

THE TABLE TENNIS **Collector**

The Journal of the Table Tennis Collectors' Society

32

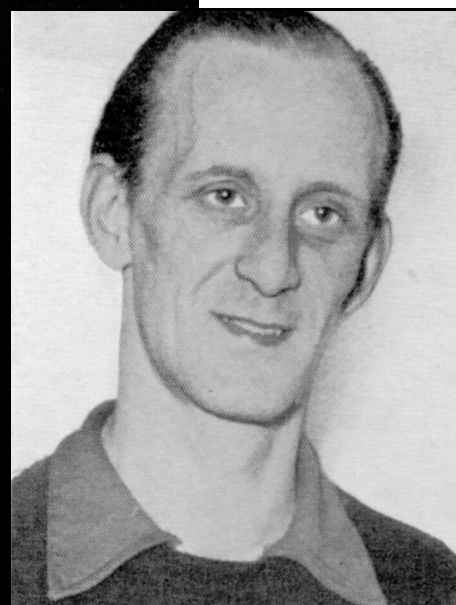
SUMMER

2003



Tage Flisberg

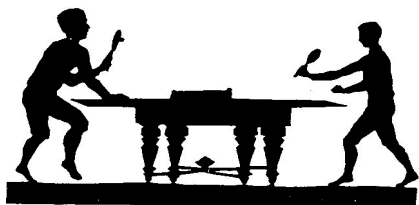
The first great Swedish player who added his endorsement to a sponge bat that achieved a remarkable price on Ebay (see p. 12).



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THE TABLE TENNIS COLLECTOR



32

SUMMER 2003

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From the Editor

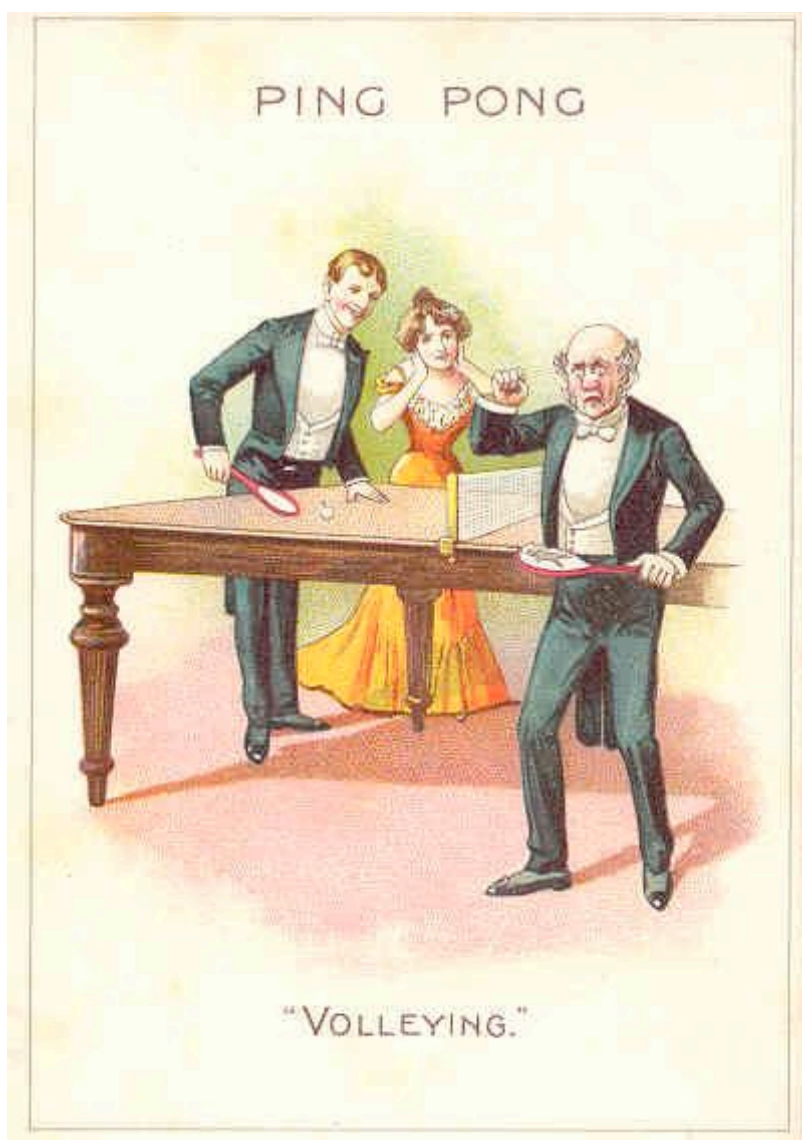
Welcome to my fifth edition of the *Collector*. How is your summer going? Have you forsaken the sunshine to scour antique and collectors' fairs for those items you desperately need to enhance your collection? Or are you taking that well-earned rest you promised yourself during the busy season recently finished?

Of course, I know that many of you, as I am, are involved in the administration of our sport and this never stops. Indeed, the summer period can be more busy as we wrap up one season and plan for the next. For me, this edition is timed after getting my annual reports done for one season and circulating membership forms for the next and before building the database to collect those responses.

Whatever your perspective, good luck to you all and happy hunting!

Graham

Globe Metal Polish Cards



From Alan Duke

In *TTC* #5 Gerald showed images of three trade cards issued by Raimés & Co., Ltd., London, about 1900, to advertise Globe Metal Polish. Gerald suggested that there were 12 cards altogether and asked for information about the others. Alan Duke has recently discovered this very beautiful example entitled "Volleying" (the reverse of the card is shown reduced). Four others, including two that were originally depicted in *TTC* #5 appear on the ITTF museum website:

www.tabletennismuseum.com

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Next issue - publication November 2003 - copy date 1 October 2003

Early Postcard Sets

The early twentieth century boom time for the fledgling game of Table Tennis happened to coincide with the early days of the picture postcard. It was natural that the two should come together in some way and postcard publishers lost no time in producing cards depicting humorous scenes of the game, often in the form of invitations to ping-pong parties.

There were nine sets of cards produced in the early days, from 1901 to, probably, about 1906. This excludes the other ping-pong cards that were produced as part of a diverse series of cards or those that were one-offs.

In the first eight editions of *The Table Tennis Collector*, Gerald showed eight of these sets in their entirety, the one exception being the Dobbs, Kidd & Co. set of which little is known.

Below I have produced a table listing these sets with a reference to when they appeared in *TTC*.

I am indebted to Hans Kreisler's catalogue of postcards for some information—GT.

