

## Bibliography

*Munich 1972* by Christopher Brasher. Edited by Stanley Paul, 3 Fitzroy Square, London W.1. English. Price £1.95, in Great Britain only.

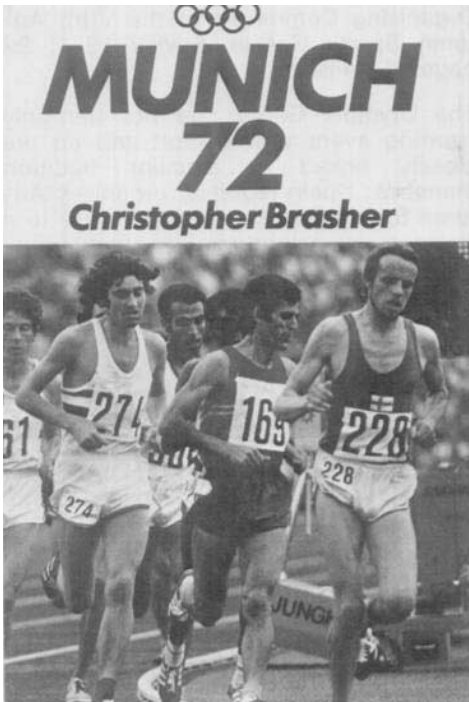
“This is the end of a love affair. Every four years since the beginning of the 1950s I have renewed a brief, idealistic existence with this woman who transforms pure physical effort into an experience of spiritual beauty. Now she is a raddled old tart.” Christopher Brasher, himself a gold medallist in the 3,000 m. steeplechase at Melbourne and now a regular contributor

to the “Observer” and to BBC television, is one of the most respected authorities on sport, and when he concluded his Mexico diary with the above verdict none could doubt his genuine concern for the future of the Olympic movement. In 1968, after riots, Black Power demonstrations, collapses due to altitude and heat, the Mexico Olympics had aroused more controversy and bitterness than any modern Olympiad to date. Who could have foreseen that at Munich, the Olympics with all their splendours would lurch even further along the disastrous course set in Mexico? Has the Olympic ideal now been corrupted, politicised and misdirected almost beyond the point of survival? These questions must be at the forefront of any serious consideration of the XXth Olympiad.

Nevertheless, in spite of the political intrusions at Munich—the forced expulsion of the Rhodesians, the killing of the Israeli hostages and the rivalries of the various nations—the Games remain the most important sporting event. As he followed with a professional eye efforts of the world’s greatest athletes, Chris Brasher noted in his diary thoughts and reactions, their hopes and their fears.

This book, like its predecessors about Tokyo and Mexico, is an authoritative account of what went on throughout the most exciting period in all sport.

It is both a verdict on and a record of the Munich Olympics; yet it is more, for the author was never far from the drama that lay behind the activities of those who took part.





*Olimpiadele Albe* (White Olympiads) by Victor Banculescu. Stadion Editions, Bucharest 1973, 236 illustrated pages, Rumanian.

Born in 1924, the Winter Games have so far met with varied fortunes, and the 'severe criticisms which they arouse threaten their very existence. The picture however is not so black and in spite of everything the Winter Games remain sports competitions where the best athletes meet. Readers of the "Olympic Review" have often had the opportunity

to appreciate articles by this Rumanian journalist, Victor Banculescu, and now he offers us a history of these "White Olympiads". Long research has enabled him to complete this lively and richly documented work, which goes from Chamonix to Sapporo, not forgetting the nordic Games, born at the turn of the century. The championship tables according to events end this volume, which also has the advantage of making us better acquainted with Rumanian sport and sportsmen.

*Cuaderno de Poesia al Deporte II* (Book of Sports Poetry No.II). Published by the Organising Committee of the VIIIth Autumn Sports Games. Seville 1971, 92 pages, Spanish.

The Olympic Games are not the only sporting event where sport and art are closely linked as ancient tradition demands; Spain regularly organises Autumn Sports Games which give rise to a poetry event, a sports poetry competition. The organisers had the excellent idea of collecting all the entries in a book, of which this is the second. The competition is divided into three parts, each one on a particular theme: autumn, sport and the athlete. Famous Spanish poets, including Carlos Murciano, Antonio Luis Baena Santiago and Jose Felix Navarro thus celebrated the glory of sport, while the athletes competed at the Seville stadium.

*Deporte, Pedagogia y Humanismo* (Sport, pedagogy and humanism) by José Maria Cagigal. Published by the Spanish Olympic Committee. Spain 1966, 176 pages, Spanish.

This is a collection of various articles, lectures, communications and essays devoted to sport. Each text constitutes a reflection on the role of sport, its relations with psychology and sociology, its place in contemporary society, a study of the evolution of the concept of sport from the historical and cultural point of view, and of personality through sport. A very thorough essay on modern Olympism and its ideals closes this remarkable work.

*Le Velo* (The Bike) by René Fallet. Julliard Editions. Idée fixe collection. Paris 1973, 122 pages, French.

"I love the bike" states the author throughout the book. The bike. Not the bicycle, crude and ill-formed object which is to the bike what the percheron is to the thoroughbred. The bike, this is René Fallet's obsession. This famous French writer has just published this ode of love, full of humour, to his "god".

*Velodromes en Plein Air* (Open Air Velodromes) by Dagobergo and Gianfranco Ortensi. Driade Éditions. Rome 1972, 110 pages, French, résumé in Italian, \$20.00.

On its tenth birthday the Italian Association of Sports Clubs gives us, in accordance with the International Amateur Cycling Federation, this work from the

pen of Dagoberto Ortensi, an architect and professor at the University of Aquila, and his son, Gianfranco Ortensi, also an architect.

A velodrome cannot be conceived according to a pattern that you can repeat ad infinitum. Its situation, the sun's path, the winds, the length and breadth of the track and the inclination of the bends all have to be taken into account. Therefore the authors tried here to present the problems facing those who plan and construct an installation of this kind. Sketches, graphs, tables and photographs lend concrete support to the technical explanations in this excellent publication.

*Le Sport à l'Ecole* (Sport at School) by Georges Belbenoit. Castermann Editions. Paris 1973, French, FF.9.—.

Throughout this book Georges Belbenoit, general inspector of public education, clearly analyses every problem to be resolved, the difficulties to be surmounted, the reticences to be overcome so that "sport at school" becomes a reality. His pen is alert, his reasoning objective and lucid, and he writes as a man of experience, an expert pedagogue, as one of the people who are best acquainted with the teaching field. It is not just the pleading of his case, more an indictment that Georges Belbenoit undertakes, and we know several people who will share his point of view.

