

Bicycle Stamps

BS26 - FEBRUARY - 1999

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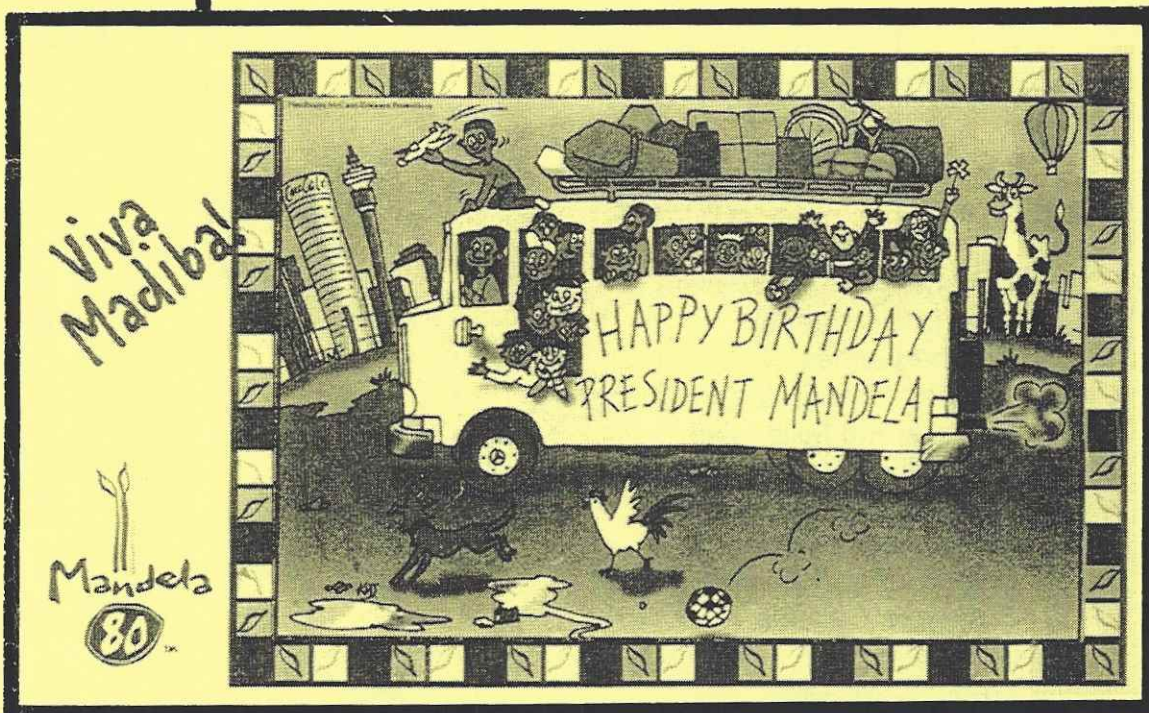
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"Bicycle Stamps" is the official publication of the Bicycle Stamps Club. The magazine is included as a benefit of membership. A bicycle stamp checklist is maintained by the club and is available at cost from Norman Batho, U.S.A.

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New Issue Update

ABKHAZIA	00.00.96	SHEET	REAR OF BIKE WITH FLAT - 4 DIFF SE-TEN	S	21B COVER
<u>ALDERNEY</u>	<u>10.10.98</u>	20p	GARRISON ISLAND - THE ALDERNEY POST OFFICE - MAN WITH BICYCLE 2X2 SETENANT	4	25 -7
ALDERNEY	10.10.98	BOOKLET	AS ABOVE	4	
BARBUDA	25.03.98	\$1.20	ATLANTA OLYMPICS - CYCLISTS ON TANDEM - STAMPS OF ANTIGUA & BARBUDA O/PRINTED 'BARBUDA MAIL'	3+2S+2S	
BELGIUM	06.12.99	17fr	A JOURNEY TROUGH THE 20th CENTURY - CYCLIST IN YELLOW JERSEY DEPICTING THE TOUR DE FRANCE	80+4S	26-10
BELGIUM	06.12.98	SHEET	SHEET OF 20 - INCLUDES ABOVE	80+4S	26-10
BERNERA ISLANDS	00.00.84	8P	LOS ANGELES OLYMPICS GOLD LEAF CYCLIST	?	
BURIATIA	00.00.97	1200	TIME TRIAL CYCLIST	1	23A-21
BURKINO FASO	00.00.95	650f	ATLANTA OLYMPICS - CYCLIST IN MARGIN	4+4S+S+S	19B-CS
CAMBODIA	00.00.95	1000r	ATLANTA OLYMPICS - CYCLIST	5+S	18A-4
CANADA	00.00.92	BOOKLET	PART OF OLYMPIC STAMP PICTURED	B	
CENTRAL AFRICA*	19.07.96	350f	ATLANTA OLYMPICS - CYCLING & BOXING	4+4S	20B-6
CENTRAL AFRICA*	19.07.96	SHEET	CONTAINS THE ABOVE	4+4S	21A-9
CENTRAL AFRICA*	19.07.96	600f	ATLANTA OLYMPICS - WEIGHT LIFTING & CYCLING	4+4S	20B-6
CENTRAL AFRICA*	19.07.96	SHEET	CONTAINS THE ABOVE	4+4S	21A-9
CENTRAL AFRICA *	00.00.96	200f	ATLANTA OLYMPICS - CYCLIST	S+2S	21B-8
CENTRAL AFRICA *	00.00.96	SHEET	ATLANTA OLYMPICS 9 DIFF CONTAINS ABOVE	S+2S	21B-8
CENTRAL AFRICA	00.00.96	300f	SCOUTING - CYCLIST	S	22B-19
CENTRAL AFRICA	00.00.96	SHEET	SCOUTING - CYCLIST SHEET OF 6 + 2L	S	22B-19
* DATES TO BE CLARIFIED					
CENTRAL AFRICA	00.00.98	350F	CYCLING CHAMPIONS -	4+S	25-9
CENTRAL AFRICA	00.00.98	350F	AS ABOVE -	4+S	25-9
CENTRAL AFRICA	00.00.98	350F	AS ABOVE -	4+S	25-9
CENTRAL AFRICA	00.00.98	350F	AS ABOVE -	4+S	25-9
CENTRAL AFRICA	00.00.98	SHEET	SHEET OF 4 DIFF - CONTAINS ALL ABOVE	4+S	25-9
CHAD	00.00.96	300f	ATLANTA OLYMPICS - CYCLIST	2S + S	21B-8
CHAD	00.00.96	SHEET	ATLANTA OLYMPICS 4 DIFF CONTAINS ABOVE	2S+S	21B-8

CHAD	00.00.97	2000f	PRINCESS DIANA/SONS ON BIKES ON SELVEDGE	3S+2S	24A-22
CHAD	00.00.98		BALLOONS - ANTIQUE BICYCLES ON SELVEDGE	1	
ECUADOR	00.00.98	2600s	Vth SOUTH AMERICAN GAMES - SMALL CYCLIST	3	26-8
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	00.00.96	400f	ATLANTA OLYMPICS - TRACK CYCLIST	1+S	22B-9
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	00.00.96	400f	ATLANTA OLYMPICS - TRACK CYCLIST - SHEET X 16 - 4 WITH CYCLIST	S	22B-9
FRANCE	00.09.98	POSTAL CARD	VTT PASSION SERIES - 'EMOTION' FRONT OF CARD - MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDER/GIRL - REAR OF CARD - STAMP IMPRINT AS PER WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP STAMP OF '89 MINUS VALUE & NAME OF CHAMPIONSHIP	3	25-10
FRANCE	00.09.98	POSTAL CARD	AS ABOVE - 'EVASION' - FRONT OF CARD - MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDER/MAN WITH UMBRELLA - REAR OF CARD - SIMILAR TO ABOVE	3	25-10
FRANCE	00.09.98	POSTAL CARD	AS ABOVE - 'SENSATION' - FRONT OF CARD - MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDER IN WOODS/YOUNG LADY - REAR OF CARD - SIMILAR TO ABOVE	3	25-11
GAGAUZIA	00.00.97	0.10	HISTORY OF BIKE - HOBBY-HORSE	S	24A-6
GAGAUZIA	00.00.97	0.20	AS ABOVE - MACMILLAN	S	24A-6
GAGAUZIA	00.00.97	0.25	AS ABOVE - BONE-SHAKER	S	24A-6
GERMANY	18.02.99	1dm+50p	SPORTS - BICYCLE RACING	4	
GREAT BRITAIN	21.07.98	AEROGRAM	CHILDREN'S STORIES - 'THE BOGGART' - CYCLIST	A	25-13
GREAT BRITAIN	02.02.99	26p	MILLENNIUM COLLECTION - TRAVELLERS' TALES - PERSONAL TRAVEL - BICYCLE	48	26-11
GUYANA	00.01.94	\$600	125th ANNIV OF BASEBALL	2	
GUYANA	00.00.97	\$5	MICKEY THE PAPERBOY ON BIKE	3S+3S	23A-29
GUYANA	00.00.97	SHEET	DISNEY CHARACTERS AT WORK SHEET OF 7 + L-CONTAINS ABOVE STAMP	3S+3S	23A-29
HONDURAS	00.00.97	2.15	6th CENTRAL AFRICAN GAMES - RIDING A BICYCLE	3S	24B-9
HONDURAS	00.00.97	2.15	AS ABOVE - CYCLING BY THE SHORE	3S	24B-9
HONDURAS	00.00.97	SHEET	AS ABOVE - 10 X 2.15 STAMPS	3S	24B-9
HUTT RIVER PROVINCE	00.00.92	\$20	CYCLETHON FOR KIDNEY RESEARCH - CYCLISTS	1	24A-7
INDONESIA	00.00.98	700	STAMP ON STAMP - DEPICTS STAMP ISSUED 17.05.76 - POSTMEN WITH BIKES 2 SETEN	2	26-8
ISRAEL	00.00.98	1.05	CYCLIST	1	

