

Organising the Olympic Games

(From the candidacy to the closing ceremony)

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1 From the Ancient tradition Olympic Games were revived ...

1.1 Ancient Olympic Games

1.1.1 Ancient Olympia

The Olympic Games has its origin in Olympia in Ancient Greece. A small place of reach history gave the name of the most important sporting competition in the World.



Error: different colours.

The gate to the ...



... Olympic stadion in Olympia.

Ancient Olympia - the place where the best athletes from all Greece gathered together from 776 BC to 393 AD.



Temple of Hera built in a Doric style. **Statue of Hermes** was found during excavations in the Temple in 1877.



Stamp from a booklet.

Stamp from a sheet.



Model of buildings in ancient Olympia.

Earthquake at the end of the third century is the reason that **today only ruins of original buildings exists.**



1.1.2 Mythological background

The Games were dedicated to the Ancient Gods (Zeus, Athena, Nike). Nike – Goddess of victory was inspiration of the athletes.



Forgery of the 10 Drachma stamp issued in 1896. Perf. 14:14 instead of 14:13½ printed on ungummed paper.
Acropolis with the Temple of Athena.

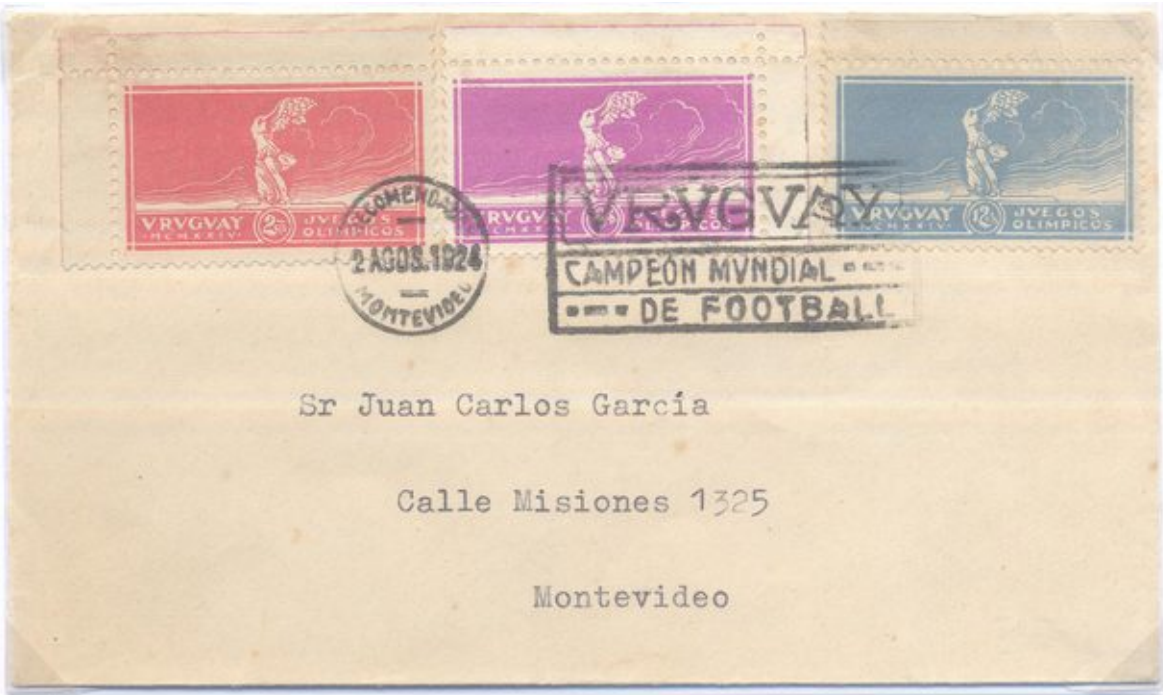
Ancient Gods with **Zeus, King of the Gods**, who had a temple in Olympia.



Trial colour proofs on white and rose cardboard.



Registered cover (front side only) of the Organising Committee of the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris.
Correct postage 85 c; 25 domestic rate under 20 g, 60 c domestic registration fee.



Uruguay Olympic set Nike of Samothrace, first print, sent last day of use, 2.8.1924.
In Greek mythology winged Nike is a Goddess of victory.



Goddess Nike.



Trial colour proof on white cardboard.



Booklet issued on 100th birthday of Edmund Dulac, designer of the 1948 Olympic 1 s stamp.
In myths Nike flew around battlefields rewarding the victors with glory and fame.



Trial colour proof in lilac and blue-black signed by the engraver G. Daussy.



Stage proof of the centre only in karmin.

1.1.3 First Ancient Olympic Games

At the first recorded Ancient Olympic Games running was the only discipline. Olympic truce was declared during the Games to allow spectators and athletes the safe journey to the Games.



Athletes gathered together in a training centre one month before the competitions began to allow all athletes the same conditions for preparation.



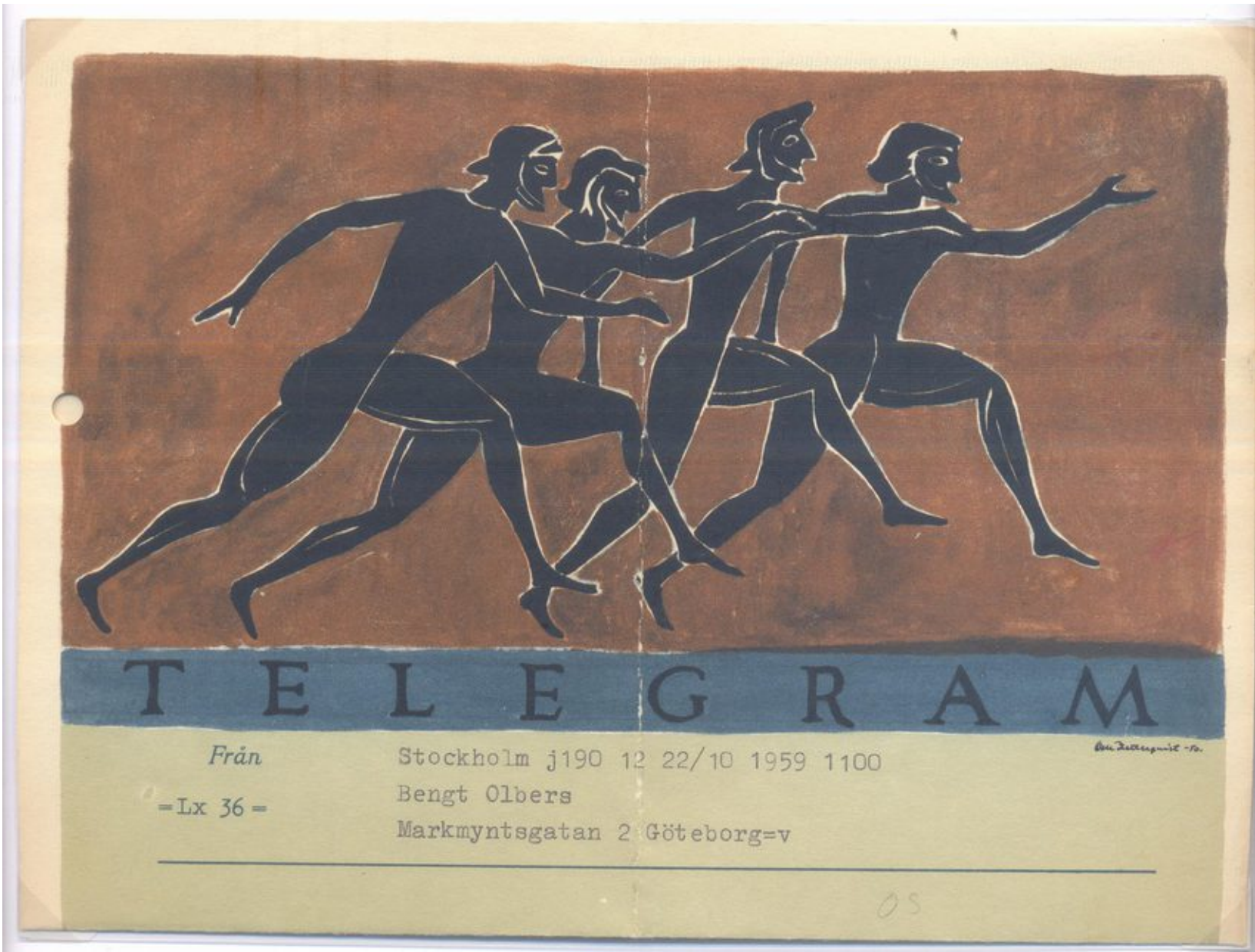
Olympic truce was declared before and during the Games to ensure athletes and spectators could travel safely to the Games.



Stadium at Olympia, in the length just over 192 m.



Straight race of one stadion was the only discipline at first 13 Games.



Sweden telegram sheet from 1959.

Ancient runners from amphora from 6th century B.C. Two stade race (Diaulos) was introduced at the 14th Games in 724 BC. At the next Games Long race (Dolichos) was added to the programme.



Printing error: Double print of black colour.



If the conditions were suitable, athletes competed naked.

Hoplite race (hoplitodromos) with full military armour, the last race added in 520 BC and the last competition of the Games since.



1.1.4 Expansion of Ancient Games

The Games were repeated every four years. They changed and grew through years. New sports and disciplines have been added gradually.



Shifted perforation cut out half of the stamp and left only ancient motives. Less than 50 exists. Original stamp right.

Discus throwing was a part of a pentathlon competition.

Other disciplines have been added gradually.



Correct postage for postcard abroad (10 lepta). Strip of five stamps used. (e)

Pentathlon was added in 708 BC. **Pankration** was added in 648 BC. This sport has only two rules: no biting and gouging out opponents' eyes.



Hermes head domestic PS card uprated with 5 lepta to suit international rate.



The winner of **chariot race** was the owner of the horses not the driver. *Stamp from the prisoners of war Ofag II D, Gross Born, 1944.*

Pankration is a combination of boxing, wrestling and other skills.



Horse racing was introduced in 648 BC.



Proof on carton paper by J. P. SEGG & Co.

In **wrestling** competitors were not classified by weight.



1938 Greece PS card, 5 Drachmas, international rate, various censor markings.

In 689 BC a **four horse chariot race** in the hippodrome was added.

1.1.5 Ancient champions and awards for victory

Competitions had strict rules monitored by the judges. The award for the champion was only an olive wreath but he got the fame and glory in the home city (state).



Good preparation was very important for the success of the athlete. Massage and warming up was used to be good prepared.

Printing variety: different colour of discus.
Judge strictly monitoring the competitor by discus throwing.

The Olympic champion was awarded a simple **wreath on his head.**



After returning home champions were glorified almost as Gods. **Diagores of Rodos** after returning.



Printing variety: different colours
Picking of olive branches from the sacred tree.



Stage proof – first phase
The wreath is made of **olive branches.**



Stage proof in black-green colour on gummed paper 1st phase (only 2 exists).



Issued stamp. Proofs and stamps printed by Staatsdruckerei Wien.

Olive branches.

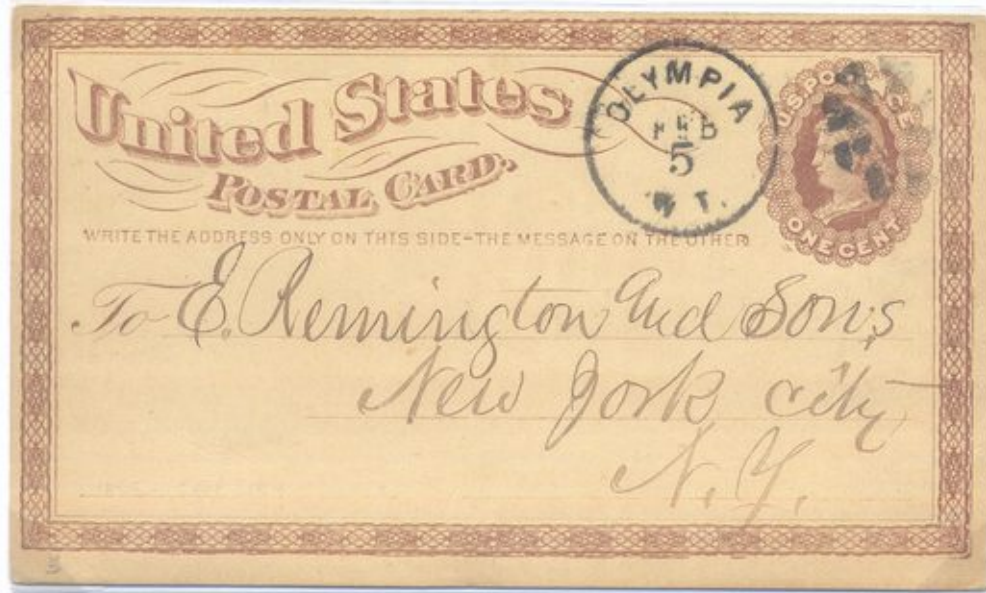


Stage proof in black colour on gummed paper 2nd phase - final design of the stamp (only 2 exists).

1.2 Revival of the Olympic Games

1.2.1 Olympic memories and excavations in Olympia

Although Ancient Games were stopped in 393 the Olympic spirit survived. German archeologists have huge role in the excavations in the Ancient Olympia.



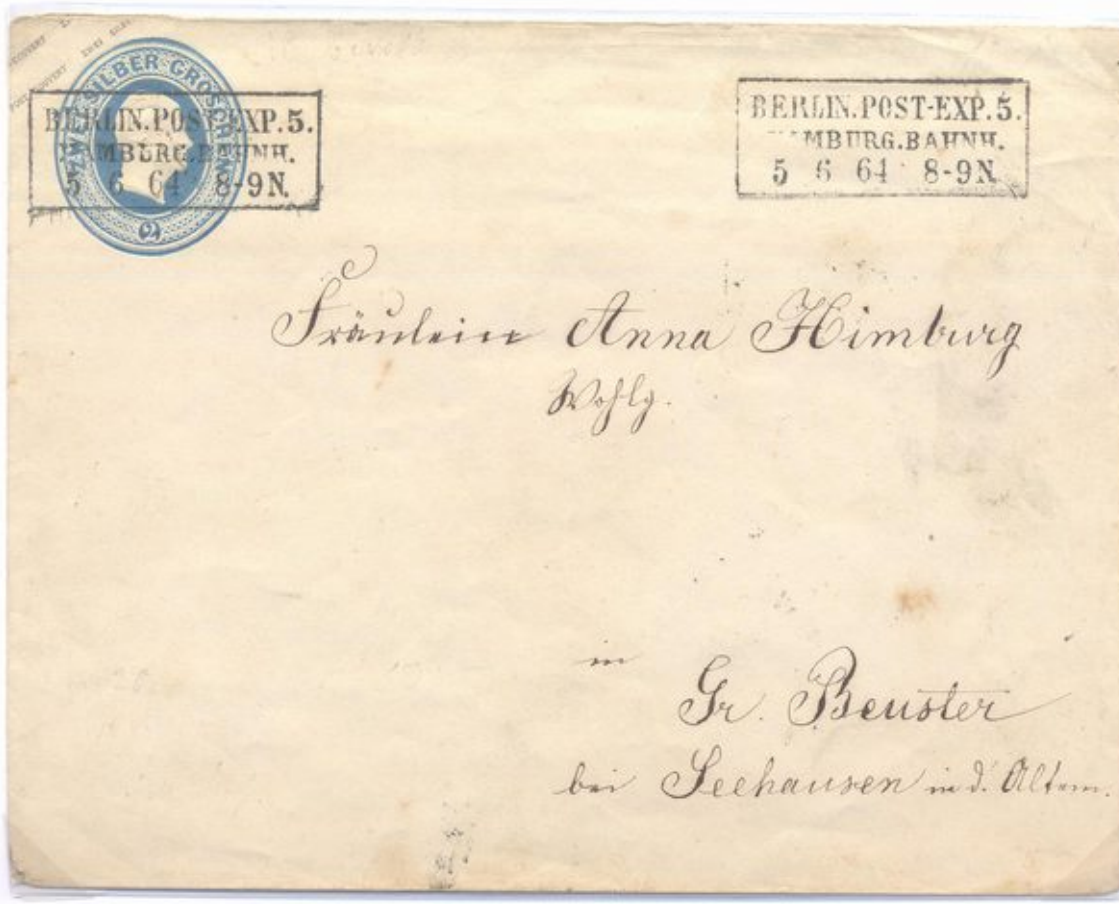
US stationery card used in 1875. One cent inland rate, fancy cancellation.

The city of Olympia (Washington state) was named by European settlers in 1780s.



Bayern privat postal stationery issued in 1912. 5 pf local rate.

German writer **Hans Sachs** has mentioned Ancient sport in the poem from 1545.

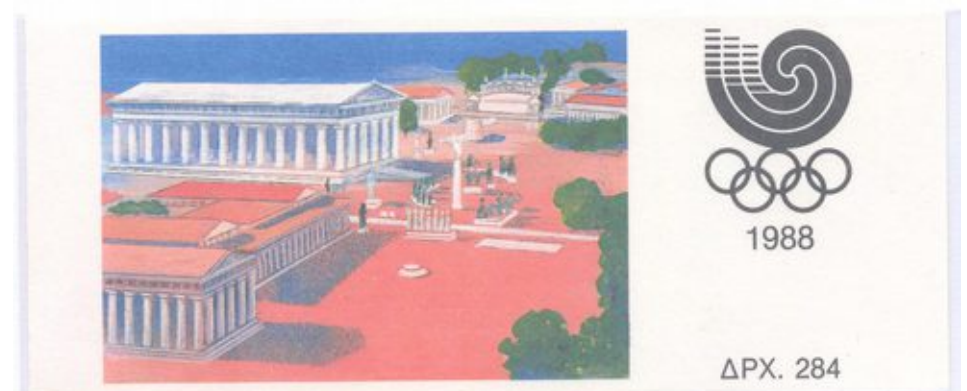


Prussia postal stationery cover used by railway mail in 1864.

Frederick III - King of Prussia supported excavations in Olympia.



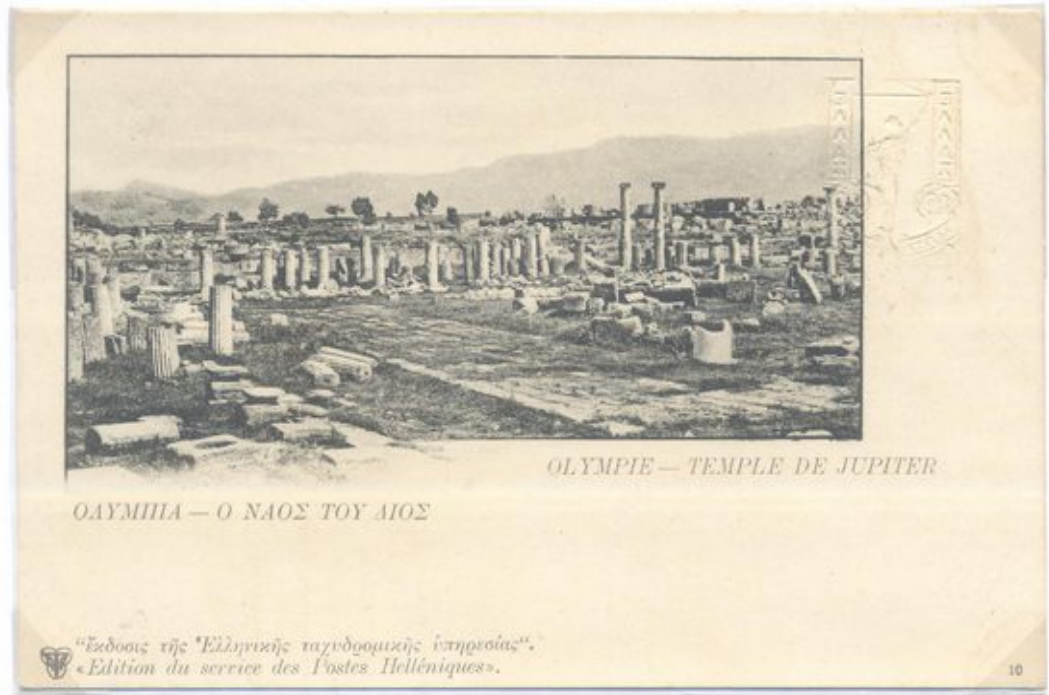
Ernst Curtius, a tutor of future King Frederick III, led the excavations in Ancient Olympia. Excavations started in 1875.



A model of the Ancient Olympia was reconstructed and can be seen in the entrance hall of the Olympic museum.

1.2.2 Legacy of the Ancient Games

Although only ruins remain, archaeological finds reveal architecture, sculptures, pottery, paintings. Even some paper documents remain including poems and results of the competitions.



Postal stationery card 5 lepta (local rate) from 1901.
Ruins of Ancient Olympia. Temple of Jupiter.



Entrance gate to the stadium is preserved until today.



Olympic images are preserved with archaeological finds.



Printing variety:
different colours of amphora handle.
The Olympic Games were an inspiration for painters, ...



... poets...
Part of the Olympic Ode by Pindar (500 BC).



Specimen produced by the American Banknote Company.

... and sculptures.
Discobolus (discus thrower), statue sculpted by Myron (450 BC).



Statue of Nike found in the ruins of the Temple of Zeus in Olympia.



Postal stationery card for the international mail (postage of 30c valid only until 25.03.1924). Card sent to Austria. Correct postage 1,95 Francs (45c rate for postcards after 25.03.1924, 1,50 Fr for Express fee).

According to the preserved results, Milo of Croton, a six time wrestling Olympic champion, was the most successful competitor in the Ancient Games.



Die proof in issued colours with surround signed by engraver G. Daussy.

1.2.3 Revival attempts and new start of the Olympic Games

There were some attempts to revive the Olympic Games with different success. But it was Baron Pierre de Coubertin who was with all his heart dedicated to the Games and earned most credit for the new beginning.



Smart stamp 2nd Class uprated to 1st with 9 p stamp.
First attempt of reviving was made by **Dr. Wiliam Penny Brookes** from England. From 1850 an annual sport Games (from 1859 called Wenlock Olympian Games) are being held until now.



12 Original members of the IOC, among them Willibald Gebhart (Germany), Pierre de Coubertin (France), Demetrius Vikelas (Greece), Aleksej Butovski (Russia), Viktor Balk (Sweden) ...



At the **Sorbonne University in Paris International Olympic Committee (IOC) was founded** on 23.06.1894.



... and **Ferenc Kemeny** (Austria-Hungary) elected ...



... **Demetrios Vikelas** (Greece) for the first IOC president who ...



... found the support of **King George I** who declared the Games open ...



Evangelis Zappas made earlier attempts in Greece. In the period between 1859 and 1889 International Olympic Games took place in Athens.

