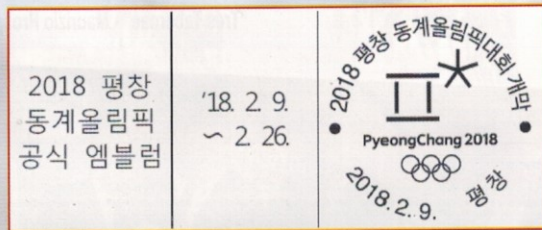


PEYONCHANG 2018

di Thomas Lippert

The usage of the Olympic postmark

Starting with a - may be - surprising statement: There has been only ONE postmark in a uniform Olympic design. Disappointing for all those specialized sports collectors awaiting something more for their specialized collections.



But there is a peculiarity. The postmark has been officially introduced at the first day of the last sheetlet and the opening day of the Olympics. It is tradition in Korea that such first day postmarks are available at the bigger post-offices in the country around 10 days. In this special case the post announced that the postmark will be used during all the period of the Winter Games, i.e. up to Febr. 26th – a special Olympic bonus for that postmark.

The table illustrates the distribution of that postmark to the offices of the country's provinces.

○ 기념우표, 엽서 발행
- 대한민국 국지연구 30년, 2018 평창 동계올림픽대회, 2018 평창 동계올림픽대회 개막

번호	시도청	경인청	부산청	충청청	전남청	경북청	전북청	강원청*	제주청	Memorial postal date stamp distribution
1	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	Seoul
2	부산광역시	인천광역시	대구광역시	대전광역시	광주광역시	충청남도	충청북도	경기도	강원도	41
3	서울특별시	인천광역시	부산광역시	대전광역시	광주광역시	충청남도	충청북도	경기도	강원도	33
4	서울특별시	부산	대전	대구	광주	충청	전남	전북	제주	23
5	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	22
6	서울특별시	부산	대전	대구	광주	충청	전남	전북	제주	19
7	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	11
8	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	14
9	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	2
10	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	188
11	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
12	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
13	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
14	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
15	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
16	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
17	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
18	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
19	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
20	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
21	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
22	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
23	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
24	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
25	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
26	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
27	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
28	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
29	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
30	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
31	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
32	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
33	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
34	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
35	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
36	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
37	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
38	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
39	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
40	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
41	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
42	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
43	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	
44	서울특별시	인천	부산	대전	광주	대구	전남	전북	제주	

* 2018 평창 동계올림픽 및 동계올림픽 개막 날짜도장 : 강릉중앙동, 경포대, 강릉교동, 진부, 대관령, 봉평 추가배부

In the hosting province Gangwon (*) 14 locations are mentioned. Except the province's capital Chu Cheon there are Wonju, Gangneung, Sokcho, Donghae, Yeongwol, Jeongseon, Yangyang, Cheolwon, Taebaek, Pyeongchang, Hongcheon, Hwacheon and Hoengseong.

Special attention should be given to the additional information in the lines below.

There can be read, that six post-offices have been additionally equipped with that postmark during the Olympics. If you have a look at the map: all these post-offices are in the very neighbourhood of Olympic sites or have a certain connection with the Games.

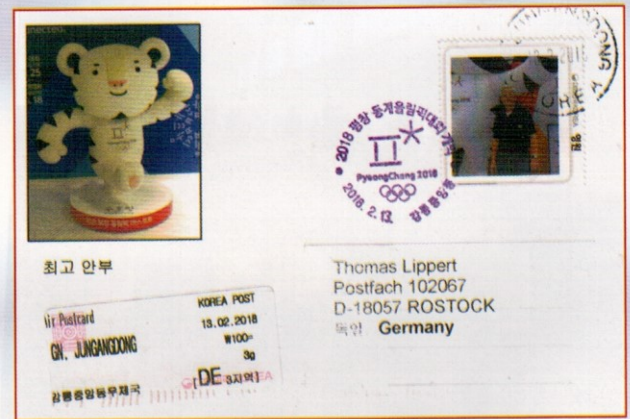
Seen from that perspective we should consider the cancellations from these offices with special interest, as they have additionally introduced there only for the Olympics and because of the special connections to the Games.

But, of course, some of the locations among the usual 14 offices of the Gangwon province can't be ignored. In my opinion Pyeongchang and Gangneung would be as sites a MUST, of course, and also Wonju as traffic hub for the games should be included in the list of "important" locations. Totally we can count 194 (188 + 6) post-offices which used the discussed postmark – although this still isn't the last word about it.

Some items from the GPO in Gangneung have been presented yet from the first day of the sheet.

