

Athens 1906 Games - London asked to replace Rome

At the 1904 IOC Session in London the 1908 Games were awarded to Rome.
In 1906 Rome withdrew because of devastation around Naples from an eruption of Vesuvius.
The IOC asked Lord Desborough (BOA Chairman and fencing medallist), and with the support of King Edward VII (also at the Athens Games) it was agreed that London would take over.



Official Organising Committee postcard, franked with 10 lepta Olympic stamp 'Victory'
sent during the Games from Athens to Rome and redirected to Naples

(The message concludes "Olymp. Games Today - fine weather")

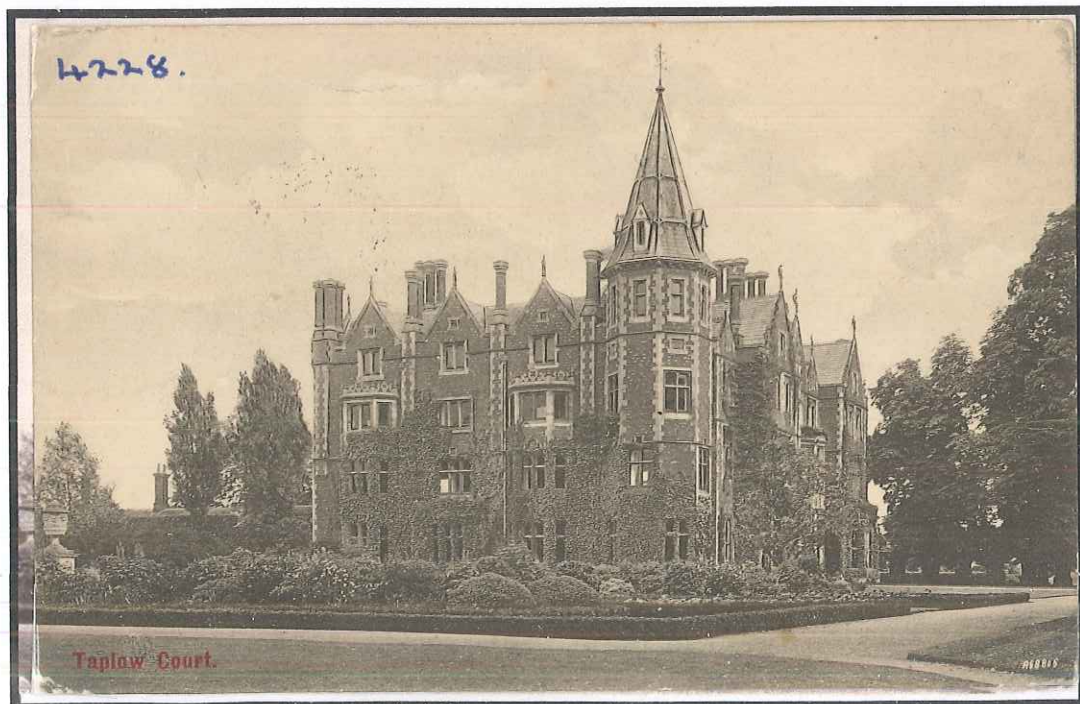


Lord Desborough

*William Henry Grenfell, Baron Desborough of Taplow K.C.V.O.
was Chairman of the British Olympic Association and became
Chairman of the 1908 Olympic Organising Committee.
He had carried the flag for Great Britain at the 1906 Intercalated Games,
and gained a Silver Medal in the team épée.*



The family seat was at Taplow Court in Buckinghamshire



Lord Desborough

In the letter below, sent from his London address, Lord Desborough writes "It is proposed to have an International Ambulance Display in the Olympic Games Arena before the Games commence, which I think would make it some time in June; the Games begin in July"
No reference to such a display has been found in the newspapers of the time.

TELEPHONE,
2984 MAYFAIR.



16, QUEEN STREET,
MAYFAIR, W.

June 5.th
1907.

My dear Sir,

I am much obliged to
you for your letter. but as
I have 35 already. I am
afraid I cannot undertake
any more Committees

It is proposed to have an
International Ambulance Display
in the Olympic Games Arena
before the Games commence, which
would make it some time in June;
the Games begin in July -

Yours truly
Desborough

The Planned Stadium

It was agreed with the British Olympic Association that a stadium would be built and that it would provide the principal venue for the Olympic Games.

Two proposed designs were published, the first with a dramatic sweeping entrance. Needless to say there was only a basic stadium, without marble cladding, for the Olympics!



FBC
perman
29/7

The message on this card (posted on the 5th day of the Exhibition) reads:

VALENTINE'S SERIES
POST CARD.
CARTE POSTALE.
Correspondence. Address



"This must be a beautiful place when all complete, but there is a lot of work to do at it yet."

This must be a beautiful place when all complete, but there is a lot of work to do at it yet. I wish you are all well.

Stadium, Franco-British Exhibition, London, 1908



The Planned Stadium (2)

The second design more realistically omits the futuristic entrance.



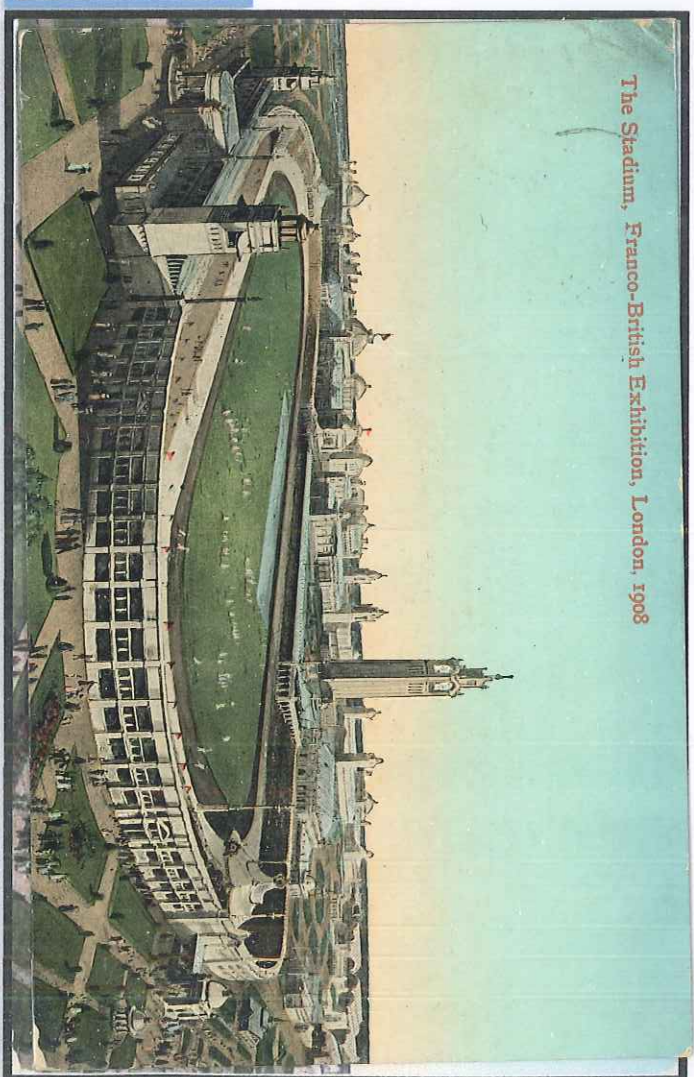
The reference on this card (used 14 October 1908) to "The Great White City" shows it is a later design



London 1908

The Planned Stadium (3)

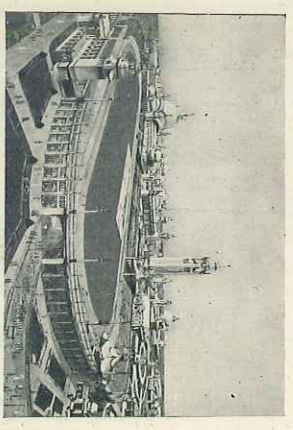
There were various printings of this popular card, captioned
"(The) Stadium, Franco-British Exhibition, London 1908"
It was included in a stapled, counterfoiled pack of 12 Franco-British Exhibition views



Stadium, Franco-British Exhibition, London, 1908

Date.....

To



Stadium, Franco-British Exhibition, London, 1908

Remarks:

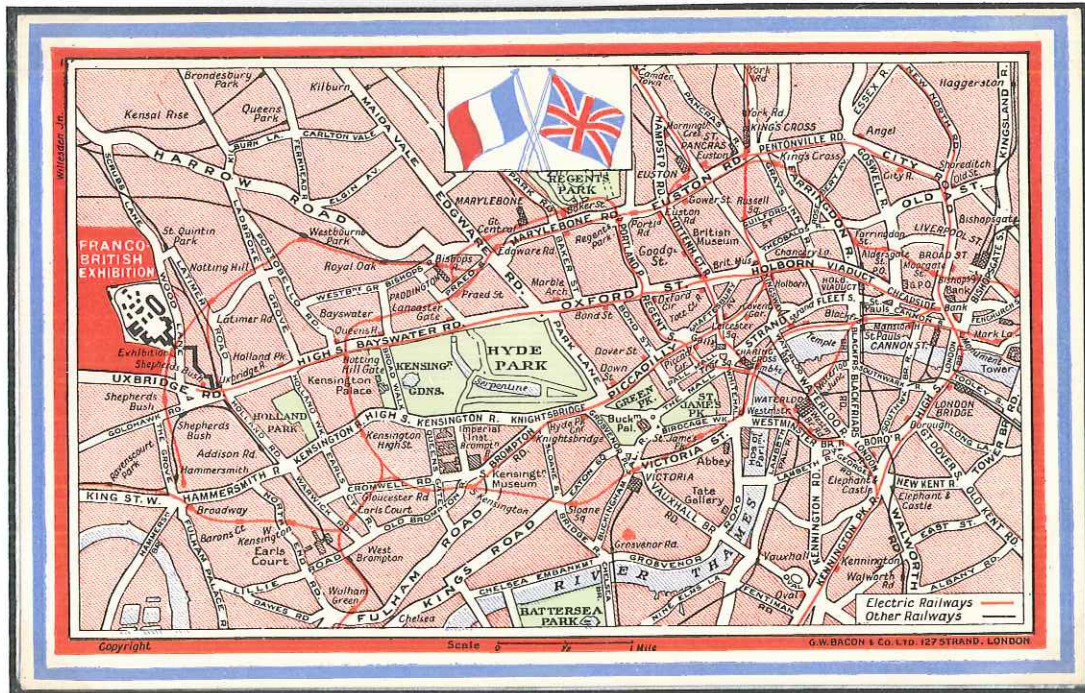


London 1908

The Franco-British Exhibition
& the Games of the Fourth Olympiad

The Stadium and the Franco-British Exhibition

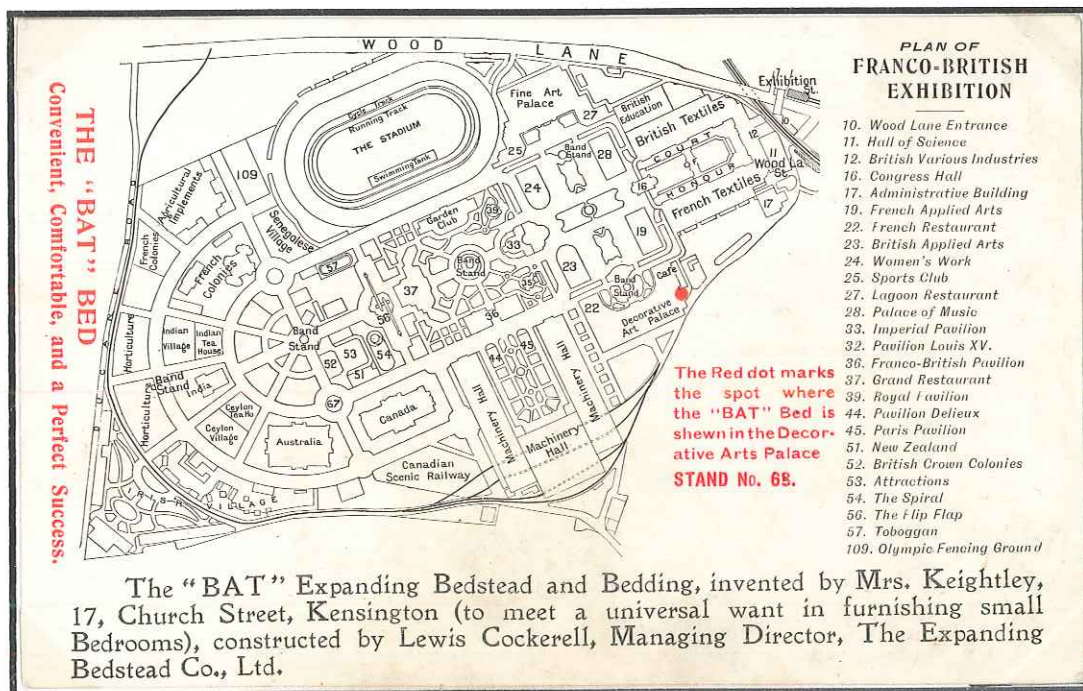
The Franco-British Exhibition in relation to central London - the Stadium is clearly visible



The detailed plan not only shows the cycle track, running track and swimming tank but also:

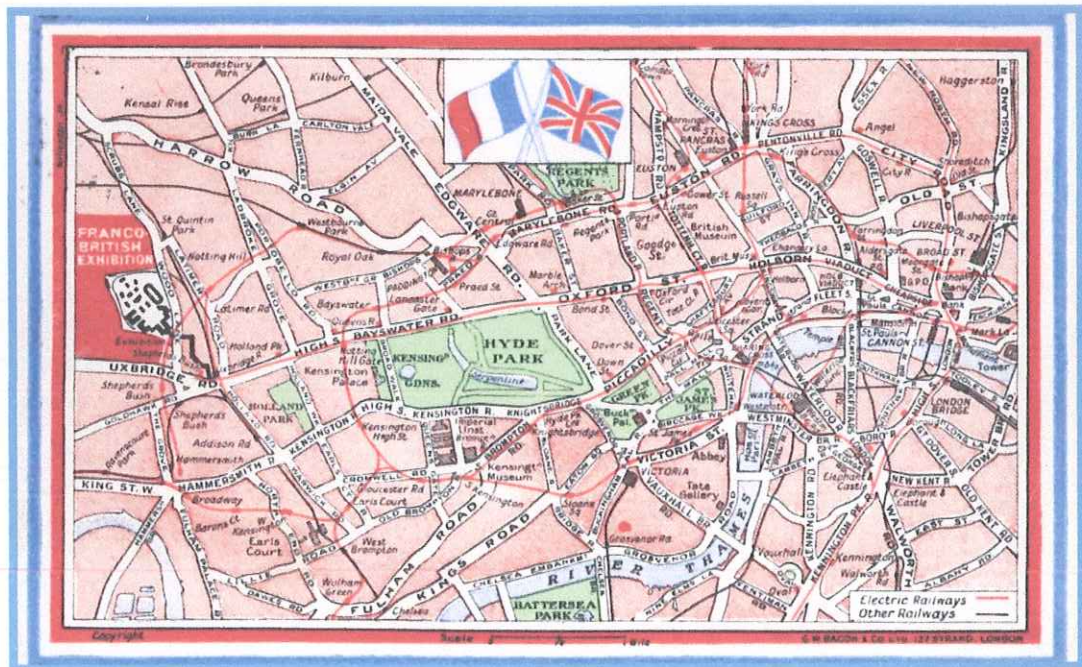
25: The Imperial Sports Club - headquarters of the Olympic Organising Committee

109: The Olympic Fencing Ground (to the west of the Stadium)



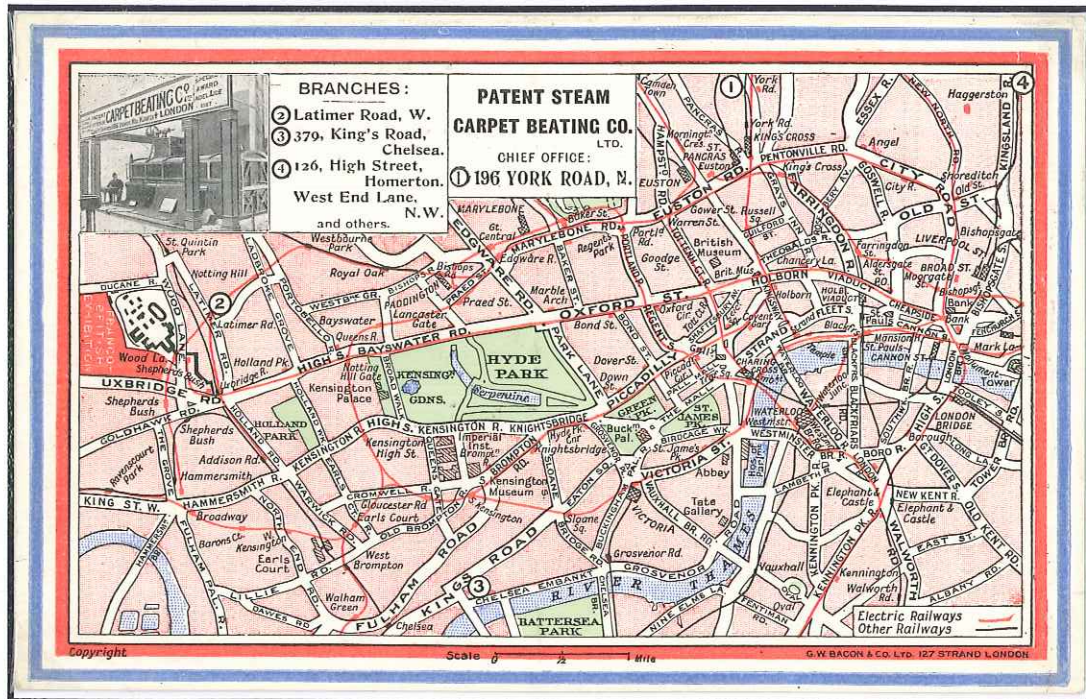
The Stadium and the Franco-British Exhibition

The same publicity card was used in France by French exhibitors at the Exhibition:



The Stadium and the Franco-British Exhibition

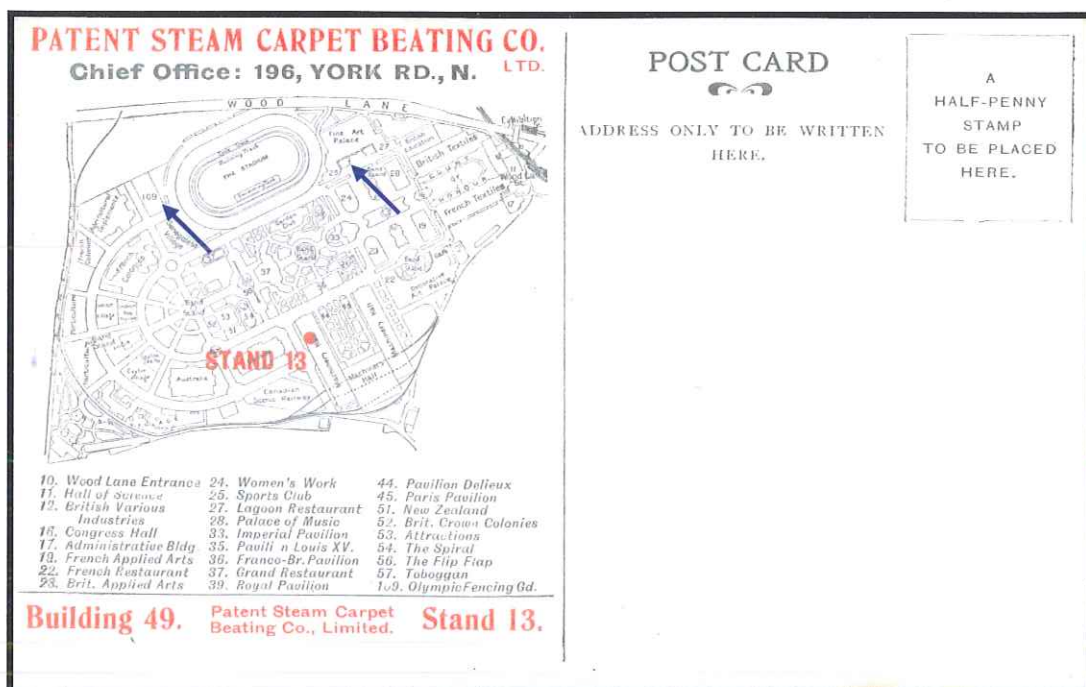
The Franco-British Exhibition and Stadium in relation to central London
(Patent Steam Carpet Co advertising card)



The detailed plan showing the stadium cycle track, running track and swimming tank and also:

25: The Imperial Sports Club - headquarters of the Olympic Organising Committee

109: The Olympic Fencing Ground (to the west of the Stadium)



The Stadium Under Construction (1)

*This view by Rapid Photo is taken from the South End.
Only about a quarter of the cycling track has been constructed, the swimming tank has not been
fully excavated, and the athletes' tunnel entrance is not finished.*



In this view by Tuck, from the North End, the northern athletes' tunnel is finished, the swimming tank has been filled, and the diving tower is in place.