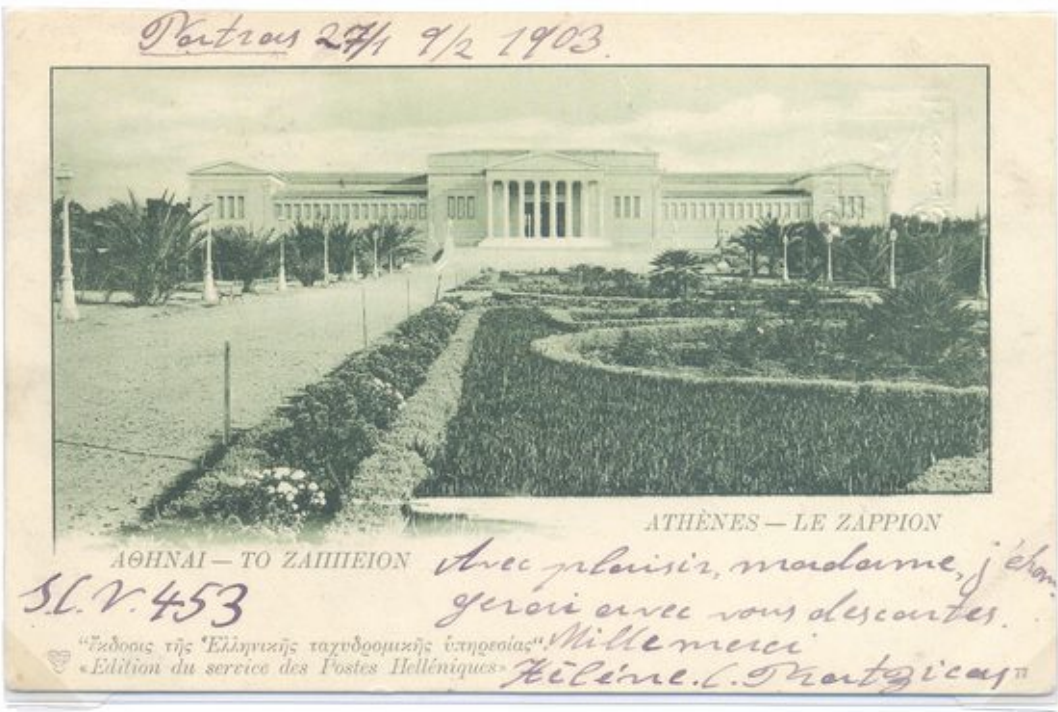


The first stamp of Pierre de Coubertin issued in 1940. Surcharge went for the new stadium.

Most credit for the revival of the Games goes to **Pierre de Coubertin** from France.



For his contribution Coubertins **heart was buried at Ancient Olympia**.



Postal stationery card used in 1903, 10 lepta foreign rate.

... and the Olympic Games were revived. **Zappeion building**, built from the legacy of Evangelis Zappas, was used for the fencing competitions.

2 ... and the Olympic host city is selected ...

2.1 Candidacy

Candidacy is the first step in securing the Games. Bidding Committee takes action through the candidacy procedure. Bid book submission and promotion of the candidacy are important steps in securing the Games.



Bidding Committee performs actions in the candidacy procedure.



... became official at the **Olympic Congress in Berlin.**



Kremlin used in promotion of the **candidacy of Moscow** for the Games in 2012.



Postage obliged printed tax form.

With the **support of City of Berlin** Germany candidacy for the 1936 Games ...



Smart stamp produced with software ver. 2 (with indicated postage paid).

The candidacy file must be submitted to the International Olympic Committee. **London submitted Bid Book for the 2012 Games on 15.11.2004.**



Lille tried to benefit from the **good fast train TGV** connections in candidacy for the 2004 Games.



Buenos Aires candidacy was promoted at the **memorial marathon race in honor of Juan Carlos Zavala**, Olympic champion in 1932.

2.2 Selection of the host city

Olympic host selection is divided into two phases. Applicant city must be approved by the IOC Executive Board to become a candidate city. Evaluation Commission visits all candidate cities and prepare a report for the members of the IOC who make the final decision.



For the 2002 Winter Games, pre-selection is introduced to reduce costs. IOC Executive Board selects the best prepared cities for the next round.
First pre-selection took place in Lausanne 23. - 24.1.1995.



Anton Geesink (Netherlands), 1964 Olympic champion in Tokyo, was a member of the Evaluation commission in 1996 and 2002.

An **Evaluation Commission** conducts **inspection visits** to the candidate cities.



Leter sent in 1855 with red postage paid mark.
Albertville was a candidate for the 1992 Winter Games.



Smart stamp 2nd Class, produced by Society of Olympic Colectors, uprated to suite 1st Class mail.
A **four-day inspection visit of the Evaluation Commission to London, candidate for the 2012 Games** six months before the final decision.



Voting session of the IOC take place **seven years before the Olympic Games**. 2004 host city was selected in **Lausanne**.



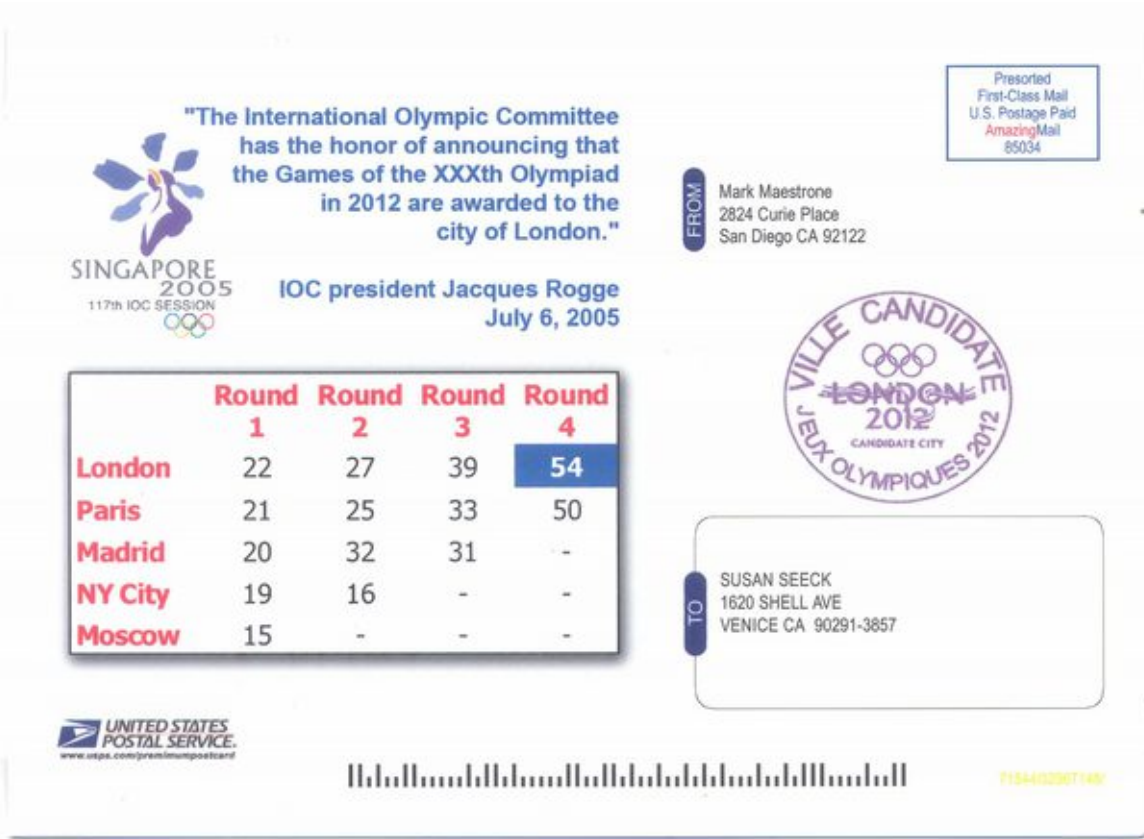
The host city is selected at the **Sessions of the International Olympic Committee**. Only the members of the IOC have a right to vote. In 1993 the host city for the year 2000 was selected.



Sydney was elected.

2.3 Organising Committee

Announcement of the host city is result of many years of hard work to get the Olympic Games. Organising Committee is formed after winning and it takes over further organising activities.



Presorted first class mail by Amazing mail, independent provider of mail services with USPS license.

President of the IOC announce the results of voting. Announcement and the results of the voting for the host city of the 2012 Olympics.



Henri de Baillet-Lattour proved himself as the President of the Organising Committee of the first post WW I Games in 1920 in Antwerp, Belgium.



President of the IOC from 2001 to 2013 Jacques Rogge declared the host city in Singapore.



After the decision there is time for joy and small celebration. Korean delegation after winning 1988 Olympic Games.



After host city selection the Organising Committee is formed. It coordinates all further activities regarding organisation of the Games. Organising Committee for the 1976 Winter Games.



Two types of slogan used in the new building of the Organising Committee of the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing on the opening day of the building 30.04.2008.



Colour proof Lord David Burgley, Olympic champion in 1928, the main organiser of the 1948 London Games.



Sebastian Coe, holder of two Olympic gold medals, the head of the Organising Committee of the 2012 London Games.

3 ... to promote the Games and prepare the venues and infrastructure ...

3.1 Promotion

3.1.1 International and host country promotion of the Games

Promotion is very important for the success of the Games. The Games is promoted abroad and in the host country to attract as many attention as possible.



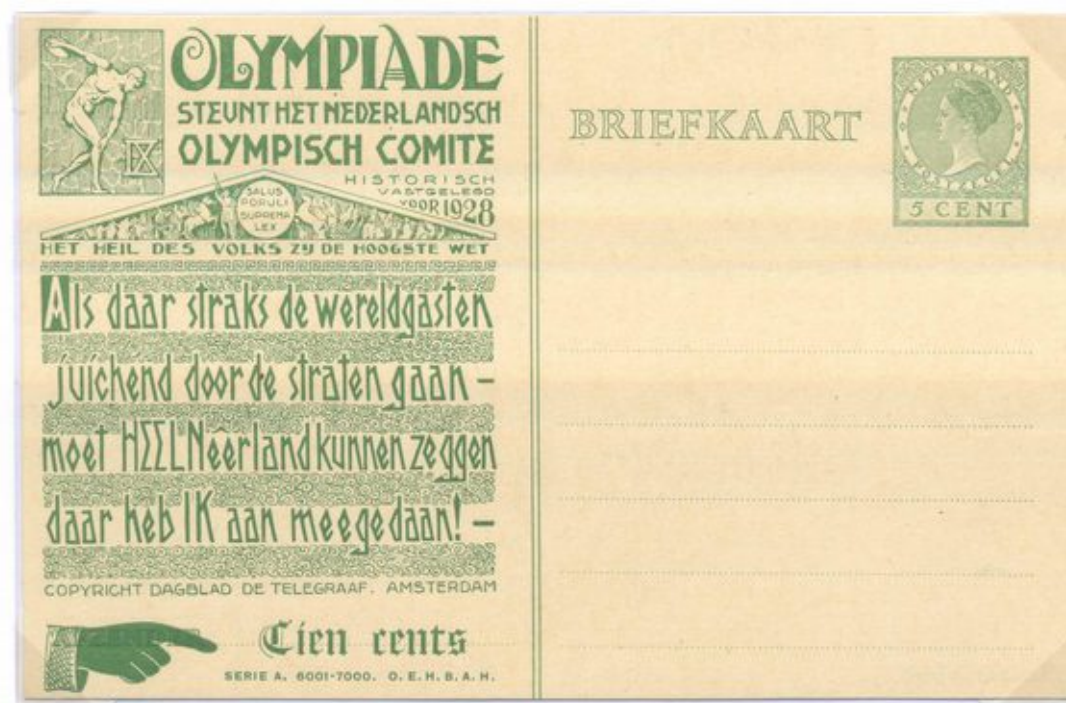
Promotion meter cancellation used by Banco Germanico.

Informations of the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin was available in Rio the Janeiro.

Mailer's postmark permit allows users with UPSS approval to cancel letters by self designed rubber stamp.



The whole region benefits from the Olympic Games. Promotion of the **Olympic Valley** for the Squaw Valley Winter Games.



Promotional stationery card with 5c domestic out of town rate. Purchase price was 10c. The difference went to the Netherlands Olympic Committee.

Promotion helps in raising funds to finance the Games.



Riga A (mostly used canceller) bilingual French and German slogan cancellation.

Latvia promotion of the later cancelled 1940 Games in Helsinki.



Boxed cachet used as a transit marking in Gothenburg mostly for the mail to the United States.

Sweden promotion of 1912 Stockholm Games in French language.



Air mail PS cover with censor marking. 1 Schilling, international air mail rate.

Promotive air flight Wien – Helsinki less than one month before the Games.

3.1.2 Promotion of the Games in the host city

Promotion must be done in the host city also. The Games are the best attraction for the visitors. But famous places of the host city also contribute to the popularity and success of the Games.



A Krag Mascin machine roller cancellation between 7 lines. Such type was used at 2 post offices in Paris. Variety: **Oval date guller** caused by the deformation of drum of the canceller. Fewer than 10 examples known.

Host city also benefits from the Games.



Famous sites of the city are used in promotion of the Games. **Brandenburg Gate** in Berlin.



Mexico City presented **Spanish architecture** as well as old **Aztek culture**.



Notre-Dame Basilica of Montreal in one of the landmarks of the city.



Programme cover showing hurdler promotes the 1908 London Games.



Newspaper wrapper bearing machine roller cancellation promoting the Games.

3.1.3 The Olympic poster and Olympic logo

Olympic poster is an important means of promotion. Another means of promotion is Olympic logo. It is selected by the Organising Committee and is used wherever possible.



Posters used for promotion of the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games got many prizes for design.



Poster for the 7th Summer Olympic Games in Antwerp showing a discus thrower and flags of some participating countries.



Picture of the skier was used for the poster for the 1936 Winter Games.



Olympic logo is also very important for promotion and fund raising and is used by Olympic sponsors also.



Italian 10c (foreign rate) PS card issued in 1895.

Etruscan sculpture of the she-wolf with Romulus and Remus, by legend founders of Rome, was used as the motif for the 1960 Olympic logo.



Slogan and circular cancellation used on the opening day of the Games.

Olympic emblem of the 1956 Winter Games is a stylized snowflake.

3.1.4 The Olympic mascot

Mascots represents animals or famous people who represent cultural heritage of the region. In 1968 at the Grenoble Winter Olympic Games unofficial mascot was introduced. The bear Misha is the first who succeed in promotion of the Moscow Games in 1980.



Pevos and Athena promotes the 2004 Games at the philatelic exposition.



The Olympic mascot **Wenlock** (named after town) and Paralympic mascot **Mandeville** (named after doctor and hospital) of the 2012 London Games.



Official **Olympic mascot** is in use in promotion of the Games from 1968, but **Bear Misha**, the mascot of the 1980 Moscow Olympics, was the first one that achieved large-scale commercial success.



Mascots of the 1994 Lillehammer Games **Haakon and Kristin** welcome us to the Games.



Neve and Glitz, Torino 2006 mascots, represent a snowball and an ice cube.



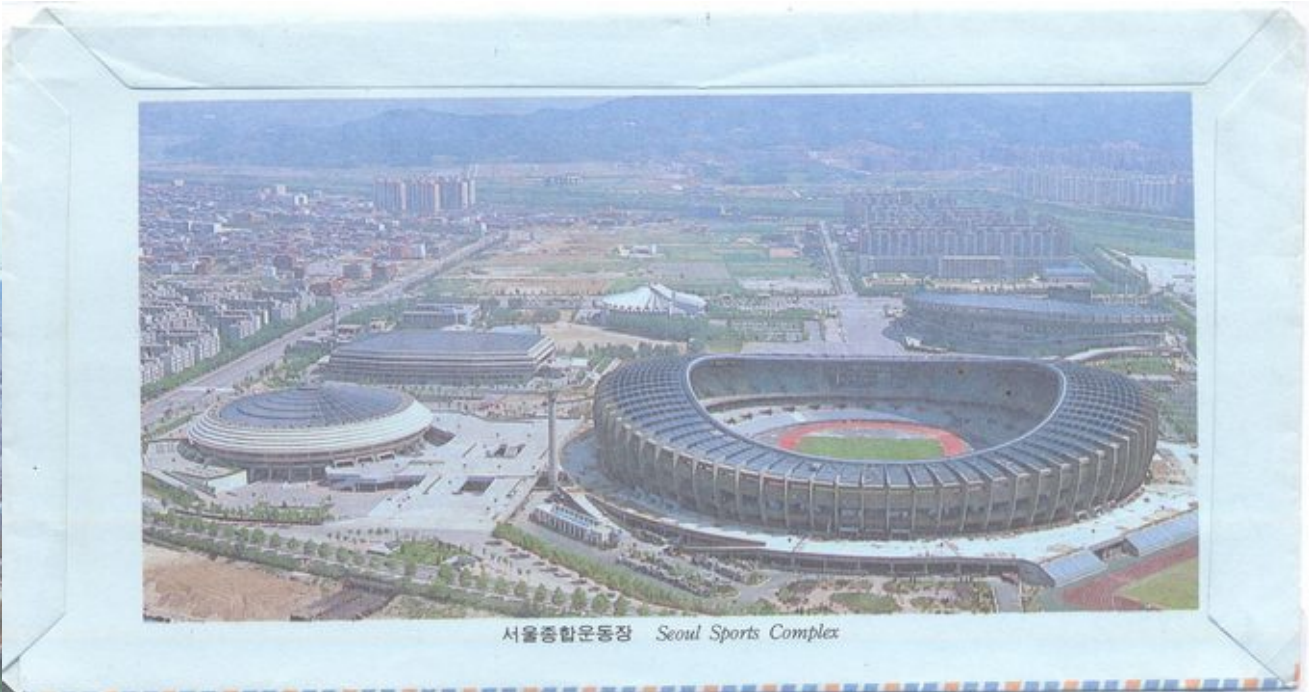
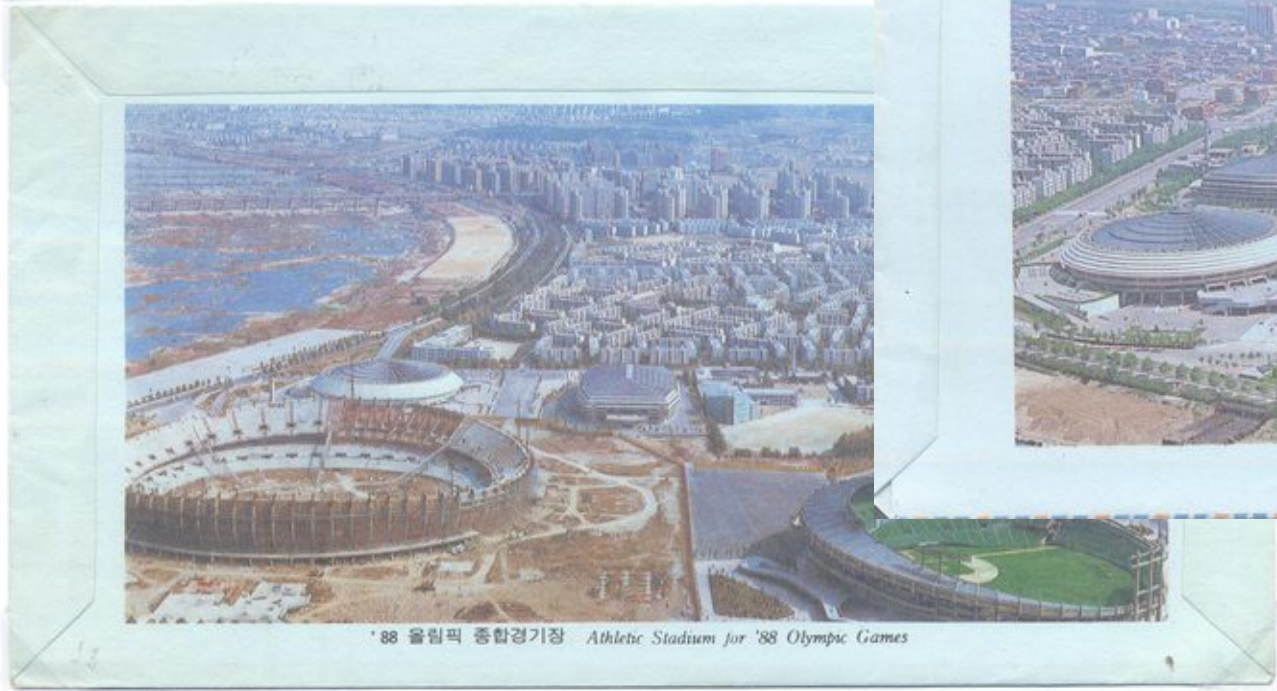
Cobi, Barcelona 1992 mascot, and **Izzy**, Atlanta 1996 mascot, which was unveiled at the closing ceremony in Barcelona in 1992.



International reply coupon accepted at Lausanne Congress in 1974. With dotted circle in the first pane and horisontal 'UPU' watermark.
Mascot Hidori promotes philatelic Exhibition at the 1988 Games in Seoul.

3.2 Preparation of Olympic venues
3.2.1 Construction

The main task of the Organising Committee is to prepare competition venues which are carefully planned and constructed. The activities are monitored by the IOC.



Construction of the Olympic venues takes many years. In 1984 **main stadium for the 1988 Games** in the Seoul Olympic Park was still **under construction**, while some objects were already finished. In 1986 main stadium was finished also.



Correct postage 900 Liras for registered aerogramme sent to the local address.

International Olympic Committee supervise activities of the Organising Committee.
At the 85th IOC Session in Rome Los Angeles and Sarajevo Organising Committees got approvals and recommendations for further actions.



Graf Egbert von der Asseburg (German IOC member) was an **initiator of construction of a new stadium** for lately cancelled **1914 Games**.

First day of use of the 'Franco British Exhibition' cancellation on 26.05.1908, the day of the official opening of the Olympic stadium (Olympics were part of that Exhibition).



Organising Committee plans and organises all activities.



In 7 years all activities have to be finished.

3.2.2 New facilities

Many new Olympic venues are built to provide enough capacity and for the spectators and the best possible conditions for the participants of the Games.



Venues must provide **capacity** for many **spectators** visiting the Games.



Special postmark with letter 'N' used at the Olympic stadium temporary PO in Helsinki.



Dietrich Eckart Bühne, the gymnastics venue in Berlin in 1936, was designed after an ancient Greek **amphitheatre** for 22000 spectators.



'Amsterdam stadion' N1 pentagonal postmarks and registration violet handstamp sent from a temporary post office near the stadium. Postage 30c (15c letter abroad + 15c registered) underpaid 1c, but sent to the director of the post-office who didn't have to pay the postage due stamp.

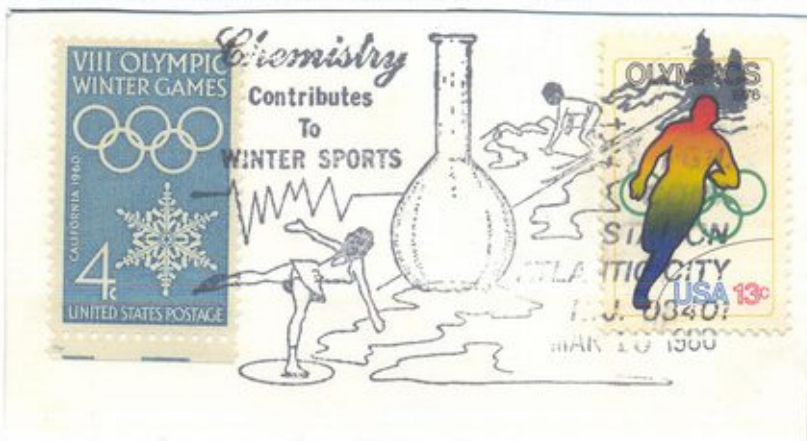
Amsterdam Olympic stadium, was just slightly bigger than the old one.



