

## WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES 1924 - 2002

### THEIR HISTORY TOLD THROUGH THE USE OF MAXIMUM CARDS

By George Constantourakis

The Winter Olympic Games are about 30 years younger than the Summer Games. Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Games had no interest in adding Winter Games to the Olympic program. However, the growing cadre of skiing and skating athletes clamored for inclusion of the Winter Games and in 1924 the first Winter Olympic Games began in the small Alpine resort of Chamonix in France. The M.C. on *Figure 1*, 'Ski Jumping at Chamonix - Mt. Blanc', shows location of the first Winter Olympic Games. However, this M.C. refers to the 1937 'World Skiing Games' (one year after the 4th Winter Olympic Games at Garmisch, Germany). Nevertheless, this is a rare old M.C. and offers a glimpse of this Alpine Ski resort. *Figure 2*, simply celebrates the 60th anniversary of these 1937 games, with a beautiful pictorial cancellation, identical to the image of the 1937 french stamp (realized by the author).

At Chamonix, the Scandinavians dominated most events, as they had a long tradition in *Cross-Country Skiing*, *Ski Jumping*, and *Skating*. Clas Thunberg of Finland won 2 gold medals in the 1500m and 5000m *Speed Skating*. Thorleif Haug of Norway won 3 gold medals in the 15km, 50km *Cross-Country Skiing*, and in the *Combined Cross-Country and Jumping*. Gillis Grafstrom of Sweden (see *Figure 3*) won a gold medal in *Figure Skating*. Actually his 2nd Olympic Gold; the first was in 1920 as some Winter Sports were part of the Summer Games since 1908. Charles Jewtraw, the sole U.S. athlete to win a gold (the first of the Games) in the 500m *Speed Skating*. In *Ice Hockey*, Canada won the gold. Actually the second gold, as *Ice Hockey* was part of the 1920 Summer Olympics. *Hockey* has always been Canada's national sport.

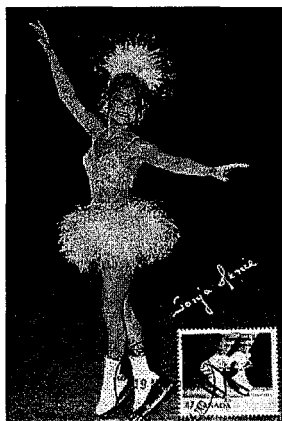
The athlete that stole the limelight at Chamonix was an 11 years old Norwegian named Sonja Henie (see *Figure 4*). Henie became Norway's national *Figure Skater* just weeks prior to the Chamonix Games. Although Henie did not do well at Chamonix, she gained experience that helped her prepare for one of the most successful *Figure Skating* careers. Henie went on to win gold medals in 1928 in St. Moritz, in 1932 in Lake Placid, and in 1936 in Garmisch, Germany.

In 1928 at St. Moritz, Switzerland (see *Figure 5*) warm weather and heavy rain forced the cancellation of some speed skating and bobsled events. The Norwegians were the overall winners with 7 gold medals, that is in *Figure Skating* with Sonja Henie (see *Figure 4*); in the 15km *Cross-country Skiing* with Johan Grottnumsbraten (see *Figure 6*); in the *Combined Cross-country Skiing*; in the *Ski Jumping* (Large Hill); in the *Nordic Combined Individual*; in the 500m and 5000m *Speed Skating*. Gillis Grafstrom of Sweden (see *Figure 3*) won once again gold in the *Men's Figure Skating*. The U.S. won a gold in the 5-man *Bobsledding* run. Canada easily won in *Ice Hockey* again.

In 1932 the Winter Games were held at Lake Placid, New York in the Adirondack Mts (see *Figure 7*). The warm weather was again a problem. Snow had to be trucked down from Canada. Only 17 nations participated compared to 25 in

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Clockwise from Left: (Figure 1) SKI JUMPING. Issue: Jan. 18, 1937. For: Intl. Ski Meeting at Chamonix - Mont Blanc. Cancel: Feb. 11, 1937, special mention: 'JEUX MONDIAUX SKI - F.I.S. FEVRIER 1937 - CHAMONIX - MONT BLANC'. (Figure 2) SKI JUMPING. Issue: Dec. 22, 1990. For: 1992 Winter Olympics in Albertville. Cancel: Feb. 24, 1997, Chamonix, special mention: "60E ANNIVERSAIRE 1937 -1997", concordant illustration (triple). (Figure 3) GILLIS GRAFSTROM, SWEDEN (FIGURE SKATING), Gold in 1924, 1928, Silver in 1932. Issue: Mar. 19, 2001. For: World Figure Skating Championships, Vancouver B.C. Cancel: First Day, regular Montreal, . (Figure 4) SONJA HENIE, NORWAY (FIGURE SKATING), Gold in 1928, 1932, 1936. Issue: Mar. 19, 2001. For: World Figure Skating Championships, Vancouver B.C. Cancel: First Day, regular, Montreal.