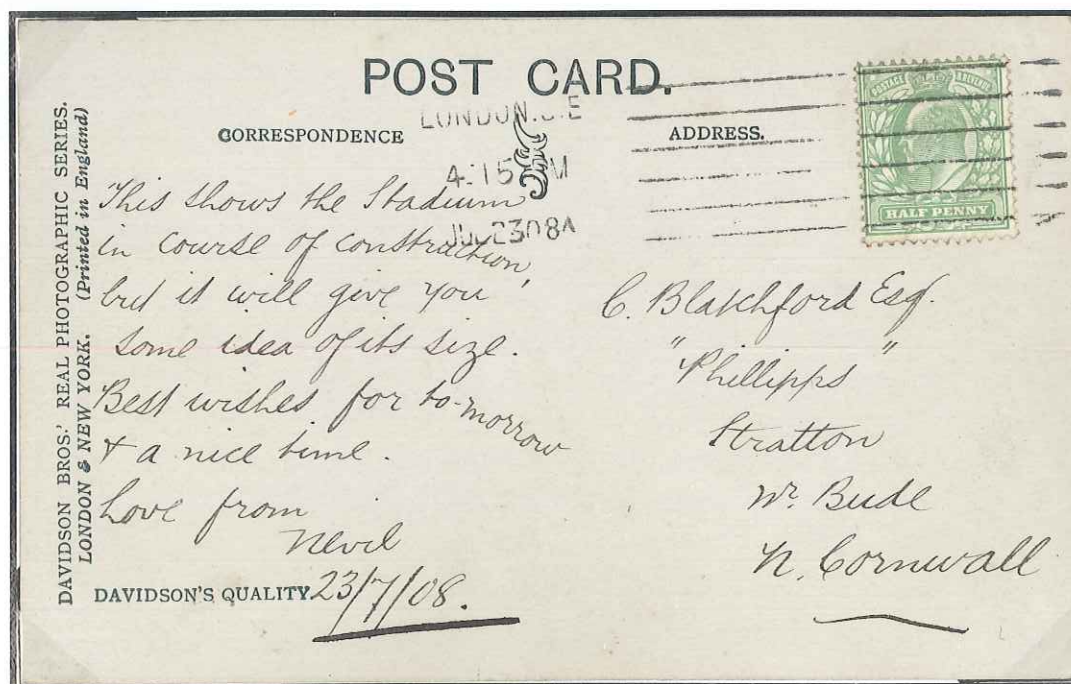


The Stadium Under Construction (2)

*In this view, taken from the North End, the swimming tank has been filled.
Above the swimming tank the dome of the Imperial Sports Club can be seen.
This was the headquarters of the British Olympic Council, the Olympic Organising Committee.*



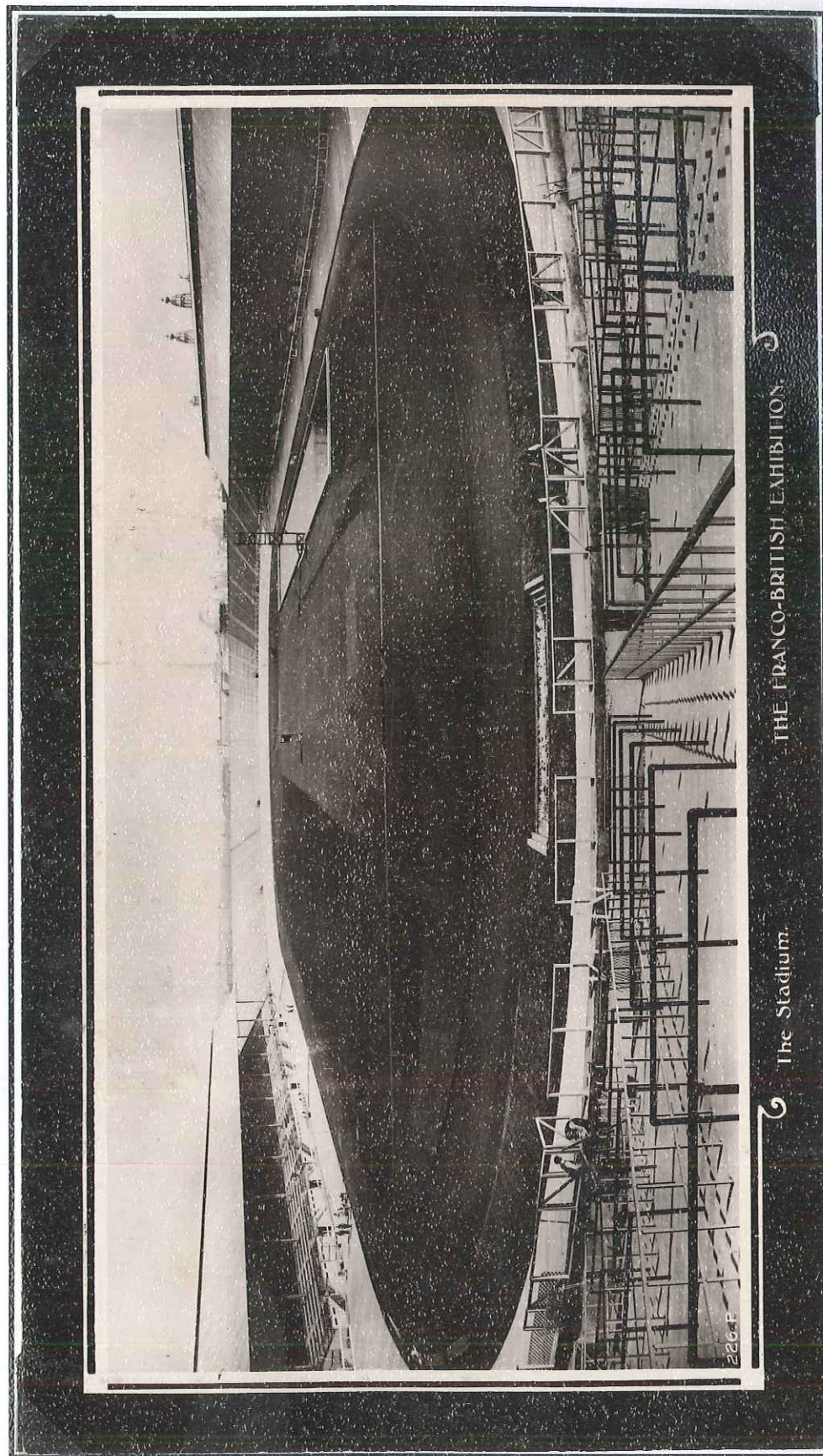
This message was written during the second week of the Games:



The Stadium Under Construction (2)(a)

*The view from the North End is reproduced by Davidson on this large card requiring to be sent by book post
(This copy is unused)*

The workmen can more clearly be seen.



London 1908

The Franco-British Exhibition
& the Games of the Fourth Olympiad

The Stadium and the Franco-British Exhibition

*Behind the Palace of Women's Work lay the Stadium (on the left of the pictures)
and the Imperial Sports Club (on the right):*



This card, posted to France on the 5th day of the Games, is an artist's impression showing the arcades and columns planned for the Stadium exterior.



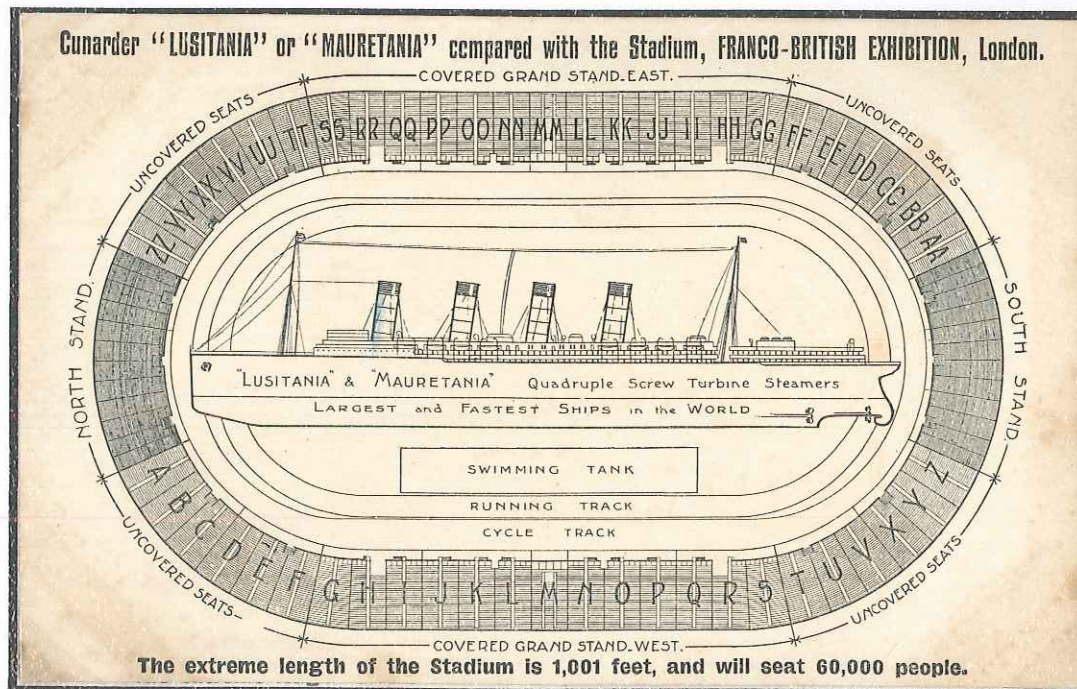
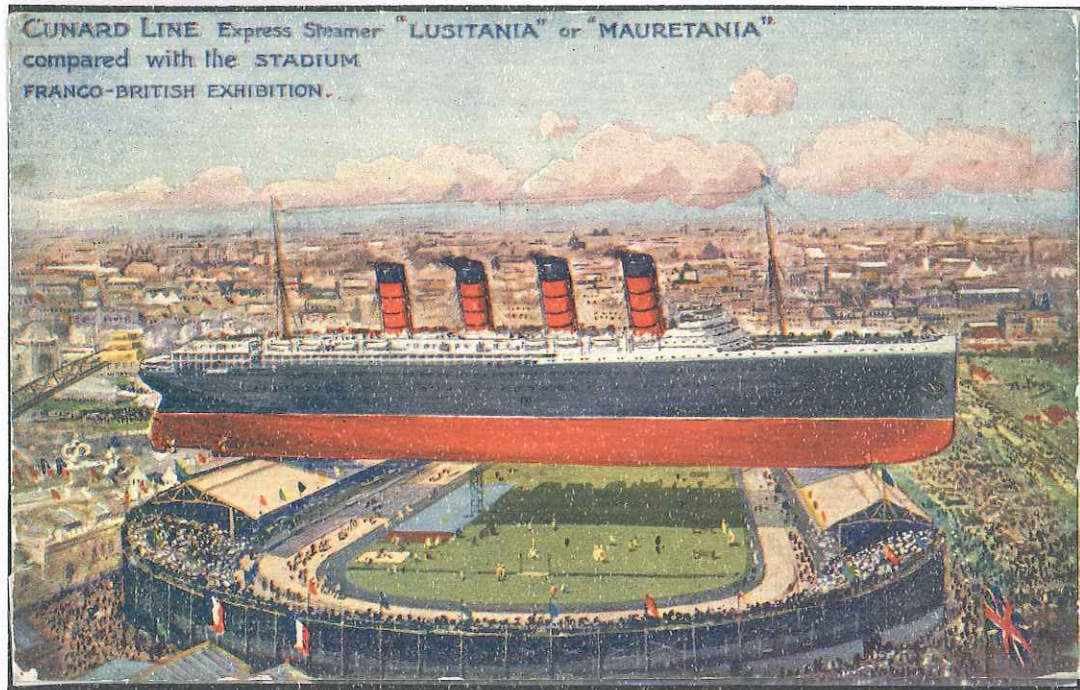
A photograph showing the actual stadium sides, unfinished and with advertisement at the top.

The Stadium and the Franco-British Exhibition

*The Garden Club backed onto the stadium for much of its length towards the Royal Pavilion
and behind the Royal Pavilion lay the Imperial Sports Club*



The Stadium, the Lusitania & the Mauretania



*London 1908
The Franco-British Exhibition
& the Games of the Fourth Olympiad*

*The Stadium and Imperial Sports Club -
and the Exhibition - under construction*

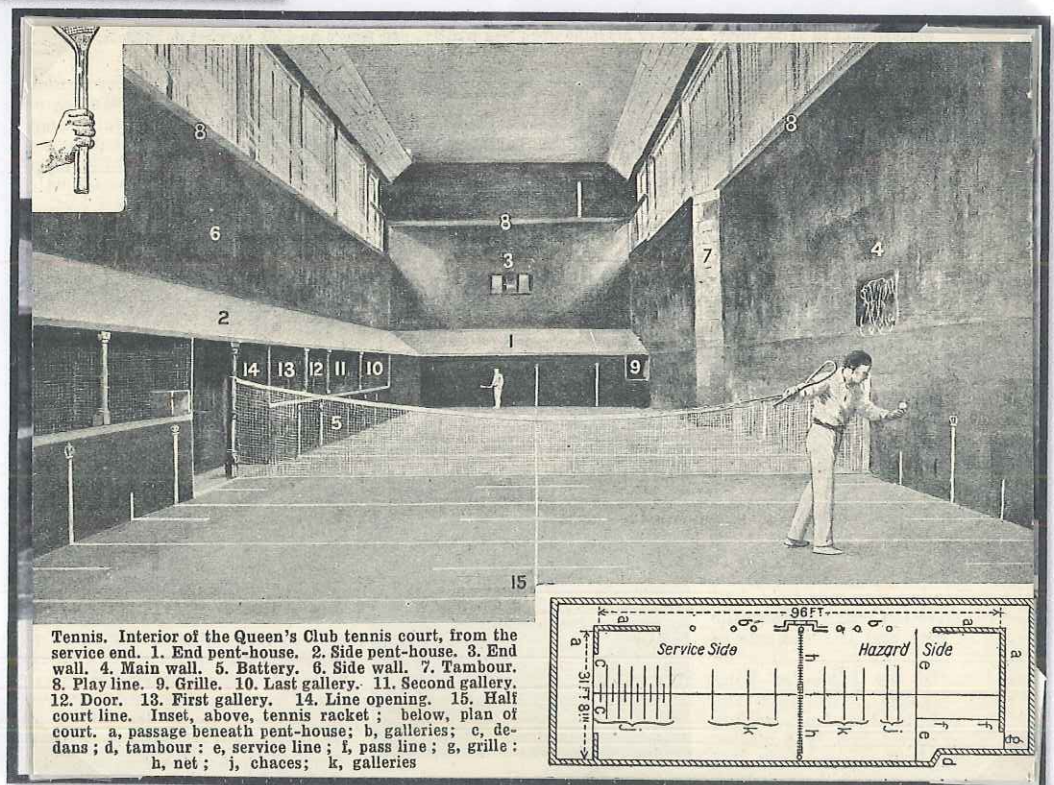


Aerial photo postcard of the Franco-British Exhibition under construction
published by S.T. Williams, and postmarked 15 June 1908, one month after the opening.

Covered Court Tennis

This was played at the Queen's Club in West Kensington from 6-9 & 11 May

H Roper Barrett won Gold in the Doubles,
with Arthur 'Wentworth' Gore



Tennis

The Olympic Tennis Tournament was held at Wimbledon between 6 & 11 July.



Otto Froitzheim of Germany took the Silver in the Men's Singles, losing 7-5, 6-3, 6-4 to Josiah Ritchie



Reginald Doherty won Gold in the Men's Doubles, with his partner George Hillyard. He won Wimbledon Doubles 8 times between 1897 & 1905, and the Singles 4 times

Tennis

Dorothy Lambert Chambers won the Women's Singles Gold at Wimbledon on 11 July




*Josef Rössler Orovsky
was entered for the men's singles and doubles but did not appear.
He was also on the Bohemian Committee of Honour*

Odesílatel:

Josef Rössler-Ořovský
29. 6. 1869–17. 1. 1933
starosta čsl. skautů

J. RÖSSLER OŘOVSKÝ
1869–1989



Vyhrazeno pro služební nálepky a údaje pošty

50 h

ČESKOSLOVENSKO
11000 PRAHA
29. 6. 39
50 h

RADEK JÁSEK
Č. 271
ČERVENÉ PEČKY

2 8 1 2 1

Shooting

Shooting events were held at Bisley on 9-11 July

15 flagpoles were erected to fly the flags of the 15 nations due to compete in the competitions.



Erected in a circle, the posts became known as the "Bisley Stonehenge"

The 15 countries were

Australia	Denmark	Great Britain	Hungary	United States
Belgium	France	Greece	Norway	Finland
Canada	Germany	Holland	Sweden	(representing Russia)

The 15th country was Italy but the team failed to arrive.



Shooting - Bisley Camp

There was a temporary post and telegraph office in the camp from 1 July to 8 August 1908

*It had three duplex cancels, A, B, & C, with numeral J62
and three circular datestamps, also A, B, & C*



*The National Rifle Association,
Based at Bisley, the NRA were the Olympic competition organisers*



S 2111

N.R.A. OFFICES, BISLEY CAMP.

Shooting

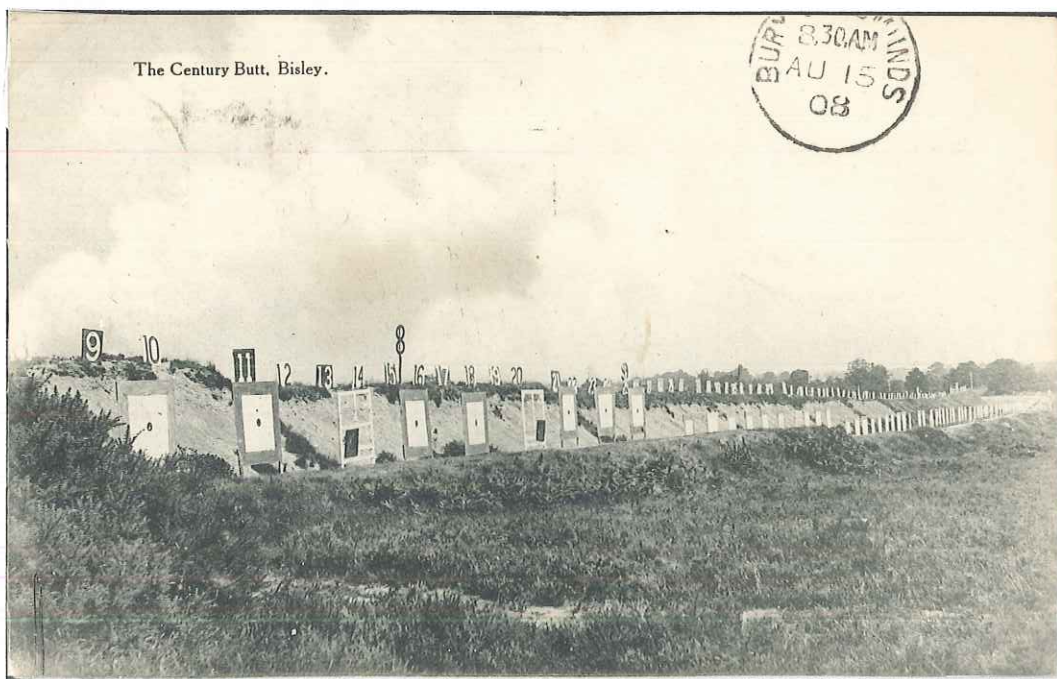
Firing Point - 600 Yards - Bisley

*This firing point
was one of the six
used for "The
International"
Military Rifle event*



The Century Butt, so named because it had 100 shooting positions.

It was used for the 300 metre individual & team competitions & the shorter distances for the "International" military rifle competition



This card was written at Bisley, but posted from Woking after the Camp post office had shut, to Bury St. Edmunds

Amateur Swimming Association All British Olympic Trials

These took place in the Stadium on 6 June.

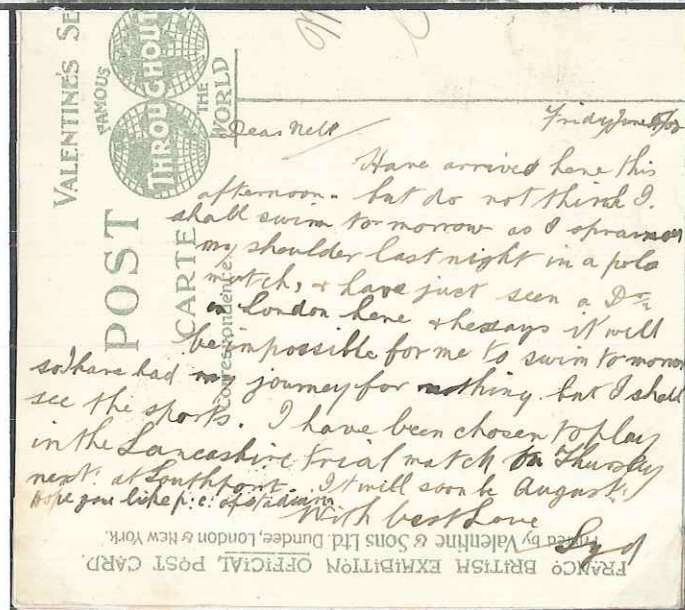
The card below is from a frustrated trialist, and posted the evening before:

"...do not think I shall swim tomorrow as I sprained my shoulder last night in a polo match ...
...so have had my journey for nothing, but I shall see the sports. ..."

The writer was Sydney Battersby. Despite scratching from the Trials he was selected for the 400 metres, where he was eliminated in the heats, and the 1500 metres freestyle where he secured the Silver Medal, behind Henry Taylor.



The Stadium, Franco-British Exhibition, London, 1908



Swimming

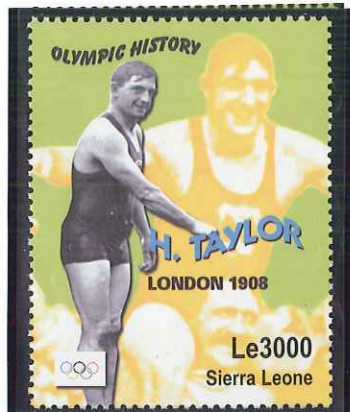
16 July – 400 Metres Freestyle

Henry Taylor of Great Britain took Gold



25 July – 1500 Metres Freestyle

This was the final Stadium event before the Closing Ceremony and prize presentations, and was also won by Henry Taylor. The Silver Medal went to Sydney Battersby, who continued swimming to set a new world record for the mile.



18 July – 200 Metres Breaststroke

The Gold Medal went to Fred Holman of Great Britain

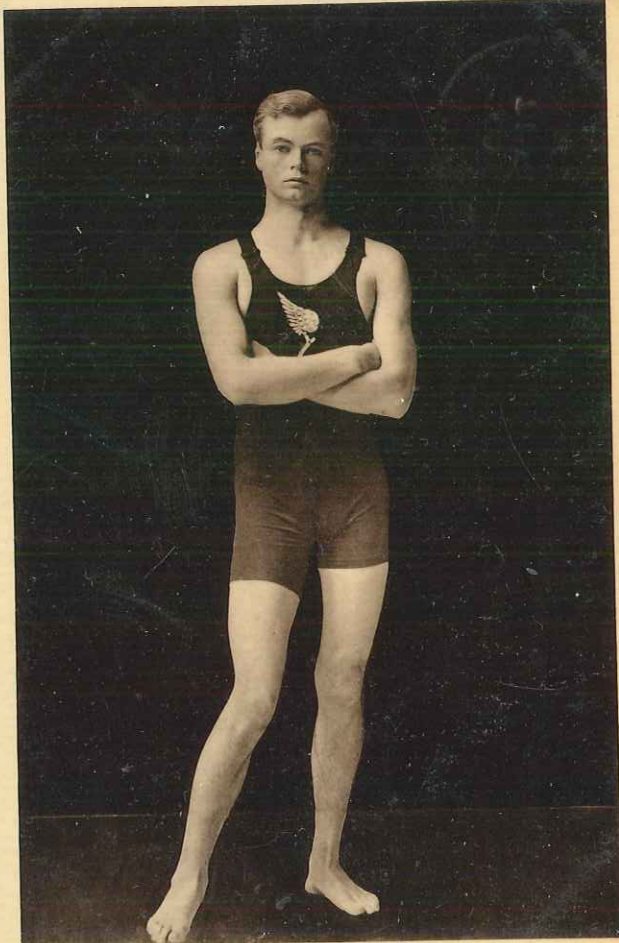


The caption on the reverse says "FRED HOLMAN, Olympic Breast Stroke Champion, and a few (£275 worth) of his prizes"

20 July 1908 Swimming – 100 metres Freestyle

*Charles Daniels (USA) beat the World Record holder, Halmay Zoltan of Hungary
in a new World and Olympic Record time (1:05.6)*

"Health & Strength" Series.



C. M. Daniels (U. S. A.). Winner 100 metres Swimming.



In 1904 Daniels was second to Zoltan in the 100 Yards



but took Gold in the 220 Yards Freestyle



Olympiska Spelen i London. Finalen i 100 m. simning.



