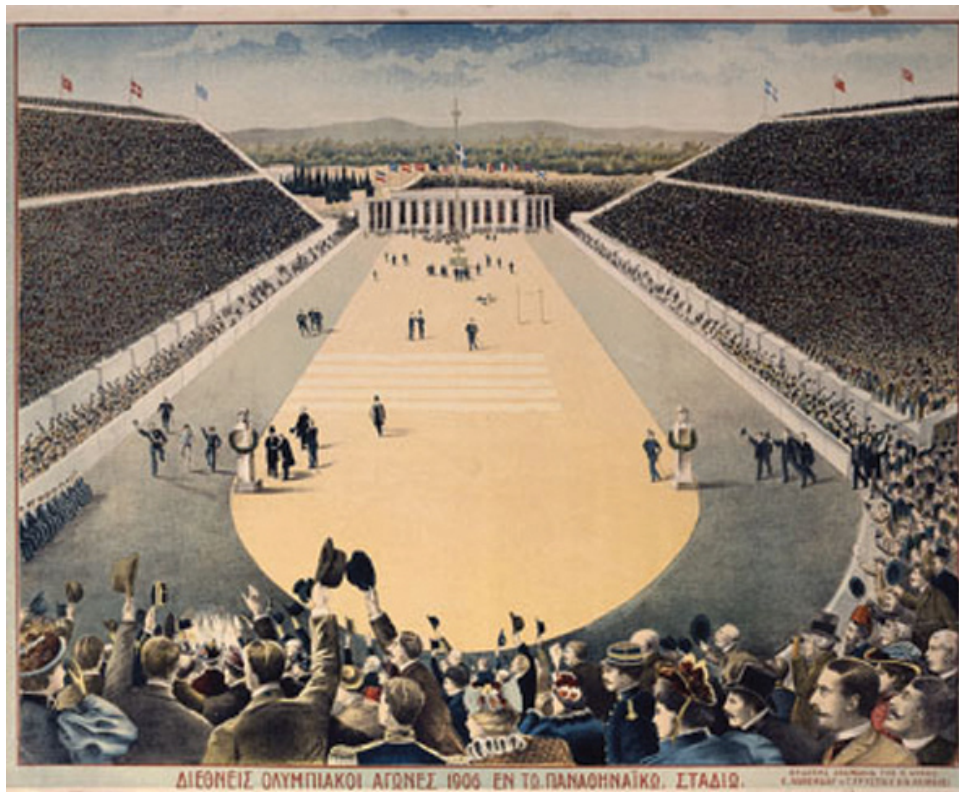


# *World of Topicals:* **The Olympics, Part 1**

*(This comprehensive study is a compilation of material from various articles that have appeared in Mekeel's & STAMPS over the years. I will use an article from the July 12, 1952 STAMPS as a chronological stream that will take us through the 1948 London Olympics, and will bring in information and images from a Feldman Olympics Auction viewing from the October 5, 2007 Mekeel's & STAMPS as well as material from the January 29, 2010 Mekeel's Weekly that has been posted to the Stamp News Now Mekeel's Article Archives and a July 2012 Stamp News Online Olympics Collections display. Unless color was essential to the point being made, some images in the early articles have been incorporated here in black and white, as originally published. JFD.)*



*A poster created for the 1906 Olympics showing the Panathinaiko Stadium and a capacity crowd watching the events.*

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This is an important year in the history of the Olympic Games. They will be held in Finland, a small country in comparison with some others where the Olympics have been held, but a great country in athletes and athletics.

The Olympic Games were the earliest and most famous athletic festivals of Ancient Greece. They were held in the summer time under the patronage of the Olympian Zeus at Olympia. The city of Olympia was in the Province of Elis in Old Greece. Excavations there have revealed many precious old Greek monuments concerning the famous Olympic Games.

In early times only running championships were arranged in the 192-yard long stadium, beginning in 716 B.C. In 708 B.C. the Pentathlon was begun, this consisting of running the broad jump, discus-throwing, spear-throwing, wrestling, and after twenty years, boxing matches.

After the Olympic Games were completed, the winner was wined and dined most lavishly in his home city, at public expense. He was exempt from taxation and was permitted to build a statue to himself in any part of the city he chose.

The Olympic Games continued to be exclusively Greek until after 146 B.C., in which year Greece lost her independence, becoming a province of the Roman Empire. The last Olympiad was held in 394 A.D., as Theodorias I had prohibited it.

*We bring in here an extensive description of the early Olympics and Olympic stamps, from an early Mekeel's Weekly, which was reprinted in color in the Jan. 29, 2010 Mekeel's and in the Mekeel's archives on Stamp News Now.*

The Olympian games were the most famous of the four great national festivals of the Greeks. Their origin was lost in antiquity, but legend attributed their foundation to Hercules and other mythical characters. They were celebrated in the sanctuary of Zeus at Olympia every four years, and the period between two successive festivals came to be called an Olympiad, which was used to some extent for reckoning time. The first Olympiad began with the year 776 B.C., from which the official list of victors

dates, and the name of the winner of the foot race was often used to designate the Olympiad instead of the number. The games were at their height during the fifth and fourth centuries, when the contestants were of the best blood in Greece, but gradually became mere professional contests and were finally suppressed by the Emperor Theodosius in A.D. 394, on the ground that they were opposed to the interests of Christianity.

During the greater part of their existence the games were in charge of the Eleans, in whose territory Olympia was situated. Early in the year of the games envoys from Elis were sent throughout the Greek world to invite the States to join in honor to Olympian Zeus; and in this way what seems first to have been more of a local celebration soon grew to be a national festival. The crowd of spectators included representatives of all branches of the Greek race, and many barbarians were drawn by the reputation of the spectacle. The competitions were open only to those of Greek descent and of good character. All combatants were required to train faithfully for ten months before the games, while the last thirty days had to be spent at Elis under the eyes of the officials, or *Hellenodikai*, in charge.