LIBYA	00.00.97	100d	ATLANTA OLYMPICS - ROAD CYCLIST	2S+S	23A-11
LIBYA	00.00.97	SHEET	ATLANTA OLYMPICS - SHEET OF 6 DIFF - CONTAINS ABOVE STAMP	2S+S	23A-11
LIBYA	00.00.98	100	SCOUTING AND HANDICAP CYCLING	1+S	
LIBYA	00.00.98	SHEET	AS ABOVE - 16 DIFF - INCLUDES ABOVE	1+S	
MALAYSIA	11.09.98	30sen	'98 C/WEALTH GAMES - ROAD RACING CYCLIST	16+S	26-9
<u>MALAYSIA</u>	11.09.98	SHEET	'98 C/WEALTH GAMES - SHEET OF 16 STAMPS - 4X20 , 4X30 (INCLUDES ABOVE STAMP) 4X50, 4X1r - SPORTS DEPICTED ARE BADMINTON, CYCLING, HOCKEY, LAWN BOWLS, NETBALL, SHOOTING AND WEIGHTLIFTING	16+S	26-9
MALI	00.00.97	180f	RACING CYCLISTS - 3 DIFF SE- TEN - RUDOLPH LEWIS 1912	24	23A-11
MALI	00.00.97	180f	AS ABOVE - JACQUES ANQUETIL	24	23A-11
MALI	00.00.97	180f	AS ABOVE - MIGUEL INDURAIN	24	23A-11
MAURITIUS	00.00.98	6 Rs	INLAND TRANSPORT - CYCLISTS	1	24B-9
MONGOLIA	00.00.96	30m	ATLANTA OLYMPICS - CYCLIST	9+9S	21A-CS
MONGOLIA	00.00.96	30m SHEET	ATLANTA OLYMPICS - CYCLIST - ABOVE STAMP WITH CYCLING PICTOGRAM IN SELVEDGE	9+9S	21B-6
MONGOLIA	00.00.96	60m SHEET	AS ABOVE - PISTOL SHOOTING	9+9S	21B-6
MONGOLIA	00.00.96	80m SHEET	AS ABOVE - WEIGHT LIFTING	9+9S	21B-6
MONGOLIA	00.00.96	100m SHEET	AS ABOVE - BOXING	9+9S	21B-6
MONGOLIA	00.00.96	350m SHEET	AS ABOVE - EQUESTRIAN	9+9S	21B-6
MONGOLIA	00.00.96	400m SHEET	AS ABOVE - WRESTLING	9+9S	21B-6
MONGOLIA	00.00.96	500m SHEET	AS ABOVE - BASKETBALL	2S	21A-11
MONGOLIA	00.00.96	600m SHEET	AS ABOVE - JUDO	2S	21A-11
MONGOLIA	00.00.96	500m SHEET	ATLANTA OLYMPICS -OLYMPIHEX - BASKETBALL - BICYCLE PICTOGRAM ON SELVEDGE	2S	
MONGOLIA	00.00.96	600m SHEET	AS ABOVE - JUDO	2S	
MONGOLIA	00.00.96	30m	ATLANTA OLYMPICS - CYCLIST - CENTENARY IOC O/P	9+9S	
MONGOLIA	00.00.96	30m SHEET	AS ABOVE WITH CYCLING PICTOGRAM ON SELVEDGE	9+9S	23A-13
MONGOLIA	00.00.96	60m SHEET	AS ABOVE - PISTOL SHOOTING	9+9S	
MONGOLIA	00.00.96	80m SHEET	AS ABOVE - WEIGHTLIFTING	9+9S	
MONGOLIA	00.00.96	100m SHEET	AS ABOVE - BOXING	9+9S	
MONGOLIA	00.00.96	350m SHEET	AS ABOVE - EQUESTRIAN	9+9S	
MONGOLIA	00.00.96	400m SHEET	AS ABOVE - WRESTLING	9+9S	
MONGOLIA	00.00.96	500m SHEET	ATLANTA OLYMPICS - OLYMPIHEX - BASKETBALL - CYCLING PICTOGRAM ON SELVEDGE - CENTENARY IOG O/P	2S	

MONGOLIA	00.00.96	600m SHEET	AS ABOVE - JUDO	2S	
MONGOLIA	00.00.96	SHEET	ATLANTA OLYMPICS - 2 SETS DIFFERENT LAYOUT		
MONGOLIA	00.00.96	30m	ATLANTA OLYMPICS - CYCLIST - 50m & 60m SE-TEN		23A-12
MORDOVA	00.00.97	SHEET	HISTORY OF BICYCLES AND MOTORCYCLES	S	
MORDOVIA	00.00.96	50	PANDA BEAR ON BIKE - BLUE O/P HONG KONG '97	6	
MORDOVIA	00.00.96	SHEET	AS ABOVE - 2 X 3 DIFF SE-TEN	6	
NETHERLANDS	00.03.96	SHEET	WESTERWOLDE & WESTERWOL ISSUES AS DETAILED IN BS20A	3S	20A-6
NETHERLANDS	00.11.96	NO VALUE	TRICYCLE - 16 DIFFERENT COLOUR COMBINATIONS ISSUED ON DULL & SHINY PAPER	16S	
NEW CALEDONIA	27.11.98	70F	40th YEAR OF THE POST OFFICE - CYCLIST - 2 SE-TEN WITH CENTRAL LABEL	2+S	26-8
NIGER	00.00.97	300f	TOUR DE FRANCE - 1997 WINNERS - 4 DIFF SE-TEN	4	24A-10
NIGER	00.00.97	300f	HOBBY HORSE AND ORDINARY - 4 DIFF SE-TEN	4	24A-10
NORTH KOREA	20.02.97	BOOKLET	ATLANTA OLYMPICS - CYCLISTS ON SELVEDGE	B+S	
NORTH KOREA	25.09.98	20	SYDNEY OLYMPICS - CYCLIST	4+3S	
NORTH KOREA	25.09.98	30	AS ABOVE	4+3S	
NORTH KOREA	25.09.98	SHEET	AS ABOVE	4+3S	
PHILIPPINES	00.00.98	6p	STAMP COLLECTING MONTH	4 + S	
POLAND	 00.09.94	POSTAL CARD	75TH ANNIV POLISH OLYMPIC COMMITTEE - CYCLISTS ON FRONT - 2500zt STAMP IMPRINT: 1924 OLYMPIC MEDAL	1	24B-10
RWANDA	00.00.92	M/SHEET	BARCELONA OLYMPICS CYCLIST PICTOGRAM ON SELVEDGE	?	20B-6
ROMANIA	25.09.98	POSTAL CARD	EFIRO 1998- PHILATELIC EXPO BUCHAREST - POSTMAN WITH BICYCLE / 450 L STAMP IMPRINT (OF NO CYCLING SIGNIFICANCE) ON FRONT - REAR PLAIN	1	26-7
SAINT VINCENT & GRENADINES	00.00.97	10c	GOOFY AS BICYCLE MESSENGER	5S+S	22B-16
SAINT VINCENT & GRENADINES	00.00.97	SHEET	DISNEY CHARACTERS AT WORK 8 DIFF	5S+S	22B-16
SINGAPORE	00.00.95	M/SHEET	SINGAPORE '95 - 2 SE-TEN M/S - RICKSHAWS ON SELVEDGE	M/S	19B-CS
SLOVAKIA	18.12.98	4Sk	NATIONAL STAMP DAY - POSTMAN ON BICYCLE	1+B	26-8
SLOVAKIA	18.12.98	BOOKLET	AS ABOVE - BOOKLET OF NO CYCLING SIGNIFICANCE - CONTAINS ABOVE STAMP	1+B	26-8
SLOVAKIA	18.12.98	PANE	AS ABOVE - 9 (3 STRIPS OF 3 - WITH LABELS)	1+B	26-8

TANZANIA	?	370s	TOURIST ATTRACTIONS OF EAST AFRICA - ZANZIBAR & STONETOWN - MAN ON BICYCLE	4	24A-6
TURKMENISTAN	?	100M	LEADING PERSONALITIES OFF THE 20TH CENTURY - ELVIS PRESLEY - PART OF BIKE	1+S	24B-9
TURKMENISTAN	?	SHEET	AS ABOVE - SHEET 9 DIFF INCLUDES ABOVE	1+S	24B-COVER
UNITED STATES	25.06.99	33c	XTREME SPORTS STAMPS - BMX RIDER - 4DIFF SE-TEN	4	26-9
VIETNAM	00.00.64	SHEET	DIEN BIEN PHU - SHEET OF 4 DIFF - BIKE ON SELVEDGE	?	23B-7
ZAIRE	00.00.96	20000nz	ATLANTA OLYMPICS - CYCLIST	3S	22B-15
ZAIRE	00.00.96	SHEET	ATLANTA OLYMPICS - 4 DIFF SE-TEN	3S	22B-15
ZAIRE	00.00.96	35000nz	ATLANTA OLYMPICS - CYCLIST	3S	22B-15
ZAIRE	00.00.96	SHEET	ATLANTA OLYMPICS - 4 DIFF SE-TEN	3S	22B-15
ZIMBABWE	19.01.99	\$7.40	ANNIVERSARY OF POSTAL UNION - POSTAL CARRIER ON BIKE	4	

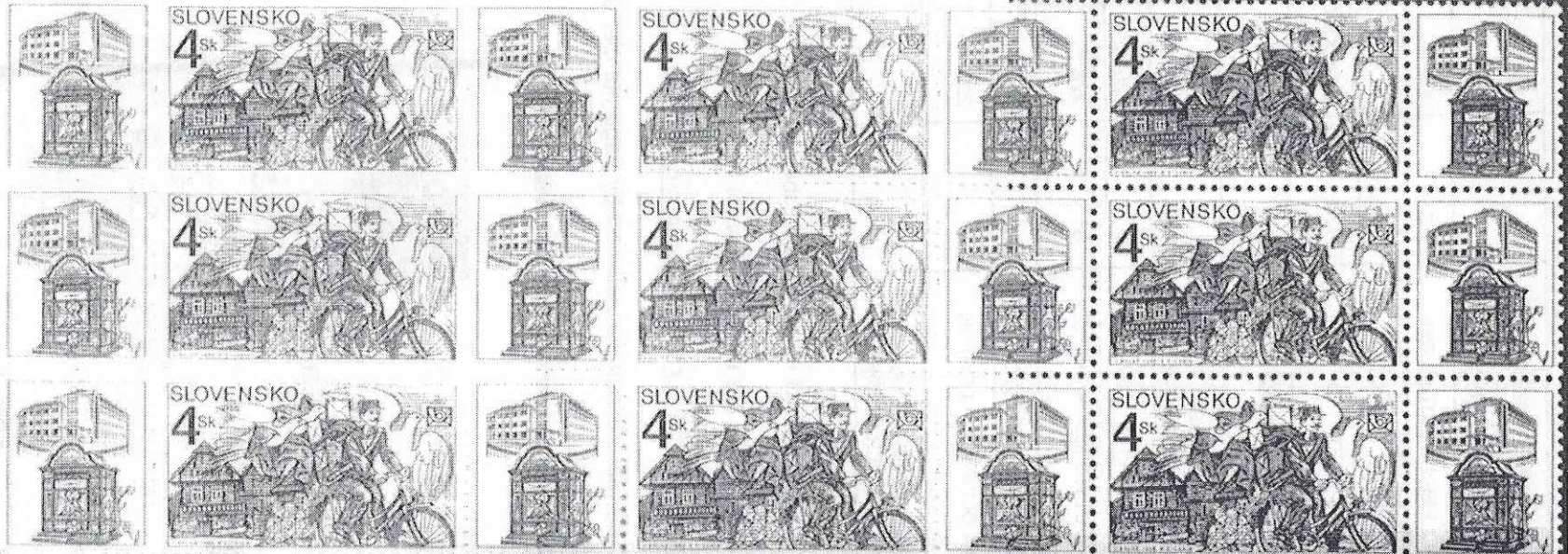
1. Undated issues will remain on the list until such time as a date of issue is established.
2. Corrections or additional information to previously listed items are underlined, as is the country.
3. Additions to the list are indicated by a heavy solid left hand border to the country's name box.
4. The last column shows where the stamp is illustrated, with BS number, followed by page number or 'CS' (colour supplement).



