

## Object of the Olympic Games

*The old saying « A sound soul in a sound body » expresses the object of the Olympic Games. This was the case when the Olympic Games were inaugurated by the ancient Greeks. The Grecian Youth should be fostered to a strong, hardy generation, thru Athletics. For 1000 years the Greek Nation of olden times was united thru the Antique Olympic Games, a half-religious festival.*

*The conditions to-day and the mind of the modern Man are similar to those of the old Hellenic time. We find the same inclination for War, the same desire for Colonies, the rapid development in economic and cultural questions, the same political upheavals.*

*Our parents were inferior to the ancient Greeks in physical culture and perhaps in Art. The athletic movement was almost entirely unknown (or forgotten) to our Grandfathers. About 40 years ago the thought of reviving the old Olympic Games took form. The world must always be thankful to the man who proposed these modern Olympic Games and who devoted nearly 40 years of his life to organizing them. It was the Frenchman Pierre de Coubertin. He was assisted by some colleagues, Prof. W. Sloan of U. S. A. and Victor Balck of Sweden, Dr. Jiri Guth of Bohemia, Sir John Astley, Great Britain, Mr. Bikelas of Greece. We can be happy that these men kept to old Greek ideals when they revived the Games. They understood that it was necessary to work for the bodily and spiritual improvement of the Youth. Justice, generosity, nobility, firmness and strength were the aims they were striving for. The Olympic Games were the Means of obtaining this Goal.*

*The Athletic Games are of value only if they aim toward the development and improvement of Humanity-bodily and spiritually. As long as the Hellenic Nation saw something of value and nobility in the Athletic Victories,*

*as long as the sport and athletic effort in itself was able to give satisfaction and joy, as long as thru this joy the youths of ancient times were driven to bodily action and a simple healthy way of living—so long was Hellas a World Power, just so long could the Greek culture live and thrive.*

*Thru the impetus that the sport gave, it was possible for the small Greek nation to uphold its position in the World and to become a great nation, with a culture that in its noble temperance and its spiritual strength has never been surpassed ! Later on, when the Greek Games were turned into display only—Hellas grandeur passed.*

*So with us in modern times : As long as the competing masses take part in the games for the sport itself, so long are the games beneficial. If the games become a field for national passions or take place with the object of political or pecuniary aims, they will become simple display and lose both value and purpose. As long as their Leaders keep to their high ideals, the Games will be a Lever for the development of Progress and joy to Humanity.*

*« The important thing in the Olympic Games is not the Victory but the Fight. The essential thing is not to have won but to have fought well. »*

(Pierre de Coubertin.)

*« May joy and good fellowship reign. And in this manner, may the Olympic torch pursue its way through the ages, increasing friendly understanding among nations for the good of humanity, always more enthusiastic. more courageous and more pure. »* (Baillet-Latour.)

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