The first day of the festival was given to sacrifices, especially to Zeus, while the officials and contestants took a solemn oath, the former to judge fairly, the latter that



Sc. 197

they had observed the required training and would compete with fairness. The 5 drachma stamp of 1906 [Sc. 197] illustrates this ceremony, where we see an altar with attending priest,

contestants, and a winged figure of victory.

On the 10 lepta of the same issue [Sc. 188] we see another figure of victory sitting upon an amphora, and holding what appears to be the caduceus of Mercury. This would be ap-



Sc. 188



appropriate, as the messenger of Zeus also presided over wrestling and other gymnastic exercises, and everything, in fact, which required skill and dexterity. As amphorae were commonly used to hold wine, the overturned vase and the decoration of the vine in the corners above may serve as a hint that victory depended upon total abstinence.

The 40 lepta of the 1906 set [Sc. 192] has another female figure holding a cock as an emblem of victory. This is described officially as a “demon des jeux,” I believe, which has unfortunately been translated usually as a demon or devil of some kind. Any one who remembers his Greek will doubtless see at once that it is intended to be the “spirit of the games,” *daimon* having that significance originally and only gaining its malevolent character in later centuries.



Sc. 192

According to the accepted belief, the earliest and for long the only contest was the *stadion* or short foot race. In Olympiad 14 (B.C. 724) the race of two *stadia* was introduced, and at the next celebration the long run. The length of the course was some 600 feet, and the long run is understood to have been twelve times over the double course, making nearly a three-mile run. The 1, 2, and 3 drachma stamps of 1906 [Sc. 194-196] shows the runners, taken from an ancient tile. When the long run was introduced the runners abandoned the loin cloth and appeared naked, a custom which prevailed thereafter as shown on the stamp.



Sc. 194



Sc. 191

In B.C. 708 wrestling was introduced, and on the 30 lepta of 1906 [Sc. 191] we see a couple thus engaged. The object was to throw the antagonist three times, but the struggle was not continued on the ground.

In B.C. 688 boxing was taken up, and the 1 lepton and 2 lepta of 1896 [Sc. 117,

118] shows the beginning of a bout. This contest became gradually more brutal, for while at first the pugilists wound straps of soft leather over the fingers as a shield and to deaden the blows, in later times hard leather, sometimes weighted, was used. Still the highest praise was won by athletes who owed their success to such perfect defense that they exhausted their opponents without striking a blow or receiving a scratch.



Sc. 118

In B.C. 680 the race for the four-horse chariots was established, a quadriga being shown on the 25 and 60 lepta stamps of the 1896 issue [Sc. 122, 124]. These races were run in the hippodrome, of which no trace



Sc. 124

has been discovered, but which is said to have had a length of four *stadia*. This would mean that a complete circuit was nearly a mile, and it is said that four horse chariots made twelve circuits.

From this it would seem that the race was more for endurance than for speed, which was probably not the case. There is doubtless some discrepancy in the figures handed down to us.

Both series of stamps show us one of the minor games, discus or quoit-throwing. The discus was a plate of bronze, probably lens-shaped, and much heavier, evidently than the one now in use in athletic sports (4-1/2 pounds) as the best throw recorded is 95 feet. The 1 and 2 lepta of the 1906 set [Sc. 184-



Sc. 185



Sc. 119

185] show Apollo throwing the discus, a design said to have been taken from an ancient silver coin of the island of Ceos, which was current some five hundred years before Christ. The 5 and 10 lepta of 1896 [Sc. 119-120] reproduce the famous

statue of the *discobolus* or discus-thrower, which was executed in bronze by the Athenian sculptor Myron in the fifth century before Christ. It is known by several marble copies, one of which is in the Vatican. The statue represents the athlete at the moment of the greatest muscular tension, when, having swung the discus back to the full stretch of his arm, he is about to hurl it forward with all his strength.

It is perhaps wholly natural that Hercules, the reputed founder of the games and the unconquerable “strong man” of the Greeks, should find a place on these issues. Two incidents from his remarkable career are represented, taken from some ancient ceramics. On the 20 and 50 lepta of 1906 [Sc. 189, 193] we find Atlas bringing the apples of the Hesperides to Hercules.



Sc. 189

The story runs thus: The golden apple which Juno had received at her wedding from the goddess of the Earth had been intrusted to the keeping of the three daughters of Hesperis assisted by a watchful dragon. As one of his twelve labors, Hercules was ordered to get these, but it seemed the most difficult of all as he did not know where to find them. After various adventures Hercules arrived at Mt. Atlas in Africa. Atlas was one of the Titans who had warred against the gods, and when the latter had subdued them Atlas was punished by being compelled to bear the weight of the heavens on his shoulders. He was the father of the Hesperides and Hercules thought if anyone could find the apples it would be he. But if Atlas went, what about the heavens while he was gone? Hercules solved it by taking the burden on his own shoulders, as we see by the stamp, where he is upholding the moon and stars. Atlas is very kindly returning with the apples, and was good enough to take up his burden again, though somewhat reluctantly.

The 25 lepta of 1906 [Sc. 190] shows the encounter between Hercu-



Sc. 190



les and Antaeus. The latter was a mighty giant and wrestler, whose strength was invincible as long as he remained in contact with the ground, for he was a son of Terra, the Earth. He compelled all strangers who came to his country to wrestle with him on condition that if conquered (as they all were) they should be put to death. Hercules encountered him, as shown on the stamp, and finding it was of no avail to throw him, for he always rose with renewed strength from every fall, he lifted him up from the earth and strangled him in the air.

On two stamps of the 1896 issue we have representations of two famous statues of antiquity. It may be wondered why these should grace a set that commemorates athletic contests, but the connection is not too distant.



