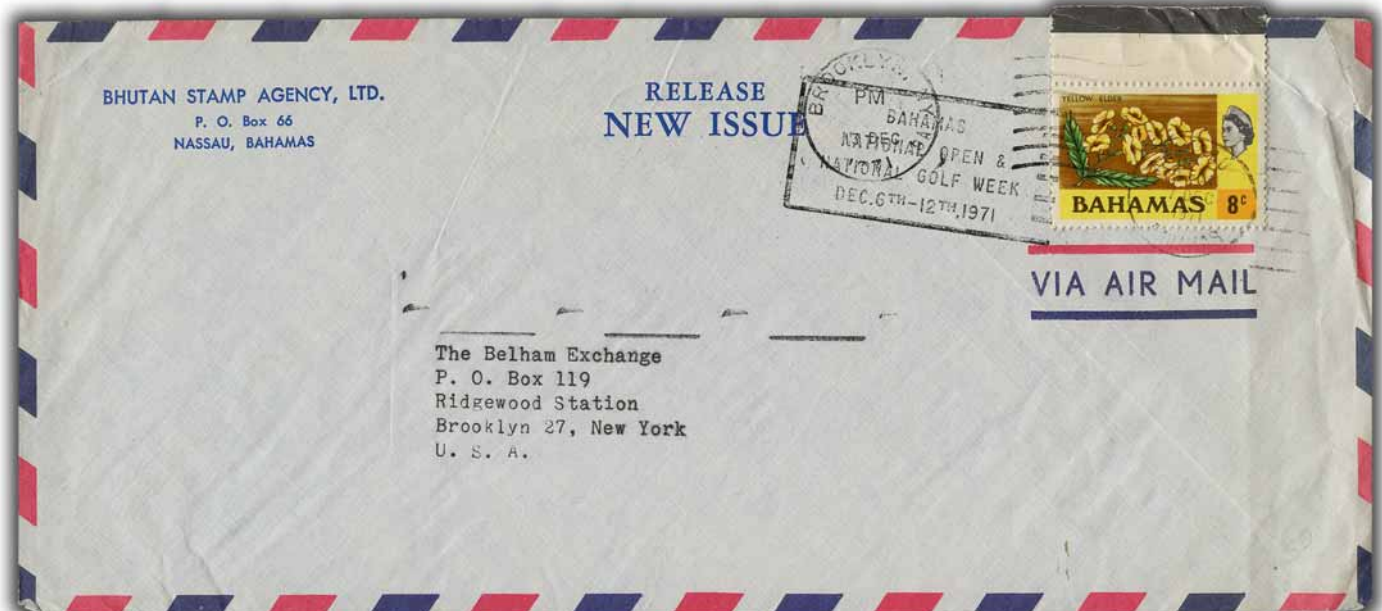


Figure 3. Machine cancellation for the 1971 Bahamas National Open & National Golf Week. Note the slogan is to the left of the circular date hub.

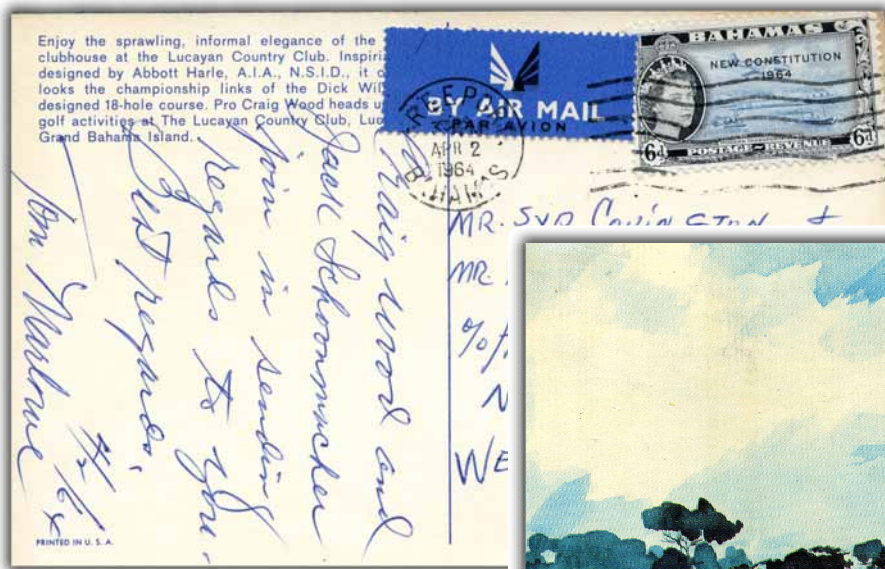
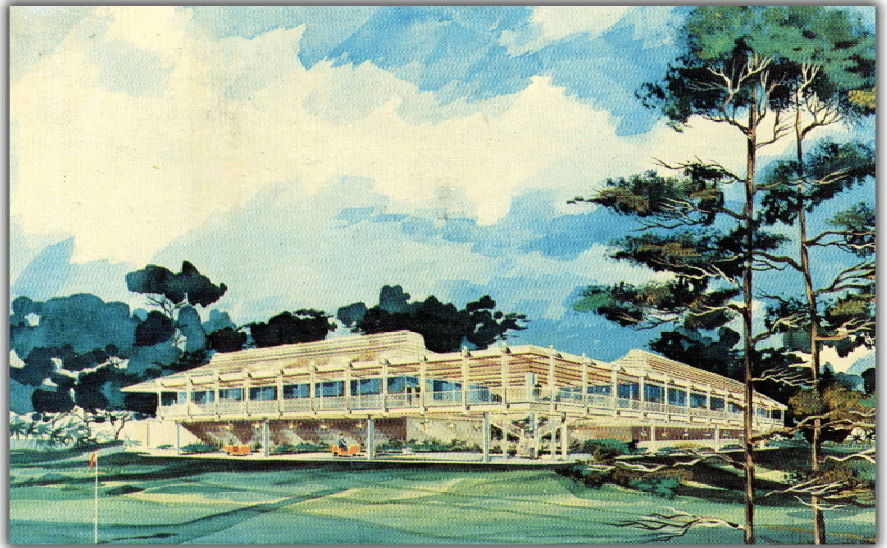


