



The
Ephemera
of Society
of America

expresses its heartfelt gratitude to

George Pogosov

for

Using Ephemera in Exhibiting at Seapex 2017
"Fragments of the History of Fencing"



President

Fragments of the History of Fencing

Exhibit Purpose and Scope

This exhibit explores the history of fencing in connection with the evolution of civilization from the times of ancient Egypt and Rome through Barbarian Dark Ages, fast and elegant Renaissance, to the modern ever more popular fencing culture of nowadays. Almost 3000 years passed since the times of when crude weapons were used by ancient Egyptians and today's use of electric equipment; however, fencing remains to be a noble discipline, that promotes the qualities of knighthood in competitors. Contemporary fencing is an elegant, entertaining form of sport, even though it was considered a dangerous, deadly weapon of self-defense in times gone by. A primitive man that first used a stick to strike a target has unintentionally become a pioneer of fencing. Fencing stands out from other sports not only for its nobleness and romanticism, but also for its centuries-long history.

By means of philatelic materials variety, which includes many postal items signed by Legends of Fencing, this exhibit illustrates various milestones in the history of fencing.

Condition and Rarity

Presented materials were selected for their condition and rarity. A big part of materials, especially pre-production materials, errors, signed postcards, and covers, is either unique or exists in a small number of copies. Items of special significance are marked with ■ with a blue edging .



- San Marino 1955 Maximum Card is signed by Italian Legends of Fencing brothers Dario and Edoardo Mangiarotti – multiple Olympic and World Champions. The photo shows one of the rare fights between the brothers.

The Exhibit Plan

1. Timeline of Fencing History
 - 1.1. From the beginning to Middle Ages
 - 1.2. The battles
 - 1.3. The duels
 - 1.4. The Academy, Societies
2. Olympic Games
 - 2.1. 1894/1936 Olympic Games
 - 2.2. 1952/1960 Olympic Games
 - 2.3. 1964/1980 Olympic Games
 - 2.4. 1984/2008 Olympic Games
3. World Championships
 - 3.1. 1952/1980 World Championships
 - 3.2. 1981/2011 World Championships
4. National Fencing events



Color proofs



Pair imperforated between



Proof in blue



Specimen



Photographic sketch



Imperforated proof

1. Timeline of Fencing History

1.1. From the beginning to Middle Ages

The primitive man, who took the stick for the first time and used it to defend himself and his tribe members, became the founder of fencing without knowing it.



Rough medieval sword fights did not require a lot of skills and symbolized the ruling of the animal power, as the victory was won by the strongest hands and the heaviest swords.

3000 thousand years ago the Egyptian pharaoh Ramses III organized a fencing tournament in honor of the victory over the Libyans.

Evidence of the first fencing matches appears in a carving on the Temple of Madinet-Habu, near Luxor, Egypt - built by Ramses III in 1190 BC.



Not many people know that at the first Olympics in ancient Greece, in 776 BC, fencing was included in the competition program.



In Cambodia, the images of the swordsmen on the bas-relief carving at the ruins of the Temple of Angkor Wat.

In order to successfully use weapons in combat, one had to train for a long time: the one, who had better control of his weapons, had more chances to survive.



In ancient Greece, Rome, and in the Middle East for the cold weapons training the special schools were created. A shield was the main way of protection.

1. Timeline of Fencing History

1.1. From the beginning to Middle Ages



Special cancel (1935) dedicated to Toyama's Kendo Center establishment



Specimen

Kendo (in Japanese, "the way of the sword") is fencing art that leads its history (more than 5000 years) from traditional samurai sword techniques. The word "sword" contains the main ideas of kendo, consisting of the fact that an armed with a sword person has no right to make a mistake, and that every opponent, fight, should be approached with a renewed spirit and fuse of energy. Therefore, the word "sword" in kendo is perceived primarily as an instrument that trains the spirit of a man.



First Day Cover dedicated to Japan Kendo Meeting in Okinawa

1. Timeline of Fencing History

1.1. From the beginning to Middle Ages

At the beginning of the medieval period, heavy fencing weapons and powerful military armor are characteristic.

In the era of the early Middle Ages, noble knights in equestrian tournaments with spears relied only on the power of their weapons and eliable suit of armour, which decided everything in the battle.

With the development of firearms, heavy swords and ammunition got out of use.



Imperforated



Specimen



The sword was not just a weapon, but a faithful amulete with its strength and glory forged in battles. The history has had a lot of swords with a special place been hold by swords-legends which raised the morale of the entire nations.

The sword of King Arthur was known as "Excalibur", while the sword of El Cid Campeador was known as "Tuscon".



In the Roman Empire special teachers, called "weaponry doctors", trained soldiers in the army. Guy Julius Caesar had developed special "fencing" rules for his warriors.



The era of fencing art began. It was based not on physical strength, but on the technical and manure skills of single combat.

Roman Emperor "5L + 2.50L" of 1932 very seldom to see on cover

1. Timeline of Fencing History

1.1. From the beginning to Middle Ages

Fencing became widespread in Ancient Rome as an entertaining swordmanship .
 The first duels of the gladiators were held in 264 BC at the festivities.
 The gladiators mastered the swordcraft in special gladiatorial schools.



Gladiator schools were the first attempt to train future fighters in the art of performing a spectacular death duel.



The Gladiator's stamps on registered cover to Cecina (Province Livorno)

The Roman warrior on Monaco stamps.



With the fall of the Roman Empire, the gladiatorial schools got closed. It was time of the barbarian kingdoms and big battles of invaders.



Die Proof

1. Timeline of Fencing History

1.2. The battles

In October 1066 one of the most bloody battles of the Middle Ages occurred near the English city of Hastings. It became yet another nexus in the confrontation between the Normans and the Anglo-Saxons. This battle's outcome had a huge impact on the further course of European history, and it was disastrous for the British people and their King Harold II.



Great Britain stamps dedicated to the Hasting battle on registered cover to Italy (October 1956)



Special cancel of Hastings (October 1972)

After the Hastings' victory the Duke of Wilhelm ascended the throne in December, 1066. It gave a formidable impetus, allowing England to become one of the most developed European powers in a short period of time.



On a moist autumn morning two largest armies of medieval Europe came together on the already harvested by the peasants field. Their numbers were approximately the same, but their qualitative preparation was strikingly different from each other.



The army of the Duke of Wilhelm consisted mainly of professional soldiers, perfectly armed, trained and having a vast military experience.



1. Timeline of Fencing History

1.2. The battles



French FDC dedicated to the anniversary of the Hasting battle (1966)

Despite the fact that, the English king was killed in the Battle of Hastings and his army was defeated, this defeat turned out to be an undoubted benefit for England. It turned out to be one of the multiple events of irony in generous to a fault history. The answer to the question, "Who won the battle?" arises by itself, -"The Normans." However, "Who ultimately benefited from this?"- "The English". Therefore, one can not make fast conclusions with the answer to the question, "Who won the battle at Hastings?"



Color proof

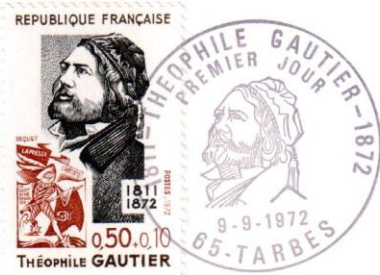
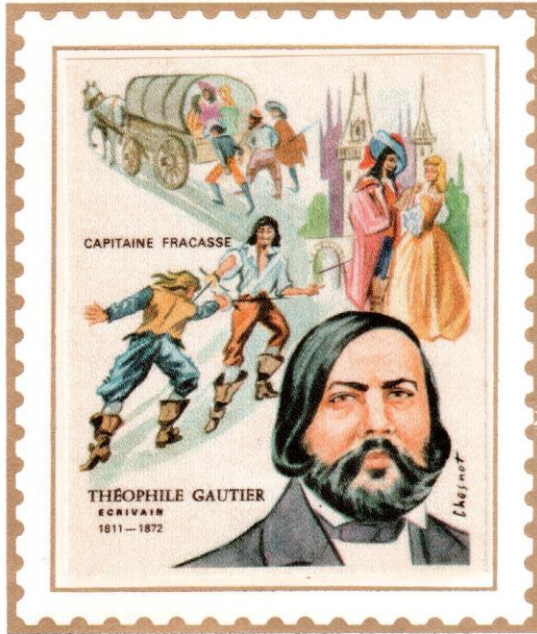


Die Proof

Not a single battle was won with greater difficulty than the Battle of Hastings, and no other victory resulted in such global consequences. It might seem that this was just the final battle in the war for the throne of a small island kingdom. However, in reality, this battle served as the turning point where history began the countdown of a number of events that would result in the creation of the British Empire, which turned out to be even grander than the Roman Empire.

1. Timeline of Fencing History

The romance of the duels is brilliantly reflected in the opus of the famous French poet and novelist T. Gautier.



French maximum card dedicated to poet and novelist T. Gautier



Dueling swept all Europe, but they reached their peak in France.

1.3. The duels

At the end of the XV - the beginning of the XVI century, a dueling form of fencing became widespread: obtaining the satisfaction for an insult by means of force of arms. An insultee fought to get satisfaction; an insulting man fought to give satisfaction. They solved an issue in a duel personally and openly in accordance with the rules, and with equal weapons.



In the popular opinion of that time, a brave hero was a duelist dying with the weapon in his hand and with his head held high.



Color Proof

1. Timeline of Fencing History

1.3. The duels

A famous French writer, Alexandre Dumas, colorfully and accurately described the different duels in his novels.



Today we engross ourselves in the novels of A. Dumas, and we are dreaming to be in the romanticized and noble age of the Renaissance, at least, for a moment.



In the Dumas novels, a huge number of duels between the king's musketeers and the guardsmen of Cardinal Richelieu was described; although, it was during the Richelieu era that dueling was banned.



An epee became the dueling weapon of choice across Europe; and a sabre became the national weapon of Hungary.



The French FDC dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the death of A. Dumas



Die Proof signed by artist

1. Timeline of Fencing History

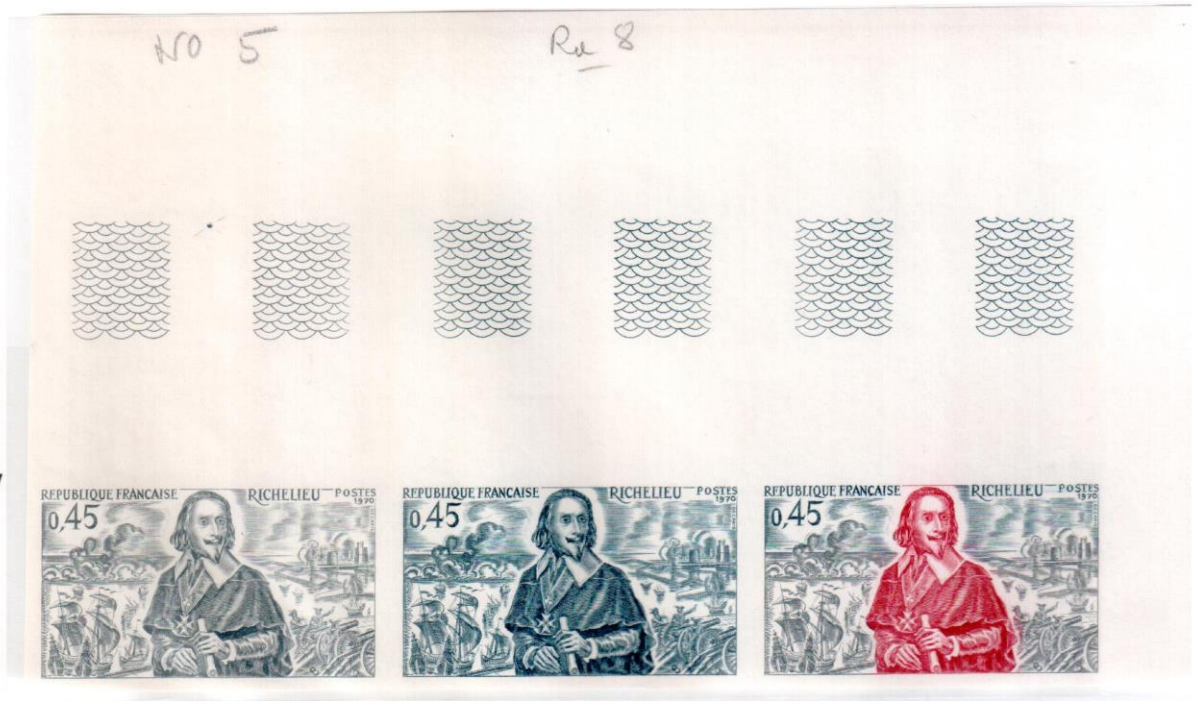
King Louis XIV (1638 – 1715)



Signed Color Proof

Between 1608 and 1723, more than 10 Royal Decrees were issued banning dueling; nevertheless, nothing was successful.

During the incomplete 20 years of the Henry IV reign, 6-10 thousand noblemen perished in fights, and, more than 7000 royal pardons were given to duelists.



Color Proof

1.3. The duels

The Cardinal Richelieu along with the Louis XIV wanted to have all disputes been controlled by the state; and, therefore, the duel was prohibited.



However, Cardinal Richelieu could not destroy the tradition of duel completely over his lifetime service; and, it disappeared much later.



Cardinal Richelieu (1585 – 1642)

1. Timeline of Fencing History

1.3. The duels

The famous French playwright, Moliere, lived in an era when the duel between the nobles could break out at the slightest pretext, and swords rang at almost every corner, "Fencing is an art strike without receiving them. The need to strike the opponent while avoiding his attacks, making the art of fencing is extremely difficult, because the eye that sees and warns, to reason, which discusses and decides to hand, which performs, you need to add accuracy and speed to give life to a weapon. "



French stamp dedicated to J.B.Moliere (1944)



French stamp issued to the 300th Anniversary of the death of Moliere



Signed Artist's Proof

The fencing scene in the Background is from Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme (The Would be Gentleman), a comedy-ballet written in 1670. In hopes of becoming a courtier, Monsieur Jourdain, the would-be gentleman, prepares himself by taking lessons in music, dancing, fencing, and philosophy. The scenes devoted to these lessons are among the most hilarious ever written by Moliere, and all ends happily with a mock Turkish Ballet.



Imperforated stamp

1. Timeline of Fencing History

1.4. The Academy, Societies

In the seventeenth century noble families sent young people to special classes to learn sword handling. There were many different sections, schools, guilds and associations, which were often called fencing academy.



Stamps of San Marino dedicated to Medieval fencing tournaments on the postcard to Italy (1963).



By the beginning of the 18th century, several world fencing schools have been formed in different countries with Italian and French being the main among them.



Deluxe Block

1. Timeline of Fencing History

1.4. The Academy, Societies

The Guild of Fencing in Ghent, Belgium, is the most famous and one of the few surviving to this day.

Already in the Middle Ages In continental Europe there were "fighting guilds," where the traditions of fencing art fighting passed down from one generation to another.



The Belgian imperforated stamp dedicated to 350th Anniversary of a charter to the Ghent guild of fencers.



Die Proof

A person from any class of society who wished to acquire the weapons skills had to contact one of those old fencing schools.



Imperforated



Die Proof

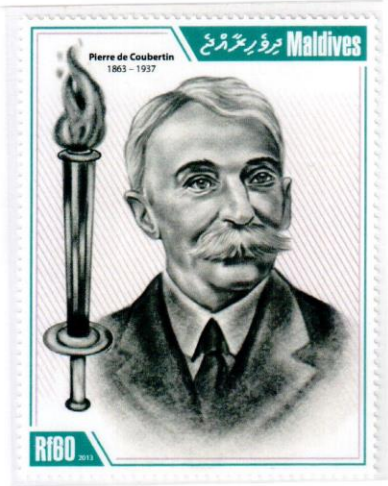


2. Olympic Games



Let us export our oarsman, runners, and fencers..."

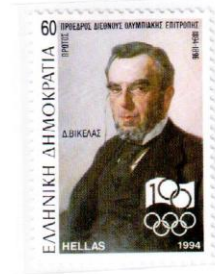
Baron de Coubertin on November 25 1892, calling for the re-birth of the Olympic Games after a gap of 1,500 years.



Gymnastic



16



Demetrius Vikelas, a writer, was elected as the first President of the International Olympic Committee. At his suggestion, the first modern Olympic Games were held in Athens.

In 1894, Coubertin organized a meeting which brought together 79 delegates from 12 countries and formed the first International Olympic Committee. This meeting established the basic framework for modern Olympic Games every four years with the first to take place in Greece.

Fencing



Imperforated

Fencing is one of only four (4) sports that have been on the program of every Olympic Games of modern times (the other one are athletics, gymnastics, and swimming).

Swimming



Imperforated

Athletics



Imperforated



At the 1896 Summer Olympics, three fencing events took place at the Zappeion on the 7th April and the 9th of April 1896. All fencers fenced three-touche bouts.

Fencing was the only sport where professionals were allowed to participate in the Olympics. So, the competition on rapiers was held among the "swordmasters" - the teachers of fencing.



Greece stamp issued to 1896 Olympic Games



Domestic postcard franked by 1896 Olympic stamps from Patras to Corinth.

Overall, 15 athletes from four nations competed in the first modern Olympics. Eight fencers from three nations won one medal each.



Special fencing picture postcard was issued to 1896 Olympic Games.

Greek fencers won two gold medals: L.Pyrgos (Masters foil), I.Georgiadis (sabre).



Greece stamp issued to 1896 Olympic Games

2. Olympic Games

2.1 1894/1936 Olympic Games

The 1900 Olympic Games were held in Paris during the World Fair.
 260 fencers from 19 nations participated in seven fencing events from May 14 to June 27.

