

No. 1 - 1968



GREEK POST OFFICE
PHILATELIC SERVICE
ATHENS



SET OF STAMPS COMMEMORATING
ATHLETIC MANIFESTATIONS IN THE YEAR 1968

DEPICTIONS—QUANTITIES

- 1) LEPTA 50 — 2,000,000 pieces
Javelin thrower
- 2) DRACHMA 1 — 4,000,000 pieces
Athlete jumping
- 3) DRACHMAE 1.50 — 2,000,000 pieces
Imprint of International Olympic Academy's seal.
Apollo's head. Detail from the pediment of Olympian Zeus' Temple at Olympia (460 B.C.)
- 4) DRACHMAE 2.50 — 4,300,000 pieces
Ancient Attic vase. Kindling of the torch.
- 5) DRACHMAE 4 — 1,000,000 pieces
Symbolic representation of the celebration of Olympic Day.
- 6) DRACHMAE 4.50 — 700,000 pieces
"Discus thrower" by Greek sculptor K. Demetriades.
Emblem of European Athletic Championship 1969.
- 7) DRACHMAE 6 — 4,000,000 pieces
Long-distance runner.

DESIGNS

The designs of the three stamps of the Balkan Games (0.50 — 1 — 6 drachmae), belong to the engraver Mr. G. Velissarides.

The other four were offered by the art bureau of S.E.G.A.S. and two of them (1.50 and 4.50) are similar to the related issue of last year with a different composition and a variety of colours.

OTHER PARTICULARS

SIZE: 27 × 35 mm., in sheets of 50 pieces

METHOD OF PRINTING: multi-coloured Offset

PRINTED: by "Aspioti - Elka" Graphic Arts Co. Ltd., Athens.

DATE OF RELEASE: The above stamps will be released on February 28th, 1968 and will be on sale until February 28th, 1969, unless their stock is depleted earlier.

RATE OF EXCHANGE: \$1.00 = 29.85 drachmae



The Greek Post Office will issue in the current year also, a set of stamps commemorating various athletic events, namely :

- a) the 27th Balkan Games
- b) the 9th European Athletic Championship contests, to be held in Athens during 1969,
- c) the International Olympic Academy whose 8th meeting will be held this summer at Ancient Olympia,
- d) the Olympic Day celebration on April 6th, 1968 and
- e) the lighting, at Ancient Olympia, of the Olympic flame which will be carried to Mexico.

FIRST DAY COVERS

The Philatelic Service will make available FDCs bearing a special picture.

A complete set will be affixed on a pair of covers and cancelled with a commemorative first day postmark.

Price of each pair of these FDCs will be the face value of the set, i.e. 20 drachmae.

The most important athletic events in Greece, during 1968

Numerous, diverse, and of an ever increasing athletic interest are the athletic events and manifestations which will take place again this year in Greece.

Some of these manifestations are annual, others will take place specially this year.

A set of seven stamps is to be issued under the title "The most important athletic events in Greece during 1968", in order to commemorate the following events.

1. Celebration of the Olympic Day - April 6th, 1968

April 6th, anniversary of the first Olympic Games (Athens 1896), has been designated for the celebration of "Olympic Day".

Last year this anniversary was celebrated with a great success and, also, with the issue of a commemorative set of stamps. It has since been made an annual event.

The recollection of this celebrated event always touches the Hellenic soul and reminds all the world of a civilisation, of the Hellenic civilisation upon the sources of which everyone draws and from which there appears the Olympic idea and the Olympic ideal.

2. International Olympic Academy-Session of August 1968

The annual meeting of the International Olympic Academy which was inaugurated eight years ago and whose work is internationally so much appreciated, continues with an increasing success.

A work really important and meriting every possible assistance is accomplished at Ancient Olympia. It is a work by which the "Hellenic spirit" is projected internationally and in a unique way and by which the tendency to study so-called "Olympic topics" is encouraged.

This task is also supported by the fact that the Olympic Games Committee, not sparing funds, proceeded to the construction of installations providing for the participants a comfortable dwelling and recreation as well.

3. IX European Athletic Championships 1969

As is known, the European Athletic contests for men and women will take place in September 1969, in Greece. The organization of these contests has been entrusted to SEGAS

(Hellenic Amateur Athletic Association) as a recognition of our country's contribution to the whole development of the athletic spirit.

With the efficient assistance of the National Government and particularly of the Ministry to the Prime Minister (General Direction of Athletics) very important studies were fulfilled, plans were formed and prodigious works were provided which, when accomplished, will help with the carrying out of these contests and which will remain an acquisition for our country.

In order to announce this event which is so important for European athleticism and to inform the friends of Athletics, a commemorative stamp is issued, as last year.

4. Lighting of the Olympic Flame

During this year which is an Olympic year because of the Olympic games in Mexico (October 1968), Greece is again on the proscenium.

The representatives of distant Mexico will come here as pilgrims to the ancient Olympia, the "Altis" and to the Olympic ideal which our country represents, in order to seek and transfer to their stadium the Olympic flame, this symbol of love, of spirit and of peace in the world. This event is specially honoured by the issue of a commemorative stamp symbolizing the celebration of lighting the Olympic flame.

5. 27th Balkan Games 1968

According to a decision of the Balkan Athletic Committee, and with the precious assistance of the other Balkan countries the organization of the Balkan Games has been entrusted to SEGAS.

They will take place in Athens (although it is not her turn), on August 29th, 30th, 31st and September 1st, 1968 and the experience gained will contribute to a bigger success for the European Athletic Contests which are to be held next year (1969).

So, once again, SEGAS organizes in Athens the Balkan Games which have been gaining in fame and importance since they were inaugurated on Greece's initiative.

DIM. N. XIROUCHAKIS

2nd Vice President of the Olympic Games Committee
General Secretary of SEGAS