Date (approx)	Publisher	Series	No.	Description	Artist	TTC
Dec 01	Galyon		12	B&W line drawings, invitations to ping-pong parties		Oct 93 (3)
Jan 02	William Lyon	Premier 1975	6	Colour line drawings, humorous interpretations of Shakespeare quotations		Jun 93 (2)
Aug 02	[unknown]		6?	B&W line drawings, "Game"; "Net"; "Advantage"		Jun 95 (8) – 4 cards only
Sep 02	Raphael Tuck	Write Away 623	6	Colour line drawings	Lance Thackeray	Feb 93 (1)
Sep 02	Raphael Tuck	Write Away 624	6	Colour line drawings	Lance Thackeray	Feb 94 (4)
Sep 02	John Walker	Ping Pong	4	B&W line drawings	Gordon Browne	Feb 95 (7)
Dec 02	William Lyon	Premier 2020	6	Colour line drawings		Jun 94 (5)
c. 1902	Dobbs, Kidd & Co.			B&W line drawings, invitation cards		
Dec 03	Raphael Tuck	Art 1156	6	Colour drawings, "Ping-pong in Fairyland"	E.A.	Oct 94 (6)



This postcard by Raphael Tuck & Sons is from their "Far East" series 6081. Tuck advertised themselves as "art publishers to their Majesties the King and Queen". The artist is M. H. Tyler. The example in my collection was printed for use in Canada as there is some French language on the reverse of the card and it is postmarked from Ottawa to an address in England on 5 October 1907—GT.

Plymouth League Celebrates Centenary

On 30th May 2003 the Plymouth and District Table Tennis League held a dinner to celebrate one hundred years of existence. Founded in 1903 at the Three Towns Ping Pong League it is now established that Plymouth is the oldest league in England and therefore the first to celebrate its centenary. This means that it is also probably the oldest league in the World—unless you know differently. I am indebted to Laurie Harrison, current Secretary of the Plymouth League for sending me a history of the League written in 1978 by **Tommy Anson**. The whole history extends to 34 pages—here I reproduce only the first three.

The Plymouth League is founded

The period 1889 - 1904 saw the new parlour game achieve heights of popularity. During the boom years the craze swept through practically every household. Ping Pong garden parties, songs and teas became a general happening. It was during this era that our League was born. In 1903 Mr. R.W.J. Norsworthy convened a meeting at the Plymouth Y.M.C.A. for all clubs who had previously taken part in friendly matches with the result that the Three Towns and District Ping Pong League was formed. It consisted of 8 or 10 clubs associated with various churches of whom St. Barts, the Methodist Guild and the Y.M.C.A. were the most prominent. Teams consisted of 6 players who played one opponent three frames of 20 points (60 up). Jackets were generally kept on but occasionally a detachable collar might be removed. Mr. Norsworthy was invited to be the first Secretary but declined and Mr. Coleman was elected. He held the office for one year and was then succeeded by Mr. Norsworthy who held the position for 6 years. At that time the League Secretary ordered the match balls in bulk and team secretaries called at his home to collect them.

The fact that we have operated continuously as a League since 1903 (with the exception of the two world wars) makes us the oldest league in the country, a fact of which, we are justly proud.

National Decline but Local Progress

Throughout England from 1904 the game died as suddenly as it had shot into prominence. The real death blow according to Richard Bergmann com-

ing from, "Ladies and housewives who after the existing novelty of the game had worn thin flatly refused to have their drawing rooms plunged into turmoil and disorder and to convert then into gymnasium daily."

In Plymouth the game continued to thrive. A shield was presented to the League by T.J. Stephens and this was presented to the first division champions until it was replaced by the Montagu Burton Trophy. Invitations were extended to other churches where it was known that Ping Pong was played and by 1908 three divisions were operating. In 1910 Mr. Gregory took over as secretary and acted as such until the outbreak of World War One.



Leading Figure

It was in 1909 that a player by the name of Ernie Gunn made his debut with Laira Y.M.C.A. He was destined to play a leading role in much of the League's activities over the next thirty years. In 1923 he became Chairman and continued in that position until 1939. He was for many years one of the town's leading players and was probably the first Plymothian to face outside opposition when in the All England Championships of 1923 he played Mr. Mitchellmore of Yeovil in

an area semi-final. He was a 'natural' captain when inter-town matches were to begin later, but his greatest triumph was to come in 1936 when still armed with a cork racquet he won the English Open Veterans title. He died during the second world war and today the Veterans' Singles trophy keeps his name alive.

National Organization Begins

During the 1920's the birth of the English Table Tennis Association and the International Table Tennis Federation paved the way for the growth of the sport. Ivor Montagu had revived the game at university level and later joined A.F. Carris, Percy Bromfield and J.J. Payne at the St. Brides Institute, a club for businessmen in the area of Fleet Street, London. The first English Championship was staged at the National Sporting Club in 1922, the victor being Andrew Donaldson from Sunderland in the North East where Ping Pong had been played continuously since 1910. To free the game from any possible domination by a sports manufacturer the Ping Pong Association was disbanded and with an identical set of rules the Table Tennis Association came into being. Ivor Montagu in his autobiography records:- "The name was altered not as some people supposed out of a craving for dignity but simply because Table Tennis happened to be unregistered and hence free of legal restrictions." The Table Tennis Association based at the London Club made efforts to contact all other table tennis groups in the country so that matches could be fixed and rules agreed. The problems the Association faced were severe. Independent leagues and clubs were becoming abundant with each framing their own

rules thus making the task of securing uniformity more complex. Tables were not of a standard height. Although it should be said that the dimensions of 9ft x 5ft x 2ft 6ins were suggested for tournament play from the beginning of the century. Rubber bats were, of course, banned by some leagues (including Exeter) so only plain wood with perhaps a covering of sandpaper or cork could be used. Nets varied in height, some leagues and clubs used the lawn tennis method of scoring, in Wales and in Bristol play was up to 50 points, at Sunderland it was up to 100, some tables were marked as lawn tennis