London 1908
The Franco-British Exhibition
& the Games of the Fourth Olympiad

Swimming – 1500 Metres Freestyle

Having won Gold in the 400m & 4 x 200m relay, Henry Taylor won his third Gold Medal in the 1500 metres on the final day of the summer events, 25 July.

Sidney Battersby, also of Great Britain, won the Silver Medal.

He continued swimming to set a new world record for one mile.



After the Games he sent a postcard portrait to his "excellent friend Pletincx".

Joseph Pletincx was in the Belgian water polo team that took Silver in 1908 (and Bronze in 1912 in Stockholm)

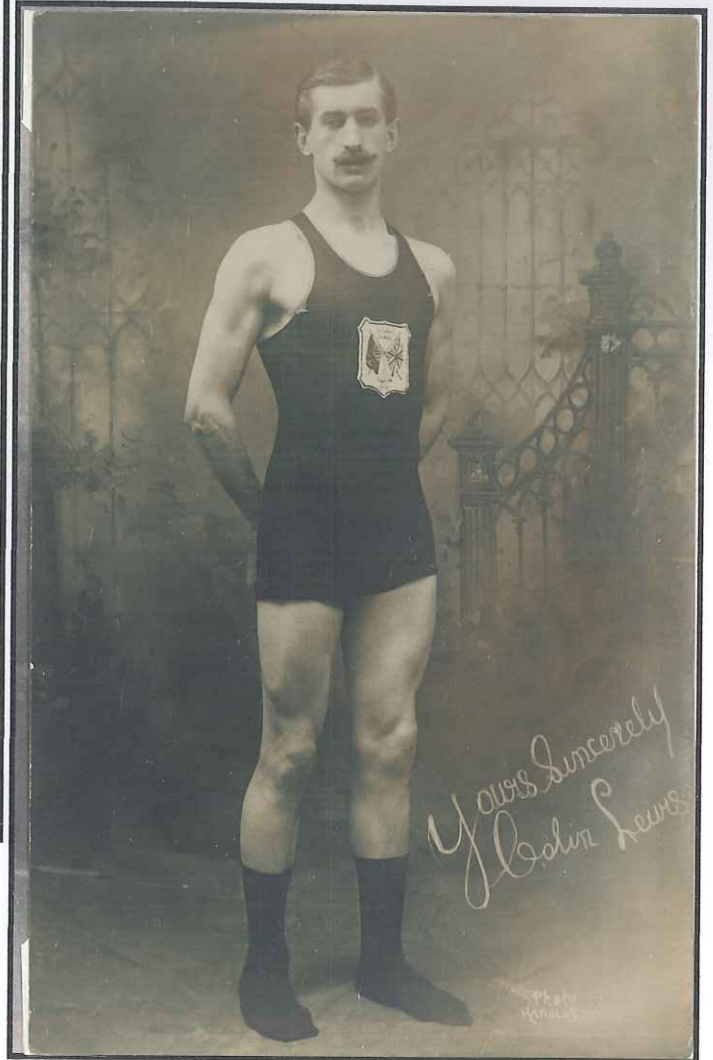


Swimming

William Foster was 4th in the 400m freestyle, eliminated in the semi-final of the 1,500m but won Gold as a member of the British 4x200m freestyle relay team.



Colin Lewis swam for Great Britain in the 100m backstroke but went out in the semi-final



London 1908

The Franco-British Exhibition
& the Games of the Fourth Olympiad

Franco-British Exhibition Postmarks

The Post Office Proof Book records the issue of a postmark:

"STADIUM / FRANCO-BRITISH EXHIBITION"



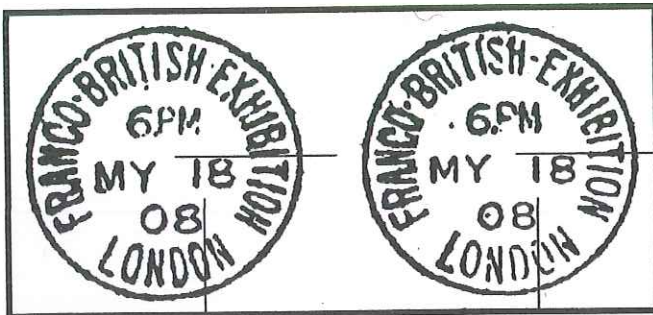
This cancel was used in a mobile telegraph office parked under the Stadium for the period 13-25 July only. It will only have been used on telegrams and receipts. No example has been seen.

There were two dies with the text:

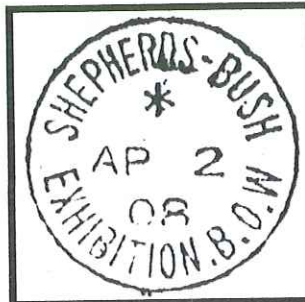
"FRANCO-BRITISH EXHIBITION / LONDON"

There were also two dies for registered mail
and receipts, with the text

"SHEPHERD'S-BUSH EXHIBITION B.O.W"



Enlarged copies of the Proof Book
impressions showing the two dies.



Example dated 31 July
Olympic rowing finals
at Henley



Die 1 (left) and Die 2
(below) - both dated
J(u)lY 18 / 08



The Actual Olympic Stadium

POST CARD

CORRESPONDENCE

ADDRESS ONLY



"Isn't this a splendid photo of the huge Stadium at the Exhibition. The largest Sports Arena in the world, and several times larger than the Coliseum at Rome."

MSB.
Isn't this a splendid photo of the huge Stadium at the Exhibition. The largest Sports Arena in the world, and several times larger than the Coliseum at Rome. Have to go off to a meeting tonight - so will you please forgive me not writing till tomorrow. Love from



NO. 112.
COPYRIGHT PHOTO.

FRANCO-BRITISH EXHIBITION.
THE GREAT STADIUM-OLYMPIC GAMES 1908.
TAKEN FROM BALLOON.

WAKEFIELD
CHISWICK.

Notwithstanding the caption, the photo was actually taken on 30 May, during the AAA Olympic Trials

ROTARY PHOTOGRAPHIC SERIES.

London - June 20/08.
Thanks for p.c. Hope you are all having a good jolly time.
This is a view of where the international sports will take place - The white thing in the middle is the swimming bath - 120 yds. long. So you can realise what a size the whole affair is.

"This is a view of where the international sports will take place - the white thing in the middle is the swimming tank - 120 yds [100m] long - so you can realise what a size the whole affair is."

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE

Stadium.

THE Great Olympic Stadium, which has been provided at Shepherd's Bush in connection with the Franco-British Exhibition for the promotion of Sport generally and the Olympic Games of 1908, is the largest and best appointed the world has yet known. It is capable of holding over 60,000 people, nearly 20,000 of whom can be seated under cover, and contains dressing accommodation for over 2,000 competitors. It covers a space of about 1,000 by 700 feet and contains a banked cycle track of two-and-three-quarter laps to the mile, and a running track three laps to the mile. In the centre of one side and immediately opposite the Royal Box and other special enclosures, there is a swimming bath, 330 feet long, with a varying depth of 4 feet to 14 feet, in which the swimming, diving and water polo competitions will take place. The remainder of the arena inside the tracks is turfed, and measures about 700 feet by 300 feet. The Sports commenced 14th May and will finish at the end of October, the great Olympic Games taking place from 13th to 25th July; also from the 19th October. The Stadium is of easy access from all parts of London at small cost.

"British Olympic Committee" labels

These unofficial labels were printed in France se-tenant with non-Olympic labels.

There was no 'British Olympic Committee', rather the British Olympic Association.



Red, imperforate tryptich



Orange, imperforate



Plum, imperforate



Brown, imperforate



Orange, perforated



Plum, perforated



Green, perforated

Opening Ceremony Conundrum



The Stadium view in this card never appears with an Olympic caption. When enlarged, the hoarding shows an Olympic connection, but the Daily Graphic report of the Opening Ceremony proves that the photo was taken during the Opening Ceremony itself



The Olympic Opening Ceremony

The photograph used by different publishers:



THE FRANCO-BRITISH EXHIBITION.
THE STADIUM TAKEN FROM FLIP FLAP

The Rapid Printing Co



THE FRANCO-BRITISH EXHIBITION.

View from the Flip-Flap.

Davidson Bros Real Photographic

London 1908
The Franco-British Exhibition
& the Games of the Fourth Olympiad

13 & 16 July 1908

Ninth Session of the International Olympic Committee

This took place in the Imperial Sports Club, headquarters of the British Olympic Council



The Imperial Sports Club occupied the north wing of the Fine Art Palace



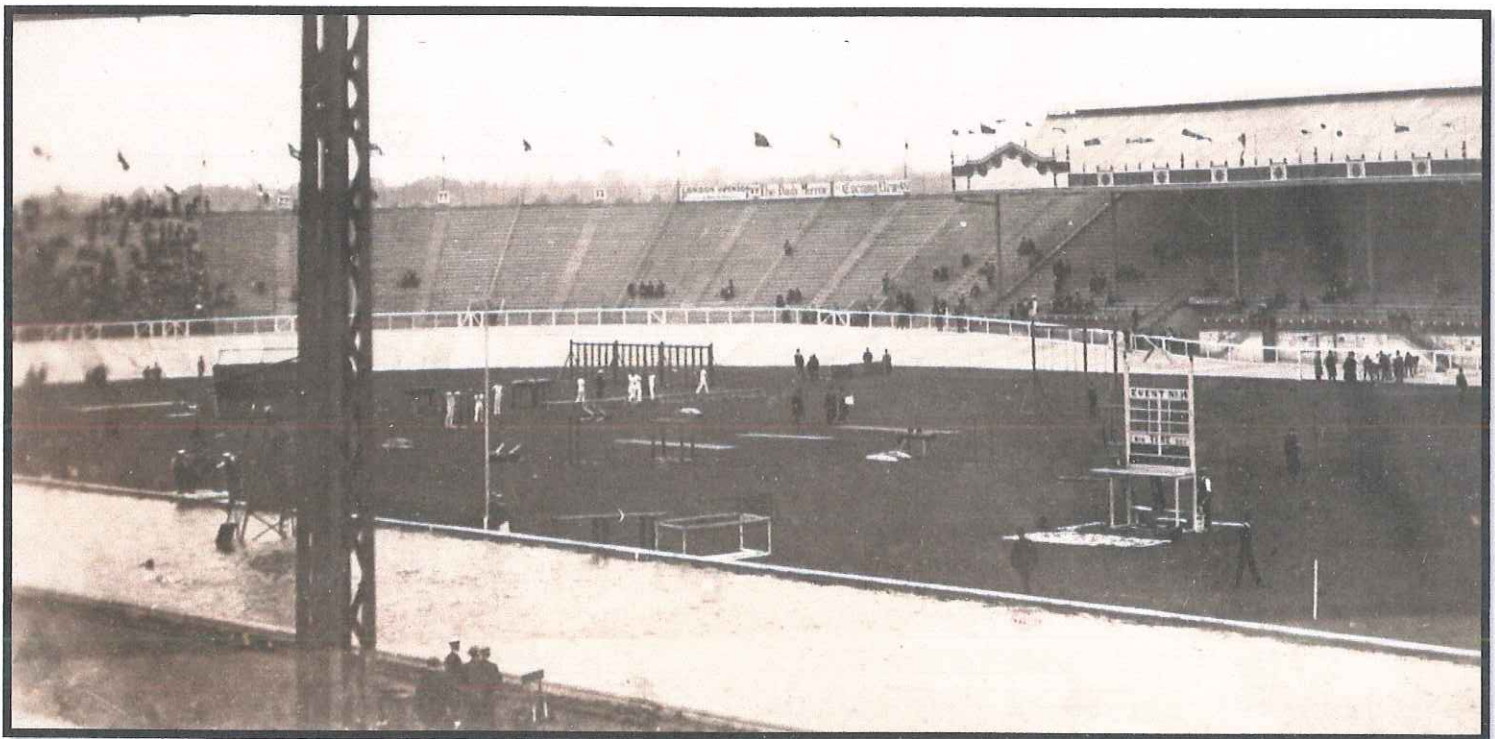
London 1908
The Franco-British Exhibition
& the Games of the Fourth Olympiad

Activity in the Stadium

14-16 July

This view, probably a unique private photographic postcard, shows the diving tower at the left, gymnasts on the field, and at the far side, cyclists at the starting position on the cycle track.

These three events overlapped 14, 15, & 16 July



In the Stadium During the Games



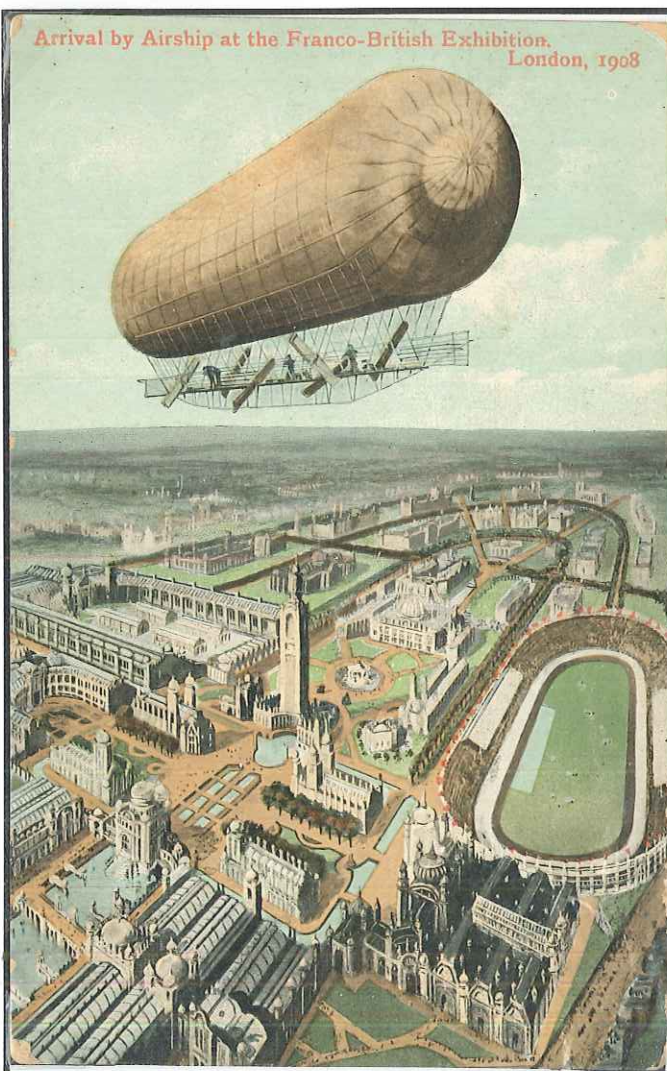
Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf, talking to Lord Desborough. The Crown Prince assisted in the start of the marathon at Windsor. In the background in the long coat is Hugo Wieslander of Sweden who was unsuccessful in the javelin events



It is not clear when this view by Wakefield was taken. There are officials by the swimming tank.

14 August 1908 - Airship Disaster

A Captain Lovelace was preparing to fly his hydrogen-filled airship over the Exhibition when it exploded in flames. He survived but three of his employees were killed.



London 1908
The Franco-British Exhibition
& the Games of the Fourth Olympiad

The Stadium after the Athletics

*Although the flags are still flying, the Olympic notices have gone
and the Olympic fencing Ground to the left has been cleared.*

The card is postmarked 5 September so the photograph is likely to have been taken in August.



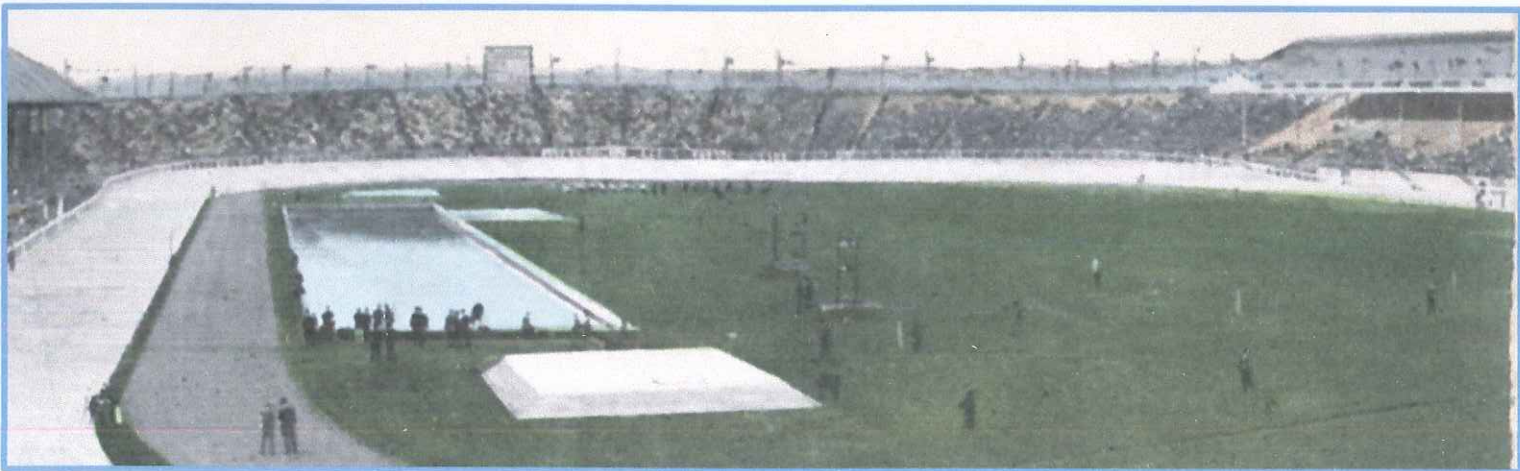
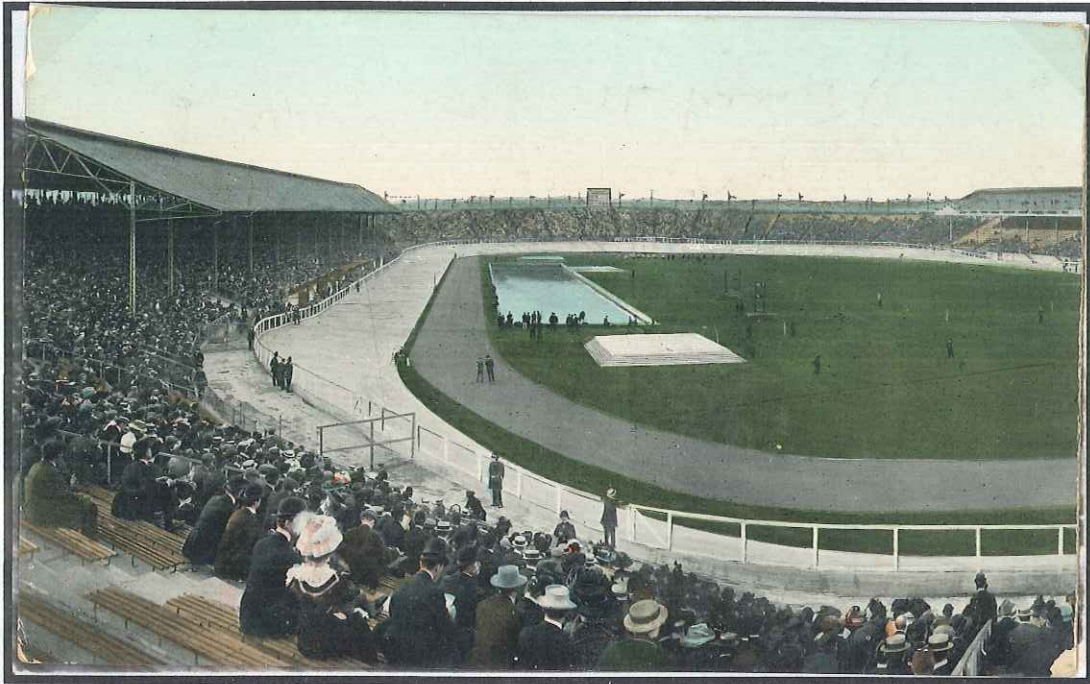
The Stadium after the Games

A card issued for the Imperial International Exhibition of 1909.

Tug-of-War is in progress at the far end of the field, & there are officials by the swimming tank.

Had this been the Olympics, the diving tower would also have been present.

In addition, the scoreboard at the end of the stadium and the apparent lack of advertising placards atop the stand suggests an event in 1909.



