



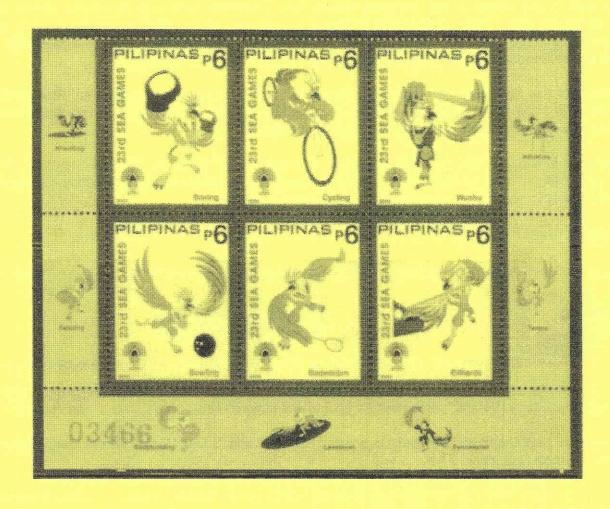
BICYCLE STAMPS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BICYCLE STAMPS CLUB

BS 55 - May - 2006

President/Treasurer: Brian Sole Vice-President: Jari Majander

Secretary/Editor: A.E (Tony) Teideman



PHILIPPINES - ? - 23RD SOUTHEAST ASIAN (SEA) 2005 GAMES

The magazine is included as a benefit of membership. A bicycle stamp checklist is maintained by the club and is available at cost, please contact the Secretary/Editor.

Membership enquiries should be sent to either:

Brian Sole, President/Treasurer.

Tony Teideman, Secretary/Editor, Bill Eubanks, US Treasurer, England Australia USA



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AUSTRALIA	18.03.06	SHEETLET	AS ABOVE - SHEETLET OF 10 X 50c STAMPS - INCLUDES THE ABOVE 3 STAMPS	3+SHT/LET	55-14
AUSTRALIA	19.03.06	50c	AS ABOVE - BRAD KAHLEFELDT MEN'S TRIATHLON	2+SHT/LET	55-14
AUSTRALIA	19.03.06	50c	AS ABOVE - EMMA SNOWSILL WOMEN'S TRIATHLON	2+SHT/LET	55-14
AUSTRALIA	19.03.06	SHEETLET	AS ABOVE -SHEETLET OF 5 X 50c STAMPS - INCLUDES THE ABOVE 2 STAMPS	2+SHT/LET	55-14
AUSTRALIA	19.03.06	50c	AS ABOVE - RYAN BAYLEY MEN'S SPRINT	1+SHT/LET	55-16
AUSTRALIA	19.03.06	SHEETLET	AS ABOVE - SHEETLET OF 10 X 50c STAMPS - INCLUDES THE ABOVE STAMP	1+SHT/LET	55-16
AUSTRALIA	20.03.06	50c	AS ABOVE - KATIE MACTIER WOMEN'S 3000m INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT	1+SHT/LET	55-16
AUSTRĀLIA	20.03.06	SHEETLET	AS ABOVE - SHEETLET OF 5 X 50c STAMPS - INCLUDES THE ABOVE STAMP	1+SHT/LET	55-16
AUSTRALIA	22.03.06	50c	AS ABOVE - NATHAN O'NEILL MEN' INDIVIDUAL TIME TRIAL	1+SHT/LET	55-16
AUSTRALIA	22.03.06	SHEETLET	AS ABOVE - SHEETLET OF 5 X 50c STAMPS - INCLUDES THE ABOVE STAMP	1+SHT/LET	55-16
AUSTRALIA	22.03.06	50c	AS ABOVE - OENONE WOOD WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL TIME TRIAL	1+SHT/LET	55-15
AUSTRALIA	22.03.06	SHEETLET	AS ABOVE - SHEETLET OF 10 X 50c STAMPS - INCLUDES THE ABOVE STAMP	1+SHT/LET	55-15
AUSTRALIA	27.03.06	50c	AS ABOVE - NATALIE BATES WOMEN'S ROAD RACE	2+SHT/LET	55-15
AUSTRALIA	27.03.06	50c	AS ABOVE - MATHEW HAYMAN MEN'S ROAD RACE	2+SHT/LET	55-15
AUSTRALIA	27.03.06	SHEETLET	AS ABOVE - SHEETLET OF 5 X 50c STAMPS - INCLUDES THE ABOVE 2STAMPS	2+SHT/LET	55-15
BELGIUM	22.04.06	€ 0.52	COMMEMORATING START OF "GIRO DE ITALIA" FROM SERAING A TOWN NEAR LIEGE - RIDER IN PINK WINNERS JERSEY HOLDING TROPHY ABOVE HIS HEAD	1+M/S+FDC	55-18
BELGIUM	22.04.06	M/S	AS ABOVE - MINIATURE SHEET OF 5 OF THE ABOVE STAMPS	1+M/S+FDC	55-18
BELGIUM	22.04.06	FDC	AS ABOVE -FDC WITH THE ABOVE STAMP	1+M/S+FDC	55-18
BELIZE	22.03.06	25c	50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST EUROPA STAMP 1956 - 2006 - DELIVERING MAIL BY BICYCLE	4 + M/S	55-12
BELIZE	22.03.06	M/S	AS ABOVE MINIATURE SHEET OF 4 STAMPS INCLUDES THE ABOVE	4 + M/S	55-12
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA (CROATIAN POSTS)	20.11.03	FDC	INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY - STAMP DEPICTS DRAWING BY 8 YEAR OLD ANTONIO LOVRIC	1+FDC+ MAXICARD	and desiration of the state of