Sc. 126

The 2 drachma stamp [Sc. 126] has a picture of the statue of Hermes by Praxiteles, one of the greatest of Greek sculptors. The god is shown leaning his left arm upon a stump and supporting with it the infant Bacchus. The uplifted right hand carries a bunch of grapes toward which the baby god of wine is reaching. It will be remembered that Hermes presided over gymnastic exercises and sports which required skill, and we need but to add

that the statue in question was located in the temple of Hera at Olympia to show why it appears here.

On the 5 drachma stamp [Sc. 127] is the statue of Nike or Victory by Paeonius, another celebrated Greek sculptor. This represents the winged goddess as sweeping through the air, with drapery pressed to her form and streaming behind in the wind. The statue was located within the enclosure that surrounded the temples at Olympia, and was conspicuous among many statues of victors and votive offerings.



Sc. 127

Early in the sixth century of our era the temples at Olympia were overthrown by earthquakes, and inundations buried the site under gravel. Not until 1875 was any

determined move made toward excavation, but the German government then assisted the enterprise and these two statues were among the treasures recovered. The Nike was found in 1875, in a much damaged condition, and the Hermes in 1877, minus the right forearm and the two legs below the knees.

The 1 drachma stamp of 1896 [Sc. 125] is of interest as showing the Stadion or Stadium where the inauguration of the re-established Olympian games took place. The original structure, laid out in a hollow between low



Sc. 125

parallel hills, is said to have been built by Lycurgus about B.C. 330, but was rebuilt by Herodes Atticus about A.D. 130 in white marble. Most of this structure was burned for lime during the Middle Ages, but when the first games in the modern series were held at Athens in 1896, the ancient site was refitted, in part with marble, by the patriotic munificence of M. George Averoff, a wealthy Greek of Alexandria, together with the efforts of the Greek National Committee. The ground enclosed by the seats is 670 feet long by 109 feet wide.

In the background is seen the Acropolis of the ancient city, and the 1896 10 drachma [Sc. 128] gives an idea of it restored from a nearer point of view. The Acropolis, as we all know, was the religious center of the ancient city and was given up to temples and shrines. It was destroyed by the Persians in B.C. 480.



Sc. 128

The 20 and 40 lepta of the 1896 issue [Sc. 121, 123] give a picture of an ancient amphora ornamented with a representation of Minerva, or rather Pallas Athene, to give her Greek name, the patron goddess of Athens, for whom the city was named. She is the goddess of wisdom, though represented in rather warlike garb, with shield, spear and helmet.



Sc. 121

Several of the stamps bear palm branches



# World of Topicals: The Olympics, Part 2

*(As explained in Part 1, this comprehensive study is a compilation of material from various articles that have appeared in Mekeel's & STAMPS over the years. Unless color is essential to the point being made, some images in the early articles have been incorporated here in black and white, as originally published. JFD.)*

## **The Modern Olympics**

The modern Olympic Games were revived by Baron Pierre de Coubertin (1863-1943), educator and sportsman, son of the French painter, Charles Louis de Fredy Coubertin. In 1894 he sent letters to all the governing bodies of sports with his proposal that the games be revived as an international series of amateur sport competitions.



Haiti CB1:  
Pierre de  
Coubertin



The cover page of the official report for the Games of the 1896 First Olympiad connects the Games of Antiquity and the first Games of the modern era with such elements as the inscription "776-1896" (upper left), the 1896 Olympic stadium in a newly designed horse-shoe shape (lower right), the Acropolis (faint in the background, right), and the girl personifying the goddess Athena and presenting the branch of wild olive intended for the victor.



A First Day Cover with the 1896 1 lepta-60L Olympic Issue, Sc. 117-124, the eight lower values of the set, each tied by "6/Athens/6/25 March 1896" first day cancels on a cover front to Germany.

As a result of his action, the modern Olympics were inaugurated in 1896 at Athens, Greece, and since 1896 more than 80,000 athletes, representing 59 nations, have competed in the games. Pierre de Coubertin, who incidentally is pictured on the Haiti semi-postal and airpost semi-postal stamps of 1939, Scott B1 and CB1 and CB2, became president of the International Olympic Committee in 1894, which post he held until 1925. The supreme control rests with this Committee, and over fifty countries have national Olympic associations.

The modern Olympic Games follow a four-year cycle, the exceptions, having been 1916, 1940, and 1944, when world wars forced cancellation of the games. Women have gradually taken an increasingly important part in them. The games occupy a period of fourteen days, and opened with an impressive ceremony. Every competitor must be an amateur according to the Olympic requirements. [This is no longer the case. JFD.]

At the 1936 meeting, a relay of torch-bearers ran two thousand miles across Europe from Athens to the Berlin Stadium, and this rite was again observed in the next Olympics in London in 1948. Most of the major games in the London Olympics were run in the Wembley Stadium. These 1948 games brought great honor to the United

States of America, for between the 59 countries represented, the United States came in first, with 662 points.

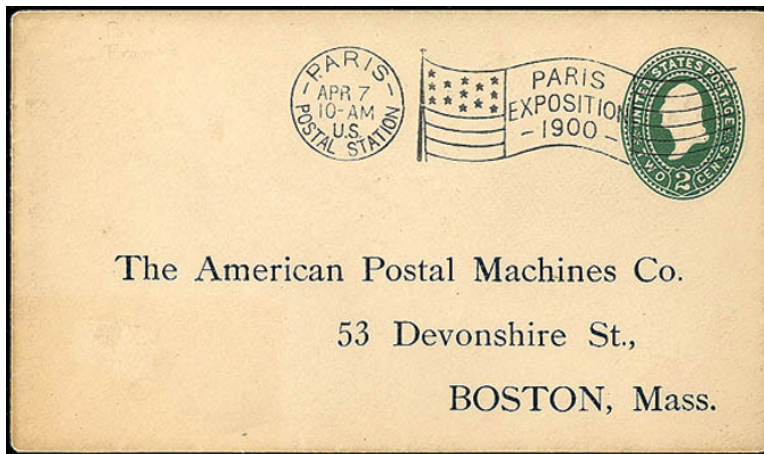
In 1924, Winter Olympics were introduced, when such winter sports, as skating, ice hockey, bob sleighing, sky racing, and skiing were included. The Winter Sports Olympics have been held in 1924 at Chamonix, France; 1928, St. Moritz, Switzerland; 1932, Lake Placid, New York; 1936, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany; 1948, St. Moritz; and 1952, Oslo, Norway. The summer Olympics for the same years were in Paris, Amsterdam, Los Angeles, Berlin, London, and Helsinki.

