

OLYMPIC FIRSTS

The following exhibit offers a selection of Olympic events and athlete performances between 1896 and 2008 which made history at the time.

First Modern Olympic Games

The first Modern Olympic Games were held in Athens Greece in 1896. They involved 13 nations and 311 athletes.

Frenchman Baron Pierre de Coubertin is credited with bringing about the revival of this international sport festival.



These stamps, part of a set of 12, were the first and only set issued to commemorate these competitions.



First Canadian to win an Olympic medal

Paris 1900

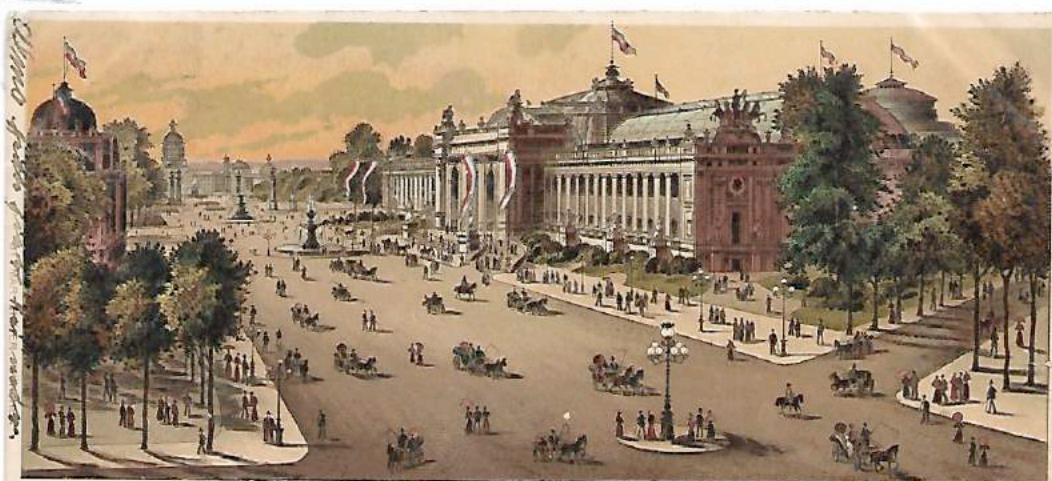
George Horton, a middle distance runner born in Strathroy Ontario, competed in 3 events and won the gold medal in the 2500 steeplechase and later a bronze medal in the 400m hurdles. Because he was a student at the University of Pennsylvania at the time, he was recognized as an American in those Games. It is typical of these first Olympic Games that athletes who participated did so because of individual skills and financial ability to travel and compete in international competitions. Up to 1908, national teams did not exist.



George Orton

The second Olympic Games were awarded to Paris France in 1900 but the French were rather indifferent in holding them. The Olympics were not identified as such but rather as international athletic meet. The various sports were held over a period of several months in very unconventional venues and in the midst of the big Paris International Exhibition.

The Games received very little publicity and most visitors to the Paris fair and even participants in those sports were unaware that they were part of the Olympic Games.



Le Grand Palais.
Souvenir de l'EXPOSITION UNIVERSELLE DE 1900. PARIS. 22. 11. 1900.
*Liab Kate! On va
aujourd'hui à l'exposition. Vous êtes
toujours, père et sans souci. So nous vivons bien à Paris
Avec vous son amour Alma, Johanna.*

Most gold medals in individual events.

Ray Ewry competed in four Olympic Games and won 10 gold medals in the standing jumps.

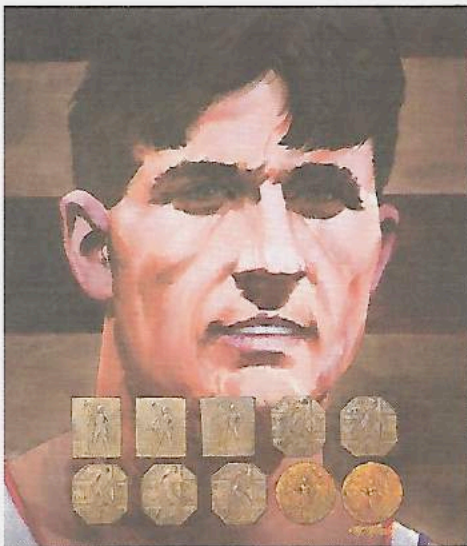
He was born in 1873 in Lafayette, Indiana, and spent much of his childhood in a wheelchair because he had contracted polio. But he defied the odds, exercised hard and trained himself to become a specialized athlete.

