

# Bibliography-World Literature on the Olympic Movement and the Games

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The development of the Olympic movement and improvement of the level of Olympic sports has gone hand in hand with an increasing number of publications relating to problems of the Olympic movement and the Olympic Games. Since the end of the last century, many countries have published various work either directly related to the history of the Olympic Games, the progress of the Olympic movement, or to such problems as amateur sports, the pedagogical approach of sports in the light of the Olympic idea. Particularly since the 1952 Games at Helsinki, science has taken an interest in these problems and world literature has been enriched by valuable works on the problems of physical health and top level sporting achievements. All these valuable works, monographs, articles and other publications, have remained scattered in time and space over the passage of many decades in all countries of the five continents. If collected and arranged, they could form a treasure-house with most valuable information on the subject, which the world of sports would find extremely useful. This need has been especially felt by all those who have been directly concerned with the work of the Olympic movement and the staging of the Olympic Games.

This indispensable bibliography on world literature in the specialized field of Olympic problems could include the works of the founder of the Games in modern times, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, among which *Mémoires Olympiques, Olympie, Les assises philosophiques de l'Olympisme moderne*; and others. Also works written about Coubertin by Louis Meylan: *Pierre de Coubertin — Pédagogue et sociologue*; André Senay et Robert Hervet — *Monsieur de Coubertin*; two books published by International Olympic Committee's chancellor Otto Mayer in

1961: *Rétrospectives olympiques* and *A travers les anneaux olympiques*, as well as all other books, monographs, and other publications.

The Bibliography might have a special section for all works relating to the history and development of the Olympic Games from most ancient times to our days. This may include the works of Dr. Ferenz Mezö of Hungary, an eminent historian of the Olympic Movement, who has to his credit more than a dozen publications on the subject. His *History of the Olympic Games* won a gold medal at the Olympic art competitions at the time of the 1928 Games in Amsterdam. *The modern Olympic Games*, published in 1956, has been translated into several other languages. To this section should belong also Bill Henry's, *An Approved History of the Olympic Games* (New York, 1948, 371 pages), written with the personal co-operation of Baron de Coubertin; *Olimpijskie fanfary* by W. Gotebiewski and J. Strowanowski (669 pages, published in Warsaw, 1957), the works of P. Andersen (Norway), Dr. Willy Meisl, Harold Abrahams — 100 m. Olympic champion in 1924: Charles Lukas — *The Olympic Games of 1904* (published in 1905): Dr. Karl Diem — *Die Olympischen Spiele, 1912*; Eric Peterson's *V. Olympiaden* — Stockholm, 1954; Chryssafis' *Olympiaki agones*, Athens, 1930; Lando Ferreti's *Olympiadi* (from 776 B.C. to 1952), with 31 illustrations, published at Milano in 1952.

The section of books with a scientific aspect of the Olympic problems may contain works and articles involving scientific surveys of a given Olympiad, such as the book published by the famous group of Prof. Dr. Ernst Jokl, Dr. M.J. Karvonen, Jaakk Kihlberg, Aarni Koskela, Prof. Dr. Leo Noro — *Sports in the Cultural Pattern of the World*

(*a study of the Olympic Games, 1952, at Helsinki*, published Helsinki, 1956).

This is the first of its kind complete survey of an Olympiad from a medical, statistical and cultural point of view. This section of the Bibliography may also contain the scientific report *Influence of Age and Profession on Olympic Sporting Achievements*, read at the Scientific Session in Sofia and published in the first issue of our 1960 Bulletin: *Social Section of the Olympiades and Social Basis of the Olympic Sports* — which are surveys in a new field relating to the Olympic Games, published in Bulgarian during 1960.

Still another section may contain poetry, prose, essays and other literary works and publications, relating to the Olympic Movement and the Games. In this connection it is worth mentioning a contribution to the Olympic Movement like Dr. F.M. Messerli *A la Gloire de l'Olympisme et du Sport* — published in 1956 at Lausanne by the Olympic Institute Pierre de Coubertin, with the valuable assistance of the International Olympic Committee. This book contains 159 poems, of which 74 sonnets, singing praise to highlights of the Olympic Games and extolling the names of famous Olympians for their sporting achievements and for the promotion of good sportsmanship, and a spirit of peace and friendship among the peoples of every nation. One can find similar publications among the works submitted at the 1912-1948 Prize Competitions for Works of Literature and Art, dedicated to the Games, and in the official publications of the different national and other sporting organizations.