### **Olympian Stamps**

Until 1920 only Greece issued stamps for the Olympic Games, but since that time it has become more general practice by other nations. The modern Olympic Games have been held in the following years at the places designated, and where stamps were issued, they are mentioned by Scott numbers.

*(On the pages that follow we list the Games mentioned in this article with illustrations of stamps, covers, and other memorabilia from those Olympic Games. JFD.)*

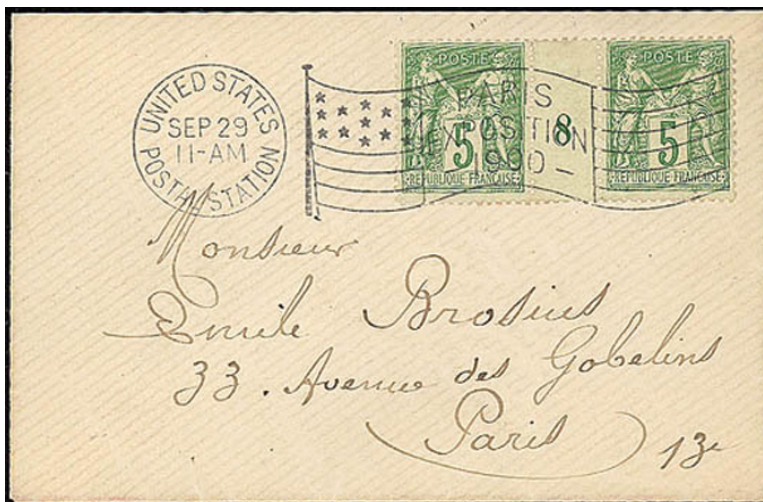
### **1900, Paris, France**



*The 1900 Games were held at the 1900 Paris Exposition, where the United States had a Postal Station. This 2¢ entire with the printed address of the American Postal Machines Company in Boston bears a U.S. Postal Station/Apr. 7, 1900 machine cancel rejected design that was not put into use. Less than 15 copies are known.*



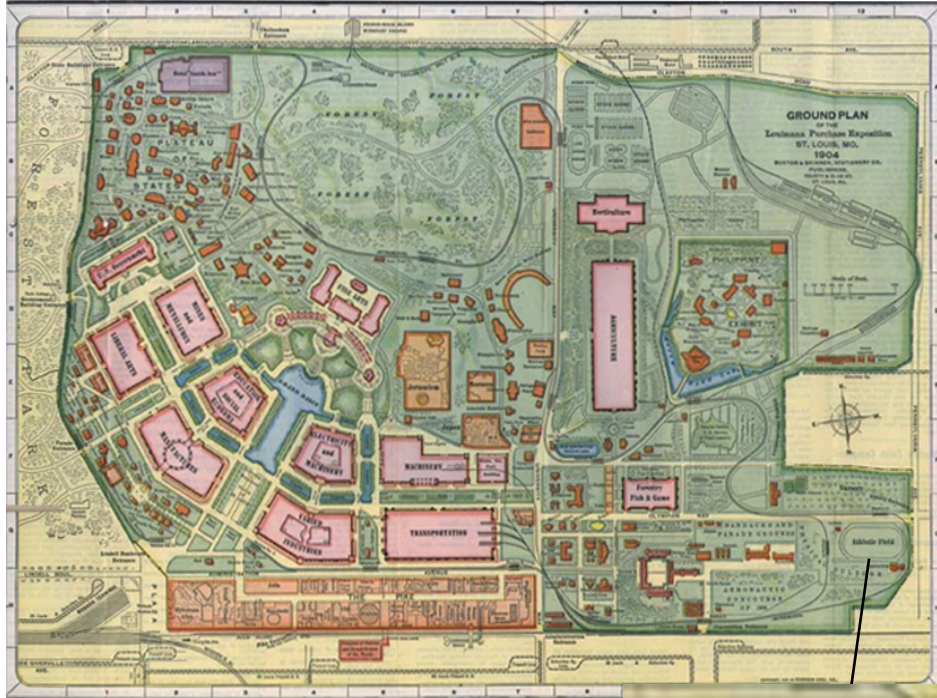
## 1904, St. Louis, USA



An accepted "United States Postal Station/Sep. 29, 1900/Paris Exposition" machine flag cancel (Bomar type P00-07) tying a 5 centimes Sage design issue Gutter Pair to a small locally address cover.



A locally addressed plate proof on card, with four strikes of a "U.S. Postal Station/Paris Exposition/Sep. 5, 1900" duplex cancel (Bomar type P00-01) tying the France 1c-4c Sage issues. The reverse shows a Bird's Eye View of the Exposition, and the sender mentions sending the card from the American Pavilion at the Exposition.



From the Missouri History Museum, a site plan of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition grounds. In the bottom-right corner of the map is the campus of Washington University. The field for the Olympics was Francis Field, now the primary Athletic Field of Washington University, and the building in the lower right of the magnified view (arrow) was the school's gymnasium, where Olympic events also were held.



Above, the front and back of an Olympic medal; right, The poster for the 1904 Summer Olympics in St. Louis. The Games were hosted at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, and the cover of the expo's daily program was used for the Olympics poster.







The 2¢-5¢ Louisiana Purchase issue (Sc. 324-326) tied by oval registry cancellations to a local street address, with a magenta “Registered St. Louis Mo. Apr 29 1904” circular date stamp. This is the largest and unique combination franked pre-First Day cover, the official first day of issue being April 30.