St. Moritz, due to the distance from Europe, but the high number of spectators of 78,000 made up for the fewer number of athletes. The U.S. dominated the *Bobsled* runs with 2 golds in the 4-man and 2-man *Bobsled*. The U.S. also dominated the *Speed Skating* events due to the imposition of North American rules, winning 4 golds in the 500m, 1500m, 5000m, and 10000m. Canada won again gold in *Hockey*. The Scandinavians dominated in the Skiing competitions with Birger Ruud of Norway winning in the *Ski Jumping* (see Figure 8); with Johan Grottnumsbraten (see Figure 6) in the *Nordic Combined Indiv.*; and Sonja Henie in *Figure Skating*.

In 1936 the Winter Games were held at twin Bavarian villages of Garmisch and Partenkirchen in Germany, which was under the Nazis. Hitler opened the Games. Goebbels and Goring were also present. There were 28 countries and about half a million spectators. *Alpine* (downhill) *Skiing* was introduced for the first time. The best athlete was Ivar Ballangrund of Norway with 3 golds in the 500m, 5000m, and 10000m *Speed Skating*. Sonja Henie won in *Figure Skating*. In *Ice Hockey* Britain defeated Canada. However, Britain's players were simply British born Canadians. Germany's *Ice Hockey* team had a Jewish player Rudi Ball, recruited back from France, where he had sought refuge. Birger Ruud (see Figure 8) of Norway won again in the *Ski Jumping*. Later, during the WWII Ruud was imprisoned (with his brothers) by the Nazis for refusing to collaborate with them.

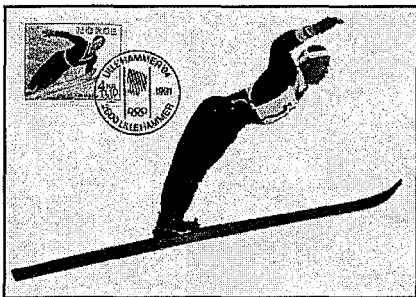
In 1948 at St. Moritz (see Figure 5), the Winter Games resumed after a 12-year interval due to the WWII. There were teams from 28 nations. However, the teams from defeated Germany & Japan were absent. There was a lot of squabbling. During the *Hockey* game between Canada and Sweden a fist-fight broke out. The U.S. bobsled teams claimed that their equipment had been tampered. On a positive note, *Alpine Skiing* events drew twice as many competitors as *Nordic* (*Cross - Country*) events. The U.S. captured a gold in the *Women's Slalom* with Gretchen Fraser, and another gold in *Men's Figure Skating* with Dick Button (only 18-years of age). Canada won a gold in *Women's Figure Skating* with Barbara Ann Scott.

In 1952 the Winter Games were held in Oslo (see Figure 9, the *Ski Jumping* site in Oslo). The U.S. won 4 gold with the 19-year old Andrea Mead Lawrence of Vermont winning 2 gold in the *Women's Slalom* and *Giant Slalom*, and Dick Button his 2nd gold in *Figure Skating*. Canada won again a gold in *Hockey*. Norway won 8 gold medals, with Hjalmar Andersen winning 3 golds in the 1500m, 5000m, and 10000m *Speed Skating*; with Stein Eriksen (Figure 10) in *Giant Slalom*; with Arnfinn Bergmann (Figure 11) in *Ski Jumping* (Large Hill); with Simon Slattvik (Figure 13) winning 2 golds in the *Combined Cross-Country & Jumping* and in *Nordic Combined, Individual*; and with Hallgeir Brenden (Figure 14) in the 15km *Cross-Country Skiing*. The Germans won 2 golds in *Bobsledding*, due to their overweight athletes. After these games officials established stricter weight limits. Norway's Stein Eriksen came to the U.S. in 1954 as a ski instructor, where he became known for his debonair style on and off the slopes.

