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.



Gymnastics Combined Team Exercises

The Gold Medal winning Swedish Team – card written by Rudolf (Rudey) Degermark:

"I thought perhaps you would like to see me in the Swedish team of gymnastic which took the first price [sic] in London"



24 July: Pole Vault

Alfred "A.C." Gilbert from Oregon (USA) and Edward Cook (USA) both jumped the world record height of 3.71m. The dramatic events at the finish of the marathon meant there was no jump-off and each was awarded a gold medal





Gymnastics Combined Team Exercises

The Gold Medal winning Swedish Team





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



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



Jalmari Sauli of Finland was 7th in the Jave



26 October 1908 Rugby Union Final in the Stadium

There were only two teams entered, so the final was the only match.

England, represented by Cornwall, were soundly beaten 32 - 3 by the Australian Touring Team

The match kicked off at 3:15 and



finished shortly after 4:30p.m.





Postcard showing the stadium, posted on 26 October 1908

Olympic Regatta Events

Phyllis Court is located near the regatta finishing line. The clubhouse was used by officials and two events were held there on the eve of Regatta Week, an open-air concert on 25 July, , and a luncheon on 27 July



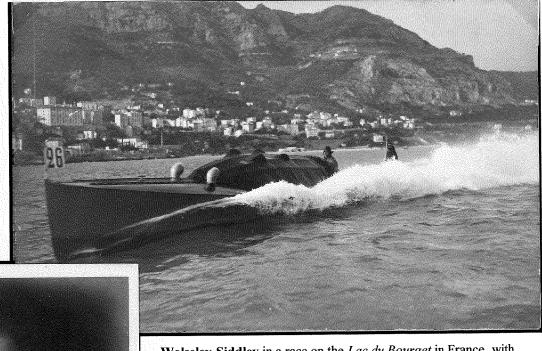
Lord Desborough, Chairman of the Olympic Organising Committee hosted a luncheon for Olympic rowing competitors and officials at his home, Taplow Court, on 26 July



Motor Boating Southampton Water28-29 August

Motor boat racing was postponed so that the Duke of Westminster & Lord Howard de Walden may take part. The first day's racing was abandoned because of bad weather.

Lord Howard de Walden did not take part on the second day. In the Open Class, the Duke of Westminster's boat 'Wolseley-Siddeley 'ran aground leaving the French boat 'Camille' to take the Gold (and only) medal.



Wolseley-Siddley in a race on the *Lac du Bourget* in France, with the town of Aix-les-Bains in the background

20 October 1908 Soccer: Round 1 – Great Britain v. Sweden

Great Britain beat Sweden 12 - 0



The postcard, posted on the day of the match, shows the Stadium after the Summer events, still with the flags flying, but with the Olympic notices removed.

It is a second printing of the card with text changed to "The Great White City, London" (instead of "Franco-British Exhibition, London, 1908")

14-15 July - 3 Miles Team Race

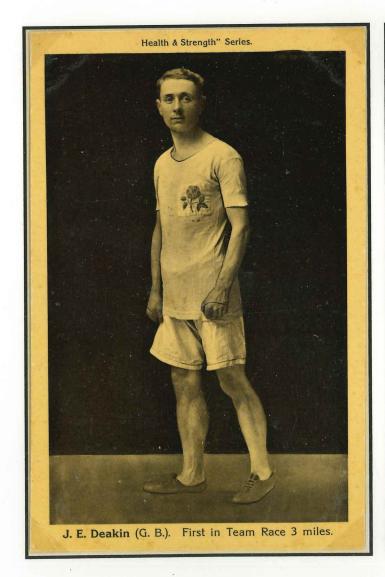
In the heats on 14 July, the fastest time was recorded by Jean Bouin of France. That evening Bouin celebrated Bastille Day rather too well in Soho. He got into a drunken fight, and was arrested and jailed. Officials secured bail and he started in the final but failed to finish.

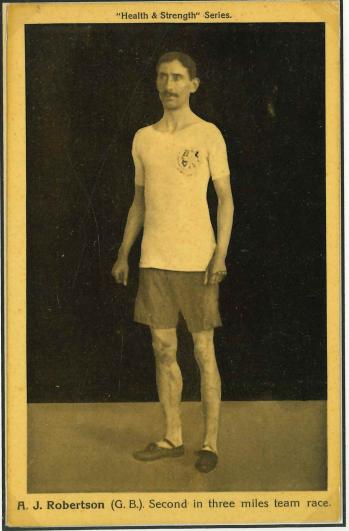


In another heat, Dorando Pietri started for Italy, but did not finish. He went on to a dramatic marathon finish 10 days later.



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



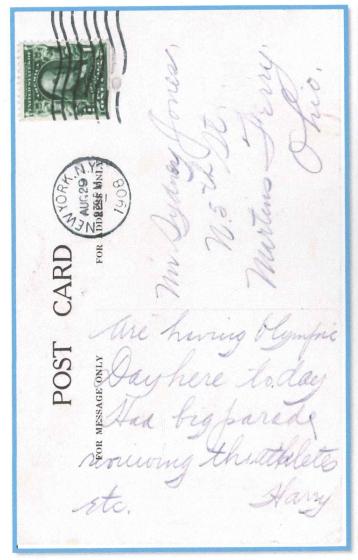


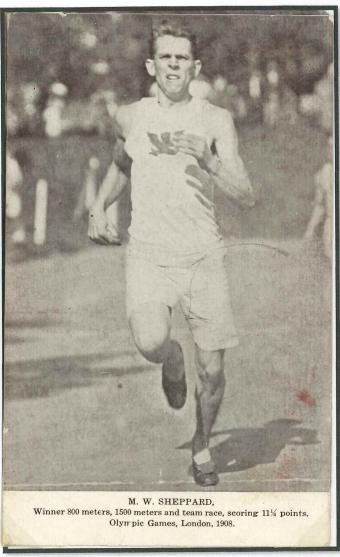
& the Games of the Fourth Olympiad

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, givng him 3 Golds in all.

