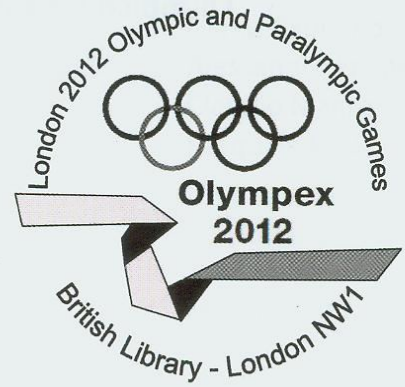




OLYMPEX 2012

Collecting the
Olympic Games



A free exhibition at the British Library
25 July – 9 September 2012

www.bl.uk/olympex2012



**OLYMPEX
2012**

COLLECTING THE
OLYMPIC GAMES

OLYMPEX 2012 is supported by:



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Collectors



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Olympex 2012: Collecting the Olympic Games

Welcome address by Gerhard Heiberg

**Member of the International Olympic Committee,
Chairman of the Olympic Philately, Numismatic and Memorabilia Commission**

On behalf of the International Olympic Committee, I have great pleasure in welcoming you to the opening of Olympex 2012. Our President, Mr. Jacques Rogge is unable to join us this evening, but sends his best wishes to all.

I would like to speak briefly about the IOC's objectives in holding the exhibition and to take the opportunity to thank those who have contributed toward it.

The IOC recognizes that Olympic collecting is a means by which knowledge and understanding of the Olympic Movement can be widely communicated. Indeed the Olympic Charter contains specific reference to Olympic postage stamps.

An Olympic philatelic exhibition has been part of the IOC programme at the Olympic Games since 1984, and it has traditionally been focused largely at active Olympic collectors.

For London 2012, we wanted to take a slightly different approach.

We are aiming to reach a broader audience, and to make the exhibition more accessible to the general public, both in a physical sense, and in the manner in which the exhibition is designed and displayed.

We want to give an Olympic experience, and to tell the Olympic story, to as many people as possible during the Games.

You can understand our delight when the British Library agreed to be our partner in this endeavour.

The Library is one of the leading cultural institutions in Great Britain, is located in central London, is very experienced at mounting exhibitions for the public, and is very clearly in the business of telling stories.

I would like to thank Dame Lynne Brindley and her marvelous team at the British Library for their active and wholehearted support of Olympex 2012. The IOC is delighted with the result.

We are also delighted you are able to keep the exhibition open until the end of the Paralympic Games, so more people will be able to see it.

Thanks to the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games for their support of the exhibition and for its inclusion in the programme of the Cultural Olympiad.

Special thanks to the Olympic collectors who helped design the exhibition and who have contributed much of the material on display. I wish to acknowledge the work of the UK based Society of Olympic Collectors and, in



particular, the contribution of Mr. Bob Farley and Mr. Bob Wilcock. I also wish to acknowledge the International Federation of Olympic Philatelists and the Italian Olympic Collecting Club. Mr. Maurizio Tecardi has been an important part of Olympex since its inception. In the true Olympic spirit, volunteers from these organisations have spent countless hours of work planning the exhibition and sourcing exhibits. Thank you.

Thanks also to the Olympic Museum and to the British Postal Museum and Archive for the loan of material in the exhibition.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the vital role of an organisation which is not based in the UK, but without which, Olympex 2012 may not have been possible. I refer to the China Post Group.

China Post Group actively supported the Beijing 2008 version of Olympex, known as Olympic Expo. Following the success of that event, China Post made a donation to the IOC, to establish a fund to support the conduct of Olympic philatelic exhibitions at future Olympic Games. Olympex 2012 is the beneficiary of that fund.

China Post Group has also sponsored the very comprehensive Catalogue of the exhibition, of which you have received a copy. All guests this evening will also receive as a gift, an album of Olympic stamps, especially produced by China Post Group to commemorate Olympex 2012.

We are joined this evening by the Vice President of China Post Group, Mr. ZHANG Yafei. Mr. ZHANG, please pass to your President, Mr. Li, the thanks of the IOC, and of all who will enjoy this exhibition.

As you can see, in the true Olympic spirit, this has been a real team effort.

Postage stamps are small, but powerful communicators. I am sure you will leave the exhibition this evening having gained some new information about, or insight into, the Olympic Games.

I do hope that you enjoy the exhibition.

Olympex 2012-Collecting the Olympic Games

Opening address by Sir Philip Craven, MBE

**Member of the International Olympic Committee,
President of the International Paralympic Committee**

Dear friends of the Olympic and Paralympic Movement:

I would like to congratulate the International Olympic Committee and the British Library for providing this exhibition, "Olympex 2012-Collecting the Olympic Games", as part of the 2012 London Cultural Olympiad.

The exhibition demonstrates very graphically the multi-faceted nature of the Olympic and Paralympic Movements.

The exhibition uses postage stamps and postcards to trace the birth of the modern Olympic Games, and then concentrates on the three Olympic Games held here in London: 1908, 1948 and 2012. In covering 2012, it also includes the Paralympic Games.

It is important to emphasise that the Olympic and Paralympic Games are not simply about sport. They are about values, standards and beliefs that are given expression through sport, and which apply equally to all facets of life. The Cultural Olympiad is an important means of communicating this message.

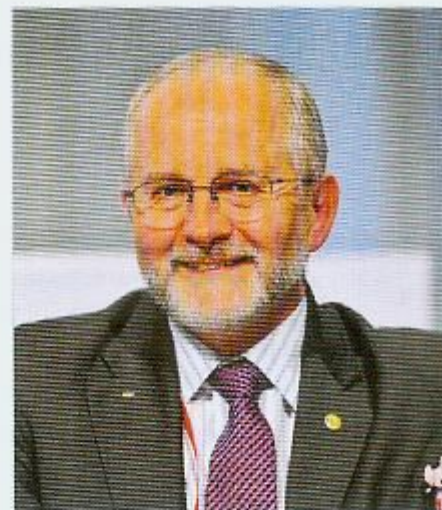
One of the key objectives of the Olympic Movement is to get as many people as possible, all over the world, imbued with the Olympic spirit. Many draw inspiration and example from the deeds of the athletes at the Games. But not everyone can be an athlete, and not everyone can attend an event. Cultural activities, such as this exhibition, provide an opportunity for the Olympic spirit to reach a much larger number of people and to reach them through a different medium.

Collecting stamps, coins and memorabilia is one way in which millions of people here in Great Britain and worldwide can, and do, participate in, and feel part of, the Olympic Games. As the exhibition puts it so cleverly: "collecting is the sport of the spectators".

Many people collect simply for that reason; to feel part of, and to have a memento of, an important event in their lives. Often people start collecting when the Olympic Games are held in their nation, and many then go on to collect Olympics as a theme.

Collecting increases knowledge and awareness of the Olympic Movement among all those involved and, as collectors love to share their passion, amongst those with whom they come in contact.

Collectors become unofficial historians for the Olympic movement and undertake detailed research into Olympic history in order to validate their collections. This



is invaluable work for the Olympic Movement.

It is significant that most of the material in the exhibition comes from individual collectors, rather than from institutions such as museums. This demonstrates the Olympic spirit actively at work at the grass roots level.

Philatelic exhibitions have been held at the Olympic Games since 1984, but Olympex 2012 is different in two important respects:

For the first time the exhibition will run through both the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games, until 9 September, and will include material on the Paralympic Games as one of the featured topics.

I have an active involvement in both the Olympic and Paralympic Movements and I am delighted at this development.

It is also the first time the exhibition has been conducted in partnership with a major national and international cultural institution and, in the true Olympic spirit, this has lifted some aspects of the exhibition to a new standard.

Postage stamps and postcards, and the British Library, are an excellent fit. Stamps, just like books, tell stories. Indeed each stamp or postcard on display in this exhibition is like an individual page in an illustrated history of the Olympic Games.



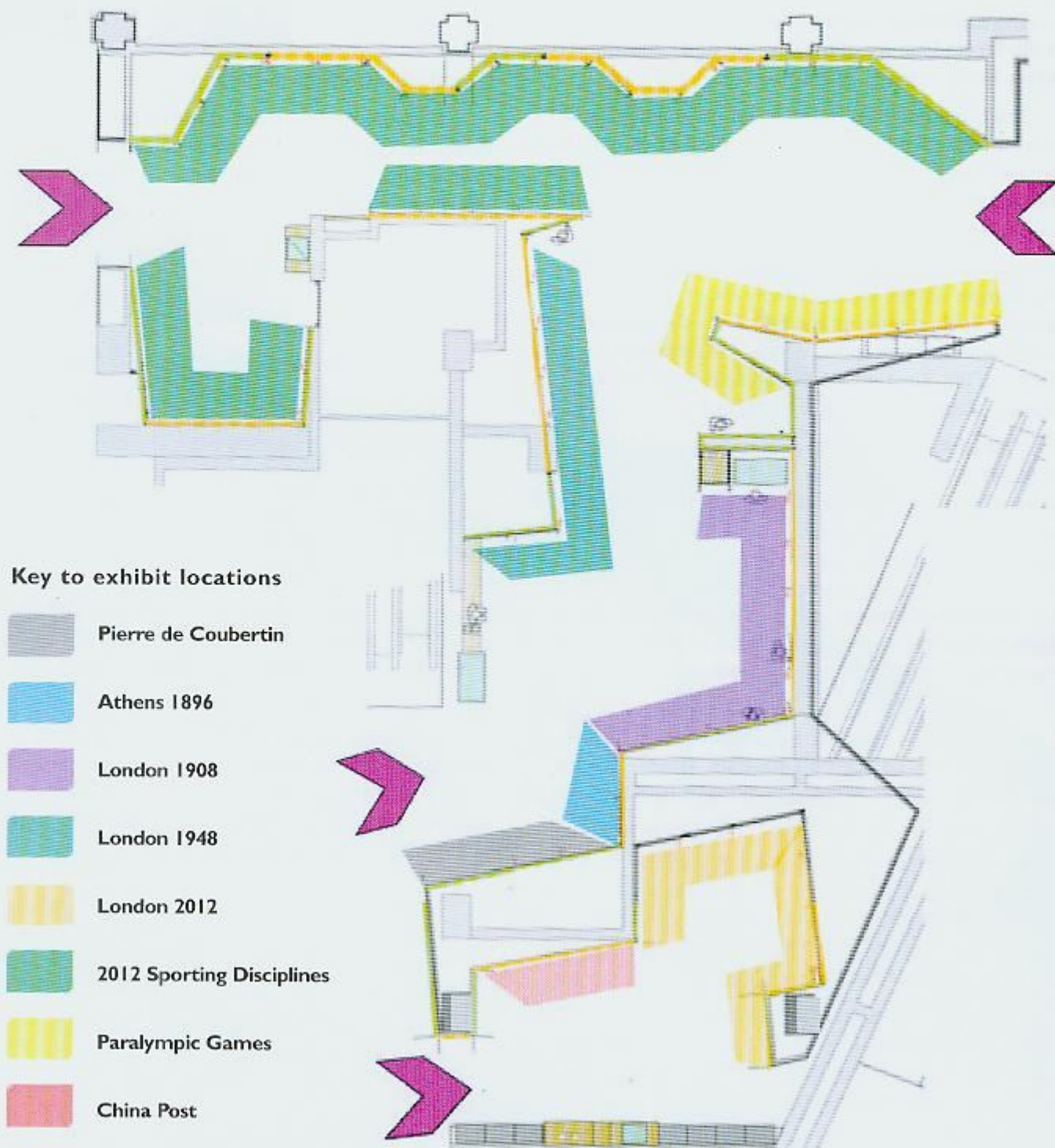
OLYMPEX 2012

Collecting the
Olympic Games

BRITISH
LIBRARY

Front Hall,
British Library,
96 Euston Road,
London, NW1 2DB

July 25th - September 9th 2012



A number of interactive screens and audio/visual points are dispersed throughout the exhibition area.

The Olympic Games, Postage Stamps and Olympex 2012

by David Maiden

From the first modern Games in 1896, postage stamps have been part of the Olympic Games, and the Olympic Movement.

An issue of commemorative stamps raised much needed funds to avoid a deficit in the budget of the Athens 1896 Games, without them the modern Olympic Games may have fallen at the first hurdle.

In times when letters were the practical method of communication for most people, the postage stamp became a "paper ambassador" for the Olympic Movement, conveying the Olympic spirit to countries the world over.



Set of three stamps issued by Belgium to commemorate and promote the Antwerp 1920, VII Olympic Games

Stamps commemorating the Olympic Games have been issued by all host nations since 1920, and by competing nations since 1948. Stamps performed a public relations rôle, and soon became prized as a collectible and a historic record of the Games.



Two designs from the series of stamps issued by Monaco to commemorate the London 1948 Olympic Games.

Olympic philately, collecting Olympic postage stamps, developed internationally.

The President of the International Olympic Committee, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, recognised the important rôle that postage stamps and other collectibles could play in promoting the Olympic Movement.

President Samaranch identified collecting as the "sport of the spectator" and a way in which people could be involved in, and touched by, the Olympic Games. He recognised that behind every stamp lies a story, and potentially a rich vein of Olympic history.



I.O.C. President Samaranch depicted on a stamp issued by San Marino in 1984.

Olympex'84 was staged as a philatelic exhibition in conjunction with the Arts Festival of the Los Angeles 1984 Olympic Games. A temporary Postal Station was established to service covers.



Catalogue of Olympex '84.



Postmark from the 'Olympilex Station' temporary post office, Pasadena.

President Samaranch was instrumental in the organisation of Olympilex '85, held in Lausanne, Switzerland.



Maximum card for Olympilex '85, autographed by I.O.C. President Samaranch.

After Olympilex '87 held in Rome in conjunction with the World Athletic Championships, he proposed that Olympilex should be held during the Olympic Games. Olympic and sport philatelists from all over the world would be invited to submit entries from their collections in future Olympilex exhibitions within competitive classes.

South Korea issued a commemorative postal stationery card in addition to stamps and cancellations for Olympilex '88, held in conjunction with the Seoul 1988 Olympic Games, as proposed by I.O.C. President Samaranch.



Olympilex '87 was promoted by a stamp issue by the Italian postal authorities.

It was the first Olympilex stamp issue by a 'host nation'.



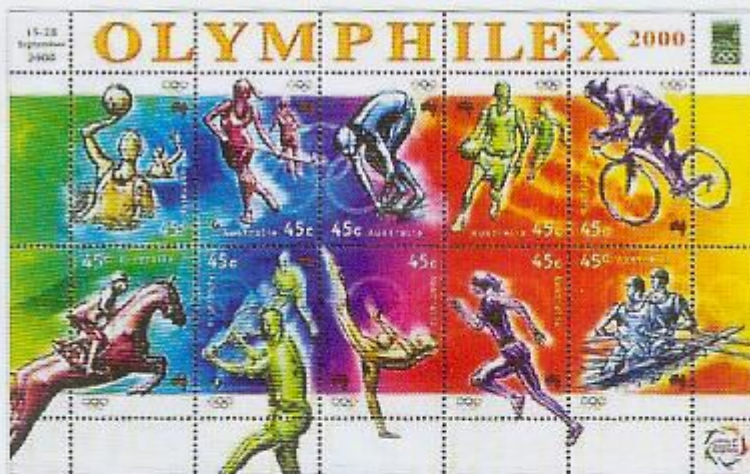
Thus began the tradition we see given expression today in "Olympex 2012". With the addition of Varna 1990, Olympilex has been held during the Olympic Games in Seoul, Barcelona, Atlanta, Sydney and Athens. A common characteristic of those events was the rôle of local philatelic associations in the organising of the exhibitions.



The Vatican City postal administration issued their first Olympic themed stamps for Olympilex '87, and introduced a special cancellation at their sales booth.



Olymphilex '90, held in Varna, Bulgaria, was the last Olymphilex to be held at a location that was not host to the Olympic Games. As well as pictorial postmarks there was a stamp and postal stationery



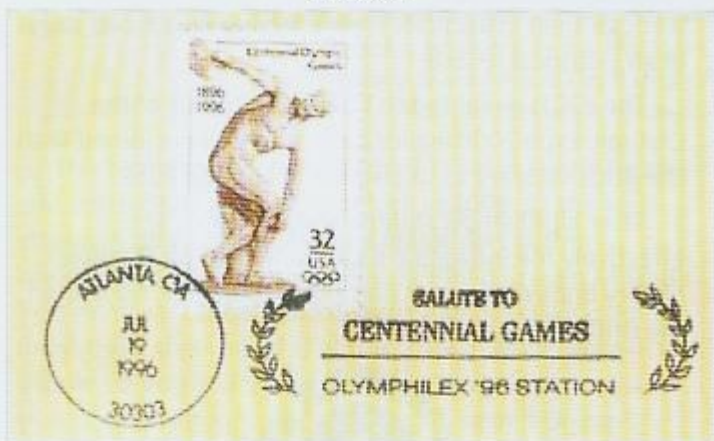
Australia Post overprinted a number of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games sheetlets to commemorate Olymphilex 2000.



Olymphilex '92, and the 1992 Olympic Games were hosted by Barcelona, the city in which Juan Samaranch was born and educated.



Olymphilex 2004 logo and miniature sheet.



Olymphilex '96 postmark used during the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games.



One of the many stamp issues that were produced using the logo of Olymphilex— not all issues were from postal administrations attending the event!

Three of the daily postmarks for Olymphilex 2004





OLYMPIC EXPO

Beijing 2008



Olympilex outgrew the resources that local philatelic associations could provide.

The Beijing 2008 Olympic Games saw a major change in the type of exhibition and the source of support. In Beijing, Olympic Expo 2008 was organised and funded by China Post Group. The exhibition included philatelic items, memorabilia and a trade fair. It was by far the largest and most successful Olympic philatelic exhibition to date.

Following the success of Olympic Expo 2008, and as a mark of respect for Mr. Samaranch, China Post Group provided the I.O.C. with a legacy fund, to support development of the tradition of philatelic exhibitions at future Olympic Games.

For London 2012, the tradition has found expression with a new title, Olympex, a new type of partner, a major national cultural institution, the British Library, and a themed display to enhance the appeal to visitors rather than a specialised competitive exhibit. The exhibits are designed to inspire visitors to become collectors, and through their collections create further illustrated pages in an historical record.