ROMANIA 25.09.98



SLOVAKIA 18.12.98
PANE
BOOKLET COVER



8

9 kusov à 4 Sk

36 Sk

DEŇ
POŠTOVEJ
ZNÁMKY



NEW
CALEDONIA
27.11.98

INDONESIA '98

ECUADOR '98





KUALA LUMPUR 98

XVI COMMONWEALTH GAMES
11-21 September 1998



MALAYSIA 11.09.98

ESPN SUMMER X GAMES - XTREME STAMPS

The United States' Postal Service will issue four Xtreme Sports 33c stamps on June 25th 1999, in conjunction with the ESPN Summer X Games in San Francisco. Azeezaly S. Jaffer, Executive

Director, Stamps Services, said in a news release, "The ESPN X Games is an ideal venue for issuing these stamps, they represent the Postal Services' commitment to broadening the stamp program to include subjects which appeal to America's youth".

There will be a total of 152 million of the self-adhesive stamps printed. Winter and Summer X Games produced by cable television sports giant, ESPN, have become a regular feature for sports networks. The four stamps depict athletes performing manoeuvres unique to each sport; the sports are: BMX Biking, In-line Skating, Skateboarding and Snowboarding.

BMX Biking, or Bicycling Motocross, began in the 1960's, emulating the traditional motor-cycle motocross sport, and quickly led to bicycle designs manufactured with smaller frames, higher seat posts and large knobby tyres, specifically for the sport.



BRITAIN'S SECOND MILLENNIUM

Britain's second millennium set features the bicycle, jet engine, railway, steam and sail.

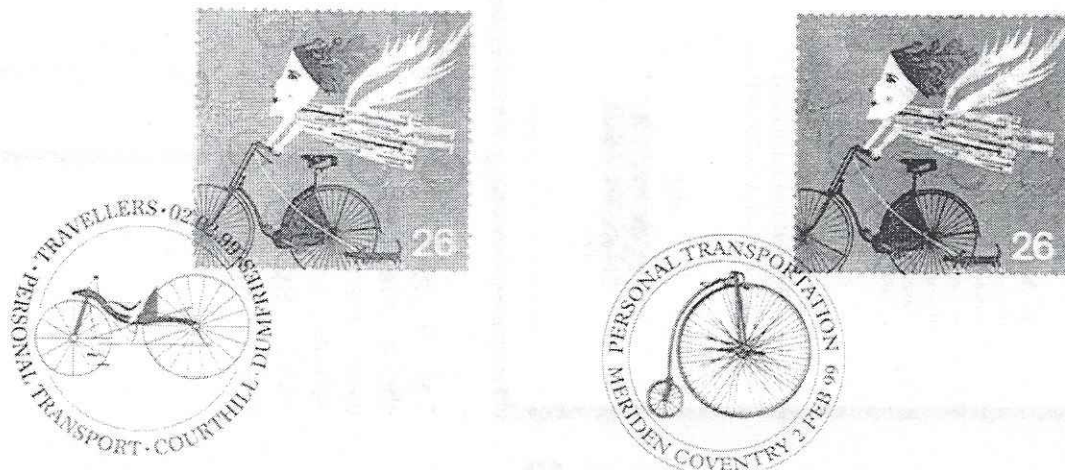
The four stamps issued on February 2nd 1999, are the second set of the series, and brings the total so far issued to eight. The series will consist of 48 stamps, with four stamps issued per month during 1999. The stamps are numbered, and January saw the issue of number 48 to 45, those issued in February were 44 to 41. The February set was titled "Travellers' Tales"; number 43, "Liberation by Bike" by Sara Fanelli, shows a bicycle, the value is 26p - the basic UK 1st class inland letter rate.

The official FactFile issued by the Royal Mail, detailed the reasons behind each stamp chosen. Writing about the bicycle, they mentioned most of the facts shown in Brian Sole's article "Bicycles on Stamps" (see page 13) but they did mention ... "... Today around 15 million bicycles are in ownership (1990 figures); 6 million people are regular users and over 1.1 million are daily commuters. In the UK over 12 million leisure day trips are made by cycle each summer - cycle tourism accounts for a total expenditure of Pds77.5 million. British design is highly regarded for bicycles."

There are, at the time of going to print, four special cancels: the official Royal Mail First Day Cover; one from Dumfries, showing Kirkpatrick Macmillan's bicycle; one from Coventry, showing an Ordinary and one sponsored by Havering Covers showing Den "The Bike Man's" slogan "Any Bike - Any Time".



The First Day Cover shown above (reduced), with the full set of Travellers' Tales stamps and the Den "The Bike Man" cancel were available from Havering Covers, 24 Garry Way, Romford, Essex RM1 4YX England, at the cost of Pds25.



Our guarantee of quality

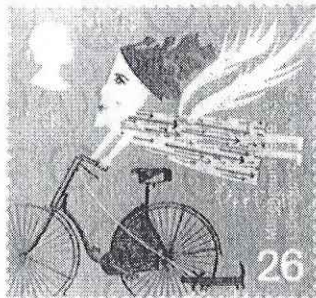
We check all the orders and send them out in perfect condition. If however, the material is found to be defective or damaged on arrival, it will be exchanged free of charge within 30 days of receipt, or your money refunded.

Order and Enquiry Line:
0345 641 641 (local rates)
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The 1999 Special Stamp Calendar



1999 STAMP CALENDAR

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
S	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28
M	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22	1 8 15 22 29
T	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23	2 9 16 23 30
W	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	3 10 17 24 31
T	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25
F	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26
S	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27
	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
S	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
M	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
T	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
W	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
T	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24
F	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
S	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
S	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
M	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
T	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
W	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
T	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
F	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24

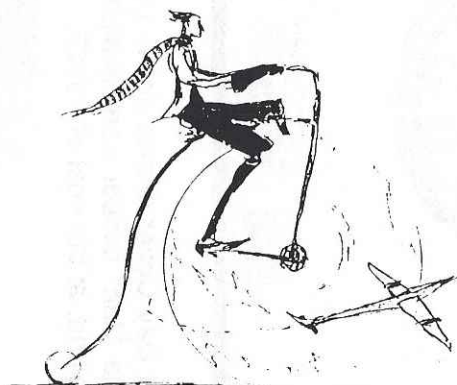
THE TALES

- Inventors' Tale: 12th January
- Travellers' Tale: 2nd February
- Patients' Tale: 2nd March
- Settlers' Tale: 6th April
- Workers' Tale: 4th May
- Entertainers' Tale: 1st June
- Citizens' Tale: 6th July
- Scientists' Tale: 3rd August
- Farmers' Tale: 7th September
- Soldiers' Tale: 5th October
- Christians' Tale: 2nd November
- Artists' Tale: 7th December

12

The Royal Mail chose the 26p cycle stamp to appear on the 1999 Special Stamp Calendar.

ROYAL MAIL MILLENNIUM FIRST DAY COVER



Travellers' Tale



MR. E. CLAYTON,
86 WOODLANDS ROAD,
CHIPPENHAM,
WILTSHIRE.
SN14 OHG.

2
12

Royal Mail, 20 Bishop Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT

Bicycles on Stamps

The Travellers' Tale is the theme for Royal Mail's second Millennium issue. Brian Sole looks at the bicycle.

At the beginning of this century, the bicycle was the fastest means of transport on the road, hard though this is to believe. The automobile was in its infancy. Henry Ford had built his first car just four years earlier. Development of the automobile proceeded at a faster pace than that of the bicycle: the push bike was considered only suitable to be ridden by the working man. However, as we approach the end of the 20th century the bicycle is enjoying a revival in

popularity. More and more people are attracted to the bicycle because it is environmentally friendly and is an aid to physical fitness.

Birth of the bicycle

How did the bicycle come to be invented? Baron von Drais of Karlsruhe in Germany (fig 1) patented his 'Laufmaschine' (running machine) in Paris in 1818. It consisted of a heavy bar which linked two wheels in line. There was a saddle on the bar and the machine was propelled by pushing feet alternately along the ground. The machine became known as the Draisienne (fig 2) after its inventor, and was ridiculed by many.

Also in 1818, Denis Johnson, a London coachmaker, patented his own lighter and more 'comfortable' machine. This had a padded saddle, dipped in the middle to allow larger wheels and arm rests (fig 3). It was called a 'Hobby-horse' or 'Dandy-horse', because young men liked to show off to the ladies whilst riding. Incidentally both terms, 'Hobby-horse' (or its variations — 'Pedestrian carriage', 'Dandy-charger' or 'Dandy-horse') and 'velocipede', were used to describe Johnson's machine in England in 1819. However, although 'Hobby-horse' continued to be applied to a two-wheeled machine propelled by the feet, 'Velocipede' became to be used in Britain to describe all types of rider-propelled machines including those with three or four wheels, often driven by a treadle mechanism. 'Velocipede' was superseded by words such as 'bicycle' and 'tricycle' some 50 years later.

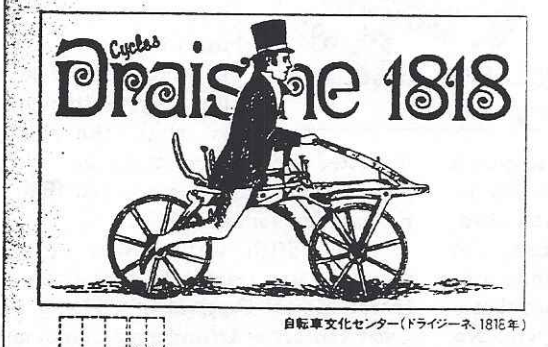


Fig 1: German meter mark: von Drais, inventor of an early bicycle.

Fig 2: Japanese postal stationery card: Draisienne 1818.



Fig 3: Mali die proof: signed by the artist J. Combet.



Errors in Stamp Design

Stamp designers have been confused by conflicting information published about early cycles. Mali's 1968 2f stamp (fig 3, SG 169), designed by J. Combet, shows an illustration of Denis Johnson's 'Hobby-horse' although the description given is 'Draisienne'. The date of 1809 is also incorrect, as the earliest known date of a two wheel cycle is 1817. Togo's 1978 25fr. stamp (fig 4, SG 1302) also



Fig 4: Togo SG 1302 Hobby-horse, incorrectly described as a 'Celerifere'.

Fig 5: GB Meter mark 'KM 150'.

