Football tournament of the Games of the XVIth Olympiad. Melbourne, 23.XI. – 8.XII. 1956 (continued).

December 8, 1956. Main Stadium - Melbourne Cricket Ground. 120,000 spectators. The final of the football tournament, followed by the closing ceremony, began at 2.15 p.m.

The last sport event of the Games was the match the USSR against Yugoslavia. The only victorious **"golden"** goal scored by ilyin, forward of the USSR team, during the 48th minute, which had brought the **USSR** team the title of the **Olympic champions**.

Main Stadium

imperforated color proof

original stamp

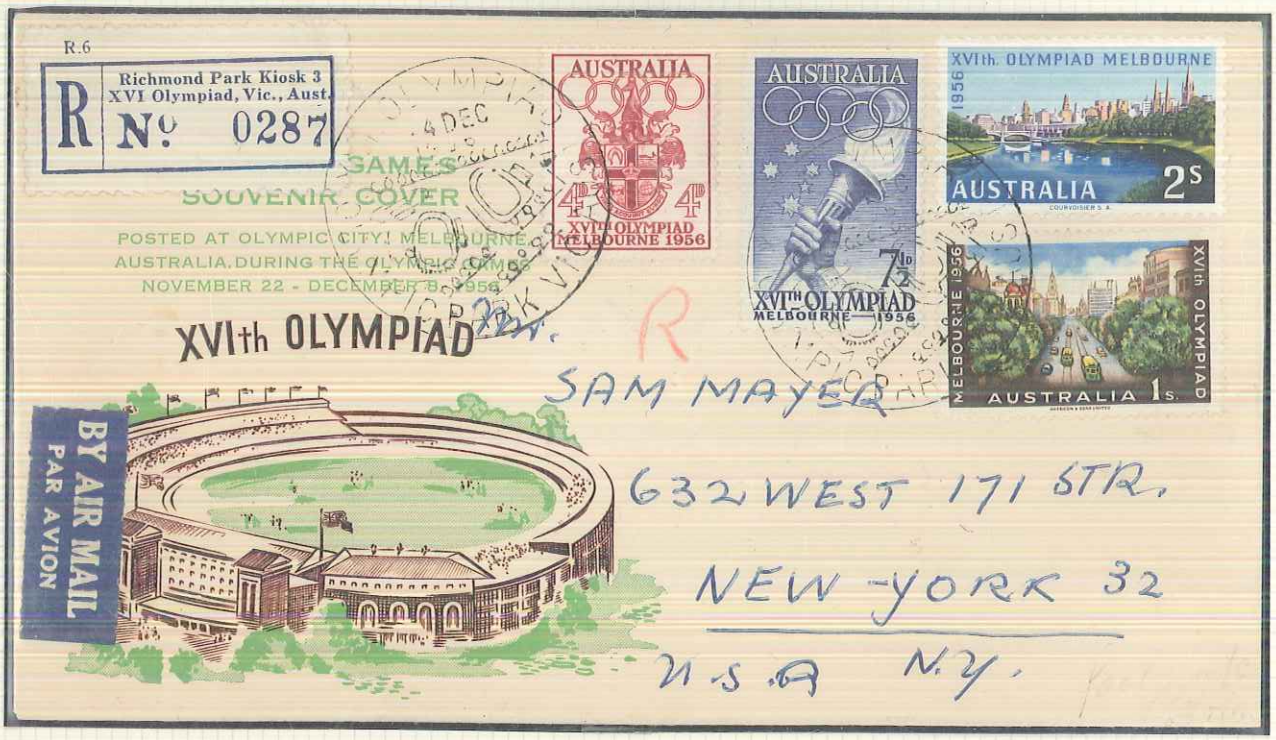
Final proof in colors original

Error – double print of black color

It was in July 1957, when the post of the USSR put into circulation a series of stamps dedicated to the Olympic victories of the Soviet Olympic team, inclusive of the Olympic football victories as well. (See **I. Netto** depicted in the USSR stamp.) In the Nicaragua stamp the Olympic champion goalkeeper **L.Yashin** is depicted. In 2000 the Post of Russia commemorated that victory once again in their issue "The XX Century".

Football tournament of the Games of the XVIth Olympiad. Melbourne, 23.XI. – 8.XII. 1956 (continued).