Figure 4. Lucayan Country Club postcard. Both the card's preprinted inscription and personal message discuss the club pro, Craig Wood.



stamp in jumbo size on 20 August 1968 (Figure 5). It is one of a four-stamp set for the International Tourist Year. The design depicts a golfer swinging a club. A person with a bag of clubs, possibly a caddy, stands in the background. Each stamp has the name of the sport printed vertically in red at the top right corner with the denomination in red at the upper left corner. The portrait of the British monarch appears at lower right.

Golfing in the Bahamas began in the 1920s with The Nassau Club as the first permanent golf club.

The 1962 cover in Figure 6 from the Bahamas Country Club in Nassau features a golfer and tennis player as part of the corner card.

Of the three 1970 covers found by happenstance, one is in my thematic golf exhibit, while a second fits neatly into a display class golf exhibit. The third resides in my collection along with the 1971 Bahamas golf cancel and that "fore-th" 1970 cover!

Endnotes

1. The term "Major" in golf refers to one of four Grand Slam tournaments. The Bahamas Islands Open is not one them, possibly explaining why the 1971 cancel omits that word.
2. In *The Book of Golfers* published in 2005, author Daniel Wexler describes Craig Wood as a popular golfer whose upbringing, marriage, and desire enabled him to have a career in golf spanning nearly a quarter century from 1925 to 1949 which resulted in 21 PGA Tour wins. Another complimentary description of Wood appears in *Golf's Golden Age* (2005) by Rand Jerris.



Figure 5. (Left) Bahama's first golf stamp (1968).

Figure 6. (Right) The Bahama's Country Club in Nassau was the first permanent golf club in the Bahamas dating back to the 1920s.



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C.G.



A 1932 Olympic Treasure

by Mark Maestroni

At first blush, you might guess that the puckered pigskin above was one of Tom Brady's "DeflateGate" footballs from the 2015 AFC Championships – but you'd be wrong! In fact, it's the football used in the 1932 Olympic Games event signed by the players.

"American football? At the Olympic Games?" you may be asking incredulously?

Yes! Believe it or not, American football was featured at both the 1904 St. Louis and 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

Garland's Grand Idea

In late 1930, the organizing committee in Los Angeles was batting around the idea of including demonstration sports on the event schedule. Back then, the IOC permitted the host country two sports of their own choosing: one "a national sport of the country in which the Games are held"; the other "a sport foreign to the organizing country." Los Angeles opted for American football and lacrosse.

A display of football was a natural selection as it would be both a good draw for American ticket buyers, and interesting for foreign visitors.

Organizers' initial intent was to field a contest between two preeminent collegiate football teams: the University of Southern California (USC) – a local favorite and perennial champion, and Yale University, a powerhouse among the Eastern elite colleges.

The early 1930's was a time of transition for collegiate football in the United States, particularly in light of the 1929 Carnegie Report which responded to the move to reform football at the nation's colleges which many painted with a brush of commercialism and other abuses. Recommendations included discouraging intersectional play (games between teams from different leagues or regions).

In January 1931, William M. Garland, president of the 1932 Olympic Organizing Committee, quietly contacted Yale President James Angell with what he knew was a delicate proposal: namely an intersectional game between the two college teams at the Olympic Games. Despite the boost in alumni contributions that the game might generate for Yale which, like most other institutions of higher learning, was suffering from the Depression, Angell had to decline the offer.

With a "Plan B" up his sleeve, Garland proposed the next best thing – a sort-of all-star game between teams drawn from colleges in both the East and West. All players were to be seniors who had already completed their college eligibility.

The East Team, representing the Big Three of eastern football, comprised 24 players from Yale, Harvard and Princeton, while 25 members of the Pacific Coast's "great triumvirate" – Southern California (USC), California (Berkeley), and Stanford – made up the West Team (Figure 2). Each side was also permitted four coaches and various other support personnel.

WEST TEAM

EAST TEAM



Figure 2. Meters from the Pacific Coast's "Big Three" schools (USC Trojans, Cal Berkeley Bears, and Stanford Cardinals) and the East Coast's Ivy League schools (Yale Bulldogs, Harvard Crimson, and Princeton Tigers).

Game Day

Game Day (Figure 3) was scheduled for eight o'clock in the evening on Monday, 8 August, ten days into the Olympics.

In a rather unusual turn of events, the opposing coaches were related – in fact, brothers! The West was guided by USC's head coach, Howard Jones, while his brother, T.A. Dwight Jones (coach of Yale's football team from 1920-1927) directed the East team.

Notable among the so-called advisory coaches was Glenn S. "Pop" Warner from Stanford who was instrumental in popularizing youth football in the U.S. Warner also had another Olympic connection. In running the athletic program at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania (1907-1914), Warner coached the great Olympian, Jim Thorpe.

Played under the Olympic Stadium lights as 50,000 spectators looked on, American Football was most likely puzzling to most of the foreign visitors and athletes.

The first half was scoreless but still provided plenty of exciting moments as the East tried twice to score from the 5-yard line. The West, too, was halted twice.