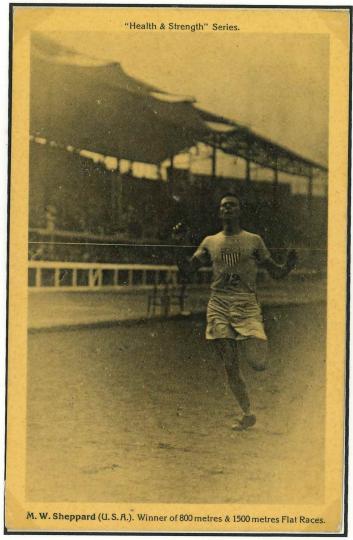




The message on this card, mailed from New York on August 29, 1908 reads "Are having Olympic Day here today. Had big parade reviewing the athletes etc."

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.



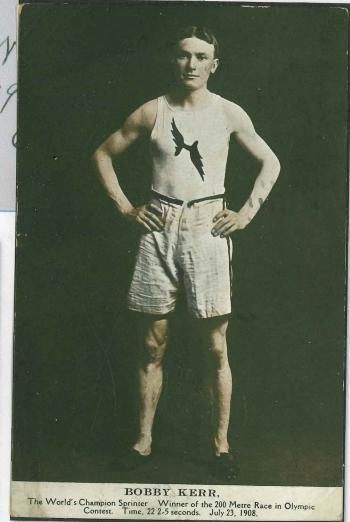
Guyana 1991: the stamp incorrectly states 4 x 400-metres relay

23 July - 200 Metres Final

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



Thought you would like to have Bobby's picture m! C.

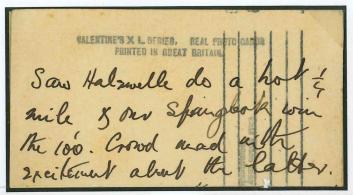


Nathaniel Cartmell of the USA took Bronze. (He was 4th in the 100m & won Gold in the

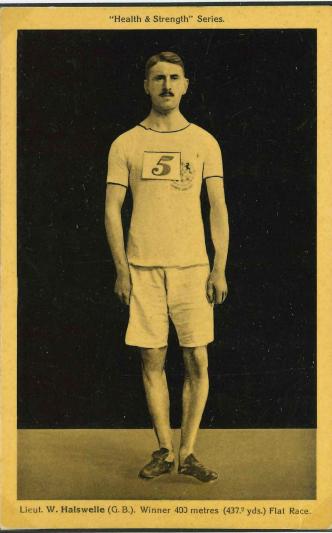
1600m Medley Relay race)

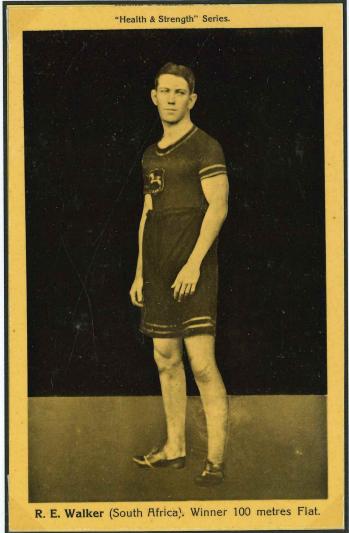


Athletics – 100m and 400m 22 July 1908



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







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.

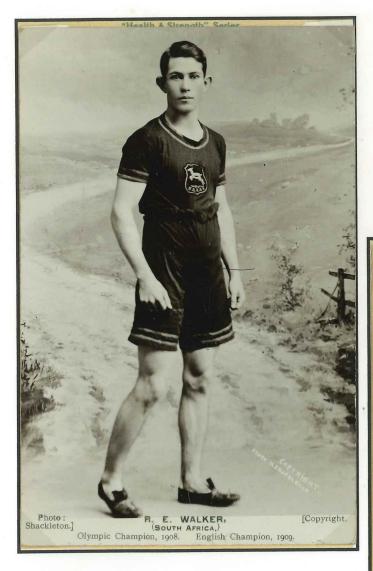
The Americans refused to allow their two other finalists, Robbins and Taylor, to take part in the re-run on 25 July, so Halswelle ran alone for a walk-over Gold Medal.



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)







Gymnastics - Alberto Braglia Gold

FEDERAZIONE GINNASTICA DITIALIA CELEGRAZIONE SERCANNIVERSARIO MASCITA TALEERTO BRAGLIA" MGDENA 26/27 NOVEMBRE 1983

C.O.N.I. 20194 ROMA



POSTE ITALIANE

9

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



palazzo delle federazioni sportive viale tiziano, 70 · 00100 Roma FEDERAZIONE GINNASTICA DEITALIA

CELEFFAZIONE SEGNANTIVERSARIO NASCITA "ALEERTO BRAGLIA" 10194 ROMA MGDENA 26/27 NOVEMBRE 1983

C.O.N.I.

