

**Exhibit Synopsis:**  
***The Olympic Jubilee – Lausanne 1944***

***Historical Background:***

In 1944, the games of the XII<sup>th</sup> Olympiad, to be held in London, were cancelled on account of World War II. Nevertheless, the Olympic movement continued and a jubilee celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the International Olympic Committee was held in Lausanne, Switzerland in June and July of 1944. To mark this occasion, Switzerland issued a set of three stamps depicting the Greek god, Apollo in three denominations designed by Maja Allenbach of Bern.

***Philatelic Elements and Availability:***

The Olympic Jubilee issue was valid from 21 March 1944 to 31 December 1944. The exhibit first focuses on the basic issue including its printing on two distinct paper types, multiples and plate and color varieties. As the Olympic Jubilee series was available in three denominations, the variety of usages is broad. This exhibit features usages from domestic post cards to registered letters and services. Trial color proofs and an imperforate proof of the 30 C. issue are known to exist and are extremely scarce and are not included in my collection.

***Highlights include:***

- Used pair of “Open Eye” variety of 30c issue.
- “Open Eye” variety of 30c issue in block of twenty. This variety is rare in a large multiple format. There is no accurate record of how many of this variety exists as no record was kept as to when the plate repair was made causing this variety.
- Examples of various plate varieties, including the 10c “Earring” variety in position 24
- Trial color proofs of 30c issue.
- Registered first day (21 March 1944) letter from Rorschach to Munich
- Each stamp in the series signed by designer Maja Allenbach
- Color varieties on both Biberist and Sihl paper types
- Examples of the Olympic Jubilee slogan cancellation used from May 1944 to August 1944 at Lausanne 2 post office only.

***Selected Bibliography:***

**Olympic History:**

- Findling, John E. and Kimberly Pelle, editors; Encyclopedia of the History of the Olympic Movement, 1996
- Constable, George, The Olympic Century, XI, XII, & XIII Olympiads, 1996

**Olympic and Swiss Philately:**

- International Olympic Committee, Post, Philately, Olympism, 1985
- Podolsky, Sherwin, “The 1944 Silver Jubilee Philatelic Program”, Sports Philatelists International, Journal of Sports Philately, Volume 32, Number 5, May-June 1994.
- Zumstein & Cie., Spezialkatalog über die Briefmarken der Schweiz und von Liechtenstein, 1975
- Volk, Heiko, Die Olympischen Spiele im Blickpunkt der Philatelie und ihren Randgebieten (The Olympic Games from the Viewpoint of Philately and its Related Areas), 1976