

SWIMMING BETWEEN THE FIVE RINGS



Berlino 1936

Purpose

Over the course of the years, I came across collections and writings of all kinds about swimming, but on all these occasions they were narratives about learning styles, how to improve technique, on training, and rarely on the competitive history and organizational progress of this sport or the great personalities who had achieved, in their years of swimming, extraordinary feats.

Target

With this collection I tried to take care of these aspects, focusing on the Olympic period that goes from the first Games in Athens 1896, to those in London 1948 and Helsinki 1952, the first Olympics of the second post-war.

PLAN OF THE COLLECTION

1	PRESENTATION	da 1 a 2	1894
2	COMPETITIVE SWIMMING AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES	da 3 a 5	1896
3	SWIMMING AT INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION	da 6 a 10	1900-1908
4	THE FINA (INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING FEDERATION) IS BORN	11	1908
5	STOCKHOLM 1912: THE GAMES RESTART WITH WOMEN	da 12 a 13	1912
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10	THE ARRIVE OF JAPANESE SWIMMERS	da 32 a 40	1932
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Totale 60 pagine A3 size



Badges for concurrents (swimmers) at the 1924 Paris and 1956 Melbourne Olympic



Ticket to watch the swimming competitions at the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games

Bibliography

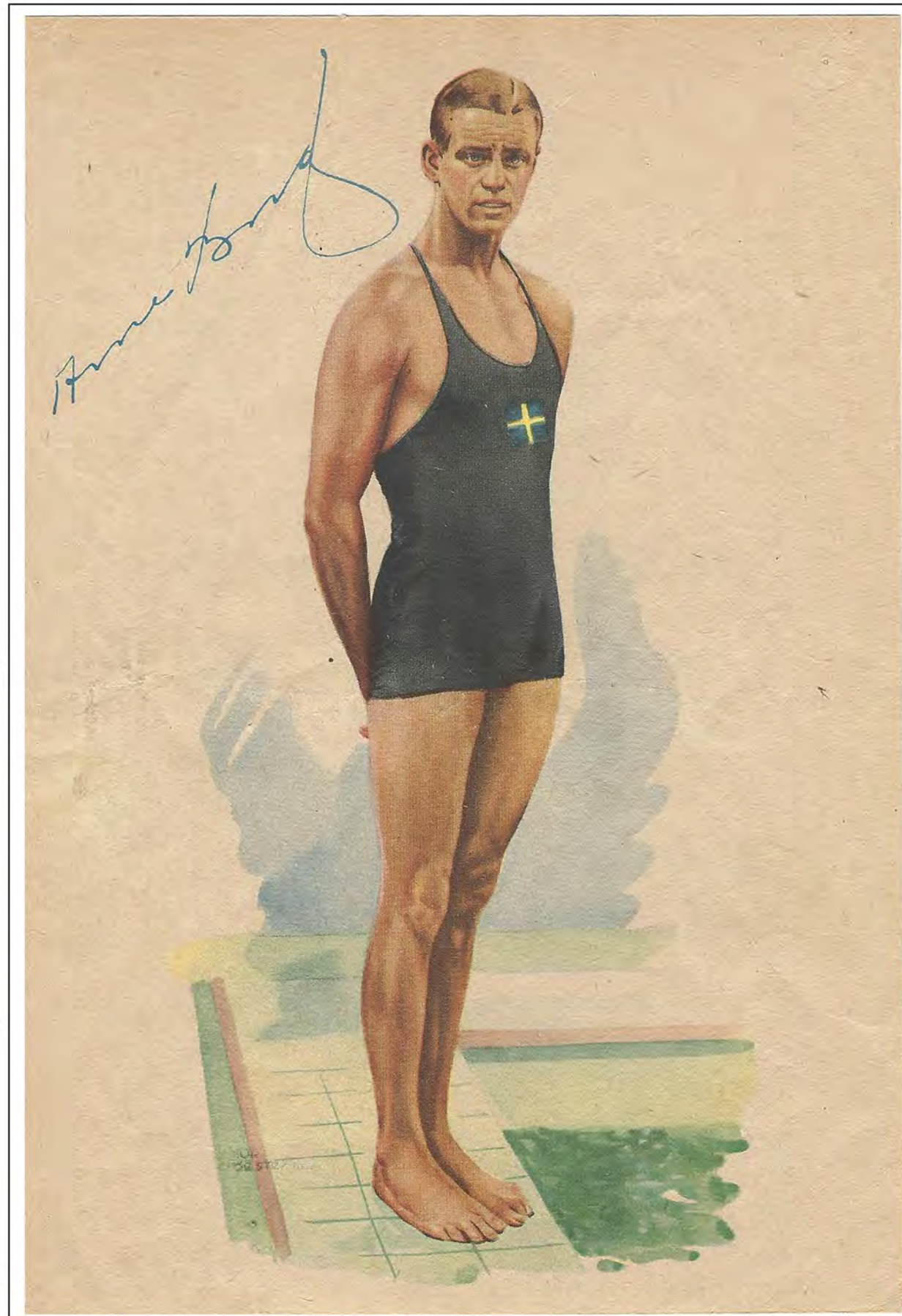
Peter Daland: - "The History of Olympic Swimming", 2009
 Mario Capuano: - "Nuoto e Filatelia", 1994
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 Enciclopedia Treccani: - <https://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/nuoto>

Index of rarity

- The rarity of postal material and memorabilia are indicated by a red frame

* Original in the back of the envelope

Claes Arne Borg 32 world records and winning five Olympic medals (1924/1928)





It all began on a hot day in June 1894, when the Secretary General of French Sports Associations, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, organized a conference with the title "Reflections and propagation of the principles of amateurism", later renamed "International Congress for the restoration of the Olympic Games". In the end, what took place from June 16th to 23rd at the Sorbonne auditorium, was the first Olympic Congress, the first step towards a rebirth of the Modern Olympic Games.



The first IOC Council



Centenary of the First Olympic Congress



Official vignette



Dimitrios Vikelas

To preside over it, they called an important politician of the time, Senator **Alphonse Chodron de Courcel**. The first decision taken was to establish the IOC (International Olympic Committee), whom de Coubertin first became the General Secretary and then, from 1896, after the Greek Dimitrios Vikelas, President.

The other members of the first Committee were the Russian **Aleksey Boutowski**, the German **Willibald Gebhardt**, the Czech **Jiri Guth-Jarkovskij**, the Hungarian **Ferenc Kemény** and the Swede **Viktor Balck**.



Jiří Guth-Jarkovský



Willibald Gebhardt e Viktor Balck



Ferenc Kemény



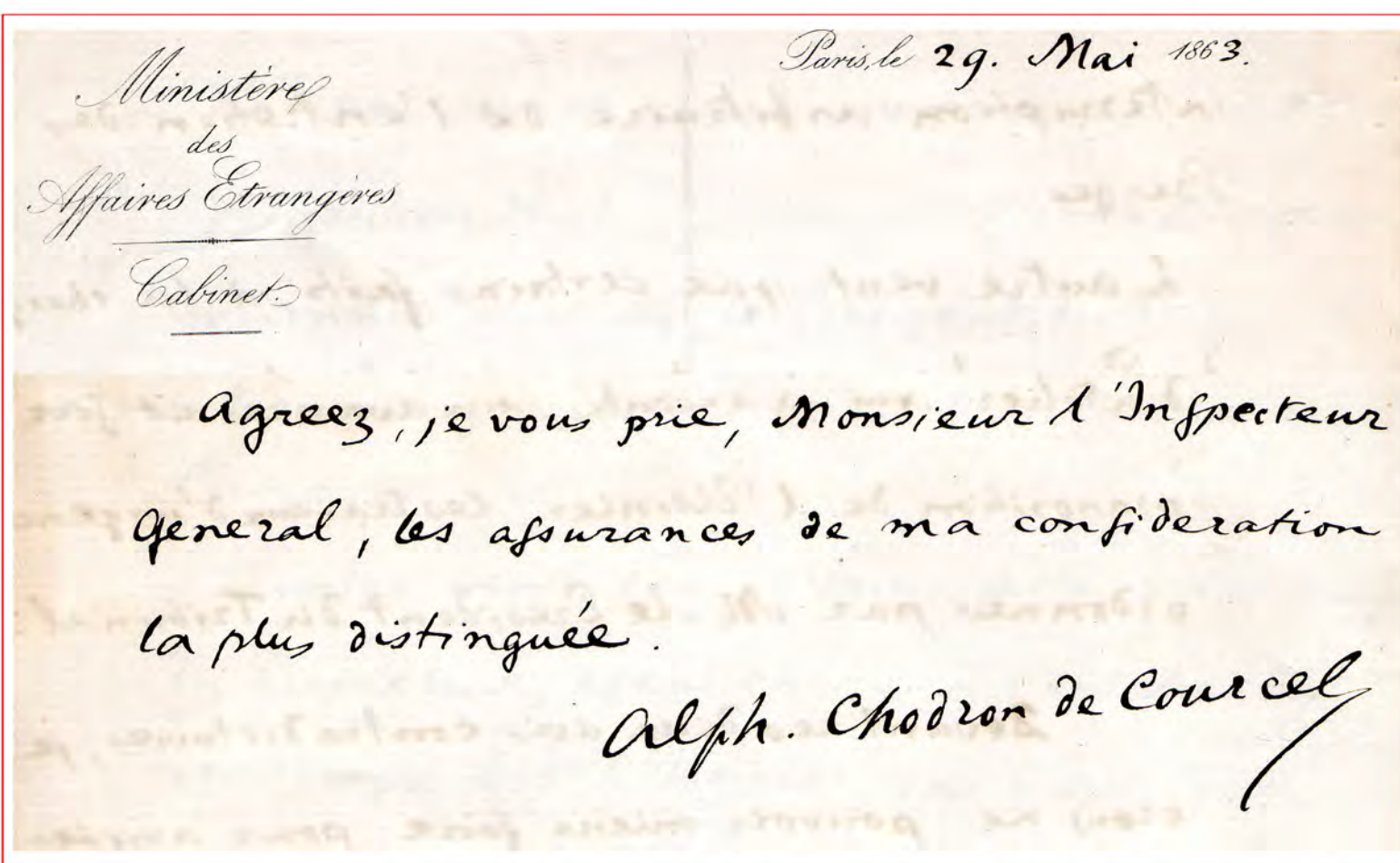
De Coubertin



Ceramic medal

Stamps not perforated

IOC Centenary



Autograph letter from Baron Alphonse Chodron de Courcel, first Senator and then French Ambassador in London



Aleksey Boutowski

At the end of the Congress, a resolution was adopted for the revival of the Olympics, establishing that the first modern Olympic Games were going to be held in Athens in 1896. Swimming was one of the first sports to be included in the new Olympic program.



COMPETITIVE SWIMMING AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

Competitive swimming was born with the restoration of the Olympic Games. It was in the small bay of Zea (Piraeus) that Athens organized, in the course of only one meeting, on March 30th (April 11th for the Gregorian calendar), the Olympic swimming trials of the first Olympics of the modern era.

ΓΕΝΙΚΟΝ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΤΩΝ ΟΛΥΜΠΙΑΚΩΝ ΑΓΩΝΩΝ

ΗΜΕΡΑ ΠΡΩΤΗ
Δευτέρα, 26 Μαρτίου ώρα 3η μ. μ.
Πανελληνική έναρξις τῶν Ὀλυμπιακῶν Ἀγῶνων ἐν τῷ Παναθηναϊκῷ Σταδίῳ.

α') Ἀθλητικοὶ ἀγῶνες ἐν αὐτῷ Σταδίῳ.

Τῆ ἑσπέρᾳ, μεγάλη ἀποχόρησις τῶν Στρατιωτικῶν μουσικῶν καὶ τῶν Φιλαρμονικῶν θιάσων. Λαμπαδηφορῖα τῶν Συντεχνιῶν καὶ Συνδέσμων.

ΗΜΕΡΑ ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ
Τρίτη, 26 Μαρτίου, ὥρα 10 π. μ.
Ἀγῶνες ἐν τῷ Ζαπτεῖῳ.

Ὦρα 3. μ. μ. Β') Ἐξακολούθησις τῶν ἀθλητικῶν ἀγῶνων ἐν τῷ Σταδίῳ. — Τῆ ἑσπέρᾳ φωταγῶγησις τῆς Ἀκροπόλεως.

ΗΜΕΡΑ ΤΡΙΤΗ
Τετάρτη, 27 Μαρτίου, ὥρα 10 1)2 π. μ.
Ἐγκαίνια Σκοπευτηρίου. Ἐναρξις ἀγῶνων σκοποβολῆς.
(Οἱ ἀγῶνες σκοποβολῆς θέλουσιν ἐξακολουθήσει κατὰ τὰς ἀκολουθοῦσας ἡμέρας).
Ὦρα 1 μ. μ. Ἀγὼν ποδηλατικὸς 100 χιλιομέτρων ἐν τῷ Ποδηλατοδρόμῳ. Ἀγῶνες Lawn-Tennis ἐν τῷ Ποδηλατοδρόμῳ.

ΗΜΕΡΑ ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ
Πέμπτη, 28 Μαρτίου, ὥρα 3 μ. μ.
Ἀγῶνες γυμναστικῆς ἐν τῷ Σταδίῳ.
Μεγάλῃ συναυλίᾳ ἐν τῷ Παναθηναϊκῷ Σταδίῳ τῶν ἠνωμένων μουσικῶν.

ΗΜΕΡΑ ΠΕΜΠΤΗ
Παρασκευή, 29 Μαρτίου, ὥρα 3 μ. μ.
Ἐξακολούθησις ἀθλητικῶν ἀγῶνων ἐν τῷ Σταδίῳ. Μαραθῶνις δρόμος.

Τῆ ἑσπέρᾳ, ἑορτὴ ἐν Πειραιεῖ.
Ὦρα 9 1)2 γενικὴ φωταγῶγη τῆς πόλεως Πειραιῶς, τῶν περίξ λόφων καὶ τοῦ λιμένος.
Ὦρα 10 Λαμπαδηφορῖα.
Ὦρα 10 3)4 πυροτεχνήματα ἐν τῷ λιμένι.
Μουσικαὶ θέλουσι παινίζε ἐν τῷ λιμένι, ἐν τῷ Τινανεῖῳ Κήπῳ καὶ ἐν πλατείᾳ Κραχισιάκῃ.

ΗΜΕΡΑ ΕΚΤΗ
Σάββατον, 30 Μαρτίου, ὥρα 10 1)2 π. μ.
Ἀγῶνες κολυμβητικῆς ἐν τῷ λιμένι τῆς Ζέας ἐν Πειραιεῖ.
Ὦρα 3 μ. μ. ποδηλατικοὶ ἀγῶνες τῶν 2 καὶ 10 χιλιομέτρων.
Ἐξακολούθησις τῶν παιδιῶν Lawn-Tennis ἐν τῷ ποδηλατοδρόμῳ.

ΗΜΕΡΑ ΕΒΔΟΜΗ
Κυριακὴ, 31 Μαρτίου. Ὦρα 3 μ. μ.
Μεγάλῃ συναυλίᾳ ἐν Φιλήρῳ. Ἀγὼν ἱστιοπλοίας. Μαραθῶνις ποδηλατικὸς δρόμος. Ἀφιξις ἀγωνιστῶν εἰς τὸ ποδηλατοδρόμιον.
Τῆ ἑσπέρᾳ, μεγάλη λαμπαδηφορῖα ἐν Ἀθήναις.

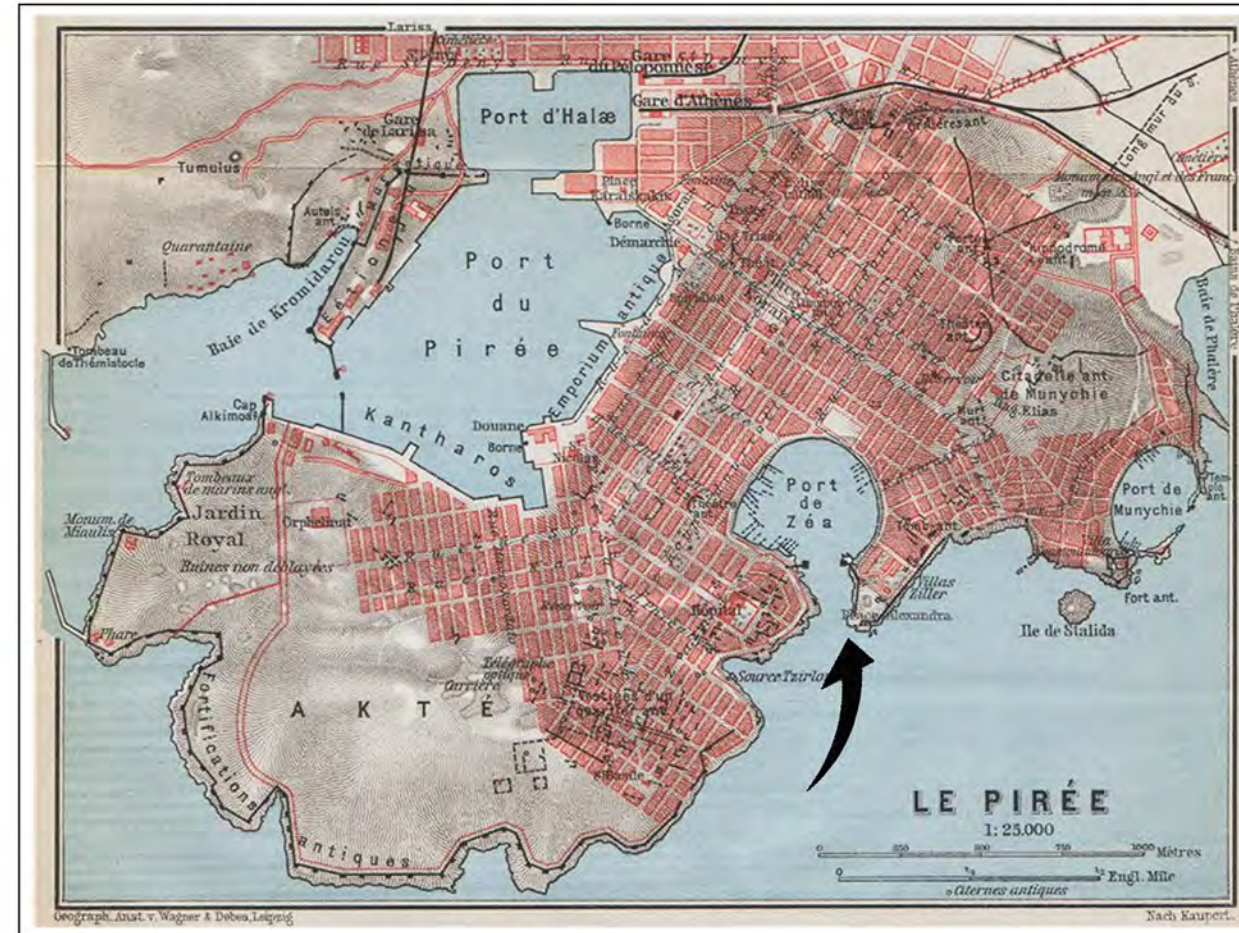
ΗΜΕΡΑ ΟΓΔΩΗ
Δευτέρα, 1 Ἀπριλίου.
Ποδηλατικὸς ἀγὼν δωδεκάωρος ἐν τῷ ποδηλατοδρόμῳ, ἀρχόμενος τῆ 6 π. μ.
Ὦρα 10 π. μ. Ἀγῶνες κωπηλασίας, λιμβοδρομῖαι σωματείων ἐν Φιλήρῳ.
Ὦρα 3 μ. μ. Ἀγῶνες κωπηλασίας πολιμικῶν λέμβων ἐν Φιλήρῳ.
Τῆ ἑσπέρᾳ, φωταγῶγησις τῶν ἐν τῇ Ἀκροπόλει μνημείων.

ΗΜΕΡΑ ΕΝΝΑΤΗ
Τρίτη, 2 Ἀπριλίου.
Ὦρα 3 μ. μ. Ἀνακήρυξις τῶν νικητῶν ἐν τῷ Παναθηναϊκῷ Σταδίῳ καὶ λῆξις πανηγυρικῆ τῶν Ἀγῶνων.
Κατὰ πᾶσαν ἑσπέραν φωταγῶγησις



The Bay of Zea

Postcard and map



March 25th, 1896, the day the stamp series was issued and March 30th, 1896 the day of the swimming competitions



Medal for participants in the Athens 1896 Olympic Games



Olympic series stamps with cancellations used in Piraeus (ΤΕΙΡΑΕΥΣ) in 1896

Program with the dates of the competitions that would have taken place at the first Olympic Games in Athens 1896, published in the newspaper "L'Olympia", the swimming competitions in red (original newspaper attached on the back).



Figurine

The absolute protagonists of those races were the Hungarian swimmers, present with 4 athletes, and all four of them registered for the three scheduled races. In the 100-metre freestyle eight of the thirteen competitors were Greek, then there were two Hungarians, an American, a Swede and a Dane.



The Hungarian Swimming Team



And it was one of the Hungarians, the eighteen-year-old Alfred Guttman (also known as Hajos, his sporting pseudonym), who won the first Olympic swimming gold. The other two events were the 500-metre, won by the Austrian Paul Neumann and the 1200-metre, which was once again won by Hajos, dominant of these first Olympic trial races.



Autograph letter from Alfred Hajos

Hungarian commemorations for 100 years of Alfred Hajos' victories



KARIS ISTVAN
1137 - Budapest.
121. István. Kr. 8.



Hungarian Sports Merit Medal for Olympic Champions

Hajos will become a famous sports architect and in 1924 even win the architecture competition at the Paris Olympic Games.

ΟΥΓΓΑΡΙΑ

1) A. HAJOS GUTTMANN του αγώνος κολυμβητικής 100 μέτρων.

2) A. HAJOS GUTTMANN του αγώνος κολυμβητικής τῶν 1200 μέτρων.

ΑΥΣΤΡΙΑ

1) P. NEUMANN του αγώνος κολυμβητικής 500 μέτρων.

(Part of the newspaper "La Natura" of April 14th 1896, with the names of all Olympic winners (the complete newspaper on the back); on the right an autographed letter of the twice Olympic champion Alfred Hajos).

HAJÓS ALFRÉD
ÉPÍTÉS-Z-MÉRNÖK
BUDAPEST,
V., BÁTHORY-UTCA 5.
TELEFON: 106-86

Budapest, 193...

Igen tisztelt úr úr!

Öröme gyűlön éjszaki életem történet
megvalósítását örömmel vette
tudomásul a magyar sport szempont-
jából is, mert bizonyos veszem, hogy
kegyesen a lemezzel kerül
jára a tisztá céljait, mind azt
az OTT - ban lette.

Meleg üdvözléssel
Kérte és híve
Hajos Alfréd
épilet



But the modern period of swimming must be considered as starting from the 1924 Games, the era of the Paris Olympics which, as we will see, was the first edition in which the swimming competitions took place in a real swimming pool, the Tourelles one, specifically built for that event.



Olympic Games Paris 1924



Tourelles pool, competitions for the 30th anniversary of the 1924



1899: Swimming races on the Tiber river

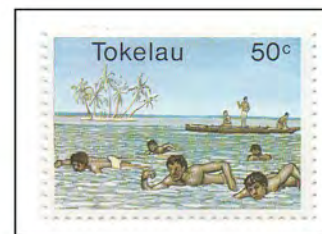
The previous editions were in what is considered the "pioneering" period: distances not well codified, hurdle races, competition fields made with makeshift arrangements, and above all swimming styles in constant

Initially, Freestyle and Dolphin did not exist; the Backstroke, unlike today, was swam simultaneously moving the arms backward (back stroke).

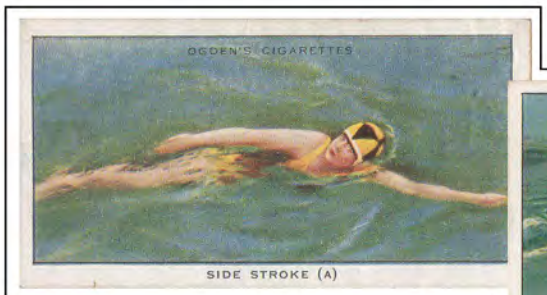
Back stroke



Only the Breaststroke was similar to the modern-day swim and was the most common style.



The Over was used instead (an evolution of the Side Stroke) and the Trudgen (swimming on the side and with the head always out of water).



Side stroke



Breast stroke



Crawl stroke



It was the Australian Charles Cavill who brought the Crawl into competitions: he saw it performed by indigenous people from an island in the Pacific Ocean, who instead of scissor kicking their legs, as in Trudgen, would move them from top to bottom.

MAMMOTH OPENING OF THE SWIMMING SEASON

AT Sutro Baths

SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 1897

Open from 7 A. M. until 11 P. M.
(And every day thereafter)

GRAND CONCERT BY SUTRO BATHS BAND
Chance to win Valuable Prizes

Charles Cavill
Champion Swimmer of the world, will swim
around Seal Rocks and also perform his wonderful
MONTE CHRISTO ACT
In **Sutro Baths**
Immense * Program

ADMISSION:
Adults 10 Cents. Children 5c

LOUIS ROESCH CO., PRINTERS, N. Y.

SWIMMING AT INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS (1900/1908)



After the good success of Athens, in 1900 the Olympic organization entered a phase of confusion, so much so that the organizing cities found space for the Games only within other important and concomitant events. In Paris, the Olympics were hosted by the Universal Exposition, and the swimming competitions, organized by the French Federation of Swimming Clubs and Rescue, took place in a swimming school located in a basin of the Seine, in the municipality of Courbevoie.



Badge of the French Federation of Swimming and Lifesaving Societies



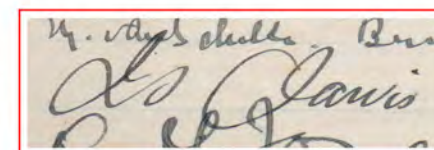
Medal for participants in the Universal Exhibition, and for athletes participating in Olympic competitions.



A view of the Seine with the Asnières reservoir - Courbevoie

Only men competed among which stood out the British John Artur Jarvis, the German Ernst Hoppenberg, and the Australian Frederick Lane, winners of 2 gold medals each.

John Jarvis's autograph



Jarvis won the 1000-metres with curves (five times 200 metres) and the 4000-metres in a straight line.



"La vie au Grand Air" from 1900 about the Olympic champion's victories (original magazine on the back of this page)



Figureine

Oppenberg won the 200-metre backstroke (for the first time at the Games) and the 200-metre in teams, while Lane conquered the 200-metre freestyle race and the 200-metre hurdles race, which consisted of climbing a pole, passing a row of boats and then returning swimming under boats. The races took place on August 11th and 12th of 1900.

Olympic champion Ernst Hoppenberg



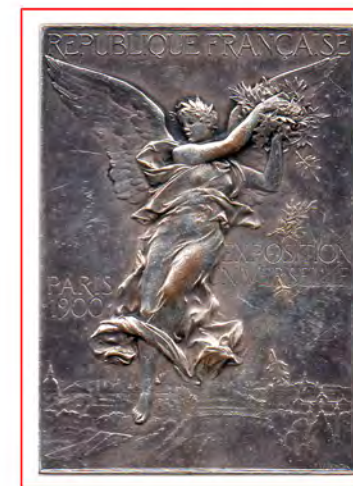
August 11th and 12th, 1900, days of the swimming competitions

A seventh race also took place in Paris, the 200-metre underwater (a race evaluated both for distance traveled underwater and by the seconds remaining in apnea), which saw the triumph of the French Charles de Vendeville.



Men's Swimming
The backstroke event was first included in the Games of 1900. There are now two events: the 100 meters, which is two lengths of the pool, and the 200 meters, which is four lengths.

Paris 1900 - first backstroke swimming competitions



Medal for winners of sports competitions



Ticket to enter the World Expo and attend all events, including sports competitions



Another Exposition, that of St. Louis, hosted the third edition of the Olympic Games, four years after.

g competitions took place in an artificial reservoir near of Agriculture, "The U.S. Life Saving Exhibition Lake", 1st Guard, during the fairs, held its daily demonstrations techniques and when later, became a diving pool.

Nonostante per coincidere l'Olimpiade del 1904 con l'Esposizione Universale, quella di St. Louis, che celebrava il centenario de Entry ticket to the World Fair and Olympic competitions, c



The U.S. Life Saving Exhibition Lake", the artificial lake where the swimming competitions took place



Daily programme of the St. Louis 1904 World's Fair Exposition with the day's competitions, including swimming



Gold and silver medals for participants in the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, including Olympic athletes



OLYMPIC GAMES—

Special Physical Training Program—	World's Fencing Championships, Sept. 8-10
Lectures, Exhibits, Etc., Aug. 1-31.	Olympic Cricket Championships, Sept. 12-17.
Bicycling, Aug. 1 to 6.	Archery, Sept. 19-21.
Roque, Aug. 1 to 13.	Golf Tournament, Glen Echo Links, Sept. 19-24.
Bowling on the Green, Aug. 15-17.	Military Athletic Carnival, Sept. 26-Oct. 1.
Y. M. C. A. Athletics, Aug. 15-20	A. A. U. Wrestling Championships, Oct. 14-15.
Tennis, Aug. 29-Sept. 3.	Turners' Mass Exhibition, Oct. 27.
Olympic Games, Aug 29-Sept. 3.	
Swimming and Water Polo Championships, Sept. 5-6-7.	



September 6th, 1904

But the big surprise came from the Hungarian Halmai Zoltán who, following the tradition of his compatriot Alfred Hajos, won the 50 and 100 yards titles, beating, in both races, the Americans Charles Daniels and Scott Leary.



Halmai Zoltán



Figurine



Starting 100 yards

The other titles were won by the Germans Walter Brack (100 yards backstroke) and Georg Zacharias (440 yards breaststroke).

At the St. Louis Olympics, the nine swimming events, all played by men, took place between September 6th and 7th of 1904. That was the last edition in which distances were measured in "yards". The German swimmers ranked, winning four gold medals out of nine.



Emil Rausch

Figurine

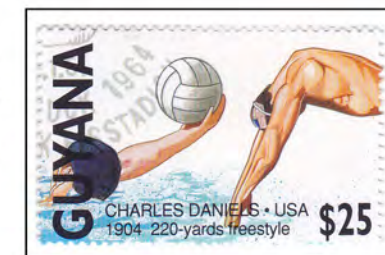


Georg Zacharias's autograph



September 7th, 1904

Heroes of those Olympics were the American Charles Daniels, champion of the 200 and 400 yards freestyle, and the German Emil Rausch, winner of the 800 yards and the mile race.



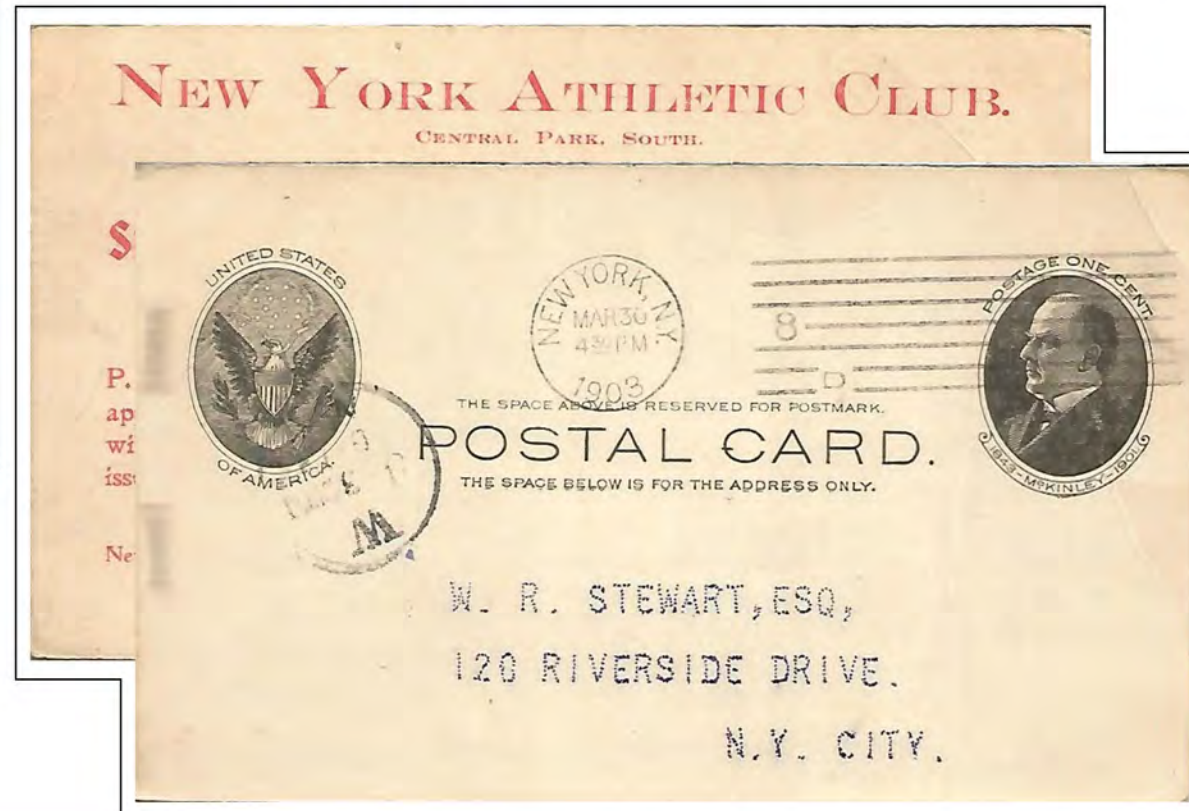
Charles Daniels

Cigar band



New York Athletic Club

In the 4x50-yard relay, gold went to the Americans from the New York Athletic Club (in this race only American club teams entered).





The edition of the 1908 Games, which had initially been assigned to the city of Rome and then, due to the economic constraints Italy was experiencing, was diverted to London. Here, after the signing of the "Entente Cordiale", stipulated in 1904 between France and Great Britain, the "Franco-British Exhibition" had already been planned. As a result, once again, the Olympics took place within an Exhibition.



July 13rd, 1908 and July 25th, 1908, first and last day of swimming competition



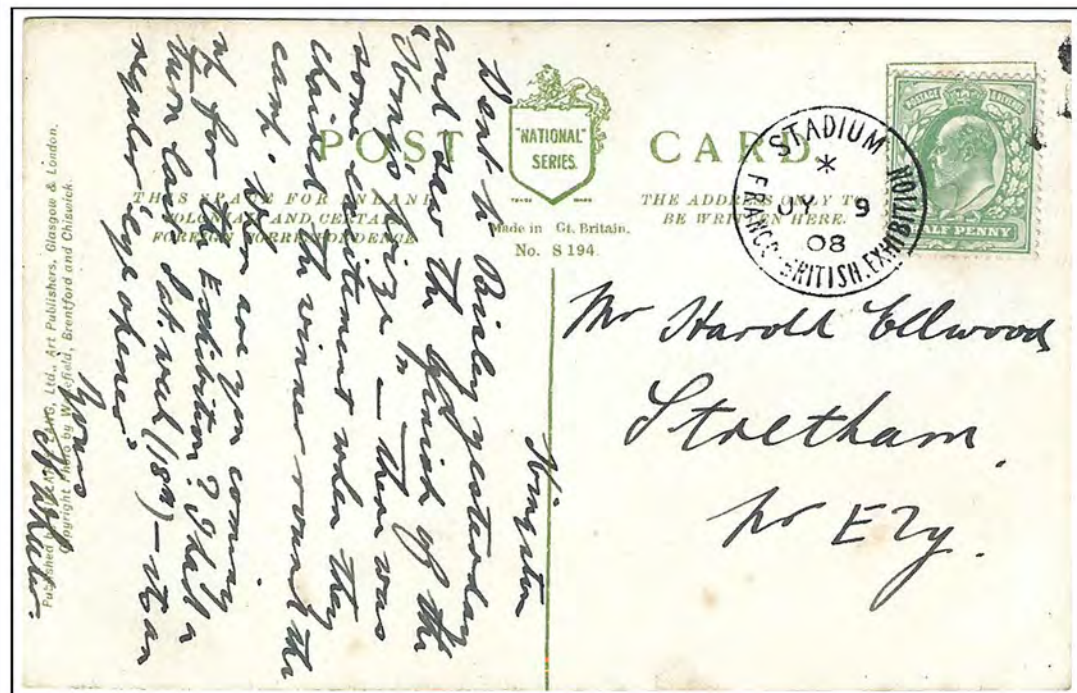
Stadium 1908

The Stadium and the 100-metre pool for swimming competitions



Official badge for Judges

The swimming races were held, from July 13th to the 17th, in a 100 metres bay, specifically built inside the London Athletics Stadium. Only six races were played, all reserved for male.