The IOC is delighted to have the support of the Olympic Expo 2008 legacy fund, and to have joined with the British Library as its partner in London 2012.

After all, Olympic stamps and postcards are effectively the individual pages in a book on Olympic history and what better place to display that book than the British Library.



Stamps issued for Olympic Expo Beijing 2008 depicting 1896 and 1928 Olympic stamps, and the Olympic Expo logo and venue



A selection of the many postmarks relating to Olympic Expo 2008



传承奥运



激扬北京

北京2008年奥林匹克博览会——会徽

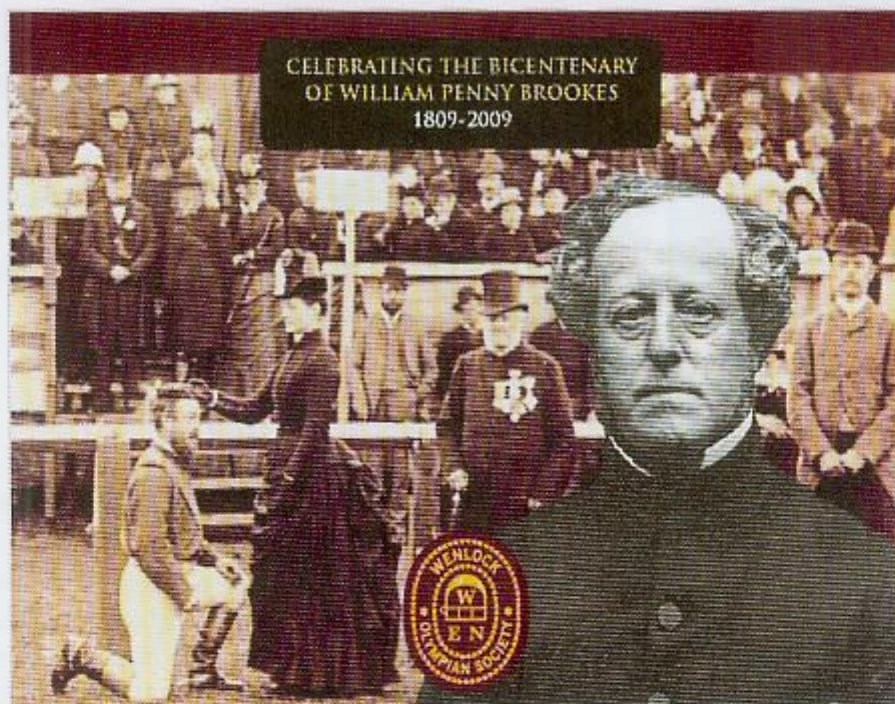


بييجينج 2008 اولمپيك كور كورميس
《北京2008年奥林匹克博览会》
发行纪念
主题：传承奥运 激扬北京
距29届奥运会还有94天
迎奥运 讲文明 树新风



William Penny Brookes – Contributor to the rebirth of the Olympic Games

by Mike Pagomenos



Postcard produced by the Wenlock Olympian Society to commemorate the bicentenary of the birth of Dr. William Penny Brookes. Three versions exist, each with a different quotation from Dr. Brookes on the reverse.

The bicentenary of the birth of William Penny Brookes was celebrated at Much Wenlock in 2009. At the well-attended dinner that played a major part in the celebrations, the key speakers, Sir Philip Craven MBE, IPC President, and Jonathan Edwards CBE of LOCOG, both mentioned their belief that the story of Much Wenlock should be spread far and wide, and they were amazed that such an important part of sporting and Olympic heritage had only become known to them in recent years.

Much Wenlock opens its arms to embrace and welcome visitors at such events, with a very high proportion of the population lending their support and enthusiasm. The local population are proud of their link to the Olympic movement, and the recognition that William Penny Brookes, and the town had gained following the visit of Juan Antonio Samaranch in 1994, when he laid a wreath at the grave of Dr. Penny Brookes

and said: ***"I came to pay homage and tribute to Dr. Brookes, who really was the founder of the modern Olympic Games."***

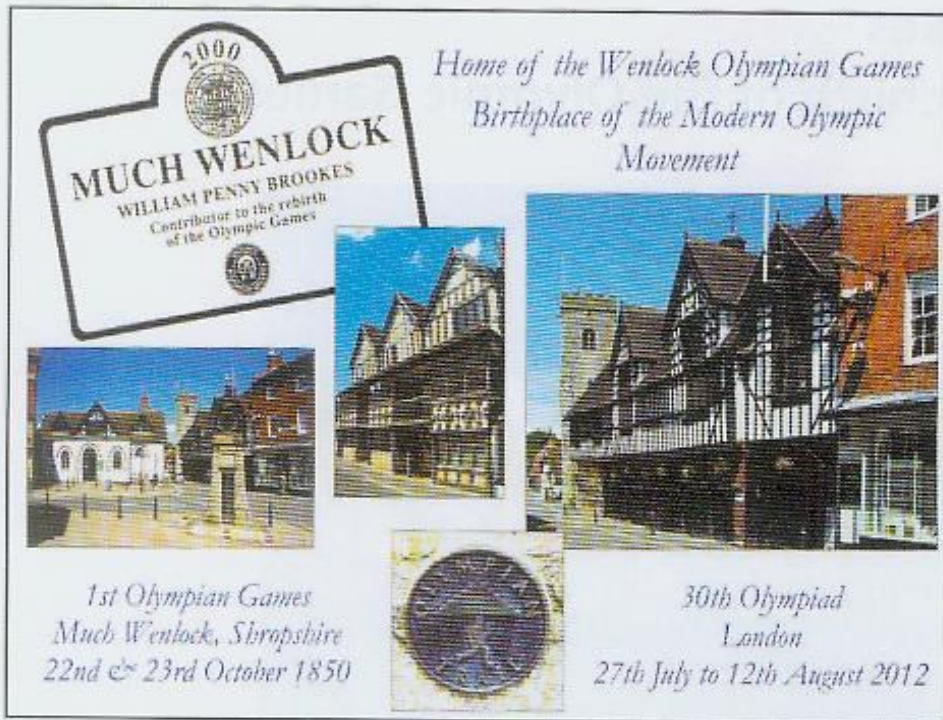
The town name plates now carry approved text confirming official recognition of the role Penny Brookes played in influencing and reinforcing the beliefs of Pierre de Coubertin.

**'MUCH WENLOCK WILLIAM PENNY BROOKES
Contributor to the rebirth of the Olympic Games'**

Dr Brookes founded the Wenlock Agricultural Reading Society (in 1841) to help local people read. In 1850 he formed The Olympian Class of that Society to help local people to improve their physical fitness. In 1859 he renamed The Olympian Class to Wenlock Olympian Games (the same year that the first modern revival of international Olympic Games was held in Athens, Greece). [Refs. 3 and 4]



Bi-Centenary SmartStamp produced by the Society of Olympic Collectors.



1986 Commemorative Handstamp

Postcard PC0102, published by Inner Visions

He adopted events from the 1859 Athens Olympic Games programme in to future programmes of the Wenlock Olympic Games. The first man to be listed on the honorary roll of the Society was one of the first modern international Olympians from the 1859 Games. He was Petros Velissariou from Smyrna in the Ottoman Empire. Other Olympians had travelled from the Ottoman Empire to Greece to compete at the 1859 Games from Macedonia and Crete. Macedonia reunited with Greece in 1912, Crete became part of Greece in 1913 and was an independent country before that. [Refs. 3 and 4]

Dr Brookes co-ordinated the first British national Olympic Games at Crystal Palace in 1866. W.G. Grace, the famous cricketer, was first in the hurdles event. It was the first major sports event to be held outside Greece to resemble an Olympic Games without a stadium. The first modern international Olympic Games to be hosted at a stadium was held in Athens, Greece in 1870. [Refs. 1 and 4]

He invited Baron Pierre de Coubertin of France to visit Much Wenlock in October 1890. [Refs. 1 and 3] The Baron was inspired by him and the Wenlock Olympic Games and later integrated some of his ideas in to the format of future Olympics. Ideas from the 1859, 1870, and 1875 international Olympic Games in Athens were also incorporated by the Greek organising committee in 1896.

References

1. *William Penny Brookes and his Olympic Connection*, by M. Furbank, H. Cromarty and G. McDonald, published by the Wenlock Olympian Society, 1996. [ISBN 09528682-0-2]
2. <http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~nvjack/ancestors/b3467.htm>
3. *The Modern Olympics, A Struggle for Revival* by David C. Young, published by The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996. [ISBN 0-801805374-5]
4. URL: <http://www.zappas.org>



The London 2012 Olympic Torch being carried in Much Wenlock by Dimitrios Eforakoupoulos

Postal History from the Brookes Family.

All of the illustrations that follow are from a collection of nineteenth century entires (a letter that has been folded in to the shape of an envelope and usually sealed with wax for privacy), and covers posted by members of the Brookes family. Anne Brookes had three brothers and one sister. The oldest was her brother William Penny Brookes (Dr Brookes) who founded the Wenlock Olympian Society in 1860.

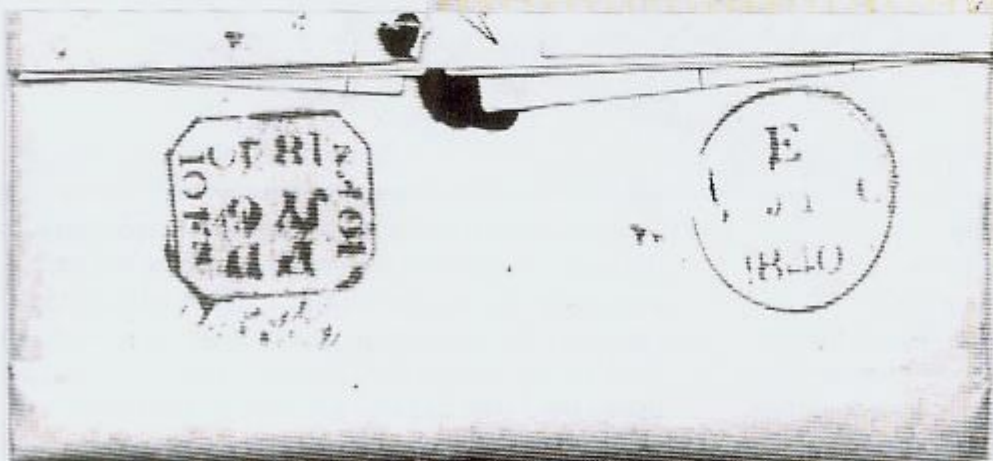
This neatly cross-written, pre-philatelic entire was posted to Mrs Thomas Wilkinson, care of William Brookes, in Much Wenlock and dated July 20, 1839. Anne Brookes married Thomas Wilkinson on August 14, 1838 in Much Wenlock. Anne Brookes was born before July 15, 1820. She died in 1900.

Posted from Hackney it bears 'Hackney' and 'Ironbridge Penny Post' cancels and a receiving postmark on the reverse.

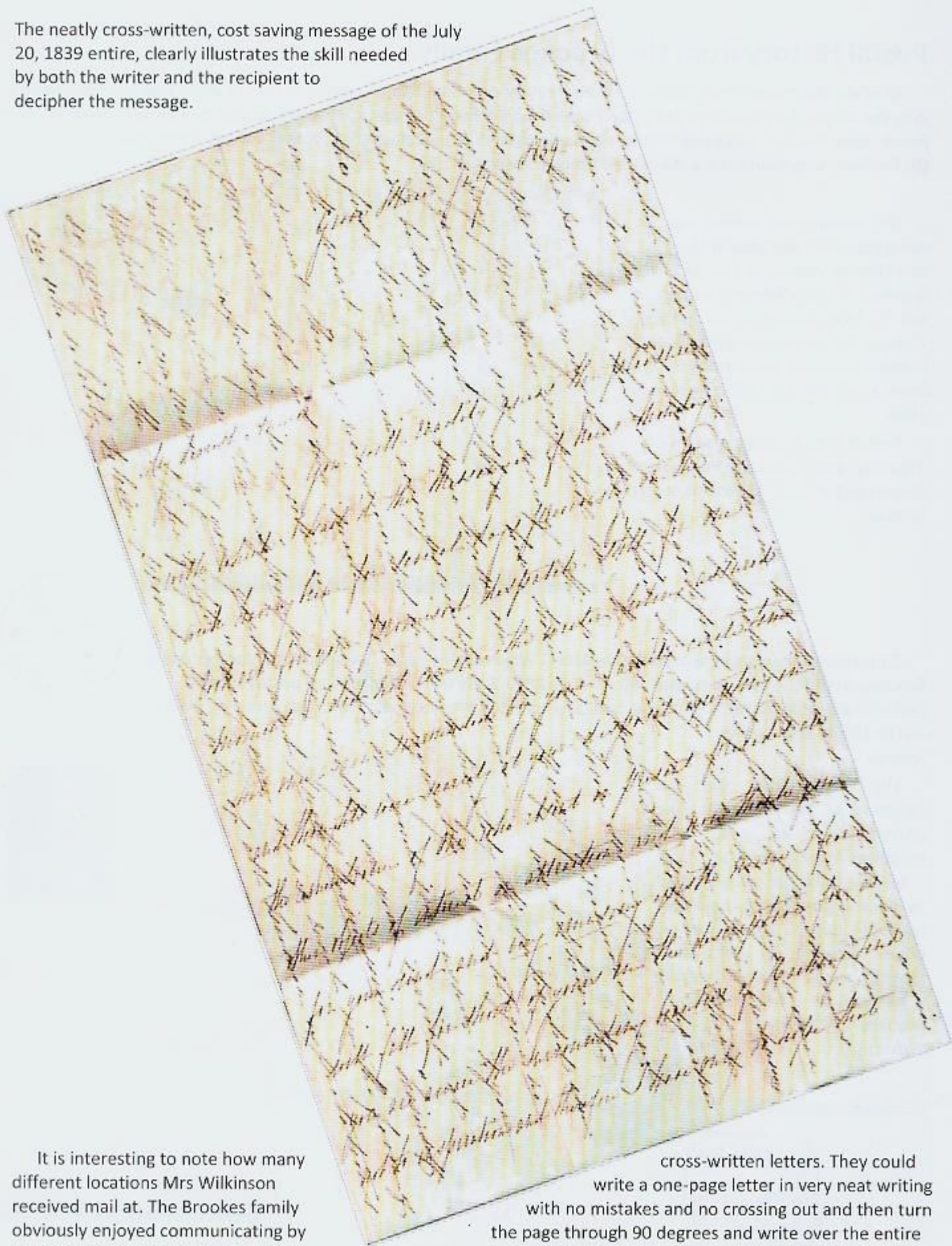


This cross-written entire was posted to Mrs T. Wilkinson, in Upper Clapton, by her mother Mary Brookes, from Much Wenlock, and dated July 6, 1840. Early use of the 1d black postage stamp, tied with a faint Maltese Cross cancel, and clear undated Wenlock postmark. Two receiving marks can be clearly seen on the reverse.

The letter has the full signature of Mary Brookes. She advises Anne to 'take daily moderate exercise' and 'kiss baby ... be sure to let her tumble about as much as possible on the carpet on those days ... she cannot be taken out for it gives such strength to the spine'. The baby is likely to be Mary Anne Marie Brookes (daughter of Anne Wilkinson).



The neatly cross-written, cost saving message of the July 20, 1839 entire, clearly illustrates the skill needed by both the writer and the recipient to decipher the message.



It is interesting to note how many different locations Mrs Wilkinson received mail at. The Brookes family obviously enjoyed communicating by post. They were prolific letter writers. Mary Brooke's husband was a doctor, as was her son William Penny Brookes and his brother Andrew Goode Brookes. Their privileged education is evident in their

cross-written letters. They could write a one-page letter in very neat writing with no mistakes and no crossing out and then turn the page through 90 degrees and write over the entire page again. The recipient would read the letter in the same way. They did this to save postage since two pages doubled the postage cost. The same page could also be used a third time by turning it through 45 degrees.

A home-made envelope, from which the letter is missing, 2d. postage paid on delivery by Mrs T. Wilkinson in Lower Clapton, posted from Much Wenlock on February 21, 1848. Clear, dated Much Wenlock and Ironbridge postmarks. Red wax seal on reverse.



A cover with 2d. postage paid on delivery by Mrs Wilkinson in Lower Clapton, posted from Much Wenlock on February 1, 1850 with dated Much Wenlock and Shiffnal postmarks.



Note the tidy, small black wax seal on the back of this envelope. The Brookes family used a number of seals over the years. These had different designs and regular recipients could recognise who the letter was from just by looking at the seal.



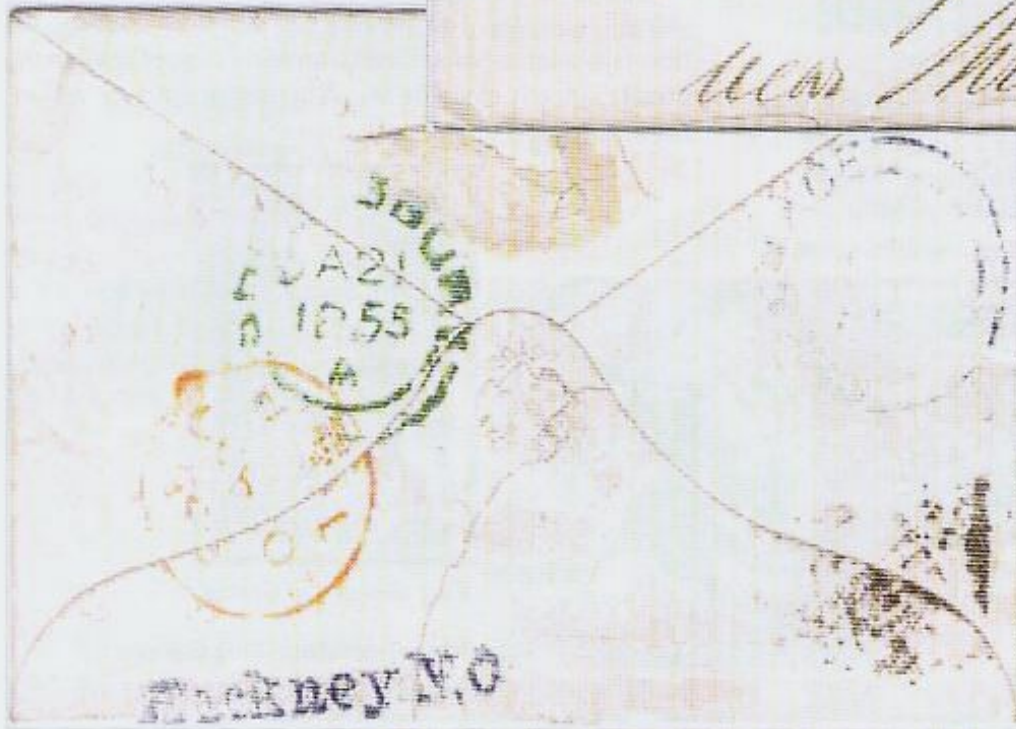
A cover posted to Mrs Wilkinson, care of W.P. Brookes in Much Wenlock, from Hackney on November 23, 1853. Imperforate 1d. red-brown postage stamp tied with faint spoon cancel. Clear Hackney and Much Wenlock postmarks on the reverse.