In 1956 the Winter Games were held at Cortina d'Ampezzo (see Figures 15 & 16) in the Italian Alps. The games were for the first time televised to a world-wide audience. Austria's Toni Sailer dominated the *Alpine Skiing* events winning 3 golds in *Men's Downhill*, *Slalom*, and *Giant Slalom*. The U.S. won 2

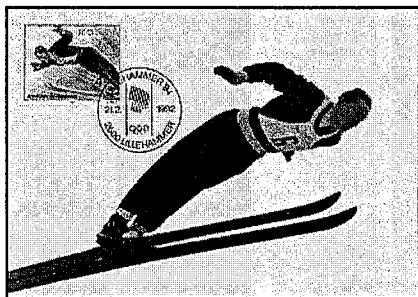
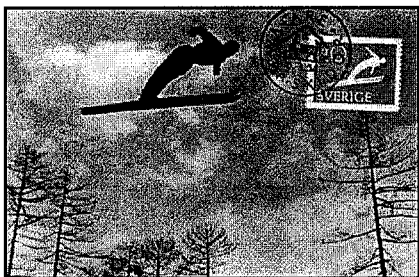
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Clockwise from Left: (Figure 5) ST. MORITZ REGION (SILS LAKE) UPPER ENGADIN. Issue: June 14, 1954. For: Pro Patria series. Cancel: First Day, Sils. Card: A. Steiner, St. Moritz. (Figure 6) JOHN GROTTUMSBRATTEN, NORWAY (CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING), Golds in 1928, and 1932. Issue: Oct. 11, 1991. For: Norwegian Gold Medal winners in Winter Olympics. Cancel: First Day, Lillehammer, special mention: 'LILLEHAMMER '94'. (Figure 7) ALPINE SKIING (on stamp), SKI JUMPING (on card). Issue: Jan. 25, 1932 For: Olympic Winter Games, Lake Placid NY, Feb. 4-13, 1932. Cancel: Feb. 10, 1932, Lake Placid NY. (Figure 8) BIRGER RUUD, NORWAY (SKI JUMPING), Golds in 1932, and 1936. Issue: Oct. 11, 1991. For: Norwegian Gold Medal winners in Winter Olympics. Cancel: First Day, Lillehammer, special mention: 'LILLEHAMMER '94'.



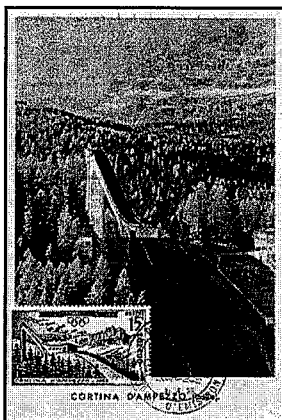
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Clockwise from Left: (Figure 9) SKI JUMP (on card), SKIIS (on stamp). Issue: Feb. 16, 1982. For: World Skiing Championship, Oslo. Cancel: Apr. 28 to May 2, 1982, Essen, special illustr. (Figure 10) STEIN ERIKSEN, NORWAY (GIANT SLALOM), Gold in 1952. Issue: Feb. 21, 1992. For: Norwegian Gold Medal winners in Winter Olympics. Cancel: First Day, Lillehammer, special mention: 'LILLEHAMMER '94'. (Figure 11) ARNFINN BERGMANN, NORWAY (SKI JUMPING), Gold in 1952. Issue: Feb. 21, 1992. For: Norwegian Gold Medal winners in Winter Olympics. Cancel: First Day, Lillehammer, special mention: 'LILLEHAMMER '94'. (Figure 12) SKI JUMPING. Issue: May 27, 1953. For: 50th Anniv. of Swedish Athletic Assoc.. Cancel: Mar. 6, 1954, VMPASKIDOR - ARE, Sweden, special illustration.