In 1900, he first won gold in Paris in the standing high jump, the standing long jump and the standing triple jump.

In St. Louis in 1904, he again won gold in the same three events.

With the standing triple jump being eliminated in the following Games he had to settle for double victories in 1906 at the Intercalated Games and in 1908 in London.

Despite this unique record, Ray Ewry remains relatively unknown because his events were dropped from the Olympics after 1912. Not including the Intercalated Games of 1906, he still won 8 gold medals, the most in individual events.



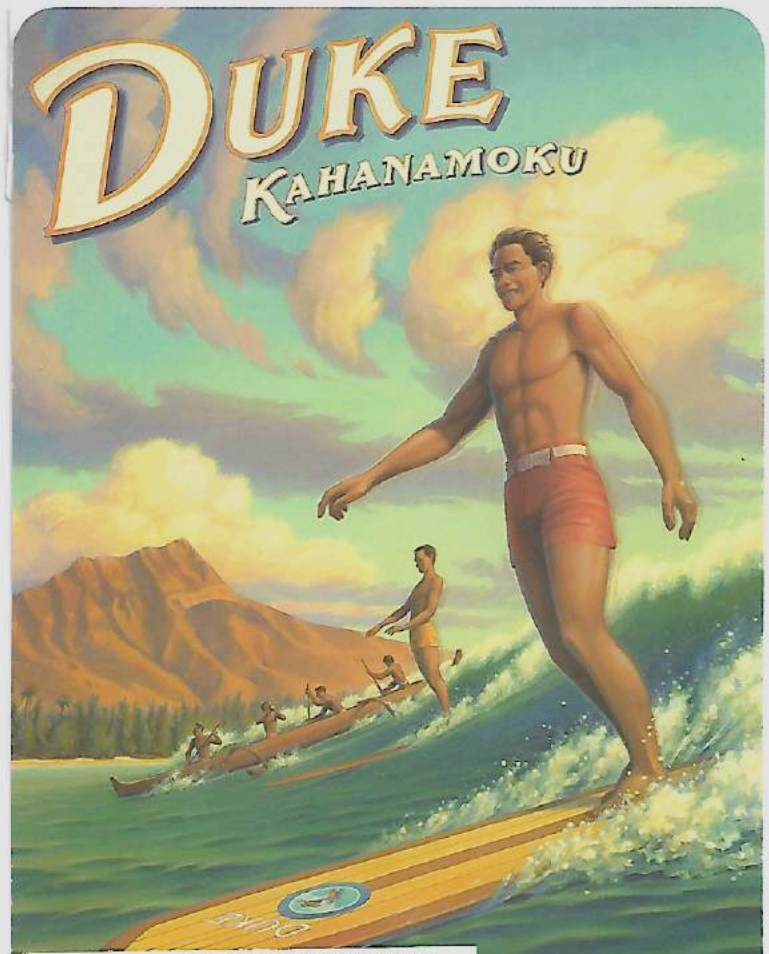
Ray Ewry

Victor over crippling polio,
ten-time Olympic gold medalist.



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

First American swimmer to set a world record in 100-meter freestyle



SPI HONORS US OLYMPIC SWIMMER/WATER POLO PLAYER



3 GOLD & 2 SILVER MEDALS
1912, 1920, 1924, 1928 OLYMPICS

SURFING LEGEND
OLYMPIC CHAMPION

Duke Paoa Kahinu Mokoe Hulikohola Kahanamoku was born Aug 24, 1890 in Honolulu Hawaii. He participated in the 1912, 1920, 1924 and 1928 Olympic Games and won 3 gold and 2 silver medals. His famous “flutter kick” help propel him to a world record freestyle swim in both 1912 and 1920. He was the first person to be inducted in the Swimming Hall of Fame and Surfing Hall of Fame. Of course, he also became a member of the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame. He later went on to become an Hollywood actor.

