

THE FUTURE OF THE FIPO

BY SHERWIN D. PODOLSKY

The primary objective of the International Federation of Olympic Philately is to promote the Olympic ideal of universal sportsmanship, learning and friendship. By promoting opportunities for individuals to make contacts through mutual and universal interests, a climate is established for trust and confidence.

These interests are shared among Olympic philatelists, the International Olympic Committee, the National Olympic Committees, postal administrations, organized philately and others. The degree of overlap of interests may be large or small, depending on time and place. FIPO acts as a catalyst to plan the promotion of the overlapping interests. Indeed, OLYMPHILEX '85 is its first major international undertaking.

As curators of Olympic philately, each of us can communicate the ideals of Olympism and philately as we share interests and information. We do this in many ways: corresponding, exhibiting, meeting, exchanging and writing.

FIPO's future took a forward step through its participation at OLYMPHILEX '84, the philatelic exhibition at the XXIIIrd Olympiad at Los Angeles. The President, Juan Antonio Samaranch, exhibited and attended. Reference to FIPO is in the exhibition catalog. Information about FIPO was available at the show.

FIPO can make Olympic philately more collectible by exercising initiative to promote interesting and more reasonable philatelic policies by postal administrations. A philatelic library is under development. A journal and membership

directory should be forthcoming. There is a great need to translate major articles on Olympic philately for the benefit of the international membership.

There is philatelic interest in the Olympic heritage - ancient and modern. FIPO can promote articles showing how subjects on stamps reflect this heritage.

FIPO also fosters opportunities for leadership and service through its organization. Philatelic and non-philatelic organizations have the opportunity to interact by sharing philatelic exhibitions at their events. Experienced philatelists can serve as docents at exhibitions. Perhaps exhibitors may allow their material to be photographed for reference and study. A color slide program could be developed in several languages and made available through organized philately.

A program for development of youth philately holds promise to help young people nourish dreams of becoming future Olympians. Every exhibition of Olympic philately should encourage local youth attendance and participation. It might even be possible to sponsor an international exhibition of junior Olympic philately much like the Scouts have their international jamborees.

FIPO's future has great promise for promotion of international peace and understanding.

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In its September issue, *Références*, the magazine of the French Postal, Telegraphic and Telecommunications Ministry, presents a historical survey of Olympic philately and provides the information necessary to build up a collection on the theme of great moments in modern Olympism. The French

magazine *Timbrescopie* published a similar article in its July/August issue, entitled *Philately and the Olympic Games*.

