

Vanity perfins can sometimes be obvious, sometimes not!

Germany and the Tokyo Olympics and a maybe from Brazil

Back in 1964, a group of German stamp dealers came up with an idea to make some extra money.

They had a perforator made with the TOKYO/1964 pattern, convinced someone in the German Olympic Games Committee to authorize the perfin and thus allow the use of the Olympic symbol on special covers, and convinced someone in the West German government to authorize a special cancel so they could create "first day covers" of the new perfin. The end result is

shown at right. The covers were sold through a dealer in Liechtenstein at a handsome profit.

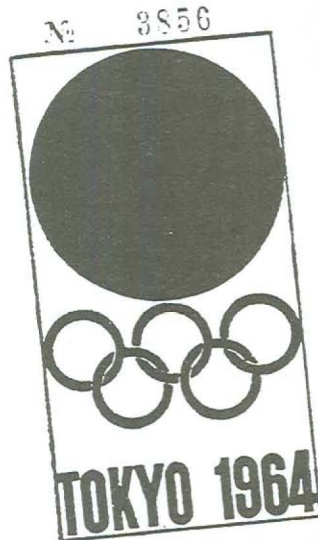
That much we know, thanks to the late Joe Schirmer who wrote an article in the May 1979 issue of the journal of the German Philatelic Society.

What we don't know is how many of the covers exist, whether the stamps can be found off cover, and anything further about the whole project. The cover was first discussed in the February 1981 *Perfins Bulletin* and the cover illustrated then was "No. 3856." The editor recently acquired cover No. 1027 through an eBay auction, all of which indicates that at least several thousand covers were created.

Does anyone else have one of the covers? Can anyone add any more information?

Number 10 in a series on vanity perfins
by Editor Floyd Walker

Ersttagsbrief / First Day Cover



Euro
mit Du
zugunsten