The second half proved far more interesting with a combination of running and passing.

All the scoring in the game occurred in the final quarter. Picking up a dribbling ground ball that had been touched by a California player after a poor 35-yard field goal attempt by Ed Mays (Harvard), Burton Strange (Yale) ran for 2 yards for a touchdown. Mays' extra point kick was blocked.

The West Team answered with four successive first-downs, as USC's Gaius Shaver ushered the ball from their own 40-yard line to 4 yards from the East's goal. It took three more downs to move the ball to one inch from the line, whereupon Shaver



Figure 3. The big football game was contested on 8 August 1932, the "Tenth Day" of the "Xth Olympiad," as noted in the U.S.S. Brooks naval cancel.

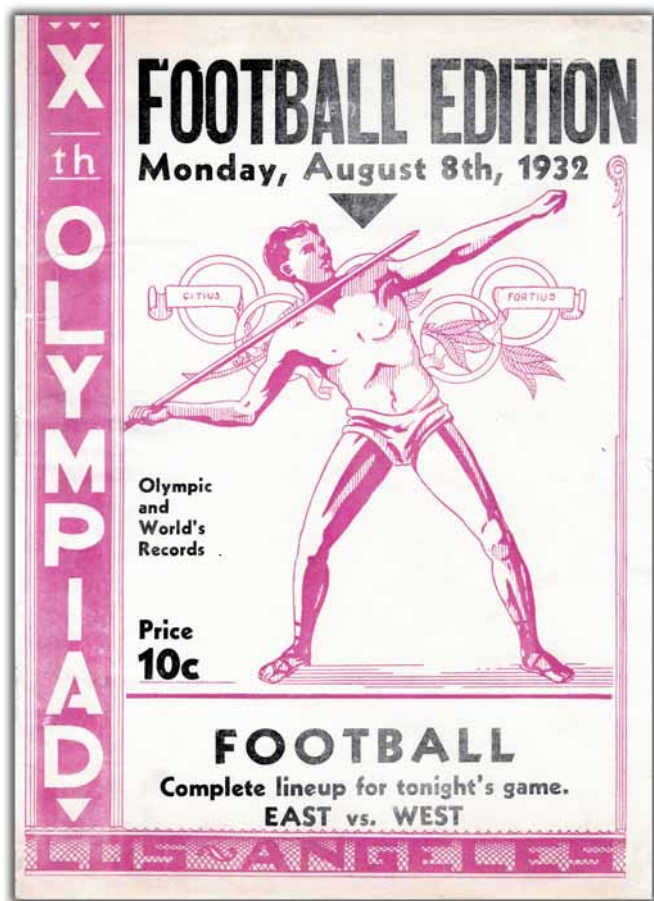


Figure 4. Official Olympic program for the football game on 8 August in the Olympic Stadium.

dived over the goal for a touchdown. With the score tied and just 3 minutes remaining on the clock, the West was able to score the crucial extra point thanks to Ed Kirwan of California. The final score, as inscribed on the game ball: “West 7 – East 6 – Olympic Games.”

Writing for the *New York Times*, Allison Danzig summed up the game well, observing “that the great athletes of the world came to see and were conquered, if not by football ... at least by the magnificent show that was put on, with seven bands and an exuberant California cheering section adding to the gayety [sic] and color of the scene.”

To this day, all-star games remain important events on the college football calendar for both fans and professional football scouts!

From Whence This Ball?

How and from where did this remarkable and historically important (at least from an Olympic perspective) football surface?

Following the game, players from both sides signed this game ball. There is no record of the

number of balls signed or used in play.

What we do know is that this ball ended up in the hands of Southern California sports collector, Bill Schroeder who, in 1936, teamed up with Paul Helms of the well-known Helms Bakery in Los Angeles (a 1932 Olympic supplier with the slogan: “Olympic Games Bakers – Choice of Olympic Champions”), to create the Helms Athletic Foundation. In addition to selecting all-star teams in various sports and supporting the creation of many halls of fame, the foundation had a remarkable collection of sports and Olympic artifacts.

When the Helms Athletic Foundation was dissolved in the mid-1980s, the historical holdings went to the Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles (now the LA84 Foundation), which was created after the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

More recently, the LA84 Foundation did some housecleaning, sending duplicate and/or unneeded memorabilia to auction, with left-overs consigned to a dealer for resale. It was from these “remnants” that this lowly Olympic football was recovered.

According to the records of the LA84 Foundation, this was the only 1932 Olympic Games football from the Helms Athletic Foundation collection. The Helms foundation’s tag that had been attached read: “the ball used in the game.” That says it all! 🍷

Signatures on the Ball:

West Team: Ray Hulen (Stanford); Phillip Neill (Stanford); Rudy Rintals (Stanford); Ralph Stone (UC); Charles Ehrhorn (Stanford); Gene Clarke (USC).

East Team: Johnny Madden (Yale); Hans Flygare (Yale); Frank Kales (Harvard); Walter Gahagan Jr. (Princeton). [One name is illegible.]

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Thanks to Conrad Klinkner for providing the illustrations and background material for this article.

