

# Olympic Torch Cancels

# 1936 Berlin: First Torch Relay

The International Olympic Committee first started the Olympic Torch Relay in 1936.

This souvenir card was printed by a Greek stamp dealer and cancelled in two places – Olympia, Greece and the Olympic Village in Berlin, Germany.



# 1956 Melbourne Olympics

This is the first time that the flame was relayed by airplane. The cover, sponsored by Qantas Airlines, bears Greek stamps postmarked in Olympia, Greece with a receiving backstamp in Australia.



# 1964 Tokyo Olympics



Philatelic involvement with the Olympic Torch Relay becomes more elaborate with this Olympics.

The souvenir folder at the left contains a map of the relay route and appropriate postmarks including stops along the route.

The next page shows the route of the torch relay and was featured inside the folder.



# 1964 Tokyo Olympics

During a layover of the Torch Relay in Manila, the local postal authorities honored the Olympics with a special cancel.



# 1964 Tokyo Olympics

A Torch Relay flight layover in the Ryukyu Islands provided another opportunity for a special cancel commemorating the Olympic Games.



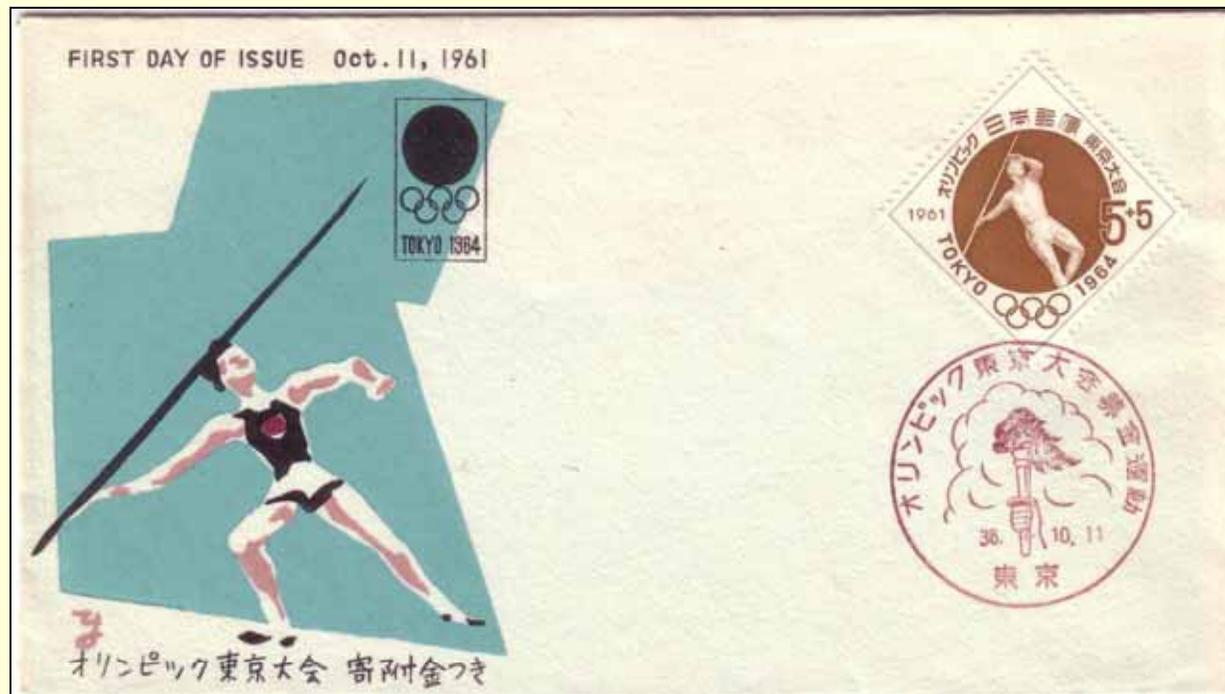
# 1964 Tokyo Olympics

This Torch Relay cover was cancelled along the route on the main island of Honshu.



# 1964 Tokyo Olympics

This cover is sport specific. It is franked with a semi-postal stamp showing a javelin athlete. It is cancelled with a Torch Relay station postmark.