Later Exhibitions

The photographs taken from a balloon on 30 May 1908 were used on postcards for the 1909 Imperial International Exhibition and the 1910 Japan-British Exhibition



26 May 1908
Royal and Presidential Opening of the Great Stadium

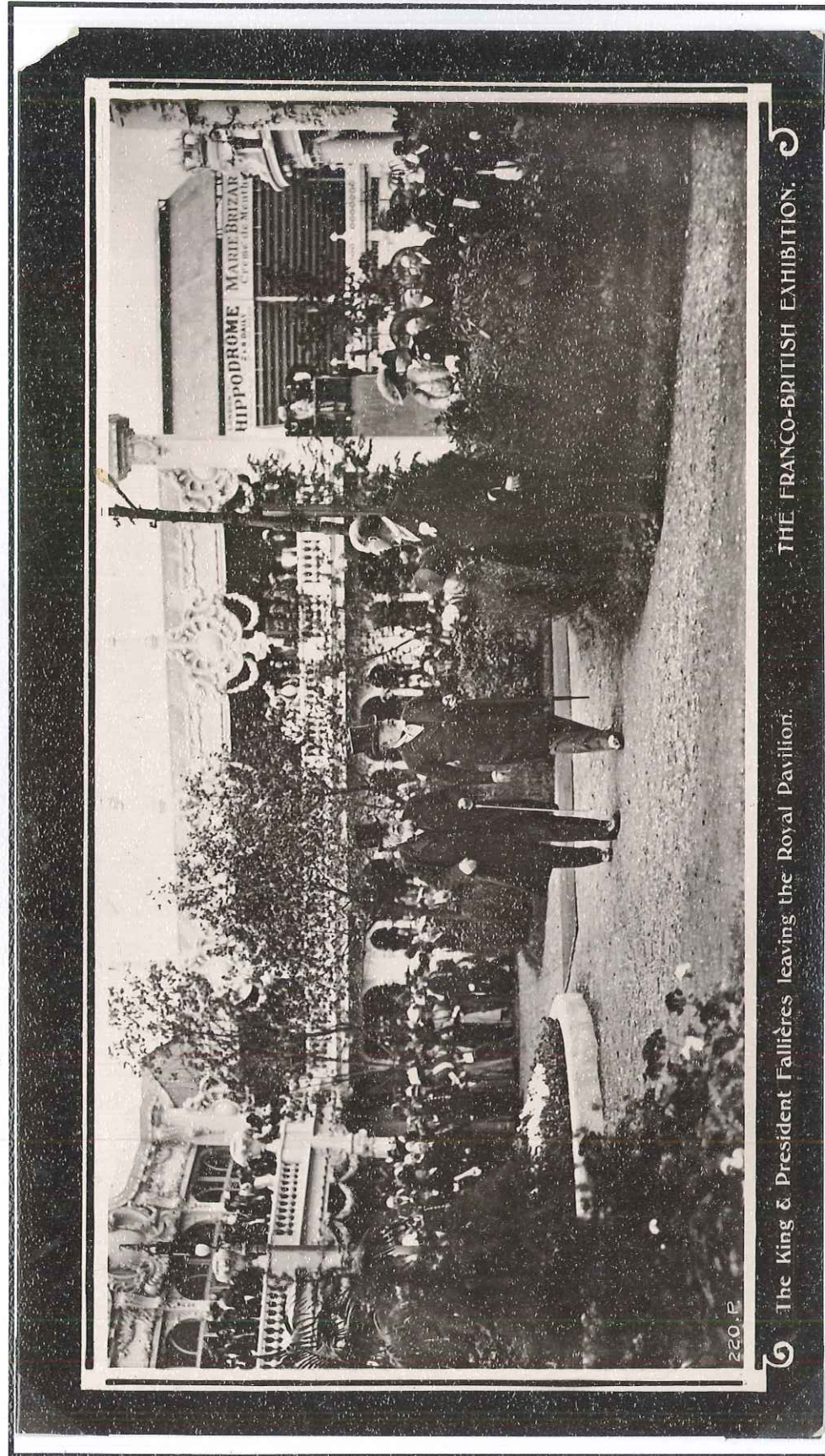


*After touring the Franco-British Exhibition
King Edward VII and President Fallières went to the Stadium
for an Athletic Pageant and Procession
(gymnastics, diving, water polo, wrestling, boxing, cycling and races on the track)*



26 May 1908 – Visit of the King & President Fallières

*In the background at the right is the Stadium which the royal party later visited.
Beneath the stadium roof are adverts for the London Hippodrome and Marie Brizard Crème de Menthe!*



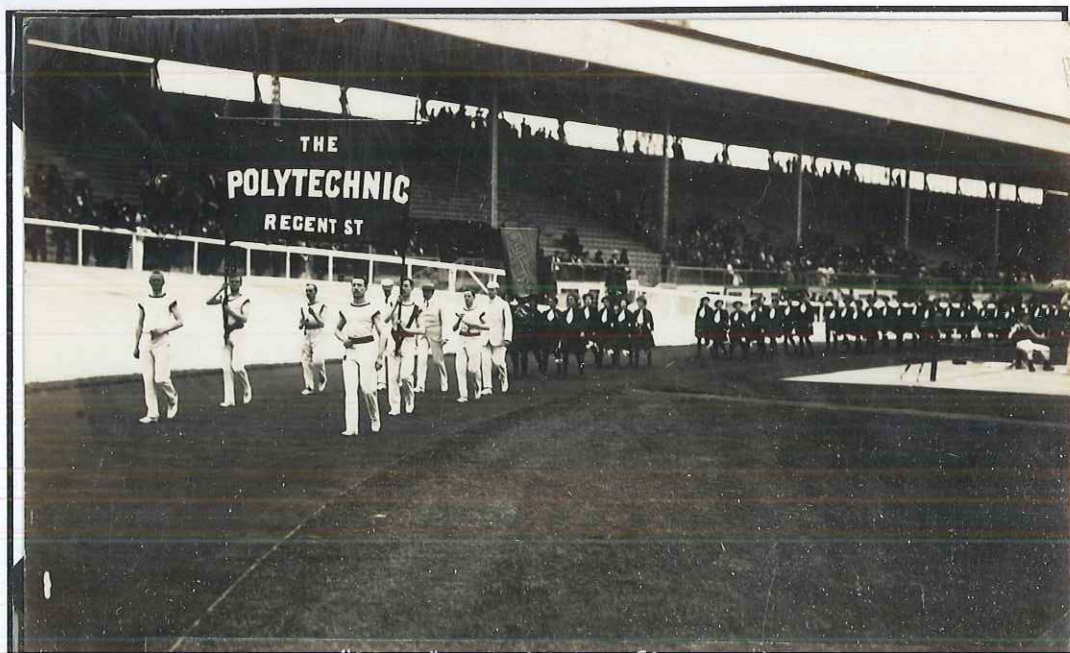
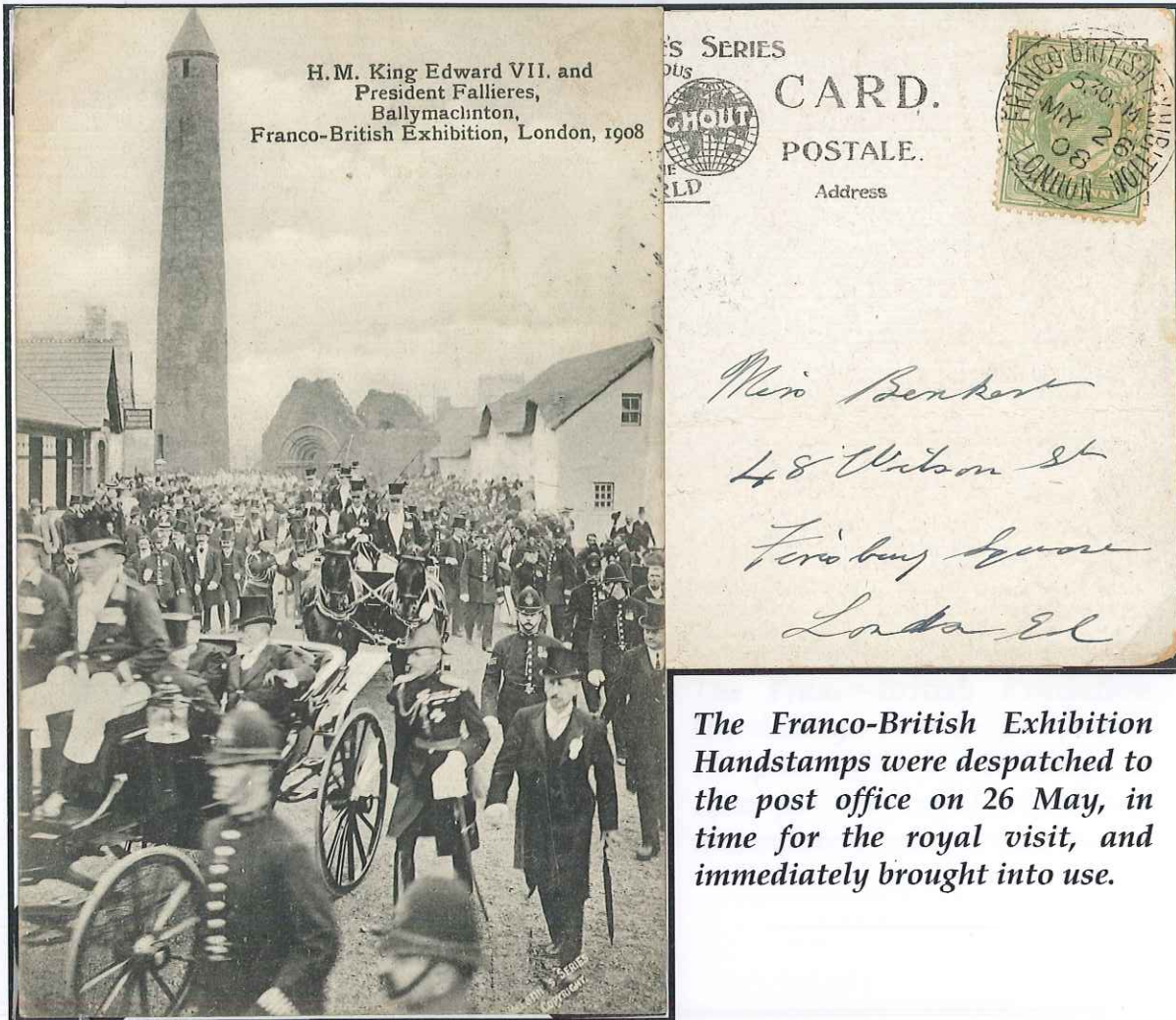
220. P

The King & President Fallières leaving the Royal Pavilion.

THE FRANCO-BRITISH EXHIBITION.

London 1908
The Franco-British Exhibition
& the Games of the Fourth Olympiad

26 May 1908
*Visit of King Edward VII and President Fallières -
and Introduction of the Exhibition Handstamp*



After the Exhibition & Stadium Opening Ceremony

*After watching the Stadium displays the Royal Party adjourned for tea
in the nearby Royal Pavilion*



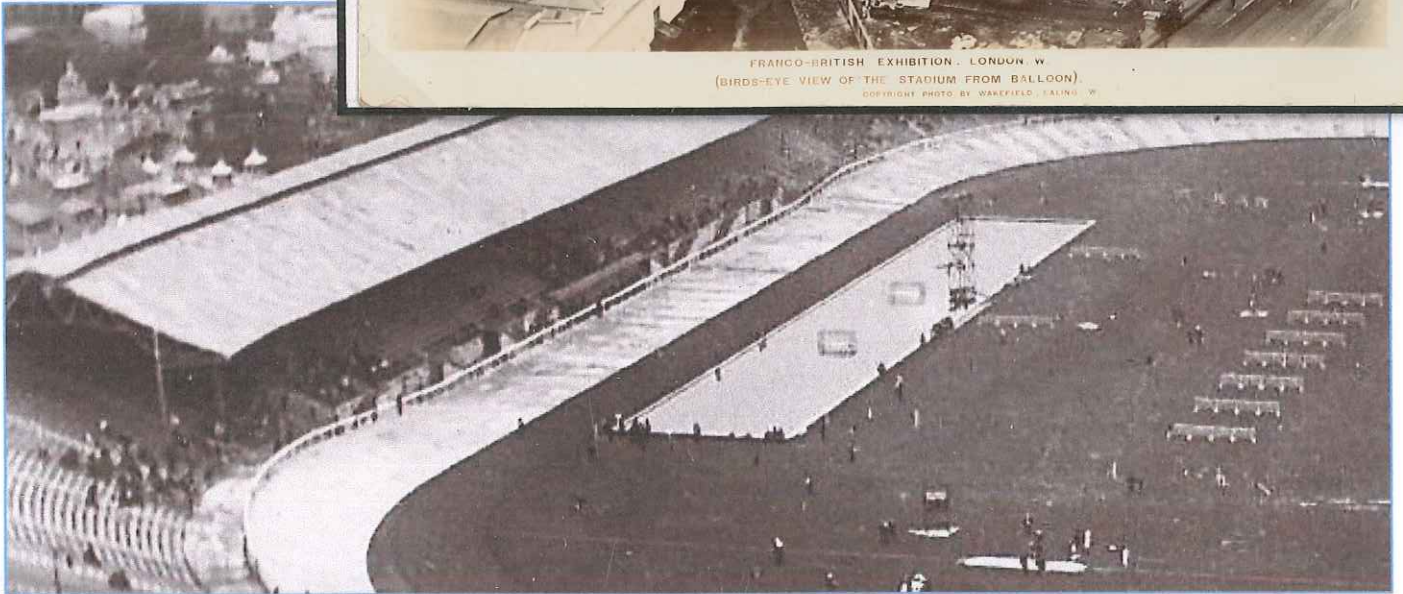
*A similar photograph in the Exhibition Guide shows that this photograph will have been taken
on 26 May.*

*The stadium is visible in the background at the left.
The first gentleman on the left is Lord Desborough & next to him is the King.*

30 May: Amateur Swimming Association Water Polo & Diving Preliminaries

The stadium card with
Olympic Games
caption shows the
diving tower but not
the water polo goals.

These are visible in
another photo helping
to confirm that the
photos were taken
during the ASA Water
Polo & Diving
preliminary trials
which took place at the
same time as AAA
trials on 30 May



THE FRANCO-BRITISH EXHIBITION.
THE STADIUM.

London 1908

The Franco-British Exhibition
& the Games of the Fourth Olympiad

The Imperial Sports Club

*The Imperial Sports Club was the headquarters of the British Olympic Council,
the Organising Committee of the 1908 Olympic Games
and was conveniently situated next to the Stadium*



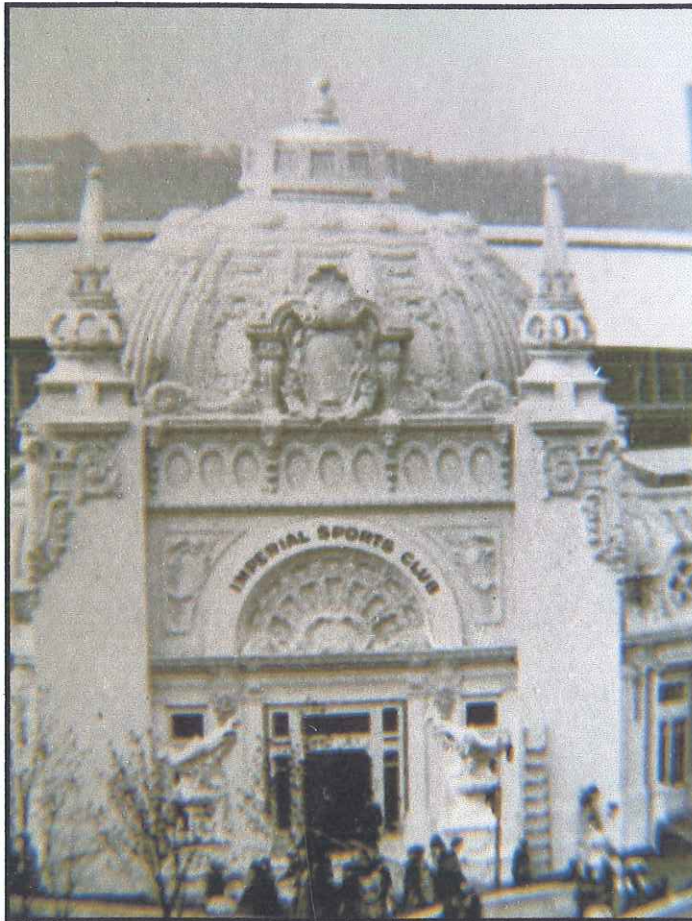
Enlargement from real photo postcard below,
showing the ISC with the stadium side in the background



*London 1908
The Franco-British Exhibition
& the Games of the Fourth Olympiad*

The Imperial Sports Club

*The Imperial Sports Club was the headquarters of the British Olympic Council,
the Organising Committee of the 1908 Olympic Games
and was conveniently situated next to the Stadium*



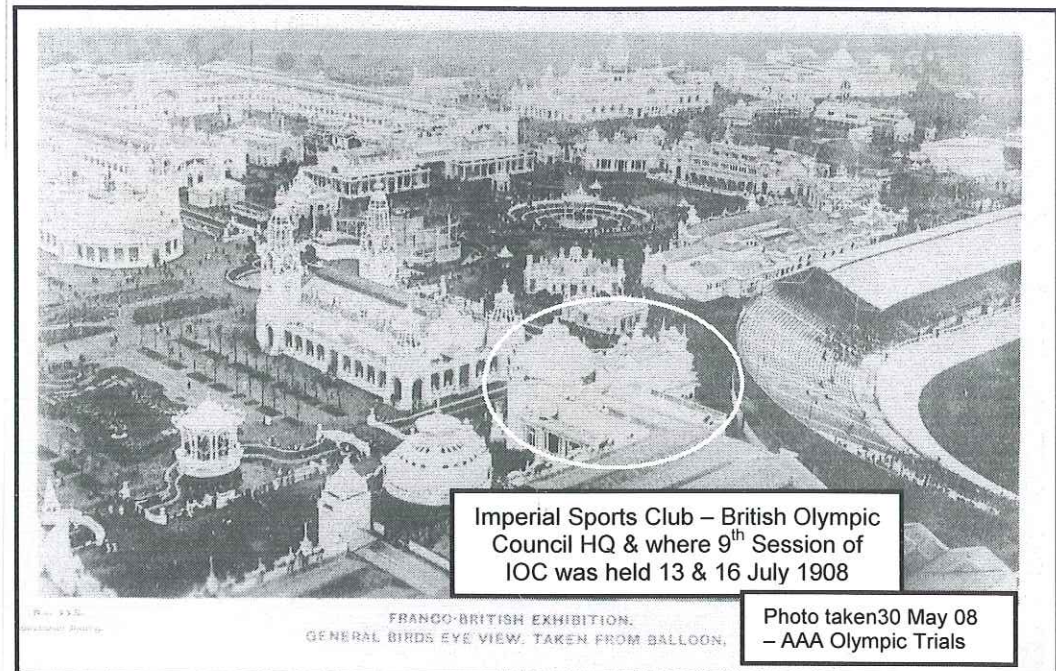
Enlargement from postcard below



The Imperial Sports Club

This "Bird's Eye View from a Balloon" shows the close proximity of the Imperial Sports Club and the Olympic Stadium

This 'Wakefield' photograph is used on various styles of real photo postcards



The Palace of Music – An Olympic Conundrum

Although there were 4 “temperance refreshment rooms” in the Stadium, J. Lyons & Co., the Official Caterers declined to make one of these available for the athletes. A contract was negotiated with the British Olympic Council whereby cold meals were provided in the Palace of Music.



Eastern Lagoon, Franco-British Exhibition, London, 1908

The Palace of Music



The Imperial Sports Club
where Olympic Officials and
Dignitaries dined.
(The Stadium is just visible behind)

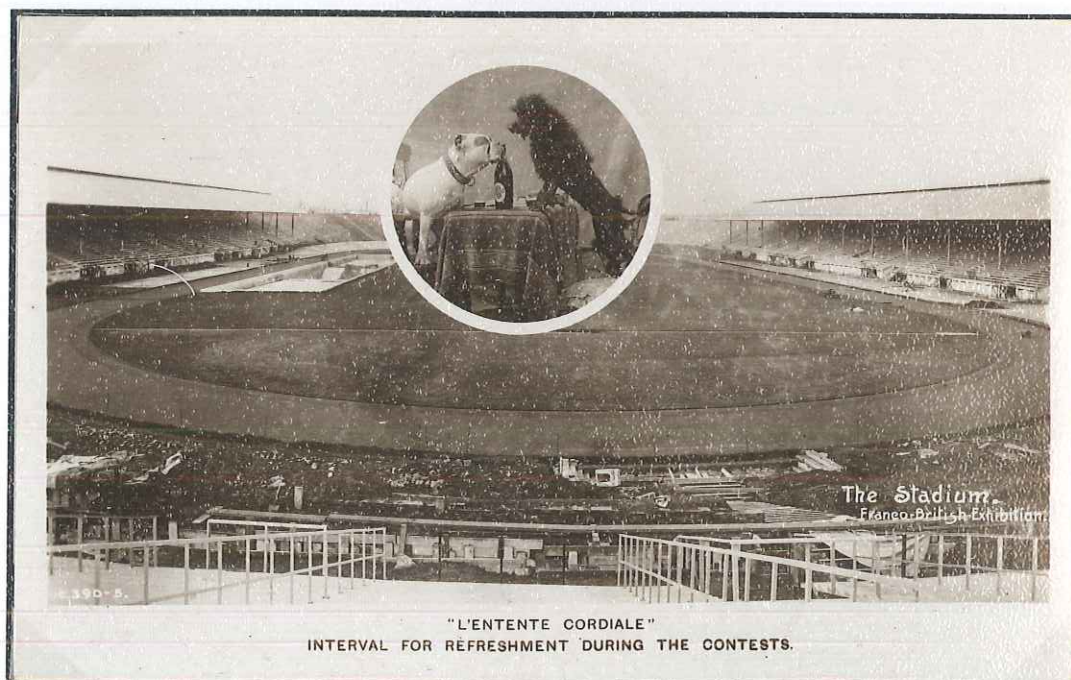
**11 July 1908 - The Entente Cordiale:
Pre-Olympic Sports Carnival
&**

Polytechnic Harriers v. Le Stade Français

Polytechnic Harriers organised a Sports Carnival two days before the opening of the Olympics. There were athletic events, cycling, swimming and water polo, boxing, and a gymnastics display.



The athletics included a competition between Polytechnic Harriers and Le Stade Français which the Poly won 4 events to 3



The Olympic Appeal

On 1 November 1907 the British Olympic Council decided to launch a public appeal for funds, and 30,000 appeal leaflets were printed.

On 3 March 1908 Lord Desborough, Chairman of the BOC was obliged to re-launch the appeal, and again on 1 June. This latter appeal was taken up enthusiastically by the Daily Mail, and by July 10th the newspaper actually asked the public to stop sending money, the target of £10,000 being exceeded by over £4,000!



The most surprising donation perhaps was from a performance at London's Palace Theatre by the exotic dancer Miss Maud Allan supported by the singer Miss Margaret Cooper. They raised over £300.