25.11.83

POSTE ITALIAME



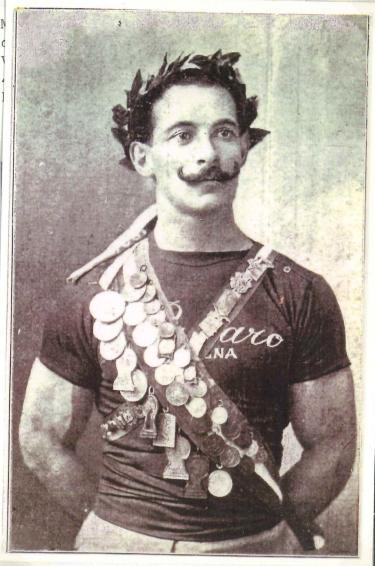
Gymnastics - Alberto Braglia Gold

Centenary of his birth 2009





RACCOMANDATA



14 July -Hammer

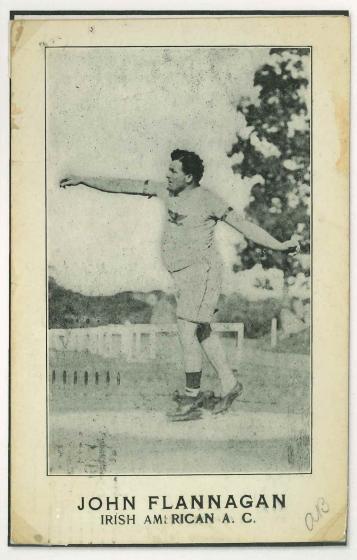
John Flanagan was the greatest hammer thrower of the era, securing 1908 Gold, following Gold in 1900 and 1904.



Uganda 1996

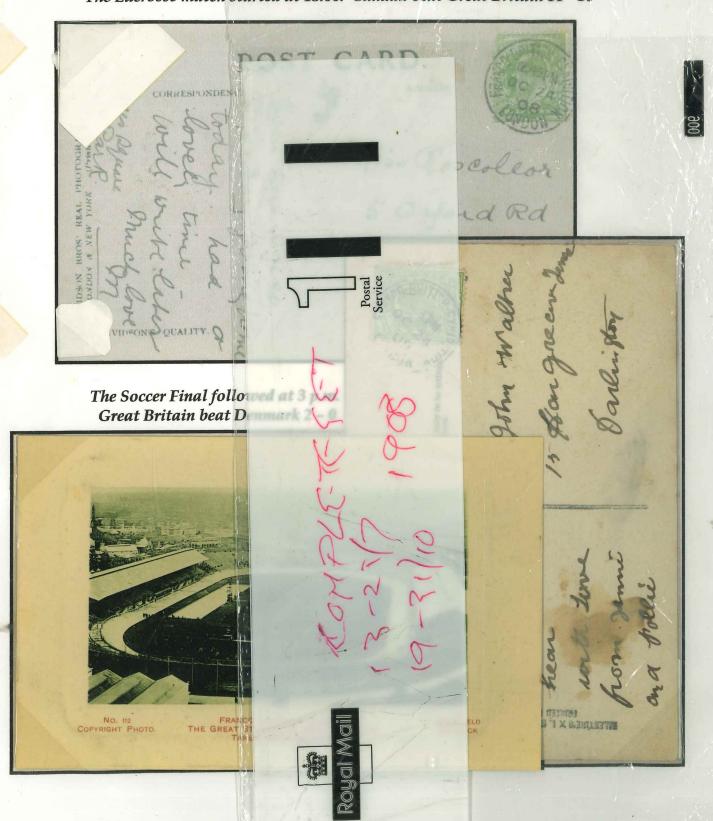
Guinea 2001





24 October 1908 Lacrosse & Soccer Final in the Stadium

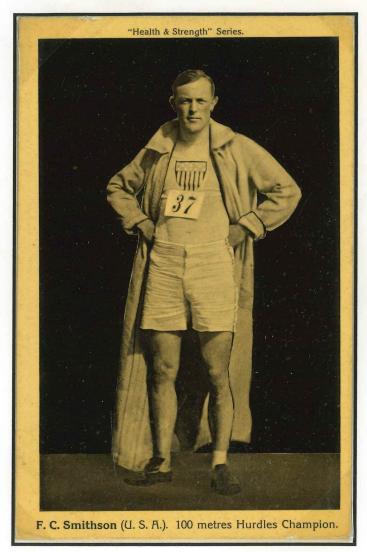
The Lacrosse match started at 13:00. Canada beat Great Britain 14 - 10



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.



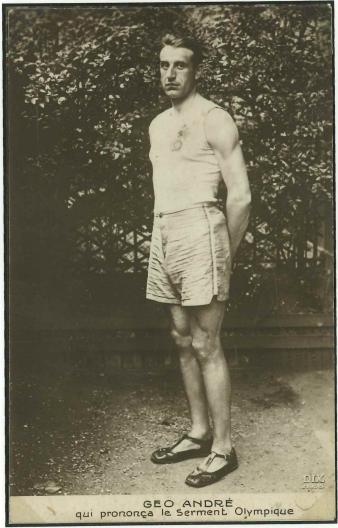
Sierra Leone Olympic Champions Series 2003