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Clockwise from Left: (Figure 13) SIMON SLATTVIK, NORWAY (COMBINED CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING & JUMPING), Gold in 1952. Issue: Feb. 21, 1992. For: Norwegian Gold Medal winners in Winter Olympics. Cancel: First Day, Lillehammer, special mention: 'LILLEHAMMER '94'. (Figure 14) HALLGEIR BRENDEN, NORWAY (CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING), Gold in 1952 and 1956. Issue: Feb. 21, 1992. For: Norwegian Gold Medal winners in Winter Olympics. Cancel: First Day, Lillehammer, special mention: 'LILLEHAMMER '94'. (Figure 15) SKI JUMP, CORTINA D' AMPEZZO. Issue: Jan. 26, 1956 For: VII Winter Olympic Games, Cortina d' Ampezzo. Cancel: Feb. 2, 1956, Cortina, special mention: 'VII GIOCHI OLIMPICI INVERNALI', special illustr. Dolomite Mts & Olympic rings. (Figure 16) SKI JUMP, CORTINA D' AMPEZZO. Issue: Apr. 3, 1956 For: Monaco's participation in the 1956 Winter Olympic Games. Cancel: First Day, Monaco.



golds in *Men's and Women's Figure Skating* with Hayes Jenkins and Tenley Albright. The Soviet Union, competing for the first time, won most medals.

In 1960 the Winter Games were held at Squaw Valley, California (see *Figure 17*) a site in the Sierra Nevada Mountains near Reno, Nevada. There were no facilities and everything had to be built from scratch. Bobsled runs were not built due to their high cost of constructing them. The games run smoothly, with athletes of West and East Germany competing together, a year before the Berlin Wall went up. The Germans won 5 gold of which 3 gold in *Ski Jumping* (see *Figure 18*). At the victory ceremonies they played Beethoven's Ninth Symphony instead of their respective national anthems. Scandinavians dominated *Nordic Skiing*, and also did well in *Speed Skating*. Knut Johannesen (see *Figure 19*) of Norway won gold in the 10000m event. The U.S. won again 2 golds in *Men's and Women's Figure Skating* with David Jenkins (brother of Hayes) and Carol Heiss (who married Hayes Jenkins, the 1956 winner). The U.S. also won in *Ice Hockey*, which was the biggest surprise of the games. Canada's Ann Heggveit won in the Slalom event.

In 1964 the Winter Games were held in Innsbruck, Austria (see *Figure 20*, a Slalom skier wearing a sweater with the INNSBRUCK 1964 logo). A week before the ceremonies the slopes were bare of snow. The Austrians had to use 3000 soldiers to haul 40,000 cubic meters of snow to the ski runs and 20,000 bricks of ice to the luge and bobsled runs from Alpine peaks. The Soviets dominated the Games with Lydia Skoblikova winning 4 gold in *Speed Skating*, and Claudia Boxarskikh 3 golds in *Nordic Skiing*. The Soviets reclaimed the gold in *Hockey*. However, the unofficial winner of the Innsbruck Games was the Italian Eugenio Monti, who having just completed his bobsled run, pulled a bolt out of his own bobsled to give to the British who had sheared a bolt on their sled. The British were able to complete and win the gold.

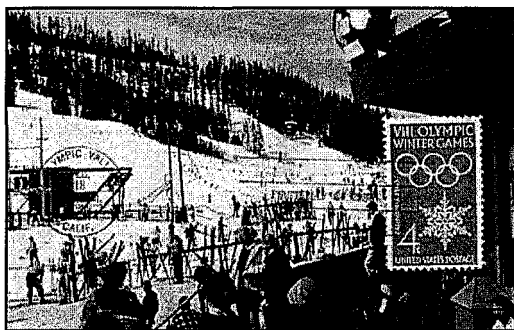
In 1968 at the Grenoble, France Winter Games (see *Figures 21 to 25*) Monti finally won his own gold medal in the 2-man Bobsled event. The best athlete of the games was the French skier Jean-Claude Killy, who won 3 golds in the *Downhill*, *Slalom*, and *Giant Slalom* events of Alpine skiing. Nancy Greene of Canada won gold in the *Giant Slalom*, becoming the first non Scandinavian to win this event. Peggy Fleming won the only gold medal for the U.S. in *Figure Skating*. Magnar Solberg (see *Figure 26*) of Norway won the 20km *Biathlon* event. There were a number of controversies at Grenoble involving an Austrian Alpine skier and some East German women in the Luge event.

In 1972 the Winter Games were held in Sapporo, Japan. These games were also marred with controversy, as the IOC threw out Karl Schranz, an Austrian Alpine skier, for appearing in brand-name advertising. Canada boycotted the Hockey events protesting the state sponsorship of the East European teams. The Japanese won 3 golds in *Ski Jumping* events. Ard Schenk of the Netherlands won 3 golds in the 1500m, 5000m, and 10,000m *Speed Skating* events. American women won 3 golds. Anne Henning in the 500m and Dianne Holum in the 1500m *Speed Skating* event, and Barbara Cochran in the *Slalom* event.

