
Doping

The following players have lent their support to this ITF Junior Anti-Doping Campaign:

Martina Hingis (Switzerland): "Let us work together to keep the misuse of drugs out of sport."

Gustavo Kuerten (Brazil): "The side effects of taking anabolic steroids can be very serious and in some cases fatal. I hope that the ITF campaign will ensure that aspiring young players are aware of the dangers and consequences of taking performance-enhancing drugs."

Alex Corretja (Spain): "I am extremely pleased that the ITF is pursuing this

campaign to maintain tennis as a clean sport. Steroid abuse is a very serious issue and a subject about which all young people should be fully educated."

Anna Kournikova (Russia): "This is an important campaign. There are many pressures to win when you start out on the junior circuit. The dangers of taking drugs may not be known to young people and I hope that the ITF campaign will help to change that. Drugs do not have a place in sports."

Monica Seles (USA): "The successful education of young sportsmen and

women as to the dangers of drug misuse is very important. I am pleased with the ITF's initiative which highlights the drastic negative effects of taking performance-enhancing drugs."

Martin McElhatton (President, International Wheelchair Tennis Association): "International Wheelchair Tennis is an integrated part of the ITF and as such I am pleased to see this important programme launched with the inclusion of wheelchair tennis players. It is important that we educate and test our players so that tennis, including wheelchair tennis, is free from drugs."

Book Review

Olympiaka : The Olympic Games through ancient sources



by Panayota Badinou

The Olympic Games of Antiquity were undeniably

the most prestigious athletic event in Greece. Ancient tradition indicates that they were first held in 776 B.C., a date which became the starting point for the entire Greek chronology. Organized every four years in Olympia in honour of Zeus, the Olympic Games continued to be held almost without interruption until AD 393. Athletes from all corners of the known Greek world (and from all the provinces of the Roman Empire after AD 146) were proud to compete in

Olympia and to receive the wild olive wreath, a symbol of the highest distinction in their career. Today, we still wonder why these Games had such a remarkable development, why they made an indelible mark on ancient athletics and why their success has continued to the present day. Fifteen centuries after their interruption by the Byzantine Emperor Theodosius I, in 1896 Pierre de Coubertin revived the Olympic Games of the modern era, an event which is still celebrated with

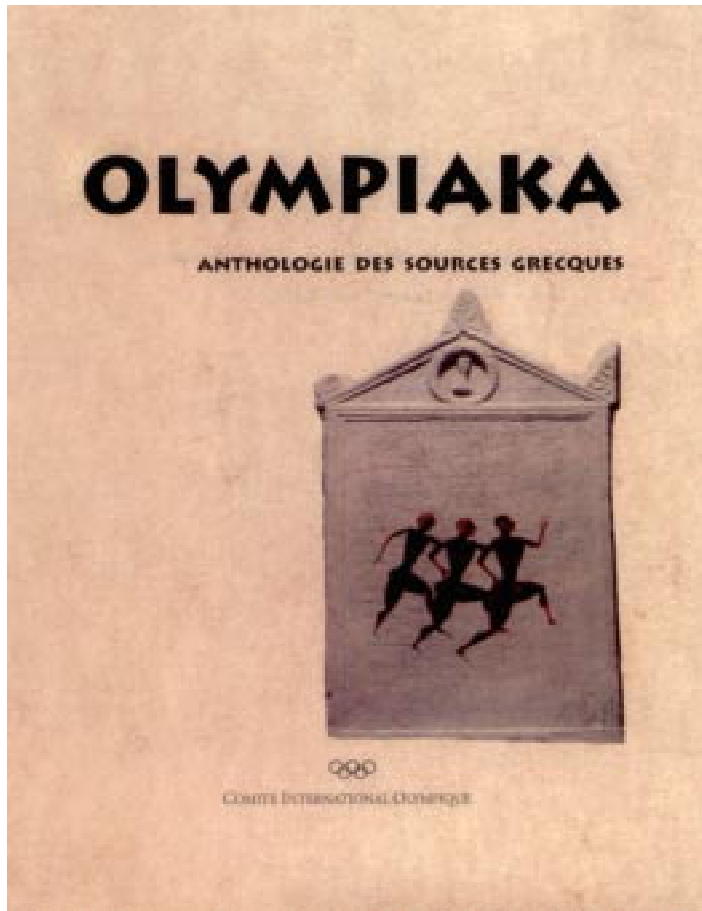
solemnity and brings together athletes from all nations.

In publishing the book *Olympiaka. Anthology of Greek Sources*, the IOC wished to contribute to the study of the remarkable phenomenon of the influence of the Olympic Games and give all those concerned with or interested in sport an opportunity to have direct access to ancient sources. The IOC President, who promoted this publication, gave his support at all stages of its preparation

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coordinated by the head of the IOC Special Editions section, Marie-Helene Roukhadze. When I was asked to gather together some ancient sources on the Olympic Games and write this book, I had the great pleasure of immersing myself in the study of literary and historic texts and reading accounts that were as varied as they were incredible. This pleasure was very quickly shared by a team of enthusiastic advisers, composed of Ms Roukhadze, Claude Bérard, Professor of Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology and Science of the University of Lausanne, Roger Segalat, adviser on the dissemination of IOC publications and Anne Egli-Déombaz, a graphic designer. Their enthusiasm and advice during our meetings resulted in a project to create a general collection of ancient texts taking the form of a richly documented book.

The *Olympiaka* anthology in fact brings together the writings of 31 authors who were contemporaries of the Olympic Games and most of whom witnessed these unforgettable celebrations. The ancient texts, many of which I translated, are presented in a thematic order (origin of the Games, gymnasium and education, organization of the Games, events, ceremonies after the events, the influence of the Olympic Games, politics



and culture of the Olympic Games). Each chapter and sub-chapter contains an introductory text with historical and archaeological information. The ancient texts are accompanied by notes for the reader. The book is also abundantly illustrated with photographs of Olympia and other archaeological sites and of sculptures, vases and coins related to the contents of the texts.

Our desire to offer readers a reference work on the Ancient Olympic Games, led us to publish the list of the Olympiads from Eusebius's *Chronicon*. Translated for the first time into French, this list is the

most complete document that has survived from Antiquity: it contains the names of the winners of the stadium race for each Olympiad (from the first to the 149th), the leading athletic events of the Olympic world and the most important historical events of Antiquity. The translation is completed with the dates of the Olympiads and enriched with historical, artistic and literary information from throughout the world allowing everyone to place the Olympic Games in the world context of the time.

The work also enables the reader to witness the written sources directly. Referring directly or indirectly to

Olympia and its Games, admiringly or critically, seriously or facetiously, objectively or subjectively, these sources provide precious information on the athletic world. The reader may admire the marvellous exploits of the athletes who went down in legend, learn about how the Games were organized, and read the reactions of people to the most important event in Antiquity. Above all he will discover that the problems of sports ethics, corruption or professionalism of athletes are not new phenomena and that, on the contrary the ancient Greeks, especially the organizers of the Games, were also faced with them.

The similarities between the ancient athletics world and that of today will always strike the reader. Despite the 15 centuries which separate the Ancient Olympic Games from those of the modern era, the competitions have remained a major event celebrated ritually and which plays a vital role in society. In Antiquity, they offered Greeks the best opportunity to come together to celebrate social and religious rites, thus reinforcing the feeling of their belonging to the same political community. Today, they unite the athletes and spectators of the entire world with the same ideal, in a great community inspired by the competitive spirit of the ancient Greeks.