

## 6. THE GLOBAL CIRCUS

### 6.1 Grand Slam Events - Wimbledon

1877. The oldest championship for men open to all comers.  
It was organized by the All England Club, Wimbledon.

1884

Maud Watson, GB

The first ladies' champion and she won it again the next year.



*The date of this 1984 postmark was incorrectly set on 1983!*

1877

Spencer Gore, GB

The first person to win an open championship.  
He was actually born in Wimbledon in 1850.



*A special postmark to mark the centennial championships.*

From 1913 to 1924 the tournament, was called 'The World Championships on Grass'. The title was happily dropped when the USA made it a condition of their belatedly joining the International Lawn Tennis Federation in 1924.

Duke of York



In 1926 the future KG VI played in the men's doubles.

The Club has always hosted the champs.



*Unregistered covers with both the Club and mobile postmarks are most unusual.*

Blanche Hillyard, GB  
Six times champion  
between 1894 - 1900.



A resolute rallier and she served over-arm!

Suzanne Lenglen, Fr.  
Six times the singles champion  
1919 to 1923 and 1925 and thrice a  
triple champion 1920, '22 and '25.



She came on court like a model, acted like a film star and moved like a ballerina.

Laurie Doherty, GB  
Five times champion  
between 1902 - 1906.



He also won 8 doubles titles with his brother.

## 6.1 Grand Slam Events - Wimbledon

The term 'Grand Slam' refers to the four most prodigious tournaments which are Wimbledon, the French, US and Australian Championships. It came into being in 1936 after Fred Perry became the first man to have won all four top men's singles titles. In 1938 Don Budge became the first person to win the Grand Slam Crown i.e. to hold of all the four titles in one calendar year.

'Winning them all.'



The term 'Grand Slam' came from the card game Bridge.

Fred Perry, GB  
In 1936 he won the singles title for a third time in a row.



The establishment did not like him but the public did.

Don Budge, USA  
He was triple champion in both 1937 and 1938.



One of the greatest players. His backhand was exquisite.

Helen Wills Moody, USA  
Entered eight times and won eight times.



Eight times champion between 1927 and 1938.

The 1939 Championships were the last to be held before they were suspended owing to W W II.



In 1939 a mobile post office was stationed at the Championship ground for the first time. There were two similar handstamp cancellers used, this reading 'C', the other reading 'B'.

In October, 1940, a 500 lb bomb struck the Centre Court roof and damaged 1200 seats.



In 1948 the singles champions were both Americans, R. Falkenburg and Miss A. L. Brough.



This All England Club postmark was only used during the 1948 Championships in a mobile post office sited at the ground. It was only used to cancel stamps on registered mail and on receipts.

Louise Brough, USA  
A triple champion in 1948 and again 1950.



Six times champion between 1948 - 1955.



## 6.1 Grand Slam Events - Wimbledon

- 1956. More than 250,000 spectators attended the tournament.
- 1950s. Fashion hit tennis and Maria Bueno was a leading exponent.
- 1957. Althea Gibson, USA became the first coloured champion.
- 1960s. The men's tournament was dominated by the Australians.

Maria Bueno, Brazil  
She won the ladies' singles title  
1959 and '60 and again in 1964.



She was a most graceful and elegant player.



The time had been incorrectly set in the handstamp showing 12.45 AM when it should have set to read PM.



John Newcombe, Aus  
The men's champion  
in 1967, 1970 and '71.



He was an exponent of  
the serve and volley.

Althea Gibson, USA  
The ladies' champion  
in both 1957 and 1958.



She was very athletic with  
controlled overhead shots.



This 'All England LTC' circular date stamp was used from 1949 to 1956, apart from 1955 when there was no tennis postmark. In 1957 a new 'All England' postmark was introduced for that year only. The previous canceller was still used on registered mail. It is rarely found as the public was content to receive the new postmark that could be applied to less costly ordinary mail.

## 6.1 Grand Slam Events - Wimbledon

1968. The first open Wimbledon was a stirring success. Billie Jean King won the singles, a third time in succession. She was to win the title again in 1972, 1973 and 1975, six times in all. Rod Laver won the men's. He had last won the title in 1962, the year of his Grand Slam when he had then turned professional. Now he had returned after six years and won Wimbledon again. Even more amazingly in the next year he won his second Grand Slam.



Rod 'The Rocket' Laver, Aus.  
A four times Wimbledon champion,  
1961, '62, '68 and 1969, including  
Grand Slam crowns in 1962 and '69.



Billie Jean King, USA  
A triple champion in 1967 and 1973.  
She was a winner of all four Grand  
Slam events but never the crown.