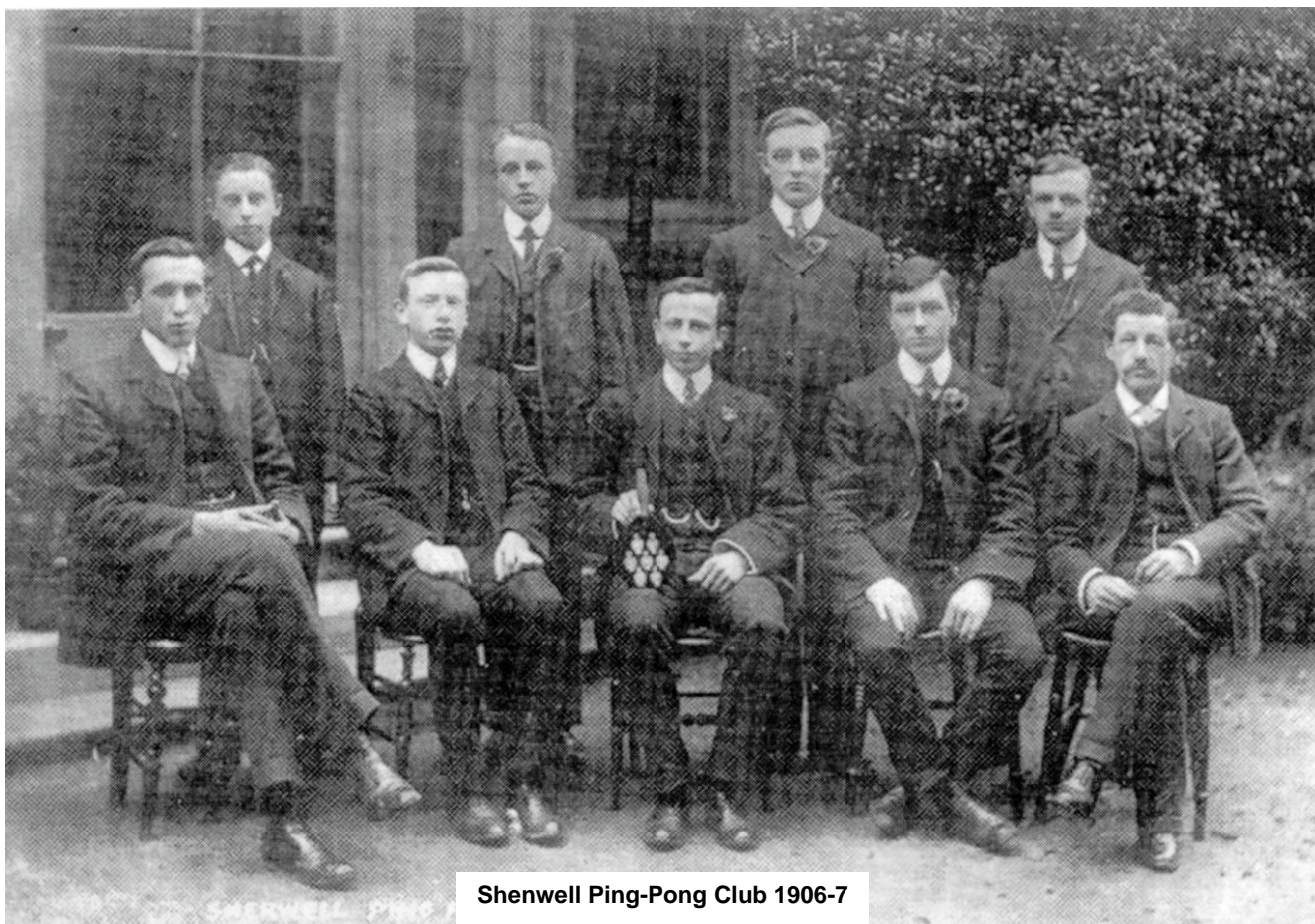
courts and it was normal for players to change ends every ten points.

How to play doubles created problems. Originally it was played as in Lawn Tennis but it was found that play degenerated into virtually a singles game between the stronger player in each pair. The Tennessee Moles designed by Mr. Forbes created problems for clubrooms as it entailed using two tables side by side with a 9ft net. Table Lawn Tennis had been tried on an 8ft x 4ft table using a 7 inch net with volleying permitted. Ivor Montagu himself in *Table Tennis Today* (1924) stated:- "I look

forward to the day when table tennis includes volleying as a legitimate stroke". Publicity was needed but the policy of giving sanction to the *Daily Mirror* competition in 1923 had the side effect of rendering table tennis a subject taboo in the columns of nearly every other paper.

Services

Here in Plymouth play was started by serving over the net and before anyone had visions of a ball being thrown into the air and then smashed. Let me add that the ball had to be below table height when



Shenwell Ping-Pong Club 1906-7

struck for a service. Topspin was therefore used to put the ball into play and it was also considered gentlemanly to serve down the middle of the table. Very effective services could be produced in this manner and indeed in other parts of the country "players have become so expert as to produce an untakeable service, that the game began to assume the character of 5 won services each continuously" (Ivor Montagu *Table Tennis Today* 1924).

E.T.T.A.

Order was needed and with the formation of the English Table Tennis Association in 1927 it began to come. It seems likely that we would have affiliated to the Table Tennis Association as early as 1924 when the League Chairman was competing in the Nationals and it was also around this time that we became The Plymouth and District Table Tennis League. During the 1940's Albert Webber, through the medium of the *League Magazine* gave us an idea of those early days.

"Practice balls cost a penny each and match balls had to be three-penny ones, all games were played under gaslight and often a player taking two steps backwards found himself with his back to the wall.....practically everybody played with wooden bats, mostly home made, my own being made of mahogany six inches square and three eighths of an inch thick. Occasionally a player would show up with a sand-papered bat to counteract "drive".....playing room of two foot all around the table was considered

Continued overleaf >>>

Dinner to Celebrate Plymouth Centenary

The Plymouth and District Table Tennis League has just celebrated its centenary - and now they're out to prove they're the oldest league around.

The league was first formed at Plymouth YMCA in 1903 under the name of the "Three Towns and District Ping Pong League".

The first season involved between eight and ten teams of six players, with a dress code of waistcoats, jackets and shirts with detachable collars. Since then, the League has survived two world wars and 100 years, to become the fourth largest league in the country.

Alan Ransome OBE, (then) Chairman of the English Table Tennis As-

Table Tennis Federation to establish the League as the oldest in existence.



ETTA Chairman Alan Ransome (right) makes a presentation to (l-r) Laurie Harris (General Secretary), Ian Lindsay (Chairman), Graham May (President) and Ted Morrish (Treasurer). Photo: Table Tennis News

Ransome said: "It would appear from the information I have received that the Plymouth Table Tennis League is certainly the oldest in England, but also in the World, as it was a sport which was first played in this country. There are a lot of table tennis leagues around the country which have been going for a very long time, but Plymouth appears to be the one which has been going the longest." He added: "If we can establish them as the oldest table tennis league in the world then it is somewhat unique."

Plymouth (contd. from p5.)

ample.....we gazed in awe at Laurie French as he changed into a table tennis shirt and rubber shoes, an outfit that was alien to us as we played in outdoor shoes and collars and ties.....Cecil Willcoks, true to his usual style went to the table wearing his bowler hat on the back of his head.....so exciting was the game that the billiards match in progress in the same room was stopped."

Play even at high levels could be very casual in those days. When Adrian Hayden won the London title at the age of 15 it was reported:- "His apparent harmlessness was deceptive and one opponent began his match against him by lighting a cigarette. He threw the cigarette away after a few minutes play. In the second he took his coat off. In the third game he had just begun to play when he realized that he had lost".

sociation, joined members of the League at their centenary dinner at the Holiday Inn on Cliff Road. While presentations were given out to winners of a variety of league awards, the event was also the first centenary dinner to be held by a league anywhere in the country.

Another organisation, the Sunderland and District Table Tennis League, claimed they were the country's oldest league structure when they held their 90th anniversary celebrations in 1997. But since the Plymouth League revealed their history, Ransome has been putting together evidence to present to the International

The 100-year history has seen Plymouth stage England internationals against the Netherlands (1977), Russia (1978) and China (1987). The organisation gained their own headquarters on Desborough Road, St Judes, in 1983, while they are now hoping to move to a purpose-built centre that could hold 12 tables for coaching.

Devon Coaching Officer John Vincent said he believed the league was the oldest in the country, but it was Plymouth teacher Tommy Anson who compiled a detailed history to confirm the status. Vincent said: "There is no doubt in my mind that what Tommy Anson wrote was right, as he went to a lot of trouble to confirm everything."

continued from page 7

Year: 1955 Utrecht (Netherlands)

Signed by:

- Rosalind Rowe (former WD champion)
- Richard Bergmann (former MS champ)
- Brian Kennedy
- Diane Rowe (former WD champion)
- Johnny Leach (former MS champion)
- Jean Winn
- Bryan Merrett
- Alan Rhodes
- Ann Hayden



Postcards from the World Championships

Following on from submissions by Hans-Peter Trautmann (TTC #29) and Jean Devys (TTC #30) Winfried Engelbrecht has sent four cards sent by the England team from World Championships in the early fifties.