George Hodgson, a 19 year-old swimmer from Montreal, won Gold medals in the 400-metre and the 1500-metre freestyle races. The first Canadian to win two olympic gold medals in swimming.

During those swimming competitions at the 1912 Stockholm Olympic Games Hodgson also set 4 world records.

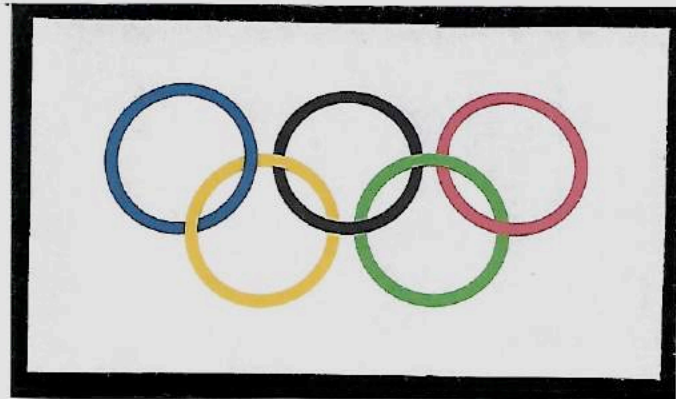


It wasn't until 1984, when Alex Baumann equalled his exploits in the medley swim races.

Stockholm Official Olympic Postcard. No. 220

Designed in 1914 by the founder of the modern Olympic Games, Pierre de Coubertin, the Olympic flag was raised for the first time at the 1920 Games, held in Antwerp, Belgium.

The five rings are meant to represent the 5 continents.



The only Canadian to win both sprint races at a modern Olympic Games

Percy Williams of Vancouver is being celebrated for his 200-metre race victory at the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics.

Williams had won the 100-metre sprint two days earlier and became the athletic sensation of the IXth Olympic Games.



Official Olympic postcard dated 6.VIII.1928, 5 days after the race event.

The First Olympic Village was built in California for the Los Angeles 1932 Olympic Games.

The Village was comprised of 550 cottages and other buildings.

They were to accommodate the male athletes only. The 127 female athletes competing in the 1932 Games were put up with more luxury in hotel rooms.

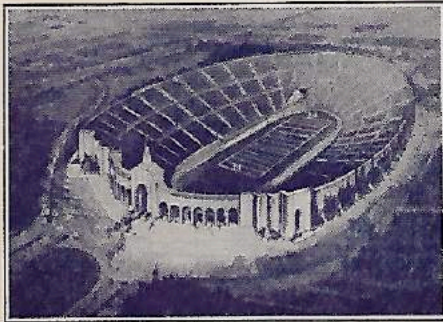
When the Games were over these cottages were sold individually to construction companies and private buyers for \$165. each.



The 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles introduced for the first time the medal ceremony, as we know it today, with the athletes' podium, the raising of the national flags and playing of the anthem.