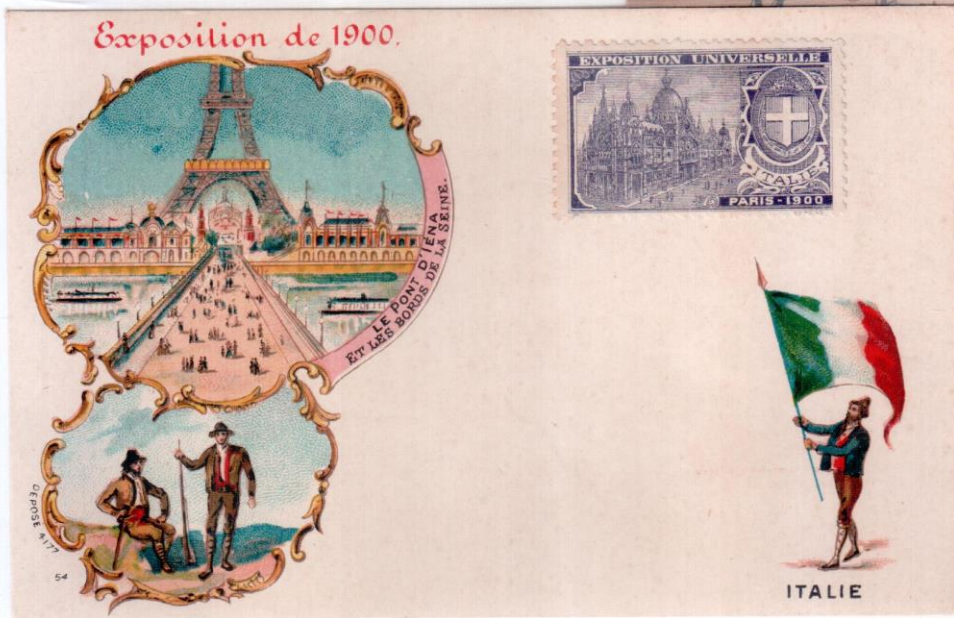


Fencing competitions became the most massive event during the 1900 Olympic Games. More athletes and countries participated in fencing than in athletics

Domestic postcard with special Exposition label sent on October 11, 1900.



A.Conte (Italy) won a gold medal in sabre event for Masters.



Registered cover from Board of Trade of World's Fair sent from Exhibition Post Office to Switzerland on September 11, 1900.

Special World Fair Committee postcard dedicated to Italy membership.

2. Olympic Games

2.1 1894/1936 Olympic Games

At the 1906 Summer Olympics a total of 62 fencers from 12 nations competed in eight fencing events (six for amateurs, two for professionals) from April 23 to May 1 in Athens, Greece.



The special fencing postcard issued to the 1906 Olympic Games.



At the 1906 Games five medals were won by French fencers and four medals were won by the German swordsman Gustav Casmir.

ΕΛΛΑΣ — GRÈCE
ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΑΡΙΟΝ
ΠΑΓΚΟΣΜΙΟΣ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΟΣ ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ
CARTE POSTALE
Union universelle des Postes

ΟΛΥΜΠΙΑΚΟΙ ΑΓΩΝΕΣ 1906. ΣΙΦΟΜΑΧΙΑ

Athènes

Jeux Olympiques 1906. Escrime

Cancellation used by Post Office opened during the Games at the Zappeion with the date of April 19, 1906.

At the 1908 Summer Olympics, 131 fencers from 14 nations competed in four fencing events from July 17 to July 24.



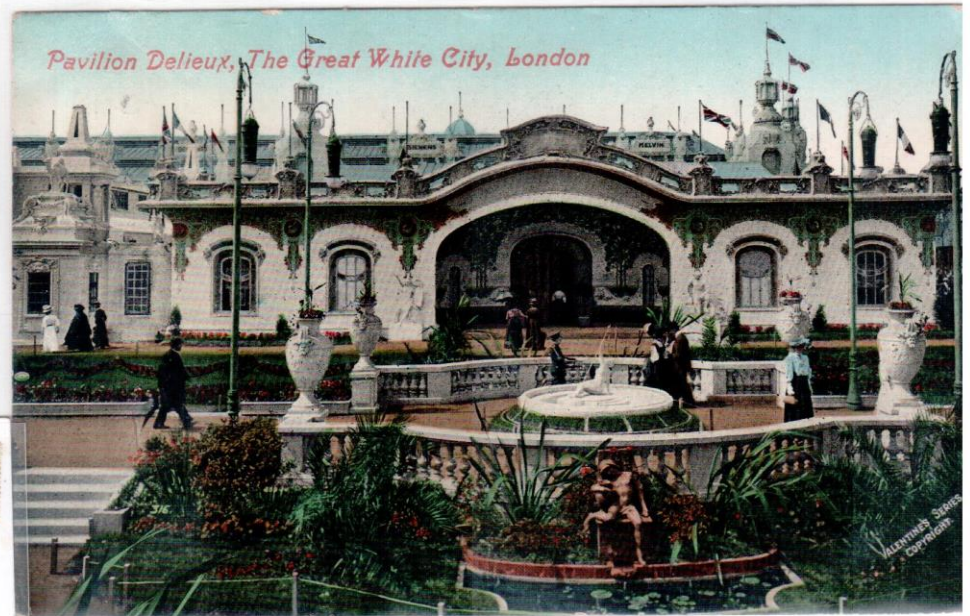
Back of the postcard



Special cancellation used by the Post Office of the Exhibition with the date of July 17 – the first Day of the fencing competitions.

White City Stadium (The Great Stadium) was built in White City, London, for the 1908 Olympics. This stadium was opened by King Edward VII on 27 April 1908. Many events of the 1908 Olympics were held at the stadium. The 1908 Olympic Games were closed on October 31st, 1908.

The Franco-British Exhibition (1908) was a large public Fair and was held in an area of West London near which is now called White City: the area acquired its name from the Exhibition buildings which were all painted white.



Special cancellation used by the Post Office of the Exhibition with the date of October 30.



Back of the postcard

Eugène Olivier (1881 – 1964) was a French fencer. He won a gold (team epee) and a bronze (individual epee) medals at the 1908 Olympic Games.

Eugène Olivier was a famous surgeon, Doctor of Science, and Associate Professor of Anatomy, he was elected a member of the Academy Free of Surgery in 1953.



The postcard from the Table of E. Olivier

2. Olympic Games

2.1 1894/1936 Olympic Games

The 1912 Summer Olympics included five fencing events.
A total of 184 fencers from 16 nations competed
at the Games from July 6 to July 18.



Back of the postcard

The youngest participant in the fencing tournament was the Italian Nedo Nadi – the future legend of fencing. In 1912 he won a gold medal in the individual tournament of the foilsmen.



The official postcard (n.8 from the first type) issued by Organizing Committee of the 1912 Games.



The special cancel dedicated to Nedo Nadi and issued to National Fencing Championship in Livorno.



The special Olympic cancel on postcard to Austria sent on July 9, 1912.

2. Olympic Games

2.1 1894/1936 Olympic Games



At the 1920 Summer Olympics, six fencing events (all for men) took place. A total of 149 fencers from 13 nations competed at the Antwerp Games from August 15 to August 26.

Italian brothers Nadi were among the greatest and most versatile fencers in the history of the sports.



Special Olympic cancel on postcard from Antwerp to Brussel dated by August 15 – the first Day of the fencing competitions.

Special Olympic cancel on postcard mailed from Brussel to France dated August 16.

Nedo Nadi (Italy) competed in five events at 1920 Games and won gold medals in all five.

Nedo's brother, Aldo, also competed in Antwerp and won three gold medals in the team events and an individual silver medal behind his brother in the sabre event.

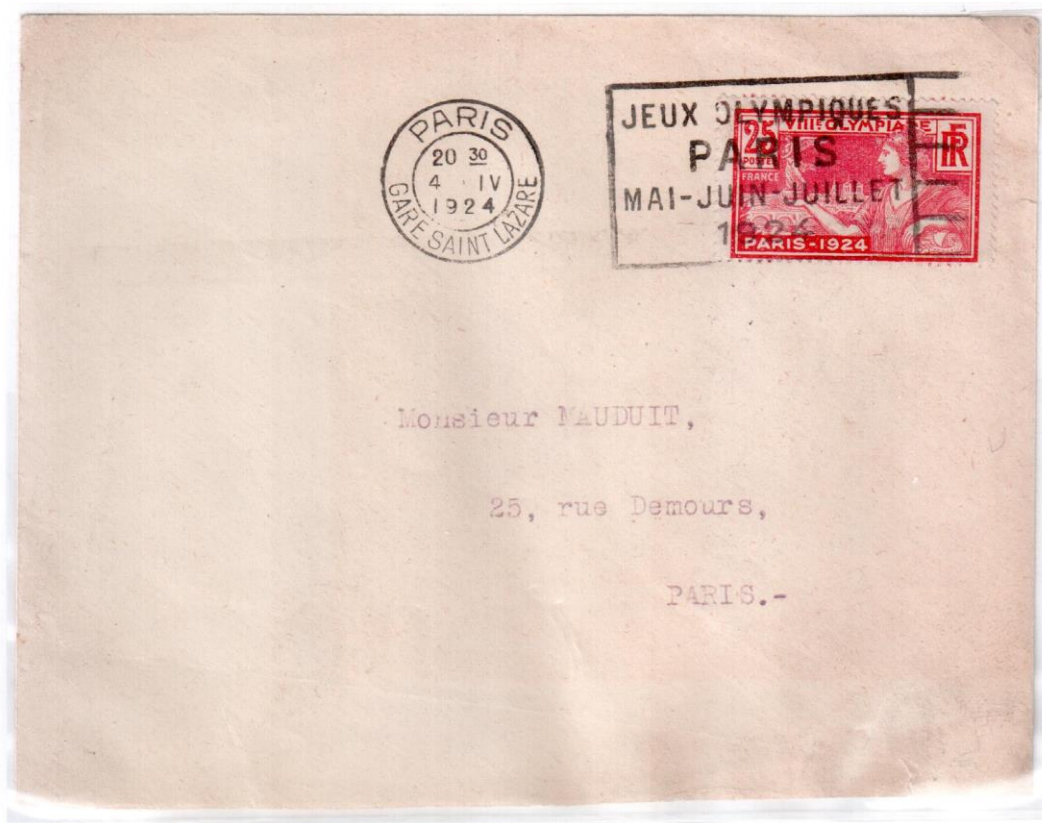


The Nadi brothers at the 1920 Olympic Games (signed photo).

2. Olympic Games

2.1 1894/1936 Olympic Games

The 1924 Summer Olympics, for the first time in modern history, hosted an individual women's foil event. Overall total of 240 fencers from 23 nations competed in seven fencing events June 27 to July 18 in Paris, France.



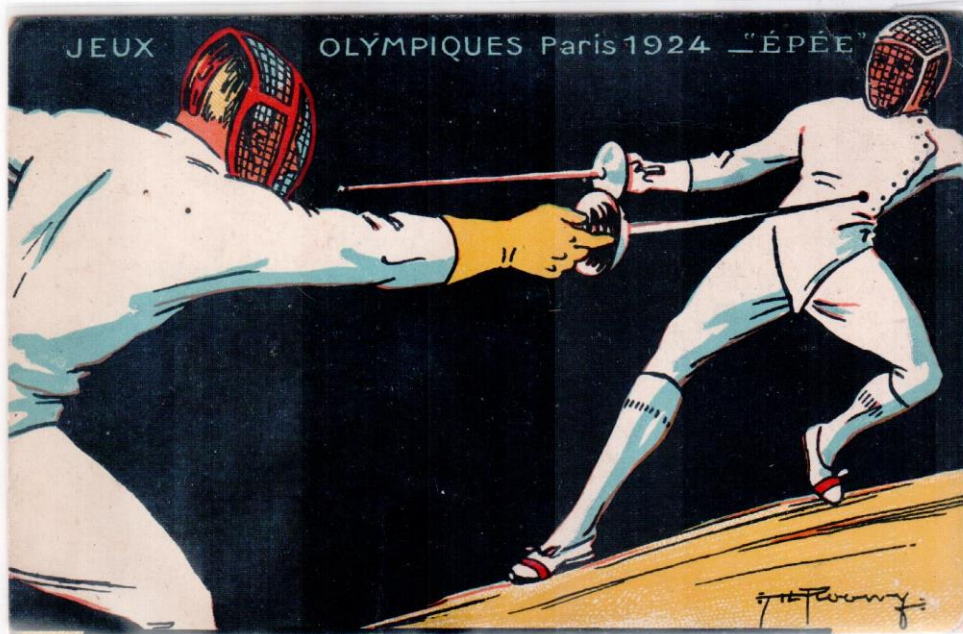
The special Olympic cancel on domestic cover 4.4.1924

France was the leading nation, winning six medals in all.



French stamp issued to 1924 Olympic Games.

French fencer R. Ducret entered five events out of six and earned a gold or silver medal in each of them, winning individual medals in all three competitive fencing disciplines: épée, foil and sabre.



The special fencing picture postcard issued to 1924 Olympic Games

2. Olympic Games

2.1 1894/1936 Olympic Games

At the 1928 Summer Olympics seven fencing events took place, six for men and one for women. A total of 259 fencers (232 men, 27 women) from 27 nations competed at the Amsterdam Games from July 29 to August 11.



Netherlands Olympic Committee Official envelope mailed to Germany on 3.8.1928 with full set of Olympic Stamps and special cancel (N3).



This is the first stamp issued to commemorate an Olympic fencer. There was a surtax on this stamp (2c + 1c), and it was used to defray the expenses of the Games.



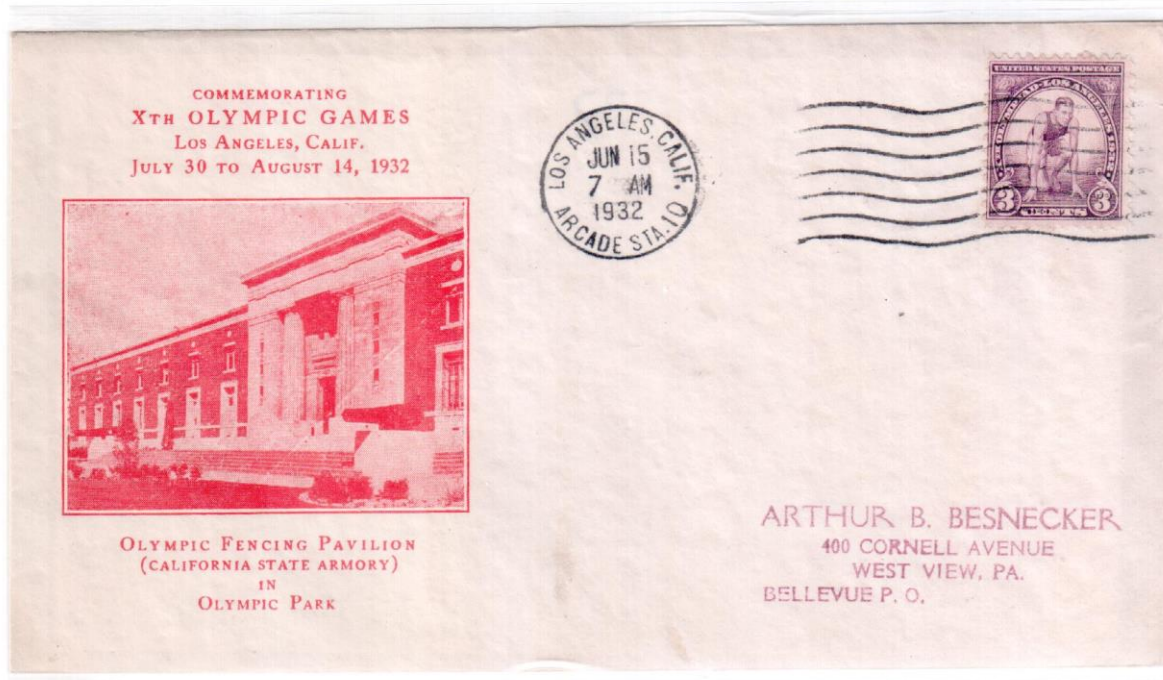
- The special Olympic postcard signed by Olympic Champions Hungary Men's team sabre: Ö. Tersztyánszky, J. Garay, A. Petschauer, J. Rády, Dr. S. Gombos, G. Glykais.

2. Olympic Games

2.1 1894/1936 Olympic Games

At the 1932 Summer Olympics, seven fencing events took place, six for men and one for women. A total of 109 fencers (92 men, 17 women) from 16 nations competed at the Los Angeles Games from July 31 to August 13.

Italy won 8 (2 gold) medals, Hungary – 4 (2 gold), France (2 gold) and USA won 3 medals each.



Olympic Fencing Pavilion on addressed First Day Cover

Postcard sent from Hungarian fencer G. Piller to his father on August 7. The front of the postcard shows the stadium during the opening ceremonies. G. Piller won two gold medals at the 1932 Games in individual and team sabre events.



Specimen of the stamp of Paraguay dedicated to Olympic Champion Ellen Preis (Austria)



2. Olympic Games

2.1 1894/1936 Olympic Games

At the 1936 Summer Olympics, seven fencing events took place, six for men and one for women. A total of 311 fencers (270 men and 41 women) from 29 nations competed at the Berlin Games from August 2 to August 15.



The fencing stamp issued to the 1936 Olympic Games.