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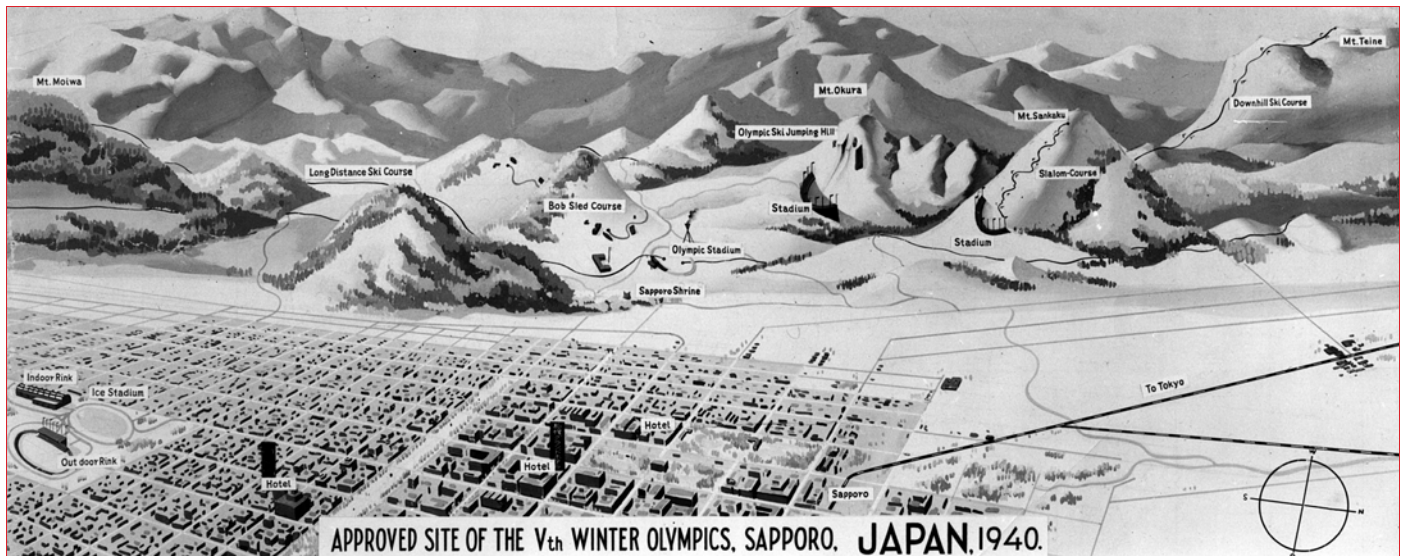
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Vth Olympic Winter Games Tokyo - St. Moritz - Garmisch

by Andrew Urushima

With the world in political turmoil in the 1930s, the fate of the Olympic Games was in jeopardy. Ignoring the political storm that was brewing, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) formally awarded the 1940 Olympic Games to Tokyo on 31 July 1936 during the 35th IOC Session at Berlin.

The protocol for awarding of the Olympic Games of that era allowed the host of the Summer Games to also host the Winter.¹ On 9 June 1937 during 36th IOC Session at Warsaw, Sapporo was selected to host the Vth Olympic Winter Games.

Extensive preparations for both the Summer and Winter Games ensued. A panoramic bird's-eye view of the proposed Winter Olympic venues at Sapporo is shown at top. At the same time, Japan's imperialistic intentions throughout Asia were becoming more evident. Worried by what they were seeing, the international sports community started to question the IOC's decision to allow Japan to host both 1940 Games.

In July 1937, Japan invaded China beginning the Second Sino-Japanese war. A year later, in July 1938, Japan succumbed to the political pressures and forfeited the Tokyo and Sapporo Games.

After Japan relinquished the 1940 Games, Helsinki, Finland agreed to host the summer edition. Despite their rich winter sports traditional, the Finns

were not interested in also hosting the 1940 Olympic Winter Games. That honor eventually fell to St. Moritz, Switzerland in September 1938. St. Moritz, it will be remembered, hosted the 1928 Olympic Winter Games.

1940 Olympic Winter Games Timeline

July 29, 1932	Japan submits bid for Tokyo to host XIIIth Olympic Games at IOC Los Angeles Session
July 31, 1936	IOC awards XIIth Olympic Games to Tokyo
June 9, 1937	Japan awarded Vth Olympic Winter Games at IOC Warsaw Session
July 7, 1937	Japan battles China in the Marco Polo Bridge incident to begin Second Sino-Japanese war.
July 16, 1938	Japan relinquishes both the Summer and Winter Games
September 3, 1938	IOC awards St. Moritz the OWG at the IOC Executive Board Meeting in Brussels
June 9, 1939	At the IOC Session in London, the IOC voted to reassign the Games from St. Moritz to Garmisch-Partenkirchen
September 1, 1939	Germany invades Poland to begin World War II
November 22, 1939	Germany informs IOC that it would not be able to host the Vth Olympic Winter Games



Figures 2 and 3. Above, 1937 International Winter Sports Week machine cancel. Right, commemorative hand cancellations from 1938 International Winter Sports Week held in Garmisch.

Sadly, politics would also derail St. Moritz's hosting duties, though this time the politics of sport would be the culprit.

The IOC, until the early 1970s, was stringent in its policy that all Olympic competitors must be amateurs, i.e. they could never have accepted money engaging in their sport. In Switzerland, however, it was common for paid ski instructors to still be considered amateurs in the eyes of their own sports administrators. The IOC did not agree with this interpretation and banned these "professional" skiers from Olympic competition. In retaliation, the Swiss National Olympic Committee threatened to cancel all skiing events at the St. Moritz Olympics unless professional ski instructors were allowed to participate. In refusing to blink first, the Swiss lost the 1940 St. Moritz Games.

The IOC next turned its attention to Garmisch-Partenkirchen, host of the 1936 Olympic Winter Games. In the intervening years, Garmisch continued to play an important role as host of various European and International sporting events. This included the 1937 and 1938 International Winter Sports Week (Figures 2 and 3). These events had a limited "international" presence as they were a showcase for the Third Reich.