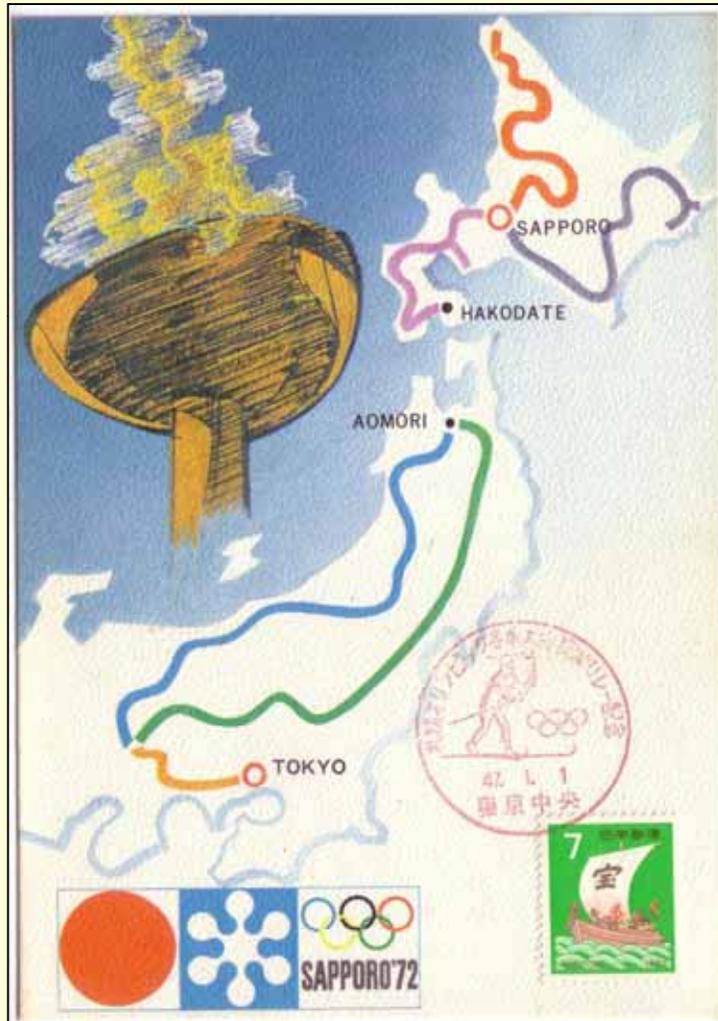


# 1968 Grenoble, France

This Torch Relay cover is franked with two Greek stamps and is cancelled in Larissa, Greece – an early stop along the relay route to the site of the winter Olympics.



# 1972 Sapporo Olympics



This postcard shows the Torch Relay route on two of the main Japanese islands – Honshu and Hokkaido.

For these Olympics, over 18,000 Torch bearers were used for the route from Tokyo to Sapporo.

# 1972 Munich Olympics

This 'label cachet' cover commemorates the Olympic Torch Relay for the Munich games. It was postmarked in Budapest on August 12, 1972. The Torch passed through eight countries.



# 1972 Munich Olympics

The stamp on this FDC, dated August 21, 1972, was issued in conjunction with the passing of the Olympic Relay Torch through Vienna (Wien). The stamp is Scott #926.



# 1972 Munich Olympics

This cover uses the same stamp and postmark design as on the previous cover. This time the Torch is passing through Salzburg, Austria on August 23, 1972.