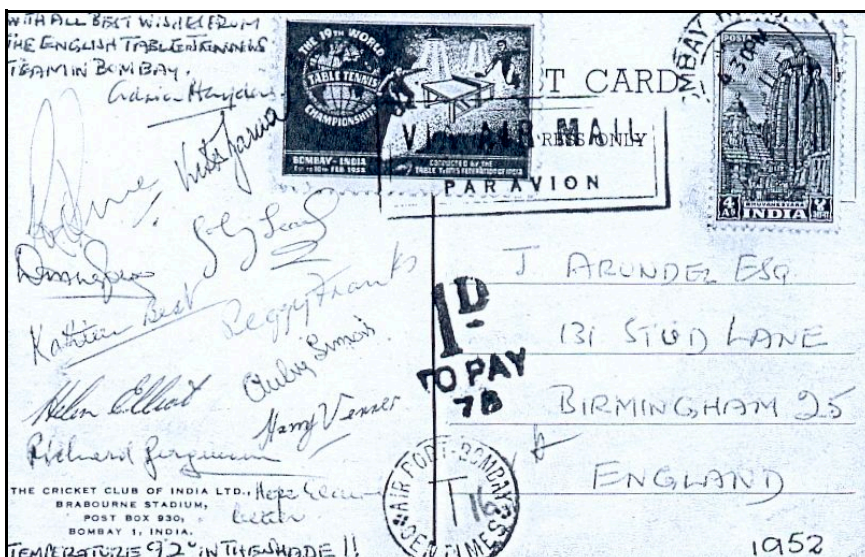
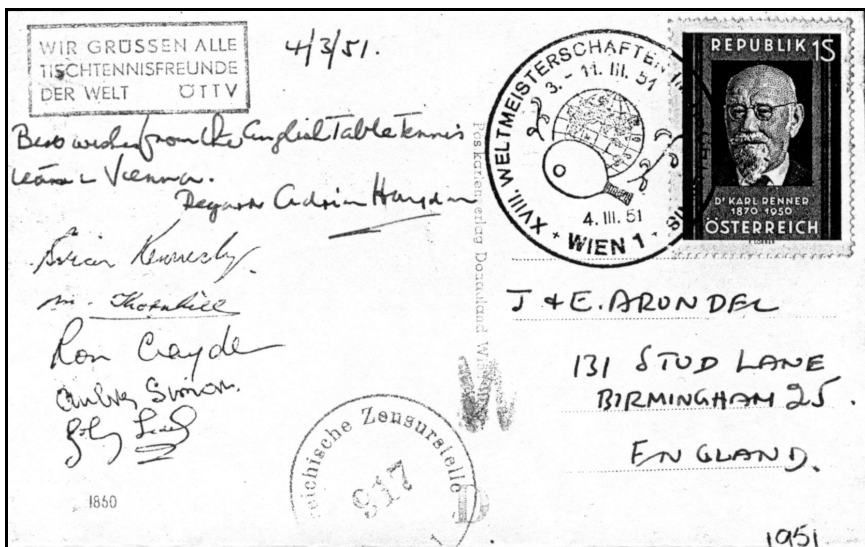
From Winfried Engelbrecht

Year: 1951 Vienna (Austria)

Signed by:
Adrian Haydon
Brian Kennedy
Michael Thornhill
Ron Crayden
Aubrey Simons
Johnny Leach (*MS champion*)

This postcard is postmarked with the official postmark of the 18th World Championships.

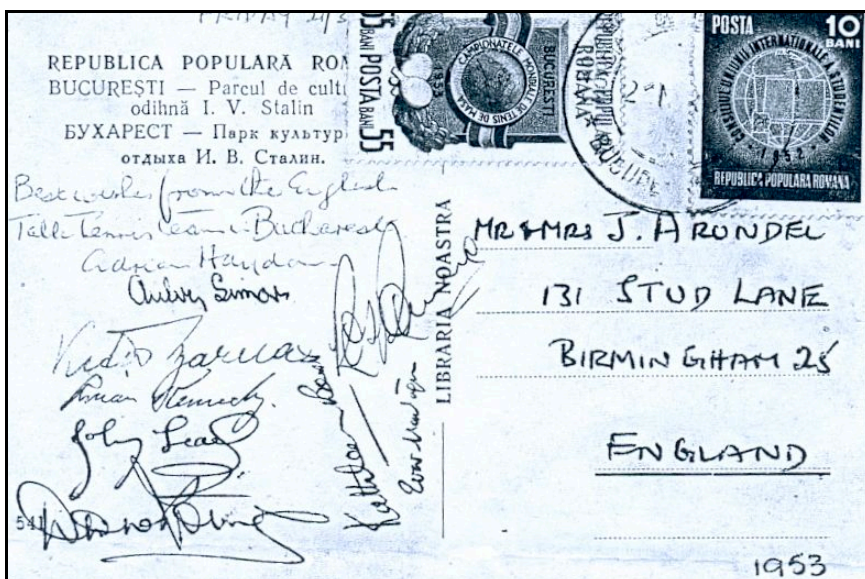
While I do not know who Mr. Arundel was there is obviously a Birmingham connection as the first three cards are sent by Adrian Haydon and the last by his daughter Ann Haydon (who later found even greater fame at Lawn Tennis).-GT.



Year: 1952 Bombay (India)

Signed by:
Adrian Haydon
Victor Barna (*former MS champion*)
Rosalind Rowe (*former WD champion*)
Johnny Leach (*former MS champion*)
Diane Rowe (*former WD champion*)
Peggy Franks (*former WD champion*)
Kathleen Best
Aubrey Simons
Helen Elliot (SCO) (*former WD champ*)
Harry Venner
Richard Bergmann (*former MS champ*)

This postcard is franked by a TT-vignette on the occasion of these championships.



Year: 1953 Bucharest (Rumania)

Signed by:
Adrian Hayden (*MT champion*)
Aubrey Simons (*MT champion*)
Rosalind Rowe (*former WD champion*)
Victor Barna (*former MS champion*)
Brian Kennedy (*MT champion*)
Kathleen Best
Ivor Montagu
Johnny Leach (*MT champion*)
Diane Rowe (*former WD champion*)

This postcard is franked by one of two special stamps and postmarked by a very rare postmark on the occasion of these championships.