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

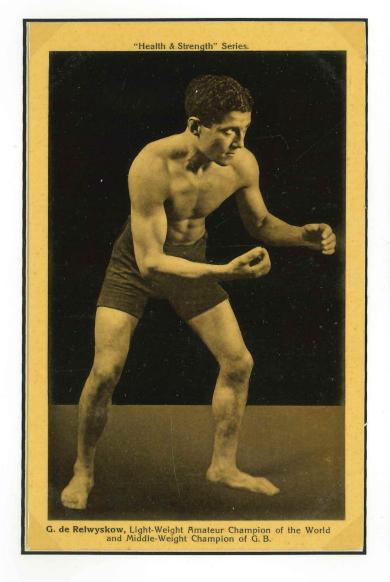


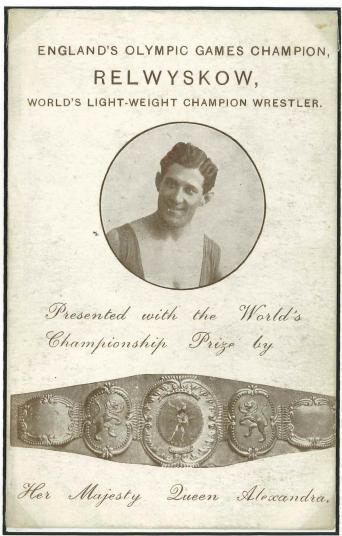
The Silver Medal was André's best achievement in a long Olympic career. He became a hurdler, and he won Team Bronze in the 4 x 400 metres in 1920.

In 1924 he was flag-bearer for the French team & also took the Athletes Oath.

Wrestling Lightweight - 24 July

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



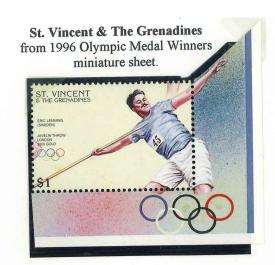


15 July - Javelin (Freestyle); 17 July - Javelin

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



FRIIDROTT 40

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PRIS 11 KRONOR

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.



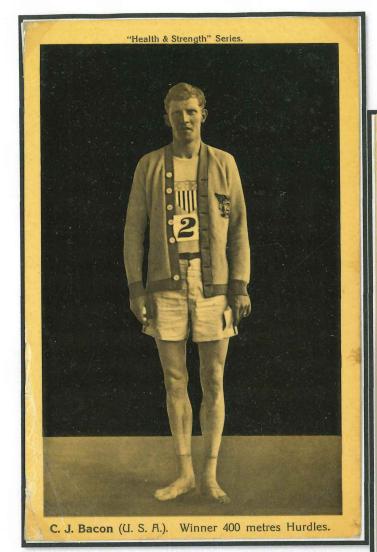
President Roosevelt meets Oregon Olympians

Those presented included A.C. Gilbert, pole vault Gold, Daniel Kelly, long jump Silver, and Forrest Smithson, 110 metre hurdles Gold



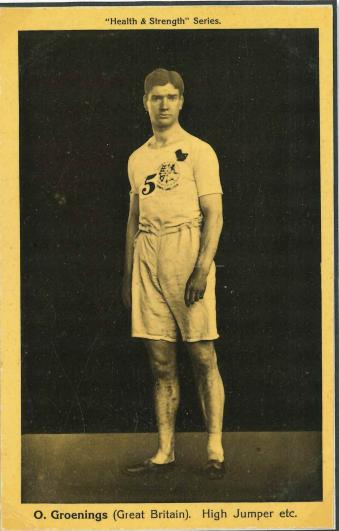


20-22 July -400 Metres Hurdles



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

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



17 July 1908 Tug-of-War & 10-Mile Walk

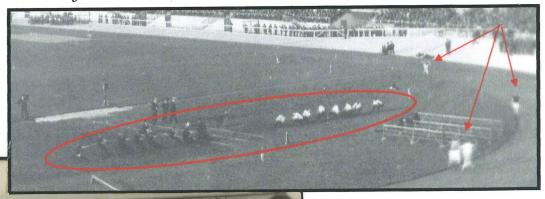
In the first match, Liverpool Police defeated the USA in a single powerful pull.

The Americans protested strongly that Liverpool wore illegal boots, but the protest failed.

In reality, the Americans were a "scratch" team little used to tug-of-war.



The semi-finals started at 17:30. At one end of the field Liverpool pulled to victory over Sweden. At the other end London City Police Team beat 'K' Division Metropolitan Police.

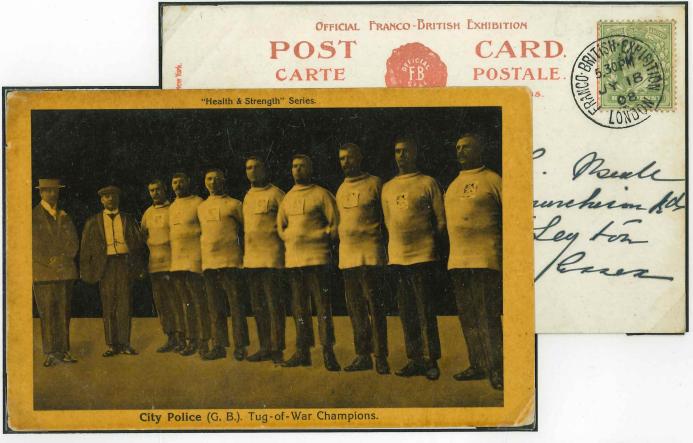


As they pulled, the 10-Mile Walk final was nearing its conclusion. George Larner (GBR) won Gold

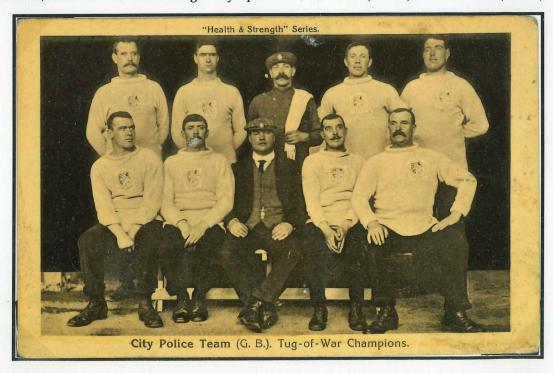
Although this postcard was published for the Imperial International Exhibition of 1909, the coincidence of the two events shows that the photo was taken at about 5:40 pm on 17 July 1908.

