

## SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES

By George Constantourakis

### ROME 1960, GAMES OF THE XVII OLYMPIAD

The Rome 1960 Olympic Games set a new standard for Olympic splendor, with the Italians as perfect hosts. The jet airplane transported more athletes than ever before. More than 5000 athletes from 84 nations competed. Television cameras beamed the competitions around the world. Olympic performances peaked. Ethiopia's *Abele Bikila* sprinted barefoot to the finish line to capture Gold in the *Marathon*. The charismatic 18 year old *Casius Clay* (e.g. *Mohammad Ali*) attracted the most attention. He won the *Light Heavyweight Boxing* Olympic Gold. The Yachting events were held at the bay of Naples. The *Dragon Class Yachting* - discontinued event - was won by *Crown Prince Constantine* of Greece. It was the first Olympic Yachting medal to be won by his country. There were 5,338 athletes (611 women, 4,727 men) from 83 Nations that participated in 150 events (17 Sports).

### TOKYO 1964, GAMES OF THE XVIII OLYMPIAD

Japan became the first Far Eastern nation to conduct the Games. The Japanese saw the Olympics as a chance to regain national esteem, which had suffered badly as a result of World War II. The only political problem was South Africa, which was excluded from the Tokyo Games, because of its apartheid policies. Journalists described the Tokyo Olympics as the "*Happy Games*". The Japanese were brilliant organizers. There were superb athletic performances. Ethiopia's *Abele Bikila* made history by his 2nd consecutive *Marathon* victory. The *Javelin Throw* event recalls the unexpected victory by *Pauli Nevala* of Finland. The *Japanese Women's Volleyball Team* won the final game over the Soviet Team, under the strict coach H. Daimatsu. This game gained an 80% audience rating on Japanese television. There were 5,751 athletes (678 women, 4,473 men) from 93 Nations that participated in 163 events (19 Sports).

### MEXICO CITY 1968, GAMES OF THE XIX OLYMPIAD

The Mexico City Games in 1968 are best known for the Black Power protests by the American runners *Tommie Smith* and *John Carlos*. The year 1968 was a highly politicized one. The Soviets had invaded Czechoslovakia. Ten days before the Games, the Mexican government brutally suppressed student riots, resulting in many deaths. The I.O.C. refused to take a stand on this. Yet it condemned Smith and Carlos for their disrespectful behavior. These were the first Summer Games to include sex testing for women. The most popular female athlete of the 1968 Games was Vera Caslavaska, the Czech gymnast. She won four gold medals and two silvers. On the male side, Al Oerter of the United States won the discus throw for the fourth time. The 1968 Games also saw the first drug disqualification, as a Swedish entrant in the modern pentathlon, Hans-Gunnar Liljenwall, tested positive...for excessive alcohol.<sup>112</sup> There were 5,516 athletes (781 women, 4,735 men) from 112 Nations that participated in 172 events (20 Sports).

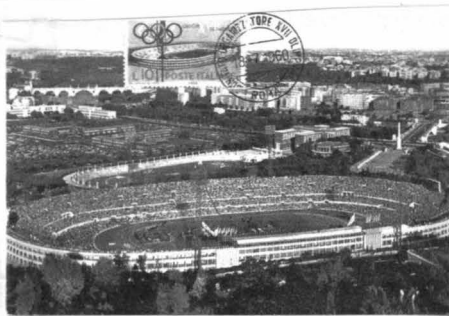
## SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES Clockwise from Left:

(Figure 1) THE OLYMPIC STADIUM SITE OF THE ROME 1960 GAMES. Issue: June 25, 1960. For: Rome 1960 Olympic Games. Cancel: July 18, 1960, Rome, special mention: 'COMITAATO ORGANIZATORE XVII OLIMPIADE'

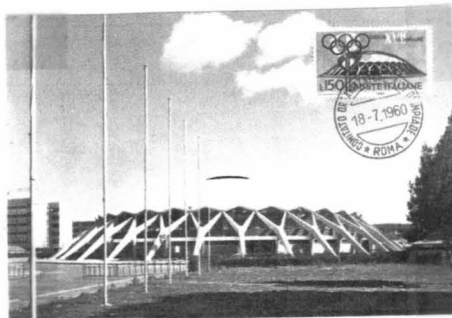
(Figure 2) LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT BOXING - CASIUS CLAY (Mohammad Ali) OLYMPIC CHAMPION, ROME 1960. The charismatic 18 year old *Casius Clay* (e.g. *Mohammad Ali*) attracted the most attention. He won the *Light Heavyweight Boxing* Olympic Gold. Issue: May 23, 1960. For: Rome 1960 Olympic Games. Cancel: 25. VI to 10. VII. 1960, San Marino, special mention and illustration of *Olympic Torch*.