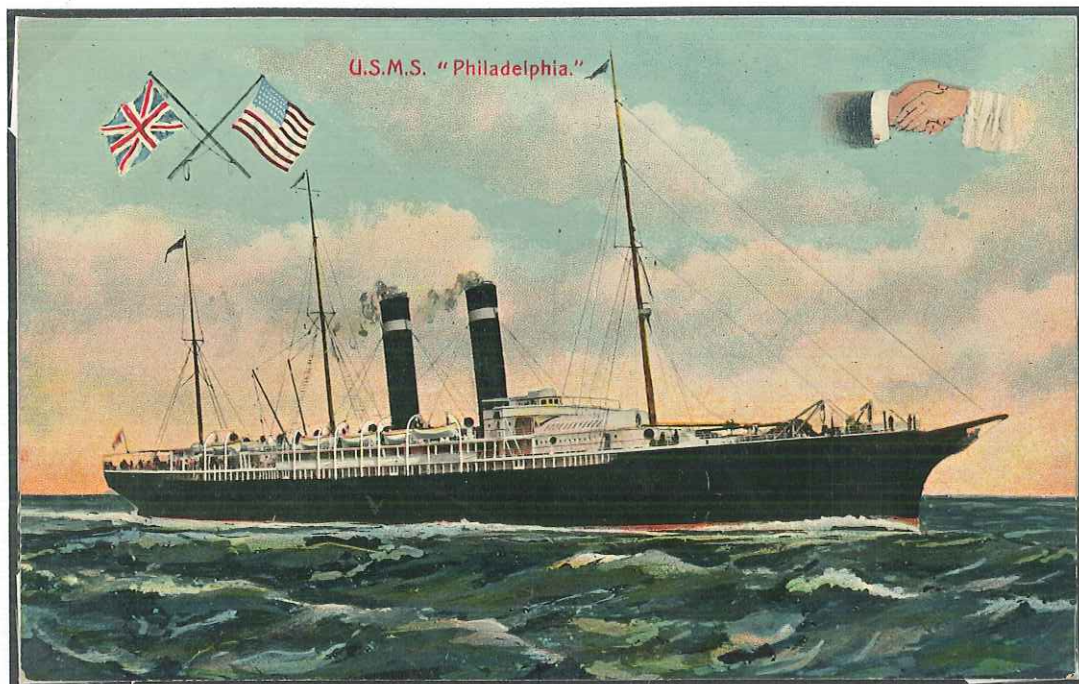


The largest individual donation was from the well-known professional wrestler and showman, Eugen Sandow

London 1908
The Franco-British Exhibition
& the Games of the Fourth Olympiad

The American Olympic Team

The majority of the U. S. team travelled to the U.K. in U.S.M.S. Philadelphia



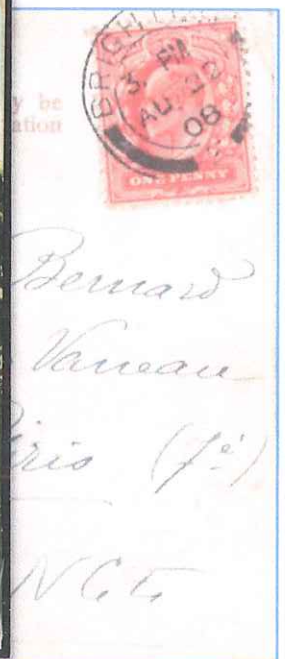
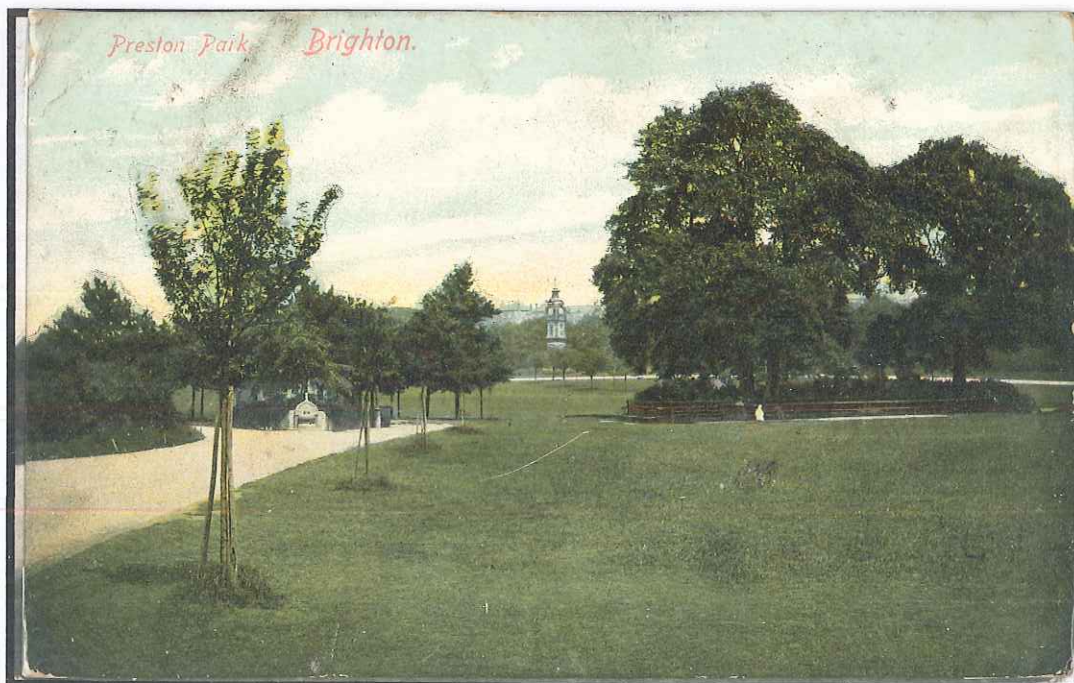
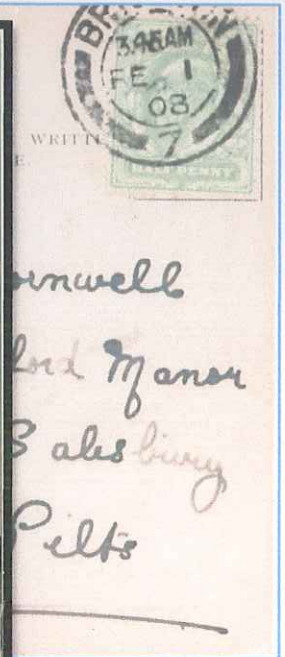
The team base during the Games was the St. Ermins Hotel in West London



London 1908
The Franco-British Exhibition
& the Games of the Fourth Olympiad

The American Training Base

Prior to the Games most of the team was based in Brighton,
staying at the Metropole Hotel and training on the sports ground at Preston Park



The Finnish Team en Route for the Games



The Finnish team came across the North Sea on the ship Polaris. The card shows a 'baptismal' ceremony.

The Polaris broke down off Hull, which delayed their arrival.

They marched in the Opening Ceremony with just a standard bearer - Finland at the time was part of Russia and were refused permission to use their own flag, and they refused to march under the Russian flag.

Stadium Avenue

Stadium Avenue was a wide boulevard separating the Stadium from the main Franco-British Exhibition grounds



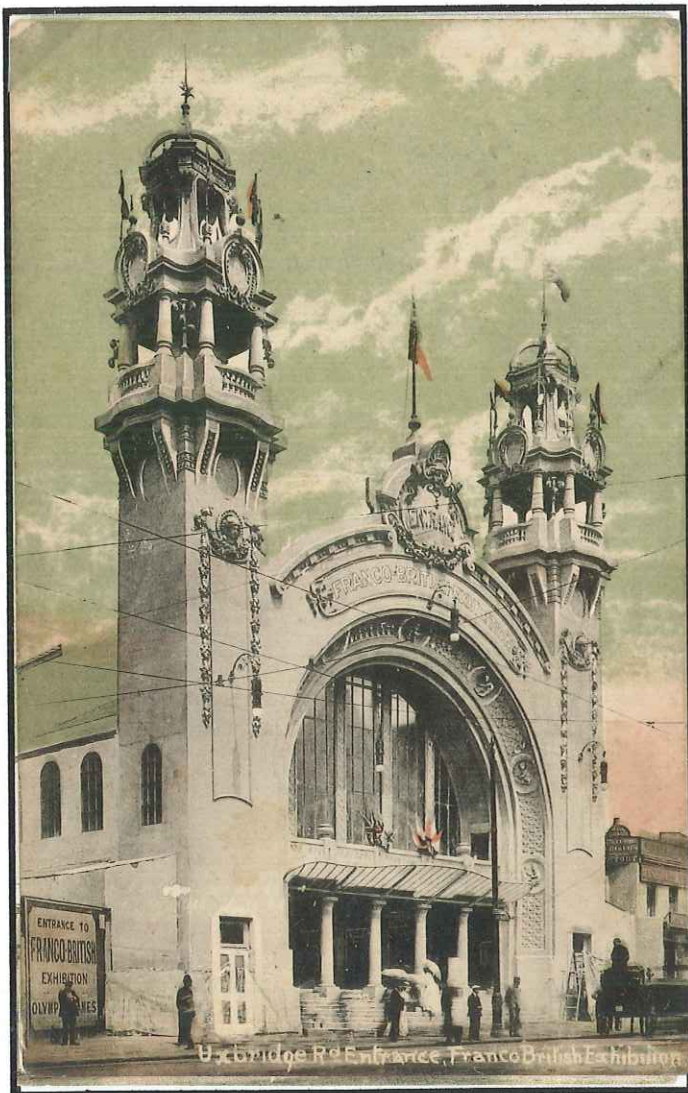
*Opposite the Stadium was
"Bovril Castle"
Bovril were fierce rivals to OXO
who were the official refreshment
suppliers for the marathon.*



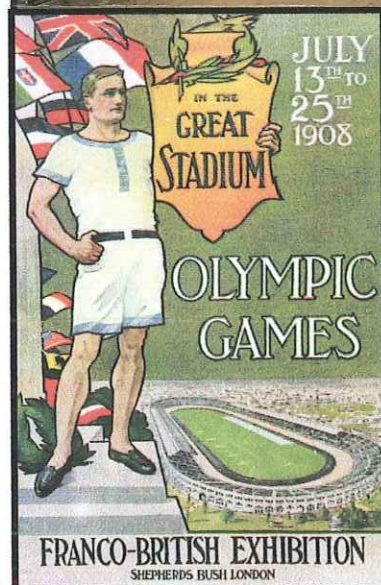
Visitors to the Franco-British Exhibition should not fail to visit the "Bovril Castle," opposite the Stadium; close to Garden Club.

London 1908
The Franco-British Exhibition
& the Games of the Fourth Olympiad

Advertising the Games
Posters at the Main Entrance



The general notice was replaced by the official Olympic poster

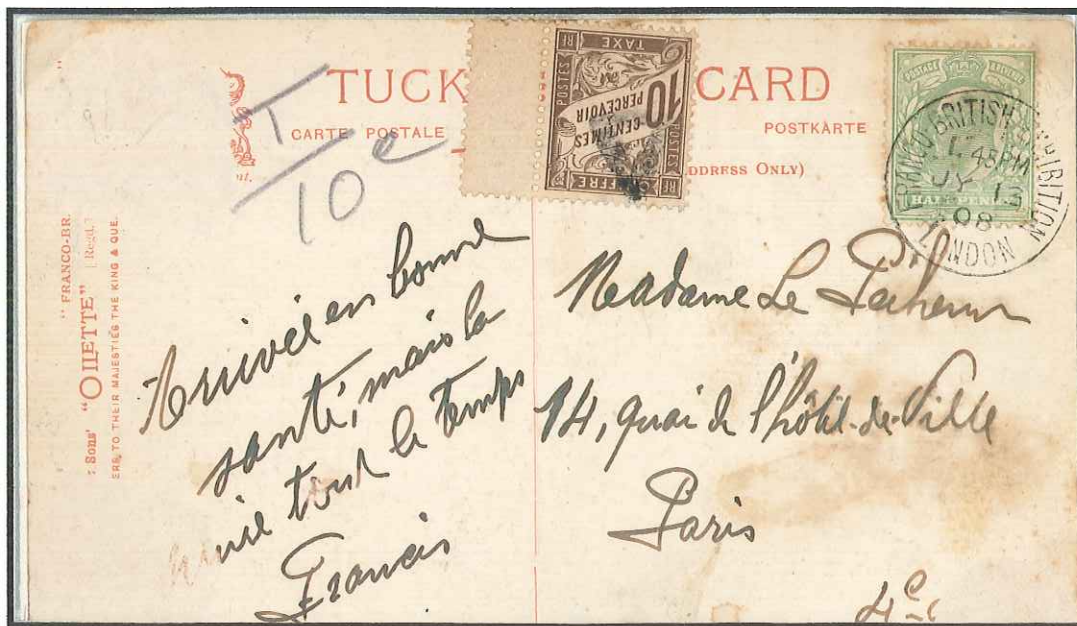


The Opening Ceremony

The Games were opened by King Edward the Seventh on 13 July 1908

In the newly constructed stadium of the Franco-British Exhibition

(The White City Stadium)



Card posted shortly before the start of the Opening Ceremony, to France, postage underpaid and with tax stamp. The message complains of persistent rain!



THE GREAT EVENT OF 1908.
THE KING OPENING THE OLYMPIC GAMES.



THE GREAT EVENT OF 1909.
THE KING OPENING THE OLYMPIC GAMES

Error: "1909"↑

The Olympic Opening Ceremony

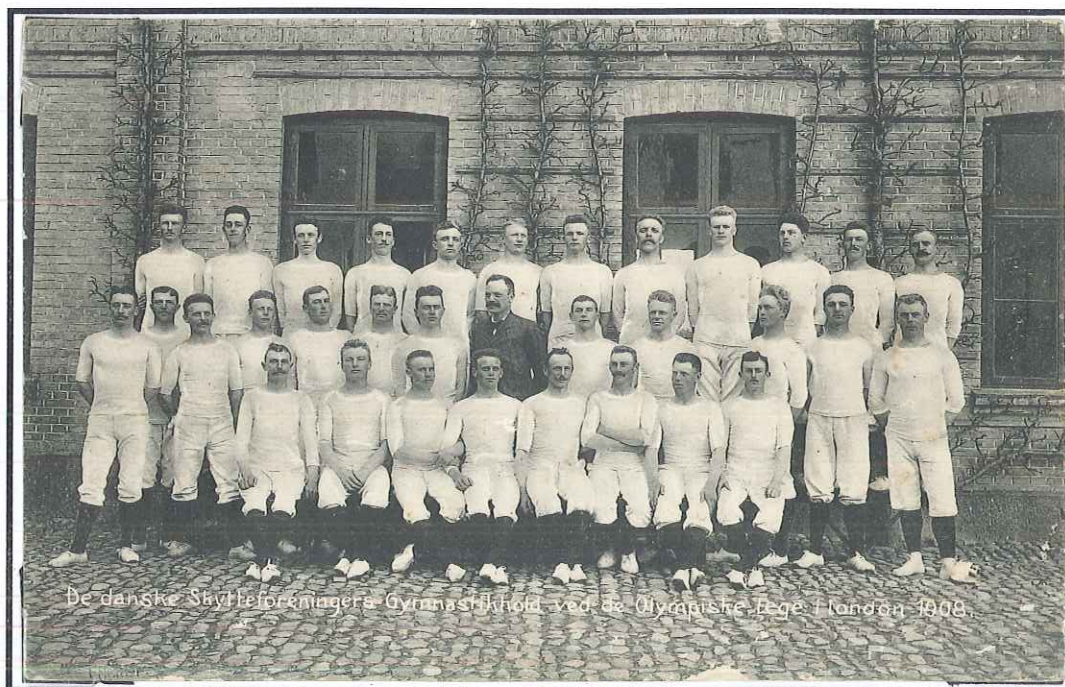
This hand-coloured postcard shows the teams lined up before the Royal Box.

Tents are set up in the Olympic Fencing Ground to the left of the Stadium.



The enlargement shows the Olympic advertising hoarding. The photo was published in the Daily Graphic with its report of the Opening ceremony.

The Danish Gymnastic Team (shown here before the Games) gave a display, as did the Norwegian and Swedish teams.



The Opening Ceremony



King Edward VII & Queen Alexandra

"Yesterday wet till afternoon.
Saw the King & Queen going
in to open Olympic Games."

Printed by Valentine & Sons Ltd. Dundee, London & New York. 9.30. a.m.
14. 7. 08.
Yesterday wet till afternoon. Saw the
King & Queen going in to open Olympic
Games. Then took car to Kew & Mr.



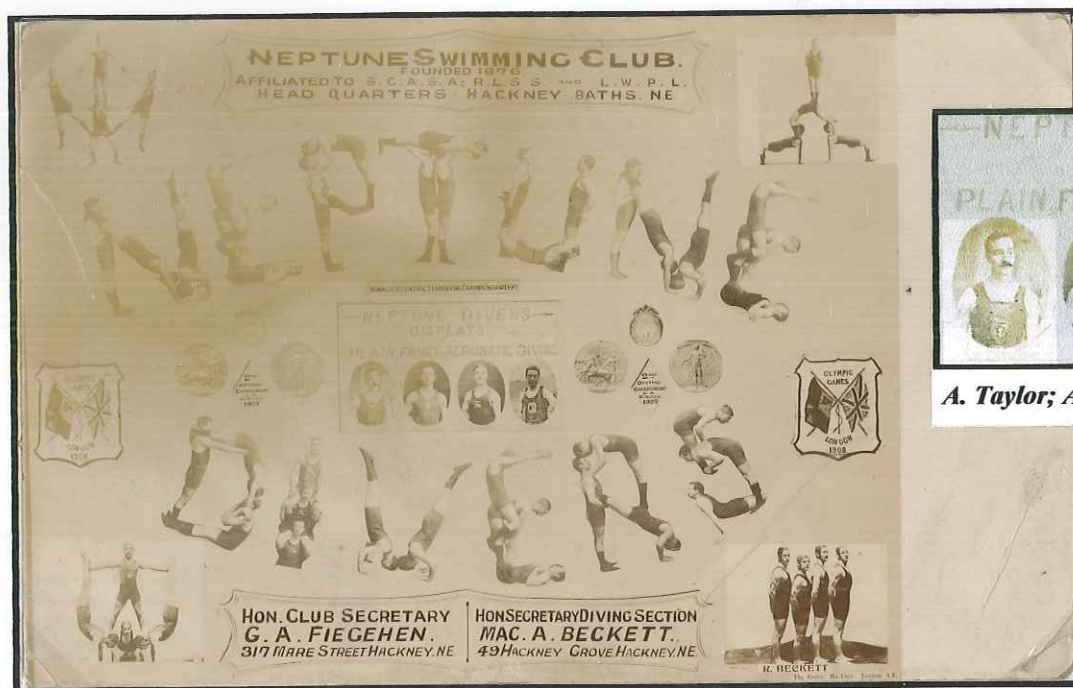
(Note the error '1909'. This was corrected on a reprint of the card)

Diving

Diving was from a submersible tower over the swimming tank in the Olympic Stadium

14-18 July - Fancy High Diving (Springboard)

*Four competitors from the Neptune Diving Club, Hackney, London competed,
but all were eliminated in the first round:*



A. Taylor; A Beckett; C Cross; W Bull

20-24 July - Men's Plain High Diving

*The Diving final was one of the events that entertained the crowd awaiting the arrival of the
marathon runners.*

The Gold Medal went to Hjalmar Johansson of Sweden



Olympiska Spelen i London. Hj. Johansson gör ett hopp från Stadions trampoliner.

22 July - Water Polo Final Great Britain 9 - Belgium 2



Thanks to a bye and a walkover when Austria withdrew, Great Britain went straight into the final. Belgium had to play the Netherlands then Sweden to get there!

Great Britain's top goal scorer, with 4 goals, was George Wilkinson of Hyde Seal Swim Club. He had already secured Gold as a member of the winning team in Paris in 1900, and went on to obtain his third Gold at Stockholm in 1912 when he was team captain.

Water polo took place in the pool in the stadium. Just this one of three photos taken from a balloon shows the goals in position. The photograph was taken on 30 May, the date of the water polo Olympic Trials.



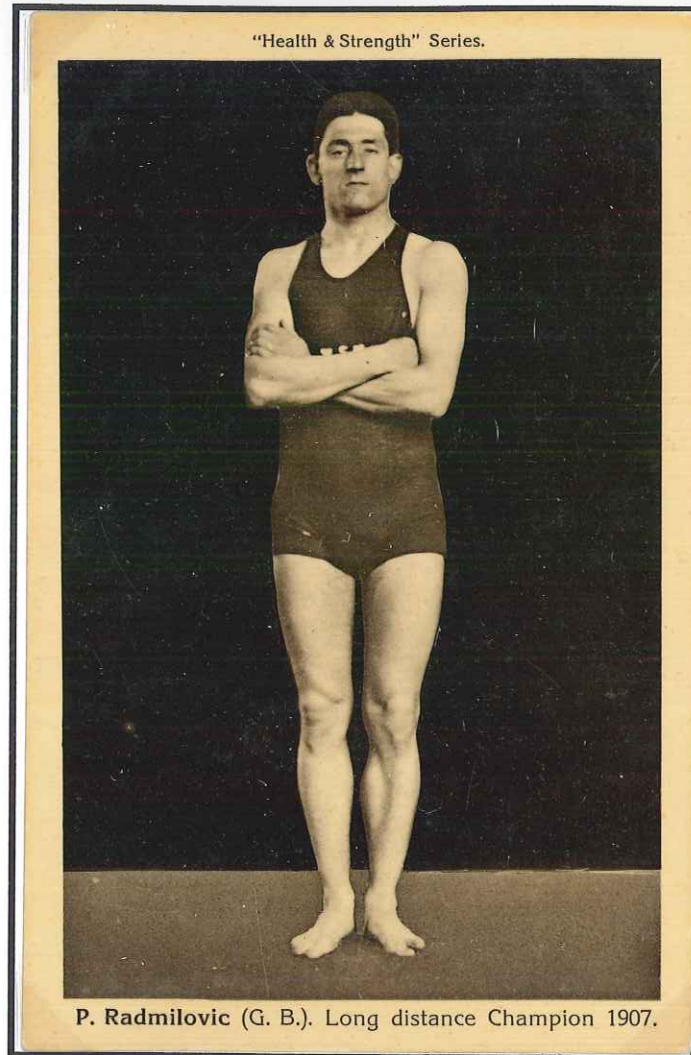
FRANCO-BRITISH EXHIBITION, LONDON, W.
PHOTO OF "THE STADIUM" FROM BALLOON.

COPYRIGHT PHOTO BY
WAREFIELD, EALING, W.



22 July - Water Polo Final (2)

Also in the team, and scorer of two goals was Paul Radmilovic



Radmilovic also helped Great Britain to Gold in the 2 x 220 yards relay on 24 July and was a member of Great Britain's Gold Medal winning water polo team in 1912 & 1920. In 1920 he scored the winning goal in the final (against Belgium again) 3 minutes from the end.



His 1920 performance is marked by a 1991 stamp from Guyana, which incorrectly has him coming from the GDR, the German Democratic Republic (East Germany).

The water-polo design continues into the next stamp.