The Stadium, FRANCO-BRITISH EXHIBITION.



Official postcards

THE LONDON 1908 OLYMPIC GAMES

THE GREAT STADIUM *at* WHITE CITY

FOUNDER OF THE GAMES

The modern Olympic Games are attributed to Frenchman Pierre de Coubertin. With his great personal wealth and impeccable political credentials, he re-established the ancient Olympic Games in a modern form. The Games of the I Olympiad were held in 1896 in Athens.

THE FIRST STADIUM

The London 1908 Olympic Games had a specially fitted-out stadium with seating for more than 66,000. It was constructed at White City, West London, in less than two years and hosted the athletics, cycling and swimming competitions.

PARADE OF ATHLETES

For the first time in Olympic history, athletes paraded into the stadium behind their national flags at the 1908 Opening Ceremony. The competitors who took part wore sportswear for the occasion.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

The City of London Toastmaster acted as a Master of Ceremonies at the London 1908 Olympic Games, announcing events and results. Modern loudspeaker systems didn't arrive until the 1920s.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

From 1900 to 1920 the tug-of-war event was a popular part of the Olympic athletics programme. Shown here is the United States team, but in 1908 gold, silver and bronze medals were all won by teams comprised wholly of British policemen.



Stamp Design © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2001

NEVER GIVE UP

After winning three ABA titles between 1894 and 1896, British boxer Richard Gunn was asked to retire due to his "acknowledged superiority". However, in 1908 he came out of retirement to take part in the Olympic Games, and at just under 38 years of age, he won the featherweight title.

AGAINST ADVERSITY

In 1908 US athlete Ray Ewry won gold medals in both the standing high jump and the standing long jump. Polio had confined him to a wheelchair as a young boy and it was thought that he might be paralysed for life. Through determination and exercise, however, he became a fine athlete.

A PASSION FOR SPORT

British sportswoman Lottie Dod was one of the most versatile athletes of all time. Apart from taking a silver medal for archery in 1908, Dod also won Wimbledon five times, a national golf title and helped to found the England women's national field hockey team.

ALL-ROUND TALENT

American Martin Sheridan was regarded by many as the world's finest athlete of the early 20th century. At the London 1908 Olympic Games he won gold medals in both discus events and a bronze in the standing long jump.

AGE AND ABILITY

In 1908, Swedish shooter Oscar Swahn was already 60 years old when he won his first Olympic gold medal. He was victorious in both the team and individual running deer single shots events and also took bronze in the individual running deer double shots event.





Henry Taylor

The great protagonist of those Games was the English swimmer Henry Taylor, winner of the 400-metre and 1500-metre freestyle, as well as the 4x200-metre relay. Born in Hollywood Lancashire, he trained in the canal of the cotton mill where he worked.

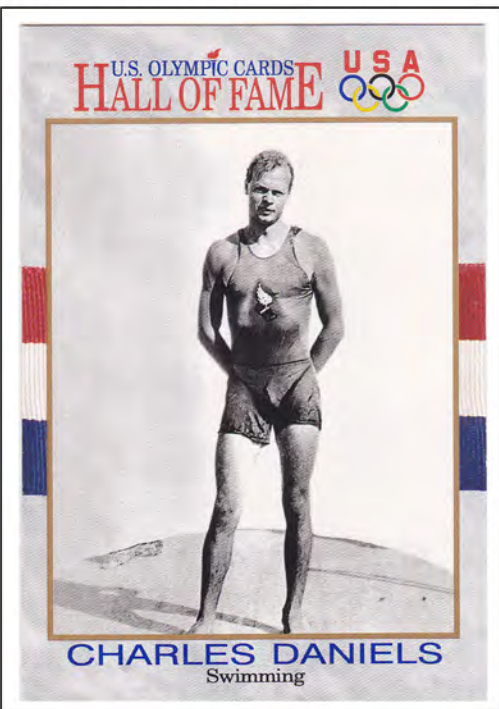
In London, he dueled against the Australian Frank Beaurepaire who in the 1500-metre pushed him to the world record, but not to the British one as the pool was "only" 100-metre long and not 110 yards, as prescribed by the English internal rules of those years.



Official badge for athletes

Taylor, who had debuted in Athens in 1906, continued to compete until Antwerp 1920, quitting at 41. After his career ended, due to the failure of the bar he had purchased, he had to sell all his trophies (35 cups and 300 medals) to pay his debts. After his death, the trophies were recovered and displayed in a museum in Chadderton.

On the same day that Taylor won his first gold medal (20 July), Charles Daniels, already a multiple medallist in St. Louis, won the 100-metre freestyle title, while Germany's Arno Bieberstein, swimming breaststroke on his side, won the 100-metre backstroke gold three days later (23 July).



American "Hall of Fame" figurine

Charles Daniels



Medal for participants in the 1908 London Olympic Games

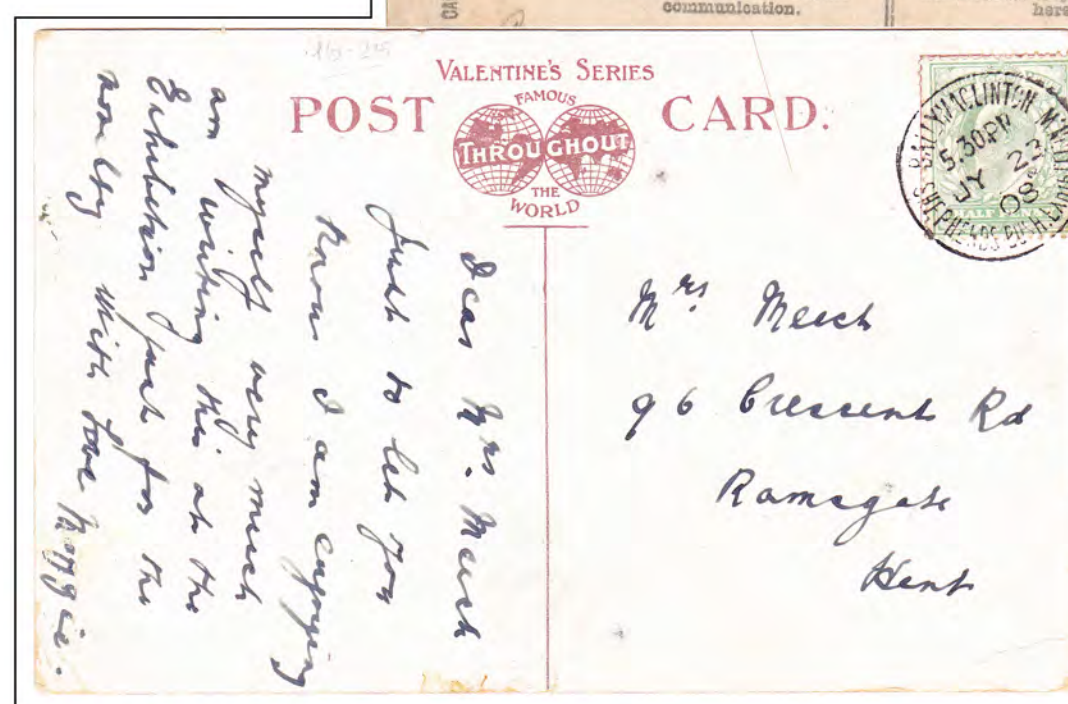


Official postcard

100-metre freestyle race



Arno Bieberstein



July 23rd, 1908 - 100-metre backstroke final

July 20th, 1908, 100- and 400-metre freestyle finals and July 25, 1500-metre final



The final of the 4x200-metre freestyle relay took place on July 23th 1908. Great Britain's team, consisting of Rob Derbyshire, Paul Radmilovic, William Foster and Henry Taylor, came first ahead of Hungary and the United States.



July 24th, 1908 - 4x200-metre freestyle relay final



THE FINA (INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING FEDERATION) IS BORN

Official programme of events on 18 July



During the unwinding of the competitions, the President of the Swimming Amateur (the English Federation) George W. Hearn, decided to organize a meeting of the Presidents of the other swimming Federations present at the Games at the Manchester Hotel, to discuss "the annoying matter of amateurism and, at the same time, compile a list of world records achieved".



1908 - Medal minted for the birth of FINA

Hotel Manchester of London

FINA, founded in 1908



At that meeting, they decided to form the International Swimming Federation, to which however, only Denmark, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, Finland, Hungary, and Sweden joined.

Badges and medals of the six federations that with the Great Britain one joined the International Federation ever since the beginning of its formation.

Sweden



Finland



Hungary



Germany



Great Britain



Denmark

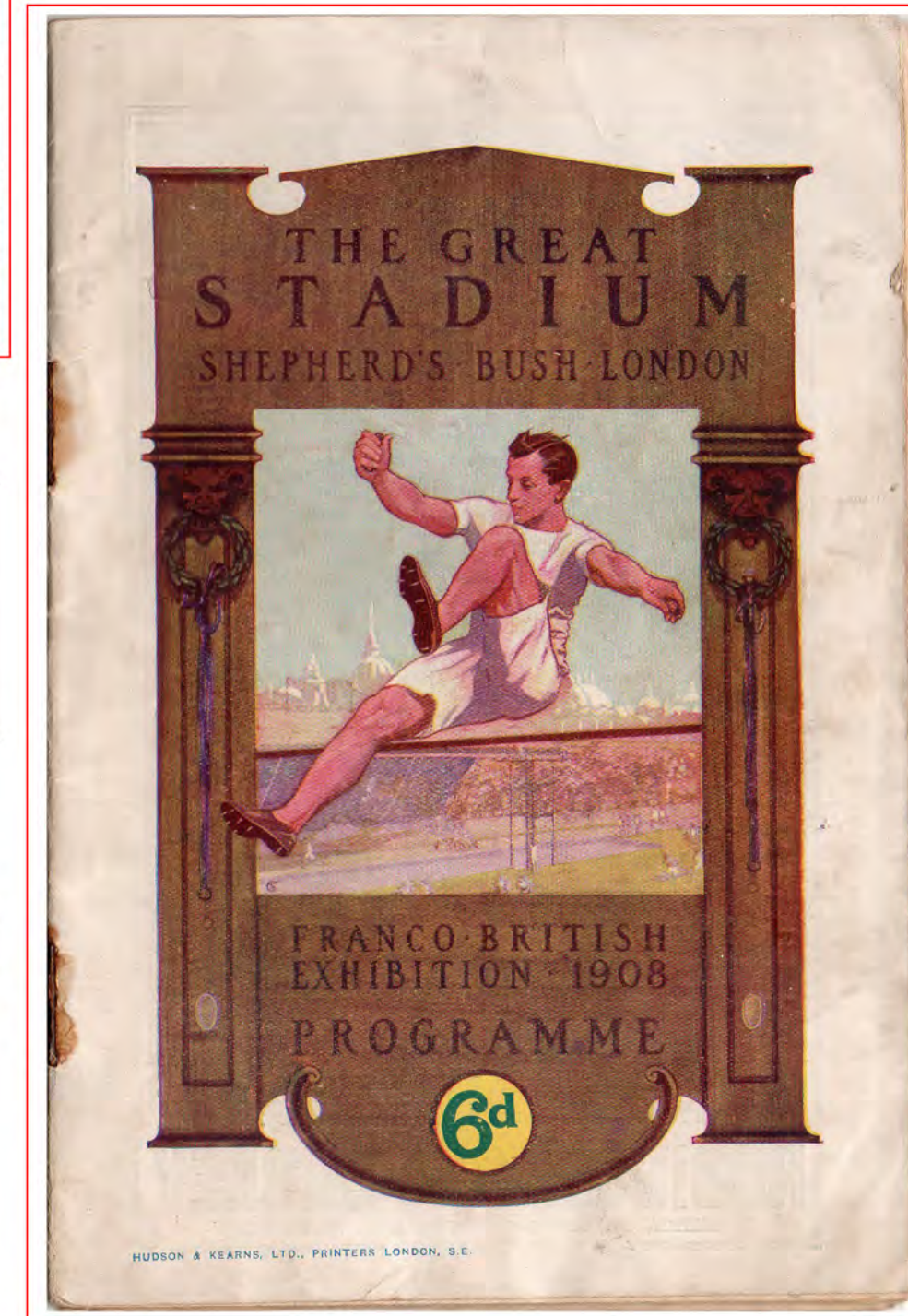


Belgium

1908-2008 Centenary of FINA



Holland



France



Canada



USA



Australia

Badges and medals of the other swimming Federations that joined FINA in 1910

Holland



Austria



Scotland



Italy

Hearn was appointed president of the newly formed International Federation which, only at the subsequent meeting in Paris in 1910, took the name of FINA. During that reunion, the federations of Australia, Austria, Canada, Holland, Italy, France, Scotland, South Africa, and the USA joined as well.



STOCKHOLM 1912: THE GAMES RESTART WITH WOMEN

In 1912, in its fifth edition, that of Stockholm, the Olympics finally had a completely dedicated space. For the swimming competitions (July 6th to 15th), a swimming pool was specifically created inside the Djurgårdsbrunnsviken bay, in the central area of Stockholm which, as all the other Olympic facilities, gave the sensation of being a facility suited to the importance of a large event like the Olympics. There were nine swimming events played, of which seven were for male competitors and, for the first time, two for female contestants.

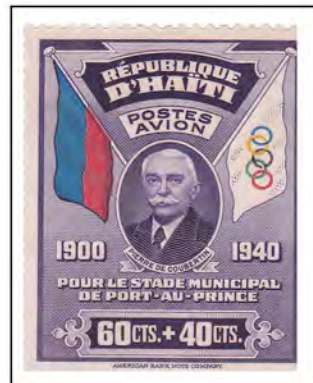


Olympic Merit Medal

Figurine "Felix Potin"



Annette Kellerman



De Coubertin



Fanny Durack

So at the 1912 Games, despite De Coubertin's opposition, women were admitted even at swimming competitions, which for the time were considered a scandalous sport due to the swimming suits of the athletes in the pool as they would show too much of their bodies: only five years earlier Australian swimmer Annette Kellerman was arrested on a Boston beach for indecency only for wearing a one-piece swimsuit, deemed inappropriate.

Official postcard



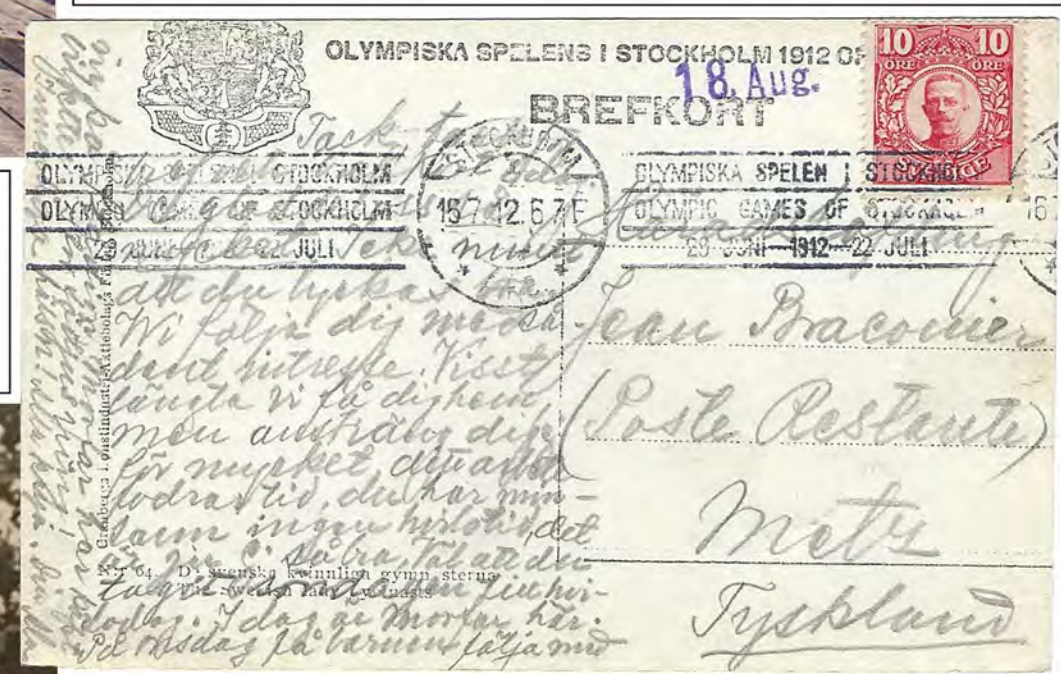
The podium of the women's 100-metre freestyle race: Fanny Durack, Wilhelmina Wylie and Jennie Fletcher



Official vignette

The protagonists of the women's races were the Australians Fanny Durack and Wilhelmina Wylie, who were able to participate in the Games thanks to a collection from the New South Wales women's swimmers' association and the funds made available by Wylie's wealthy family.

In Stockholm, Durack obtained the world record of the 100-metre heat and in the final of July 12th beat Wylie to it by over 3 seconds and the English Jennie Fletcher by almost 5.



The winning British 4x100-metre freestyle relay team



July 15th, 1912 - women's 4x100 metre freestyle relay final

Since there were only two of them, the Australians proposed to swim the relay (July 15th) making two fractions each. They probably would have won if the suggestion had been accepted. Instead, the English women (Isabella Mary Moore, Jennie Fletcher, Annie Speirs, and Irene Steer) won ahead of the Germans and Austrians.



July 12th, 1912, women's 100-metre freestyle

Official postcard



In the seven men's matches scheduled, Canadian **George Hodgson** scored a double, winning the gold medal in the 1500-metre freestyle first (July 10th) and then in the 400-metre freestyle. Another protagonist was German **Walter Bathe**, who won both the 200-metre and 400-metre breaststroke, ahead of Swede Thor Henning and British Percy Courtman.

Official postcard



George Hodgson



July 10th, men's 100-metre freestyle final

It was an unknown young man, **Duke Paoa Kahanamoku**, who lowered the world records every time he got in the water, to take care of getting the United States the gold medal in the 100-metre freestyle.

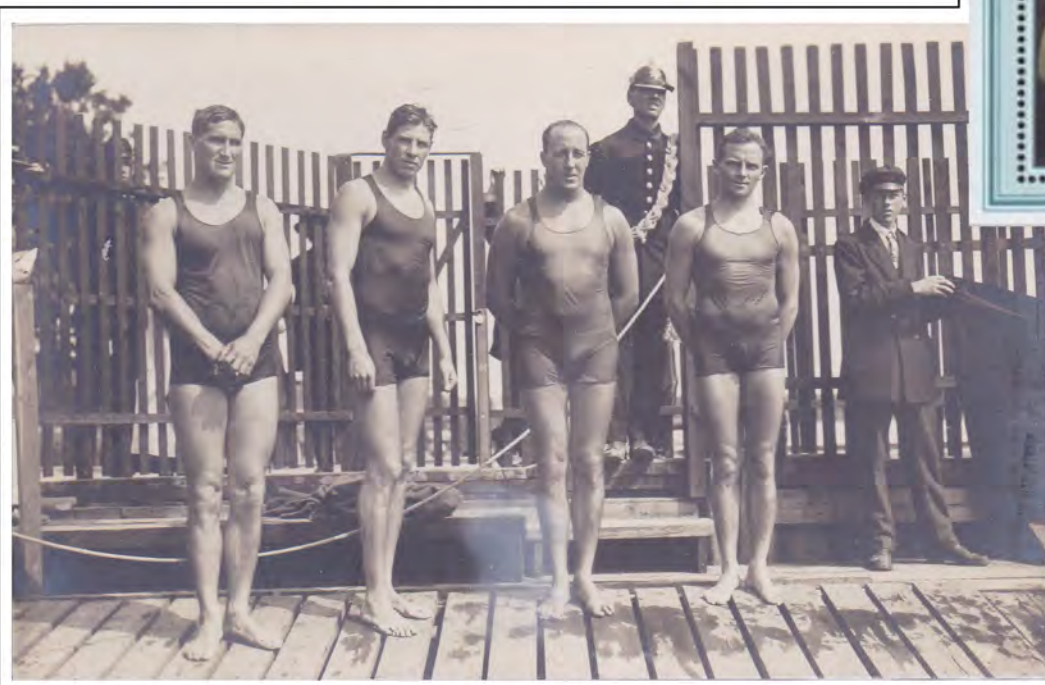


Malcolm Champion, gold in the 4x200-metre freestyle relay

Five nations participated in the 4x200-metre relay (July 13th) and all were admitted to the final. The title went to **Australia**, ahead of the USA and Great Britain. The winning team was composed of three Australians and the New Zealander Malcolm Champion.

Official postcard

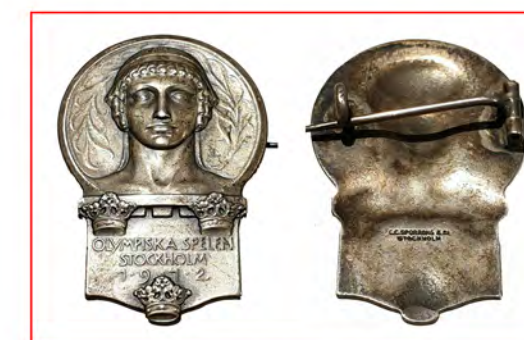
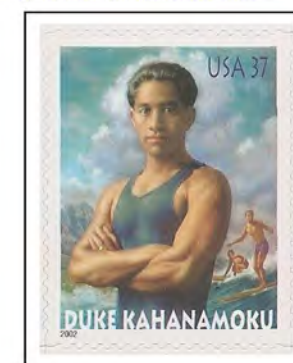
Australasia's winning 4x200-metre freestyle relay team



Medal for participants in the 1912 Stockholm Olympic Games

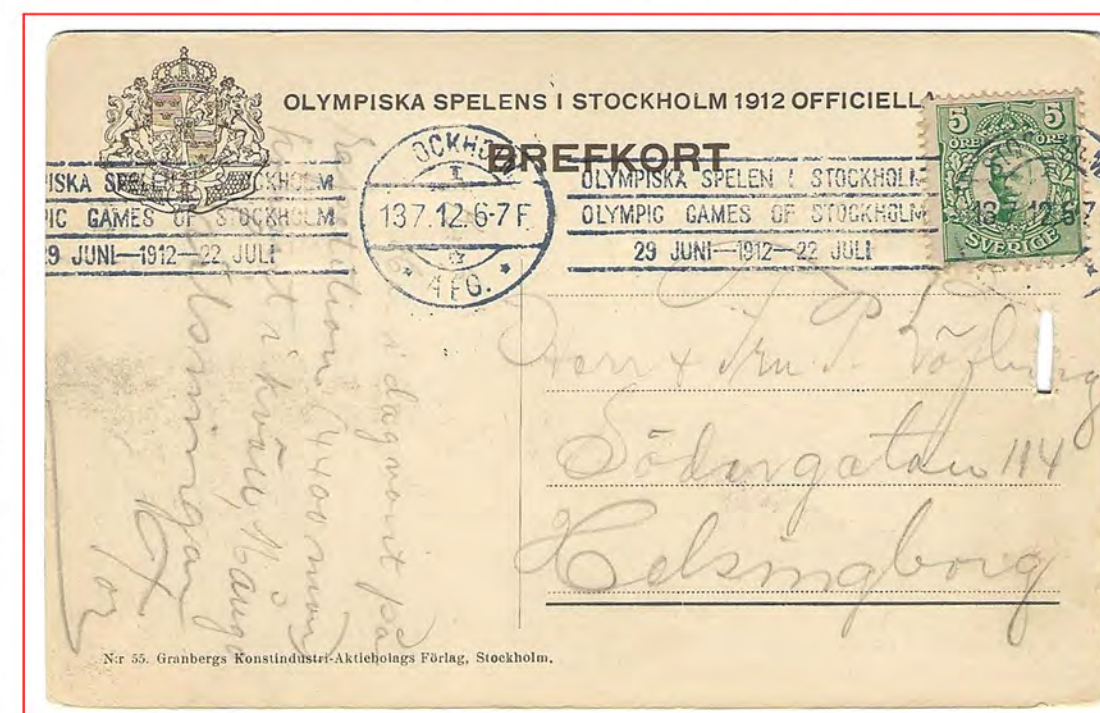


Duke Kahanamoku



Participant badge

July 13th, men's 4x200-metre freestyle relay final



Panini figurine

Walter Bathe



Official badge

THE WAR INTERRUPTS THE ... GAMES



The sixth edition of the 1916 Olympic Games, thanks to the intervention of Baron Egbert von der Asseburg, president of the German Reich Committee for the Olympic Games and member of the IOC, had been assigned to Berlin during the 1912 IOC Session, but with the outbreak of the First World War, the Games were first suspended and then canceled.



90 years of the Berlin Stadium and the effigy of Egbert Asseburg

1913 Jubilee of Wilhelm II



Postcard

In the summer of 1913, the Organizing Committee had already built all the facilities, beginning with the Olympic stadium, inaugurated on June 8th of the same year with a large event in the presence of Emperor William II, who that year celebrated twenty-five years of reign.

The stadium was built inside the Grunewald racecourse, thanks to Victor von Podbielski, a member of the board of directors of the Club of the Union for Horse Races, who ensured the necessary financing.



Berlin Grunewald 1913

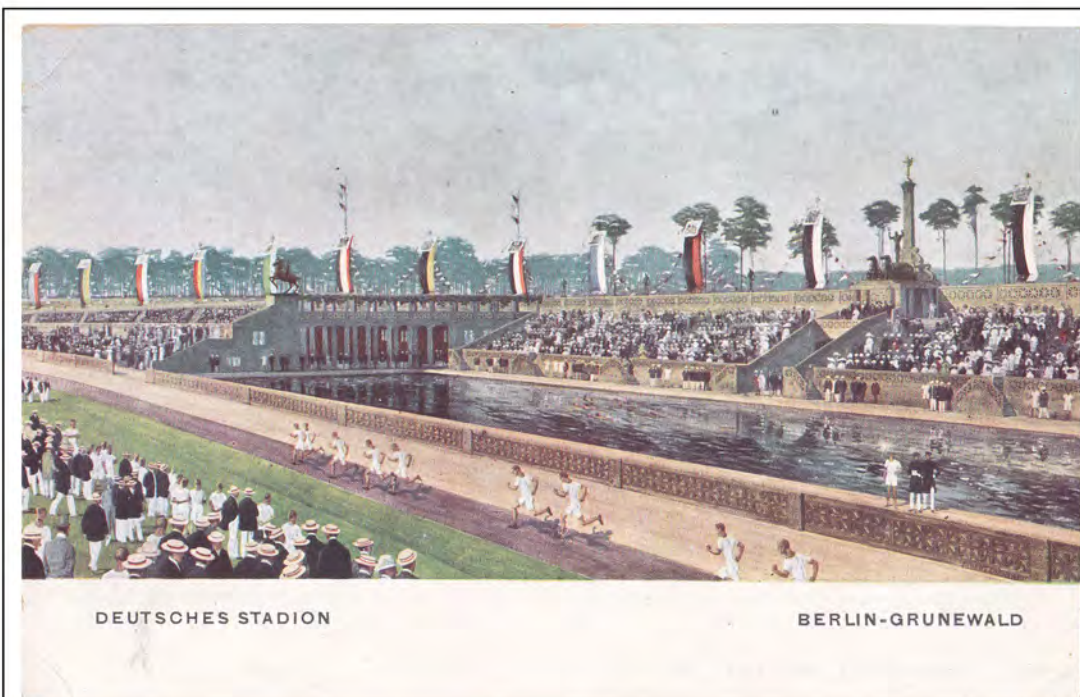


Victor von Podbielski



Vignette

Stadium seen from above



DEUTSCHES STADION

BERLIN-GRUNEWALD



Berlin-Grunewald, Deutsches Stadion und Sportforum.

Pool at the edge of the athletics track

Postcard and vignette



Vignette



Berlin. Deutsches Stadion.

View of the new Olympic pool

It was a spectacular stadium. Inside, but outside the track oval, there was a large 100x25 metres swimming pool, with a permanent diving tower and a grandstand of almost 4,000 seats, pledging to be an exceptional showcase for water sports.

OLYMPIC SWIMMING IN THE FIRST POST-WAR AGE



1919 Peace Congress



188. Unterzeichnung des Vertrages von Versailles (1919).

Figurine

After the Versailles peace conference of 1919, the Olympic movement also got back to work and the members of the IOC, in a long-drawn-out meeting, decided that the 1920 Olympics, to honor the suffering inflicted on Belgian people, would have been organized by the city of Antwerp.



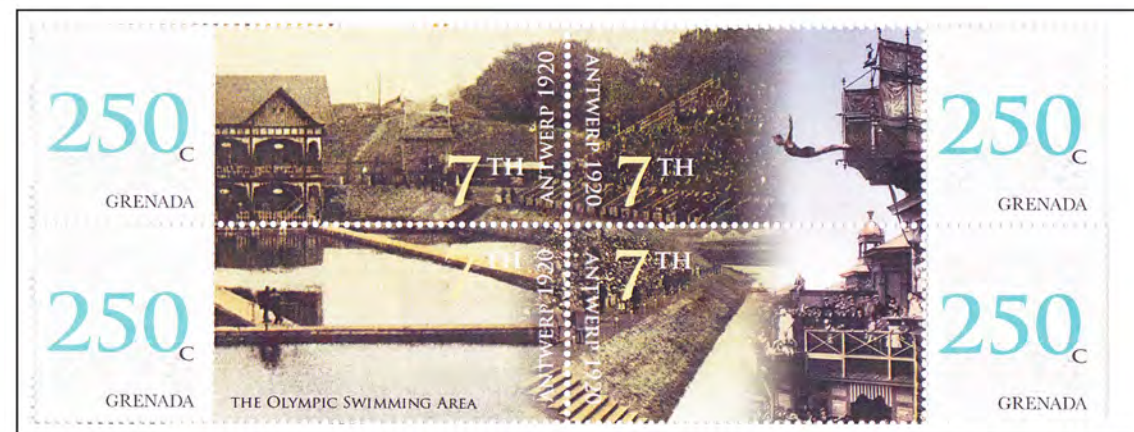
The swimming competitions at the seventh edition of the Olympic Games took place from August 22nd to September 1st of 1920. The program included 10 events, one more than the previous edition in Stockholm.



Medal for participants in the 1920 Olympic Games



August 22th, 1920, first day of the swimming events



The Antwerp facility for swimming competitions

Due to the little time available to the organizers, a 100 meters pool was used for the swimming competitions, a pool obtained from the ancient city fortifications, with freezing stagnant water, so much so that the American champion Ethelda Bleibtrey, addressing the Queen of Belgium who was awarding her, said: "Your Majesty, we swam in mud, not water."

Autographed photo postcard



In Antwerp, after his successes eight years earlier in Stockholm, it was again the Hawaiian Duke Kahanamoku who animated the men's swimming competitions. Kahanamoku turned 30 years old on August 24th in Antwerp during the first final of the swimming races, the one of the 100-metre freestyle when he established himself ahead of the same region competitor Pua Kealoha.

The race, however, was canceled due to the complaint presented by Australian Billy Herald, who had been cut off by American Norman Ross. The final was repeated on September 1st and Kahanamoku won again. That was the last time the races happened without lanes.



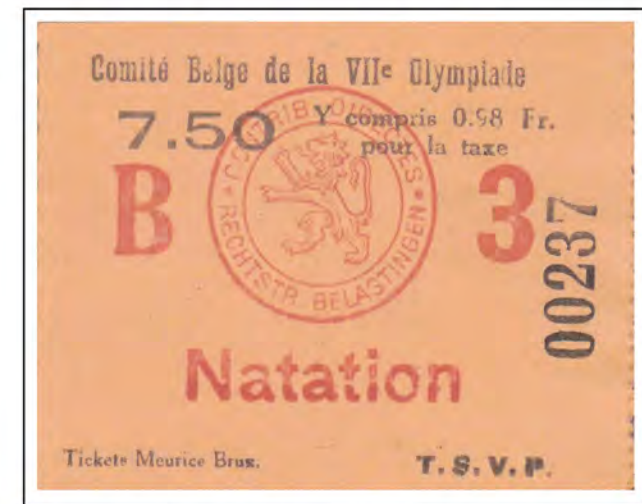
August 24th, 1920 - 100-metre freestyle final



Australian local post



Duke Kahanamoku, two-time Olympic champion



Ticket for the swimming competitions



The men's 400-metre freestyle race was held in three rounds, heats and semi-finals on August 26th and final on the 27th of the same month. 22 athletes were competing, coming from 11 different nations. American Norman Ross, then world record holder and who two days earlier had become Olympic champion in the 1500-metre ended up winning this gold medal as well, ahead of his compatriot Ludy Langer and Canadian George Vernot.

Postcard signed Norman Ross



Norman Ross, immediately after winning the 400-metre



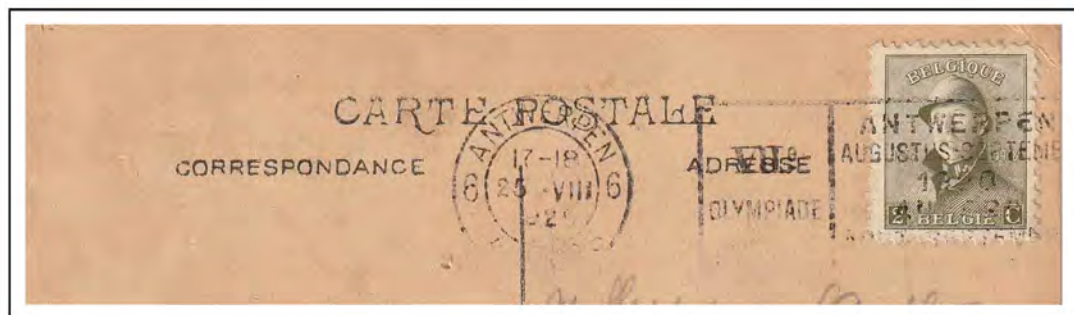
August 27th, 1920 - 400-metre freestyle final



Silver winners medal



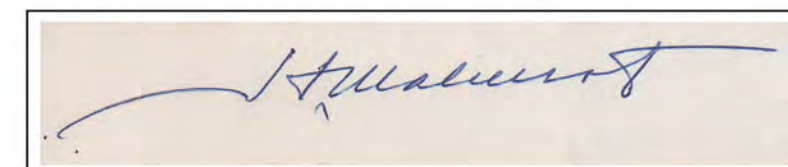
Carlo Montù's autograph, head of delegation of the Italian expedition to Belgium



August 25th - 400-breaststroke final

The final of the men's 400-metre breaststroke was held on August 25th; 20 athletes from 10 different nations took part in it. The podium was the same as the 200-metre breaststroke, which was held on August 30th, with the Swede Håkan Malmrot ahead of compatriot Thor Henning and Finnish Arvo Aaltonen.

August 30th - 200-metre breaststroke final



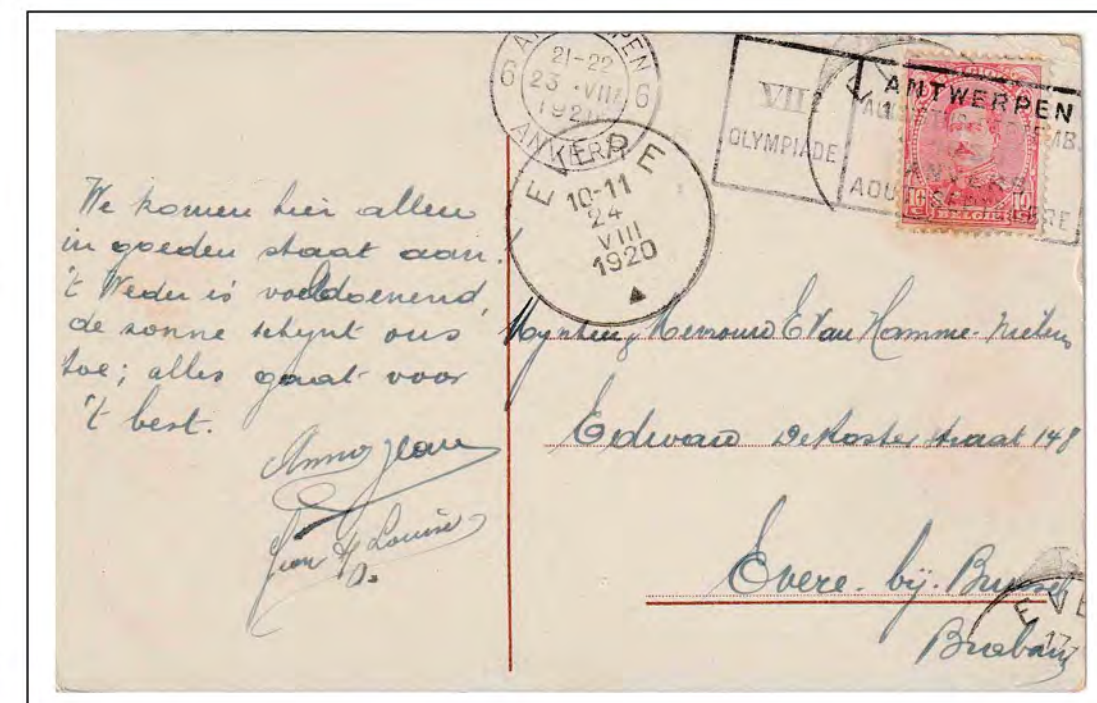
Håkan Malmrot's autograph



The men's 100-metre backstroke, however, was held in just two rounds, on August 23rd; 12 athletes participated representing 6 nations. American Warren Pau Kealoha won the Olympic title, setting a new world record in the semi-final and preceding the other American Ray Kergeris and Belgian Gérard Blitz on the podium.