COOK ISLANDS	29.11.05	\$	OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL WINNERS ATHENS 2004 - STAMPS ISSUED 29.09.04 FOR ATHENS OLYMPICS OVERPRINTED WITH NAMES AND DETAILS OF GOLD MEDALISTS - OVERPRINT "DWIGHT PHILLIPS, Men's, LONG JUMP, ***, USA 35"	5+LABEL+ SHEETLET	55-7
COOK ISLANDS	29.11.05	\$ 1	AS ABOVE -"XING HUINA Women's 10,000m CHINA 32"	5+LABEL+ SHEETLET	55-7
COOK ISLANDS	29.11.05	\$1	AS ABOVE - "IAN THORPE Men's 200m FREESTYLE AUSTRALIA 17"	5+LABEL+ SHEETLET	55-7
COOK ISLANDS	29.11.05	\$ 1	AS ABOVE - "MIZUKI NOGUCHI Women's MARATHON JAPAN 16"	5+LABEL+ SHEETLET	55-7
COOK ISLANDS	29.11.05	\$1	AS ABOVE - "YVONNE BOENISCH Women's 57kg.JUDO GERMANY 14".	5+LABEL+ SHEETLET	55-7
COOK ISLANDS	29.11.05	SHEETLET	AS ABOVE - SHEETLET OF 5 STAMPS AND 1 LABEL ALL OVERPRINTED AS ABOVE	5+LABEL+ SHEETLET	55-7
COSTA RICA	?.07 04	120c	OLYMPIC GAMES - ATHENS 2004	1+SE-TEN STRIP	50-6
COSTA RICA	?.07.04	SE-TEN STRIP	AS ABOVE - SE-TEN STRIP OF 4 DIFF. STAMPS - INCLUDES THE ABOVE	1+SE-TEN STRIP	50-6
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	?. ?. 03	400 F.C.F.A	100 TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR DE FRANCE - PELETON	1+ SE-TEN STRIP + SHEET	51-9
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	?. ?. 03	SE-TEN STRIP	AS ABOVE - SE-TEN STRIP OF 3 DIFF - ABOVE STAMP - CENTENARY OF WRIGHT BROS FLIGHT AND 150 TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF VINCENT VAN GOGH	1+ SE-TEN STRIP + SHEET	51-9
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	?. ?. 03	SHEET	AS ABOVE - SHEET OF 12 STAMPS - CONSISTS OF 4 OF THE ABOVE SE-TEN STRIPS	1+ SE-TEN STRIP + SHEET	51-9
GAMBIA	01.03.03	MS D45	CENTENARY TOUR DE FRANCE - AWAITING DETAILS	12 + 3SHT + MS	
GREECE	09.09.03	MAXI-CARD	OLYMPIC GAMES - ATHENS 2004: MIND & BODY - CYCLING	5 + SHT + MAXI-CARD	
GUINEA	?	850 F	"AMERICAN IMPRESSIONISTS" CYCLISTS IN STREET SCENE	4+S	53-10
GUINEA	?	SHEETLET	AS ABOVE - INCLUDES THE ABOVE STAMP	4+S	53-10
GUINEA	?	M/S	BEIJING OLYMPICS 2008 - STAMP OF NO CYCLING INTEREST - CYCLIST ON SELVEDGE	3+4M/S	55-17
GUINEA-BISSAU	?.?.2003	500FCFA	OLYMPIC GAMES ATHENS 2004 - VARIOUS SPORTS PERSONS - INCLUDES LANCE ARMSTRONG	6+S	53-8
GUINEA-BISSAU	?.?.2003	SHEETLET	AS ABOVE - SHEETLET OF 6 STAMPS INCLUDES THE ABOVE	6+S	53-8
GUINEA-BISSAU	?.?.2004	450 FCFA	OLYMPIC GAMES ATHENS 2004 - VARIOUS SPORTS PERSONS - INCLUDES TYLER HAMILTON	6+S	53-10
GUINEA-BISSAU	?.?.2004	SHEETLET	AS ABOVE - SHEETLET OF 6 STAMPS INCLUDES THE ABOVE	6+S	53-10