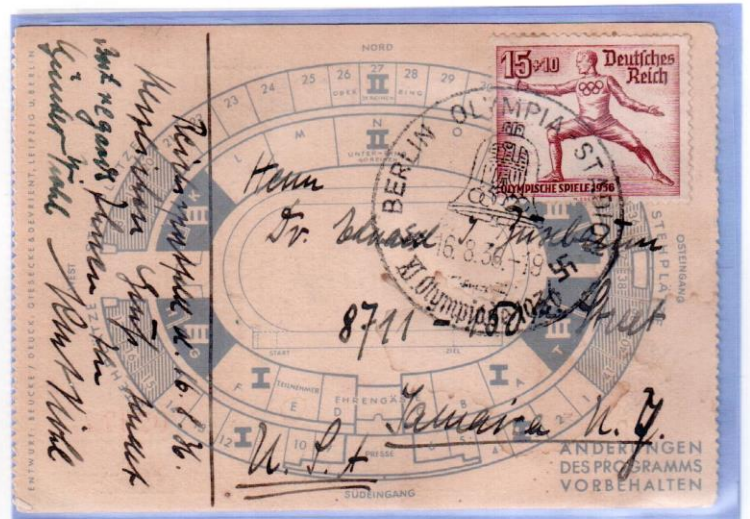
The special Olympic cancel on postcard dated by the day of Opening Fencing Competitions.



Admission ticket to the last day of fencing events.



Back side of the ticket



Admission ticket to Opening Day Ceremonies of the Games was also used as a postcard on the day of Closing Ceremonies, tied by "Berlin Olympic Stadium/16.8.1936 and addressed to the USA. Probably, this is the only in the World.

2. Olympic Games

2.2. 1952/1960 Olympic Games

At the 1952 Olympics, seven fencing events took place. A total of 286 fencers (249 men and 37 women) from 32 nations competed at the Helsinki Games from July 21 to August 1.



Special Olympic cancel on registered cover dated by the last day of Olympic Games.



Die Proof

At the fencing competitions of the 1952 Olympic Games Italy won 8 medals, Hungary - 6, France - 3.



Imperforated

2. Olympic Games

Christian D'Oriola won four gold (1952,1956 – individual, 1948,1952 – team) and two silver (1948 – individual, 1956 – team) medals at the Olympic Games. Also, he won eight gold and four silver at the World Championships.



Maximum card with First Day Cancel signed by D'Oriola

2.2. 1952/1960 Olympic Games

French stamp, depicting a left-handed foil fencer, issued to honor French foil fencer Christian d'Oriola.



Imperforated stamp

Christian d'Oriola, a talented southpaw, was extraordinarily flexible, and he possessed virtuosic classical technique. His fencing was unpredictable. He performed spectacularly lightning attacks in elegant and lighthearted manner.



Color proof



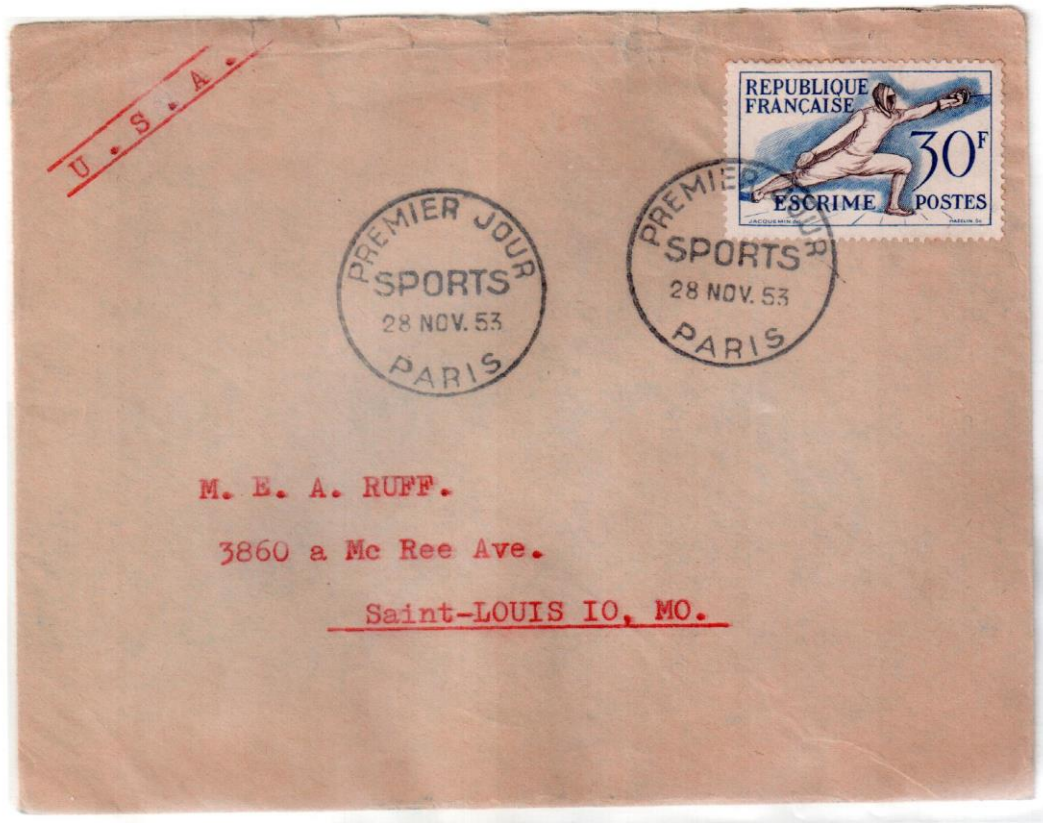
In 1970, aged 42, C.d'Oriola won the French national title in team epee. In 1972, he was awarded the French Legion of Honor. After retiring from



Proof Essay



■ Die proof signed by artist (only 4 known exist)



D'Oriola's stamp on addressed First Day Cover to USA (11/28/1953)

2. Olympic Games

2.2. 1952/1960 Olympic Games

At the 1956 Summer Olympics, seven fencing events took place.
 A total of 165 fencers (142 men and 23 women) from 23 nations
 competed at the Melbourne Games from November 23 to December 5.



Official Olympic Souvenir cover with special cancel dedicated to start fencing competitions at the 1956 Games.

Italy won 7 (3 gold) medals,
 Hungary – 4 (2 gold),
 France – 4 (1 gold).



The special Olympic registered cover addressed to Italy with special cancels from the first and last days of fencing competitions at the 1956 Games.



The stamp of Lebanon issued to the 1956 Olympic Games.

2. Olympic Games

The Polish fencing stamp issued to 1956 Olympic Games, perhas, the most beautiful stamp among all of them picturing fencers. This stamp shows an attacking sabre fencer executing difficult but graceful 'fleche'.



Shifted color



Proof



Sketch signed by the author Czeslaw Kacmarek

2. Olympic Games

2.2. 1952/1960 Olympic Games

Carlo Pavesi (1923 – 1995) was an Italian fencer. He won four gold (1952,1956,1960) medals at the Olympic Games. He won also six gold, three silver and one bronze medals at the World Championships.



The stamp of Dominican Republic, issued in honor of Italian Epee Champion Carlo Pavesi, does not represent him, but the back of Edoardo Mangiarotti in front of the United States fencer B.Pew.

The British fencer Gillian Sheen won a gold medal in the women's individual foil event at the 1956 Games.



■ The block of imperforated stamps dedicated to Carlo Pavesi: there is missing color on the flag.

2. Olympic Games

2.2. 1952/1960 Olympic Games

At the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome, eight events in fencing took place.

A total of 344 fencers (266 men and 78 women) from 42 nations competed at the Games from August 29 to September 8.



The special cancel on Official Olympic postcard dated by 29.8.1960 – the first day of fencing competition



The Olympic cancel on addressed special fencing cover

2. Olympic Games

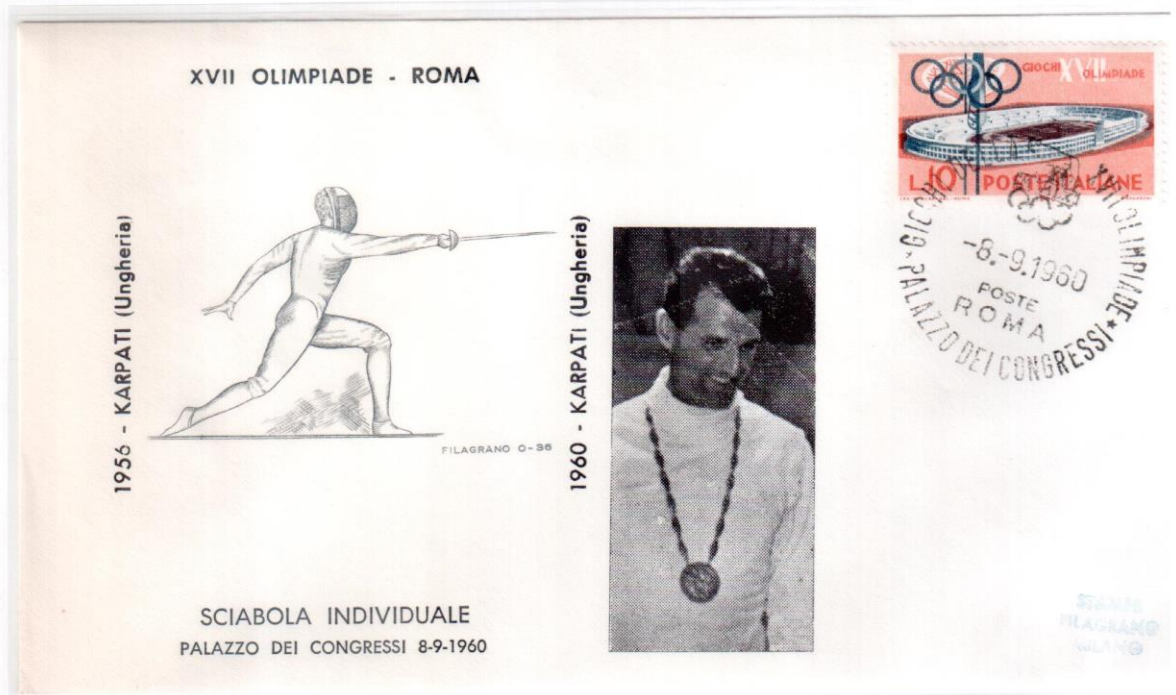
2.2. 1952/1960 Olympic Games

Giuseppe Delfino was an Italian epee fencer. He won four gold medals in the team (1952, 1956, 1960) and individual (1960) events at the Olympic Games.



The special cover dedicated to Olympic Champion G. Delfino canceled on the final day of the epee events.

R. Karpati (1920-1999) won six gold medals in sabre at four Olympic Games (1948, 1952, 1956, 1960). Also he won seven gold, three silver and two bronze medals at the World Championships. He was named Hungarian Sportsman of the year in 1959 and 1960.

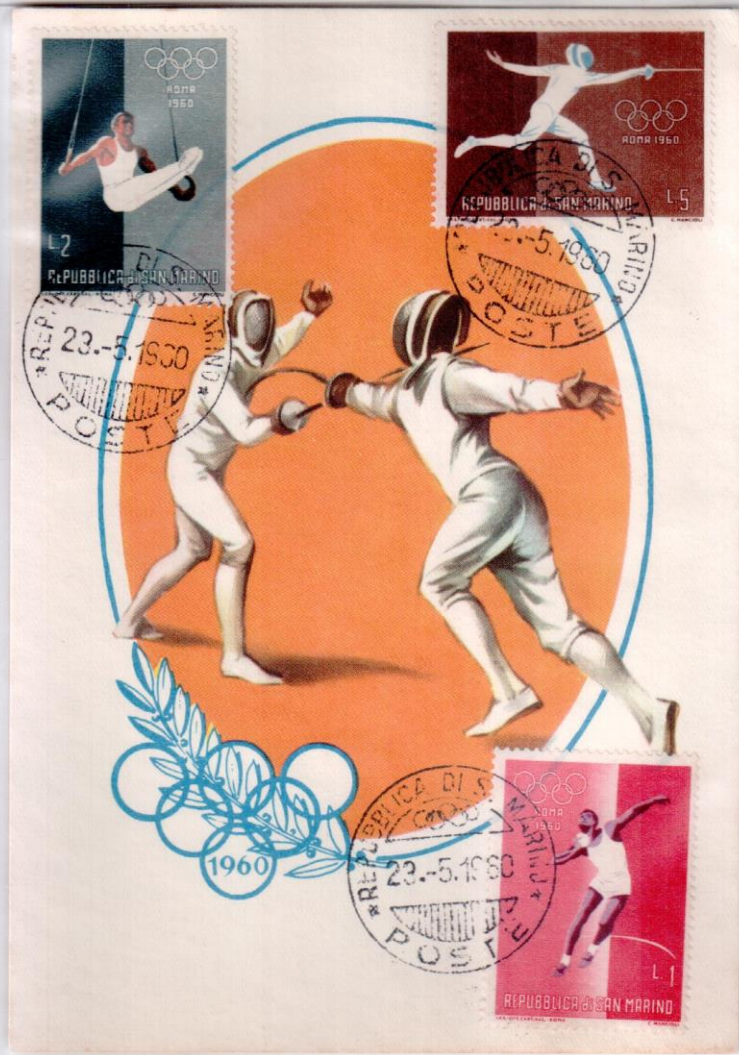


The special cover dedicated to Olympic Champion R. Karpati canceled on the final day of the sabre events.



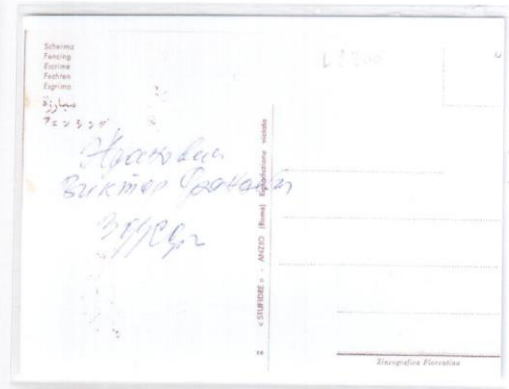
The Hungarian stamp dedicated to R. Karpati

2. Olympic Games

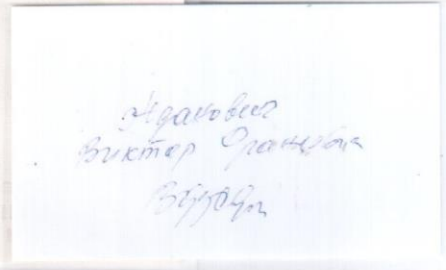
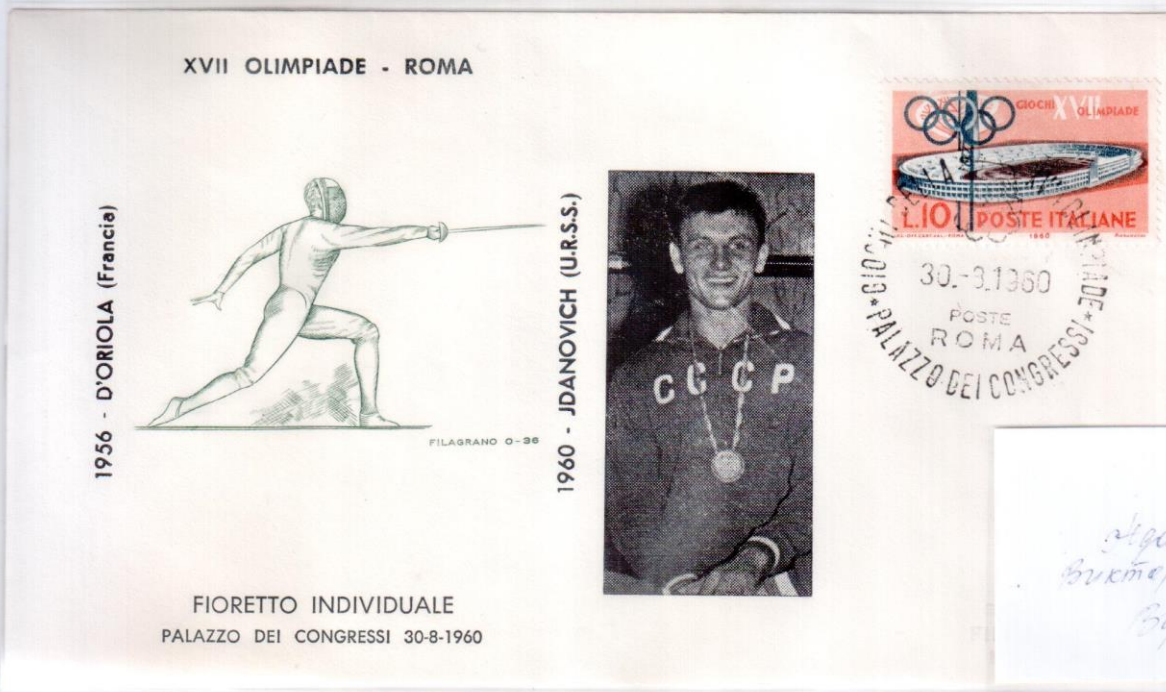


2.2. 1952/1960 Olympic Games

Viktor Zhdanovich (born 1938) is Russian fencer. He won three gold (1960, 1964) medals at the Olympic Games. He won also four gold medals at the World Championships.



The special Olympic fencing postcard signed (on the back) by Olympic Champion (team foil and individual foil) V. Zhdanovich (Soviet Union).

