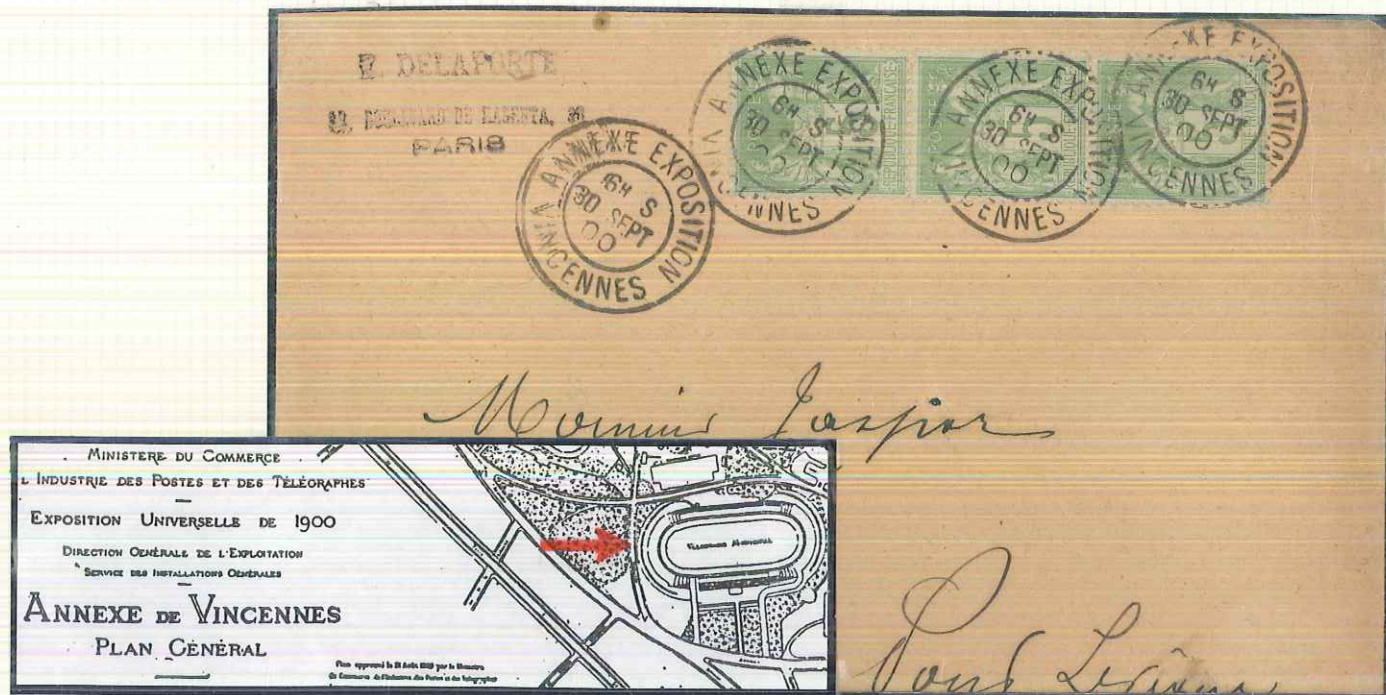


II. AT OLYMPIC ARENAS... Semi-Official Football Tournaments

Despite its popularity in many countries of the world, football was not included in the program of the 1-st Olympic Games in Athens in 1896. Football tournaments held during some of the posterior Olympic Games, however, were semi-official by character for their participants were represented by particular clubs or by town combined teams.

Football tournament of Games of the IInd Olympiad. Paris, 20., 23. IX. 1900.

The tournament was not held as was planned with 5 teams entered due to non-arrival of teams from Germany and Switzerland. Therefore only two matches took place.



The both matches were held in the infield area of the town cycle track in Vincennes (see copy of the plan above).

A temporary post office was operating there where a special hand postmark was used (see *ibid*).



The first match, which determined the winner of the tournament, took place on **September 20, 1900** (see date p/mark) when "**Upton Park FC**" of London decisively beat the champions of Paris "**Club Français**", which consisted of only French players, with the score of **4: 0**.

Football tournament of Games of the IInd Olympiad. Paris, 20., 23. IX. 1900 (continued).

Sport events of the Games, including football those, were held in the framework of the World Exhibition.

Imperforated colour proofs.



Nevertheless, the stamps from the issue by Central African Republic glorified “Upton Park FC” and proclaimed them to be the first Olympic champions in football, whereas the French stamp was dedicated to **Tony Garnier**, an architect and town-builder, and in 1900- a “Club Français” player, who played in the both matches for the team that took the IInd place.



On **September 23, 1900** (according to date postmark) a match between “Club Français” and a Belgian student’s club took place, which ended with the score of 6:2 in favour of the French.. The winner of each match was awarded with a prize - a piece of art.