The 1976 Winter Games were supposed to go to Denver, Colorado but voters vetoed financing for the games, thus they went to Innsbruck, Austria again.

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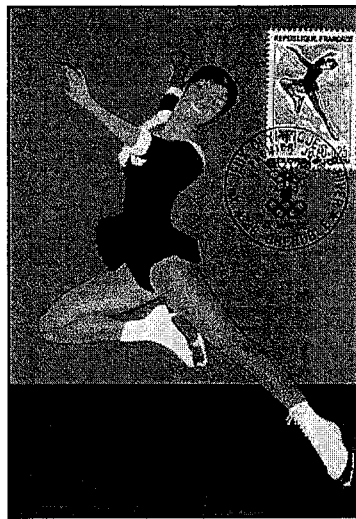
Clockwise from Left: (Figure 17) WINTER PARK SKI AREA (on card), OLYMPIC RINGS & SNOWFLAKE (on stamp). Issue: Feb 18, 1960. For: Opening of VIII Winter Olympic Games, Squaw Valley CA. Cancel: First Day, Olympic Valley CA. (Figure 18) SKI JUMPING. Issue: Jan. 27, 1960. For: 1960 Winter Olympic Games in Squaw Valley CA. Cancel: Feb. 29, 1960, Berlin, special mention: 'OLYMPISCHE SOMMER-U-WINTER SPIELE 1960'. (Figure 19) KNUT JOHANNESSEN, NORWAY (SPEED SKATING), Golds in 1960, and 1964. Issue: Oct. 11, 1991. For: Norwegian Gold Medal winners in Winter Olympics. Cancel: First Day, Lillehammer, special mention: 'LILLEHAMMER '94'. (Figure 20) ALPINE SKIING - SLALOM. Issue: Oct. 10, 1964. For: 1964 Olympic Winter Games in Innsbruck. Cancel: First Day, Madrid.





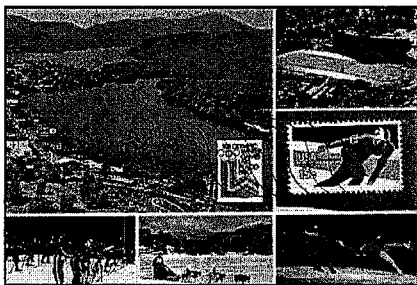
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Clockwise from Left: (Figure 21) SNOW CRYSTAL & OLYMPIC RINGS (on stamp & card) FLAGS & OLYMPIC SITE (on card). Issue: Apr. 22, 1967. For: 1968, X Winter Olympic Games. Cancel: First Day, Grenoble, special mention: 'X JEUX OLYMPIQUES D' HIVER' ; and illustration: Olympic Rings. (Figure 22) HOCKEY PLAYER. Issue: Jan. 27, 1968. For: 1968, X Winter Olympic Games. Cancel: First Day, Grenoble, special illustr. and mention: 'X JEUX OLYMPIQUES D' HIVER. (Figure 23) WOMEN'S FIGURE SKATING. Issue: Jan. 27, 1968. For: 1968, X Winter Olympic Games. Cancel: First Day, Grenoble, special illustr. and mention: 'X JEUX OLYMPIQUES D' HIVER. (Figure 24) SKI JUMPING. Issue: Jan. 27, 1968. For: 1968, X Winter Olympic Games. Cancel: First Day, Grenoble, special illustr. and mention: 'X JEUX OLYMPIQUES D' HIVER



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Clockwise from Left: (Figure 25) ALPINE SKIING - SLALOM. Issue: Jan. 27, 1968. For: 1968, X Winter Olympic Games. Cancel: First Day, Grenoble, special illustr. and mention: 'X JEUX OLYMPIQUES D' HIVER'. (Figure 26) MAGNAR SOLBERG, NORWAY (BIATHLON - 20 km), Golds in 1968, and 1972. Issue: Oct. 11, 1991. For: Norwegian Gold Medal winners in Winter Olympics. Cancel: First Day, Lillehammer, special mention: 'LILLEHAMMER '94'. (Figure 27) SPEED SKATING (on stamp) OLYMPIC SITE, SKATING RING etc. (on card). Issue: Feb. 1, 1980. For: 1968, 13th Winter Olympic Games, Lake Placid, NY. Cancel: First Day, Washington, special illustration & mention: 'OLYMPIC TORCH'. (Figure 28) INGEMAR STENMARK (SLALOM & GIANT SLALOM), Gold in 1980. Issue: Sept. 9, 1981. For: Famous Swedes. Cancel: First Day, Stockholm.



