1932 & 1980: The Winter Olympics Come to Lake Placid

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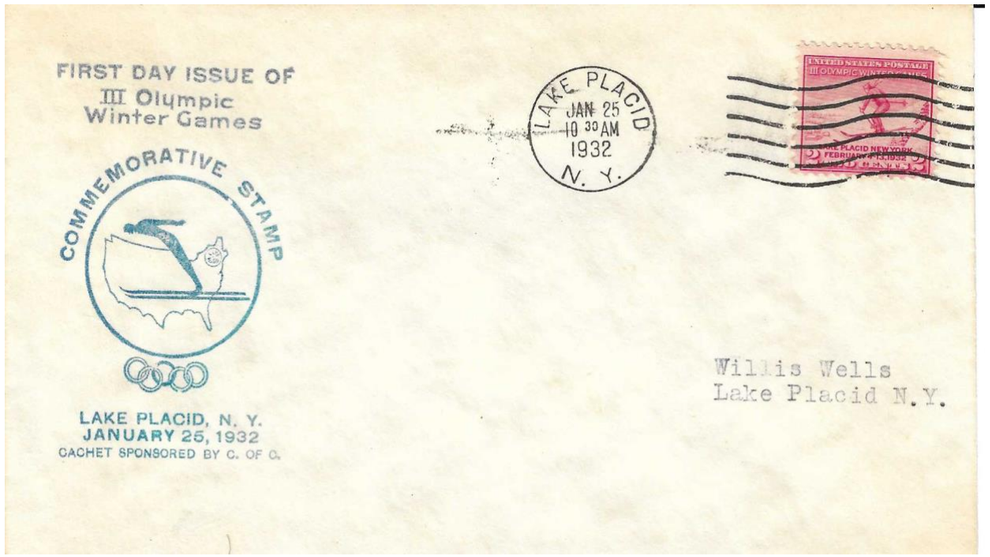
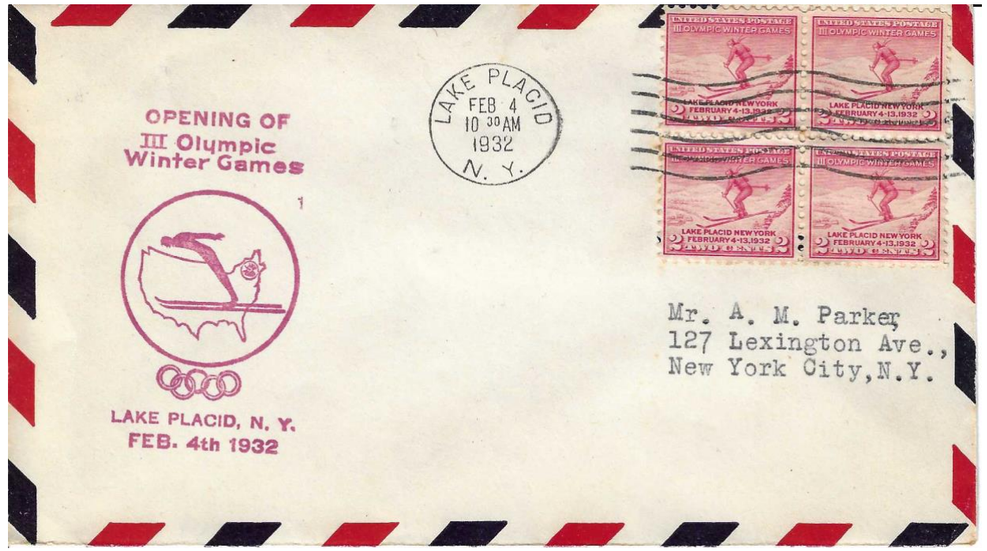


The FDC at left is addressed to Willis Wells, Mayor of Lake Placid & influential in bringing the Games to Lake Placid.

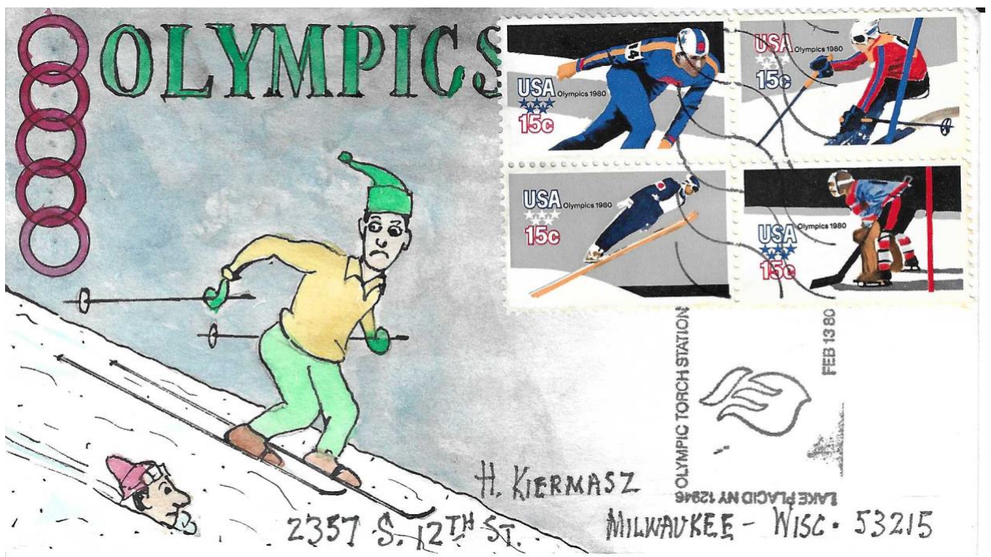


1932 Winter Olympics – Two covers created by the Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce to promote the 1932 Winter Olympic Games. At left is a FDC for the commemorative stamp issue and at right a cover commemorating the Opening day of the Games, February 4, 1932.

The Olympic Rings were designed by the Father of the modern games, Pierre de Coubertin. The rings debuted in 1920 at the Olympic Games in Antwerp Belgium.

Intervening Years – Lake Placid bid frequently for the right to host a second Winter Olympics. The slogan meter at left, with inverted Olympic Rings, promotes Lake Placid as the "Home of the Winter Olympics." The slogan meter at right, with the Olympic Rings layout altered, promotes Lake Placid as a candidate city for the 1968 Winter Olympics. Unfortunately, the bid was unsuccessful as the 1968 Games were awarded to Grenoble, France.

The rings on these meters were modified because the official rings had been trademarked in the U.S. Copyright office.

The Olympic Games have been held in the United States eight times with just two cities hosting more than one. Los Angeles was host city of the Summer Olympics in 1932 and 1984. Lake Placid hosted the Winter Olympics in 1932 and 1980.

1980 Winter Olympics – Herman Maul created this hand painted/hand colored cover to celebrate the 1980 Winter Olympic Games. The stamps have been canceled with the Olympic Torch Station hand cancel on February 13, 1980, the first day of the Games.