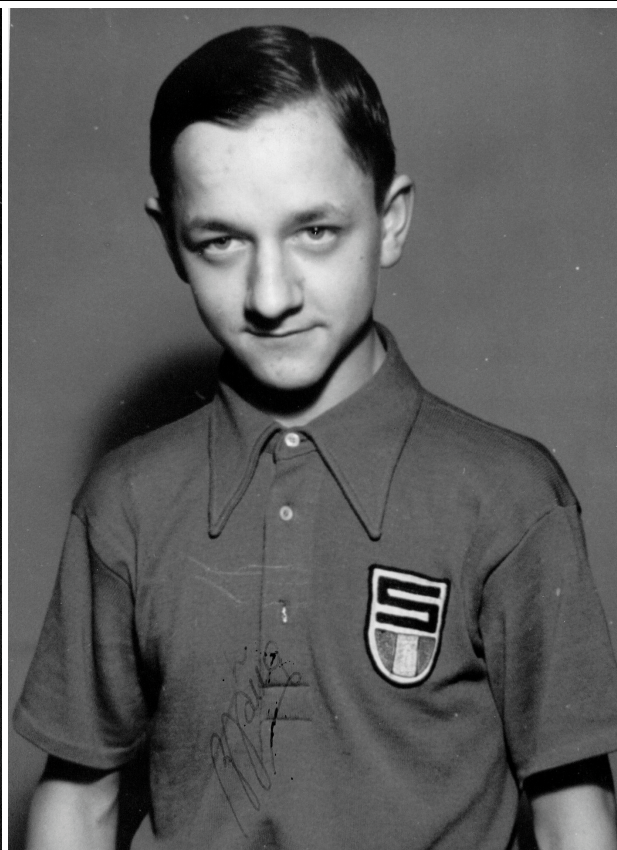
<<< turn to page 6 for the fourth postcard

1936 WC Photographs

By Gerald Gurney

It can well be worthwhile to look out for press photographs of major events; these may, of course, have never been published. A few years ago, Gerald Gurney came across a dozen of these in an auction— where, luckily, they were little regarded.

Here are some relating to the 10th World Championships, Prague, 1936. This was the occasion of the infamous first rally in the Swaythling Cup match, Alex Ehrlich (Poland) v. Farcas Paneth (Rumania), which lasted over two hours. Ehrlich eventually won the point and the match but the repercussions were immense; the time limit law was soon introduced.

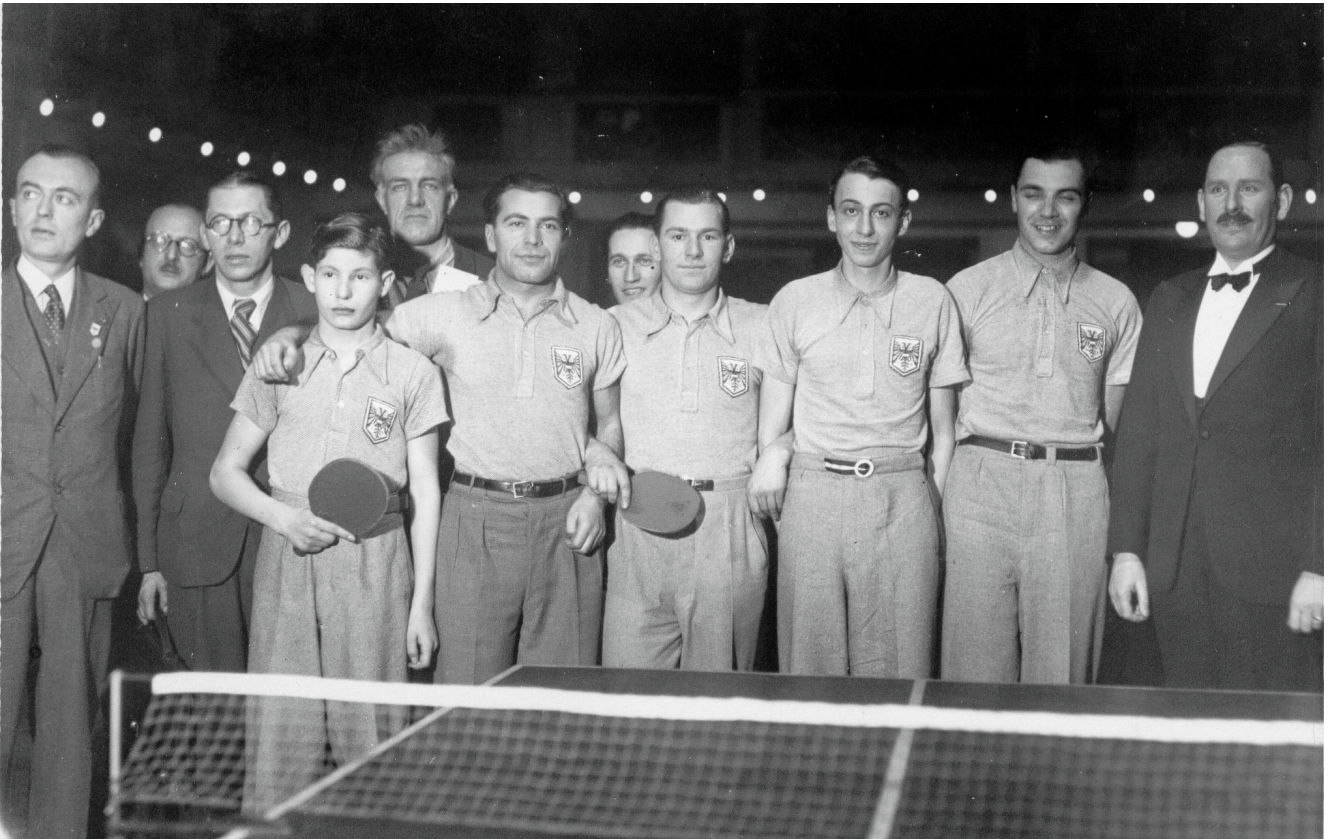


Ruth Aarons (USA) (above, left, autographed) won the G. Geist Prize for the Women's Singles, beating Astrid Krebsbach (Germany) 3-0 in the final. One year later, Aarons became the most notorious victim of the time limit rule when her defence of the title was shattered as the final was abandoned with no woman being proclaimed World champion for the year.



Bohumil Vana (Czechoslovakia) (above, right, autographed) was competing but had to wait until 1938 before winning the St. Bride Vase, The 1936 champion was a certain Victor Barna.

Czechoslovakia (left) won the Marcel Corbillon Cup with (l-r) Gertrude Kleimová, Marie Smidová, Marie Kettnerová and Vera Votrubcová. Autographed by the first three.



The Austrian team (l-r: Richard Bergmann, Erwin Kohn, Hans Hartinger, Helmut Goebel, Alfred Liebster) won the Swaythling Cup, beating Romania in the final. The pushing play that characterised these championships had an astonishing effect on the timetable. The Final of the Swaythling Cup did not commence until 9:30 in the evening (Sunday) and was finally adjourned at 3:30 in the morning with the score at 2-2. The match recommenced the following Wednesday and Austria ran (!!) out winners 5-4 after eleven hours of play! No wonder the time limit rule was quickly introduced.

A group of players and officials. No doubt the ladies had a separate photograph?



My thanks to Ron Crayden for naming the players—GG.

Günther's Pins

Part 5:
European
Championships

Günther Angenendt shares more of his 130-page catalogue of Table Tennis pins. These are the first and second pages on the subject of the European Championships and cover the years 1975, 1981 to 1995.