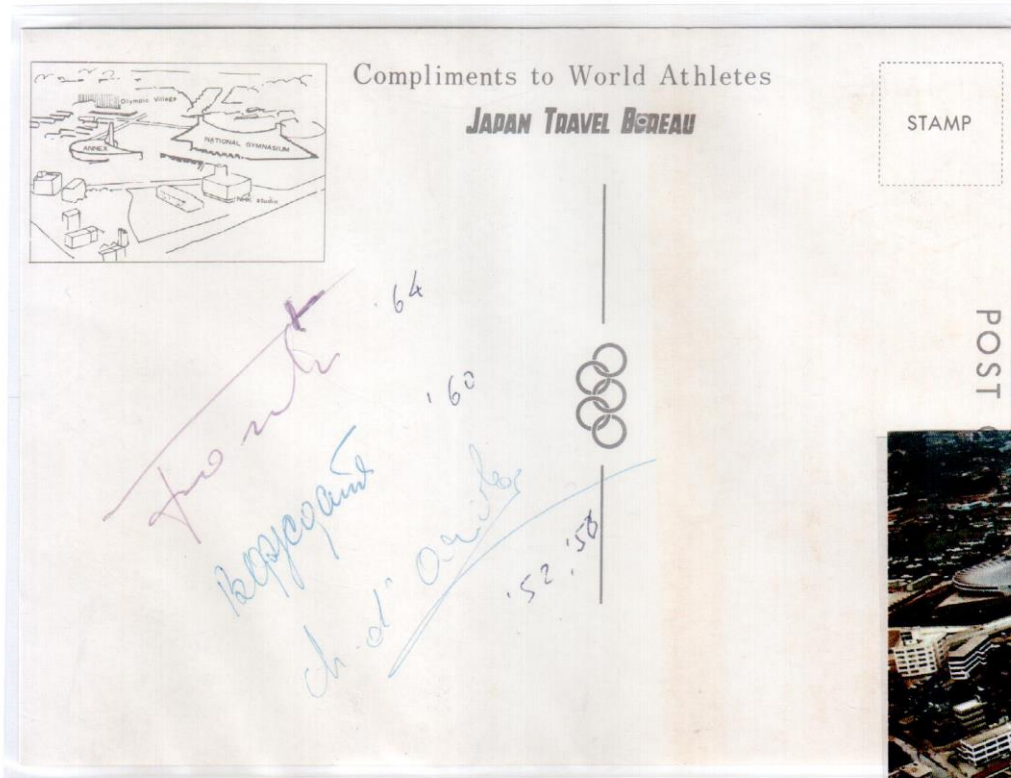


The special Olympic cover dedicated to Olympic Champion V. Zhdanovich (Soviet Union)

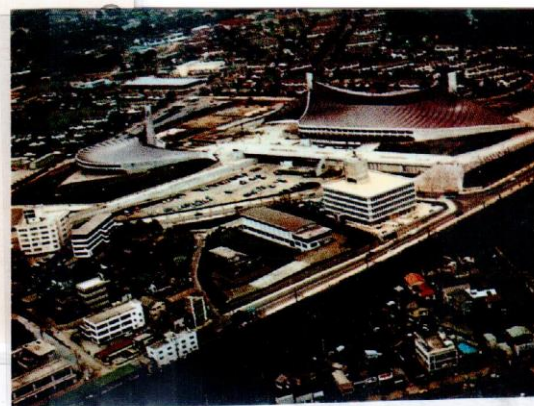
2. Olympic Games

2.3. 1964/1980 Olympic Games

At the 1964 Summer Olympics, eight events took place.
A total of 259 fencers (203 men and 56 women) from 30 nations
competed at the Tokyo Games from October 13 to October 23.



Fencing stamp of Argentina
issued to the 1964 Olympic Games



Tokyo Olympic Stadium on complimentary Sponsor postcard.
Signed by three Olympic Champions in individual foil:
C.d'Oriola (1952,1956), V. Zhdanovich (1960), E. Franke (1964).



Japanese fencing FDC signed by Russian foil Olympians G. Kriss (gold) and G. Kostava (bronze)



Special Olympic First Day Cover of Japan issued to the 1964 Olympic Games and signed by Olympic Champion G.Kriss (USSR)



Special Olympic First Day Cover of Poland issued to the 1964 Olympic Games and signed by Olympic Champion G.Kriss (USSR)



The Miniature Sheet issued in commemoration of Poland's first gold medal in individual foil; signed by Olympic Champion Egon Franke.



The Hungarian fencers won four gold medals, and Soviet Union fencers won three.

Imperforated



The Polish Olympic Souvenir Sheet signed by Russian Olympic Champion B. Melnikov



Soviet Union fencing Olympic stamp signed by Russian Olympic Champion G. Kriss.



Special Olympic First Day Cover of Argentina issued to the 1964 Olympic Games and signed by Olympic Champions G.Gorochova (USSR), V.Prudskiva (USSR), G.Kulcsar (Hungary), G.Kriss (USSR)



Special Olympic First Day Cover of Argentina issued to the 1964 Olympic Games and signed by Olympic Champions G.Gorochova (USSR), V.Prudskiva (USSR), G.Kulcsar (Hungary), G.Kriss (USSR)



Special Olympic First Day Cover of Soviet Union issued to the 1968 Olympic Games and signed by Olympic Champion V. Nazlymov (Soviet Union)

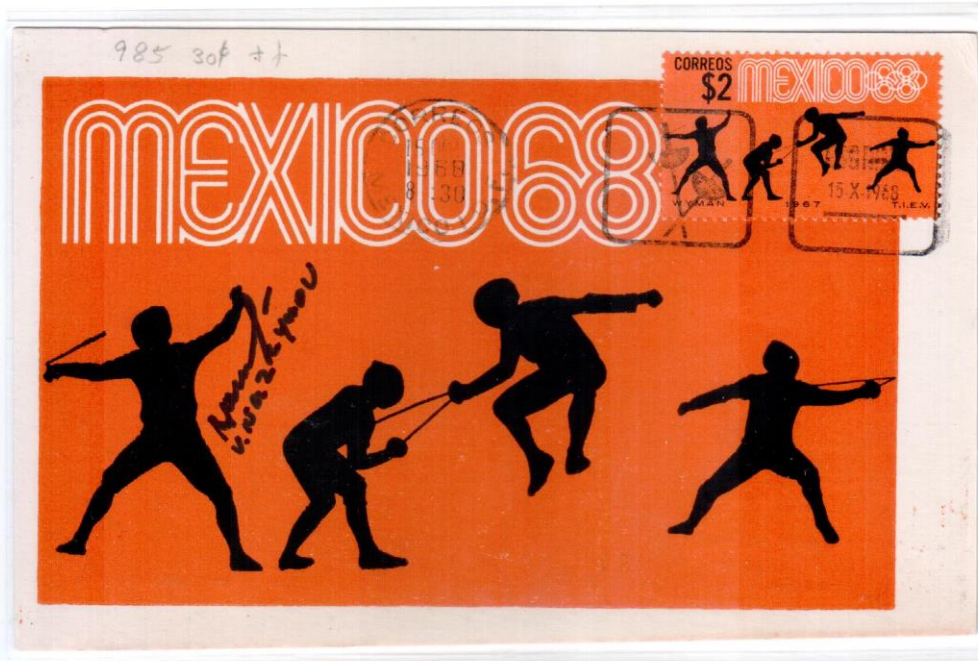


Special Olympic First Day Cover of Soviet Union issued to the 1968 Olympic Games And signed by Olympic Champions G.Gorochova, V.Prudskiva (Soviet Union)

2. Olympic Games

2.3. 1964/1980 Olympic Games

At the 1968 Summer Olympics, eight fencing events took place. A total of 275 fencers (217 men and 58 women) from 34 nations competed at the Mexico Games from October 15 to October 25.



Poland fencers won one gold and two bronze medals.



Imperforated (only 50 exist, ex-Menzo)

The Olympic postcard dated by Opening of fencing competitions and signed by Olympic Champion V. Nazlymov (Soviet Union).

I. Drimba competed at the 1960, 1964 and 1968 Olympics and won the first ever Olympic gold medal in fencing for Romania in 1968.



Manama stamp dedicated to Olympic Champion I. Drimba.



The Souvenir Sheet of Manama signed by Olympic Champions: G. Kulcsar (Hungary), Dr. J. Kamuti (Hungary), A. Zabelina (Soviet Union), V. Sidiyak (Soviet Union), G. Gorochova (Soviet Union).

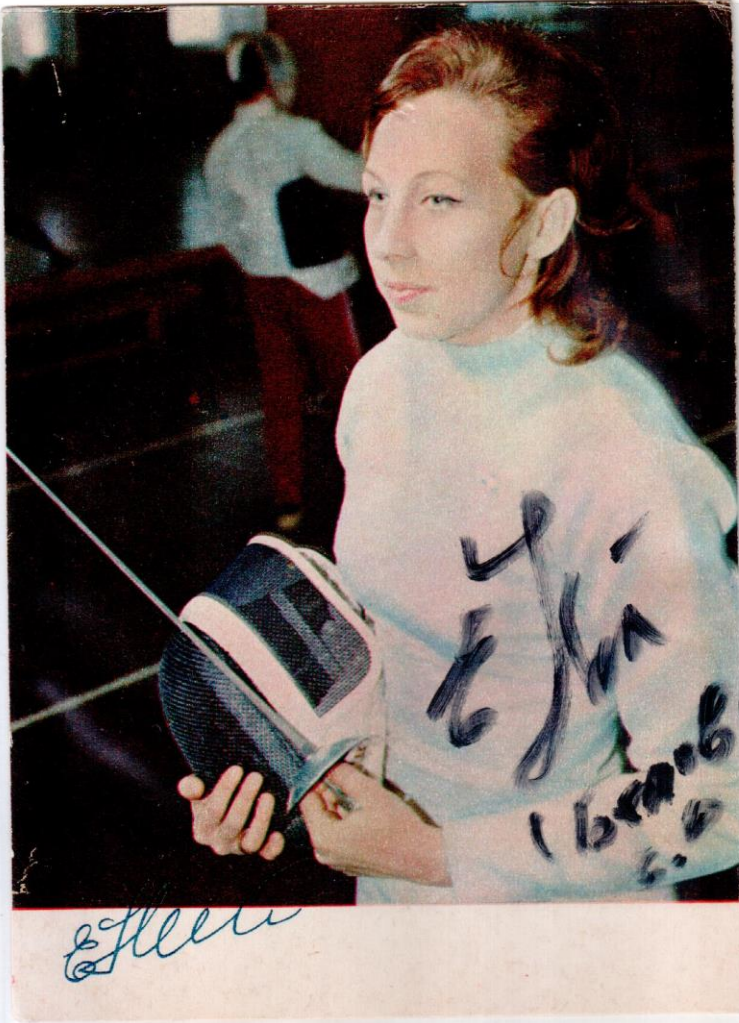


Color proof

2. Olympic Games

2.2. 1964/1980 Olympic Games

Yelena Belova is a retired Russian foil fencer. She won four gold (1968, 1972, 1976), one silver (1980) and one bronze (1976) medals at the Olympic Games. Also she won eight gold and four silver medals at the World Championships.



A special Russian postcard, dedicated to E. Belova who signed it.



In 1997 E. Belova was awarded the Olympic Order in Silver, and in 2007 the Pierre de Coubertin Medal.



Russian and Hungarian fencers won 7 medals each.



Imperforated

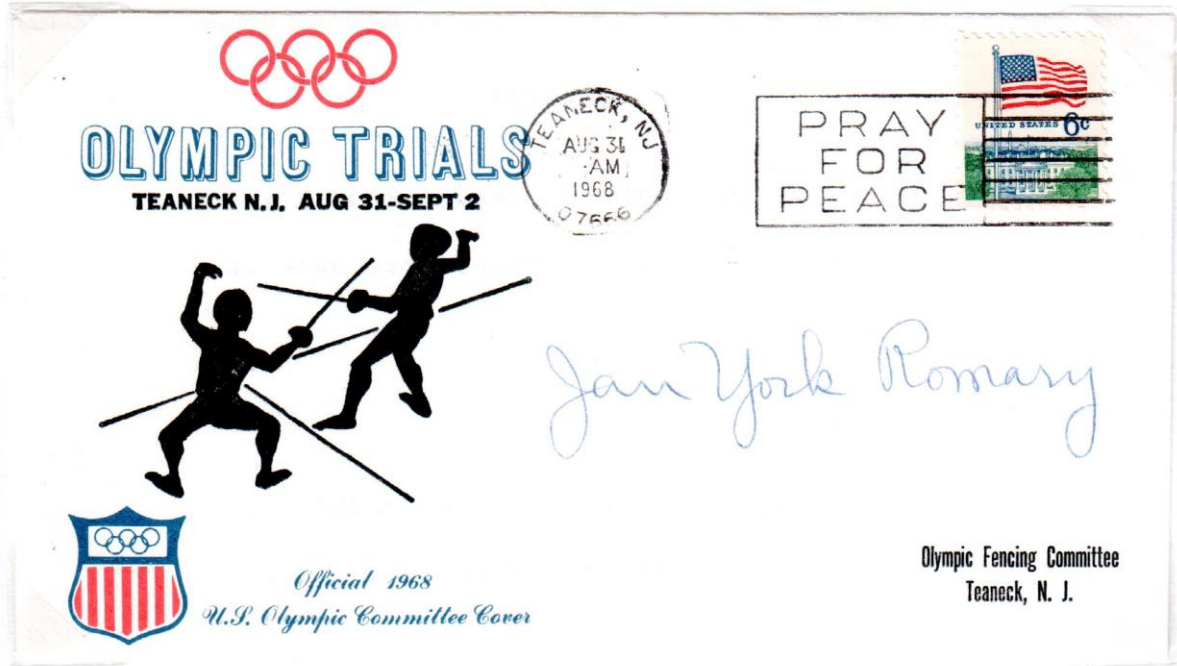


Mexican Souvenir Sheet, issued to 1968 Olympics and signed by E. Belova

2. Olympic Games

2.3. 1964/1980 Olympic Games

Janice-Lee York Romary was American foil fencer. She was the first woman to compete in six Olympics from 1948 to 1968. She was honored at the 1968 Mexico Olympics by being the first woman to carry the flag for the United States. In addition to her Olympics, Romary won the U.S. foil championship in 1950, 1951, 1956, 1957, 1960, 1961, 1964, 1966, 1967, and 1968. She won the 1967 World Wide Sportsman's Award, and in August 1968, became the only fencer to ever win the Helms Foundation Athlete of the Month Award.



The Official Olympic cover signed by Janice York Romary.



Die Proof signed by Artist
(only 20 exist, ex-Menzo)

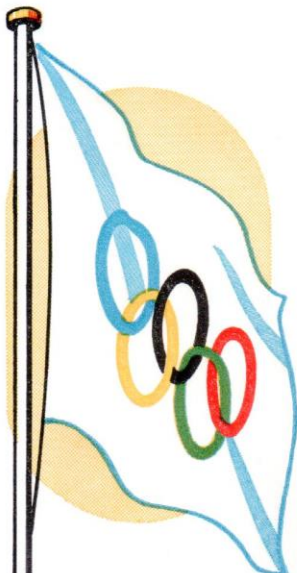
44

2. Olympic Games

2.3. 1964/1980 Olympic Games

At the 1972 Summer Olympics, eight events in fencing took place. A total of 298 fencers (233 men and 65 women) from 37 nations competed at the Games from August 29 to September 9.

SPIELE DER XX. OLYMPIADE MÜNCHEN 1972



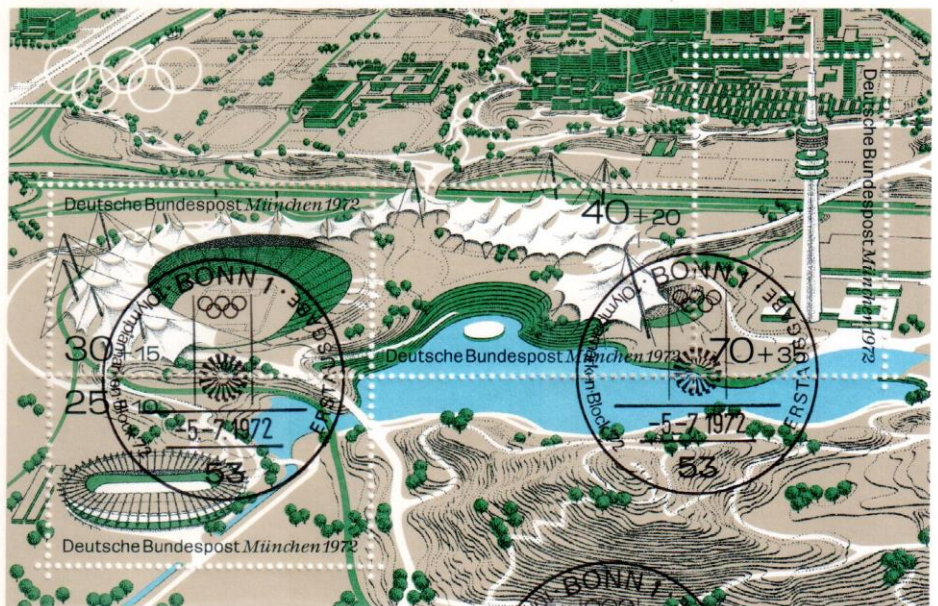
Offizieller Ersttagsbrief



36793 *

The Official First Day Cover signed by Olympic Champions:
 Dr. J. Kamuti (Hungary), G. Kulcsar (Hungary),
 G. Kriss (Russia), V. Sidiyak (Russia), A. Zabelina (Russia),
 V. Denisov (Russia), G. Gorochova (Russia)

XX · OLYMPISCHE SPIELE 1972 MÜNCHEN



Verkaufspreis 2,45 DM



Back of the cover



Imperforated



2. Olympic Games

2.3. 1972/1984 Olympic Games

E. Belova was listed in the Guinness Book as the record holder of winning Olympic gold medals in foil events (but to 2008 when Italian fencer V. Vezzali won the fifth gold medal)



Olympian Souvenir Sheet of Ras Al Khaima signed by Russian Fencing Legend E. Belova



Specimen



The Polish First Day Cover signed by Russian Olympic Champion E. Belova

46

2. Olympic Games

2.3. 1964/1980 Olympic Games

At the 1976 Summer Olympics, eight events in fencing took place. A total of 281 fencers (211 men and 70 women) from 34 nations competed at the Games from July 20 to July 29.



