

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

I hope that everyone enjoyed watching the Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, Canada this past month. I, along with SPI board member, Norm Jacobs and his wife Kathy, were lucky enough to have attended. Along the way, we linked up with fellow member Joe Lopreiato and his son Joey, as well as European members Bob Farley, his wife Brenda, Thomas Lippert and Klaus Fink.

This issue of the journal features a philatelic travelogue of our exploits during our week-long sojourn up in the not-so-cold Pacific Northwest.

I also want to direct your attention to the extensive 2010 resources we've mounted on our website which include a full listing of all event postmarks for both the Olympic and Paralympic Games, an (almost) complete worldwide checklist of stamps and postal stationery commemorating the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, and my daily blog (much of which is repeated in my article in this issue).

All the information is free to the public. Just go to our home page (www.sportstamps.org) and click on the "Vancouver Olympic Philately" icon at top.

I would also like to mention the added benefit of signing up for access to the "Members Only" area of our website (free to all paid members). This gives you the opportunity to download each issue of the journal as soon as its published along with the auction and any monographs. Just go to our home page and click on the "Members Only" icon.

Speaking of monographs, this spring we will be publishing a new full-color monograph on the 1928 Olympic postal cards published by Dutch bookseller, Huygens. To reserve your free copy, you must mail in the reply postcard enclosed with this issue by May 1. Alternatively, you may also e-mail me. If you'd like to help us save printing and postage costs, you'll be able to download this from our

website as soon as it's published – yet another good reason to sign up for our "Members Only" area of the website.

SPI Election

Yes, it's that time again for our biennial SPI elections. Nominations are now open for all officers and board of directors positions. All SPI members in good standing are eligible to run. Nominations must be received by our Nominations Chairman, Joe Lopreiato, no later than May 1, 2010. His address is: 1105 Betts Trail Way, Potomac, MD 20854 (e-mail: jolopreiato@comcast.net)

SPI and FIPO

While in Vancouver for the Games, Norm Jacobs and I met with Mr. David Maiden, the IOC's Philatelic Coordinator. Among the topics we discussed: the future of FIPO and how the organization will likely be structured, potential plans for a philatelic exhibition during the London 2012 Olympic Games, and the possibility of holding the 2011 Olympic Collectors Fair in the U.S. He also reiterated that SPI is a full member of FIPO.

Publicity Manager Needed

SPI continues to reposition itself to take advantage of the new electronic possibilities for promoting sports and Olympic philately.

To be truly effective, SPI needs a publicity manager to get the word out to the blogs and other social media from which, I believe, many of our future members will be recruited. This is a volunteer position. If interested, please contact me and we'll discuss it further (markspi@prodigy.net).

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

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