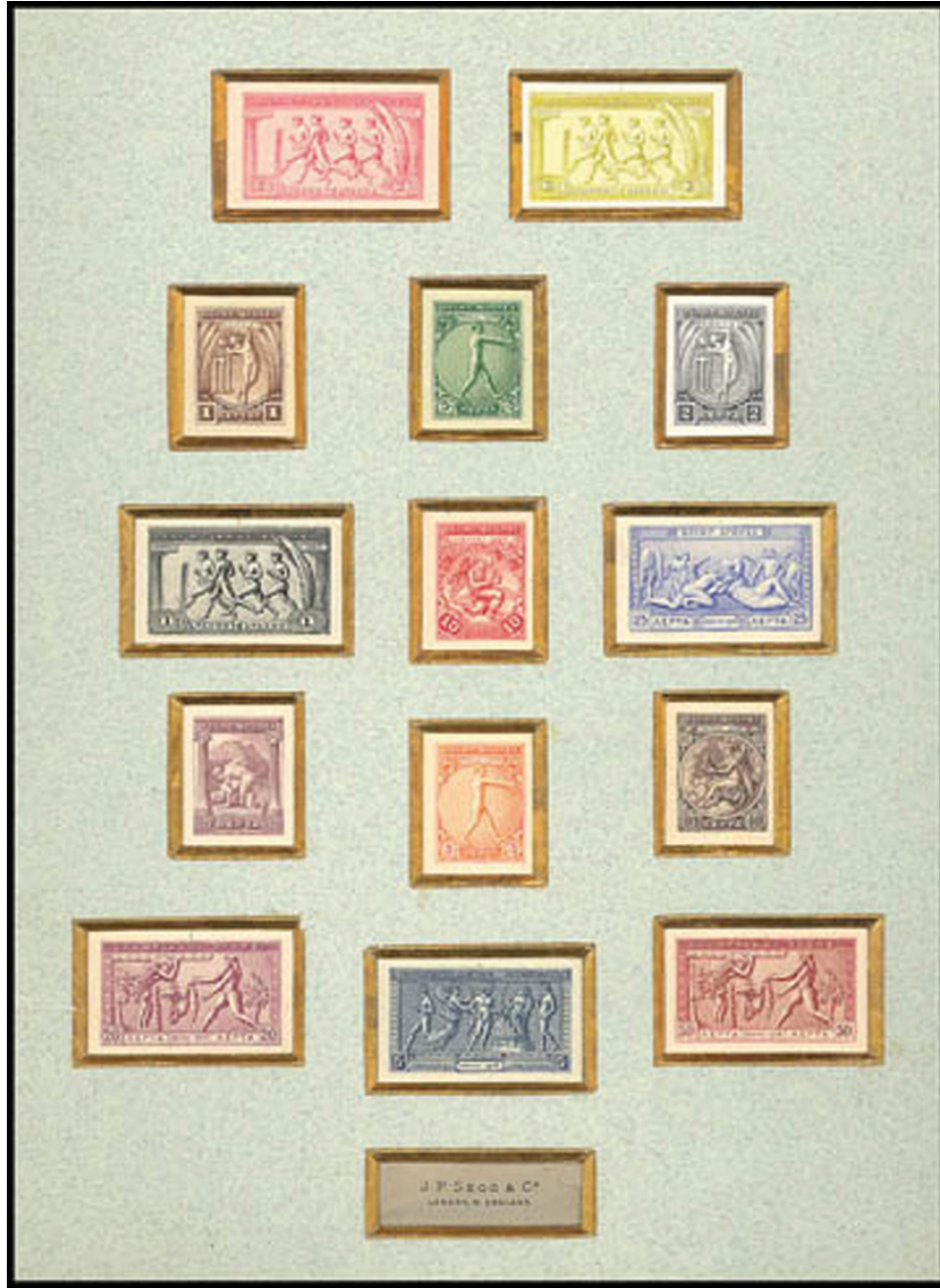
The corner card is that of the Mekeel Stamp & Publishing Co. At that time they were a major stamp dealer as well as being the publisher’s of Mekeel’s Weekly, which is now part of our sister publication, Mekeel’s & STAMPS Magazine.

### 1906, Athens, Greece



1907 New Years Presentation card showing 9 of the 14 Olympic values (Sc. 184-197) from the Greece 1906 series. This die proofs card was given out by the Greek Director General of the Post and Telegraph.





*Complete presentation sheet with all 14 Olympic values (Sc. 184-197) in issued colors, sunk on gold gilt edge card with "J. P. Segg & Co./ London W, England" sunk at bottom, one of about 26 Presentation Proofs Sheets that are believed to have been made.*



A picture post card showing an Olympic Games Discus Thrower on the reverse, addressed to Cambridge, Mass., with an Athens Stadion/ 21 Apr. '06 Olympic double circle postmark tying a pair of 5 lepta Olympic stamps (Sc. 187). This postmark was used at the entrance to the stadium.

The addressee was the wife of R. Barton Perry, the American philosopher who had earned his Masters degree from Harvard (in Cambridge) in 1899, and in 1906 was an assistant professor at Williams and Smith Colleges in Massachusetts. Later, in 1936, he wrote a biography of the American philosopher William James (who died in 1910) that won the 1936 Pulitzer Prize for Biography or Autobiography.

## 1908, London



There is very little available in the way of philatelic material from these Games. In 2008 Italy commemorated the centennial of the 1908 Mar-

athon, in which Italian Dorando Pietri won the Marathon, but was disqualified because he was assisted after having collapsed during the race.

