



ARCHERY : AN OLYMPIC SPORT

an ancient sport coming up again

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The oldest picture of an archer is about fifteen thousand years old. It can be found in a pre-historic cave near Castellon de la Plana in Spain.

In the old times bows and arrows were used for hunting and warfare — there are scientists which believe that *archery* and *artillery* is the same word from the beginning.

Archery was also a sport for pleasure, specially at the big markets, and at the spring and summer festivals. Archery guilds were formed already in the 10th century.

During the 19th century archery died in many countries, but survived in others, like England. France. Belgium. Switzerland and Italy.

Modern archery started in the beginning of this century. It has been an Olympic

Sport twice, in 1908 and 1920. The International Federation for Archery (FITA) was established in 1931 at Lwow in Poland, and the first President was a Pole, Mr. Bronislaw Pierzghala (1931-1939). He was succeeded by Mr. Paul Demare, France, 1946-1949, and Mr. Henry Kjellson, Sweden, 1949-1957. Mr. Oscar Kessels, Belgium, is the present President.

Today FITA consists of twenty-six countries, representing five continents, and many new countries are still coming. Archery is a very old sport, which suddenly turned modern again.

Wo archers believe that the thrill of a modern tournament, where the competition can be followed arrow by arrow, will give much pleasure to the spectators of future Olympic Games.