

# PHILATELY: SECOND PRE-OLYMPIC ISSUE FOR 1992



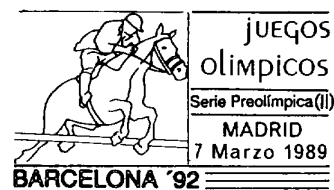
The series of pre-Olympic stamps being issued by the Spanish post administration to mark the Games in Barcelona continued with the appearance in March of four new stamps.

After designs featuring athletics, badminton, basketball and the COOB'92 emblem (see O.R. No. 254) the series continues its depiction of Olympic sports with four new denominations featuring handball (8 pesetas), cycling (20 pesetas), boxing (18 pesetas) and equestrian sports (45 pesetas). The drawings are the work of painter Rafael Bartolozzi, for whom this represents his first foray into philatelic design.

Two million two hundred of each of these stamps have been produced by the national coin and stamp office and, as with the first issue, a surtax of 5 pesetas per stamp is levied, with the proceeds going to the COOB'92. The issue of these stamps provided the occasion for Mr. Jose Maria Espasa, General Post Office Administrator, to give a notable lecture on the theme of philately and Olympism. A first-day cancellation was obtainable on 7th March 1989 from a specially installed temporary post office in the Van der Rohe pavilion, an annex of the Olympic centre in Barcelona, as well as in Madrid.

Six more issues of three stamps at a time are planned to complete the series by 1992, at the rate of two issues a year. The next three stamps will be on the themes of fencing, football and gymnastics, with the issue date scheduled for 3rd October. A special issue will be available when the Games finally open, comprising three stamps, a block and a triptych.

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