London 1908

The Franco-British Exhibition
& the Games of the Fourth Olympiad

Water Polo Team Members

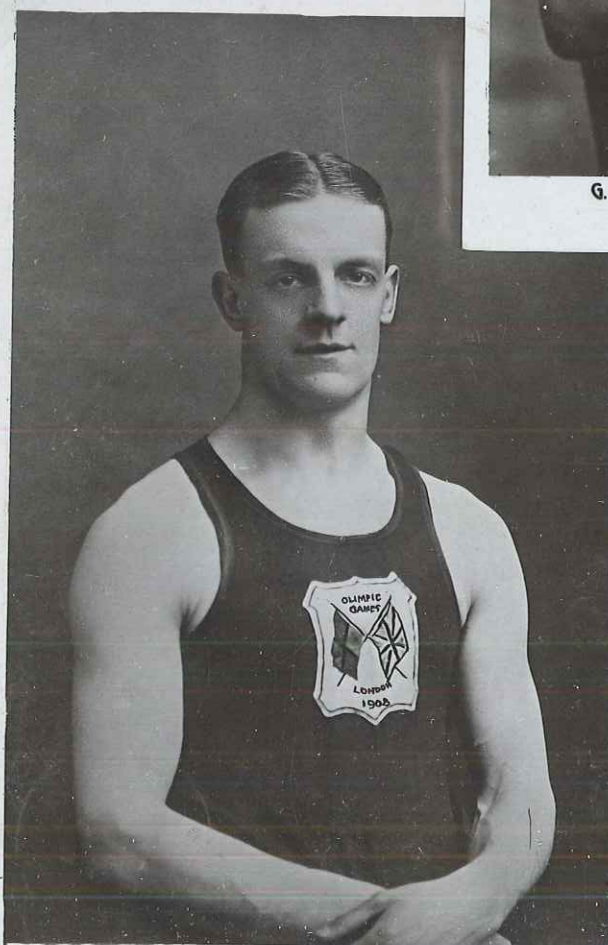
*Charles Smith, team captain, George Nevinson
and Charles Forsythe all came from Wigan.*



C. S. Smith. Captain. Gt. Britain & Ireland.



G. Nevinson Wigan. Water Polo International.



E. Forsyth. W. S. C.

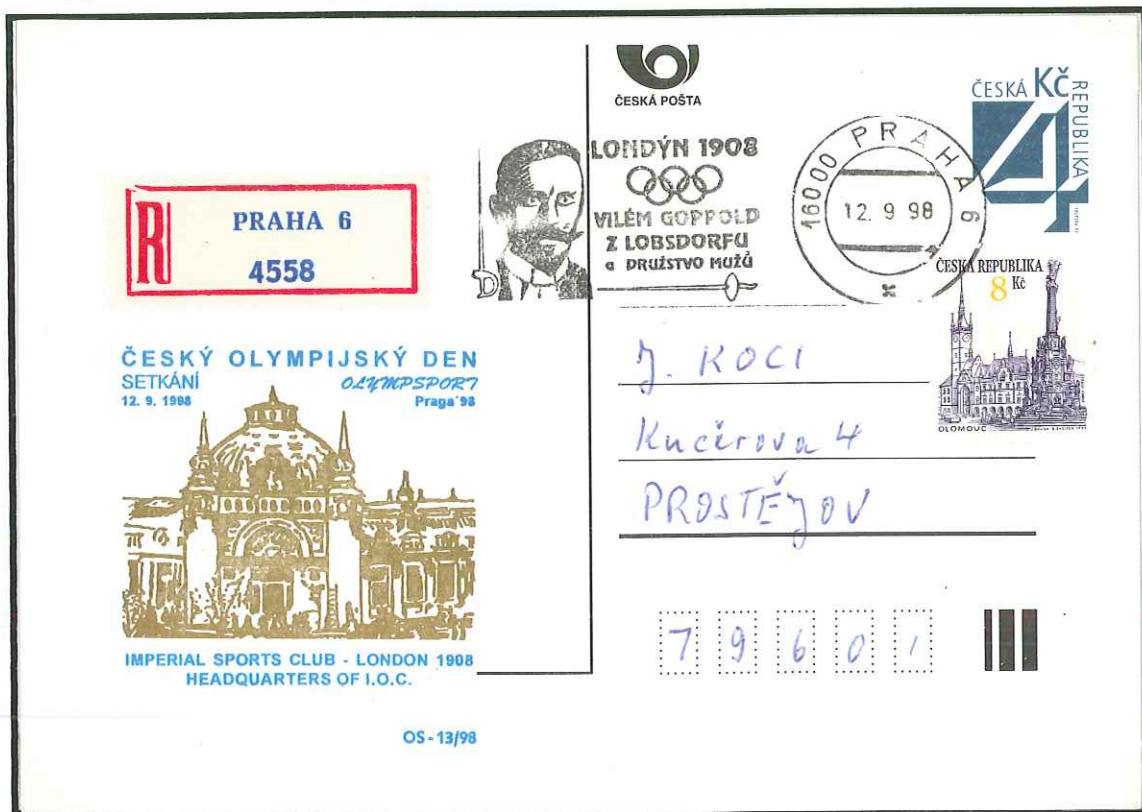
Fencing

*The Fencing Ground was situated just outside the Stadium at the north end.
It was tented against inclement weather.*

*In the Sabre the Hungarians were dominant (as they were until 1964(!))
Jeno Fuchs helped his team to Gold on 23 July, and took individual Gold on 24 July*



Vilém Goppold von Lobsdorf of Bohemia secured the Bronze, and helped his team to Bronze



*In the Epée Paul Anspach of Belgium was 5th, but shared the Team Bronze Medal.
He went on to secure Gold in 1912 (Team & Individual) and Team Silver in 1920 & 1924*



Cycling 100 kilometres - 18 July 1908

Despite puncturing, Charles Bartlett won in the final sprint, taking the Gold Medal and the Prince of Wales Cup, thanks to skilled pacing by Charles Denny (Silver) and William Pett (4th).

Frenchman Octave Lapize squeezed in to take the Bronze Medal.
He went on to become the first Olympic medallist to win the Tour de France, in 1910.



Centenary of the Tour de France miniature sheet from Antigua & Barbuda 2003

Sadly, Octave Lapize was a victim of a dog-fight in World War I



Centenary of the Tour de France miniature sheet from Dominica 2003

Cycling 5,000 metres - 18 July 1908

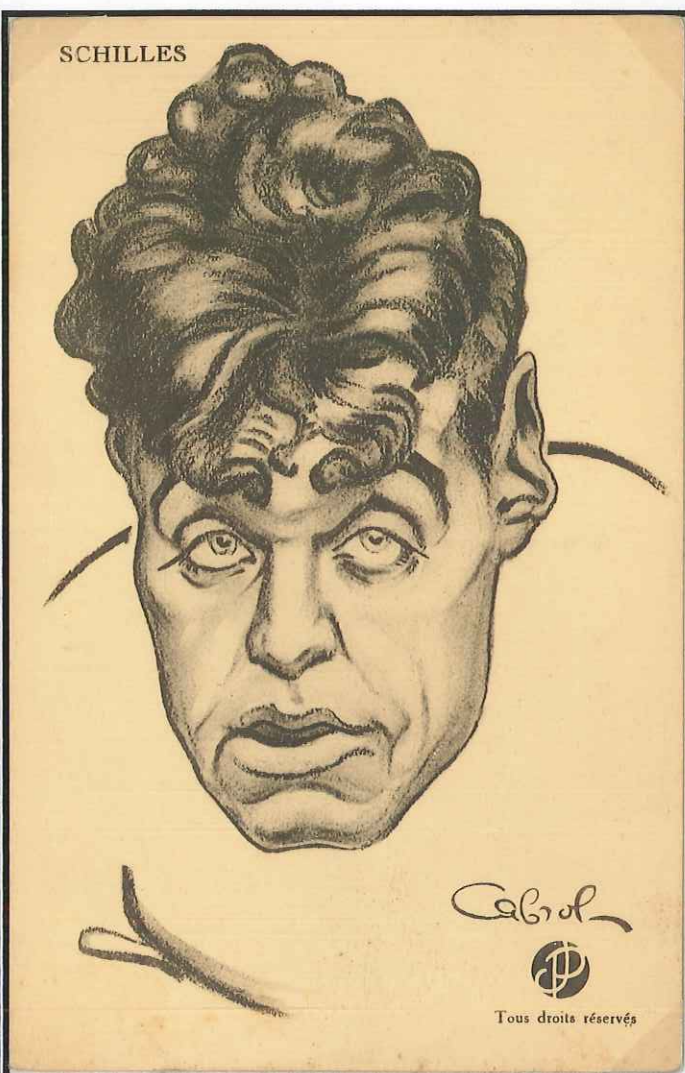
In a thrilling final on the afternoon of 18 July, Britain's Benjamin Jones managed to hold off Maurice Schilles and André Auffray of France who were catching him fast.



Health & Strength postcard 08 53963
(postally used 1909)

Jones also won Gold in the Three-Lap Pursuit
and Silver in the 20 Km Track Race.

He was also involved in the 1,000 Metres "Sprint" fiasco, the
race being declared void because the maximum time was
exceeded.



Portrait of Schilles by Cabrol

Schilles continued cycling for many years, and was runner up
in the UCI Track Cycling World Championships - Men's
Sprint in 1925

London 1908

The Franco-British Exhibition
& the Games of the Fourth Olympiad

Cycling



25. SCHILLES, sprinter Français

Maurice Schilles of France had mixed fortunes. In the One-Lap race (660 yards) although he won his heat it was declared void because the time limit was exceeded.

He won the final of the 1,000 metres Match Sprint, but again the race was declared void for exceeding the time limit & no medals were awarded.

*In the 5,000 metres he took **Silver** behind Ben Jones (GB)*

*He took **Gold** with André Auffrey in the 2000 metres tandem*

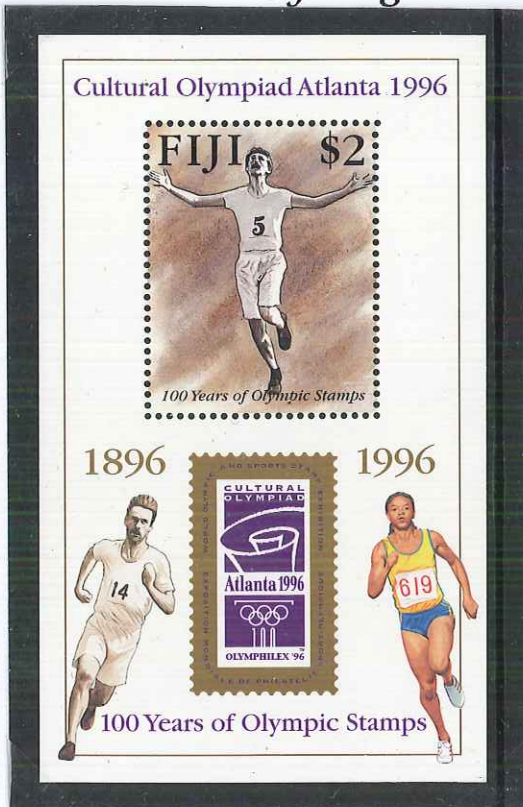
In the Team Pursuit he was in the French team that came 5th.



André Poulin, also of France, had a disappointing Olympics, losing in the heats of each of the 3 races he entered.

London 1908
The Franco-British Exhibition
& the Games of the Fourth Olympiad

Cycling & 10 Miles Walk 17 July 1908



Commemorating the German Team Silver
St. Vincent 19 July 1996
(from a miniature sheet)

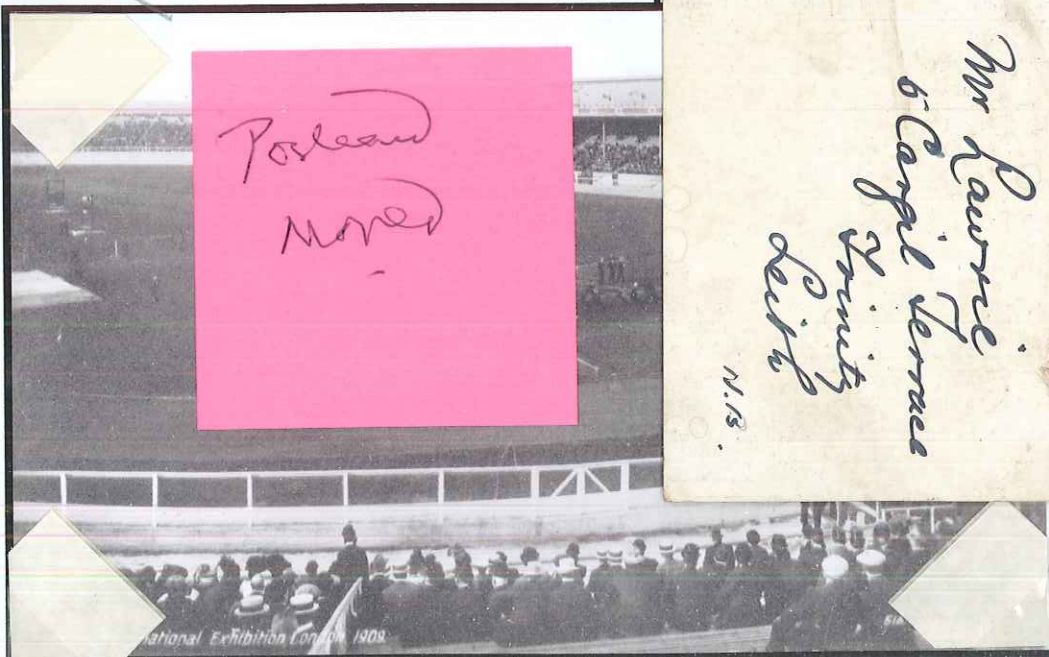
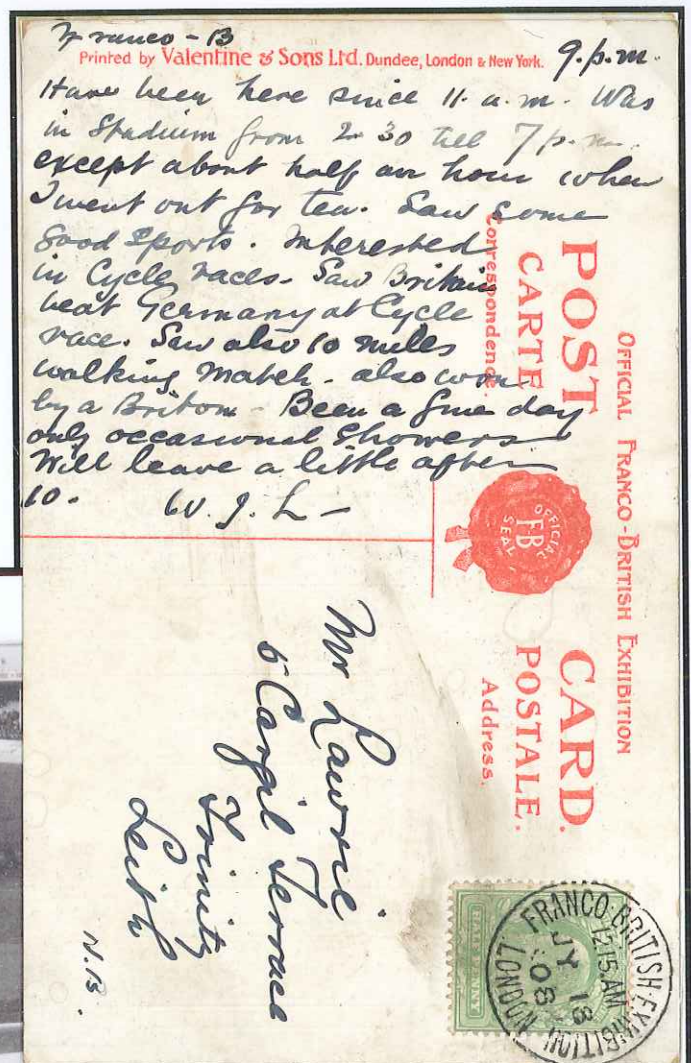
"Was in the Stadium from 2.30 till 7 p.m. ... Saw some good sports. Interested in Cycle races. Saw Britain Beat Germany at Cycle race. Saw also 10 miles walking match - also won by a Briton"

That Briton was George Larnier.

The card was posted late that evening before the writer left the Exhibition, and postmarked after midnight.

On the postcard below the walkers can be seen on the track at the right.

The Tug-of-War is also in progress.



The events on track and field enable it to be said that the photograph was taken during the Olympics, and not in 1909

Race Walking

*George Larner of Great Britain won both the 3,500m Walk on 14 July
and the 10 Mile Walk on 17 July*



Gymnastics

Combined Team Exercises

*Consisting of voluntary mass exercises, the event was held over 3 days.
The Swedish Team gave the winning display on 15 July.*



The Finnish Team took the Bronze Medal



London 1908
The Franco-British Exhibition
& the Games of the Fourth Olympiad

Gymnastics

Combined Team Exercises

The Gold Medal winning Swedish Team

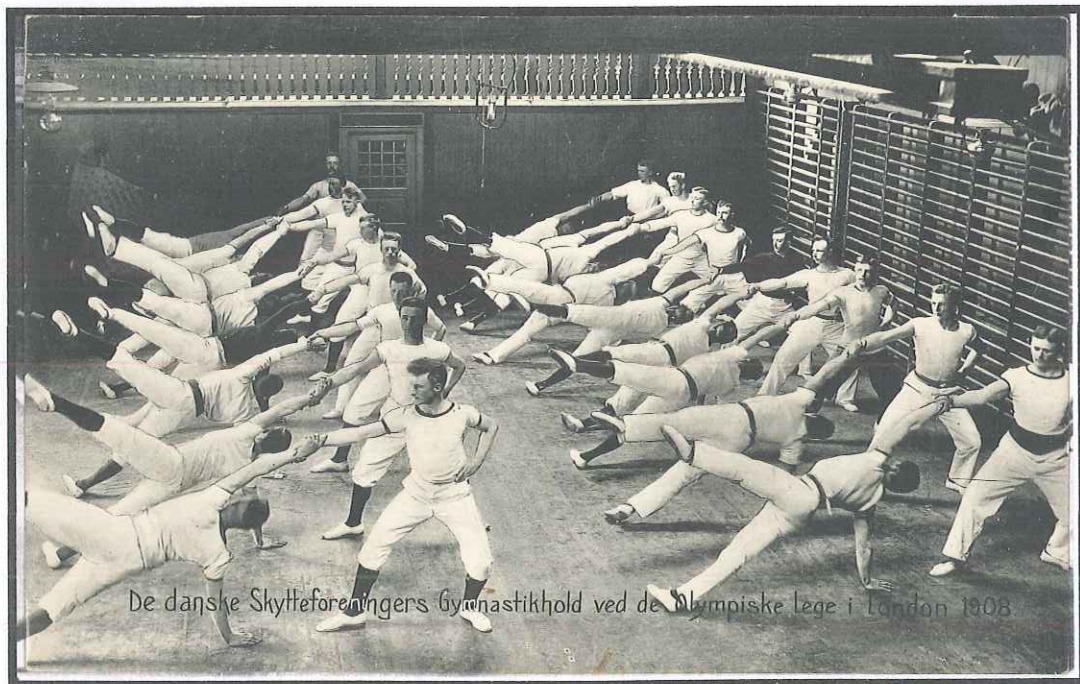


Gymnastics

Combined Team Exercises

The Danish Team took 4th place.

They also participated in the demonstration during the opening Ceremony on 13 July



Gymnastics - The All-Round Modern Heptathlon

This event was devised by Ernest Ravenstein of the German Gymnastic Society.

It consisted of slow and swinging movements on the horizontal bar, and on the parallel bars, stationary and swinging movements on the rings, quick movements on the pommel horse, and rope climbing.

Circolo Filatelico Culturale "A.Tassoni"
Viale Monte Cosica, 91 - 41100 Modena

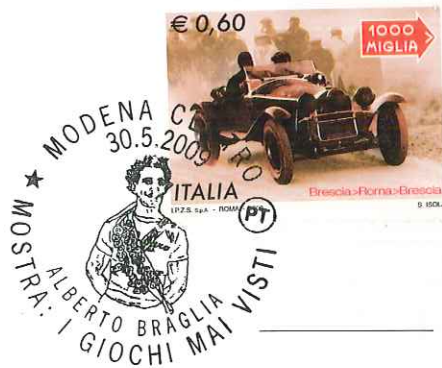
Alberto Braglia (1883-1954)

Ginnasta modenese che ha conquistato 3 Medaglie d'Oro olimpiche nei Giochi di Londra del 1908 e Stoccolma nel 1912.



(Collezione Alessandro Simonini)

Edizioni Il Fiorino - Via Marinuzzi, 28 - Modena
Tel e Fax 059/281577 - Maggio 2009



The events were on 14 and 15 July. Alberto Braglia of Italy was first, W. Tysall second:



London 1908
The Franco-British Exhibition
& the Games of the Fourth Olympiad

Gymnastics - Alberto Braglia Gold

Centenary of his birth 2009



RACCOMANDATA



Gymnastics - Alberto Braglia Gold



C.O.N.I. COMITATO OLIMPICO NAZIONALE ITALIANO



federazione
ginnastica
d'italia

palazzo delle federazioni sportive
viale tiziano, 70 - 00100 Roma

FEDERAZIONE GINNASTICA
D'ITALIA
CELEBRAZIONE 100° ANNIVERSARIO
NASCITA ALBERTO BRAGLIA
MODENA 26/27 NOVEMBRE 1993

C.O.N.I.
0194 ROMA



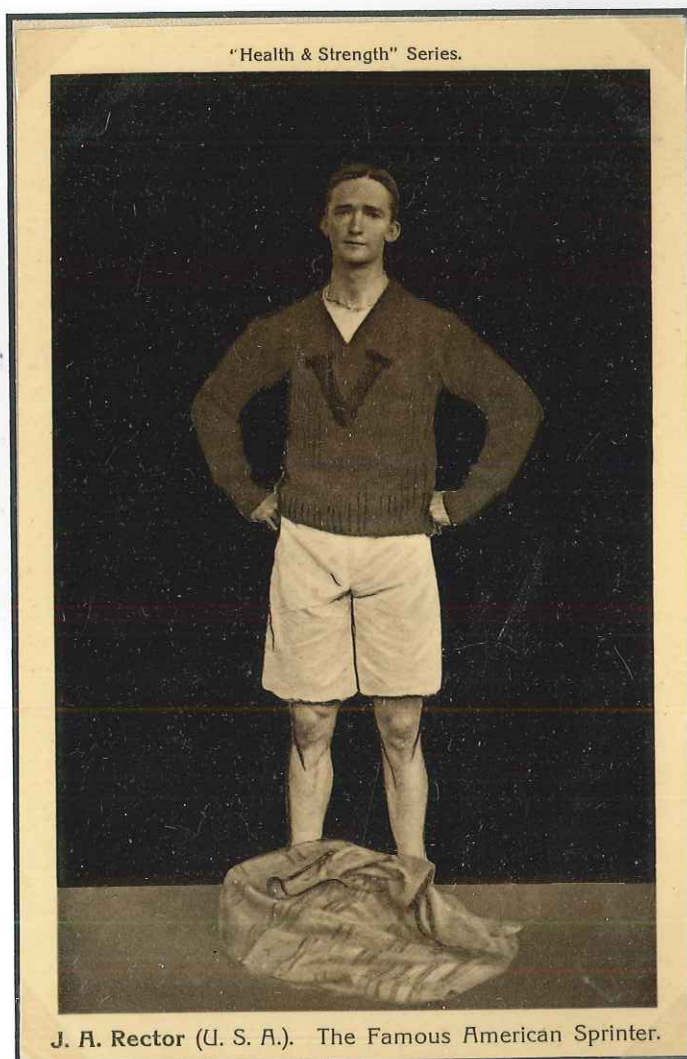
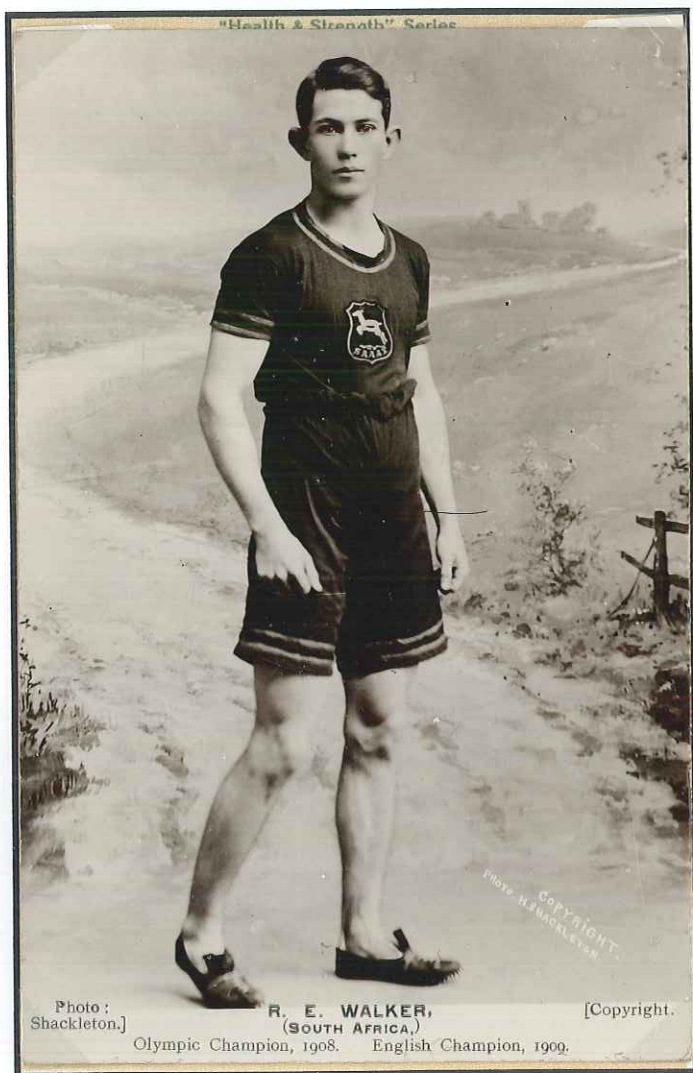
PB R CC 266



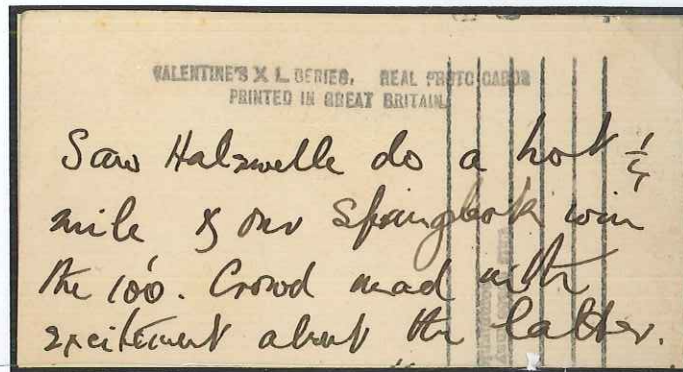
22 July - Athletics - 100 Metres Final

Reggie Walker of South Africa, the youngest ever 100 metres Gold Medallist, set an Olympic record in beating James Rector of the USA.