(Figure 3) THE SPORTS LITTLE PALACE, ONE OF THE VENUES OF THE ROME 1960 GAMES. Issue: June 25, 1960. For: Rome 1960 Olympic Games. Cancel: July 18, 1960, Rome, special mention: 'COMITAATO ORGANIZATORE XVII OLIMPIADE'

(Figure 4) YACHTING, DRAGON CLASS - CROWN PRINCE CONSTANTINE OLYMPIC CHAMPION, ROME 1960. *Crown Prince Constantine* of Greece won the *Dragon Class, Yachting* (discontinued event) held at the bay of Naples. It was the first Olympic Yachting medal to be won by his country. Issue: Jan. 18, 1961. For: Victory of Prince Constantine, Rome 1960. Cancel: First Day, Athens, regular



S. A. R. LE DUAPOQUE  
CONSTANTIN DE GREC



**SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES** Clockwise from Left:

(Figure 5) **JAVELIN THROW - PAULI NEVALA** OLYMPIC CHAMPION, TOKYO 1964. The *Javelin Throw* event recalls the victory by *Pauli Nevala* of Finland. Issue: Oct. 11, 1961. For: Tokyo 1964 Olympic Games. Cancel: Apr. 14, 1962, Tokyo, special illustr.

(Figure 6) **WOMEN'S VOLLETBALL - JAPANESE TEAM** OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS, TOKYO 1964. The *Japanese Team* won the final game over the Soviet Team, under the strict coach H. Daimatsu. This game gained an 80% audience rating on Japanese television. Issue: July 19, 1966. For: Sports and the Environment. Cancel: First Day, New York, special illustr. & mention: 'SPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT'

(Figure 7) **MAYAN BALL PLAYER & THE SCORE OF THE GAME**, MEXICO 1968 (Engraved Disk, Mayan culture c.500 AD). Issue: Dec. 17, 1965. For: Mexico 1968 Olympic Games. Cancel: First Day, Mexico, special mention: 'XIX JUEGOS OLIMPICOS MEXICO 1968'.

(Figure 8) **MAYAN PELOTA COURT (from Copan, Honduras 400-850AD), MEXICO'S MAYAN SPORTS HERITAGE**, MEXICO 1968. In Mayan Pelota Ball Game, the padded players were forbidden to use their hands. They had to strike a hard rubber ball against masonry, using their hips. If the ball dropped on the paved floor, it is "dead" and so too maybe the team at fault. The privileged Mayan nobles cheered the action from atop the walls, while ordinary Mayan spectators lined end zones and the platforms. Issue: Nov. 27, 1964. For: Tokyo 1964 Games. Cancel: Dec. 22, 1979, Tegucigalpa, regular.



## SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES (continued)

### MUNICH 1972, GAMES OF THE XX OLYMPIAD

The West Germans staged the biggest Olympics yet in 1972 in Munich hoping to erase embarrassing memories of the Nazi Games of 1936. However, on Sept. 5, eight Palestinian terrorists invaded the quarters of the Israeli team in the Olympic village, murdering two and taking nine hostage. The terrorists made their way to the airport where all the Israeli captives and three of the terrorists were killed, during a failed rescue attempt. The Games were suspended for 34 hours and a memorial service was held in the stadium.

The star of the Munich 1972 Games was *Mark Spitz* of USA who captured an incredible 7 Gold medals in the Swimming events, e.g. *100m* and *200m Freestyle*, *100m* and *200m Butterfly*, *4x100m* and *4x200m Freestyle Relay*, and *4x100m Medley Relay*. This was the most that had ever been won by any athlete in a single Olympics. There were 7,134 athletes (1,059 women, 6,075 men) from 121 Nations that participated in 195 events (23 Sports).

### MONTREAL 1976, GAMES OF THE XXI OLYMPIAD

The Montreal Games in 1976 were the most expensive ever and were carried under high security measures. They were hit by a boycott of African nations demanding the expulsion Of New Zealand for having sent a rugby team to South Africa. Athletic performances were brilliant. Czech cyclists won the 100m team sprint. Americans "*Sugar*" *Ray Leonard* and brothers *Michael* and *Leon Spinks* won Gold medals in *Boxing*. The best male athlete was *Bruce Jenner* who won the Gold medal in the *Decathlon*.