August 23rd, 1920 - 100-metre backstroke final

Advertising leaflet featuring the 100-metre backstroke Olympic champion Warren Pau Kealoha





The men's 4x200-metre freestyle relay event took place in two shifts, on August 25th and September 1st, with seven nations participating teams



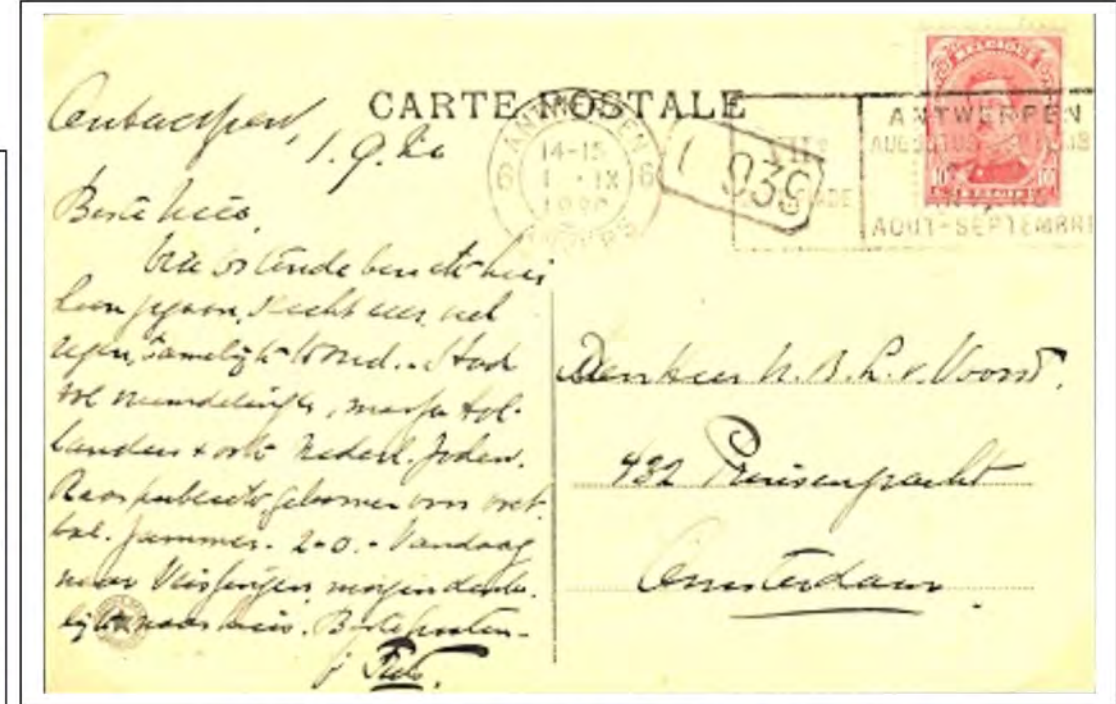
Official photo postcard

For the first time, the race was won by the United States led by the already two times Olympic champion Norman Ross and the expert Duke Kahanamoku, in addition to vice-champion of the 100-meter freestyle Kele Pau Kealoha and Perry McGillivray who had already won the bronze medal in the same race in the Stockholm edition. The Americans were victorious with a new world record, over Australia and Gran Britain.

The relays of United States, gold medal: Norman Ross, Kele Pau Kealoha, Perry McGillivray and Duke Kahanamoku



The relays of Australia, silver medal: Henry Hay, Frank Beaurepaire, William Herald and Ivan Stedman



September 1st, 1920 - 4x100-metre freestyle relay final



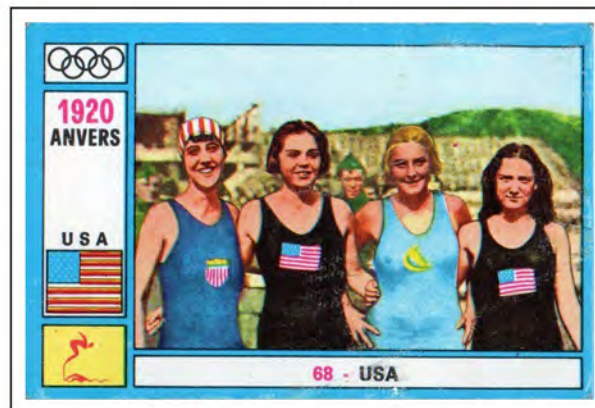
The 300-metre freestyle was introduced in the women's races (August 28th) during which the American swimmer Ethelda Bleibtrey stood out, as also in the 100-metre (both competition podiums were all star-spangled). Bleibtrey then went on to win the gold in the 4x100-metre freestyle relay, together with compatriots Margaret Woodbridge, Frances Schroth, and Irene Guest.

Women's Swimming
The women's 400-meter freestyle event was first held in 1920; the 800-meter event was added in 1968. American women have won 15 of 24 gold medals in these events.

The 300-metre freestyle was introduced in the women's races, although the competition was held only in this one circumstance (they were replaced by the 400-metre at the subsequent Paris Games).

Ethelda Bleibtrey

Panini Figurine



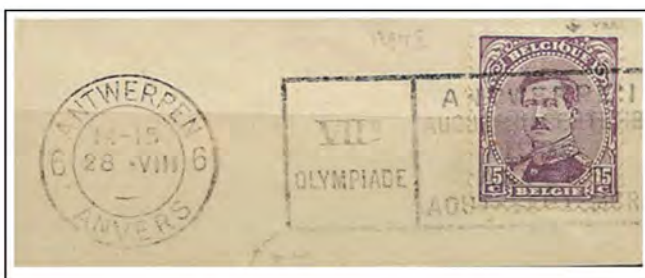
Gold medal winning American women's relay team



Photo postcard with autograph



August 25th, 1920 women's 100-metre freestyle final



August 28th, 1920 - 300-metre freestyle final

BILLY ROSE *presents...*

The
Aquacade Revue

Lyrics by
BILLY ROSE and STANLEY JOSELOFF

●
Music mostly by
DANA SUESSE

Entire Production staged by
JOHN MURRAY ANDERSON

Dances by
ROBERT ALTON

●
Production Designs and Marine Theater by
ALBERT JOHNSON

●
Costumes by 9
RAOUL PENE du BOIS

●
Mistress and Master of Aqua-Ballets
AILEEN RIGGIN and FLOYD ZIMMERMAN



ELEANOR HOLM JARRETT



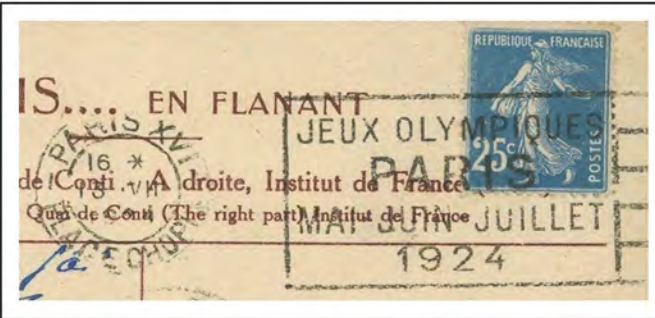
JOHNNY WEISSMULLER

Handwritten signatures and notes:
Stubby Kruger
John Murray Anderson
Albert Johnson
Raoul Pene du Bois
Aileen Riffin
Floyd Zimmerman



THE "TARZAN" OLYMPICS

Located in the 20th district of Paris, the "Stade des Tourelles" was built to accommodate, from July 13th to 20th of 1924, the swimming competitions of the VIII Olympics. It was the first time the athletes competed in a 50-meter pool.



July 13th, 1924 - first day of the swimming



Official postcard

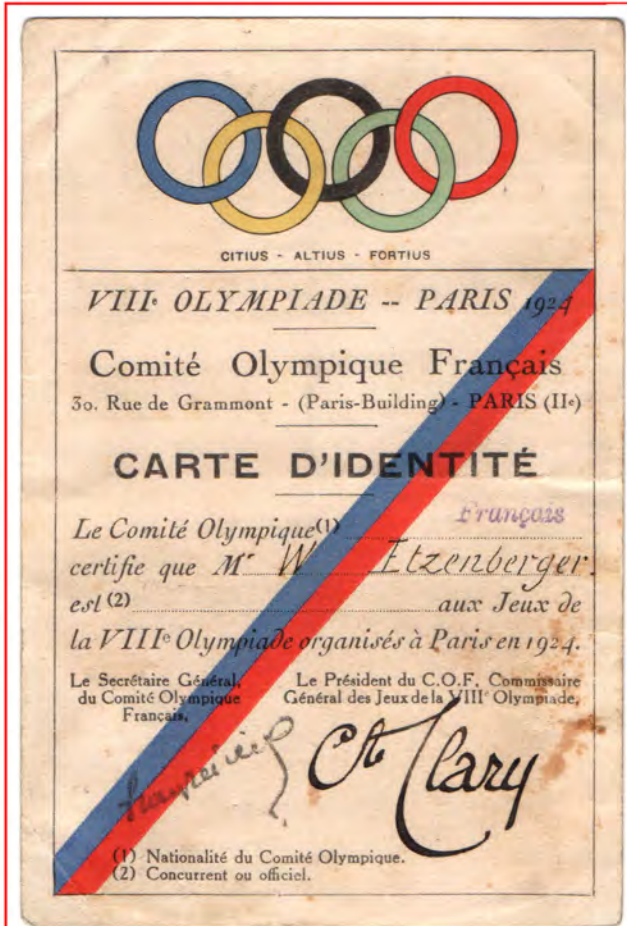
The Tourelles swimming pool during the inauguration and at a phase of the Olympic Games



Ticket for swimming events

There were many innovations in Paris, which can be considered the first real great edition of the Olympic Games. In addition to the technical aspects, the organizational ones also leaped in quality. Among other things, the Olympic identity card was introduced for all participants (athletes, technicians, and officials)

Olympic identity card

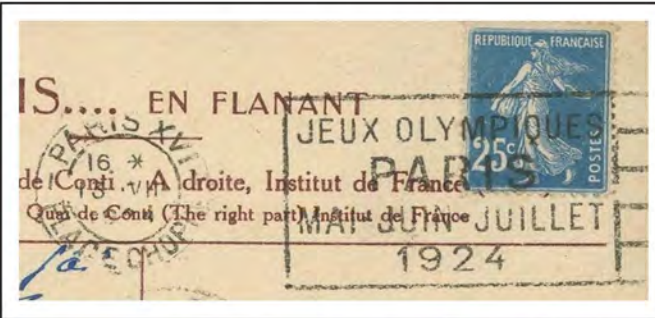


Official program



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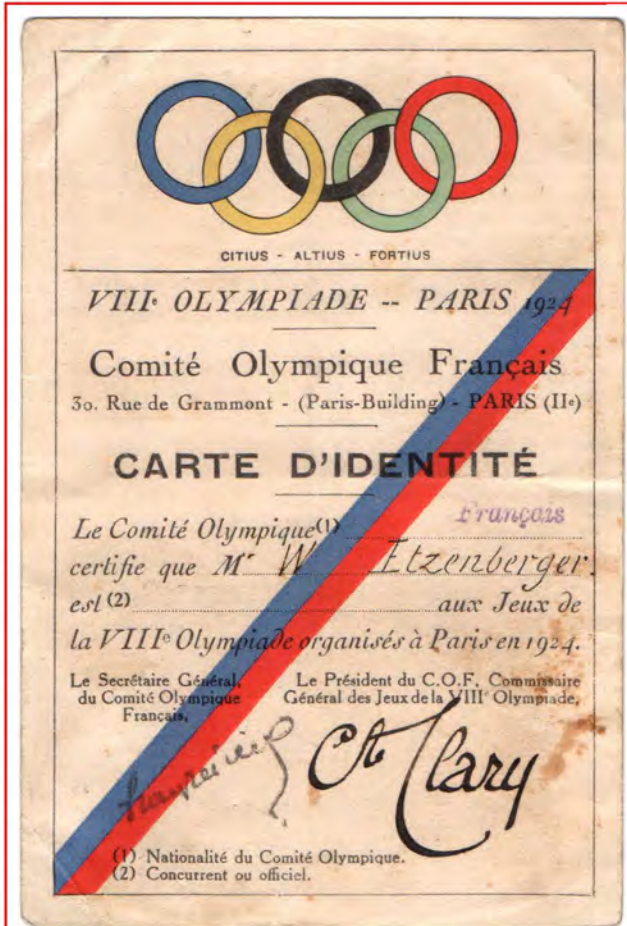
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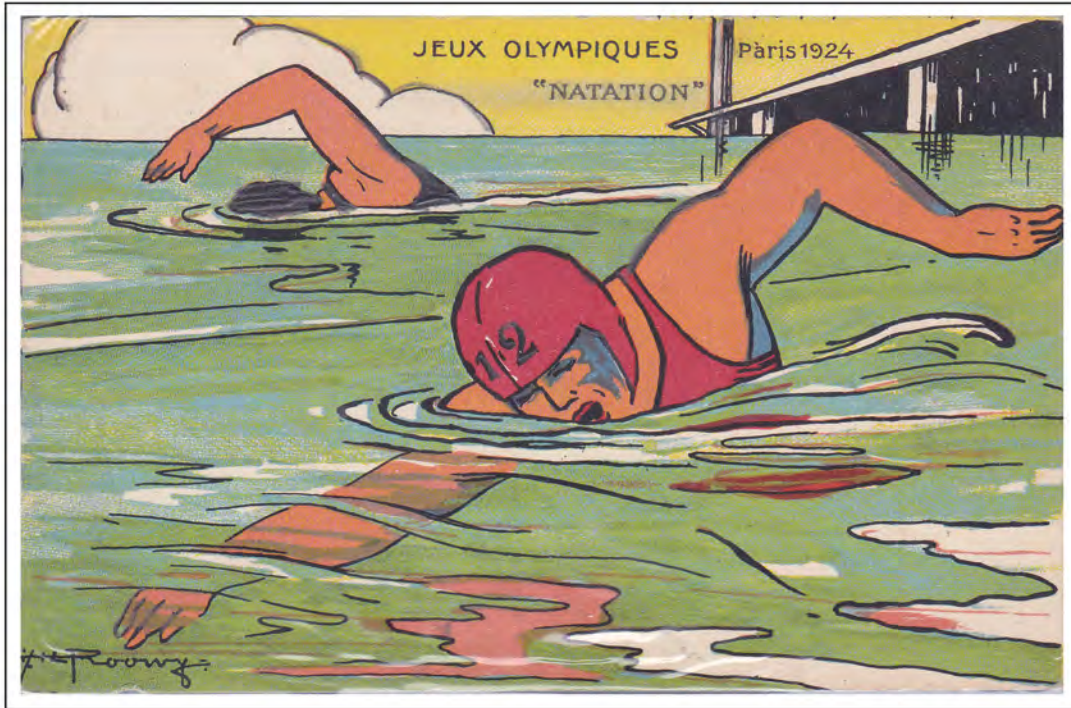
Olympic identity card



Official program



When the swimming competitions of the VIII Olympic Games began, no one imagined that a young American man, of Romanian origins, would have been the absolute protagonist of the Paris Games. Johnny Weissmüller won the 100-metre and 400-metre freestyle and the 4x200-metre freestyle relay.



Official Olympic postcard of the Kolarsine series



wins three Gold Medals in swimming:
100 and 400-meter free style,
800-meter free style relay.

Medal commemorating Weissmüller's victories in Paris



July 18th, 1924 - 400-metre freestyle final

On July 18th, during the first final at the Tourelles, that of the 400-metre freestyle, the future first cinematographic Tarzan won the gold medal beating the Olympic record. Behind him was Swede Arne Borg, the best among the Europeans in the race, and the Australian Boy Charlton.



Weissmüller e Borg

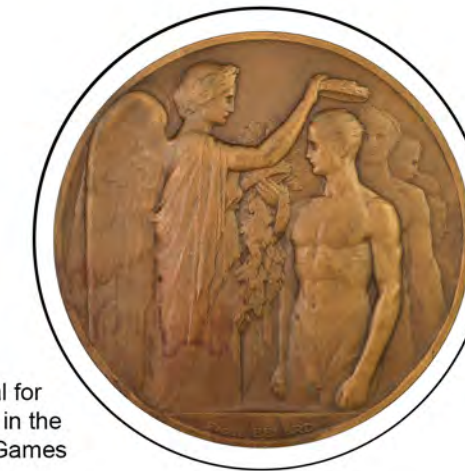
Photos for press agencies



Weissmüller at the finish of the men's 400-metre freestyle race



Johnny Weissmüller as Tarzan



The medal for participants in the 1924 Paris Games

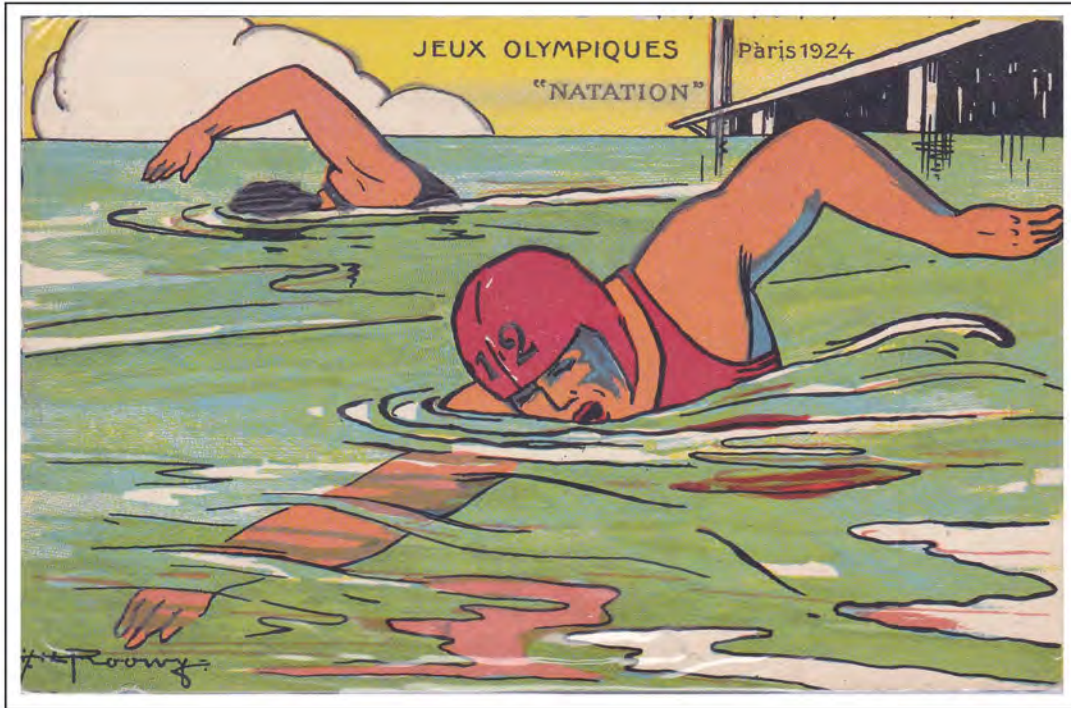


Badge for swimming competitors

Another innovation introduced in Paris was the creation of personalized badges with ribbons on which the sport of the athlete or technician participating was printed.



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Photos for press agencies



Weissmüller e Borg



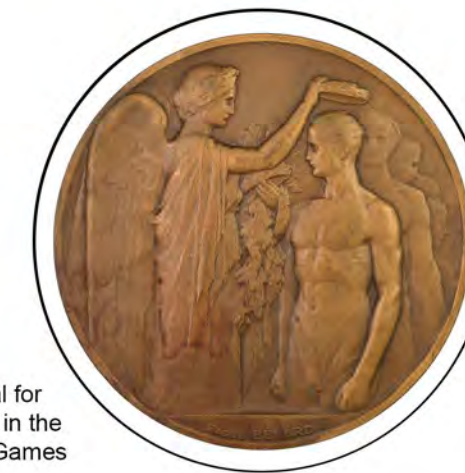
Lorem Ipsum

Arr. de Weissmüller, 400 m. nage libre
Cl. COF 3023

Weissmüller at the finish of the men's 400-metre freestyle race



Johnny Weissmüller as Tarzan



The medal for participants in the 1924 Paris Games

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July 19th, 1924
100-metre freestyle
competition day

The race was hard-fought during the first 50 metres, then, in the second pool, Weissmüller outdistanced the Kahanamoku brothers, winning his second gold medal and breaking down again the minute barrier (59") and his own world record.

The finish of
the 100-metre
freestyle

Photo for
press agencies



Official postcard

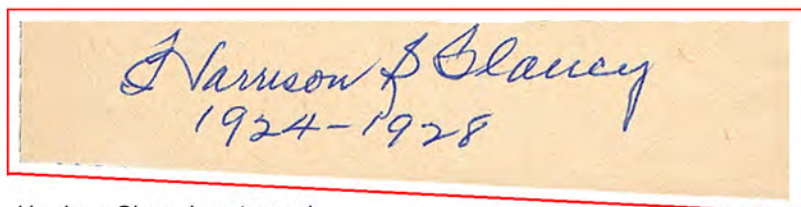
Duke Kahanamoku



The US swimming team

Official postcard

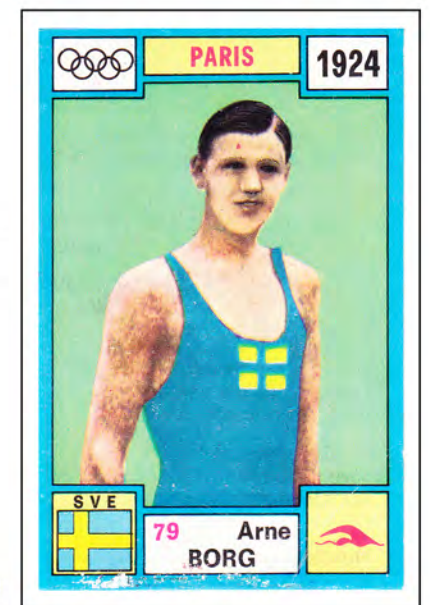
Weissmüller concluded his races on the afternoon of July 20th, participating in the 4x200-metre relay freestyle final (he did not take part in the heats and the semi-final of July 19th in which Dick Howell competed). The American quartet, also composed of Ralph Breyer, Harrison Glancy, and Wallace O'Connor dominated that race, lowering the world record to under ten minutes. Behind them were Australian Boy Charlton and Sweden Arne Borg.



Harrison Glancy's autograph



July 20th, 1924 - finals of the 100-metre freestyle (morning) and the 4x200-relay



Panini figurine

Arne Borg



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Official postcard

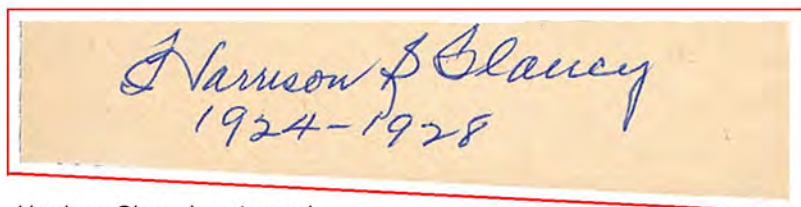
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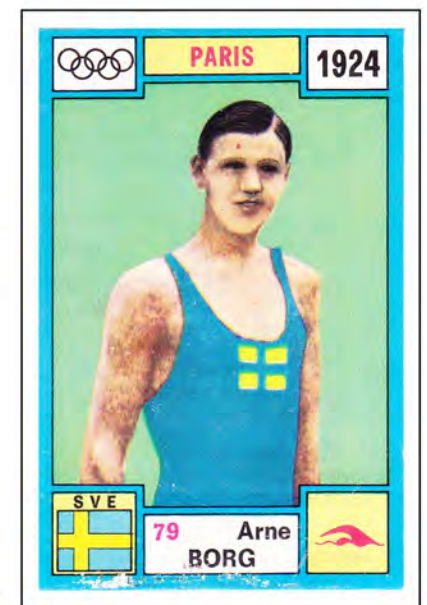


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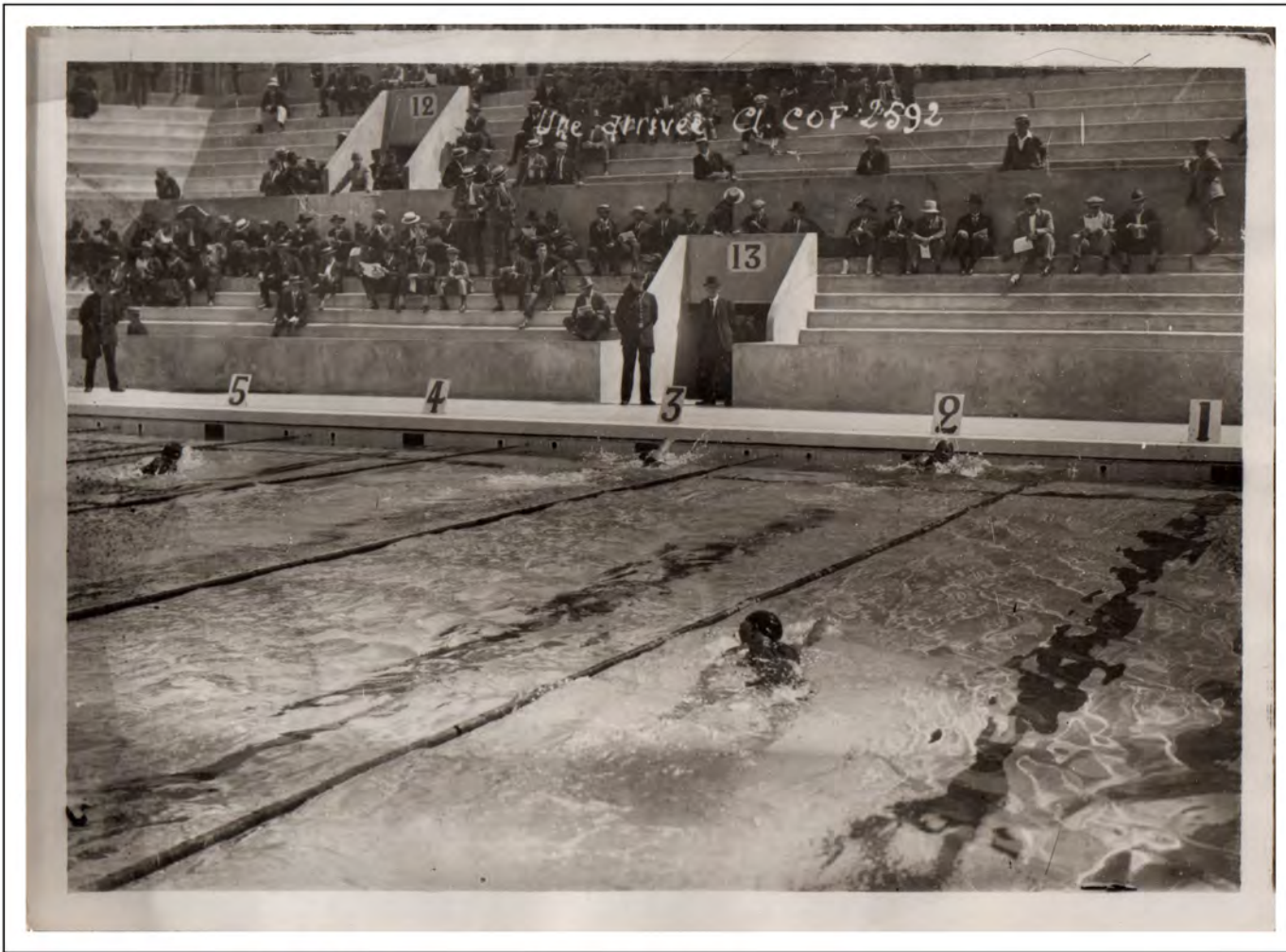
Panini figurine



Arne Borg



The 1500-metre race, given its length and the number of athletes registered, was held in three rounds, from July 13th (first race of the swimming program) to July 15th (final).



Charlton's arrival at the finish line

Press agency photos

28 athletes took part in the 200-metre breaststroke competition (July 16th), representing 16 nations. The American Robert Skelton won, ahead of Belgian De Combe and the other American William Kirschbaum.

Olympic official postcard

The Hawaiian team with Warren Kealoha



July 18th, 1924
100-metre backstroke final

In the 100-metre backstroke Hawaiian Warren Kealoha, the already world-record holder, won the gold medal further lowering the world record (July 18th).

Robert Skelton in the
200-metre breaststroke

Press agency photos



July 15th, 1924, 1500-metre freestyle final

Boy Charlton, then sixteen years old, won the gold medal and was the only non-American swimmer to win one Olympic title in these Games. The Australian stood out in the final, taking the gold and the world record from the Swede Arne Borg.



July 16th, 1924 - 200-metre breaststroke final



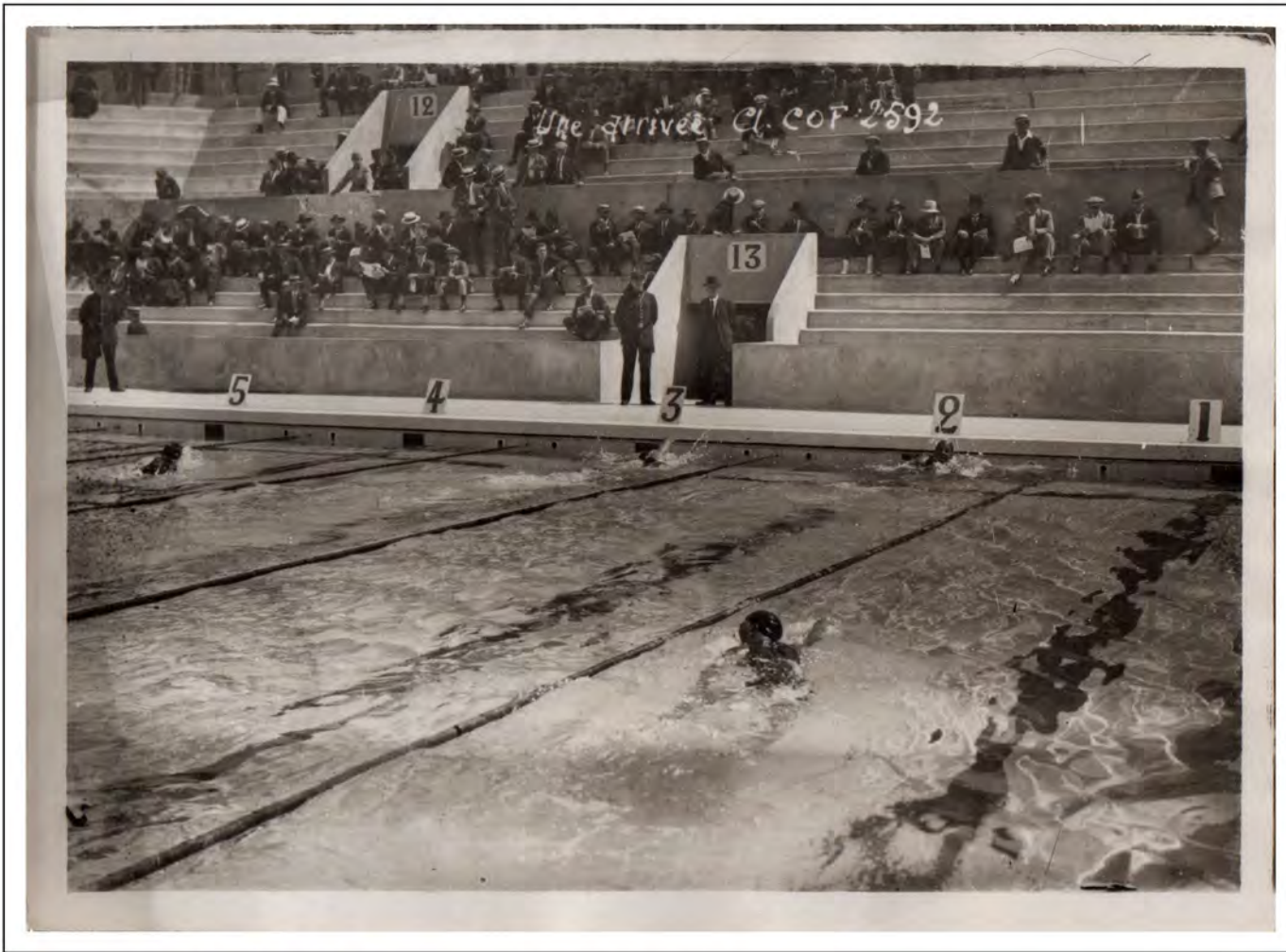
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Olympic official postcard





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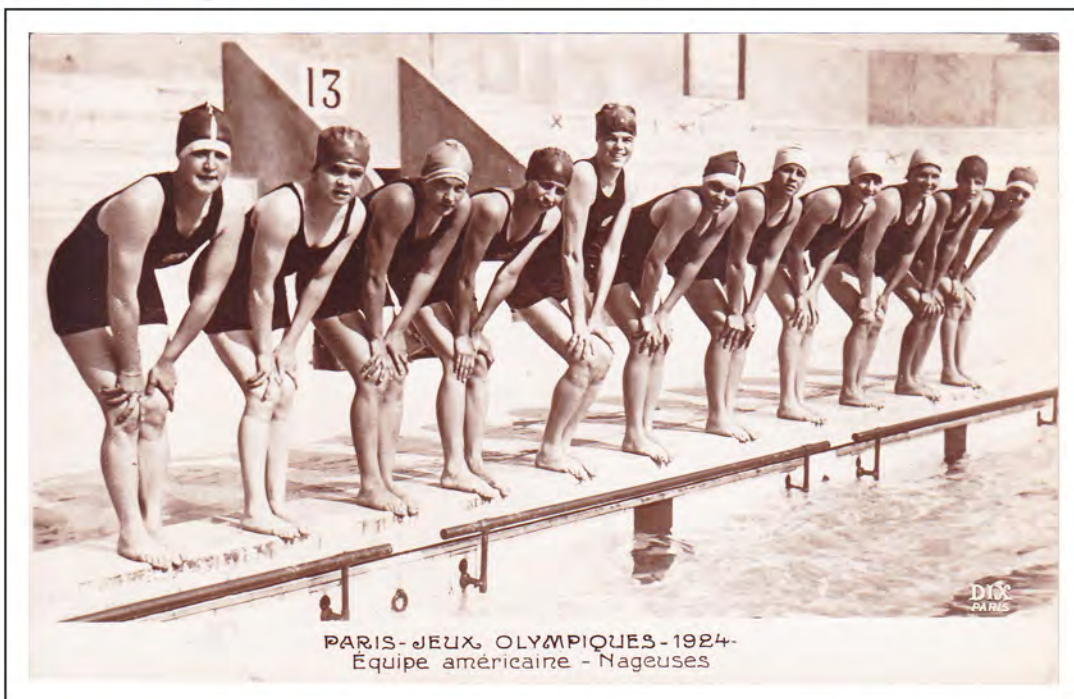
Boy Charlton

Olympic official postcard





The United States also dominated among the women's races, winning 4 out of 5 gold medals up for grabs.



The US women's team

Official Olympic postcard

Martha, in the final on July 15th, after an initial part of waiting during which her compatriots Wainwright and Ederle had taken a good lead, raised the pace of her strokes, coming up beside them first and then passing them both in the last 50 metres. The silver medal went to Wainwright, the bronze one to disappointing Ederle.

The first race of the women's program was the 400-metre freestyle, where American Gertrude Ederle was the favorite, she had already broken the world record several times. But the revelation of this race was another American, Martha Norelius, although she was only sixteen years old. She was the daughter of an Olympian from Athens in 1906.



