

After barely a few months silence, the Paraguay Post Office is once again in the news : on 30th September, 1966, it issued a sports series of eight values, two of which are devoted to the next winter olympics. This series, intended to commemorate the World Ski Championships and to serve as pre-olympic propaganda, consists therefore of eight perforated values : five for ordinary mail of 0.10, 0.15, 0.20, 0.30 and 0.50 guarani, each printed in three hundred thousand copies, and three airmail values, of 12.45, 16.15 and 36 guarani (No. 1), with printings of twenty, twenty and twelve thousand copies respectively. These eight values have also been printed in five thousand complete unperforated series. In addition, five thousand numbered perforated sheets showing the 36 guarani pre-olympic value have also been printed. Overprinted with the



1

word " muestra " (specimen), there are as usual a thousand perforated sets, a thousand unperforated sets, as well as a thousand perforated and a thousand unperforated sheets. The sheets are numbered from 1 to 1,000.

The values dedicated to the Xth Winter Games at Grenoble show a figure skater with, on the right, the olympic rings and a mention of the year and the name of the town where the Games are being held. The first day of issue of this series was commemorated by a special postmark featuring the olympic rings.

The second Mexican pre-olympic series came out on 15th October, 1966 ; this completes the first series presented in " Bulletin " No. 93,

within the general framework of the propaganda issues for the Games of the XIXth Olympiad.

This second series consists of five stamps and two sheets. Unlike the illustrations on the first series which were inspired by ceramics with sporting subjects from the pre-Hispanic period, the designs appearing in this new series are extremely modern and may even be considered as excessively so by some. They are based on the mural paintings decorating the facades of the stadium of Mexico's University City and are work of the great Mexican painter Diego Rivera who redrew them himself for these stamps. Rivera was assisted in his work by the graphic artists Arturo Brisha and Zita Canessi.

This series of five stamps consists of two ordinary mail values, of 20 and 40 centavos, and three airmail values, of 80 centavos and 2.25 and



2



3

2.75 pesos (Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6) with a printing of six million copies for the two ordinary values, five million for the 80 centavos airmail value and two million for the other two airmail values.

One of the sheets reproduces, in their original colours, the two ordinary mail values, the other the three airmail values. With a printing of two hundred and fifty thousand copies, they have been placed on sale at the price of 90 centavos and 8.70 pesos respectively, i.e. dearer than the original value of the stamps.

We have also been notified of other pre-olympic issues in a number of small Arab countries, like the Yemen, Qatar and the Federation of Southern Arabia (Aden and Kathiri).



These countries, which have no National Olympic Committees recognized by the I.O.C., are therefore using the olympic emblems for purely commercial and speculative purposes. Apart from the fact that we shall not describe these stamps, we once again deplore such abuses, reminding readers, in conclusion, of the urgency of the problem of protecting the olympic rings and motto which must remain the exclusive property of the International Olympic Committee.

*Maurizio Tecardi.*



4



5



6