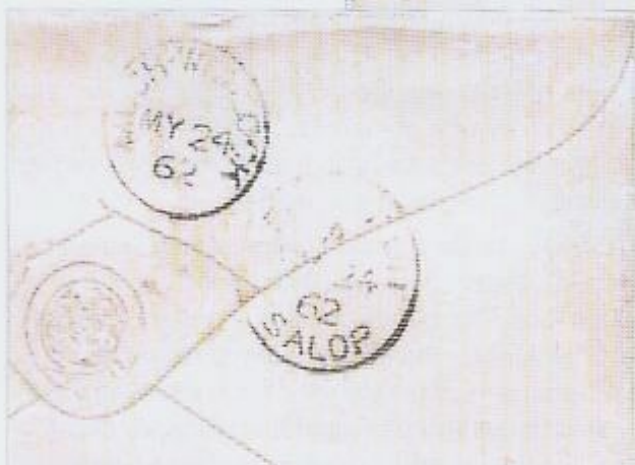
A cover posted to Mrs Wilkinson, care of W. Brookes, Much Wenlock, on February 15, 1854 from Hackney. An imperforate 1d red stamp tied with spoon cancel. Dated Hackney and Much Wenlock postmarks on reverse.



A cover posted to Thomas Wilkinson, the husband of Anne Wilkinson, care of Andrew Goode Brookes, her brother in Cressage, near Shrewsbury, in 1855. Perforate 1d red stamp tied with smudged spoon cancel. Hackney, Shrewsbury and Cressage postmarks on the reverse.



Cover addressed to Mrs Thos. Wilkinson, care of W. P. Brookes. Posted from London by Dr Brookes, addressed in his own handwriting. Perforate 1d red stamp tied with clear London postmark dated May 23, 1862. Much Wenlock and Bourton Salop sub-post office postmarks on reverse.



The postal history illustrated here is part of a private collection of Brookes' family postal history. A similar collection can be found in The National Archives.

Athens 1896: The First Olympic Games of the Modern Era

by Maurizio Tecardi

Following the decision taken in Paris on 23rd June 1894 during the last Session of the 1st Congress of the International Olympic Committee that had selected Athens as host of the first Olympic Games of the Modern era, an organising committee headed by the Crown Prince was created in Greece. Subscriptions were immediately solicited to gather the necessary funds for construction of the sport facilities and to cover the costs of the organisation. Everything was carried out in record time. The date of the opening of the Olympic Games, 25th March 1896, was significant for the Greek population because it commemorated the 75th anniversary of the declaration of independence from Turkey.

It must be noted that until 1924, two calendars were in use: the Gregorian calendar in Greece and, in the rest of the world, the Julian calendar. The two calendars differed by 12 days. Consequently the 25th March in Athens was the 6th April in the rest of the world.



The refurbished stadium, main venue of the Athens 1896 Olympic Games, illustrated on the 1 Drachma stamp from the series issued and sold at a surcharge to provide funding for the Games.

The large Athens stadium was rebuilt on the ruins and site of an ancient stadium, thanks to the financial contribution of an important benefactor, George Averoff from Epirus, and was filled with people on the day of the Opening Ceremony.



George Averoff commemorated as a 'National Benefactor' on a Greek stamp issued in 1973.



The 10 Drachma value of the the 1896 stamp issue with an impressive engraved view of the Acropolis.

Over 100,000 spectators were present despite it being a rainy day, and because of the limited number of tickets available (which led to an early case of scalping), private citizens could be seen auctioning entry tickets in the streets and squares of Athens.



King George I of Greece.

Before the cheering spectators, King George I pronounced the ritual opening: "I declare open the Games of the 1st Olympiad of the modern era". Athletic competitions began immediately, thus making Pierre de Coubertin's dream come true. The first winner of an Olympic competition was an American, T.A. Lane; he won the first heat of the 100m. The first Olympic champion was another American, James B. Connolly, who won the triple jump. At these first Games the supremacy of the North American athletes soon became apparent as they won numerous Olympic titles, especially in athletics. Athletes from France, Switzerland, Germany and Greece also won medals.

The Greek athlete Spiridon Louis created fervour amongst the Greek spectators with his victory in the marathon race. This race took place in memory of the soldier Philippides (or Pheidippides) who ran 42 km to bring Athens news of the victory over the Persian army led by King Darius at the town of Marathon, an event that marked the rebirth of Greece. Later the Greek citizens decided that the best athlete of the competitions had been Louis, who then became part of Olympic



Spiridon Louis, commemorated as a Greek Olympic champion on a 3c. stamp issued to promote the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.



The design of the poster for the Athens 1896 Olympic Games.

history as the popular hero of the 1st Modern Olympiad.

Winners of events received olive branches from Olympia, a diploma, and a silver medal as prizes. Those who achieved second place received a laurel wreath and a bronze medal.

The first Olympic Games should have closed on 2nd April with the proclamation of the winners and the distribution of prizes but, due to bad weather, the ceremony was postponed to the following day. King George of Greece distributed the prizes and announced, to the applause of spectators, the end of "The first International Olympic Games" on the 3rd April 1896.



Olympic champions at the Athens 1896 Olympic Games were presented with silver medals.



The only known first day cover with a full set of the 1896 Olympic stamps (with an arrival mark) reproduced as a postcard.

London 1908

The 1908 Games were staged in London after Rome withdrew in 1906. The Games took place in conjunction with the Franco-British Exhibition, between April and October 1908, with over 2,000 athletes (of which less than 50 were women) representing 22 nations. It included events such as power-boat racing and tug-of-war, which are no longer sports at the Olympic Games, while ice-skating appeared for the first time.

The Games were important in the development of many of the key attributes of the Olympic Games as we know them today. Athletes competed by country for the first time. That was a clear success, but was not without its problems at the time. There was a full Opening Ceremony with a parade of the athletes. Clear sets of rules for each sport were published, but problems and incidents showed the need for universal international rules, and also for international judges, the impartiality of the national (British) judges being seriously questioned on occasion. This was vividly demonstrated with the marathon, by far the most popular event of the Games, and with a dramatic and highly controversial finish. That race set off a marathon mania, and ultimately led to the somewhat arbitrary distance of 26 miles 385 yards (42.195 metres) becoming the standard international and Olympic distance for the race.

At first glance, the 1908 Olympic Games are a challenge for the collector. Unlike 1896 there were no stamps, but for those interested in the story of the Games, its competitors and its medallists there is a wealth of material to collect, though it does not always scream 'Olympic'!



Known from the Post Office Impressions Book, and often illustrated, is the most tantalising item of 1908 Olympic postal history. It is the handstamp from a mobile telegraph office situated under the stadium during the main period of the Olympics from 13 July to 25 July. In the IOC publication *Revue Olympique* of July 1908 it is reported (in French) that "the telegraph was installed in a large and prominent postal vehicle. One approached the lower windows, and, after having written by resting on the monumental mud-guards, one passed the dispatches to the employee sitting inside." Since the primary users will have been reporters, it is perhaps not surprising that no example is known to have survived.

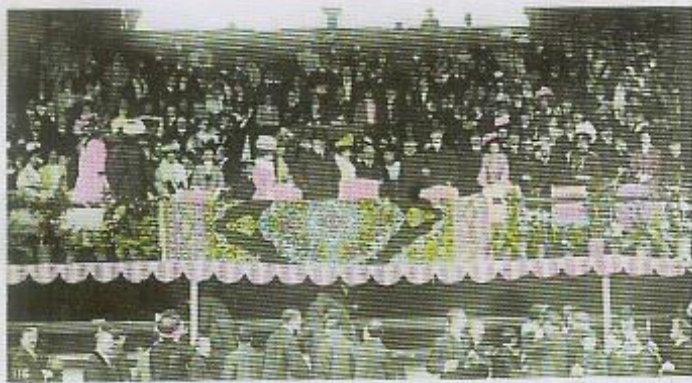
There were no stamps—the first British commemoratives were many years away—but there were vignettes. These are much sought after today, but it has to be said that their availability to Olympic spectators is very uncertain. They come in 8 different colours, perforated or imperforate, and were printed in Paris, se-tenant with

other labels. They refer to the non-existent "British Olympic Committee" (the Games were organised by the Council of the British Olympic Association), and if they were sold in London, it will presumably have been in one of the French Pavilions of the Franco-British Exhibition. Exhibition vignettes can be found regularly on postcards sent from the Exhibition, but not the "British Olympic Committee" vignettes.



So what are the truly Olympic items to collect? First and foremost it must be postcards. There are hundreds of cards relating to the 1908 Olympics, competitors and medallists, but most, like the card above, hide their light under a bushel. The sensation of the Franco-British Exhibition was the *Flip-Flap*, a giant two-armed swing giving views over the whole exhibition, and, from the top, Windsor to the west (where the marathon started) and Crystal Palace in the south. The postcard producer clearly thought that "Greetings from the Flip-flap" was a more

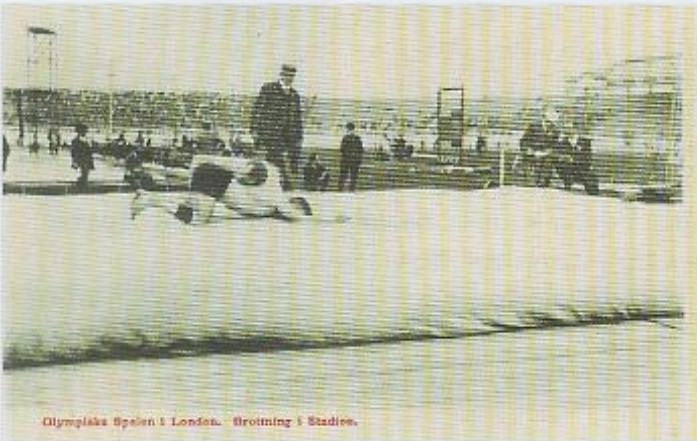




stadium, one of which views can be found captioned "The Great Stadium, the Olympic Games 1908" (although the photograph was actually taken during the AAA trials). Their cards would be posted in one of the postboxes in the FBE. Olympic collectors look out for the two FBE cancels, especially for the key dates between 13 and 25 July, and also 20-31 October, when the autumn events of soccer, rugby, lacrosse and hockey took place. Of the thousands of cards posted, only a minority of messages will be Olympic, but their fascination make them well worthwhile hunting down.

appealing caption than "Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games", for that is indeed what the photo shows. There is an Olympic advertising hoarding in the foreground, and athletes marching round the running track prior to saluting as they passed the Royal Box (except that Ralph Rose, the United States flag-bearer,

The stadium was not just used for athletics. Outside the running track (which was $\frac{1}{3}$ mile long) was a cycle track, there was a pool for swimming, diving and water polo, and gymnastics, wrestling and archery all took place on the field. Olympic events elsewhere started in April with indoor tennis at Queen's Club, Kensington. There was outdoor tennis at Wimbledon in July, shooting at Bisley in the week before the athletics, and rowing at Henley the week after. There was yachting at Ryde and on the Clyde, power-boat racing in Southampton Water, and polo took place at Hurlingham. Cards sent at the time can provide a fascinating record. Bisley Camp Post Office was normally only open for the shooting each summer. In 1908 it was opened especially for the Olympic tournament, so postmarks 9-11 July are truly Olympic.

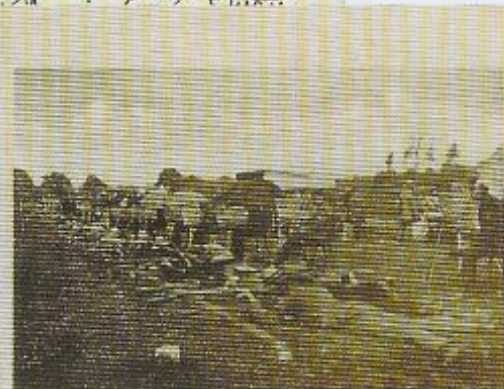


There are many postcards of Olympians. A Brighton photographer photographed most of the United States team at their training base in the town, and many British competitors and medallists can be seen on postcards proudly wearing their Olympic team badge, the first such badge. Several medallists were fêted on their return home, and cards can be found of their receptions.

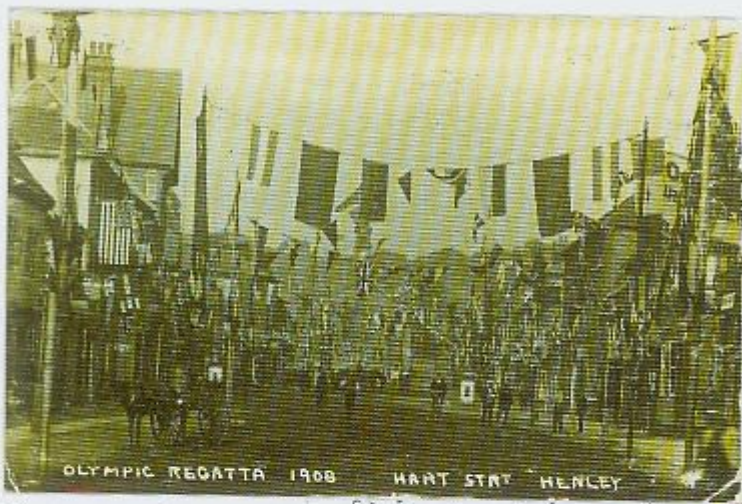
famously did not—though he did dip the "Stars and Bars" with all the other teams when lined up on the field). Another card records a key moment of the Opening Ceremony, when King Edward VII declared the Games open, although the first printing of the card put the event in 1909. Thereafter, the best action postcards of the Games were published in Sweden. Health and Strength magazine published an excellent series of cards depicting Olympic competitors and medallists. Spectators and competitors had to record their memories on postcards of the Franco-British Exhibition, or the



Card sent by Léon Tétart, who competed for France in several events, with Bisley Camp postmark for an Olympic date.



SHOOTING FOR THE KING'S PRIZE. BISLEY.



The streets of Henley were attractively festooned for the Olympic Regatta, and the decorations are recorded on several postcards. There is also a series of views of the regatta itself. Whereas today for team events there is normally only one team per country, in 1908 club teams could be and were accepted. So, in the rowing there were British eights from Leander Club and Cambridge University, while Belgium were represented by *Club Nautique de Ghent*. In the tug-of-war Liverpool Police controversially outwitted the Americans. They then defeated Sweden, but lost to the City of London Police in the final.

DAVIDSON BROS. REAL PHOTO
LONDON & NEW YORK, PA.
We have just seen the
Vindication of English
Rowing on the field of
the fight in the Olympic
Regatta - Leander rowed
splendidly & quite outlasted
the Belgians - Glorious
day!!
by one Hailey day!!
Yours always
D.B.



1908 OLYMPIC REGATTA 1908, LEANDER V BELGIUM

silver in Stockholm in 1912.

A more celebrated competitor, Ray Ewry of the USA, is depicted on 4 stamps, including one from the USA itself. Britain's Sybil (Queenie) Newall who won Gold in the Ladies Double National Round in the Archery is depicted on a 1996 stamp from St. Vincent.



There may not have been Olympic stamps in 1908, but philatelic commemoration began in 1960 with the first stamp depicting a 1908 competitor being issued in France. The stamp marks the achievements of Jean Bouin. In the heats of the 3 mile team race on 14 July 1908 he secured the fastest time, but that evening celebrated Bastille Day rather too well in Soho. He got into a drunken fight, was arrested and jailed. Bailed, he started the final but did not finish. He went on to win



Henry Taylor, who won 3 Gold Medals for Great Britain in the swimming is commemorated on a stamp from the Central African Republic in 1972, and from Sierra Leone in 2003. Another British swimmer, who won Gold in the





relay and in water polo is celebrated on a 1991 stamp from Guyana. The same Guyana series celebrates US swimmer Charles Daniels (Gold in the 100m freestyle) and Jenő Fuchs of Hungary who won Gold in the individual and team sabre. Competing in the sabre for Bohemia (then a country) was Vilém Goppold von Lobsdorf. He is not depicted on a stamp, but on a 1998 postmark from Prague in the Czech Republic. A stamp from a Bahamas miniature sheet in a series '100 Years of Olympic Stamps' anonymously depicts Eric Lemming, who won Gold in the



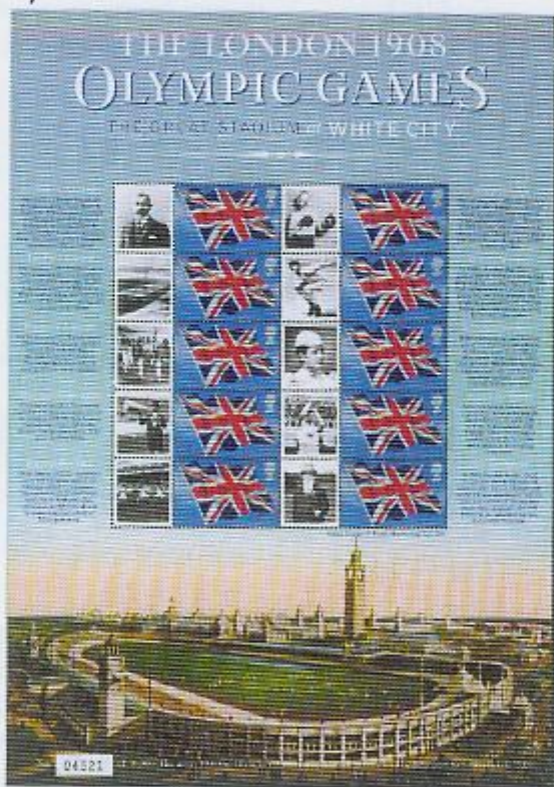
javelin and freestyle javelin events. He is also depicted on stamps from his native Sweden (1986), Montserrat (1995) and St. Vincent (1996).