Rod 'The Rocket' Laver used the Dunlop Maxply Fort racket when winning Wimbledon in 1968.



The postmark for the 1968 championships was used from 1965 until 1971. Two cancellers were used that are identified by the gap between 'All' and 'England', one 2mm and the other 3mm. In 1968 that with the 3mm gap was used in the Wimbledon office and showed a time as in this example postmarked 1st July. The other was used in the mobile office mainly for registered mail.



The cover postmarked 26th June has the smaller gap and the time of day removed. It is a rare example of an unregistered letter being postmarked in the mobile office, probably because it was too late in the day to be dealt with in the main post office.



## 6.1 Grand Slam Events - U S Open

- 1881. The first National Championships for men were held at Newport, Rhode Is.
- 1887. The first championships for women were held at the Philadelphia Club.
- 1942. The different championships had been staged in various venues when they were all brought together at the West Side Club, Forest Hills, New York.

Helen Wills Moody, USA

Seven times champion 1923 - 1931.



Beautiful but prim, a hard hitter and determined. She took over Lenglen's position as the top woman player.

1968. The Championships went open.

'Bunny' Ryan, USA  
Ladies' doubles champion 1926.



Winner of 24 Grand Slam doubles titles but never won a singles title.



Don Budge, USA

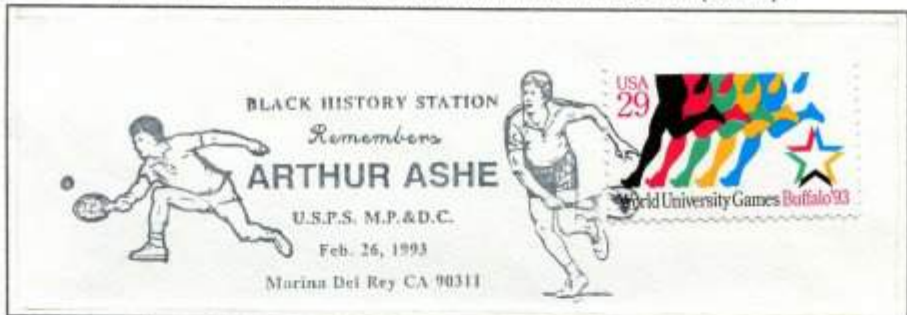
In 1938 he won the Grand Slam.



He possessed an exquisite backhand.

Arthur Ashe, USA

He became the first US Open men's champion and the first black man to win the Championship.



He was an exponent of fast surfaces, a fine tactical player and a much admired ambassador for tennis and his country.

'Little Mo' Connolly, USA  
Champion 1951, '52 & '53.



In 1953 she became the first woman to win the Grand Slam.

Billie Jean King, USA  
4 singles & 9 doubles titles 1964 - 80.



She was unattractively aggressive and sought equality with men.

Maria Bueno, Brazil  
Champion 1963, '64 & '66.



Willing and effective model for tennis dresses and underwear.

## 6.1 Grand Slam Events - U S Open

1968. The US Open began on the grass courts of the West Side Club, Forest Hills, New York.

Virginia Wade, GB

The first US Open ladies' champion.

She was a fine mover, a thunderous hitter and an exciting tactician.



1971 GB presentation pack.

Printing error.

Double fault!

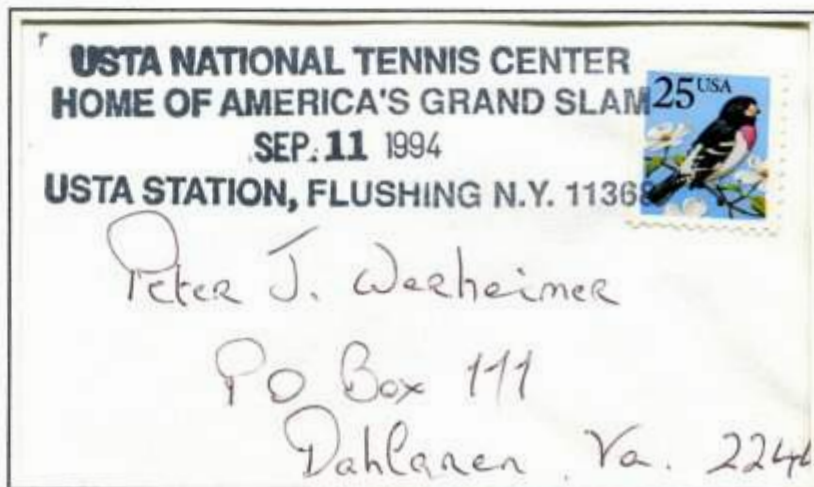
1978. The Championships were moved to the National Tennis Center, Flushing Meadow, New York with its cement courts.