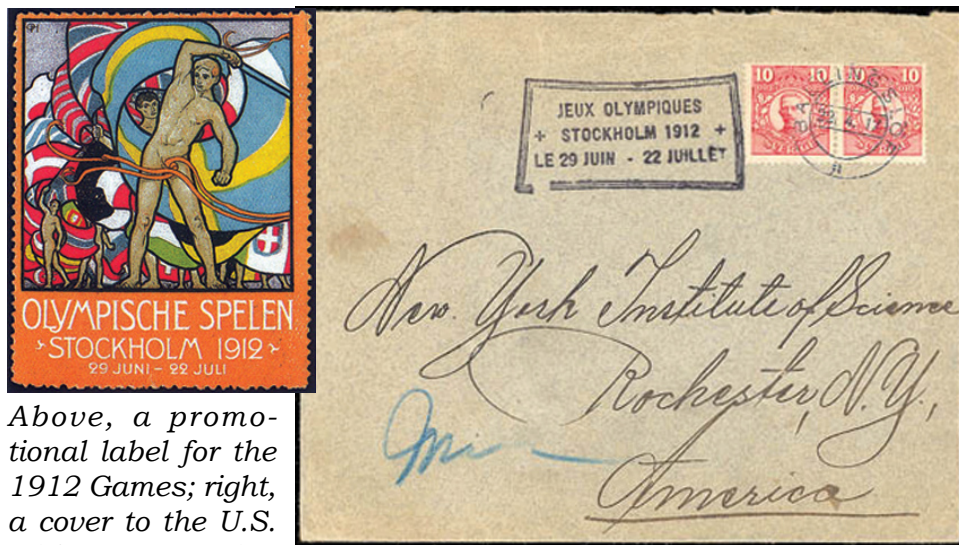




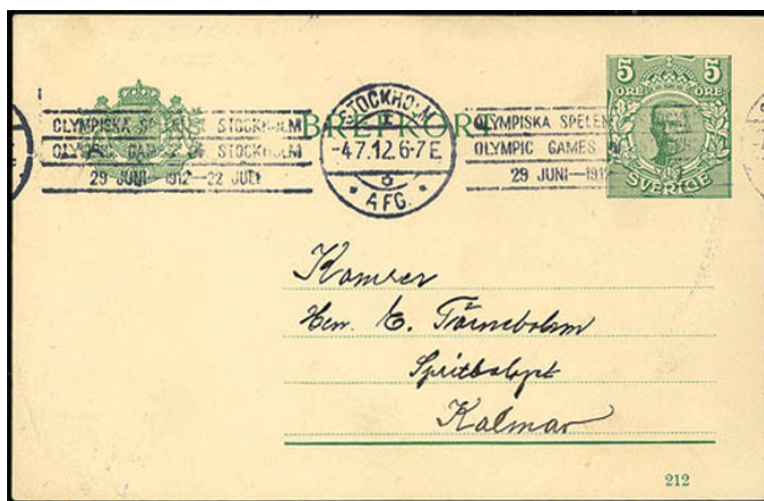
A promotional label for the 1908 Games produced by the British Olympic Committee



## 1912, Stockholm



Above, a promotional label for the 1912 Games; right, a cover to the U.S. with a 10 ore King Gustav pair tied by Ballingslof/22.412 postmark of origin, also with a "Jeux Olympiques/Stockholm 1912/Le 29 Juin - 22 Juillet" promotional transit cachet.



A 5 ore King Gustav postal card to Kalmar with an Olympic Games of Stockholm/4.7.12. bilingual machine cancel. On this day the International Olympic Committee awarded the 1916 Olympic Games to Berlin.



## 1916, Berlin



Top, a special 5 pfennigs Germania postal card prepared especially for the Inauguration of the Olympic Stadium with a commemorative stadium vignette at top left;  
Bottom, the picture side of a commemorative postcard of the newly built stadium franked on the other side with a 5pf Germania tied by a "Berlin 8/.8.6.13 8PM" postmark, the Inaugural Day of the stadium. The 1916 Olympiad was awarded to Berlin, and this stadium was built to accommodate the Games. The opening ceremony of the stadium was attended by Kaiser Wilhelm II. However, due to the outbreak of World War I, the 1916 Games did not take place.

*To Be Continued*

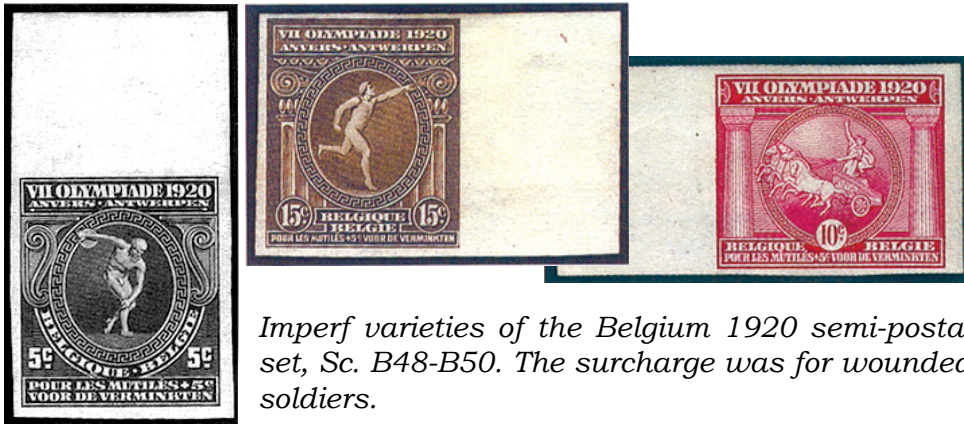
Many of these images are from *The Manikian Olympic Games Collection* section of the Schuyler Rumsey 2011 WESTPEX auction, accessible at <http://www.rumseyauctions.com/auctions/sale/44>

## World of Topicals: The Olympics, Part 3

(As explained in Part 1, this comprehensive study is a compilation of material from various articles that have appeared in Mekeel's & STAMPS over the years. Unless color is essential to the point being made, some images in the early articles have been incorporated here in black and white, as originally published. JFD.)

### 1920, Antwerp

After the 1916 Games scheduled for Berlin were cancelled due to World War I, the Olympics resumed in 1920 with the VII Olympiade, in Antwerp, Belgium—without Germany and its WW I allies: Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary and Turkey, who were banned from the Games.