Bobby Kerr of Canada took bronze (to add to his Gold in the 200m)



Athletics—100m and 400m 22 July 1908



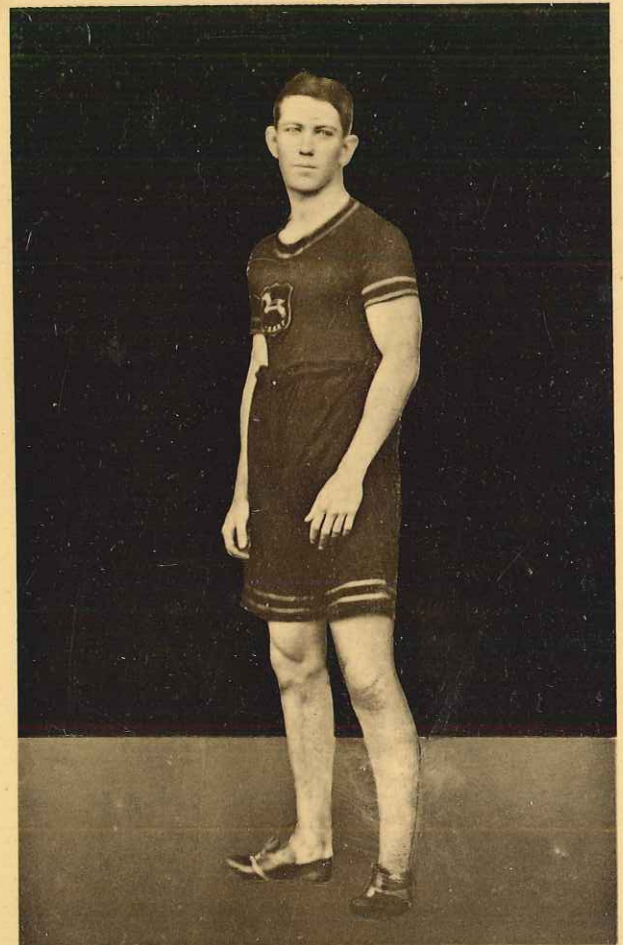
"Saw Halswelle do a hot 1/4 mile, & our Springbok win the 100. Crowd mad with excitement about the latter. ..."

"Health & Strength" Series.



Lieut. W. Halswelle (G.B.). Winner 400 metres (437.2 yds.) Flat Race.

"Health & Strength" Series.



R. E. Walker (South Africa). Winner 100 metres Flat.

Walker took Gold in the 100m at around 4:15pm.

An hour later Halswelle won his semi-final of the 400m.

In the final the next day Carpenter of the USA was disqualified for almost running Halswelle off the track, and the race was declared void.

The Americans refused to allow their two other finalists, Robbins and Taylor, to take part in the re-run on 25 July, so Halswelle ran alone for a walk-over Gold Medal.



RRM 3-2

661

Messagen Studien poster



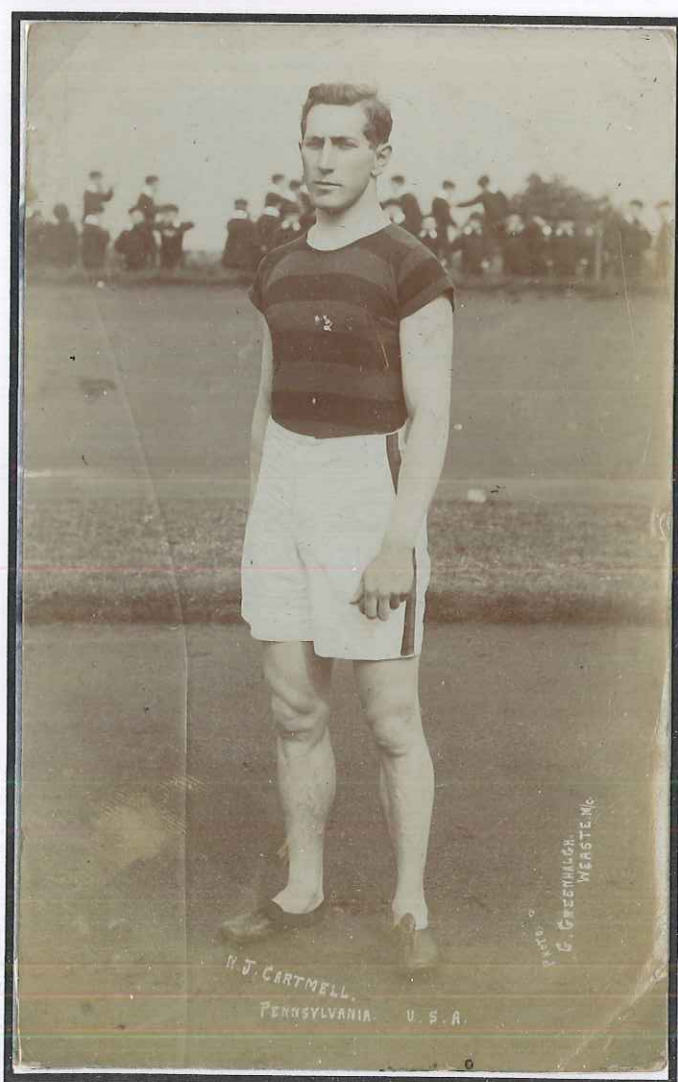
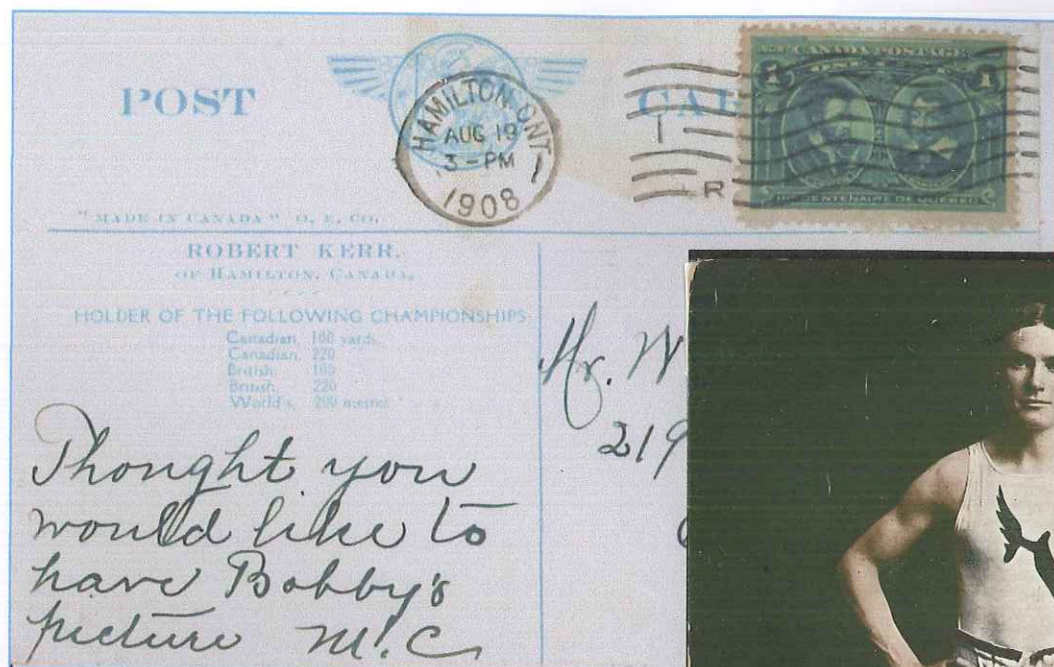
4. June - 9. 7. 50

R. Wilcock
24 Hamilton Crescent
Brentwood
Essex CM14 5ES
England

P6

23 July - 200 Metres Final

The race was won by Irish-born Canadian Bobby Kerr in 22.6 seconds

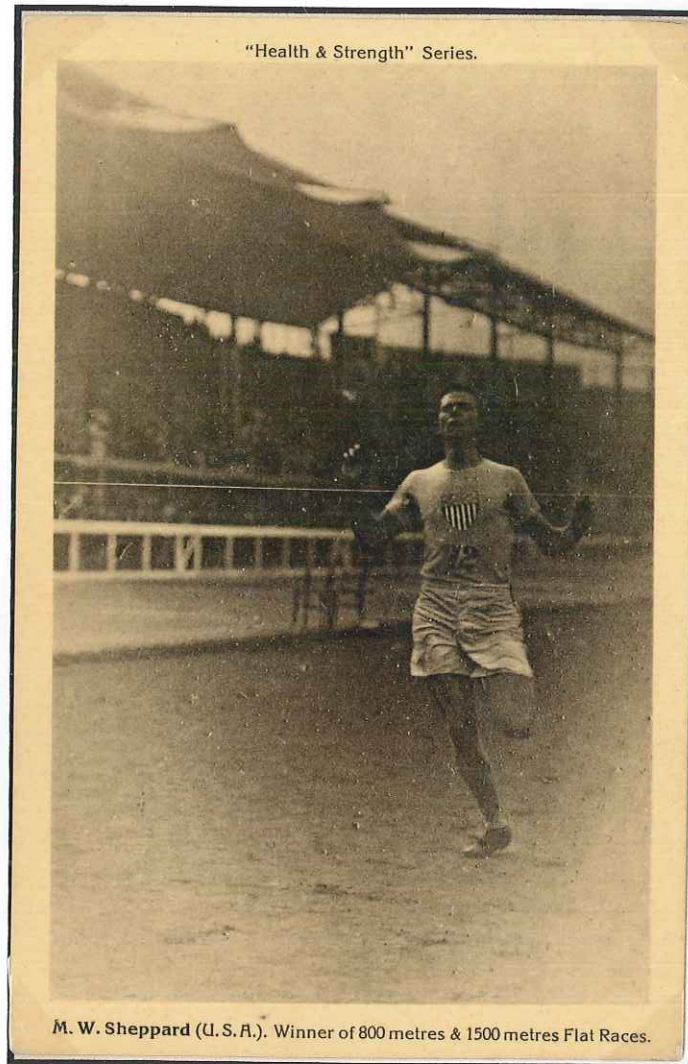


Nathaniel Cartmell of the USA took Bronze.
(He was 4th in the 100m & won Gold in the
1600m Medley Relay race)

Athletics – Melvin Sheppard (USA)

800 Metres – 21 July; 1500 Metres – 14 July

*Both events were won by Melvin Sheppard. He was favourite in the 800 metres.
In the 1500 metres he caught the favourite, Harold Wilson of Great Britain, just before the tape.*



1,600 Metres Medley Relay – 25 July

*This was the first Olympic Relay Race, change was by touch not batons, and the race was divided 200m., 200m., 400m., and 800m.
Melvin Sheppard ran the anchor leg of 800 metres to earn his third Gold Medal of the Games.*



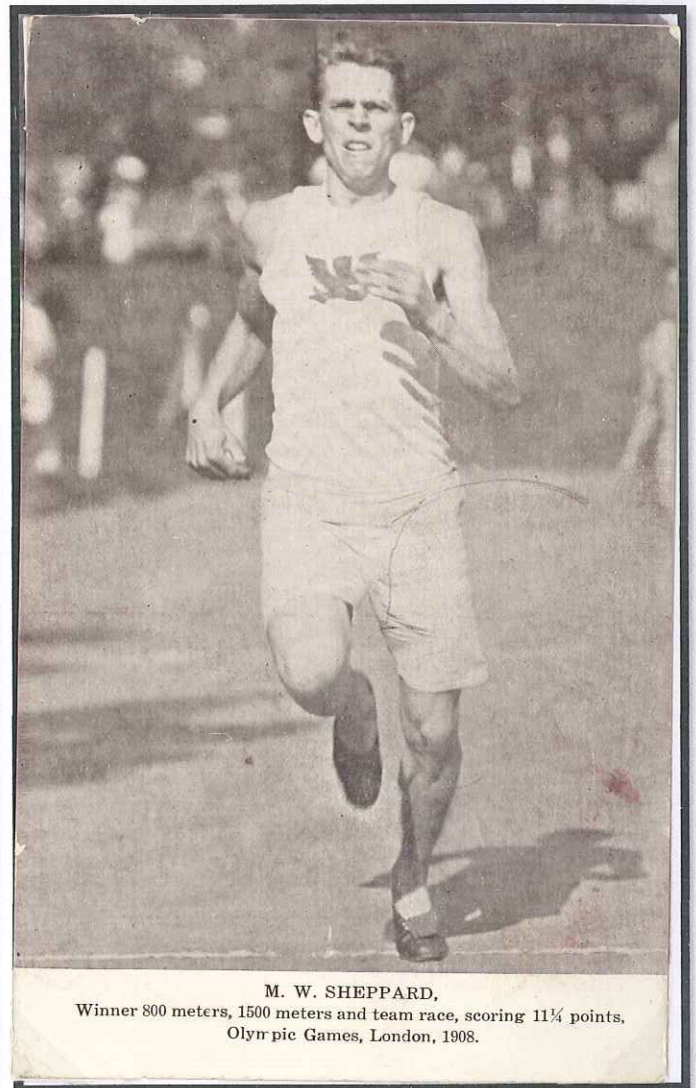
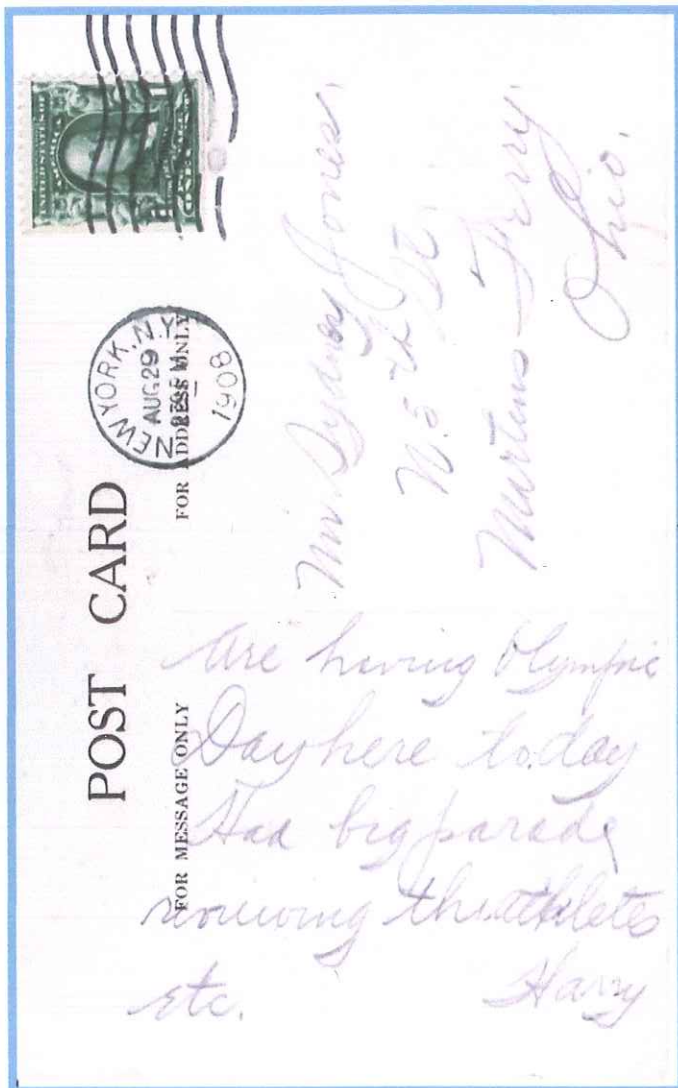
Guyana 1991:
the stamp incorrectly states 4 x 400-metres relay

Athletics – Melvin Sheppard (USA)

800 Metres – 21 July; 1500 Metres – 14 July

Both events were won by Melvin Sheppard.

He was also a member of the Gold Medal winning US team for the 1600m Medley Relay, giving him 3 Golds in all.



The message on this card, mailed from New York on August 29, 1908 reads "Are having Olympic Day here today. Had big parade reviewing the athletes etc."

14-15 July - 3 Miles Team Race

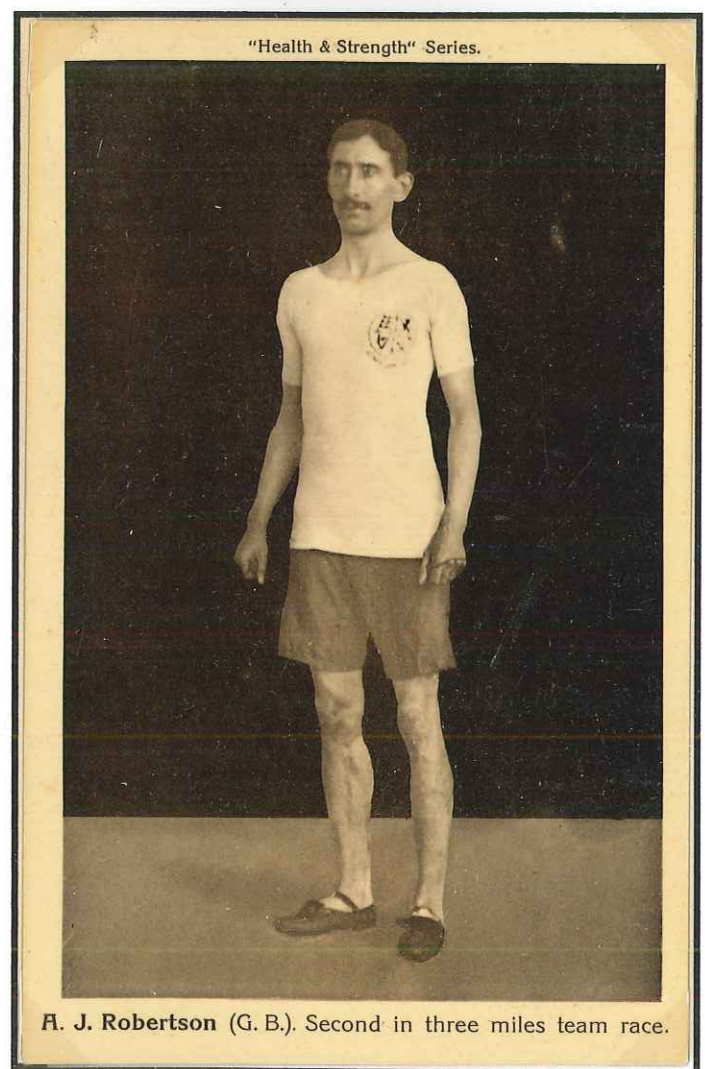
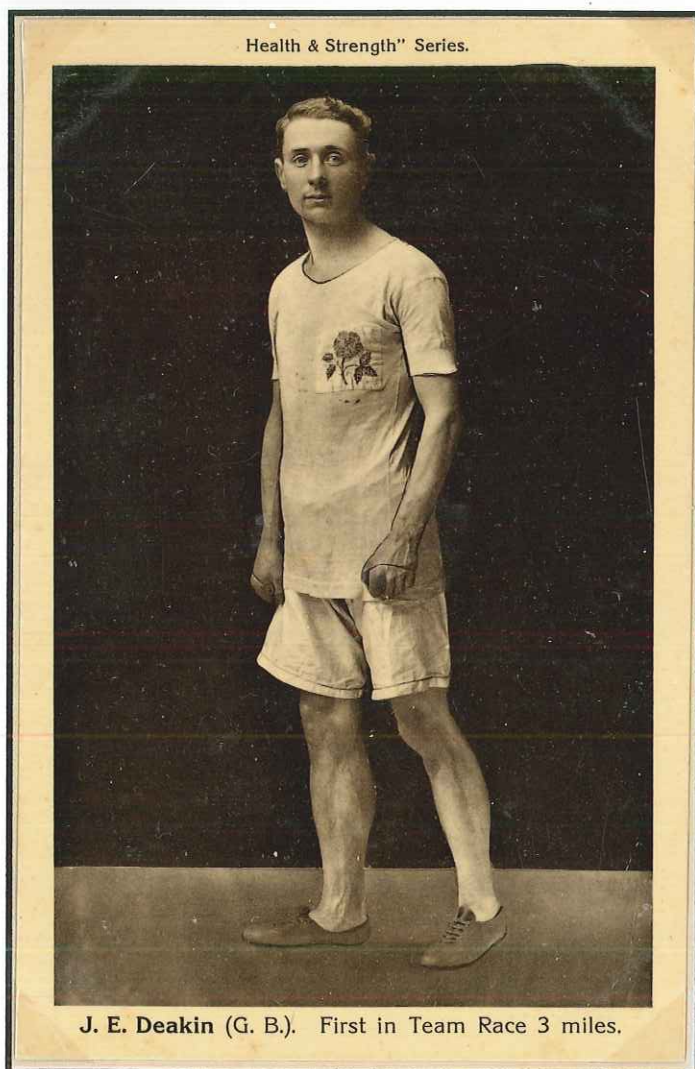
In the heats on 14 July, the fastest time was recorded by Jean Bouin of France. That evening Bouin celebrated Bastille Day rather too well in Soho. He got into a drunken fight, and was arrested and jailed. Officials secured bail and he started in the final but failed to finish.



In another heat, Dorando Pietri started for Italy, but did not finish. He went on to a dramatic marathon finish 10 days later.