*Ice Dancing* made its debut in these events. Dorothy Hamill of the U.S. won the gold in *Figure Skating*.

In 1980 the Winter Games were held again at Lake Placid, New York (see *Figure 27*). The People's Rep. of China took part in the games for the first time. Ingemar Stenmark (see *Figure 28*) of Sweden won 2 golds in *Slalom*, and *Giant Slalom*. Eric Heiden of the U.S. won 5 gold medals in all the *Speed Skating* events (i.e. 500m, 1000m, 1500m, 5000m, and 10000m). The high point of the games was a most suprising win in *Hockey* by the U.S.A. team over the Soviet one, ending a 16 year long Soviet domination of this competition. Having watched this game on TV, from nearby Montreal, I can still recall the euphoria everybody felt over the U.S. Hockey team's unexpected victory.

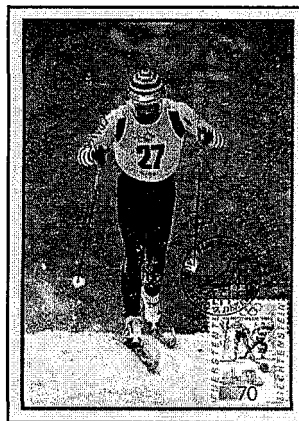
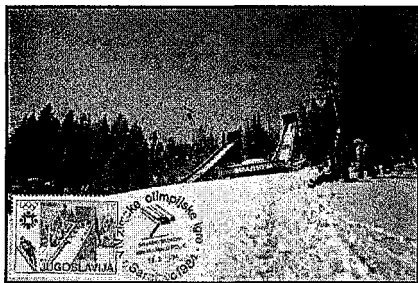
In 1984 the Winter Games were held in Sarajevo (see *Figures 29 to 32*). A place best known as the site that ignited World War I. It was a happy interval in the history of this tragic city. The mountains Igman (see *Figure 29*), Jahorina, and Trebnic that surround Sarajevo made it an ideal site, because all the various competition sites were reached within 20 minutes only from the city. The biggest stars of the games were Gaetan Boucher (see *Figure 31*) of Canada who won 2 golds in the 1000m, and 1500m *Speed Skating*; Jayne Torvill and Chris Dean of Great of Great Britain who won gold with twelve perfect scores in *Ice Dancing*; and Katerina Witt of East Germany who dramatically won the gold in *Figure Skating*. In the *Slalom*, the Americans Phil Mahre won gold and his twin brother Steve won silver. In *Men's Figure Skating* Scott Hamilton of the U.S. managed to win the gold over his Canadian rival Brian Orser. In the early 1990's Sarajevo suffered tragically from the inhumanity of the Civil War, and most of its Olympic Games facilities were destroyed. Out of the ruins the Bosnians have managed to rebuilt many of them. The Skiing Facilities on Mount Igman (see *Figure 29*) have recently been refurbished, but the scares of the civil war remain, such as the signs warning of mines. The Zetra Hockey Arena (see *Figure 32*) was burned to the ground in 1992 at the start of the civil war. This had been the arena were Torvill & Dean excelled in *Ice Dancing*, and Katerina Witt rose to prominence. In 1999 the Zetra Arena once again was reborn, looking much the same as before.

In 1988 the Winter Games were held in Calgary (see *Figures 33 to 35*). Again the U.S. and Canada had a duel for the *Men's Figure Skating* gold between America's Brian Boitano and Canada's Brian Orser, that became known as the 'Battle of the Brians'. The U.S. managed to win the gold once more. The superstar of the games was the Italian Alpine skier Alberto Tomba (see card on *Figure 35*) of Italy who won 2 golds in the *Slalom* and *Giant Slalom* events. France's Franck Piccard won the gold in the new event the *Super Giant Slalom*. Tropical Jamaica participated with a 4-man *Bobsled* that attracted world-wide attention. America's Bonnie Blair won the gold in the 500m *Speed Skating*; and Katerina Witt of East Germany her 2nd gold in *Figure Skating* to the music from Bizet's *Carmen*.