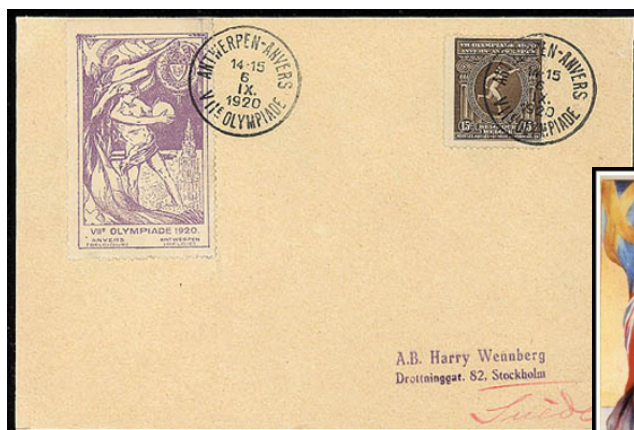


Imperf varieties of the Belgium 1920 semi-postal set, Sc. B48-B50. The surcharge was for wounded soldiers.

The Belgium 1920 semi-postal Olympic set, Sc. B48-B50, tied by an Olympic postmark, “Antwerp/16.8.1920/VII Olympiade” (third day of the Games) on an official Belgian Olympic Committee cover to stamp publication “L’Echo de la Timbrologie” in France.

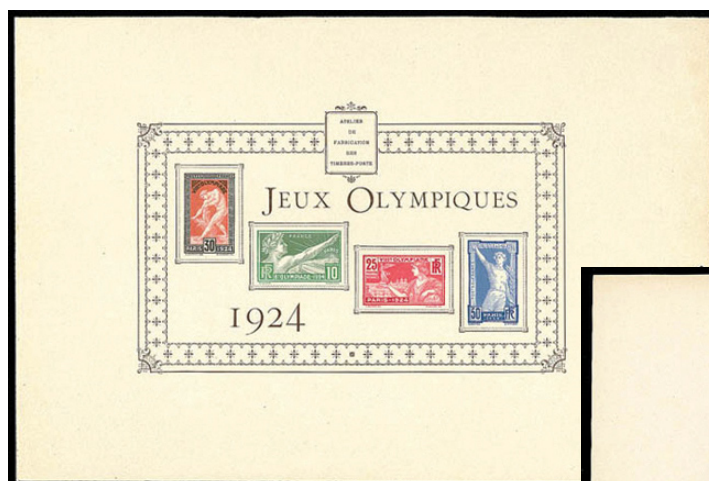




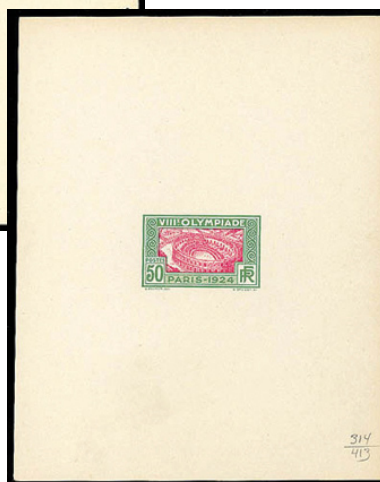


1920 15¢ Runner stamp, Sc. B50 tied by “Antwerpen/6.IX.1920/VIIe Olympiade” postmark on cover to Sweden with violet Olympic label of Games (from a set of five, same design, in different colors), also tied to cover; right, the official poster on which the label was based.

## 1924, Paris

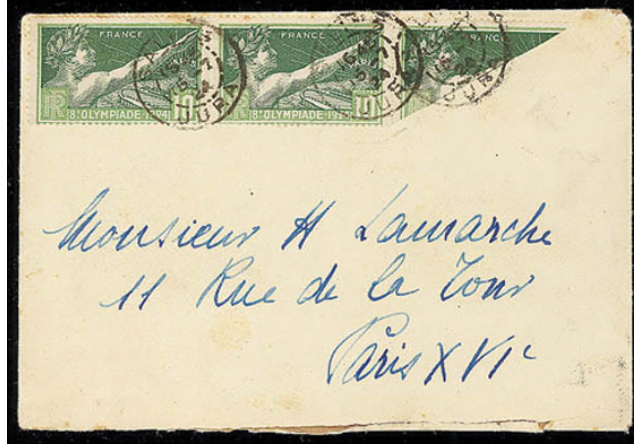


Above, France 1924 10c-50c Olympic Deluxe Collective Proof, of only 135 examples that were issued for distribution to IOC members and a few officials.



Right, France 1924 50c Nimes Arena unissued Olympic Essay.





France 1924 10c Olympic stamp, Sc. 198, in a strip of three with right stamp diagonally bisected, paying the correct 25c rate to Paris, stamps tied by 1924 Salins postmarks, Very Fine and unusual.

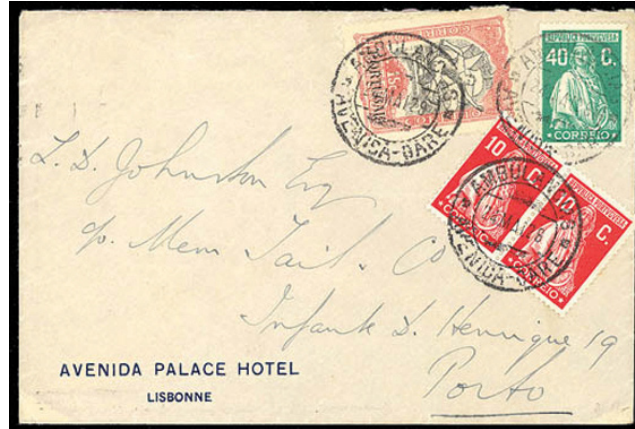


Lebanon 1924 Olympic set, consisting of the France Olympic set with "Grand Liban" Lebanon overprint, Sc. 18-21, on cover tied by bilingual Beyrouth/31 May 1924 postmark.