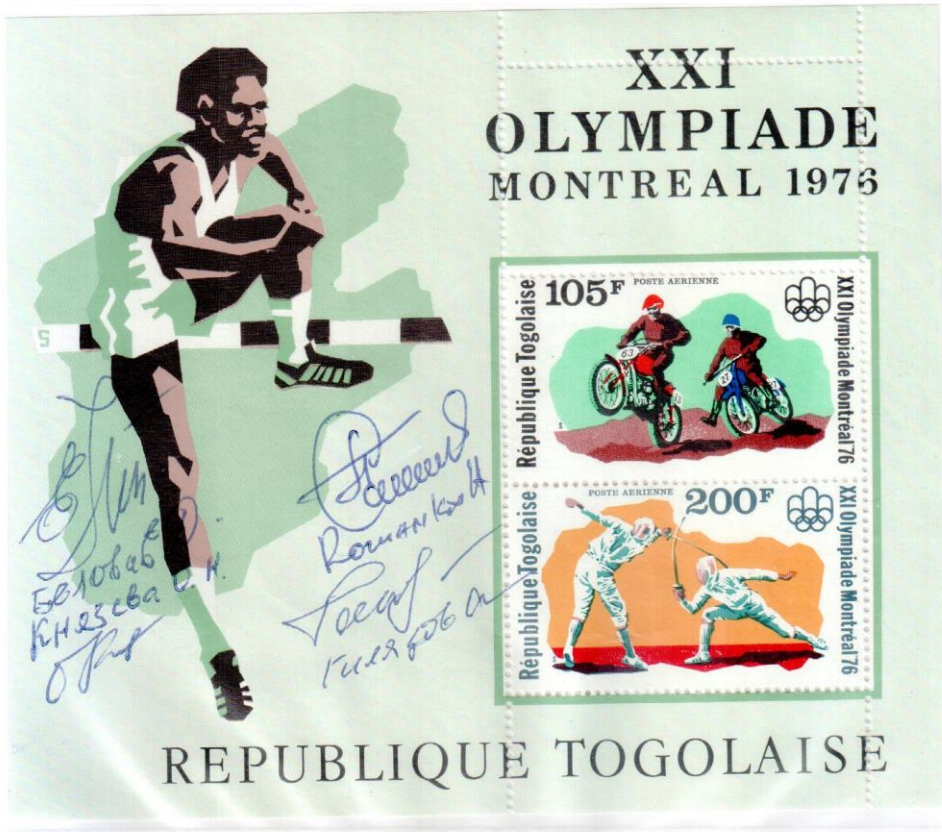
The special Canadian Olympic fencing FDC



The Olympic fencing cover of Canada dated by the last day of women's foil competitions and signed by Russian Olympic Champions V. Sidorova, O. Knyzeva, V. Nikonova

2. Olympic Games

2.3. 1964/1980 Olympic Games



The Souvenir Sheet of Republic of Togo signed by Russian Olympic Champions:
E. Belova, N. Gilizova, O. Knyzeva, A. Romankov



I. Schwarczenberger (Hungary) won the gold medal in individual foil event.



Imperforated



The Canadian commemorative Olympic fencing Gold stamp issued to the 1976 Olympic Games (Non Postal).



The imperforated Olympic Fencing stamp of Republic of Togo issued to the 1976 Olympic Games.



Imperforated

The imperforated stamp of Republic of Togo dedicated to Olympic foil Champion German Team.



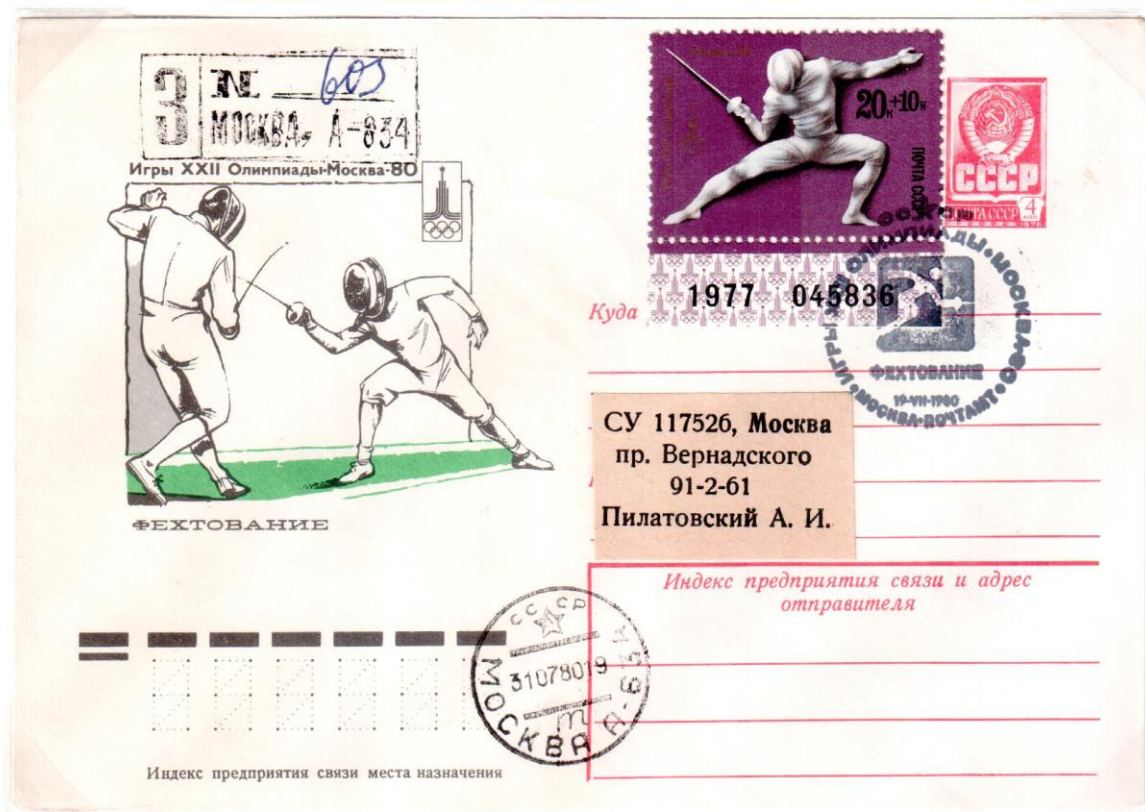


The Hungarian Olympic FDC signed by Russian Olympic Champions:
V. Sidorova, V. Sidyak, N. Gillzova, O. Knyzeva, V. Krovopuskov.



The Canadian Olympic cover dated by the last day of fencing competitions
and signed by Switzerland bronze epee team:
M. Poffet, D. Giger, C. Kaufer, F. Suchanecki, J. Evequoz.

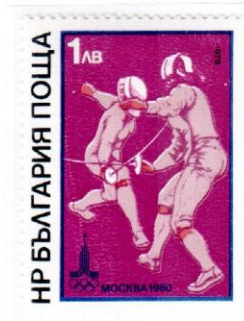
At the 1980 Summer Olympics, eight events in fencing took place. A total of 182 fencers (133 men and 49 women) from 20 nations competed at the Games from July 22 to July 31.



The special Russian Olympic cover dated by the last day of fencing competitions.



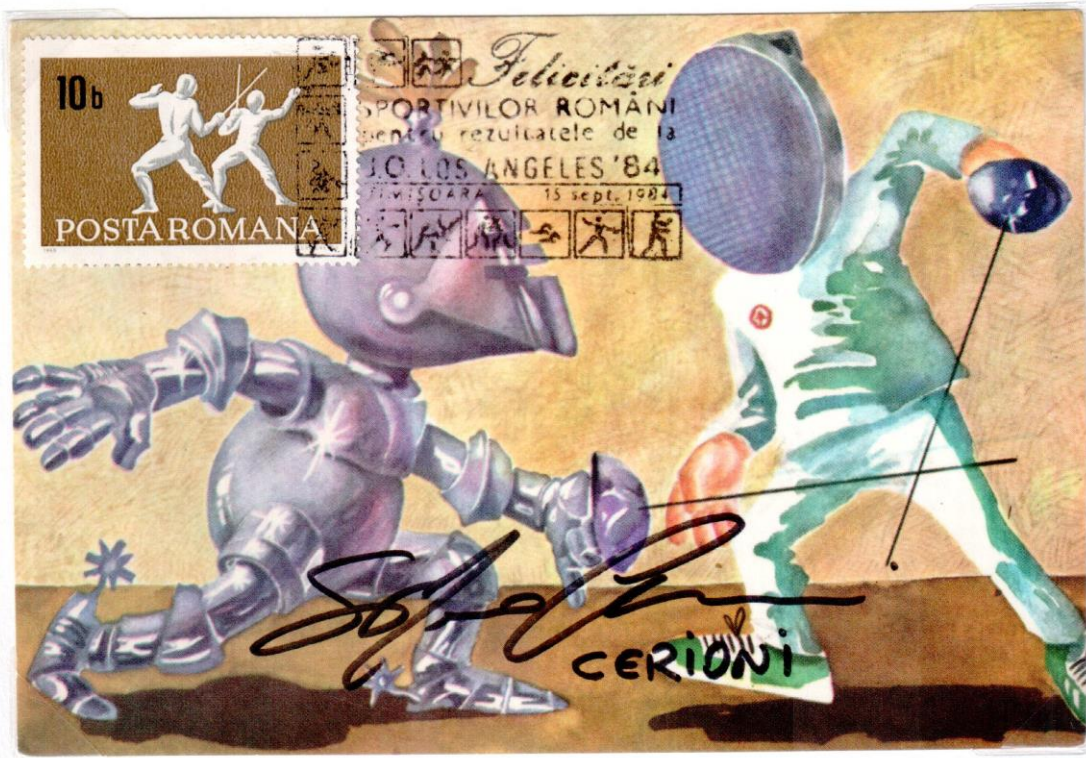
The Specimen of Mongolian Olympic fencing stamp

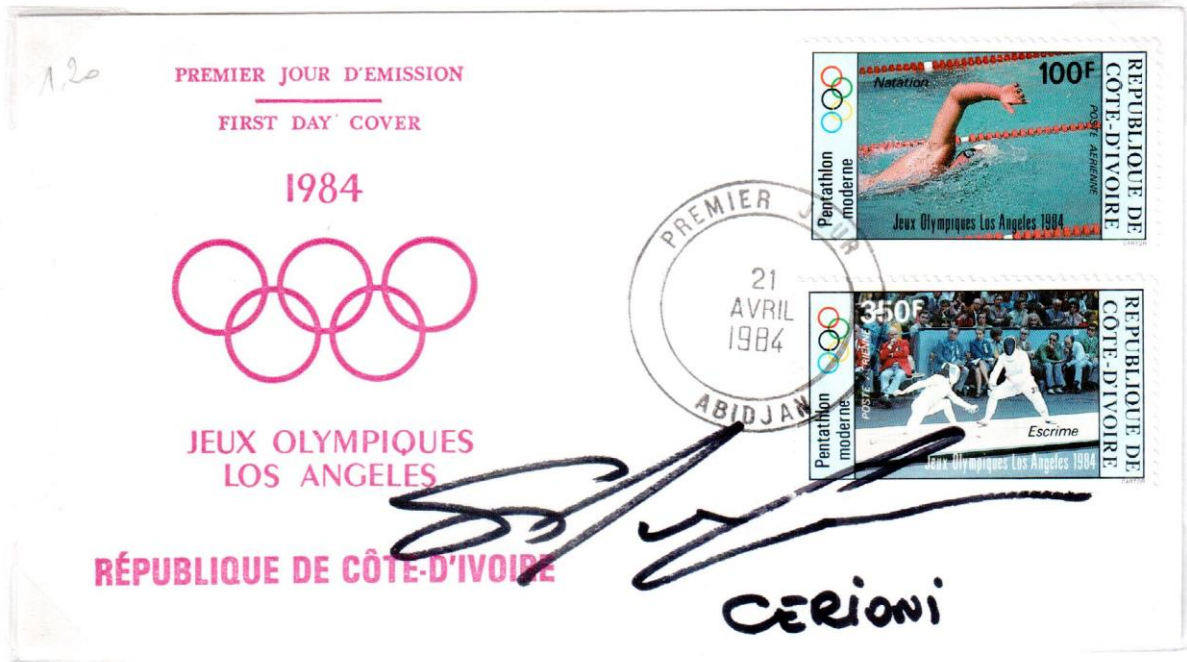


The imperforated fencing stamp of Republic of Togo

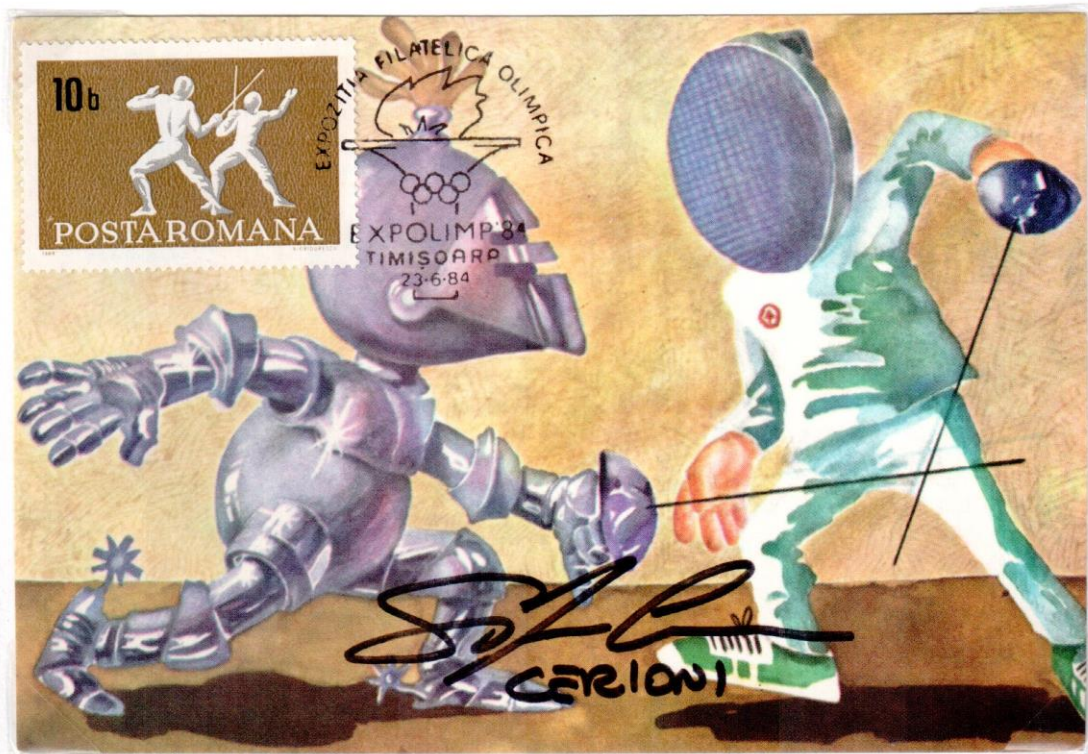


USA Olympic FDC and Romanian Olympic postcard signed by Italian foil fencer Stefano Cerioni. He won two gold (1984, 1988) and one bronze (1984) medals in the foil individual and team events at the Olympic Games. He became a famous fencing coach, then a director of foil first for Italy, then for Russia.





Olympic FDC of Republic of Ivory Coast signed by Italian foil fencer Stefano Cerioni.



Olympic Maximum card of Romania signed by Italian foil fencer Stefano Cerioni.

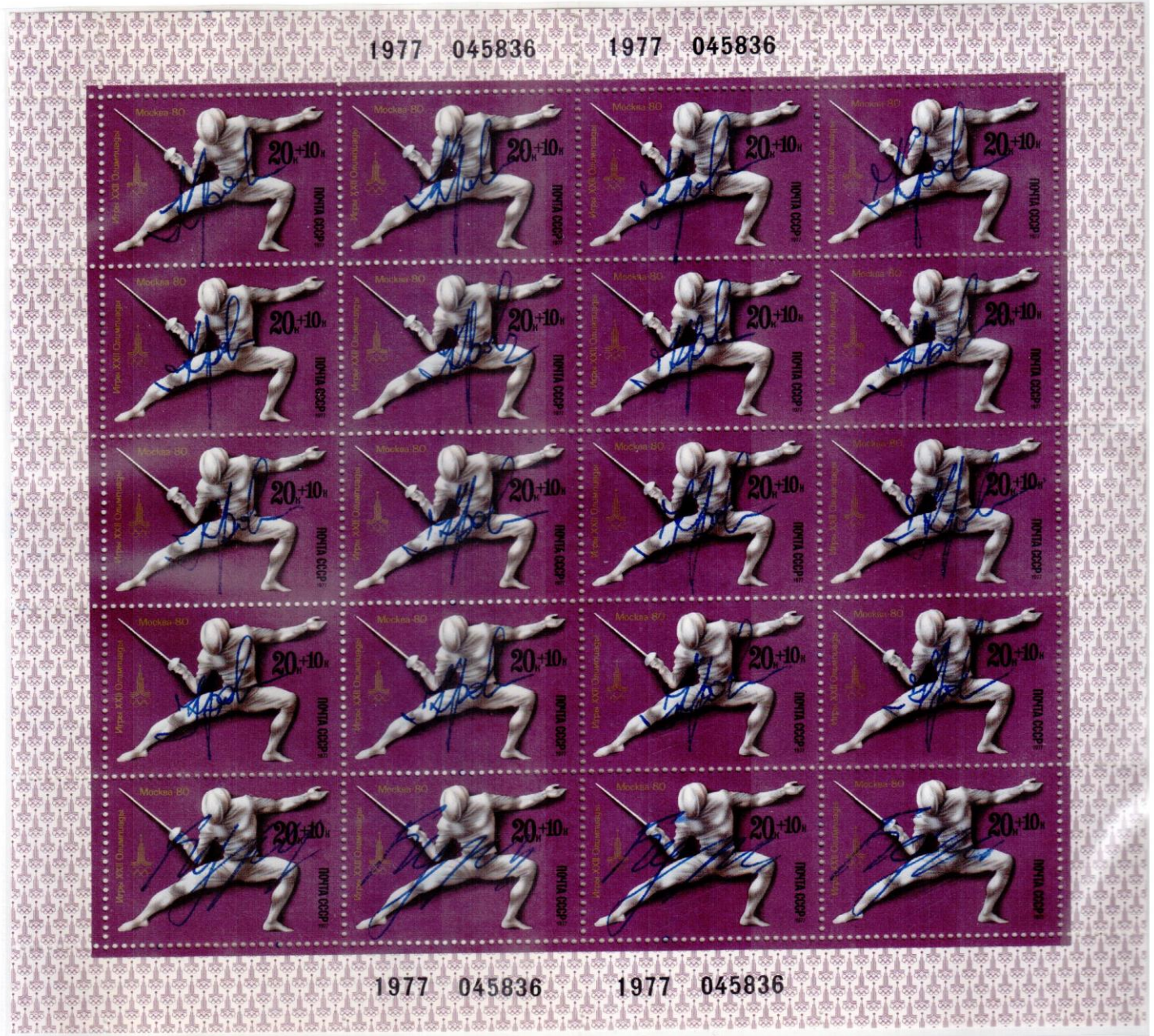
2. Olympic Games

V. Krovopuskov is a Russian sabre fencer. He won two gold and two silver medals at the Olympic Games. He won also seven gold, five silver and one bronze medals at the World Championships.