The star of Montreal 1976 Games was the 14 year old Romanian gymnast *Nadia Comaneci*, who with flawless grace performed the never before imagined, winning 7 scores of perfect 10's and 3 Gold medals in *Gymnastics*. There were 6,084 athletes (1,260 women, 4,824 men) from 92 Nations that participated in 198 events (21 Sports). Back in 1976, I was already living in Montreal. I remember the festive atmosphere that reigned in our city. I was also able to go to the Olympic Stadium during these Games.

### MOSCOW, GAMES OF THE XXII OLYMPIAD

Although eighty countries participated in the Moscow Games in 1980, the United States and a dozen of other nations (e.g. Japan, West Germany) boycotted the Games in protest over the USSR's invasion of Afghanistan. This was the lowest number of participation since 1956.

Aleksandr Dityatin earned medals in every men's gymnastics event to become the only athlete ever to win eight medals in one Olympics. Super-heavyweight Teófilo Stevenson became the first boxer to win the same division three times. Gerd Wessig became the first male high jumper to break the world record at the Olympics and swimmer Vladimir Salnikov broke the 15-minute barrier for the 1,500m.

## SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES Clockwise from Left:

(Figure 9) BAVARIA STATUE & COLONNADE, SITE OF THE MUNICH 1972 GAMES.

Issue: June 5, 1970. For: Munich 1972 Olympic Games. Cancel: First Day, Munich, special illustration & mention: 'OLIMPIAMARKEN 1970.'

(Figure 10) RADIO TOWER & SKATING HALL, SITE OF THE MUNICH 1972 GAMES.

Issue: July 5, 1972. For: Munich 1972 Olympic Games. Cancel: First Day, Munich, special illustration & mention: 'OLIMPIAMARKEN BLOCK 1972.'

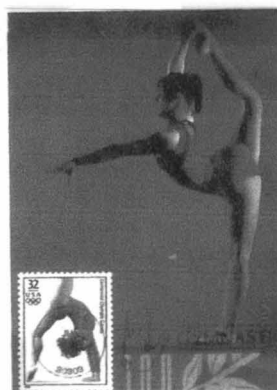
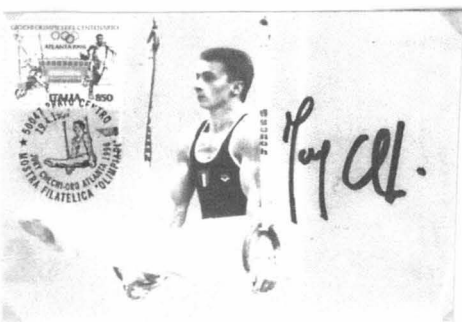
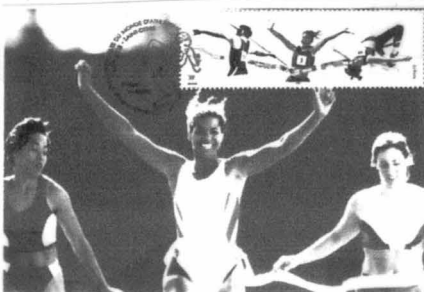
(Figure 11) OPENING OF 20th OLYMPIC GAMES, MUNICH 1972 (recalls) ISRAELI DELEGATION PARADING, OLYMPIC TRAGEDY.

On Sept. 5, Palestinian terrorists invaded the quarters of the Israeli team in the Olympic village, murdering two and taking nine hostage. The terrorists made their way to the airport where all the Israeli captives and three of the terrorists were killed, during a failed rescue attempt. The Games were suspended for 34 hours and a memorial service was held in the stadium.

Issue: June 21, 1994. For: Centenary of Internal. Olympic Committee. Cancel: First Day, Tel Aviv-Yafo, special illustration: *Olympic Rings & Flag* and mention: *INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE CENTENNIAL*

(Figure 12) SWIMMING - MARK SPITZ OLYMPIC TRIUMPH, MUNICH 1972 GAMES

The star of the Munich 1972 Games was *Mark Spitz* of USA who captured 7 Gold medals in the Swimming events, e.g. *100m* and *200m Freestyle*, *100m* and *200m Butterfly*, *4x100m* and *4x200m Freestyle Relay*, and *4x100m Medley Relay*; the most that had ever been won by any athlete in a single Olympics. Issue: July 16, 1992. For: Barcelona 1992 Games. Cancel: First Day, Barcelona, special illustration & mention