Receipt of sending a registered mail with N2 pentagonal 'Amsterdam stadion' cancellation.



On the place of an old stadium a huge new stadium for the 1936 Games in Berlin was built to **accept up to 110000 spectators**.



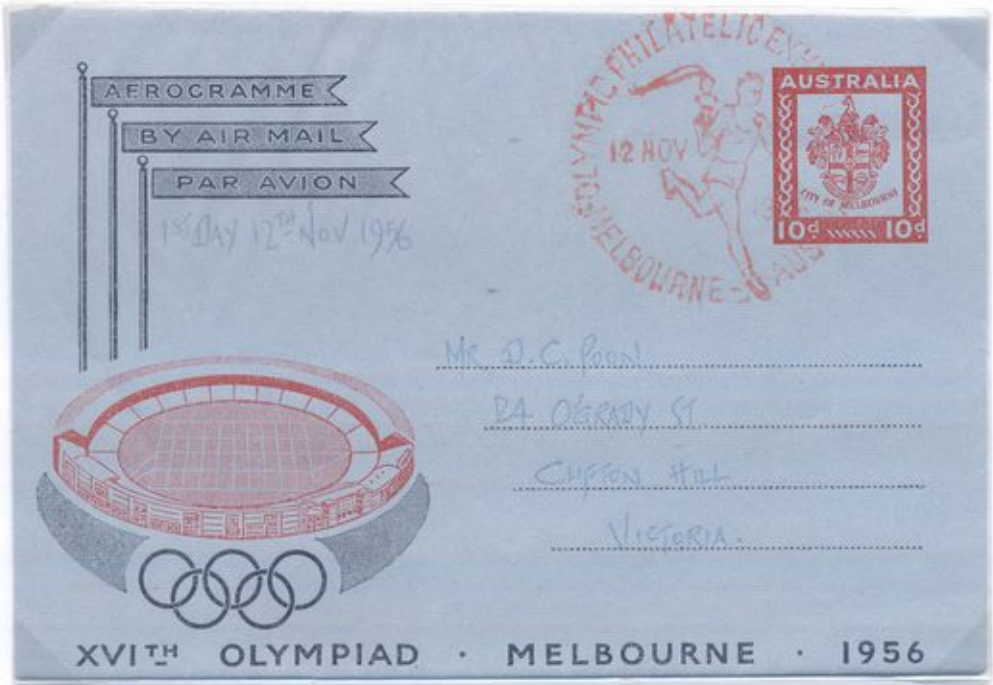
Science / **chemistry** helps in some sports (**alpine skiing**, **figure** and speed **skating**, bob sledge, skeleton, luge,...) to **offer more equal conditions** for the competitors.



Jannsen & Fritsen provides the equipment for the gymnastic competitions at many Olympic Games since 1968 in Mexico City.

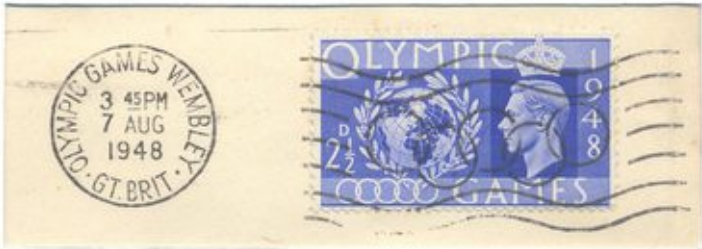
3.2.3 Existing facilities

Existing venues are rebuilt and renovated to expand capacity and to offer better comfort for the spectators and the best conditions and results for the competitors.



Variety: *Melbournf* instead of *Melbourne* in imprinted stamp.

Melbourne cricket ground largely rebuilt for the 1956 Olympics with the capacity of 103000.

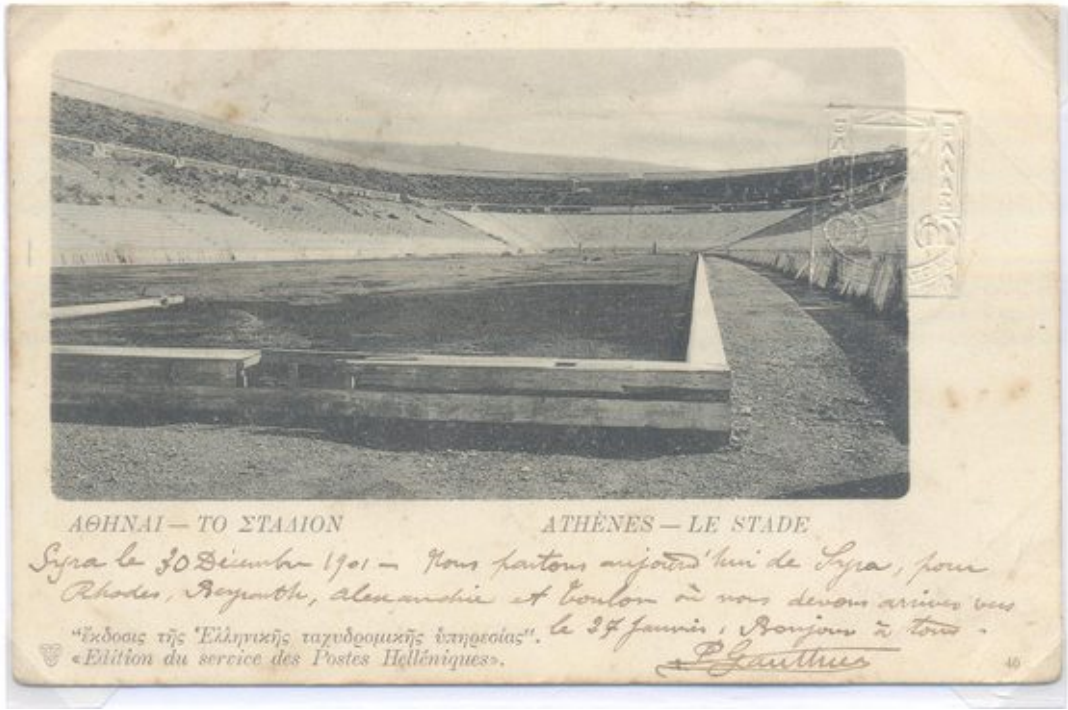


Wembley Stadium, one of the most famous stadiums in history, was built in 1920s and used for the 1948 London Olympics.

Stadium in Athens for the 2004 Games was built last minute due to delays in adding a roof to an renovated stadium built in 1982.



Seating capacity of the 'Estadio Olimpico Univerzitario' had to be enlarged before the 1968 Mexico City Games.



Averoff stadium for the 1896 Games was reconstructed from the remains of an old Ancient stadium long before the dimensions of the athletic track were standardised.



National Olympic Stadium in Tokyo was built for the Asian Games in 1958.



First type of the 'stadion' cancellation from 1906 with 'ION' near each other used at the temporary post office at the stadium. (e)



3.2.4 Main Olympic stadium

Main concern of the organisers is to prepare main Olympic stadium. It is mostly located in the Olympic park with other venues. Olympic stadium is venue of the opening ceremony and give the first impression of the Games.



Helsinki Olympic stadium was built for the Games which were cancelled due to the WW II. It hosted the Games in 1952.

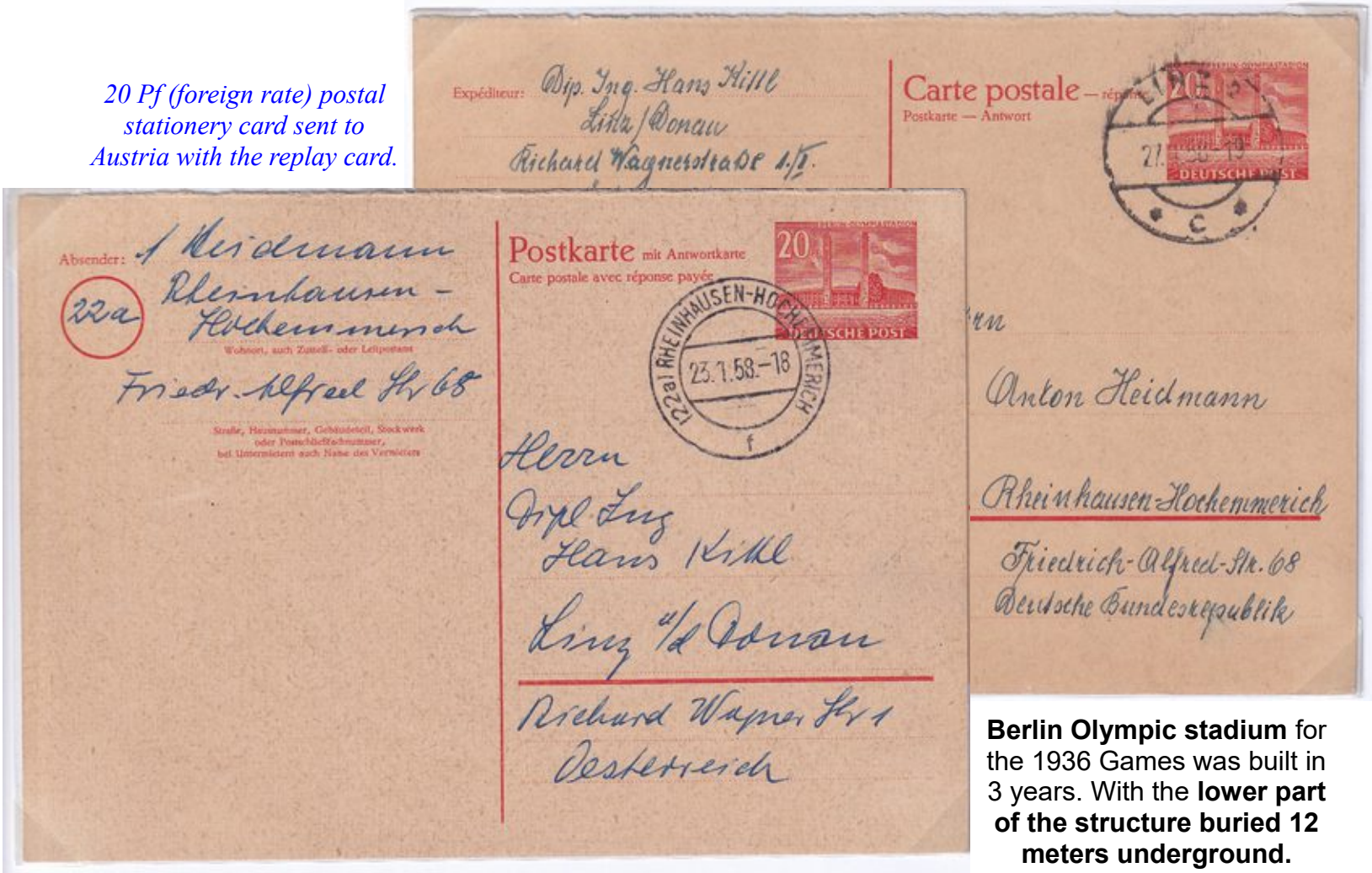


Continuous roller cancellation from a Krag Maskin Fabric machine between 7 lines (7th line is not often visible) used in 2 post offices. In Colombes rarely used as a departure cancellation with less then 10 examples known.



Mostly used as a receiving cancellation. 7th line hardly seen. In the Colombes district of Paris existing stadium was renovated to host 1924 Olympic Games.

20 Pf (foreign rate) postal stationery card sent to Austria with the replay card.



National Olympic Stadium (1964) and ...



Berlin Olympic stadium for the 1936 Games was built in 3 years. With the lower part of the structure buried 12 meters underground.

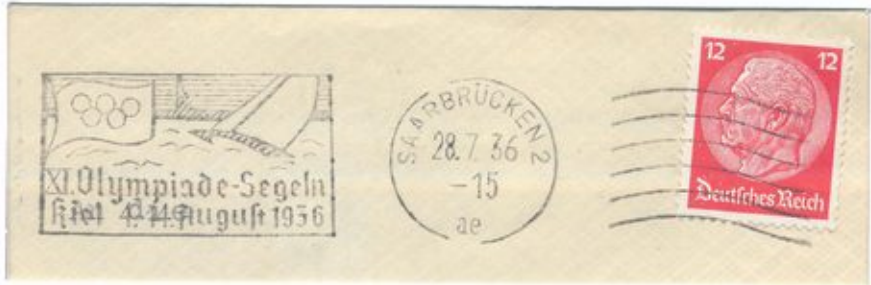
... Seoul Olympic Stadium were built for the Asian Games.

3.2.5 Satellite locations

Some competitions take place at the satellite locations. Team sports and water sports are usually performed there. In 1956 equestrian competition took place even in other country.



Göppingen hosted a group of a handball tournament at the 1972 Munich Olympics.



Sailing competitions at the 1936 Berlin Games took place in Kiel harbour from 4.8. - 14.8.1936.



Trial color proof with pencil written color code.

Sailing events at the 1948 Games were held in Torquay on south cost of England 03. - 06.08. and 10. - 12.08.1948.



Registered letter to Germany bearing green label 'Utförsel medgiven' (export admitted).

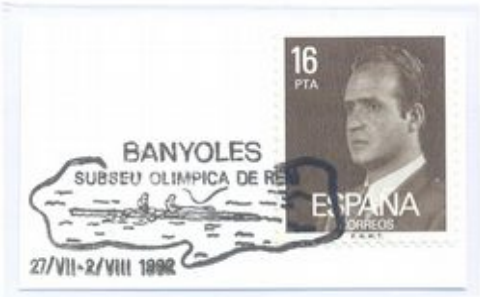
Equestrian events at the 1956 Games were transferred from Melbourne to Stockholm (Sweden) due to quarantine laws for animals in Australia.



At the 1972 Munich Games wild water kayak and canoe slalom competitions took place in Augsburg.



Wavy line postmark used on a sailing events day.



Rowing competition at the 1992 Games took place on the Lake Banyoles.

3.3 Infrastructure
3.3.1 Transportation

Transportation infrastucture is very important for the success of the Games. Every possible means of transport are used to improve connections between the venues and with the World.



Correct postage rate for the Zeppelin air mail 100 Pf.

Visiters from Frankfurt had an oportunity to visit the opening day of the 1936 Games in Berlin with the **Zeppelin Olympic flight**.



One of two promotional meters promoting Olympics used by Lufthansa.

Lufthansa provided the possibility to visit 1936 Olympic Games with an airplane.



Slogan by Flier machines from the International Postal Supply Co. used at 8 post offices in Paris and 4 in the provinces.

Paris Railway stations Gare du Nord, Gare de l'Est and Gare Saint Lazare accepted visiters at the 1924 Games.



Error: **Inverted "N"** in STATION. Second day of use. In the first two and half days 'N' was inverted.

Amsterdam Cental Railway station enable easier trafic.



First day of use of cancellation which had to be removed on 14.12. after only a few days because French post didn't have the permission for use of the Olympic rings.

New high speed TGV train line Paris – Albertville, opened 3.12.1988, helped visitors of the Olympics.



Air China was an Olympic partner of the 2008 Beijing Games **using** renovated **Beijing airport**.



'Škoda' provided vehicles for the 1992 Barcelona Games.



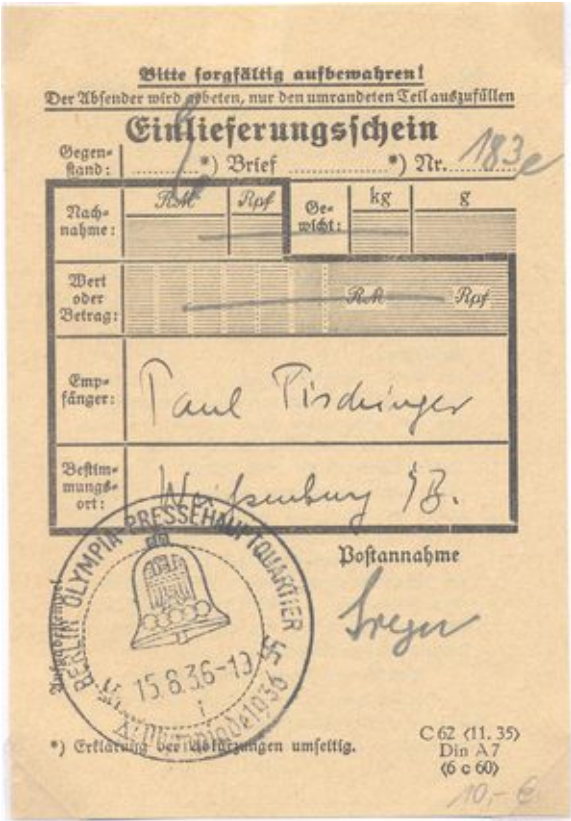
Melbourne wide avenues and **London** renovated **underground railway** lines made transportation problems much easier.

3.3.2 Accommodation

One of the main tasks of the Organising Committee is to prepare accommodation facilities for athletes, judges, media representatives, referees and visitors of the Games.



The **Olympic village** for the 2010 Vancouver Winter Games was ready to accommodate over 2800 athletes, coaches and officials.



Receipt of posting registered mail.
To spread the word of the Games **press** and **broadcast** facilities must be built.



Nutrition of the participants needs great attention. **Knorr** was an official food supplier of the 1976 Winter Olympic Games in Innsbruck.



Coca Cola is the longest continuous partner of the Olympic Games since the 1928 Amsterdam Games.



Tower block was built to **host man athletes** of Grenoble Games in 1968.



Registered letter with 'Hotell Viking' handstamp in violet on the registration label.
New hotels are built to accommodate visitors of the Games. **Hotel Viking in Oslo** (today Hotel Royal Christiania) was the biggest in Scandinavia when it was built. It was the headquarters of the IOC members and hosted out of town dignitaries at 1952 Winter Games.



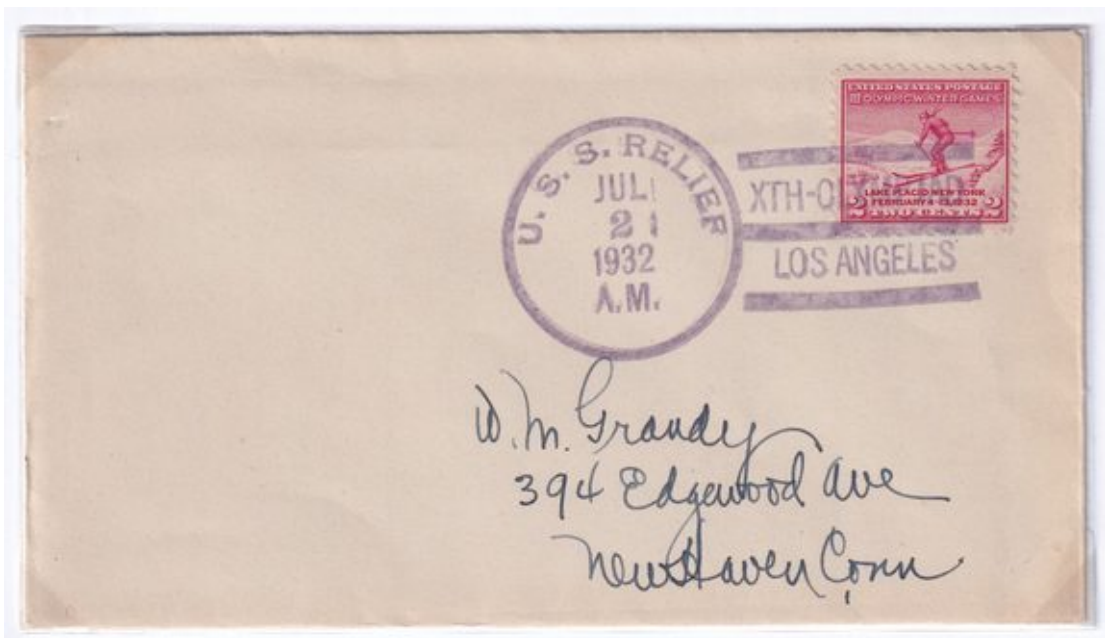
Error in cancellation date. Year 1982 instead of 1992.
Referees village for the 1992 Barcelona Games was formed in 'Vila de Parc de Mar'.



The host city must also take care of the amusement of athletes and tourists. Night club in '**Holiday Inn**' Hotel.

3.3.3 Volunteers, security and health capacities

It must be provided for the security and health of the participants and visitors of the Olympic Games. Volunteers also helps organisers and visitors of the Games.



Athletes need quality **medical service** during the competition.



Hand roller cancellation used at the Nagano Olympic Village Medicine center.
Capacities for the **health care** must be provided.



Today we can hardly imagine the Games without **volunteers**. **Volunteers at the Qingdao Olympic sailing regatta.**



They pass training process which may last for years. **First day of volunteers recruitment** for the Beijing Games, two years before the Games commence (28.8.2006).



About **70.000 volunteers** was helping at the **2012 Games** in London. They were called **Games makers**.



Volunteer maintain the jumping pit to ensure the same conditions for all competitors.



Security of the participants and visitors or the Games is very important.



Perfin POL used by the Police forces; perfin in 3 different directions.



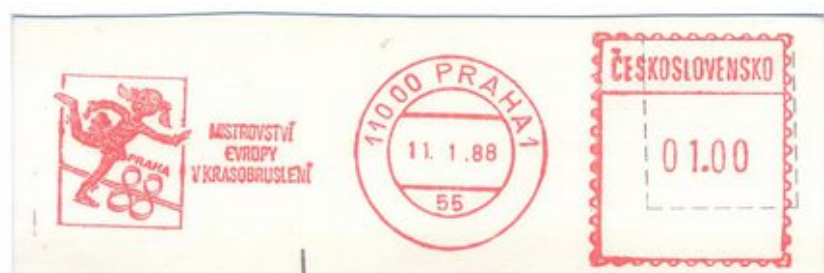
Police take care of the security of competitors and visitors during the Games.

4 ... for the best athletes of the World who will gather there ...
 4.1 Qualification and preparation of athletes
 4.1.1 Qualifying

The number of Olympic participants is limited. Every competitor must qualify first. This can be done at the World or continental championships and other qualifying competitions. In some countries national trials are needed.



World and continental championships usually offers the best way to qualify.



European Figure skating Championship in Prague determined some participants for the 1988 Calgary Games.



Czech Republic women basketball team took the last opportunity in **Ankara** at the **qualifying tournament** for the 2012 London Games.



World champion in basketball is directly qualified. Brazil, World champion in 1959.



Qualifications for the 1972 Olympic **equestrian** events took place in Verden.



Provincial qualifications in **equestrian** events for the 1928 Games.



Athletic trials in Eugene for the 1980 Games in Moscow. Due to the boycott American Sportsmen later stayed at home.



National Olympic Committees make final selection of athletes that will represent the country at the Olympic Games.

4.1.2 Preparation of athletes

Preparation to the Olympic Games is very important. Basic preparations are made before the Games. Last preparations are made at the Olympic venues. In some sports Olympic objects must be tested before the Games.



Imperforated proof on thick un gummed paper (cardboard) and perforated colour proof in gray for the 1906 stamp.