Key:

c = common; uc = uncommon;
r = rare; vr = very rare; u = unique.

p = pins (butterflies); n = needles;
b = brooches; screw p = screw pins.

Update to the Membership List 2003

The following members have re-joined since the list published in the March edition. Altogether there are now 47 members of the *Society*, three less than in 2002.

Romualdas Franckaitis

Knygnesiu 8, LT-5150 Joniskis, Lithuania.
Tel: +370 426 51200
Fax: +370 426 51200
Email: rfranckaitis@mail.lt
Web site: www.delfi.lt

*Interests: All items, especially balls, first books and bats.
Acquire: First balls, books and bats.*

Giampietro Mora

Via S. Tomaso 20, 24121 Bergamo, Italy,
Tel: +39 035 241354

Acquire: Tutto sul tennistavolo

Rudolf Muller

Bahnhofstr. 58, D-57250 Netphen,
Germany.

Tel: +49 (0) 2738 1461

Fax: +49 (0) 2738 1461

Email: aw-geffert@web.de

Interests: TT stamps, cancellations, letters, errors, red meter marks

Yao Zhenxu

Chinese Table Tennis Association, No.
C3 Longtan Road (Floor 6), Beijing, PC
100061, China.

Tel: 861067120920

Fax: 861067129838

Email: cttayao@china.com

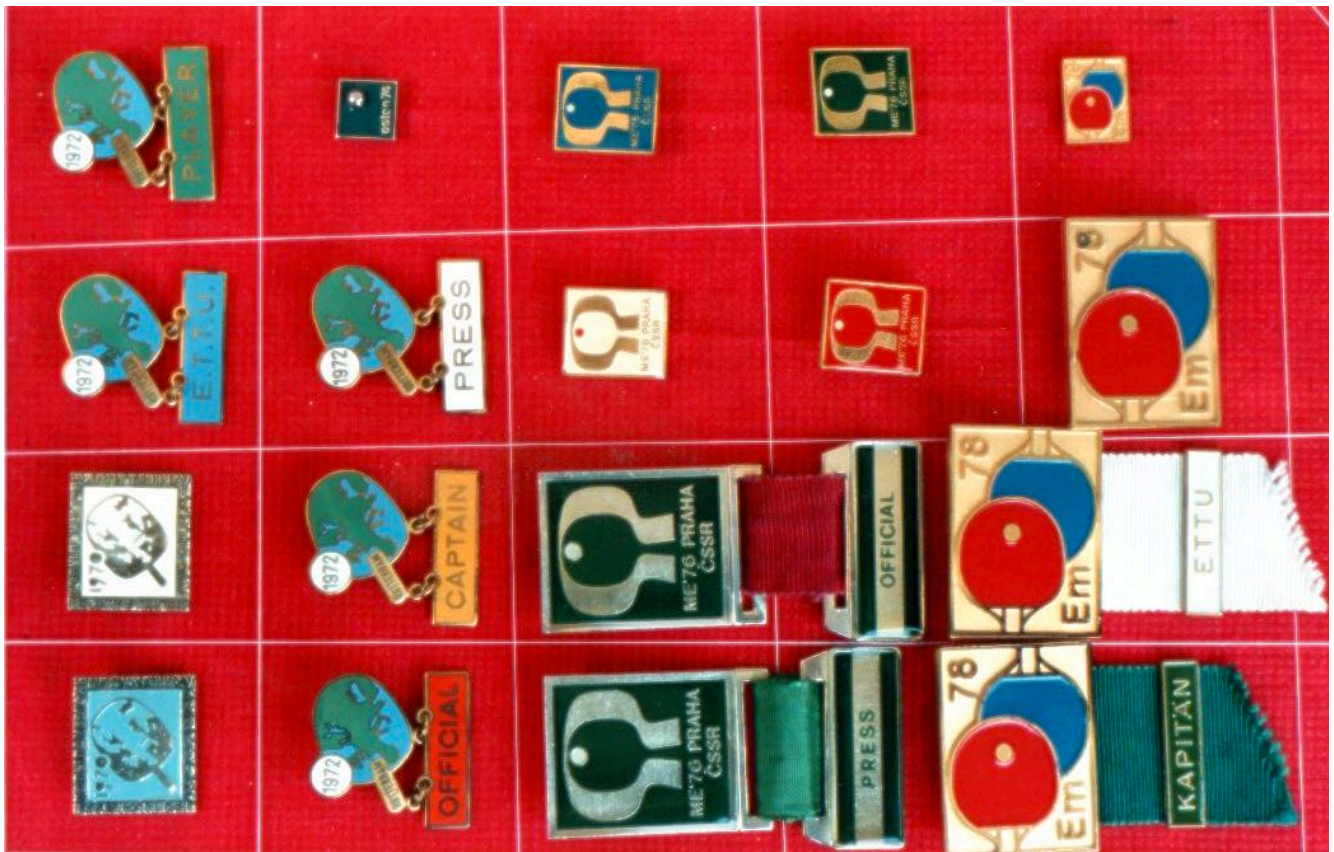
*Interests: TT stamps, FD covers, postcards, coins,
phonecards, pins, postal material, tickets etc.
Sale/Exchange: as above*

Winfried Engelbrecht has asked that I let you know his new email address:

winfried.engelbrecht@imail.de

ETTU President unique brooch	ETTU Golden honour needle very few items	ETTU President unique brooch	ETTU (c,n)
1958 Budapest Hungary (vr,b)	1960 Zagreb Yugoslavia (vr,n)	1962 West Berlin West Germany (vr,b)	1964 Malmö Sweden (r,n)
1966 London England (r,b)	1966 London England Player (vr,b)	1966 London England Captain (vr,b)	1966 London England ETTU Official (vr,b)
1968 Lyon France (r,b)	1968 Lyon France Delegate (vr,b)	1968 Lyon France ETTU (vr,b)	1968 Lyon France Captain (vr,b)
1970 Moscow USSR Trainer/Coach (vr,b)	1970 Moscow USSR Organizing Cttee (vr,b)	1970 Moscow USSR ITTF (vr,b)	1970 Moscow USSR ETTU (vr,b)

1970 Moscow USSR (uc,b)	1970 Moscow USSR (uc,b)	1972 Rotterdam Netherlands ETTU (vr,b)	1972 Rotterdam Netherlands Player (vr,b)
1972 Rotterdam Netherlands Official (vr,b)	1972 Rotterdam Netherlands Captain (vr,b)	1972 Rotterdam Netherlands Press (vr,b)	1974 Novi Sad Yugoslavia (uc,n)
1976 Prague Czechoslovakia Press (vr,b)	1976 Prague Czechoslovakia Official (vr,b)	1976 Prague Czechoslovakia (uc,n)	1976 Prague Czechoslovakia (uc,n)
1978 Duisburg West Germany Captain (vr,b)	1978 Duisburg West Germany ETTU (vr,b)	1976 Prague Czechoslovakia (uc,n)	1976 Prague Czechoslovakia (uc,n)
		1978 Duisburg West Germany ETTU (r,b)	1978 Duisburg West Germany ETTU (uc,n)

