

Queer Things happen in Sport Philately says «Sport-Phila»

In 1939, the Postal Service of Haiti issued three stamps bearing the effigy of *Pierre de Coubertin*. Apparently, it would seem that the sale of these stamps has been ludicrous. The absurdly low number of 8,680 ordinary post stamps were sold whereas there were 200,000 stamps originally printed. Of the two issues of air-mail postage stamps there were 6,897 and 6,296 stamps sold respectively, whereas there were 75,000 stamps originally printed for each category. The unsold postage stamps which represented the highest proportion of the original issues printed were apparently destroyed!

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The profane is appalled by the number of postage stamps issued through out the world and used as a pretext to commemorate a sport's event or a victory either in individual or team events, etc. For instance, the U.S. S. R. printed a stamp with a superscription as a sign of protest because the Sovietic team had been disqualified at the basket-ball World Championships which were held in Chili in 1959. Let us recall the fact that Brazil was the official winner of these Championships whereas the U.S.S.R. won a moral victory there. The text of the superscription runs as follows: 'Victory of the U.S.S.R. basket-ball team, Chili 1959'.

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Two postage stamps have been issued in China in order to commemorate the victory of a Chinese player who competed in the 25th World Championships of... ping-pong at Dortmund.

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Numerous examples of this kind could be published but we leave this to the care of the newspaper *Sport-Phila* which specializes in philatelic matters and is published in Italy in five languages (French, English, Italian, German and Spanish). We highly recommend this paper to our readers, its subscription is very modest and within the means of everybody, since it only costs 500 Liri or ONE dollar per year. The address is: Sport-Phila, Via Bartolomeo Gosio 59, Rome. Its chief Editor is: Mr. Giuseppe Sabelli Fioretti.