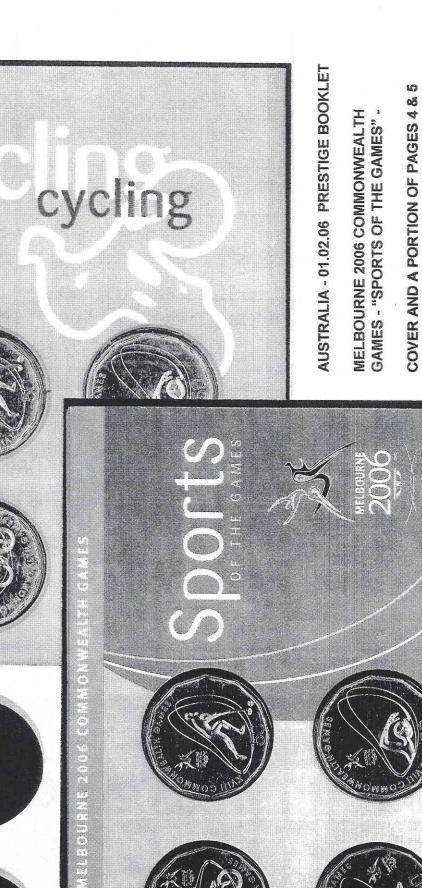
GUINEA-BISSAU	?.?.2005	MINI SHEET	155 TH ANNIVERSARY OF "PENNY BLACK" STAMP - QUEUE OF VARIOUS TRANSPORTS INCLUDES A CYCLIST ON A HIGH WHEELER	MS	53-8
GUINEA-BISSAU	?.?.2005	450 FCFA	SPORTS STARS - LANCE ARMSTRONG	6+S+MS	53-8
GUINEA-BISSAU	?.?.2005	SHEETLET	AS ABOVE - SHEETLET OF 6 DIFF. STAMPS AND 3 LABELS - INCLUDES THE ABOVE STAMP	6+S+MS	53-8
GUINEA-BISSAU	7.7.2005	MINIATURE SHEET	AS ABOVE - MINIATURE SHEET STAMP OF NO CYCLING INTEREST - LANCE ARMSTRONG ON SELVEDGE	6+S+MS	53-8
GUINEA-BISSAU	?.?.2005	350 FCFA	"PEQUIM 2008" VARIOUS SPORTS INCLUDING CYCLING	6÷S	53-8
GUINEA-BISSAU	?.?.2005	SHEETLET	AS ABOVE - SHEETLET OF 6 DIFF. STAMPS AND 3 LABELS - INCLUDES THE ABOVE STAMP	6+S	53-8
ISLE OF MAN	12.08.05	BOOKLET PANE	"TIME TO REMEMBER" - CONTAINS 10 OF THE ABOVE 26p STAMP - PANE OF 10 OF THE ABOVE STAMP - WAITING ON DETAILS	10 - 2 x SE- TEN STRIPS OF 5 + 2B	
ICELAND	19.05.04	BOOKLET PANE	EUROPA 2004: HOLIDAYS - TOURING CYCLISTS - PANE OF TEN STAMPS (NO DETAILS YET)	2+2X BOOKLETS	
IRELAND	28.02.03	BOOKLET PANE	ST PATRICK'S DAY - CLOWN ON A STRANGE CYCLE IN PARADE - BOOKLET PANE OF 10 OF THE ABOVE STAMP	3+3SX16 +4B/KLETS	
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	27.04.04	SHEET	TRANSPORTATION - THE STAMPS WERE ISSUED IN SE- TENANT BLOCKS OF SIX DIFFERENT STAMPS WITHIN THE SHEET - INCLUDES PENNY FARTHING (1871) - STAMP SHOWS 2 RIDERS ON THEIR HIGH WHEELERS SEE BS49 - 12	SHEET	55-17
PHILIPPINES	?	p6	23RD SOUTHEAST ASIAN (SEA) 2005 GAMES - GAMES MASCOT ON BICYCLE - THIS IS THE SAME AS THE PICTOGRAM	6+SHEET	55-COVER
PHILIPPINES	?	SHEET	ASA ABOVE - SHEET OF 6 STAMPS INCLUDING THE ABOVE	6+SHEET	55-COVER
* PORTUGAL	21.09.05	€ 0.74	50 TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED NATIONS MEMBERSHIP -ALBERT EINSTEIN ON A BICYCLE (INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PHYSICS)	4	53-18
ST. THOMAS AND PRINCE ISLANDS	? 2004	Db 7000	60 th ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY - TROOPS WITH BICYCLES LANDING ON BEACH (SEE CANADIAN 05.08.94 ISSUE BS 17B PAGE 5 AND D-DAY ARTICLE BS 49 PAGE 20)	1+S	53-9
ST. THOMAS AND PRINCE ISLANDS	? 2004	SHEET	AS ABOVE - SHEET OF 9 DIFF, STAMPS - INCLUDES THE ABOVE	1+S	53-9
SIERRA LEONE	17.11.03	1500L	OLYMPIC HISTORY GOLD MEDAL WINNERS - MARCUS HURLEY - USA 1904	8	
SINGAPORE		SHEET	"UNIQUELY SINGAPORE" - SHEET OF 5 STAMPS AND 10 LABELS - STAMPS OF ON CYCLING INTEREST - STATUE OF CYCLIST ON ONE LABEL	SHEET	53-16

SPAIN	7.7.04	POST CARD	VUELTA ESPAÑA 2004 - FRONT OF CARD SHOWS RIDER BREAKING AWAY -REAR OF CARD SHOWS ROUTE FOR TOUR	POSTCARD	52-17
SURINAM	7.7.05	NVI	TEDDY BEARS 2005 - TEDDY BEAR RIDING A TRICYCLE	12 + 4 LABELS + SHEET	51-8
SURINAM	?.?.05	SHEET	AS ABOVE - SHEET OF 24 DIFFERENT STAMPS IN 2 PANES x12 PLUS 4 CENTRAL LABELS	12 + 4 LABELS + SHEET	51-8
TATARSTAN	? 2002	5.00	FAMOUS MOVIES - E.T. STAMP SHOWS SILHOUETTE OF BICYCLE RIDER AND E.T.	1+S	53-11
TATARSTAN	? 2002	SHEET	AS ABOVE - SHEET OF 12 DIFF. STAMPS - INCLUDES THE ABOVE	1+S	53-11
UNITED STATES	03.04.03	MAXI CARD	OLD GLORY PRESTIGE BOOKLET -20 TH CENTURY FOLK ART - UNCLE SAM RIDING A HIGH WHEELER - MAXI CARD OF ABOVE STAMP	5+B+M/C	

- Undated issues will remain on this list or the "Issue Information Update" list, until such time as a date of issue is established.
- 2. Issues marked * have been corrected or have additional information, the additional or corrected information is underlined.
- 3. Issues marked are deemed to be fake, ie not stamps only Cinderellas, therefore they will not have a date of issue.
- Additions to the list are indicated by a heavy solid left-hand border to the country's name box.
- 5. Issues that appear on this list for over a year are moved to the "Issue Information Update" list.
- 6. The last column shows where the stamp is illustrated, with BS number, followed by page number.
- POSTAL CARDS are those cards that include the stamp or prepaid indicia printed on it.
 POST CARDS need the addition of a stamp for mailing.
 Only those Post Cards issued by a country's post office are included in this list.









AUSTRALIA - 01.03.06 PRESTIGE BOOKLET

MELBOURNE 2006 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

"AUSTRALIA AT THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES - A STORY IN STAMPS"

nburgh ng and

GAME

I V

PERFORMANCE

AUSTRALIA'S

been about endurance and courage rather than many unforgettable performances in Australia's managed a remarkable second - one of the ran a marvellous second against Englishman victory. John Landy (now Governor of Victoria) SOME great Australian performances have 1954 Games in Vancouver. In stifling heat, O'Grady set up a virtually unbeatable time. Unfortunately he crashed, injuring himself and wrecking his bike. Despite this he still John Bannister in the "Miracle Mile" at the straight Bannister sprinted past him. Both 1998 Men's Road Time Trial, cyclist Stuart Landy led the whole race until in the final men broke the four-minute barrier. In the rich history at the Commonwealth Games.