Winter sports were introduced into the Olympics in 1908, figure skating taking place at the Princes Club. Annie Hübler-Horn took Gold in the pairs, partnered by Heinrich Burger. She is celebrated on a German stamp, both of them on a stamp from the Yemen Arab Republic (1972). Nikolay Panin (Kolomenkin) won skating Gold in the Special Figures, and is commemorated on a Russian stamp marking the Millennium.

In all there are some 60 stamps relating to the 1908 Games. None is rare or expensive, and together they make an informative collection.



1908-2008—Centenary of the Games and the Marathon— Italian and British Stamps, postmarks and SmartStamps



London 1948

The Games were again held in London in 1948. The climate of austerity following World War II meant reliance on existing facilities, such as Herne Hill velodrome for the cycling, and Wembley Stadium, opened in 1923. Accommodation for the teams and officials was provided at military camps and at colleges.

Germany and Japan were not invited to participate, but over 4,000 athletes from 59 nations were represented at the Opening Ceremony on 29 July in Wembley Stadium.

Fanny Blankers-Koen, the thirty year old Dutch athlete, secured four Gold medals in sprint and hurdles events. The star of the Games, she earned the title "*the Flying Dutchwoman*".

On 14 August, IOC President Sigfrid Edström pronounced "... we declare the Games of the XIVth Olympiad closed ... I call upon the youth of the world to assemble four years from now in Helsinki to celebrate the Games of the XVth Olympiad". *The Spirit of the Olympic Games had overcome the disruption of war.*

Stamps

There were 4 British stamps, shown here on a presentation card produced by the printers to show the quality of their work.

The stamps were overprinted for use in five overseas territories in North Africa and the Middle East:

Bahrain



Kuwait



Morocco

Agencies

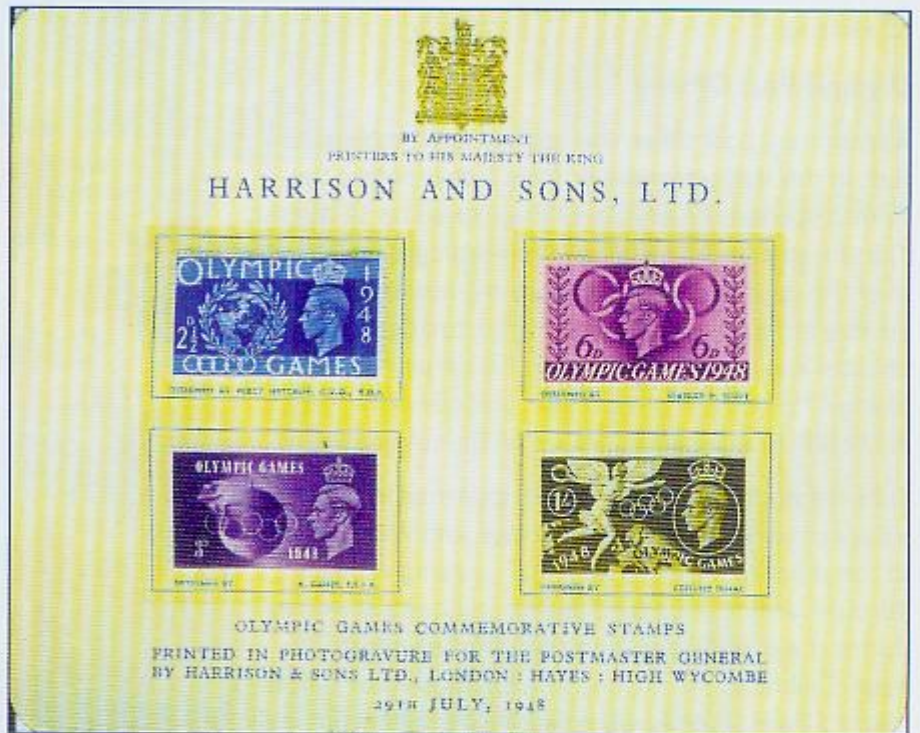


Muscat

(Indian currency only, no name.)



Tangier



Air Letter: the world's first commemorative aerogramme was issued on the same day as the stamps, 29 July 1948, the date the Games opened. (The illustration shows the value tablet misplaced downwards.)



Postmarks

A commemorative machine postmark was introduced on the first day of issue of the stamps, and remained in use until the closing day of the Games, 14 August. It was only applied to mail posted in one of six designated post-boxes in the vicinity of the Olympic Stadium in Wembley. Mail posted elsewhere in Wembley received an ordinary wavy-line postmark.

Skeleton cancellers were used for stamps that missed regular postmarking; five are known, with different settings of the lettering, date and time. One, or possibly two, packet cancels were also occasionally used on Olympic mail, or more commonly, a regular double ring handstamp.

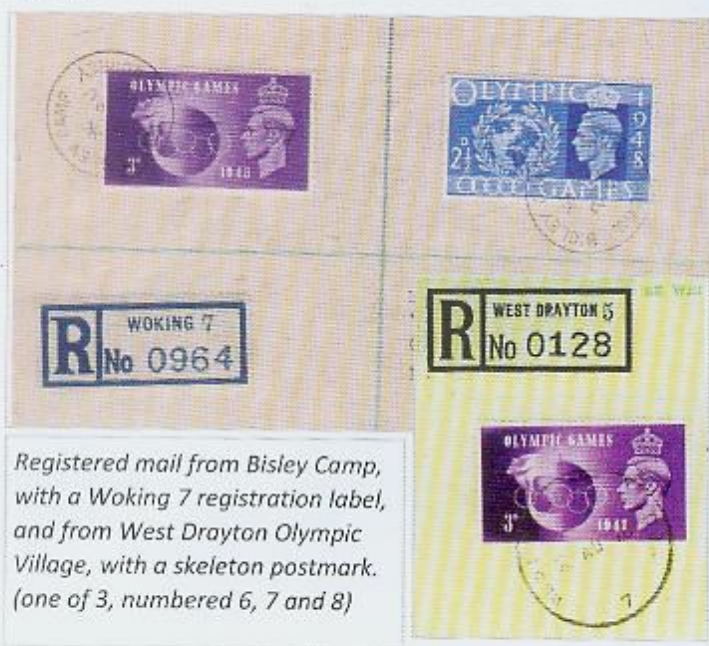
Olympic Post Offices

A temporary post office was opened in Wembley Civic Hall, in the stadium grounds, from 2 days before the Games opened (27 July), until they closed on 14 August. The Olympic postmark was not available for mail handed over the counter, much to the annoyance of overseas visitors especially. Mail requiring postmarking at the counter was cancelled with one of 6 circular handstamps marked "WEMBLEY MIDDLESEX" and numbered 11-16. A 'WEMBLEY 40' label was used on registered mail.

Other temporary post offices were opened in the Olympic Villages at Richmond Park, Uxbridge, and West Drayton, at the shooting venue, Bisley, and yachting venue, Torquay. A mobile post office was stationed at Henley during the rowing, and Aldershot for the equestrian events. None of the postmarks from these post offices identify themselves as Olympic. All are scarce, but mail sent by competitors and officials can be found every so often.



Registered cover sent from Richmond Park Olympic Village by an Italian weightlifter, Giuseppe Colantuono with 'KINGSTON-ON-THAMES 9' cds & 'KINGSTON-ON-THAMES 33' R-label.



Registered mail from Bisley Camp, with a Woking 7 registration label, and from West Drayton Olympic Village, with a skeleton postmark. (one of 3, numbered 6, 7 and 8)

Ticket Office Meter

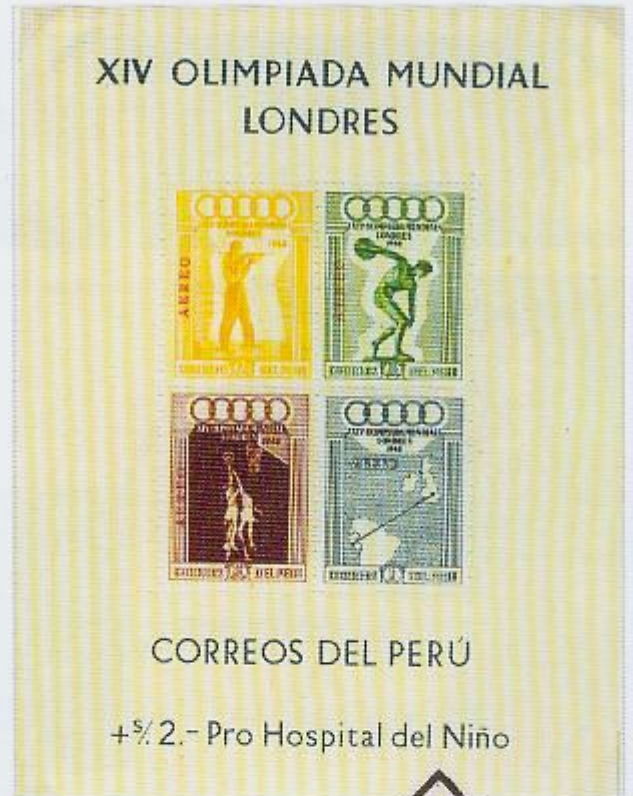
This meter with a running track design was used from December 1947.



Stamps From Other Countries

Just four countries issued stamps in 1948:

Austria, Korea, Monaco and Peru. The 4 Peruvian stamps also come in a miniature sheet.



Postmarks

Roller cancels "Support the Olympic Appeal" were used in a dozen towns in Finland, either in Finnish, or in Finnish and Swedish.



Stars of the 1948 Games—Emil Zatopek

One of the most celebrated runners of his generation, he was competing in only his second 10,000m when he won Gold in 1948. In the 5,000m he was second to Gaston Reiff of Belgium. In 1952, having taken 5,000m and 10,000m Golds he decided to compete in the marathon, the first he had ever run, and astonishingly secured Gold in an Olympic record time. Injury affected him in 1956, and he could only finish 6th in the marathon.



Stamps from his native Czechoslovakia, 1954, 1965, and 1968, and from the Czech Republic, 2002



Stamps from around the world



Haiti 1969



Maldives 1996



Togo 1996



Guyana 1991

A British commemorative sheet for the Opening of the new Wembley Stadium included 20 first class stamps (lion and shield) with se-tenant vignettes, including one depicting Emil Zatopek [with a heavy screen], and one recording his 1948 victory. The initial print had a spelling mistake, 'Emile' for 'Emil'.



Grenada 1996

Stars of the 1948 Games—Fanny Blankers-Koen

Every Olympic Games produces a star, and in 1948 it was Fanny Blankers-Koen, 'the Flying Dutchwoman' who won 4 Gold medals in the sprints. In the 100m and 200m she comfortably beat Britons Dorothy Manley and Audrey Williamson into second place, but in the 80m hurdles secured victory over Maureen Gardner by a nose. Her 4th medal was in the 4 x 100m relay. She took over in 4th place for the final leg, but sprinted past Joyce King of Australia to secure Gold.



Netherlands 2010



Dominican Republic, 1957—Missing red & blue



Guyana 1991—se-tenant in a miniature sheet with Emil Zatopek



Guyana 1996



Mongolia 1969



Palau 1996



Guyana 1996



St Kitts 2011—
shaking hands with
Maureen Gardner



Apeldoorn town post
1972

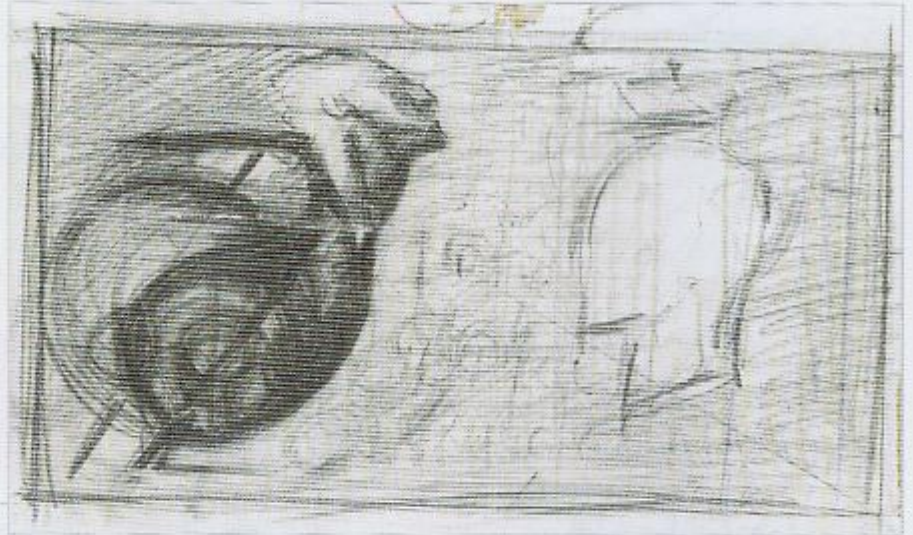


Maldives 1996

The Design of a Stamp—1948 3^D—Abram Games—Artist's drawings



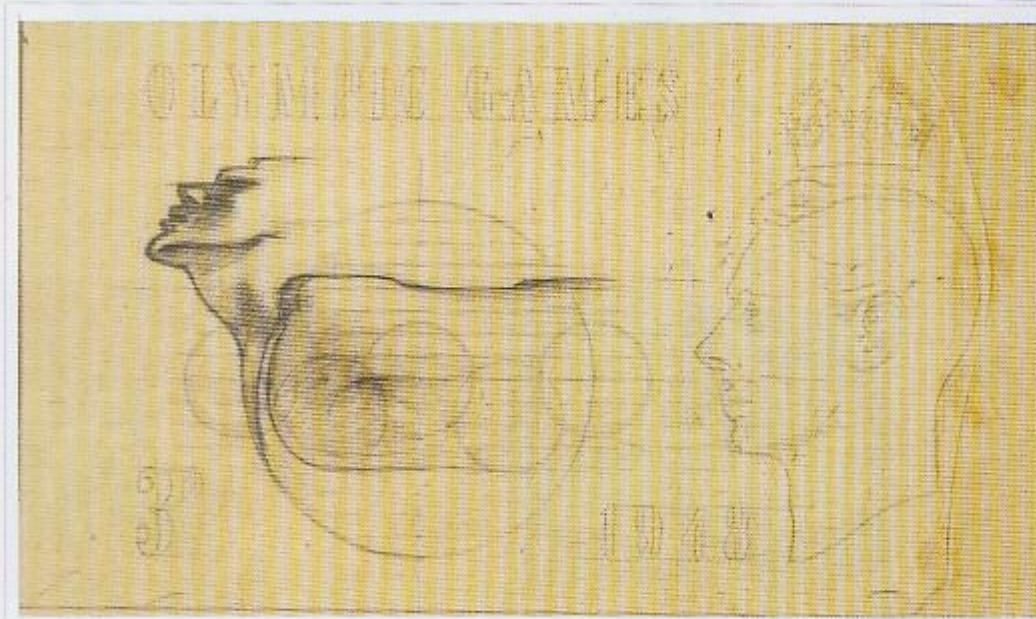
The germ of an idea—including a Torch, and, below, the first attempt to work in the lettering: the Olympic rings are causing difficulty—only 3 are shown.



As the design takes shape the torch metamorphoses into a head.



The turning point—the head is moved to the left

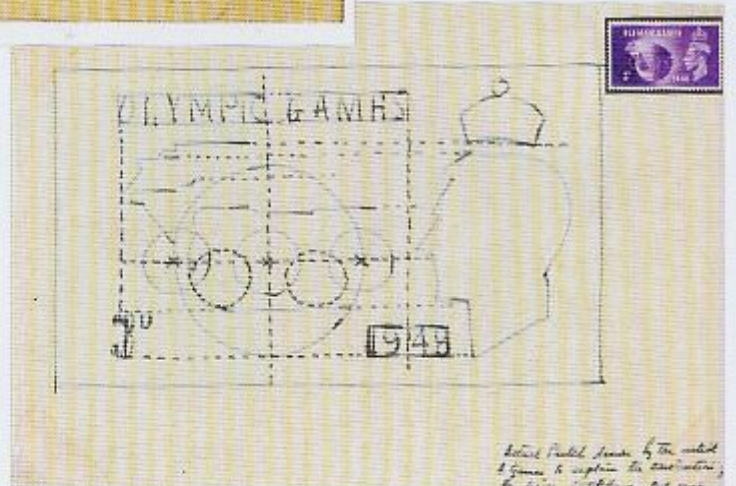


The key drawing showing the design close to realisation

A sketch drawn by A. Games to explain the construction of the design to C. P. Rang (Editor of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*) in October 1948.



The issued stamp



Items above are reproduced with the permission of the family of Abram Games. The item to the right is in a private collection and is reproduced by permission of the owner.

Actual Postal Service of the United States to explain the construction of the design of the stamp.

German applicants to host the 2012 Olympic Games - From OLYMP-POST to the World

by Thomas Lippert

The hopes of German sports fans were raised when the German National Olympic Committee (NOC) confirmed interest in bidding to host the 2012 Olympic Games. Five cities applied for selection as the German candidate to host the 2012 Games: Stuttgart, Düsseldorf (Rhine-Ruhr-Region), Hamburg, Frankfurt am Main and Leipzig.

This internal selection period was an 'Eldorado' for Olympic collectors, because there was an abundance of philatelic material for documenting this initial step.