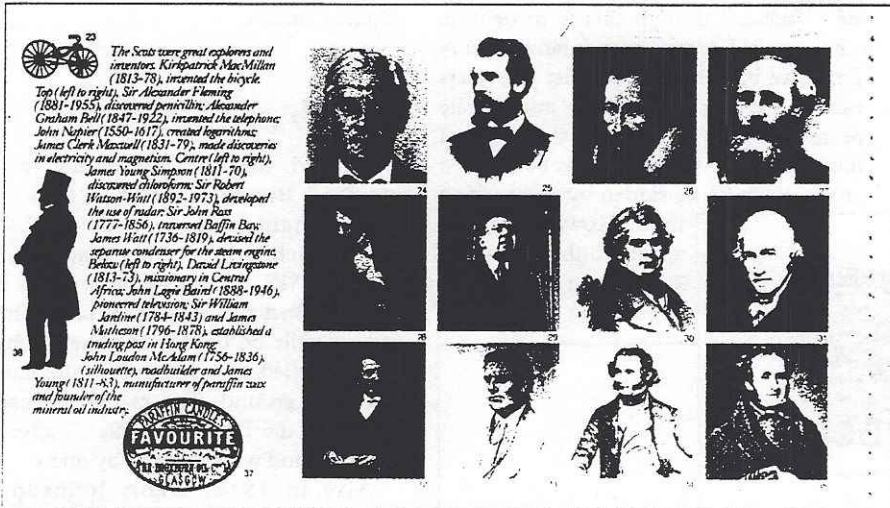
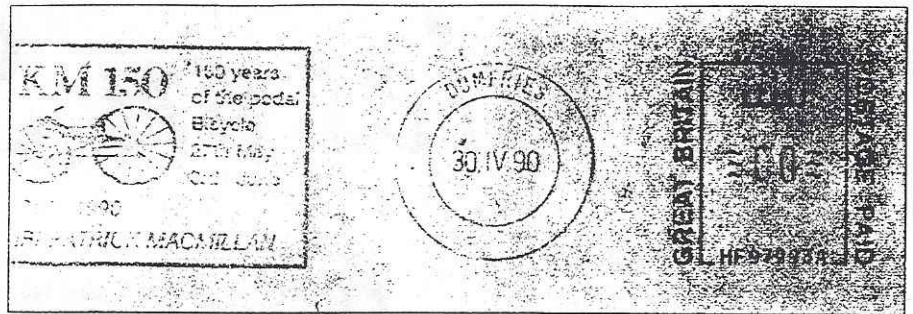


Fig 6: GB Prestige Booklet: Kirkpatrick MacMillan's lever driven bicycle of 1840 from the £5 booklet 'The Scots Connection', issued March 21, 1989.

check was made on its veracity until 1950 when Dr Richard Jeanes investigated the matter thoroughly. He established, in a thesis written in French, that there was no proof that a two wheel vehicle existed in France, prior to 1818. The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* corrected the 'Celerifere' error in the 1960's edition but many cycling histories continue to refer incorrectly to the celerifere as being the earliest forerunner of the bicycle, eg, *The Penguin Book of the Bicycle* first published 1978.

Feet off the ground

A Scottish blacksmith, Kirkpatrick Macmillan, is believed to have been the first inventor to build a two wheel machine which could be ridden, without having to push the feet along the ground. He linked treadles and cranks to the rear wheel at his smithie in Courthill in 1839 or 1840, the exact date has not been established. The invention received minimal publicity except for an incident which was reported in the *Glasgow Herald* on June 11, 1842. Kirkpatrick Macmillan had ridden his velocipede some 40 miles into Glasgow. In the Gorbals area the machine had attracted

a lot of attention. Macmillan had ridden it onto the pavement and knocked over a child. He had been held in custody overnight and the following morning appeared in Court. The child had not been injured and a fine of five shillings was imposed. An addendum to the story, not fully substantiated, is that the judge

inspected the machine at the end of the hearing and was so impressed that he paid the fine for Macmillan!

The 150th anniversary of the invention was celebrated by holding an International Festival of Cycling and Cycle History at Drumlanrig Castle, near

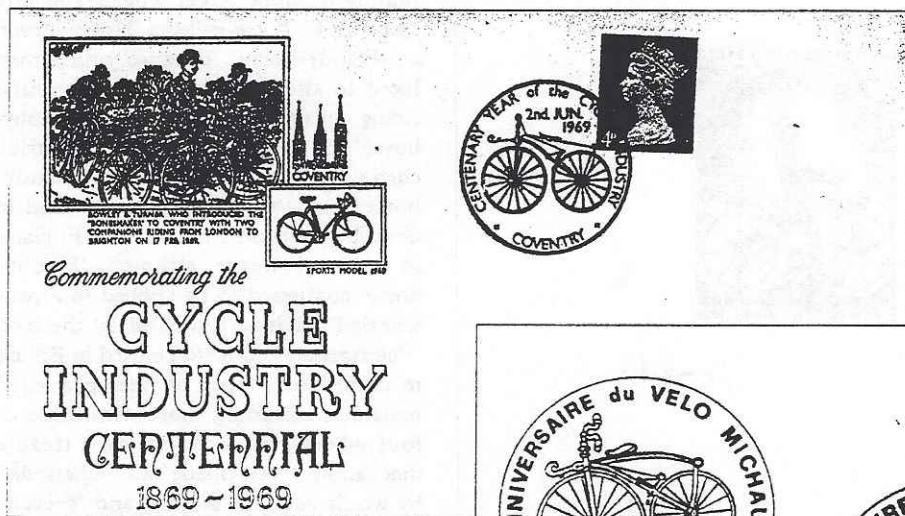


Fig 8: GB special handstamp: centenary of the Cycle Industry, Coventry on June 2, 1969.

Fig 7: French handstamp: 120th anniversary of Michaux bicycle.



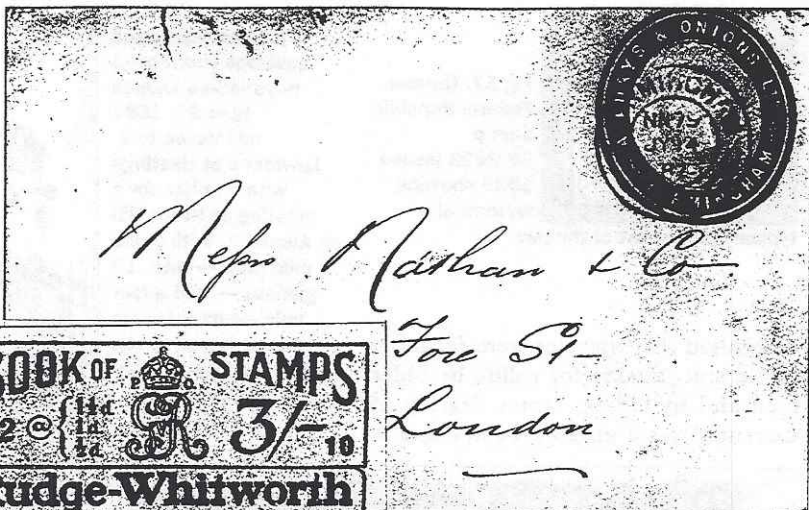
shows Denis Johnson's 'Hobby-horse' which is incorrectly described as the 'Celerifere'. The celerifere was in fact a horse-drawn carriage, imported from England, but a publication in the 1860s incorrectly used the name to describe a bicycle invented in 1791. According to

the story, a Comte de Sivrac put a second wheel and a padded saddle onto a child's hobby horse with a horse's head, and raced it down the Champs Elysee, in Paris. This was repeated many times over the years; coupled with the claim that a Frenchman invented the Bicycle. No



Fig 9: USA stamp: bicycle 1870s SG 1872, 1981.

Fig 10: GB 1d pink postal stationery envelope with advertising rings Allways & Onions Ltd postmarked July 14, 1887.



Thomhill, Dumfries from May 26 to June 3, 1990. The festival was given the title 'KM 150' and the Nithsdale District Council used a meter mark advertising the KM 150 anniversary for a limited period. The author received details of the meter mark too late and was only able to obtain one or two examples with the value '00', thanks to the assistance of a local collector (fig 5). If any reader can provide an example of the meter mark on a cover which has been through the post, please contact me, via the editor of **Stamp Magazine** and I will be happy to purchase! Royal Mail acknowledged

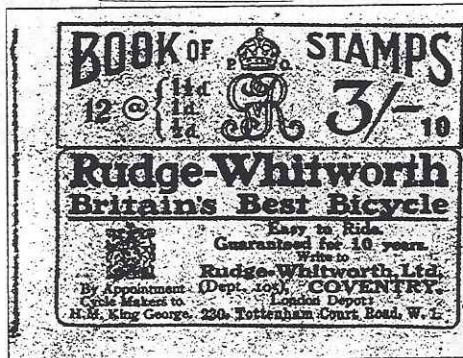


Fig 11: Rudge-Whitworth advertisement.

Fig 13: postcard of Centre Cycle at National Postal Museum.

Fig 12: USA 1985 SG 2158 Tricycle.



wheel in 1861 (fig 7). The firm Michaux et Compagnie was the first commercial builder of two wheel velocipedes and set up riding schools in Paris, for their customers to practise. Rowley Turner was the Paris agent for the Coventry Sewing Machine Co and he enthusiastically participated

in the velocipede craze. Late in 1868 he took a Michaux cycle to Coventry and persuaded the owners, and the shareholders, to start building velocipedes in Coventry. Manufacturing began in 1869 and marked the start of the cycle industry in Britain (fig 8). Their machines became known as 'Boneshakers', mainly due to the effects of riding on solid tyres over badly rutted roads.

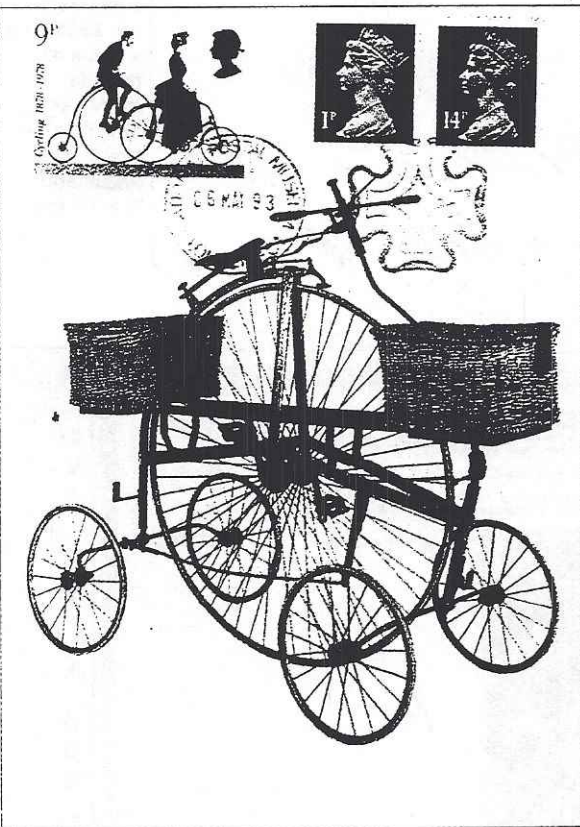
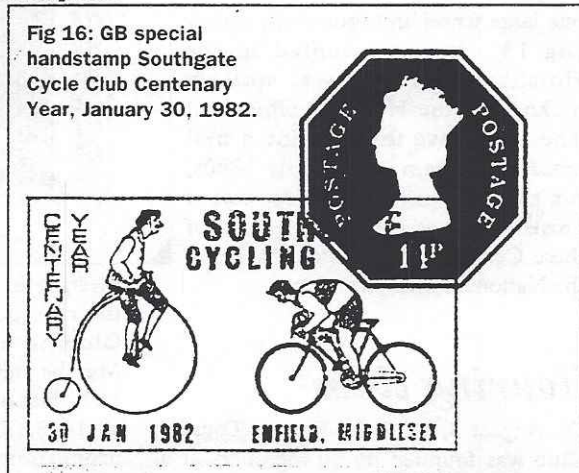
It was not long before the

young men were keen to make the boneshakers go faster. Manufacturers progressively increased the size of the front wheel, and diminished the size of the rear wheel, bringing about a machine called the 'Ordinary' or 'High Wheeler', but the wags of the day quickly dubbed it a 'Penny-Farthing' (fig 9). The ordinary bicycle proved an impetus to the popularity of cycling. By about 1882 it had reached its peak of refinement with steel wheels, stronger spokes and hollow tubing. However, it could only be ridden safely by fit young men and it was superseded in the early 1890s by the safety bicycle, which had two wheels of similar size and was propelled by a chain drive to the rear wheel. More importantly riders could put one foot on the ground when stationary. Early manufacturers of safety bicycles in Britain included Alldays and Onions Ltd of Birmingham (fig 10) and Rudge-Whitworth of Coventry (fig 11).