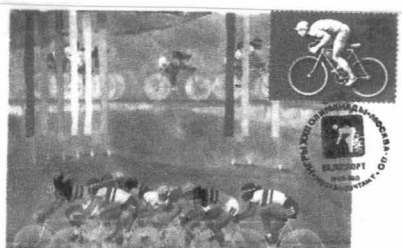
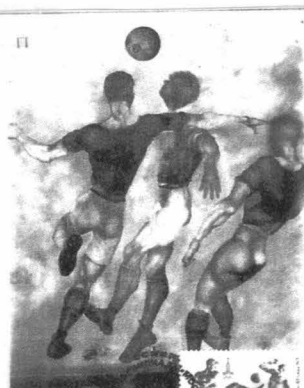
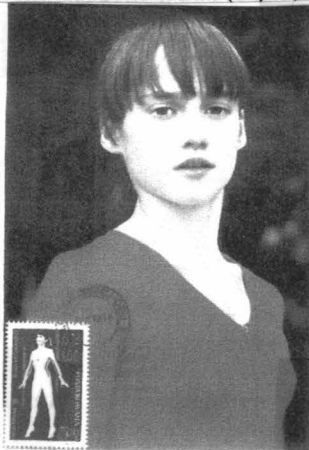
**SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES** Clockwise from Left:

(Figure 13) 5000m, 10 000m RACE - *LASSE VIREN*, OLYMPIC CHAMPION, MONTREAL 1976.. Issue: Feb. 12, 1996. For: Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games. Cancel: First Day, San Marino, special illustration.

(Figure 14) GYMNASTICS - *NADIA COMANECI*, OLYMPIC LEGEND, MONTREAL 1976. The 14 year old Romanian gymnast was the star of Montreal 1976 Games. She was the first gymnast to be awarded the perfect score of 10.0 on the *uneven parallel bars*. She won 3 Gold medals in *Gymnastics*. Issue: Oct. 20, 1976. For: Romanian Olympic medalists in Montreal '76. Cancel: Oct. 21, 1976, Gheorghiu-Dej, regular

(Figure 15) CYCLING, 4000m TEAM PURSUIT (*recalls*) - *SOVIET TEAM*, OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS, MOSCOW 1980 This Card recalls the victory of the Soviet team. Issue: Sept. 22, 1977. For: Moscow 1980 Olympics. Cancel: July 19, 1980, Moscow, special mention: "VELOSPORT-XXII OLYMPIAD-MOSCVA", concord. illustrat.(triple).

(Figure 16) FOOTBALL (SOCCER) (*recalls*) - *CZECHOSLOVAKIA TEAM*, OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS, MOSCOW 1980. Seven of the 16 qualifying teams withdrew as part of the anti-Soviet boycott and were replaced by lesser teams. Issue: June 20, 1979. For: Moscow 1980 Olympics. Cancel: July 19, 1980 (Opening Day), Moscow, special mention: 'FOOTBALL - XXII OLYMPIAD-MOSCVA', concordant illustrat. (triple)





## SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES (continued)

### MOSCOW, GAMES OF THE XXII OLYMPIAD (continued)

Runners Steve Ovett and Sebastian Coe split the 800 and 1,50 m. Steve Ovett (GBR-athletics) and Sebastian Coe (GBR) faced each other in two memorable duels. In the 800m, Ovett won the gold medal ahead of his compatriot. Six days later, a determined Coe redeemed himself in the 1,500m. He took the gold, while Ovett managed only a bronze. There were 5,179 athletes (1,115 women, 4,064 men) that participated in 203 events (21 Sports).

### LOS ANGELES 1984, GAMES OF THE XXIII OLYMPIAD

The Los Angeles Games in 1984 were hit by a revenge boycott by the USSR. The star of the Los Angeles 1984 Games was *Carl Lewis*, the US Track and Field phenomenon, who won 4 Gold medals (matching Jesse Owens 4-gold sweep). *Carl Lewis* won in the *100m* and *200m Runs*, the *Long Jump* and *400m Relay*. In the 100m he finished a full eight feet ahead of his nearest rival. *Greg Louganis* performed brilliantly becoming the first male diver to win both the *Springboard* and *Platform Diving* events. Between 1982 and 1987, he won 19 International Springboard competitions. At the Seoul 1988 Games, after gashing his head at the diving board, he went on to win again the *Springboard* and *Platform* titles.

At the Los Angeles Games, there were 6,829 athletes (1,566 women, 5,263 men) from 140 Nations that participated in 221 events (23 Sports). These were the first Games to be staged without government financing and they were successful.