Beginning from semi-final matches of the football tournament were held in the Main Stadium (Melbourne Cricket Ground), which had become the main Olympic arena during the Games.



In the first semi-final match held on **December 4, 1956**, the Yugoslavian team won the victory over the Indians by **4** to **1**, whereas next day only during the extra-time the Bulgarians lost to the USSR by 1 to 2.

However, on **December 7, 1956** in the match for the **IIIrd place** the team of **Bulgaria** resolutely overplayed their Indian combatants by **3 to 0**, having been awarded with **bronze medals.**

Football tournament of the Games of the XVIth Olympiad. Melbourne, 23. XI. – 8. XII. 1956.

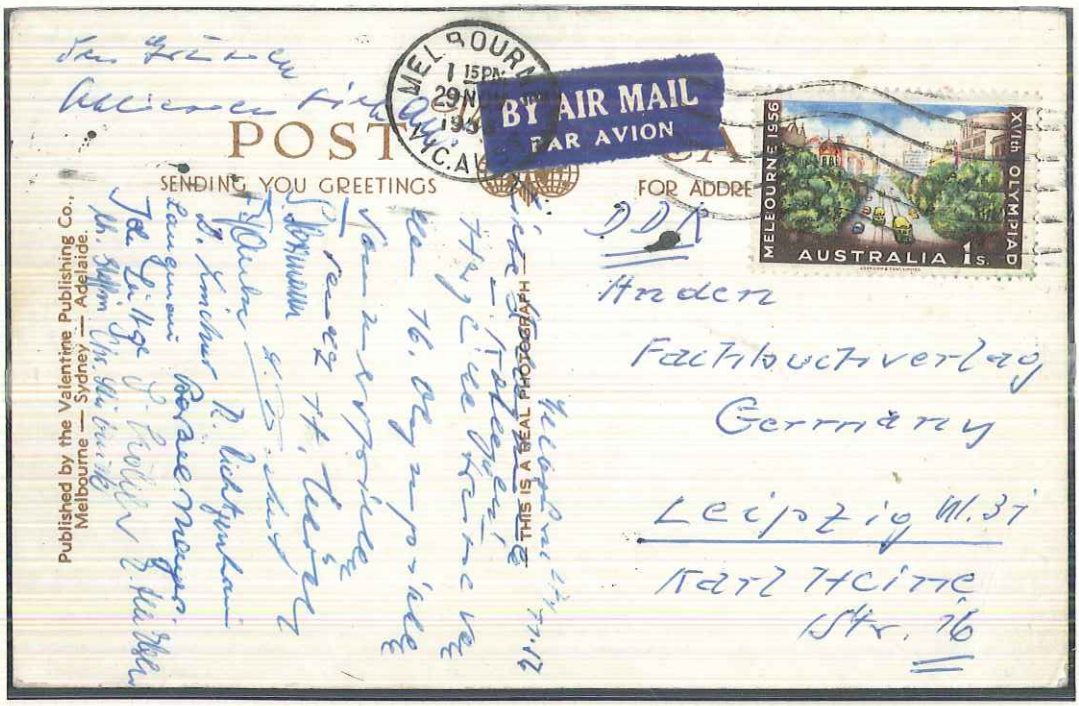
By results of the qualification games held in 1955, of 28 applicants 16 teams were qualified to enter the football tournament in Melbourne. However, due to different reasons the select teams from only 11 countries arrived to participate in the Games.

54 special hand cancellations were used at post offices situated at Olympic places of Melbourne.