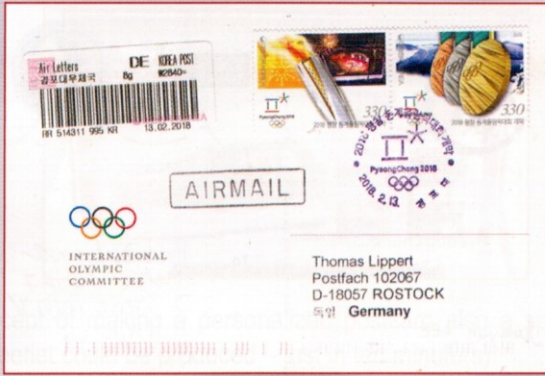
Some more examples out of the "group of additional 6 ones" will now follow.

Post-Office Gangneung Jungandong (in the neighbourhood of the city's traditional fish market, a tourist attraction).



Greeting card from PO in Gangneung Jungandong: franked by a personalized stamp (330 Won) and additional postal meter for covering the remaining amount of 100 Won.

Post-Office Gyeongpodae (close to the East Sea and the city's beach).



Registered cover from the PO Gyeongpodae: The postage of 3500 Won is paid by a pair of the sheet and the registration label with value imprint of 2840 Won.

Post-Office Gangneung Gyodong (mailing centre, close to the Olympic Village Gangneung and the Media Village).



Stationery posted at the PO in the mailing centre Gangneung Gyodong.

Post-Office Daegwallyeong in Hoenggye

In the so-called Mountain Cluster the Olympic Stadium for the Opening and Closing ceremonies has been temporarily erected. The PyeongChang Medals Plaza in front of the stadium was the place for the most of the medal ceremonies with the handing over of the medals (in contrast to the so-called flower ceremonies at the competition sites).

What makes this post-office a special one seen from our point of view: it is located only around 500 m away from this important site.



At the counter table of Kwan Joong Kim from the staff of the post-office special Olympic presents of Korea Post can be seen.



The special gift from KOREA Post (not only at this post-office): an Olympic postal stationery for international mail. The clients have been requested to take a photo from themselves and mail it to the office's email address, there it has been immediately printed at photo paper and fixed at the front side. It was a procedure of around 10 minutes only – with a beautiful philatelic memory as result.

Unfortunately my time table did not allow to make a visit at the post-offices of Jinbu (the important KTX transfer station in the Mountain Cluster) and in Bongpyong, where in the Bokwang Phoenix Park the snowboard events have been held.

Temporary Olympic Post-Offices

Following the official announcements of the Organizing Committee there should have been post-offices or mailing services in the both Olympic Villages, the MPC (Main Press Centre) and the Media Village in Gangneung. It was close to the reality, but only close...

Olympic Village Gangneung

The special post-office has been situated in the so-called Mixed Zone together with other service and entertainment facilities for the members of the teams (and not fully occupied volunteers).



Like often seen it has been well frequented by the athletes and team officials. Sending greetings at the traditional way is not out.



View into the postal facility during the lunch break



Lee Jungyung from the staff of the PO



Personalized postcard with Jungyun

Time now to have a look at the Olympic postmark which has been used there: The Korean signs mention Gangneung as location, not mentioning the real place of usage. It is the same postmark which has been used at the GPO in the city! It will be difficult to differ the items later where they are from. Specialists can only be sure with the dates from Febr. 15th to 19th: These days have been public holidays because of the Korean New Year celebrations, and consequently public offices have been closed.



Postal meter and ordinary postmark used in th OVL in Gangneung: all they are from the GPO equipment.

Seen, but unfortunately not really understood: this special postbox for SLOW MAIL: Clients which posted their mail inside that box could be sure, that the mail will be forwarded at Dec 1st and would reach in time before Christmas. Now my friends will miss the Christmas greetings from Korea.





Except of making a personalized postcard also a special sheetlet could be produced - just in ten minute(s)!

Olympic Village Pyeongchang

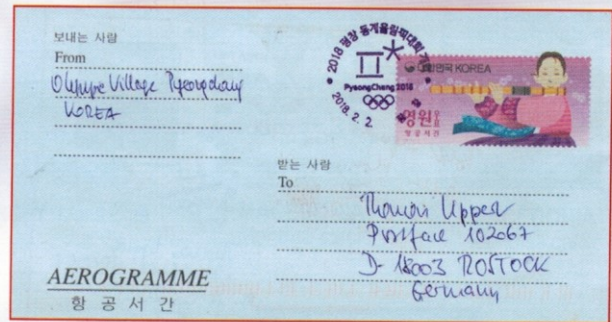
In the Mountain Cluster the second Olympic Village has been opened for the athletes of the Nordic Sports.



View into the temporary special post-office where Mr. Park and Mr. Yang provided the services. Both have been delegated from the post administration of the province's capital Chun Cheon to serve during the Olympics there



Personally I did realize that after leaving the village only and could not ask about that. On the other hand this aerogramme, sent in under cover for handling in January yet, tells the story, that they also changed at least some times manually the dates, and still more interesting, that the postmark has been used at Febr. 2nd yet, i.e. before the official introduction date (Febr. 9th, 2018) – no rule without exception. It was the second day of operation after opening the OVL at Febr 1st.