18 July 1908 Tug-of-War Final

Great Britain & Ireland – the London City Police Team beat Great Britain & Ireland – the Liverpool Police Team 2 pulls to nil



Cards of the victorious team, from the Health & Strength Olympic series, no. 53977 (below) and no. 53980 (above)



The Planned Stadium

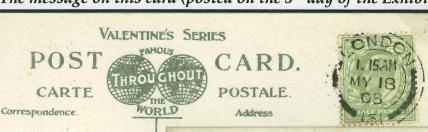
It was agreed with the British Olympic Association that a stadium would be built and that it would provide the principal venue for the Olympic Games.

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!



FBE restmante 29/7

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



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

This who a beautiful place when all complete, but there is a los of brook to do at it get. I mishing you are all them.

NCO BRITISH EXPRIBITION OFFICIAL POST CARL PORT CARL



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 MAYEMIR.

16, QUEEN STREET, MAYFAIR.W.

June 5. 1807.

My charder. I am much obliged to Eur for guer letter. but es I have 35 already. I am efraid I eaun It undertake any more Committees It is proposed to have an International ambulance Supplace ui she Ogrupic farres arena before the Sames commence, alud would make it come time in fune; the fames begue in July que sund Sexbonas?

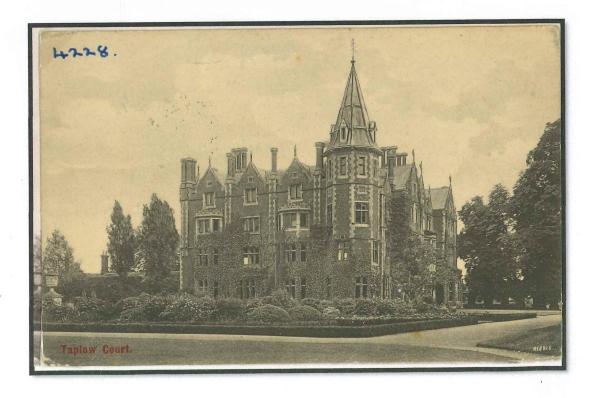
Lord Desborough

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 epée.



The family seat was at Taplow Court in Buckinghamshire



Athens 1906 Games – London asked to replace Rome

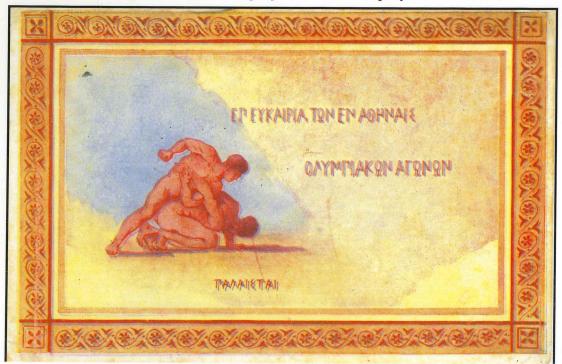
At the 1904 IOC Session in London the 1908 Games were awarded to Rome. In 1906 Rome withdrew because of devastation around Naples from an eruption of Vesuvius.

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")

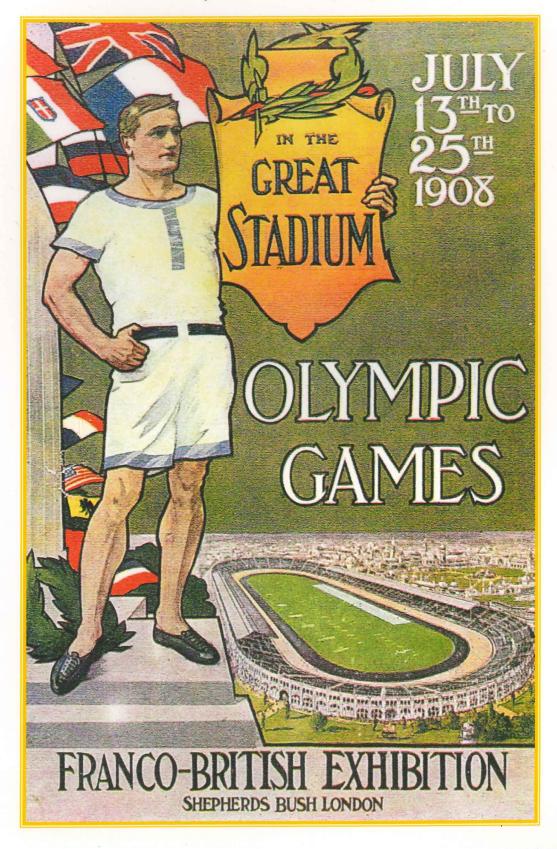


London 1908

The Franco-British Exhibition

હ

the Games of the Fourth Olympiad



Boxing - 27 October

The boxing tournament was a late addition to the Olympic programme, being accepted by the British Olympic Council only on 31 March 1908.