Franking meters form the bulk of these items. Meter examples from the bid offices, cities and sponsors:



The selection process of the German NOC, considers the sailing venue independently, and again five cities campaigned for selection – Rostock was announced as the

selected candidate in preference to Cuxhaven, Lübeck, Stralsund with Rugenia Island, and Kiel.

The city of Stralsund used two machine cancellations during their candidacy, the irony being that one of the dies was used in Mail Sorting Centre 18, processing the mail for the region of competitor city Rostock.

On April 12th, 2003, in a very emotional ceremony at a theatre in Munich the delegates of German Sports Federations selected the city of Leipzig as the German candidate. Actor Sir Peter Ustinoff campaigned – for the Frankfurt bid!



Initially, the selection appeared surprising, but it was then seen as a politically influenced decision - a tribute to the city, in which the "Monday demonstrations" started that finally led to the fall of the Berlin wall. On April 12th, 2003 – With Leipzig and Rostock selected, each city with its own bid logo, an official application was submitted for Germany to host the 2012

Note that the code in the meter includes a letter as identifier for the supplier (type), a digital code for machine type/supplier (first 2 digits), and the unique identification of the machine used (final 4 numbers). Olympic games. There were some misleading signals from Lausanne at the time of the application, such as "Returning to more modest Olympics", that raised the

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The upper marginal inscription includes "The first Olympic candidacy stamps of Germany" and the lower margin lists the areas of delivery: Germany (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Berlin Brandenburg), Europe and the 'rest of the world' – which is still to be explained.

By comparing the sheets and marginal inscriptions it is easy to identify the stamp positions.

An official first day postmark was used only for the cancellation of special envelopes.



Only one day after the stamps were released a franking meter was introduced. The value frame identifies the core enterprise RIDAS, which had been in operation since 1999, with its license number, the advertising flag refers to the newly created subsidiary OLYMP-POST. The value of "00000" seems to make the imprint superfluous, but it does not. For business mail payment was on monthly account, and therefore only the date marker was required. Commercial producers of franking meter machines could only offer those styles of machines that had been in use for many years, including a value tablet. The franking meter was also used as a cancellation (and as a counter) for items deposited in mail boxes, but never to record any additional postage cost.

The marginal inscriptions with delivery areas were also significant: it was the first time in the new German postal regime that worldwide delivery was offered by one of the

Commercial use on the first day, with an ordinary cancellation.



new private mail services.

The license granted allowed delivery to all areas of the Federal Republic of Germany, however, initially it was only possible to send mail within Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, and then after Oct. 1st, 2003, to the regions of Berlin and Brandenburg. It was possible to mail from the OLYMP-POST boxes to all destinations outside Germany. A very strange situation - you could send a letter to USA, but not to nearby Hamburg!

The very limited cooperation between the newly established private mail services inside Germany, was responsible for this anomaly because delivery within a reasonable time could not be guaranteed.

How was it possible to service overseas mail? The solution was simple - the use of the services of SPRING, described as "the world's largest private international business mail provider". SPRING was formed in 2003 as a joint venture of Royal Mail, TPG (Netherlands) and Singapore Post, and was later operated without the Asian partner. The mail was collected by them from RIDAS/OLYMP-POST if the volume exceeded a value of €27. Postal experts describe this method of sending mail as "ABC re-mailing", officially forbidden by the UPU and the subject of many legal conflicts.





There was no real reason for a new stamp issue, but there were ongoing contracts with clients from the area. These contracts were fulfilled by the offices of RIDAS, with continued use of OLYMP-POST in the meters. Only one client from this period has been named (City administration). The value indicator was substituted later.



Very few special first day covers were genuinely mailed when the stamps were introduced. The example illustrated is of special interest because it was sent abroad: from OLYMP-POST via SPRING to Malta and from there into the postal stream. Other places for feeding this mail into the regular postal stream were hubs at the airports of Brussels, Paris (Le Bourget) and Amsterdam (Schiphol).



A legal process taking place in the High Court regarding controversy between German Post and the private mail services about use of the word 'Post' resulted in OLYMP-POST taking mitigating action and ruling through the word POST manually in black ink. This only took place for a short period, until the court concluded that use of the word 'Post' was unrestricted. This episode is recorded by the Michel catalogue, which describes the stamps with black ink lines as a second issue.

The exclusive license of the German Post for certain mail services ended in December 2007 and led to further liberalisation of the postal market. Change has been ongoing. The private mail service RIDAS was acquired by the Dutch TNT (and is now fully integrated within the company). The subsidiary OLYMP-POST has been deleted from the commercial register, but still has given us the opportunity to record the application of Rostock to host the sailing events of the 2012 Olympic Games through philatelic material, and at the same time record important steps in the evolution of the postal service.

The Olympic hopes of Leipzig and Rostock ended earlier than expected, when they did not progress to the short list of candidate cities selected by the IOC executive committee. The party at the harbour in Rostock, with a special OLYMP-POST postal booth present, was rather subdued. The planned special postmark was used to record the end of the process, rather than Rostock's selection. The reason for the founding of OLYMP-POST ceased to exist.

To conclude, and to illustrate both thematic and postal history aspects is a postcard mailed from Rostock via the private mail service OLYMP-POST and TNT, introduced into the postal mail stream in Zurich, Switzerland, and delivered into the Beijing Olympic International Broadcasting Centre (receiving postmark from the temporary post-office Olympic Green and security mark 02).



Other than the Postage Stamp

by Bob Farley

The importance of the postage stamp for the intended purpose as a receipt for prepayment of mail services is well established as convenient, simple and efficient and when introduced, it made reliable correspondence possible.

Secondary benefits such as the use of designs to promote or commemorate events were soon recognised.

Human nature, or instinct, seems to have a genetic marker that sends a message to the brains of a proportion of the population 'if it exists, it can be collected'. It is from this instinct that philately was born.

The initial urge to collect these small works of art with their generally well produced and even exotic designs, made images available that were previously unknown to the general populace.

Collecting of stamps has evolved into a pastime with many specialist fields, amongst which two in particular, the collecting by topic – thematic collecting—and the study of postal services – postal history collecting—extend to areas beyond the simple postage stamp.

A variety of material was available at the time of the introduction of the stamp, or soon after, as examples, postmarks and postal markings, and postal stationery – envelopes or cards onto which the stamp design or an indicator of the prepayment was printed direct. The full list of material available would be both contentious and too lengthy to detail here.

Items soon appeared that are of interest to both thematic and postal history collectors.

The Olympic theme enjoys the advantage of having a vast range of postal material 'other than the postage stamp' to illustrate its evolution and existence.

Postmarks that relate to the Olympic Games were in use from 1900 at the Universal Exhibition in Paris, and postmarks with specific reference to the Olympic Games were introduced in 1912 for the Stockholm Olympic Games.

Olympic themed postal stationery was introduced in 1924 for the Paris Olympics.

The next innovation occurred with the introduction of franking machines to prepay postage in the late 1920's. Olympic themed franking meter marks soon followed, and this is particularly evident for the Berlin 1936



Berlin 1936 Lufthansa franking-meter mark

Olympic Games where the Organising Committee and sponsors used franking meter dies to promote the Games.

The peak of use for franking meters with Olympic relevance was certainly for the 1976 Montreal Games, when the use of a slogan die announcing support for the Games could be secured for a 'donation' to the Organising Committee funds.



We Help
It Happen
Nous Faisons
Nos Jeux



Bilingual text (The Canada Starch Company Limited).



We
Help
It
Happen



English text (Carleton University).



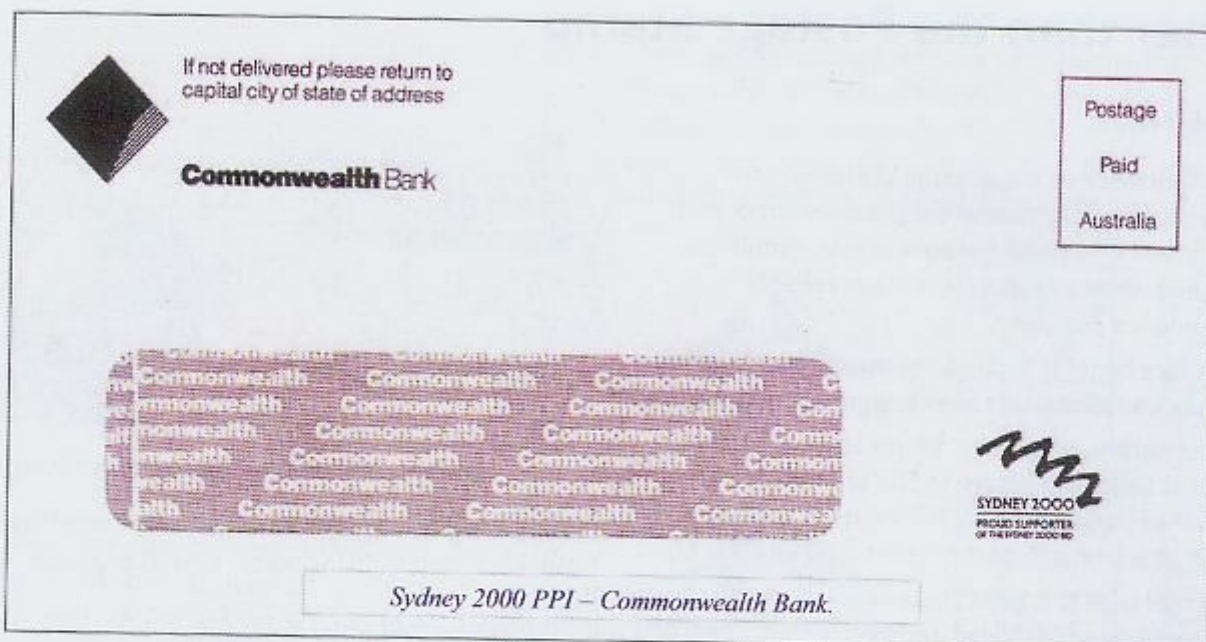
Nous
Faisons
Nos
Jeux



French text (Regional Students Commission).

All of the foregoing items now have an established place in history and are clearly in the sights of the avid collector.

The most recent innovation has been the introduction of Post Paid Impressions (PPI's) to signify prepayment of mail services.



Sydney 2000 PPI – Commonwealth Bank.

Within United Kingdom, PPI's are generally used for bulk mail (often 'junk mail' in common parlance), or by commercial users making regular mailings to extensive lists of addressees.

In the period soon after their introduction, most PPI items will have been consigned to the litter bin.

PPI items from the earliest periods of use that relate to the Olympic theme are very desirable and are sought after by collectors.

An early example for the cancelled Tokyo 1940 Olympic Games that simply states 'Post Paid' qualifies as a PPI because it is printed directly onto the envelope.

Regular use of PPI's became common in the 1980's, but the explosion of items relating to the Olympic theme really occurred in connection with the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. Many envelopes carried designs announcing the status of the enterprise as an Olympic supplier, sponsor, partner etc. together with either the Sydney 2000 or Australian Olympic Committee logo. A very high proportion of these envelopes also included a PPI as the receipt for postal charges.

For the London 2012 Olympic Games, time spent

searching for items of mail that relate to the Games with a franking meter impression soon confirms that very few items appear to exist.

The decline in the use of commemorative franking meter impressions coincides with the growth in the use of PPI's.

PPI's as replacements for the postage stamp may prove to be predictive of the future of the postage stamp as on-line postage and computer-based systems such as Royal Mail SmartStamp are introduced around the world.



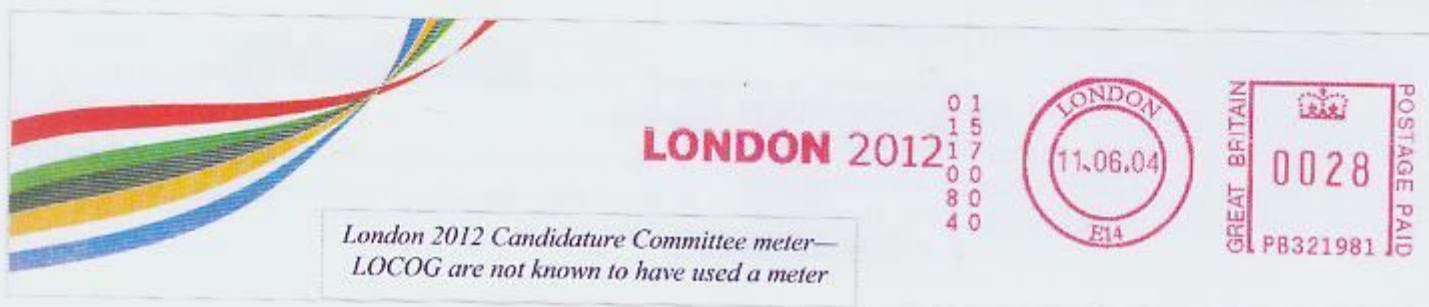
SmartStamp commemorating '1 Year To Go', to London 2012.

For the recipients of mail paid with PPI's, it is worth considering careful opening of the item, and if it is illustrated with or has a direct reference to a potentially popular topic (sport, birds, royalty,

etc., etc.) you may have a potential future collectible – and for free!

The secondary market for items at the moment is in its infancy, mainly because there is no catalogue or reference work for the collectors to establish what actually exists. It is however realistic to assume that the majority of items will still be despatched to 'the filing bin in the corner or kitchen'.

Please consider 'adopting a collector' and passing on



London 2012 Candidature Committee meter—
LOCOG are not known to have used a meter

your incoming mail envelopes, or seeking a charity that benefits from introducing these items to the collector market.

From the earliest days of the London 2012 bid to host the Olympic Games, a small group of active members of the Society of Olympic Collectors has attempted to record relevant postal material. This has proven to be a challenging task, particularly for PPI material.

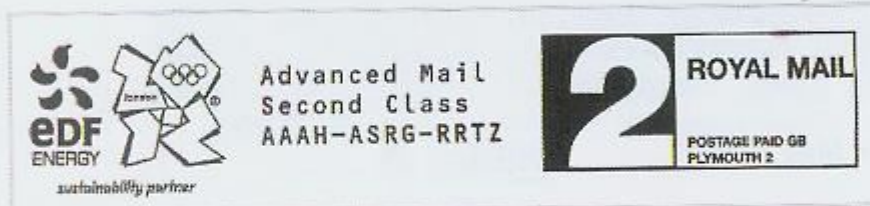
As the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games grew nearer Australian collectors found themselves in a fortunate position as many of the corporate users of PPI items responded to requests for information, possibly because the use was at local level and a contact within the local office could be found. In Great Britain, we have not been so fortunate, possibly because use is generally at national level, and finding an interested contact within a

central office proved impossible.

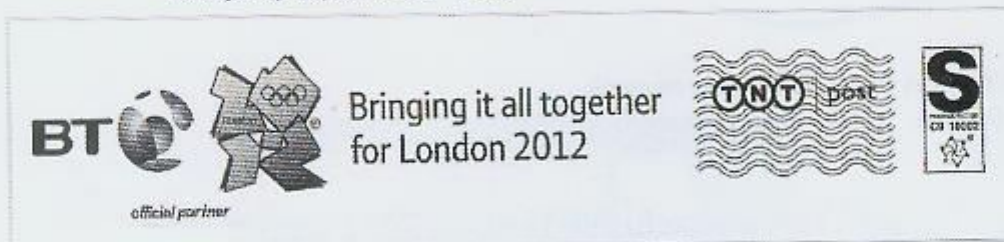
Recording the PPI items for London 2012 has been further complicated by changes in postal regulations, and liberalisation of the marketplace. The PPI has traditionally recorded the number of the license from the postal administration (Royal Mail) under which it was produced. Royal Mail are no longer the sole provider of mail delivery services to corporations, so an increased number of PPI's exist. It is now common practise for a corporation to award the contract for a specific mailing campaign by competitive tender (and regularly change their provider).

The following illustrations are composites to include the corporate identity, PPI and London 2012 graphic. Only the Scottish Widows exists on a specific envelope, the others combine logo and payment indicium.

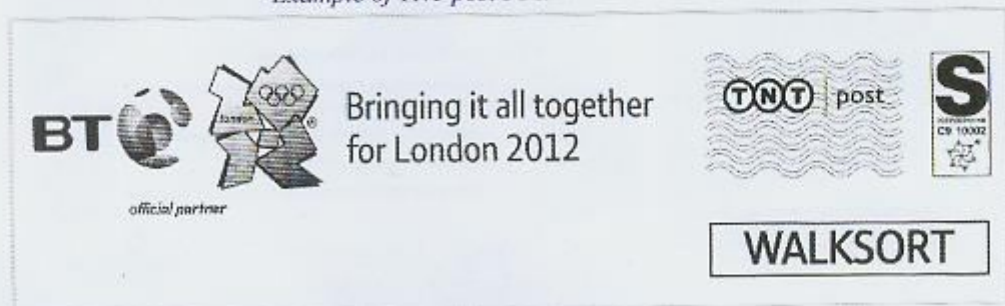
Example of Royal Mail 1st Class



Example of Royal Mail 2nd Class



Example of TNT post PPI.