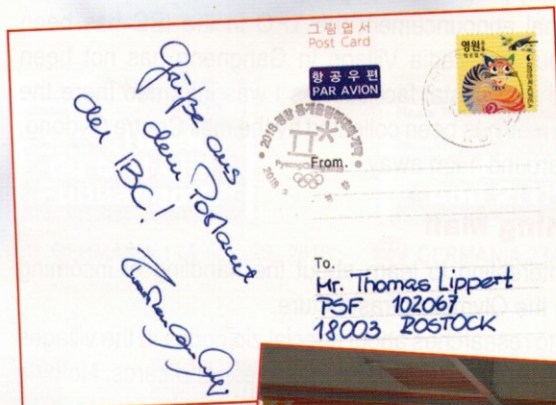
IBC (International Broadcasting Centre)

The IBC (and the MPC) have been located in the Mountain Cluster close to the Alpensia Resort. Also here the story repeats: no postmark with special identification, only the word "Pyeongchang" as name of the location.



Registered letter according to the tariff of 3580 Won (Letter to Europe/Zone 3 up to 15 g: 780 Won + registration fee: 2500 Won) with a part of the sheetlet from Nov 1st, 2017

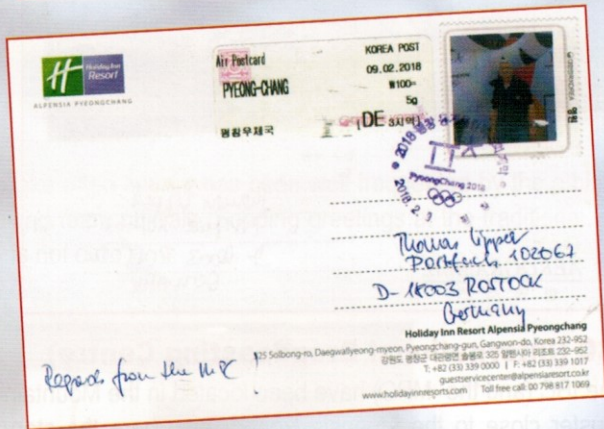
But have also a deeper look at the cover: The postmark reads "Pyeongchang" – no word of "Olympic Village" or similar. Also the postal meter repeats only "Pyeongchang". That means it will be difficult, too, to differ the postmarks from the regular office in the city Pyeongchang from those ones used in the OVL. And still an other particularity should be considered. It seems, that after Febr 9th, 2018 the date in the postmark has been frozen – even at Febr 12th it reads still 2.9.



Stationery handled in the IBC post-office like usually demanded for foreign mail: cancelled with the ordinary postmark with Latin letters. The Olympic postmark is – seriously seen – only an add-on. The sender Thorsten vom Wege was from German Radio ARD reporting from the games. He also took the photo.

MPC (Main Press Centre)

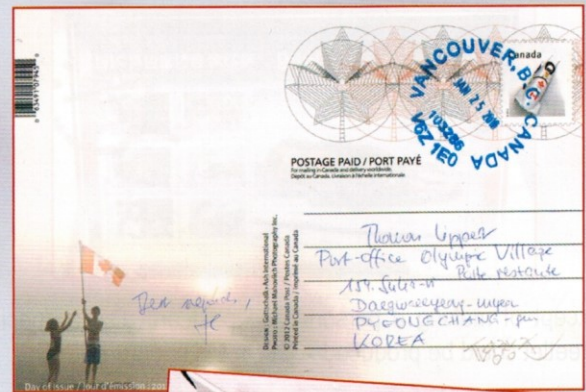
At the territory of the Alpensia Resort several buildings have been reserved for the writing media.



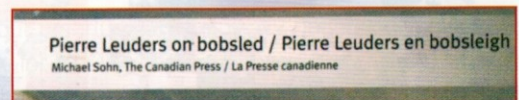
With this MPC post-office all the special post-offices have been shortly presented with philatelic items. Compared with the original announcement the TPO in the IBC has been added, but the Media Village in Gangneng has not been equipped with postal facilities. As I was informed there the outgoing mail has been collected by the mail Centre Gydong, located around 1 km away.

Incoming Mail

It was interesting to learn about the handling-of incoming mail into the Olympic infrastructure. This led to researches about special zip codes in the villages or signs of security checks at the covers and cards. Nothing from that this time – no maple leaf like in Vancouver 2010 for instance. The well-known “poste restante” game of the collectors didn’t work, as the mail directed into the Village has been handed over to the sender’s team. One example is shown here.



The sticker at the back of the elder Canadian Olympic stationery marks the handing over to the German team, although intended to be stored at the post-office. But still let’s enjoy that even postal designers are not flawless every day.



They wanted to honour the famous bobsledder Pierre Lueders and gave him a new name.