July 15th, 1924 - 400-metre freestyle

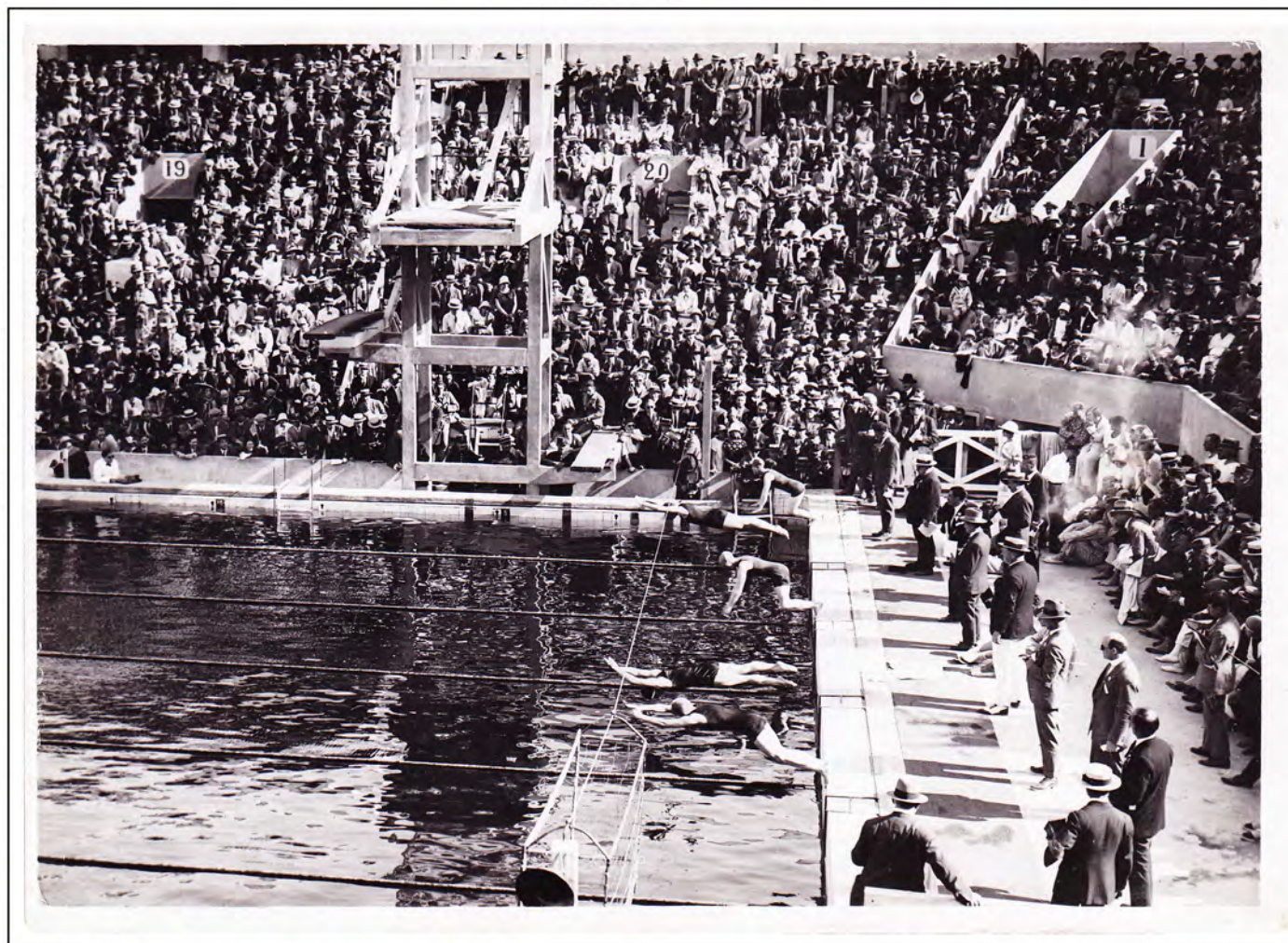
Official Olympic postcard
Marta Norelius



400-metre freestyle

Official postcard

Even in the second final, the 100-metre freestyle, the USA presented Ederle and two very young athletes aged 17 and 18. Their names were Mariechen Wehselau and Ethel Lackie, and they entered the final after having won their respective semi-finals. In the decisive race, the battle was between these two who reached the finish line together, but the victory went to Lackie for just 4 hundredths of a second. The bronze medal went to Gertrude Ederle.



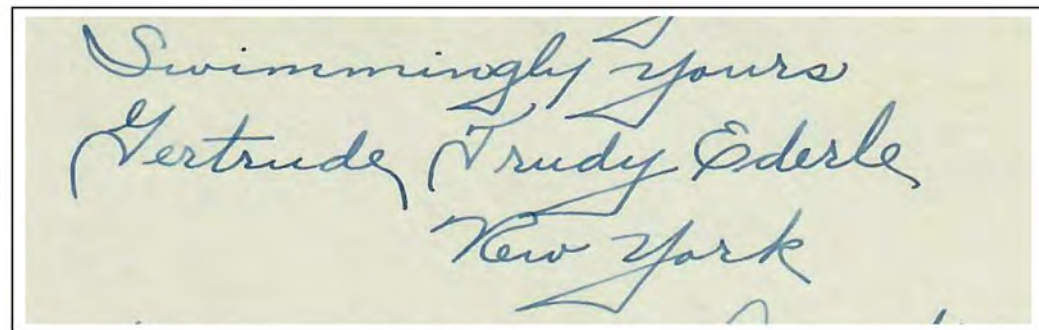
Start of the women's 100-metre freestyle

Photo for press agencies



Gertrude Ederle

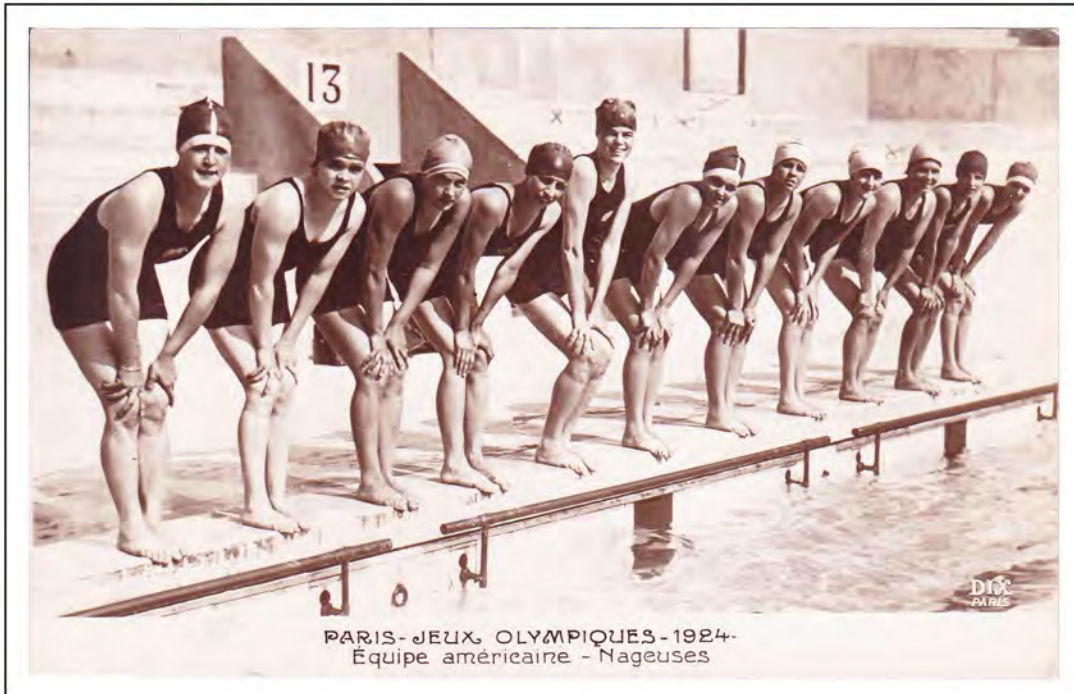
Figureine



Gertrude Ederle's autograph



The United States also dominated among the women's races, winning 4 out of 5 gold medals up for grabs.



The US women's team

Official Olympic postcard

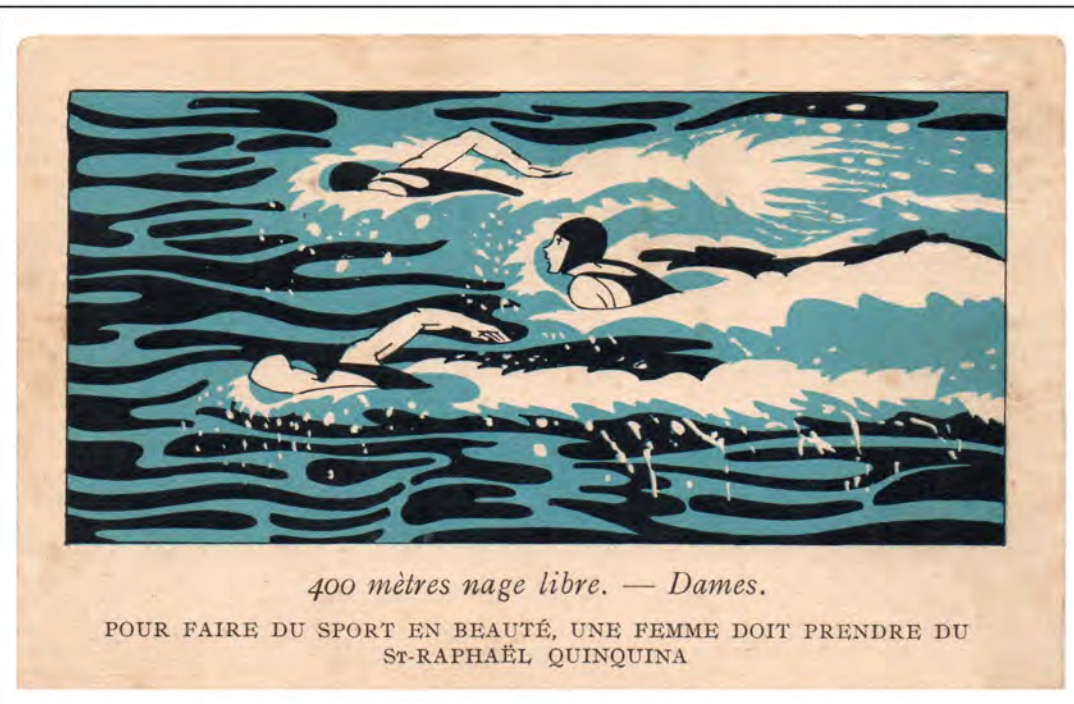
Martha, in the final on July 15th, after an initial part of waiting during which her compatriots Wainwright and Ederle had taken a good lead, raised the pace of her strokes, coming up beside them first and then passing them both in the last 50 metres. The silver medal went to Wainwright, the bronze one to disappointing Ederle.

The first race of the women's program was the 400-metre freestyle, where American Gertrude Ederle was the favorite, she had already broken the world record several times. But the revelation of this race was another American, Martha Norelius, although she was only sixteen years old. She was the daughter of an Olympian from Athens in 1906.



July 15th, 1924 - 400-metre freestyle

Official Olympic postcard
Marta Norelius



400 mètres nage libre. — Dames.

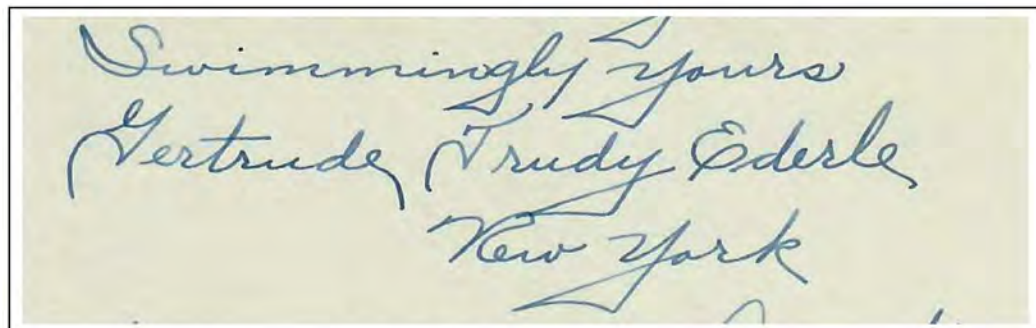
POUR FAIRE DU SPORT EN BEAUTÉ, UNE FEMME DOIT PRENDRE DU ST-RAPHAËL QUINQUINA

400-metre freestyle



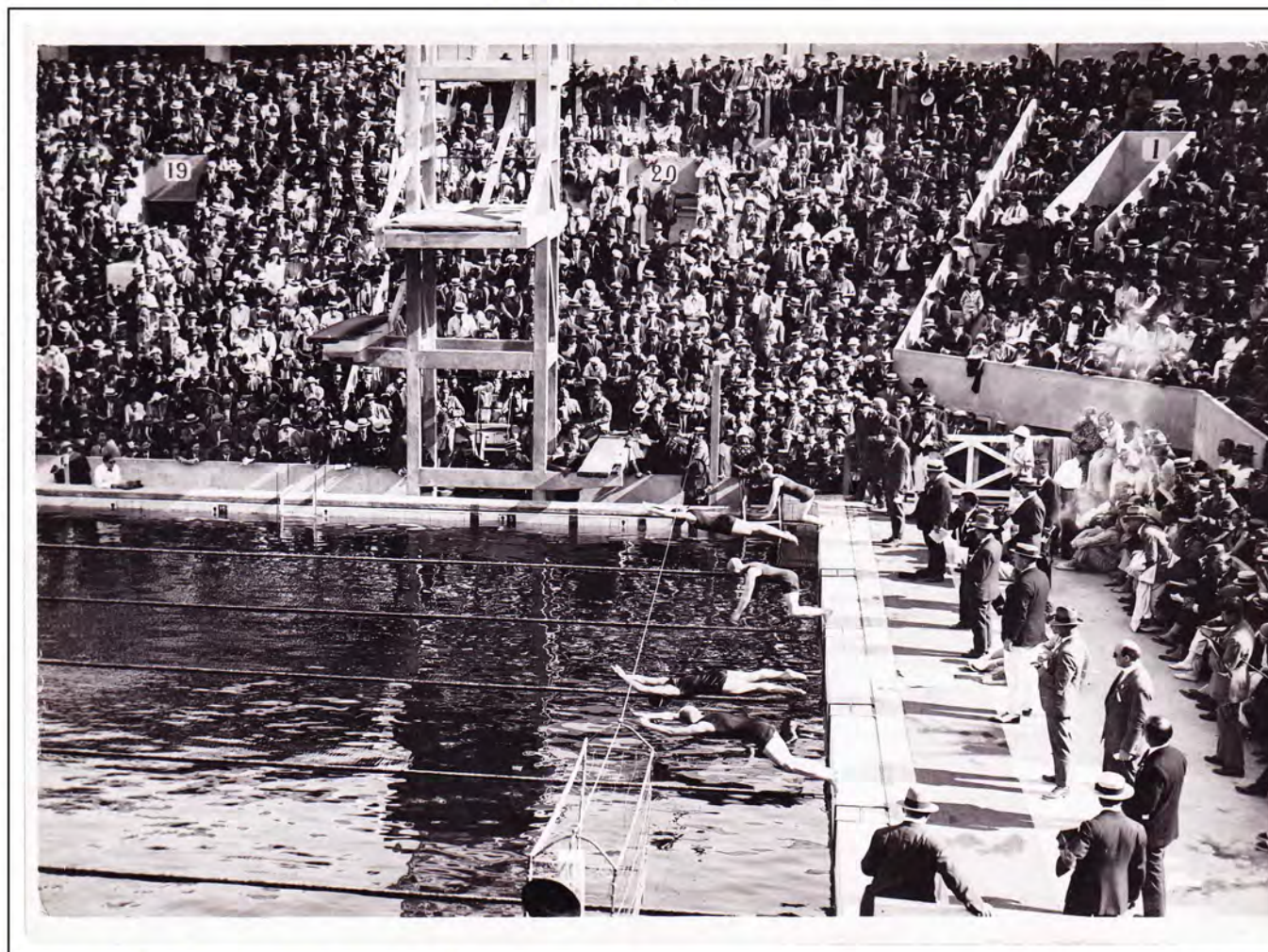
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Figureine



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Start of the women's 100-metre freestyle

Photo for press agencies



French Olympic Committee official badge

The Olympic Games, in the Parisian edition, had achieved that regularity and that balance long awaited by de Coubertin and the IOC and from this, the swimming competitions benefited as well. In fact, at the request of the French Olympic Committee, FINA, and the IOC, they had two events added to the women's program: 100-metre backstroke and 200-metre breaststroke.



Olympic official postcard

100-metre backstroke

Mechanical cancellation without end

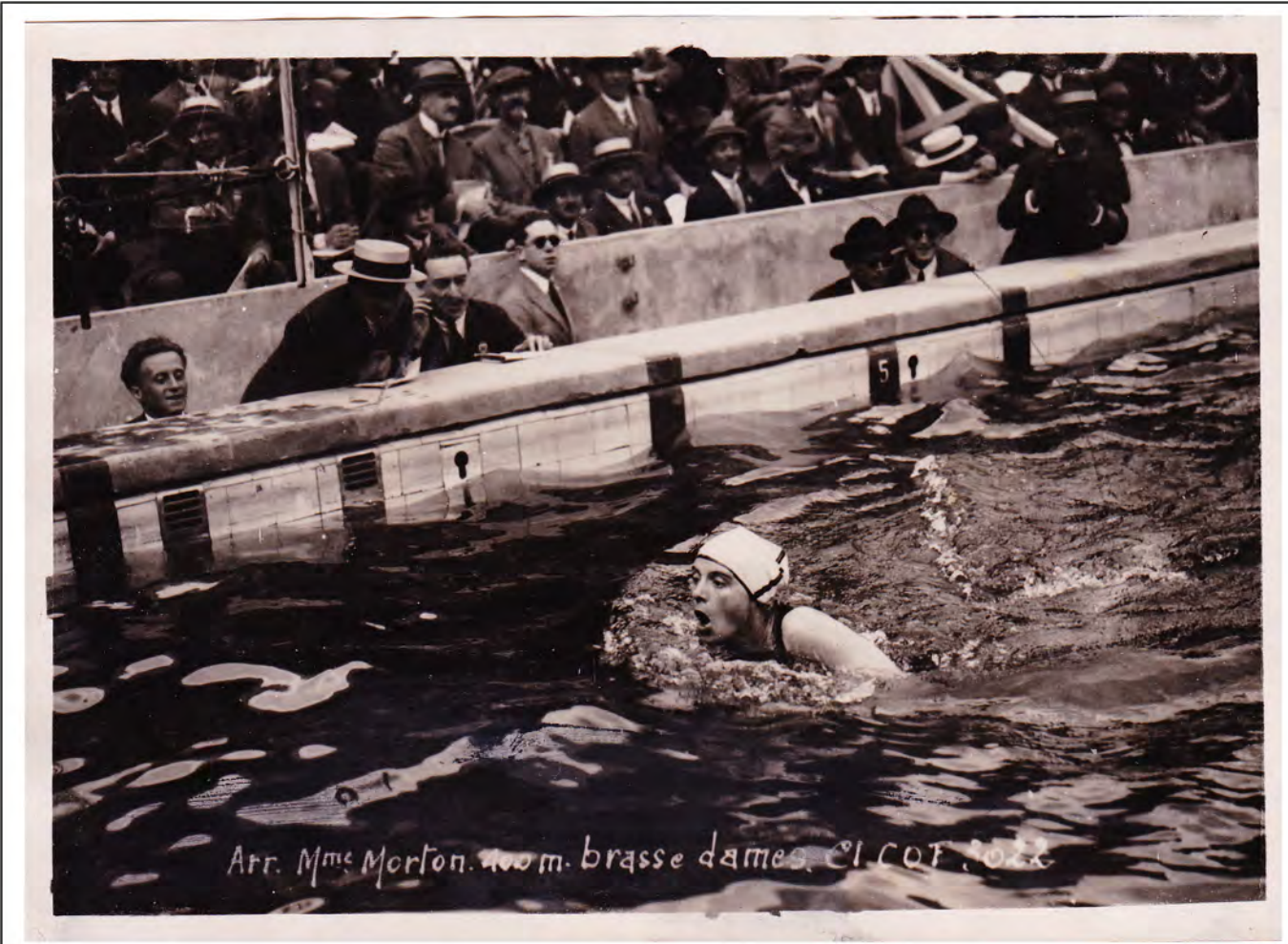
Lucy Morton

Autograph



July 17th, 1924, 200-metre breaststroke final

In the first of the new races, the 200-metre breaststroke, the USA presented the strong swimmer Agnes Geraghty, who arrived at the final on July 17th with the best time. Instead, surprisingly, English Lucy Morton broke the Americans' monopoly by beating Geraghty and winning this way the first Olympic swimming gold medal for the British team.



Finish of the women's 200-metre breaststroke

Photos for press agencies



Mechanical cancellation

July 19th, 100-metre backstroke and women's relay

On the same day the American relay team won the Olympic title, outdistancing the English team by almost 20 seconds and by over 35 the Swedes, and additionally setting the world record under the 5 minutes wall for the first time.

In the final of the 100-metre backstroke (July 19th) Sybil Bauer, world record holder, was the favorite. The American showed her might in her semi-final, breaking the Olympic record, and repeated herself in the final outdistancing the English Phyllis Harding by four seconds.



The US relay: Ethel Lackie, Mariechen Wehselau Gertrude Ederle, Euphrasia Donnelly



French Olympic Committee official badge

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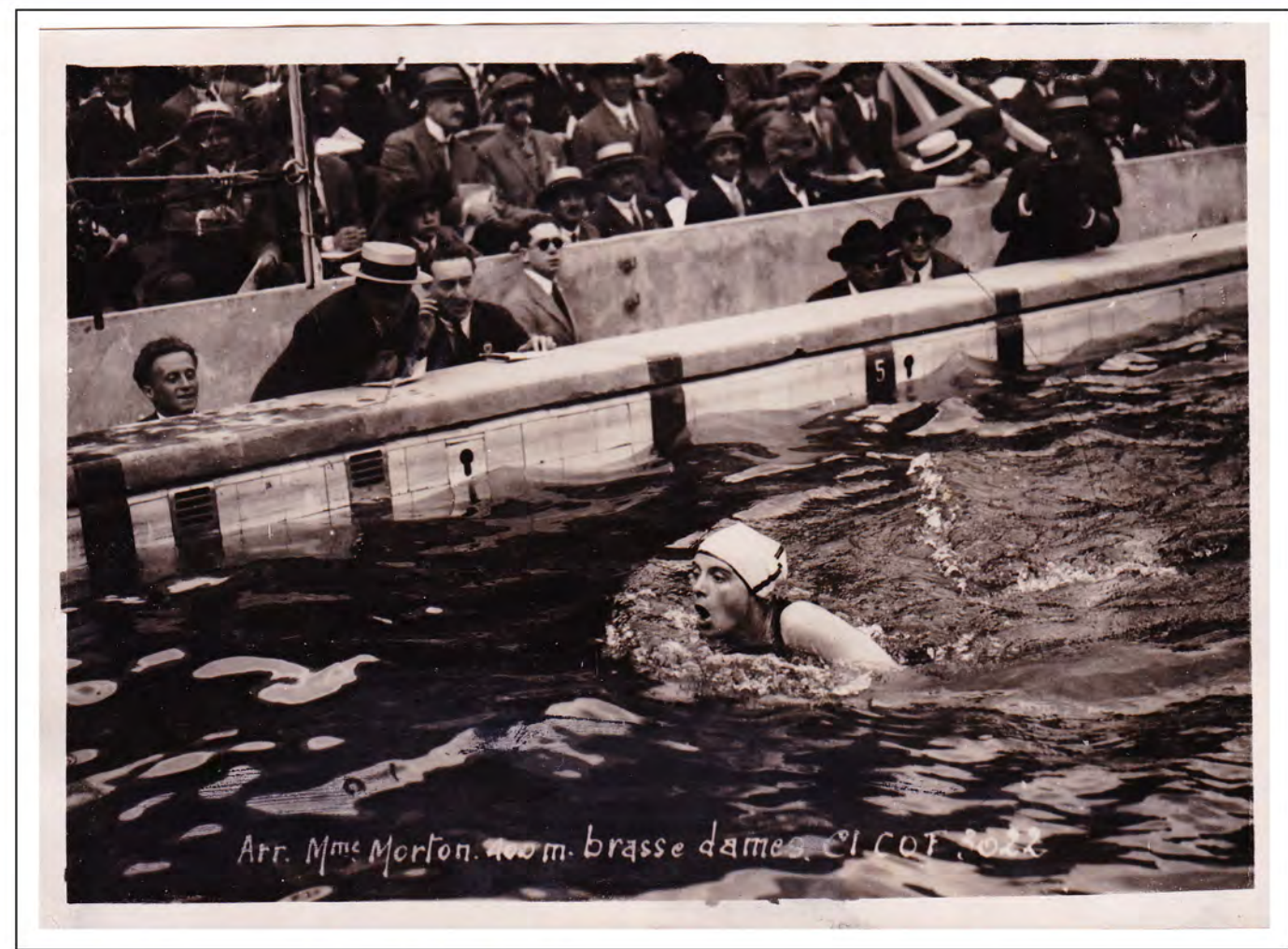
Olympic official postcard

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Mechanical cancellation without end

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Autograph



Finish of the women's 200-metre breaststroke

Photos for press agencies



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The US relay: Ethel Lackie, Mariechen Wehselau Gertrude Ederle, Euphrasia Donnelly



Erdal Figurine

The Prague Congress had indicated the path that the organizers of the subsequent editions of the Games would have to go through, to leave behind the hardships and difficulties of the races' first years of life.

Thus for its IX edition, the swimming competitions (August 4th to 11th) a new swimming pool was arranged: the Olympic Sports Park Swim Stadium. Six men's races and five women's races were also held in Amsterdam.

Olympic Sport Park Swim Stadium

Ticket to attend the first day of the swimming competitions

Erdal-Kwak-Serienbild
zur Gratisabgabe an die Käufer von Erdal-Schahereme und Kwak-Bohnerwachs.

Olympische Spiele in Amsterdam 1928. II. Nr. 49 Deutsche Sieger (Goldene Medaillen) Bild 1 Pferd sport. Der beste Beweis für den Hochwert der deutschen Pferdennacht wurde in den olympischen D Beifall fand Fr „Draufgänge Dressurprüfung wann. Wenn a beteiligten Nati gerechnet hinter Platz belegten, daß unter den prüfung vier a vorgegangen sin

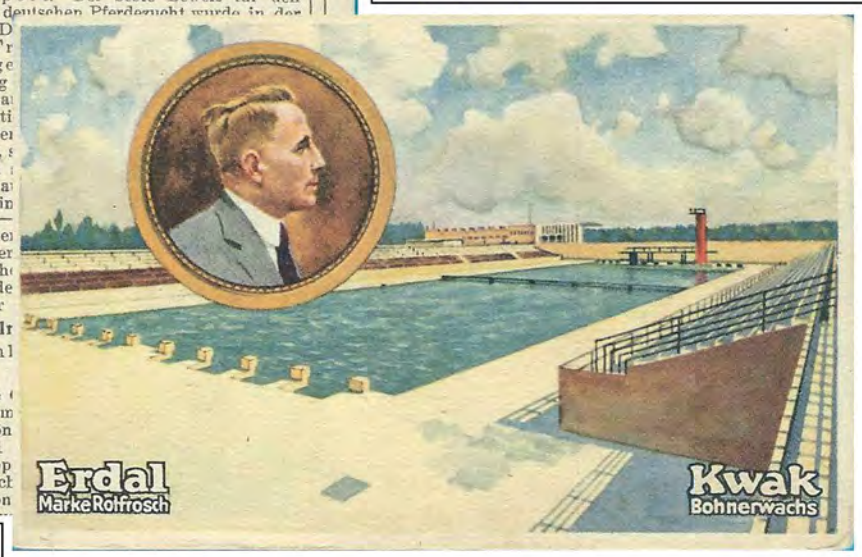
Die Serienbilder in Dosen, Gläser Dosen u. Flasche Je nach Größe de mehrere Bilder

Das Sammelr jedoch nur Ein l

bei 40 l gute
bei 100 l Samml
bei 120 l schön
oder 1
bei 180 l Dopp
bei 200-300 Büchel
bei 600 l schön

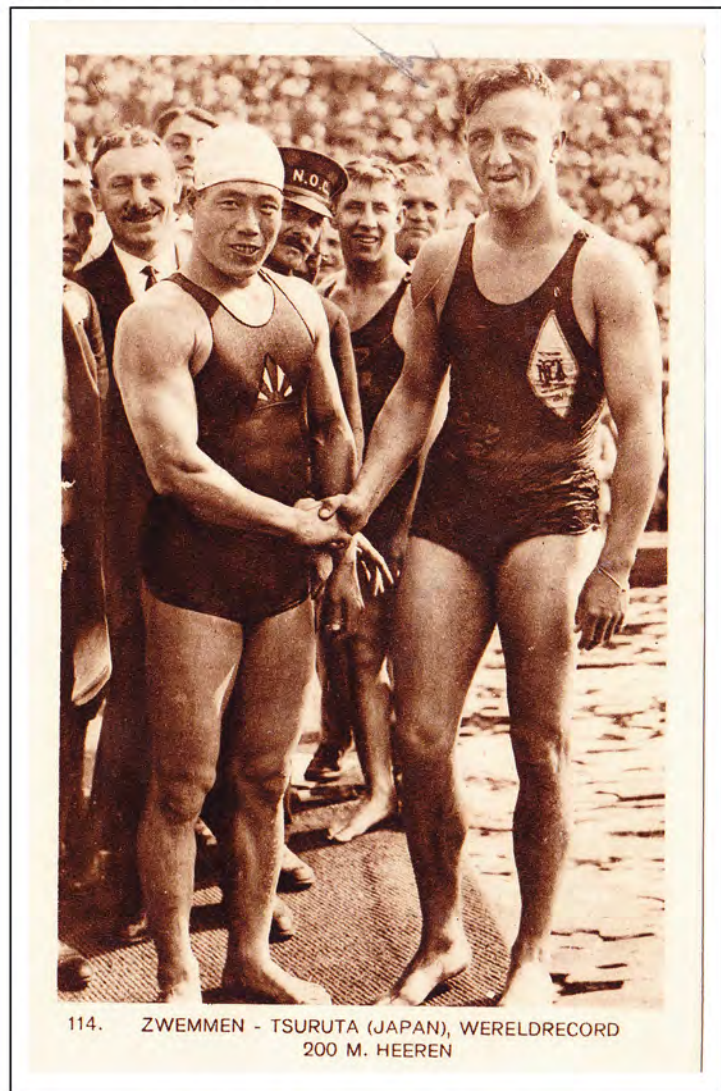
Erdal
Marke Röhrlfrosch

Kwak
Bohnerwachs



The first final was that of the men's 200-metre breaststroke, where Yoshiyuki Tsuruta (the first Japanese to win an Olympic gold medal in swimming) won the title, breaking the world record by 8 seconds.

Olympic official postcard



Tsuruta and Rademacher after arrival

The silver medal was won by the German Eric Rademacher (European reigning champion, who won the first two editions in 1926 and 1927 of the continental tournament), while the bronze went to the Filipino Teofilo Yldefonso.



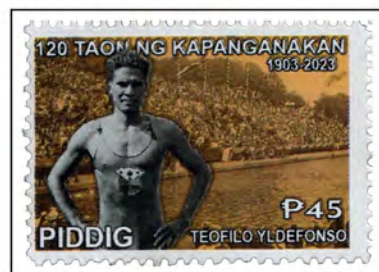
Yoshiyuki Tsuruta



1926 Budapest European Swimming Championships



Personalised stamp prepared by privates and local postage



Eric Rademacher and Teofilo Yldefonso

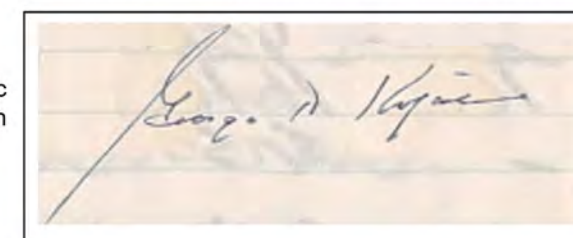


Figurine

George Kojac

The final of the 100-metre backstroke was also held on the same day, during which American of Ukrainian origins George Kojac, won gold and broke the world record, ahead of his compatriots Walter Laufer and Paul Wyatt.

George Kojac autograph





Two finals were also played on August 9th. The first was held in the morning, that of the 1500-metre which was won by Swedish champion Arne Borg, already European champion in Bologna in 1927 (here he defeated Italian Nino Perentin), who in the final beat the outgoing Olympic champion, Australian Boy Charlton. Third place and bronze medal went to the rising star Buster Crabbe.

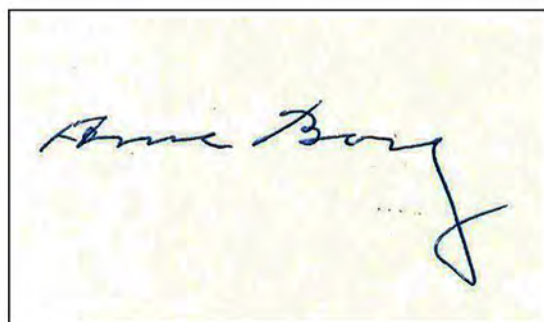


Ticket to attend the Olympic swimming competitions in Amsterdam



The silver medal won by Nino Perentin at the European Championships in Bologna 1927

In the afternoon the first two met again for the 400-metre final and, perhaps due to the fatigue of the morning or because they monitored each other for almost the entire race, they didn't notice that Argentine Alberto Zorrilla had overtaken them both, going on to conquer an unexpected (considering his strong competitors) gold



Arne Borg's autograph

Behind him were Boy Charlton (another silver for the Australian in this Olympics) and then the third-place Arne Borg.

August 9th 1928, 1500 and 400-metre freestyle finals

Figurine



Boy Charlton



Arne Borg



EDICIÓN EXTRAORDINARIA

... victoria individual argentina
... los Juegos Olímpicos
ALBERTO ZORRILLA
... natación, estilo libre,
Amsterdam 1928.

El Gráfico

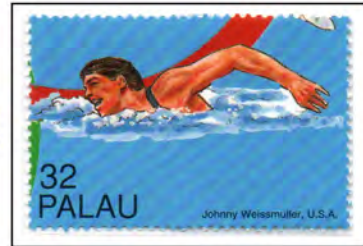


On August 11th the most awaited race, that of the men's 100-metre freestyle, was held. In this race, Johnny Weissmüller entered the scene. He, like four years earlier in Paris, took advantage of his legendary kicks ending the race with the gold medal and the world record.

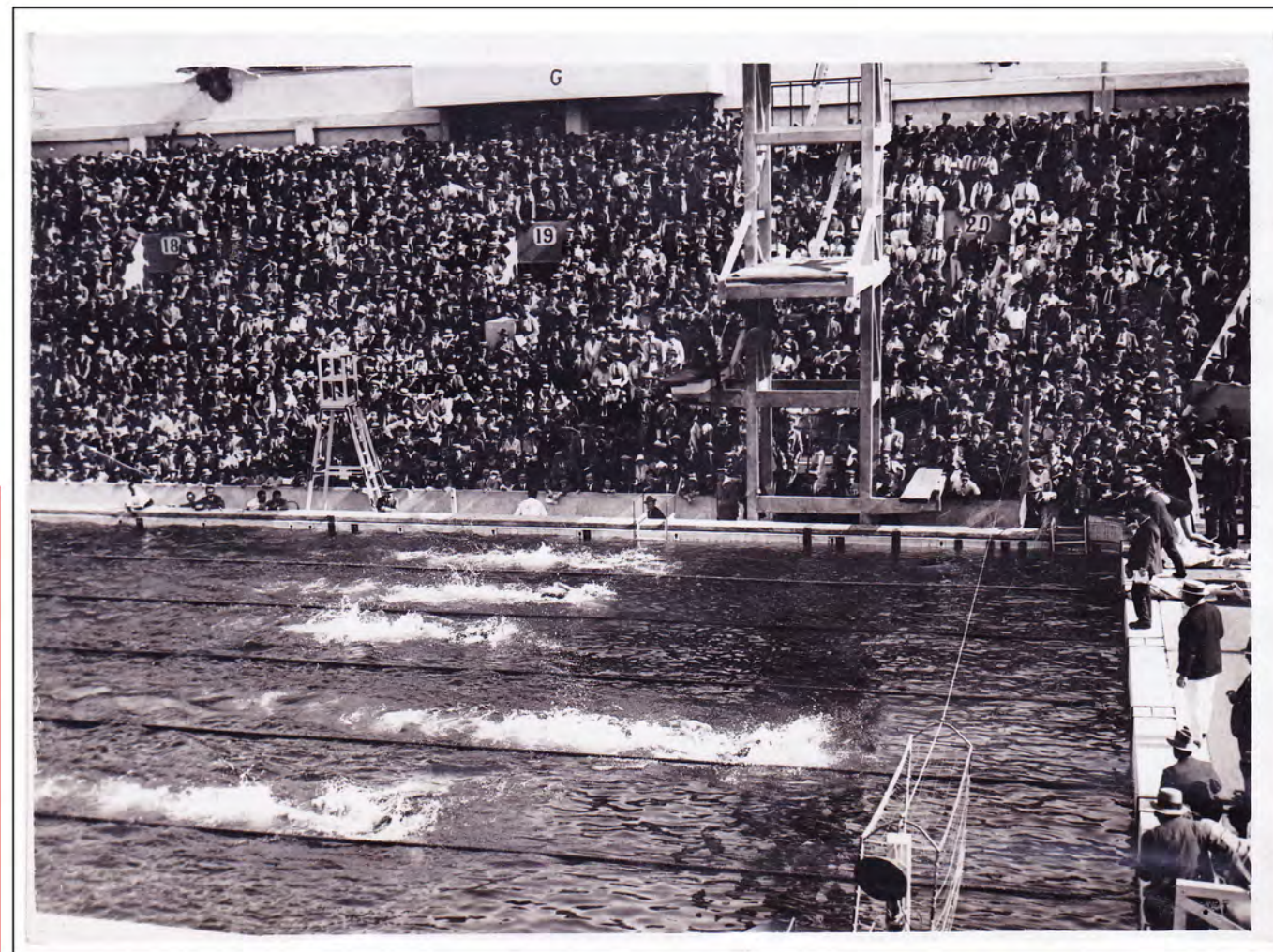


Medal for Hungarian Olympians at the 1928 Amsterdam Games, among them Bárány: 'In memory and gratitude'

Johnny Weissmüller



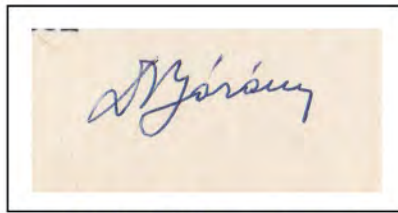
Photos for press agencies



The finish of the 100-metre freestyle



Medal for participants in the 1931 European Championships



István Bárányi autograph

Behind him were Hungarian István Bárányi (who would dominate the Paris 1931 European Swimming Championships, with 3 gold medals) and the Japanese Takaishi.