Tricycles and more

Concurrently with the development of the two wheeled velocipedes, experiments were taking place in many countries with 3 and 4 wheel machines. It was

Fig 16: GB special handstamp Southgate Cycle Club Centenary Year, January 30, 1982.



Kirkpatrick Macmillan's invention in the £5 Prestige Booklet 'The Scots Connection' issued on March 21, 1989. The page on Scottish explorers and inventors starts with a small illustration of the Macmillan machine (fig 6).

Early Bicycles

It was a Frenchman, Pierre Michaux, and his sons, Ernest and Henri, who made a commercial success out of the Draisienne by adding cranks and pedals to the front



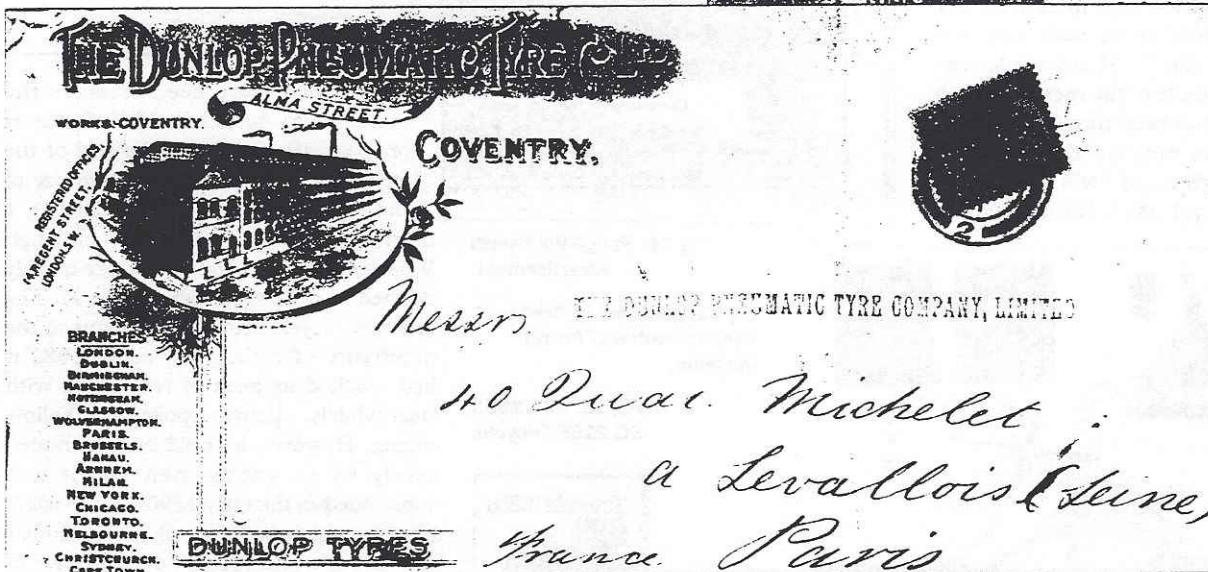
Fig 17: German Federal Republic stamp SG 2093 issued 1985 showing uniform of a typical club cyclist of the day.

recognised that tricycles were far more stable and suitable for riding by older men and by ladies. James Starley of Coventry was a gifted inventor and is

Fig 18: GB hand painted illustrated envelope (front only) postmarked London June 26, 1894 addressed to S. Lawrence at Hastings with a notice for a meeting at Heme Hill on August 1, with a one mile race — prize 10 guineas — and a four mile event, prize six guineas, organised by the Central Cycle Club.



Fig 19: GB cover to Paris postmarked Coventry, September 30, 1901 with a perfin on the 2½ Jubilee stamp: 'D P T Co' — The Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Co Ltd.



reputed to have been the first successfully to carry out the full scale production of tricycles. Queen Victoria saw one of his Salvo tricycles (fig 12) being ridden on the Isle of Wight and summoned the rider to meet her at Osborne House. The Queen was so impressed that she ordered two tricycles which were delivered by James Starley. Thereafter the tricycle was manufactured as the 'Royal Salvo'.

One of the strangest cycles produced was the Centre Cycle, with one large wheel and four small wheels (fig 13). It was invented in the Horsham area and was quickly nicknamed the Hen and Chickens! The GPO gave the machine a trial around Horsham in the early 1880s, for the delivery of parcels, but it proved to be too cumbersome. One of these Centre Cycles was on display at the National Postal Museum.

Touring clubs

On August 5, 1878 the Bicycle Touring Club was founded by 50 members at a

meeting in Harrogate (fig 14). In 1883 the club became the Cyclists' Touring Club, in order to include tricyclists. Membership peaked at about 60,000 in 1899 but had fallen to less than 10,000 by 1918. The club had attracted a large proportion of middle and upper class

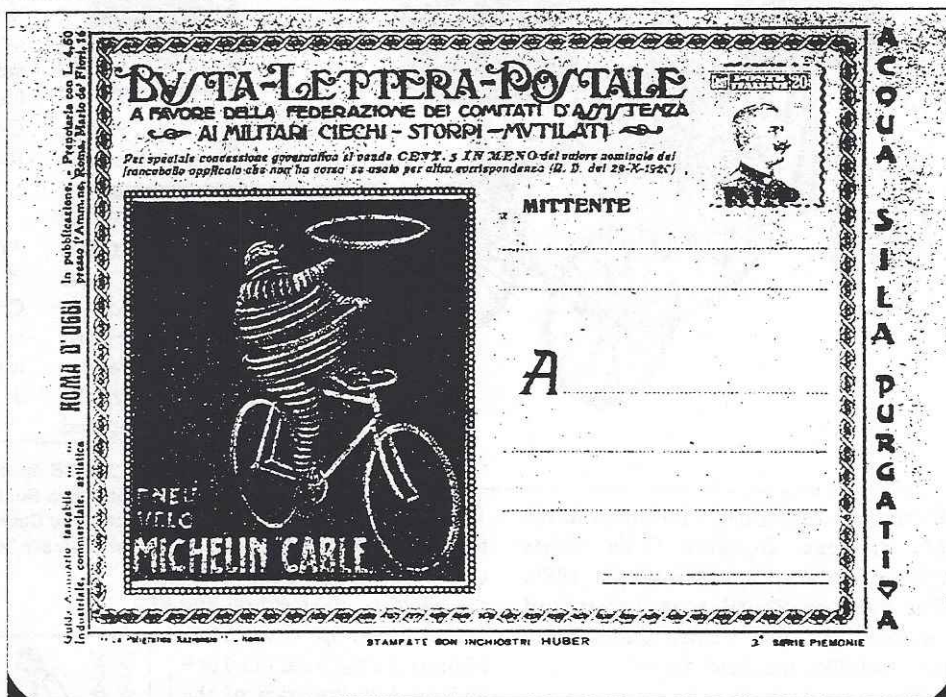


Fig 20: Italy letter card with 20c stamp (SG 105) officially overprinted BLP. The letter card contains advertisements and was sold at a discount with part of the proceeds from the advertising revenue going to the support of the war wounded.

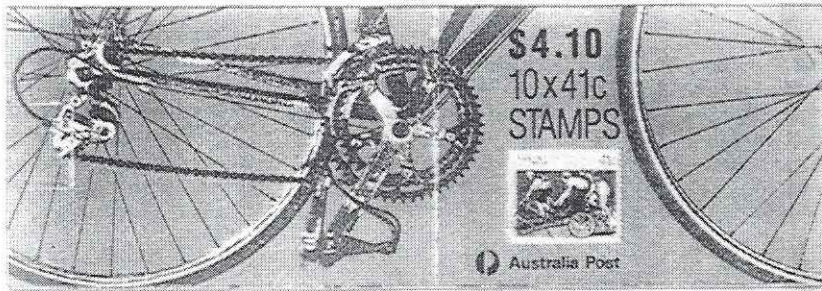


Fig 22: Australia stamp booklet with illustration of derailleure gear on cover.

business men, doctors, lawyers, parsons and civil servants. With the advent of the motor car, the majority of these members were able to afford to buy cars and stopped using their cycles. Attempts to allow membership to motorists failed.

A principal item of expenditure was the postage for despatching the *CTC Gazette*. A memorandum was submitted to the Postmaster General in 1902, protesting at the high rates of postage for printed matter. This met with no success. In 1910 King George V, who was a philatelist and a cyclist, graciously agreed to become the Club's first Royal Patron.



Fig 23: GB hand painted envelope postmarked London WC, November 8, 1896.



Fig 24: Norway postmark: 'Sandnes 25.7.91' with BMX bike illustration.

Fig 25: Monaco stamp of 1996 featuring Mountain Bike.

Cycle racing clubs

In 1878, the same year that the Bicycle Touring Club was formed, the Bicycle Union was set up. The aims of this organisation included the framing of racing rules and the running of national championships (fig 15). It became the British Cycling Federation in 1959. The growth of racing cycling clubs, most of

which affiliated to the Bicycle Union, was rapid. The Southgate Cycling Club was formed in 1882 (fig 16) and was one of 199 clubs in the London area alone. In that year a cycle meet at Hampton Court

attracted 2,177 riders in a six mile procession. The early club cyclists wore a uniform of pill box hat with the club badge, buttoned jacket, tight breeches and stout shoes (fig 17). Each club had a bugler who blew on his instrument to assemble the riders. When cycling through villages with narrow or no pavements, the bugle was also sounded to indicate that the club should ride in single file.

Track racing

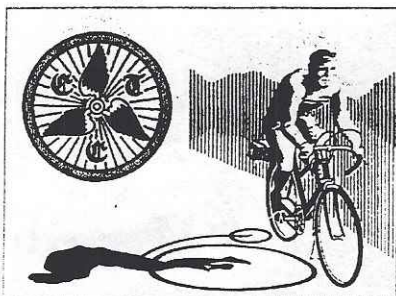
Track racing had a large following at the end of the 19th century. Crowds of 10,000 were not unknown at the Herne Hill track in South London (fig 18). However, an increasing attraction was league football and by early in the 20th century the public's interest in cycle racing as a major sport had waned, never to return.

Improvements to the safety cycle

A major improvement to the comfort of the cyclist occurred when John Boyd Dunlop invented the pneumatic tyre in 1888 (fig 19). Other manufacturers of pneumatic tyres for cycles include Pirelli and Michelin (fig 20). Initially spokes on bicycle wheels radiated from the centre but the wheels were strengthened when spokes were overlapped (fig 21).

Cycling up hills was eased by the introduction of the derailleure gear. Instead of a single cog on the back wheel, the derailleure gear has three or more cogs of different sizes and the chain is moved from

Centenary of the
CYCLISTS'
TOURING CLUB
 PATRON H.M. THE QUEEN
 1878 - 1978



SOUVENIR COVER

one cog to another by operating a lever on the down tube of the bicycle (fig 22).