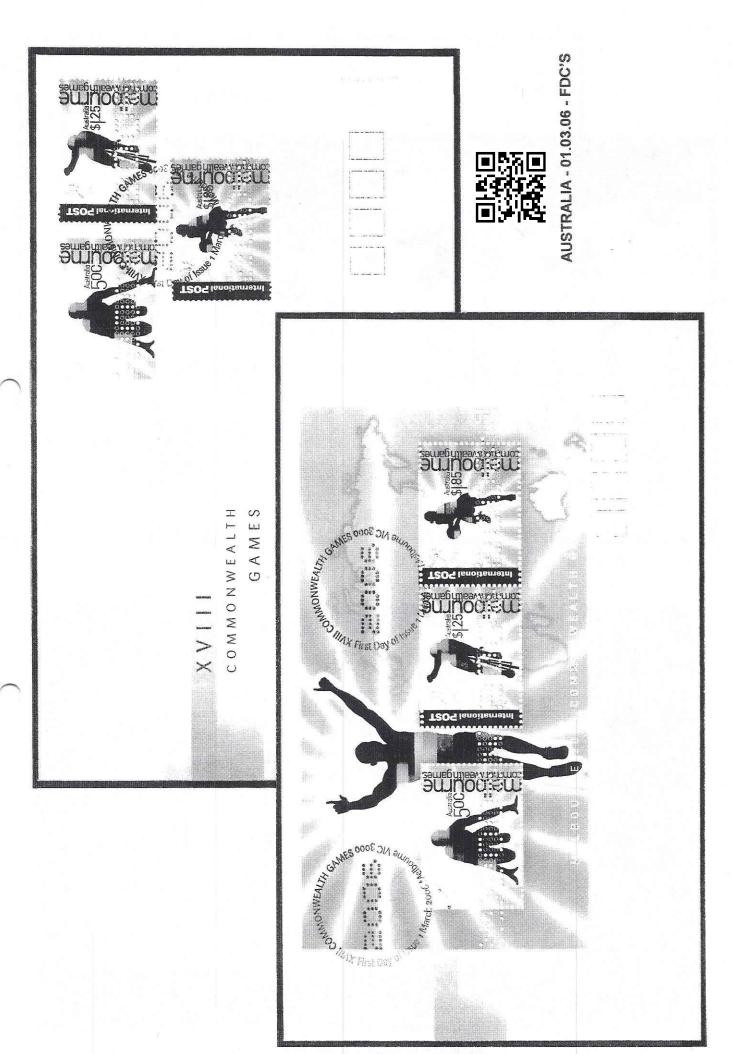
history of the Games - 18 medals in total (seven Gold, nine Silver and two Bronze). Adams also medals by a competitor of any country in the holds the honour of having competed at the Phillip Adams has won the most most Commonwealth Games - six in total.

Gold in the 4,000m and also in the 10 Mile Race ever, as the three medallists crossed the line Brisbane Commonwealth Games, Nichols won - one of the most memorable 10 Mile Races 4,000m Team Pursuit. This changed to a Gold Medal at the 1978 Edmonton Commonwealth in Christchurch in 1974, he won Silver in the Kevin Nichols is one of Australia's greatest cyclists. At his first Commonwealth Games, Games. Making a comeback at the 1982 virtually together.



PANE - PAGE 25 AND PORTIONS OF PAGES 18 AND 23

1

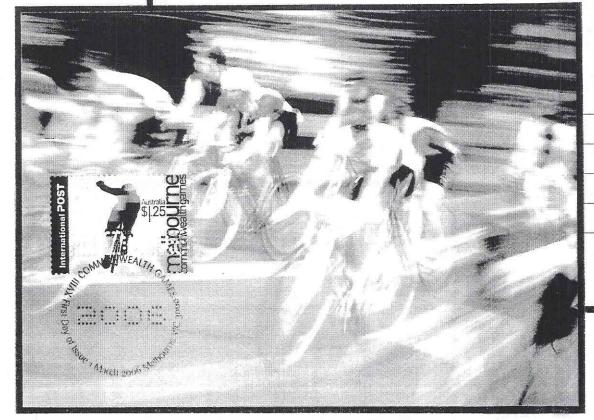


In competition – cycling Photograph: Getty Images



POSTAGE PRE-PAID AUSTRALIA
FOR POSTING
IN AUSTRALIA
AND DELIVERY
WORLDWIDE





AUSTRALIA - 01.03.06 - MAXI-CARD FRONT AND BACK



BELIZE - 22.03.06 - MINIATURE SHEET



AUSTRALIA - 17.03.06 - SHEETLET - AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONS ANNA MEARES AND BEN KERSTEN







ONWEALTH GAMES









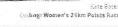
















ations Men's Artistic Individual All-Around





AUSTRALIA - 18.03.06 -SHEETLET RYAN BAYLEY, **SEAN FINNING AND** KATE BATES

AUSTRALIA - 19.03.06 -SHEETLET **BRAD KAHLEFELDT AND EMMA SNOWSILL**

Tehlo



XVIII COMMONWEALTH GAMES

AUSTRALIA - 27.03.06 -SHEETLET **NATALIE BATES AND MATHEW HAYMAN**

AUSTRALIA - 22.03.06 -SHEETLET **OENONE WOOD**











XVIII COMMONWEALTH GAMES











equality





O POST

PART OF THE TEAM



Weightlifting: Men's 94kg

........................