On the afternoon of August 11th, Johnny Weissmüller, on top of the morning's victory, led his teammates in the 4x200-metre relay (George Kojac, Walter Laufer, and Austin Clapp), to win yet another title. Behind them was a fierce and young Japanese team, although surpassed by 5 seconds, and finally the bronze went to the Canadian team, 11 seconds away from the winners.



Official vignette for swimming competitions

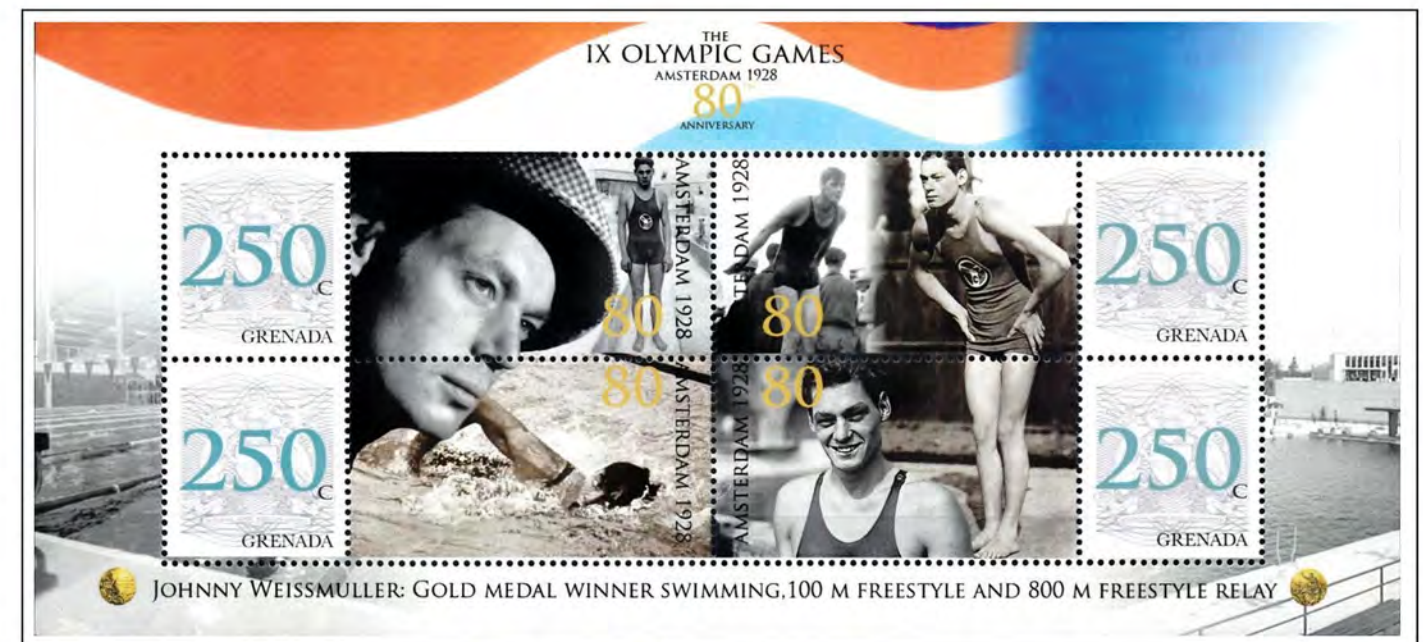


Official vignette

Official pin



August 11th 100-metre freestyle final



Weissmüller in Amsterdam 1928



Photos for press agencies

As had become customary, the star-spangled girls did not do any less than their companions, by winning three out of the five medals up for grabs.



August 7th, 400-metre freestyle final



"President Roosevelt" ship

Despite a not very quiet night, due to the rough seas (the American Olympic village was the ship "President Roosevelt" moored in the port of Amsterdam), in the 400-metre final on August 7th, the already gold Martha Norelius from Paris 4 years earlier, won her second title.

The American girls, winners of the 4x100-metre freestyle relay



Fundraising pin - US olympic Team contributor

Photos for press agencies

Three days later, Norelius led her companions Eleanor Garatti, Adelaide Lambert, and Albina Osipowich to the victory of the gold medals in the 4x100-metre freestyle relay.



Martha Norelius



August 10th, final of the 4x100 women's relay



Erdal figurine

The finish of the 400-metre freestyle race



In the 200-metre breaststroke race (August 9th) German Hildegard Schrader, already Europe champion in the specialty (Bologna 1927), also won the Olympic title, ahead of the Dutch swimmer Mietje Baron and the other German Charlotte Muhe.



Start of the 200-metre breaststroke race

Official Olympic postcard



Olympic 200-metre breaststroke champion Hildegard Schrader after the award ceremony

Photos for press agencies



Season ticket for all swimming competitions at the 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games



Official badge for participants



Hildegard Schrader



Charlotte Lotte Mühe, bronze medallist in the 200-metre breaststroke



Figurine

August 9th, 200-metre breaststroke final



The last two women's finals were held on August 11th. The first swimmers to get into the pool were the finalists of the 100-metre backstroke including world record holder, English Ellen King. The race was thrilling and got settled thanks to the photo finish with the home swimmer Marie Braun ahead of King by only just 2 hundredths of a second. The bronze medal went to the other Englishwoman Joyce Cooper.

Albina Osipowich

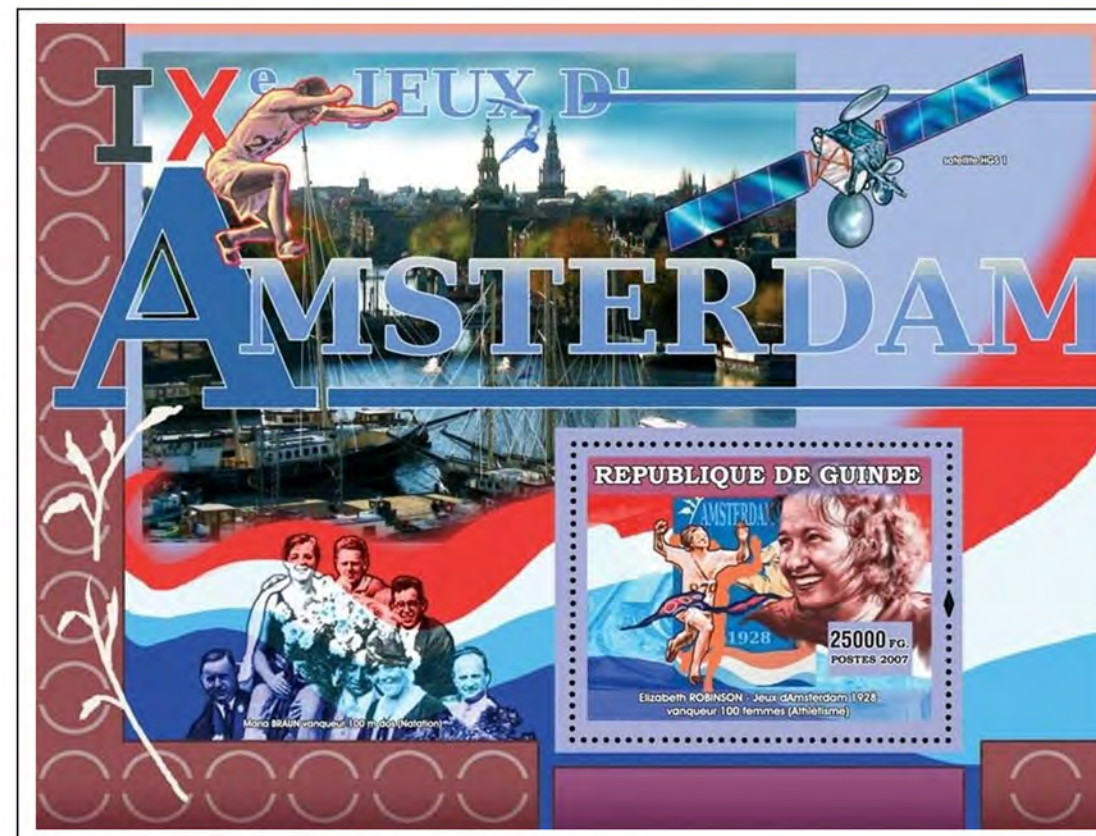
Photos for press agencies



2174



Medal for participants



Marie Braun's triumph

Victory celebrations for Marie Braun

Eleanor Garatti's autograph

Eleanor Garatti Saville
100 meters - and Relay.
American Olympic Swimmer.
1928 & 1932 Swims.

Immediately afterward, the finalists of the 100-meter freestyle race arrived in the pool. Among them, were two of the American women who had won the gold medal in the relay: Eleanor Garatti and Albina Osipowich. And it was exactly the two of them who triumphed with Osipowich beating Garatti by 4 hundredths of a second.



Ticket to attend the finals on August 11th: 100-metre freestyle and 100 backstroke



107. 100 METER DAMES-ZWEMMEN - ZUS BRAUN ALS TWEDE GEHULDIGD

Official Olympic postcard



THE ARRIVE OF JAPANESE SWIMMERS



Once the era of Weissmüller came to an end, as he dedicated himself to his Hollywood acting career, when on August 6th the swimming competitions began at the Los Angeles Games, everyone expected the birth of more great star-spangled champions.

Instead, the 1932 Olympic Games were the ones of the "Japanese boys".

Weissmuller in Tarzan version



Medal for participants of the 1932 Olympic Games



Photos for press agencies

Letter from the Organising Committee of the 1932 Olympic Games



Matsuzawa directs a training session of his boys before the competition

Photos for press agencies



Ikkaku Matsuzawa



Credit for the brilliant achievements goes to the coach of the Japanese team, Ikkaku Matsuzawa, and his revolutionary training methods for the time, which favored the development of the leg muscles instead of working mainly on the upper limbs. To better convey his ideas to his athletes and to make them understand what was happening underwater, Matsuzawa also used underwater photography. In short, a true pioneer of sports science and the way of practicing competitive swimming.



And it was precisely those young Japanese swimmers who were the protagonists of the Olympic competitions in Los Angeles, held in the new Swimming Stadium. Among them, the first to stand was seventeen-year-old Yasuji Miyazaki, who first set the Olympic record in the 100-metre freestyle race and then won the final on August 7th in front of his more experienced compatriot, Tatsugo Kawaishi..



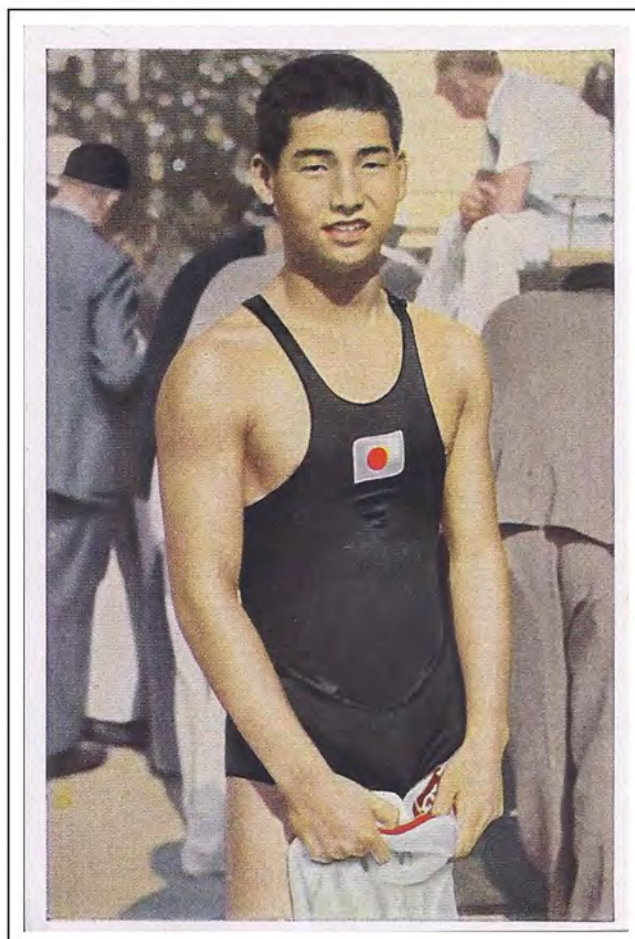
From the Olympic Village on August 7th 1932, the day of the 100-metre freestyle final

The demonstration that performances in this sport had significantly improved compared to previous Games, took place two days later in the 4x200-metre race, when the Canadian quartet found itself off the podium, despite beating the Olympic record by a tenth of a second. Their team was 5 seconds behind the Hungarian team who got third place, and 38 seconds behind the young Japanese team, led by Yasuji Miyazaki (gold medal in the 100-meter race) and which also included Masanori Yusa, Hisakichi Toyoda, and Takashi Yokoyama. The silver medals went to the American team, the favorite on the eve, who got to the end with a 12-second gap.



Japanese team, gold in the 4x200-metre relay

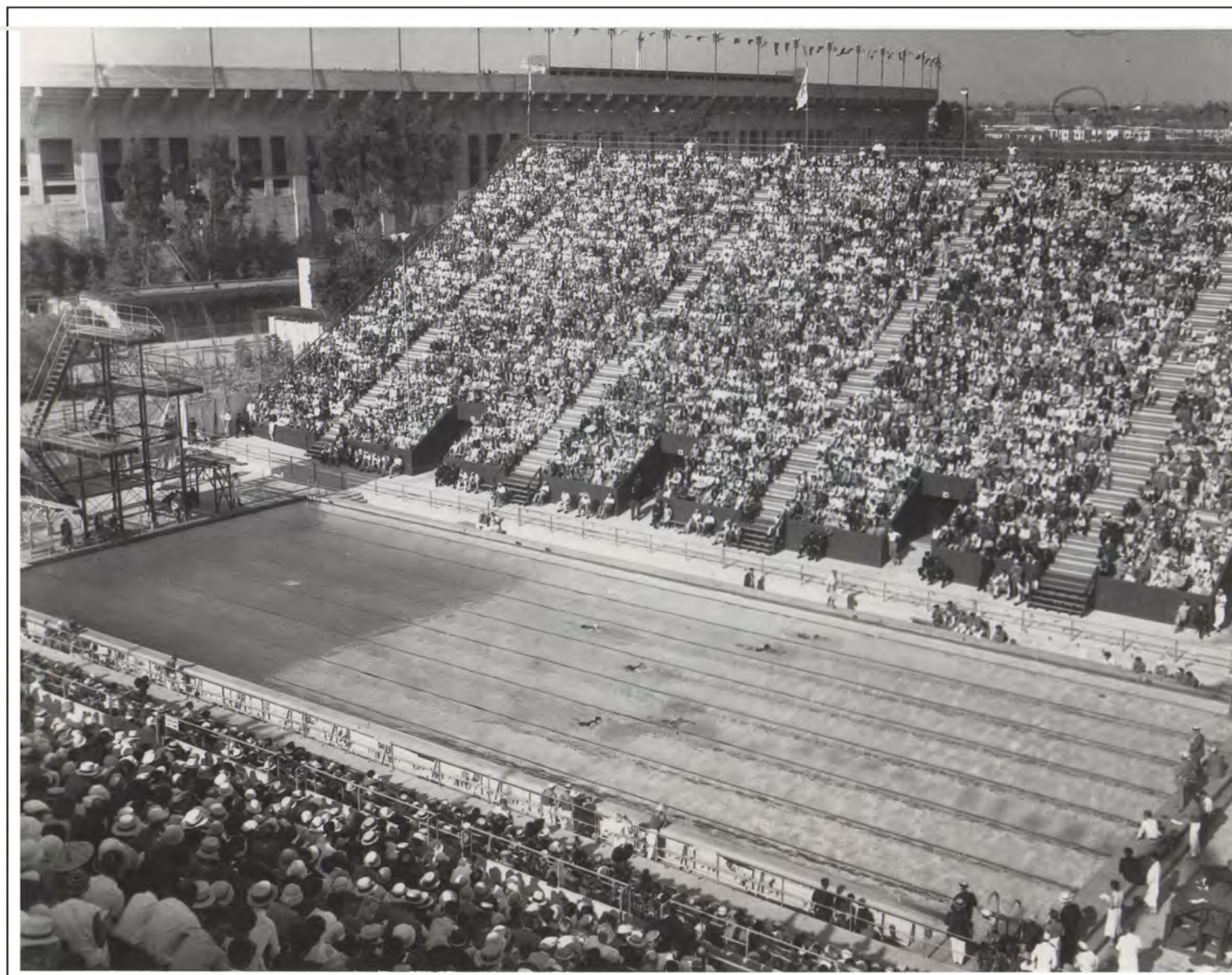
Olympia figurine



Yasuji Miyazaki



Badge made to raise funds in support of the US team at the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games



Photos for press agencies

The Swimming Stadium of Los Angeles

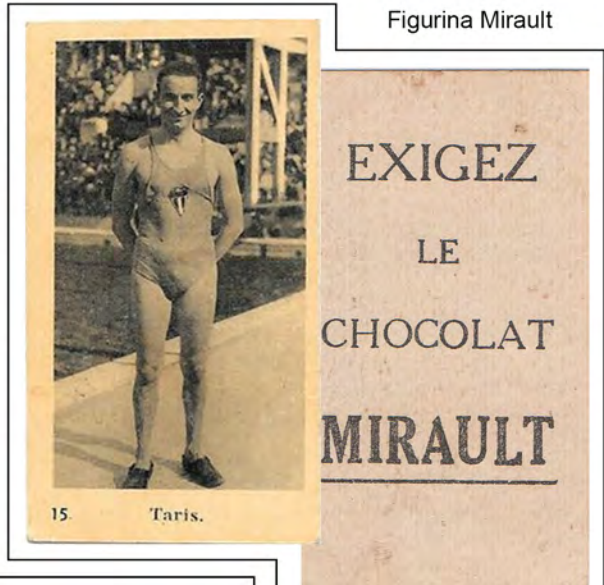


August 9th 1932, 4x200 metre freestyle relay final



After the success in previous races, everyone also expected that the 400-metre race could be won by one of those three boys lined up with the Japanese team. But that's not how it went, although one of them, Takashi Yokoyama, recorded the best time both in the heat and in the semi-finals. The final brought American Buster Crabbe and French world record holder Jean Taris to the fore.

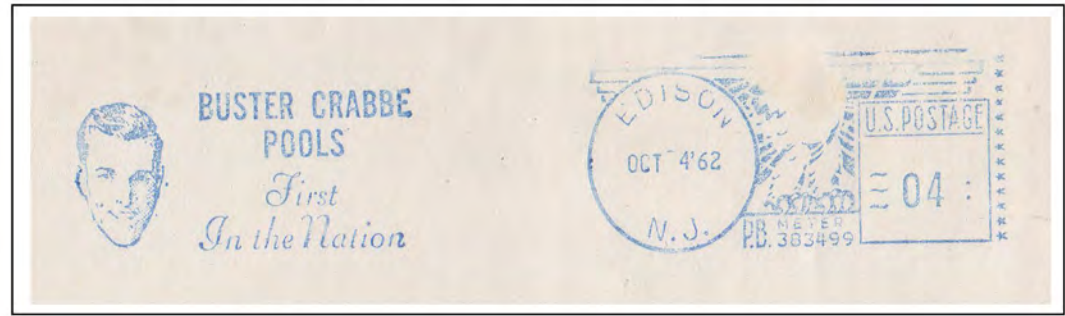
It was a very tough fight between the two, which ended only at the final moment with the American ahead of the Frenchman by just one-tenth of a second. At the same time, Japanese Tsutomu Oyokota managed to snatch the bronze medal from his more highly rated compatriot Takashi Yokoyama.



Figurina Mirault

15 Taris.

Jean Taris



Buster Crabbe



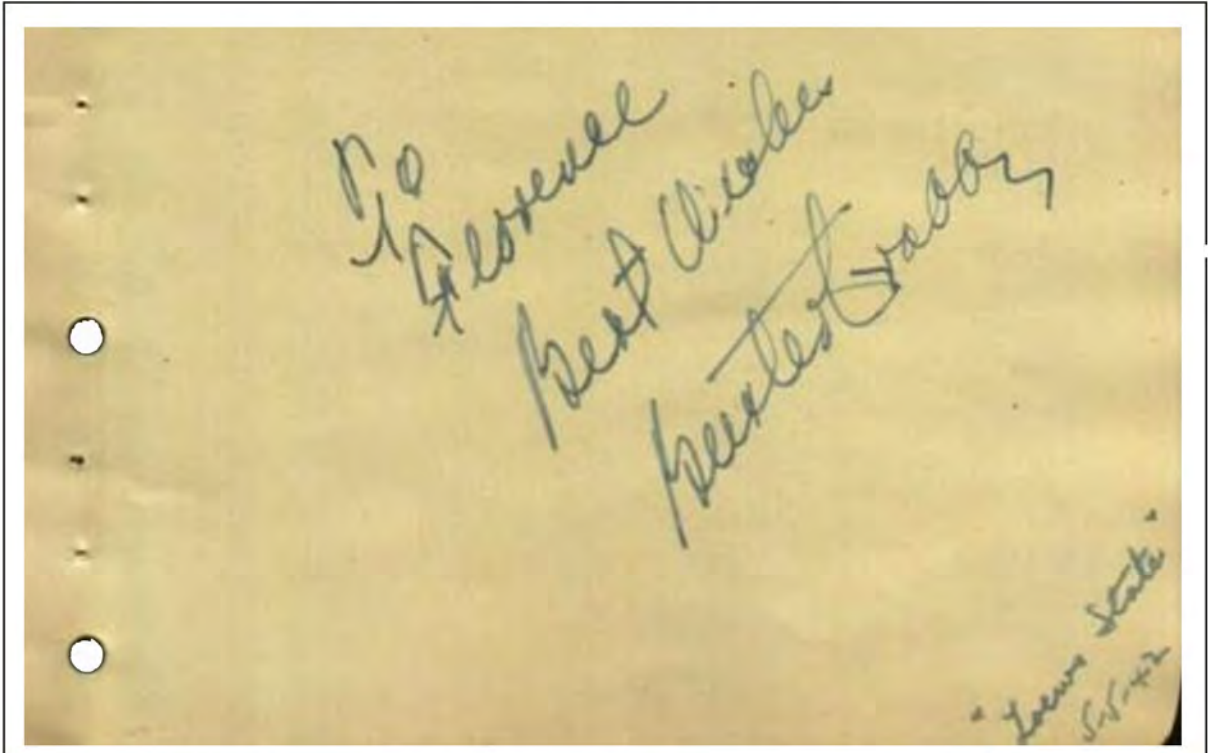
Flash Gordon

After those Games, Buster Crabbe following Weissmuller's footsteps, embarked on an acting career becoming the second Tarzan in cinematic history, and more. Among the characters he played there were also Flash Gordon and Buck Rogers.

Buster Crabbe in two of his most famous film characters



Tarzan



Buster Crabbe's Autograph



Ticket to attend the August 13th competitions



August 13th, with the signature of American swimmers

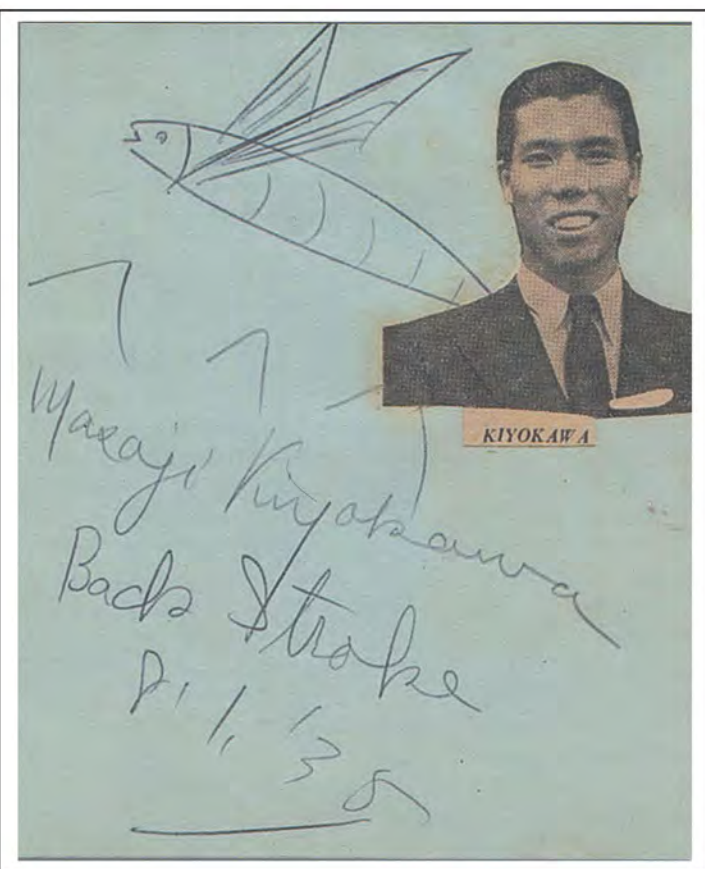
Two races were held on August 13th: 100-metre backstroke and 1500-metre freestyle.

In the 100-metre backstroke race, the Japanese dominance was overwhelming. The first swimmers to enter the final were Toshio Irie and Masaji Kiyokawa both winners of their semi-finals, to which the very young Kentaro Kawatsu joined.

The final saw Kiyokawa victorious ahead of Irie and Kawatsu, that was the first Japanese triplet in an Olympic competition.

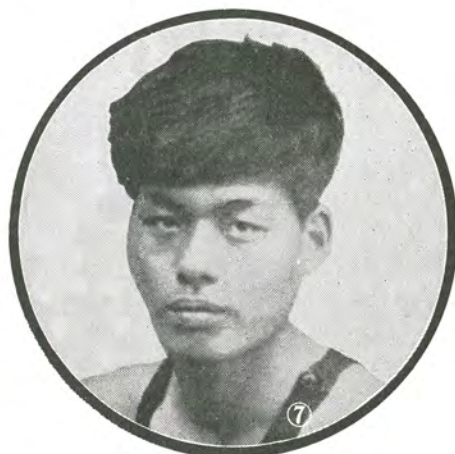


Photos for press agencies



Masaji Kiyokawa's autograph

Clipping

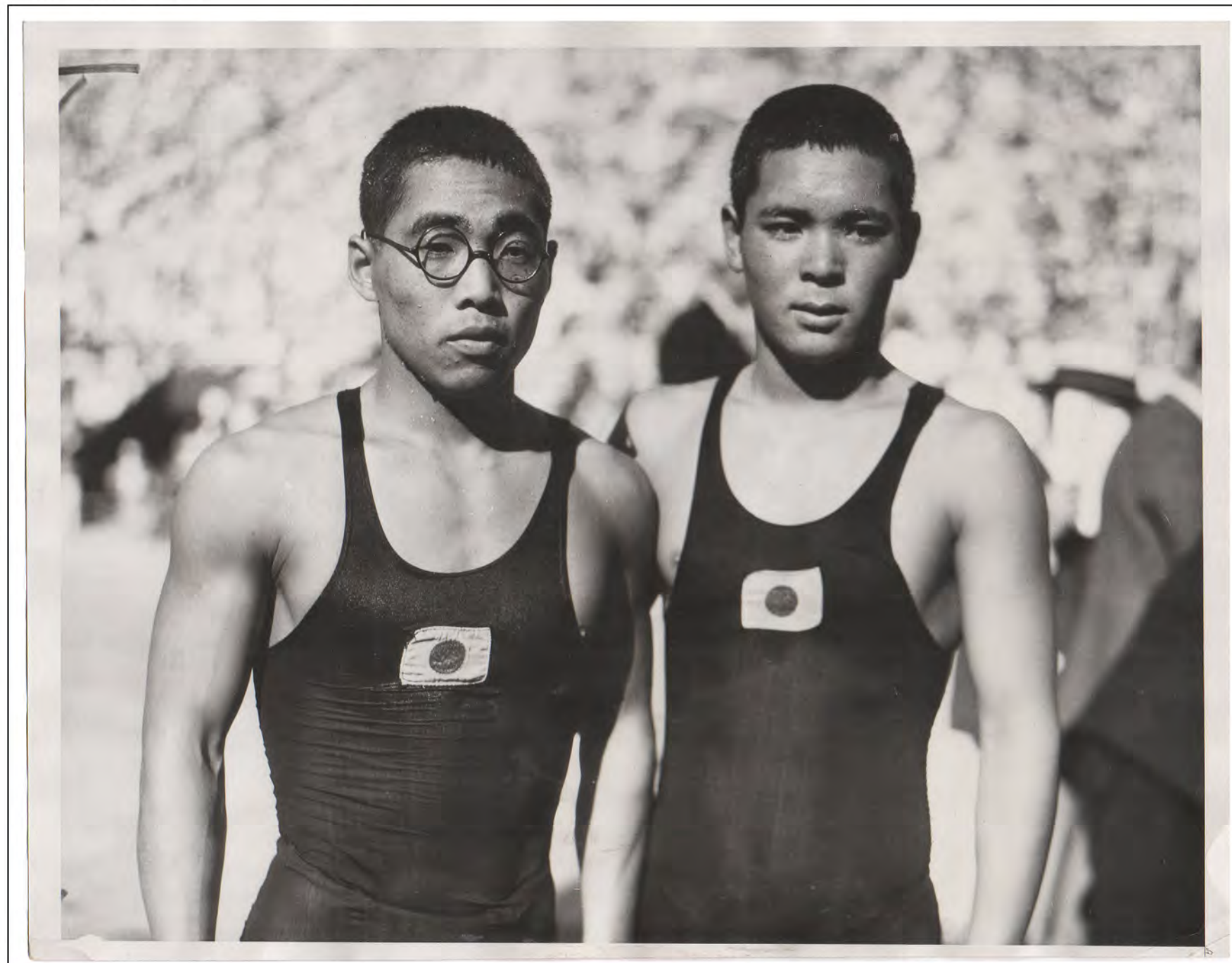


Toshio Irie

Figurine



Makino e Kitamura



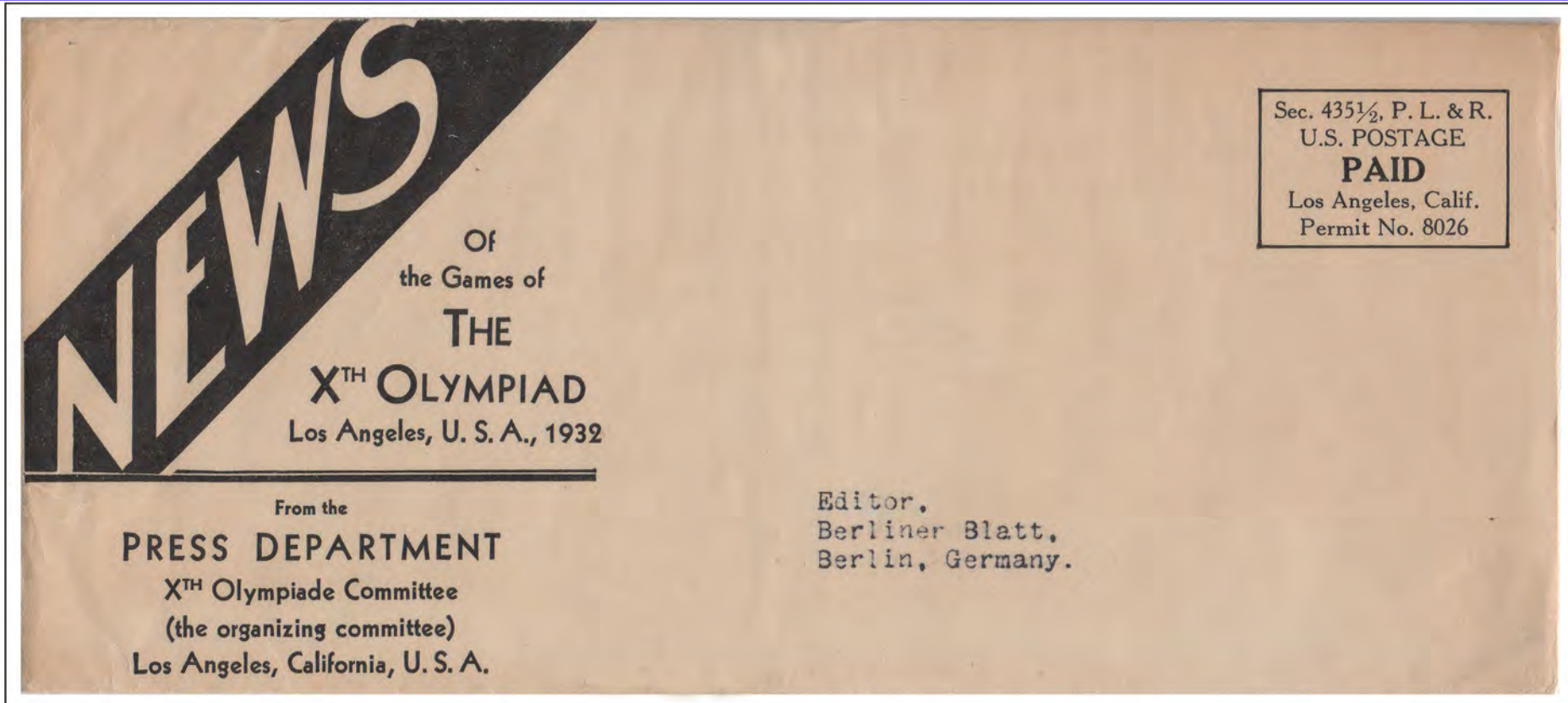
After the amazing final of the 400-metre race, everything indicated that there would be a duel in the 1500-metre race too between Crabbe and Tavis. But once again, it was two Japanese young men, 17-year-old Shozo Makino, and 14-year-old Kusuo Kitamura to change the prediction. The final took place on August 13th and it was a real battle between the two compatriots. Shozo and Kusuo swam side by side for the first 300 metres, then Kitamura moved to the front, managing to maintain the lead until the finish line and this way winning the Olympic title



In the 200-metre backstroke race (held on August 13th), due to the sudden absence of just few months earlier world record Leonard Spence caused by, as announced by the Olympic "News" of the time a tuberculosis diagnosis, the favorite of the race could only be Yoshiyuki Tsuruta, already gold in Amsterdam 1928.



Ticket to attend the 200-metre backstroke final



Organising Committee of the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games

Third class permit imprint meant for domestic use only. When it was used to a foreign destination, either postage due should have been applied or the permit covered with regular postage.



Figurine



Reizo Koike, silver medal

Official postcard



Figurine



The 200-metre backstroke podium: Yldefonso, Tsuruta and Koike

Japan at the 1932 Olympic Games



Yoshiyuki Tsuruta

5 Asian swimmers (3 Japanese and two Filipinos) and German Erwin Sietas qualified for the final. The German led the group for the first 150 metres, then cracked in the last pool leaving free field to Tsuruta, who confirmed the 1928 Olympic title, and Reizo Koike who won the silver medal. The bronze one went to the Filipino Teófilo Yldefonso.