During the IOC Session in London in 1939, Garmisch-Partenkirchen was selected as the third (and final) host of the Vth Olympic Winter Games. It was the only city determined to have the facilities and infrastructure to be able to conduct the Games in less than a year. The German organizing committee quickly began making plans; many of the existing facilities would be expanded and improved.

With the Third Reich's invasion of Poland in September 1939, initiating World War II, it was only a matter of time before the IOC was forced to finally cancel the 1940 Olympic Winter Games.

Philatelic Legacy

No stamps would be issued by any of the host countries for the Vth Olympic Winter Games.

A number of postcards and a vignette document Sapporo's preparation.

In the short period that St. Moritz was designated as the host, the American Olympic Committee produced a fundraising label in four colors. Proceeds from the sales of these vignettes helped support the both the summer and winter U.S. Olympic Teams. The vignette shows track athletes (in the Los Angeles Olympic Stadium) with the caption "Helsinki -1940 Games - St. Moritz" (Figure 4). The same design would again be used to raise fund for the U.S. Team to the 1948 Olympics.



Figure 4. Small die proof of American Olympic Committee label printed in sheets of 50 by the American Bank Note Company. Exists both perforated and imperforate.



Figure 5. 1940 Garmisch Olympic Organizing Committee meter.

Even though Germany's preparations for the 1940 Olympic Winter Games in Garmisch-Partenkirchen lasted only a few months, they left us a small philatelic legacy.

Germany had been planning to issue a series of semi-postal stamps for the 1940 Garmisch Games. Essays for a proposed series of four stamps are known to exist.²

The most important philatelic elements from Garmisch are two meters that were in commercial use. Both meters are extremely rare and seldom come onto the market.

The first meter was used by the Garmisch Organizing committee during the preparation period (Figure 5).

The second meter comes from the office of the Mayor of Garmisch-Partenkirchen (Bürgermeister

Garmisch-Partenkirchen). The meter is similar in style to one for the 1936 Games, but with subtle differences. The text within the central double ring has been updated to read "V. Olympische Winterspiele / 1940" (Figure 6).

This meter has known usages until the 1950's. There are three types that are defined by the indicium box surrounding the rate:

1. Imperial Eagle with Deutsche Reichspost
2. Posthorn with Deutsche Post
3. Posthorn with Deutsche Bundespost

Type 1 is the only one known with usages during the planning phases of the Games, while the other two varieties are known with later usages.

Garmisch continued to be an international winter sports mecca even as the war progressed.

In 1941, Garmisch held another International Winter Sports week. These Games were hosted by the Third Reich and the participants included athletes from Germany, their allies and a few neutral countries.

The philatelic importance of this event is exhibited by a postcard commemorating the 1940 Winter Games produced in conjunction with the 1941 International Winter Sports week (Figure 7).

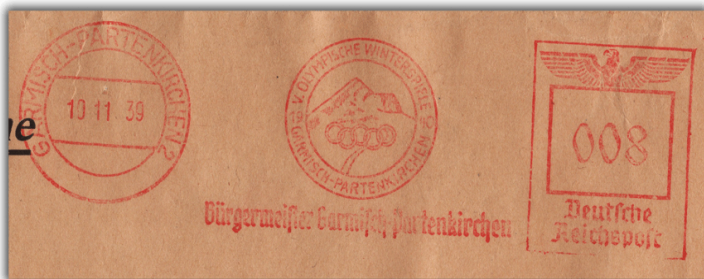


Figure 6. Garmisch-Partenkirchen Mayor's office meter on advertising envelope. An enlarged detail of the meter is shown at left.

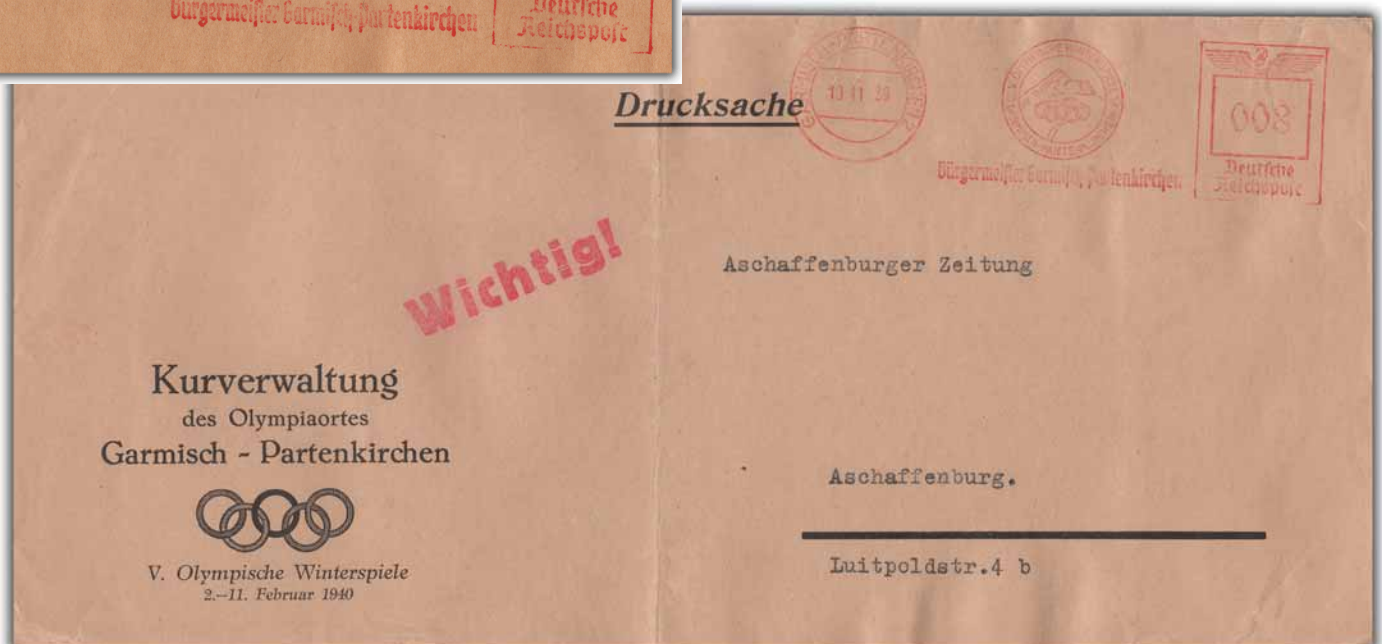




Figure 7. Commemorative post card issued in connection with the 1941 International Winter Sports Week showing both winter and summer Olympic sports.