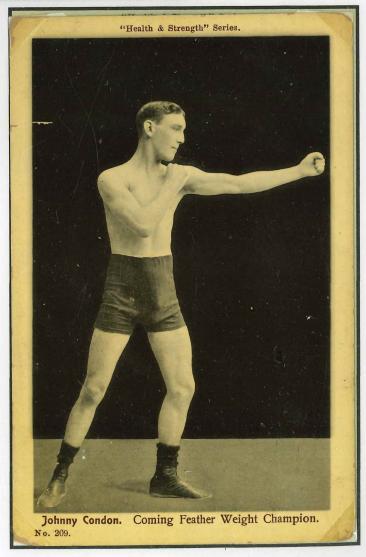


There were 5
events held on the
one day,
27 October, at the
Northampton
Institute,
Clerkenwell,
starting at 11:25
a.m. and finishing
at 10:30 p.m.

Bantamweight

Britain's Johnny Condon took the silver, losing in the final to Henry Thomas, also British

Johnny Condon later moved up to featherweight



DAVIDSON BROS. REAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SEPIES. LONDON & NEW YORK. (Printed in England)

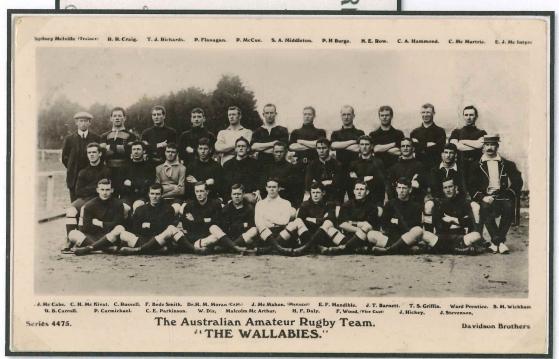
Dear Berlie
hope this
will find you well
working as it session leaves us. These
leaves us. These
down bamborne
last Saturday with
bornwall of the 25th CA

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

Rugby

Australia had played Cornwall on 8 October, and beaten them 18-5.

Their Olympic win was more emphatic: 32-3

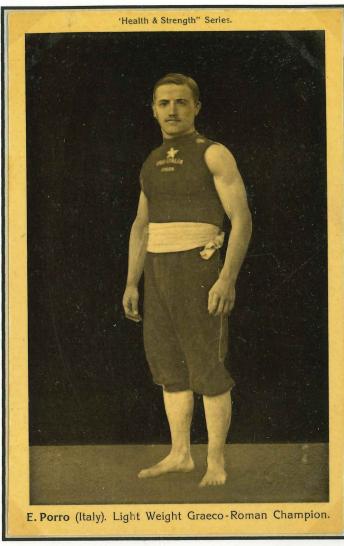




Græco-Roman Wrestling

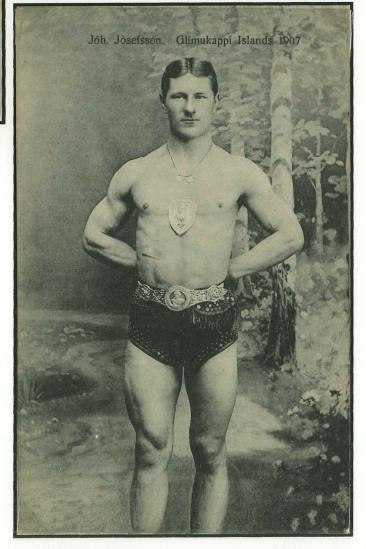
Lightweight 23 & 25 July

On the last day in the Stadium for the summer events Enrico Porro of Italy won Gold



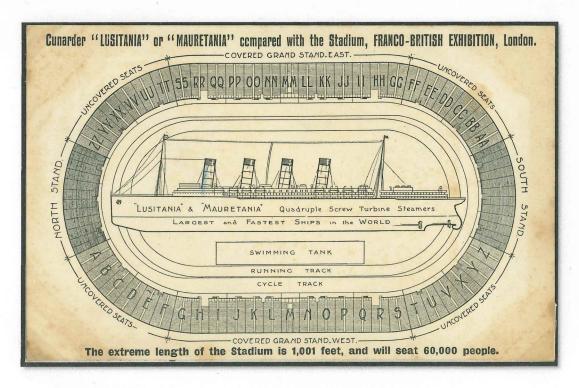
Middleweight 20, 24-25 July

Gold went to Frithiof Mårtensson of Sweden. Jóhannes Jósefsson of Iceland was 4th. He was unable to compete for the bronze medal because he broke his arm in the semi-final. (Iceland at the time was a Danish province)



The Stadium, the Lusitania & the Mauretania





Discus -Classical and Freestyle

These events took place on 16th & 18th July. Martin Sheridan (USA) secured Gold in both events









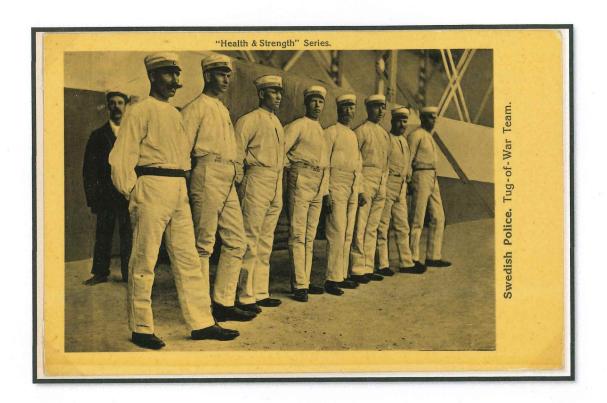
In the Freestyle
Merritt Giffin of
the USA secured
Silver, Marquis
"Bill" Horr took
Bronze, and Verner
Järvinen of
Finland was 4th.