There was great fervor in the Olympic Village, awaiting the women's competitions from which, after the feat of the "Japanese boys", similar results were expected too. Instead, the revenge of the USA team arrived precisely during those races. The Americans won four out of the five medals up for grabs, leaving the Japanese swimmers with only one silver medal. The absolute protagonist of these races was nineteen-year-old American champion Helene Madison, whose talent was enough to win three gold medals.



August 8th, 100-metre freestyle final



Olympic Village Post Office in Los Angeles during the Games



Swimmer Helene Madison won three Olympic gold medals in the Summer Games at Los Angeles in 1932.

Helene Madison



Madison's personal performance began on August 8th 1932, in the 100-metre freestyle final. With an overwhelming start, the American immediately distanced her opponents, touching the finish line first. Behind her 14-year-old Dutch Willy Den Ouden and the other American Eleanor Garatti.



*Eleanor Garatti Saville
1928 Olympic Games
1932
Swim Star*

Autographs by Eleanor Garatti, Willy Den Ouden and Helene Madison

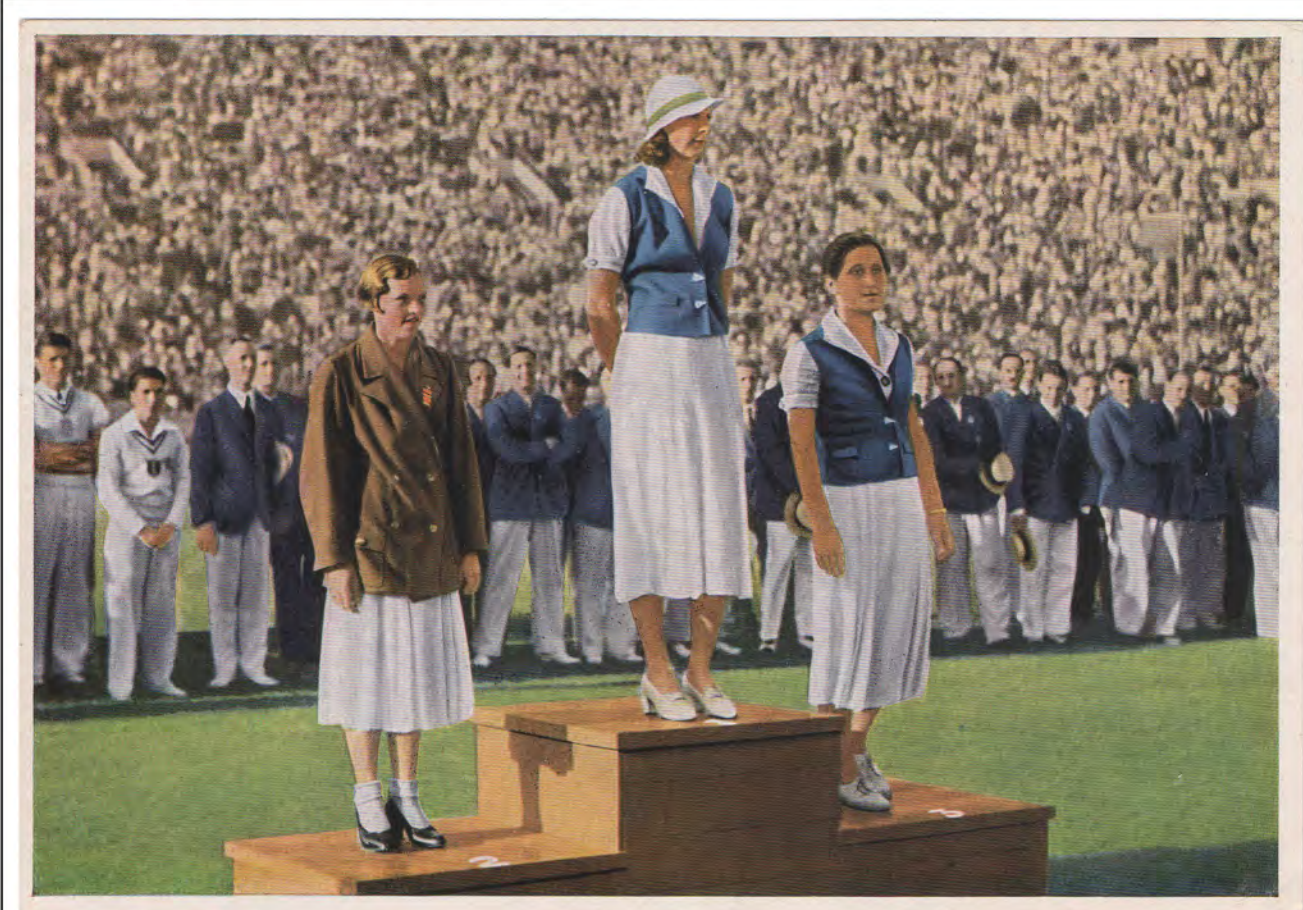
*Willyden Ouden swimming
Men Water. Relay Swimming
Follin Schuurman water and relay*

Helene Madison

The medalists of the 100-metre freestyle race: Madison, Den Ouden and Garatti, immediately after the race and on the podium

Figurine

Figurine





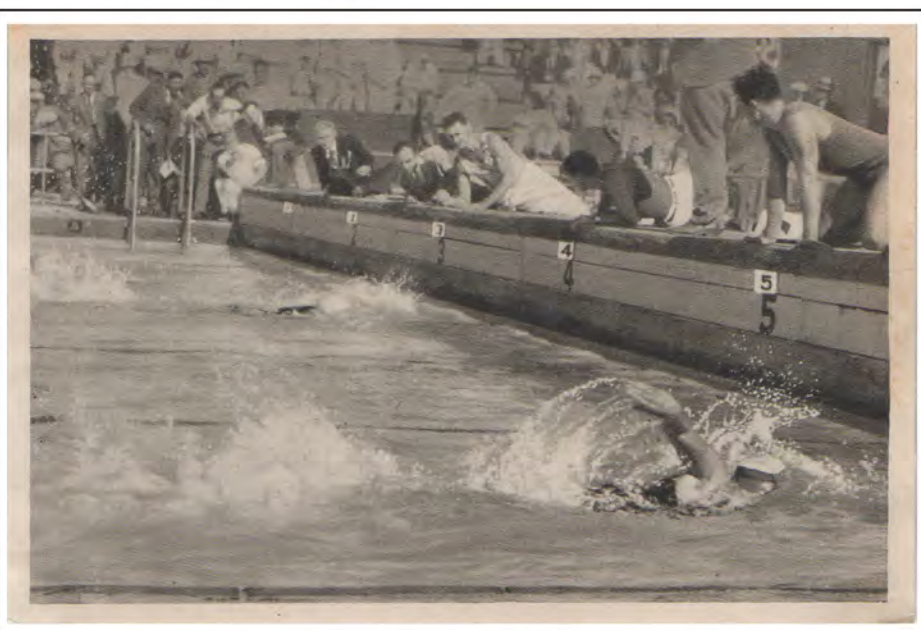
On August 12th, Madison dragged the American relay team to victory, breaking the world record by over 9 seconds, ahead of the powerful Dutch women who won the European title the previous year in Paris. The bronze medal went to the British team.

The US 4x100 relay team



Photo for press agencies

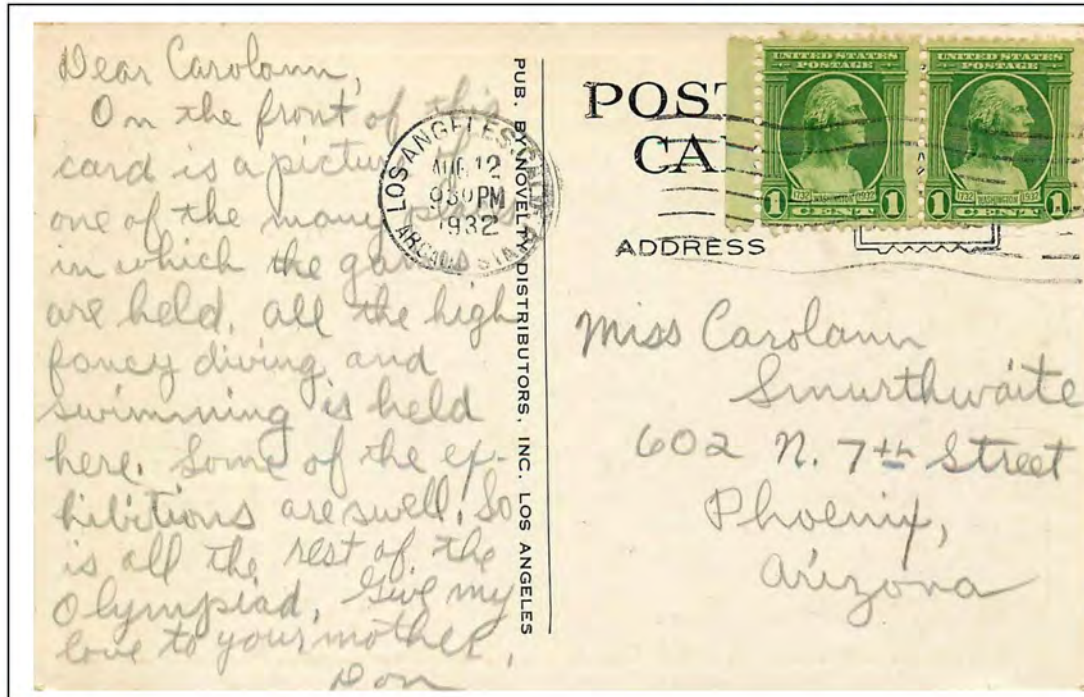
The next day, not yet satisfied, Madison engaged in an incredible duel in the 400-metre freestyle, with teammate Lenore Kight. It was head-to-head from start to finish. When they reached the finish line together, the judges, thanks to the help of the "photo finish" for the first time in an Olympic swimming race, conferred the win to Madison. The bronze medal went to South African Jenny Maakal.



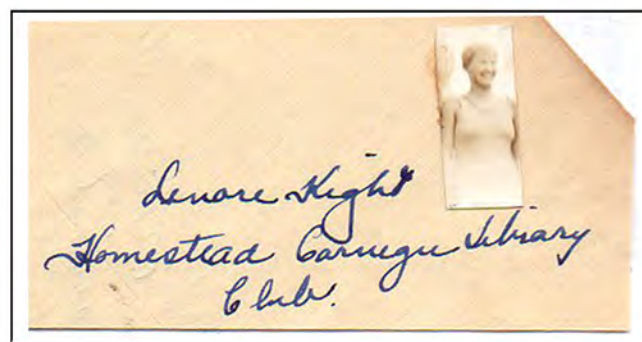
Figurine

The photo finish of the 400-metre freestyle race

August 12th - 4x100 relay final



Lenore Kight's autograph



Badge for swimmers participating in the 1931 European Championships



Patch used by U.S. Olympic champions in 1932

Figurina



A moment of the relay race



Ticket of August 13th - 400-metre freestyle final



The embrace, after the finish, between Madison and Kight

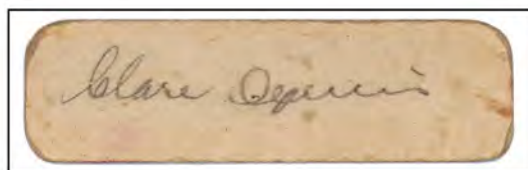


The only Olympic swimming title of 1932 not won by Japanese and US athletes, was won by sixteen-year-old Australian Clare Dennis in the 200-metre breaststroke.

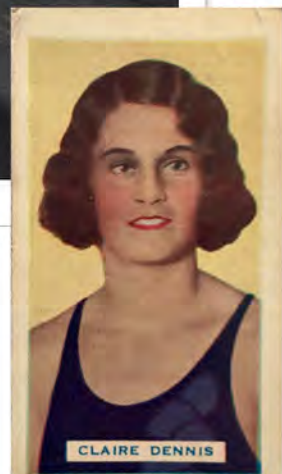


Photos for press agencies

Clare Dennis



Clare Dennis's autograph



Figurine



August 7th, women's 200-metre breaststroke semi-final



lid for coffee cream



Only 11 competitors had signed up for the race, and they were divided into three semi-final heats. In the first semi-final on August 7th, the young Australian recorded the best time, lowering the Olympic record by more than 2 seconds.

August 9th, women's 200-metre breaststroke final



In the final on August 9th, Dennis won the title, despite a toe injury, managing to once again break her Olympic record. Second, outrun by only one-tenth of a second, was Japanese Hideko Maehata, the world record holder and third was Danish Else Jacobsen.

Figurine



Else Jacobsen, bronze medal winner

Hideko Maehata, silver medal winner



Photos for press agencies



Since the Olympic champion Marie Braun was absent, as she had returned home due to an illness, the predictions for the 100-metre backstroke (scheduled for August 12th) turned towards beautiful American Eleanor Holm, world record holder and Australian Bonnie Mealing, who was the record holder before Holm. The American swimmer started very fast and managed to stay ahead for the entire race duration. Mealing arrived seconds behind and had to settle for a silver medal. The bronze medal went to English Elizabeth Davies.

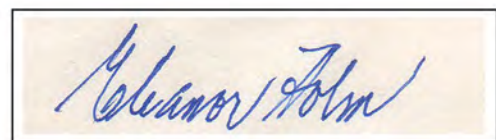


Xe OLYMPISCHE SPELEN LOS ANGELES 1932
Copyright Nadruk verboden

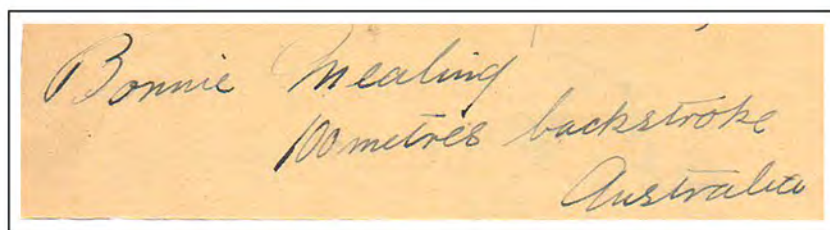
Figurine



Eleanor Holm and Bonnie Mealing



Autographs of E.Holm (gold) and B. Mealing

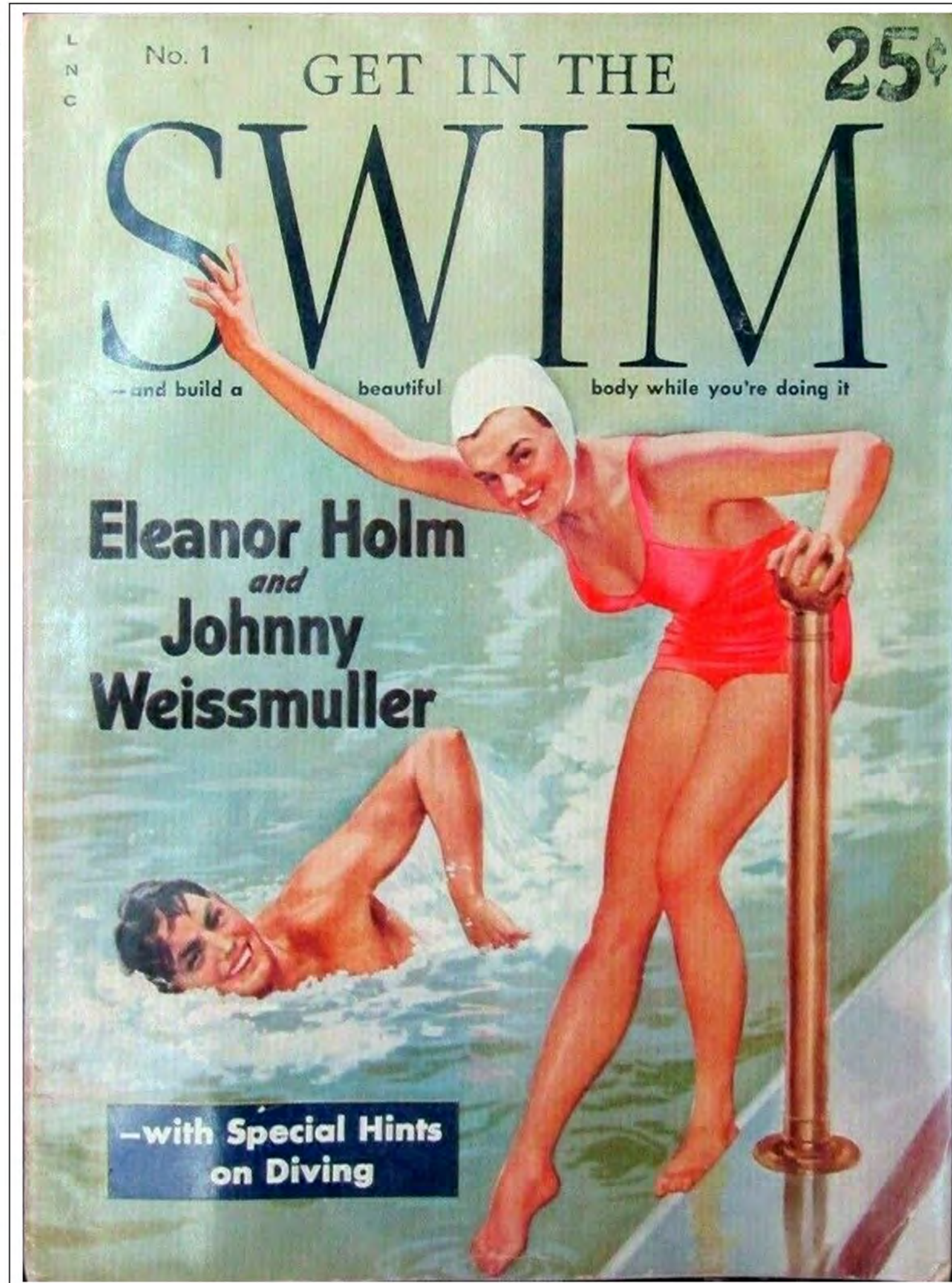


August 12th, day of the 100-metre backstroke final



Glen Morris

Due to problems with alcohol, Holm was not entered into the 1936 Berlin Games and then decided, like her other illustrious predecessors, to try her hand at the world of cinema, acting the part of Jane in the movie "Tarzan's Revenge", where the male protagonist was Glenn Morris, who also moved into acting after winning the gold medal in the decathlon at the Olympic Games of Berlin.



Johnny Weissmuller and Eleanor Holm, from swimming pools to film sets



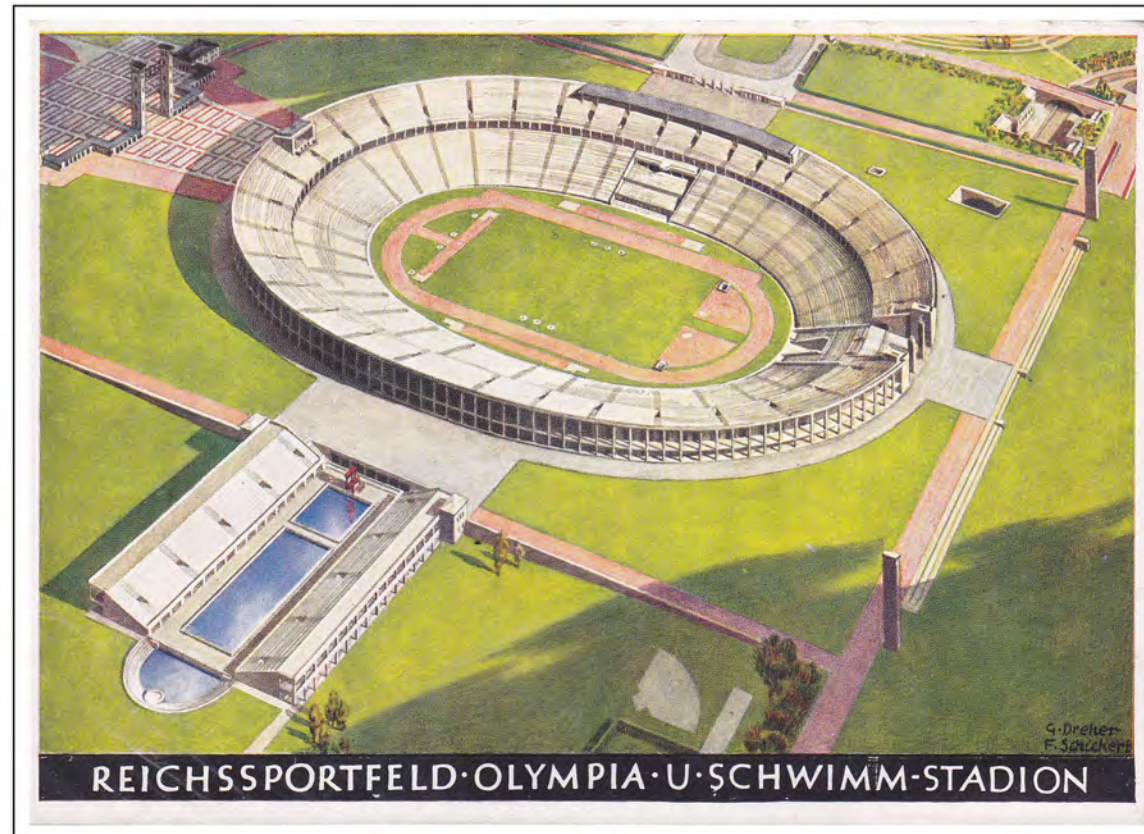
THE NAZIS' OLYMPICS

The 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin represented much more than a sporting event of global importance: they were an unprecedented opportunity for the Nazism propaganda and its ideology. Despite the discriminatory nature of many of the rules of the 1936 Games, many countries nevertheless decided to participate.

For the swimming competitions of the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games, the Organizing Committee had a new swimming stadium built, right next to the main Olympic stadium.



Organising Committee of the 1936 Berlin Games



Official Olympic postcard

Central Olympic venues with the Swimming Stadium

It was in one of the Berlin competitions that the first great revolution in swimming styles occurred. Three swimmers (Herbert Higgins, Jochen Balke and Maria Lenk), during their breaststroke races, adopted a new style: the "butterfly" stroke. All three athletes, despite not winning medals, managed to achieve their respective finals.

Figureine



Swimming Stadium - Inauguration of the 1936 Olympic Games



Onorificenza per i membri del Comitato Organizzatore

The men's swimming program taking place from August 7th to 15th, just as in 1932, ended up becoming a duel between Japan and the United States, with only one surprise: the victory of a Hungarian swimmer in the 100-metre freestyle race. Among the women, instead, the dominance of the Dutch competitors was evident, led by Rie Mastenbroek.

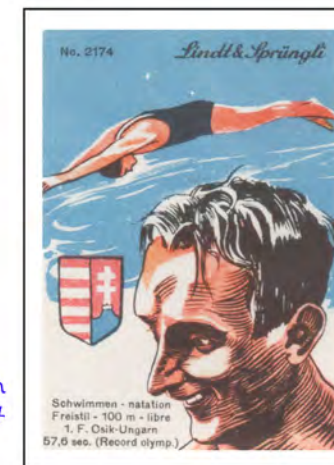


Ferenc Csik



August 7th, first day of the swimming competitions

Vignette



Csik, European Champion 1934

Although Ferenc Csik was the reigning European champion, no one expected that in the first scheduled final (August 9th) of the 100-metre freestyle, he could defeat the favorites American or the Japanese champions. Instead, the Hungarian succeeded in the feat. Taking advantage of the fight between his opponents, Csik surprised everyone in the second half of the race, managing to forerun by a few tenths of a second the Japanese swimmers Masanori Yusa and Shigeo Arai.



Congratulations to Csik immediately after his victory



The second title awarded in Berlin was that of the 4 x 200-metre freestyle relay (August 11th), a race in which eighteen teams showed up at the starting blocks, all aware that only the American and Japanese teams would have fought for victory, as they were too much stronger than everyone else.

Olympia
figurine



August 11th, relay final

One of the most incredible stories of the Olympic Games concerns one of the members of the French quartet (fourth-placed), Alfred Nakache. Nakache, after Berlin, also won the relay silver medal in the European Championships in London in 1938, and then, in 1941 he won the 200-metre breaststroke world record.

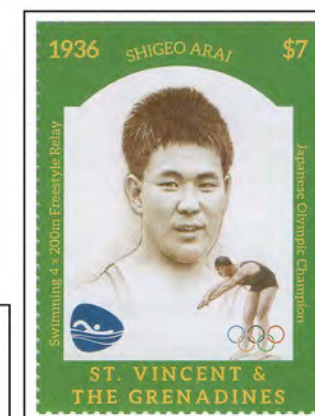


Official badge of the 1938 European Swimming Championships in London

In 1943 during the war, being of Jewish origins, he was deported together with his wife Paola and his daughter Annie, to the Auschwitz extermination camp.

1947 European Swimming Championships in Munich

Part of the Japanese quartet was also the Olympic champion from Los Angeles, Masanori Yusa, who lined up in the first fraction, gained such an advantage over all the other competitors that his companions (Shigeo Sugiura, Masaharu Taguchi, and Shigeo Arai), had no problem maintaining it until the finish line and regaining the top step of the podium. Behind them were the Americans (12 seconds behind), Hungarians, and French.



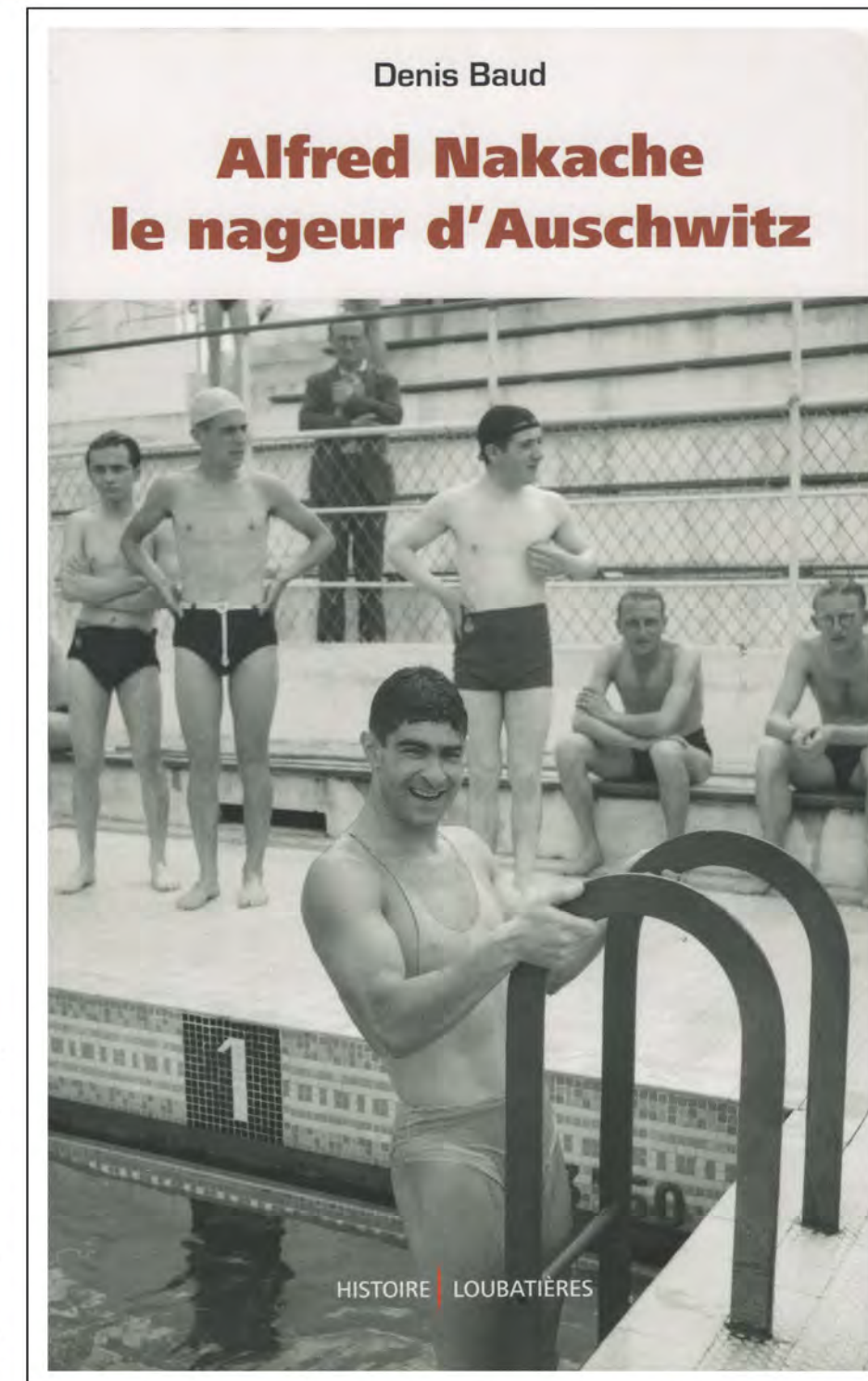
Shigeo Arai



The Japanese relay



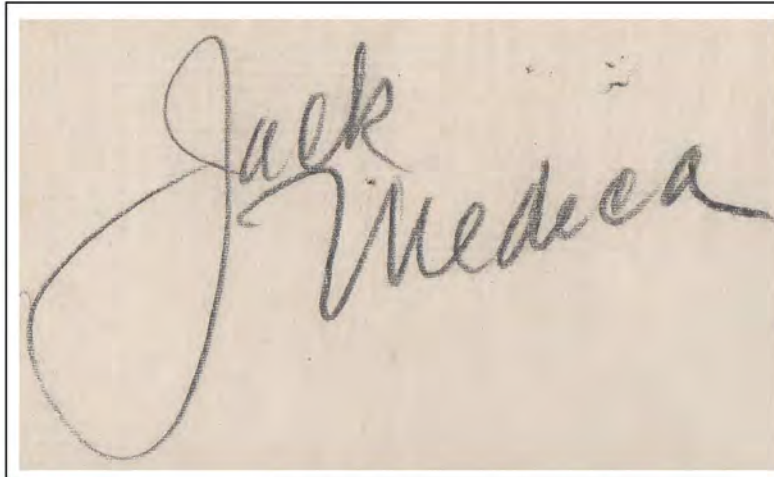
While his family was unfortunately slaughtered in that field, Nakache managed to escape and during the European Championships in Munich in 1947 he returned to compete. Then, his teammates gave him the nickname "Auschwitz Swimmer". The following year he participated in the London Olympic Games, reaching the semi-final in the 200-metre butterfly at the age of 33 and today he is remembered as the only athlete to have competed in the Olympic Games before and after being interned in an extermination camp.



Cover of the book dedicated to French swimmer Alfred Nakache



As with the 100-metre freestyle, also in the 400-metre race (August 12th), the favorites were the three Japanese swimmers registered in the race and the world title holder, American Jack Medica. It was a very tight race in which the Japanese Shumpei Uto, with a solid start, managed to get a good lead straight away. The American competitor, however, immediately reacted by reducing the separation from the opponent in the subsequent laps. The two fought until the end and only in the last 10 metres Medica managed to overtake his adversary and win the gold medal.



August 12th, 400-metre freestyle final

Jack Medica's autograph



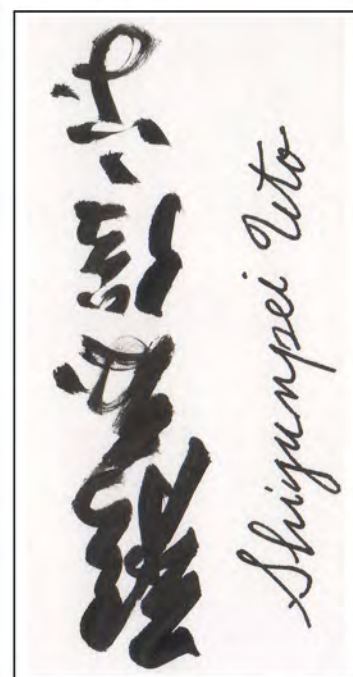
Official service car badge

The next day both Medica and Uto participated in the 1500-metre freestyle final and on that occasion as well they engaged in a battle for the gold medal. Unfortunately for them, however, they ended up being racing not for gold but for a silver one.



Olympia figurine

Photos for press agencies



Shunpei Uto's autograph

Jack Medica



Japanese team badge

Lindt figurine



Noboru Terada

The title was won by another very young Japanese swimmer, Noboru Terada, at the finish who immediately separated his opponents, crossing the finish line 20-plus seconds ahead of Jack Medica.

Noboru Terada at the finish



Ticket on August 13th, to watch the 1500-metre freestyle final


XI. OLYMPISCHE SPIELE
BERLIN 1936



STANZIG

In the only backstroke competition scheduled in Berlin, the figure of the American Adolph Kiefer, son of a former German Army swimming instructor. Kiefer had decided to pay tribute to his family origins, preparing himself as best as possible for those Games, at which he arrived as the world record holder.

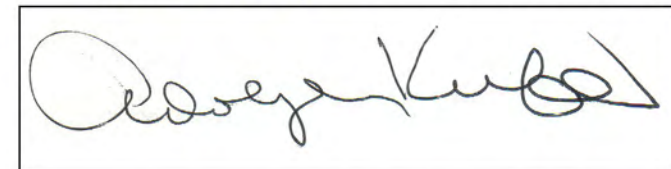


Ticket 14 August -100-metre backstroke and 200-metre breaststroke finals

In the final on August 14th, Kiefer started very fast, immediately giving away the sensation of an unbridgeable superiority to his opponents, in the end, he got first retouching the Olympic record and distancing Albert van de Weghe by two seconds and the Los Angeles Olympic champion Masaji Kiyokawa by three.



Kiefer after victory Kiefer's figurine and autograph



Official badge for service cars

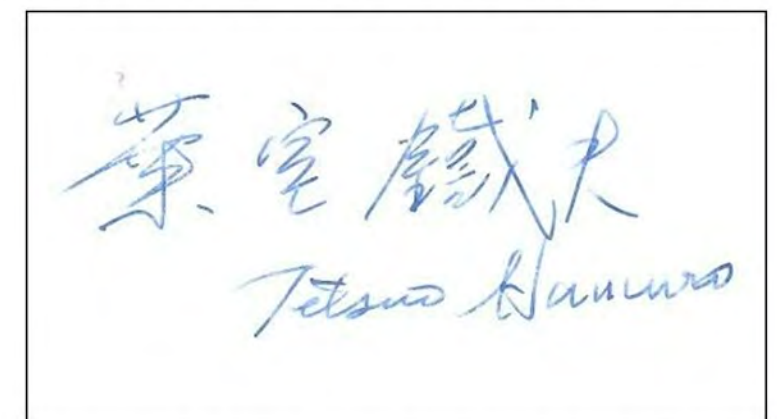
Figurine



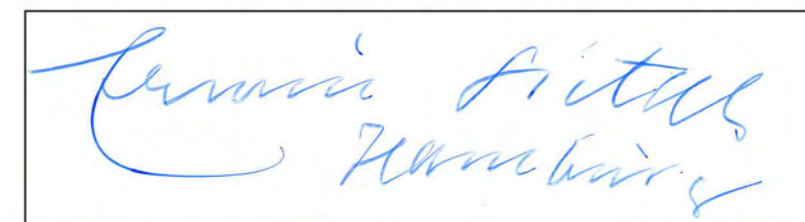
Tatsuo Hamuro

Special telegram form used for transcribing and transmitting the congratulation message sent to Olympic Village

On the afternoon of the same day, it was the turn of the 200-metre breaststroke. Once again, as four years earlier in this race, the Japanese swimmers took over, placing three of them in the final. The very young Tetsuo Hamuro prevailed, ahead of German Erwin Sietas and the other Japanese Reizo Koike.



Autographs of Olympic champion Tetsuo Hamuro and Erwin Sietas





LAmerican female swimmers had not taken part in the 1912 Games, but from Antwerp 1920 onwards they had always dominated swimming events. In Berlin, however, the US athletes were overwhelmed by the Dutch ones, who took home four out of the five gold medals up for grabs.



