

The History of Fencing

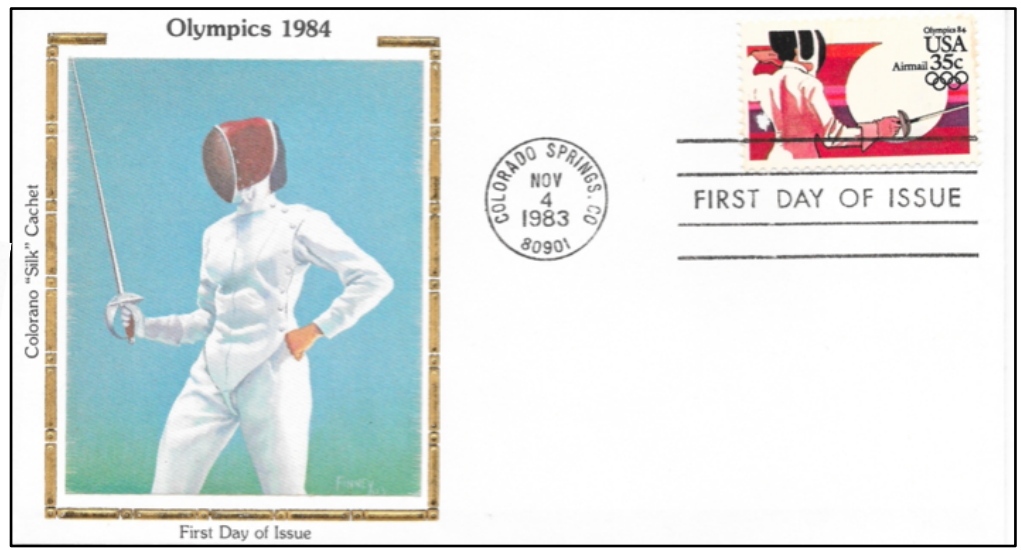


Training in sword-fighting goes back to ancient times. In the middle ages, great masters started writing treatises on their methods and systems – which became increasingly refined during the renaissance. In the early modern period, the ability to thrust a rapier or foil was a martial art practiced by many and considered an important part of a university education.



The transition from combat to non-lethal styles of fencing is complete. Modern fencing is done for exercise and for sport – one that has been in every modern Olympics since the first games began in Athens in 1896. Today, fencing, practiced by 145 national groups, is governed by the Fédération Internationale d'Escrime (FIE) based in Switzerland.

Women's fencing was added at the Paris Olympics in 1924.



Wheelchair fencing, developed by and for athletes with a disability, is governed by the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation, part of the International Paralympic Committee and has been part of the Summer Paralympic Games since they were established in Rome in 1960.



Stamps (from top to bottom) 1959 Hungary S1626, S1627, S1629-31 – 24th World Fencing Championships; 1975 Canada (Semi-Postal) S602 - Olympic Games, Montreal 1976; 1983 United States FDC SC100 – Olympic Games, Los Angeles 1984; 2021 France S7508 – Sport Passion (Series) ... the cover and all stamps are 75% of actual size.