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„WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES - sports from snow and ice land”.

SYNOPSIS

Exponat presents history of winter sports and passion to its doing. Winter Olympic Games were the result of this love. Before olympic games became a fact, winter sports have come a long way. Winter equipment were used by people of ice and snow land to survive. Snow and ice has enabled sliding as means of transportation using sledges, skies and skates. Our predecessors applied it in everyday life, during rescue operations and military conflicts as well. In next times our ancestors have seen winter equipment as a possibility to use it for recreation and enjoyable and healthy time to spend. This created a need of competition, which generally started from the beginning of XIX century. Rivalry in mass cross-country skiing took place in Scandinavia, skating in the Netherland and downhill skiing in Alpine areas. Winter sport resorts started rapidly developing. Sport facilities were created including: ski lifts, ski jumps, toboggan runs, ice rinks.

Olympic winter sports can be used to provide on snow like: cross-country skiing, ski jumping, alpine skiing, biathlon, snowboarding. Ice is necessary to play such olympic sports like speed skating, figure skating, ice hockey, curling , luge and bobsleigh as well. Exponat presents places of games not in chronological order but depending on area ones (Alps, Norway, Asia, North America).

Olympic Games had a lot of its positive heroes who signed up with golden letters in history, but we can find unfortunately negative participants for whom striving for goal was more important than fair play rules.

At the end we have to ask w question what was the future of Winter Olympic Games. Winter sports are developing very rapidly. Traditionally winter sports are played in cold areas during winter times, but artificial snow and artificial ice allow more flexibility. Indoor sports with artificial ice allow to play them in hot climate. Outdoor winter sports will likely be severely impacted because of climate change in next century.

Concerning philatelic material which is included in the exponat, I would like to pay your attention for several items, which at first glance, have not any relations with winter (Olympic) winter sports. But they, are complementing, in brilliant way, the narrative of the story (for example items on cards no. 13,21,33,34,35,42,45,54,58,59,64,65,68,71,73,74,75,77,80). We can find also several dozen items concerning with post history, some of them (items on exhibition cards no. 02, 43, 53, 64) are come from the period before pre-postmark period, some others were issued in the second half of XIX century (items on cards no 21, 52, 64, 65).

In the exponat were used as much as possible wide range of philatelic material. For instance the most interesting items like stamps with print faults, perforation errors, proofs, specimen (40 items), elder issue of cheque bank envelope (item on card no. 36), postal stationaries, cancellations, military mails (items on cards 08,72,73), postal forms, Mulready envelope (item on card no.02), IRC coupon, covers, CM, booklets, test prints before acceptance for printing house, sample copy of four stamps cancelled for identification the contents of package sent from printing house, perfins, telegrams, engraves proofs signed by designers.

Exponat has been completely changed comparing to last exhibition (2021 year). It includes much more interesting less frequent philatelic material with better quality. The plan has been updated as well. Most of judges remarks have been taken into consideration.

WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

Sports from ice and snow land

1. A LONG TIME AGO WINTER EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN USED

- 1.1.in the fight for survival in a shackles of snow and ice,
- 1.2.in the meetings live needs,
- 1.3.during rescue operations,
- 1.4.during wars and military conflicts.

2. WINTER SPORTS WERE FORMING AND DEVELOPED

- 2.1.from fun and recreation using sledges and skates,
- 2.2.through passion to mountains and crazy skiing down the slopes,
- 2.3.to the competitions on snow and ice.
- 2.4.Olympic dreams of athletes began to come true.

3. OLYMPIC GAMES BECAME A FACT

- 3.1.alpine snow and ice sport resorts,
- 3.2.Norway - home of classical skiing ,
- 3.3.Olympic games on western hemisphere,
- 3.4.sports competitions in hospitable Asia.

4. STARTED WITH SIXTEEN SPORT COMPETITIONS, NOW THERE ARE SEVERAL DOZEN

- 4.1.in rivalry on ski hills and cross – country skiing tracks,
- 4.2.on mountain slopes covered with white down,
- 4.3.on the ice sheet,
- 4.4.in frozen chute.

5. IT IS A TIME TO INTRODUCE MAIN ACTORS OF EVANTS

- 5.1.representativs of nordic countries dominating not only in classical skiing,
- 5.2.alps countries athletes – homeland of downhill skiing,
- 5.3.champions, who broke barriers and did impossible things,
- 5.4.Olympians – heros from Poland.

6. WILL WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES SURVIVE?

- 6.1.in the age of political manipulations and boycotts plague,
- 6.2.in boundless striving for victory, often against principle fair play rules,
- 6.3.at times when new sport disciplines are included into the olympic program,
- 6.4.some winter sports are waiting for olympic debut.