This card shows the Olympic Rings with Garmisch and Helsinki prominently mentioned. This card was clearly issued after the Games were cancelled as the text at the bottom notes that the Games “did not take place by the war forced upon us” (“fand durch den uns aufgezwungenen krieg nicht statt”).

Most of these cards bear three favor-cancelled pictorial postmarks commemorating the event. The cancels show the Garmisch town skyline, the ice hockey stadium, and a downhill skier, respectively (Figure 8). Unused cards sometime come on the market; be aware, reproductions are known to exist.

There also exists a small rectangular commemorative handstamp cachet (20 mm x 5 mm) with text reading “V. Olymp. Winterspiele Garmisch-Partenkirchen,” the Olympic rings, and the date 2.-11. II 1940.

A similar handstamp cachet was produced for the 1936 Winter Games. It is unknown who produced this cachet which is known in both blue and black ink and used from early 1940 to 1941.

Olympic Winter Games are denoted in the order they are hosted. The 1944 Games, which were awarded to Cortina d’Ampezzo, Italy, were also never held.

Ultimately, the Vth Olympic Winter Games would be held in St. Moritz in 1948 after the close of World War II. Germany and Japan, as the aggressors in the war, were not invited to the 1948 Olympics.

Though the 1940 Olympic Winter Games never materialized as an event, philatelists will remember it for a small, but rich, philatelic legacy.

Endnotes

1. According to an IOC decision in 1926, the country hosting the Summer Games would have priority for the site of the Winter Games.
2. See *Die Olympischen Spiele im Blickpunkt der Philatelie und ihren Randgebieten* by Heiko Volk pp. 164 for illustrations of the proposed 1940 Olympic Winter Games stamp issues.

Sources

Findling, John E. and Pelle, Kimberly D. Pelle. *Historical Dictionary of the Modern Olympic Movement*, 1996.

Volk, Heiko. *Die Olympischen Spiele im Blickpunkt der Philatelie und ihren Randgebieten*, 1976.



Figure 8. 1941 International Sports Week cancellations on a Vth Olympic Winter Games postcard. Card also bears Olympic cachet in blue.



Figure 1. This se-tenant pair of stamps issued by Japan for the 1998 Paralympic Games was the first to honor the sport of ice sledge hockey.

Ice Sledge Hockey

by Alain Hébert

Ice sledge hockey was invented at a Swedish rehabilitation center in the early 1960s, when a group of athletes with a disability decided they wanted to continue playing hockey. The Swedes took two regular ice hockey skates and built a metal frame or sledge to fit on top, with enough room for the puck to pass underneath. Using short poles to propel themselves along the ice, the men played the first ice sledge hockey match outdoors,

on a lake south of Stockholm. By 1969, Stockholm had a five-team ice sledge hockey league.

Ice sledge hockey debuted at the 1994 Paralympic Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway. Since the

pool of players is limited, women as well as men can participate in this rugged sport. Presently, fourteen nations can compete at the yearly world championships and at the Paralympics. For example, this year, the United States defeated Canada by a score of 3-0 in Buffalo, N.Y. for the 2015 world championship.

To date, just five stamps have been issued featuring this sport. The Japanese, host to the Nagano Olympics and Paralympics, were the first to issue a se-tenant combination in 1998 (Figure 1).

For those that imagine that ice sledge hockey is a tamer version of ice hockey, one has only to look at the determination of opposing players to gain control of the puck in the Czech Republic's stamp issued (Figure 2) for the 2006 Torino Games.

For the 2010 Olympic Winter Games held in Vancouver, Canada Post issued a variety of Paralympic stamps including one of a sledge hockey player. Many variations of this stamp exist since it was

issued in different booklet forms, numerous souvenir sheets, and on a postal stationery card (Figure 3). As reported in the Summer 2013 issue of the *Journal of Sports Philately*, many counterfeits of this stamp have been found. The imitations were printed on poor quality paper and the image is not as crisp.



Figure 2. Ice sledge hockey players fighting for control of the puck on a Czech Republic stamp for the 2006 Paralympics.



Figure 3. The short stick used for propelling the player across the ice is shown being gripped in the athlete's left hand on this Canadian postal stationery card issued for the 2010 Paralympic Games in Vancouver.



Figures 4 & 5. The Czech Republic issued an ice sledge hockey stamp (left) in tête-bêche format for the 2014 Sochi Paralympics. Ice sledge hockey is also part of the souvenir sheet from Kazakhstan (right). Although the stamps weren't issued until January 2015, they did honor the 2014 Sochi Paralympic Games.

For a second time, the Czech Republic issued a sledge hockey stamp for the 2014 Sochi Paralympics. This stamp comes as a tête-bêche variety (Figure 4).