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

Tug of War

The Swedish National Team lost to Britain's Liverpool Police team 2-0.

They were drawn to challenge Britain's 'K' Division Metropolitan police team for third place but did not appear



Wrestling

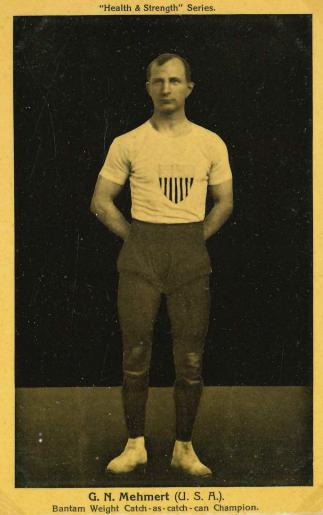
Wrestling was not on the original programme but was added after protests. First Catch-as catch-can was included, then Græco-Roman (which attracted more entries).

Bouts took place on two mats laid out at each end of the swimming tank in the Stadium.



Catch-as-catch-can: Bantamweight – 20 July

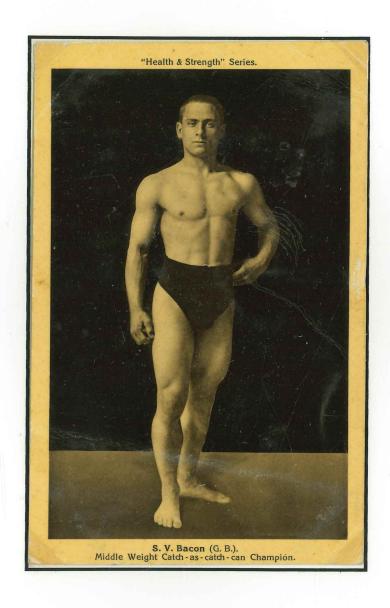
George Mehnert of the USA easily beat William Press of Great Britain in the final



This card by **Health & Strength** (08 53980) incorrectly spells the name as **Mehmert**

Wrestling Middleweight - 21 & 22 July

Stanley Bacon of Great Britain took Middleweight Gold, beating George de Relwyskow, the only boxer competing in two weight classes



Wrestling Heavyweight – 23 July

George Con O'Kelly won the heavyweight competition in the Stadium on 23 July.

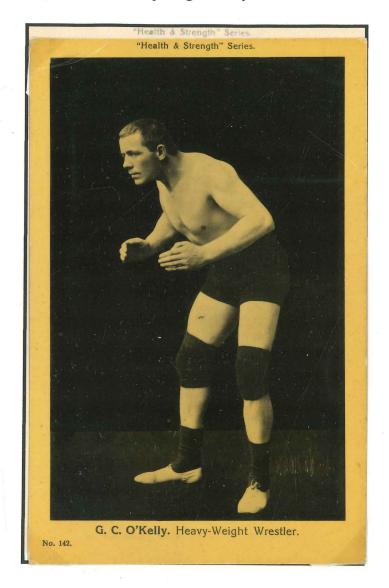


Figure Skating 28-29 October - The Men's Competitions

The Men's competition was won by Ulrich Salchow of Sweden. Russia's Nicolai Panin-Kolomenkin had beaten Salchow earlier in the year and when Salchow

was marked ahead of him in the compulsory figures he withdrew in protest. In the Special Figures competition on 29 October Panin-Kolomenkin won the Gold Medal.



Panin-Kolomenkin is depicted on the first stamp in this sheetlet of Russian sporting heroes of the Twentieth Century.

29 October - Pairs

Anna Hübler & Heinrich Burger of Germany won the Gold Medal



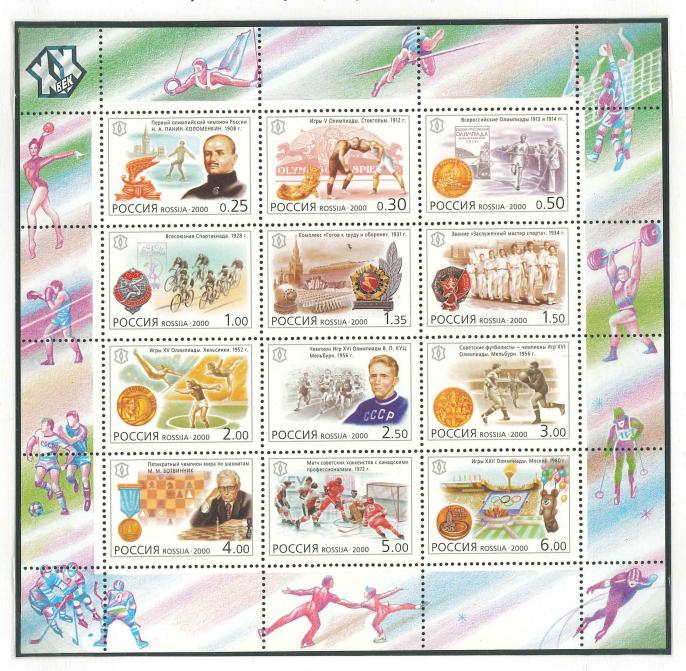
London 1908

The Games of the Fourth Olympiad

Figure Skating

The men's competition was won by Ulrich Salchow of Sweden.
Russia's Nicolai Panin-Kolomenkin had beated Salchow earlier in the year and when Salchow was marked ahead of him in the compulsory figures he withdrew in protest.