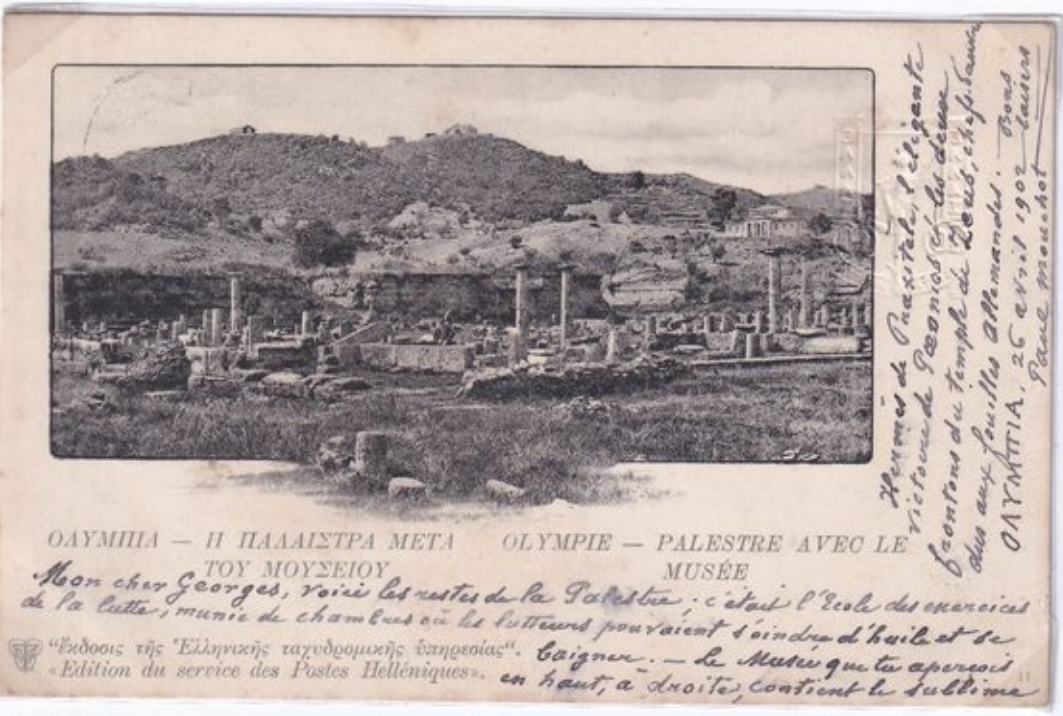


Proof on carton paper by J. P. SEGG & Co, who produced the 1906 Olympic set (together with printing house Perkins-Bacon & Co).

Jumping with weights was a discipline in Ancient Greece. Today is used for training.



Equestrian competition at the Olympic venue was a great test before 1936 Games.



10 lepta (foreign rate) Greece postal stationery card issued in 1901.
The Palaestra (Greek word for wrestling) in **Ancient Olympia** was used as training venue for boxing, wrestling and jumping.



Bayern official postal stationery card for domestic mail (5 Pfennig).

Gymnastic festival in Nürnberg in 1903 was a good test for German gymnasts before St. Louis Games where they won two medals.



Stadium of the Ohio state University, where famous athlete **Jesse Owens** trained before the 1936 Games.



German rowing championship in 1936 served as a probe for both competitors and organisers.



Tokyo International Sports Week 1963 was a very good rehearsal for the 1964 Olympics.

4.2 Assembly of the athletes at the Olympic Village

4.2.1 The departure of the Olympic team

Selection of the Olympic team, presentation of athletes and departure of the team are the signs the Games are just to be started. Fund raising is needed to finance the expedition.



Fund raising for the Polish Olympic team for the 1940 Games which were later cancelled because of WW II.



Different slogan cancellations were used in six cities (Vienna, Graz, Linz, Innsbrück, Salzburg and Klagenfurt).

Fund raising for the Austria Olympic team for the 1936 Berlin Olympics.



National Olympic Committee makes the final selection of the **Olympic participants**.



Head of the country often accepts members of the team. **President of Kenya** presents the national flag to the member of paralympic team.



The Olympic team is presented to the public before the departure.



French version of the slogan cancellation.

Belgian post supports their national sportsmen.



Most teams use **special charter flights**. **Cayman Airways**, carrier of the national Olympic team in 1988.



Departure of the Hungarian team on a day of opening ceremony to Innsbruck.



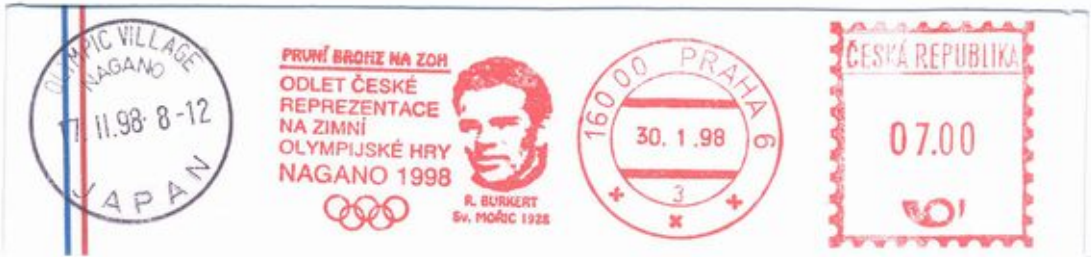
*Airmail letter sent from Bratislava to Lillehammer with the **Olympic flight airmail label**. **Slovakia Olympic team flight** to the 1994 Lillehammer Winter Games.*

4.2.2 The Olympic Village

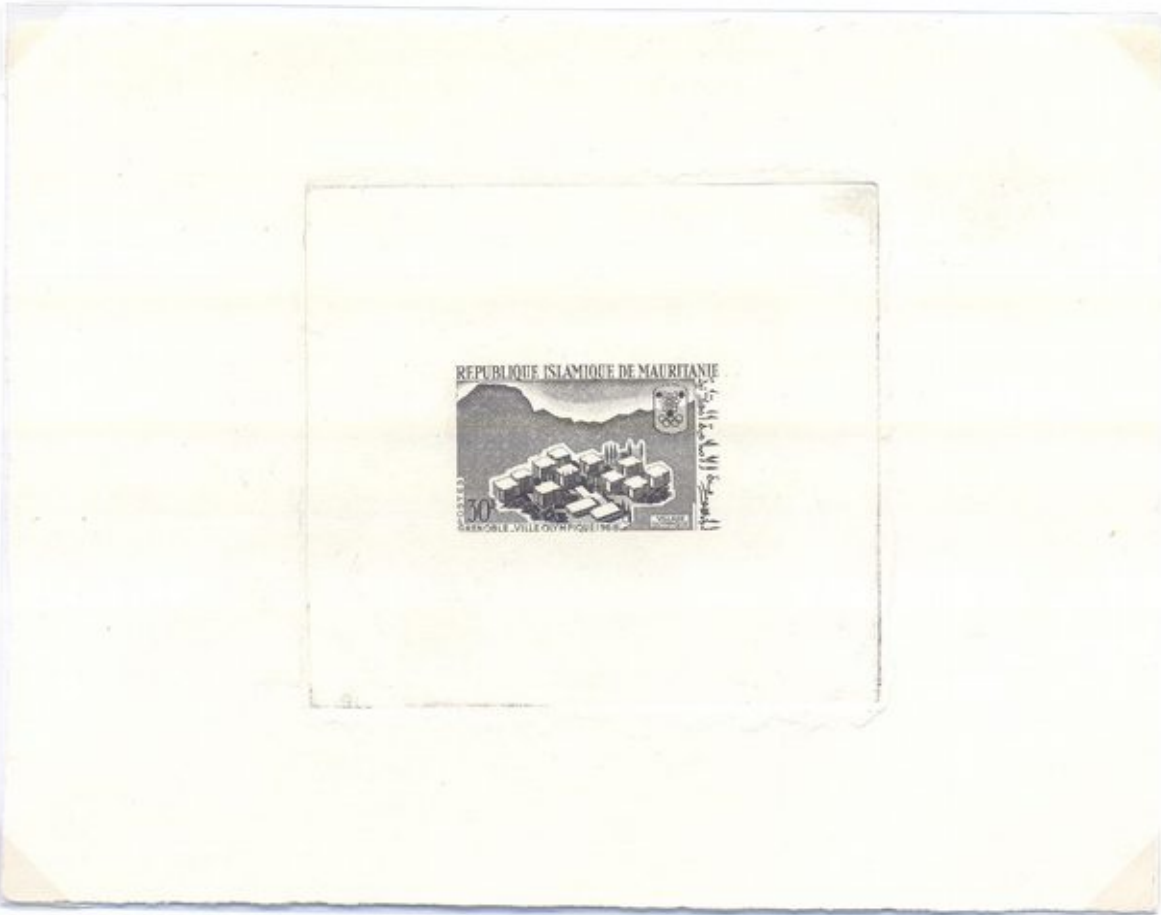
Athletes are hosted in an Olympic Village from 1924. The Village is opened before the Games starts to allow athletes the best conditions to prepare to the competitions.



After landing at the airport ...



... athletes gather together at the Olympic Village.



Stage proof, final design.

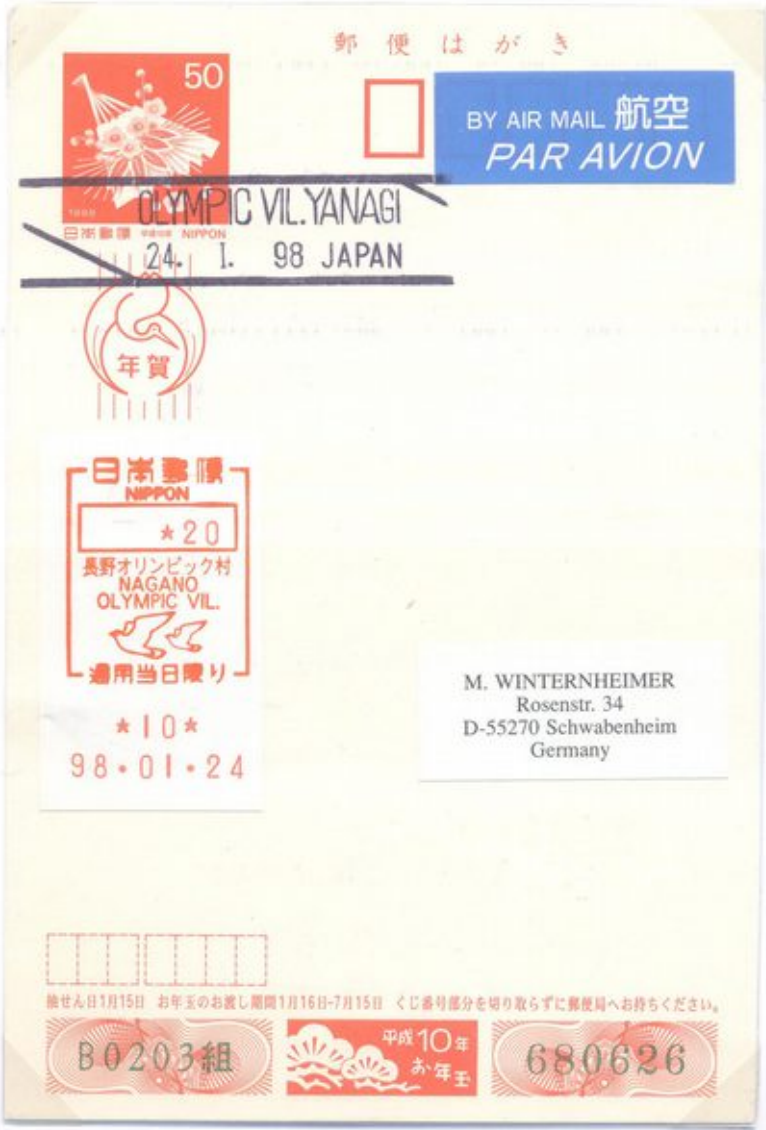
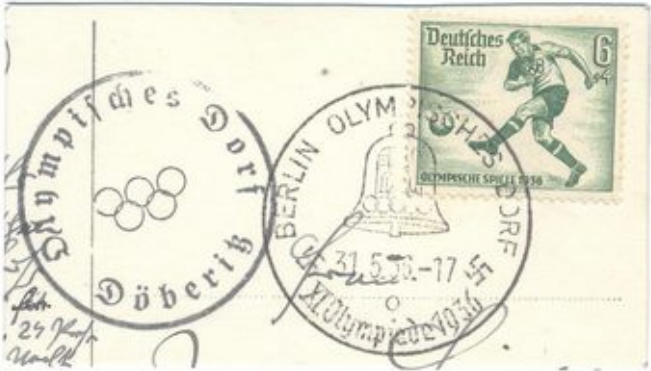
Olympic Village for Winter Olympic Games in Grenoble in 1968.



Cancellation used at the Olympic Village during the Games (15.7. swimming, fencing, diving finals).
The first Olympic Village was prepared for the 1924 Games near the Colombes stadium.

Hand cancellation used at the 1936 Berlin Döberitz Olympic Village.

Olympic Village for the 1936 Games was ready to accept athletes two months before the Games.



PS bearing Olympic roller mark and ATM frama label.

Olympic Village for 3000 athletes of the 1998 Nagano winter Games was opened 14 days before the Games.

4.2.3 Main and Satellite Olympic Villages

Main Olympic Village is located in the host city. Olympic Villages are also used at the satellite locations. After the end of the Games they are used as housing estate.



Registered express letter sent to the inland address 1.8.1936 (first day of the Games).
Correct postage 82 Pf (12 Pf inland postage up to 20g, 30 Pf registration fee, 40 Pf express fee).
Main Olympic Village accepts most of the athletes.



Olympic Villages for the 1956 and 1988 Games were also designed to **serve as housing estate** later.



Young athletes from Europe also visited 1936 Olympic Games and were placed at the **Olympic youth camp**.



Two Villages were opened at the **satellite locations** for the 1992 Winter Games in **Les Saisies** and **Bridges les Bains**.



2292 apartments were built for the Olympic Village in Athens 2004. They now house over 8000 residents.



Registered mail to Germany used at Olympic Village post office (Lieu 8) in Bromont.
A **satellite Village** opened in **Bromont in 1976** for the equestrian events.

4.3 Lighting the Olympic flame and Torch relay

4.3.1 Lighting the Olympic flame

Torch relay is a link to the Ancient Olympic Games. It announce the Games and unites people. The ceremony takes place at the Temple of Hera in Ancient Olympia from 1936.



The Olympic flame, representing the idea of uniting people, is the link to the ancient Games.



The flame is lit in Olympia at the ancient site of the Temple of Hera.



The idea of transferring the flame from Olympia came from Carl Diem, Secretary General of the Organising Committee for the 1936 Games.



Carl Zeiss (Jena, Germany) produced the curved mirror, which was used for igniting the first flame in ancient Olympia in 1936.



The first torch is kindled ...



...at the ceremony performed by 11 actresses representing Hestia's Virgins ritual.



From the Tempe of Hera the flame start the journey to the Olympic stadium.



Personalised stamp cancelled at the temporary postal station in the lobby of State of California Office Building in San Francisco.

The flame is lit using a parabolic mirror to focus the sun's rays into a single point of intense heat.



Start of the torch relay for the 1976 Games in Olympia.

4.3.2 Olympic torch

Torchbeares transfer of the flame form Olympia to the Olympic stadium using torches. Every torchbearer runs a small stage of the relay. The flame must burn all the time of the Torch relay.



Torches for the torch relays in 1936 and 1972 were produced by **Friedrich Krupp**.



*Booklet for foreign visitors of the 1936 Berlin Olympics (version with the red diagonal stripe).
On the inner side of the cover postage rates are printed in German, English, French and Spanish.*

Joint issue of Greece and Republic of Korea.

Every **torchbearer** run a **short distance** up to one kilometer.

Only **22 torches** were used for the **1952 Helsinki Games**.



Trial color proof #18 with pencil written colour code and colour producer code.
During his stage **he holds the torch high to the sky**.

The flame must burn all the time of the relay.

4.3.3 Torch relay

Olympic flame is transferred from Olympia to the host city. The relay used to have three parts, Greece, international and host country torch relay. After 2012 Games the international part is omitted. Torch relay ends at the Olympic stadium.



Austria airmail card with Olympic torch relay hand cancellations and Vienna Airport cancellations sent to the local address (correct 35 Gröschen rate).

Torch relay for the 1936 Berlin Olympics.
On the 3178 km route the flame stopped in Vienna, 29.7.1936.



Two routes from Dubrovnik to Sarajevo at the 1984 Winter Olympic Games torch relay.



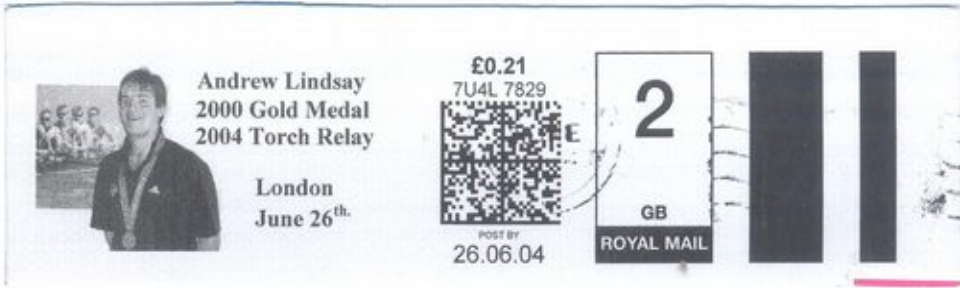
The flame for the 1952 Winter Games reached Bislet stadium in Oslo. Although not started in Olympia yet, this was the first torch relay at the Winter Games.



Torch relay started in Ancient Olympia 20.07.1936 for the first time.

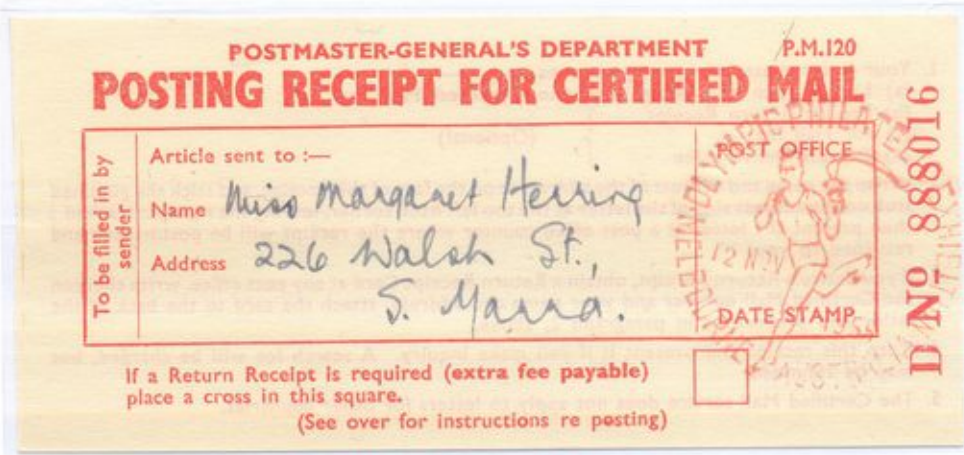


In 2004 it stopped in Rio de Janeiro, the city was Olympic host in 2016. First Olympic Games in South America.



Smart stamp of Royal mail (first type – without postage paid indica).

In 2004 Olympic flame visited all Olympic host cities including London.
Olympic champion Andrew Lindsay was one of the torchbearers.



Receipt of sending the certified mail.

Torch relay in Australia for the 1956 Melbourne Games lasted 13 days.
22.11.1956 the last day of the torch relay.



4.4 Opening ceremony

4.4.1 Parade of nations

With opening ceremony Olympic Games officially begins. At the ceremony host country presents its culture and history. Parade of nations is central event of the ceremony.



Circular postmark used for the correspondence collected from the mailboxes (LBR. - Ladbrev) inside the stadium during the 1912 Stockholm Games (29.6. - 22.07.2012).



Insured mail sent from Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Stadium on the 28.7.1984 (opening day), additionally franked with Olympic meter no. 3328844 (Pitney Bowes machine, model 5303). Three Pitney Bowes machines were used at the stadium during the ceremony.

The first manifestation of the Olympics is the **Opening ceremony** which takes place at the **main Olympic stadium**.



Ceremony starts with the **artistic programme** where different groups present history and culture of the host country.



Famous artists are also part of the show. **Lucciano Pavarotti** last public concert took place at the Torino 2006 Winter Games.



It is a great honor to be a national **flag bearer**.



Famous Ethiopia runner **Abebe Bikila** had that honor in Tokyo, 1964.



Central event of the ceremony is the **Parade of Nations** which takes place since the 1904 St. Louis (USA) Games.



For the first time athletes marched into the stadium **behind their national flags** in London, 1908.



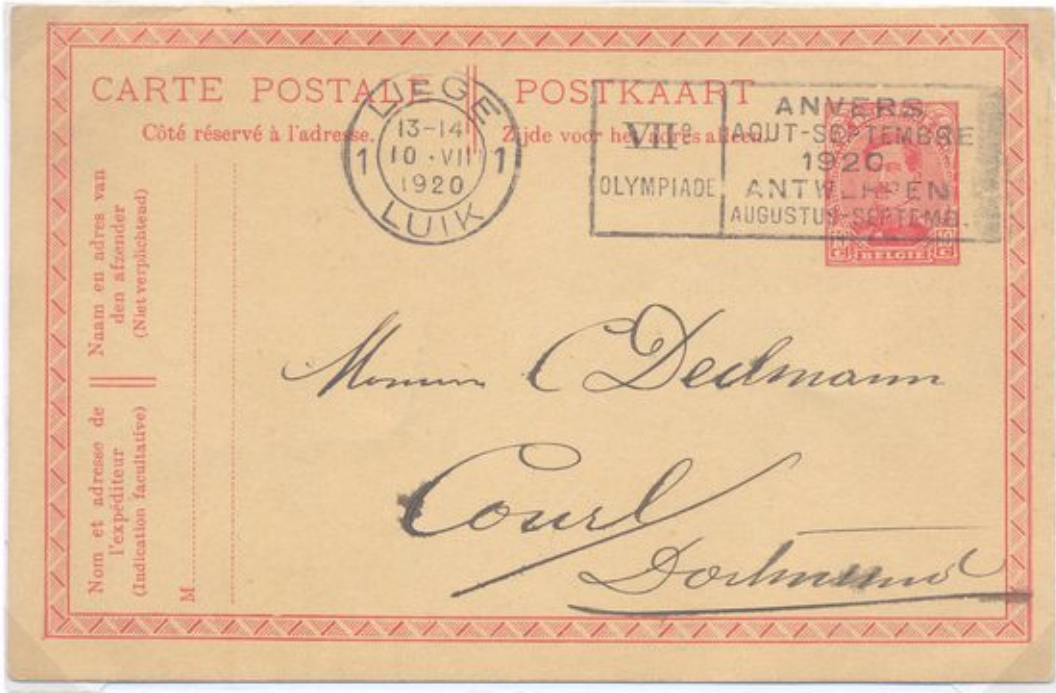
South African marathon runner **Chenette Swart**, flag bearer at the Sydney 2000 Games.



Sponsors provide the clothing of athletes at the parade.