AUSTRALIA - 22.03.06 -*************

NATHAN O'NEILL

SHEETLET





AUSTRALIA - 19.03.06 -SHEETLET RYAN BAYLEY



















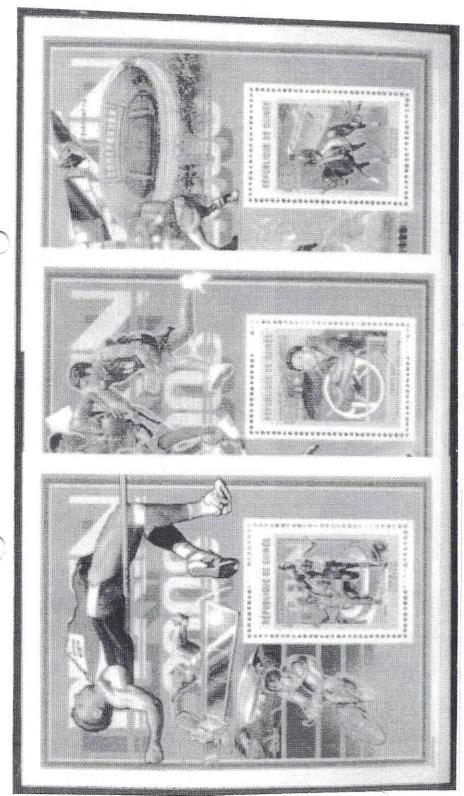
Weightlifting: Men's 69kg

D POST

PART OF THE TEAM

16







GUINEA - ? - MINIATURE SHEET

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES -27.04.04 - PORTION OF SHEET





FD.C P 1548

La Vallonia lancia il Giro 2006

La Valionia lancia il Giro 2006

09. 24 avril 2006



Theme:

Départ du Giro d'Italia 2006 à Seraing

Created by:

Jean Libert

Value :

€ 0,52

Size:

40,20 mm x 27,66 mm(timbre) 166 mm x 100 mm(feuillet)

Printing Method:

héliogravure

Number of plates :

Composition of the sheets :

Perforation:

11 1/2

Paper:

Order code :

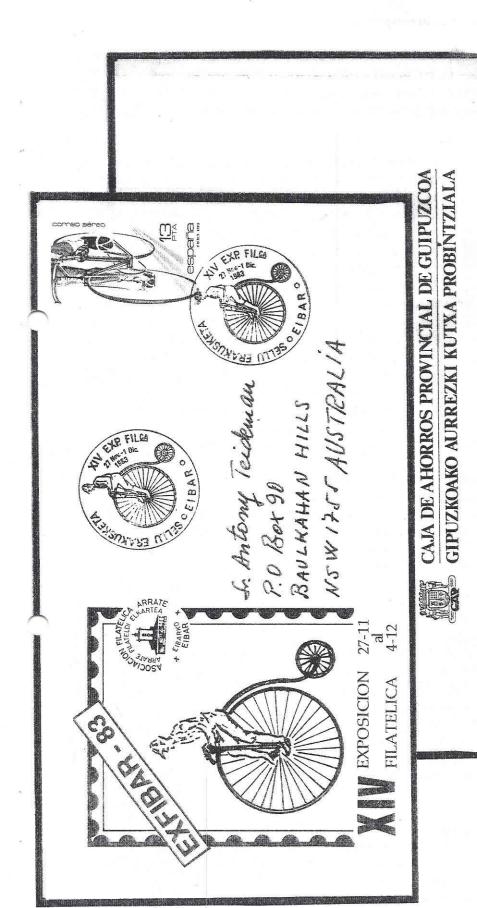
polyvalent - phosphorescent

200609

FDC AND ISSUE DETAIL SHOWING MINIATURE SHEET

BELGIUM - 22.04.06





EXFIBAR - 83 - SPAIN FRONT AND BACK OF FDC

ALBANIA - 20.11.05





Gum

An article from March 2006 GSM

On now to the subject of gum-the adhesive substance usually found on the back of stamps when sold to the public-which is somewhat more interesting than might be first thought. The gum for the first British stamps was made of potato-starch, wheat-starch and acacia gum and was officially termed 'cement', instructions printed in the sheet margin warning: 'In Wetting Back be careful not to remove the Cement'.



Sometimes printers have used tinted gum so that they know which is the correct side of the paper to print on. Green-tinted gum was used for the 6d. embossed stamp of 1854 and red was used for stamps of Hanover in the1850s. Until comparatively recent times gum arabic was the main type of gum used, giving a shiny appearance and some times the stamp would curl if exposed to heat. From the 1960s onwards synthetic gum has largely replaced gum arabic - in the UK stamps have PVA gum (Polyvinyl alcohol). This is quite different in appearance, normally having a matt finish. The notes in the Concise (Stanley Gibbons) catalogue tell us that PVA is almost invisible, and a small amount of pale yellowish colouring was introduced to make it possible to check that the stamps ' had been

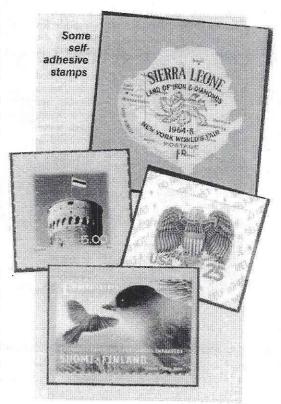
gummed. Although PVA normally has a matt appearance, it can, depending on the qualities of the paper ingredients and the resultant absorption of the gum, occasionally have a shiny appearance. The note concludes: '... whilst all gum arabic is shiny it does not follow that all shiny gum is gum Arabic.

The first British definitives with PVA gum were most values in the 1967-70 Machin pre-decimal series, although some values exist with both gum arabic and PVA gums. Some of the last printings of the pre-decimal regional stamps were also on PVA-gummed paper. Most notable is the 4d. Northern Ireland, a supply on PVA paper being made available after the stamp ceased to be generally available.

