

**The stamps** are the work of Design House, using photographs by Nick Knight. They feature: Runner at starting blocks; Javelin-thrower; Basketball player; Swimmer; and a Victorious Athlete. These are all sports common to both the Olympics and Paralympics. The final stamp includes the Olympic Rings emblem in the background. The five stamps are printed as a horizontal set-tenant strip.

#### Technical details

**Printers** House of Questa Ltd

**Process** Offset lithography

**Size** 30 × 41mm

**Sheets** 100

**Perforation** 15 × 14

**Phosphor** Two phosphor bands. Blue fluor in phosphor

**Paper** OBA (Optical Brightening Agent) free

**Gum** PVA

**Colours** The colours and plate numbers are: 1A (greenish grey) ● 1A (silver) ● 1A (rosine) ● 1A (black) ● 1A (magenta) ● 1A (bistre-yellow) ● 1A (new blue)

**Swifter, Higher, Stronger – Olympics & Paralympics 1996** Five 26p stamps commemorating the centenary of the modern Olympic Games and British participation in the 1996 Olympic and Paralympic Games go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 9 July. The theme of the issue echoes the motto of the Olympic Movement – *Citius, Altius, Fortius* (Swifter, Higher, Stronger). The 26th Olympic Games will be held in Atlanta, USA 19 July-4 August 1996, the 10th Paralympics follows on 15-25 August. The Paralympic Games were first held in Rome in 1960 when 400 sportsmen and women from 23 nations competed. Royal Mail is proud to be associated with the British Paralympic and Olympic teams; it was the sole sponsor of both in 1992, and is again this year in Atlanta.

**FIRST DAY FACILITIES** Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets around a week before 9 July, price 25p. The Bureau will provide a first day cover service for covers bearing stamps cancelled with a pictorial 'first day of issue' postmark of the Bureau or Much Wenlock, Shropshire. Application forms for first day covers must be returned to the Bureau by 9 July 1996.



Much Wenlock has been selected for a first day postmark as it was here that Dr William 'Penny' Brookes founded the Much Wenlock Olympian Society and instigated annual games (which still take place) in 1850. He proposed regular 'International Olympian Games' and his influence was crucial to the revival of the modern Olympics. Baron de Coubertin, generally acknowledged as the founder of the modern Olympics, was guest of honour at the Much Wenlock Games in 1890.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers on the day of issue, for these cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF1 1AA (for Much Wenlock postmark). The outer envelope should be endorsed 'FD9615' (Bureau), or 'FD9616' (Much Wenlock).

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for collectors who wish to post covers to receive local (mostly non-pictorial) 'first day of issue' handstamps.

For details of other special handstamps, see the *British Postmark Bulletin* – the Royal Mail's magazine for postmark collectors. It is available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau: £10 UK and Europe; £21.75 rest of the world (airmail).

**PRESENTATION PACK AND STAMP CARDS** A presentation pack and stamp cards will be available from the Bureau, Post Office Counters philatelic outlets, and main post offices. The pack takes the form of an Olympic Lexicon, an A-Z of Olympic and Paralympic facts and history. Composed by Jonathan Crawford, it features the British heritage of the events. The pack is designed by Why Not Associates of London ●





SWIFTER,

Royal Mail First Day Cover

higher, **STRONGER.**

OLYMPICS & PARALYMPICS 1996

Mrs J Robinson  
200 Manorbie Road  
Ilkeston  
Derbyshire  
DE7 4AB



Royal Mail Mint Stamps

SWIFTER,

OLYMPICS & PARALYMPICS 1996

higher, **STRONGER.**

**W**omen were banned from the ancient Games, but the first woman Olympic gold medalist was British: in 1900 Charlotte Cooper won the tennis singles. 72 years later Britain's Lorna Johnstone reached the finals in the dressage five days after her 70th birthday — the oldest woman known to have competed in an Olympics.

**J**eu De Paume (or Real Tennis), Lacrosse, Motorboating and Tug-of-War: some of the sports discontinued at the Olympics.

**M**otto of the Olympic Movement — (Swifter, Higher, Stronger).

**Y**achting is an Olympic sport cultivated by Britain. She earned the country golds, as well as the medal won by coxswain Peter Scott in 1936.

**K**ings Edward VII and George VI opened the Olympics in London in 1908 and 1948 respectively.

**H**ayden, Ian — Royal Mail emblem silver medals in the javelin at the '92 Games won an award recognizing outstanding work as a Paralympian.

**E**ssential concept summed up by the Paralympics: 'The most important games is not to be conquered but to conquer.

**I**nternational understanding was a vital aim behind the Olympic vision. In 1892 de Coubertin said 'Let us export our games, our runners, our fencers into other lands. That is the true five tasks of the future and the day it is introduced... the cause of peace will have received a new and strong ally.'

**U**K is fourth in the table of summer Olympic Games winners with 19 medals (17 gold).

**L**earning (GB won the Paralympic gold medal in '92. It will be a part of the Paralympic Games).

**O**lympic — In the name of all the competitors I promise that we shall take part in these Olympic Games respecting the rules which govern them, in the true spirit of sportsmanship, for the glory of sport and the honour of our teams.

**C**atch which binds the competitors at the start of every Olympic Games.



Images: © Paralympic Teams 1996