### SEOUL 1988, GAMES OF THE XXIV OLYMPIAD

The Seoul Games in 1988 were the first in 12 years in which both the Americans and the Soviets competed but North Korea, Cuba, Albania and Ethiopia boycotted them. The competitions were marred by ugly disputes and drug controversies. In the 100m Canada's *Ben Johnson* flashed past his rival *Carl Lewis*. However, three days later, Johnson was forced to forfeit his medal after testing positive for steroids. There were 8,391 athletes (2,194 women, 6,197 men) from 159 Nations that participated in 237 events (25 Sports). The Seoul Games were efficiently staged and the South Koreans received high marks for their hospitality.

### BARCELONA 1992, GAMES OF THE XXV OLYMPIAD

The Barcelona Games in 1992 run without any boycotts or Cold War skirmishes. A record 12 00 athletes from 172 nations took part and South Africa was welcomed back. Twelve former Soviet Republics paraded together under separate flags and the rubric Unified Team. The Unified Team won 45 Olympic Golds.

Men's basketball was open to all professionals, and the US sent a "*Dream Team*" that included *Magic Johnson*, *Michael Jordan* and *Larry Bird*. Gymnast *Vitaly Scherbo* won six gold medals, including a record four in one day. *Derartu Tulu* of Ethiopia won the 10,000m run to become the first female black African Olympic champion. There were 9,356 athletes (2,704 women, 6,652 men) from 169 Nations that participated in 257 events (28 Sports).

**SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES** Clockwise from Left:

(Figure 17) **SPRINGBOARD DIVING, PLATFORM DIVING (recalls) - GREG**

**LOUGANIS**, OLYMPIC LEGEND, LOS ANGELES 1984. At the 1984 Los Angeles Games he became the first male diver to win both the *Springboard* and *Platform Diving* events. Between 1982 and 1987, he won 19 International Springboard competitions. At the Seoul 1988 Games, after gashing his head at the diving board, he went on to win again the *Springboard* and *Platform* titles. Issue: May 4, 1984.

For: Los Angeles 1984 Olympic Games. Cancel: First Day, Los Angeles, regular

(Figure 18) **RUNNING, RELAY, LONG JUMP - CARL LEWIS**, OLYMPIC LEGEND,

LOS ANGELES 1984. The star of the Los Angeles 1984 Games was *Carl Lewis*, the US Track and Field phenomenon, who won 4 Gold medals. *Carl Lewis* won in the *100m* and *200m Runs*, the *Long Jump* and *400m Relay*. Issue: April 15, 2000. For:

20th Century-Sports. Cancel: F.D., Paris, special illustr. & mention: 'No 1 SPORT'

(Figure 19) **RUNNING of DECATHLON (recalls) - DALEY THOMPSON**, OLYMPIC

CHAMPION, LOS ANGELES 1984. The half-Scottish, half-Nigerian *Francis "Daley" Thompson* of Great Britain captured his 2nd consecutive gold in the *Decathlon*, that he first won in 1980 in Moscow. Issue: April 3, 1992. For: Barcelona 1992 Olympic Games. Cancel: First Day, Athens, special illustration & mention.

(Figure 20) **DISCUS of the DECATHLON (recalls) - DALEY THOMPSON**, OLYMPIC

CHAMPION, LOS ANGELES 1984. Issue: July 27, 1984. For: Los Angeles 1984 Olympic Games. Cancel: First Day, Madrid, regular.





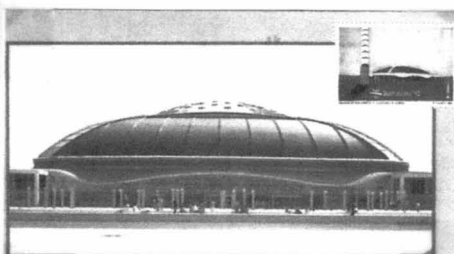
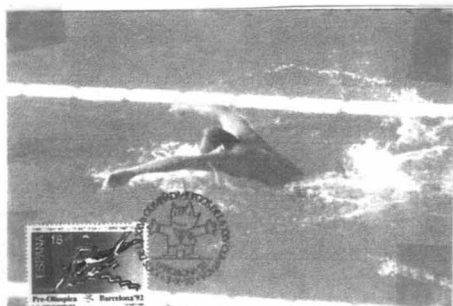
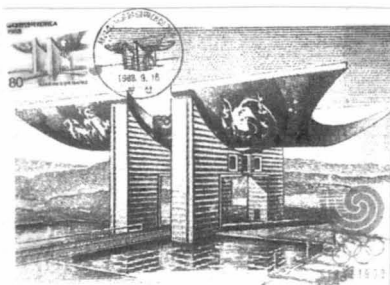
## SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES Clockwise from Left:

(Figure 21) **SYMBOLIC STRUCTURE, OLYMPIC TEMPLE**, SEOUL 1988 GAMES. The Seoul 1988 Games were the first in 12 years in which both the Americans and the Soviets competed but North Korea boycotted them. They were efficiently staged and the South Koreans received high marks for their hospitality. Issue: Sept. 16, 1988. For: Opening of the Seoul 1988 Olympic Games. Cancel: First Day, Seoul, special mention concordant illustr.