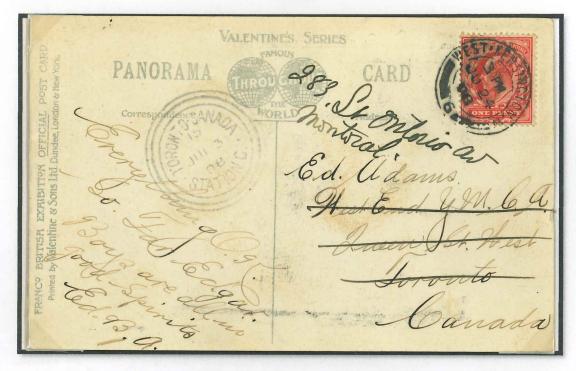
Panin-Kolomenkin is depicted on the first stamp in this sheetlet of Russian sporting heros:



24 July: Pole Vault

Edward B. Archibald of Canada tied for 3rd place with Charles Jacobs (USA) and Bruno Söderström (Sweden)

The decision to suspend the competition without jump-offs resulted in each receiving a Bronze Medal.

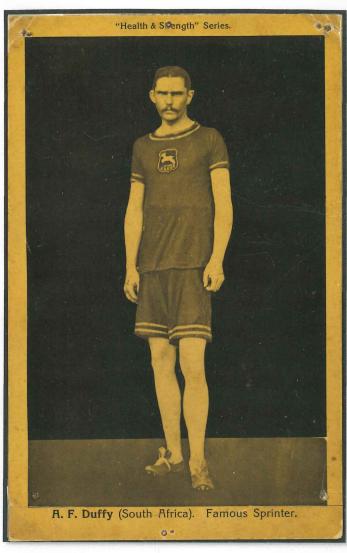


Panorama card of the near-completed stadium sent by Archibald on 24 June, 3 weeks before the Opening Ceremony

"Boys are all in good Spirits Ed.B.A"



Athletes

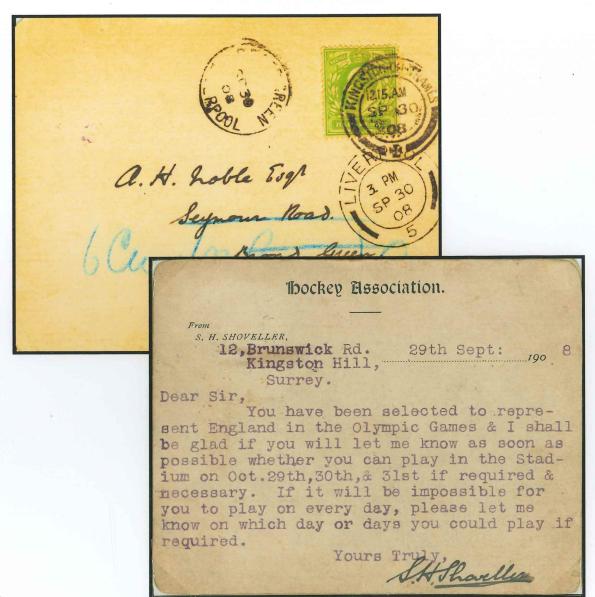


Duffy competed in the 100m and 200m



Laurence Kiely competed in the 110m hurdles. He was also entered for the hammer but did not compete

Hockey 29-31 October 1908



Alan Noble was invited to play hockey for England for the first time in 1908.

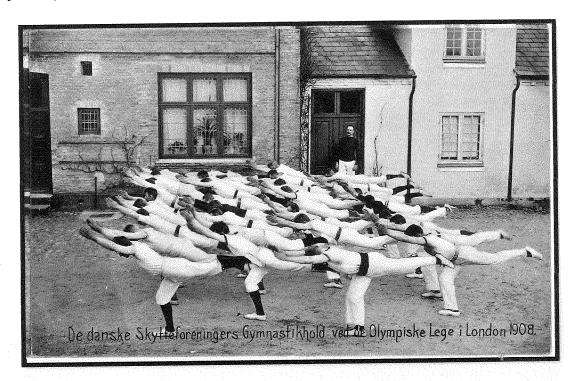
He accepted the invitation, and played as left half in all three of England's matches.

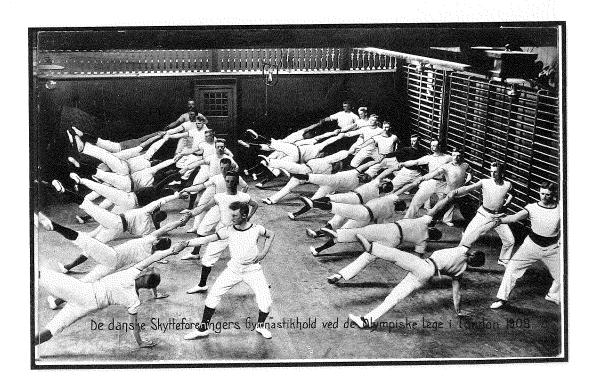
Although he did not score any of England's goals, he played well, and his performance in the final drew favourable mention in the report in the Guardian on 2 November.

ENGLAND BEATS TRELAND IN OLYMPIC FINAL.

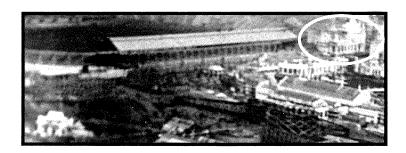
Gymnastics Combined Team Exercises

The Danish Team took $4^{\rm th}$ place. They also participated in the demonstration during the opening Ceremony on 13 July





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.