Acetylene and oil lamps were originally the means of lighting the way at night but proved difficult to keep alight in wet and windy weather. Lanterns were also hung over handlebars at the turn of the century (fig 23), and they perhaps provided an even stronger light than most modern dynamos and battery lamps.

Modern Safety Cycles

The diamond framed safety bicycle has survived to the present day. Small wheel bicycles with wheel suspension were introduced by Alex Moulton in 1962. These were based on his research into rubber suspension for BMC's Mini. In 1970 BMX bikes were established in America and adopted by young riders, speeding around dirt tracks (fig 24). Today, Mountain Bikes (fig 25), are a familiar sight. They are rugged but lightweight machines with 15 or more gears, built for utility off-road cycle touring and for racing.

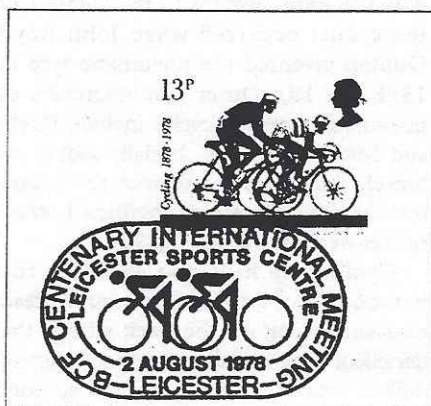


Fig 14: GB Special handstamp Cyclists Touring Club centenary August 5, 1978. Note: the illustration of a cycle tourist and the shadow of a penny farthing rider was the winning entry in a competition run to design a stamp for the centenary. A prize of £50 was awarded by Frank Goatcher but the Post Office did not use the design.

F B Sole Esq.



Fig 21: Mexico 1979: air letter imprint of \$1.60 stamp featuring tangential spokes.

Conclusion

This is but a short synopsis of the fascinating history of the bicycle. Whilst initially the material to form a thematic philately collection appeared limited I have been surprised at the extent of material which can be found.

Anyone interested in forming a collection should obtain details of the Bicycle Stamps Club from Ron Sant, 74 Nantwich Road, Middlewich, Cheshire CW10 9HG. Membership totals over 100 worldwide with the President based in the USA, a vice-President in Japan and the Secretary in Australia (who also edits the club journal *Bicycle Stamps* issued four times per year).

Bibliography:

King of the Road written and published by Andrew Ritchie ISBN 0 7045 0109 0 London, 1975;

Winged Wheel by William Oakley ISBN 0 902237 10 1 published by the Cyclists' Touring Club, 1977;

Penguin Book of the Bicycle by Roderick Watson and Martin Gray ISBN 0 14 00.4297 0 published by Penguin, 1978;

On your Bicycle ISBN 0-7195-4378-9 by James McGurn published by John Murray (Publishers) Ltd London, 1987;

Cycling History Myths and Queries by Derek Roberts ISBN 0 9507431 5 1 published by John Pinkerton, 1991;

A History of Bicycles by Serena Beeley ISBN I 85170 753 0 published by Studio Editions Ltd London 1992;

Handbook of Thematic Philately by W E J van den Bold ISBN 9963 579 70 1 published by James Bendon for The British Thematic Association 1994;

The Pedestrian Hobby-horse by Roger Street ISBN 0 9532722 0 6 published by Artesius Publications, Christchurch, 1998.

Fig 15: GB special handstamp British Cycling Federation centenary on August 2, 1978.

Brian Sole is currently Chairman of the British Thematic Association .

This is the cover of the February 1999 "STAMP MAGAZINE", which contained Brian Sole's article.

The Executive Editor of "Stamp Magazine", Richard West, kindly gave his permission for the reproduction of the article in "Bicycle Stamps". I wish to thank Richard and Brian for their permission to reprint the article, Brian for despatching by air a copy of the magazine, and Ron Sant who first brought the article to my attention when he sent me photocopies.

I recommend the magazine to readers; most of the illustrations are in colour and the information supplied seems to be of a high calibre.



Jeannie Longo

Jan Ullrich



Richard Virenque

Alex Zulle

Central Africa - 1998

When printed in BS25 I asked if anyone could identify the Champions, Andre Dhondt has sent these details.

OBTUSE CONNECTIONS - MY FINDINGS

by Vojtech Jankovic

My answer to the simple question "How do you define what you collect?" would be simple too: I collect everything that, to my knowledge, is connected with the topic of cycling. In other words, I make my own decisions as to whether a quantity of material is worth looking through or not. Sometimes it is hard to explain why I go through Field Post items or stamps of a previous century, but it works. It is just the reason which makes me happy in my collecting. However, this entails much reading and study, and there is good reason for doing that. Those who ever tried to present their exhibits at any philatelic exhibition know there is a criteria based on knowledge and philatelic research, and good knowledge and research results in more points. That rule leads me to look for more interesting and rare material, I try to find material that other collectors may have overlooked. I list below some of my findings which may be of interest.

- Reading several books on the history of the bicycle made me realise there have been many inventors who contributed to the story of the bicycle. One of the best known is the new finding on Vinci's painting in his Codex Atlanticus. Among others, there is a Russian inventor and mechanic, I.P. Kulibin, who significantly contributed to the development of human-powered vehicles (unfortunately, not directly to the invention of the bicycle). He worked on various mechanisms to replace horses to propel personal carriages; some of them are still on show in historic or technical museums in Russia. Why not use these facts to document predecessors of the bicycle and trials to find reliable human self-powered vehicles?

There are two Russian items which provide clear evidence of Kulibin's existence and his inventions:



- Soviet Union: Commemorative stamp (40 kop) issued in 1956 to celebrate 220 years of the birth of I.P. Kulibin in 1735 (Fig. 1).
- Soviet Union: Commemorative envelope issued in 1987 to advertise the Moscow's Polytechnic Museum's collection. The left side picture depicts Kulibin's human-powered three-wheeled carriage with two passengers and one "power" man (Fig. 2).



Fig.1

- In the era when Karl Drais invented his draisienne, several young men tried to ride the strange machine. One of them was a Slovak intellectual and poet, Jan Kollar. The proof of this is found in his famous poem "Slawy dcera". In that beautiful poem, Kollar clearly celebrates the new invention which helped him to reach his girl-friend Frederika in the nearby village of Lobeda. Kollar was able to make the journey between Jena and Lobeda, a distance of approximately 15km, in about one hour. This apparently happened during his studies at Jena University in Germany in 1817-1819.

There are three Czechoslovakian stamps issued to the memory of Jan Kollar:

- Czechoslovakia: Commemorative stamps (3Kcs and 5Kcs) issued in 1952 to commemorate the poet's death centenary (Figs. 3 & 4).
- Slovakia: Commemorative stamp (20Sk) issued in 1993 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the poet's birth (Fig. 5).

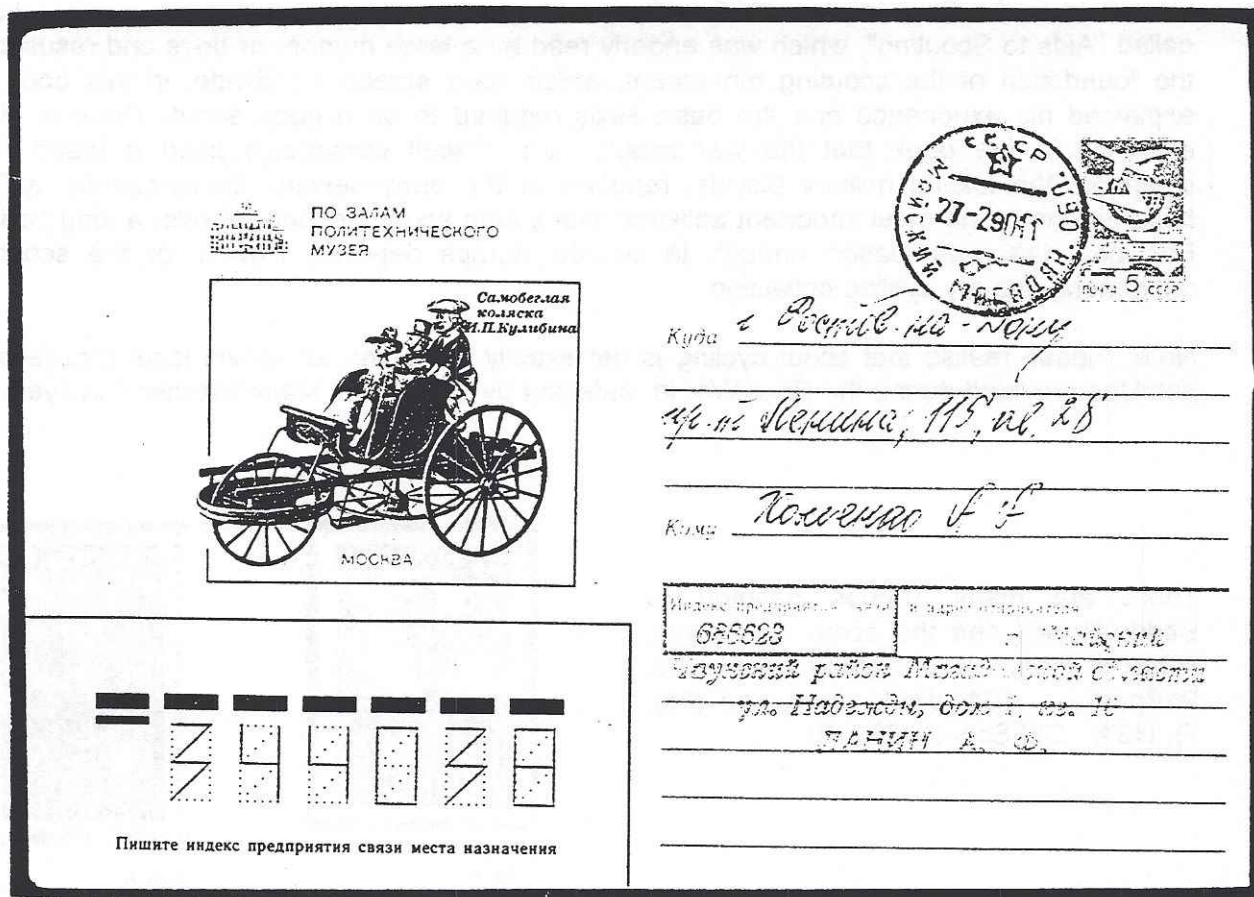


Fig.2



Fig.3



Fig.4



Fig.5

- It is well known that French writer, Victor Hugo (1802-1885), was a big fan of the velocipede. However, it is not so well known that his secretary, Richard Leclide, became one of the founders of organised cycling. Leclide actually prepared the first cycle racing rules based on the existing horse racing rules. In 1869 he founded the first cycling journal "Le Velocipede Illustre". The journal, together with the Compagnie Parisienne company, organised the first regular road cycling race, the Paris-Rouen, on 7 November 1869.