VIA AIR MAIL

COMMEMORATING
XTH OLYMPIC GAMES
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
JULY 30 TO AUGUST 14, 1932



OLYMPIC STADIUM
IN
OLYMPIC PARK



2



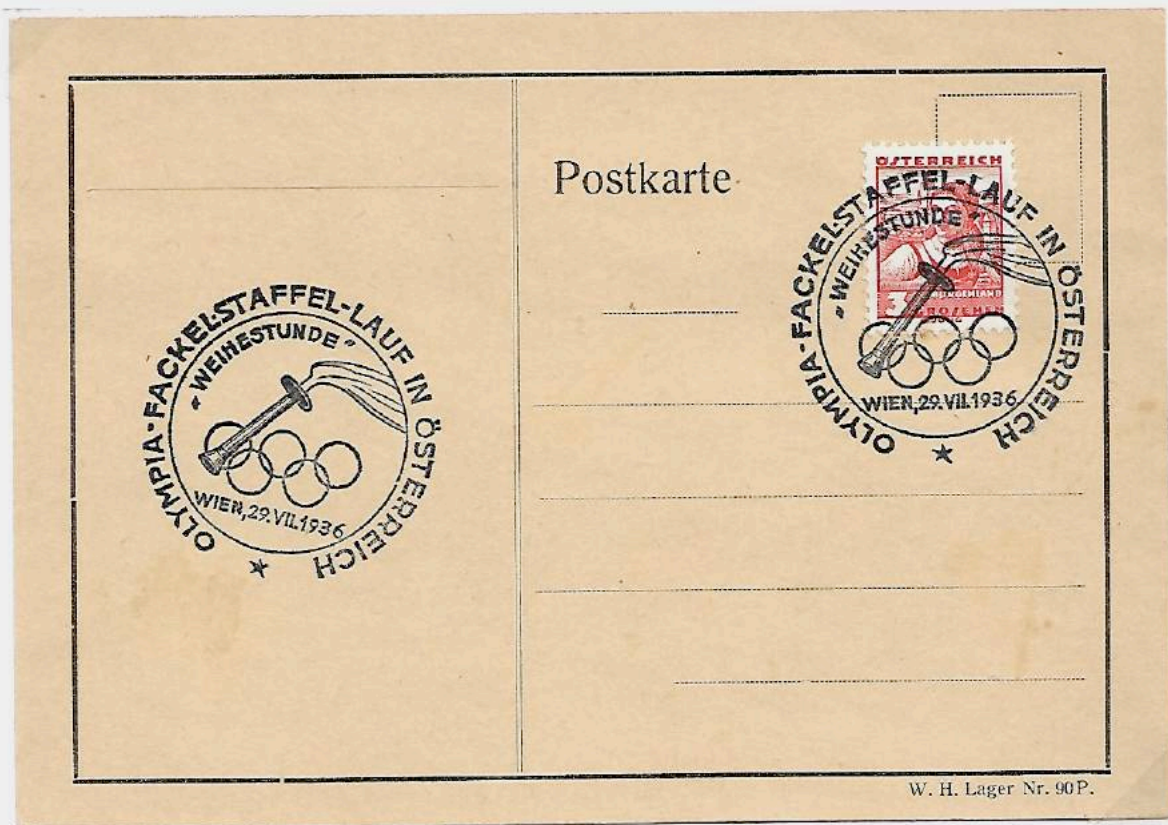
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The Torch relay was first introduced by the Germans in 1936.

The Olympic flame was carried from Olympia Greece to Berlin by a series of 3300 runners through seven countries. It was the idea of Dr. Karl Diehm of the German Organizing Committee.



Lighting of the Olympic flame in Greece was always a solemn occasion.



Austrian postcard with a pictorial handcancel marking the passage of the torch relay in Vienna on July 29 1936, on its way to Berlin.



Torch runner from the German Olympic set

The first souvenir sheets to be issued with Olympic stamps were produced in Germany for the 1936 Berlin Games. Each sheet contained 4 different stamps from the commemorative set of this Olympiad. Both sheets displayed a visible watermark which reads XI OLYMPISCHE SPIELE / BERLIN 1936.



First Olympiad in the Southern Hemisphere

Melbourne 1956

The International Olympic Committee decided in 1949 to allocate the Games of the XVIth Olympiad to **Melbourne Australia**.

The decision to hold these Olympics between November 22 and December 8, 1956, in Melbourne, presented a number of problems:

- distance and expense of travelling to far-away Australia;
- Games being held in November and December which is Australia's spring when American and European athletes do not normally compete;
- Australia's requirement of a six-month quarantine for horses putting the equestrian events in jeopardy.

Despite growing conflicts since 1954 in Eastern Europe and the Middle East and the late preparedness in Melbourne, the Games did proceed with 3 539 athletes from 67 nations participating.



First time events from one Olympiad held in 2 different countries.