Kazakhstan released a colorful “Sport is accessible to everyone” souvenir sheet in 2014, one value of which shows ice sledge hockey (Figure 5). Although the set was not issued until January 2015, it

is meant to commemorate the 2014 Paralympic Games in Sochi.

Of course, an ice sledge hockey collection would not be complete without commemorative cancellations. Figure 6 reproduces the special postmarks for ice sledge hockey at the 1998 Nagano, 2010 Vancouver and 2014 Sochi Paralympic Games.

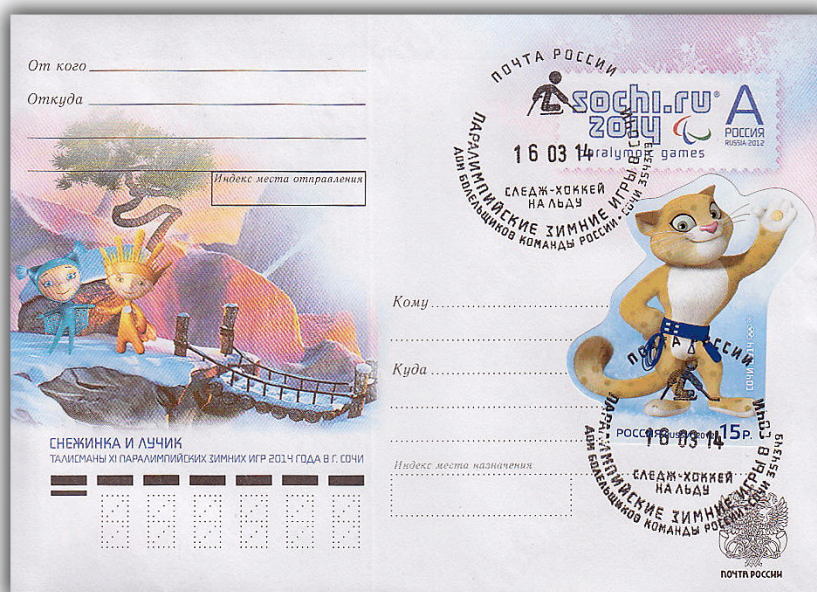


Figure 6. Special Paralympic Games postmarks for 1998 Nagano (top left), 2010 Vancouver (below left) and 2014 Sochi (above).

Postmarks for the 1992 Belgian Olympic Stamps

by Norman Rushefsky
and Leon Vanverre

For many countries issuance of a new stamp is celebrated with one or more special postmarks used on the first day of issue (FDOI). In the United States, care is taken by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to prevent an accidental early release of new stamps. A recent rare, if not unique, exception was made in late 2013 wherein the USPS acceded to the wishes of its customers allowing sale of a new Hanukkah stamp 10 days prior to its announced first-day of issue so that it could be used by postal patrons for mailing holiday greeting cards. Despite the stamp having been released early, the date in the commemorative FDOI postmark remained as originally announced.

For a number of years Belgium has honored new stamps with two release dates: on the nominal first day of issue, and on a prerelease date two days earlier. Special commemorative postmarks are available on both dates. For a good example of this, we can look at Belgium's set of four stamps honor-

ing the 1992 Olympic Games. One stamp features a speed skater, commemorating the 1992 Olympic Winter Games in Albertville, while the remaining three stamps (baseball, tennis and shooting) acknowledge the summer Games in Barcelona.

The 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona are noteworthy in that baseball first became a medal sport. Baseball was expected to make an official debut at the 1904 St. Louis Olympics and had a long history as an exhibition or demonstration sport at various Games leading up to the 1992 Olympics.

The Barcelona Olympic Organizing Committee wanted to designate softball a demonstration sport at the 1992 Olympic Games, but the International Olympic Committee (IOC) declined the request. Instead, softball for women only was added to the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games program where it remained through the 2008 Beijing Games. In 2005, both baseball and softball were voted out of the Olympic program by the IOC commencing with the 2012 London Olympics.

Figure 1 reproduces a pair of postmarks on 20 January 1992, the "official" first day of issue. The



Figure 1. The "Official" First Day of Issue commemorative postmark for Belgium's 1992 Olympic Games set is dated 20 January 1992. As is standard practice in Belgium – a bilingual country – there are two postmarks with either French (left) or Flemish (right) versions of the text taking precedence. Seen here, the baseball stamp and matching maxicard.



Figure 2. Tennis maxicard with one of the five prerelease postmarks dated 18 January 1992. The postmark was also available on 19 January.

postmark on the maxicard of the 10F + 2F baseball stamp is similar in design to the postmark on the stamp to the right. Being a bilingual country, Belgium offers two versions of the same postmark with the French and Flemish text in different order. The convention in Belgium is to issue stamps on Monday as was this case with this set.

Next, we have a series of six different postmarks each used on both Saturday, 18 January, and Sunday, 19 January 1992 – the two-day period preceding the official first day.

Figure 2 is a maxicard of the 14F + 3F female tennis stamp with tennis postmark from Wavre and sponsored by the Cercle Philatelique Roman, which is a stamp club specializing in postal history. The maxicard features two women professional tennis players, Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova. In the French Open final of 1985 Navratilova and Evert played what many consider to be the best match of all-time in which Navratilova battled back to win the second set, tying the match, only to lose the third set to Evert.

Figure 3a is a commemorative postmark from Hotton featuring a shooter taking aim with his gun. Skeet was one of the thirteen shooting events at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. The postmark was sponsored by the Alliance Philatelique Ourthe Famenne Aisne Condroz on its 25th anniversary. In the postmark, “L’OFAC” is the name of their monthly bulletin.