Probably not more than 100 sheets (24,000 stamps) were sold, hence the catalogue valuation of this stamp (NI 7Ev) is £13 compared to just I5p for the normal gum arabic version. The Machin decimal definitives have PVA gum, although some values were issued with gum arabic in 1972-3 and are listed in the *Concise* catalogue. For commemorative stamps, PVA gum was first used for the 1968 British Bridges issue. The change in gum also affected the Postage Due stamps - the 1968-69 series printed in typography (D69/74) and photogravure (D75/6). The' 2d. and 4d. typo stamps exist with gum

arabic and PVA, the other values, plus the gravure pair only have PVA gum. The 4d. typo with PVA gum is very scarce and has a £1500 catalogue Valuation, compared to just £1 for the gum arabic version.

Of course stamps need to be mint to check the gum and gum variants are not priced used in the catalogue. Where dealers do offer gum variants used, I assume the stamps are cancelled by favour so the gum is still present. On many old stamps the gum is wholly or partially missing and examples with full (or most) gum are obviously worth more than those without. You will see in price lists the initials `o.g.' standing for original gum.



However, stamps with missing gum are known to have been re-gummed so it is a case of *caveat emptor* when buying rare older issues. In Philatelic Terms Illustrated stamps that have been regummed 'in order to pass them off as mint stamps' are described as 'a form of fake' which is defined as 'a genuine stamp which has been altered or repaired in some way to make it appear what it is not, for the purpose of deceiving collectors.'

Over the past 40 years or so, more and more Countries have been issuing stamps printed on self-adhesive paper - more hygienic and usually quicker to use. Such stamps have problems for philatelists as mint examples need to be retained on their backing paper for obvious reasons, and used self-adhesive stamps are not always easy to soak off envelope paper in the traditional way. Thankfully, most countries now use a gum formula that allows the stamps to be soaked off easily but you will still encounter problems with some Brazilian, French, and US issues.



From My Musette

* The non-level playing field

As all *GSM* readers know by now, Post Office staff sell us labels instead of real stamps because they are easier to administer and also provide a receipt-or so they tell us.

The reality is different. A rural sub-postmaster recently told me that he is actually paid more for handling mail franked with labels rather than real stamps. Not much-only a fraction of a penny per item-but, in his own words, 'it all mounts up'. Does this not prove-if more proof were needed-that staff are now officially discouraged, in real financial terms, from selling real stamps?

The stamps-versus-labels debate may well remind older *GSM* readers of similar discussions in the past over the introduction of PPIs, and before them, meter-marks. Then, as now, the decrease in collectable material was thought to herald the death of philately. But the financial disincentives to use stamps were never so blatant as now, nor so numerous: readers scanning their meter-marked mail, for instance, will also have noticed that-at a clearly-marked 29p as opposed to 30p-it's a penny cheaper to send first-class mail meter-marked rather than stamped.

The same postmaster pointed out another absurdity. He is paid more for refraining from using stamps: yet at the same time his small-catchment area post office was sent no less than a hundred sets of the Motorcycles issue to use up. Using these in ones and twos for their proper purposes-airmail, and so on-would cost him innumerable fractions of a penny per item ('it all mounts up', remember). So to get rid of them quickly, and in bulk, he had already-by midmorning on the day of issue-franked two enormous parcels (to non-philatelists) with large quantities of the 60p and 68p values, losing them to philately forever via their unsightly parcel postmarks and probable destruction by the recipients. If he wishes to receive fewer sets in future, he has to fill in an inordinate number of Change of Order forms, and quite frankly hasn't the time.

The death of philately' With costlier and costlier new issues, fewer and fewer stamps of any kind used for their intended purpose, total media disinterest in the hobby and now overt financial bias against stamps on the part of Royal Mail itself, it may be sooner than we think!

Extract from March 2006 GSM

* Thematica 2006 - Thematica 2006 will take place as its usual venue of the Carisbrooke Hall, 63 Seymour Street, London W2a short walk from Marble Arch (off Edgware Road) on Saturday, 24 June and Sunday, 25 June.

In addition to the dealers providing those needed items for the collection and the youth area, the Friends of Thematica will be staging the annual competitions. These include the John Fosbery Thematic Trophy for those who have not won a thematic competition at national or international level. There are no rules-all that is needed is 16 sheets to be judged by the visitors.

The British Thematic Association Trophy is for 32 sheets, judged in the same way as national thematic exhibits, with medals awarded. For this there is a £15 entrance fee. Regional Federations are encouraged to enter the Inter -Federation Thematic Competition, requiring 16 sheets, hopefully from a newcomer to thematics.

Finally there is the Barclays Cup competition for Young Collectors, where the key requirement is originality, either of theme or method of presentation. The number of pages required is from four to 16, depending on age.

Full details and entry forms for these competitions are available from Brian Sole, but completed applications must be returned by Friday, 12 May 2006. The entries themselves will be required by 2 June 2006.

* Swiss Army issues

I recently saw some of these stamps and, not finding them in a catalogue, I wonder if you could shed some light as I would be interested in finding out more about them. I believe that they were a type of regimental issue for use by army personnel.



John Kane by e-mail

Swiss Army stamps of 1917 and 1939





Swiss Army stamps of 1917 and 1939

Strictly speaking these items are not postage stamps, but they do have a postal purpose. Swiss military personnel on active service do not have to pay Postage for sending mail. However, items have to be sent from a military post office and bear an official rubber stamp of the unit. Because all military mail had to go through, the office of the Commanding Officer or Quartermaster to obtain the official stamp, an officer thought it would be a good idea to produce adhesive stamps which would be recognised by the Swiss Post Office as exempting mail bearing them from postage.

Other countries have also produced similar stamps, but, according to Philatelic Terms Illustrated, 'Switzerland is the most prolific, with stamps appearing for every regiment, squadron and unit since the First World War period'. The first such stamp is reported to have been issued in 1915. Because of the large number of these stamps and the fact that they are, only of 'semiofficial' status, they are not listed in standard stamp catalogues, even those of Switzerland There is, however; a specialised catalogue-Die Soldatenmarken der Schweiz by Sulser which lists and prices Military stamps of the two World Wars, with details of designers and printers where known.