In 1992 the Winter Games were held in Albertville, France (*Figures 36 to 38*). Athletes from the war torn country of Yugoslavia competed under Croatia, Slovenia, and Yugoslavia. Athletes from the former Soviets republics competed as the Unified team; lacking in funding they were still able to win golds in *Hockey*

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Clockwise from Left: (Figure 29) SKI JUMPING, MOUNT IGMAN. Issue: Nov. 23, 1983. For: 1984, 14th Winter Olympic Games, Sarajevo. Cancel: Feb. 12, 1984, Sarajevo, special mention: 'XIV WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES - IGMAN', concordant illustration (triple). (Figure 30) CROSS COUNTRY SKIING (on card: A skier from France with the Sarajevo '84 logo). Issue: Dec. 2, 1991. For: Albertville 1992, Winter Olympic Games. Cancel: First Day, Vaduz, special. (Figure 31) SPEED SKATING (on stamp & card) GAETAN BOUCHER (on card), Gold in 1984 in the 1000m and 1500m Speed Skating. Issue: Dec. 9, 1991. For: Albertville 1992, Winter Olympic Games. Cancel: First Day, Ancient Olympia, special mention and illustration. (Figure 32) HOCKEY PLAYER (on stamp) ZETRA HOCKEY ARENA & PLAYERS (on card). Issue: Nov. 23, 1983. For: 1984, 14th Winter Olympic Games, Sarajevo. Cancel: Feb. 15, 1984, Sarajevo, special mention: 'XIV WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES - IGMAN', concordant illustration (triple).



(see Figure 36), *Men's Figure Skating*, *Pairs Skating*, *Ice Dancing*, and five Nordic events. America's Bonnie Blair won 2 gold in the 500m, and 1000m *Speed Skating* events. The new event of *Freestyle Mogul Skiing* (see Figure 38) was won by America's Donna Weinbrecht, and in *Men's Moguls* by Edgar Groszpiorn of France. America's Kristi Yamaguchi won the gold in *Figure Skating*. Italy's Alberto Tomba (see Figure 38) won his 2nd gold in the *Giant Slalom*. The first time a downhill was able to win in two consecutive Olympic Games the same event.

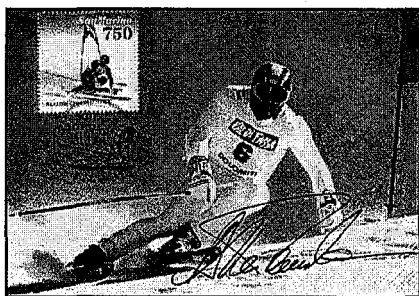
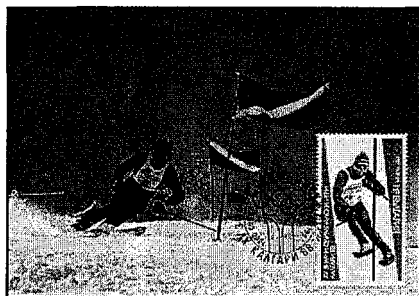
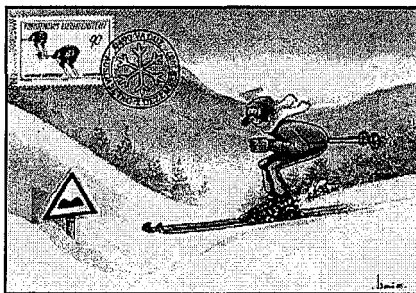
In 1994 the Winter Games were held in Lillehammer, Norway; only two years after the Albertville games due to the new Olympic schedule that alternates Summer and Winter Olympic Games every two years. Germany's Jens Weisflog (Figure 39) won gold in the *Ski Jumping* (Large Hill). The star of the games was the 16 years old Oksana Baiul of Ukraine, who braving painful leg injuries went on to win gold in *Figure Skating*, thus upstaging Nancy Kerrigan the U.S. favorite. America's Bonnie Blair repeated her Albertville performance winning again 2 golds in the 500m and 1000m *Speed Skating* events. America's Diann Roffe-Steinrotter won gold in the *Women's Super Giant Slalom*; and America's Tommy Moe (Figure 40) won gold in the *Men's Downhill*, and Dan Jansen in the 100m *Speed Skating*. The Lillehammer games belonged to the Norwegians who won a total of 26 medals.