4.4.2 Official opening

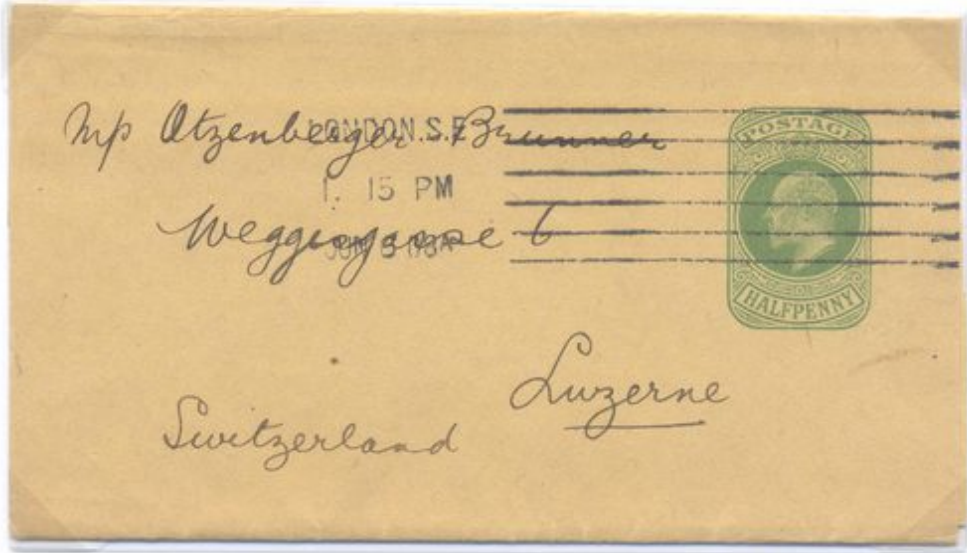
One of the highlights of the opening ceremony is declaring the Games open. Head of the host country declares the Olympic Games open. Although some competitions starts even before with this act Olympic Games formally begins.



PS card for inland mail (10c rate). Biligual cancellation, French on top version.
King of Belgium Albert I proclaimed the 1920 Antwerp Games open.



Prince Hendrik, consort of Queen Wilhelmina declared the 1928 Amsterdam Games open on 29.07.1928.



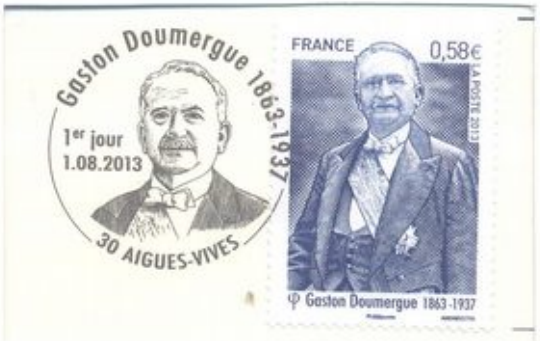
Printed matter wrapper, international rate half Penny.
King Edward VII opened the Games in London on 27.04.1908.



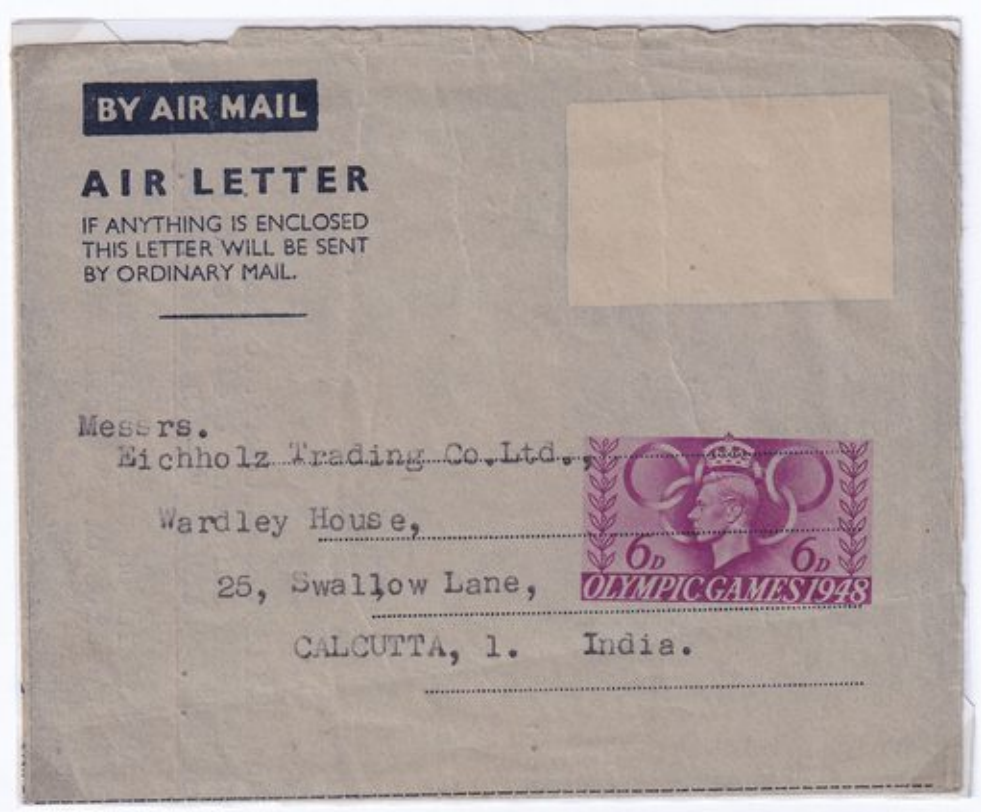
USS ship cancellation, without date and hour.
Governor of New York and future president Franklin Delano Roosevelt opened Winter Games in Lake Placid on 04.04.1932.



Queen of Commonwealth Elisabeth declared the 1976 Montreal Games open.



At the Ceremony on the Colombes stadium on 04.05.1924 France president Gaston Doumergue declared the Games of 1924 opened.



Air letter 6D international rate, sent to Calcuta, India but uncanceled.
Printing error: picture of the stamp heavy shifted 43 mm downwards.
King George VI opened the 1948 London Games.

4.4.3 Lightning of the Olympic flame

The culmination of the opening ceremony is lightning of the Olympic flame. It is well kept secret who is going to be the last torch bearer. Olympic flame continues to burn in the cauldron for the duration of the Games.



The first time the flame was lit at the **Marathon tower** at the entrance to the 1928 Amsterdam Olympic stadium.



Lightning of the Olympic cauldron is the culmination of the opening ceremony.



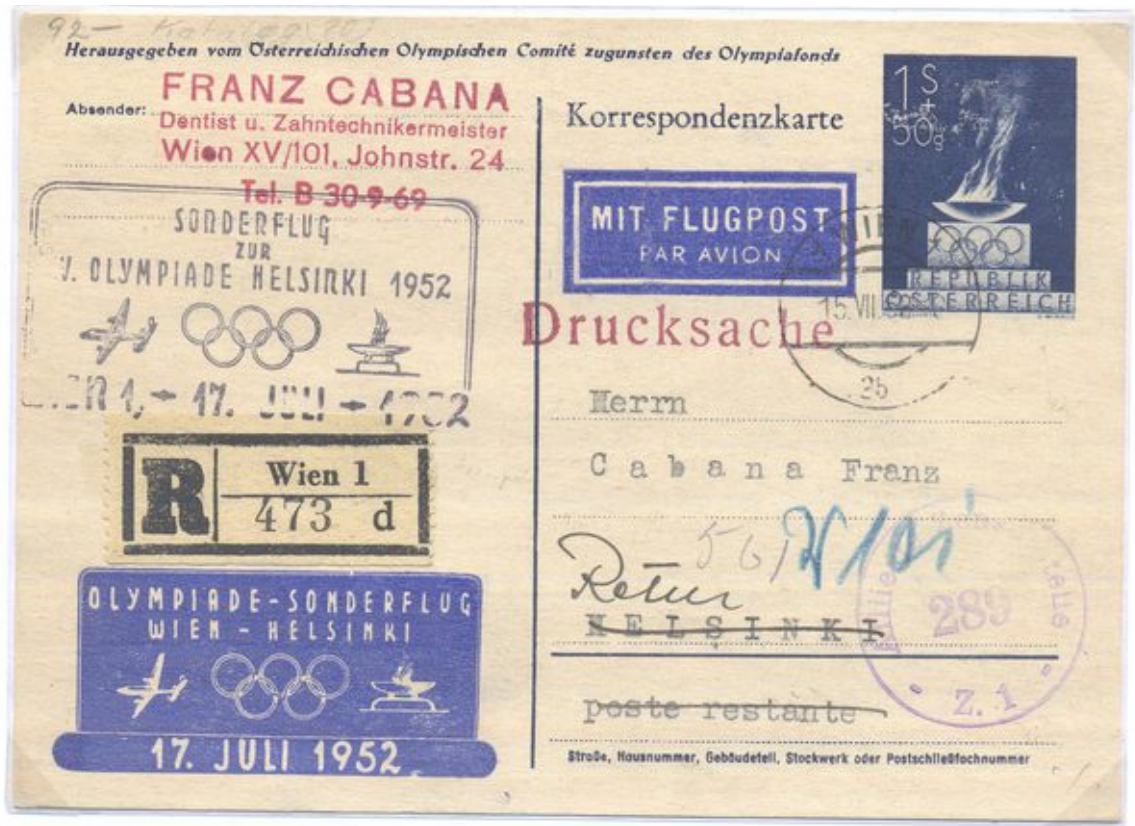
Haakon, Crown Prince of Norway lit the **Olympic cauldron** in Lillehammer in 1994.



Stage proofs 1st phase in black, unissued value, printed by Staatdruckerei Viennna, signed by stamp engraver G. Wimmer. 2 exists



Paavo Nurmi was the last torch bearer at the Helsinki Games.



The Olympic **flame is kept burning** until the closing ceremony.



Colour proof in karmin on gummed paper: (e)



Olympic flame at the gate of **Coliseum stadium**, 1932.



Stage proofs 5th phase, 2 exists. (e)



Cathy Freeman lit the cauldron in Sydney 2000. Later she won the first gold medal by an Aborigine.



At the 1964 Games the last torch bearer was **Yoshinori Sakai**, born in Hiroshima on the day of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

4.4.4 Rising of the Olympic flag and Olympic oath

The Olympic flag represents all continents and unity of the athletes. It is escorted to the stadium by Olympic legends and then lifted on the Olympic stadium. Olympic oath is a promise of athletes that they will compete in fair play manners.



Printing error: displaced red ring.



... that represents **five continents** and is a symbol that **unites people of the World**.



Correct postage for registered air mail abroad (1 C\$).
Sent from Montreal Main Post Office (Lieu 10).
The flag laps the stadium escorted by Olympic legends.



The Olympic anthem is playing when the flag is raising. It played at the first Games in Athens in 1896 and was accepted as an official Hymn in 1957.
Composer: **Spyros Samaras**, Text: **Kostis Palamas**.

Adolfo Consolini (Italia), 1948 Olympic champion in discus throwing took the Olympic oath at the 1960 Rome Games.



Trial color plate proofs on gummed paper.

Artist die Proof. Quantity 18 pieces.

The first Olympic oath **as written by Baron de Coubertin** and first taken by Victor Boin at the 1920 Games:
“We swear. We will take part in the Olympic Games in a spirit of chivalry, for the honour of our country and for the glory of sport”.

5 ... and then in fair competition in their disciplines fight for the victory.
 5.1 Olympic sports and disciplines
 5.1.1 Permanent sports

There are only five sports that were on the Olympic programme from the beginning in 1896. Those sports are athletics, swimming, artistic gymnastics, cycling and fencing.



Artistic gymnastic is one of the basic Olympic sports.

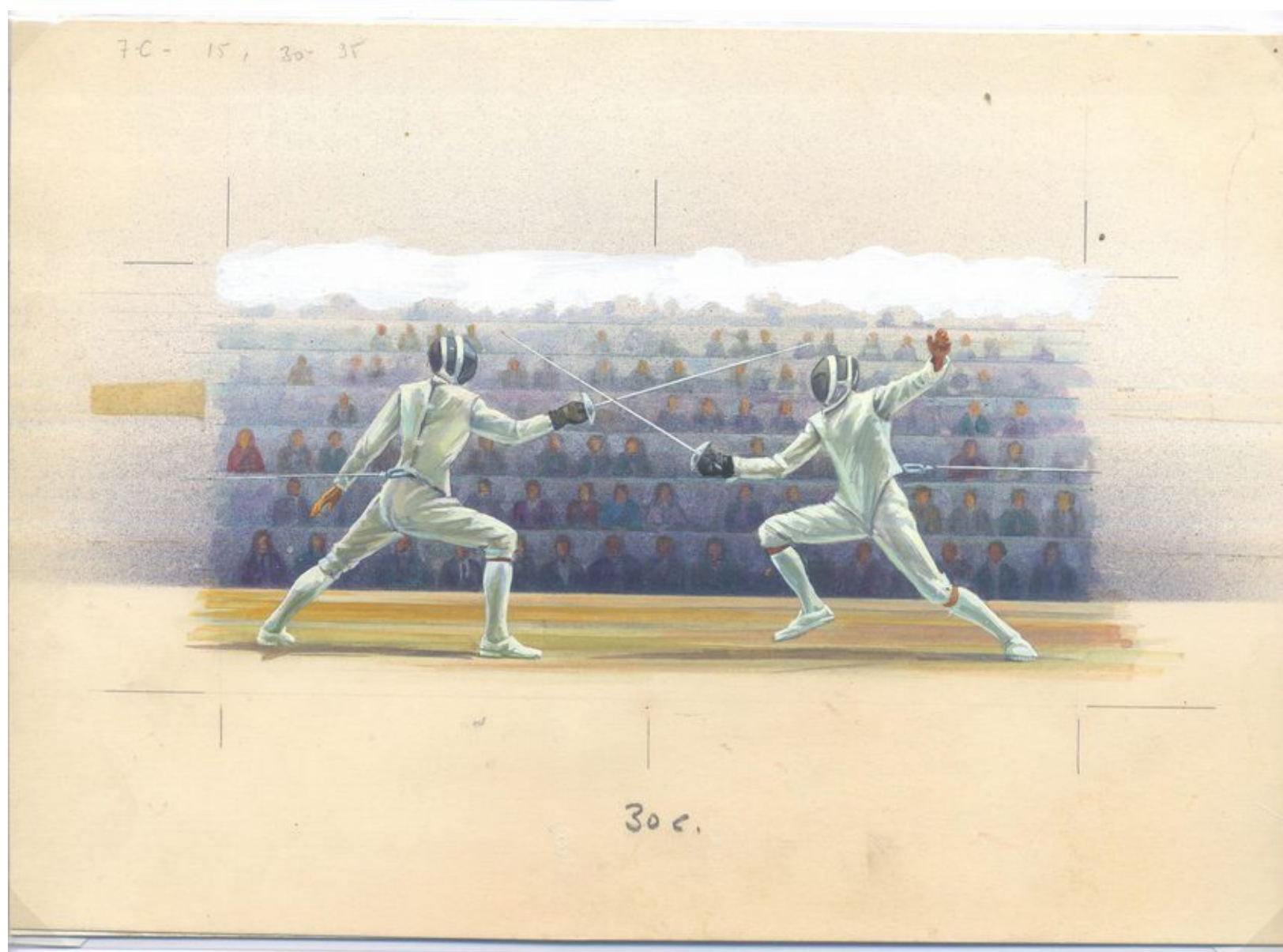
Back side of Latvia receipt of sending a registered mail.



Stane Derganc (Slovenia), a model for chainbraker set (1919), world's first Olympic medalist depicted on a stamp.



Swimming, with 34 events, is one of the most important sports at the Olympics. For the Tokyo Games 2020 programme was expanded to 37 disciplines.



Original artwork acrylic on card for the accepted design of the Fuji 1976 30c Olympic stamps.

Fencing at the Olympics is consisted of three individual disciplines (Épée - sward, **Foil** and Sabre) and team events.

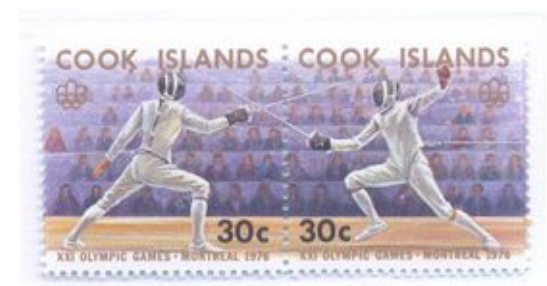
Error: Black text and value missing on a Korea stamp.



Cycling offerses road and/or track disciplines from the first Games.



Rowing should also took place at all Olympics, but bad weather prevented that at the first Games.



5.1.2 Reactivated sports

Some sports lost the Olympic status for different reasons but were included again to the Olympic programme.

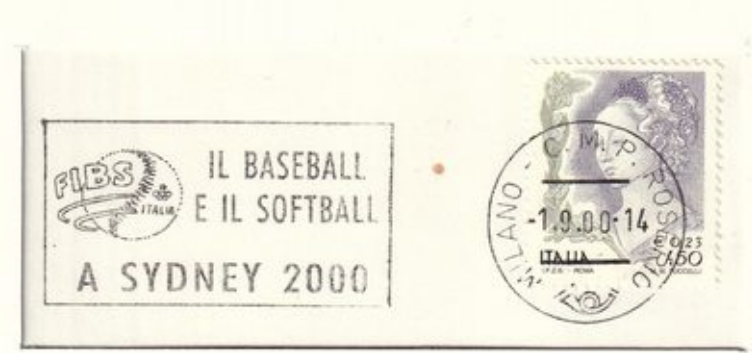


Tennis was an Olympic sport until 1924 and reappeared in 1988 after the Olympic rule about amateurism was changed at the **92nd IOC Session in Istanbul**.



Belgian Congo 30c postal card for international mail issued in 1923.

Golf was played at 2nd Games in Paris and 3rd in St. Louis and was reactivated at the 2016 Games. It is open for the professionals.



Baseball federation (FIBS) fought a long battle to include **baseball and softball**.



Between years 1912 and 1988 **baseball was a demonstration sport** seven times. It was included in Barcelona in 1992, **softball four years later**.



Trial color plate proof - strip of five stamps.

Boxing has been contested since 1904 except for 1912, because Swedish law banned boxing at the time.



Weightlifting has been contested at first Olympics and every Games since 1920.



Shortly after the 1924 Olympic Games **rugby became non-Olympic sport**. It was included again at the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro.



Issued stamp Colour variety

Wrestling did not appear on the Olympic programme only in Paris in 1900.



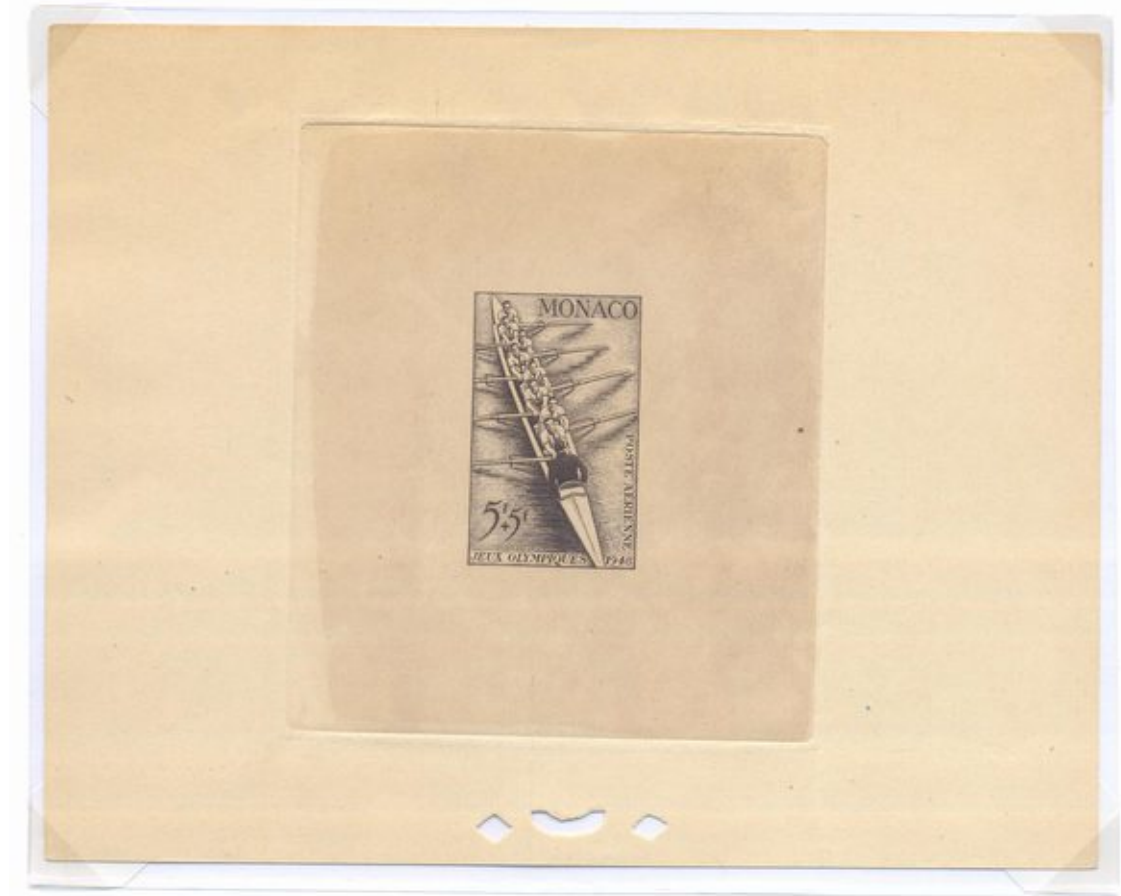
At the **107th IOC session in Singapore 2005** both were excluded. They will be returned in 2020 in Tokyo as new rules allow organisers to include some sports.

5.1.3 New sports and disciplines

From 1896 the Olympic Games are facing expansion. New sports and disciplines have been added gradually. in 2016 the Summer Olympic Games programme included 306 medal events in 28 sports.



Women disciplines bobsleigh and skeleton were added at the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City (USA).



Printer's sepia inspections die proof. Quantity 3-5 peaces.

Rowing was on the programme at the first Games, but was cancelled because of terrible weather conditions. From 1900 it is permanent at the Olympics.



Back side of the 1996 USA stamp with a description of a sport.

Final design of the stamp.

Drawing by L. Dobon used as a design in a process of preparing the stamp.

Basketball was added to the Olympic programme at the 1936 Games. It was a demonstration sport in 1904 and 1928.



Back side of the 1996 USA stamp with a description of a sport.



Water polo first appeared at the 1900 Paris Games.



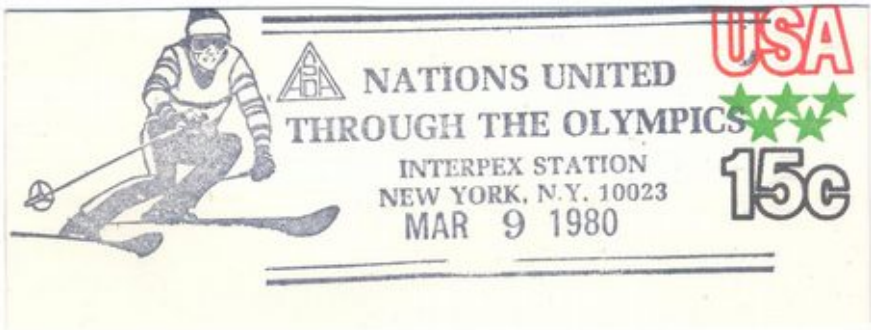
Football appeared in 1900, and was dropped by FIFA for the 1932 Games in attempt to promote FIFA World Cup.