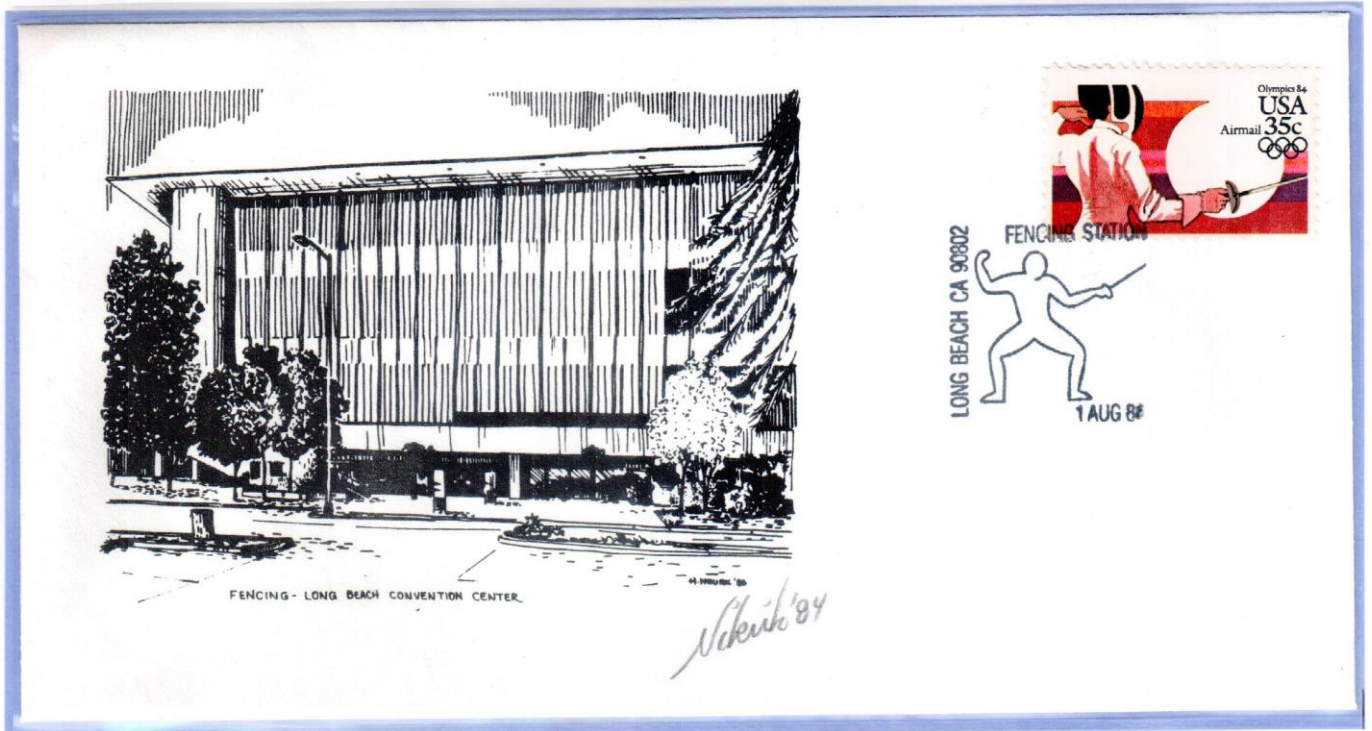
2.3. 1964/1980 Olympic Games

M. Burtsev was a Russian sabre fencer. He won two gold and two silver medals at the Olympic Games. He won also six gold, three silver and two bronze medals at the World Championships.



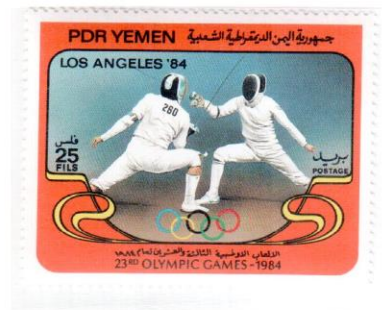
*The Russian Olympic fencing stamp sheet signed by Olympic Champions
V. Krovopuskov, M. Burtsev*

At the 1984 Summer Olympics, eight events in fencing took place. 262 fencers (202 men and 60 women) from 38 nations competed at the Games from August 1 to August 11.



The Olympic fencing competitions were held at the Long Beach Convention Center. Special Cover (only 100 Made!) signed by Artist Sandra Nikirk.

Jujie Luan is a Chinese-born Canadian fencer. At the 1984 Olympics she became the first Chinese athlete to win the gold medal in fencing.



Postcard dedicated to gold medal of China and signed by Olympic Champion Jujie Luan.



Alexander Pusch, Rafael Nickel,
Elmar Borrmann, Volker Fischer, Gerhard Heer
Mannschaft, Degen



The special Olympic cover dated by the last day of men's team epee event and signed by Olympic Champion German epee team:
G. Heer, A. Push, R. Nickel, E. Borrmann, V. Fisher.



Cornelia Hanisch, Sabine Bischoff,
Zita Funkenhauser, Christiane Weber,
Ute Wessel
Mannschaft, Fechten, Frauen, Florett

The special Olympic cover dated by the last day of women's team foil event and signed by Olympic Champion German foil team:
C.Hanish, S.Bischoff, U.Wessel,
Z.Funkenhauser, C.Weber.



The special Olympic cover dated by the last day of men's foil team event and signed by Silver Olympic medalists German foil team: M.Gey, T.Weidner, M.Behr, U.Schreck, T. Endres





2. Olympic Games

2.4.1984/2008 Olympic Games

At the 1988 Summer Olympics, eight fencing events took place. A total of 317 fencers (248 men and 69 women) from 42 nations competed at the Seoul Games from September 20 to September 30.



German fencers won seven medals, and Russian fencers won five.



제24회 서울올림픽대회
대한민국 KOREA 1988
70 +30
1988 9.20
펜싱경기장입시누세구
올림픽 펜싱 경기장
Olympic Fencing Gymnasium
위치 : 서울 송파구 방이동 올림픽 공원 내
규모 : (면적) 16,358㎡, (바닥) 70×55m (높이) 24m
수용인원 : 7천명 (좌석 : 5,227석)

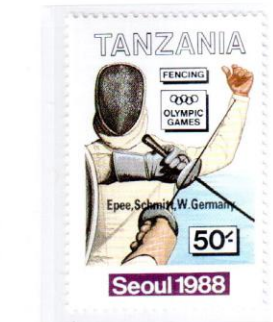
The special Olympic postcard dated by the first day of fencing events.

Olympische Sommerspiele
SEOUL 88

Florett Mannschaft, Damen
Sabine Bau / Anja Fichtel / Zita Funkenhauser / Annette Klug / Christiane Weber
Goldmedaille

Offizieller Sonderbrief der Stiftung Deutsche Sporthilfe

A. Schmitt (Germany) won the gold medal in epee event



Overprinted stamp of Tanzania dedicated to Olympic Champion A. Schmitt

The special Olympic cover dated by the last day of women's foil team event and signed by Olympian Champion German foil team S. Bau, A. Fichtel, Z. Funkenhauser, A. Klug, C. Weber

At the 1992 Summer Olympics, eight fencing events took place. A total of 305 fencers (234 men and 71 women) from 42 nations competed at the Barcelona Games from July 30 to August 7.



Stamp of Grenada dedicated to Olympic Champion Italian women's foil team.



The special Olympic fencing FDC.

Ulrich Schreck is a German fencer. He won a gold (1992) and a silver (1888) medals in the team foil events at the Olympic Games. He won also a gold and three silver medals at the World Championships. He is now Federal Coach to the Germany men's foil team.



Specimen

Special Olympic fencing FDC signed by German Olympic Champion Ulrich Schreck.

2. Olympic Games

2.4.1988/2016 Olympic Games

G.Pogosov is a retired Soviet/Ukrainian sabre fencer. He won a gold (1992) and a silver (1988) medals at the Olympic Games. Also, he won six gold medals at the World Championships.

V.Gutzeit is a Ukrainian sabre fencer. He won a gold medal at the 1992 Olympic Games.



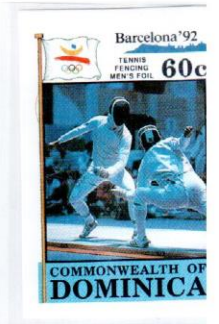
Fencers of France and Unified Team won 5 medals each.



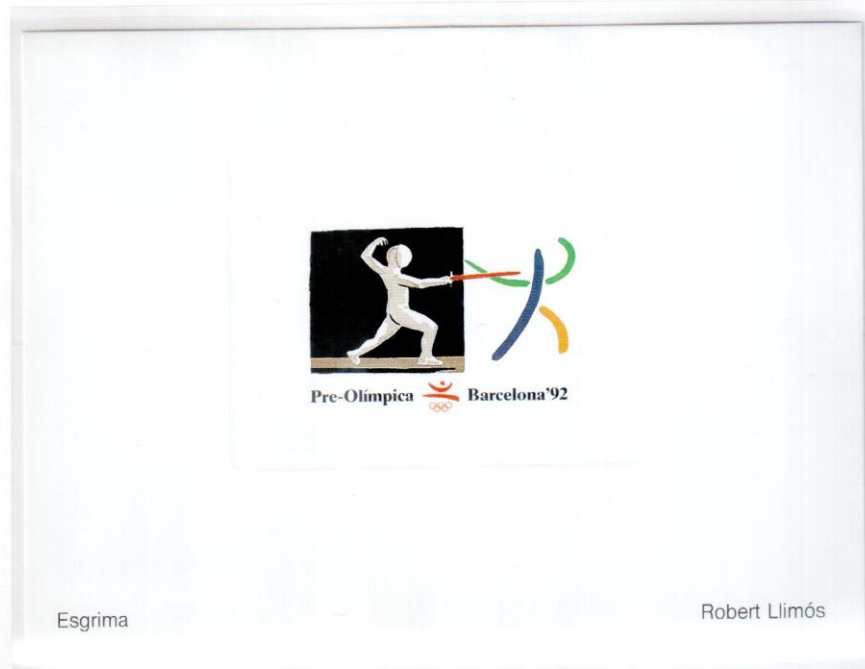
Fencers of Germany, Hungary and Italy won 3 medals each.



Olympic Russian Miniature Sheet issued to the 1992 Olympic Games and signed by Olympic Champions G.Pogosov and V. Gutzeit.



Imperforated



Esgrima

Robert Llimós

Die Proof by famous artist Robert Llimós



2. Olympic Games

2.4.1984/2008 Olympic Games

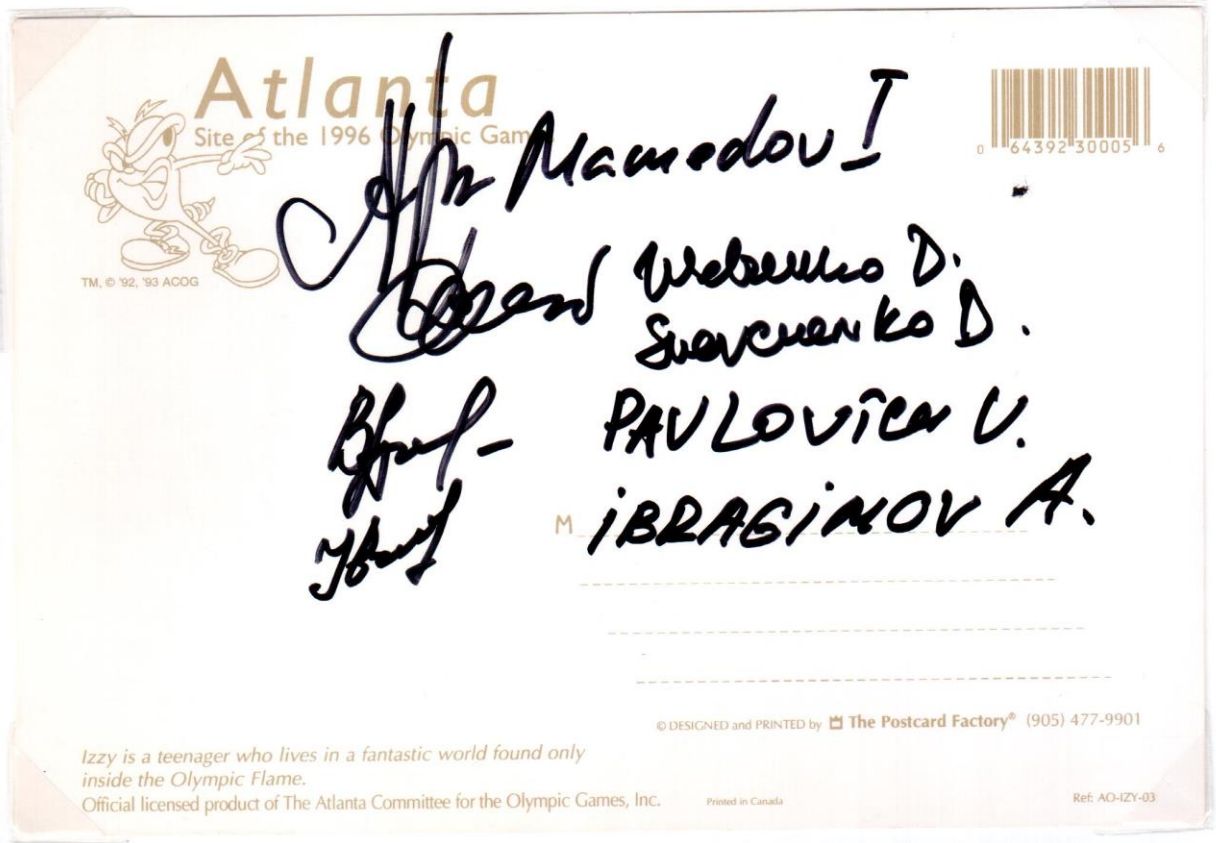
At the 1996 Summer Olympics, ten fencing events took place. A total of 224 fencers (136 men and 88 women) from 46 nations competed at the Atlanta Games from July 20 to July 29.



Russia, Italy and France won 7 medals each.



The special Olympic Committee postcard signed by Russian Olympic Champion S. Pozdniakov



The special Olympic Committee postcard signed by Russian Olympic Champions:
I. Mamedov,
D. Shevchenko,
V. Pavlovich,
A. Ibragimov.

At the 2008 Olympics fencing took place at the Olympic Green Convention Center.
A total of 233 fencers from 46 nations competed at the Beijing Games.

第29届奥林匹克运动会中国体育代表团夺金纪念

Celebrating the Chinese Team Gold Medalists of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad



Velikaya
O. Kharlan
A. Montano
M. Zagunis



仲满
击剑男子团体冠军
2008年8月12日 国家会议中心击剑馆



北京邮票厂 01774481Y

The Chinese Olympic Souvenir Sheet signed by Olympians:
S. Velikaya (Russia), O. Kharlan (Ukraine), A. Montano (Italy), M. Zagunis (USA), Kim Ji-yeon (South Korea)

The special Olympic Lux Block of France signed by Olympic Champion Ukrainian sabre Team:
O. Zhovnir, O. Kharlan, H. Pundyk, O. Khomrova.



2. Olympic Games

2.4.1984/2008 Olympic Games



The special Olympic Souvenir Sheet of Republic Benin signed by Olympic Champion M.Zagunis (USA)



Imperforated



The stamp of Somalia dedicated to silver medalist Tan Xue (China).



Handwritten signature: Zhong Man
 Date: 2011.6.25
 Postal code: 邮政编码:



The special Olympic cover dedicated to Chinese sabre fencer Zhong Man. He won the gold medal in the individual sabre event. (Signed by Zhong Man)



The stamp of Guinea-Bissau dedicated to Olympian Champion Zhong Man.