* The World's largest stamp mosaic An enormous stamp mosaic created by Hong Kong Post to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Post Office Trading Fund has entered the Guinness Book of Records as the largest stamp mosaic ever produced.

Measuring 25.61 square metres (275.5 square feet) and consisting of over 69,000 used stamps, the gigantic mosaic measures 6.45 metres wide and 3.97 metres high. Over 1480 Hong Kong Post staff and their families helped affix the stamps in their spare time to create the mosaic, which depicts Hong Kong's dramatic modern skyline.



The mosaic is currently on display at the General Post Office in Hong Kong and is a firm favourite with locals and tourists alike.

Extract from March 2006 GSM

* New Zealand Universal Mail

An English reader of GSM having just returned from touring New Zealand, commented on the item in, John Holman's `New Collector' relating to New Zealand's Universal Mail, stated that the article was particularly interested him.



He noted that these stamps are sold in every gilt shop, hotel, etc, where tourists visit. They depict scenes of the area or town in which they are sold - everywhere the design is different there must be several hundred different designs.

You are not permitted to post mail with these stamps in New Zealand Post red letter boxes, only Universal Mail blue boxes!

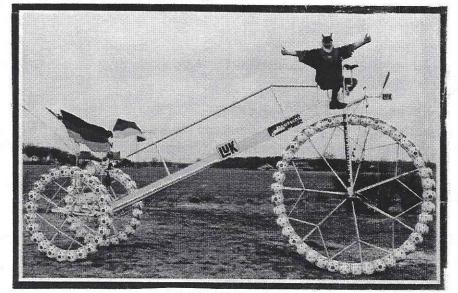
Presumably these will not be catalogued? He fears this is what we can expect in the UK when the Post Office loses it monopoly?

- **Unusual sequence** I bet none of you noticed the following: On May 4th ,at two minutes and three seconds after one o'clock in the morning, the time and date was 01:02:03 04.05.06
- * On the humourous side one of my local papers quoted the following:

Interesting year,1981: Prince Charles got married. Liverpool crowned soccer champions of Europe, Australia lost the Ashes tournament. The Pope died.

Ditto, the year 2005: Prince Charles got married. Liverpool crowned soccer champions of Europe, Australia lost the Ashes tournament. The Pope died.

Moral: The next time Charles gets married, someone warn the Pope.



LOOK NO HANDS!

Didi Senft, otherwise known as El Diablo, on his devilish invention, the world's biggest bike, made out of 100 footballs. The fiendish contraption is set to promote the 2006 World Cup to be held in Germany, El Diablo's homeland.



walter-ruett. de

Walter Rütt - website

"I would like to invite you for a visit of a website, which is dedicated to one of the most successful men in the history of cycling. He was the winner of 933 track races, world champion in 1913 and champion of the early six days races. He competed as a professional for 25 years and was a famous and rich man. Later he became poor and forgotten due to tragic circumstances. The name of this extraordinary sportsman is Walter Rütt.

On the homepage you will find interesting information and an album with very rare photo's of a world wide unique collection. English text is on the bottom of each site.

There is an easy way to help keep the memory of this athlete alive by telling a friend about the champion or putting a link to www.walter-ruett.de (No.1 in the Google ranking) on your website.

I would be very thankful for this. Regards from Germany Bernd Wagner"

In early February I received the above email from Bernd, I visited the website and recommend it, it has a mass of information and includes a photo album which is really worth the effort of turning the pages over!! In amongst the many photo's there are 2 Poster Stamps illustrated; they appear at the end of the following transcript of the first section of the site:

Welcome

Dear visitors from abroad, would you please comply with this notice: this website is a private site and not a commercial one. The translation of the English text was performed by the author supported by computer software and a dictionary. Please be lenient if you read sentences which contain mistakes concerning the orthography or those which may not be congruent with the American-English.

This website is dedicated to the memory of the cycling world champion Walter Rütt.

"Fastmen's races", so one called in the late 19th century the contests of the cycle sprinters on velodromes. In a time without traffic in the current sense the "fastmen" were actually the fastest people of the world. Best of them became professionals, were the stars of a young and modern sport and had their admirers in all social classes. Fastmen's meetings were big events and where the velodromes offered enough of space, more than 20,000 spectators came. The fastmen knew how to put on a show and when they accelerated their cycles, with powerful steps up to speeds above 60 kilometers per hour, the crowds would go absolutely nuts. If the world champion of 1897, the eccentric Willy Arend, had a match against the pet of the Frenchmen, Edmond Jacquelin, this was an event which moved the sports nation.

Completely different, but by this time from the same interest with the public hungry for sensation, were the six days races which had a little meanly with the "public festivals" from nowadays. These were real and hard perseverance tests of six full days and nights and they often took place under conditions which one would explain nowadays for unreasonably. These races took place in the winter, in the unheated halls it was hardly warmer than outside and the cyclists brought small stoves with them which they put near their bunks not "to freeze to death" during the short breaks. Near the plank bed oxygen cylinders stood to breathe at least now and again a little bit pure air. Tobacco smoke lay in such thick swaths over the racetrack that one often could not recognize the back straight.

In both disciplines specialists developed, some created the way to the top in their profession, to shine in both, was almost impossible. The protagonist of these sites has succeeded in dressing up with the title of the fastmen's world champion as well as of a champion of the six days races.

His story is the one of the meteoric ascent and success, from reputation and wealth, but it is also the one of the transitoriness of the fame and those of the poverty. It is the true story of Walter Rütt.