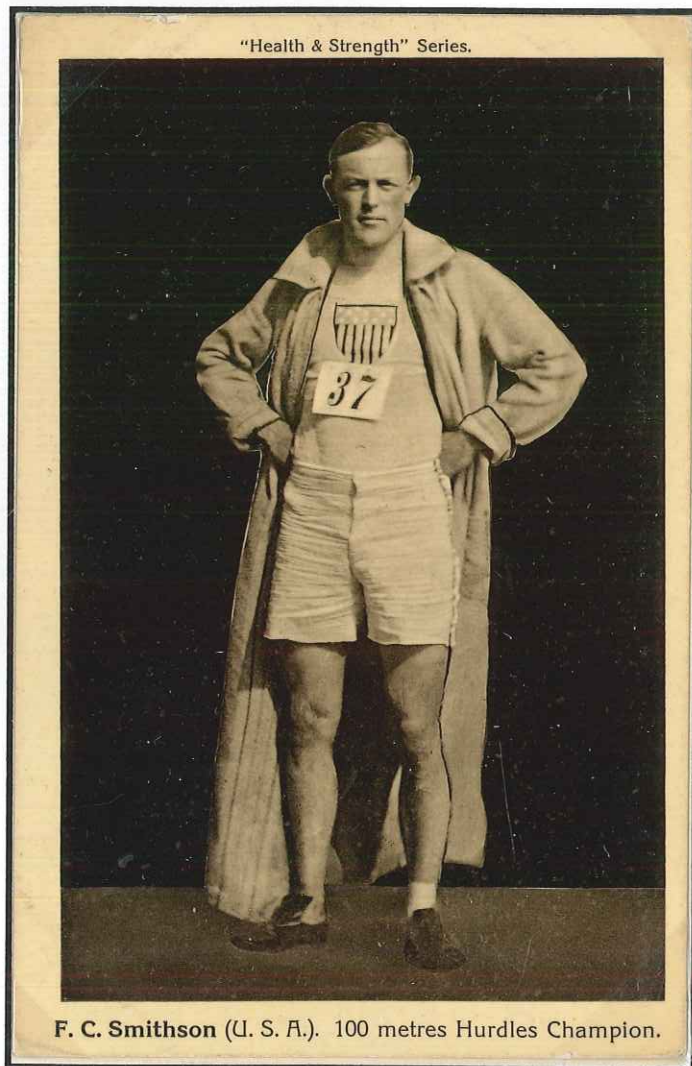


The final was won by the Great Britain Team, Joseph Deakin finishing 1st, Archie Robertson 2nd



25 July – 110 Metres Hurdles

*25 July was the last day of the athletics,
and the hurdles race was run not on the running track, but on a grass track mid-field.
It was won by Forrest Smithson of the USA in the then world record time of 15.0 seconds.*



Health & Strength postcard 08 53964
The caption incorrectly states '100 metres'.



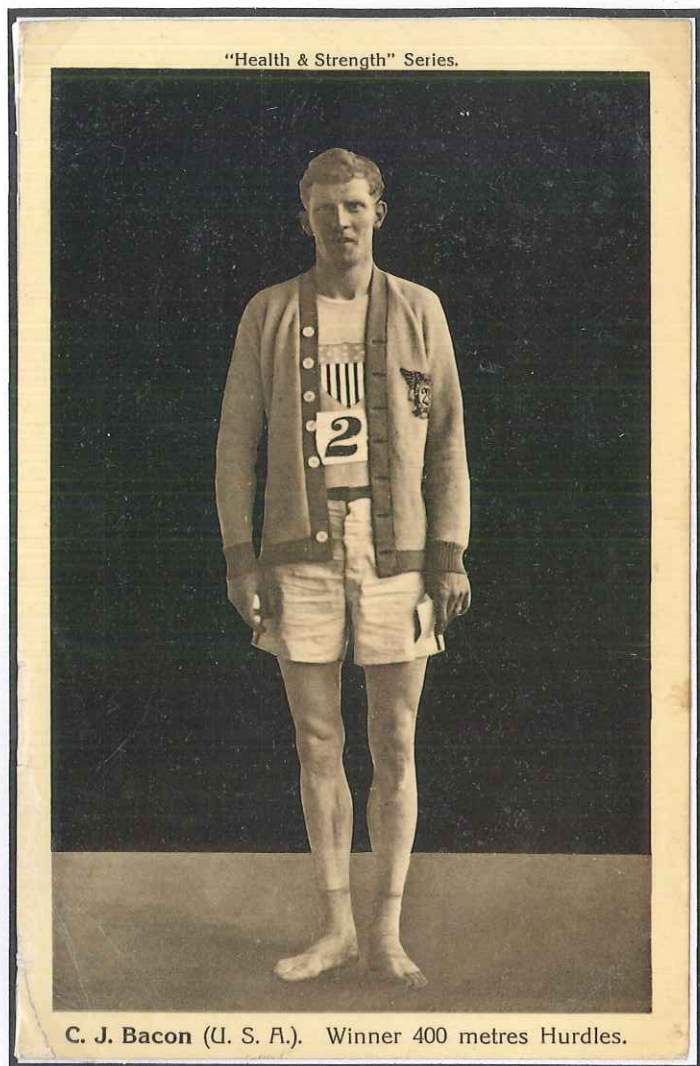
The final was run at 11:30 a.m.



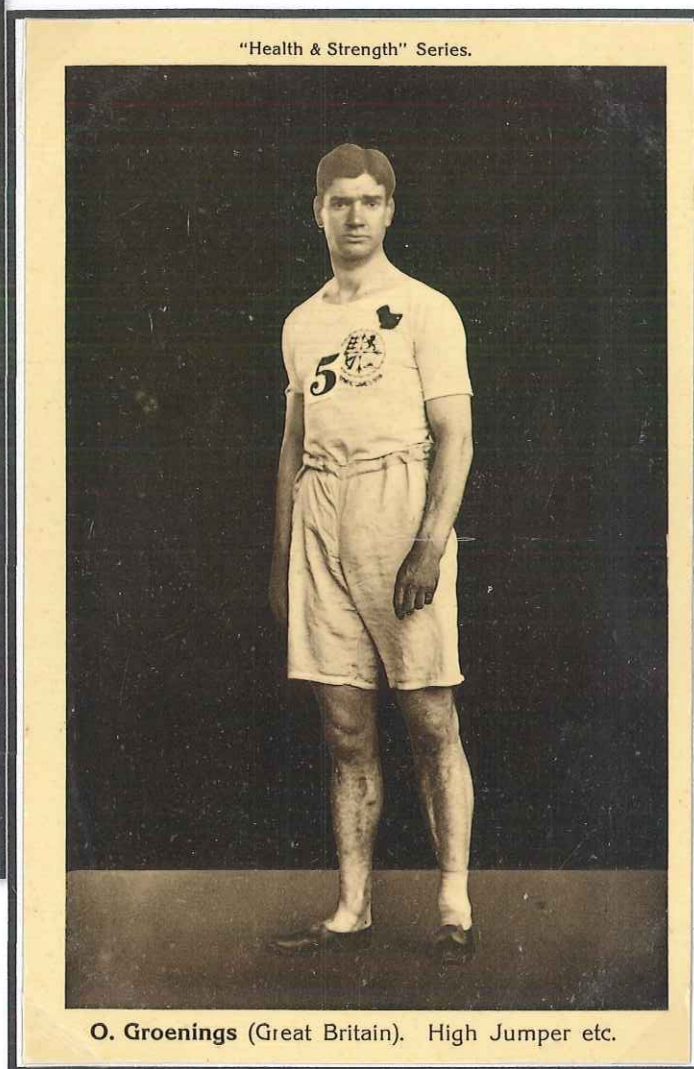
Sierra Leone
Olympic Champions Series 2003

20-22 July -400 Metres Hurdles

**Charles Bacon (USA) took Gold
in a world record time**



**Oswald Groenings (GB) was eliminated
in the semi-finals of the 400m hurdles,
as he was also in the 110 metres.**



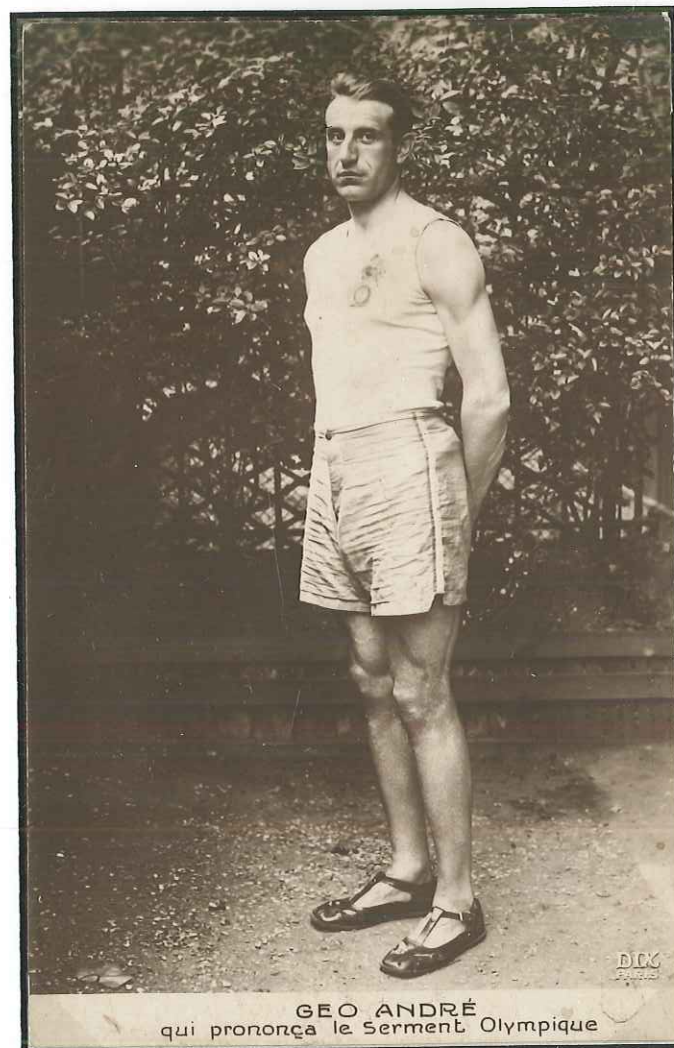
London 1908
*The Franco-British Exhibition
& the Games of the Fourth Olympiad*

21 July – High Jump

Harry Porter of the USA won the Gold Medal



George André of France shared Silver Medal with Con Leahy of Great Britain & Ireland, and István Somodi of Hungary



The Silver Medal was André's best achievement in a long Olympic career. He became a hurdler, and he won Team Bronze in the 4 x 400 metres in 1920. In 1924 he was flag-bearer for the French team & also took the Athletes Oath.

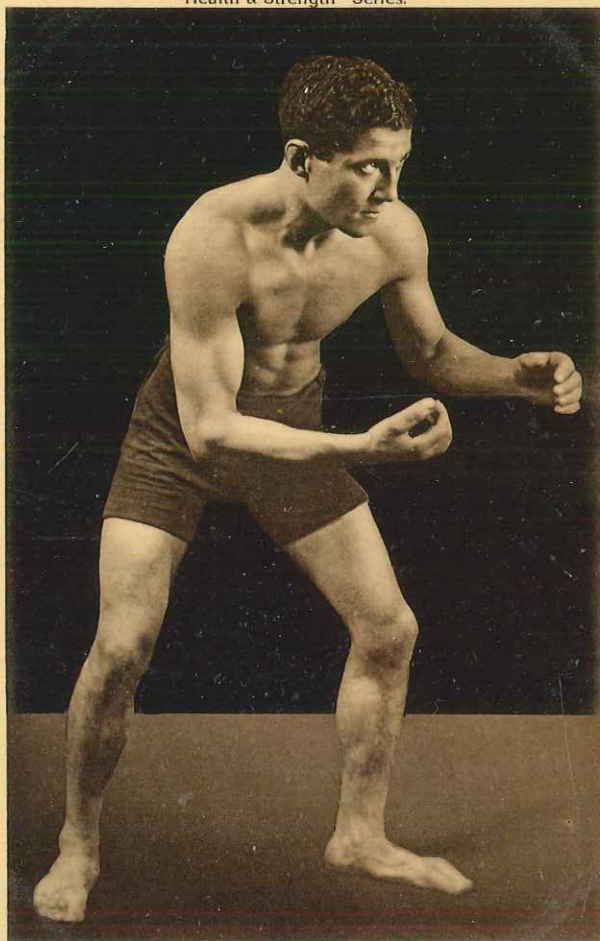
London 1908
The Franco-British Exhibition
& the Games of the Fourth Olympiad

Wrestling

Lightweight - 24 July

*Britain's George de Relwyskow fighting at his true, lighter weight class,
beat William Wood (also British) in the final*

"Health & Strength" Series.



G. de Relwyskow, Light-Weight Amateur Champion of the World
and Middle-Weight Champion of G. B.

ENGLAND'S OLYMPIC GAMES CHAMPION,
RELWYSKOW,
WORLD'S LIGHT-WEIGHT CHAMPION WRESTLER.



*Presented with the World's
Championship Prize by*



Her Majesty Queen Alexandra.

15 July - Javelin (Freestyle); 17 July - Javelin

Eric Lemming of Sweden took Gold in both events.

Freestyle, where the javelin can be launched in any way, was not held after 1908.

Lemming also competed in the Discus & Hammer

St. Vincent & The Grenadines
from 1996 Olympic Medal Winners
miniature sheet.



Eric Lemming is the only Swede depicted on this Montserrat miniature sheet which not only commemorates the 1995 World Athletics Championships in Gothenburg, but also the discovery of the wreck of the East Indiaman *Götheborg* which sank in 1745.

On this 1986 miniature sheet from Sweden Eric Lemming is depicted with the then Swedish Javelin Champion Dag Wennlund.

(Wennlund competed in the 1988, 1992 & 1996 Olympics. His best international performance was at the 1995 World Championships in Gothenburg where he was 5th.)



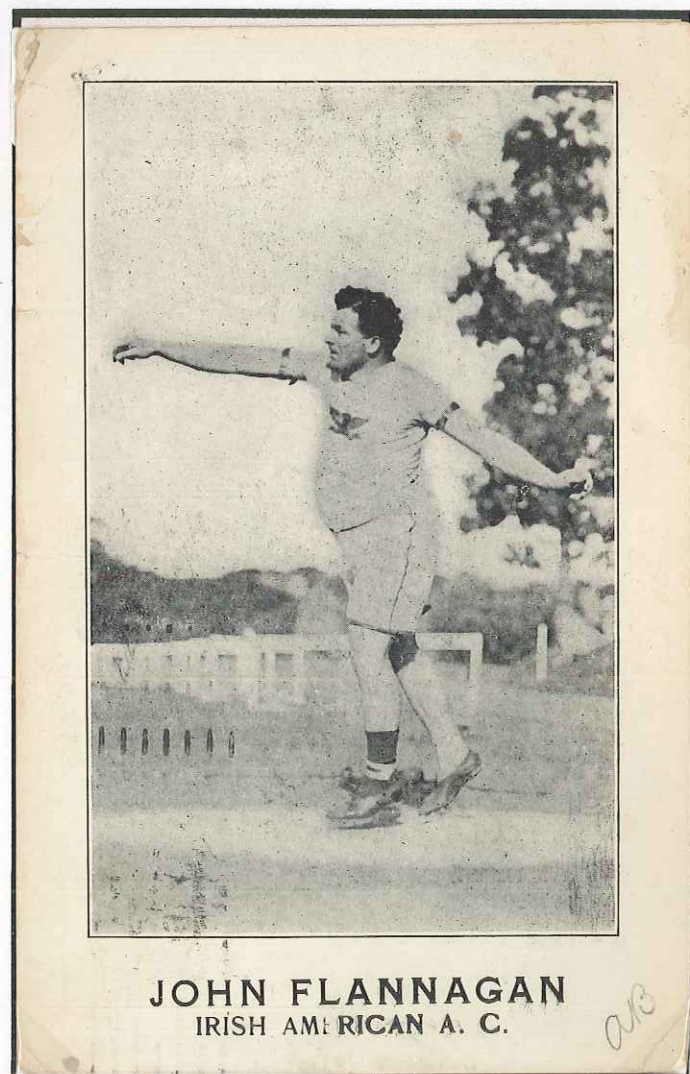
14 July - Hammer

John Flanagan was the greatest hammer thrower of the era, securing 1908 Gold, following Gold in 1900 and 1904.



Uganda 1996

Guinea 2001



Discus - Classical and Freestyle

These events took place on 16th & 18th July.

Martin Sheridan (USA) secured Gold in both events



In the Freestyle
Merritt Giffin of
the USA secured
Silver, Marquis
"Bill" Horr took
Bronze, and Verner
Järvinen of
Finland was 4th.

In the Classical
Bill Horr took
Silver, & Verner
Järvinen won
Bronze

Olympiska Spelen i London. Finnen Järvinen kastar diskus i Stadion.

15 July - Javelin (Freestyle); 17 July - Javelin

Arne Halse of Norway took Silver in the Javelin, & Bronze in the Freestyle



Olympiska Spelen i London.
Norrmannen Halse kastar spjut i Stadion.

Hugo Wieslander's best performance in the Games was 5th in the Freestyle



Olympiska Spelen i London. Hugo Wieslander i Stadion.

Jalmari Sauli of Finland was 7th in the Javelin & 8th in the Freestyle



Olympiska Spelen i London. Finnen Sauli (Saxelin) kastar spjut i Stadion.

London 1908

*The Franco-British Exhibition
& the Games of the Fourth Olympiad*

25 July – Triple Jump (Hop, Step & Jump)

*On the morning of the last day of the track and field events,
Timothy Ahearne from Dirreen, County Limerick, representing Britain and Ireland took Gold
with a world record distance of 14.92 metres*



*The official at the
right-hand edge of
the photo is Jack
Andrew of the AAA,
principal organiser
of the athletics
events.*

London 1908

The Franco-British Exhibition
& the Games of the Fourth Olympiad

20 July - Standing Long Jump

Standing Long Jump was in the Olympic programme from 1900 to 1912.

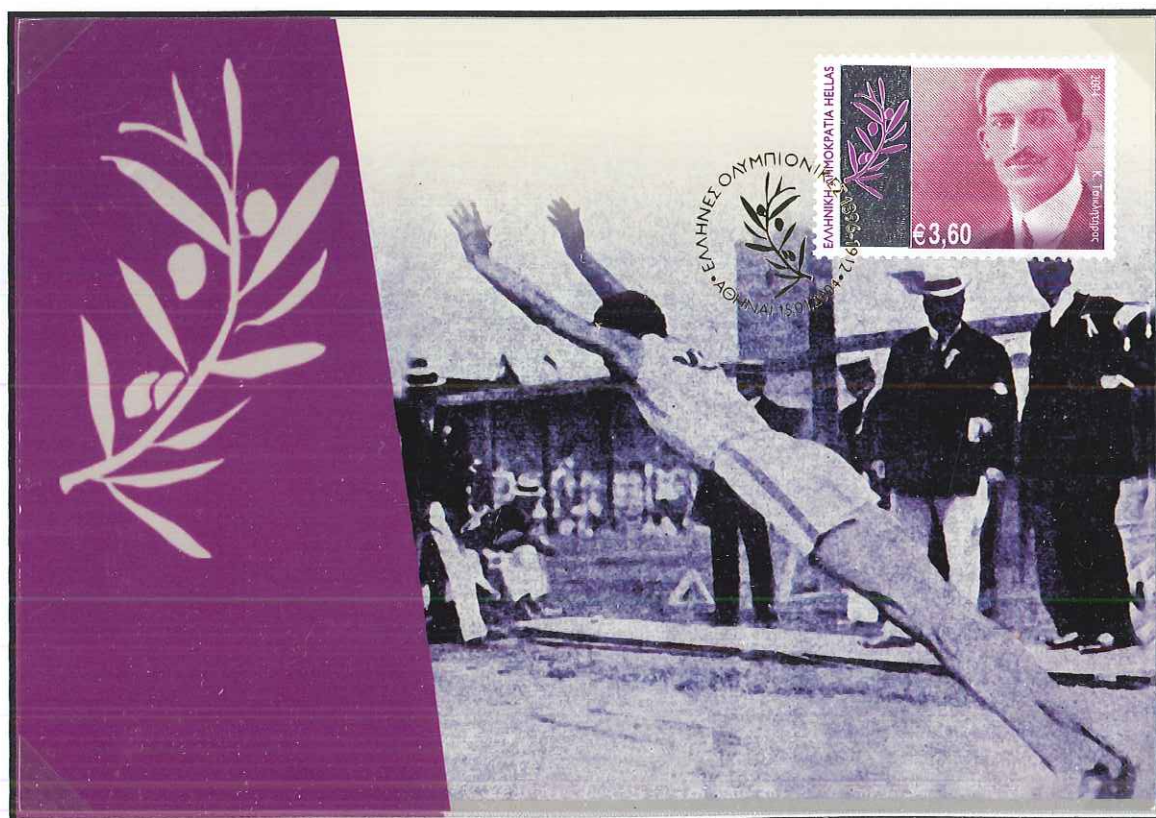
Ray Ewry of the USA won Gold every time except 1912, when he did not compete in this event.



Guyana 1991 stamp celebrating his 1900 victory

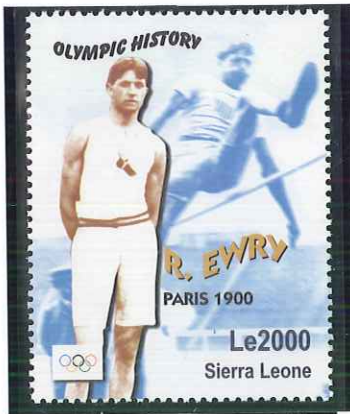


Konstantin Tsiklitiras of Greece tied for Silver with John Biller of the USA

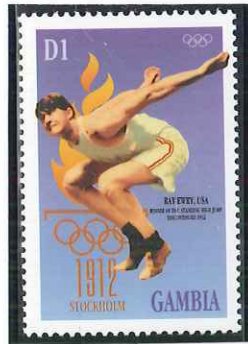


23 July -Standing High Jump

As with the Standing Long Jump, Ray Ewry was master of this event from 1900 to 1908. In all he won 8 Olympic Golds, including 2 at the Standing Triple Jump, and 2 others in 1906.



Sierra Leone 2003
Ewry's Mastery started
in 1900



Gambia 1996
The text reads "RAY EWRY, USA
WINNER OF THE STANDING HIGH JUMP
DISCONTINUED 1912"
but Ewry himself did not compete
in 1912, the Gold Medal going to
Konstantinos Tsiklitis, who won Silver in 1908



USA 1991
Recognising Ewry's
outstanding prowess



Tsiklitis competed for Greece, and his Olympic achievements were commemorated in 2004 by the Greek Post Office.

There was also a handstamp from Bratislava in Slovakia, but the link, if any, with that country is unclear.



London 1908
The Franco-British Exhibition
& the Games of the Fourth Olympiad

23 October 1908
Soccer: Third Place Play-off -
The Netherlands 2, Sweden 0