(Figure 22) **OLYMPIC TORCH** FROM OLYMPIA EN ROUTE TO SEOUL, SEOUL 1988. The *Lighting of the Olympic Flame* is carried out from ancient Olympia, symbolizing the historical continuance of the Games. The *Flame* is lit on a *Torch* from the rays of the sun using a metallic reflector. Then the *Torch of the Olympic Flame* is relayed by thousands of athletes, first to Athens and then to the city hosting the Games, e.g. Seoul. Issue: May 6, 1988. For: Seoul 1988 Olympic Games. Cancel: Aug. 23, 1988, Olympia, special illustr. & mention: *LIGHTING OF OLYMPIC FLAME*

(Figure 23) **ST. JORDI SPORTS PALACE**, SITE OF THE BARCELONA 1992 GAMES. The Barcelona 1992 Games run without any boycotts or Cold War skirmishes. A record 12 00 athletes from 172 nations took part and South Africa was welcomed back. Issue: July 25, 1992 For: Barcelona 1992 Olympic Games. Cancel: Aug. 4, 1992, Barcelona, special mention: *OLYMPHILEX '92 - DIA FILATELIA OLIMPICA*.

(Figure 24) **SWIMMING EVENTS (recalls), HUNGARIAN SWIMMERS**, OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS, BARCELONA 1992. This Card recalls the triumph of Hungarian Swimmers *Tamas Darnyi* with 2 Golds in the 200m and 400m *Individual Medley* and *Krisztina Egerszegi* with 3 Golds in the 100m and 200m *Backstroke* and 400m *Individual Medley*. Issue: Oct. 3, 1990. For: Barcelona 1992 Olympic Games. Cancel: First Day,, Barcelona, special illustr. & mention: *'JOCOS DELA XXV OLIMPIADA'*



SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES (continued)

## ATLANTA 1996, GAMES OF THE XXVI OLYMPIAD

The Atlanta Games in 1996 were given a dramatic start when the cauldron was lit by Muhammad Ali. On 27 July during a concert held in the Centennial Olympic Park, a terrorist bomb killed one person and injured a further 110 people, but the Atlanta Games are best remembered for their sporting achievements.

*Carl Lewis* became only the third person to win the same individual event four times and the fourth person to earn a ninth gold medal. *Naim Suleymanoglu* became the first weightlifter to win a third gold medal. *Michael Johnson* smashed the 200m world record to complete a 200m and 400m double. *Perec* of France at the Barcelona 1992 Olympics had won the 400m, at the Atlanta 1996 Games, she won again in the 400m becoming the first runner to win the 400m twice. Three days later, she won the 200m, becoming the second runner to win both the 400m and 200m. Another star of the Games is *Kerri Strug* who in severe pain from an injury, managed to persevere and was thus detrimental in the Gold medal win of *Team U.S.A.* In Men's Gymnastics the names that stand out are those of *Alexei Nemov* of Russia, winner in the *Individual Vault*, China's *Li Xiashuang* winner in the *Individual All-Round* and *Jury Chechi* of Italy in the Rings event. In *Swimming*, the Americans *Tom Dolan* and *Eric Namesnik* won the Gold and Silver respectively in the *Men's 400-meter Individual Medley*.

There were 10,318 athletes (3,512 women, 6,806 men) from 197 Nations that participated in 271 events (26 Sports). In the overall Medal Standings the U.S. came 1st with a total of 101; 2nd Germany with 65; 3rd Russia with 63; 4th China with 50 & 5th Australia with 41.

## SYDNEY 2000, GAMES OF THE XXVII OLYMPIAD

The Sydney Games in 2000 were the largest yet. Despite their size, they were well organised, renewing faith in the Olympic Movement. During the Opening Ceremonies the Native-Australian *Cathy Freeman* lit the Olympic Flame. *Freeman* went on to win Gold in *Athletics* in the *Women's 400m Race*.