### 1928, Amsterdam



Netherlands, 1928, 1-1/2c-30c Olympics set, Sc. B25-B32, tied by Olympic Stadion cancels on Official Netherlands Olympic Committee envelope to Germany. At bottom center is the official IXe Olympiade label.



Portugal 1928 15c Olympic Postal Tax stamp, Sc. RA14, (top center on the cover), tied by “Ambulancias/Avenica - Gare/24 Mai '28” double circle postmark on cover to Porto. The use of this stamp was valid for only three days (May 22-24, 1928) and, in addition to regular postage, was obligatory. Of the proceeds, 10% was retained by the Post Office and 90% went to the Portuguese Olympic Committee in support of Portuguese athletes at the Amsterdam Games.

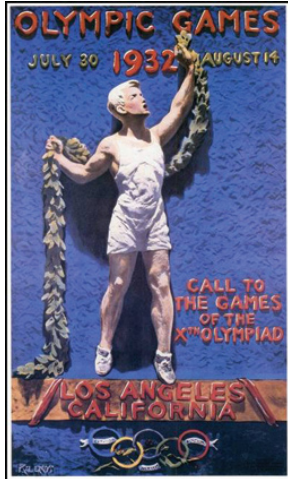
### 1932, Los Angeles

1932 2¢ Olympic Hurdler photo essay printed on card (43 x 50mm). Rejected design shows hurdler. The U.S. Summer Olympics set was issued in 3¢ & 5¢ values, for the new 3¢ domestic rate & the 5¢ international rate.



U.S. 1932 Summer Olympics stamps, mailed from the Olympic Village Post Office on the July 30, 1932 Opening Day of the Olympics. The stamps were issued June 15, 1932.





The cover on page 23 uses as the cachet the design of this official poster of the Los Angeles Olympic Games.

### 1936, Berlin

After the 1916 Berlin Games were cancelled due to World War I, 1936 was Germany's chance to use the Olympics as another propaganda opportunity.



Germany 1936 Summer Olympics complete set, Sc. B82-B89, tied by "Berlin Olympia - Stadion/1.8.36" (Opening Day of the Games) on registered Official Cover of the German Olympic Organizing Committee with scarce "Berlin Olympia - Stadion" registry label. Germany issued these eight stamps as well as the two souvenir sheets below (Sc. B91-B92).



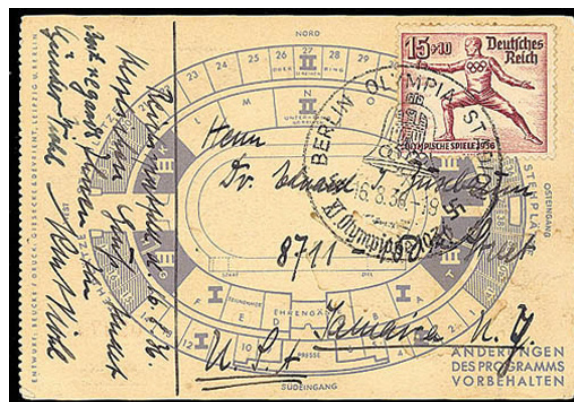


Hitler's plan to use the Berlin Games to demonstrate the superiority of the Aryan "master race" were spoiled by U.S. African-American Olympic stars, led by Jesse Owens.



This cover to the U.S. bears the Germany 1936 12pf + 6pf Runner semi-postal in a margin block of four, along with a U.S. 3¢ Washington, all tied by "U.S.-Ger. Sea Post/S.S. Washington/Aug. 12, 1936" duplex cancels.

The Runner stamps are autographed by none other than Jesse Owens and Frank Wyckoff two members of the Gold Medal winning 4x100 meter relay. The reverse is signed by the other two, Ralph Metcalfe and Archie Williams. Owens also took Gold in the 100 meter, 200 meters and the long jump, while Williams won the 400 meter run.



Germany 1936 15pf Olympic Fencer, Sc. B87, tied by "Berlin Olympic Stadion/16.8.36" circular date stamp (the day of the Closing Ceremonies) on a ticket to the Opening Day Ceremonies and used as a postcard to the United States.



*This also was the era of the Zeppelin. Seen here is a commemorative card for the Olympic Torch Run originating from Austria franked with an Austria 3pf tied by “Wien/29.VII.1936” Olympic Torch Run postmark. In addition it is franked with two other Austrian adhesives for transmission on the Olympic Zeppelin flight, tied by “Wien/30.VI.36” c.d.s. the card also with the magenta Zeppelin Olympic flight cachet and “Berlin-Zentralflughafen/1.8.36” c.d.s.*

### 1940, Tokyo / Helsinki

Once again the symbol of peaceful competition, the Olympic Games, had to be cancelled due to the realities of war, in this case World War II. Originally scheduled for Tokyo, due to Japanese aggression in Asia they were designated for Helsinki in 1938, only to be cancelled in 1939 as World War II broke out in Europe.



*Finland produced seven essays, seen here in a composite sheetlet, but they were never issued.*

## 1944, London

The 1944 London Games also were cancelled, but Polish Prisoners of War were granted permission by the Nazis to hold an unofficial POW Olympics in 1944. This is one of the stamps issued by the Polish officers for the event.



## 1948, London



Great Britain 1948 Olympics set, Sc. 271-274 on a cover cancelled on the First Day of issue of the stamps and the Opening Day of the 1948 Olympic Games.

With the 1948 Games, we conclude our review of the Modern Olympic Games. Should you want to continue on the subject, there are literally thousands of stamps that have been issued since then.

Many of these images are from *The Manikian Olympic Games Collection* section of the Schuyler Rumsey 2011 WESTPEX auction, accessible at <http://www.rumseyauctions.com/auctions/sale/44>

An extensive study of Olympics Posters and Poster Stamps can be seen at <http://www.alphabetilately.org/Oly/1920.html>