

**SWITZERLAND'S CONTRIBUTION TO SPORTS HISTORY.** This work may be ordered from the following address: Swiss Sports Museum, P.O. Box, 4003 Basle. Price : 39.- Swiss francs.

The Swiss Sports Museum in Basle has just published Volume II of the work "Switzerland's contribution to the history of sport". While the number of pages is relatively modest (barely 90), some of these pages contain information which is likely to revolutionize the understanding of the history of certain sports disciplines, and create a sensation. The book is the work of a total of eight renowned authors. Two articles deal with objects in the collection of the Swiss Sports Museum: Joseph Ulfkotte presents two original letters from Jahn, the father of gymnastics, accompanied by illustrations, a transcript and commentaries. Then Wolfgang Decker gives a description of the Egyptian swimmer, a sculpture dating from the VII century B.C. which the museum acquired a few years ago, and which is the oldest object in its collections. The most astonishing article is certainly the one by the linguist Heiner Gillmeister on the origins of golf. In it, he offers evidence that the first golfers were Dutch and not Scottish! The history of roller skating by Sam Neveu and the numerous illustrations which accompany it will be a delight to both those who are keen on this discipline and lovers of technology. The three Swiss authors, Jean-Claude Bussard, Jean-Daniel Tschumy and Lutz Eichenberger, deal with more specifically Swiss subjects. Anyone interested in culture and the history of sport will be fascinated by this work, whose scientific quality and attractive appearance will ensure it a place as an important sports historical document.

**MUSEUM**, the quarterly Unesco magazine in English, Arabic, Spanish, French, Russian 48.- FF, cheque payable to UNESCO UPP/V, UNESCO, 1 rue des Miollis, 75015 Paris.

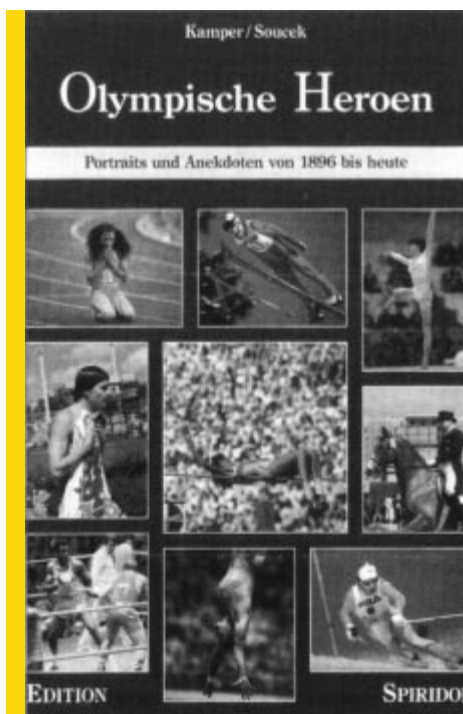
Sport is not a subject of obvious interest to museum exhibitions, and yet it has become so notably with the appearance across the world of around sixty museums devoted to sport, and various temporary exhibitions on sport in many other museums. Issue number 2 of **MUSEUM**, the quarterly magazine published by Unesco, takes an international look at the successes and problems of exhibiting sport. The issue opens with a message, "The exploratory visitor", by the IOC President; examines the question "sport in museums?" in an article by the director of the French Sports Museum; and goes on to describe exhibitions seen from various points of view: that of the Museum of Sport and Physical Education in Prague, with "Sport, a page of history?"; the anthropological interpretation of sport given by an Italian specialist; and the sports museum as a business enterprise, in this case the Swiss Sports Museum in Basle. There is also a guided photographic tour of the athletic heritage of Ancient Greece, taken from exhibitions in Greek museums; a visit to the Olympic Museum in Benin; and articles on traditional sports and games as presented in Belgian and Soviet museums; museums of cricket and rugby in the United Kingdom; the national roller skating museum in the USA; the "Horses through the ages" exhibition at the Yokohama Equestrian Museum; and the International Olympic Museum in Lausanne. To finish on a humorous note, **MUSEUM** recounts what happens when the staff of the Royal Museum of Ontario form ice hockey and baseball teams which are (nearly) always victorious.



**OLYMPISCHE HEROEN** (Olympic Heroes)  
 ISBN 3-922011-20-9, large format, bound,  
 352 pages 69.- DM, SPIRIDON-Verlag,  
 Postfach 8901, 4000 Dusseldorf.

Erich Kamper and Herbert Soucek met each other in the press stands at the Games in 1936. Whilst Soucek's career afterwards took a literary turn, Kamper specialized in Olympic history, covering eleven Games and producing four encyclopaedias on the Olympic Movement, an achievement which earned him the distinction of becoming the third journalist to be awarded the Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee. The paths of the two school friends crossed again, and they worked together to produce a book which is a perfect mix of entertainment and fact, entitled "OLYMPIC HEROES - portraits and anecdotes from 1896 to the present day".

This book is very different from the volumes which are regularly rushed off the press in the wake of a big event. Facts have been painstakingly garnered and checked, Olympic errors rectified and the careers of great medallists followed up. Kamper and Soucek have woven a bright garland of anecdotes and curiosities, covering in the process the entire span of Olympic history, both ancient and modern (since 1896). One finds crowned heads among the active participants in the Games, from Nero in ancient times to Prince Albert of Monaco. And replies to questions like: who has won more medals than the great Paavo Nurmi? In it we learn of family traditions: how many people know that Josef Neckermann's daughter won a medal in equestrian sports, for Canada? There were athletes - even favourites - who overslept and missed their races, and in 1912 an American favourite was locked in the dressing rooms by his own countrymen. Thorny subjects like infringement of the amateur rule (Nurmi, Schranz), doping (Ben Johnson) and commercialization are dealt with critically and frankly. Handicapped athletes who triumph to reach the highest summits, like Ray Ewry, also find their place in the book. The second part gives detailed accounts of the lives of the top 60 Olympic



heroes. The authors compared notes on almost a century since 1896 and came up with a list which ranges from speed-skater Hjalmar Andersen to long-distance runner Emil Zatopek. Many one-time greats re-emerge into the limelight, and today's Olympic stars like Carl Lewis have to stand comparison with Jesse Owens. Abebe Bikila and Waldemar Cierpinski, twice victors in the marathon, are of the company, as is a lesser-known man with three names and two nationalities, Naim Süleymanoğlu, who won his victor's crown at the most recent Olympic festival in Seoul. Sixty portraits and a detailed index.

Some more questions to finish. Who was the first non-white Olympic champion? Where was Johnny Weissmuller born? Which athlete won gold at the summer and winter Games? For anyone wanting to mug up for an Olympic quiz, this book is a must.