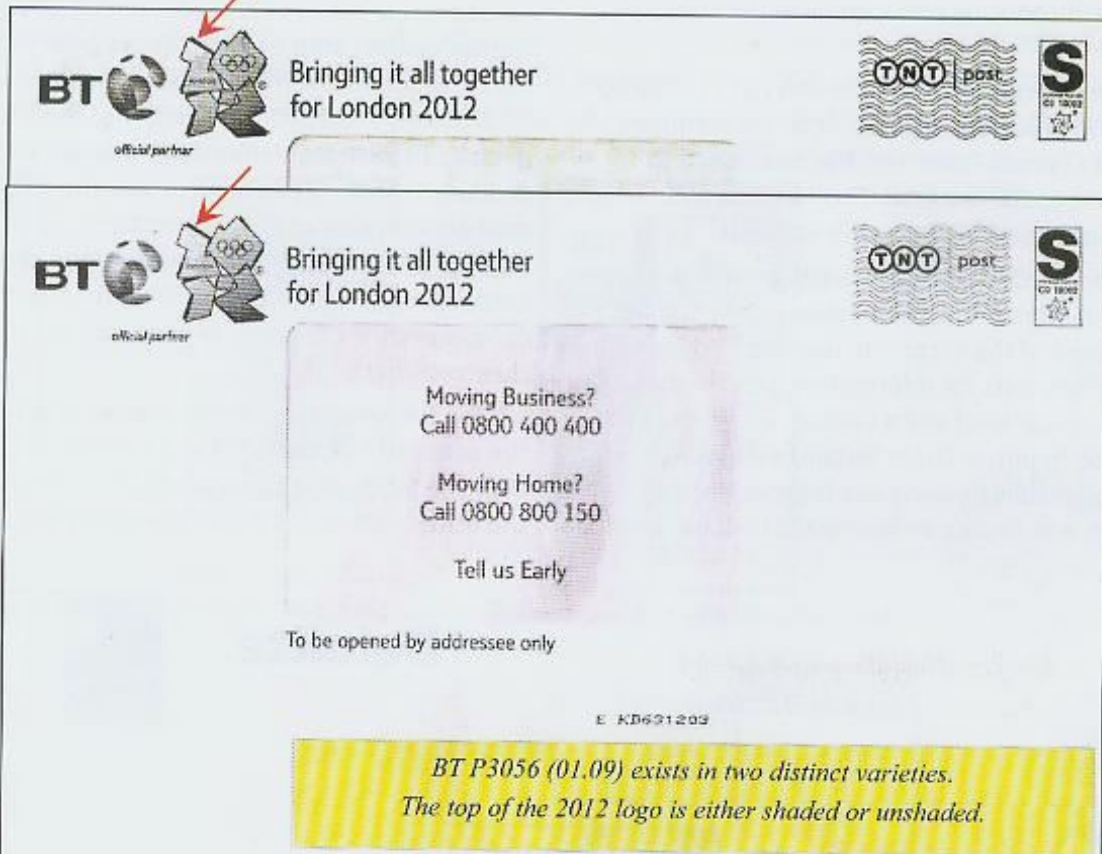




Example of TNT post WALKSORT PPI.




Example of Royal Mail 'Mailsort'



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BT   Bringing it all together for London 2012

official partner

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*BT P3056 (01.09) exists in two distinct varieties.
The top of the 2012 logo is either shaded or unshaded.*

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WSMEB



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Important Customer Information Enclosed



Save today. Save tomorrow.



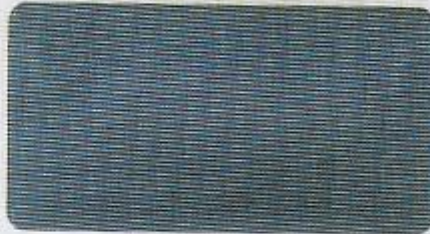
R26TGB DM DSI 05 10-V1

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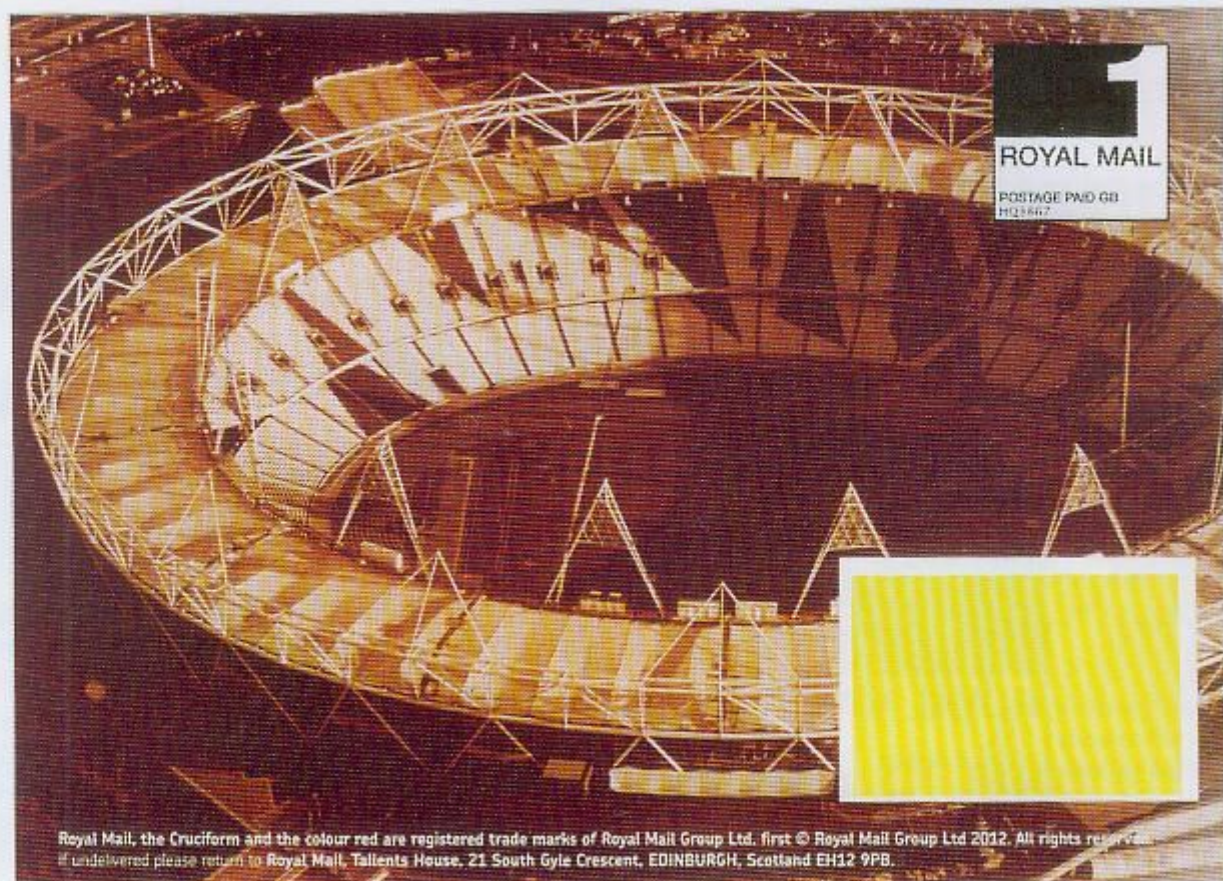
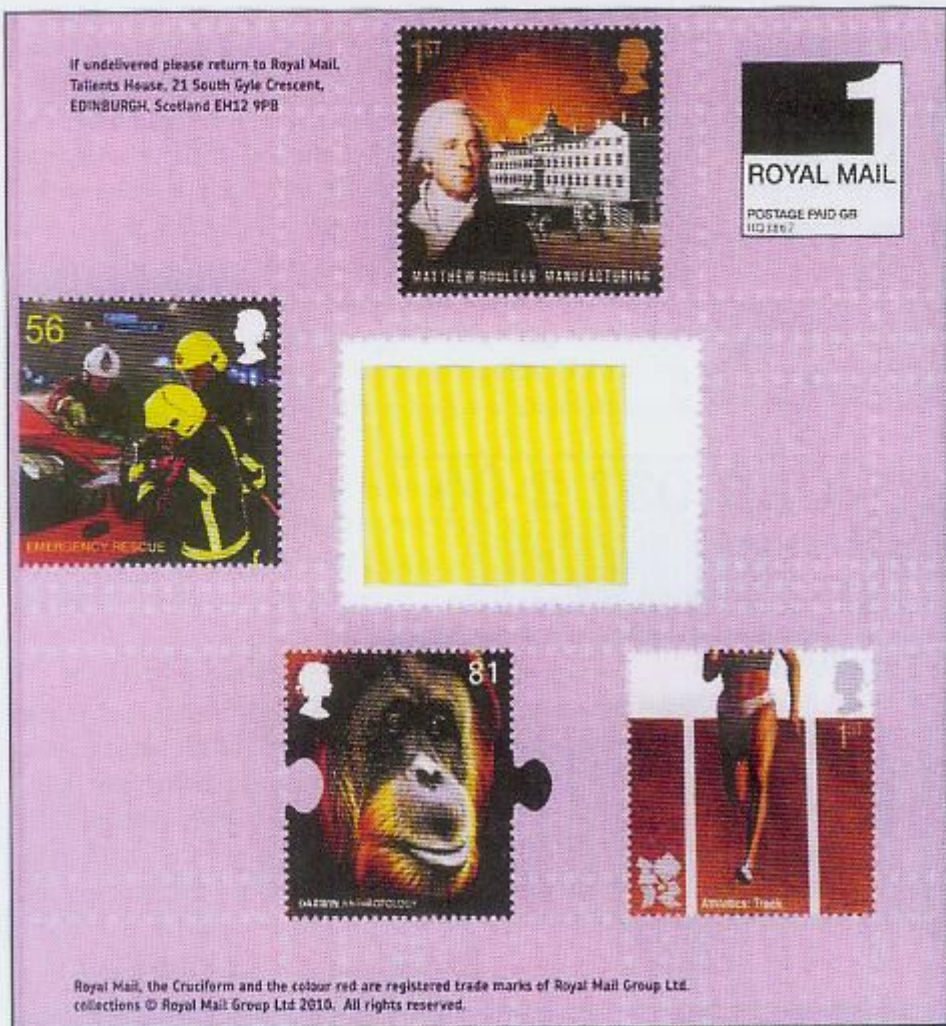
M5843/0209



Your chance to WIN a pair
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Royal Mail—various sendings from the Philatelic Bureau have been 'Olympic' PPIs.



LOCOG—

UPS are official logistics suppliers, and are used by LOCOG for express mail. Day-to-day mailings use Royal Mail Post Paid labels (initially rubber stamp impressions). The Official Programmes are being sent out using Secured Mail.

DAHILLE THOMAS
0203 201 315
LOCO GAMES LIMITED
23RD FLOOR
LONDON E145LN

1 KG

1 OF 1

SHIP#: 576A 03VC HPT
SHIP WT: 0.5 KG
SHIP DWT: 0.5 KG
DATE: 25 FEB 2010

SHIP TO:
BOB WILCOCK
BOB WILCOCK

GBR 032 2-00

UPS STANDARD

TRACKING #: 1Z 576 A03 68 9708 9407

BILLING: P/P

EDI

Cost Centre Code: MBM
Reference # 2: MBM

MBM



secure mail



16904 / 36-37121 / 24116

Return address: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, One Churchill Place, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5LN



Other than the Postage Stamp—Ink-Jet Postmarks

by **Bob Wilcock**

These days, when ordinary mail so rarely carries an attractive pictorial or commemorative stamp we all tend to throw envelopes instantly into the recycling bin. That was what I almost did the last Saturday in July 2011. A few days earlier Royal Mail had released their third set of 10 Olympic stamps, and I suddenly realised that the envelope I was about to jettison had an ink-jet postmark advertising those Olympic stamps: I had in my hand an unannounced, and free, piece of Olympic postal history.

Olympic postmarks have been with us since 1912, but with the introduction of cheap and fast but rather crude ink-jet cancelling, Royal Mail largely stopped using them except to publicise post codes or latest posting dates for Christmas.

There were conventional slogan postmarks to advertise Manchester's bid to host the Olympics in 1996 and again in 2000, and in 1993, with the decision for 2000 to be made in Monaco in the September, Royal Mail started experimenting with ink-jet machines. At first they were just used for sorting and transit marks in support of conventional cancels, and Manchester produced two that sought support for Manchester's Olympic Bid:

ROYAL MAIL SUPPORTS THE BRITISH
OLYMPIC BID MANCHESTER 2000

and

SUPPORT THE BRITISH OLYMPIC
BID MANCHESTER 2000

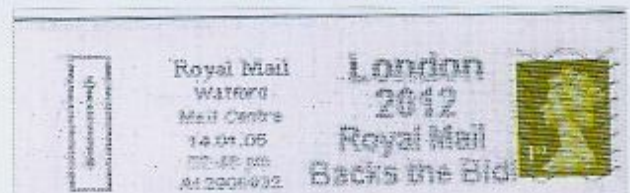


Jump forward now to 20.12.2004, the day that New York changed the American date order convention for one day when the authorities learned of London's plans for a big publicity boost to push their campaign for 2012. As part of that London campaign, we have a surprise ink-jet slogan in selected mail centres. The campaign ran for over seven months, until just after the

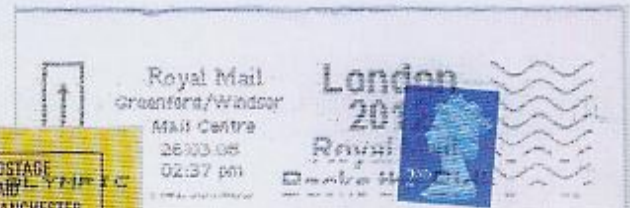
day that Singapore and Trafalgar Square erupted with London jubilation. Millions of slogans were struck every day, but almost all those millions have long since been recycled. Just a few in collector hands serve as a record.



'Gatwick from the first day, 20.12.04



'Warford, London South, and Greenford/Windsor



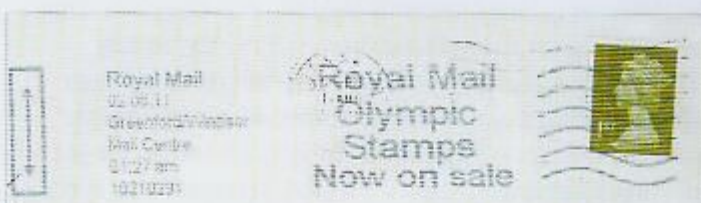
Each machine has two sorting streams, and specialists recognise that the canceller heads for each stream are usually distinguishable, but the challenge for collectors today is to find any examples at all!



And what of the July 2011 ink-jet slogan? Apparently it should have been introduced on 25 July, two days before the stamp issue on 27 July, but the earliest date recorded anywhere is 29 July. It was withdrawn on 3 or 4 August, without warning—it went as quietly as it came, so much so, that it has proved a challenge establishing where it was used, and obtaining examples. The accompanying illustrations are therefore just a selection. In use for just a few days these slogans are the rarities of the London 2012 philatelic programme. Because so few people are aware of them they are not valuable—yet.



Gatwick Mail Centre, 02.08.11



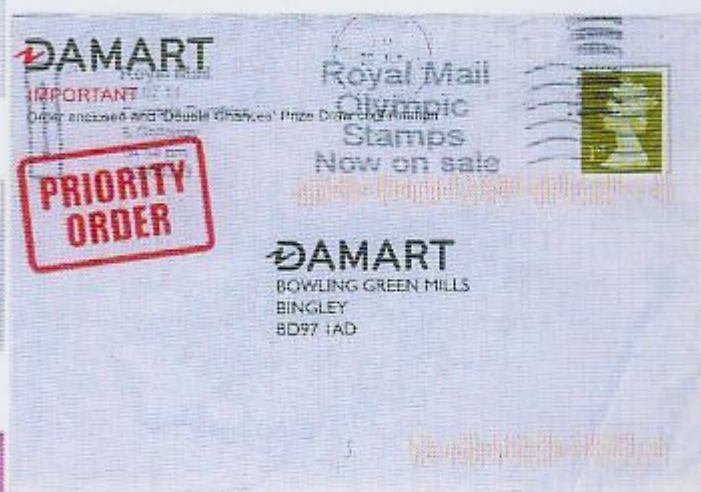
*Greenford/Windsor Mail Centre, 02.08.11
used as a canceller on arrival.*



Slogan from Watford, 29 Jul 2011, the earliest date known.



Plymouth and Cornwall, 3 August, probably the last day of use.



Cumbria, Dumfries / & Galloway 30.07.11 as an over-cancel on a traditional machine cancel from the same office.



*South East Anglia / Mail Centre (indistinct)
used as a canceller on arrival over a conventional cancel from Croydon*



A rare philatelic example from South East / Anglia [2 lines]

The 2012 Olympic Torch Relay

by **Bob Farley**

The Torch Relay, to deliver the flame from Ancient Olympia to the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games, can be divided into two distinct phases;

- The relay within Greece, from the lighting of the flame in Olympia May 10th, 2012 until the handover ceremony at the Panathenaic Stadium in Athens (site of the 1896 Olympic Games) on May 17th, 2012.
- The relay within Great Britain from May 19th at Land's End, until arrival at the Opening Ceremony of the 2012 Olympic Games July 27th, 2012.

Following a variety of attempts to politicise or use the Torch Relay as a vehicle for protest during the global legs of the journey in 2008, it was decided that future relays would be restricted to Greece (as provider of the flame), and the host nation (recipient of the flame), with few exceptions.

One exception occurred during the 2012 Torch Relay, when the flame visited Dublin, Ireland.

Events in Greece

The traditional lighting ceremony took place at the Temple of Hera, and the flame was then transferred to the first torch bearer in the Ancient Stadium at Olympia. Assembled dignitaries and members of the public witnessed the transfer to the first torch, with a smaller audience witnessing the lighting of the flame.

A higher number of Olympic collectors were present in Olympia for the festivities, because a World Olympic Collectors Fair and exhibition was due to be held at the Zappeion Exhibition Centre in Athens from the 15th – 20th, May, providing a good reason to make an extended visit to Greece.

ELTA, the Greek postal

authority, were quite late in announcing their plans for the Torch Relay, but eventually provided details of their philatelic programme.

Special handstamps would be available at the locations of the overnight stops during the relay, with one exception (11th May). Commemorative covers would be available for sale at these locations, and a complete set of seven covers could be ordered from the Philatelic Service. A limited edition of 1500 sets of covers would be produced.

The covers for Olympia and Athens would also include a commemorative medallion, and in anticipation that these would be popular souvenirs, a higher number were produced to ensure 1500 would be available to create the 1500 sets.



67c. personalised stamp with stylised 'flame' label.

ELTA have been producing 'personalised' stamps for many years – small sheets of stamps, each with an attached stamp sized label that is printed with a sponsored design, the sponsor often being ELTA to achieve philatelic sales. A design was produced for the torch relay, and in an unusual move, the complete printing of sheets were separated by machine so that only single examples were available for sale. The stamp face value is 67c., but the personalised stamp plus label combination was sold for



10 May, Olympia



12 May, Ionia



13 May, Kavala



14 May, Drama



15 May, Lamia



16 May, Acropolis



17 May, Panathinaiko



10 May, Olympia souvenir cover with commemorative medallion.



€1.00. ELTA counter staff were inconsistent about the value of the stamp. It was universally accepted as being sufficient to mail postcards within Greece, Europe and world-wide, based on the fact that all these services cost less than the €1.00 paid. However if the stamp was used as part payment for services costing more than €1.00, opinions varied about the value that should be attached to the stamp across the full range of the 67c. printed denomination and the €1.00 paid. Correctly franked covers will be difficult to identify for future postal historians!