63

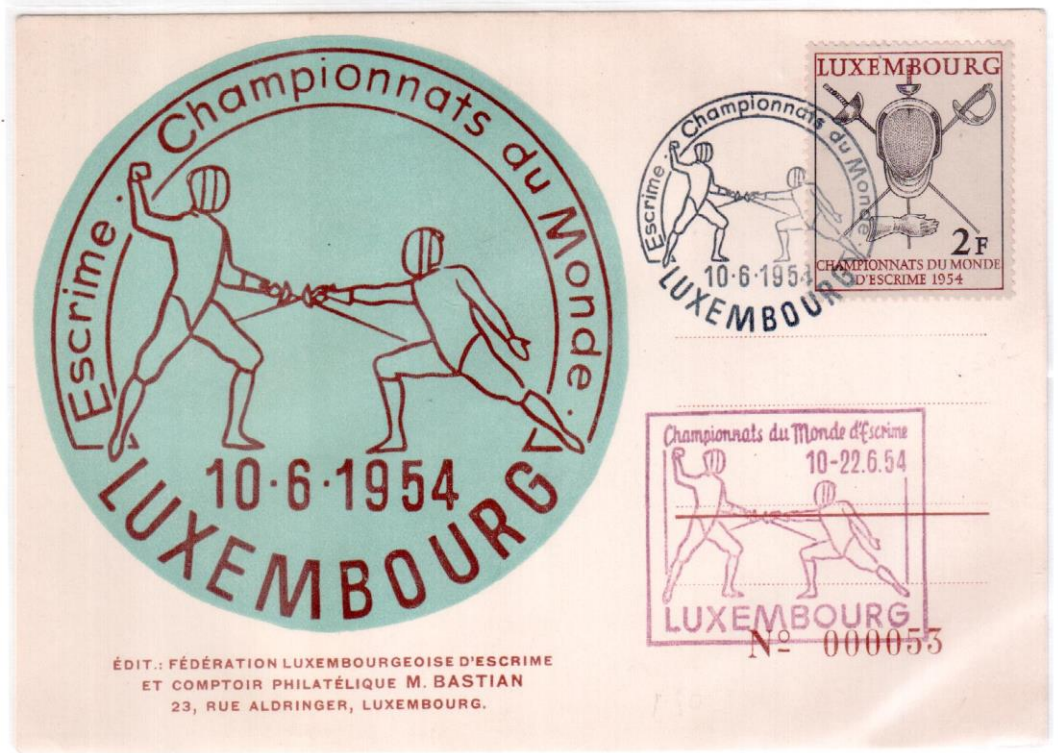
3. World Championships

3.1. World Championships 1952/1980

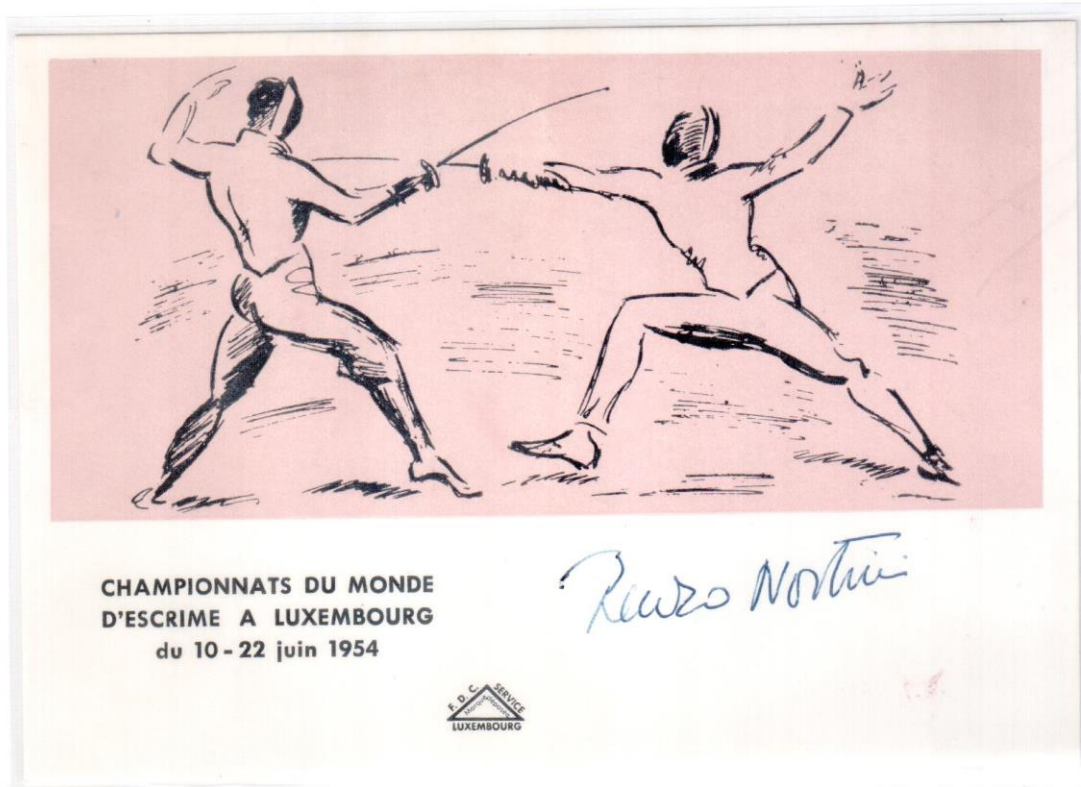
The 1954 World Championships took place in Luxembourg. Italy won 8 medals, Hungary -7 and France - 6.



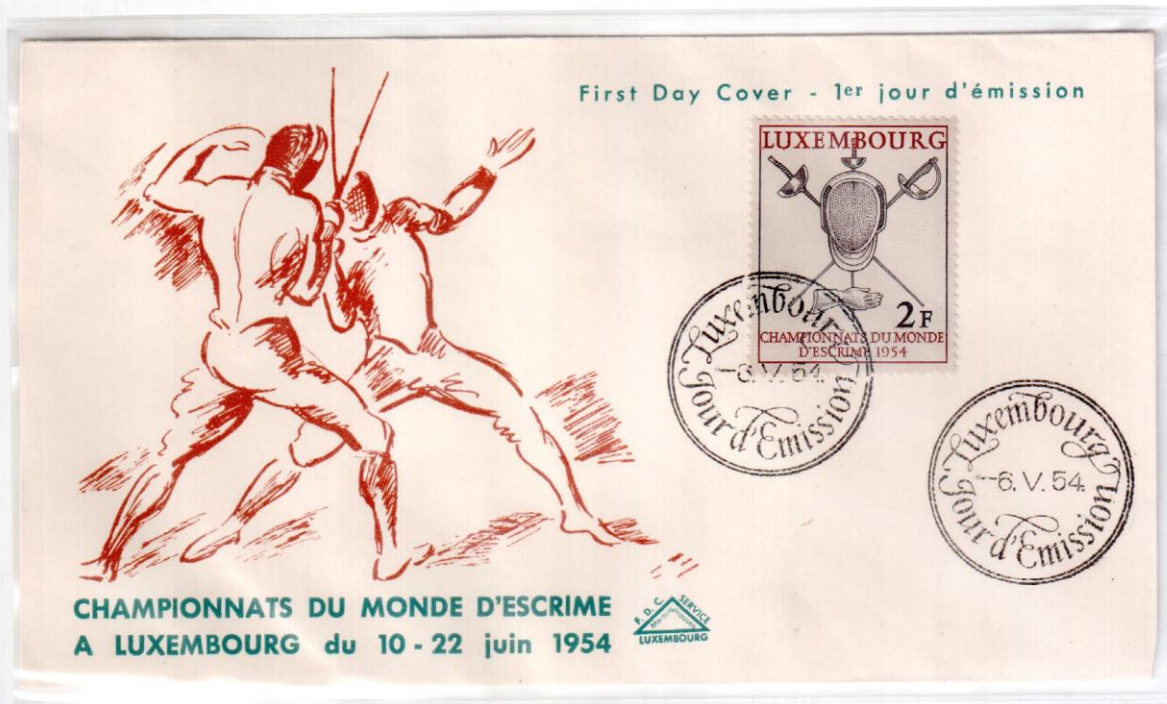
Luxembourg stamp issued to publicize the World Championships.



The special postcard dated by opening the 1954 World Championships



The special postcard dedicated to the 1954 World Championships and signed by World Champion Renzo Nostini (Italy)



■ The special First Day Cover issued to the 1954 World Championships and signed by Fencing Legends:
 Irene Camber (Italy), Christian D'Oriola (France), Edoardo Mangiarotti (Italy),
 Wojciech Zablocki (Poland), Carlo Pavesi (Italy), Franco Bertinetti (Italy)



Back of the cover

3. World Championships

3.1. World Championships 1952/1980

The 1955 World Championships took place in Rome, Italy.

All gold medals won
Hungary (5) and Italy (3).



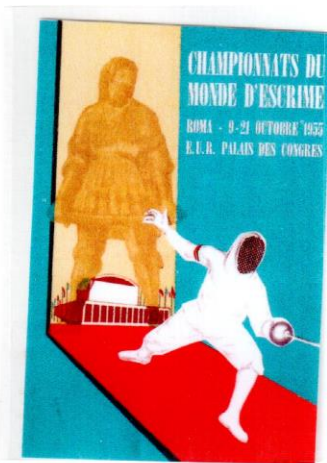
Back of the card



The special Italian postcard issued to 1955 World Championships and signed by World Champion Italian foil team: G. Bergamini, E. Mangiarotti, A. Spallino, V. Lucarelli



The special Italian postcard issued to 1955 World Championships and signed by Russian Fencing Legend Dr. D. Tyshler



Back of the card



3. World Championships

3.1. World Championships 1952/1980

The 1961 World Championships took place in Turin (Italy) from July 17 to July 29.

Russia won 8 medals, Poland – 5.



The special postcard issued to the 1961 World Championships and signed by World Champion G. Kostava (Soviet Union)



The special postcard issued to the 1961 World Championships and signed by silver medalist E. Kamuti (Hungary)

3. World Championships

3.1. World Championships 1952/1980

The 1966 World Fencing Championships took place in Moscow (Soviet Union) from July 6 to July 16.



USSR fencing stamp issued to 1967 World Championship.
The stamp sheet signed by Russian Fencing Legend
Olympian and World Champion G.Gorokhova



The special cancel dedicated to 1970 Junior World Championships on Russian cover signed by World Champion A. Karagyan (Russia).



The special fencing Aerogramme dedicated to 1980 Junior World Championships and signed by World Champion G. Pogosov (Ukraine).

3. World Championships

3.2. World Championships 1981/2011

The 1981 World Championships took place in Clermont – Ferrand (France) from July 2 to July 12.



Signed Color Proof black

USSR won 6 medals, Hungary – 5,
West Germany and France
won 4 each.



*French stamp issued to 1981
World Championships.*



Color Proof



Canceled by opening day of competitions.

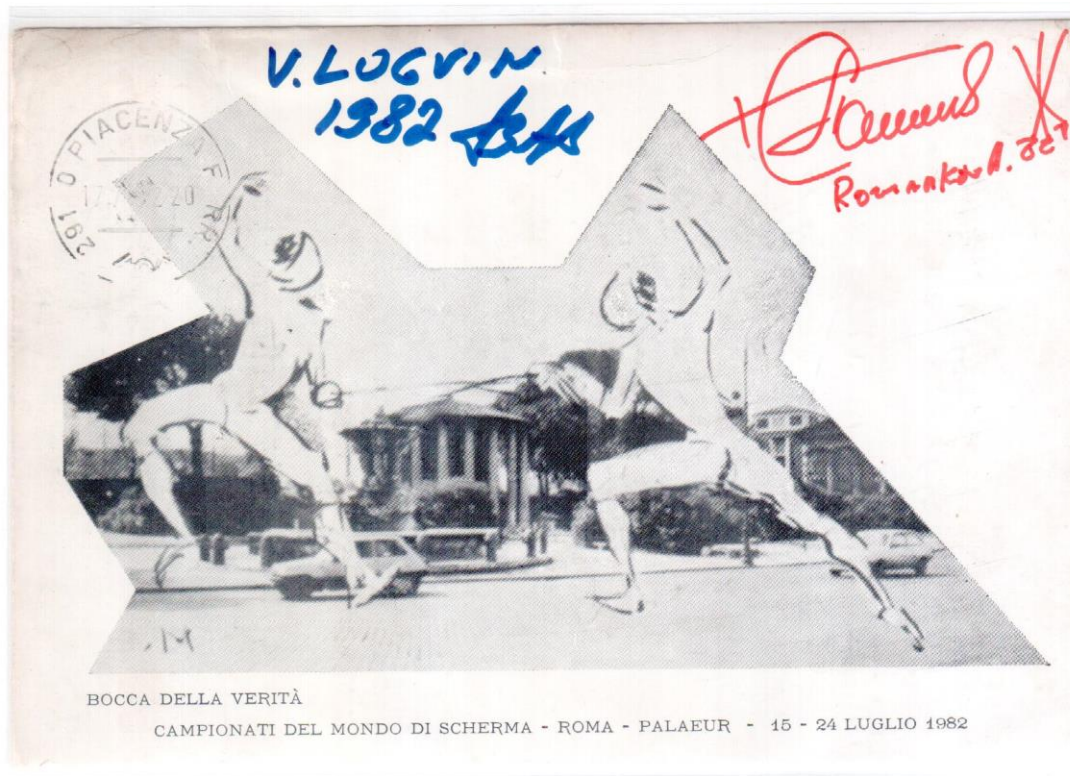
3. World Championships

3.2. World Championships 1981/2011

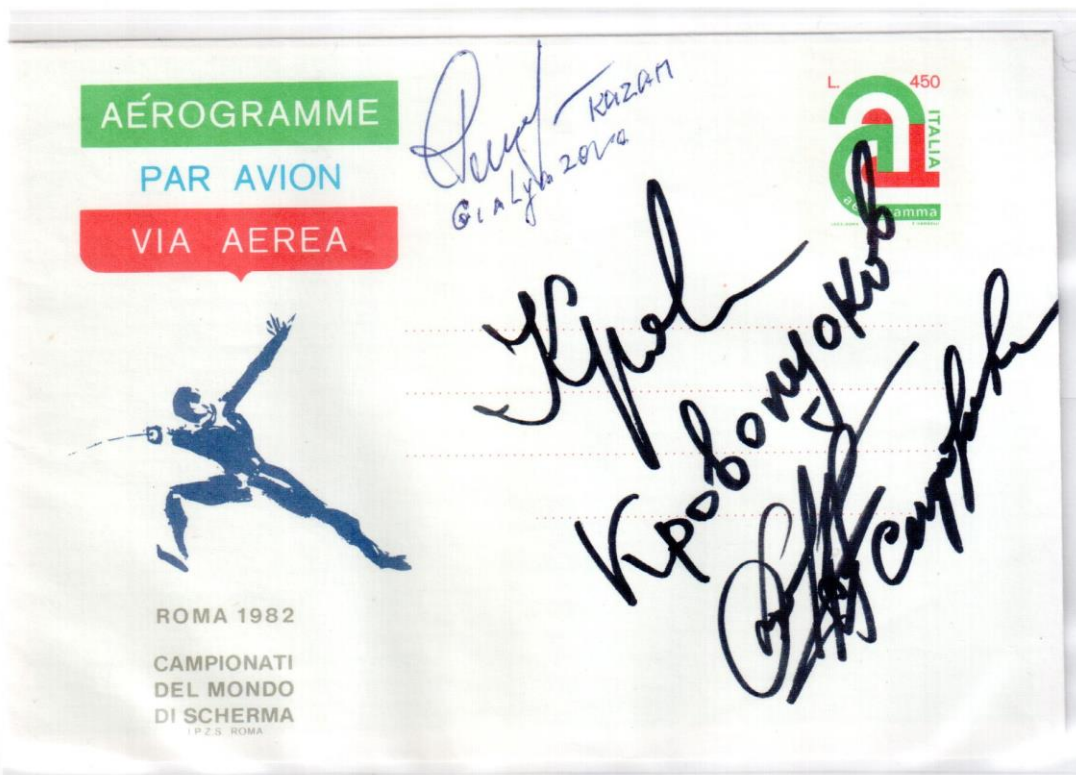
The 1982 World Championships took place in Rome (Italy). Fencing events were held from July 15 to July 24.

Alexandr Romankov - one of the most successful Soviet fencers. He won a gold medal, two silver and two bronze medals at the three Olympic Games. Also he won 10 gold (5 individual), two silver and three bronze medals at the World Championships.

Hungary, Italy, Soviet Union won 6 medals each.



The special postcard dedicated to the 1982 World Championships and signed by Russian World Champions A. Romankov, V. Logvin.