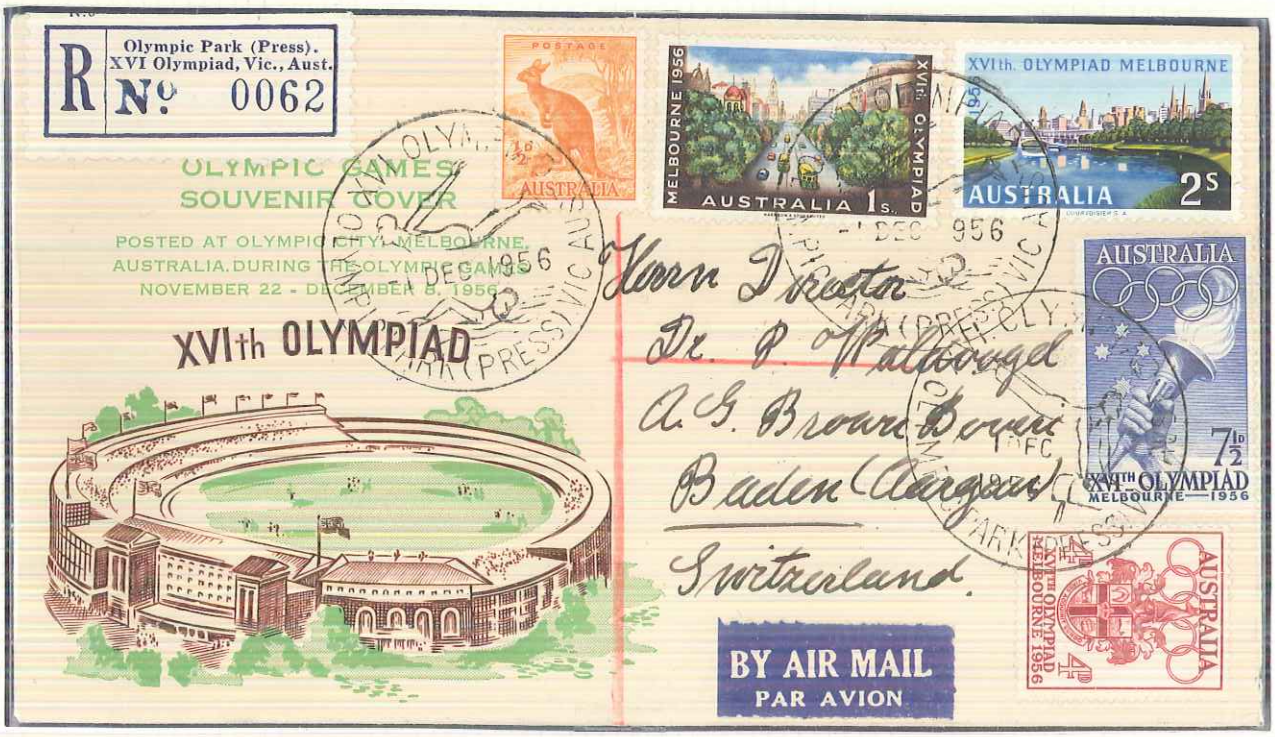
The first match of the football tournament began in the football field of the Olympic Park on **November 24**: USSR against Germany by 2 to 1. The goals had been scored: USSR – by Isaev (24th min) and Streltsov (85th min); Germany – by Habig (87th min).

Football tournament of the Games of the XVIth Olympiad. Melbourne, 23.XI. – 8.XII. 1956 (continued).

The quarter-finals were held in the football field of the Olympic Park from November 28 through December 1, one match a day.



November 29 (see date postmark): USSR against Indonesia. Neither first and second halves of the game, nor additional time were resultant. The score still remained 0:0 and the replay was fixed.



December 1: USSR-Indonesia play-off of the quarterfinal match. During the game the Soviet players had managed to break through a stubborn defense of the Indonesians…the final score of the match was **4:0** in favour of the USSR. One more match of the quarterfinal took place on December 1. That was the planned quarterfinal game: India against Australia, which ended by 4 to 2.

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Melbourne, 4. Dez. 1956.
Liebe Tante Mella
lieber Onkel Paul!
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in Melbourne. Wir haben

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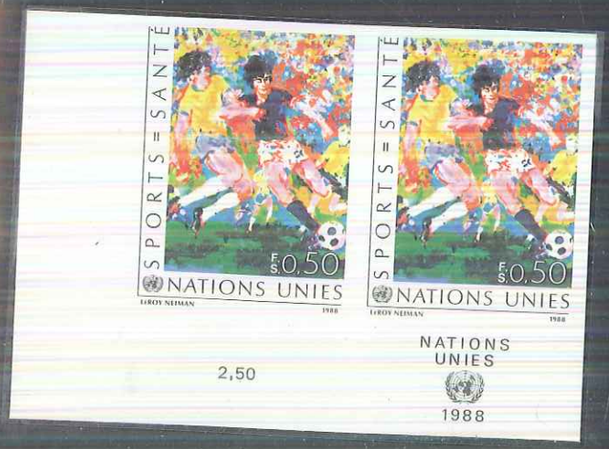
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