Since no philatelic items relating to Mr. Leclide exist, would the several stamps devoted to Victor Hugo be a good indirect documentation of the above facts? (France 1936 - Fig. 6)



Fig.6

- Robert Baden-Powell, scout and founder of the Scout Movement. Powell participated as a war scout in the Boer War in 1900 in South Africa. After the war ended, he wrote a book called "Aids to Scouting", which was eagerly read by a large number of boys and resulted in the foundation of the scouting movement, which soon spread worldwide. In this book he explained his experience and the basic skills required to be a good scout. There is clear evidence in the book that the war scouts (and Powell personally) used a brand new invention, the folding military bicycle, regularly in the army service. Consequently cycling became one of the most important activities that young scouts trained for over a long period. For me, this was reason enough to include stamps depicting Powell, or the scouting movement, into my cycling collection.

Note: Please realise that scout cycling is not exactly the same as known local bicycle mail services provided during the Boer War in Mafeking by Cadet Sgt. Major Warner Goodyear.

There are many stamps devoted to Baden-Powell and the scout movement; some of them are of cycling interest, ie: Philippines - 10th World Jamboree (Fig. 7); USA - Girl Scouts (Fig. 8).



Fig.7



Fig.8

In conclusion, would anyone be able to assist with information on the following:

- Is the company "Macchine Singer Percucire" on the special Italian advertisement stamp the same company that produced the famous Singer bicycles? If so, did the Italian branch produce bicycles also? (Fig. 9)
- On the Fleetwood First Day Cover (Champion of Liberty - Gustav Mannerheim stamp issued on 28 October 1960 in Washington) there is a picture on which three men on horseback appear in front of the bicycle company. Does anyone know whether Mannerheim was a soldier in a cycling company, or whether there is any other relationship between him and the military bicycle? (Fig. 10)
- I have two unused Indian postal cards (15 - brown tiger on yellow paper) with small pictures of cycling interest imprinted (one is orange, the other is brown, similar to the colour of the tiger). Does anyone know anything about these imprints? Are they officially printed by the Indian Post Office or privately? What does the text mean - is it an advertisement, road safety slogan or something else? (Fig. 11 & 12)



Fig.9



Fig.10

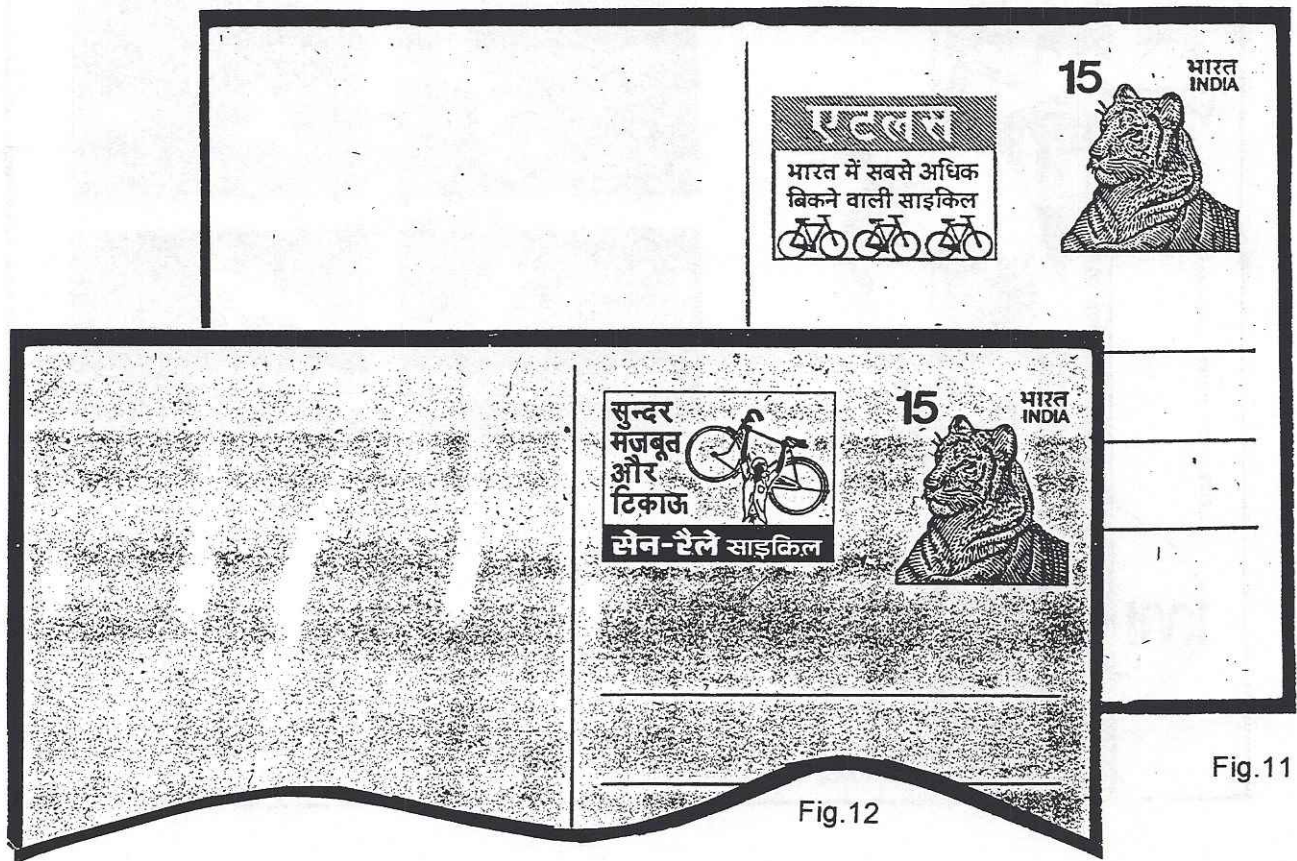


Fig.12

Fig.11

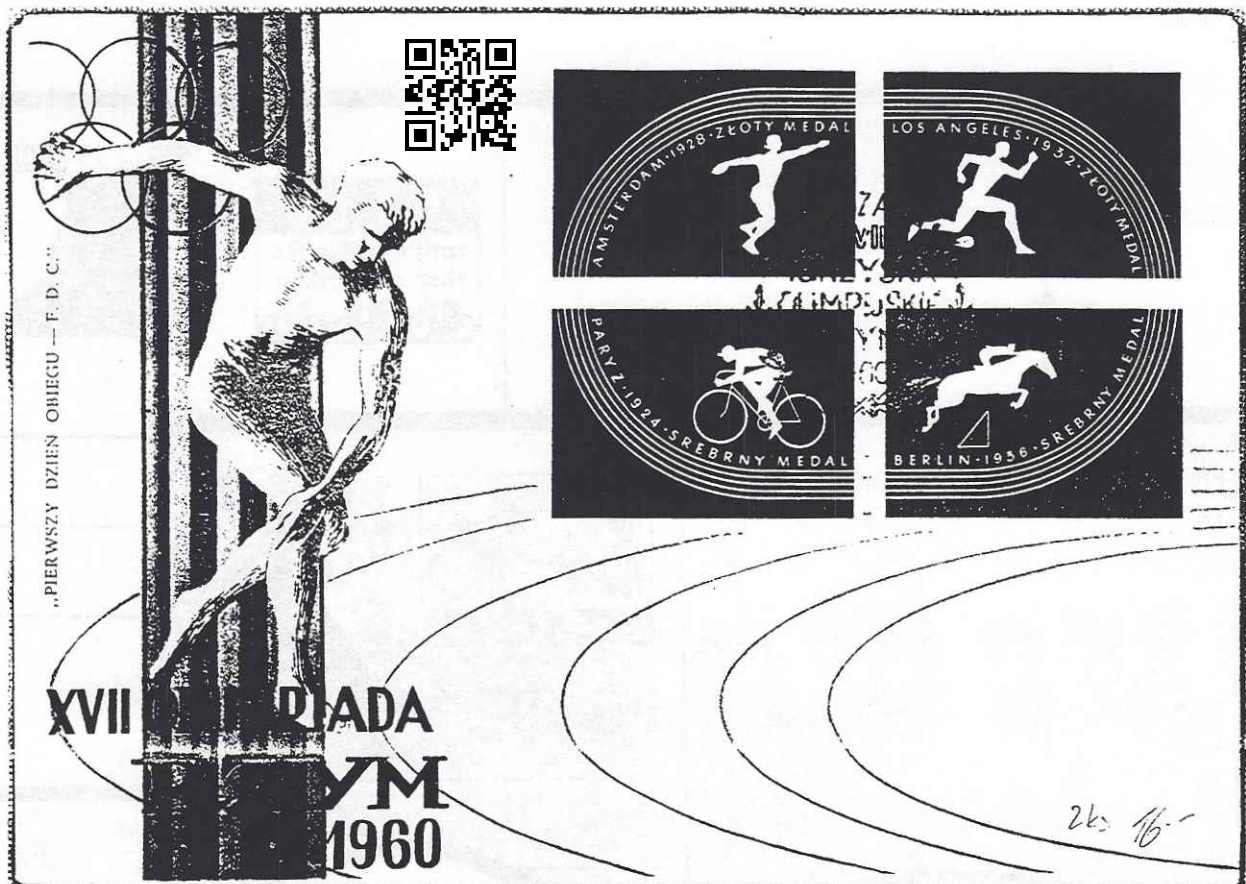
Editor's note: The article above was inspired by my question "How do you define what you collect" BS24A, page 8 and Ron Sant's article "Obtuse Connections" BS24B, page 14. Dr. Vojtech Jankovic has detailed what he considers to be collectable under the 'obtuse connections' heading. He has collected stamps for several years, with a focus on history and evolution of the bicycle and the bicycle industry, with special attention to the military bicycle. He has a stamp exhibit simply called "Cycling", which he regularly presents at local and world stamp exhibitions; eg: Olymphilex '92 Barcelona, Olymphilex '96 Atlanta, Olymphiafila '98 Budapest, Praga '98 Prague, etc. He hopes that he will qualify for the Olymphilex 2000 in Sydney.

THE FIRST OLYMPIC MEDAL FOR POLAND

by Vojtech Jankovic

In BS24B, on page 10, there was a question mark below the Polish cycling postal card depicting four old-fashioned cyclists. Searching my collection and stock of literature, I found some interesting information and some other philatelic items closely connected. I guess some of you might be interested.