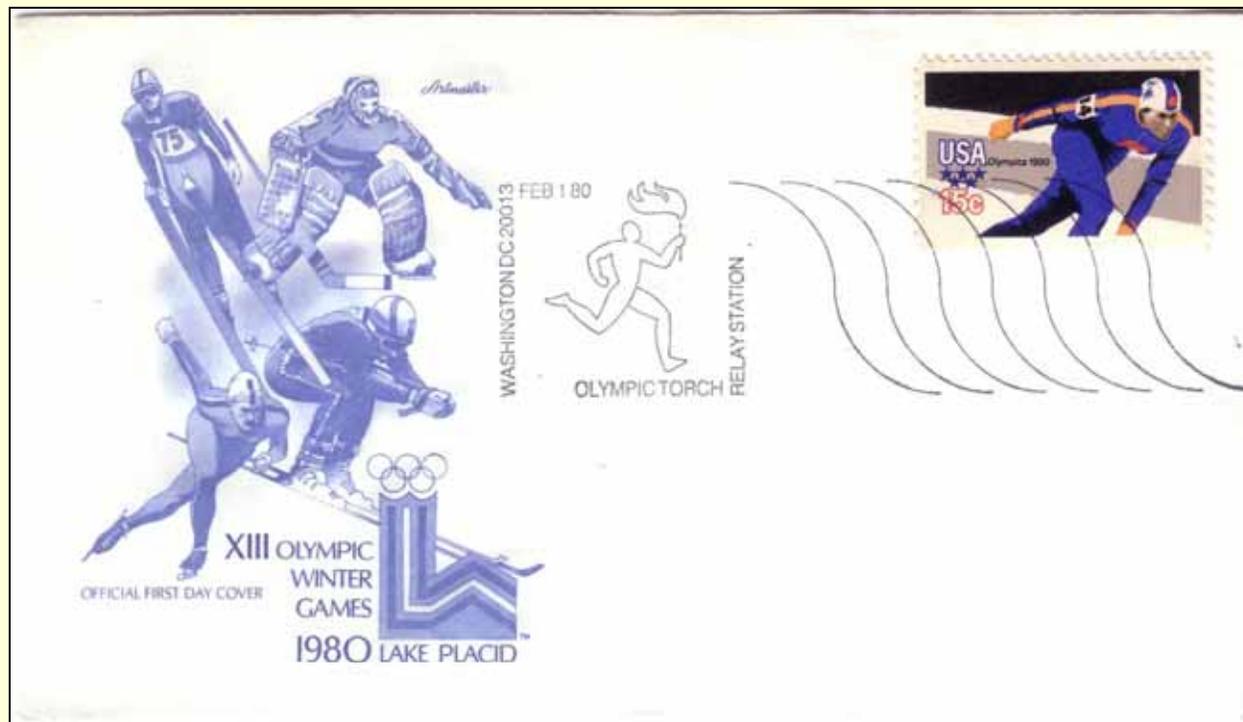
# 1976 Montreal Olympics

This Torch Relay cover is postmarked at the final station before entering the Olympic stadium. The cover is the standard large-sized type and shows an embossed Torch runner (just to the right of the flag cachet).