*Ian Thorpe* of Australia, was the Gold medal winner in the *400-meter Freestyle Swimming*. *Susie O'Neil* of Australia, who was the Gold medal winner in the *Women's 200m Freestyle Swimming*. *Birgit Fischer* earned two gold medals in *Kayak* to become the first woman in any sport to win medals 20 years apart. *Judoka Ryoko Tamura* lost in the final in both Barcelona and Atlanta, but came back to win the gold medal in Sydney. *Steven Redgrave* became the first rower to win gold medals at five consecutive Olympics.

There were 10,651 athletes (4,069 women, 6,582 men) from 199 Nations that participated in 300 events (28 Sports). In the overall Medal Standings of the Sydney 2000 Games, the U.S. came 1st with a total of 97 (40 Gold); 2nd Russia with 88 (32 Gold); 3rd China with 59 (28 Gold); 4th Australia with 58 (16 Gold) and 5th Germany with 38 (13 Gold).

**SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES** Clockwise from Left:

(Figure 25) **SWIMMING 400m INDIV. MEDLEY (recalls), TOM NOLAN**, OLYMPIC CHAMPION, ATLANTA 1996. In *Swimming*, the Americans Tom Dolan and Eric Namesnik won the Gold and Silver respectively in the Men's 400-meter Individual Medley. Issue: May 2, 1996. For: Atlanta 1996 Games. Cancel: JUL20 - AUG 2, 1996, Atlanta, special illustr. and mention: 'AQUATICS STATION'

(Figure 26) **WOMEN'S 400m, 200m, MARIE-JOSE PEREC**, OLYMPIC LEGEND, ATLANTA 1996. *Perec* of France won clear victory at 400m in the 1991 World Championships. Three days later, she won the 200m, becoming the 2nd runner to win both the 400m and 200m. Issue: July 19, 2003. For: World Athletic Championships, St. Denis, France. Cancel: First Day, St. Denis, special mention; concordant illustr. (triple)

(Figure 27) **WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS (recalls), TEAM U.S.A.**, OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS, ATLANTA 1996. This Card brings to mind *Kerri Strug's* courageous performance, who in severe pain from an injury, managed to persevere and was thus detrimental in the Gold medal win of *Team U.S.A.* Her heroic effort was one of the most memorable moments of the Games. Issue: May 2, 1996. For: Atlanta 1996 Games. Cancel: JUL20 - AUG 2, 1996, Atlanta, special illustr. and mention: 'GYMNASTICS STATION'

(Figure 28) **ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS-RINGS, JURY CHECHI**, OLYMPIC CHAMPION, ATLANTA 1996. *Jury Chechi* of Italy won the Gold medal in the Rings event. Other names that stand out are those of *Alexei Nemov* of Russia, winner in the *Individual Vault* and China's *Li Xiashuang* winner in the *Individual All-Round*. Issue: July 1, 1996. For: Centenary of Olympic Games. Cancel: Apr. 19, 1997, Prato, special mention: 'JURY CHECHI - ORO ATLANTA 1996', concordant illustr. (triple).



Spiele  
der XX.  
Olympiade  
München  
1972



Games  
of the XXth  
Olympiad  
Munich  
1972



Jeux  
de la XXe  
Olympiade  
Munich  
1972



Juegos  
de la XX  
Olympiada  
Munich  
1972



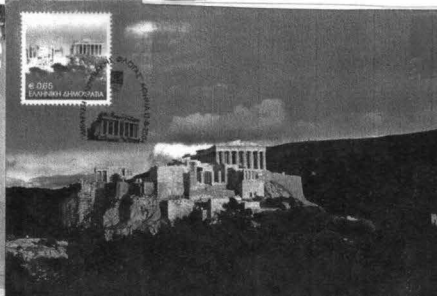
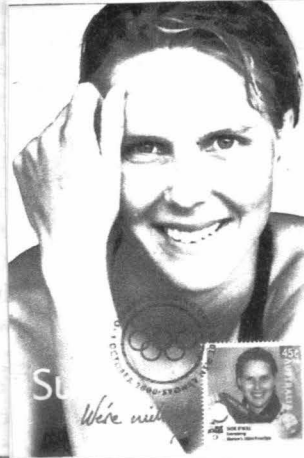
**SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES** Clockwise from Left:

(Figure 29) SWIMMING, 400m FREESTYLE, **IAN THORPE**, OLYMPIC CHAMPION, SYDNEY 2000. This Card depicts Ian Thorpe of Australia, who was the Gold medal winner in the 400-meter Freestyle Swimming. Issue: Oct. 1, 2000. For: Australian Gold Medalists at Sydney 2000 Games. Cancel: First Day, Sydney, special illustr. *Olympic Rings* and mention: 'OLYMPICS CLOSING DAY'