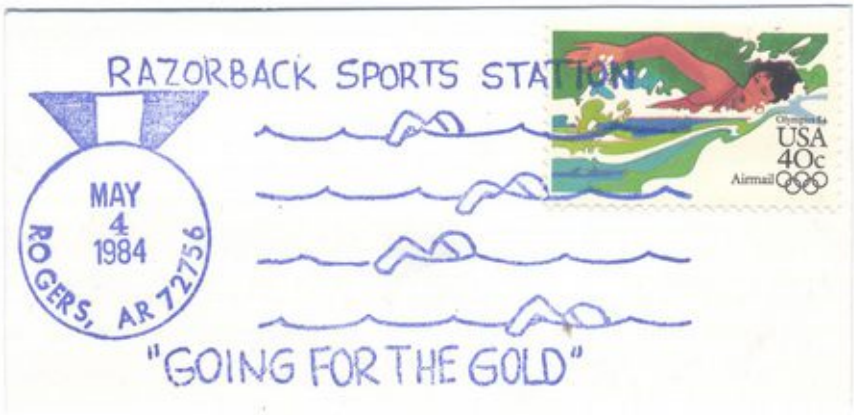
Missing and misplaced brown colour. Canoeing was added in 1936.

5.2 Fair competition
5.2.1 Fair play

The goal of all Olympic participants is to show the best performance at the Olympic Games following the rules of fair play. Fair play means acting towards other athletes in an honest and dignified manner.



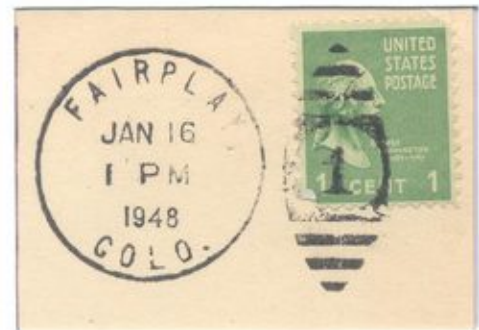
The Olympic Games **unite athletes** from all the **World** ...



... and win a gold medal ...



... following the rules of the **fair play**.



Canellation from Fairplay (Colorado, USA) post office.



Greeting between sportsmen heralds fair play.



Jean Borotra (Olympic medal 1924), founder and **honorable president** of the International Fair Play Committee.

5.2.2 Judges and technical support

Judges and technical support ensure that the rules are obeyed and that the best athlete wins the competition. In some sports they also declare the winner.



Trial colour plate proof – strip of three.

From the ancient Games **judges officiate the competitions.**



Judges ensure that rules are obeyed.



Sensors in the start blocks which marks too early start replaced ...



... **judges at start line** who used to check early starts.



Timekeeping and distance measurement devices are used to determine results. **Junghans** were the official timekeeper at the 1972 Munich Games.



Wind speed meter helps determine records in jumping and running events.



Judge marks a valid jump.



An important task of the judge is to **declare the winner** of an event.

Computers help organisers and judges.

5.3 Citius – Altius – Fortius

Olympic motto “Citius, Altius, Fortius” inspires and motivates athletes to achieve better and better results at the Olympic Games. Despite campaigns in the fight against doping some athletes use prohibited substances to be the best. The efforts of the Anti-doping Agency helps in the fight for a fair competitions.



Citius = faster, altius = higher, fortius = stronger



Henri Didon, Dominican priest and a personal friend of Pierre de Coubertin, proposed a motto Citius, Altius, Fortius.



It replaced the motto 'The most important thing is not to win but to take part' introduced by Baron de Coubertin.



Greece personalised stamps were in use for few days only. Issued 17.8.2004 withdrawn 22.08. after disqualification. Unsold stocks were destroyed.

Leonidas Sampanis was third in weightlifting in Athens 2004, but he didn't pass the doping control (too much testosterone in his blood).



Only permitted medicine is allowed.



Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson lost the gold medal in 100 m sprint in Seoul because of doping.



Doping controls try to assure the best athletes win medals.

5.3.1 Citius (Faster)

Speed is the most important in many Olympic sports where time determine a winner but speed is also important in many other sports. Clothing and aerodynamic position helps to achieve better result.



The fastest athlete in **athletics track disciplines** is the winner of the event.



Imperforated proofs in gray and olive green on ungummed cardboard paper. *Specimen (mihon) Overprint.*

Wrestling and Judo are sports that **require** many skills including strength, **speed** and mind.

Hurdlers must combine speed with jumping skills.



Hologram stamp

Good **coordination of movement** is needed at **speed skating** competitions.



Die proof in black. Quantity 3-5 pcs.

The speed was increasing over the years. **Luge** became **Olympic sport in Innsbruck in 1964**. Since that it reached almost 154 km/h in 2010.



Stage proof 1st stage (missing engraving in Olympic logo and a skier).

The highest speed is reached in winter sports. In **downhill** the speed could be over 140 km/h.



Multiple colour shift

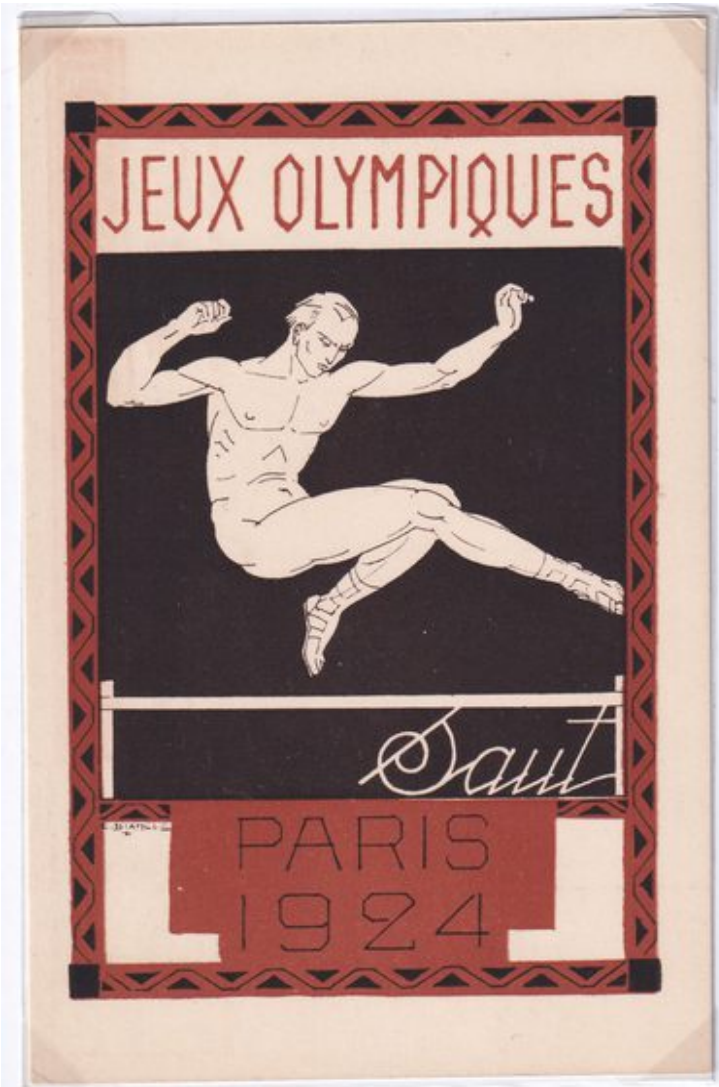
Aerodynamic position in the sledge and progress in sledge building helps to achieve higher speed.



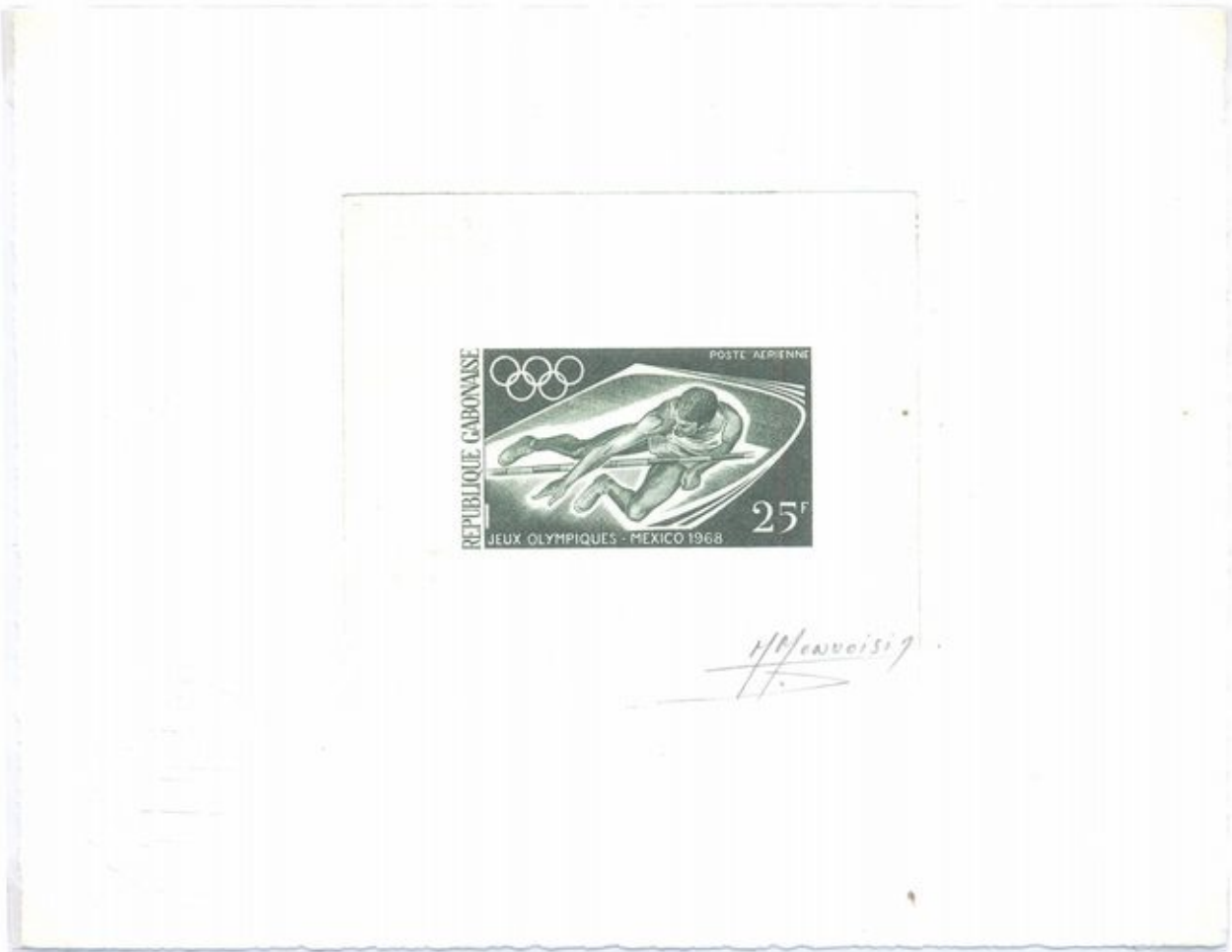
After the tragical crash of **Georgian luger Nodar Kumaritashvili** at Wancouver 2010 Olympic practice run speed was reduced in 2014.

5.3.2 Altius (Higher)

Height is very important in some sports. The most important is in high jump and pole vault. But it is important in many other sports.



15c internal illustrated postcard rate (after 25.03.1924).
High jump is a sport where height decide a winner.



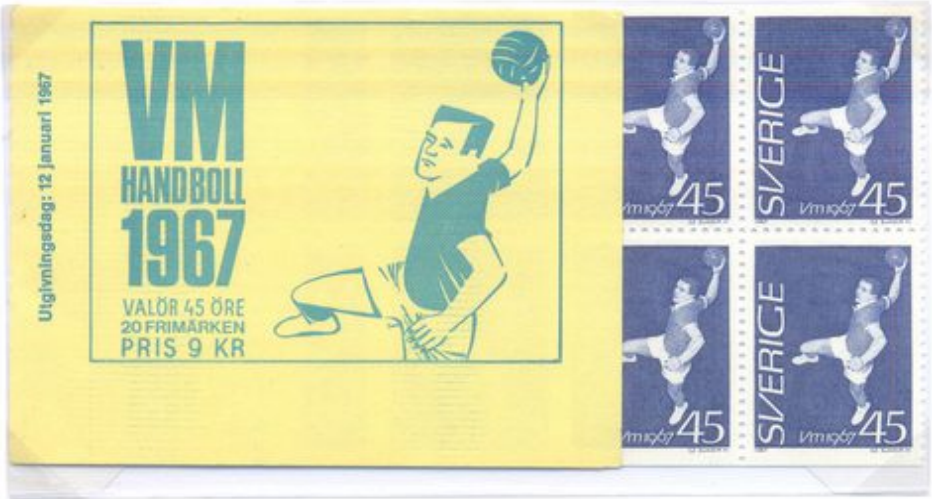
Artist's die proof signed by Michel Monvoisin, engraver at French Post.
Many disciplines faced evolution. A high jump technique that was predominant until 1968.



Ray Ewry (USA) first multiple Olympic champion in jumping. Dick Fosbury brought a revolution to a discipline. The technique faced some improvements and eliminates all others.



International Reply Coupon (type: Rio de Janeiro Congress, 1979), no dotted circle in first pane, vertical UPU watermark.



The height of jump shot in handball helps to a better result.



Magic height in pole vault is 6m (man) or 5m (woman).

5.3.3 Fortius (Stronger)

Physical strength is very important in many sports. Weightlifting is a sport that symbolise stength of an athlete. But strength of the athletes is very important in many other sports. Two of such sports are boxing and discus throwing.



Clean and jerk, two moves lift.

Error: missing red textin bottom right corner.
Snatch – one move lift.



At the Olympics lifters are grouped in weight classes from 1920. New categorisation is made for the Games in Tokyo in 2020.

For the succes of the attempt lifter must control the weights.

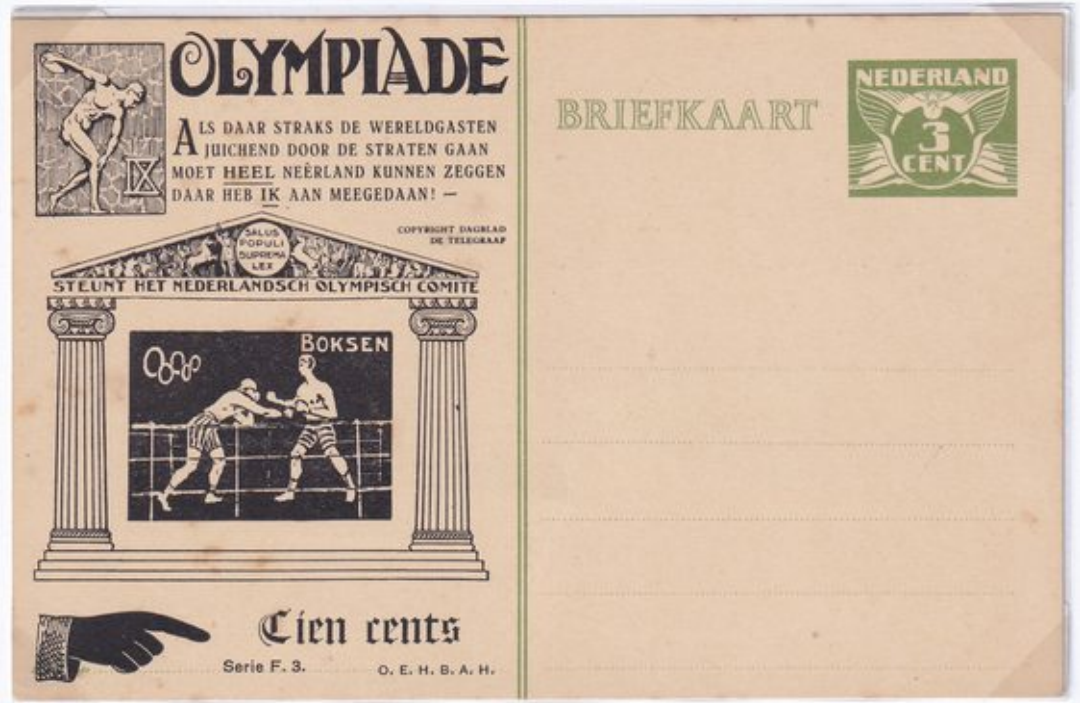
Weightlifting symbolise a strength of an athlete. At the Olympic Games medals are presented for the combined result in two different lifts.



Cover with 5 lepta stamp travelled from Athens to Germany. Correct postal rate for printed matter abroad up to 50g in 1896.

In discus throwing end speed of rotations and throwing strength brings the best result.

Imperforated colour proofs on cardboard without gum.



3c domestic local inside town postal rate. Card issued to rise funds for the Netherlands Olympic Committee (7c of the purchase price of 10c).

Boxing requires many skills including strength of the punch.

5.4 Competition and awards
5.4.1 Victory and celebration

Athletes are doing their best to win an Olympic medal. Victory is the goal of all athletes. After the Olympic victory celebrations begins. First joy is split between the members of the team and medal holders.



After **crossing the finish line** celebrations begins. Finish photo of **Livio Berruti** (Italy) 200 m champion in Rome in 1960.



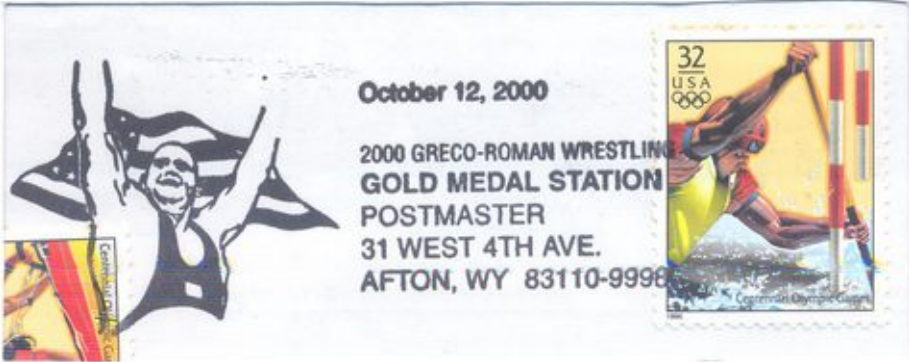
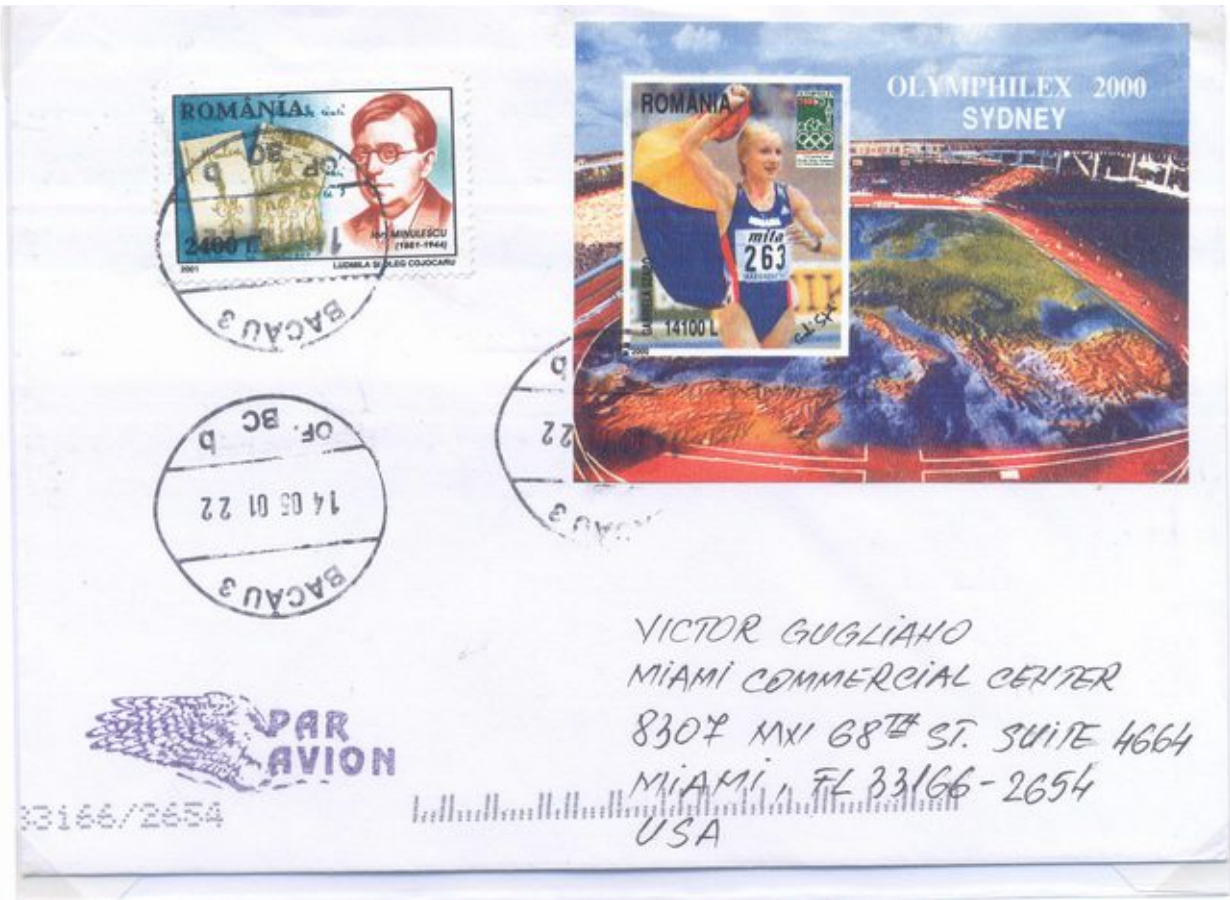
Tired but happy.
Slovenia rowing double scul gold, Sydney 2000.



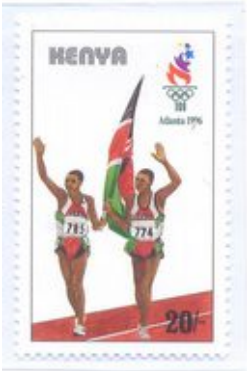
The joy of the Nigeria's team after winning first women medal for Nigeria.



Printer's sepia inspections die proof. 3 to 5 exists.
The winner lifts his hands up to the sky.



Greco roman wrestling champion from Sydney **celebrates with American flag** after winning gold medal.



Gabriela Szabo (Romania) in a **champions lap** with a national flag.

Kenyan athletes celebrate double victory (3000 m steeplechase) at the 1996 Atlanta Games.



Derartu Tulu (Ethiopia) 1st and **Elena Meyers** (S. Africa) 2nd **celebrate their medals** together.

5.4.2 Awards

At the Ancient Games olive wreath was the reward for the champion. In 1932 podium for the victory ceremony was introduced. Members of the IOC presents medals.