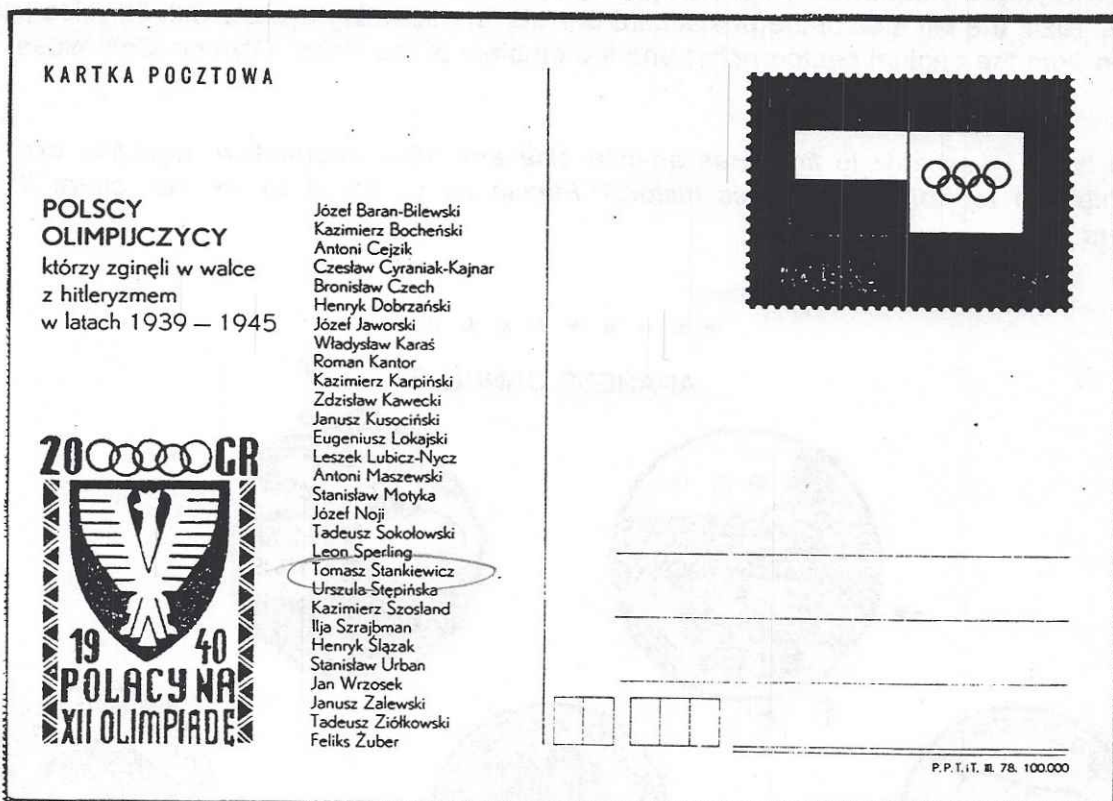
The Olympic Games in Paris 1924 were the first ones in which athletes of the Polish Olympic Committee participated (POC was established in 1919). That famous event for the Polish sporting movement has been documented/commemorated by many Polish philatelic items. Many of them are of cycling interest too. The reason is simple: the very first Olympic medal(s) for Poland were won by four Polish cyclists in a team pursuit race (Tomasz Stankiewicz, Jan Lazarski, Francyszek Szymczyk, Jozef Lange). They took second place, being beaten only by the Italian team in the final race. I have found the following related philatelic items:



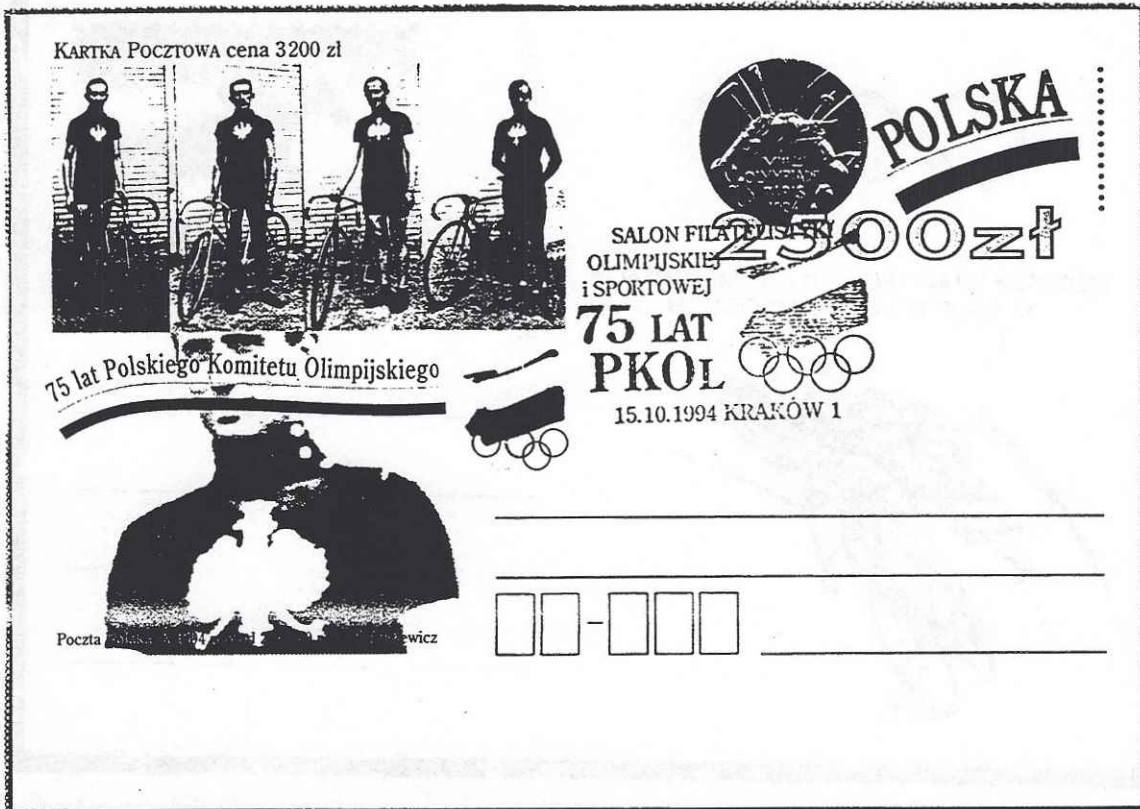
Polish stamp (60gr) issued on 15 July 1960 to commemorate the XVII Olympic Games in Rome 1960. Relief stamp depicts cyclist, Olympic rings and field track and text "PARYZ 1924 SREBRNY MEDAL" ("Paris 1924 silver medal"). The stamp was issued in both perforated and imperforated blocks of four.



Polish postal card (1zł) issued in February 1974 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first participation in the Olympic Games in 1924. The "stamp" depicts horse jumping, the left side of the postal card depicts Olympic rings and cyclists in a team pursuit race.



Polish postal card (1zł) issued in March 1978 in memory of those Polish athletes who died during the 2nd World War (1939-45). The list of the most famous ones contains the name Tomasz Stankiewicz, one of the successful quartet from the Olympic Games in Paris 1924.



Polish postal card (2500zł) issued in September 1994 to commemorate 75 years of the Polish Olympic Committee. The "stamp" depicts a silver medal from the Olympic Games in Paris 1924; the left side of the postal card depicts four standing cyclists with bicycles (shots taken from the original photographs) and the emblem of the Polish Olympic Committee.

This is all I was able to find. Has anyone else any other information regarding cycling's contribution to Poland's Olympic history? Please let us know so we can share it with others.





Odds & Ends

National/Panasonic



陽のあたる坂道

Dra-cle

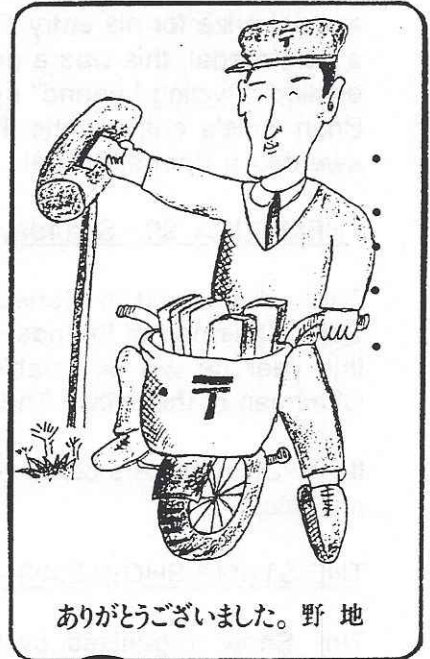
初春のお慶び申し上げます。
 本年弊社は「自転車、くらし文化」をスローガンに、
 お客様の生活を調査・研究し、より、くらしに密着した
 価値ある自転車を提案して参ります。
 この度、松下電器グループの総力を結集して開発した
 強力なエンジンユニット「BMB453」を装備し、
 業界最高レベルの電動自転車が誕生いたしました。
 もっと身近になっていくであろう電動自転車を通して、
 環境、社会問題を考えていく
 貢献企業を目指して取り組んで参ります。

Dear Teideman

平成十一年 元旦

ナショナル自転車工業株式会社 代表取締役社長 川内品介
 大阪府柏原市片山町13番13号 〒582-8501 専務取締役 吉田捷二
 常務取締役 渡辺又介

A Happy New Year!
Takeo Ono



ありがとうございました。野地

JAPANESE - TELEPHONE CARD
ECHO CARD



GERMAN CANCEL - 12.01.72
BREMEN 6 DAY



From My Musette

* ITALIA '98 - Milan - October 23rd to November 1st 1998

Ex-member, Pasquale Polo received 89 marks, and was awarded a Large Vermeil Medal and a special prize for his entry "Two Wheels is Life", written in English. He was just one mark short of a gold medal; this was a great achievement for Pasquale. Another entry next to Pasquale's was entitled "Cycling Legend" by Renato Bulfon, received 74 marks and gained a Silver Medal. Brian Sole's entry in the Transport Section, titled "Go by Cycle", received 81 marks and was awarded a Vermeil Medal.

* THEMATICA '99 - Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th June 1999

This will be held in Carisbrooke Hall, 63 Seymour Street, (Near Marble Arch), London. Brian Sole, Chairman of Friends of Thematica, has, in the past, put on a display on behalf of the Club; this year he will be unable to do so, due to other commitments - he is also currently the Chairman of the British Thematica Association.

If any UK members could volunteer their time, I'm sure Brian will give them every assistance with a display.

* THE STAMP SHOW 2000 - Earls Court, London - May 22nd to 28th 2000

This Show, organised by the Association of British Philatelic Societies ("ABPS") will feature displays from some of the Specialist Societies.

* 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF NICOLAS FRANTZ

Ralph Letsch has sent this copy of the special postmark to be used in Mamer to commemorate the life of Nic Frantz. It will be used on November 4th 1999, the 100th anniversary of his birth (see also BS25 page 30).



* Our President, Norman, had a spell off work following a fall from his bike on January 17th, in which he broke his pelvis. The fall was caused when a rider he was following slowed unexpectedly and Norman ran into his rear wheel. I'm pleased to say that, on February 25th, he received the okay from his doctor to resume normal activities.

* Brian Sole has supplied the following information regarding the aerogramme from Great Britain listed on page 13 of BS25 November 1998. It was issued on July 21st 1998 on the Magical Worlds theme, it was the Scottish version. There was also an English version featuring the book "Northern Lights" and a Welsh version featuring "The Snow Spider".

Reflections

It seems to some of us they are building staircases steeper than they used to be. The rises are higher or there are more of them or something. Once we could go up two steps at a time, nowadays it is all we can do to make it one step at a time. Another thing we've noticed is the small print in newspapers, and they are getting further and further away when we hold them. Our glasses don't seem to be of much help when we eventually find them, and the only way we can find out what's going on is to have somebody read out loud to us, but that's not very satisfactory because people speak in such low voices these days that we can't hear them very well. Everything seems farther away than it used to be. It's twice the distance from our house to the station now and they've added a fair size hill that I never noticed before. The trains leave sooner too. I got to thinking about all this the other morning when I stopped for a moment and looked at my reflection in the mirror. They don't seem to use the same kind of glass in the mirrors any more!

Anonymous