(Figure 30) SWIMMING, WOMEN'S 200m FREESTYLE, **SUSIE O'NEILL**, OLYMPIC CHAMPION, SYDNEY 2000. This Card depicts, Susie O'Neil of Australia, who was the Gold medal winner in the Women's 200m Freestyle Swimming. Issue: Oct. 1, 2000. For: Australian Gold Medalists at Sydney 2000 Games. Cancel: First Day, Sydney, special illustr. *Olympic Rings* and mention: 'OLYMPICS CLOSING DAY'

(Figure 31) THE ACROPOLIS HILL, SITE OF THE ATHENS 2004 GAMES. Issue: Mar. 18, 2003. For: Personal Stamp Issue. Cancel: Aug. 12, 2004, Athens, special mention: 'OLYMPIC FLAME RUN -ATHENS', concordant illustration (triple).

(Figure 32) WOMEN'S WATER POLO, GREEK TEAM, SILVER MEDAL WINNERS, ATHENS 2004. Women's Water Polo first appeared at the Sydney 2000 Games. This is one of the most demanding games. Prohibited from touching the bottom or side of the pool, water polo players swim up to 5 kilometres in a game. They require the technique and endurance of a champion swimmer, plus a football player's finesse in passing, dribbling and shooting for goal and a rugby player's strength to battle for the ball. Issue: Aug. 27, 2004. For: Greek Olympic Champions. Cancel: Aug. 30, 2004, Ancient Olympia, special illustration & mention: 'GREEK OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS'.



## SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES (continued)

### ATHENS 2004, GAMES OF THE XXVIII OLYMPIAD

After years of anxiety over delays, state-of-the-art sporting venues were ready, as was the transportation infrastructure with a new airport, new metro (subway) etc. the Olympic Games returned to its birthplace in Athens on August 13 in a lavish, theatrical Opening Ceremony, which featured a journey through Greek history. Hundreds of drummers marched into Olympic Stadium, around a lake of water in the infield which was ignited by an arrow of fire that revealed a flaming, five-ring Olympic symbol. After a series of extravagant fireworks, the 75,000 spectators and the 4.5 billion people around the world watching it on television were taken on a dramatic trip through time as Greece's art, culture and mythology were highlighted by state-of-the-art sound and lighting. Giant replicas of statues from Greek history floated above the water and broke apart to reveal other famous sculptures. Then, the parade of nations entered the stadium and teams took their places on the infield. There were a record 202 competing nations (including Afghanistan, Iraq, East Timor and Kiribati). There were 10,500 athletes that participated in 301 events (28 Sports).

The Olympic flame, lit in ancient Olympia on March 25, covered more than 48,000 miles on five continents. The objective of the ATHENS 2004 Torch Relay was to give to the Olympic flame the possibility to light the universal values of Olympism and to touch people's hearts. On 13 August, the Flame reached its final destination, the Athens Olympic Stadium for the Opening Ceremony.

The star of the Games was the American swimmer *Michael Phelps* who won six golds and two bronzes. It was a phenomenal effort from the 19-year-old athlete from Baltimore. Had Phelps not been in Athens, the man being talked about could well have been another swimmer, *Aaron Peirsol*. He claimed three golds, winning both the 100m and 200m backstroke as well as helping the United States to victory in the 4x100m medley relay. Away from the pool and the track, the focus was on the US men's basketball 'Dream Team'. They suffered a shock defeat to Puerto Rico in the opening game before being humbled by eventual winners Argentina in the semi-finals. In Athens, US athletes took home 103 medals, 35 of them gold.

Australia enjoyed a great Games. The Aussies took home 49 medals, 17 of them gold, including two for track sprinter Ryan Bayley. Their star swimmer *Ian Thorpe* added two golds to the three he won in Sydney.

As for the host nation, the disappointment they felt over Kenteris and Thanou scandal quickly dissipated when divers Bimas and Siranidis won the country's first gold of the Games on day three. Greece went on to finish with 17 medals, 6 of them gold.

During the Closing Ceremony, the IOC President Jacques Rogge characterized the Games as "Unforgettable Games, Dream Games" and after thanking the host nation, he went to say that the Games transformed Athens with a remarkable sporting and urban legacy. Coming after Sydney and Salt Lake City, these third perfectly-staged Games of the new millennium have strengthened the IOC and the Olympic Movement. I was planning to go to Athens for the Games, but I changed my plans for fear of terrorism. I am still amazed and grateful that the whole of humanity managed to enjoy these Games in peace without and incident.