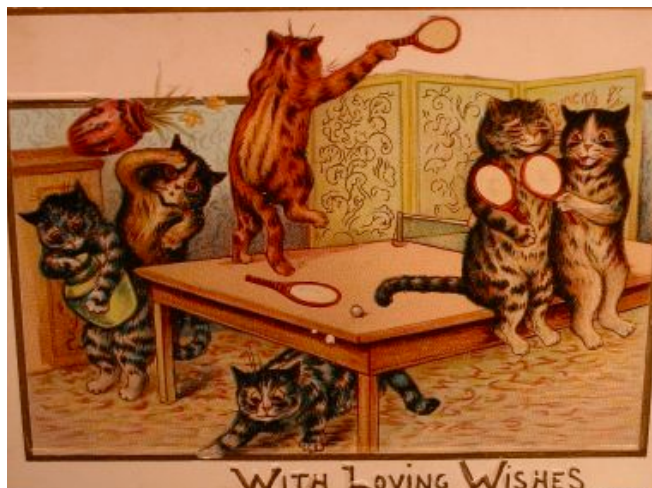


Latest from Ebay



www.ebay.com

One of the best sources of items to augment collections of any sort is the internet auction giant Ebay. Here is a selection of some of the better items that have been traded on Ebay since the last issue of this journal.



These two Raphael Tuck folding greetings cards, both by the famous cat artist Louis Wain (see *TTC* #1) and from the first decade of the twentieth century, were sold a few weeks apart by different sellers and acquired by different purchasers. The prices, however, were fairly similar with the left-hand card selling for \$130 and the right-hand card for \$113.

Featured here are two bats from the 1950s that attracted extraordinarily high prices. To the left is a Swedish Tage Flisberg bat and is in very good condition with the labels intact. This rubber is of the waffle variety, favoured in the early/mid fifties and for this reason the bat's nick-name is "Våfflan". This item was purchased for the ITTF Museum for \$392. Flisberg (1917-1989) rebuilt his career in his late thirties by virtue of this sponge racket.

The Museum also acquired the Peggy Franks hard rubber bat, also presented in excellent condition, for \$123. Peggy Franks won the Women's Doubles at the 1948 World Championships and was a member of England's victorious Corbillon Cup teams of 1947 and 1948.



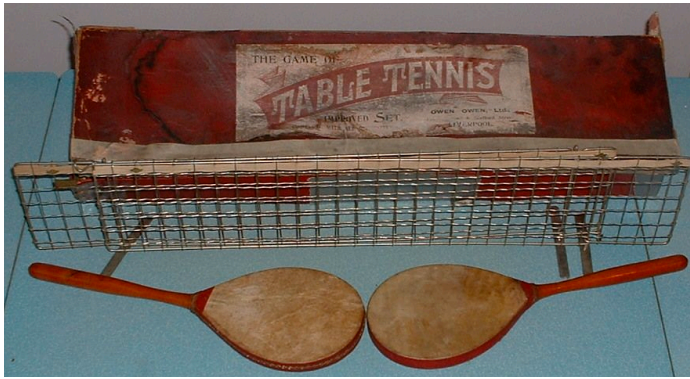
This 1950's ball vending machine, manufactured by Victor Vending Corporation sold for \$47. Perhaps the low price was because the seller restricted shipment to the United States only.



There have been a couple of early music sheets sold recently, the most interesting being a copy of "I Wants A Ping-Pong Man" which reached a staggering \$170. The Samuel Fox "Ping-Pong Match Two Step" sold for a more modest \$54. Pictures of both of these items can be found in Alan Duke's excellent article in *TTC* #29.

This 1920's bat is made from solid cast aluminium, weighing about 6 oz. The surface has a bumpy texture to aid ball contact and enhance spin. This unusual item fetched \$43 for its previous owner.





What attracted the Editor to part with £140 for this set was the free-standing wire mesh net. There is a label showing that the net was patented by Quiggins and we know from Alan Duke's article (*TTC #24*) that patent 19476 was taken out in September 1901. The rackets are stamped "real vellum" and the box bears the name of Owen Owen Ltd., of Liverpool although this could easily be the retailer rather than manufacturer.

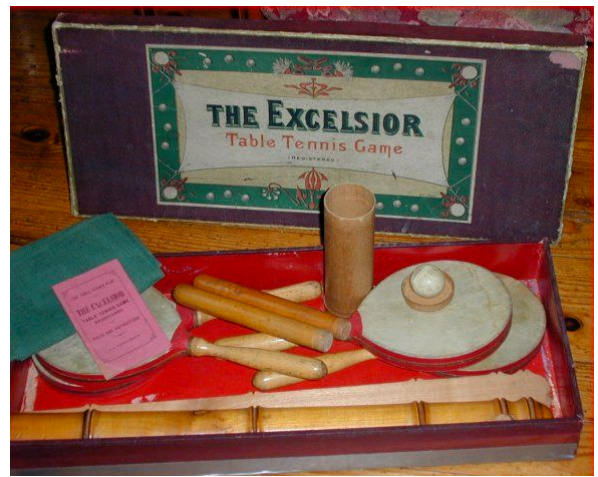


This French set only attracted one bid—but the starting price was \$299. This is another example of a free-standing net, this time with a wood base. There are two strung rackets although some of the stringing is missing. While the lid of the box titles the set "Tennis-Table" the rules also refer to "Tennis de Salon" and "Ping-Pong" and claim that it is "Le Nouvelle Jeu à la Mode".

This Excelsior set (right), c. 1902, sold to a member of the Society for \$299. The green label is different to most others, being simple yet attractive at the same time. This set was made in France and includes a very rare folding free-standing net base made from bamboo.



\$180 was parted for this 1902 boxed set of Imperial Table Tennis by J. W. Mathews Co. Inside the slightly battered box were two vellum rackets, net, 6 balls and directions.



Medals of various types crop up quite regularly on Ebay but this one caught my eye because it is for the Table Tennis Association of Wales Club Championship for season 1927-8. There is a maker's mark JF and the silver hallmarks are Birmingham. The centre depicts the Welsh Lion are there a two crossed bats below the hanging ring. Delightful! This was acquired by a member of the Society for \$36. Maybe one of our Welsh members could throw more light of this competition?



This attractively boxed set by De La Rue sold for \$209 to the ITTF Museum. The description in Ebay suggested a date of around 1910 and it certainly looks later than the early 1900's even though the rules described it as "the popular society game for the table". The bats are plain wood.

Philatelic Pages

Please send your contributions for the philatelic pages to:

Anton Zwiebel

Kerkweg 30
9439 PG WITTEVEEN
The Netherlands

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Anton Zwiebel continues his regular contribution about table tennis stamps, post-marks and other items of philatelic interest.



El Salvador—picture of the earlier announced strip. TT is in the upper left corner of the top stamp. The pictogram in the 3rd stamp from above shows a basketball dunk.

Mali—a late find of an issue for the Atlanta Olympics.

Syria—the 07-11-1992 issue also imperforated.

Malaysia—very uncommon, ONLY the 30 sen of the 19-02-2000 series seems to be also printed imperforate.



