



Secretariat

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Distribution:
1 copy per staff member

INFORMATION CIRCULAR No. 41

Subject: First Day of Issue – 12 August 2004

World Heritage - Greece

1. On 12 August 2004, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue a set of six commemorative stamps and three prestige booklets on the theme "World Heritage – Greece".
2. Greece was the birthplace of the Olympic Games. The origin of the Olympic Games is linked with many myths referred to in ancient sources; however, according to tradition, the first Olympic Games were held in Olympia in 776 B.C. The first modern Olympic Games were held in Athens in 1896. In 2004, the Olympic Games will return to their



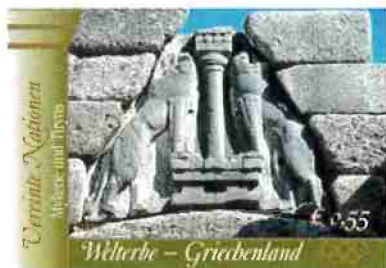
origins when Athens hosts the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad. Incredibly, many of the archaeological sites from the ancient Games in Greece can still be recognized today and have become World Heritage sites.

3. World Heritage sites are chosen by the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, whose primary objective is protecting natural and cultural properties of outstanding universal value against the threat of damage in a rapidly developing world. The Convention, is an international agreement which was adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1972.

4. The Olympic Games have always brought people together in peace to respect universal moral principles. To continue this spirit, and to commemorate the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, the United Nations has chosen six World Heritage sites in Greece for this year's World Heritage stamp issue.



Pythagoreion and Heraion of Samos CHF 1.30 stamp



Mycenae and Tiryns -€ 0.55 stamp



Olympia -€ 0.75 stamp

7. Staff members are encouraged to use United Nations stamps on their personal mail. By doing so, these miniature messengers of peace can educate unseen thousands of people to the activities and goals of the United Nations.



Delphi - CHF 1.00 stamp

5. Staff members and mission personnel wishing to procure these stamps, booklets and first day covers can obtain them from 9 to 12 a.m. and from 1 to 5 p.m. on 12 August 2004 at the UNPA sales counter at door 6 of the Palais des Nations.

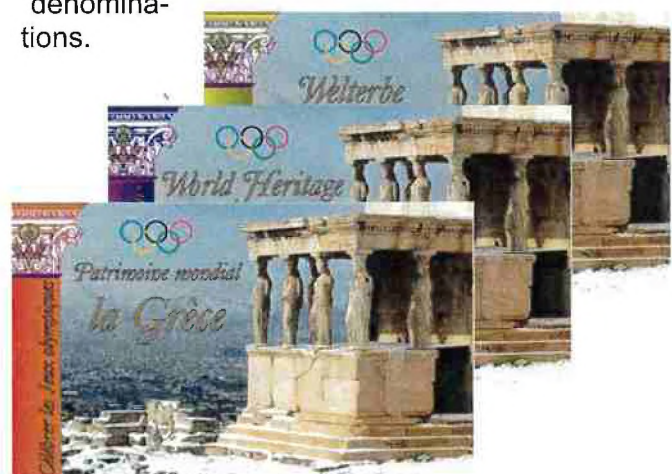


Acropolis, Athens - US\$ 0.37 stamp



Delos - US\$ 0.60 stamp

6. **Booklets** - The three booklets on the theme "World Heritage - Greece" have a common design based on the six commemorative stamps for this issue and each contains a total of 24 mint stamps in US-Dollar, Swiss Franc or Euro denominations.



(Signed) Bertrand Juppín de Fondaumiére
Director, Division of Administration