The artist who designed these stamps is known by the pseudonym Pol Mara, an acronym for “Pour Oublie Laideur Metamorphoses Amour Rêve Amitié” which roughly translates as “to forget ugliness, metamorphoses love, dream, friendship.”

Figure 3b shows the postmark sponsored by the Association Catholique de Gymnastique (Catholic Gymnastics Association). A second postmark had the Flemish version above the French.

Figure 3c is another shooting-themed postmark, this time used in Herenthout and sponsored by Postzegelkring Herenthout, a local stamp club.

Our final postmark with image of a boar, representing the municipality of Evergem, is featured along with the Olympic rings on a postmark commemorating the 50th year of VTB Evergem (Figure 3d). The cancel was sponsored by the VTB Filatelieklub Evergem (stamp club).

One interesting observation regarding this set of stamps: we have not seen a cover franked with more than one stamp from this set and cancelled with one of these six prerelease postmarks!



Figures 3a-3d. Four prerelease postmarks. All were available on both 18 and 19 January.

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by Mark Maestrone

NEW MEMBERS

Victor Afanasiev, PO Box 8, Minsk 220070 Belarus.
Olympics. E-mail: vicaf60@yahoo.com

Jeff Bennett, 1601 River Farm Drive, Alexandria,
VA 22308. **Baseball, Basketball, American
Football.** E-mail: agr8view@gmail.com

Joseph Morris, 6427 SE 85th, Portland, OR 97266
USA. **Ice Hockey, Olympic Winter Games.**
E-mail: pdxjmorris@gmail.com

Marcus Vaska, 3432 Benton Dr. NW., Calgary,
Alberta T2L 1W8 Canada. **Soccer, Ice Hockey,
Tennis, Table Tennis.**
E-mail: mrtintinstamp@lycos.com

Timothy Wood, 3145 Castletown Way,
Alexandria, VA 22310 USA. **Olympics,
Basketball, Soccer, Swimming.**

[In the last issue, we erroneously reported Bob
Ferguson as a new member. Please ignore as he
did not complete the membership process.]

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Tim Baikie (tbaikie@sympatico.ca)
Trevor Bevan (tema.bevan@gmail.com)
Roberto De Melo (robertogesta@hotmail.com)

DECEASED

Brian Kelly, Mooresville, NC
George F. Rost, Hacienda Heights, CA

EXHIBITING RESULTS

NAPEX 2015 (Washington, DC; June 5-7). The
SPI Best-in-Show was given to "Baseball Centen-
nial – Every Boy a Cover" by Jeff Bennett. This
10-frame exhibit also won a NAPEX Gold medal;
the American First Day Cover Society Award; and
NAPEX Steven Luster Award. The Bolivian Sports
Issue 1951" by Elizabeth Hisey won a NAPEX Gold
and APS 1940-1980 Medal of Excellence.

NTSS 2015 (Portland, OR; 31 July - 2 August).
Andrew Urushima's "Spoiled by War: The Games
of the XIIth Olympiad" received a single-frame
Gold medal as well as the APS Medal of
Excellence, 1900-1940. Clemens Reiss' "Lawn
Bowling: Rulers to Results" won a single-frame
Silver and the SPI Single-Frame Award.

**APS StampShow 2015 (Grand Rapids, MI; 20-23
August).** Andrew Urushima received a Gold
medal a Polonus Philatelic Society Gold medal
for his single-frame exhibit, "The 1944 Gross Born
POW Olympics." The *Journal of Sports Philately*
(Fall 2014 - Summer 2015 issues) was entered in
the literature competition, winning a Vermeil.

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national: \$1.20 for all mail). Orders must be received no later than 30
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By walk-in at the Post Office: Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 5 pm; Saturday,
8:30 am - 12:30 pm. The USPS will be at the Fair on Saturday, 12
September from 10 am - 1 pm.

COMMEMORATIVE CANCELS

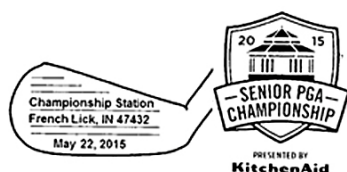
by Mark Maestroni

THE NUMBERING SYSTEM

Catalogue numbers are shown at left, such as 05101-911. In this example: 05= Year [2005]; 1= Month [January]; 01= First day of use; 911= First 3 ZIP code digits. The months of October, November and December are 2-digit months, and are expressed as X, Y, and Z. The place of use is listed next, followed by the dates of use. All cancels are in black unless otherwise indicated.

SPORTS CROSS INDEX MAY - AUGUST 2015

Baseball: 15726-133.
Boxing: 15614-130, 15731-147.
Cycling: 15722-50672,
15722-50613.
Figure Skating: 15828-129.
Golf: 15522-474
Running: 15711-932.
Scuba Diving: 15630-480.
Special Olympics: 15602-802,
15603-809, 15605-672,
15606-815, 15608-529,
15609-631, 15611-651,
15723-900.



15522-474 French Lick, IN 5/22



15602-802 Denver, CO 2
15603-809 Colorado Spr., CO 3
15605-672 Wichita, KS 5
15606-815 Grand Junction, CO 6



15608-529 Marion, IL 8
15609-631 St. Louis, MO 9
15611-651 Jefferson City, MO 11



15614-130 Canastota, NY 14



15630-480 Harsens Island, MI 30



15711-932 Stratford, CA 11



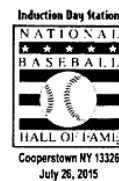
15722-50672 Steamboat R., IA 22



15722-50613 Cedar Falls, IA 22



15723-900 Los Angeles, CA 7/25, 8/2



15726-133 Cooperstown, NY 26

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15731-147 Belfast, NY 31



15828-129 Lake Placid 28



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