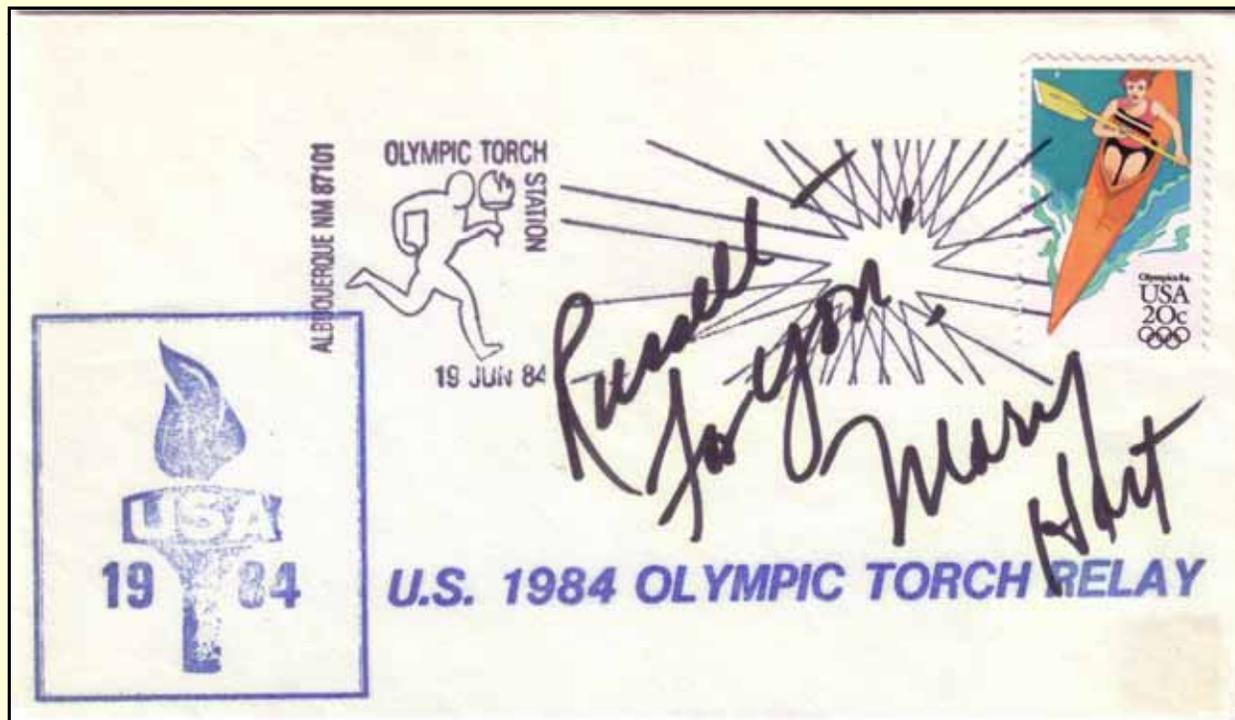
# 1980 Lake Placid

This Artmaster cover is franked with a US Olympic stamp postmarked in Washington, DC at one of the Olympic Torch Relay stations. 52 men and women carried the torch from Langley, VA to Lake Placid.



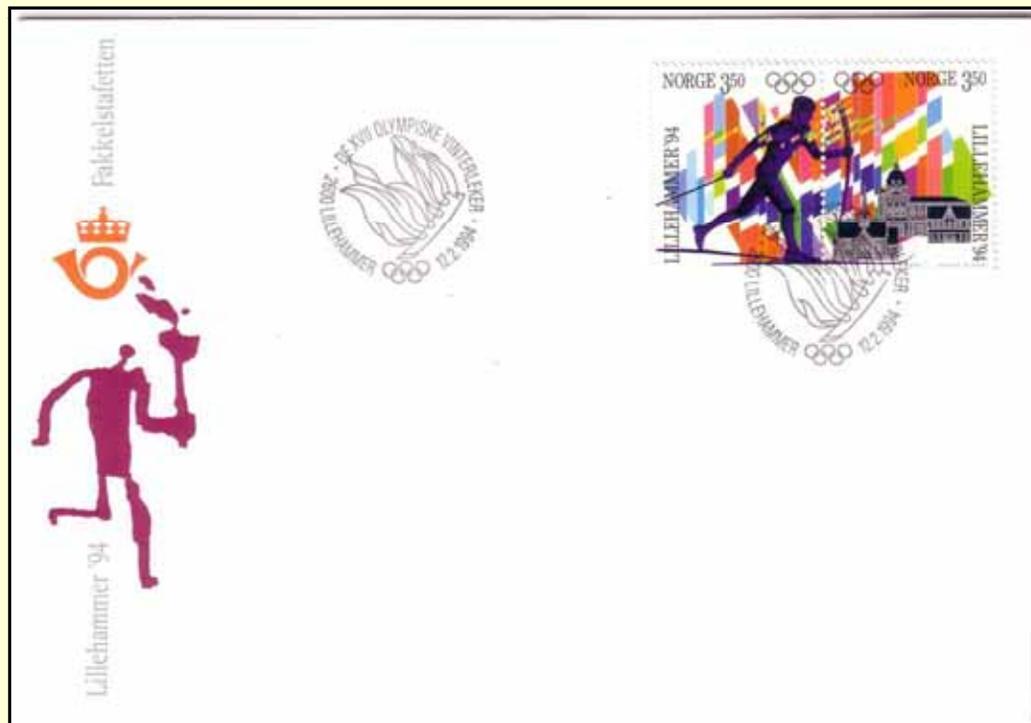
# 1984 Los Angeles Olympics

This cover was cancelled in Albuquerque, NM using the standard USPS Relay Station postmark. The rubber-stamp blue cachet was unique to the preparer (could be Russell since it was autographed to him by Mary Hart).



# 1994 Lillehammer, Norway

This cover is part of a massive philatelic program of relay and sport cancels developed under the auspices of the Norwegian post office. At the left is the stylized pictogram of the Torch Relay runner. This is the last station postmark before entering the Olympic venue.



# 1991 Sports Festival

The Olympic Torch Relay is now an established part of the games. Other sporting events have emulated this activity and have created cachets and postmarks to commemorate their event.

