

PEYONCHANG 2018

di Thomas Lippert

As a German Sport fan I am used to handle with the bad mood of the German reporters who could not report in the first days about a German medal. But the contrary just happened in Pyeongchang and although present only at one...two sports sites per day and a little bit far away from the news tickers the well-feeling also touched me. But I do not want to speak about the German sports results. The general interest in Olympics and in Olympic philately encouraged me to start again to Winter Olympics, this year the journey led to Korea although the political atmosphere at the Korean peninsula was highly critical still some weeks before.

As the forerunners of the Pyeongchang issues are commonly known, here the focus shall be at the games and should answer the question what happened during the Olympics from the collector's perspective.

Exhibitions

There have been celebrated three little exhibitions. Although they have been very far away from reaching the excellent Olympic exhibitions supported by the IOC /FIPO and the organizing committees, let's praise the active philatelists at first, who contributed by their initiative promoting the Olympic games and the sports philately.



In the little Postal Museum situated in the Seoul main building of Korea Post the museum itself was responsible for it. It's a fine place for promoting philately, explaining posters speak about the production of stamps in a style which can interest the youth. There are also tables and chairs for preparing mail in a good atmosphere.

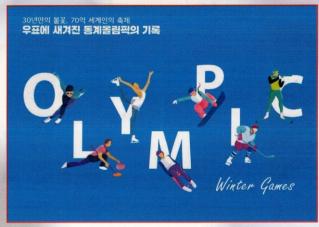


Well informed Korean collectors and dealers have been attracted, probably especially because of the special postmark which allowed them to prepare maximum cards, and I am sure we will find some of them in the common internet auctions platforms.

The text of the special postmark with the curling motive points to the Winter Games of Pyeongchang.

The Postal Museum contributed also a postcard.





An Olympic tourist (and collector) could not miss the exhibition no. 2. It was established in the General Post-Office of the Olympic site Gangneung, where all the ice competitions (except luge and bob) have been held.

This exposition – supported and organized by the national, regional and local philatelic associations – displayed a lot of very interesting sports collections from Korea.



People from the Gangneung Postal Culture Association took care of the exhibits from Febr. 1st up to the end at Febr. 1sth. They also brought with them some collectibles worth to have a look at.



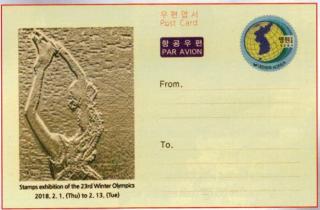




Figure skating and biathlon have been the motifs of the private stationeries

And once again figure skating has been selected for a personalized sheetlet and for a special exhibition postmark dated Febr 1st, the opening of the stamp show.





And finally a special meter promoted the show in Gangneung (although used at Seoul C.P.O) for the 23rd Winter Mega Festival. Although this meter doesn't use the "holy words" it is an Olympic postmark, without any doubt. Mr. Yeon Jaecheol, the responsible of the group from Gangneung Postal Culture Association, gave me this cover with his beautiful calligraphy. Do you have phantasy enough to recognize a freestyler doing one of his loops?

Korea Post does a lot for inspiring the people of a country with high end communications standards to come back to the traditional way of sending greetings – per mail. In this sense the wide spread offers for personalizing stamp

products must be seen. It seems there are no strong limits for usage of images, even of Olympic symbolica. But this wasn't the problem for editing this beautiful sheetlet which also promotes the stamp show in Gangneung.



And finally exhibition no. 3 in the city of Damyang has to be mentioned, far away from the Olympic region.



First day of the new Olympic Sheet

For a ticket holder of the opening ceremony the day's highlight at Friday 9th, 2018 was set. But also the second heart, which beat in my chest, came to its right in the morning. The way led to the GPO of Gangneung, located not too far away from my temporary Olympic home.





The Gangneung GPO with a big Olympic poster

The exhibition provided a good ambience. Among the exhibitors was Park Jeong-Kye, well-known in the Olympic collectors' world. I was deeply enjoyed that he found the time to come from the country's South to a meeting in Gangneung after long years of an exchange contact.



A team from the OBS (Olympic Broadcasting system) was present at the first day to report about the stamp sheet's release. Park Jeong-Kye was one of the interviewed partners.

First day cover, correctly franked with 700 Won for an airmail letter up to 10g to Europe. The US ZIP code explains why the cover arrived with delay in Germany.



Sheetlet with a torch and a medal motive, released at Febr 9th, 2018

Among the interested visitors coming to the General Post-Office at the first day even an Olympic champion could be seen: IOC member Irena Szewinska-Kirszenstein from Poland, collecting Olympic medals from 1964 to 1976 like other people stamps. Good to know that inside the IOC some members are interested in the philately... Without an autographe she couldn't leave.



Postcard with the special postmark (GPO Gangneung): This postmark, although used at first day, was no special first day postmark.



About the special Olympic postmark and its usage still will be reported.

Postal Stationeries

In the GPO – like in other post-offices during the Olympic period – three sets of postal stationeries have been offered.

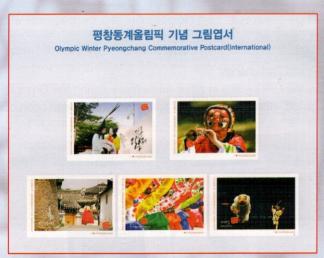


Set with the five motives for domestic delivery:
Lotus Flower Tea - Mask of Korea Jangdokdae at the Myeongjae House Winter Landscape of a Temple
Autumn Hues of Chaemijeong - Pavilion

Olympic stationery of the domestic set, sent to abroad from the Olympic Village Gangneung with additional franking. The NVI (No Value Indicated) imprint covers the domestic mail rate (330 Won), the additional postage – in this case covered by a postal meter – should be 100 Won. Erroneous 130 Won have been added.



Also for the international traffic five cards have been issued. The slogan I ♥ Pyeongchang is reflected by different "typical Korean" images showing aspects of the region's cultural life.



Gwanno Mask Dance - Mask - Bukchon Hanuk Village Chunhyang Festival - Lion Dance

The relation to the Olympics can be found at the address side.



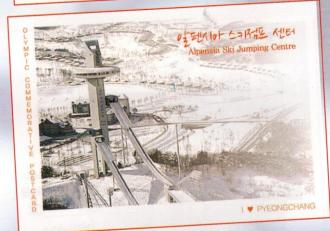
Stationery for the international traffic: The NVI covers the tarif of 430 Won.

Last but not least: If purchasing more than 24.000 Won (around 24\$) the clients could get a give away from the shelter staff: a set of three cards showing Olympic sites. As NVI we meet again the known postbox/heart image.











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