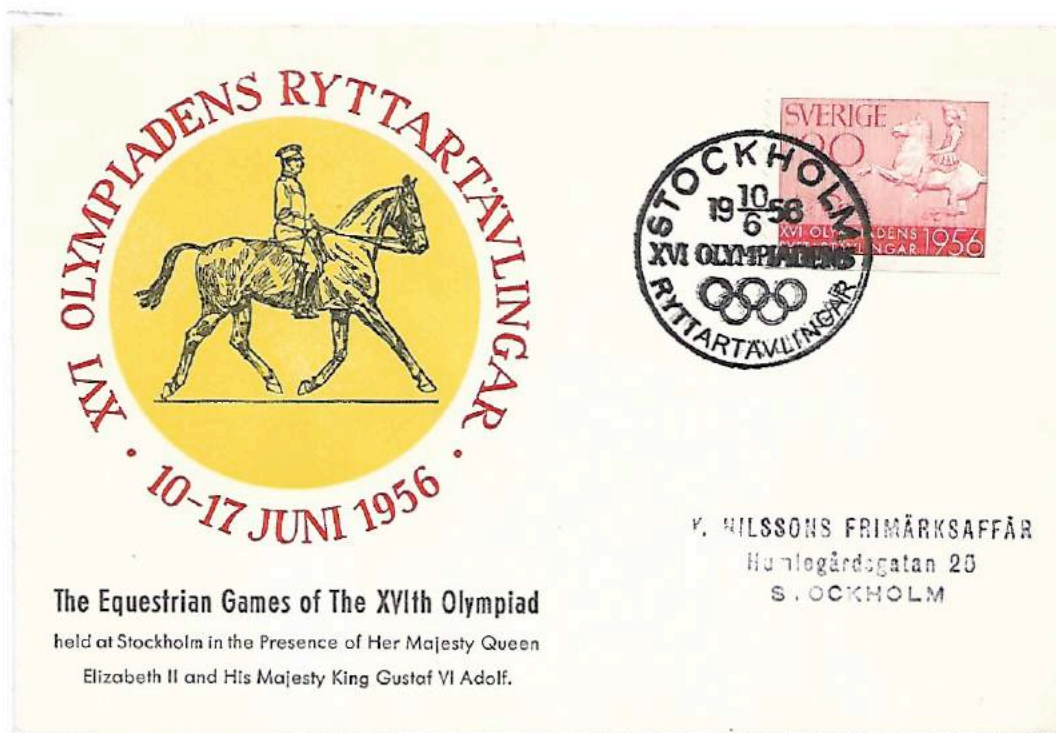
The Olympic Summer Games of 1956 were awarded to **Melbourne, Australia.**

Due to quarantine restrictions in that country, horses could not travel to Melbourne. Although it would violate its charter of holding Olympic events in only one country, the IOC decided to hold the **equestrian events in Stockholm Sweden** rather than cancelling them.

So competitions were held there from June 10 through to June 17, more than five months before the opening of the Olympic Games in Melbourne.



Set of three Swedish stamps commemorating these equestrian events in Stockholm.



On 26 Feb. 1960, Ann Heggveit won Canada's first Olympic Gold medal in Alpine skiing, in the slalom event in Squaw Valley, California.

Since the World Championships were part of the Olympics at the time, her world slalom and alpine combined titles gave her a total of 3 medals.



In 1954, at the age of 15, she became the youngest-ever winner in the half-century history of the Holmenkollen giant slalom in Norway.

Canada's First Olympic Gold Medalist in Figure Skating

Barbara Ann Scott won the only individual gold medal at the 1948 Olympic Winter Games in St. Moritz, Switzerland.

Between 1944-1948, she had been a Canadian Senior Women's champion, also North American champion and in 1947-48, the European champion.



Chantal Petitclerc won 21 medals at the Paralympic Games between 1992 and 2008, the most medals won by a Canadian woman in the history of the Paralympic Games.

In 2008, she was the first Canadian woman with a disability to win the Lou Marsh Award as the top Canadian athlete that year.

She was appointed to the Canadian Senate in 2016.



CHANTAL PETITCLERC

COURSE EN FAUTEUIL ROULANT/WHEELCHAIR TRACK