From the first postmark applied in Olympia, it was obvious that there would be two versions of the special postmarks. Those applied at the post office by hand operated cancellers were heavily over-inked, and could still be smudged after two days. The crisp impressions of the cancel on the souvenir covers were machine applied. The declared route for the torch relay within Greece was published as:-

- 10th May: **Olympia**, Pyrgos, Amaliada, Gastouni, Lechaina, Corinth, Piraeus.
- 11th May: Chania, Rethymno, Agios Nikolaos, Heraklion, Kastelorizo (Megisti).
- 12th May: Piraeus, Patras, Rio-Antirrio Bridge, Antirrio, Amfilochia, Preveza, Parga, Igoumenitsa, **Ioannina**.
- 13th May: Ioannina, Kozani, Verola, Thessaloniki, **Kavala**.
- 14th May: Kavala, Komotini, Kipoi, Evros (Greece/Turkey border), Alexandroupoli, Xanthi, **Drama**.
- 15th May: Drama, Serres, Katerini, Larissa, Volos, **Lamia**.
- 16th May: Lamia, Chalkida, Athens, **Acropolis of Athens**.
- 17th May: **Athens**, Panathenaic Stadium.

Thanks to the efforts of three intrepid collectors, it was possible to obtain philatelic material from some of the places visited by the flame that were not designated overnight resting places, including Kastelorizo (Megisti), a tiny island extremely close to the coast of Turkey that has changed nationality many times, and the status of which is significant in determining territorial rights, and Evros, the easterly mainland border crossing with Turkey.



14 May, Evros

11 May, Kastelorizo (Megisti).



Cover cancelled at the Zappeion, with additional World Collectors' Fair cancel.



Maximum card cancelled at the Hellenic Postal Museum, with additional Museum cancel.

The postmark for May 17th, Panathenaic Stadium, Athens was available at two locations, the temporary postal facility at the World Collectors Fair in the Zappeion, and the Hellenic Postal Museum, immediately adjacent to the Stadium.

Collectors at the fair were taken by complete surprise when the Torch was carried into the building and through the Fair, then resting in the Zappeion before being run the short journey to the Stadium for the Handover Ceremony when it was passed to Princess Anne and the LOCOG delegation.

After the handover ceremony, the flame was transported to Athens airport, and on the 18th May, was flown by British Airways flight BA2012 (a special flight) to RNAS Culdrose, near Helson in Cornwall.



Cover, cancelled at the Zappeion 17th, May, Athens Airport 18th, May and Penzance 19th, May.

It was hoped that the cover would accompany the flame on flight BA2012, but this was prevented by security concerns. The cover followed the route of the flame, but did not use shared transport.



On the 19th May, the torch relay within Great Britain began at Land's End.

The Penzance handstamp is the generic design available from 70 locations (the start and the overnight stops) between May 19th and July 27th. The final cancel marks the arrival of the Torch at the Olympic Stadium.



Events in Great Britain.

When the Torch Relay route and itinerary were released, there was no information available regarding any philatelic commemoration of the 70 day journey around Great Britain with the declared intent of the flame passing within 10 miles (16 km.) of 95% of the population.

There were suggestions that four special handstamps would be introduced to commemorate the passage of the torch through the four countries of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The apparent, minimal commemoration of such an important Olympic event, led collectors to consider the options available to them to create a philatelic record.

The first, and most obvious option, involved use of the Permanent Philatelic Handstamps available for over 40 locations around Great Britain. These handstamps offered the opportunity to create covers for named locations on the torch relay route. Approximately 40 of the handstamps represent towns or cities on the route, although fewer represent the locations of overnight celebrations. These handstamps can be requested for any date, including Sundays. The disadvantage being that the handstamps are only serviced at the Special Handstamp Centres, and are generally returned within a protective cover, meaning that evidence of postal use is lacking.

The second option was to obtain counter handstamps from post offices along the route. Technically, this is only possible if the item mailed qualifies for cancelling at the point of mailing. Simple first class letters franked with stamps do not qualify, although many clerks will waive this rule. Mailing of items in person, would probably achieve a high level of success, but applications by mail could easily fail.

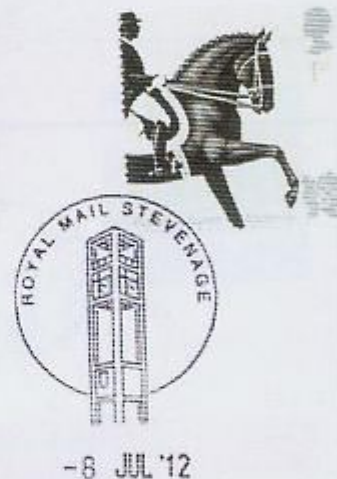
To qualify for cancellation at the counter the item would need to be for an enhanced service such as *Special*

Delivery (Signed For franked by stamps does not qualify), or be franked by a combination of stamps and 'other means'. *Signed For* items franked with a 1st class Olympic stamp, and an Horizon label for the additional 95p. fee, therefore qualify.

The issue of 26 stamps in the series UK A-Z in 2011-12, also provided an opportunity to relate the stamp design, postmark and torch relay date.

After considerable research and contemplation, plans to commemorate the torch relay were in place.

Within ten days of plans being formulated, Royal Mail announced the availability of 70 Torch Relay Handstamps of generic design, to commemorate the whole route. With plans already prepared, it seemed opportune to create a varied selection of covers, utilising the newly announced handstamps and previously considered options.



A selection of the Permanent Philatelic Handstamps, used on the relevant dates for the torch relay:

Southend on Sea 6 July. Stevenage 8 July. Oxford 10 July. Note that a Torch Relay handstamp was available for Oxford for 9 July, the day the Torch arrived. It spent the night in Oxford and left on the 10th

The use of counter handstamps in conjunction with Horizon labels for payment of an additional fee at post offices on the route provides the only means of creating an item that has ever been in close proximity to the torch, as the Horizon label confirms the actual date of mailing. The following covers were mailed at two of the twenty plus post offices passed by the torch on the first day of its seventy day journey within Great Britain.



'Signed for' cover from Sennen & Land's End, the first community to experience the Torch Relay.

The details printed on the Horizon label confirm the date of posting, and the postal district of the post office – TR19, Sennen & Land's End.



Cover cancelled by 'PENZANCE CORNWALL' counter datestamp 19th May..

A further opportunity to create personal or commemorative covers, has been used by Olympic collectors in Great Britain since the introduction of Royal Mail SmartStamp. A SmartStamp imprint can be used with a postage stamp to create a 'mixed franking' and then qualifies for cancellation by the counter clerk at a post office.

Two designs have been used for the 2012 torch relay.



SmartStamp prepared for the passage of the Olympic torch through Bicester, Oxon. The specimen is dated 7 July, but the actual SmartStamp is dated 9 July.



£0.50
54EC 585E
POST BY
30.05.12



London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay
Much Wenlock 30 May 2012 - the Guildhall



Society of Olympic Collectors

Torch Relay
SmartStamp
mailed from
Much Wenlock.
The image is
from a
photograph of
the hand-over
ceremony in
Athens on
17 May 2012

Visit of DUBLIN / IRELAND

The exception to the relatively new 'host nation' route of the torch occurred when the torch was diverted to Dublin, Ireland. This event is commemorated by a cover with a routine postmark.

The design of the four 'country' covers mentioned in early discussions with Royal Mail were finally released in July. The handstamp illustrated had not been notified in advance. The cancels are 25 May, Cardiff, 6 June, Belfast, 13 June, Edinburgh, and 27 July, Stratford, London.



ROYAL MAIL
CACHET COVER
LONDON
2012
OLYMPIC
TORCH
RELAY



Great Moments in Men's Olympic Gymnastics

by Mark Maestrono

Men's gymnastics is as old as sport itself, although certainly not in the form to which we are today familiar. To the ancient Greeks, gymnastics was really the "art of bodily exercise" in which

athletes of any sport engaged in order to tone their bodies and hone their competitive skills. The word "gymnastics" is from the Greek word *gymnos* (naked), and a "gymnasium" was where Greek youth exercised both their bodies and minds (Figure 1). While specific gymnastics events were unfamiliar to the competitors at the Ancient Olympic Games, gymnastics would certainly have been an integral element in their training.

Jump ahead to 1896 when the First Games of the Modern Olympiad were held and one gets a sense of what modern men's gymnastics is all about with events such as the High Bar, Parallel Bars, Pommel Horse, Vault and Rings (the Floor Exercise would not debut until the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics). Over the ensuing 116 years of the Olympic Games, the sport has evolved quite dramatically.

When charged with telling the story of Men's Olympic Gymnastics – briefly and through the medium of philately – I thought what better way than to highlight extraordinary achievements by its sportsmen. Because in the end, it really is all about the gymnasts!



1896: Greece's first Olympic gold medal

The Greek's invented the Olympic Games. When they were revived by Pierre de Coubertin it would have been unthinkable for the first Modern Games not to be held in the land of their birth. So one may imagine the



Figure 1: Stamps from a 1988 Greek issue reproducing scenes from the gymnasia at Ancient Olympia where gymnastics conditioning played an important role for all competitors.

excitement that ensued when the host country won its first "first place" (back then, a silver medal was awarded to the victor, not a gold). The man of the hour was 22-year-old

Ioannis Mitropoulos (Figure 2) who won the Rings event. Lest you imagine the stands didn't shake with excitement, here's how the Official Report of the Games recorded it: "Before the result had been communicated to the public, a member of the judging panel, overcome with enthusiasm, cried in French, 'Vive la Grèce!' ('Long Live Greece'). Several moments afterwards ... the enthusiasm became indescribable: eyes became wet with tears, hats were thrown in the air, handkerchiefs waved, cheers were prolonged and there was endless applause ..."

1904: Before there was the Paralympics ... there was George Eyser

The second of three consecutive Games held concurrently with a World's Fair was the 1904 St. Louis Olympics. This was a strange gathering of the world's best athletes as only 12 nations were represented in competitions that were staged over the course of many months.

Gymnasts convened for their events on the



Figure 3: "World's Fair St. Louis" machine cancel on a Louisiana Purchase Exposition stamp postmarked October 28, 1904, the day George Eyser, competing with wooden left leg, managed to win a remarkable 3 gold medals on a single day.

infield of Francis Field (the Olympic stadium) on October 28-29. As if the circumstances weren't sufficiently unusual, we have the saga of one George Eyser, a local bookkeeper and member of the Concordia Turnverein (gymnastics club) of Saint Louis. On a single day – October 28 (Figure 3) – George hauled in three gold medals (Parallel Bars, Vault, and 25-foot Rope Climb), two silvers (Pommel Horse and Combined) and a bronze in the Horizontal Bar. What was truly remarkable, however, was

that Eyser competed with a wooden prosthesis replacing a left leg lost in a train accident in his youth. At somewhat of a disadvantage because of his disability, he nearly added a seventh medal in the combined (track and field plus gymnastics) event held on July 2 which required he run the 100-yard dash.

For the record, it was not until 1984 that another disabled athlete took part in the Olympic Games: Neroli Fairhall of New Zealand in archery.



Figure 4: 1936 Olympic gymnastic stamp. Leon Stukelj completed his two decade long Olympic career at these Games.

1976: The Japanese sun rises

During its first half century, Olympic men's gymnastics was dominated by European gymnasts, which is not surprising since the modern sport was born in Germany in the early 19th century and quickly spread throughout western and central Europe. The Olympic Games, too, were hosted almost exclusively by European cities ... that is until 1964, when the Games made their Asian debut in Tokyo. Emerging from its post-WWII isolation and buoyed by a burgeoning economy, gymnastics in Japan began to blossom. The Japanese male physique, small and lean with a high strength-to-mass ratio, and their disciplined mental attitude toward



Figure 5: Special cover with Slovenian stamp and cancel honouring Leon Stukelj, the "World's oldest Olympic gold medal winner" and autographed by the gymnast at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.



Figure 6: Imperforate margin copy of stamp honouring Sawao Kato, the first of the Japanese gymnastics stars.



Figure 7: Kenyan stamp portraying Shun Fujimoto, who risked permanent damage to his injured leg to enable Japan to win the 1976 men's, team gold for a fifth consecutive time.

training, propelled their gymnasts to the forefront of the sport.

Premier among this new class of Japanese gymnasts was Sawao Kato who, over the course of three Olympic Games (1968 Mexico City, 1972 Munich, and 1976 Montreal) became the most victorious male gymnast in history (Figure 6). To this day, no one has matched his career total of 8 Olympic men's gymnastics gold medals. Along with these, his trophy case includes another three silver medals and a bronze.

If there was ever a doubt that Olympic gymnasts are masters of mind over matter, one has only to look at Kato's team-mate in Montreal, Shun Fujimoto (Figure 7). This athlete gets the award for sheer guts!

In the team competition, the Japanese and Soviet teams were battling for the gold. In the Floor Exercise, Fujimoto heard a crack and felt air beneath his kneecap. "Although I was injured, I had to (continue) for me and for the team," he later said. Shun did not disclose to his team or coach what he knew was a severe injury, instead soldiering on through the Pommel Horse event and finally to the Rings. Knowing that every tenth of a point was critical if the Japanese men were to retain the Olympic Team gold for a fifth straight time, he executed a near-perfect routine and stuck his full-twisting double back

1936: Old gymnasts (almost) never die

One of the more remarkable careers in men's gymnastics belonged to the Slovenian gymnast, Leon Štukelj. Born in 1898, he made a big splash on the gymnastics scene at the 1922 World Championships in Ljubljana where he walked away with four individual gold medals and the team silver. His Olympic career spanned 12 years (1924, 1928, 1932 and 1936) during which time he won six medals, three of them gold. Leon concluded his gymnastics career at the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games (Figure 4) where, at 37, he captured the silver medal in the Rings event.

Leon continued to practice gymnastics throughout his life. In 1988, he was awarded the Olympic Order by IOC President J. A. Samaranch. During the Opening Ceremonies of the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games, Štukelj, at the "young" age of 98, was presented to the audience as the oldest living Olympic gold medalist (Figure 5).

Leon Štukelj passed away in 1999 a few days shy of his 101st birthday – a mighty impressive achievement.

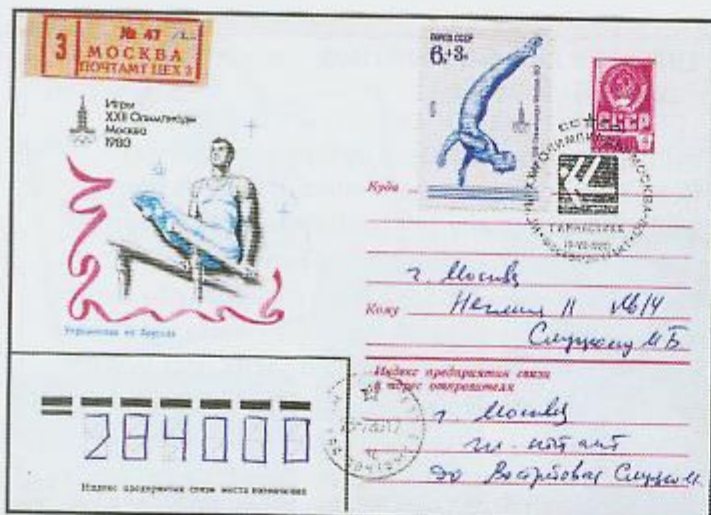


Figure 8: Registered 1980 Olympic postal stationery envelope with additional men's gymnastics stamp and special gymnastics postmark. The Soviet team dominated these Games by winning 14 of 24 medals.

Figure 9: Dominican stamp honouring Nikolai Andrianov whose Olympic medal total of 15 is only exceeded by swimmer Michael Phelps.



dismount for a 9.7, a record score for him on this event. Unable to continue – by that point the broken kneecap had become displaced and he had also torn ligaments – Shun was forced to withdraw. But the Japanese team eked out a win by just four-tenths of a point.

Shun Fujimoto is still revered by the gymnastics community for his bravery and team spirit!

1980: Soviet stars shine

While the tit-for-tat boycott years of 1980 (Figure 8) and 1984 diluted the Olympic competitions at both Moscow and Los Angeles, there were still noteworthy milestones reached by the Soviet and American squads.

Nikolai Andrianov (Figure 9), the Soviet's star gymnast for the better part of a decade, ended a superlative career with a record (for a male Olympic gymnast) 15 medals, seven of them gold. Only U.S. swimmer, Michael Phelps (16 medals) outdistances him. Andrianov, who passed away in 2011 of a degenerative neurological disease at the young age of 58, was known for his impeccable form, a beautiful gymnast to watch!

Another member of the 1980 Soviet squad, Aleksandr Dityatin (Figure 10), accomplished another feat by medalling in each of the 8 men's events: 3 gold, 4 silver, and 1 bronze. For his vault, Dityatin received the first perfect "10" awarded to a male Olympic gymnast.

1984: A US gymnastic "Dream Team"

The Soviet team, and most of the iron curtain countries, may not have been present in Los Angeles for the return of the Olympics to US soil after 52 years, but the Chinese team was there. And they were the reigning world champions.

Going up against the Chinese was a US "dream team" consisting of Bart Conner, Peter Vidmar, Mitch Gaylord, and Tim Daggett. Ahead after the compulsory round, the US team were having the meet of their lives. The excitement of the crowd during the packed finals was palpable ... I know ... I was there!

It came down to the final event. The US team closed the deal on the High Bar with Tim Daggett's perfect 10 and Peter Vidmar's near-perfect 9.95. Together, they put the US team over the top by six-tenths of a point to win the gold. The audience went wild and the US boys leaped for joy down on the sidelines.

The US men went on from there to win seven individual medals: two gold, two silver and three bronze (Figure 11).