Victory ceremony has its origin in Ancient Games.



Printing variety, stamp 49 of left-hand half sheet. 'Ring' on athletes finger and broken '9' in year.

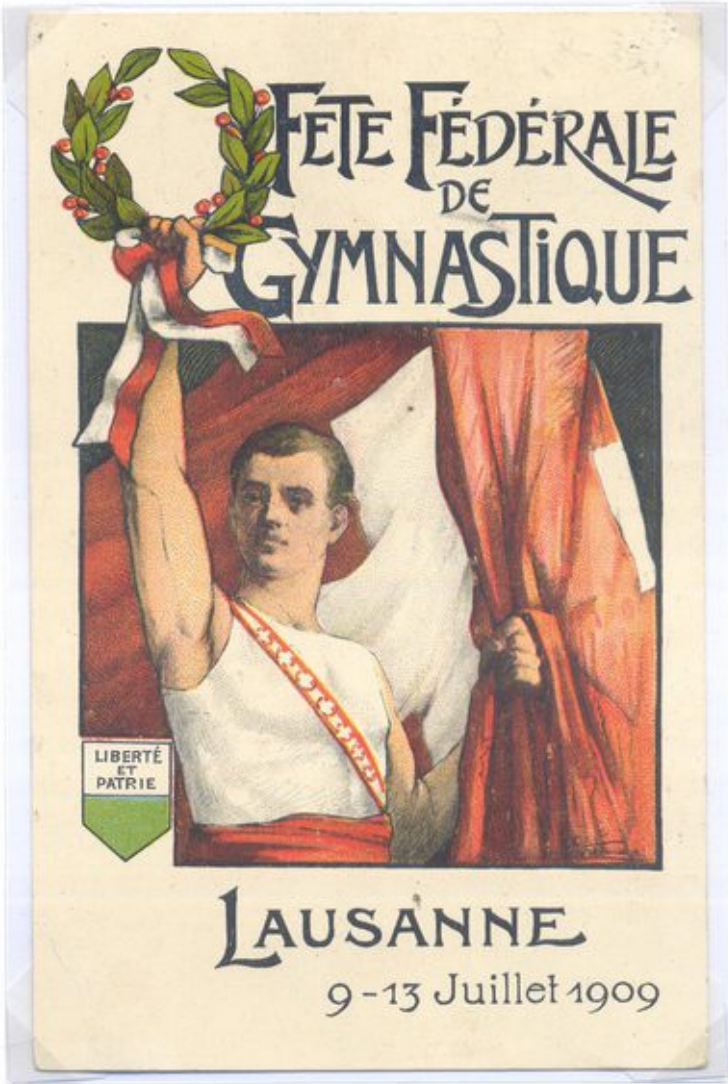


Stage colour proof in blue on thin paper without value and unfinished left side of a frame.

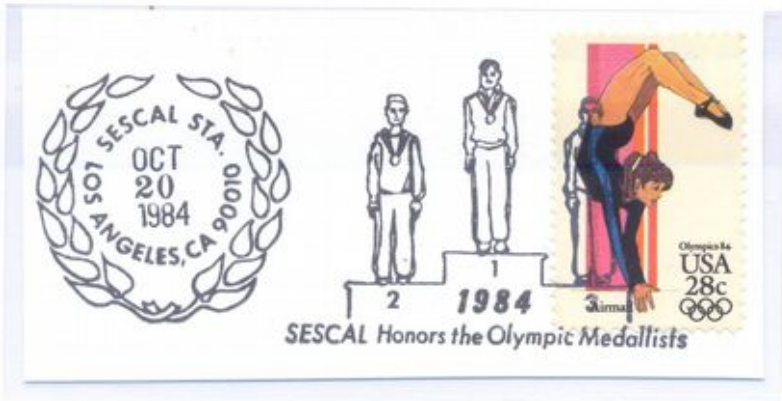


Colour proof in red on thin paper in the design of issued stamp, value 30c instead of 50c.

Greeting of an Ancient Olympic champion.



Switzerland 15 centimes PS card from 1909. Olive wreath was the reward for the champion ...



The best three athletes are awarded with medals. Athletes stand still while the anthem plays in honour of the Olympic champion.



IOC member awards a medals. J. A. Samaranch awards a medal to Chinese athlete.



First personal stamps to honour gold medal winners issued in 2000. The next day digital stamps (left) were issued. Offset stamps (right) printed later. Medal winners also receive a bouquet of flowers.



Greeting of the medal winners to the audience.

5.4.3 Olympic legends

Olympic champions become a part of an Olympic history. Every athlete has its own story. Many of them became famous because of their achievements at the Olympics.



Wilma Rudolph, although caught infantile paralysis as a child, won three gold medals in track and field (Rome, 1960).



Emil Zatopek (ČSSR), the only man who has **won all long distance running disciplines** at the 1952 Helsinki Games (5000 m, 10000 m and marathon).



First Olympic champion shown on a stamp.

Kenneth Carpenter, the first Olympic champion shown on a stamp (discus throwing).



Vera Časlavská (Czechoslovakia) is the only gymnast who won gold medal in every individual event in the Olympic history.



Adhemar Ferreira da Silva, the only Brazilian athlete who defended the Olympic gold medal. He won gold medals in Helsinki 1952 and Melbourne 1956 in **triple jump**.



The miracle on ice - USA hockey team shocked the ice hockey world by defeating the 'unbeatable' Soviet Union team at the 1980 Lake Placid Winter Games.



Colour proofs in red, blue and brown, gummed paper: **Jesse Owens** (USA) won four gold medals in Berlin in 1936.

6 **Publicity and activities of the International Olympic Committee secure ...**
6.1 **Publicity (media coverage)**
6.1.1 **Broadcasting and press**

Press and broadcasting agencies send impressions of the Olympics to the World and provide the Games could be seen throughout the World.



Experienced cameramen provide quality picture from the venues ...



... to the broadcast centre.
At the Albertville Games all signals were sent to **CIRTV in Moutiers**.



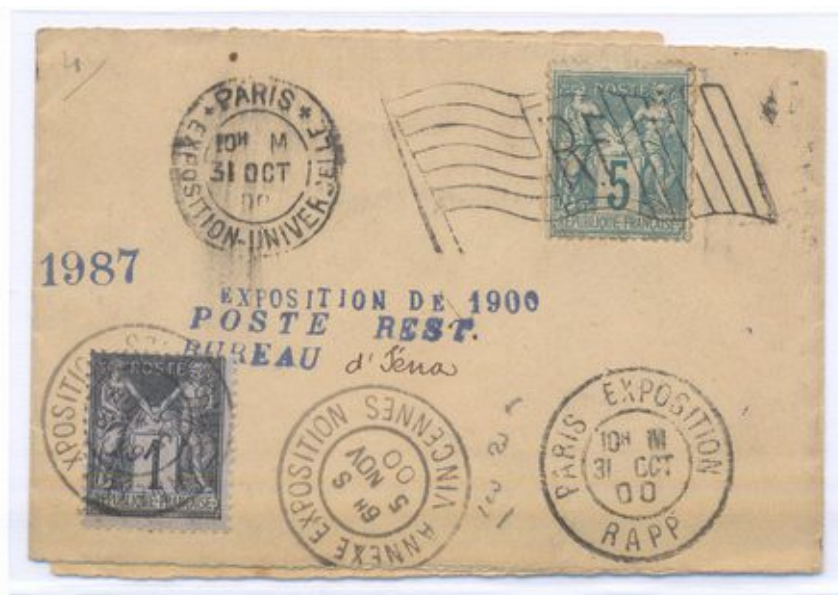
Direct television broadcast was introduced in 1936 in Berlin. **Rolleiflex cameras from Franke & Heidecke** were also used.



Electronic camera
Telefunken was used at the 1936 Games. Next to the camera is **prof. Dr. Walter Bruch** inventor of the PAL system.



Article about victory of the Uruguay Olympic football team in Paris (9.6.1924).



Newspaper wrapper bearing Paris exposition flag cancellation with additional hand stamp and receiving mark.

Newspapers bring news of the Olympics to our homes. In 1900 this was the main way to inform about Olympic events.



Broadcasting companies open Olympic studios in the Olympic city. **ARD – ZDF opened Olympic centre** for the 1972 Games.



PS card for domestic mail 13c sent to Italy, with additional franking 15c by a Pitney Bowes machine used at the Los Angeles Convention Center (served as a press centre in the period from 16.7. to 12.8.1984).

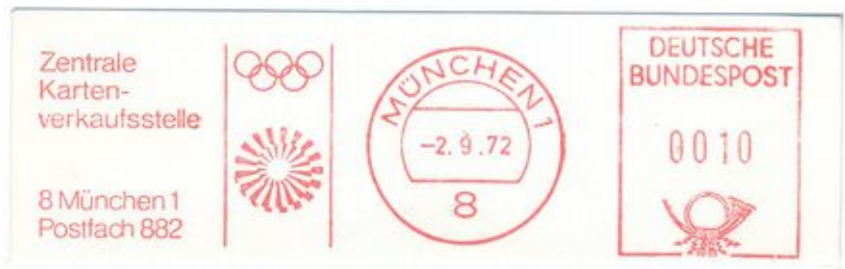
The press centre provides a working place for the journalists. Since 1984 **reporters use personal computers**.

6.1.2 Spectators

Many spectators visit the Games. Large stadiums are built to accept them. The organiser takes care of their convinience during the Games.



The **support from the visitors is very important** and helps athletes to better achievements but ...



... spectators need tickets to attend an Olympic event.
Central ticket office for the 1972 Munich Games.



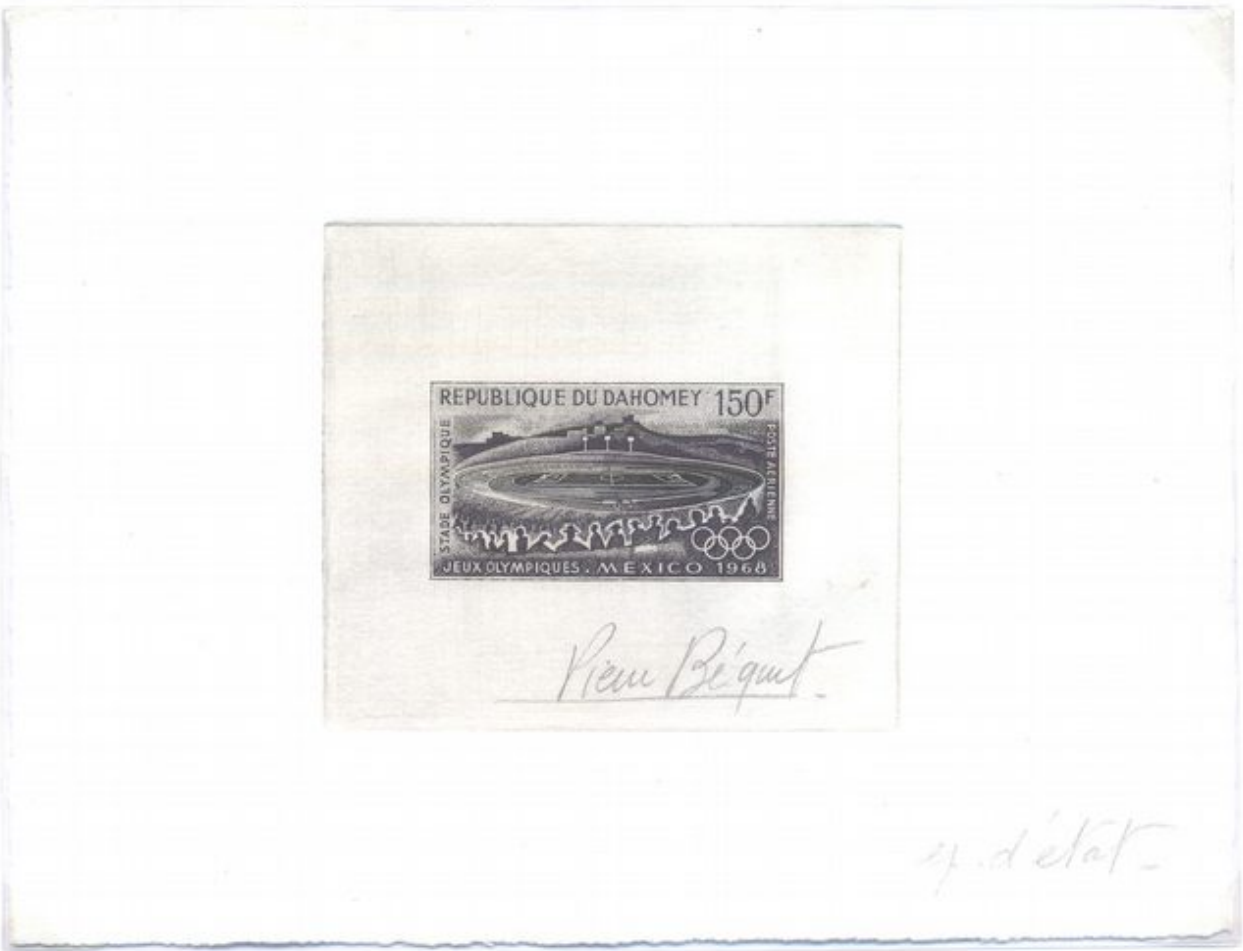
Some lucky Australian visitors won a trip to the 1992 Barcelona Games **by Qantas Airlines**.



The city crier at the 1908 London Games **nade announcements** of events, results and other facts **to the crowd at the stadium**.



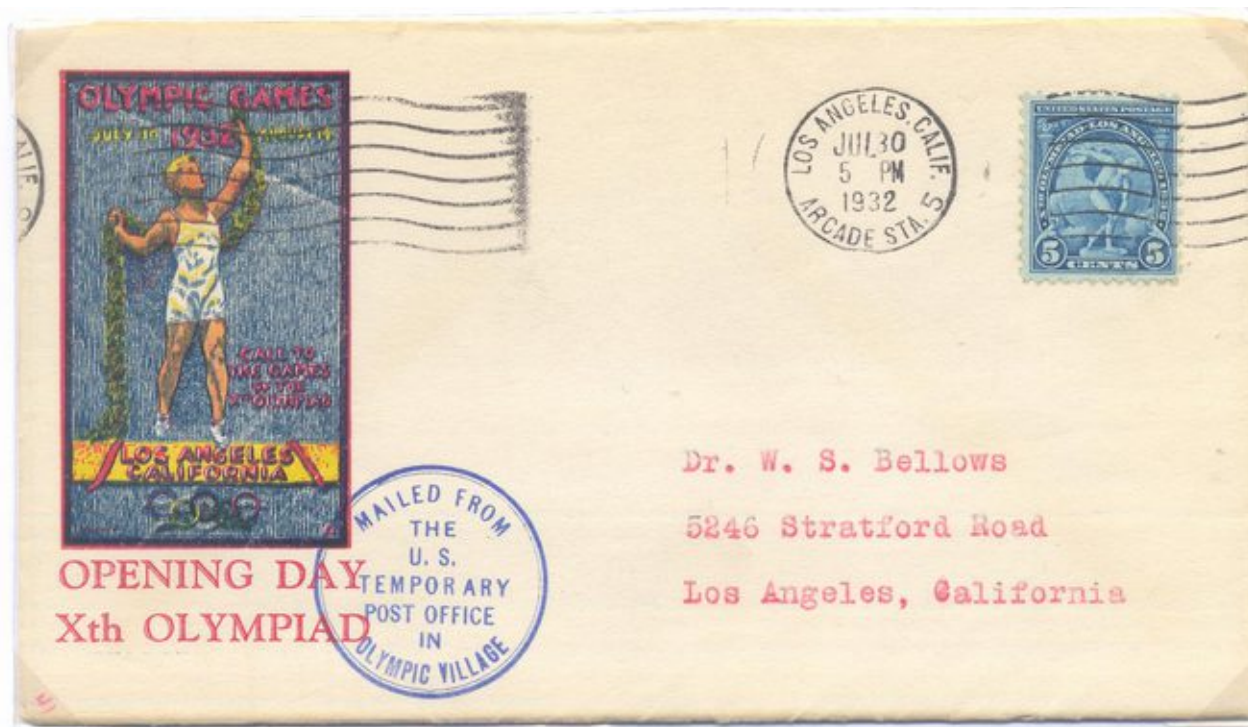
Postage for the Zeppelin Airmail of 0,50 RM for postcards overpaid by 4 Pf.
Stands of the Berlin Olympic stadium for 96.000 spectators. They could arrive from Frankfurt by Hindenburg **Zeppelin Olympic flight LZ-128** on the opening day.



Stage proove – final stage.
Sitting capacities of **Estadio Olimpico Universitario** was increased for the 1968 Games.

6.1.3 Post

The post provide wide range of services to serve competitors and visitors the best possible way. Temporary post offices are opened and mobile units are introduced during the Games.



Special cancellation used in a temporary post office at the Olympic village.

Postal Service expands their services during the Games with **temporary post offices** ...



Registered mail sent at the mobile post office to local address.

*Seven specially equipped **traveling post offices** operated during the 1936 Games.*



... and **mobile units** to provide better service.



Wilhelm Limpert produced Olympic Magazines and postcards in 1936 that could be sent by ...



... **competitors** from the Olympic village ...



... and **spectators** of the Olympic Games.

6.2 International Olympic Committee (IOC) and strengthening the Olympic Games
6.2.1 IOC sessions and the Olympic programme

Much effort had to be done before Olympic Games stabilized and became the most important sport event. International Olympic Committee make decisions that made that happen.

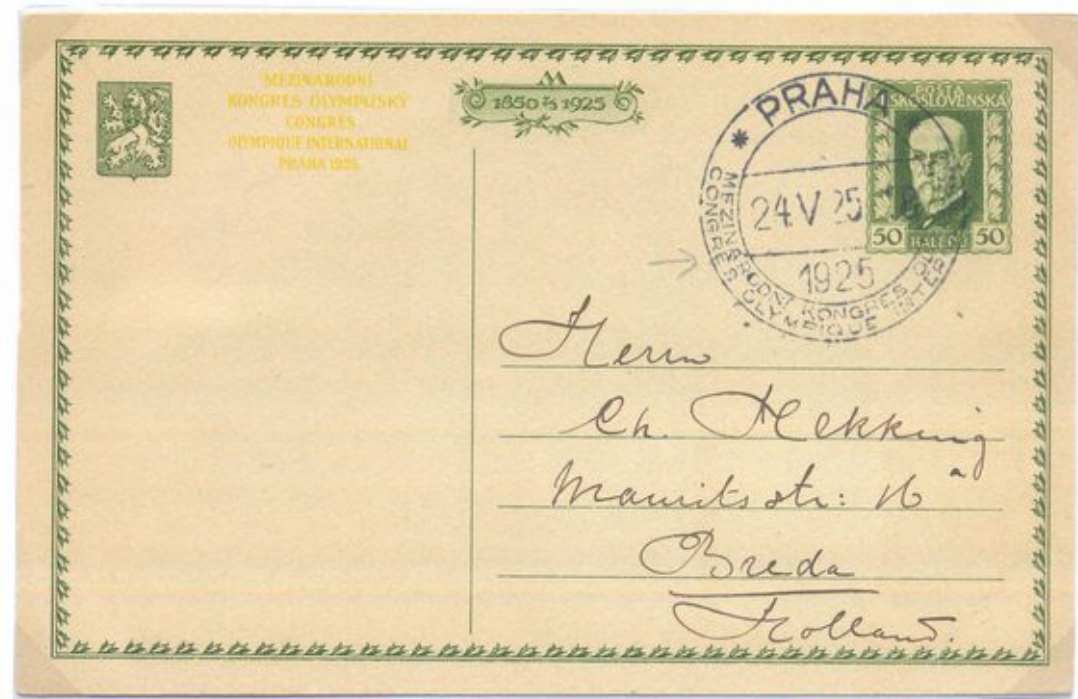


Members of the IOC meet at annual sessions to deal with the issues regarding Olympic movement. In 1967 IOC session was in Teheran.

Franjo Bucar represented Yugoslavia in the IOC from 1920 to 1946. Count Alberto Bonacossa represented Italy from 1925 to 1953.



Original unique drawing signed by designer Dusan Lucic.
All sports are evaluated after each Olympic Games.



Czechoslovakia Olympic Congress overprint in yellow (exists in five colours) on President Masaryk 1925 PS card with special Olympic Congress cancellation.

In 1925 Olympic Congress took place in Prague.
At their meetings Olympic Committee determine the Olympic programme also.



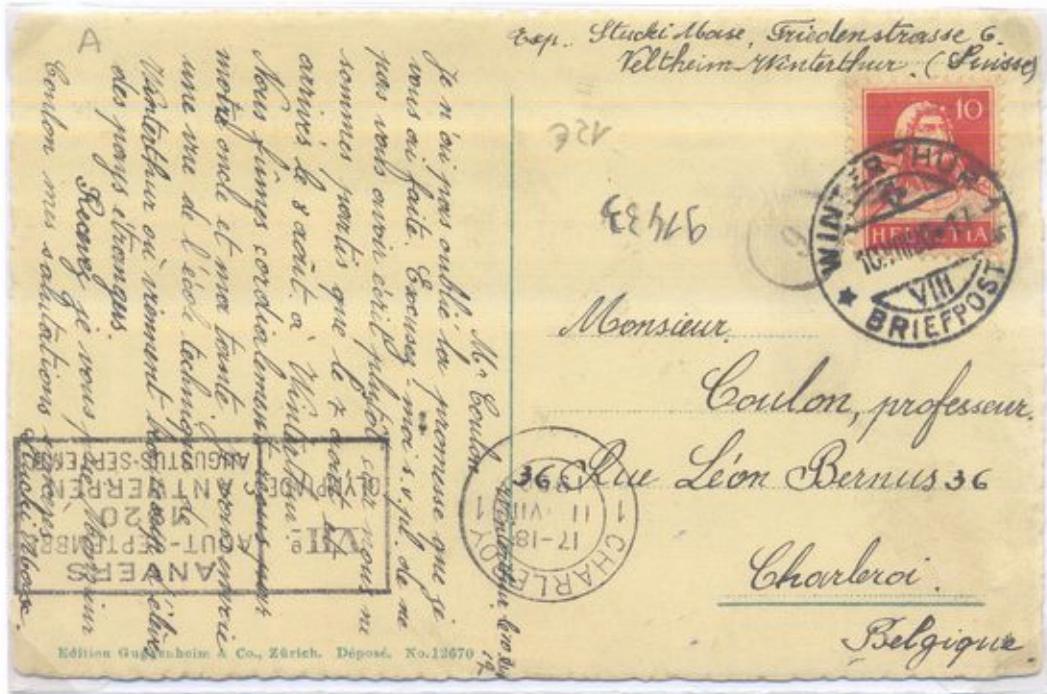
Baron Pierre de Coubertin, who had a crucial role in early development of the Games, retired at the Olympic Congress in Prague and was rewarded for his work. He became a Honorary President.

6.2.2 Early challenges – length of the Games

One of the greatest problems of the early Games was that they were staged in the period of several months which caused the competitions were difficult to follow. In 1930 the length of the Games was reduced.



At 1920 Anvers Games competition lasted almost six months.



