

READERS' COMMENTS

Herewith, the rebirth of our Readers' Comments page. Please send your thoughts, ideas, likes, dislikes, etc. to your editor: markspi@prodigy.net

My compliments to Thomas Lippert for his article "Los Angeles 1932" [Fall 2017 issue of *JSP*]. Allow me to comment and query.

Comments: Your article, Thomas, is a breath of fresh air for Olympic philately. It proves, what is mostly ignored, that any and every Olympic item has a story behind it – more than that which just meets the eye.

Moreover, it has another, much deeper instructive aspect – *What is the meaning of Olympic philately, what is included in it, or better said WHAT CAN NOT BE EXCLUDED?*

In fact, what is the scope of Olympic philately? The answer ought to be simple, it is any and every item that contains the term "Olympic" or its symbols. Let us not forget that a large panoply of things orbit around the Games, extending (not exhaustively) from organization to construction, logistics, financing, communication, transportation, lodging, media and (alas lately) to security. All these aspects could be the subject of an extensive article (who would try it?), but let me just mention some important and some overlooked ones. Other items, not covered by the above definition, relate to topics, some of them described hereinafter.



Figure 1. Olympic collections should also include related material though not strictly Olympic, for example this 1928 Spartakiad cover from Moscow (with Cyrillic postmark reading "СПАРТАКИАДА").

1. The initial inspiration: Franco-Prussian War, 1870.
2. The boycotts: Turkey, 1896; Palestine and Spain-1936, 1980, 1984.
3. Olympians' fate: killed in action in World War I and World War II or who were murdered in a concentration camp, 1933-1945.
4. Non-Olympic sports organizations: Workers' Olympiads, Spartakiads (Figure 1), Turner, Sokol, Deutsche Kampfspiele.
5. Heads of State (ceremonies); suppliers of accessories for Olympic events (Figure 2).

The list is not exhaustive.

Collecting should have no constraints and no limits; exhibiting should follow regulations. No collector, though, ought to dictate to fellow collectors to EXCLUDE items according to their philosophy.

Thank you, Thomas, for reminding us.

Queries: To 1932 specialists.

1. Was there any other special aero-postal event at the occasion of the Games?
2. Which 1932 philatelic specialties have not been shown in exhibitions?
3. How many US Navy ships took part in the 1932 Olympics?

Thank you guys for your answers.

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Figure 2. What would the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games have done without them? (Top) meter for Pulverfabrik, supplier of the bullets for the shooting events. (Bottom) Bochum manufactured the famed Olympic Bell.