Egypt—issued 03-02-2003 this series of 2 stamps to commemorate the World Championships.



22-08-2001 P.R.China issued a sheet of 20 identical stamps at the occasion of the Universiade, held in Beijing in August 2001.

In the *TT Collector* No. 30 Winter 2002 I made translational errors. A distinguished Chinese philatelist gave me corrections and filled in the data for the 2 unknown handstamps. As follows:

- No. 1 is not a handstamp, but an "imprint";
- No. 2 is for a China Super Club Cup match, held in JiangYin on July 22, 2001;
- No. 3 is ditto, but then held in Kunsan on September 8, 2001;
- No. 4 is a "provisional" postmark for the Challenge, held in Jinan on December 22, 2001;
- No. 9 correct name of the City should be He Nan, not He Neng;
- No.10 correct name of the City should be Sian, not Sihan.

Greece issued a booklet containing some 30 stamps for the Summer Olympics Athens 2004. One table tennis stamp in that series. Picture later.



Delayed entry of this redmeter slogan for the 23rd? Info please.



22-12-2002 P.R.China issued a sheet with 16 identical flower-stamps, to each stamp is attached a photo-tab. Every tab shows a different picture of a (former or present) victorious Chinese table tennis team. This sheet is apparently issued in a rather limited edition. There is, of course, also a series of 16 FDC's.

The first picture shows one of the 16 identical stamps with different photo-tab.

The second picture shows the reason for this issue. The stamps with this tab is not in the sheet, but came separately.

The Chinese National Table Tennis team's 50 years on the international scene. This stamps offers at the same time the 17th FDC.

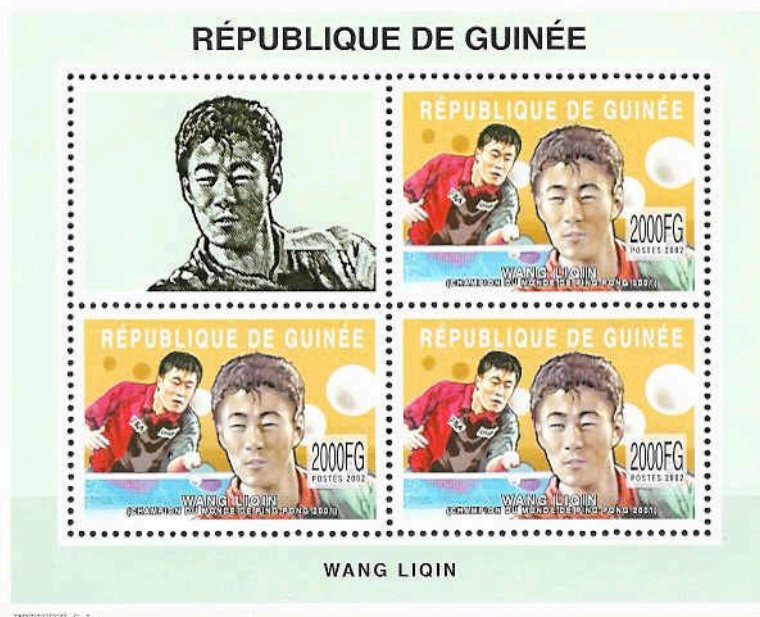


The 12th Provincial Games ZHEJIANG P.R.China Issued 12.10.2002 as sheet of 16 identical stamps with different tabs depicting the sports in these Games.

The first Sports Games in CHONG QING P.R. China. Issued 11.02.2003 as sheet of 16 identical stamps with different tabs depicting the sports in these Games.



Both stamps were issued in an attractive folder.



Guinee Rep. issued 2 sheetlets honouring top-player Wang Li Qin. Issued when? This Country has now issued almost as many table tennis stamps as they have registered ping pong players. Something for the Guinness Book of Records?



Special postmark for the European Table Tennis Championships held in Courmayeur (Italy). This postmark was available on an attractive cover in the venue. Also a set of special picture postcards was issued for the occasion.

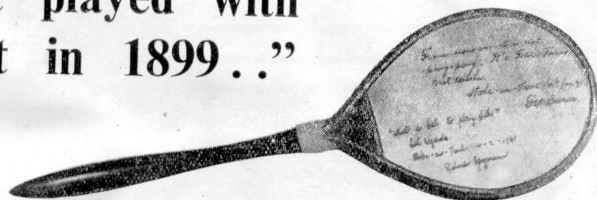


Special cancellation for the 23rd Regional Table Tennis Cup. Played in Molfetta (Italy) on 12th April 2003.

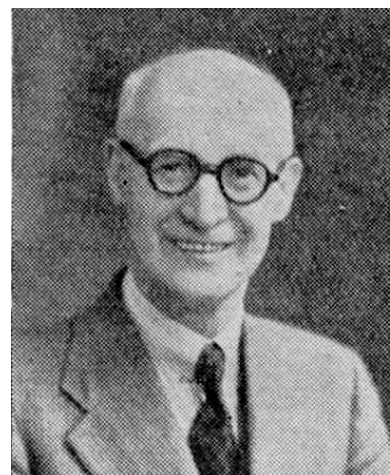
A. T. Finney Recollects

This article first appeared in the ETТА magazine *Table Tennis* in October 1951. Mr. Finney had just been elected a Vice-President of the ETТА and his name, along with that of his home town, are perpetuated by his donations of two trophies for the English Open Championships—the Boys' Singles (Finney Cup) and the Girls' Singles (Dresden Vase).

“I first played with this bat in 1899..”



remembers A. T. Finney



I was then 14 years old so have now been playing for 52 years. That was at Dresden, Longton in Staffs, where in the Potteries League of 1908 our team never lost a match, home or away ... those of us who are living are still proud of the Gold Medal we possess for that achievement.

When we played with the vellum bats in 1899 you served directly **over** the net, which was then SEVEN inches high.

These vellum bat were about 18 inches long. The vellum was tightly stretched over the frame (which was about ¾-inch thick) so that the playing surfaces were hollow, rather like a narrow drum. The sound of the ball striking this drum-like structure and the table alternatively could best be written “ping-pong” and thus prompted one alert manufacturer to copyright the name exclusively for his own equipment.

The autographed writing on the bat shown above reads:

“From now on it is not ping-pong. It's Table Tennis. Best Wishes, Stoke-on-Trent, 4th Jan., 1941. G.V. Barna.”

“What a bat to play with. Best regards. Stoke-on-Trent. 4-2-41. Richard Bergmann.”

Philatelic Pages *(continued from page 15)*



7.2.03 starting date of this redmeter slogan on mail from the French Association, Organizer of the 47th World Championships in Paris.



Two cancellations referring to the recent World Championships in Bercy Paris.

The right one is the official postmark placed on mail from the venue.

The left one was made in China and used for 5 days in the City of Nanjing. According to info from the co-designer Gao Yi Bin.

My thanks for their continuous information and support go to Yao Zhenxi, Winfried Engelbrecht, Gao Yi Bin, Ou Li Xu, Luciano de Castris, Didier André, Tang Gan Xian, Hans-Peter Trautmann and Mrs. Katharina Barth—AZ.

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