

TOPICAL TIDBITS

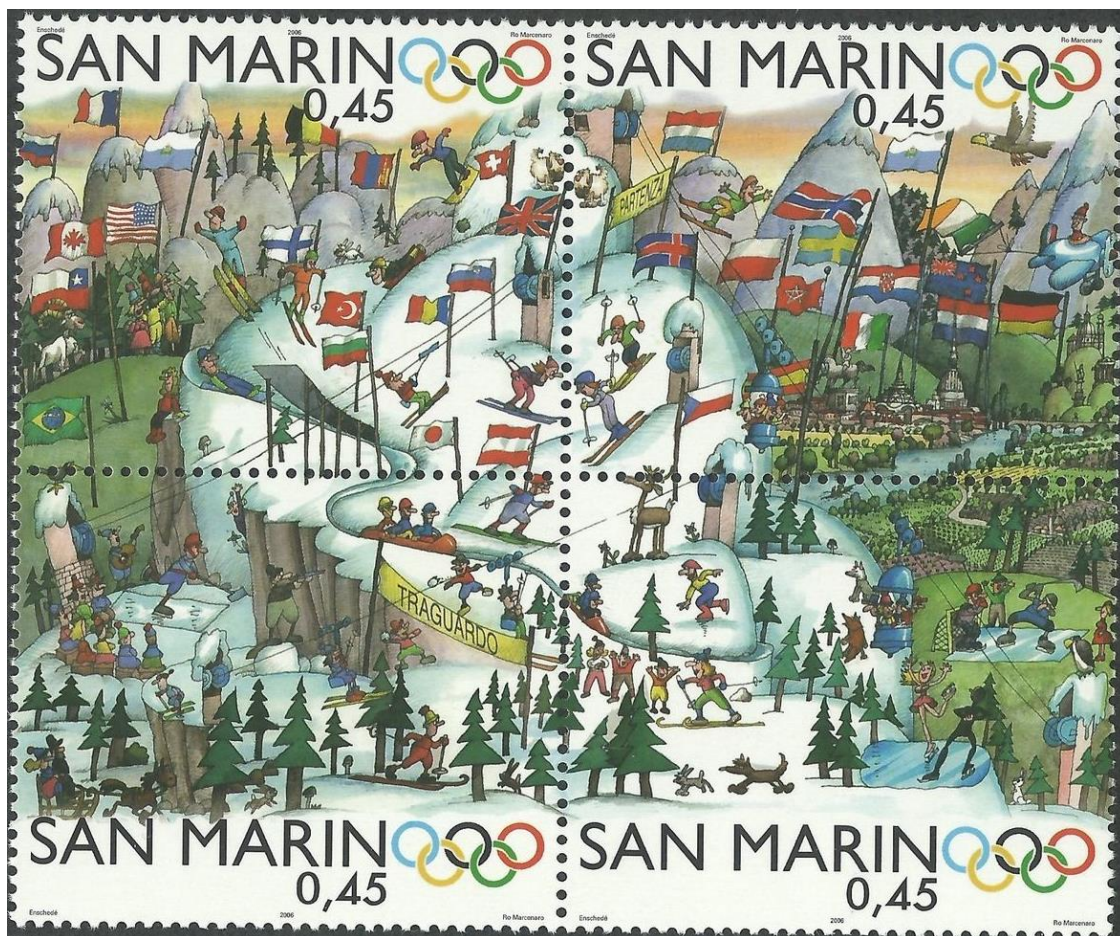


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WINTER OLYMPICS

During the Winter Olympics, athletes from nations all over the world come together to compete in the spirit of friendship and fun. Look carefully at the San Marino stamp below. Can you identify the flags of each of the countries shown on this se-tenant block of four stamps? Send your listing of 10 or more country names that have their flags depicted on these stamps, along with your name, mailing address, age and collecting interests. Receive Winter Olympic stamps that you can add to the album pages included with this issue and start your own collection of Winter Olympic stamps. Send your listing to MaryAnn Bowman, P.O. Box 1451, Waukesha, WI 53187, no later than February 28, 2014.



WINTER OLYMPICS MASCOTS

Collecting the Winter Olympics philatelically offers challenges for the topical collector. There are many hundreds of stamps that have been issued for the Olympics that represent specific sporting events within the Games or of the symbols that have come to represent the Olympics themselves. If you are looking for a smaller topic within the Winter Olympics collecting area, consider a mini-study of the mascots. Olympic mascots are a rather recent addition having been unofficially "born" at the Grenoble Olympic Games in 1968. Over the years, they have evolved as popular icons representing the history and culture of the host country as well as lending a festive air to the Games and associated celebrations.



Sarajevo 1984's mascot was named Vučko and took on the appearance of a wolf. This mascot was chosen through a contest and voted on by readers of newspapers and magazines. In Yugoslavia, the wolf represents courage and strength.



Neve and Gliz, a snowball and ice cube, were the mascots for Turin 2006. They represented the elements needed for a successful Winter Games. Neve is Italian

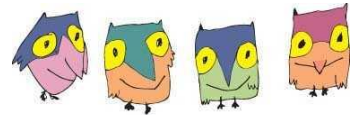
for snow. She's dressed in red, and her rounded shape is symbolic of harmony and elegance of movement. Gliz is related to the Italian word for ice and wears a blue outfit. His angular shape represents the power and strength of athletes. A contest was held to create the images.



Two human form mascots, Haakon and Kristin, were based on historical figures from 13th century Norway. Wearing medieval costumes, these modern day children represented the Lillehammer 1994 Olympics. During the Olympics, eight pairs of children, each from a region within Norway, were chosen for the role of the "living mascots."



Nagano 1998 used four owls known as Snowlets as their mascots: Sukki, Nokki, Lekki, and Tsukki. They represent fire, air, earth, and water. The first one or two letters of each individual owl's name formed the word Snowlets.



The mascots for the Sochi 2014 Games are the Hare, the Polar Bear, and the Leopard. They represent the three places on the Olympic podium. The mascots were chosen after a contest where over 24,000 drawings were received.



Vancouver 2010 used two mythical animals, Quatchi, a sasquatch, and Miga, who is part whale and part Kermode bear. Their friend, Mukmuk, an endangered marmot, became an unofficial mascot due to his popularity at the Games.



WINTER SPORTS EQUIPMENT

Each Olympic sport has its own specialized equipment. See how many you can match. Answers appear below.

- | | | | | |
|--------------|----------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| A. Rifle | C. Broom | E. Poles | G. Kufen (runner) | I. Clap skates |
| B. Half pipe | D. Puck | F. Push handles | H. Jumping skis | J. Toe picks |



1. ___ Ice Hockey



2. ___ Curling



3. ___ Alpine Skiing



4. ___ Ski Jumping



5. ___ Luge



6. ___ Speed Skating



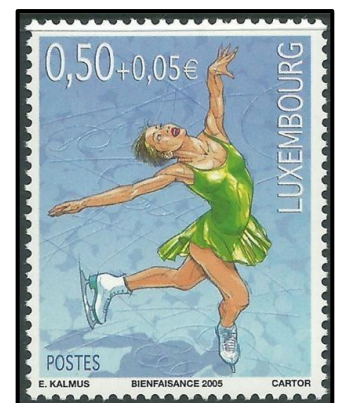
7. ___ Bobsleigh



8. ___ Biathlon



9. ___ Snow-boarding



10. ___ Figure Skating

WINTER OR SUMMER OLYMPICS???

Look at the stamp and decide if it shows the Winter or the Summer Olympics. Put a blue circle around the Winter Olympic stamps and a red circle around the Summer Olympic stamps.



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Winter Olympics