Men's Olympic gymnastics has grown from a small gathering of just 75 gymnasts from 5 nations back at those first Modern Games at Athens in 1896 to the current group composed of the top 12 national teams from around the world. Like their predecessors, the gymnasts at London's Olympic Games will make their own mark on Olympic history.



Figure 10: Souvenir sheet depicting Aleksandr Dityatin who achieved the remarkable feat of winning a medal in all 8 men's events at the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games.

Figure 11: 1984 Olympic cover with special postmark and autographs of Tim Daggett and Peter Vidmar.



中国邮政简介

Introduction to China Post

现代奥林匹克运动的创办与发展，与邮政有着深厚的历史渊源。1896年，第一届现代奥运会正是通过发行邮票筹集资金，才得以成功举办。

历史有着惊人的巧合。

1896年3月20日，清朝光绪皇帝在“兴办邮政”的奏折上批了“依议”二字，正式批准开办大清邮政官局，中国近代邮政由此诞生。同年4月6日至15日，首届现代奥运会在奥林匹克运动的发源地——希腊雅典举办，世界上第一套奥运会邮票问世。从此，奥林匹克运动蓬勃发展。

The creation and evolution of the modern Olympic Movement is closely linked to the postal service. It was with the funds raised by issuing stamps that the first modern Olympic Games avoided a deficit in 1896.

There is also a striking coincidence in history.

On March 20, 1896, when the Guangxu Emperor of the Chinese Qing Dynasty wrote the two characters meaning "agreed" on a memorandum to the throne proposing "initiating postal services", he gave official sanction to founding the Postal Office of the Qing Court, the precursor of the modern postal service in China. In the same year, the first modern Olympic Games were held in Athens, Greece, the birthplace of the Olympic Games, from April 6 to April 15, and the world's first set of Olympic stamps was issued. From those inaugural modern Games, the Olympic Movement now thrives.



2006-27 中国邮政开办一百一十周年
2006-27 The 110th Anniversary of China Post

北京2008年残奥会闭幕式上演员们摆出的信封造型
The envelope formed by the performers at the closing ceremony of the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games

百余年来,现代奥林匹克运动历经岁月变幻、潮起潮落。中国邮政与奥林匹克运动在历史的长河中,相伴相偕、共经风雨,不断发展创新。2008年,中国邮政成功举办了首届北京奥林匹克博览会。2012年,我们将期待着伦敦奥林匹克运动会和奥林匹克博览会的精彩呈现。

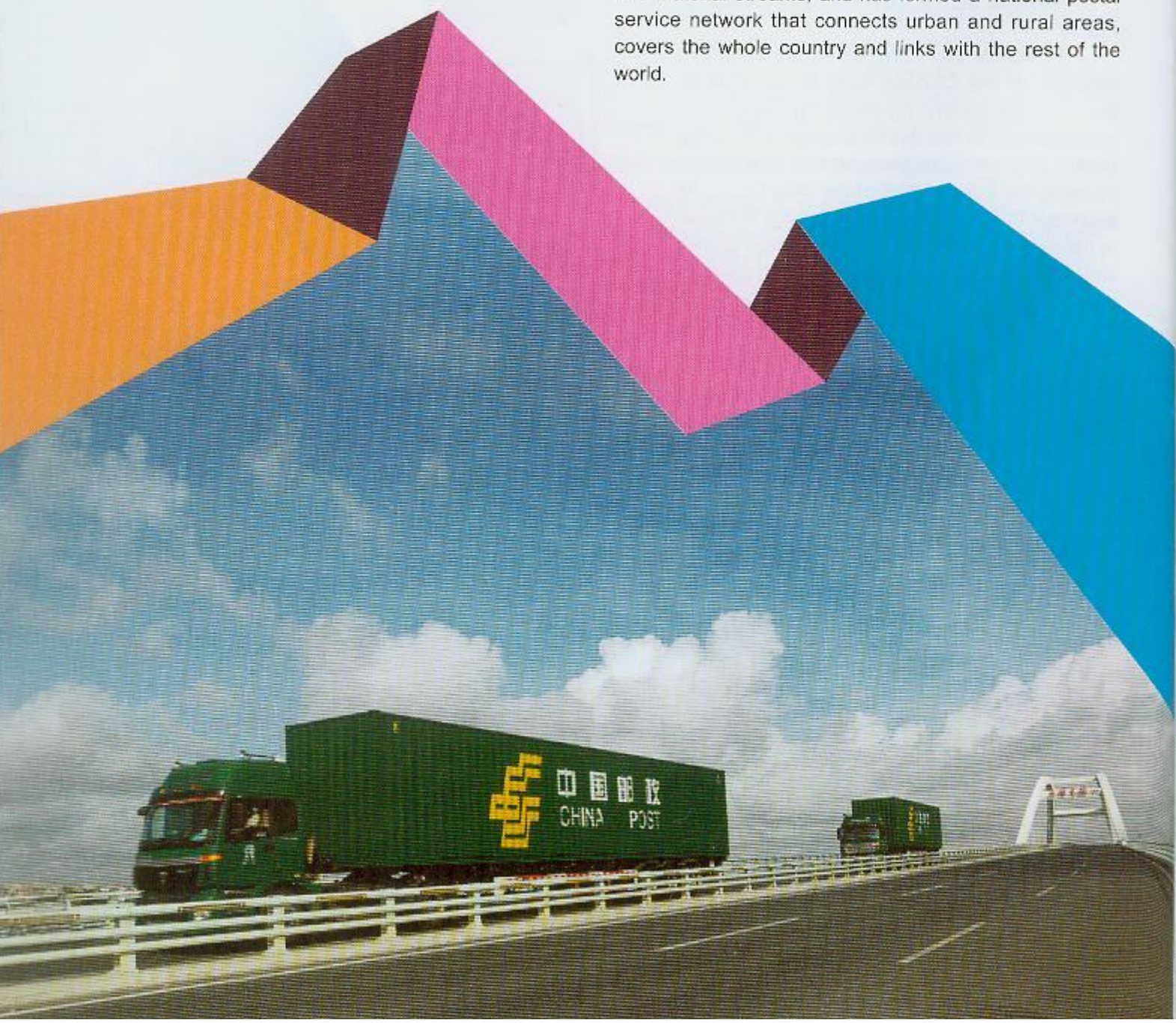
中国邮政,作为国家重要的社会公用事业和重要的通信基础设施,在促进国民经济和社会发展、保障公民的基本通信权利、忠实履行普遍服务和特殊服务任务等方面发挥着重要作用。

中国邮政集团公司拥有营业网点5.2万处,企业从业人员89万人,2011年营业总收入完成2587.5亿元。邮政业务是邮政企业的基础业务,包括函件、包裹、汇兑、集邮、报刊发行、电子商务、代理业务、分销配送等。目前,邮政业务发展速度和运行质量同步提高。中国邮政拥有集资讯流、资金流、实物流“三流合一”的网络优势,基本形成了连接城乡、覆盖全国、通达世界的国家邮政网络。

Over the past century, both the modern Olympic Movement and the Chinese postal service have experienced continuous developments and innovations, including high and low points. In 2008, China Post successfully held the first Olympic Expo in Beijing. Now we are looking forward to Olympex 2012.

As China's major public utility and provider of the primary infrastructure for correspondence, China Post plays an important role in promoting national economic and social development, in guaranteeing citizens' basic rights of correspondence, and in providing basic and special services.

China Post Group owns a network of 52,000 post offices and has 890,000 employees. Its revenue reached 258.75 billion Yuan in 2011. Basic services that China Post provides include delivery of letters and parcels, payment services, philatelic services, distribution of newspapers and magazines, e-commerce, agency services, etc.. Recent rapid developments of the postal services have been combined with improvements in quality. China Post has the advantage of combined information, funding and material streams, and has formed a national postal service network that connects urban and rural areas, covers the whole country and links with the rest of the world.



中国邮政速递物流股份有限公司，是中国经营历史最悠久、规模最大、网络覆盖范围最广、业务品种最丰富的快递物流综合服务提供商。公司通过自营及邮政集团代理，在全国合计拥有营业网点 45,418 个，业务范围遍及全国 31 个省（区、市）的所有市县乡（镇），通达包括港、澳、台地区在内的全球 200 余个国家和地区。

中国邮政储蓄银行是一家全功能商业银行。拥有 3.8 万个服务网点，存款余额规模超过 4 万亿元。目前开办本外币储蓄、国际国内汇兑、代收付、信用卡、个人理财、个人信贷、公司业务等银行业务，为广大用户提供资金支持和金融服务。目前，中国邮政储蓄银行已建成覆盖全国城乡网点面最广、交易额庞大的个人金融服务网络。

China Postal Express & Logistics Corporation is the oldest and largest integrated express and logistics service provider which covers the widest areas and boasts the richest variety of products in China. A network of 45,418 business outlets across China, serves all cities, counties and towns in 31 provinces (autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the central government) and has access to more than 200 countries and regions including Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan.

The Postal Savings Bank of China is a commercial bank with 38,000 business outlets. With more than 4 trillion Yuan in deposits, it offers a wide range of banking



OLYMPIC EXPO

Beijing 2008



services, including savings in local and foreign currencies, local and foreign exchange, agency collection and payment services, credit cards, personal finances, and corporate banking services, offering customers financial support and services. It has developed a personal finance service network that has largest number of branches in China.

北京 2008 年奥林匹克博览会上参观者排队购买邮品
Visitors lining up to buy philatelic products at the Olympic Expo Beijing 2008





北京奥运会志愿者
Volunteers of the Olympic Expo Beijing 2008

中邮人寿保险股份有限公司,以“服务基层、服务三农”为己任,全力打造一个体系现代化、服务大众化、管理规范化的政府满意、监管放心、百姓欢迎的新型商业保险公司。全国已有11省(市)近1.6万个网点办理保险业务。

中国邮政积极加强国际交往与合作,目前已与150多个国家和地区建立了邮件总包直封关系,邮件通达200多个国家和地区。中国邮政的国际地位和影响力不断提高,双边及多方合作不断加强。

China Post Life Insurance Corporation Limited is committed to serving “the general public and the urban and rural populace”, and to building a new-style, modern commercial insurance company that is geared to the insurance needs of the whole population whilst abiding by government rules and regulations. It currently has nearly 16,000 business outlets in 11 provinces (municipalities) across China.

By strengthening its international contacts and through cooperation, China Post has established a relationship of direct dispatches for mail exchange with more than 150 countries and regions, and mail services reach over 200 countries and regions. Now it enjoys growing international status and influence, while both bilateral and multilateral cooperation is constantly improving.



2008-12 北京 2008 年奥林匹克博览会
2008-12 Olympic Expo Beijing 2008

《奥林匹克与集邮》

OLYMPICS AND PHILATELY

新奥运 集邮珍藏特刊 (IV)

New Olympic Games special collection (IV)

国家图书馆永久收藏

校捐赠

of China, and the

and Schools



季马兰奇先生为《奥林匹克与集邮-邮票珍藏特刊》揭幕

Mr. Samaranch unveiled *Olympics and Philately - Stamps Collection Special Edition*

在中国，邮政的普遍服务范围广泛，具有较高的服务水平。多年来，中国邮政不断改善服务条件，认真履行普遍服务任务，切实提高服务质量，努力承担社会责任，不仅满足了本国境内包括城市、农村、海岛、边疆在内的所有居民的基本通信需求，还在保证各种信息传递，服务社会、服务民生等方面发挥着重要作用。

中国邮政，百年奋进的历史！
现代奥运，百年辉煌的历程！

The general postal service in China is popular and enjoys a fairly high level of service. Over the years, by continuously improving service conditions, implementing universal service tasks seriously, improving the quality of service through dedicated hard work, and by acknowledging it's social responsibility, China Post has not only met the basic correspondence needs of all citizens within the country, whether living in urban, or rural areas, in islands, the mainland or border regions, but has also guaranteed the dissemination of all kinds of information, playing an important role in serving social needs.

The past century has witnessed both China Post's endeavour to advance, and the evolution of the modern Olympics.



2008-19 北京 2008 年奥林匹克博览会开幕纪念
2008-19 Celebrating the Opening of Olympex, the
Olympic Expo Beijing 2008

回顾过去，中国邮政的发展历程与奥林匹克运动创办与发展息息相关；中国邮政励精图治、自强不息、脚踏实地、开拓进取的精神与奥林匹克运动“和平、友谊、进步”的理想更是遥相辉映。

今天，中国邮政已成为中国现代化建设的重要力量，在服务人民，建设小康社会中发挥着更加重要的作用；奥林匹克运动更是以其强烈的人文精神和文化魅力，促进世界的繁荣与发展。

展望未来，中国邮政将与奥林匹克运动携手并进，为创造更加美好、更加和谐的新世界共同努力，共铸辉煌！

情系万家，信达天下，中国邮政。

In retrospect, China Post's course of development has symmetry with the creation and evolvement of the Olympic Movement, and its ethos featuring endeavour, industry, hard work, and ceaseless self-improvement, echoes that of the Olympic Movement – "peace, friendship and progress of mankind".

Today, China Post has already become a major force in China's modernization drive, and has played an important role in building a more affluent society, while the Olympic Movement is promoting the world's prosperity and development through its strong humanistic spirit and cultural ambition.

Looking into the future, China Post will join the Olympic Movement in building a better, more harmonious world.

China Post is committed to reaching everyone everywhere.



鸟巢外等候的邮车

The mail trucks of China Post waiting outside the Bird's Nest

Creating a personal Olympic or Paralympic souvenir



Handstamp 12640
'Olympex'

26 JUL '12



Handstamp 12203
'Olympic Stadium'

26 JUL '12

If you have secured your event tickets, or are simply travelling to London to experience the atmosphere of an Olympic Games for the first time by visiting the many cultural events that are being staged (many free), it is likely that you will succumb to the vast array of souvenirs and memorabilia available.

For those wishing to have a souvenir or memento of the occasion, there is a very inexpensive way of producing your own souvenir (and ideal as a gift for grand-children):

- First requirement is an appropriate postcard or envelope (C6 size similar to postcard size is best).
- Second, a 1st class stamp, ideally an Olympic stamp with a design that relates to the event attended, or an Olympic logo definitive stamp (from 1st class Olympic booklets available in most supermarkets and post offices).
- If the card or envelope is going overseas, then postage is 87p (postcard & letter up to 20g for Europe, 10g world-wide) or £1.28 for up to 20g world-wide. There is no Olympic stamp of 87p but there are Olympic £1.28 stamps

Attach the stamp in the preferred top right position, add the address to which you would like the item delivered (possibly your own address).

If using a postcard, add a personal message if you wish – event attended, date etc., but keep the area near the stamp clear.

Place the envelope(s) or card(s) in an outer envelope (up to C5 size can be mailed at basic rate if under 100 grams, and less than 5mm thick). Include a note or better still, wrap a band of paper around the items and clearly state the handstamp reference number and date required on the handstamp.

Address the outer envelope to:

**London Special Handstamp Centre,
Royal Mail,
Mount Pleasant,
Farringdon Road,
LONDON, EC1A 1BB.**

Either place in the mail, ensuring that you have added a stamp for postage, or if you are visiting Olympex, place in the box at the Collectors' Cabin on the Piazza.

Note that the date requested for the handstamp must not be earlier than the date on which you mail in the request or 'mail' at Olympex.

Only the handstamps illustrated above have been confirmed as being available on all dates of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. This is likely to change and any other introduced will be listed at the Collectors' Cabin.

At a cost of no more than £1.50 each, a very personal souvenir should then be delivered to you by Royal Mail – usually within a protective wrapper.

There will also be a special cachet available from the Collectors Cabin at Olympex.



OLYMPIC GAMES

2½d
1948
OLYMPIC GAMES

OLYMPIAD LONDON
XIV - 1948

29 JULY
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**OLYMPEX
2012**

Collecting the
Olympic Games

BRITISH LIBRARY

A free exhibition at the British Library
25 July – 9 September 2012

www.bl.uk/olympex2012

July 27th -
August 12th



OLYMPEX 2012: COLLECTING THE OLYMPIC GAMES
25 July – 9 September 2012

A free exhibition offering a unique insight into the history, symbolism and iconography of the Olympic movement. Explore over 2,500 stamps and intriguing pieces of Olympic memorabilia.

📍 King's Cross St Pancras and Euston
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Olympic History

Presidents of the International Olympic Committee (IOC)

1894 - 1896	Demetrios Vikelas (Greece)
1896 – 1925	Baron Pierre de Coubertin (France)
1925 – 1942	Henri de Baillet-Latour (Belgium)
1946 – 1952	Sigrid Edström (Sweden)
1952 – 1972	Avery Brundage (USA)
1972 – 1980	Lord Killanin of Dublin and Spittal (Ireland)
1980 – 2001	Juan Antonio Samaranch (Spain)
2001 -	Jacques Rogge (Belgium)

List of modern Summer Olympic Games

I	1896	Athens, Greece	XV	1952	Helsinki, Finland
II	1900	Paris, France	XVI	1956	Melbourne, Australia
III	1904	St. Louis, U.S.A.	XVII	1960	Rome, Italy
IV	1908	London, Great Britain	XVIII	1964	Tokyo, Japan
V	1912	Stockholm, Sweden	XIX	1968	Mexico City, Mexico
VI	1916	Berlin, Germany (cancelled)	XX	1972	Munich, West Germany
VII	1920	Antwerp, Belgium	XXI	1976	Montreal, Canada
VIII	1924	Paris, France	XXII	1980	Moscow, Soviet Union
IX	1928	Amsterdam, Netherlands	XXIII	1984	Los Angeles, U.S.A.
X	1932	Los Angeles, U.S.A.	XXIV	1988	Seoul, South Korea
XI	1936	Berlin, Germany	XXV	1992	Barcelona, Spain
XII	1940	Tokyo, Japan (withdrew)	XXVI	1996	Atlanta, U.S.A.
XII	1940	Helsinki, Finland (cancelled)	XXVII	2000	Sydney, Australia
XIII	1944	London, Great Britain (cancelled)	XXVIII	2004	Athens, Greece
XIV	1948	London, Great Britain	XXIX	2008	Beijing, China
			XXX	2012	London, Great Britain
			XXXI	2016	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

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