Postcard from Switzerland with Charleroy slogan as receiving cancellation. Although started in april the majority of the competition in Anvers in 1920 took place in august and september.



A roller cancel from a Krag Mascin Fabric machine between 5 lines. This type of cancel was used at 5 post offices in Paris. Cancellation variety (bellow): missing date in the right circle.



Similar happened at the 1924 Paris Games. Although most of the competitions were in august the Games lasted over three months.



Meter cancellations used by Banco Germanico in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Since 1936 Games were concentrated during 16 or 17 days. The Games in Berlin lasted 16 days.



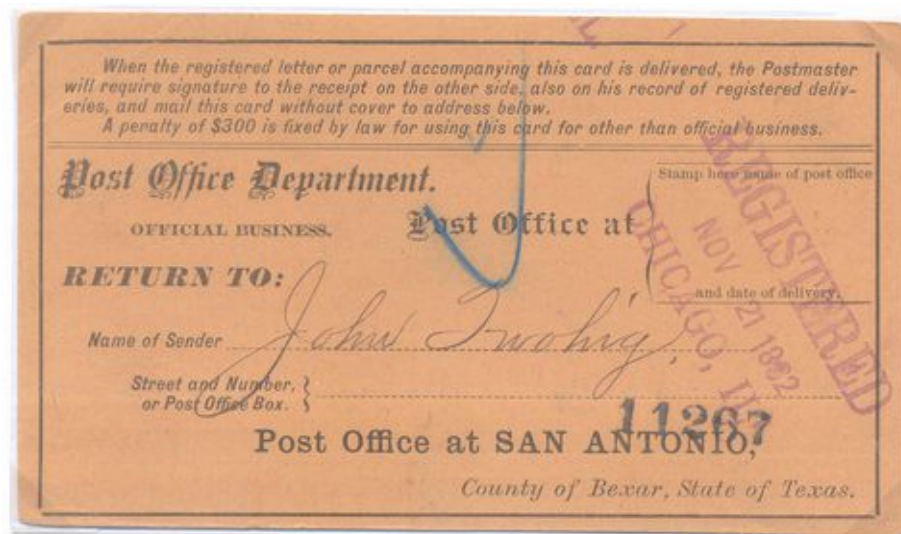
At the Berlin Olympic Congress in 1930, duration of the Games was reduced to 16 days.



Promotive box slogan cancellation used in Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Adelaide and Hobart. The Games in Melbourne in 1956 lasted 17 days.

6.2.3 Early challenges – Relocation of the Games

At the beginning the Olympic Games were relocated to the cities that hosted World exhibitions. The Games were in the shadow of the Fair and attract only limited attention.



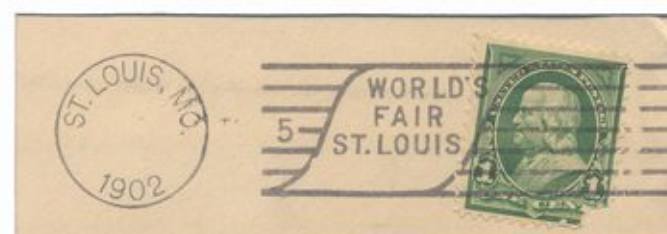
Serifed Registry Receipt Card. Registered letter received in Chicago.
1904 Olympic Games were first awarded to **Chicago**.

Year of the Fair displayed.
Worlds Trade Fair in St. Louis was originally sheduled for 1903 for the celledoration of 100 years of Lousiana purchase.



No date and hour in the cancellation and year of the fair deleted.

In late 1902 the Fair was resheduled to 1904. Organising Committee of the fair forced the change of the Olympic host City.



Cancelller 6 used 22.09.1904, day of the competitions.

Competitions were in the shadow of the Fair. Boxing finals were the only competition of the day.



1908 Olympic Games were originally sheduled to **Rome**.



1848 letter Rome to Paris with black ROMA handstamp and transit mark A(T) (Austria) travelled over postclearing office Huningue. Manuscript 18 decimes postage and entry mark to France AUTRICHE PAR HUNINGUE were added.



The Vesuvio eruption in 1906 caused financial problems and the Games were relocated to London. The Games were part of the **Franco British Exhibition**.



Official mail (Ministry of Commerce) with no postage required.

Although France participated at the Fair, competitors from France did not officially parcitipate at the 1904 Olympic Games.

6.2.4 Winter Olympic Games

From 1924 Winter Olympic Games were separated from the Summer Games. Some winter sports were on the programme of the Summer Olympic Games even before.



Error: double print of red colour.



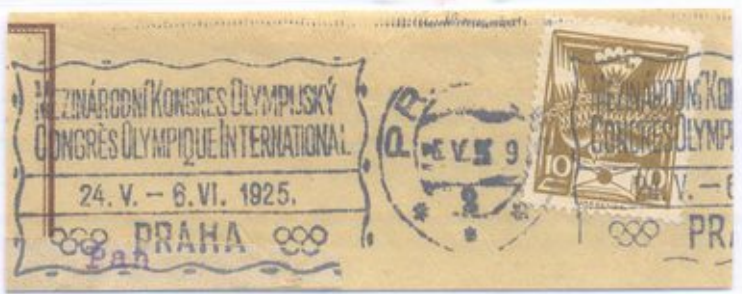
Cover from 1864 with hand written postal rate of 40 decimes.

Ice Hockey was played at the Anvers Games in 1920. **Figure skating** was part of the Summer Olympic Games in 1912 and 1920.

Chamonix – Centre of tourism developed from the 19th century ...



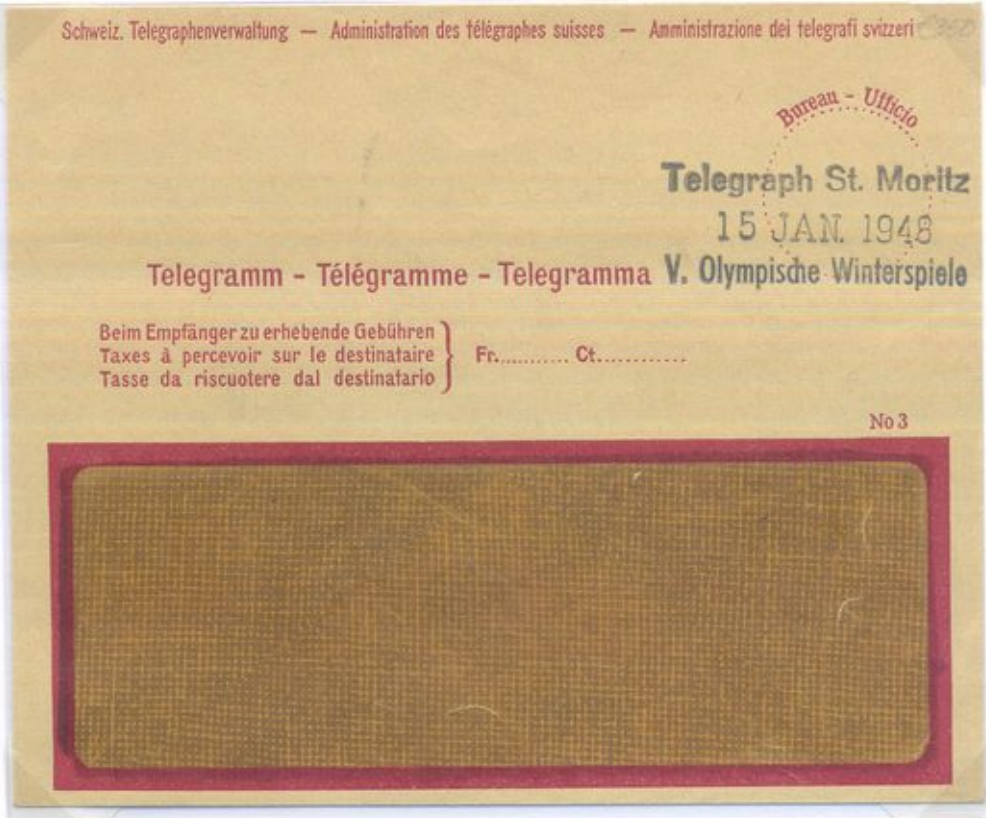
Overprinted stamps sold at double face, profit divided between PO clerks and Olympic Committee.



Publicity machine roller cancellation used in Prague from 08.04.1925 to 09.05.1925.

At the **Olympic Congress in Prague** Chamonix Winter Sport Week was accepted as the first Winter Olympic Games.

... hosted the **International Winter Sports Week** (Semaine Internationale des Sports d'Hiver) from 24.01. - 05.02.1924 to precede Paris 1924 Games.



Telegram cover for delivering incoming messages with hand cancellation.

In 1948 **St. Moritz** was the host of the **first Olympic Games after WW II**.



Count Eugenio Brunetta d'Usseaux Secretary General of the IOC suggested to have Winter sport week separated from Summer Games.



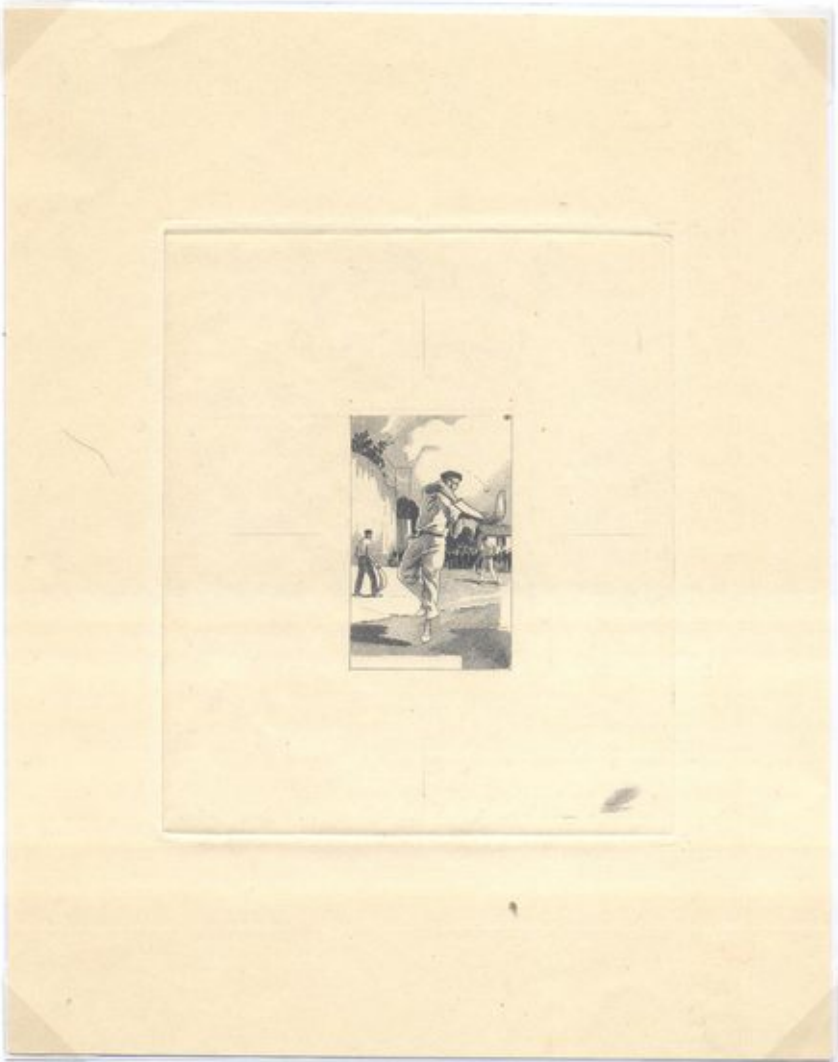
At the 91th IOC session in Lausanne it was decided to move Winter Games to second year after Summer Games to improve popularity of Winter Games.

6.2.5 Discontinued sports

Previous Olympic Games included sports which were removed from the programme. Popularity of the sport is the main criteria of the IOC. Some of the sports removed from the programme are polo, tug of war, cricket, croquet, lacrosse and basque pelota.

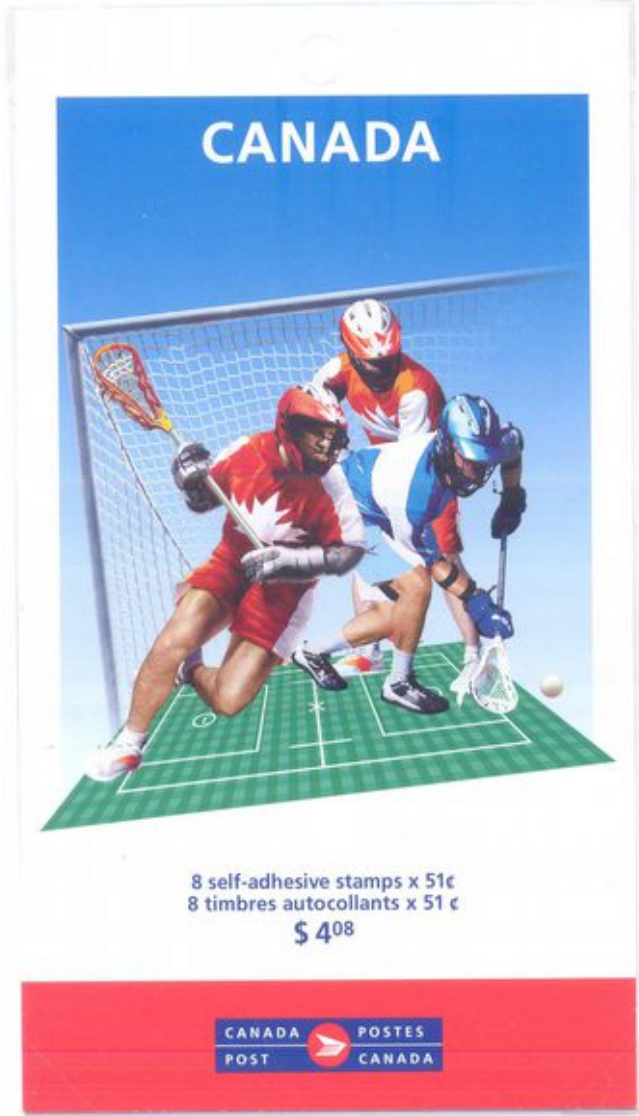


Cricket was played only at the 1900 Paris Games. It was a demonstration sport for three times, but so far it hasn't been reactivated.



Stage proof - first stage for the 1956 France issue.

Basque pelota was played only in Paris in 1900. Later it was demonstration sport for three times, last time in 1992 in Barcelona.



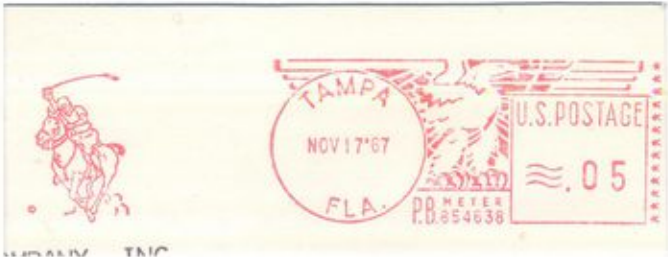
Lacrosse was played at the Olympics in St. Louis (1904) and London (1908).



Specimen with control hole.



In 1900 in Paris seven man and three woman competed in **croquet** in three disciplines.



Polo was played at the first Olympic Games and four other until 1936. After 1936 was excluded from the Olympic programme.



Tug of war took place at five Olympic Games between 1900 and 1920.

6.2.6 Equality of women

At the first Olympic Games in 1896 women did not compete. The number of women participants has been increasing since first 22 womens competed in Paris 1900. In two sports only women compete.



In early years women hardly had a chance to compete. First disciplines were **tennis** and golf in 1900. **Susanne Longlen**, Olympic Champion in 1920.



Woman skeleton has also been added in Salt Lake City in 2002.



With the **seminar 'Woman in sport'** IOC promotes equality of women.



In **rhythmic gymnastics** and **synchronised swimming** only women compete.



Charlotte Cooper was the **first women gold medal winner**.



Hazel Wightman two times Olympic champion in 1924.



At the **68th IOC session in 1969 in Warsaw** the decision to expand women programme has been taken.



In 2002 woman **bob sledge** has been added to the winter Olympic programme.



Woman maratón has been added to the Olympic programme in Los Angeles Games in 1984. **American trials for the first woman's marathon race.**

6.2.7 Interruptions during WW I and WW II

The cycle was broken during WW I and WW II. But the Olympic spirit survived in the prisoners camps. Many athletes take part in a WW I or WW II. Even during the war IOC members planned post war Olympic Games.



1916 Games should be held in Berlin (Germany), but were **cancelled** because of the WW I.



WW II prevented Games in 1994, but the **Olympic spirit stayed alive in prisoners camp at Woldenberg, where the Olympic Games with 44 events between prisoners took place** from 23.7. - 13.8. Similar happened in **Gross Born** from 30.07. to 15.08.1944.



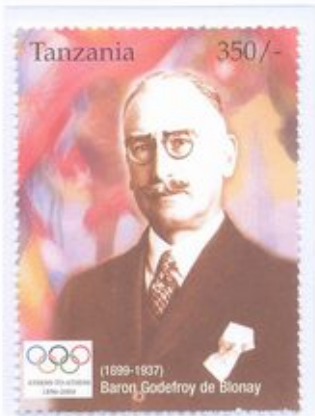
Registered mail censored and mark with several censors markings.

At the **50th anniversary meeting of the IOC**, its members already planned the revival of the Games after WW II.



Roller cancellation with number '0' before and after the date was used as a receiving cancellation for mail addressed to Helsinki.

Helsinki was selected as the 1940 Games host city, but the Games were cancelled because of Russian invasion of Finland.



Baron Godefroy de Blonay replaced Baron de Coubertin during his participation in WW I (1916-18).



Gorge S. Patton, Olympic participant in modern pentathlon at the 1912 Games. **In WW II he became a general** with a brilliant military career.

7 ... that the Olympic Games will live on in the future.
7.1 Future Olympic Games

Seven years before the Olympic Games the next host city is selected. Every two years Summer or Winter Games take place. People of the region has the important role in decision of hosting the Games.



Cover from 1799 with red mark 'P' in a triangle (Porto paid in Paris – Port Paye de Paris) used in Cental Bearou in Paris, and hand written 8 decimes porto mark.

Paris will host the Summer Olympic Games in 2024.



The decission was taken at the 131. IOC session in Lima, Peru.



Cortina d'Ampezzo Queen of winter sports and Milano will host 2026 Winter Olympic Games.



Specimen of a postal stationery card.

After lost bid for 2016 Summer Games Tokyo was selected to host the 2020 Games.



Machine roller, used as receiving cancellation on the closing day of the Games.

Oslo, 1952 Olympic host, withdraw from candidacy for the 2022 Winter Olympic Games after failed referendum.

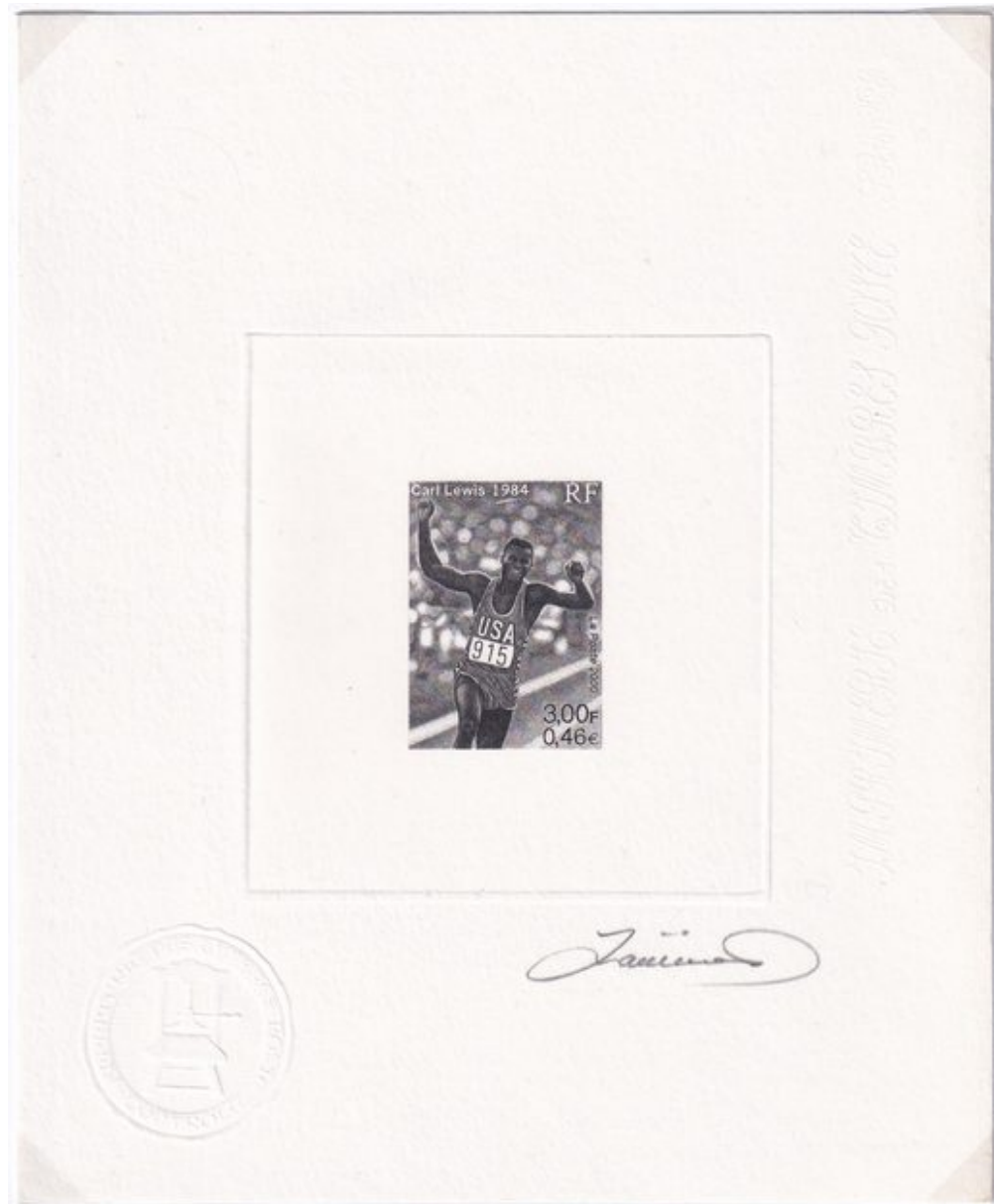
Verona Arena is selected to host the closing ceremony at the 2026 Winter Olympic Games.

7.2 Start of the new Olympic dream

Closing ceremony represent the end of one Olympic cycle. New organiser takes over. Olympic legends are the inspiration for the kids.



At the 1988 closing ceremony **IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch presents the flag** from Seoul to Barcelona representative.



Artist's die proof signed by the engraver.

Famous Olympic champions are an inspiration for young athletes. **Carl Lewis (USA)**, with 9 gold medals **one of the greatest Olympic legends**.



At the closing ceremony on the Olympic stadium **national flag of the next host is lifted**. Munich Germany formally take over from Mexico City in 1968.



At the **youth competitions** young athletes gain experience of competition and form friendships with others.



They are the future of the Olympic movement.



Hard training and competitions gives them a hope that one day the Olympic dreams will come true.