Jimmy Connors, USA

5 times champion 1974 - 1983.



The first left-handed champion and to use a double handed grip.





## 6.1 Grand Slam Events - French Open

1968. As Wimbledon declared its next Championships would be open the French followed and became the first open tournament.

Don Budge, USA

In 1938 he won the Championship to become the first winner of all four major Championships, the Grand Slam. He then turned pro forfeiting his chance to win more Slams.



This machine postmark advertising the millennium championships marked the death on 26 Jan. 2000, of one of the greatest players to grace the court.

Margaret Court, nee Smith, Aus.

A six times champion between 1962 and 1973 and a triple champion in 1964. She won 13 French titles, more than anyone else.



In 1970 she won the Grand Slam crown. She is one of the greatest players of all time.

Gustavo Keurten, Brazil

Three times champion 1997, 2000 and 2001

His favourite surface was clay. He had a baseline style of play using heavy top spun ground strokes.

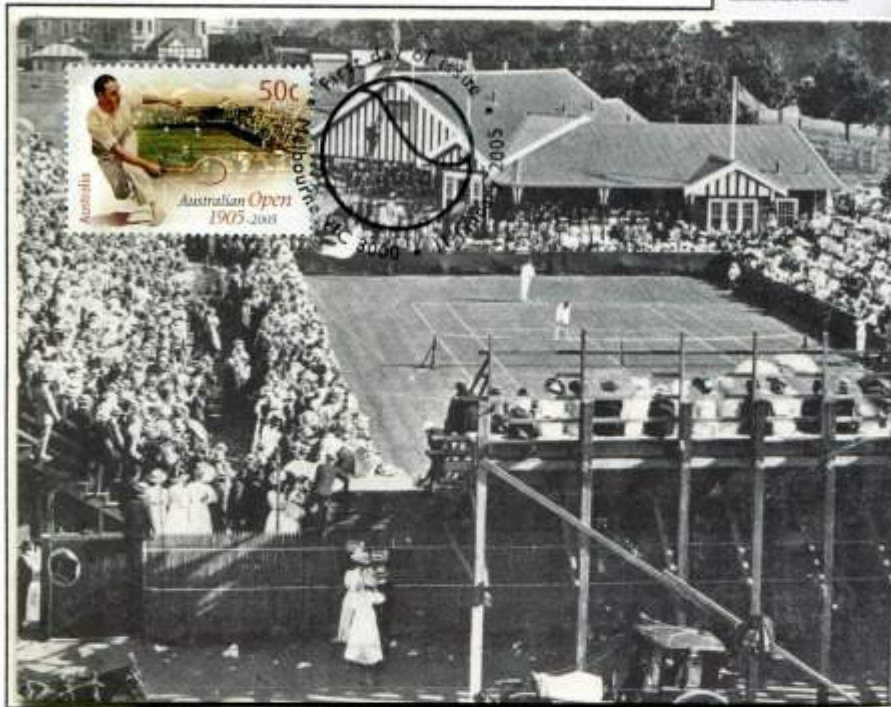


Brazil marked his third French Open title with this stamp and special postmark with the racket handle shaped like the Eiffel Tower.

## 6.1 Grand Slam Events - Australian Open

- 1905. The Australasian Championships for men began. They were played on grass in various cities in Australia and New Zealand.
- 1927. Australia inaugurated its own championships.
- 1972. The championships were given a home at Kooyong, Melbourne.

The first championships at Albert Park, Melbourne



A postal card issued to mark the event's centenary year.

Tony Wilding, NZ  
Champion in 1906 and 1909.



The crowd's 'Matinee Idol'.

In 1951 the championships were held at the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club, Melbourne.



Margaret Court, nee Smith, Aus.  
11 times champion 1960 - 1973  
and a triple champion in 1963.



She was the epitome of fitness.

Ken Rosewall, Aus.  
Champion in 1953, 1955, 1971 and 1972.



His wins spanned an amazing 19 years!

Roy Emerson, Aus.  
He was 6 times champion  
between 1961 and 1967.



He won all four Grand Slam titles.



## 6.1 Grand Slam Events - Australian Open

1968. With the admission of professional players the championships became known as the Australian Open.

Margaret Court, Aus.  
She held the Grand Slam crown for fourteen months 1970 – 1971.



*The postmark should be dated 2004!*

Rod Laver, Aus.  
Champion 1960, 1962 and 1969.



The only person ever to win two Grand Slams, the first in 1962, when he then turned pro. When open tennis came about he won the Grand Slam again in 1969, a performance still unequalled.