Herzlich Willkommen

Diese Website ist dem Andenken des Radweltmeisters Walter Rütt gewidmet Fliegerrennen", so bezeichnete man im späten 19. Jahrhundert die Wettbewerbe der Bahnradsprinter. In einer Zeit ohne Flug- und Autoverkehr im heutigen Sinne waren die "Flieger" tatsächlich die schnellsten Menschen der Welt. Die besten von ihnen wurden Berufsfahrer, waren die Stars eines jungen und modernen Sports und hatten ihre Verehrer in allen Gesellschaftsschichten. Fliegermeetings waren Großereignisse und wo die Radarenen den Platz boten, kamen mehr als 20.000 Zuschauer. Wenn die Flieger ihre, für heutige Verhältnisse ungeheuer schweren Rennmaschinen mit wuchtigen Tritten auf eine Geschwindigkeit jenseits der 60 Stundenkilometer beschleunigten, kannte die Begeisterung des Publikums keine Grenzen. Wenn der Weltmeister des Jahres 1897, der exzentrische Hannoveraner Willy Arend, ein Match gegen den Liebling der Franzosen, Edmond Jacquelin, austrug, war dies ein Ereignis, das die Sportnation bewegte.

Ganz anders geartet, aber zu jener Zeit von gleichem Interesse beim sensationshungrigen Publikum, waren die Sechstagerennen, welche wenig gemein hatten mit den "Volksfesten" von heute. Es waren echte und harte Ausdauerprüfungen über sechs volle Tage und Nächte und sie fanden oft unter Bedingungen statt, die man heutzutage für unzumutbar erklären würde. Austragungstermin war der Winter, in den ungeheizten Hallen war es kaum wärmer als draußen und die Fahrer brachten kleine Öfen mit, die sie neben ihre Kojen stellten, um während der kurzen Pausen nicht zu "erfrieren". Neben der Pritsche hatten sie einen Sauerstoffapparat stehen, um wenigstens ab und zu etwas reine Luft zu atmen. Tabakrauch lag in solch dichten Schwaden über der Rennbahn, dass man oft die Gegengerade nicht erkennen konnte.

In beiden Disziplinen bildeten sich Spezialisten heraus, einige schafften in ihrem Metier den Weg an die Spitze, in beiden zu glänzen, war fast unmöglich. Dem Protagonisten dieser Seiten ist es gelungen, sich sowohl mit dem Titel des Fliegerweltmeisters als auch dem eines Champions der Sechstagerennen zu schmücken.

Seine Geschichte ist die vom kometenhaften Aufstieg und Erfolg, von Ansehen und Reichtum, aber es ist auch die von der Vergänglichkeit des Ruhmes und die der Armut. Es ist die wahre Geschichte des Walter Rütt.

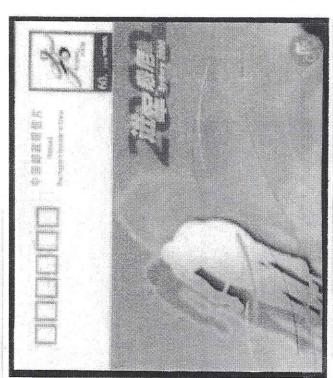


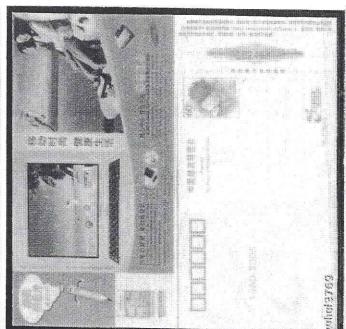




POSTAL STATIONERY - CHINA



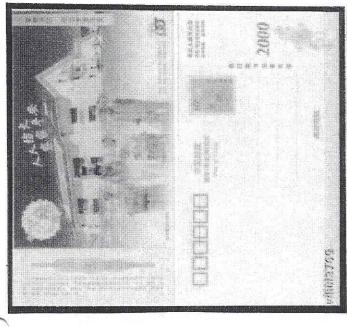




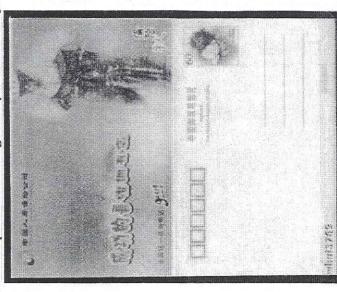
Computer World Journal postcard - computer, Bicycle





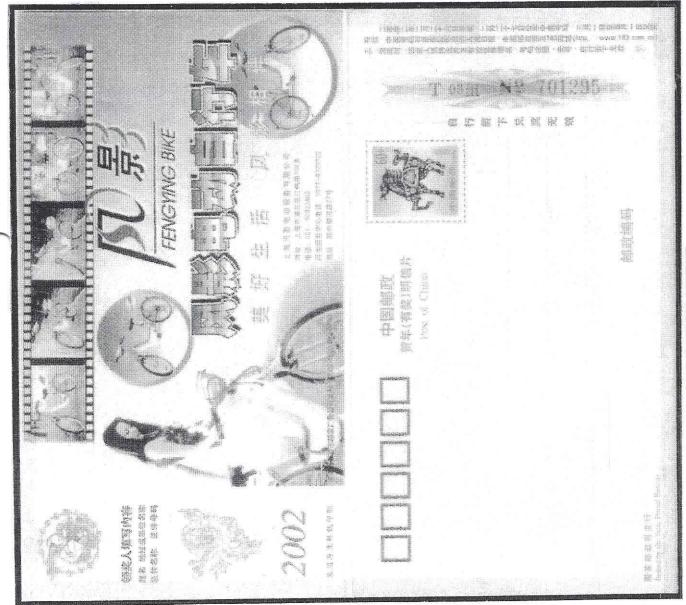


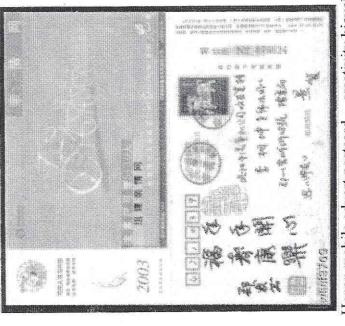
Anhui fire prevention magazine postcard - bicycle



China Life insurance Co.advert postcard -- Bicycle







Jenan mobile advert postcard -- creativity bicycle



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