In 1998 the Winter Games were held in Nagano, Japan. Two new events *Snowboarding* and *Curling* were introduced, plus *Women's Ice Hockey* as an exhibition sport. For the first time professional players were allowed in *Hockey*, resulting in the unexpected victory of the Czech republic. The stars of the games were Bjorn Daehlie of Norway winning 3 golds in 10km, 50km, and 40km relay in the *Cross-Country Skiing*. America's Tara Lipinski, 15 years old, won gold in *Figure Skating* becoming the youngest ever athlete to win an individual event. In the medal counts of these games Germany was first with a total of 29 medals; 2nd was Norway with 25 medals; 3rd Russia with 18 medals; 4th Canada with 15 medals; and 5th the U.S.A. with 13 medals.

The 2002 Winter Olympic Games have just commenced in Salt Lake City, Utah with the strictest security ever, due to the 9/11 events. The weather all this winter has been very co-operative to the Salt Lake City region. As I am writing these lines, I've watched the Opening Ceremonies of these Games. What impressed me the most were: first, the boy carrying the lantern symbolizing 'the fire within'; second, the entrance of the sacred, torn American Flag found at ground zero; and third, the Olympic Flag of 5 rings symbolizing the 5 continents. The Olympic Flag entered the stadium carried by 8 people. Five of them represented the five continents that is: astronaut John Glenn representing the Americas, political figure Lech Walesa representing Europe, bishop Desmond Tutu representing Africa, 1998 Winter Games Olympian Kazuyoshi Funaki representing Asia, and 2000 Summer Games Olympian Kathy Freeman representing Oceania. The other three people represented *Sport*, *Culture*, and *Environment*. They were the 1968 summer Olympian Jean-Claude Killy (*Sport*); filmmaker Steven Spielberg (*Culture*); and Jean-Michel Cousteau son of Jacques Cousteau (*Environment*). I am certain that the Salt Lake City 2002 Winter Olympic Games will be a turning point - and a happy one at that - in the history of recent events for the U.S.

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Clockwise from Left: (Figure 33) ALPINE SKIING - MEN'S DOWNHILL (on humorous). Issue: Dec. 2, 1987. For: Calgary '88, Winter Olympic Games. Cancel: First Day, Vaduz, special. (Figure 34) SLALOM. Issue: Oct. 27, 1987. For: Calgary '88, Winter Olympic Games. Cancel: First Day, Sophia, special illustration & mention: 'XV WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES - CALGARY '88'. (Figure 35) GIANT SLALOM (on stamp & card) ALBERTO TOMBA (on card), Golds in 1988 Slalom and Giant Slalom; Gold in 1992 Giant Slalom. Issue: Jan. 31, 1994. For: 1994, Winter Olympic Games, Lillehammer. Cancel: First Day, San Marino, concordant illustration (triple). (Figure 36) ICE HOCKEY. Issue: Feb. 8, 1992. For: Albertville 1992, Winter Olympic Games. Cancel: First Day, Albertville, special illustr. and mention: 'XVI JEUX OLYMPIQUES D' HIVER.



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Clockwise from Left: (Figure 37) FREESTYLE SKIING - WOMEN'S MOGULS. Issue: Feb. 8, 1992. For: Albertville 1992, Winter Olympic Games. Cancel: First Day, Albertville, special illustr. and mention: 'XVI JEUX OLYMPIQUES D' HIVER' (Figure 38) GIANT SLALOM (on stamp & card) ALBERTO TOMBA (on card), Golds in 1988 Slalom and Giant Slalom; Gold in 1992 Giant Slalom. Issue: Dec. 9, 1991. For: Albertville 1992, Winter Olympic Games. Cancel: First Day, Anc. Olympia, special mention & illustr. (Figure 39) SKI JUMPING (on stamp & card) JENS WEIS FLOG, GERMANY (on card), Gold in 1994. Issue: Jan. 31, 1994. For: Lillehammer 1994, Winter Olympic Games. Cancel: First Day, San Marino, special illustration. (Figure 40) ALPINE SKIING (on stamp & card) TOMMY MOE, card), Gold in 1994. Issue: Jan. 31, 1994. For: Lillehammer 1994, Winter Olympic Games. Cancel: First Day, San Marino, concordant illustr. (triple).