In 1988 the event moved to the new National Tennis Centre at Flinders Park, Melbourne.



The new centre has 19 outdoor and 9 indoor courts.



*A postal card issued in 2005 marking the event's centenary. It shows the top arena, The Rod Laver Court.*



## 6.2 The German Open

1892. The German Championships were first staged in Hamburg on clay. They are still held there today. 14 years were lost owing to the wars and not held in 1936 because of the Olympic Games being staged in Berlin.

Owing to the outbreak of WW II after the 1939 Championships the tournament was suspended until 1949.



This design of postmark of was also used in 1938 and again after the war in 1949 and 1950.



This design of postmark was also used to promote the Championships in the previous year, 1951.

Cilly Aussem, Ge.

In 1927 at the age of 18 she was the youngest to win the women's title.



W. Germany

Berlin



This design of meter mark was also used to promote the 74th Championships in 1980.



## 6.2 The Monte-Carlo Open

1897. The first Monte-Carlo tournament was staged by a club formed by an English colony four years earlier.  
 1928. The event was transferred to the newly opened Monte-Carlo Country Club with its clay courts.



This meter mark advertising the forthcoming 1997 Open also marks the Championships' Centenary.

Issued in 2003 to mark the 75th year of the club staging the tournament.

The Monte-Carlo Country Club has hosted the Championships since 1928.



Rafael Nadal, Spain  
 In 2011 he won the men's tournament for the 7th time running.

1997 was the Centenary Year of the Championships.



Marcelo Rios, Chile  
 The centenary tournament champion.



## 6.2 The Italian and South American Championships

1930. The first Italian International Championships were held in Milan.

1935. They were moved to the clay courts of the newly built Foro Italico in Rome.



Foro Italico, Rome



Victor Pecci, Par.  
The defeated finalist in 1981.  
He lost to J. Clerc, Argentina.



In 1980 the women's event moved to Perugia



1932. The S. Am. Championships were inaugurated. They are played on clay and rotate among participating countries.



The bottom text was changed.

*Proofs for the stamp's frame and its centre vignette. The text was amended from 5th South American Athletic Championships to South American Tennis Championships.*



The stamp issued 1st July 1951.



A die proof made before the bottom text was changed.





## 6.2 World Tours For Professional Players - Pros compete for prize money.

1967 World Championship Tennis Inc. (WCT) was founded and arranged lucrative tournaments for its members.

1972 The Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) was formed and took over the Grand Prix and WCT tours.

1990 Its members compete in leading tournaments for ranking points and those with most points are invited to play in a year-end climax tournament to determine the top player. In 2004 the tournaments became called the ATP Masters.

Ivan Lendl won the 1985 WCT Finals in Dallas.

Rafael Nadal, the winner.

Pete Sampras  
He was the top player in 1997.



1990 The first ATP Tour.



Roger Federer won the 2004 Masters' tournament in Hamburg.



The 2002 Shanghai Masters Cup was played indoors and was won by Leyton Hewitt



A postal card issued by the State Postal Bureau with a detachable lottery ticket.

**6.2 The Grand Prix Series** - Where points were awarded to find the year's most successful players.

In 1970 the Intl. Lawn Tennis Fed. inaugurated an annual Grand Prix Series, initially for men only. Players competed for points awarded in leading tournaments which include the Grand Slam events. The most successful were invited to play in a concluding annual tournament for bonus prize money.

The Series was absorbed into the new ATP Tour in 1990.



Ivan Lendl, Cze.  
Winner in 1981-82 & 1985-87.





**6.2 The Minor Pro Circuits -** Where players can earn ranking points to gain entry to higher tournaments.

**Satellite** worldwide singles and doubles tournaments are coordinated by the Intl. Tennis Federation. The men's were inaugurated in 1978 and the women's in 1986. They are the first step for younger players to earn ranking points needed to gain entry to the more senior professional tournaments.



**Challenger** tournaments began at the same time and are where players promoted from the Satellite Series can start earning the points needed to enter the top tournaments.

This tournament was sponsored by FRICOM, an ice cream company.

*This spelling of 'Challenger' was corrected after only being in use for three hours from 7 am 17 May 1996. When it was amended to 'Challenger' the circular date stamp the month set on June (20 - VI) in error.*



Generally, companies brought their mail to the central post office in Novi Sad for franking and the postage spent recorded.

The imprinted 'A' stamp was for internal mail.

Kevin Curran, S. Afr.  
The winner 1st Oct. 1978  
In Salt Lake City, USA



Victor Pecci, Par.  
Winner 16th Aug. 1982  
Sao Paulo, Brazil



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