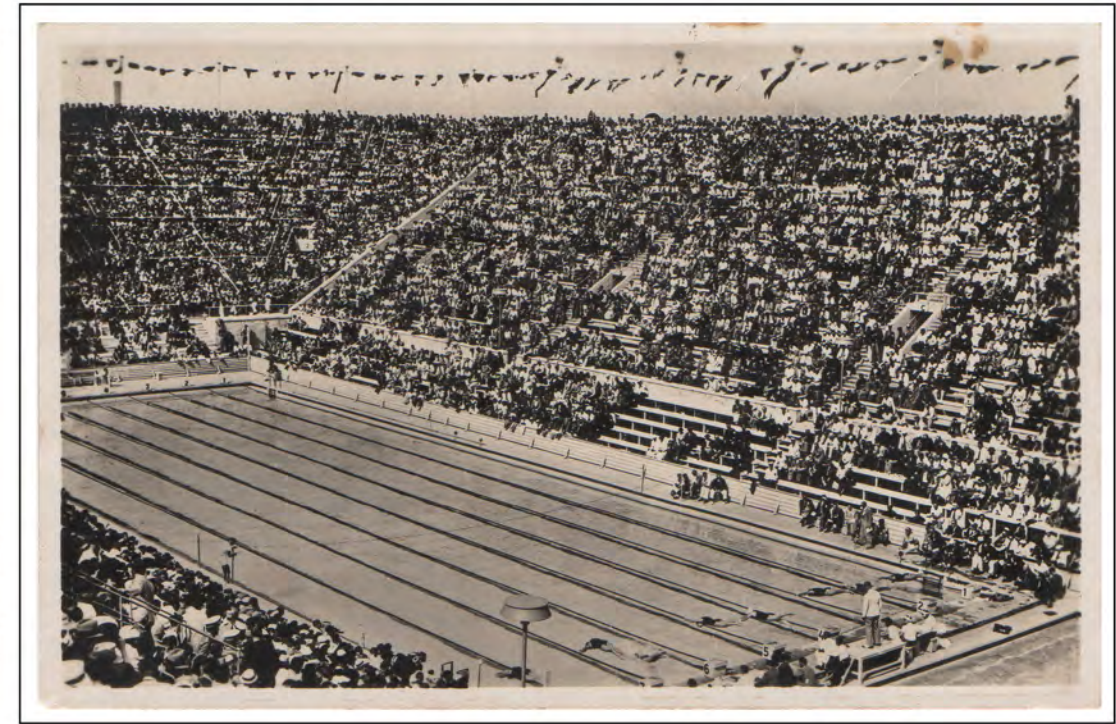
Autographs of the entire Dutch women's swimming team



Official postcard

Badge for judges

In the first women's race, the 100-metre freestyle, three girls were registered, and among them was the world record holder and retiring Olympic vice-champion Willy den Ouden, considered by all the favorite of this race.



The start of the women's 100-metre freestyle

Instead, the final result rewarded her compatriot Rie Mastenbroek (who in the end will take home 4 medals, three of which were gold), who in the last meters of the race prevailed against Argentine Jannette Campbell and German Gisela Arendt. Den Ouden had to settle for fourth place.



Silver medalist, Argentina's Jannette Campbell



Rie Mastenbroek

CONGRATULATORY DINNER

to
Miss RIEK MASTENBROEK
(Holland)

World's Champion, Olympic Games 1936

and
MADAME BRAUN

at
Maison Lyons, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.1

Wednesday, October 14th, 1936.

Chairman - Major D. D. MILNE
(President S.C.A.S.A.)

TOASTS.

H.M. THE KING.

H.M. QUEEN WILHELMINA OF THE
NETHERLANDS.

OUR GUESTS.

MENU.

Hors d'Oeuvres Varies.

Creme Portugaise.

Petite Sole Palace.

Poulard en Casserole Bonne Femme.

Pomme Rissoles.

Salade Panache.

Biscuit Glace Tortoni.

Gaufrettes.

Capitain
W. H. S. C.
G. La C. B.



Official pin

The 100-metre freestyle podium



Figurine

(Menu used during the celebrations in the homeland of the three-time Olympic champion Rie Mastenbroek with autographs of Mastenbroek herself and the other Dutch champions).



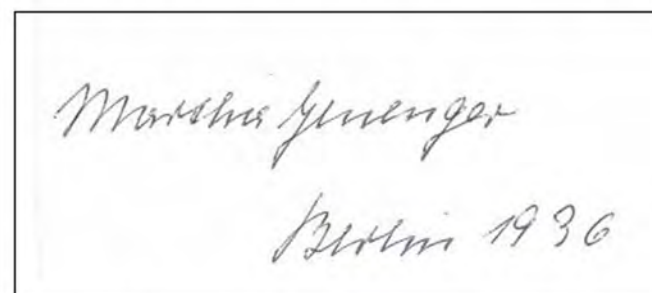
The women's 200-metre breaststroke race took place from August 8th to 11th. Japanese Hideko Maehata, already a silver medalist in Los Angeles in 1932, showed up in Berlin as the main candidate for the final victory of this race, as holder of the world title.



"Swimming Stadium", August 8th and 11th, days of the women's 200-metre breaststroke races

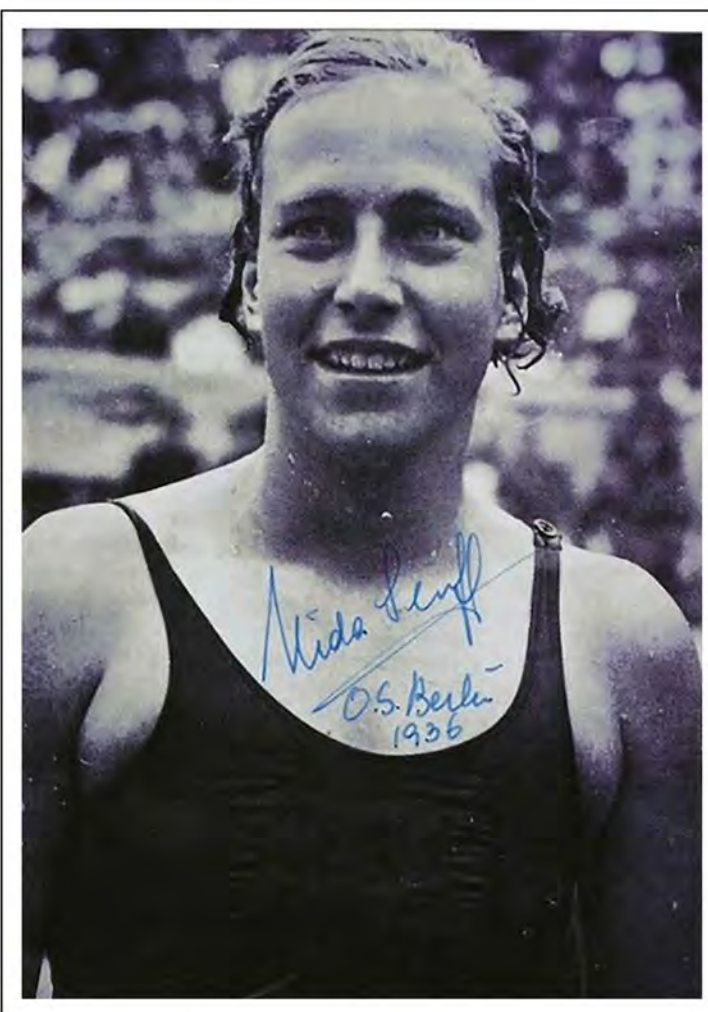
Photos for press agencies

The Japanese had no problems winning the race, preceding two very young athletes: German Martha Genenger (14 years old) and Danish Inge Sarensen aged only 12 (the youngest all-time Olympic medalist).



Olympic champion Hideko Maehata

Marta Genenger's autograph, silver in the 200-metre breaststroke



Nida Stenff - photo with Autograph

People started talking about the 100-metre backstroke race before the Games even began, due to the exclusion from the USA team of Heleanor Holm, Olympic champion in Los Angeles. Without the American, the main favorite was Dutch Rie Mastenbroek, the world record holder. During the qualifiers and then in the semi-finals, it happened that another Dutch girl, fourteen-year-old Nida Stenff, had managed to achieve the best times and consequently the final result was very uncertain.

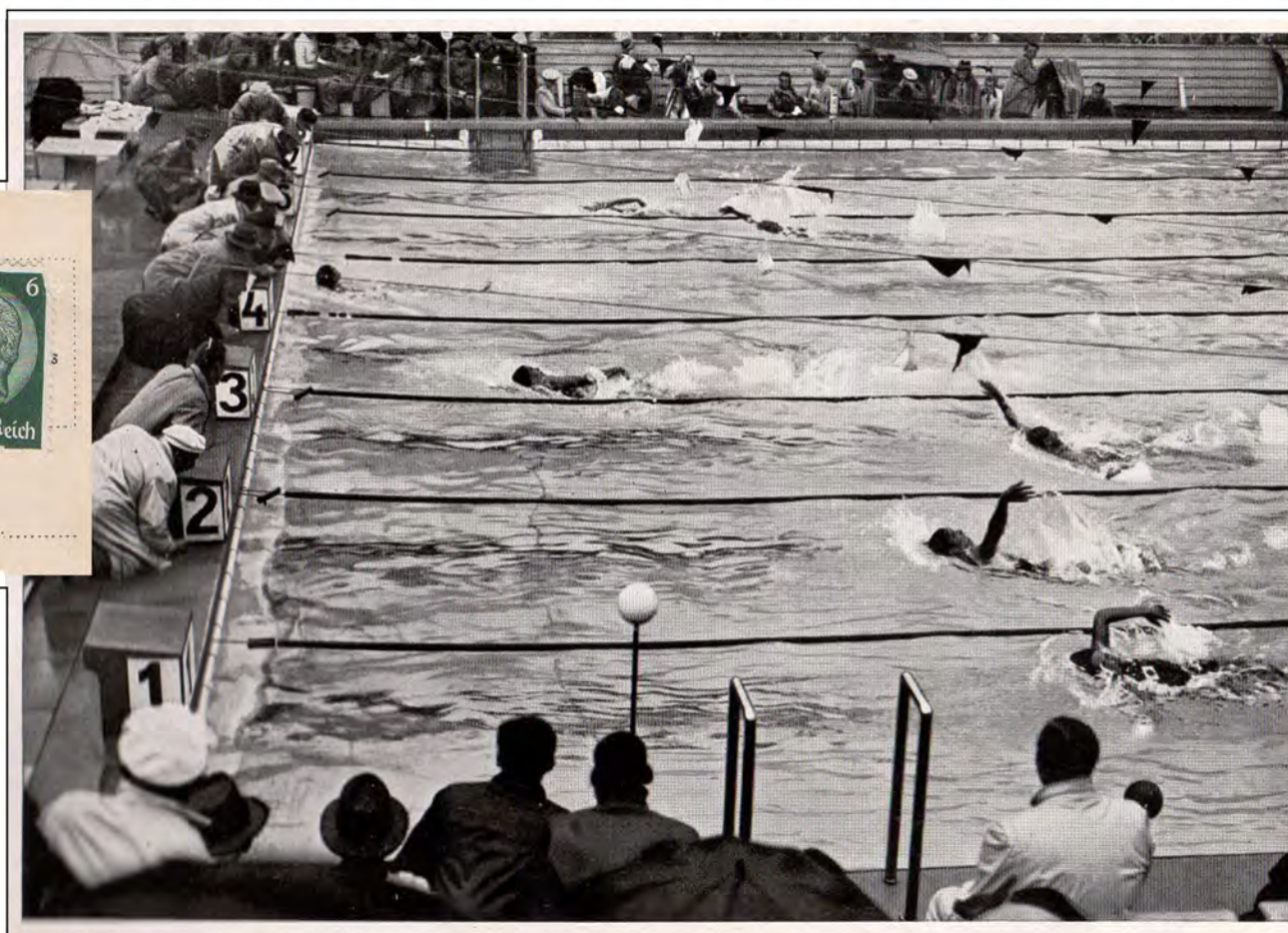


Badge for service staff



August 13th, 100-metre backstroke final

Finish line Figurine



Nida Stenff confirmed her excellent form also in the final on August 13th, winning the Olympic title, ahead of Mastenbroek and Alice Bridges.



Fourteen-year-old Danish Ragnhild Hveger had recently conquered the world record for 800-metres freestyle (she will achieve 42 of them in her long career) and in Berlin, in the 400-metre, showed up as the considered favorite for the Olympic title. During the qualifiers, Hveger managed to even lower the Olympic record, in the final on August 14th she had to deal with the champion of the 100-metre freestyle, Dutch Rie Mastenbroek.



Medal for participants in the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games



Ragnhild Hveger



Rie Mastenbroek after his victory in Berlin 1936



RIE MASTENBROEK (NED); WON THREE GOLD MEDALS IN SWIMMING (BERLIN 1936)

The Danish swimmer started fast, forerunning the whole group by more than 350 metres. But then in the last lap, the Dutch picked up the pace of her swimming, passing Hveger in the last 10 metres, earning this way her second gold medal.



The last race of the women's swimming program (August 15th) was the 4 x 100 metres freestyle relay, a race that in all previous editions of the Games had been won by the Americans.

August 15th, day of the 4x100 relay final



But in Berlin, the Americans, after winning their semi-final, were outclassed by the Dutch women, led by Mastenbroek who was not satisfied by the two gold and the one silver medals already conquered, but also by the Germans who surprisingly conquered the silver medal fighting until the last metre against the very strong new Olympic champions.



Ticket to attend the swimming competitions on August 15th



Official badge for swimmers participating in the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games



The Dutch girls of the 4x100 metre freestyle, Olympic champions in Berlin 1936

Photos for press agencies



GAMES SUSPENDED... BUT NOT ENTIRELY

Official postcard

In 1936, the city of Tokyo was chosen as the host city of the XII Olympic Games. The following year, as a result of the outbreak of war between China and Japan, the organization was reassigned to Helsinki. Then, however, due to the Second World War, the 1940 Games but also those of 1944 were definitively canceled. The editions of the 1940 and 1944 Games will remain in history with the words «not disputed.»



Official pin

Of these "unplayed" editions of the Games, we only have a few philatelic memories left (stamps and postcards) and memorabilia (badges, publications, stickers)



Organising Committee of the 1940 Tokyo Games



Vignettes

Tokyo and Helsinki 1940 Olympic Games



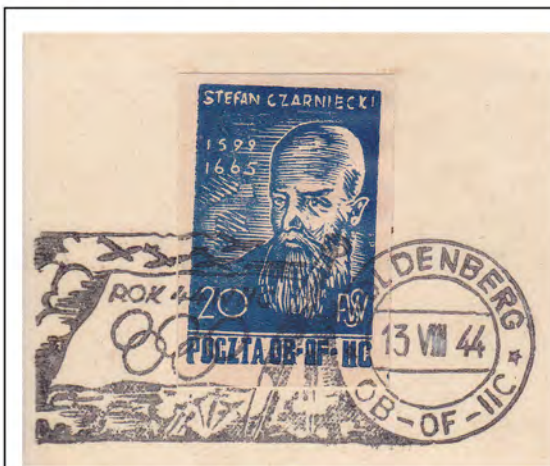
Helsinki 1940 Olympic Games



Tokyo 1940 Olympic bid

In reality, in the prison camps of Grossborn and Woldenberg, two close locations between Germany and Poland, during the Second World War, competitions similar to the Olympics were held. In fact in 1940 and then in 1944, athletes representing 7 nations (France, Belgium, Poland, Great Britain, Holland, Yugoslavia, and Norway), some already Olympic champions and medalists, competed in those fields in special editions of the Games, where however the Olympic flag was a rag with rings painted on with watercolors, the cups were made out of mess tins and the medals for the winners were made out of cardboard.

Grossborn and Woldenberg



Cardboard medal for races in concentration camps

Figurines



Ardiles and Pelé in the film 'Escape for Victory'



END OF THE CONFLICT AND RESTART

The swimming competitions of the London Olympics took place between July 30th and August 7th at the Empire Pool, a swimming pool built in 1934 a few dozen metres from Wembley Stadium on the occasion of the second British Empire Games.



Car pennant

July 30th - first day of swimming competitions



At the eleven swimming events (six for men and five for women), 249 swimmers representing 34 nations participated. Because of the absence of German and Japanese swimmers (as their nations were defeated in war), especially the latter who dominated the Los Angeles and Berlin Games, the swimming events were largely won by the United States, which earned six victories in the men's races, placing fifteen of the eighteen athletes registered in the finals.

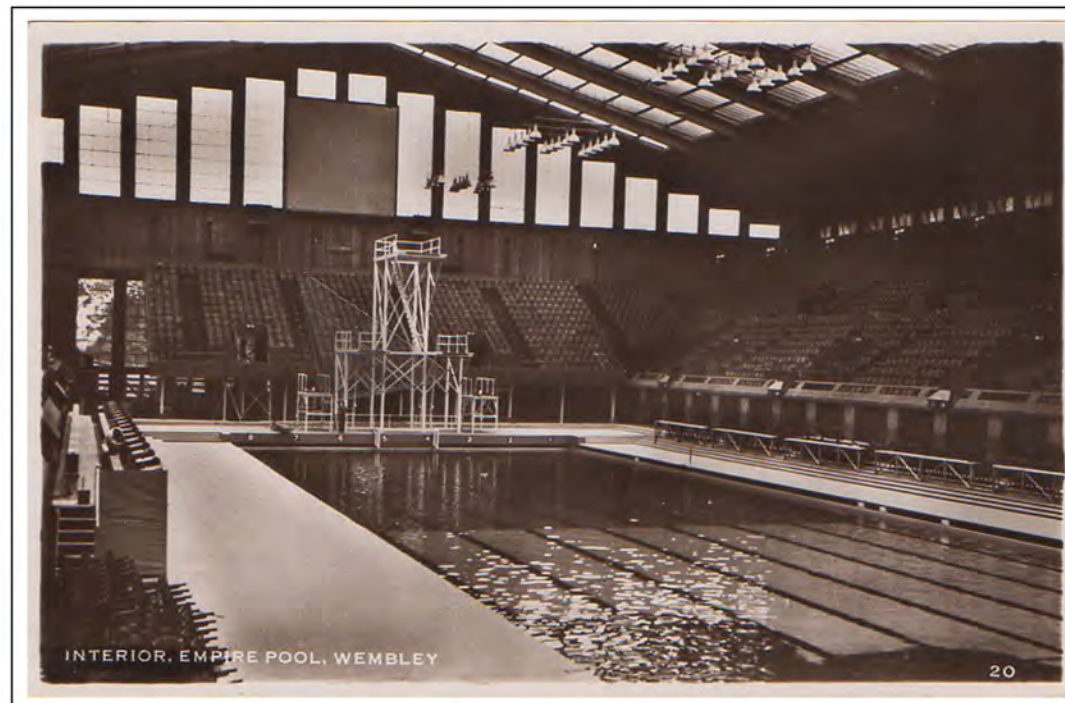


Badge for swimmers participating in the 1948 London Olympic Games

Among the women, the five medals up for grabs were divided between the Americans and the fresh champions of Europe, the Danish and Dutch swimmers.



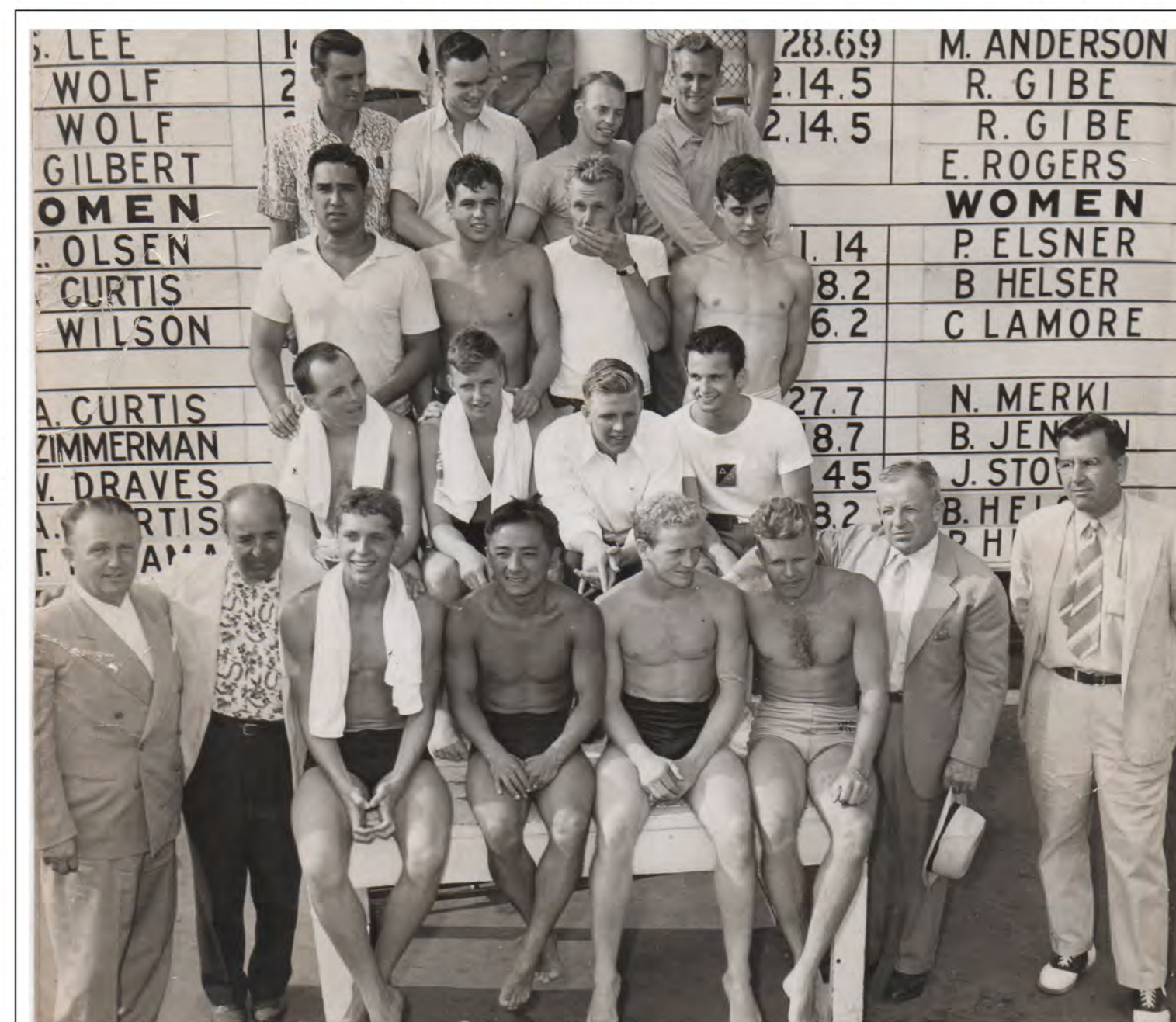
Official badge for participants at the 1947 European Swimming Championships in Monaco



The Empire Pool at Wembley



Badge for the 1934 British Empire Games

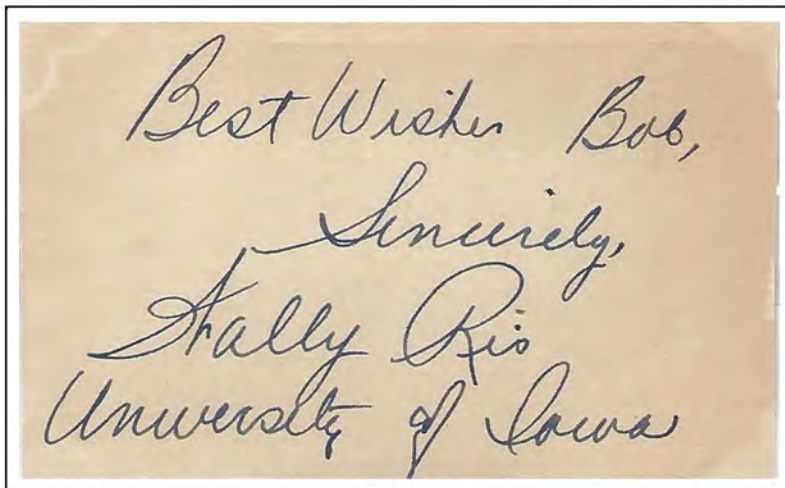


The US men's Olympic swimming team

Photos for press agencies



The first title awarded was that of the 100-metre freestyle, a race in which the overall favorite was young French champion Alex Jany, although the world record holder Alan Ford was going to race as well.



Jany easily reached the final, in which he was however surpassed by the two Americans in the race (Ford and Walter Ris) and by the Hungarian Géza Kádas. In the final metres the real strength of Ris came out, he preceded Ford by half a second and Kádas by eight-tenths. The French swimmer placed only in the fifth place.

Walter Wally Ris's autograph

August 4th, 400-metre freestyle final

The podium of the 100-metre freestyle



Fundraising pin for USA Team

Photos for press agencies

1947 Monaco - European Swimming Championships

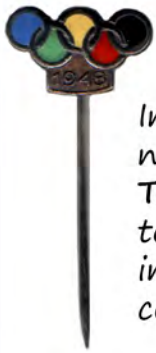


Even in the 400-metre freestyle, Jany was the favorite, being the world record holder since the European Championships in Monte Carlo in 1947. The Frenchman reached the August 4th final, but only placed sixth. The title was disputed by two other Americans, William Bill Smith and Jimmy McLane. The race was very gripping for the first 200 metres, during which the two Americans traveled on the same line, then Smith took speed and was never caught again by his companion, who arrived distanced by over 2 seconds. Third place and bronze medal for the Australian John Marshal.

Official postcard



400-metre freestyle champion Bill Smith with silver medallist McLane and Frenchman Jany at his side



In 1948, during the Japanese national sports meetings, Amano Tomikatsu became the first man to go under the 19-minute mark in the 1500-metre freestyle, conquering the world record.



Japanese National Games 1948

Photos for press agencies

James McLane



Patch of the US Olympic Committee at London 1948

But since Japan had not been invited to the London Games, the final of the 1500-metre race of August 4th, saw the match between American James McLane and Australian John Marshall.



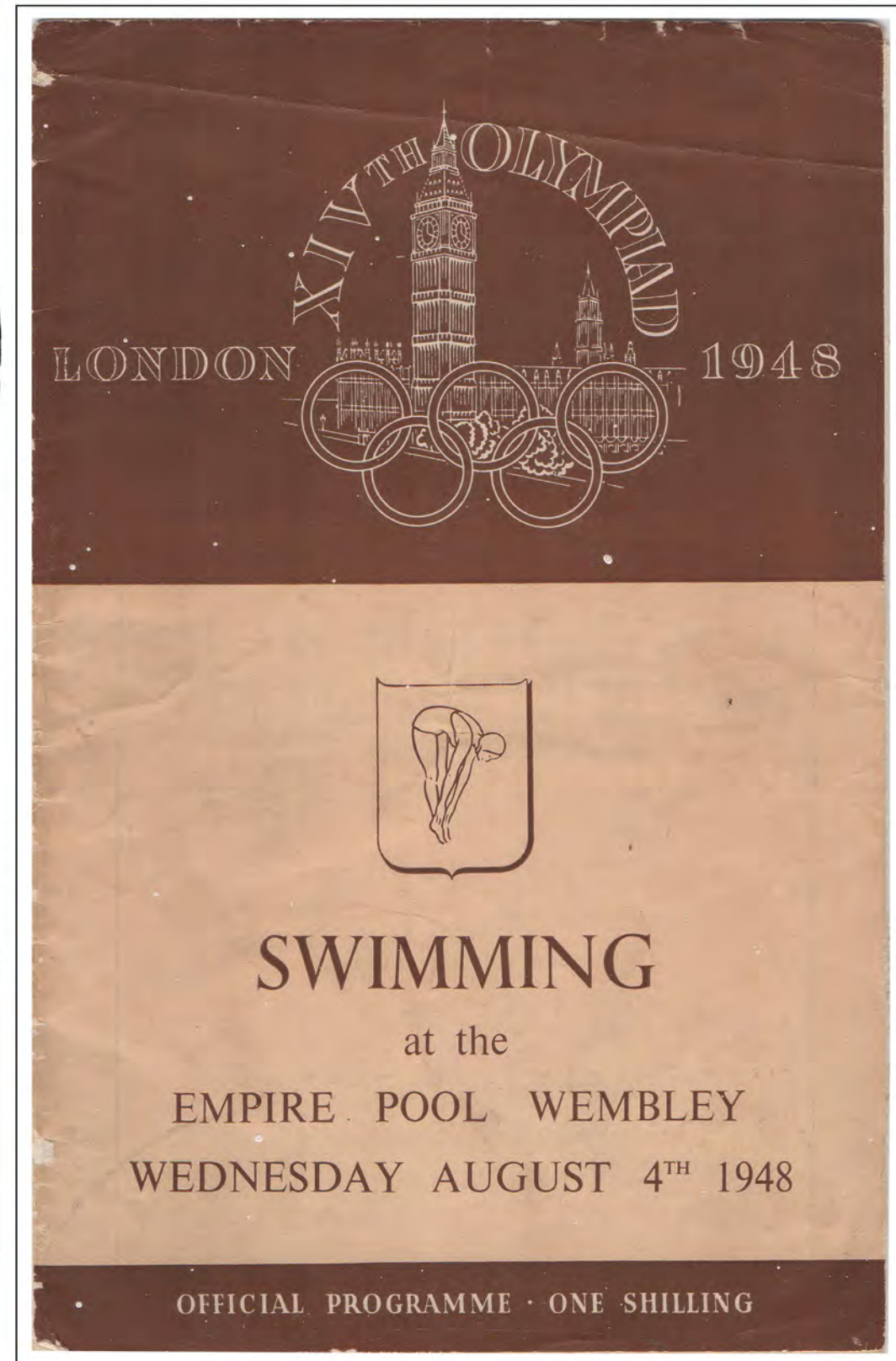
August 4th, 1500 metre final



Figurine

McLane started well, managing to maintain a good lead in the first thousand metres. Then Marshall issued his challenge, coming up beside the American for the next three hundred metres. In the final rush, however, the best technique stood out, as well as the strength of McLane's youth who after twenty years (the last American to win this title was Norman Ross in 1920), brought back the title of the 1500-metre to the USA.

Norman Ross



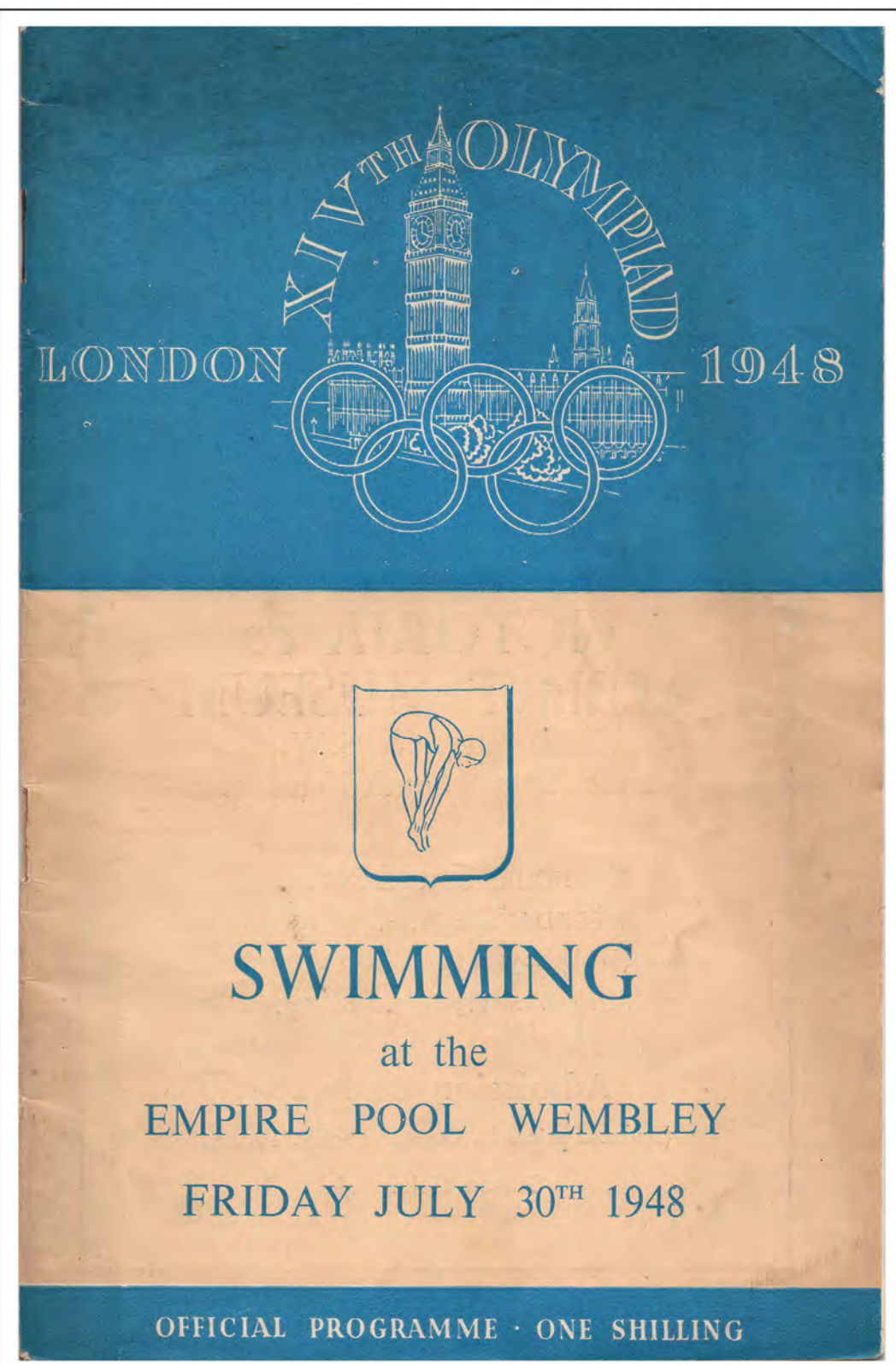
Official programme on August 4th, 1500-metre final



Official pins



Of the 24 finalists in the individual freestyle events, 8 were from the United States and 6 from Hungary.

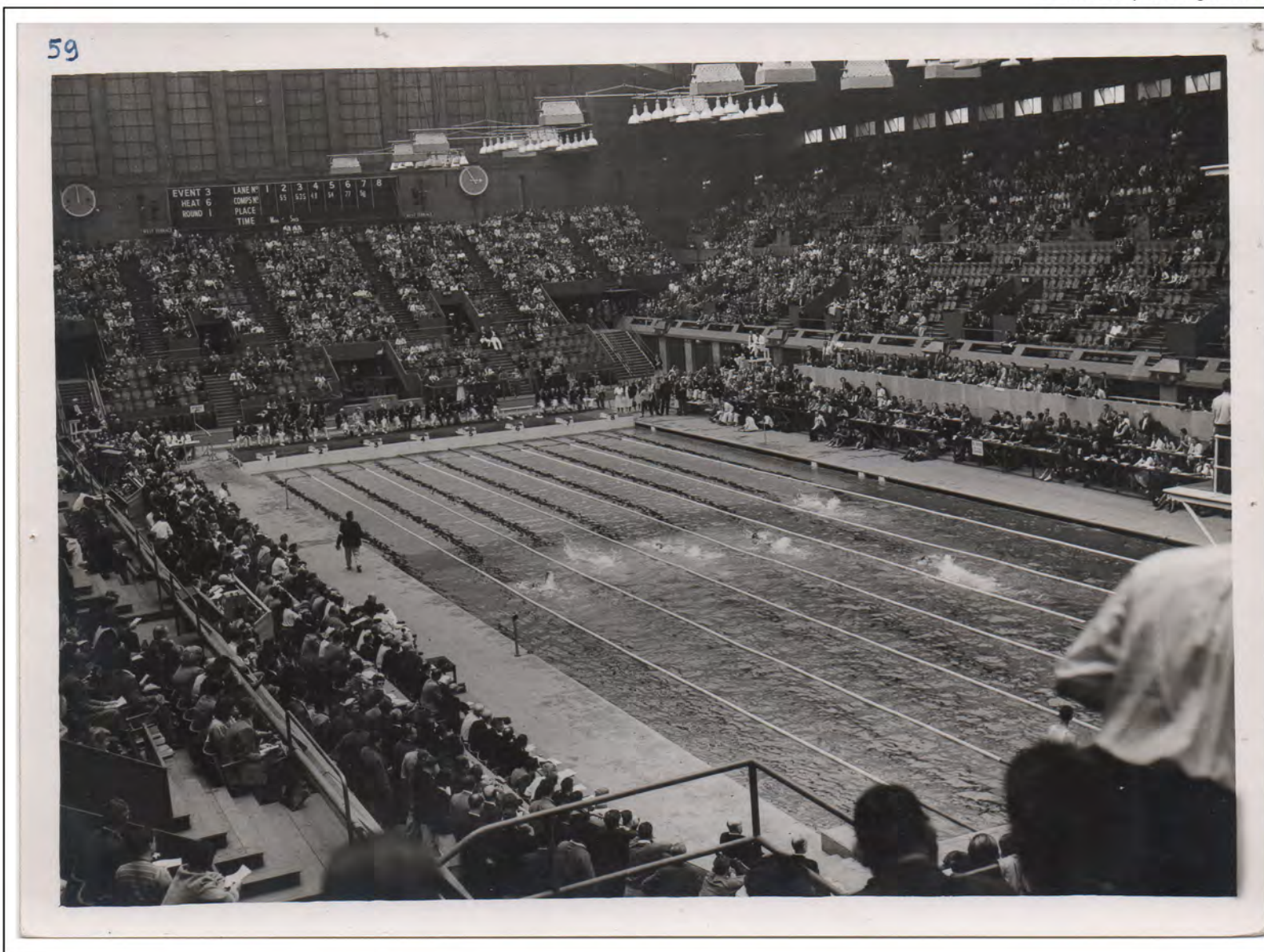


July 30th, 4x200 metre relay qualification

Official program



Badge for swimming coaches in the 1948 London Olympic Games



August 3th, 4x200 metre relay final

It was, therefore, no surprise when the Americans and Hungarians managed to qualify for the final of the 4 x 200 metre relay with the best times. The final on August 3rd followed the expected pattern, with the two favorite teams fighting for the gold medal while the others fighting for the bronze one.