Here we have mentioned but a few of the great number of publications dedicated to the Olympic Movement and the full collection may be an impressive achievement. Bulgaria alone has published since 1952 quite a number of works on the subject, such as: *At the Olympiade at Helsinki*, 1953; *To Melbourne by land, air and water*, 1957; *From Athens to Melbourne?* 1957; *Meet the Olympians*, 1960; *Olympic Chronicle*, 1960; *The Rome Olympics*, 1960, and others. We are not aware whether these works have been field on some bibliographical list, as the Bulgarian Olympic Committee and other institutes have not been approached to give data on Bulgarian publications relating to the Olympic Movement and the Olympic Games. We know that they have not been mentioned in the bibliography of the International Olympic Committee organ *Bulletin du Comité International Olympique*. (Ed.: *Because it has never received them.*) The same is true of certain publications which have appeared in the U.S.S.R. like *The Olympic Games* by P. Sobolev and N. Kalinin. 1955: *The Fifteenth Olympic Games* by N.I. Lyubomirov, 1955; *In Distant Melbourne* by A. Kouleshov and P. Sobolev, 1957; *From Athens to Rome* by

N.I. Lyubomirov, 1960, as well as other publications published in various countries.

Interest in the Olympic Movement and the Games has been steadily rising over the years not only among sportsmen, leading executives of the National Olympic Committees and Sport Federations, but also among writers, journalists, scientific authorities and others in most countries of the world. The growth of the Olympic Movement has been accompanied by a growing interest in all aspects of the Olympic Movement and all problems relating to the Games and the different Olympic sports and events. For instance, our own Information Bulletin has now become a monthly edition, and several books are to appear in the nearest future, like *Looking Forward to Tokyo, Bulgaria at the Olympics*, and others. We know that the same is true of many other countries in different parts of the world.

This will also help world public opinion that it is necessary to collect into a systematic whole and to publish a Bibliography on world literature relating to the Olympic Movement and the Olympic Games. Without this reference the leading executives of the Olympic Movement, no matter where in the world, writers, journalists, and the millions of sport fans and tens of thousands of Olympians will find it impossible to have the proper understanding and an embracing outlook on the essence of the Olympic Movement, which in our present world reflects problems directly related to international peace and friendship.

This will also help world public opinion realize once and for all that the Olympic Movement has ever since its foundation been a creative force which has made sports a useful instrument to bring together world youth regardless of colour, religious creed or political convictions. Such a source of reference would also show the huge influence of the Olympic Games for the broad popularization of sports and for the significant improvement of the level of athletics in every country of the world. Finally, if brought together and organized into a systematic whole, these works will form a collection that will prove invaluable to the work of many writers, journalists and scientific authorities, and will help them gain knowledge and inspiration in the continuation of their work and research in the field of the Olympic Movement and the Olympic Games.

The collection of these enormous works scattered over a great field all over the world is bound to present many difficulties. But, taking into consideration the great value of a systematic bibliography on the subject, our Board of Editors have set before themselves the task of achieving it. Our success will be determined in the largest measure by the co-operation of the International Olympic Committee, the National Olympic Committees and the different International Federations and other institutions,

such as the UNESCO, International Council for Sports and Physical Education. The cooperation of its Information and Documentation Bureau would be in accordance with the provisions of its Statutes and the aims of this important world organization.

Accordingly, our Board of Editors kindly requests the International Olympic Committee, the UNESCO International Council for Sport and Physical Education, all National Olympic Committees, International

Sport Federations, writers, sport journalists, sportsmen, coaches, judges, referees and lovers of sports, to render their assistance in collecting data for the Bibliography on world literature relating to the Olympic Movement and the Olympic Games. We shall send them for the purpose special forms which we would like them to fill and hope that they will give us their assistance in what we believe to be an initiative of common interest to all.