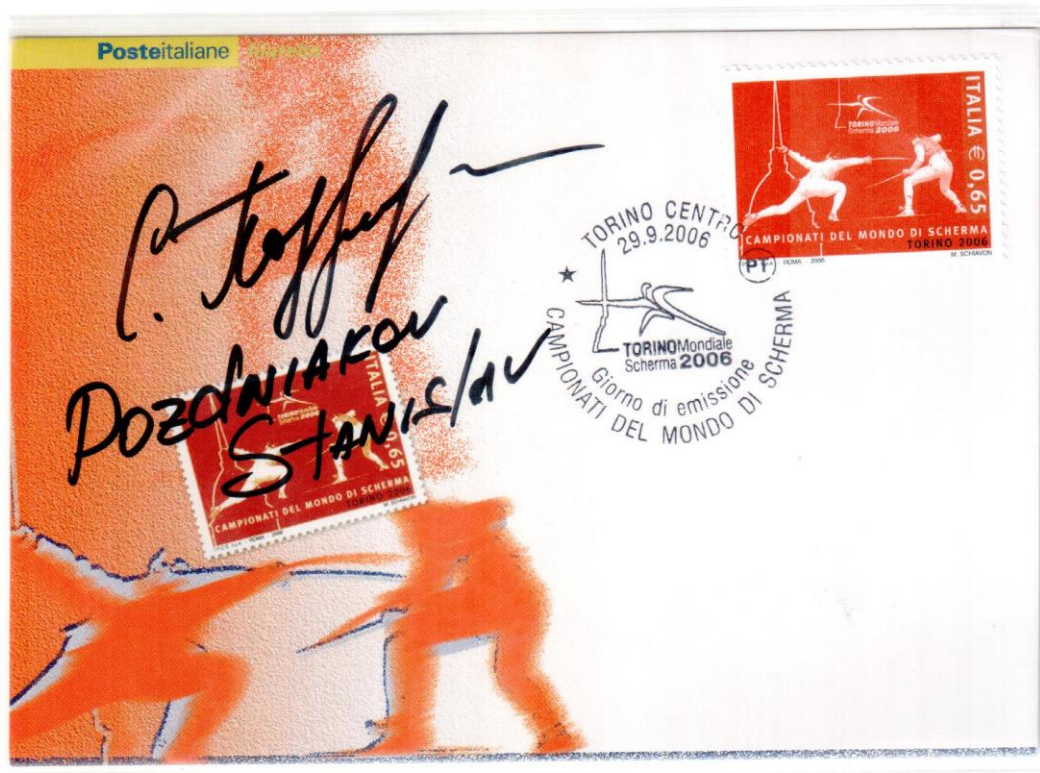
The special aerogramme dedicated to the 1982 World Championships and signed by Russian World Champions N. Gialzova, V. Krovopuskov, V. Sidorova

3. World Championships

3.2. World Championships 1981/2011



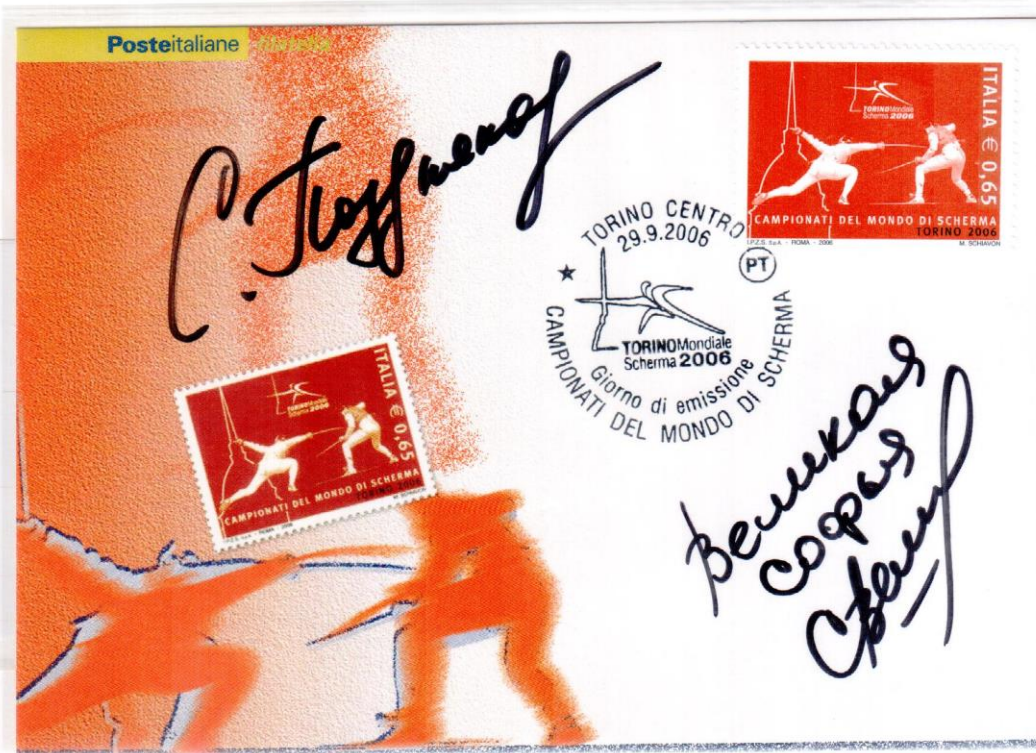
Stanislav Pozdnyakov (born 1973) is a Russian sabre fencer. He won four gold (1992, 1996 – individual and team, 2000) and a bronze (2004) medals at the Olympic Games. He also won 10 gold, 5 silver and 2 bronze medals at the World Championships from 1994 to 2007. He was elected by President of the European Fencing Confederation.



The special Italian postcard dedicated to 2006 World Championship and signed by Fencing Legend S. Pozdnyakov (Russia).

3. World Championships

3.1. World Championships 1986/2013



Special postcard dedicated to the 2006 World Championship
and signed by World Champions
S. Pozdnyakov (Russia), S. Velikaya (Russia), P. Joppich (Germany)



Special postcard dedicated to the 2006 World Championship
and signed by Russian World Champion J. Khakimova

3. World Championships

3.2. World Championships 1981/2011

The 2009 World Championships took place in Antalya (Turkey).
Fencing events were held from September 30 to October 8.



The special Romanian cover dedicated to the victory of Romania Sabre Team at the 2009 World Championships signed by Coach Mihai Covaliu (Olympic and World Champion)



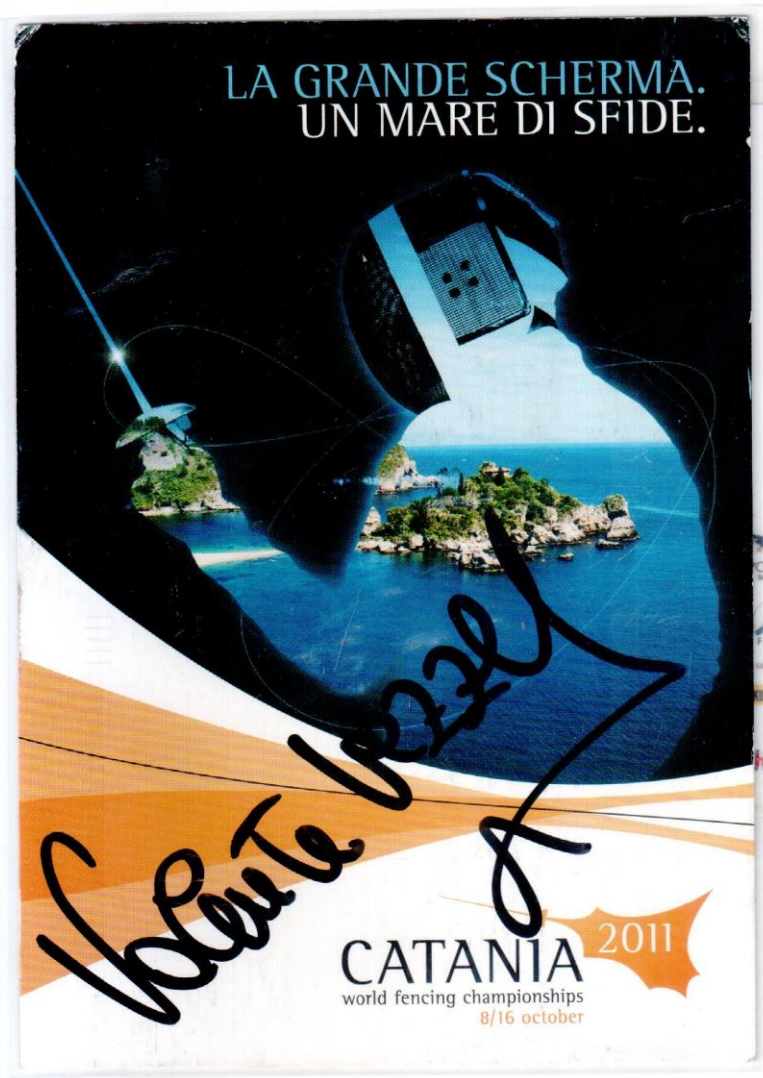
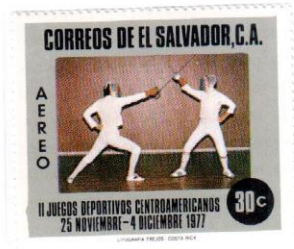
Mihai Covaliu (born 1977) is a Romanian sabre fencer. He won a gold (2000) and a bronze (2008) medals at the Olympic Games. He also won a gold, a silver and two bronze medals at the World Championships.

3. World Championships

3.2. World Championships 1981/2011

The 2011 World Championships took place in Catania (Italy).
Fencing events were held from October 8 to October 16.

Valentina Vezzali (Italy) won six gold, one silver and two bronze medals in foil competitions at the Olympic Games. Also she won sixteen gold (6 individual, 10 team), seven silver (2 individual, 5 team) and four bronze (individual) medals at the World Championships from 1993 to 2013.



The special postcard issued to 2011 World Championships and signed by Legend of Fencing V. Vezzali.

Italian fencers won 11 medals (4 gold, 3 silver, 4 bronze) and Russia won 5 medals (4 gold, 1 bronze).



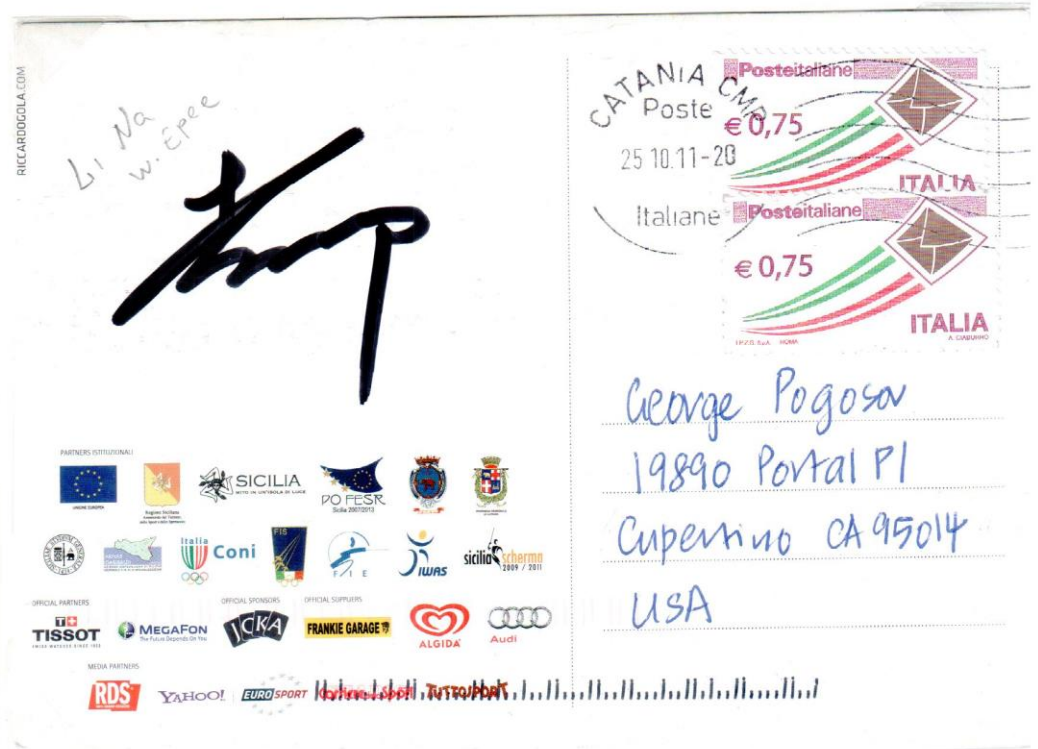
The stamps of Jordan issued to the 2011 World Fencing Championships.



3. World Championships

3.2. World Championships 1981/2011

Li Na is a Chinese épée fencer. She won a gold (2012) and a bronze (2000) medals at the Olympic Games. Also she won two gold and a bronze medals at the World Championships.

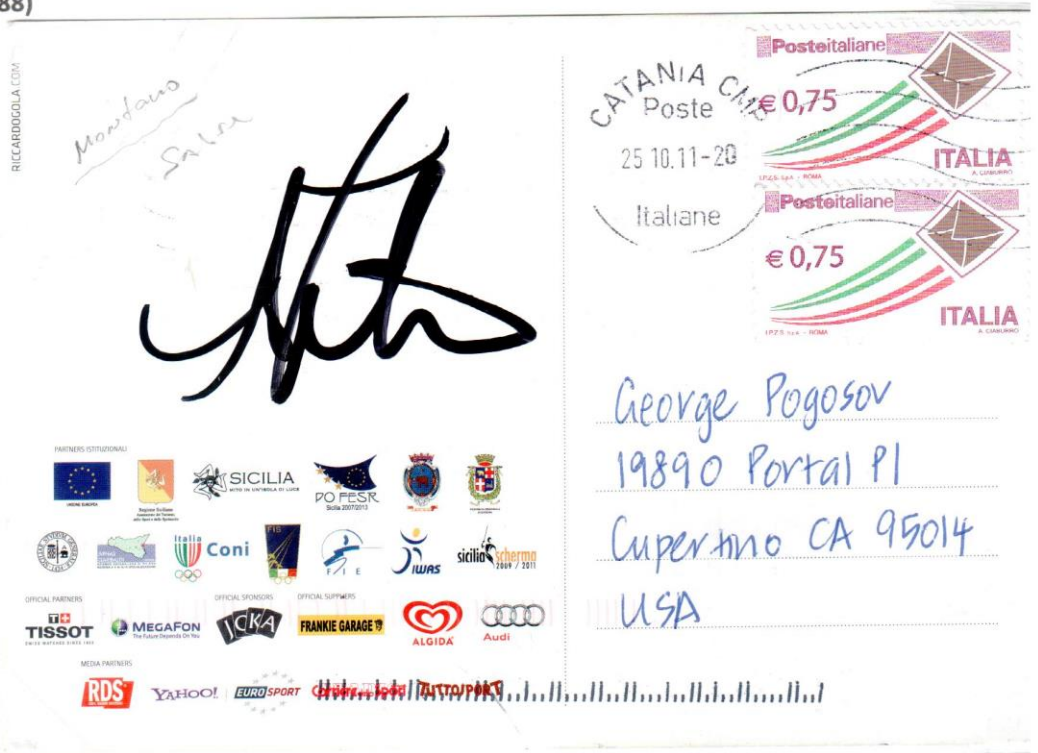


The special postcard issued to 2011 World Championships and signed by Chinese World Champion Li Na

G. Pogosov is a Ukrainian sabre fencer. He won a gold (1992) and a silver (1988) medals at the Olympic Games. Also he won six gold medals at the World Championships.



Aldo Montano is an Italian sabre fencer. He won a gold, a silver and two bronze medals at the Olympic Games. Also he won two gold, five silver and three bronze medals at the World Championships.



The special postcard issued to 2011 World Championships and signed by Italian World Champion Aldo Montano

4. National Fencing competitions

The first stamp with fencing motive issued in Hungary in 1925.
 The set of 8 sport stamps were sold at the double face value,
 as indicated from the inscription putted on the back of each value,
 the proceeds given at the Hungarian Sporting Society.



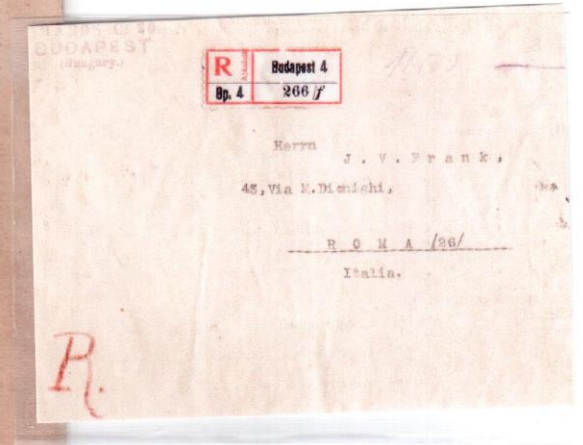
Imperforated stamp



Back of the stamp



Hungarian fencers won 83 medals
 (35 gold, 22 silver, 26 bronze)
 at the Olympic Games.



Front of the cover

Hungarian fencers won 263 medals
 (89 gold, 82 silver, 92 bronze)
 at the World Championships.

Duplicate sport stamp set on registered cover to Italy (1925)

4. National Fencing competitions

Italian fencers won 123 medals
(48 gold, 41 silver, 34 bronze)
at the Olympic Games.

Italian fencers won 514 medals
(97 gold, 111 silver, 306 bronze)
at the World Championships.



The Official cover of the 1926 Italian National Championships (from the archive of Nedo Nadi)

The Official cover of the 1939 Italian National Championships (from the archive of Nedo Nadi)

4. National Fencing competitions

The first Bulgarian fencing stamp (1931) issued to Balkan Games.



Spot over "handle of the saber"



Color proofs



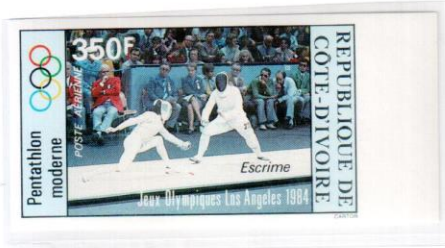
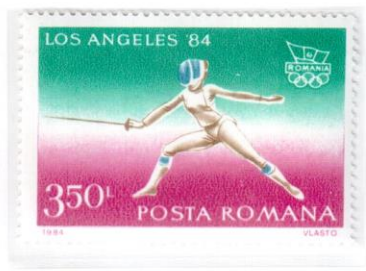
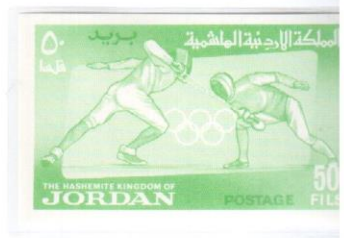
Postal usage of "6L" fencing stamp on registered cover to Germany (10/19/1931)



From the crude weapons of the ancient Egyptians to the modern days, almost 3000 years have passed, but the fencing remains a noble discipline that enhances the values of competitors' loyalty.



Fencing has come a long way and has chosen from many of the three types of swordcraft – foil, sabre, epee.



Fencing is a vast interesting world. Discovering it for yourself, you start to understand that it completely absorbs you, and it is impossible to part yourself from it - it remains with you forever.