Medal minted in honour of the Hungarians who won silver at London 1948, including Géza Kádas, György Mitró, Imre Nyéki, and Elemér Szathmáry, silver in the 4x200 metre freestyle



In the first three phases of the race, there was a lot of balance, especially between the two favorite teams, but then 400-metre champion Bill Smith took the field and impressively earned the Americans the gold medal and a world record.

*Bill Smith
1948 Olympics
Gold - 400 M Freestyle*

Autograph of Olympic 400-metre and 4x200 relay champion Bill Smith





American **Allan Stack**, the holder of the world record in the 100-metre backstroke, was considered the favorite for this race. Stack was the fastest qualified swimmer but had a bad surprise when the final was about to start. While waiting for the start, he tried to tighten his swimsuit but then felt the lace break leaving him naked inside the pool. Luckily the starter gave him permission to leave the pool and change his swimsuit, avoiding an embarrassing situation. The final turned out to be more complicated than expected. Stack had to deal with the other American Robert Cowell, who stuck right behind him throughout the entire race. In the end, Stack won by just one cent of a second. The bronze medal went to French Georges Vallerey.



Best wishes,
Allan Stack

Figurine and autograph

Olympic 100-metre backstroke champion Allan Stack

Photos for press agencies



August 6th, 100-metre backstroke final



Medal for the participants



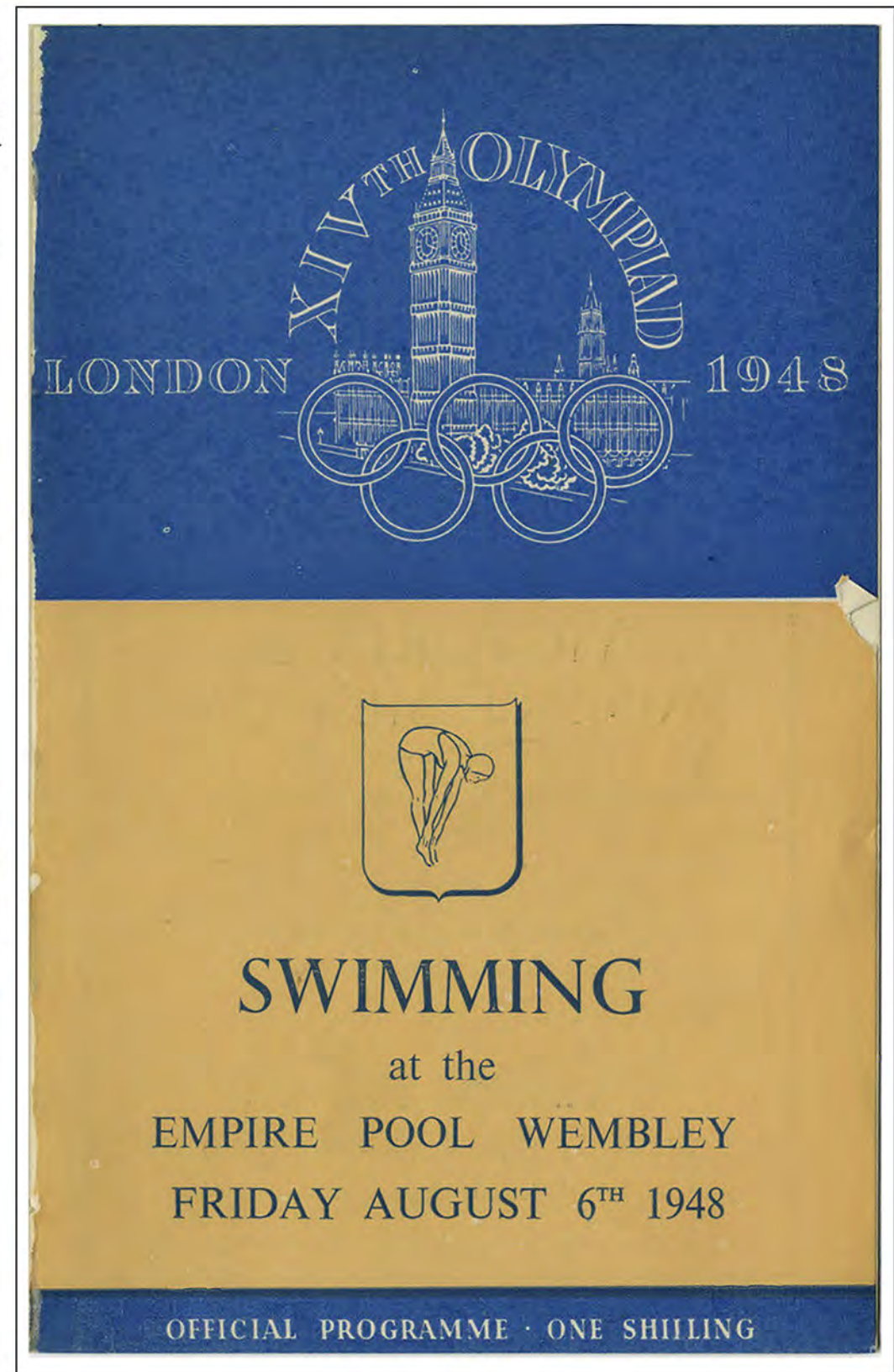
August 7th, 200-metre breaststroke final



The men's races concluded on August 7th with the 200-metre breaststroke. Another American, **Joe Verdeur**, was the race's favorite since he had lowered the world record six times in the past 2 years. In London, his times were not up to his best performances. Despite this, Verdeur managed to win the Olympic title. In this competition, the superiority of the butterfly technique was highlighted, in fact only one of the finalists used the traditional breaststroke (Dutch Bob Bonte), and he finished eighth.



Joe Verdeur



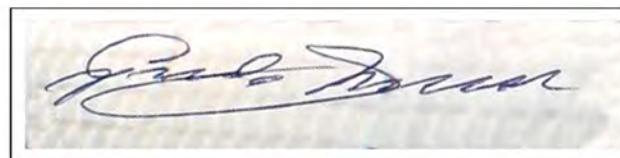
Programme on August 6th, 100-metre backstroke final

To Robert J. Hayes,
With fondest regards,
Joe Verdeur

Joe Verdeur's autograph



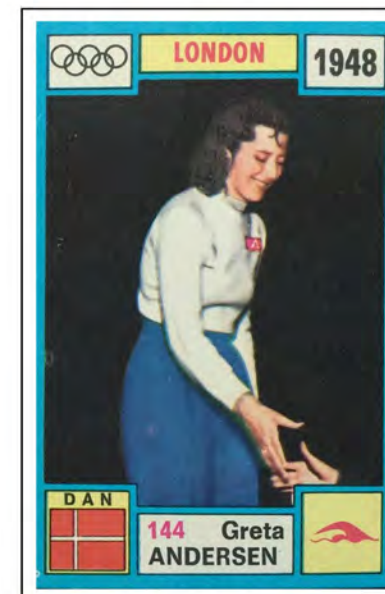
The first women's final, the 100-metre freestyle, took place on August 2nd. Already from the preliminary races it was clear that the title would be fought between Danish Greta Andersen and American Ann Curtis. Curtis was a long-distance specialist, but she glued herself to Andersen throughout the race. Despite this, the Danish swimmer managed to maintain a slim lead, capturing his nation's first Olympic gold medal in swimming.



Greta Andersen's autograph

Entry ticket to the Empire swimming stadium on August 2nd, 100-metre freestyle final

Panini figurine



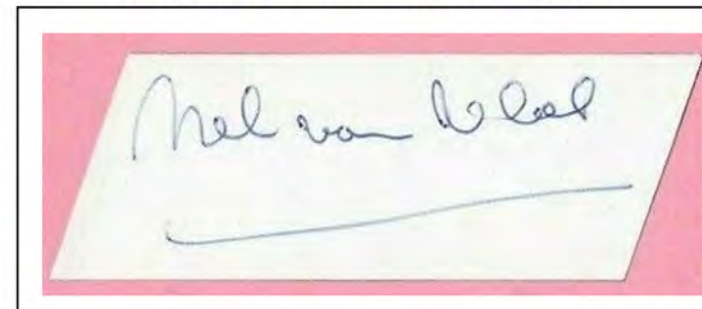
100-metre freestyle champion Greta Andersen

Figurine



Nel Van Vliet on the podium of the 1947 European Championships and, below, his autograph

134. Nel v. Vliet op 't ere-podium na het behalen van de Europese 100 m schoolslag in e Monaco
de 150 prachtige e horen in het grote rtboek:
EN SPELEN IN EN BEELD
100 boeiende arti- r belangwekkende etreffende sport en aie werk in Uw be- schrijf een briefkaart nistratie van het tboek, postbus 898, vraag om de gratis g. Plak, behalve een ent voor frankering, an 15 cent extra administratiekosten. o's worden gratis ue Band, de mar- s smaakt, ongedig
PLAK ALLEEN DI

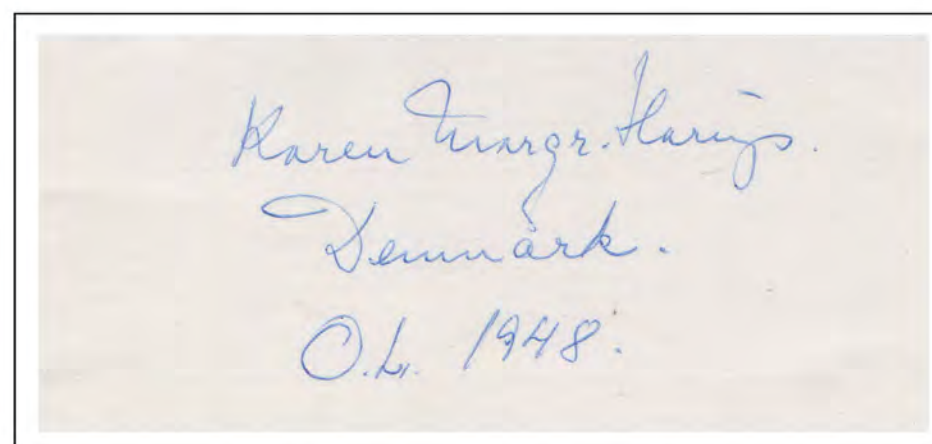


August 5th, 100-metre backstroke final



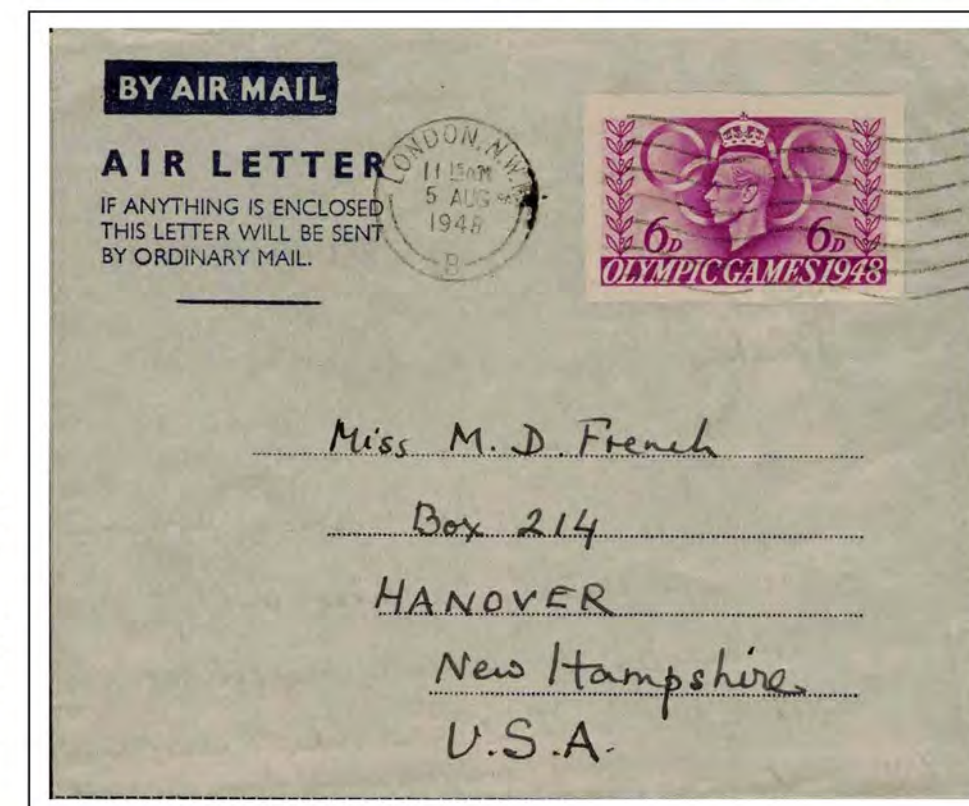
Artist's proof

The novelty of the women's 200-metre breaststroke race was that no American had passed the qualifications, consequently, the favorite was Dutch Nel Van Vliet, world record holder, and European reigning champion. The only ones who could get in her way were Hungarians Eva Székely and Eva Novák, and Australian Nancy Lyons. In the final on August 3rd, Van Vliet and Novak challenged each other until the last 50 metres, then Lyons squared up by reaching and overrunning Novak and then sprinting with the Dutch for the final victory. Van Vliet won over the wild Australian, who came second just 5 hundredths of a second away.



Karen Margrethe Harup's autograph

The favorite in the final of the 100-metre backstroke race (August 5th) was Danish Karen Margrethe Harup, who had won this race at the 1947 European Championships. Harup proved to be worthy of the predictions, managing to break the Olympic record in all three of her races. The silver medal went to American Suzanne Zimmeman, over a second behind, and the bronze one to Australian Judy-Joy Davies.



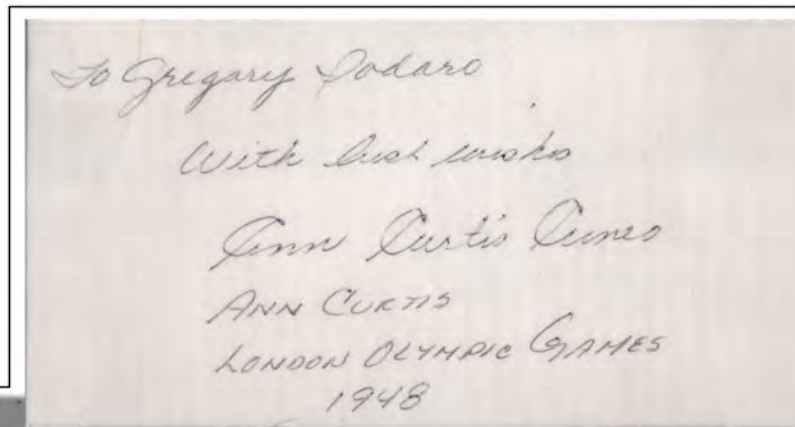


August 6th, women's 4x100 metres relay

Given the performances in the 100-metre freestyle (three Americans qualified for the final race), it was obvious that the Danes, Americans, and Dutch would have been the ones fighting for the title on the 4 x 100 metres relay. In the final of August 6th, both the Danes and the Dutch started very strong, so much so that it seemed like the medals could have already been assigned. But they hadn't taken into account the last American swimmer, Ann Curtis. As soon as she entered the water, Curtis began her chase after her two opponents, who she both overran in the last 15 metres, touching the wall first, ahead of Danish Fritze Carstensen.

Photos for press agencies

Ann Curtis with two of her relay teammates



Ann Curtis Cuneo's autograph

The same protagonists of the 100-metre showed up in the 400-metre race, including the American anchor Ann Curtis, as mentioned, considered the strongest in long distances. The final on August 7th saw the exit of one of the favorites: due to the heat, 100 metres gold medalist Greta Andersen lost consciousness in the water and was saved by one of the judges.

Figurine



Greta Andersen rescued in water

The other Dane in the race Karen Margrethe Harup, had broken the Olympic record in the semifinal and was therefore the greatest threat to the American victory. In the final, however, Curtis put all her power into play, reaching the finish line first. Harup had to settle for a silver medal, while the bronze one went to English Cathie Gibson.

Colour proof

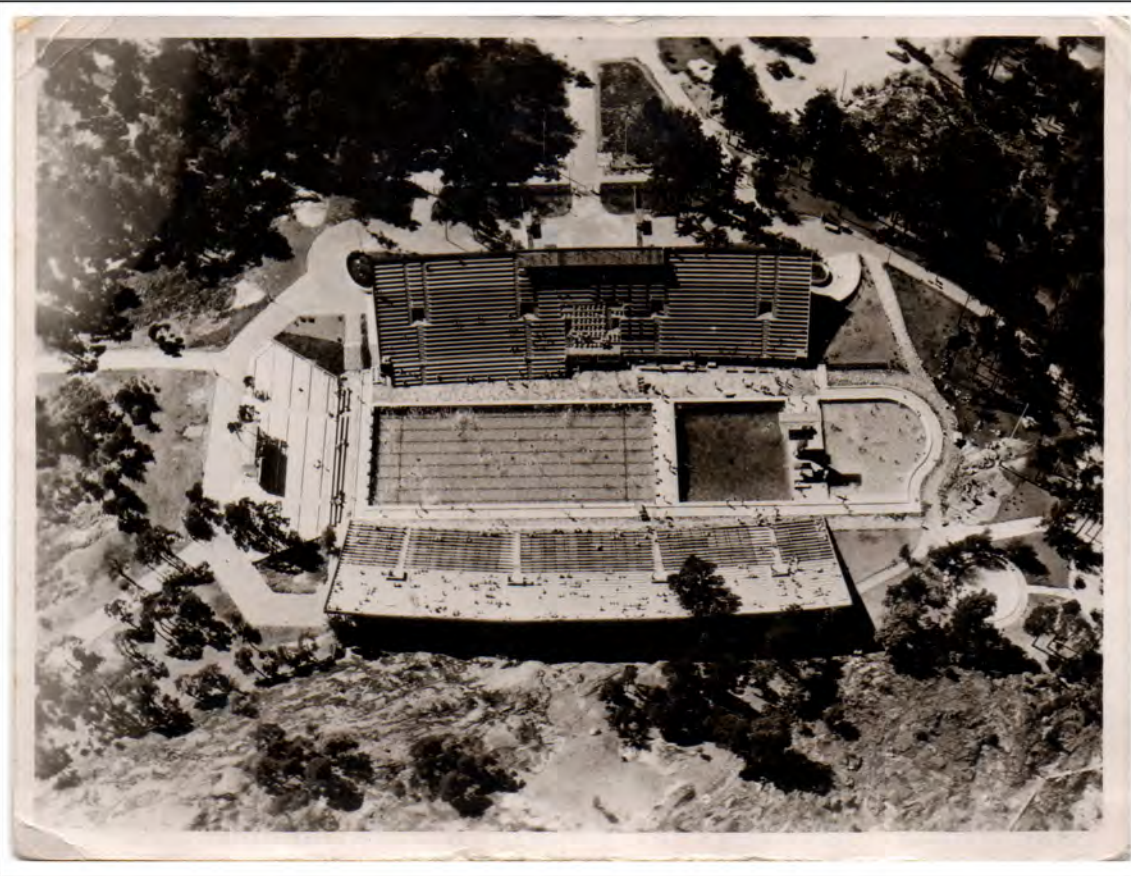


August 7th, 400-metre freestyle final



Olympic postcard

The Helsinki Swimming Stadium in 1952

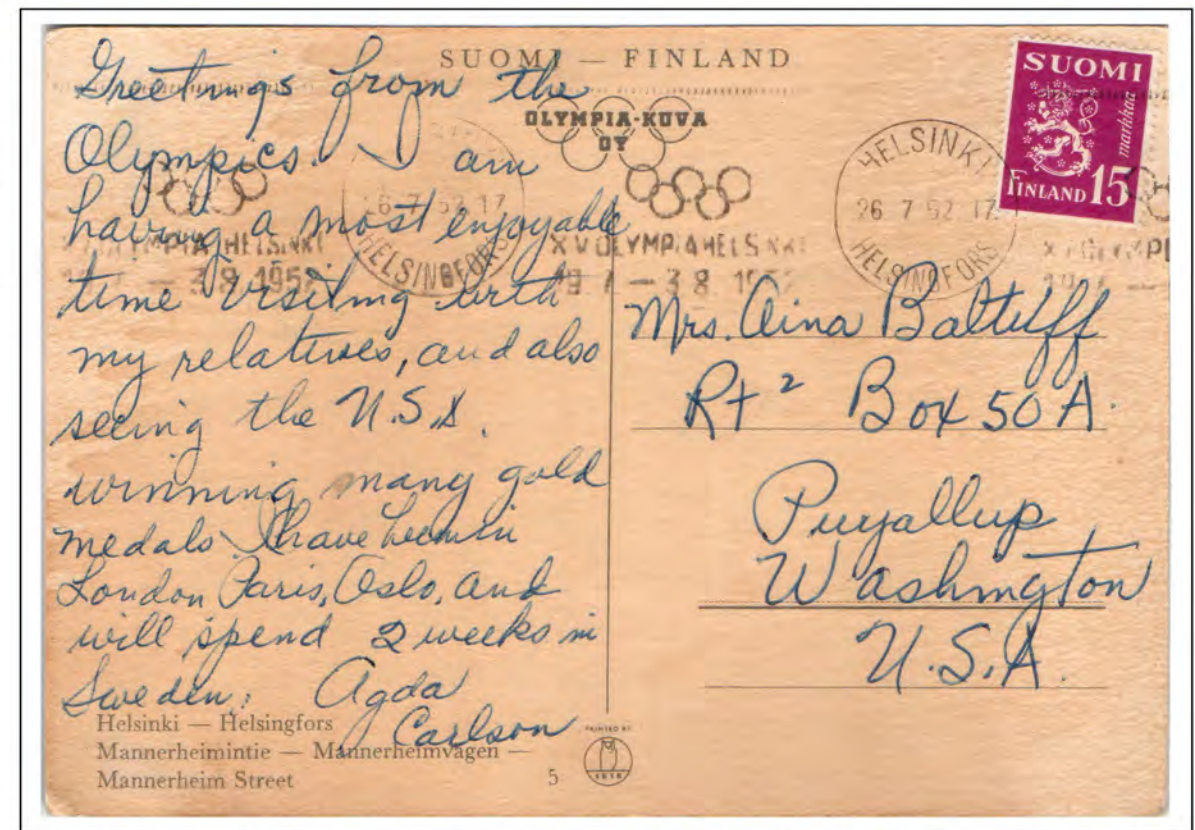


Having put the weapons behind them, the Games returned to pre-war normality and Helsinki hosted the swimming competitions of the XV edition in the new Stadium, designed in 1939 in view of the 1940 Games, but that due to the outbreak of war, was only completed in 1947. The competitions took place from July 26th to August 2nd 1952

*Amicalement.
Alex Jany*

Alex Jany's autograph

The first final, that of the 100-metre freestyle, took place on July 27th, here French Alex Jany was the favorite.



Official Olympic postcard

July 26th, first day of the swimming competitions

Despite the cold climate of Finland, the quality of performance was high, with new records in every discipline. 1952 marked the return of Germany and Japan to the Games and the first appearance of the Soviet Union. Eleven races were held, six for the men and five for the women, with a total of 319 participants.



Pin of the Soviet Olympic Committee in Helsinki 1952



Badges for participating swimmers

Unfortunately, however, Jany was eliminated in the semi-final, leaving the final challenge to be between American Clarke Scholes and Japanese Hiroshi Suzuki. The two reached the finish line at the same moment and only the photo finish could award the victory to Scholes. The third place was achieved by Swede Goran Larsson.

The podium of the 100-metre freestyle race

Clarke Scholes's autograph

*Clarke Scholes
1952 Helsinki*

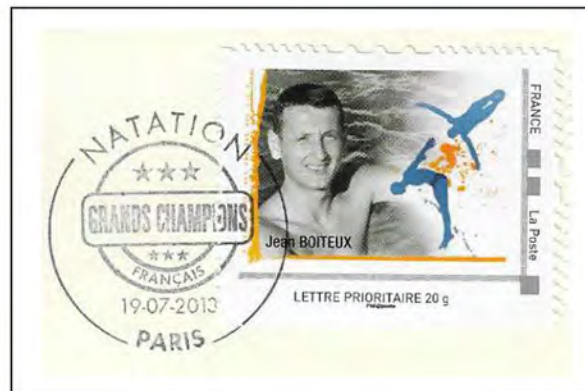
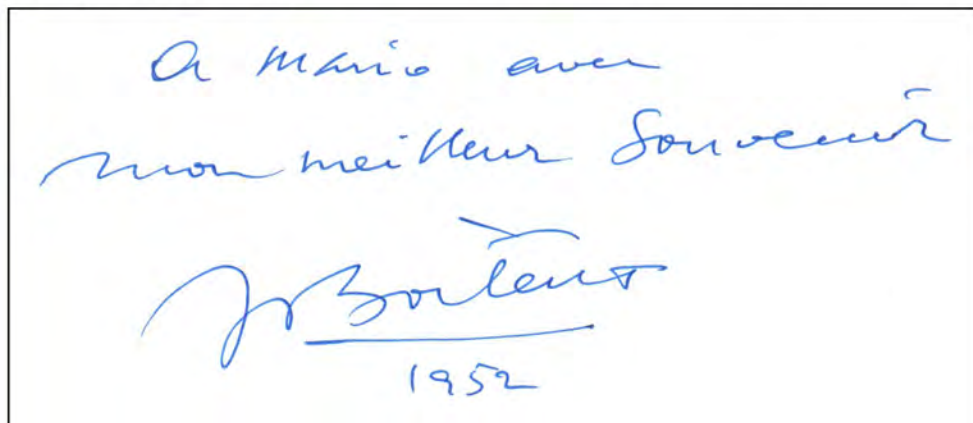
Photos for press agencies





Competing for the 400-metre freestyle title were the Australian London Olympic champion and world record holder John Marshall, Americans James McLane (silver medalist 4 years earlier) and Ford Konno, Swedish Per-Olof Östrand, Japanese Hironoshin Furuhashi and French Jean Boiteux.

Jean Boiteux's autograph



Commemoration of Jean Boiteux's victory

Of these six champions, Marshall was eliminated in the semifinals, while McLane and Furuhashi were immediately eliminated from the race for the podium during the final on July 27th.



1691
Herr Oddvar Larsen
A/S Bøndernas Hus
Sarpsborg/Norge.

July 27th 1952, 400-metre freestyle final

The battle for the gold medal was therefore limited to Boiteux, Konno, and Astrand. The French led the race with a small margin on the American and with the Swede always behind, but always under pressure. Aware of the speed in Konno's final sprint, Boiteux attempted the acceleration at the 200 metres mark, outdistancing Konno by over a second, an advantage he maintained until the finish line. The third place went to Östrand.



(NY28-JULY 30)HAPPY OLYMPIC-WINNERS--Jean Boiteux (center) smiles as he holds medal after winning the men's 400-meter free style final in Olympic record time at Helsinki today. Flanking Boiteux are Ford Konno(left) of Honolulu who came in second and Per-Olof Östrand of Sweden who took third place. Boiteux's time of 4:30.7 established a new Olympic record breaking the old mark of 4:33.1 set by Boiteux yesterday in the semi-finals.(AP Wirephoto by radio from Helsinki)

The podium of the 400-metre freestyle race: Konno, Boiteux and Östrand

Photos for press agencies



Helsinki 1952: French National Olympic Committee patch and pin



Badges for swimming coach

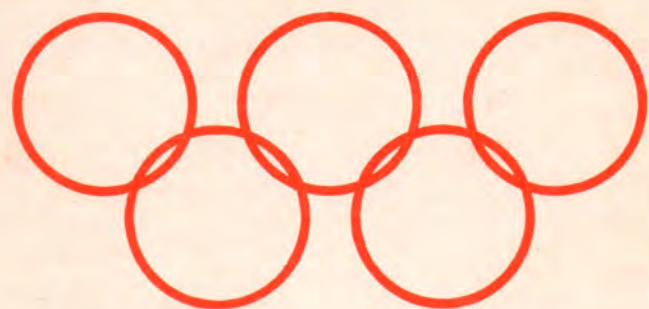


Qualifications for the 4 x 200 metres relay began on July 28th. The United States team was the favorite and only Japan could have hindered the US quartet. The Americans, during these races, took the field with a team made up of Wallace Wolf, Donald Sheff, Frank Dooley, and Burwell Jones (the reserves), letting their best swimmers rest, who they would have used for the final on July 29th (Wayne Moore, William Tripp Woolsey, Ford Konno, and James McLane).

Official pin of the US team



XV OLYMPIA HELSINKI 1952



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UIMASTADION

STADE DE NATATION • SWIMMING STADIUM • SIMSTADION
HELSINKI • HELSINGFORS

MAANANTAI • LUNDI
MONDAY • MÅNDAG

28. 7.

PÄIVÄOHJELMA • PROGRAMME JOURNALIER
DAILY PROGRAMME • DAGSPROGRAM

100 mk



Ticket and official programme of July 28th 1952

Official badge for participants



Vienna 1950 European Swimming Championships



Colour proof pair not perforated and maximum postcard

The change in the relay

In the decisive match, the Japanese attempted to surprise their opponents by fielding their two best swimmers in the first stages and leaving the slowest ones for the closing, but it didn't help them. The Americans won the gold medal, outdistancing the Japanese team by about 3 seconds.

The winning American team in the 4x200 metres freestyle and Ford Konno's autograph



William Woolsey - Jim McLane - Wayne R. Moore - Ford Konno

Postcard

The battle for the bronze medal was won by France's Jean Boiteaux and Alexandre Jany, taking revenge on Sweden, who beat them in the final of the European Championships in Vienna in 1950.



BOBET DÉFEND SON MAILLOT TRICOLORE A REIMS-GUEUX !
 (LIRE NOS ARTICLES EN PAGES 8 ET 3)

VACANCES LIBRES — ECONOMIQUES
 UN SEUL NOM : **GEORGES MONNERET**
 Dépositaire du **FAMEX SCOOTER VESPA**

L'EQUIPE
 LE QUOTIDIEN *Elans* DU SPORT

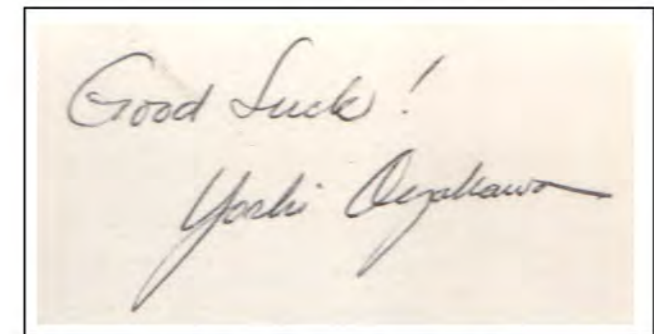
18 FRANCS
 10, Fg MONTMARTRE, PARIS (9^e)

KOVACS, GEREVICH, BERCELLI
 Trois Hongrois gagnent les trois médailles au sabre
 (LIRE EN SEPTIEME PAGE L'ARTICLE D'ARMAND LAFITTE)

**Extraordinaire duel OYAKAWA - BOZON au 100 mètres dos...
 que l'Américain arrache dans un rush impressionnant !**

"Equipe" newspaper of August 2nd with Oyakawa's victory

Up to 1952, the world record for the 100-metre backstroke had been broken twice, first by French Gibert Bozon and then by London Olympic champion Allan Stack. But in Helsinki the fittest turned out to be another American, of Japanese origin, Yoshi Oyakawa, who set the best times in all phases of the race, breaking the Olympic record and winning gold in the final of August 2nd, ahead of Bozon and Jack Taylor.



Yoshi Oyakawa's autograph



Official pin



Programme and ticket for the Olympic swimming competition on August 2nd 1952

For the last time in the history of the Olympic breaststroke, all the finalists of the 200-metre race were able to use the butterfly style, since from the subsequent Olympic Games the style would be used in their separate competitions. Even though among the participants was German world record holder Herbert Klein, this race did not have any clear favorite and in fact, some of the leading competitors during the qualifications had achieved absolutely remarkable times. In the final of August 3rd, Klein remained in the lead until halfway, when Australian John Davies's comeback began. At the finish line, to everyone's great surprise (as he had only finished in fourth place in London), Davies won according to the photo finish, with Stassforth just 3 hundredths of a second behind him). German Klein got only the bronze medal.

XV OLYMPIA HELSINKI 1952

OLYMPIC RINGS

UINTE
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 HELSINKI • HELSINGFORS

LAUANTAI • SAMEDI
 SATURDAY • LÖRDAG

PÄIVÄOHJELMA • PROGRAMME JOURNALIER
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2. 8.

100 mk



Medal for participants in the 1952 Helsinki Olympic Games



August 2nd, 200-metre breaststroke and 1500-metre freestyle finals



August 3rd, 200-metre breaststroke finals



Podium of 200-metre breaststroke race Stassforth, Davis and Klein

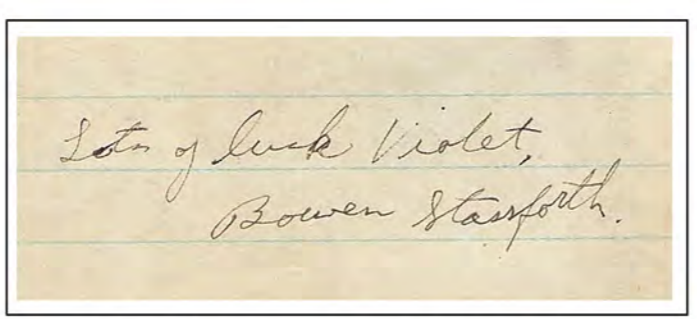


Pin for Olympic medal winners

Figurine



John Davis



Autograph's J. Bowen Stassforth, silver medal



Mrs. J. E. Bonislavski
 28 Justice St.
 Oyster Bay Id.-N.Y./USA



Official pin of the Hungarian team at the 1952 Helsinki Games

The swimming program of the Helsinki Games included five competitions for women as well. It was a triumph for the Hungarian girls, who won four gold medals, two silver and one bronze.

July 28th, 100-metre freestyle final



Figurine



Katalin Szoke

On July 28th the first women's final took place, that of the 100-metre freestyle, certainly the hardest-fought swimming event of all those that took place in Helsinki.

Katalin Szoke in action



Glass slide



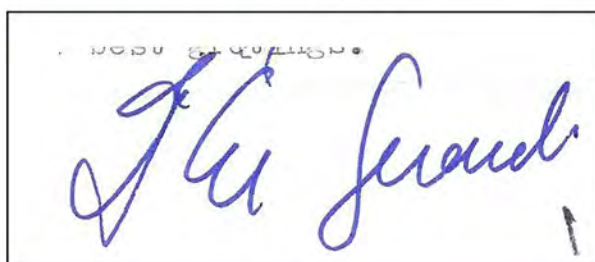
Sixteen-year-old South African Joan Harrison was at the head of the race up until ten meters from the finish line when Hungarian Katalin Szoke and the Dutch Johanna Termeulen caught up and then overran her. Harrison only placed fourth, despite her time being the same as the other Hungarian Judit Temes, who won won the bronze, by decision of the judges.



The next day the 200-meter breaststroke race was held. Éva Novák, the world record holder, led the Hungarian team, which also included Klára Killermann and Éva Székely.

Figurine

Eva Novak and her autograph

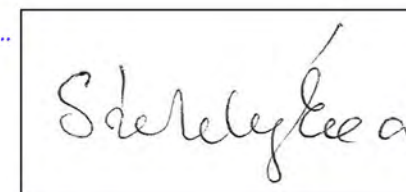


All three Hungarians, had recorded lower times than the Olympic record. The final was a battle of different styles: Székely swam butterfly, while Novak preferred the breaststroke. It was the butterfly technique to prevail and Székely arrived first. Third place for British Elenor Gordon.

Figurine



Éva Székely in action ... and her autograph



July 29th, 200-metre breaststroke final