



EXTRACTS FROM THE CATALOGUE OLYMPHILEX '85

The Mayor of Lausanne, Mr. Paul-René Martin and some of the greatest specialists in Olympic and sports philately have written articles for the catalogue of "Olympilex '85", the first Olympic philately exhibition to be held in Lausanne from the 18th to the 24th of March 1985. Here are a few extracts :

□ **H.E. IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch,**
"Sport and culture are joined here in the spirit of the Olympic ideal as defined by Baron Pierre de Coubertin. Visitors are offered a history lesson."

"This great meeting of philatelists from five continents in the city which is the headquarters of the IOC seems to me to be a symbol of the spirit of brotherhood which unites Olympic and sports collectors all over the world, just as the Games of the Olympiad and the Winter Games are for the athletes."

□ **Mr. Ladislav Dvoracek,**
President of the Federation Internationale de Philatélie (International Philately Federation).
"The International Philately Federation and the Olympic Movement have a common aim, even if they employ different means : to promote friendship and mutual understanding between individuals and peoples... The FIPO and the FIP bear witness to the fact that philately constitutes a link between peoples without any discrimination between its members on racial, religious or political grounds."

□ **Mr. Paul-René Martin,**
Mayor of Lausanne.
"Olympism is in reality a unique and privileged hope for human relations and one of the ways to ensure the promotion of its ideal is certainly the worldwide distribution of these little artistic masterpieces in the form of postage stamps."

□ **Mr. Marc-André Marguerat**
Director of the Lausanne postal district.
"By issuing in 1984 the stamp "Lausanne, Ville Olympique" (Lausanne, Olympic City), the Swiss postal authorities wished to underline the impor-

tance they attach to the Olympic Movement and to make a contribution towards the spreading of the Olympic ideal of peace and brotherhood throughout the world."

□ **Mr. Otto Szymiczek,**
Rector of the International Olympic Academy.
"(For the Games of 1896) the Hellenic Olympic Committee realised that the biggest problem was of a financial nature. Given that the Greek State was unable to make a financial contribution, it was necessary to look for resources elsewhere... The issue of commemorative Olympic stamps provided important revenue. The law concerning the issue of these stamps provided for a sum of 400,000 drachmas to be allocated to the HOC for the needs of the Games."

□ **Mr. Giuseppe Sabelli Fioretti,**
Member of the Managing Committee of the FIPO.
"Normally, active athletes chose to collect stamps from the sport they practise. Philatelists who do not practise any sport are presented with much greater possibilities in their choice of theme, since they may take the sport they most enjoy watching, for instance, or the one they would have practised if they had had the chance. There is no end to the reasons which may inspire such a choice."

□ **Mr. Maurizio Tecardi,**
Member of the Managing Committee of the FIPO.
"On the 7th December, 1982, in the conference room of the IOC in the Chateau de Vidy, the International Federation of Olympic Philately became a reality. A little over two years have passed since then and collectors (250, Ed.) from five continents make up the membership ; the FIPO has contributed and continues to contribute to the creation and strengthening of links of knowledge, friendship and cooperation between philatelists."

□ **Mr. Heimich Mannhart,**
Member of the Managing Committee of the FIPO.



“The issue of Olympic and sports stamps constitutes a unique opportunity to bring to mind the Olympic idea and the Olympic Movement and to promote the Olympic Games. Sport and philately have become great friends in spite of their difference in age... They bring us recreation, relaxation, amusement and pleasure.”

☐ **Mr. Shewin Podolski,**

FIPO Delegate to North America.

“Olympic philatelists, the International Olympic Committee, the National Olympic Committees, the postal administrations, the philatelic and other associations share the same interests... The FIPO plays a catalytic role in the promotion of these common interests.”

☐ **Mr. Michel Pecquet,**

Member of the Managing Committee of the FIPO.

“Philately does not solely consist of collecting adhesive stamps... The Olympic or sports collector, like any thematic collector, should make use of all available resources in all the various branches of philately, in particular mechanical cancellations, better known as the red stamps of franking machines.”

What are the major ideas we can draw from these extracts ? They can be summed up in three paragraphs :

Stamp collecting on the theme of Olympism or sport constitutes an undeniable means of publicising Sport and Olympism, as the Greeks realised in 1896. Philately contributes to the spread of the Olympic ideal and the FIPO has become a full member of the Olympic Movement, whose history it reflects.

Philately and sport, both attract young people. Young people have a need for healthy leisure pursuits in our troubled world, moments of relaxation in the midst of constant stress.

Philatelic exhibitions and sports events contribute to a better understanding of others, to the development of friendship between peoples, to the search for peace and the evocation of the image of the Greeks at the Games of Antiquity.

To conclude, I would like to express the pious wish that each International Federation, each National Olympic Committee should keep its own collection of personalised stamps and organise, on the occasion of major national, continental or international sports events, a corresponding philatelic exhibition. As for the IOC, what is to prevent it from setting up an itinerant exhibition which would travel around the world every four years on the occasion of the Games ? Sportsmen and philatelists would certainly be grateful.

Michel Pecquet
Member of the
Managing Committee
of the FIPO